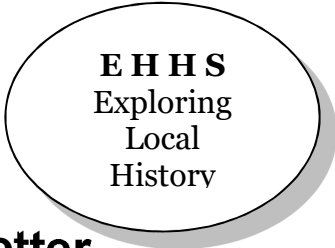


# EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



**May 2022**

**Newsletter**

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May**  
**8pm at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ**  
(Doors open at 7.30pm)

## Picture Shows before Cinema

**a talk by Ian Christie**

Members who attended our last Day Conference in 2019 - Entertainment in the Edmonton Hundred - will remember Ian Christie's brilliant talk on Robert Paul, the pioneer of 'animated photography'. Cinema was only the climax of a long history of Victorian fascination with visual novelties that stretched back to the Georgian era.



Ian, Professor of Film and Media History at Birkbeck College, who has long been fascinated by these anticipations of cinematic spectacle, has been collecting some of these charming and instructive optical objects, and will be demonstrating them in his talk.

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And a Joint Meeting with The Enfield Society on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**  
**7.30pm at All Saints Church Hall, Church Street, Edmonton N9.**

## Lost pubs along the Hertford Road, starting at Upper Edmonton and working northwards

**a talk by Gary Boudier**

This will be the first meeting of The Enfield Society's Edmonton & Eastern Enfield Group for a while and it may be interest to some of our members. We are adding it to our schedule as a joint meeting with TES in addition to our own regular monthly meeting on 18th May.

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**Diary Dates** - live talks and events arranged by other organisations

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May.** 7.30pm. Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, N21  
A Spoonful of Sugar. From Workhouse to Hospital (£2 charge for non members)  
Joe Studman *Southgate District Civic Voice*

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May.** 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ  
Thomas Hardy's Tortured Vocation  
The Right Reverend Dr Stephen Platten *The Enfield Society*

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.** 12 noon for 12.15. Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU  
Munch and Listen. Monumental Restorations 1950s style.  
Deborah Hedgecock *Bruce Castle Museum*

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May.** 2-4pm. Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU  
Reminiscence café. Do you Remember 1952 ? Street parties and celebration mugs, fun for the children and some relief for exhausted parents after the devastating effects of the war. If 1952 is too far back, then what about memories of the 1977 Jubilee year. *Bruce Castle Museum*  
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**Zoom talks**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May.** 6.30pm. Zoom. £2.50 charge. Register through Eventbrite  
Hidden depths: revealing new insight into the archaeological human remains from the London reaches of the River Thames. Nicholas Arthur *London & Middlesex Archaeological Society.*

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May.** 2pm. Zoom. Free. To book go to [www.ghlevents.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.ghlevents.eventbrite.co.uk)  
Women in Medieval London. Professor Caroline Barron *Guildhall Library*

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**Haringey History Fair - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

**Opens 10.30am at Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU**

Haringey History Fair is back. There will be talks, walks, films and stalls (including the EHHS). Taster sessions and activities, pot making with the Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln and Jim Pennington demonstrating the Gestetner machine. Books will be signed by local authors including Ian Christie, Paul Collier, Arthur Evans, Avril Nanton and Jody Burton.

Talks programme throughout the day: 10:50am Tottenham Hotspur - Community and Memory, 11.25am Northumberland Mental Hospital - poignant photographs and stories, 12pm Writing Black London, 12.35pm Tottenham High Street Heritage Action Zone, 2pm Rise of the Friends of Parks Movement, 2.35pm Global History in Local Archives – radical publishing on the Gestetner machine, 3pm Once Upon a Time in Crouch End, 4.05pm A Terrace Through Time – Prospect Place. [4.45pm close]

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**The Chairman Writes**

It was good to see members at the AGM. We managed to conclude the business in ten minutes, however, this achievement was beaten by the Enfield Archaeological Society who, two days later, managed to conclude theirs in just five! I enjoyed Jim's talk. His reference to Wright's in Ponders End reminded me that when I passed by as a boy, there was always a donkey in the field by the entrance and his mention of the Italian community working in the nurseries brought to mind another boyhood memory. When I travelled to my sailing club at the end of Cadmore Lane, I remember one of the small terraced house had a huge escutcheon attached to the front stating that it was a branch of the Italian Embassy.

I noted the passing of Sir Ray Tindle. A local newspaper owner, he acquired so many titles that the area from Surrey to Wales was known as "Tindle land" by his competitors. He took over the *Enfield Gazette*, but sadly losses caused the paper to close in 2017. Although he had throat

cancer he continued driving to work each day in his open topped 1904 Speedwell Dogcart. Regrettably we now only have the monthly *Enfield Dispatch* and the *Independent* which has little news.

