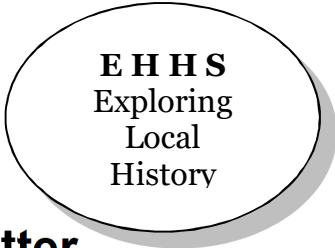


EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 2023

Newsletter

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 17th May**
8pm at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ

Doors open at 7.30 pm.

Memories are Made of This **by Pat and Barbara Elliott**

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 17 May at 8pm at Jubilee Hall (doors open 7.30) when Pat and Barbara Elliott will talk about exploring life in the 1950s, from austerity to the flowering of a new Elizabethan Age, including making preparations for a 'make do and mend' celebration of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Following the far less austere celebrations for King Charles III's Coronation, this will bring back memories for those who watched his mother's coronation on a small Bakelite television as I did, surrounded by neighbours who brought their own chairs and turned the front room into a private cinema. It will also be a chance to sample food of the time. There'll definitely be pineapple upside down cake, and maybe butterfly cakes, and all sorts of artefacts - and Pat and Barbara will wear their New Look dresses. An enjoyable evening is predicted.

Rachael Macdonald



Photo: Enfield Local Studies & Archive

Coronation tea party at Durants School, Enfield, 1953

Visit to Whitewebbs Museum of Transport

We shall be having a guided tour of the fascinating transport museum on our doorstep in June or July. Details will be in our next newsletter but register your interest now by email to edmontonhundredevents@gmail.com or call/text 0734 1212 813.

Rachael Macdonald

Extraordinary General Meeting – postponed.

The committee met on 28th April with two new members, Chris Whippe and Bob Hare. It was decided that the Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss the closure of the Society be postponed until later in the year.

Diary Dates - talks and events arranged by other organisations

Tuesday 9th May. Online only. 6.30pm. Tickets via **Eventbrite**

Excavation of a Roman Cemetery, prehistoric and post medieval remains at Principal Place.

Andy Dakin

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

Monday 15th May. 7.30 for 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ

Monarchs, Courtiers, Technocrats and Kitchen Boys of Elsyng Palace. Dr Martin Dearne.

£1 charge for visitors

The Enfield Society

Tuesday 16th May. 2-4 pm. Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU.

Reminiscence Café. Memories from the Big Screen (and the Little Screens). What were your favourite memories of cinema or family sofa viewing?

Bruce Castle Museum

Saturday 20th May. Walk. Meet 11am. Seven Sisters Road junction

Spooky Stories, Sacred Sites and Workers' Strikes – a Walking History Tour of St Ann's Road

Oona Kelly. Free. **Book** via **Eventbrite**.

Bruce Castle Museum

Thursday 25th May. Visit. Meet 11 am. St Bartholomew's Church, Craven Pk Rd, Stamford Hill

Guided tour of a Grade II listed architectural gem

Free. **Book** via **Eventbrite**.

Bruce Castle Museum

NB. The **Enfield Archaeological Society** will be resuming their live lecture programme at Jubilee Hall on 15th September. Further details coming soon.

Barrowell Green Baths

Stuart Delvin

Following Ian Jones's account of the early swimmers in Enfield, Stuart Delvin, ever a champion of Winchmore Hill, has contributed an account of swimming at Barrowell Green Baths which first appeared in his own book "Winchmore Lives: A Collection of Recollections", published in 1991 (now out of print). These are the memories of Philip Love who was born in 1922.

'Barrowell Green figures prominently in my memories owing to the Church at the top and the open air swimming baths that were half way down, now turned into a rubbish tip. One was concerned with the health of the spirit, the other with the health of the body!

The baths were a godsend to the children of the mid-1920s to mid-1930s. An adult season ticket covering May to September cost ten shillings (50p) and a child's season half of that. Most parents seemed to encourage their offspring to attend after school as well as weekends and holidays.

First of all there were sessions: 'Ladies Only'; 'Men Only' and (very daring) 'Mixed Bathing'. For some strange reason (the mind boggles at what they thought might happen) for a male to get in to the mixed sessions he had to be accompanied by a female. The result was that a boy waited

outside until an amenable girl chanced to come along, when they went in together. I am sure this is not what the local Council, who framed the rule, had in mind. It was all very harmless anyway.

