

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



July 2022

Newsletter

Next meeting

Wednesday 27th July

from 2.30 to 3.30pm

at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ

Summer Social

and Book Sale

Members will have noticed that our usual June joint meeting at Bruce Castle Museum, Tottenham, didn't happen this year. There will also be no joint meeting this month with Enfield Archaeological Society, so we've decided to hold a Summer Social where members can chat over free refreshments, meet the committee, and give us your ideas for future talks and hear about the October Day Conference.

With no let-up in the hot weather expected we'll be providing cool fruit juice and wine as well as tea and coffee and nibbles. There'll also be an opportunity to pick up some bargains from the books left to the society by Keith Cunningham and Pat Allbutt.

We look forward to the pleasure of your company on Wednesday afternoon 27th July at 2.30pm, but do feel free to arrive later. We'll pack up by 3.40pm and would be happy not to have too many books to take away!

Rachael Macdonald

**We regret we were unable to send out a newsletter in June.
Apologies to all our members.**

Diary Dates - live talks and events arranged by other organisations

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th July. 11am-4pm. Forty Hall, Forty Hill, Enfield, EN2 9HA
Elsyng Family Days – two days of activities, displays, quizzes and crafts during Enfield
Archaeological Society’s annual excavation of the Elsyng Palace site.
Excavation ends on 24th July. *Enfield Archaeological Society*

Monday 18th July. 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ
Running Rings around London. The Roman wall, the City boundaries, 17th century earthworks,
roads, rails and footpaths. Joe Studman *The Enfield Society*

Tuesday 19th July. 2-4pm. Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU
Reminiscence café. A childhood game of spotting the adverts on the side of buses led to the
conclusion that the Ben Truman ad was the most frequently used. But other sorts of adverts were
on street hoardings and in stations as well as newspapers and magazines. Then came ITV
television. What do you remember ? *Bruce Castle Museum*

Saturday 23rd July. Meet Clock Tower entrance, Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, N17 8NU
Victorian Marvels, Memorials and Monuments – Two walking tours of Tottenham Cemetery
Part 1 meet 10.15 for 10.30am start (this is a repeat of the previous walk in April
Part 2 meet 1.45 for 2pm start (a separate tour with different content from tour 1)
Deborah Hedgecock *Bruce Castle Museum*

Monday 25th July. Meet 12 noon. Clock Tower entrance Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane N17 8NU.
A walk around the grounds of Bruce Castle. (Walk starts 12.15pm)
Deborah Hedgecock and Valerie Crosby *Bruce Castle Museum*

Monday 15th August. 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ
The wonderful world of almshouses
Simon Saints *The Enfield Society*

Exhibitions at Bruce Castle

**We’re in Business: Art Trade & Business of West Green Road – the
Windrush Generations’ Legacy**

West Green Road in Tottenham has witnessed many important trailblazers and change-makers
who, rooted in their communities, went on to succeed in building some of the most successful
black enterprises in this country.

From Dyke & Dryden’s beauty and hair products, becoming Britain’s first black multi-million-pound
business, to Althea McNish, the internationally-renowned textile designer and artist who made
West Green Road her home for over 60 years, you can find out more about the stories of these
pioneers and others – all starting out and finding their feet in West Green Road.

Sisters, Sirens and Saints: Imagining the Women of Beatrice Offor

Portraits by Beatrice Offor (1864-1920).
Commemorating the centenary of artist Beatrice Offor who lived in Tottenham, this exhibition
explores her beautiful portraits and the imaginings and portrayals of the women she painted

Bringing together her artworks from the collections at Bruce Castle Museum alongside recently
discovered paintings, this exhibition draws on new research, the influences in her life and the
recent invigorated interest in her art. Beatrice Offor was amongst the first women students who
trained at The Slade, going on to become one of the few commercially successfully Edwardian
female artists.

(Both exhibitions run until September)

The Chairman Writes

When I saw that the Duchess of Cornwall had been to an exhibition of paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings at a gallery in Kensington, I took the opportunity to go too. It was only on for a short time, I'm afraid, but it was a good exhibition. He was an excellent painter of horses. Afterwards I went to nearby Apsley House where the current exhibition is "*Wellington, Women and Friendship*".

