

CAPITAL FREEHOLD MANSION.
To be SOLD by AUCTION,
By THOMAS BAYLY,
On MONDAY next,
By order of the Executors of the late Richard Salwey, Esq.
deceased,

On the Premises,
A Valuable and very desirable FREEHOLD
MANSION situated at Woodford, in Essex, seven miles from London, lately occupied by Mrs. SALWEY, deceased, uniformly and substantially built, and well suited with domestic offices; excellent stabling and coach-houses, cold bath, pleasure ground, shrubbery, a very large kitchen garden, walled round and cloathed with choice fruit-trees, and a small field adjoining.

On the same and following days, at Eleven o'clock, will be sold all the valuable Household Furniture, plate, linen, china, books by the most admired authors, capital paintings by the most esteemed masters, brewing utensils, garden implements, fire-arms, two iron chests, and abundance of other valuable effects; comprising four-post and other bedsteads, with silk, damask, and other furnitures, twenty down, goose, and other feather beds, and bedding to ditto, two eight-day clocks, an eight-day dial, sconce, pier, and dressing glasses, of large dimensions, mahogany dining, card, Pembroke, and other tables, a mahogany bureau and book-case, a large library book-case, a mahogany library table, double and single chests of drawers, mahogany carved chairs and sofas to correspond, Turkey, Wilton, and other carpets, floor cloths, marble slabs, capital glazed prints, register and bath stoves, a garden engine, large brewing and other coppers, large coolers lined with lead, copper and other pumps, a large quantity of iron-bound casks, capital wind-up ranges, smoak and other jacks, copper stills, a large quantity of pewter and kitchen furniture of every denomination.

The Premises and Furniture may be viewed till the sale, (Sunday excepted)

Printed particulars with conditions of sale of the estate, and catalogues of the furniture, may be had on the premises; at Mr. Michod's, No. 8, Brown's-buildings, St. Mary-axe; and of Thomas Bayly, Sworn-Broker, Auctioneer and Undertaker, No. 160, Ratcliff-Highway.

TO be Sold by Private Contract, (under a Commission of Bankrupt against William Mearns)

One question which we cannot answer is whether or not Theophilus and his brother Richard lived at the same house. We do know that Theophilus died in 1760, Richard in 1775, and that Richard left his house, stables, gardens etc to his sister-in-law Mary, for her natural life. (She died on 2nd December 1783.)

On her death the house was sold and the advertisement opposite from the *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*, 18th March 1784, gives a wonderful picture of this homestead and of the contents of the house.

William Robinson is shown as a church warden at Woodford 1792-3 so it seems quite likely that he bought the house from the executors of Mrs Salwey in 1784.

© Georgina Green, 18th July 2016

*Georgina will be starting our Winter Programme on 19th September with a talk including much of the research she has undertaken about 'Woodford's Community through the Ages'.
 Editor*

Visit to St Margaret's Church, Barking and Barking Abbey Ruins and the Curfew Tower on 8th June 2016 Report by Felicity Banks

We met at St Margaret's Centre and were welcomed by our excellent guide, Thomas Cromwell, the Heritage Engagement Officer.

The first Abbey was founded in 666 by Erkenwald, who later became the Bishop of London, and his sister Ethelburga who was the first Abbess. It was rebuilt in 970 after being sacked by the Danes 100 years earlier. William the Conqueror stayed there after 1066 while the Tower of London was being prepared for his use. The Norman Kings and their successors heaped wealth, land and property on the Abbess, far beyond Barking and included large parts of Redbridge, especially the Ilford area.

In about 1145 or 1154 the Abbess of Barking, Adelia (Adeliza) founded the Ilford Hospital, which was originally for 12 infirm old gentlemen but was later used as a leper hospital. In 1541 the Abbey was destroyed after the Dissolution and much of the stone was used to build The Royal Palace at Greenwich.



We began our visit in St Margaret's Church, sitting in what remains of the box pews. The oldest part of the Church dates back to around 1215 and is dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch. The Church survived the dissolution as it was the Parish Church and not part of the Abbey buildings

In 1772 Bamber Gascoigne, known locally as the King of Barking, ordered the ceilings, arches and columns to be encased in alabaster. (Bamber Gascoigne of University Challenge fame is a descendant.) In 1842 the columns and arches were stripped of their plaster

and in 1929 part of the ceiling plasterwork was removed to reveal the original mediaeval timber roof. A small trace of mediaeval paintings can still be seen over the Chancel arch.

On the north side of the Sanctuary is a monument to Francis Fuller of Beehive who died in 1637. He owned several estates in Ilford (then part of the Parish of Barking) including Valentines and Loxford. He lived in Beehive, a large timbered house which once stood at the corner of Beehive Lane and Wanstead Lane. On the south side of the Sanctuary is a monument to Sir Charles Montague of Cranbrooke. He died at Cranbrook Hall in Ilford in 1625 and not in battle as the memorial shows. (Ilford was in the Parish of Barking until 1830.)