The one piece swimming costumes worn by men in those days were made of rather thin material and apparently the local councillors decided they were too revealing for mixed bathing. Hence a notice appeared stating 'Slips must be worn'. These slips were in addition to, and not instead of, swimming costumes. They could be hired at the ticket office and were like a napkin with ties at the side, made of a sort of canvas and very uncomfortable. As far as I can remember the rule was often ignored.

It was during this time that *men* started to go topless. What we now know as swimming trunks came into fashion. I can remember the elderly ladies saying, 'They may be all right on the beach, but they certainly aren't suitable for the local swimming baths.'

No account of Barrowell Green Baths would be complete without reference to Dr. Gordon 'Simbo' Simpson and the 'Seven Fifteen Regulars'. 'Simbo' took over his father's practice at a large white house on The Green called 'Roseville'. I came in rather at the end of his period of influence, but to the young boys of that era he was much more than just a doctor.



Photo: Keith & Vicky Surtees ©

Barrowell Green Baths 5th Aug 1929

This colourful character had short cropped hair and drove an open-topped silver car – well known in the neighbourhood at that time. He fully adopted the 'Baden Powell' principles and weekend camps were regularly held in the grounds of 'Roseville'. These included camp fires which always concluded with prayers. In addition he started the early morning swims at the baths – hence the title 'Seven Fifteen Regulars' – a routine which was carried out before school in summer and winter. Once the summer season was over and it became 'Men Only' costumes were discarded as they would have been most unpleasant to peel off after an invigorating but cold swim. There was some correspondence in 'The Palmers Green Gazette' from a young lady who wished to join in, but it never came to anything. When ice formed the system was to break it up at the shallow end

and just around the sides, then push with long poles on the remaining whole 'ice flow' so that it moved down the bath. This left the deep end clear. Following the swim a hot drink, 'Boxo', was distributed from thermos flasks brought by 'Simbo'.



Photo: Enfield Local Studies

Roseville, Winchmore Hill Green in 1955

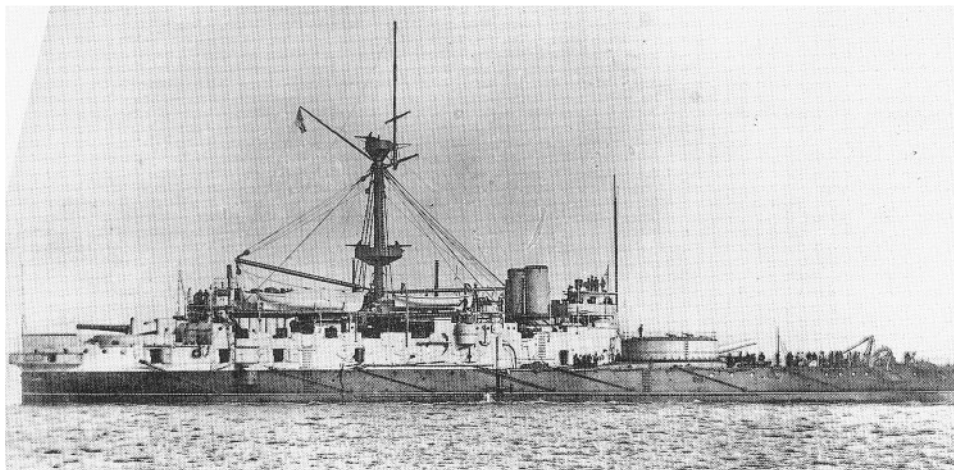
On Sunday mornings when time was not so pressing, fathers' cars were borrowed and the swim took place at such places as Dick Turpin's Pond in Epping Forest, Highgate, Elstree and the Serpentine in Hyde Park. At that time swimming was also allowed in the southernmost pond in Broomfield Park.

Eventually 'Simbo' met and married a young Scottish lady who my inventive brother called 'Simbess'. She used to come swimming with us and was deservedly held in high esteem.'