In last month's newsletter there was an article about Redburns. I knew Tom Redburn in the 1960s and 70s when he had a fireplace shop in South Street, Ponders End, but he was also interested in old vehicles then. In the opening sequence of the film "*The Yellow Rolls Royce*" when the car is being delivered to the showroom, the trailer delivering it is being pulled along by one of his traction engines. He then went on to run a pub in South Street. It used to have an old large army gun outside. I think the firm is still going in the area and last I heard they were doing transport for rock groups, doing major tours.

As always we look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Howard Whisker

May Meeting Report Picture Shows Before Cinema. Professor Ian Christie

We had learned about Robert Paul at our Day Conference in 2019 – how long ago that seems. In this talk Professor Christie covered the background - image projection and the illusion of movement - that led to the development of moving pictures. I knew about magic lanterns but I didn't know that they were 350 years old or that Samuel Pepys had one. They were popular in the 18th century too (one is shown in a painting by Paul Sandy) and by the 19th century had become a toy for middle class children. There were other optical toys available in the 19th century – zoetropes, thaumotropes and phenakistoscopes, with which you will be familiar - though you may not know them by these names.

The eidophusikon – another word that's difficult to spell - was invented in the 1780s as a means of projecting images but is known only from an illustration and from adverts for the shows. Precisely how it worked remains a mystery. Robert Barker built the first panorama in Leicester Square in the late 18th century where the image was fixed while the audience moved around it. Objects in the foreground contributed to the illusion. People were engrossed by the spectacle and within a few years every major city had its own panorama and there are, apparently, a few still in existence.

Stereoscopes, first promoted at the Great Exhibition of 1851, became extremely popular. The subjects covered (including the Boer War) were ambitious. Stereoscopy is currently enjoying a revival, promoted by Brian May (of Queen fame) who bought the name of the London Stereoscopic Company and has written books on the subject.

Improvements in lantern technology gave rise to the era of touring lectures which took place at huge venues like the Albert Hall and the Manchester Free Trade Hall.

Edison's kinoscope (which was in fact invented by his assistant William Kennedy Dickson) was demonstrated first in Paris and then in London in 1895. It was a sensation. Kinoscope parlours proliferated. They were one of the few places where respectable women could go for entertainment and customers queued for a chance to see the Serpentine Dance.

Robert Paul and the Lumiere brothers began making changes and adapting the kinoscope. The challenge for inventors was to combine a magic lantern lighthouse with a mechanism for transporting film. There were other inventors who rivalled them during that period. It was a fast moving world.

Progress continued. Edison tried to add sound but was unable to synchronise the film. Lumiere worked on 3D and finally succeeded in producing 3D film in 1936.

Professor Christie's talk was packed with information and detail and I'm sure that there was lots more that he could have told us. He had brought some slides and optical toys for the audience to examine. It was all very fascinating.

Kate Godfrey

Letters and Emails

The Redburn family and the Enfield and District Veteran Vehicle Society.

The Redburn family have always been involved with motor transport. Tom Redburn the son and a number of like-minded people decided in 1961 to form a transport club in the name of the Enfield District Veteran Vehicle Society for preserving old motors.



Around this time (1961) Tom purchased an old fire engine, a 1912 John Morris Belsize which had served in Southampton, to be used as a club vehicle. This fire engine is still around and is kept at the Whitwebbs Museum of Transport and is believed to be the oldest motorised fire engine still roadworthy and driveable in the UK.

Tom himself owned a number of old vehicles around this time, he also saved many more from the scrap yard.

Chris Whippe.

Whitwebbs Museum of Transport

The museum in Whitwebbs Road, Enfield, EN2 9HW is open every Tuesday between 10am and 4pm (last entry 3pm) and the last Sunday of each month (with exceptions).

For open days and special events see website www.whitwebbsmuseum.co.uk. Or phone 020 8367 1898



Whitwebbs Museum of Transport

One Hundred Years Ago in the Edmonton Hundred

The trees planted on the "Arbour Day" of March 4th, 1921, by local children, in the Bush Hill Park Recreation Ground, were "inspected" by "Villager" this week, on behalf of one who has left the country.

I claim to be no expert, but it appears the trees (which were the gifts of Mr Stuart Low) are laburnum, almond, variegated maple, silver birch, cherry, and mountain ash. The roll-call appears to be;- Originally planted, 39; died 13; living 26. Whether it was a case of the survival of the fittest I cannot say.