On the south side of the church is the Fishermen's Chapel and the Fishermen's Window in memory of the fishermen of Barking. The original design for the window is in the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. On the screen outside the Clergy Chapel are eight figures. One shows Capt James Cook RN, explorer and seaman, who was married in St Margaret's Church to Elizabeth Batts on 21st December 1762. Their six children all died. There is also a figure of Elizabeth Fry, the campaigner for woman and children's rights and prisoners. She is buried in the Quaker Burial Ground in Barking.

The first organ was built on a balcony, which no longer exists, at the back of the church. It is said to date back to 1770. Little of the original organ remains except for some gold painted pipes facing west.

The font is at the back of the church and is thought to be Elizabethan and given to the Barking Church in thanks for a safe return from defeating the Spanish Armada. In 1872 the font was removed from the church and part of it was left lying in the Churchyard. It was restored to the church in 1928 and placed near the Bell Tower. The Bell Tower has eight bells cast at Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

On the wall of the St. Margaret Centre is a plaque to Ann Nepton. Her husband Thomas was a member of the Worshipful Company of Poulterers. He died aged 49 in 1724 and she died



aged 64 in 1728. Ann left most of their fortune to the Company of Poulterers to provide for the poor of the Parish of Barking. Each year representatives from the Company of Poulterers visit Ilford and Barking to distribute the money to the elderly poor. This is followed by a short service at the Tomb of Ann and Thomas which is in St. Margaret's Church graveyard.

We continued our tour through the graveyard to the site of the ruins of Barking Abbey. After an excellent lunch and cup of tea a few members visited the Curfew Tower and climbed the spiral staircase to the Chapel of Holy Rood. The Tower escaped destruction in 1541 following the dissolution.

Many thanks to Felicity for organising this fascinating visit as part of our Summer Programme. The Church and Abbey Ruins are gems on our doorstep, with significant links to the London Borough of Redbridge, as described in her article.

Epping Forest Visitor Centre at High Beach

Most people who are familiar with Epping Forest know that High Beach has been an important Forest 'Honey-pot' destination for over 130 years. The Visitor Centre there (behind the King's Oak pub), opened in 1992, has served the area well since that time.

In 2012 the Conservators secured funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund to rebuild the coach house building at Chingford, next to the Royal Forest Hotel, as a new Visitor Centre, now called 'the View'. Its proximity to public transport made it an attractive proposition. However, its construction immediately put the Centre at High Beach at risk due to the increased costs of staffing two facilities. They approached the Friends of Epping Forest who have taken over responsibility for the operation of the Centre with a team of volunteers and this has been a great success.



The Friends of Epping Forest have now been operating the Epping Forest Visitor Centre at High Beach for just over two years, providing for over 35,000 visitors. Some of them are local; others come from further afield and perhaps enjoyed the Forest in their youth. Many are first time visitors, coming from NW London, Hertfordshire and in some cases much further afield. We have also welcomed visitors from China recently!

On summer weekends we can expect more than 100 visitors each day and a fine Bank Holiday can total 350. A wet Thursday in February may bring in just a dozen casual visitors but now that we have become established, groups are being encouraged to come to the Centre on Thursdays and Fridays and enjoy the adjacent Easy Access Trail. On special weeks, we hope to be able to lead some groups, particularly those with special needs; but as a facility the Centre and the Trail are there year round.

We would welcome enquiries from individuals interested in joining our team of volunteer Information Assistants, who "staff" the Centre during our opening hours: 10-4 in summer and 10-3 in winter, from Thursdays to Sundays plus Bank Holidays. If you have enthusiasm for Epping Forest and would love to share it with others, this is a chance for you. Training and support are provided and even a uniform! A good opportunity to meet people and work with like-minded folk.

If you are interested, why not come along one day to the Centre and speak to one of the volunteers, or email Judith.adams21@btinternet.com or ring Judy Adams 020 8418 0730 for more information.

Festival of Britain (1951) commemorative shelters at Woodford by Gail Ellisdon

After attending a talk by Val Bryan and Onda Adiyadorj of the Information and Heritage Department at Redbridge Central Library, I decided to investigate a small low-walled garden and shelter that I remembered being on George Green Wanstead at one time. Using resources such as the 1946 RAF aerial photographs, the 1:1250 Ordnance Survey map and the Wanstead and Woodford Borough Council meeting minutes I ascertained it was one of three, seat-shelters for the public provided by the Borough in order to commemorate the Festival of Britain 1951. The others were at Gates' Corner, South Woodford and Woodford Bridge.

