

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1936 to promote and foster interest in local history in
Edmonton Enfield Potters Bar Southgate South Mimms Tottenham Wood Green Monken Hadley

E H H S
Exploring
Local
History

December 2022

Newsletter

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 21st December**
at **2.30pm** at **Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ**
Doors open at 2.15 pm.

Christmas in the Trenches

By Nick Dobson

“Christmas in the Trenches” – how British servicemen and civilians in Blighty celebrated Christmas during WW1. Illustrated with slides of contemporary cards.



Christmas 1917

Nurses and wounded soldiers at
Grovelands Hospital, Southgate

From “The Southgate Auxiliary”
Courtesy of Enfield Local
Studies & Archives

Programme Notes

Thanks to members who let me know how much they enjoyed Chris Whippe's talk in November on The History of Enfield Fire Brigade. Our December talk on 21st December is again an afternoon event at 2.30pm when Nick Dobson will give us a seasonal talk on WW1: Christmas in the Trenches. Tea available as usual and festive fare will also be served to get you in the Christmas spirit. To start our 2023 season we join the Enfield Society on Monday 16 January at 8pm for a talk by Julie Chandler on Charles Dickens' Magic Lantern. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Rachael Macdonald

Diary Dates - talks and events arranged by other organisations

Friday 9th December. 7pm. Online. Access link emailed to members and published on website.

How weird is that? Iron Age to early Roman burial practices in Hertfordshire & beyond.

Isobel Thompson

Enfield Archaeological Society

Tuesday 13th December. 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ.

Britannia's Huns: The British War in Ireland 1920-21

Dr Edward Madigan

Historical Association

Tuesday 13th December. 6.30pm. Online.

The Roman Pottery Manufacturing Site in Highgate Wood. Harvey Sheldon

Tickets available through Eventbrite.

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

The Chairman's Absence

Those members who attended the Conference will know that our Chairman, Howard Whisker, was unable to be there. He had been taken ill two days beforehand and rushed off to the North Middlesex Hospital. Fortunately he is now out and is on the mend. He's making slow progress, he says, but we hope to see him if not at our Christmas get together, then certainly in the New Year.

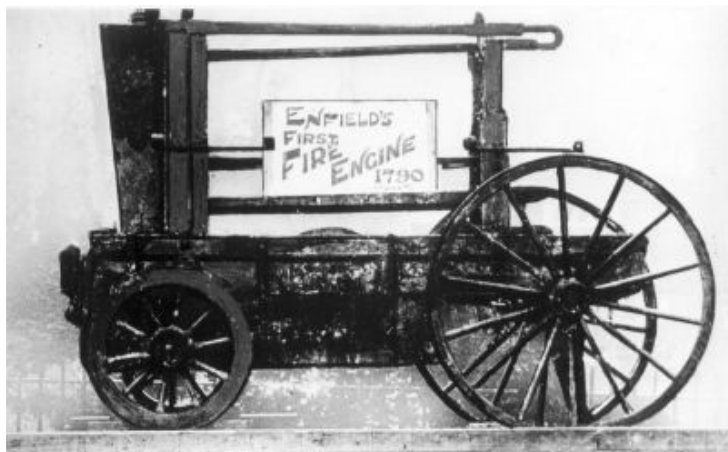
Kate Godfrey

November Meeting Report.

Enfield Fire Brigade 1790 to 1965. Chris Whippe

Chris Whippe has been a member of our Society for many years now and those who know him will know of his great enthusiasm for all things fire brigade. As well as photographs, he has amassed a collection of memorabilia, badges, epaulettes, brochures and documents, some of which he brought in to show us.

He began his talk with a slide showing Enfield's first fire engine. Dating from the late 18th century, it had been photographed much later on display on the Library Green. The picture may be familiar to you but Chris informed us that the wheels at the back were not the original ones as those had been eaten by woodworm when the engine was stored in the little building (later the mortuary) behind St Andrew's Church.



Enfield Local Studies & Archive

On display on the Library Green c. 1930

Responsibility for the fire brigade passed from the Vestry to Enfield Local Board. A new steam pump was bought and moved into a new building in Southbury Road opposite the Town station. But that building too was inadequate. It was a tight fit for the engine with no room at all for the ladder which had to be kept some distance away alongside the fountain in the centre of Enfield Town. Meanwhile Ponders End had their own volunteer fire brigade with a new steam engine and a new fire station at the junction of the High Street and Nags Head Road

Surprisingly, the service remained voluntary until the 1930s when a splendid new fire station was built on Holtwhites Hill. The opening brochure of 1936 was among the treasures that Chris had brought with him. It had cost a total of £42,000 and included a house for the Chief Officer, one for his second in command and a number of houses for firemen in Trinity Street at the back of the station. It also included a state of the art alarm system. Alarms were mounted on poles around Enfield's streets and when these were activated, the location of the fire was indicated on a control panel at the station in Holtwhites Hill.

With war approaching Enfield's professional firemen were joined by the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS), which in 1941 became the National Fire Service (NFS) under the supervision of Home Office. Enfield ceased to run its own brigade.

