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Local Women & Men

Enid Mort

Lily Evans

Susanna Mason

Minnie Goodbun

Kathleen Timms

Violet Ryan

Trevor Lock*

Local Sportspeople

Ethel Scott

Jack Leslie

Jimmy Greaves

Sterling Ladies FC

Members of Sterling Ladies Football Team

Maud Smith

Trixie Peters

May Furlong

Gladys Fairman

Ada Fairman

Local Writers & Musicians

Dagenham Girl Pipers

Edith Turnbull

Peggy Iris

Grace Richards

Joyce Reeland

Historic Places, Plants and Landscapes

Market Garden

Holm Oak

Moat

Plumbtree Mead

Black Pond Field

Dampers Dock

Wonts Farm

Dacca*

Berica*

Wisdom Water*

Barking and Dagenham's Industry & Manufacturing

Bolenium Co Ltd

Hobbs of Barbican

Dicky Bird Ltd

Henry Browne and Son Ltd

Birds of Barking and Dagenham

Barn Owl

Blackcap

Cormorant

Firecrest

Heron

Herring Gull

Hobby

Lapwing

Linnet

Parakeet

Pigeon

Pintail

Sand Martin

Song Thrush

Woodpecker

Yellowhammer

Animals of Barking and Dagenham

Badger

Bat

Brown Hare

Harvest Mouse

Hedgehog

Water Shrew

Water Vole

Insects of Barking and Dagenham

Cinnabar (moth)

Damselfly

Dragonfly

Garden Tiger (moth)

Small Heath (butterfly)

Trees and Shrubs of Barking and Dagenham

Bracken

Bramble

Buckthorn

Bugle

Butterbur

Chaffweed

Charlock

Cranberry

Cuckooflower

Daffodil

Gooseberry

Gorse

Honeysuckle

Hop

Mistletoe

Poppy

Raspberry

Silver Birch

Tansy

Daisy
Dewberry
Eyebright

Wild Cherry
Wood Dock
Water Mint

Residents of the Borough who died in wars and Residents and Servicemen who were awarded honours

Asser	Haylett
Bearman	Hodson
Beasley	Hogg
Beezley	Horwill
Bessey	Hurren
Bickers	Huxtable
Bidgood	Keegan
Bones	Kiff
Bowles	Mollenhoff
Brown	Murphy
Buck	Neall
Burkitt	Negus
Carver	Pattle
Chantley	Pavelin
Coggins	Pearce
Cole	Peaty
Collard	Purkiss
Convine	Sammons
Courtney	Scales
Cox	Sharpe
Craze	Sinstadt
Crookbain	Snow
Curry	Tobyn
Dobinson	Torry
Dyster	Walker
Evans	Walklin
Evemy	Waugh
Gearing	Wernick
Gregson	Wiles
Hackett	
Hymas	

Miscellaneous

Riverside

Sheeplees	Perch
Smuggler	Mackerel
Silver Pits	Lobster
Hulk	

Historic References

Firmaress	Chantress
Prioress	Conqueror
Cellaress	

Aeronautical

Moreing	Voisin
Hanger	Pup
Airship	Deverall Saul
Weiss	Gyroscope

Information

Local Women & Men

Trevor Lock*

Trevor Lock was born in Gants Hill, Ilford and grew up in Dagenham. After serving as a beat constable in Barking, he moved to the Diplomatic Protection Group in 1980, the unit responsible for guarding embassies in London. He became widely known for his heroic role in the Iranian Embassy siege that same year, where he was held hostage for six days and acted as the link between the gunmen and police negotiators. When the SAS stormed the building, he tackled the leader of the terrorists, an action credited with saving an SAS soldier's life. For his "outstanding courage, sustained bravery, calmness and devotion to duty," he received the George Medal, a special commendation from the SAS, and the Freedom of the City of London. He and his wife Doreen raised six children and remained in Dagenham throughout their lives. He devoted more than 25 years to the Independent Living Agency, helping to improve services for disabled residents and those with long-term conditions. His contribution was recognised in 2020 with the Freedom of Barking and Dagenham, and in 2022 a plaque was unveiled on their Becontree estate home honouring the couple's service to the community.

Enid Mort

Enid Mort was the daughter of a Kent based Vicar. She moved to Dagenham during World War I to serve as a nurse with the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD). She was based at the National Cartridge and Box Repair Factory at Dagenham Dock which had been formed by the Ministry of Munitions in 1916. Enid would provide medical care to the predominantly female workforce who were repairing cartridge cases and ammunition boxes retrieved from the front lines. Members of the VAD were all volunteers co-ordinated with the assistance of the Red Cross and the Order of St John.

Lily Evans

Lily May Fernella Evans, born in 1892, relocated to Dagenham in 1926 where she joined the local Labour Party. Her strong personality made her a key part of the community. In 1929 she was elected as a member of the Dagenham Urban District

Council. She became Chair of the Council in 1936 and served as Mayor of the Borough from 1942-1944. Evans was involved in almost all aspects of local life, having served on nearly every council committee. She chaired the Dagenham County High School Governors and was a member of local hospital boards.

