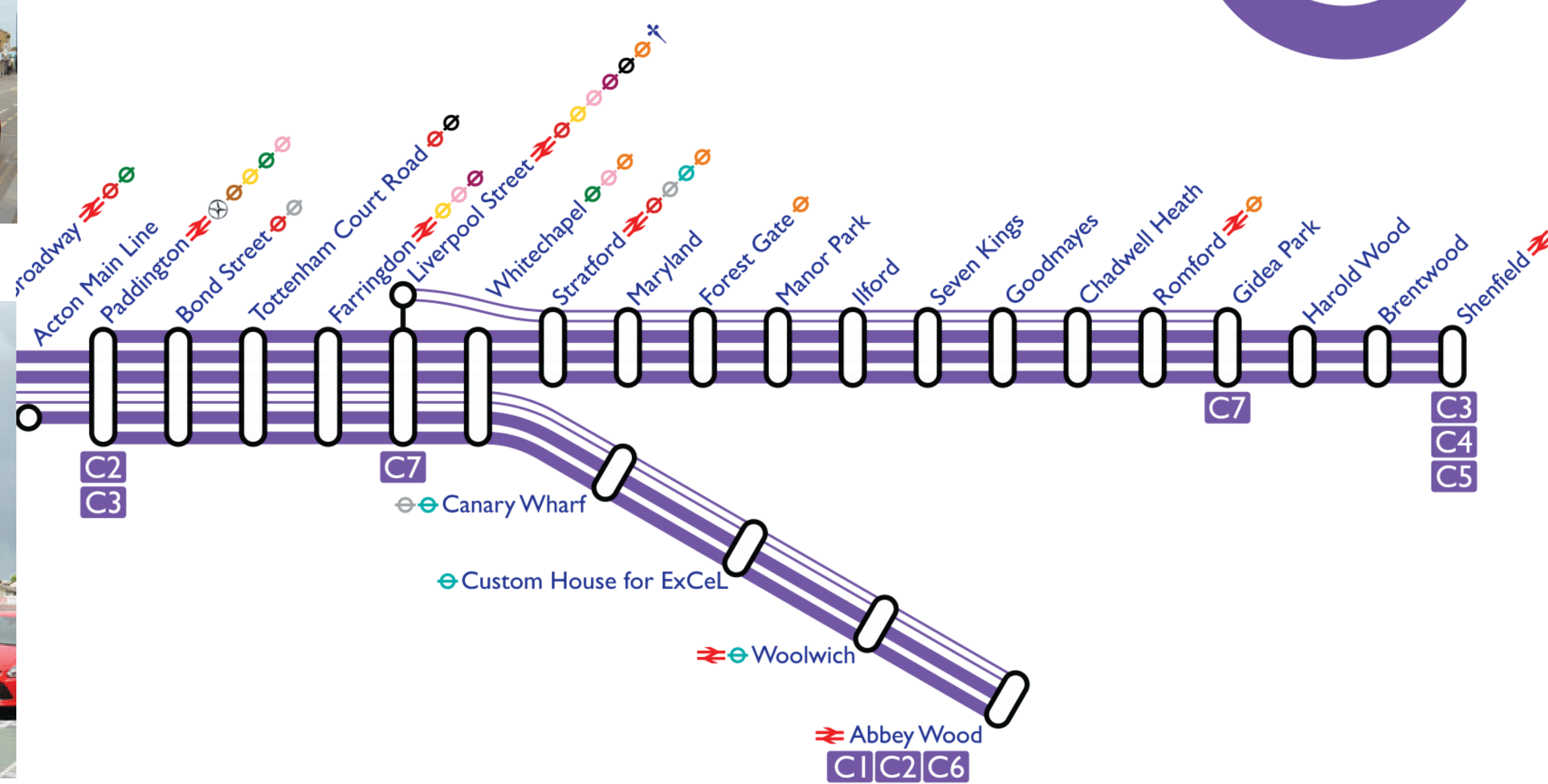


Folk of Forest Gate

ALL CHANGE



Crossrail services



Architects plans for the development of the area around the station: more shop awnings, more pedestrians, and bluer skys. Map of crossrail, opening in 2018.

Just as the arrival of the Great Eastern Railway brought new development and new people to Forest Gate, the coming of Crossrail has greatly affected the area. House prices in Forest Gate have risen, on average, by 65% since 2009. It is important to ensure that new leisure opportunities enhance, rather than replace, existing ones, and that all local residents can access these. New community schemes have been successful, particularly Forest Gayte Pride, which ran for the first time in 2017.

“When we first moved to Forest Gate, Crossrail was planned, but it it seemed so far away as to almost be theoretical. I couldn’t believe when we moved here how quiet the housing market was... I remember joking for ages that you could not [go to] any of the local play groups without bumping into at least three or four people who moved to Hackney ten years ago and worked in arts and media. They wanted more space, couldn’t afford it [in Hackney], and so they’d come to Forest Gate.”
– Cllr Rachel Tripp

“Coffee7 were the first ones to come in and do that café culture... I always joke that coffee’s a pound cheaper a cup one you cross the Romford Road.”
– Melina Merlin

“Well, obviously Forest Gate’s changed a lot, but I think that’s got better to be fair to it, in terms of just pleasantness. But the thing is what they done with all these people... they’ve pushed them out somewhere else. I’m still amazed you can have candles in the Forest Tavern, and hanging baskets, and they’re not just destroyed. Wow!... I like all these coffee shops and the exhibitions; that’s really nice.”
– Ruth Rikowski



The Princess Alice, formerly on the corner of Romford Road.

