



### **History Nugget for March 2018 : 17/19 Upper Green East**

The *ghost sign* on the north side of 17/19 Upper Green East reads 'Estate Agents'.



The Official Guide to Mitcham, published in 1938, tells us that these premises had 'recently been rebuilt, at considerable expense, and formed one of the most modern and well-equipped offices in the district'.

These were the offices of Leonard Davey & Hart, the firm of chartered surveyors, auctioneers and estate agents who had been at this address since around the end of the first world war.

**Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage**  
**General enquiries:** [info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](mailto:info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)  
**Web site:** [www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](http://www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)  
**Twitter:** [@MitchamCrktGrn](https://twitter.com/MitchamCrktGrn)

**Registered Office** c/o MVSC, Vestry Hall, 336/338 London Road, Mitcham Surrey, CR4 3UD

Started by Leonard Thomas Davey in around 1903, the firm of auctioneers originally had an office at number 5, The Parade, which was later renumbered as 233 London Road.

In the 1925 street directory, the properties in Upper Green East weren't numbered, and Leonard Davey & Hart is listed as auctioneers between boot repairer William Bacon and Edward Snell Crewes, grocer and sub-postmaster. In the 1930 commercial directory, the firm is listed as auctioneers, surveyors, house & estate agents, at number 17, while Edward Snell Crewes is at number 19.

Davey's partner was Herbert Edward Hart, who like Davey, was a chartered surveyor.

Leonard Davey retired in 1928, and around that time, Herbert Hart's son Leslie Osborne Hart joined the firm. The company continued to trade as Leonard Davey & Hart. With the expansion of housing estates in the area, the firm also took on rent collection and estate management. Herbert Hart lived at number 8 Preshaw Crescent, from around 1921 until the 1960s. His wife was a Sunday School teacher at the Parish Rooms. He died at the age of 92 in 1971.

In 1984, estate agency Dixon Hind & Company submitted a planning application, number MER1149/84, for an illuminated sign at 19 Upper Green East. On Merton Memories there is a photo dated c.1987 which shows that Dixon Hind was the occupant, and their sign included the statement 'in association with Leonard Davey & Hart'.

Currently, in 2018, the building has a computer training company called Chivic London Ltd on the upper floors. The sign in the centre of the wall of this floor, that had previously read 'House and Estate Agents', now says 'Chivic Computer Centre & Training'. This company was incorporated in 2004.

On the ground floor is a Ladbrokes betting shop. Ladbrokes may have moved in around 2001, as there was a planning application, number 01/2690, that referred to a new shop front, disabled access and a satellite dish.

**Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage**

**General enquiries:** [info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](mailto:info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)

**Web site:** [www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](http://www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)

**Twitter:** @MitchamCrktGrn

**Registered Office** c/o MVSC, Vestry Hall, 336/338 London Road, Mitcham Surrey, CR4 3UD