From "Winchmore Lives: A Collection of Recollections"

The Gunner and the Bonfire Boys By Ian Jones

In the 19th century the need for jobs and the improving transport facilities led to more Enfield people than earlier leaving the district to seek work or to satisfy their curiosity about what lay beyond the parish. This, plus greater literacy and the spread of the popular press, both local and national, saw great events sometimes directly affecting local people.



HMS Victoria

One such was the loss of the fleet flagship HMS Victoria in the Mediterranean on the 26th of June 1893 during manoeuvres in which two parallel columns of battleships were ordered to turn inward in succession to form 2 columns steaming in the reverse direction and only a few hundred yards apart. Despite being warned the columns were too close together to start with, Admiral Tryon confirmed the order and as a result HMS Camperdown rammed and sank Victoria which went down in a little over 10 minutes taking 358 men, including the Admiral, with her. She survives today as the largest known vertical shipwreck as her still-turning propellers drove her bow deep into the seabed.

Coming when it did at a time when the Navy was at the peak of its power, the country was profoundly shocked and eagerly seized on any good news about survivors. On the 30th June the Enfield Observer reported under the heading *THE LOSS OF THE VICTORIA*.

The cruel fate of this flagship has distributed bereavement and anguish over the whole of the country. There are happily some marvellous escapes and amongst these was that of a gunner whose parents reside in Enfield. In reference to this escape the parents write: "Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer thank all kind friends for their congratulations on the safety of their son, a gunner on board HMS Victoria."

A few days later on Monday July 3rd some 30 members of the Enfield Bonfire Boys Company met at the Rising Sun in Church Street to discuss contributing to the Mansion House Fund for the relief of the families of the dead seamen.

Eventually it was resolved to organise a procession of the members attired in nautical costumes. It was suggested that a lifeboat and a lighthouse would form appropriate features of the procession and it was understood that this idea would be carried into effect. The members resolved to invite all the lodges of the various friendly societies in the locality to co-operate in the movement and in regalia and accompanied by their bands and banner, to take part in the procession. The secretary was requested also to invite the local Volunteer Fire Brigades to ride on their engines.



Sinking of the Victoria

The date fixed for the demonstration is Saturday July 22nd and it was agreed that about three hours should be spent in parading the various streets in and around Enfield Town collecting money along the route as has been done by the Bonfire Boys on the fifth of November in recent years.

A sub-committee...was appointed...to arrange the details...and it was resolved that the secretary of each friendly society should be invited to become a member of this subcommittee. It was also resolved that the secretary should ask the manager of Lloyds Bank to act as treasurer to the fund and to open an account at the bank so that any person wishing to give and who may not be able to do so on the evening of the 22nd can send the amount to the treasurer...

A meeting of the sub-committee was duly held and it was agreed that:- The procession will start from London Road at 7.o'clock and take the route followed by the "Boys" on the 5th November last, the following to be the order:-

Enfield Band		Sailors	
Lighthouse	Sailors	Life-boat	Sailors
	Enfield Fire Brigade		
	Cedar Tree Lodge of Oddfellows (Including Portcullis Lodge)		
	Foresters Brass Band		
	Foresters Enfield Court		
	St. Andrews Lodge of Oddfellows		
	Ponders End Fire Brigade		
	Sons of Temperance		
	Enfield Lodge of Good Templars		
	The Navvies, Bricklayers Labourers and General Labourers Union		
	The Carpenters Union		
	The Enfield Drum and Fife Band		
	The Bricklayers Union		
	The Sons of Phoenix		

All the money collected will be handed over to the Mansion House Fund. A vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and in reply Captain Tilley thanked the delegates for attending and said he was pleased that the Societies had consented to assist the "Boys" in this most worthy undertaking and to see the good fellowship which existed.



