

Wander About Wednesday: What's in a name?

Wednesday 3 June 2020

Welcome to Wander About Wednesday: What's in a name? – sharing our heritage from Bruce Castle Museum & Archive.

As the lockdown restrictions ease a little and more of us are able to get out and about, we are seeing more people walking and cycling. Not only are these activities great forms of exercise, but they are also a wonderful way to connect with your local area. They give you the time to look about and appreciate your surrounds – be it the buildings, shops and cafes at street level that you pass (now slowly opening up again), or the names of places that hint at the past. We are going to have a look at one particular road in the borough - [Green Lanes](#) (looking in particular at the part covering both N4 and N8, in the area called [Harringay](#)) - that has both this exciting mix of current, diverse cultures and communities and a long, rich heritage which might not seem evident to most people today passing through.

First, let's have a look at the road itself. Green Lanes is one of London's longest roads at 6.3miles (10.1km) long. It forms part of the A105 which leads people north out of London, or takes them right into the heart of the city. Green Lanes' northern point is Winchmore Hill in the borough of Enfield and its southern end is at the north/west point of Newington Green on the Hackney/Islington borders. It enters the borough of Haringey at Lyndhurst and Lascott's Roads (where it is called High Road) and leaves the borough at the south-eastern tip of Finsbury Park, at the corner of Seven Sisters Road.



Green Lanes c.1910. From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

With the coming of the railways and Harringay Park Station opening in 1885, Green Lanes was growing with its residential streets and busy commercial roads, becoming a thriving business hub. You can read about [How Harringay Happened](#) from the book of the same name by local historian John Hinshelwood.



Green Lanes looking north towards Turnpike Lane with The Salisbury pub and its dome seen on the corner of St Ann's Road. The Electric Coliseum Cinema (which opened in 1913) and its ornate façade is just beyond, c.1915.

From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

The images of Green Lanes (above) from around 1915 shows a bustling street full of commerce, with trams taking people up and down from the north and south of the borough and beyond. It looks like you would be able to buy a range of products there at that time, and there was the [newly-opened cinema](#) too.

From the 1950s and the decades that have followed, the area has attracted many different cultures and communities, coming from such places as Albania, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Somalia and Turkey (just to name a few!), as they have made their home in Harringay / Haringey. Luckily for us we can enjoy the wonderful world food culture of Harringay – evident in the array of food stores, cafes and restaurants that populate the road and something that Green Lanes is famous for.



Green Lanes c.1985-1990, showing a few of the many restaurants from different cultures and communities.

From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

For anyone interested in the many different communities living and working along Green Lanes and their food and culture, we suggest [having a look at this walking tour](#) starting at Turnpike Lane and heading down to Clissold Park. It looks at some of the interesting and historical buildings along the way, as well as the amazing cafes and restaurants (hopefully reopening now or very soon at least). I'm hungry just reading this post!

So now we will head up Green Lanes and look at the section between Turnpike Lane and Lordship Lane and talk about a significant estate that was situated at that site. From the mid-13th century the land bounded by Lordship Lane to the north, Green Lanes to the west, the Moselle River on the eastern side and West Green Road at the south was known as the **Manor of Duckett's**, part of Tottenham. Its name was taken from Laurence Duket, a goldsmith and