Enfield Gazette 9th June 1922

Enfield Sewage Scheme

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, Sir Alfred Mond, Minister of Health, replying to Sir R.Green, Coalition Unionist Member for Hackney, said that the scheme submitted by Enfield Urban District Council for the improvement of their sewage disposal works had been approved, subject to certain modifications. The Minister of Health understood, however, that it was doubtful whether it would be possible to start work by the end of July, but he was taking all steps to expedite the matter.

Enfield Gazette 30th June 1922

Fireman's Outing

Members of the Enfield Volunteer Fire Brigade and friends to the number of 30 spent an enjoyable visit to Boulogne on Wednesday last week. The party left Enfield at 7.30 am and journeyed to Victoria and thence to Folkestone. The passage across to Boulogne was very rough, and not a few of the party suffered slight effects. However, safely arrived at the other side of the Channel, the party broke up in sections and paid visits to various places of interest. They met on the pier at 7.30 pm and had a safe journey home. Enfield was reached about midnight.

The secretarial duties of the outing were undertaken by Mr. Arthur Quinton, who also acted as purser on the trip. This was the first outing to the Continent that the Enfield firemen have had since the war. In 1913 they went to Boulogne, and had intended to visit Ostend in 1914, but the war intervened.

Enfield Gazette 7th July 1922

Employees' Outing - Messrs Pearson Bros.

Favoured with delightful weather, the employees of Messrs Pearson Bros., Enfield Town, had their annual outing on Wednesday. Three motor coaches, fully occupied, left the Town shortly after 2pm. and journeyed via Ponders End, Woodford, Chigwell Row, Ongar and Epping to the King's Oak Hotel, High Beech. Here an excellent tea was served, during which Mr. A. Fenner proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Messrs. S.E. and A.H. Pearson for their active and generous assistance in making the outing a success.

After tea the proprietor of the hotel kindly placed the private grounds and the sports track at the disposal of the party and sports and games were indulged in, including a cricket match, egg and spoon and three-legged races, donkey races, etc. These caused great fun and amusement, especially the tug-of-war between 36 ladies and 24 gentlemen, the rope snapping twice and resulting eventually in the ladies being successful. Prizes were presented to the winners by Mrs. S.E. Pearson. The evening finished up with an impromptu dance, and the return journey was made via Waltham Abbey, home being reached about 10pm. The whole trip was most enjoyable, the comfortable coaches (supplied by Meeson Bros.) adding considerably to the pleasure of the party.

Enfield Gazette 14th July 1922

Graham Frost

My Life and Family by Joseph Rye

Edited by Michael Rye

Continuing the memoirs of Joseph Rye written between his 79th and 80th birthdays at the behest of his grandson Councillor Michael Rye. Chapters 1 and 2 can be found in our February and March newsletters.

Chapter 3 - Mr E A Bowles

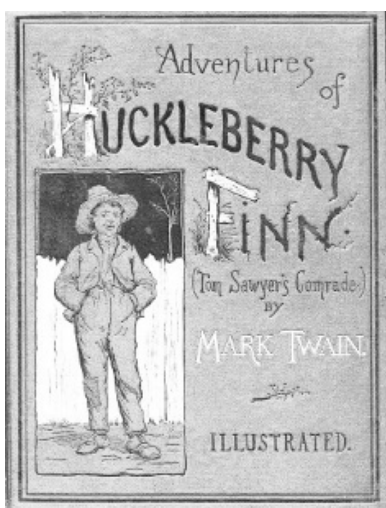
During my later life at school, I had an invitation to go to night school in Turkey Street from Mr E A Bowles and attended the same for years, enjoying it very much ¹. I think all the boys were very lucky to have Mr Gussie behind them all of the time. I often wonder how many hundreds of boys passed through his hands. I expect it has been written before, how Mr E A Bowles became known as Gussie. Augustus, of course was his second name, but the nickname came from the articles he used to write in "Waifs and Strays" under the non-de-plume "Gussie".

He did of course write many other books and articles under his own name on gardening matters. When these were published, us boys were always supplied with them. At his night school, Mr Gussie had some excellent helpers. In 1910 I wrote an essay on Halley's Comet and secured a prize for it. I also took shorthand (Pitmans) at night school under Mr Wilson (no relation of Jim) and Mr Walter Millwood. I kept in touch with the latter who died some years ago, at a ripe old age. I might add that I have never forgotten the shorthand I learnt but I only used it once, in the Army in a Battalion Orderly Room.



