

A walk through the hidden history of local trading and commerce Created by artists Elaine Tribley and Amanda Westbury

A LITTLE TOKEN HISTORY

After the great upheaval of the Civil War authority was given to towns to produce their own individual tokens to met the shortage of small denominations of coins

"A round token for Rainham

was issued, the obverse side of which was stamped with the name Elizabeth Goever, a five pointed star, and the words 'Her Half Peny', the reverse side shows 'At Rainham 1668, EG' and a true lovers' knot, but the nature of her business is not stated, as on some tokens. The one known example of the Rainham halfpenny is at the Colchester Museum. The church registers the entry 'Elizabeth Gover buried 1702'" i

DIRECTORY 1848 Parker Charles, hair dresser Cooper Robert, baker Crosse John Crosse Godsall, Esq., Parson John W., tailor Payne Henry, grocer Roche Rev. Hy. Geo. B.C.L. Vicaruge Bericick House Daldy Edw. Mee, coal and timber Stafford John, wheelwright Tyrrell David, shopkeeper merchant and maltster Eldred John, blacksmith Walton Thomas, salesman Ennever James, butcher Polley Jas. Moor FARMERS. Ennever John, vict. Bell Hall Ennever Robt. shoemaker & shopkr Benton Aaron North, Surridge Benton Wm. Everett John, carpntr. & vict. Angel Berwick Blewitt William, Farrar John, shoemaker owner, Brights, Sarridge Thos. Gentry Mark, baker Ennever John Gentry Wm. thatcher & parish clerk POST OFFICE at Gore Wm. vict. Three Crowns, Ferry Freeman John Robt. Ennever's. Heathcoat Thos. Hill John, grocer Marden William, Letters via Rom-Hillier Mr Edward, South Hall ford daily Howell Ths. borse letter&vict. Phanix Gerpins OMNIBUS Marden W. jun. Johnson Ellen, schoolmistress London every mg. Mitchell John King Wm. blacksmith and farrier Mitchell Samuel | from the Phornix Mayhew Samuel, butcher

The Rainham Tokens

A Walk through the hidden history of local trading and commerce

INTRODUCTION

I am thrilled about the Rainham Token project, the subject of this publication. The history of Rainham spans the history of humans in Britain. Among other items early tools from the Stone Age have been discovered here. A Saxon Burial Ground in the 1930s produced rich items from the Saxon period. Swords, spear heads, brooches, rings and shield bosses surfaced from the sand and gravel together with small wooden buckets with bronze fittings and an olive green drinking horn, all now at the British Museum.

Havering Museum displays several early items connected with the parish. In 1963 and more recently, Roman artefacts have been found on the Mardyke Farm Estate. In Norman times there were four manors and roads of today are named from them - South Hall, Launders, Gerpins and Berwick. The village has at its centre the Grade 1 Listed Norman Church. The ship graffito scratched on the rood stairway wall, dating from c1500 shows a ketch at anchor, and reminds us of a time when the Ingrebourne was navigable and became an important port in the middle ages, with local ships carrying wool cargoes to Calais market.

The port status was significant from before 1200 until the 19th century. Rainham has a fund of historical stories and the great romance of the village is exemplified in the career of John Harle, who built Rainham Hall, adding to the charm of Rainham's central collection of architecture.

Photographs give us a feeling for its romantic past - the Tokens contribute to a very special environment that is Rainham Village.

Brian Evans, Local Historian

Artist Introduction

Where do you start trying to capture the character and uniqueness of a place through an artwork?

Places are complex spaces that are created over time; they have layered histories that are made up of important dates and events. Their development having been shaped and influenced by people and money, the visual evidence of this now only existing in the buildings and architectural features, which you occasionally glimpse as you walk by.

Rainham has an important history that has been hidden behind the industrial growth and development of the surrounding area which now encapsulates it like a time capsule. It only allows hints and clues to its stories and history in the facades of the structures and shops along its streets.

We have taken these local stories etched into people's memories and the histories stamped into the printed archive materials and marked certain moments in time of 12 particular sites. The bronze artworks document the change of Rainham village through medieval times to a 21st Century town, the change from a rural medieval village to modern day. The timeline of the trail starts with the influence of the shipping trade on a particular Medieval resident of Raynham, through the civil war and the minting of a local coin, the early Victorian commuters, the entrepreneurial Hills and Hernes and their emporiums, through the roaring 20's and the swinging sixties to now.