I've been to the National Gallery to see the current *Raphael* exhibition. It is well laid out and the brochure provides all the information so you don't have to read the captions. It was good to be able to appreciate the art works at leisure and in comfort (and his Popes are nicer than those of Francis Bacon at the Royal Academy). Whilst there I took the opportunity to see Gainsborough's Blue Boy, which is over from America for a few weeks. There is no charge to see it, but booking is required. I went to the Royal Academy to see the Whistler's "*Woman in White*" exhibition. This consists of several portraits of women in white dresses and I also took in *Kyosai*, the Japanese exhibition. Some of the scrolls featured elephants which surprised me, until I realised they would have come from the Indian subcontinent. There was a smug cat that had obviously quietly eaten a fish, though I should warn you - the last few items are of an adult nature.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting (we have an excellent speaker lined up) but before then we hope to see you at the Haringey History Fair at Bruce Castle on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Howard Whisker

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## **AGM and April Meeting Report**

We were pleased to see a decent turnout for the AGM. We had been anxious lest people stayed away for fear of being press ganged into joining the committee. (You'll be relieved to hear we haven't yet resorted to those tactics.) Chairman Howard raced through the formal business with his usual speed. The Society's accounts covering the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 were formally accepted. (If anyone, would like a copy of these, do please let me know). But the most important news was that thanks to The Enfield Society's appeal on our behalf we have someone lined up to take over as Treasurer. Howard pointed out, however, that we still needed to recruit more committee members and that unless we did so we would soon find ourselves again in the position of having to consider closing the Society.

## **London's Lea Valley: Home of Britain's Growing Food and Drink Industry by Dr Jim Lewis**

We all know that Jim Lewis is passionate about the industrial history of the Lea Valley and the technological developments made there. But there have been many changes in recent years, old industries have been replaced by those of the service sector and Jim is still campaigning, still an advocate for the entrepreneurs of the Lea Valley.

His talk covered the production of food and drink through history, from the Cistercian Monks at Stratford Langthorne Abbey to Snowbird Foods currently making "bangers" on the site of Ponders End Shell Works. From Bow Brewery where India Pale Ale was first produced to supply the troops of the East India Company to Beavertown Brewery which has just opened a new building on the site of the old Ediswan factory.

David Wright is the 6<sup>th</sup> generation of the milling family at Ponders End, though the mill itself has been on the site since the time of the Domesday Book. Wright's is an amazing story of survival. Extending their range to specialty flours and bread mixes for the modern age, they opened a new factory building at Brimsdown in 2013. H. Forman & Son is another. The salmon curers held out against the Olympic Park committee, refusing to move from their premises at Hackney Wick until they were eventually able to build a new processing plant on the site.

Valley Grown Nurseries at Broxbourne is where 80% of cucumbers eaten in the UK come from and Williams Brothers at Crews Hill, originally dairy farmers, are now growing herbs, while converting food waste into methane gas to run their equipment.

Jim covered a lot more companies, both old and new. You will find them in his new book on the subject. As ever he is optimistic for the future and proud of the past. He finished in Ponders End

where Joseph Swan made light bulbs, James Dewar invented the vacuum flask and Ambrose Fleming the diode valve or as Jim refers to it the “centre of the universe”.

Kate Godfrey

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### Letters and Emails

In reference to One Hundred Years Ago in last month’s newsletter, it was not the Enfield Ambulance shown in the photograph but the one operated by Edmonton Fire Brigade based in Church Street Edmonton.

The ambulances of Enfield and Edmonton were of a different design and manufacture.

I have enclosed a photo of Enfield’s ambulance when it crashed into the New River near old Enfield Town LNER Railway Station.

Chris Whippe



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### One Hundred Years Ago in the Edmonton Hundred

#### Redburn and Sons coaches

The summer arrangements of Messrs, Redburn and Sons, Green-street, Enfield Highway, include numerous country trips, varying from 70 to 100 miles. The delightful country lanes of Hertfordshire and Epping Forest, among other popular attractions, will be beauty spots catered for by the firm. Their fleet comprises two commodious char-a-bancs, and of the shorter distances the prices will average 4s. and upwards, according to the length of the journey. Messrs. Redburn are again putting into operation the popular Wednesday and Thursday evening runs for the benefit of shopkeepers in the district. At present no seaside trips are advertised, but these can be catered for on application. It is interesting to note that Messrs. Redburn and Sons have catered for day trippers for upwards of fifty years, thus going back to the days of the team-horse brakes. With the advent of char-a-bancs Messrs Redburn were early in the field to meet the up-to-date requirements of eastern Enfield.

*Enfield Gazette 19<sup>th</sup> May 1922*



*Redburns charabanc outing*

© Enfield Local Studies & Archives

#### Tram Traffic Trouble

The arching and upheaval of the tram track between Ponders End and Waltham Cross continues to cause trouble. In fact, the return of the hot weather has intensified it. During the week several gangs of men have been engaged in repairing patches where the blocks had arched to such an extent as to stop the cars.