Mr E. A. Bowles

Another of Mr Gussie's good deeds to us occurred when we were old enough to be confirmed. When we were aged thirteen, he would take us to St Andrew's Church, Enfield Town by his own carriage driven by Mr H Aylott for the Confirmation Service. To mark the occasion, he would present us with a lovely white tie. After the service we would be taken home by him to tea in the Drawing Room. I have never forgotten this. The following Sunday we then had to go with him to Jesus Church for the Sacrament ². I felt so sorry for the girls who were confirmed as I know of no treat for them.



When talking about Mr Gussie I always remember how good an entertainer he was, whether he was singing at his piano or reading books to us. Two of my favourites were Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain. I wonder how many generations of young men heard these books read by him at various times. I might add that boys came from all parts of Enfield adjoining the Jesus Church area to see Mr E A Bowles. Some from as far away as Braces Alley ³ in which there were many rough characters, but they were all alike to Mr Gussie. We had wonderful suppers at night school and contrary to what has been written, the gentry of the district were very good in supplying the sausage rolls, rabbit pies and cakes galore. I

attended the night school until I went into private service.

Another Sunday outing all of us boys looked forward to be our half day at Myddelton House. We used to get to the house and if wet wait in the museum cum billiard room until Mr E A Bowles came down. He would proceed to the garden behind the house and feed his pet raven Flo who lived in

the uppermost boughs of the trees. Flo would fly down and take pieces of chicken and rabbit from Mr Bowles' hands. The raven was there year after year and good entertainment for all.

On these visits I got to know quite well Kim and Taffy, two Welsh terriers to which Mr Bowles was very attached. We would walk through the garden and over the river down by the rockery and finally through the gate into the fields and wood. During these walks we were supplied with Clarnico's caramels by Mr Gussie. He seemed to us to have endless supply of these, producing box after box. Sometimes we went to Blue Bell Island by Maidens Brook and on other occasions we would finish up at Forty Hall where his brother Sir Henry lived. We used to be very interested in the herd of deer he had in the long field.



The woods between Myddelton House and Forty Hall in 2022

All the years I visited the home of Mr E A Bowles, I only remember once or twice seeing any women there other than the servants. Once when Mr Bowles was unwell two ladies took over from him: Miss Mogle and Miss Sansom. They came out and carried on in the same way as Mr Gussie used to. I am pleased to say as the boys behaved themselves, those who were growing older helping keep the younger ones doing only what they were allowed with Mr Bowles.

What memories! At other times when we were unable to proceed on our walk, he used to take some of us into the house and show us up the stairs to his study to show us his paintings, bird's eggs collection and butterfly collection, also his many books. One I loved to read was his F. A. Book on Association Football. As I have said we boys were very thankful for all the time he spent with us.



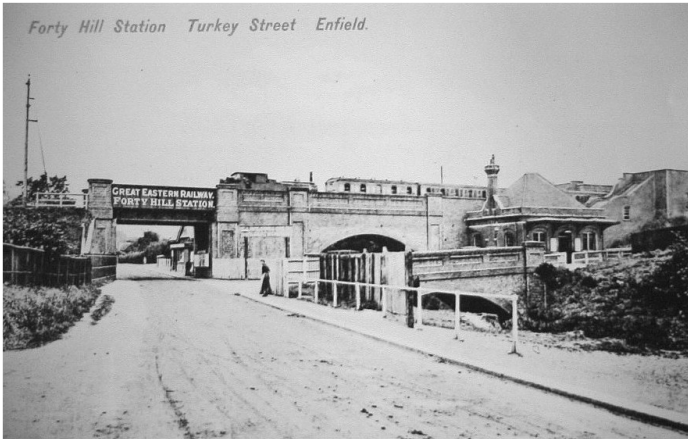
Jesus Church, Forty Hill in 2022

Mr Gussie was involved in many of the activities of Jesus Church. One was the church choir, of which I was a member for several years until my voice broke. Mr Bowles used to sing in the choir and also read the lessons. Choir practice was on a Wednesday and our choir mistress was a Mrs Gurwood. She used to live at Totteridge Road near Mr Edward who used to bring her to the vestry in his open landau. When she arrived, it used to be quite an occasion as she was a very big woman who had difficulty alighting from the car. At choir practice she used to make us boys put a cork between our teeth to keep our mouths open. From time to time, we used to blow the corks out