We have tried to uncover some of these forgotten histories of the people and commerce that helped shape this part of Havering, and hope that you will enjoy treading in their footsteps as you follow the trail sited in the pavements along Broadway, Wennington Road and Upminster Road South.

Elaine Tribley and Amanda Westbury

URBANSTRATA

public art

From Men to Manufacturers

Outside train station, Ferry Lane

Murex Limited was a leading British provider of services to metallurgists, smelters and refiners, and welders. Founded in 1909 as an ironfounder and

ferroalloy manufacturer, the company moved to Rainham in Essex in 1917.

The name Murex is the generic name of a group of shells with a distinguished history. The name was chosen for the company by one of the original financiers, Marcus Samuel, who with his brother, founded the Shell Transport and Trading Company and recalled the first of the Shell tankers had been named Murex after the sea-shell from which the Phoenicians had obtained a purple dye.

Ferroalloy refers to various alloys of iron with a high proportion of one or more other elements, manganese or silicon for example. It is used in the production of steels and alloys as a raw material. Some of the main ferroalloys are: FeAl – ferroaluminum; FeCe – ferrocerium; FeCr – ferrochromium; FeMg – ferromagnesium. The Murex company in Rainham closed it's doors in the eighties but continues to function today as Murex Welding Products in Waltham Abbey.



The Victorian Commuter

Pheonix Public House, Broadway

A coach went from Rainham to Whitechapel twice a week in the 1780s and 1820s, and daily by 1838. Another passed through Rainham daily

from the 1820s on its way from Tilbury to London. A third ran to Fetter Lane, London, twice a week in 1824 and thrice weekly in 1838. In 1848 and 1850 there was a daily omnibus to London, which stopped at the Phoenix Public House in the morning.











Butcher, Baker Candlestick Maker

7-11 Broadway

There are many Rainham folk who talk about the cold feeling in certain parts of Rainham Library. This they attribute to Samual Mayhew a butcher in the early 20th Century, whose old fashioned shop was on the road frontage opposite the churchyard, who is known to have committed suicide.

Frank Lewis describes the shop in his book 'History of Rainham' "The old butchers shop, which had a distinctive pentroof of slate and wooden posts projecting right over the footway, gave way in 1964 to the Stanton Radio premises which were acquired for the London Borough of Havering and



officially opened as a branch library in April 1967."2

The Essex Records Office hold the account books for Samuel Mayhew from 1837 to 1842 with brief details of customer names of amount and type of meat supplied, with the price and in some cases the customer's address.

From slaughter house to radio manufacturer to library - what could the future hold - a 'Mews...' perhaps!?'!

158. Pictured here c.1963, is the cottage with the porch, which stood next to the *Phoenix Inn* and served as Mayhew's butcher's shop. Following demolition in 1964, a modern building was crected by Stanton Radio and this was converted into Rainham library which opened in 1967.





Her Halfe Peny

Redberry Guest House, 29 Broadway

"Redberry House is of the 18th century. The House is associated with a 19th-century wharf and a group of commercial buildings, and has on the ground floor a room probably designed as a Counting House.

An oriel window on the first floor overlooks the yard. The house contains fittings and timbers of the late 17th and early 18th centuries, and the structure is possibly of the latter date, though its exterior dates from c. 1800.



An early-19th-century coach-house and stables adjoin the house on the west."



3 'Rainham: Introduction and manors', A History of the County of Essex: Volume 7 (1978), pp. 126-134 www.british-history.ac.uk

The Bakers Trio

26 Broadway

"Fred Blows's bakery came next. He later sold this business to Beard's who traded there for many years before selling on to Barton's the bakers as a going concern." 4

Robert Beard was an increasingly prominent figure in Hornchurch throughout the 1930's.

Born in Dagenham, he came to Hornchurch around 1910 and opened a bakers and confection-



ers business, later expanding the business with shops in Romford and Rainham.



4 Rainham Born and Bred by Coral Jeffrey, publisher Ian Henry Publications, 2003, ISBN 0 86025 526 3





Fancy Goods

12 Broadway

Rainham post office originally stood on the opposite side of Upminster Road next to the church-yard, known as Back Street in the early 1900's. Rainham born Ruth (1914) recalls the shops to

Coral Jeffrey for her publication 'Rainham Born & Bred' 5

"Jennings was the postmaster then and Mrs. Holmes the clerk. When the annual visits were made to the Post Office from head office, Mr. Jennings would ask his assistant to take a cheque to barclays to change for cash. He would then put the money into the till. When the officer's visit was over, he would then take the cash back to Barclays who would, in turn, return his cheque.