Susanna Mason

Susanna Mason served on the Barking School Board in the 1890s and became the first female councillor for the inaugural Barking Urban District Council in 1894. She was a member of the School Board and regular visitor to Gascoigne school, even during periods of fever, as documented by the school logbook. Tragically their eldest child, Marian, succumbed to croup at the age of seven, in 1896. Mrs Mason funded a set of stained-glass windows in the new Rippleside Chapel, one of which is dedicated to her and can still be seen today.

Minnie Goodbun

Minnie Goodbun, who lived on Manning Street served as a nurse at a clinic run by the ARP on Ford Road, Dagenham during the Second World War. After the war she left the area to train as a midwife. When she had completed her training, she returned and practised as a domiciliary midwife for Dagenham Village and the areas around Rainham Road and the Rylands Estate. At that time, midwives typically travelled by foot, bike, or public transport, carrying everything they needed in a briefcase. This included enamel bowls, a douche can, a dilator, absorbent cotton wool and gauze, a mucus catheter, umbilical tape, and a pelvic measuring device. However, Nurse Goodbun was one of the lucky ones. She was the first midwife in the area to be given a car by the local authority, which she would have used to attend the births of over 400 babies between 1942 and 1958.

Kathleen Timms

Mrs Timms house was damaged on 15th November 1940, when a parachute mine dropped on it in Boulton Rd. Her son was at home, but she stayed at her ARP Post in Homestead Rd performing her warden duties until she could be relieved.

Violet Ryan

On 19th October 1940, an off-duty 19 year old Violet Ryan, rescued people trapped in a damaged Anderson shelter in Becontree Avenue, after it was hit by an oil bomb.

Local Sportspeople

Ethel Scott

Ethel Scott was born in East London in 1907 to David Scott, originally from Jamaica, and his wife Jane (née Pilgrim). As a young woman Ethel was a keen athlete and joined Middlesex Athletics Club. In 1930 in the face of various prejudices she became the first black female athlete to represent Great Britain on the international stage at the Women's World Games in Prague. She competed in the 60m sprint and the 4x100m relay, winning a silver medal in the relay. When not competing, Ethel worked for the Ministry of Pensions and later became a medical secretary. She lived in Ventnor Gardens, Barking for the last 20 years of her life and died in 1984.

Jack Leslie

Jack Leslie was picked to play for the England National Team in 1925. He would have been the first black player to play for England, but when the selectors discovered his colour, his name disappeared off the team sheet. Jack had been a prolific goal scorer at Barking Town (now Barking FC) before a very successful career at Plymouth Argyle where he scored 137 goals in 400 appearances and was appointed club captain. He later worked as a member of the backroom staff of his local club, West Ham United, as the boot-boy. Jack died in 1988. In October 2022, he was awarded a posthumous honorary England cap by the FA. In February 2023 he was inducted into the National Football Museum's Hall of Fame.

Jimmy Greaves

Jimmy Greaves moved to Ivyhouse Road, Dagenham, as a baby and lived there until moving to the Hainault Estate at the age of nine. Having played football for Southwood School and Dagenham schoolboys, he joined Chelsea at 17 in 1957 and later played for AC Milan, Tottenham and West Ham. A record-breaking goalscorer, he played for England 57 times. Following his playing career, he became an author and TV football pundit.

Sterling Ladies FC

The WWI Munition Workers Ladies Football team (of the Sterling Telephone and Electrical Company, based in Dagenham) never lost a game between 1917 and 1919. Their unique record stands at 36 matches played, 34 won and only 2 draws over two full seasons, scoring 201 goals and conceding 14. During their first season, superstar centre forward Maud Smith scored 38 goals out of 103 scored by the team. They were known as the “Invincibles” and were recognised in 2023 for the first time at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day & with a play at the Queens Theatre

Members of Sterling Ladies Football Team

Maud Smith

Trixie Peters

May Furlong

Gladys Fairman

Ada Fairman

Local Writers & Musicians

Dagenham Girl Pipers

The Dagenham Girl Pipers, founded in 1930 by Rev. Joseph Waddington Graves, were the world's first female pipe band. Graves selected 12 girls from his Sunday school and hired G. Douglas Taylor (the former Pipe Major to the King's Own Scottish Borderers) to teach them piping, drumming, marching, and Highland dancing. After 18 months of training, they performed their first public concert in dashing Royal Stuart Tartan uniforms, quickly gaining popularity. In 1933, Graves turned the group into a professional organization, and by 1937, they had 400 engagements annually. Though the war limited their activities, they continued performing for Forces camps. Post-war, they resumed professional status, performing internationally and appearing on TV. In 1968, they reverted to amateur status, celebrating their 50th anniversary in 1980 and performing at the Royal Command Performance in 1991. Today, the band remains active, performing mainly on weekends.

