

HERITAGE

Scrapbook

A miscellany of West Essex history and anecdotes compiled by **Peter Lawrence**, chairman of the Woodford Historical Society

Pie = half a guinea at the old George

WHEN, in the late Victorian period, the present George pub in Wanstead was being rebuilt on the site of the old George & Dragon, a piece of white stone, shaped like a grave's foot stone and marked with a curious inscription, was also being re-seated on a wall of the new building. It read:

*'In memorie of ye cherrie pey;
As cost half a guinea 17th of July;
That day we had good cheer
And hope so to do many a year
A.D. 1752
David Jersey'*

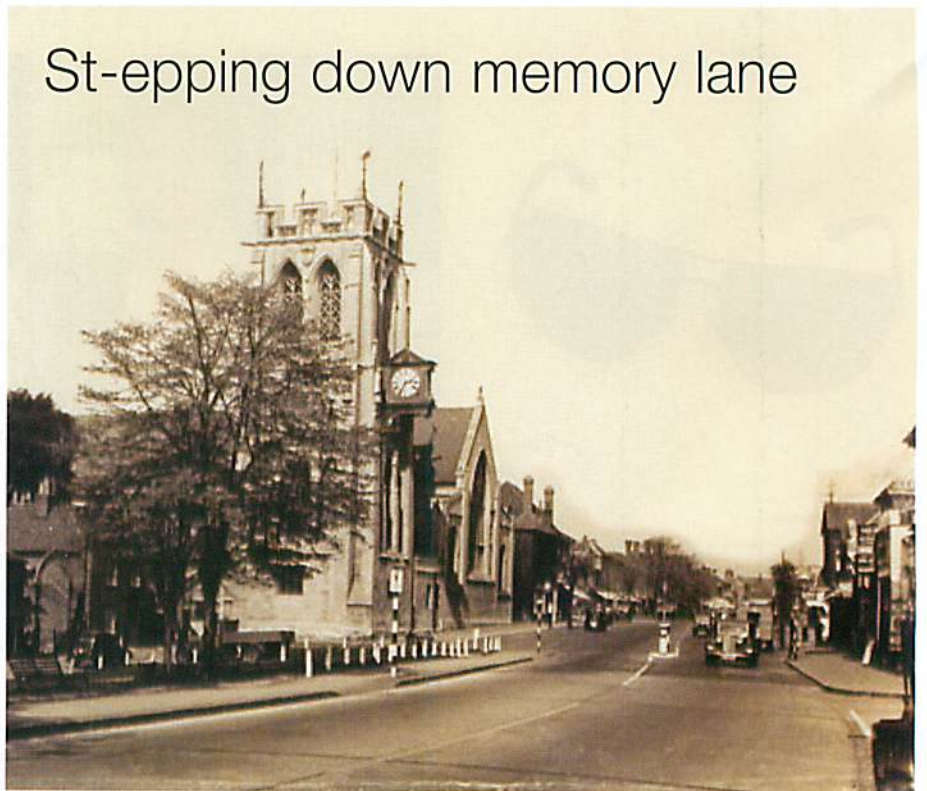
The stone has been recut several times but the story goes that while a large pie was being delivered from a local bakery to the Rectory in Redbridge Lane, it was removed from the head of the baker by a builder working from scaffolding at the pub.

Mr Jersey obviously thought the half guinea fine from the Magistrate was well worth it!



The George c.1935

St-epping down memory lane



MARKETS are as old as England itself. Epping's Monday market began in 1253 when a charter was granted to the Abbott of Waltham Abbey.

Although there have been several changes in market practice over the centuries, today's Epping High Street with Epping Plain to the north and Bell Common to the south, still show all the hallmarks of a great holding area for cattle and sheep destined for the London markets.

With the Norwich to London highway passing through, by 1800 there were no less than 26 inns to service countless travellers and drovers.

There may be a lot less pubs now but many of the timber-framed buildings surviving from that period were originally inns. Notably, the Black Lion shows all the signs of being late medieval or Tudor construction.

Turn to page 54 for a host of other reasons to visit the great town.

Stalling for time...

DID YOU know centuries ago if you set up stall and sold goods before the appointed day or time a market opened – you could be arrested and all your goods forfeited, because you had committed the offence of 'Forestalling'.

Not many people know that – but they do now.

What have they done to Theydon?



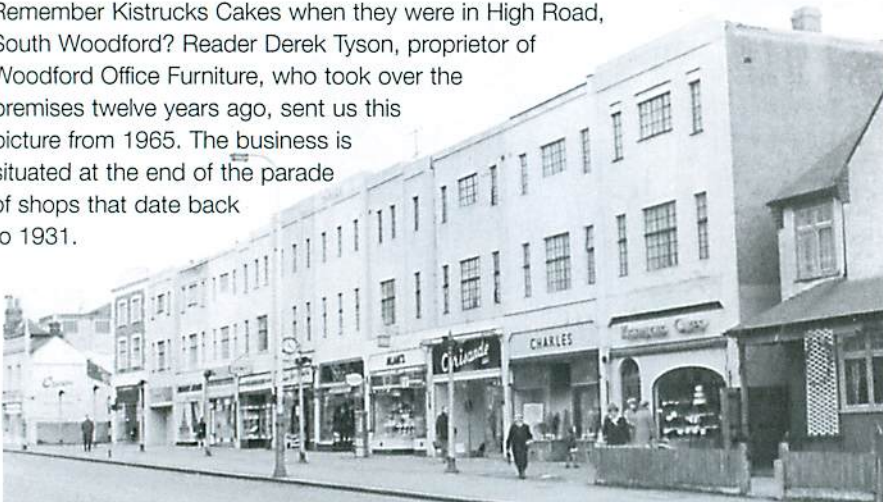
THEYDON BOIS Village c. 1910.
The changes between the Edwardian postcard and today are not so dramatic as elsewhere in West Essex,

including the resistance to modern street lighting. What cannot be ignored, of course, is the arrival of the motorcar...



Part of the Woodford furniture

Remember Kistrucks Cakes when they were in High Road, South Woodford? Reader Derek Tyson, proprietor of Woodford Office Furniture, who took over the premises twelve years ago, sent us this picture from 1965. The business is situated at the end of the parade of shops that date back to 1931.



Pole position

BEAUTIFUL views, west over the Lea Valley and east towards Buckhurst Hill can be had from the top of Pole Hill. Many will know the site was occupied by a cabin used for several years by Lawrence of Arabia (above) and during World War II was an anti aircraft gun site.

Interestingly, the word Pole is a corruption of Paul after St. Paul, as the Bishops of London used to be Lords of Chingford Manor.

Pleasure's all hers

'Mob's Hole' – the 18th century name for the Nightingale Green area of Wanstead – was where the self-styled 'Lady Butterfield' opened her house and gardens to the social set of London town. She was renowned for placing advertisements in the capital's newspapers, including this one in the early 1700s:

TO ALL GENTLEMEN AND LADIES:

If Rare Good young Beans and Pease can Tempt Ye,

Pray pass not by my Hall with Bellies Empty;

For Kind Good Usage everyone can tell,

My Lady Butterfield does excel;

At Wanstead Town, a Mile of the Green Man

Come if you dare and stay away if you can

Hard to imagine Wanstead having a 'pleasure ground' until you think how close it is to London and the volume of wealthy merchants who lived in this part of Queen Anne/Georgian Essex.

Do you know any West Essex legends, folklore or have any stories to tell?

Write to West Essex Life, 427 High Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 OXE or email mark.jacobs@archant.co.uk