In the ‘80s and ‘90s the Railway Tavern was a pretty heavy pub... That’s what is now the Forest Gate Tavern... You’d have to be wary about where you was going, especially after dark, and what pub you was going in. I don’t feel that now.”
– Paul Romane

“The Spotted Dog was a very, very unspoiled pub [in the ‘60s]... amazingly thick walls, tiny little windows, very dark, acrid yellow smoke on the walls... There was still a lot of that idea of what the old East End was like in evidence, like somebody plonking on the old piano... and doing the Hokey-Cokey-Cokey.”
– Annette Fry

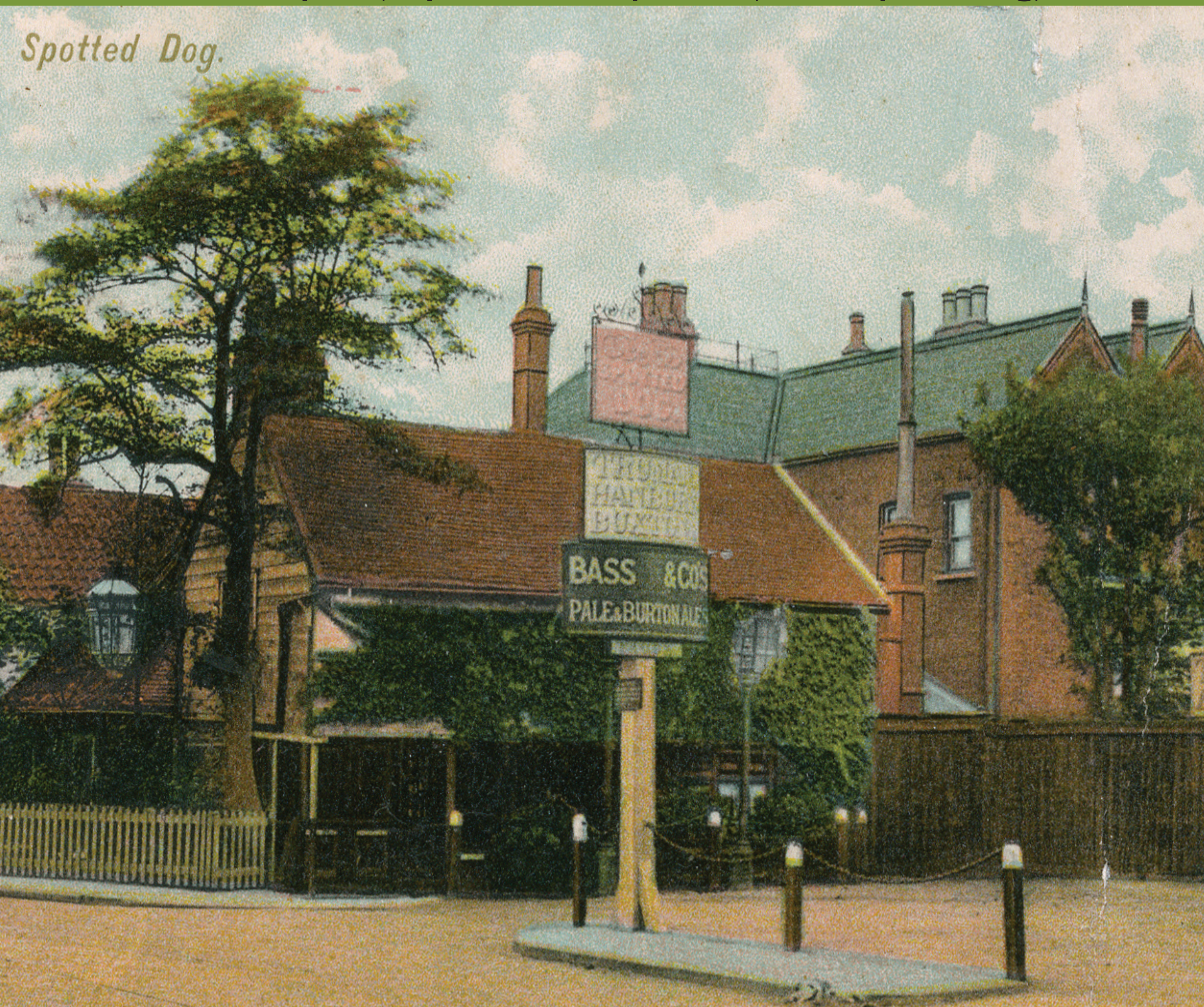
“It was in the Spotted Dog that our jam sessions started. That goes back to the late-‘80s, or the early-‘90s probably. And some of those guys still come along to our sessions in the Forest Tavern... We still occasionally call ourselves the ‘Dog Jammers’, ‘cos that’s where we started.”
– Denis Moore



The Spotted Dog Pub, c.1920.

The Forest Gate Tavern, as it was at the beginning of the 20th-century.

A hand-coloured photo, reproduced as a postcard, of the Spotted Dog, c.1920



Images courtesy of Newham Archives and the East London People's Archive

An Eastside Community Heritage Exhibition. Visit: www.hidden-histories.org.uk