*Enfield Gazette 26<sup>th</sup> May 1922*

Graham Frost

## Five Brothers and a Palace - continued

### By Ian Jones

#### Fig. 6. Plan from 1918 Sale Prospectus

The Palace School finally closed in 1899 but the brothers clearly maintained an interest in it. In 1918 they bought the Palace for £7,000 and agreed not to sell it for 2 years unless to the Council or the National Trust. The palace, cedar and what was left of the gardens formed lot 2 in the sale which only had limited access to Church Street. When the entire site was redeveloped and Pearsons was built, the store ended up owning the palace site but not the vital street frontage land which they lease from its owners!

The Enfield Constitutional Club's 21 year lease was due to end in 1927. No negotiations with the National Trust are reported leaving us to assume that probably the much-altered building's condition was now so poor that restoration or major repairs would have been too expensive. This, plus the commercial value of this prime town centre site, made demolition inevitable.



#### Fig. 7. Little Park, Tudor Room, right

Starting on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1927 the Enfield Weekly Herald reported in relief and in some detail on the removal of panelling and fireplaces from the Palace to Little Park, thus ending a lengthy and much interrupted saga concerning the fate of the building which had begun back in 1899.

Having earlier mentioned that items from the Palace may be preserved in the town the paper was pleased to

announce in its inimitable way that the Leggatt brothers, Major Percy and Dudley, had acquired the Tudor Room to save it from crossing the Atlantic. *So that once again Enfield is indebted to a family which has always had the welfare of the district at heart, borne of an intense love and veneration for the Town in which they have resided for so many years. We are confident that every citizen, without exception, will appreciate the action of the Brothers Leggatt in preserving this valuable work.*

### Fig. 8. First Floor Room Ceiling

The ceiling with its decoration of crown, rose and fleur-de-lys was carefully sawn into slabs each weighing over 2 cwt which were transferred by Mr Wright of Enfield and the last were being fitted with the panelling due to be removed and installed early in 1928. The extension to Little Park was constructed by Alan Fairhead and Sons to the designs of Messers Hamilton, Sons and Campion of Church Street. To ensure a proper fit of the panelling the builders were working to tolerances of only half an inch. At this stage it was expected that visits will only be able to be made by parties by prior arrangement.



### Fig. 9. Little Park, Plan Showing Relocated Items.



Other items, principally panelling and a second fireplace were also removed and set up elsewhere in Little Park.

### Fig. 10. Dining Room and Fig 11 Billiard Room

Panelling and the original Tudor Room ceiling were installed in the dining room along with the royal visit panel while the second fireplace was installed in the billiard room.



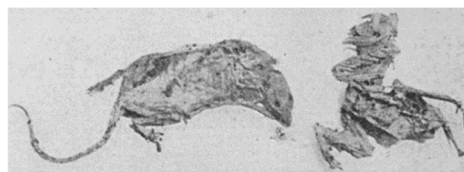
### 30<sup>th</sup> December 1927

Enfield Constitutional Club left the Palace for its new headquarters as furniture and fittings were transferred. It was assumed that the building would soon be demolished and there was yet more criticism of the Council's failure to buy it earlier. However, the ceilings and oak panelling would remain in Enfield, safe from treasure hunters.

**21<sup>st</sup> January 1928**

**Fig. 12. Mummified Rat and Jackdaw**

While removing the panelling from the old rooms the mummified remains of a rat and jackdaw were found between the panelling and the wall. Though it was suggested they were walled up during the 16<sup>th</sup> building works it is equally likely that they found their ways inside when the building was in its semi-derelict state.



Once installed in its purpose-built home, the Tudor Room soon began to host visitors beginning a tradition that has been maintained, with some interruptions, ever since.

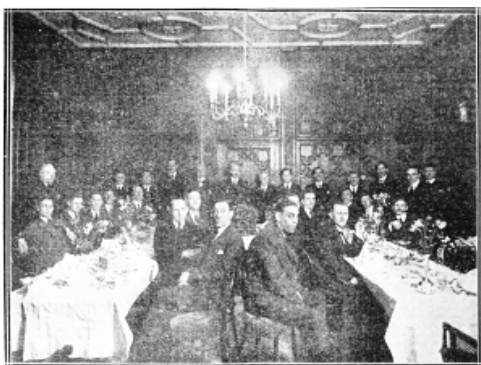
**22<sup>nd</sup> April 1928**

**Fig. 13. First School Visit to the Tudor Room**

On the previous Friday what may have been the first visit by a group to the new room was reported consisting of 50 pupils from the girls' department of St. Andrews school. After having the iconography of the fireplace and the two overmantels explained the girls were shown a selection of films ranging from travel in South America and Felix the Cat to local scenes and events comprising rooks in the town park, the 1926 veteran's football match and the pupils of St. Andrews celebrating Empire Day. At the end, after eating many sweets, they looked into the second panelled room with its plaque commemorating the visit by Queen Mary in 1920 and the fireplace with its Delftware tiles ostensibly from Raleigh's cottage in Chase Side.