In 1907 there was a mysterious fire, which resulted in the departure of Mr. Jennings and Mrs Holmes being appointed postmistress. The Post Office later moved across the road."



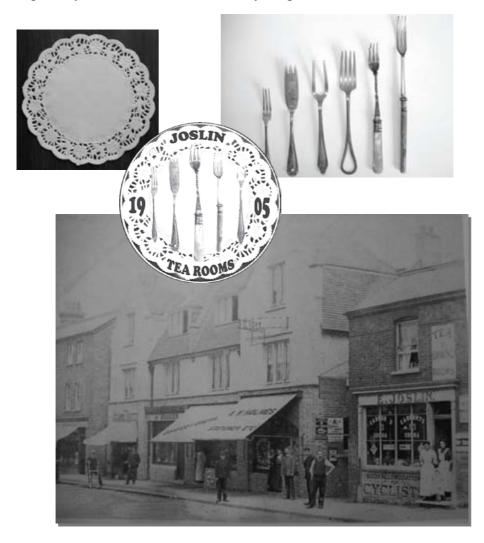


Time for Tea

The Ship Centre, 1-3 Upminster Road South

By 1905 the scene had changed on the high street, many more shopping facilities now existed, with a variety of shops in the central block. Joslin's Tea and dining rooms catered for visitors, advertising especially for those involved in the cycling craze.





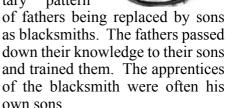
The Village Hub

Alley to Viking Way, off Upminster Road South

Where the alley way leads to Viking Way there was once a black-smith. At that time the blacksmith was probably the most important craftsman in the locality because without him the tools of the farmer couldn't be made. He made plough-irons, pikes, axes, as well as making and putting on horse-shoes on the horses!

It is possible with the wharf nearby that the Forge in Rainham made some items for the fishermen as well. Anchors would have been produced if so. The blacksmith was trained to make dozens of items.

Blacksmiths tended to follow a hereditary pattern









Shoes for a Shilling

9 Upminster Road South

There has always been a shoe shop on this site since anyone can remember. Ennever, Burr and Son Ltd and now Essex Footwear.

At the turn of the century the busy shoe shop even had a cobbler located in the basement, and the shoes would be passed down to him through a trap door in the floor. The original stained and painted windows of the shop still exist behind the newer facade that



exists at the moment.

There was a terrible fire in the shoe shop in the early part of last century and the owner of the shop at the time had a big sale selling the shoes off for a shilling



20th Century Entrepreneurs

4 Upminster Road South

FP Hill purveyor of Fruit & Veg., Fish & Rabbits, a well known name in Rainham, Rainham born Ruth (1914) recalls for Coral's book 'Rainham Born and Bred' 6



"Haddock, kippers and bloaters were smoked in oak dust behind the shop. Each friday they would sell hot fish and chips, fried in a small outhouse. Elsie would call the orders from a rear window and, when ready, Carrie would walk through the alley and along the road to the shop, carrying a tray of steaming fish and chips on her head."

The Hill family were definitely entrepreneurs of the 20th century as on the opposite side of Upminster Road, known as Back Street at that time, was a toy shop right next to the churchyard, run by Mr. Hill's mother and his sister, Nellie.

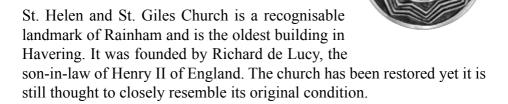






Medieval Graffiti

Upminster Road South, adjacent to St Helen & St Giles Church



The Norman church retains many of its original features, for example the heavily carved arches above the priest's door on the south side of the chancel. It is somewhat famous amongst local schoolchildren for a prominent piece of medieval graffiti, of a Ship, carved into the wall of the roof-loft staircase in the church.



Putting Rainham on the Map

Rainham Hall, The Broadway

In 1718 John Harle, a sea-captain from South Shields married a Stepney widow and about the same time acquired the Rainham wharf. After improving it, he imported building materials as well as coal, and advertised granaries for the storage of corn, and shipments to London twice a week. His business prospered, and by 1729 he had built Rainham Hall.

According to Frank Lewis in his book 'History of Rainham' 7 The cooper plate from which his advertisements were taken is now in the Chelmsford Museum and reads thus



7 'History of Rainham' by Frank Lewis, revised in 1985, published by Ian Henry Publications Ltd, ISBN: 978 0 86025 931 2

Acknowledgements

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MAYOR OF LONDON