It was perhaps a more relaxed and informal meeting than we sometimes have with members of the audience asking questions along the way. But it was no less an enjoyable for that.



Chris Whippe photographed by Rachael Macdonald

Online

Enfield Archaeological Society

19 Years Under the Trowel: how Elsyng Palace was Excavated 2004-2022

Dr Martin Dearne's lecture on Friday 9th September is available to watch on the Society's website

The Enfield Society

The Enfield Society has two books on Enfield Chase available free on their website in downloadable form. These are David Pam's 1986 "The Story of Enfield Chase" and a new book "A History of Enfield Chase" by Martin Paine

A 17th Century Enfield Domesday Book

Ian Jones

On the 22nd January 1881 the Observer published a summary account of a directory/survey of the parish of Enfield, put together in the later 1630's which, regrettably though not unsurprisingly, has vanished as far as we know. The range of detail it went into was immense covering everything from the numbers of chickens to the tithes due to the Vicar, the non-payment of which occupies much of this summary. Nonetheless it presents a fascinating glimpse of Enfield just before the outbreak of the Civil War.

THE VICAR'S MANUSCRIPT

A WAIF FROM THE ENFIELD PARISH CHEST

Among the old records in the parish chest which some of the advocates for the removal of our organ suggested at the late vestry meeting should be "burnt as rubbish" may be seen in a small folio volume in the handwriting of the Rev. William Roberts DD, Vicar of Enfield, 1626 to 1642. This book, which is bound in vellum and in a very tattered condition, half mouldered away with damp, has only been rescued from total destruction by the timely care and treatment of our vicar. It contains the name of every householder in the parish some ten years before the execution of Charles 1st and gives a most curious and interesting picture of the agricultural and domestic state of Enfield in its enumeration of families, with their cattle and sheep, the "wooll and lambes," the number of geese and goslings, of "cockes and hennes," pigeons and dovescotes and hives of bees, the flax and hops grown in the district and one solitary "rose garden".

It appears that at this time the parish was divided into the four quarters of "Enfield Greene" (now known as the Town), "Bulls-crosse, Horsepool-stones" and "Ponders-end" with the outlying districts of "Sowgate" (Southgate), "Cock Fosters, Hadley Side" and "The Chace." The respective numbers of householders in these-so far as can be readily deciphered in the obscure handwriting and fragmentary state of the manuscript, are approximately about 200, 80, 90, 60 and 20, making a total of some 450 in the whole parish.

A practical estimate of the value of property and produce may be formed from the amount of "small tythes and oblations" which were paid to the vicar. Amongst the largest of these are:- Mr John Wroth for the Mannor of Durance, XXs. [*20 shillings or £1.*]; the lord Chamberlayne (*apparently for the Duchy [of Lancaster, author.]*), XXs.; the Baron Trevor at the Palace, XXs. [*A pity that this does not seem to be a quote from the original, otherwise it could be perhaps the earliest use of the word "palace" to describe the manor house. author.*]; Mr. Rich, antient tenement at Forty-hill, XXs.; Mr. Goodyear, antient tenement near the Great House and also the Warren (*probably the old mansion of White Webbs pulled down in 1790*), XXs.; Mr. Angel XXs.; Mr. Sone XXs. The "lodges" of the Chace paid five shillings each. Three contributions only exceed one pound each, viz., those of Mr. Hanger whose residence is unknown and Mr. Ford who lived at "the antient house sometime the manor House of Worcesters" (*the remains of which may still be traced in the park at Forty-hall.*) each of these gave the sum of XXIIIs. [*1 pound 2 shillings*]; and the munificent donation of Sir Nicholas Raynton may be doubtfully read as 6li. [*£6.00*].

Among the smaller of these "oblations" occurs the following curious note (1638) "Mr. Moslye, per an, and if his wife have a child within the year, to have nothing for the churching, Xs. [*10 shillings*]" On examining the parish register we find this date, Feb., 1638-9; "Judithe Moslye, filia Maurice and Mary, baptized;" so that Mr. Moslye seems to have made just 5 per cent by his bargain-the fee for churching being sixpence according to a resolution of vestry 21 January 1620.

The whole amount of the Vicar's income, however, including "tythes, oblations and other offerings" amounted to barely fifty pounds a year, of which much was paid in kind and the good Doctor seems to have had a special weakness for pigeons, pork and Michaelmas geese of which we have many entries; - "Pidgeons, five payre to have in kind, honey in kind, goslings to be payed in kind," and "gosilngs to come; pigges in kind, "and "pigges always in kind." The latter were probably turned out to feed on the Chace (*there being then no glebe beyond two acres of garden and orchard*), and the poor hurdle-maker who was employed by the Vicar for making his pennes,

seems to have asked and received from him some considerable pecuniary assistance. "Memoriand. Lent John Higgins of Enfield, 'pennermaker' the sum of XXs., this 2nd of July 1636, to be payd to me, William Roberts, Vicar of Enfield aforesaid, on the feast of St. Michale the Archangell, next issuing the date hereof by his faithfull promise. (Signed) JOHN HIGGINS."