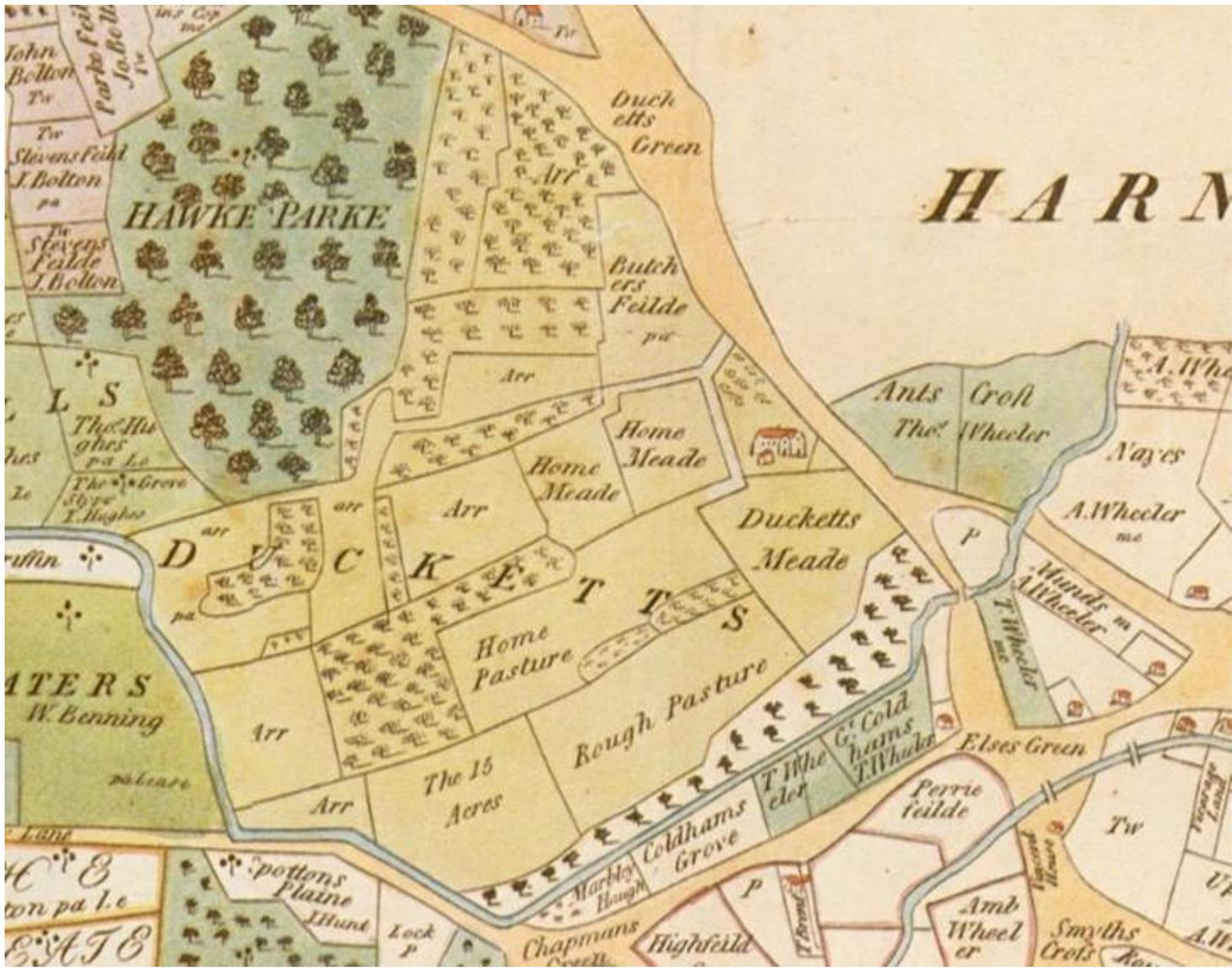
landowner, when he acquired the land in 1260; the estate was also known as Duket's and later, Dovecotes.

From that point, the estate was held by a procession well-connected gentry, including the king's tent-maker John of Yaxley in 1334 and Sir John Stanford, a Justice of the Common Pleas in 1346. In the mid-1400s it was bequeathed to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in Smithfield, which held other land throughout north London. The monks of St Bartholomew's did not farm the land themselves but leased it to farmers gaining both an income and farmer's produce as rent.

In 1532 the estate was leased to the brother of the Master and Custodian of St Bartholomew's. The brother and leasee was [Sir William Brereton \(1487-1536\)](#), Chamberlain of Chester and groom of the Privy Council. The very same gentleman who was hung for treason in 1536 (along with four other men) over an alleged affair with [Queen Anne \(Boleyn\)](#). She, of course, was beheaded in the same year for treason and adultery, and Henry VIII was then free to marry his third wife, Jane Seymour, a whole 13 days later!

