

The Thorpe Combe Hospital Story

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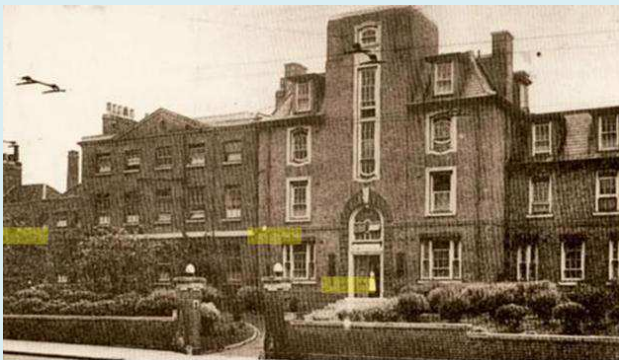
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An Overview



The Thorpe Coombe Hospital is at the corner of two old roads - Shern Hall Street and Forest Road (Formerly Clay Street). The mansion, called North Bank, in which had lived Octavius Wigram, was built in the mid 18th century and at the time its tranquil location was far from the hustle and bustle of London.

Octavius Wigram, was the son of Sir Robert Wigram who owned a number of prestigious properties in the area. He was a businessman, and governor of an insurance firm, The Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation and he who lived there between 1830 and 1841

The original three storey building, in Forest Road, included a series of underground kitchens, an indoor well, a grand hall and a four acre garden. Throughout history it has been constantly tweaked and added to, most dramatically with two extra wings and a rear extension along with more modern buildings in its grounds.

Thorpe Coombe, opened as a Maternity Hospital in 1934 with some 70 beds. Throughout its existence as a Maternity Hospital it was in the forefront of many developments in midwifery. However, the lack of other specialists on the site caused problems and this led to closure of the Maternity Hospital in 1973.

The owners, a Healthcare NHS Trust, sought to demolish the building, but it was spared by funding provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, the Architectural Heritage Fund, Waltham Forest Borough and the Heritage of London Trust.

In 1987 its historic value was recognised when the original parts of the mansion were granted Grade II listed status.



Above: Some of the hospital extension.

After the Maternity Hospital closed, the property continued to be used for healthcare and was then used as a Nurses Home and a the Forest House Psychotherapy Clinic for people suffering from Alzheimer's disease and became a base for the local Community Mental Health Team. These offering services for out-patients with menta

I health problems and they also providing some out-patient treatment for children and young people



Above: A Google map 'snip' of the present day hospital and a 'snip' showing the footprint of the site

In May 2014, Walthamstow residents were invited to a ‘consultation’ with Waltham Forest Borough representatives on the North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT) proposals concerning the future of the site. A spokeswoman for the trust said: "The rationale for development of this site is part of NELFT’s Estates Strategy to pursue a continuous programme of improvement. The sale of the land for residential purposes will release expenditure that will help finance the new health facility.

The proposals were to provide a ‘state of the art’ dedicated Health Centre that will deliver integrated community health and mental health services for the local population of Waltham Forest. The existing services that include rehabilitation, outreach, psychotherapy and support for children and adolescents are currently provided on the site and the Trust has said none will be lost.

Crucially, the proposals also include the development of the remainder of the site to provide residential units comprised of townhouses and flats, including the conversion of Thorpe Coombe House and its associated landscaping. Under the plan, Thorpe Coombe house, the grade II-listed building on the site, would be converted into 17 homes and up to five townhouses. The new residential complex will incorporate 73 homes.

These proposals then became part of a Planning Application that was agreed by the Council.

Appendix 1

The New Thorpe Combe Site Development

The following are an artist’s impressions of what the North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT) development at the Thorpe Combe site will look like:

A new “state-of-the-art” facility for the treatment of people with mental health problems. The existing services including rehabilitation, outreach, psychotherapy and support for children and adolescents currently provided on the site to be retained.



Thorpe Coombe house, the grade II-listed building on the site, which dates back to the mid 18th century, will be converted into 17 homes and up to five townhouses.

The new residential complex will incorporate 73 homes.

