

NEWSLETTER 142

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Price 20p, free to members

Notes and News

Water pump restored

Before 1885 when piped water first reached the Pump Hill area of Loughton two water pumps stood there which were the main source of water for local people. In April 1999 one of the pumps was restored and returned near to its original position on Pump Hill, after it had remained derelict for many years. In Victorian times the pump was fed by a spring but it now no longer draws water. The pump was officially unveiled at a ceremony attended by the District Council chairman, Michael Heavens, Loughton Town Council chairman, Monty Juniper, and Loughton town councillor and Society chairman, Chris Pond. The restoration of the pump was made possible by support from Epping Forest Council, Loughton Town Council, Three Hills Amenity Society, the Corporation of London and our own Society.

Books

The Society published the *History of the Loughton Methodist Church and of Methodist Expansion in South-West Essex* by Chris Pond and Alison Whiting's *The Loughton Roding Estate: from Cattle Grazing to Double Glazing* in December 1998. Chris Pond's book is published jointly with the Church and complements the connection between the two organisations stemming from the Church being the Society's regular meeting place.

Alison Whiting tells the story of the Roding Road-River Way-Stonards Hill-Southview Road estate – which was an area of Loughton that was completely undocumented.

Both books may be obtained at meetings at the members' special price of £2.50 and £1.75, respectively. Members who live at a distance may get them from the Chairman at these prices plus a stamped addressed envelope for 50p.

A childhood at the Horse and Well, Woodford Wells

I was born at the Horse and Well, Woodford Wells, 80 years ago. The local midwife, Mrs Warmington, attended my mother at the delivery. My parents, Dave Nosworthy and Annie Catherine Lovegrove, married in October 1915 and then went to take over the Horse and Well. At the time of their marriage my father was living at the Crooked Billet, Chingford Road, Walthamstow. Mother was living at the Higham Hill Tavern, Walthamstow.

The Horse and Well is named after three wells, two were in the huge cellars and one under the back step of the private bar.

In his article published in *Woodford in the 1930s* [series No 1, 1992], Douglas Powter writes that Tom Nosworthy owned the Traveller's Friend and that his sisters ran the Horse and Well. But my mother and father ran the Horse and Well at that time, my sister Delsie would have been about 12 years old then.

My uncles, all six Nosworthy brothers, were in the licensed trade. My mother held the licence of the Horse and Well in her name. Father joined the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) as a volunteer in the 1914–18 war and, because of this, my mother ran the

business and held the licence in her name. Father was more of a "mine host", as was the role of a publican then. Mother served behind the bar and supervised the domestic and staff arrangements.

Grandfather came from the West Country to settle at Woodford Bridge, he was in farming. A son, my uncle Bill, took over the William IV, a small beerhouse in Chigwell, [now an estate agents] from his in-laws; his wife's side were all in farming at Woodford Bridge.

Uncle Jack Nosworthy had the Greyhound in Lea Bridge Road. They had a huge piece of ground there. Uncle Jack had the sand and ballast dug out, which he sold off, and then had the Lea Bridge Road dirt track, for motorbike racing, laid out there behind the pub.

When I was about four years old I went to a small, private school run by the Misses Cutchey, Laura and Emma Cutchey. The two sisters were VADs [Voluntary Aid Detachment] during the First World War. They kept bees and chickens. From there I went to Birch's Commercial College, run by Miss Birch, in George Lane, South Woodford, it was opposite Barclays Bank. I believe it is the site of a roundabout, now. My sister Delsie (Delysia) was also born at the Horse and Well. We were both required to help our mother. We never went out to play with the local children but we were never lonely and we were never left on our own. We had a riding stables attached to the premises and I had to help with the horses. I learnt to ride.

For holidays, Mother would take us to Aunt Carrie's boarding house on the Isle of Wight. In the summer we often visited Riggs' Retreat at Chingford with friends and accompanied by our very young nursemaid, Winnie Rolff. There were a marquee, swings and a roundabout.

Trade at the Horse and Well was usually very brisk, with the local trade and especially at the weekends with the tourists coming out to the forest. The four ale bar was for the working people. The saloon bar for the "gentry". The snug, an alcove in the saloon bar, was for the ladies. The tea rooms were at the back with seating for 100 plus customers. There was also a skittle alley with parquet flooring. This was a very popular game with travellers and locals. The skittles were round wooden blocks [jacks] and these were knocked over by cheeses, lozenge-shaped objects [similar to a game on ice known as curling].

We had stabling for horses for the horse-drawn cabs used at Woodford Station. The cabs were stored down the side of the building where the garage is now. The cabs would meet the clients coming in on the trains about three times a day. Many lived in the great houses in Snakes Lane. Motor cabs eventually replaced the horses.