Photo: Enfield Local Studies & Archive

Enfield Town Foresters Band in 1904

The paper reported on the 21st July that on the previous Monday and Thursday "The Boys" and the various delegates had met to finalise arrangements. It was also reported that the Waltham Abbey Volunteer Fire Brigade had expressed a desire to take part in the demonstration and it was

resolved with thanks to accept their offer to do so. The Secretary was requested to invite the Waltham Abbey Town Band and the Tottenham Foresters Brass Band to join in the procession.

The offers of Mr. White to place at the disposal of the organisers the yard of Messrs Savill's stores in London Road as a place in which the procession may form up and to lend a horse and trolley; of Mr. John Jackson to send a pair of horses and a vehicle, and of Messrs Patman and Mr. Patman junr. to render aid in other ways were gratefully accepted. With the exception of the additions...mentioned above, no substantial alterations will be made in the programme which we published last week. The procession will start from Messrs. Savill's yard at 7 o'clock.....with a confident hope of a generous response to give liberally to so excellent an object as the relief of those who have suffered by the recent naval disaster.

By the time the procession took place the Mansion House Fund was closed to all but previously arranged events having reached a total of £50,000, in today's money, £4,102,465.00.

The carefully planned arrangements made by the committee were carried out with commendable precision and praiseworthy effect. But a few minutes had elapsed after 7 o'clock when the processionists who had formed up in Messrs Savill's yard in the London Road and in Cecil Road set out. Mr. W.J. Matthews, the hon. Secretary of the Bonfire Boys, Mr. Williams and Mr. A. Patman each attired in the costume of admirals, headed the procession and preceded a banner which set forth boldly the purpose of the demonstration. The Enfield Brass Band followed and behind them came the Bonfire Boys-all attired in naval costume and with faces bronzed for the occasion-with a lifeboat christened the "Victoria" and a lighthouse. The boat was mounted by its builder (Mr. Chopping) on a trolley lent by Mr. John Jackson and the lighthouse was carried on a trolley lent by Messrs. Savill. These, with their nautical looking attendants formed a conspicuous and appropriate item in the procession.



Photo: Enfield Local Studies

The Enfield Fire Brigade

Behind them came the Enfield Fire Brigade riding upon their fire engine with their glittering brass engine and the contingent of representatives of Friendly societies wearing the regalia of their respective orders followed. They were headed by Mr. J.H. Saunders as a mounted marshal... The handsome banners which were borne in the procession indicated that the lodges and courts represented were the Cedar Tree, Portcullis and St. Andrews Lodges of the Oddfellows; Court Old Oak of the Ancient Order of Foresters; the Enfield Division of the Sons of Temperance; Court Enfield Pride of the Ancient Order of Shepherds (Ashton Unity) and the Ancient Order of Pastors; and the Enfield Lodge of Good Templars. The Enfield Foresters Brass Band and the Tottenham Foresters Brass Band accompanied the procession and they and the band mentioned previously....played alternately as...the parade marched on.

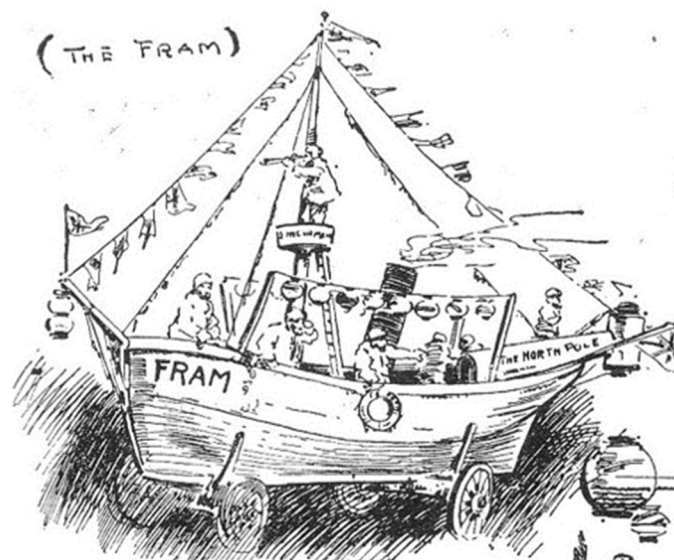
The Edmonton, the Ponders End, the Waltham Cross and the Cheshunt Volunteer Fire Brigades rode on their respective engines and added not a little to the effectiveness of the display. The Navvies, Bricklayer's Labourers and General Labourers Union furnished a contingent in front of which was borne the banner of the Wood Green district of that Society. The Carpenters Union was represented and members of the Operative Bricklayers Society joined in the demonstration bearing before them the remarkably fine banner of the North London District of their Union. A force of police under the direction of Inspector Dowty accompanied the processionists. The Sons of the Phoenix brought up the rear with members on foot and a van decorated with flowers, foliage and flags and having upon both its sides strips of canvas on which were lettered the following appropriate lines:-

