



James & Sophia Roome with their children.

5 Generations of the Roome family have now been involved in the running of Roomes.

The first general store was opened in 1888 on Green Street Upton Park, by James Roome, a master draper, selling everything from Haberdashery to Homewares, and from Clothing to Corsets.

The business continued to thrive when in 1907 Roome Family move to Engayne Gardens, Upminster which was then still a small town in Essex but was on the verge of what was soon to be great expansion. In 1913 James Roome dies and succeeded by his son M.B. Roome – company renamed James Roome & Son.

In 1927 a store was opened on the west side of Station Road, Upminster and expanded in 1937 following the closure of the original store in Upton Park.

1927 Company renamed Roomes Stores Ltd as M.B. Roome acquired and built a new store at 45-47 Station Road (centre of the current Fashion Store) giving a 40ft frontage.

1935 Upton Park Store closed and resources devoted to re-developing the Upminster Site.

1937 Opening of the new Department Store now on a

90ft frontage incorporating 41-47 Station Rd and employing 70 staff.

1939 51 and later 53 Station Road acquired but all development of the business is halted with the outbreak of World War II.

1941 M.B. Roome's son John Roome (current Chairman) joins the business followed by his other son David Roome in 1946 after demobilisation.

1952-3 Homewares Store built and developed, with further land being acquired during the 1950's and 1960's for Warehousing and car parking.

1970 M.B. Roome dies.

1974 New single storey extension built on the site of the former Westminster Bank (49 Station Road).

1977 David Roome retires. Stephen Roome (current Joint Managing Director) joins business.

1978 Company joins Associated Independent Stores (AIS) which is currently the largest UK voluntary Non-Food Buying Group.

1980 Unigate Milk Depot in St Lawrence Rd which



was purchased and became the Bedding Centre and a car park.

1985 Michael Roome (current Joint Managing Director) joins business.

1986 4-6 Branfil Rd purchased and car park extended.

1989-90 saw the redevelopment of 49 Station Road into 3 Storey extension at same level as current fashion store and throughout the 90's a continuing program of re-investment in the business.

The site of the old Talbots garage at 22-24 Station was purchased in early 2000 and 2001 September new furniture store opened.

As part of the future development of the business Jarvo's DIY in St Lawrence Rd was bought thus joining the Furniture store to the car park.

This allowed a 15,000 sq ft extension to be built in the back of the Furniture Store, whilst simultaneously the Homewares Store at 51-53 Station Rd was sold for re-development to a Marks & Spencer Simply Food outlet.

Not only has this allowed a much enhanced Furniture offering it has also brought together Furniture, Carpets, Rugs and Curtains under one roof. Added to which there has been a considerable investment in the department store at 41-49 Station Road with each sales floor being refitted and shop-front updated.



Roomes in the 1930's