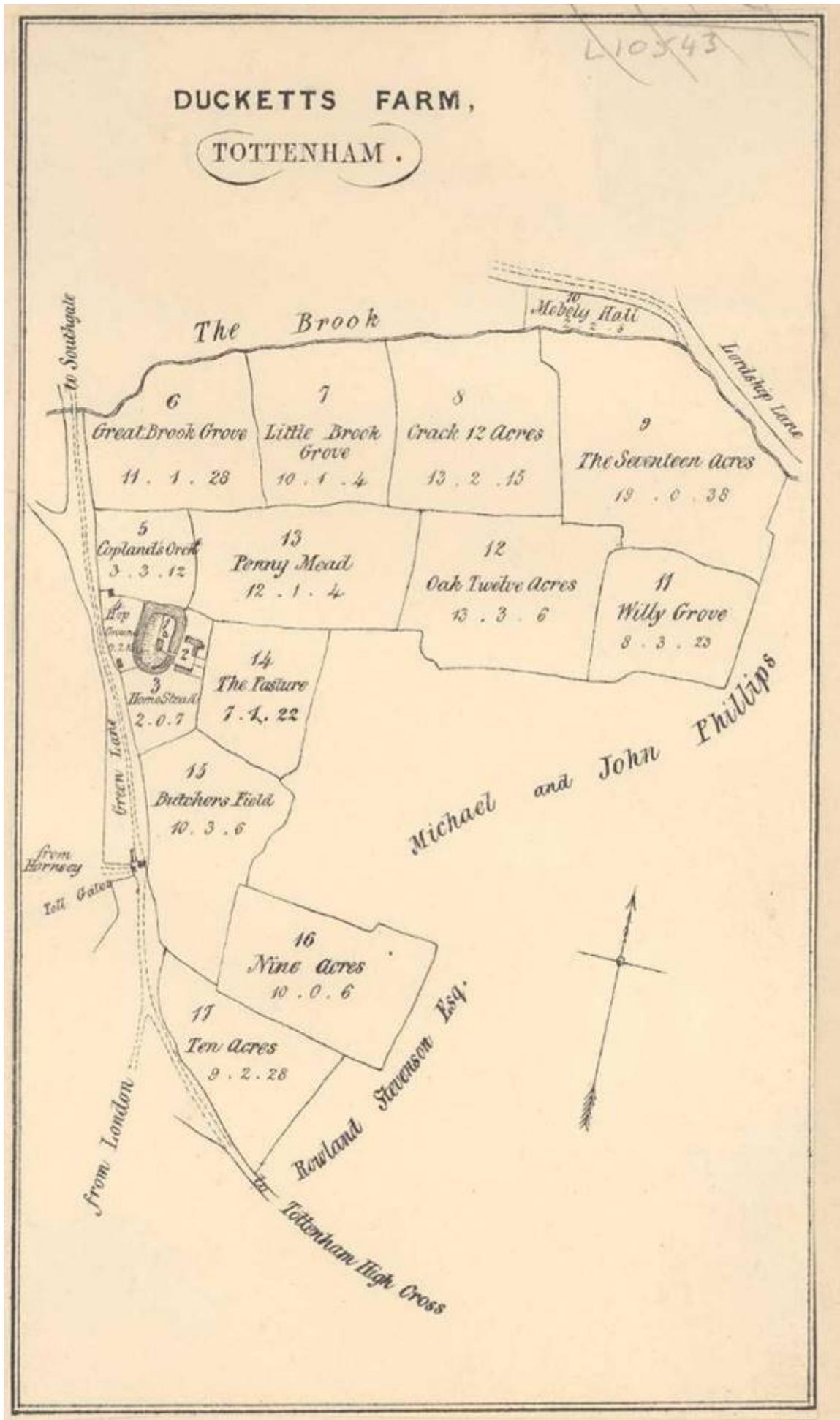
When wondering about that rather fabulous emerald ring that we mentioned in yesterday's post, which was found at the Queen's Head in 1898 – of course, the pub was just opposite the site of the Duckett's Manor house. Made of 14th century gold, it was surely fit for a noblewoman, and as its inscription was in French, perhaps someone with links to France, either living here, or passing through visiting a 'friend' in this particular area. There is of course no evidence to substantiate any of these musings, so we will just leave it there ...

At the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VIII seized Duckett's Estate and in 1547, granted it to his Yeoman of the Wardrobe, [Sir Robert Cecil](#). Others to have held the property were Lord Burghley, Lord North, William Parker (a London draper), Lady Anne Compton (1523-1588) of Bruce Castle, [Thomas Sutton \(the founder of Charterhouse\)](#), the soldier and politician [Sir Francis Poppam](#) in 1619 and then Sir Edward Scott 20 years later. That's quite a list of noblemen/women and merchants linked to the property!



From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

You can see the extent of the estate in this detail (above) of our [1619 map](#) of Tottenham, being bordered to the north and east by the Moselle River (remember this map is looking south, so it seems upside down). The manor house is visible on the map, located to the north of where Turnpike Lane Tube Station is today. Over the next 200 years the property was portioned into smaller sections and purchased by a number of different owners who leased it for farming, including Grainger's farm-house, built between 1818 and 1844 on the south side of Lordship Lane, which survived until the 1890s.



Plan of Duckett's Estate c.1840, you can see the distinctive moat around the homestead.



A painting of the [Duckett's Manor House](#) by 'J.S.' c.1870, showing the bridge over the moat.

There is a good discussion about [Duckett's Manor or Dovecote House](#) (just click on the link) – the name it became known as by the mid-1800s. The estate included a gate house and farm buildings from the 1500. It was surrounded by a moat until the 1860s which was fed by the New River and could be crossed by a bridge. The last occupant of the large house was recorded in 1881, shortly before most of the land was taken for the [Noel Park estate](#) and the house was demolished as part of the redevelopment.