The food served at the Horse and Well was good. We served Doubleday's pies. Bread, cheese and pickle was 3d. Four pickled onions were one penny. Arrowroot biscuits were a penny each. We served Smith, Garret & Co's Fine Ales and Worthington's, until the Taylor Walker brewery took over as the suppliers.

The ice man delivered ice on a horse-drawn cart. The ice was kept in a small, lead-lined cupboard. Charlie Miller, the milkman, delivered the milk three times a day. The "gold change machine" a small wooden cabinet (patent No 22067, made by Farrow and Jackson, Engineers, London EC) gave change for one sovereign and half-sovereign pieces, with a small drawer underneath for notes.

Once a year the Mayor of Poplar and his party stopped at the Horse and Well on their way to the retreat at Theydon. Pints of beer were served to over 300 people. Lunch would be served to them at the Theydon retreat.

We had three living-in staff: two men – the cellarman and the barman – and Phyllis the nursemaid who came from Wales during the slump in the 1920s. Her wages were 1 guinea a week with one half-day off on Thursday and Sunday afternoon, but back by seven in the evening for opening time. A young girl called Joyce Kirk worked as scullery maid and did the washing up. We had gas lighting until electricity was supplied – about the late 1920s – and a big black range in the kitchen for cooking apart from the scullery.

Opening times on weekdays were from 11.30 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon and then 5.30 to 10 o'clock in the evening.

The Horse and Well was a substantial size. Upstairs were seven bedrooms. Mother's bedroom was at the front, originally it was the billiard room. Our nursery was at the back, two rooms overlooking the garden. There were two staircases, one at the front and a back staircase. A spirit room stored the gin, whisky and rum. The spirits were delivered in bulk and stored in ceramic containers from which they were piped down to the bar below. The spirit room was always kept locked. We were not allowed to drink – I never had anything stronger than a shandy.

On the ground floor, in the public area, was the saloon bar, then the snug and the public bar – often referred to as the four ale bar. The local working men used the public bar where they played darts. Besides the tea rooms and the skittle alley, the pigeon club, darts club and a football club met at the Horse and Well. The football club played Saturday and Sunday mornings and I had to do the teas for halftime. The riding school, managed by a Mr Horne from Ilford, rented the paddock. During the [first] war it was managed by the Butler brothers. Mr Rolfe looked after the kitchen garden and supplied us with some of the vegetables.

The firm of Cawardine, from Holborn, delivered supplies of flour, pearl barley, pulses, sauces, pickles, jams and coffee, and also to houses in the district; the horses were stabled overnight.

Next to the Horse and Well was Mr Dawson's sweet shop, Fisher's the butchers, then Grigg's the grocer, then a couple of cottages and Sutton's the greengrocer.

Sylvia Pankhurst lived opposite the Horse and Well at Red Cottage, known also as Rose Cottage. She was a sad, mysterious person: she did not socialise. I watched the setting up of the stone protesting against the Abyssinian war.

When Father died he was 49 years old. Mother carried on until the work became too much for her. She left the Horse and Well on 29 September 1955 and managed an off-licence in Leyton until she died on 3 January 1970. She never retired.

MARJORIE GILBERT TALKING TO EMELIE BUCKNER

A Chigwell fragment

In 1643 the House of Commons caused to be issued a pamphlet entitled *The First Century of Scandalous Malignant Priests*, which was a dossier of the sins of 100 Church of England ministers whose livings had been sequestered – that is, the ministers had been removed from their livings at the House's insistence.

The catalogue of misdeeds is a very miscellaneous one, starting with the incumbent of Arlington in Sussex, who was deprived for 18 offences of buggery, including one with a mare. Several Essex ministers are included: Humphrey Dawes of Nazeing, an habitual drunkard; Edward Alston of Pentlow for the attempted seduction of several women; and Ambrose Westhorp of Great Totham, who most unwisely compared his female parishioners with sows. Many, however, were for doctrinal misdeeds, including Dr Emmanuel Uty, Rector of Chigwell.

Uty's misdeeds were: "That he affirmed that there hath been no true Religion in England these 40 years"; that "he loved the Pope with all his heart"; that "whatsoever men of holy Orders speake they speake by Divine inspiration, and that if the Devill himself would have Holy orders put on him, he would be inspired by the Holy Ghost". He denied the King's supremacy of the Church and blasphemously stated that "The Command of the Arch-bishop of Canterburie was to be equally obeyed with the Word of God". More seriously for the House, he opined "that Parliament-men are Mechanicks and illiterate, and have nothing to doe [but] to intermeddle in matters of Religion".

Little is known of Dr Uty, but he was probably not continuously resident at Chigwell, as the Rectory was leased out during and beyond his incumbency. CHRIS POND

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