Whilst I concentrated on the Wanstead shelter, I also gleaned some information about the two at Woodford. For instance the proposed site for the South Woodford one was on the south west corner of the High Road and Grove Road (long since cut into the A406) on land owned by the London Co-operative Society, and on the 5th December 1950 the Borough Surveyor reported to the General Purposes Committee that negotiations were proceeding for the acquisition of the site. However at the GP Committee meeting on 6th February 1951 the Town Clerk submitted a letter from the Society intimating they were not prepared to sell or dedicate the land to the Council but were willing to lease it for a period of three years, and thereafter subject to 12 months' notice, at a rent of 5/- per annum (25p).

The Committee resolved to accept the Co-op's offer provided the necessary approval of the Ministry of Local Government and Planning to the erection of a seat-shelter was forthcoming. It evidently was because the shelter is shown on the large scale OS map and it can be seen in the 1965 Frith postcard of Gates Corner that is reproduced on the front of Woodford Historical Society's publication *Woodford from village to suburb*. There is also mention of the shelter in the minutes of the Highways and Open Spaces Committee of 31st May 1956 when the Borough Surveyor reported 'that the south west corner of the road junction known as Gates' Corner was greatly improved when the Council provided the Festival Shelter and garden and it now presented a most attractive appearance'.



It seems the shelter survived the work in connection with the A406 'improvements' of the late 1970s as it is clearly visible in 'before' and 'after' photos of the area in the 2nd edition of Reg Fowkes' book *Woodford then and now* (page 178). Sadly its life thereafter was relatively short for at the Highways Committee on 19th May 1981 members resolved 'that the request from the occupiers of 89, High Road, South Woodford, for the removal of the vandalised Festival Shelter be acceded to and the cost of its removal and the re instatement of the site amounting to £800 be met from the building maintenance fund'.

I could not find the shelter and surrounds at Woodford Bridge on an Ordnance Survey map, but that it was somewhere on the Green is evidenced by the Town Clerk's report to the General Purposes Committee on 6th March 1951 that 'following enquiries, the agents for the interested parties in the covenant restricting building on the Green had agreed to permit the erection of a seat-shelter on that Green'. A photograph 'Woodford Bridge Green 1954' on the commercial web site 'History in Pictures' shows the shelter and the brick wall surrounding the garden which

confirms that it was on the lower green. Though this is a sloping site there is, even now, the suggestion of a plateau/flattened area about half way down in the position of the shelter and garden in the photograph.

(http://www.history-in-pictures.co.uk/store/index.php?_a=viewProd&productId=5838)

Unfortunately, this shelter was beset by vandalism almost from the word go. As early as September 1951 Alderman A R Page drew the General Purposes Committee's attention to 'the misuse and damage caused to the seat- shelter recently erected at Woodford Bridge'. Then on 29th May 1952 the Borough Surveyor reported on the condition and treatment of the Festival Shelter at Woodford Bridge and as a result was asked to present to the next meeting of the Committee an estimate of the cost of removal and re-erection of the shelter to another part of the Borough together with suggestions as to a suitable site.

This he did on 28th August 1952 and at the same time reported there had been an improvement in the state of the shelter, so the situation continued to be monitored. The shelter apparently remained in a reasonable condition until early 1955 when the Borough surveyor reported to the Highways and Open Spaces Committee that 'serious damage had again occurred to the Festival Shelter at Woodford Bridge. Some roof and ridge tiles were missing, and others were dislodged and the main seat had been broken away from the wall and badly damaged. In view of this the shelter had been fenced off on the Friday 18th March'.

Referring to the fact that the Committee had considered removing the shelter and siting it elsewhere, at their meeting in August 1952, it was resolved that the Festival Shelter at Woodford Bridge be removed and the site reinstated. Also that the shelter be re- erected on the small ornamental garden at the junction of Sydney Road and High Road Woodford Green.

Approval was granted and the shelter was removed to its new site where it remained until at least June 1970 when the Borough Engineer reported to Highways and Open Spaces Committee of the LB Redbridge on the condition of the shelter and upon allegations 'that it is being used for undesirable and immoral purposes'. It was therefore resolved, 'that the shelter be removed and re- erected at some suitable place to be determined at a later stage and that seats be placed on the site'.

The position of the shelter at the corner of Sydney Road and the High Road is shown on the Ordnance survey map of 1962, and the concrete base of it (some 8' x 24') is still there but there are no seats.



Concrete base of the shelter, Photo Gail Ellisdon

Whilst this account gives the essence of the Woodford Festival Shelters, I am aware that there are 'loose ends'. For example, was the Gates' Corner one removed whilst the A406 work was being done and then reinstated or was it left in situ and was the Woodford Green one ever transferred as agreed in 1970

and if so where to? And, what happened to the bronze plaques affixed to the shelters indicating they commemorated the Festival of Britain 1951?

If anyone has any further information, photographs or drawings of these Woodford Festival Shelters or indeed of the one on George Green, Wanstead, please could you let Georgina Green (georgina.green@btconnect.com) have it to pass on to me.