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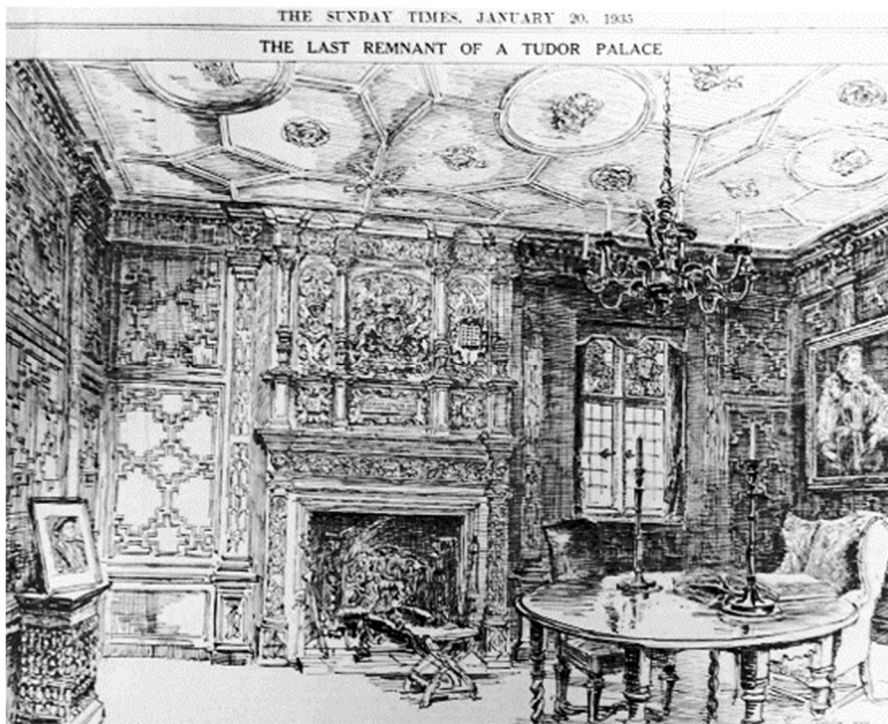


**Fig. 14. Leggatt Brothers Staff Farewell Party**

On Wednesday some 30 members of the staff of Leggatt Brothers were entertained in the Tudor Room to mark the retirement of Mr Edwards after 51 years with the firm. He was presented with the inevitable clock. As a memento of the occasion Major Leggatt was presented with what was described as a "Tudor cup" from which the company drank.

The brothers were then presented with 2 albums, one of which told the story of the palace. The cover was in dark leather with gilt edging with the portcullis, Tudor Rose and Fleur-de-Lys in the corners. Above the title was a crown and the initials E R., parchment was used for the pages and the book began with a coloured illumination of Queen Elizabeth's arms. The contents proper began with autographed photographs of Queen Mary and Viscount Mary Lascelles plus a copy of the Gazette report of their visit in 1920. Then came a description of the building and the auction catalogue which suggested its conversion into a cinema! Material from the Enfield Constitutional Club was followed by photographs of prints and some original pictures of its beauties.

**Fig. 15. Tudor Room in 1935**



**Fig. 16. British Empire Shakespeare Society (Enfield Branch)**

**SEASON 1934-5**

On **THURSDAYS**, at 7.45 for 8 p.m.

1934  
 Oct. 11. **SOCIAL GATHERING AND ENTERTAINMENT**  
 at the Tudor Room, Gentleman's Row, Enfield. (*Each member may bring one guest*).

Ian K. Jones. February 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

Figs;- 7,10,11,13. Various internet sites under the Googled heading "Leggatt Brothers, Art Dealers." Figs;- 6,8,9,12,14-16. Enfield Local Studies.

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**A note from Ian Jones**

Here is another example of the reason why no researcher should ever publish anything. Last week at Local Studies I came across some adverts in the Observer for May, June and July 1869 asking for day pupils to join the school. The Leggatts actually fit in quite nicely with the eldest being too old and the family probably amongst the earliest participants. I expect them to turn up in the cricket team soon.

**THE PALACE SCHOOL, ENFIELD.**  
**S**ONS of Gentlemen can be received  
 as Daily Pupils. Particulars on application to  
**MR. BARKER.**

*Meyers Observer May, June & July 1869*

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