Another view of the homestead at Duckett's, c.1840.

From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

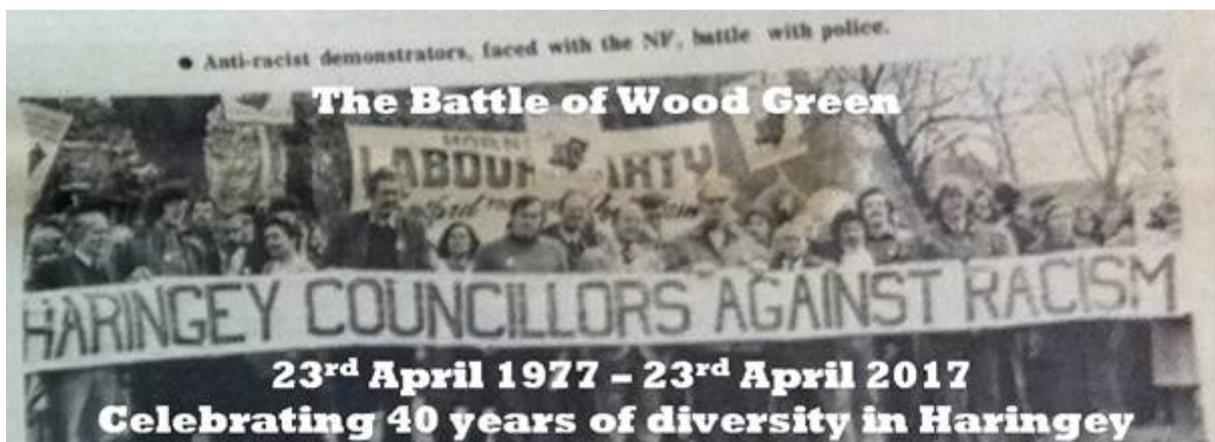
Although the estate and house are no longer with us, the Duckett name lives on in the area.



[Duckett Road](#) on the [Harringay Ladder](#), c.1900.

From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

On the [Harringay Ladder](#) you have [Duckett Road](#) and of course there's Duckett's Common, all just off Green Lanes. The Common has its own recent stories, with links to protest and activism. On 23 April 1977 it was the site for the Battle of Wood Green, when anti-racists stood against the National Front as they marched from Wood Green. This [article by Keith Flett](#) gives a first-hand account of what it was like to be there fighting against racism, standing alongside BAME communities, councillors, trade unions and Haringey residents.



Above is an advertisement for the 40th Anniversary in 2017 of the Battle of Wood Green commemorative event at Duckett's Common; we also had had a talk by

Keith Flett and Dave Morris at our Local History Fair at Bruce Castle in February 2017. The image (above) was taken from an article at the time of the rally in 1977.

Other rallies and protests have been held on the Duckett's Common from the 1970s onwards including LGBTQ+ protests for rights and against the Section 28 bill in the 1980s. In [2018 a Haringey Pride](#) event was held to commemorate the people who campaigned for LGBT+ rights and the protests they held in the borough.

Last year in 2019, Duckett's Common was centre stage for the new midnight basketball sessions for young people to help lower knife crime, led by the inspirational mentor and amazing community sports leader Hesketh Benoit (pictured below) and the [Haringey Sports Development Trust](#). You can read all about it [here, with a short film too](#). In the basketball tournament held last September, we hear that the Mayor Cllr Sheila Peacock, when challenged, managed to get 3 out of 4 balls in the basketball net – well done!



Below are some photographs of other views from our collections of Duckett's Common over time.



Duckett's Common c.1920s

From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)



From the collections of Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)





Duckett's Common c.1965

From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

Today, Green Lanes, with the main exception of Duckett's Common, is neither particularly green nor a series of lanes, but it is still an important conduit between north and central London. It has always been a place of commerce, attracting people to it from all over the world. So now while [wandering around Green Lanes](#), when you see Duckett's Common or Duckett Road in Haringey, maybe you can think of all those people – noblemen/women, merchants, farmers who lived there so long ago, and in more recent times a place of activism to come together to fight for equality and the safety of our young people - a place where communities have made the area their home. You're in fine company.

And if you want to get involved or find out more about the area, a good place to start is with the [Friends of Duckett's Common](#) or join in with the discussions/ follow the local heritage and history section on the community's [Haringay Online](#) (just click on the links). You can also read more about Duckett's Manor in the [People and Places by Hornsey Historical Society](#).

Another topic tomorrow – take care, keep well
Best wishes from us all at Bruce Castle

Julie Melrose
Archivist

Deborah Hedgecock
Curator

Haringey Council, Haringey Archive and Museum Service, Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, London N17
8NU