*"We bid the widow cease to grieve,
We still the orphan's cry,
We teach mankind to better live,
That they may nobler die."*

In the order described and with bands playing and banners flying the processionists marched through the Town, up Windmill Hill, along the Ridgeway, descended Chase Green Avenue into Chase Side, thence passed to Lancaster Road and halted at its eastern end. Here the many coloured Chinese lanterns which had been brought for use as the evening fell were lighted and with these the procession passed along Baker Street, Silver Street, Sydney Road, Essex Road and London Road again into the Town.

The closing scene was a picturesque and a remarkable one. Coloured fire was burned not only by those taking part in the parade but by several of the tradesmen and the glare brought into relief the processionists and their banners in the midst of an enormous crowd of sightseers. The National Anthem was played by the massed bands and then the procession broke up.

The collectors took their boxes to Lloyds Bank where the money was counted and handed to Mr. Upton, to whom a vote of thanks was passed for his kindness in attending at the bank at that late hour to receive the collection. (How things have changed!). To the sum was added 2s 6d received as a subscription this bringing the amount to £41 3s 3d, (£3,377 01, 2017 value), which has been sent without deduction to the Lord Mayor....



Detail from 1896 Bonfire Boys Nov. 5th procession

Note:- The only illustration I have found of a Bonfire Boys procession is on page 322 of Volume II of David Pam's History of Enfield. It shows the Guy Fawkes procession in 1896 which includes a boat representing the Arctic explorer Nansen's "Fram." I wonder if this is the lifeboat mentioned above modified?

Ian K. Jones, 20.3.2023

One Hundred Years Ago in the Edmonton Hundred

Arterial Road & Wireless

Speaking from the London Station of the British Broadcasting Company on Saturday last, Mr. C. H. Bressey, chief engineer of the Ministry of Transport, gave some interesting details anent London's new trunk roads. Mention was, of course, made of that in which this district is mainly concerned, i.e. the new Cambridge Road, and Mr. Brassey expressed the hope that, as this as well as others was passing through particularly open country, the local authorities concerned would watch carefully all plans submitted to them for the development of the adjacent land which is sure to follow when the roads are in use. It is a good point for the Enfield District Council and its neighbours to think over, for assuredly development will come ere long, and the opportunity to make the surroundings of the new road worthy of the expense of the road will never occur again.

Enfield Gazette 4th May 2023

Mischievous Youngsters

By the simple operation of smashing the glass in the windows several youngsters gained admittance to the hon. secretary's office on the Enfield F.C. ground on Saturday evening. Happily, the children's parents took the right course, and having obtained a full confession from the culprits, made restoration of the missing articles, among which were several hundreds of admission tickets for the Enfield v. Livesey United match on Saturday. Thirty of the tickets are still to be accounted for, but as the E.F.C. officials have a very good idea of the missing tickets' whereabouts, they hope the same will be returned to the E.F.C. hon. Sec. before Saturday's match.

Enfield Gazette 4th May 2023

Council's Economy Stunt

The Enfield District Council expects to effect a saving of between £200 and £300 a year by the substitution of hand barrows for horses and carts for the collection of road refuse. Twenty-four barrows will be utilized for the collection of the refuse in Enfield's busiest thoroughfares. Our photographer "snapped" the first barrow to make its appearance in Enfield Town

Enfield Gazette 18th May 2023



Graham Frost

Registered Charity No. 299073.

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