Edith Turnbull and Peggy Iris

Two of the original members were appointed Pipe-Major, the band's highest rank. They took on the training of the younger members, which by the time War was declared in 1939, numbered 53.

Grace Richards

Grace was born in 1924 and was in the Dagenham Girl Pipers from 1937 to 1943. She later worked as Personal Assistant to Mr J.W. Graves, the founder of the DGP. Grace was Secretary of the DGP Veterans' Association from when it was formed in 1998 until her death in 2011.

Joyce Reeland

Joyce grew up at 34 Osborne Square, Dagenham and went on to become the Drum Major of the Dagenham Girl Pipers during the Second World War. She joined the Women's Royal Army Corps in 1950.

Historic Places, Plants and Landscapes

Market Garden

Most of the borough was a market garden pre urbanisation. When the Becontree Estate was officially opened in 1935, it consisted of 27,000 new homes built on 3,000 acres of former market garden land.

Holm Oak

The Valence Holm Oak is over 300yrs old, survived the great storm of 1987, is listed as one of the Great Trees of London and is the 8th largest tree of the species (Quercus ilex) in the UK.

Moat

The historic moat in Valence Park was dug over 700yrs ago to encircle Valence House.

Plumbtree Mead

Part of the Valence Estate in 1725.

Black Pond Field

Part of the Valence Estate in 1725.

Dampers Dock

A medieval dock on the Eastbury Levels just before Creekmouth.

Wonts Farm

Farm in the mid-1800s situated to the east of Rainham Road South where The Eastbrook Hotel currently stands.

Dacca*

The name “Dagenham” derives from Dæccanhaam, meaning “home of Daecca or Dacca” in Old English

Berica*

The name likely derives from a Saxon chieftain named Berica. The original form was Berecingum, which is thought to mean ‘the settlement of Berica’s people’

Wisdom Water*

The Wantz Stream was known as Wisdom Water during the 17th to 18th centuries

Barking and Dagenham’s Industry & Manufacturing

Bolenium Co Ltd

William A. Smith started his industrial clothing manufacturing company on Green Street, West Ham in a surviving Tudor house called the Boleyn or Bolen Castle - hence the name of the brand - Bolenium. The company moved to Selinas Lane in Dagenham in 1940 to avoid the bombing in the East End and remained there until 1975 when it was rehoused in Seven Kings, Ilford.

Bolenium's reputation was based on production of high quality industrial super strong work overalls - with all garments that were labelled 'Bolenium' being guaranteed. From the 1950s until the 1970s, the Bolenium brand obtained international recognition when overalls made by the firm were adopted by the motor racing world and were worn by Formula One drivers such as Stirling Moss, Jackie Stewart and James Hunt.

Hobbs of Barbican

Hobbs of Barbican, a well-regarded manufacturer of lightweight racing bikes, initially based at 34 Barbican, EC2, moved to Sterling Works in Dagenham during WWII. Hobbs gained a reputation for high-quality, hand-built frames such as the Blue Riband, introduced around 1948-49.

In Dagenham, Hobbs shared factory space with the manufacturers of the Sterling machine gun. By the mid-1950s, increased production of another gun, the Owen machine gun, forced Hobbs to cease frame building. The company continued as a retailer and wholesaler. Notable models included the Continental, Raceweight, and Criterium. Hobbs also marketed cycle components under the Lytaloy brand, known for their quality and craftsmanship. Despite ceasing frame production in the late 1950s, Hobbs saw a brief revival in the 1970s with a limited run of the Blue Riband. Hobbs' frames, distinguished by their ornate lugs and hand-built quality, remain highly valued by collectors.

Dicky Bird Ltd

Dicky Bird's, a factory located in Alfred's Way, Barking, operated from 1937 to the early 1960s, producing a variety of products including ice cream, lollies, novelty Christmas crackers, and providing cold storage and oxy-acetylene welding services. The company gained popularity as ice cream became more widespread due to affordable refrigeration. Dicky Bird's was particularly noted for its delivery service, using three-wheeler box cycles and later motorcycles to distribute ice cream door-to-door across southern Essex.

Henry Browne and Son Ltd

Henry Browne and Son Ltd, was a prominent British manufacturer of navigational instruments, such as compasses, sextants, sounding instruments, telescopes, signalling lamps, barographs, barometers, clocks and thermometers. The company initially operated in Brightlingsea, Essex, before moving to Station Works, Wakering Road, Barking around 1929. The Trademark brand Sestrel was used on all their equipment. Their "Dead Beat" compass, designed to reduce oscillation, was widely used on Allied ships during WWII. The company also supplied many aircraft compasses for planes like the Spitfire and Tigermoth, and lifeboat compasses for British Merchant ships. After a successful period in the 1970s, the company collapsed in the 1980s with the popularity of cheaper plastic compasses.