Appendix 2

An Account of Thorpe Coombe, once known as North Bank in Forest Road, taken from a Walthamstow Antiquarian Society Publication entitled 'More Walthamstow Houses' Official publication no. 20 (1928)

Thorpe Combe or North Bank, Forest Road

The Wigram Enclave

In the twelfth Monograph, some account was given of Walthamstow House and of Sir Robert Wigram, who, as the father of twenty-three children, founded a family or clan which still flourishes. It will therefore be convenient if we now consider some of the other Wigram houses in Walthamstow, including Brookscroft in Forest Road, Thorpe Combe or North Bank in Forest Road, and Wood End House, that formerly stood at the east end of Wyatts Lane. The last two were within what may be called the Wigram enclave, that is, the area between Wyatts Lane, Shernhall Street and Forest Road, while Brookscroft was just to the west of Wigram's territory, the Hilly Fields, now the site of houses in The Drive and Prospect Hill. Walthamstow House may thus be called the seat of the Wigram family, while two of the sons started their life at Thorpe Combe and Brookscroft ; and Wood End House was the home of the Money family, who were on terms of the closest friendship with the Wigrams. Let us begin our review of these old mansions by giving some details of Thorpe Combe or North Bank, as it was called till about forty years ago.

Location & Description

Thorpe Combe is at the corner of two old roads - Shern Hall Street and Clay Street, now known as Forest Road. It has a north aspect over the Lea Valley and Epping Forest. The original building of the mid-eighteenth century is of reddish brown stocks, which are as good to-day as when they were first laid. The house was nearly square in plan, three stories high, with a lead and tile roof, and underground kitchens. It has a handsome panelled and decorated porch with columns on either side. Two wings were built later to match the original work but they are only two stories high. These two wings balanced each other in outside appearance on either side of the mansion, but only one was an addition to the house accommodation, the other being a coach-house with rooms over for the coachman.

This coach-house has windows facing front, matching the other wing, but they are blocked up, owing presumably to the window tax of those days. At a later date the underground kitchens were disused and another addition was built on the east end for domestic offices, which are

paved with York stone. There is a verandah at the back of the house, over the area which lighted the underground offices.

At the west end, opposite the coach-house, is another building, which was the stable and cowhouse. This has a brick with the date "1789" cut in it. The upper part of this building was fitted with storage room for fruit, etc. The cows used to graze in the meadows opposite, where Spruce Hills Road now runs.

There were two wells sunk for the house, one directly under the old main building, and the other in the old cobble-stone paved coach-house yard. Both are now disused.

Coming to the interior of the house, it is seen at once that the hall is not so large as it might be. The main rooms are of good size, well proportioned, but nearly all facing north, making them cold and sunless. There is an interesting winding staircase, and in one of the bedrooms there is a carved mantelpiece.

The Garden

The garden is about four acres in extent and is really delightful. At the back of the house is a stretch of lawn with beds of rhododendrons flanking it, and a row of old elms in the background. There is a circular pond with water lilies in the south-east corner of the garden, and there is a varied selection of beautiful trees, including oak, chestnut, silver birch, copper beech, cedar, acacia, larch, cypress and mulberry. Even now, in 1928, there are owls, wood pigeons and hedgehogs living in the garden of Thorpe Combe.

Octavius Wigram

I have spent some time over the house and surroundings of Thorpe Combe, as it is a typical mansion of a wealthy merchant at the close of the eighteenth century and during the first half of the nineteenth, and I am going to identify the place as the residence of Octavius Wigram, the twelfth child and seventh grown-up son of Sir Robert Wigram.

Octavius Wigram was born at Walthamstow House on 18 December, 1794. In that year the Thames was so frozen that ships could not get up to London, and there was so little coal in the house that fires could only be kept burning in the kitchen and in his mother's bedroom. He was educated privately at Shacklewell, and at the age of sixteen entered his father's counting-house. He afterwards became a partner in Huldart's Patent Cables Company, and in 1819 he was a director of the Royal Exchange Assurance Company, and did not break his connection with that company until 1878. In 1822 he received a commission as cornet in the London and Westminster Light Horse (Volunteers), and as a trooper of that regiment he was on duty at one of the doors of Westminster Abbey during the coronation of King George IV, when Queen Caroline tried to force her way into the Abbey. During the seasons from 1823 to 1831 he is mentioned as the owner of two ships employed in the East India Company's service. In 1824 he was elected a member of Lloyds, and on 24 March of that year he was married at St. George's,

Hanover Square, by the Lord Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, to Isabella Charlotte, daughter of that prelate. From that year till 1830 Octavius Wigram lived at 36, Wimpole Street. He then came to Thorpe Combe, where he resided till 1841, when he moved to Dulwich.