But the kind hearted Vicar had himself now "fallen on evil days" and appears to have had as much difficulty as his sovereign in obtaining payment of his legal dues and the country was fast drifting into a state somewhat like that of Ireland at the present day.

According to our record Mr. Shipton "owed for six yeares wch he agreed to paye per ann., Xs." John Clarke's "oblation VJd" [sixpence], was unpaid for three years. Mr. Bowling instead of "Xs. paid by Vs.[five shillings] last yeare." Mr. Crosbie who was by lease deputy ranger of the West bailey walk of the Chase and who (as we learn from the presentments at Hadley) "doth use to fell and sell all the wood within the new rails for his own use and benefit, contrary to the lease and to the great prejudice of His Majesty's tenants there," is recorded as follows:-"Mr. Charles Crosbie, for the Old Park 5/4 instead of the usual rate, 8/4." "Mr. Meadwell of Mount Pleasant" (now Belmont, the residence of C. A. Hanbury Esq.), follows Mr. Crosbie's example, and "the gentlewoman at Birde-house at Fortie-greene" paid nothing at all.

At the same time the payments "in kind" fell off-"pidgons" were "due and nothing payde." George Haire paid only for six pigs when he had "8 pigges more not reckoned." William Shaw "denyed a pigge when he had one ," and Thomas Vaughan left "hip hoppes still unpaid." Even this state of things (apparently under a system of "Griffith's valuation") was too good to last. Anarchy and rebellion were now stalking the land and, in the expressive words of Milton's Lycidas-

"The grim wolf with privy paw,
Daily devoured apace and nothing sed."

And in 1642 the kindly and worthy Doctor was expelled from his vicarage and his modest pittance sequestered by the commissioners of the Long Parliament.

Ian K. Jones, 28th November 2022



Ford & Hodson. History of Enfield. 1873

ENFIELD, IN 1793.

St Andrew's Church in Enfield Market Place

The parish chest would have been kept in the muniment room above the porch. It was pulled down when the south isle was rebuilt in 1824.

One Hundred Years Ago in the Edmonton Hundred

Local Entertainer's Death.

We much regret to record the death of Mr Albert Leopold Rudrum, which took place at his home at "Dynevor", Southbury-road, on Thursday last week. The deceased gentleman had been in failing health for some considerable time, and complications were the cause of his lamented death. The late Mr.Rudrum, who had resided some 20 years in Enfield, was 48 years of age, and until his health prevented, he was a well-known and very popular entertainer; he appeared with success in London and also locally. Possibly his best "turn" was the imitation of the various types of vocalist competing in a singing contest. The funeral – the arrangements for which were made by Messrs. Blake, of Silver-street – took place on Saturday in Enfield Cemetery.

Enfield Gazette 1st December 1922

Disastrous Fire at Ponders End. Ediswan Works the scene.

At 3.5am on Tuesday the fire siren sounded, the call being to the Ediswan Electric Light Works, Ponders End, where what proved to be one of the most disastrous fires which have occurred in Enfield for some time past was in progress. The loss, which cannot yet be estimated, must be some thousands of pounds.

Within about two minutes after the sounding of the siren, the Ponders End Fire Brigade, under Capt.Roberts, and with a full complement of firemen, had set out for the scene, and by that time the lurid flames were leaping skyward, seen by many miles distant. The stores, where the fire originated, were completely involved when the firemen arrived. Owing to the close proximity of the building to the River Lee, the firemen were enabled to get to work almost instantly, it being only two lengths of hose distant from the river. The flames, however, had a complete hold of the large building, which was of wood with corrugated iron roofing. It was soon gutted, whilst the contents, which consisted of manufactured articles of various kinds, such as switchboards, vacuum cleaners, etc., were destroyed. Barrels of oil became involved, and added considerably to the dimensions of the conflagration.

The flames reached the turret shop, in which was installed most valuable machinery. It was then that the Ponders End motor engine displayed its full powers, doing splendid service. With four jets at work at 100lbs. pressure, the fire demon was arrested and finally mastered. As far as the turret shop was concerned, the fire could get no farther than the roof, and its valuable machinery was saved from the ravages of the devastating element, although the flooding it received has somewhat damaged the delicate machinery. The turret shop is a substantially built erection, and in saving it Capt. Roberts and his men performed a meritorious work.

The Ponders End Fire Brigade proved equal to the occasion. Had they required assistance, the Edmonton Brigade and others were in a state of readiness to respond to the call. The Ponders End Brigade left the scene at 11.15am on Tuesday.

In years past the Ediswan Works possessed an efficient fire brigade of their own which used to compete successfully with the best private fire brigades in the country. But like many other institutions of the kind, it has fallen victim to the industrial depression, and if it exists it is in name only.

Enfield Gazette 1st December 1922
Graham Frost

Registered Charity No. 299073.

Please send contributions to the newsletter to Kate Godfrey, 69 Margaret Road, New Barnet.
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