and she would threaten us with loss of pay! On a Wednesday that was Fireworks Day (Guy Fawkes) one of the more boisterous boys pinned a very small firework called a Chinese cracker to Mrs Gurwood's skirt and lit it. (Skirts in those days were very long). This was a great laugh until the senior choir man stamped the firework out. I have thought about this since, saying to myself, that it was a very silly thing to do. Our wages per quarter in the choir were 1s and 4d.

Mrs Gurwood was also an organised and very much liked. Later she was replaced by Mrs Clarke a somewhat superior organist. I might add that here my Father was a bell ringer and organ blower. He also stoked the church boiler and cleared the churchyard. When I was old enough, I took over these jobs from Dad for a while and having helped him beforehand I had no problem with them. Blowing the organ was quite a job as the organ had a long wooden handle that had to be pumped

up and down. The bellows were very big with pieces on them as thick as paving stones which must have weight several hundredweight. When the organ was placed, one had to keep the weight just in the middle at the three marks on a board, so no wind would escape.



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Forty Hill Station

When we went on outings to Brighton seaside resort, Mr Gussie spent a lot of money on us all. Wherever we went he would foot the bill. In those days we went from the old Forty Hill Station (now called Turkey Street) and got a special train reserved for us to go right through to our destination. We used to go swimming and Mr Bowles would come in with us. All of us who could not swim had water wings and he would teach us to swim. At Brighton the usual place for tea was at Bollo and Bank and the staff did us fine. They thought as much of Mr Bowles as we did.

1. Edward Augustus Bowles VMH, was a British horticulturalist, plantsman and garden writer. He developed an important garden at Myddelton House, his lifelong home at Bulls Cross in Enfield, Middlesex.
2. On 16th July 1835 the Rt Revd Charles Blomfield, Bishop of London, consecrated Jesus Chapel as a chapel of ease in the Parish of St. Andrew, Enfield. Built at the instigation and expense of Christian Paul Meyer of Forty Hall, to save travelling to St. Andrew's in Enfield Town!
3. Grove Road West Enfield Wash a well-known public health problem spot.

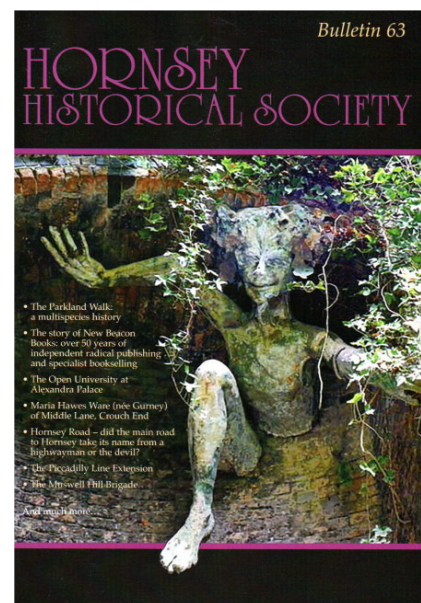
Books

Hornsey Historical Society Bulletin No.63 is incredibly good value at £6.50. 60 pages crammed with information and illustrations that are a delight to the casual historian and of particular interest to the serious one.

HHS have done well in not only publishing the stalwarts who never fail to please but more than half the contributions are from fresh authors leading to a new generation of talent research and ideas.

It covers a considerable spectrum of articles on such diverse subjects as the Parkland around Alexandra Palace; New Beacon Books Ltd founded in 1966 by John La Rose, the first black publisher in this country; the Open University at Alexandra Palace; Maria Hawes Ware nee Gurney of Middle Lane, whose life was a revelation; Research in the Hornsey Road; The Piccadilly Line Extension; The Radicals of Muswell Hill; the late Patrick Connolly's Cinematic Legacy; Bounds Green School Photographic History Project; An interview with Paul Saxton the news vendor whose family have run the newspaper stall at the Broadway, Crouch End since 1949.

Most heartwarming of all is the memorial to Albert Pinching who we will never stop missing and never be able to replace
Victorine Martineau



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