Among the many appointments he held, we find he was a partner in Reid's Brewery Company, on the Committee of Lloyds' Register of Shipping, and one of His Majesty's Commissioners for enquiry into the law respecting pilots. He was presented with his portrait in oils by Sir G. Richmond, R.A., in 1871, as a mark of esteem from the Royal Exchange Assurance Company. He died on 20th May, 1878, leaving three sons and three daughters.

Other Residents

Thorpe Combe afterwards became the residence of the Rev. John Horle, Mr. W. W. Walker, Mr. Edward Thorpe, Mr. Spurway, and Mr. W. C. Johnson, who was a very active member of the L.C.C. The property then passed into the hands of Mr. Joseph Day, a much respected resident of Walthamstow. He very generously entertained the members of the Walthamstow Antiquarian Society in the beautiful grounds in 1921; and it was appropriate that among the speakers on that delightful occasion was Mr. Loftus Edward Wigram, a grandson of Edward Wigram, and great-grandson of the founder of the family - Sir Robert Wigram.

Mr. Joseph Day died in 1925 and was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard. Mrs. Day continued to live at Thorpe Combe till 1928, when the property was sold to Mr. W. G. Fuller.

From : http://www.archive.org/stream/officialpublicat20waltuoft/officialpublicat20waltuoft_djvu.txt

Appendix 3

A Baby Born At Thorpe Coombe In 1946

The following is an extract from Dave Diss's autobiography entitled '*Creatures of Our Time, in a Land Fit for Heroes*' from books.google.co.uk/books?isbn=0646467212 in which he recounts his memories of his wife's pregnancy and the birth of a son at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital. Dave Diss presently lives in Glengowrie, South Australia.

I have selected this, as it perfectly expresses the austere situation of rationing after WW1 and is very evocative of the period. He talks of walking his 'in labour' wife to the hospital and buying a second hand pram for the baby and of unpegging 'freeze dried' nappies from the washing line etc.

Then & Now

In the days of disposable fitted nappies that are fastened with Velco , which self wrap and are placed in the Council domestic non-recyclable bins, how many of today's young women would recoil in horror if they had to use the standard re-useable cotton nappies of that time. This was



before most people had a washing machine and soiled nappies were first rinsed by hand and then boiled. They were then hung on a garden line to dry. Freshly laundered, soft and fluffy and pristine white, they were carefully folded into a triangular shape, placed around the baby's bottom and secured with safety pins. In the 1960's plastic pants were placed over the nappy. (You could even get them with a

frilly bit for girl baby's) When they were too worn they were then used as cleaning towel.

The account also shows the major differences between then and today. Now, communication is instant. Virtually everybody has their own transport and mobile phone. Most expectant father attend hospital with their partners for the scans attend the birth of their children.

Creatures Of Our Time In A Land Fit For Heroes

Our baby was born on the 11th December (1946) in Thorpe Combe Hospital, Walthamstow. Private cars at that time were a prize possessions and a symbol of a status that Pauline and I didn't qualify for... And the taxis weren't rerunning because they couldn't get any petrol. But as fortune had it Thorpe Combe Maternity Hospital, where Pauline was booked in for the birth, wasn't as far away as it might have been from our flat (*At 30, Rectory Road*)

Pauline had already been in there for a few days for observation. They wanted to keep a close eye on her blood pressure. And naturally being a woman, she had a much better idea on the drills and what to expect than I had.

So there we were, in our cosy little flat, in the middle of the night, timing her contractions. When they started coming thick and fast, getting down to one every ten minutes, it was time to get her to hospital, apparently.

I didn't know what to do. Obviously I couldn't leave her. Mr and Mrs Parrot, downstairs, would have been asleep for hours. There was no phone in the house. There was one next door, where Mrs Parrot's brother and sister lived but I didn't know. In any case there wouldn't be any point in waking up the neighbourhood and ringing for a taxi if they weren't running. The only way that I could get Pauline to the hospital would be for us to walk – or for me to give her a piggy-back.

“Do you think that you could walk round there” I asked her. Pauline, still gripping my arm nodded stoically. “I think so” she said.

So, hand in hand, short step by short step, we made our way downstairs and out of the house, up to the top of Rectory Road, and around to the right, with me asking anxiously every few seconds, “Are you sure your all right?” and with Pauline nodding grimly “Yes, I’m all right”

In this way, we toddled, very slowly along the road to Thorpe Combe; a distance of four, or perhaps five hundred yards.

The sister at the hospital, a stout Irish woman, was adamant Pauline hadn’t been having contractions.

“No, no, they’re nat contractions”, she told us, looking me mercilessly in the eye, as if we should have known better – and accusing me, in particular, “When you get a contraction its toight and hard – as hard as a cricket ball” And she clenched her fist and shook it to emphasise her meaning.

She was distracted then, momentarily by a nervous woman in a dressing gown, who appeared among us with an anxious query, which the Sister dismissed with an imperious wave of her hand. “Oh horr! Oive had enough of horr” she said when the woman had scuttled away. “She’s not even pregnant”

This apparently softened her hostility towards me and she told me to get off home and get some sleep, and the baby wouldn’t be born before lunchtime the next day at the earliest. So off home I toddled to sleep the untroubled sleep of the innocent.

Taking the Sister’s word as holy writ, I went to work as usual the next day and didn’t bother to ring the hospital to enquire into things until some time after lunch. By then our baby had been born and weighed – a little boy who tipped the scales at eight and a half pounds. And mother and baby were doing fine. The sister had been right. He was born at 12.25pm.

Pauline was excited and pleased as punch when I visited her in the evening. She gave me a blow by blow account of how things had gone after I’d taken her in. Visiting hours were strict but Thorpe Combe had a system of rooming-in, that was enlightened and revolutionary for the times. Four mums and their babies were in each ward, against the usual practice of keeping mothers in big wards apart from their babies most of the time. Pauline liked the way it was. She told me about the other mums and babies – how this mum over there had so much milk that they collected it to feed what she called “The prems” – The babies born prematurely. I saw Simon sleeping in his little cot affair beside her. Pauline could hardly keep her proud and loving eyes from her.

I was amused when I left the hospital to see one of the Nuns, wearing huge white wellingtons, scrubbing down the deck – of what was the delivery room, I suppose – with a long handles scrubber and squeegee. I’d done plenty of that in my days as a matelot aboard ship, particularly when I was a dabtoe under punishment.

We'd bought Simon's pram second-hand, before the birth and had seen it at night in an ill-lit hallway. We'd coughed up nine quid for it – better than a week's pay for me. It didn't look quite as smart when we took it home and saw it in the unforgiving light of day. It had a tear in the hood that had been repaired but it was still a posh pram.

We were lucky to have Pat, a young married doctor living in the upstairs flat as a neighbor. He and Anne, his wife, had a baby of their own, a little girl. We were lucky too that, someone in the hospital knew someone with a car and some petrol, who were good enough to bring Simon and Pauline home.

As it was midwinter it was pitch dark when I came home in the evenings, and often foggy. I once saw a double decker bus run into the back of a parked lorry close by me in the main road. The bus driver hadn't seen it, and nor had I. He'd pulled away from the bus stop. Luckily no one was hurt.

When I unpegged Simon's nappies from the clothes-line in the back garden, as I did regularly, they were frozen stiff as boards. What amazed me and its still something I don't understand – was that when they thawed out they were bone-dry. Freeze-dried nappies. What happened to all the ice?

Soon after she came out of hospital Pauline sent me to get Pat. She was worried that Simon was slightly discharging from the navel. Pat came in good as gold and reassured us that everything was as it should be, and that there was nothing for us to fret about.

But we did have our anxious trials with our son. He didn't settle easy. When he cried at night I would swing him in his carry-cot between my knees for an age before he showed signs of sleep. I would gently lower him to the floor, hoping he was asleep at last, but as soon as the swing motion stopped, he would wake and begin to cry again.

Pauline took him to the clinic regularly, where his weight and progress was monitored and collected the free bottles of National Health cod liver oil, and cheap bottles of orange juice. He used to vomit violently after his feeds, though not at first. Sometimes his weight was up. Sometimes it was down. Sometimes it was down twice running. Worryingly we found he had Pyloric Stenosis, something that neither of us had ever heard of.

The doctor prescribed tiny gelatinous discs for him to take before Pauline fed him – to relax the sphincter or muscles or something. But sometimes when the vomiting continued, we would discover afterwards that the tiny transparent disc had escaped in his dribble, only to become visible as it dried and hardened on his woolly vest afterwards. The condition was confined to the first born child in a family. Sand we read somewhere afterwards that boys who suffered from it usually grew up to be particularly healthful. It was operable if discovered early enough but not at Simon's age.

Before he was born we drew books from the public library, and had taken out a Dictionary of Names, because we couldn't think of a suitable second name for him, or her if the baby turned out to be a girl.

We ploughed through a list of names until we found one that we thought was sufficiently distinctive. We picked on Barrett. Simon Barrett Bliss, we agreed sounded good and was just the ticket. I'd never come across anyone called Barrett in my life before.

At the hospital when one of the nuns asked Pauline his name, she replied "Simon". "Oh cried the nun in delight "Simon Peter". "No", said Pauline firmly, "Simon Barrett".....

Appendix 4

The Work of The Hospital In 1947

A Bulge Year For Babies

1947, was one of the 'bulge years for new babies. Many people had put off marriage until after the war ended in 1945. The resulting marriage boom in 1946 resulted in the births of very many children a year later.

Thorpe Combe Maternity Hospital was recognized nationally as an excellent teaching and practice hospital. This, in no small part was as a result of the work of Miss Helen Rodway FRCOG the Resident Obstetrician and Medical Superintendent. The detailed statistical information below gives a vivid picture of the work.

The following is taken from the Medical Officer's report to the Walthamstow Committee in 1947 (Chairman Alderman Sidney N Chaplin) by Helen Rodway tells us that:

In 1947, Helen Rodway reported to the Health Committee the following:

- In 1948 the responsibility for the Hospital will transfer from the Borough of Walthamstow to the new Regional Hospital Board that had been set up by the National Health Act.
- Thorpe Combe with 35 maternity beds, two Labour wards and two Nurseries was opened in May 1934. Since then there has been added: An Ante Natal Clinic, 8 maternity beds with two small Nurseries, A Post Natal or Isolation block, a Nurses Home and Medical Quarters.
- The number of hospital beds (Excluding those reserved for expectant mothers in need of hospital treatment) was 48
- The number of maternity cases for the year was 1,455 plus 7 miscarriages.
- The number of women treated during the year in ante natal beds was 225.
- The number of women delivered by Midwives was 1125 and delivered by Doctors was 128 (Total = 1253)
- The number of cases where Midwives sought medical assistance was 534.

- The number of cases admitted after delivery was 21.
- The number of infants on supplementary feed after discharge was 250.
- The number of maternal deaths was 1.
- The number of infant deaths within 10 days of birth was 18.
- The bed occupancy rate for the year was 53%..
- The Emergency unit responded to 4 cases in the district during the year.
- During 1947, 44 pupils from Thorpe Combe obtained the Part 1 and 34 obtained the Part 2 Certificates from the Midwives Board. Walthamstow Council paid all the examination fees.

We also learn that:

Clinics

- A Women's Clinic was held in the Ante Natal that mostly dealt with gynaecological problems, contraceptive advice was given where necessary.
- At the Post Natal Clinic 902 mothers (72% of the related confinements) attended for examination and advice. This resulted in a further 495 appointments for treatment.
- There were a total of 434 Clinics held (Consultant, Resident Obstetricians and Midwives) who saw 10,511 attendees.
- There were 51 Post Natal Clinics who saw 1,397 attendees.
- There were 225 Ante Natal admissions of which 44 patients were confined before discharge.
- 1,209 women were admitted for confinement.
- There were 21 Post Natal admissions.
- There were 7 admissions as a result of miscarriages.



Midwifery & Maternity Service

- There were 1970 Ante Natal visits to Patient's homes by Midwives and Walthamstow District Nurses
- There were 3,152 Ante Natal visits to Midwives houses.
- There were 616 deliveries by Midwives and Walthamstow District Nurses and 74 deliveries by the Maternity Hospital medical officers.
- There were lying-in visits made by Midwives and Walthamstow District Nurses.
- There was a record number of 2,670 live births . At the same time Infant mortality rates hit a new low of 29 per thousand births.
- There were 73,000 attendances at Welfare Clinics.

		1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital ..		595	720	645	695	891	907	995	1,247	1,253
Other Hospitals and Maternity Homes ..		322	263	104	242	236	257	226	442	561
Total in Hospital		917	923	749	937	1,127	1,164	1,221	1,689	1,804
District	Municipal	299	364	155	284	293	266	157	350	399
	W.D.N.A.	162	164	142	222	205	203	178	336	291
	W.D.N.A. (Private)	56	80	26	49	30	43	12	31	140
	W.D.N.A. Total	218	244	162	271	235	246	190	367	431
Total on District		517	608	317	555	528	512	347	717	830
Grand Totals		1,434	1,531	1,066	1,492	1,655	1,676	1,568	2,406	2,634
Births Registered		1,606	1,575	1,304	1,718	1,828	1,915	1,730	2,544	2,670

The following table shows the location of confinements and the previous eight years.

CONFINEMENTS

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The following illustrates the pioneering work by Helen Rodway and the Thorpe Combe Maternity Hospital .

A Training for childbirth and After film

Description: Produced by Helen Rodway and Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital, Walthamstow, London. The instructor is Miss Barbara Mortimer Thomas. ; Ante- and post-natal exercises demonstrated by an instructor and then by a class of mothers-to-be. ; Audience: Pregnant women. ; Segment 1; The intertitles note that the exercises are based on those illustrated in a book by a Miss Randall entitled, 'Training for Childbirth from the Mother's Point of View'. The intertitles explain that subject to

approval of the patient's doctor, the exercises should be started after the third month of pregnancy. The objectives are to improve the physical and mental well-being of the patient and also to 'encourage a cheerful and confident outlook towards her confinement'. A group of expectant mothers are seen in a garden wearing maternity dresses. The instructor demonstrates stretches and exercises and the mothers follow suit. The intertitles note that unless the doctor says otherwise, these exercises should be continued until late pregnancy. ; Segment 2; The exercises continue. Next, post-natal exercises are demonstrated by two women in hospital beds. ; Segment 3; The position for 'complete relaxation' is demonstrated in a hospital bed. Next, exercises for the 2nd to 8th week after birth are demonstrated in the garden, with the mothers copying the instructor. A group walking exercise is demonstrated.

Special exercises for mothers with backache are demonstrated. All the mothers and babies are shown in a group, smiling at the camera.

Postscript

Closing The Circle

In March 2005, reporter *Samantha Watson of Newshopper*, sadly reported the death of the first baby born at Thorpe Combe Maternity Hospital:

' Mr Pearson, whom had the name of the hospital given to him as his middle name, was born at Thorpe Combe in Forest Road, Walthamstow, on May 5th 1934, shortly after the maternity hospital opened. He was presented with a silver spoon and certificate marking the occasion. Throughout his life was seen as a proud man and father with a great love for gardening.

He fought in Korea War from 1953 to 1954. He later lived in Vancouver, Canada for two years before coming back to his roots in east London.



Joanne Tofts, Mr Pearson's daughter, said: "He was the most wonderful dad in the world. He was in the paper when he was born and when he got married at 26."

Mr Pearson also appeared in the newspaper for his 65th birthday, just before his retirement from UGB furniture handlers.

Ms Tofts added: "He loved Walthamstow, he didn't want to leave the area. He would tell me I was born here, this is my home'."

She, her two sons and a close neighbour of Mr Pearson added: "We will all miss him very much."

John Thorpe Pearson was buried next to the grave of Robert Lee, Ms Tofts' late son, on Monday.'

Bill Bayliss

July 2014

Some Resources used in the article:

<http://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/thorpecoombe.html>

http://www.archive.org/stream/officialpublicat20waltuoft/officialpublicat20waltuoft_djvu.txt

<http://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/report/b19876671/1#?asi=0&ai=89&z=->

[0.3081%2C0.8423%2C1.8697%2C0.8027](http://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/report/b19876671/1#?asi=0&ai=89&z=-0.3081%2C0.8423%2C1.8697%2C0.8027)

<http://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/report/b19876671/78#?asi=0&ai=78&z=0.0024%2C0.3942%2C1.003>

[3%2C0.4307](http://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/report/b19876671/78#?asi=0&ai=78&z=0.0024%2C0.3942%2C1.0033%2C0.4307)

<http://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/report/b19876798/#?asi=0&ai=0>

http://www.europeana.eu/portal/record/92086/BibliographicResource_1000086165865.htm

<http://www.newshopper.co.uk/news/581341.thorpe-coombes-first-baby-dies/>

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http://www.nelft.nhs.uk/news_publications/events/528

http://www.guardianseries.co.uk/news/11244343.Walthamstow-Hospital-to-be-redeveloped-with-90-new-homes/?ref=var_0