

# 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

**September 2023**

**Newsletter**

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**  
**8pm at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ**  
Doors Open 7.30pm

## **Wood Green: A Spectrum of Life from the Middle Ages to the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

**a talk by Rosa Greco  
with Les Capon, AOC Project Manager**

Early in 2022 Designer Mews Developments funded the excavation of evaluation trenches by AOC Archaeology at 132 Station Road, Wood Green, which uncovered structural remains thought to be of a house and gardens that were partly on this site. It was thought that these were from 'The Grange', possibly on the site from the 17th century.

Further excavations were carried out, and in June archaeologists from AOC Archaeology were on site to show what had been done, to interpret the finds and how they related to 'The Grange'. In September, Project Supervisor Rosa Greco gave an excellent, well-illustrated talk on the dig to COLAS. A hybrid talk it was also intended to be heard via zoom. Sadly, technological problems prevented that happening. I was fortunate to be among those who attended the talk in person and have finally succeeded in arranging a second hearing of this talk for the EHHS about an area within the Edmonton Hundred.



© Rosa Greco

Rosa Greco is an Italian archaeologist who specialised in Bologna (Alma Mater Studiorum University) on Roman and post-Roman archaeological settlements. A former AOC project supervisor, she is now working with MoLA as a Senior Archaeologist, currently working on a site as Project Officer.

Les Capon is Project Manager of AOC Archaeology, and has previously given a talk for a joint meeting of EHHS and Enfield Archaeological Society.

Rachael Macdonald

## Howard Whisker 1946-2023

With great sadness, I have to report the death of our Chairman, Howard Whisker. As you may know Howard became unwell at the end of last summer and had been in hospital since January this year. We had every hope that he would recover but it became increasingly clear that he was not going to be rejoining our meetings. He died at the end of July on his birthday.



Howard became our Chairman in 2007. He was introduced to the committee by the then retiring Chairman, Clare Spring, who had managed to persuade him by suggesting that he need only serve for a year or two. But Howard stayed on for 16 years.

He was a man who properly belonged to the Hundred. His family were originally from Tottenham, and though his parents had moved out to Edmonton by the time Howard was born, they sent him to the Tottenham Grammar School. I think he must have been happy there for I remember that he and Keith Cunningham used to attend the school reunions together where the two of them would do their best to flog our occasional paper (no.40) on the history of the school. He was still living in Edmonton when he started work for Eastern

Electricity which was based at Northmet House in Southgate. This much I know from an account he wrote for our newsletter in June 2021 of his first day at work. Later the family moved to Monastery Gardens in Enfield where Howard stayed on after his parents had died.

As Chairman, Howard liked to get on with things. His AGMs were famously short. It was almost a challenge for him to complete the business side of things in a shorter time than previous years. After all, the audience was waiting for the talk to begin and no one was particularly interested in the finances. Though Howard was good at the financial side of things, taking care of the Society's accounts after the death of our Treasurer Keith Cunningham. I certainly felt secure knowing that he was looking after our money. He had written his MA dissertation on Friendly Benefit Societies and, I believe, he had been a trustee for the Electricity pensions group.

Howard always stepped up when required, always manning stalls for the Society alongside Keith, and filling in on more than one occasion when our speaker had gone missing. He was good in a crisis. There was an occasion at a day conference, when the electricity had gone off at Jubilee Hall. Howard took control and organised teas and coffees from a local café for everyone attending until the power could be restored. He was reluctant to engage with technology but when the need arose during the Covid lockdowns, he mastered the zoom meetings with no more of a struggle than the rest of us.

We will remember his monthly newsletter contributions, "The Chairman Writes". I was always impressed by the degree to which he got out and about but he also gave us a useful round up of what was going on in London. I often followed his footsteps to one exhibition or another, usually something quirky or unusual. He had a wide range of interests - art and music and history and I daresay



*Howard and Keith on the EHHS stall at Enfield Market Fayre in May 2019*

many more about which I know nothing. At his funeral I learned that he was leader of the St Andrew's Church Men's Group and that he organised sending Christmas cards to prisoners.

Howard was calm, quiet and reliable - and yet some years ago after his first health scare to our great surprise he bought himself a Rolls Royce. Later he let slip (for this was always how I learned of anything of Howard's personal life) that he owned shares in a race horse. It was only a 40<sup>th</sup> share and the horse, at first because of injury and later because of lockdown, spent most of its time grazing happily in a field and eating the oats that Howard had paid for – much to Howard's amusement.

He was always good humoured and kind and I fear that we did not appreciate him quite enough. We will all miss him.

Kate Godfrey

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### October meetings

On 11 October Dr Jim Lewis will talk about London's Secret Canal - The River Lee Navigation, and the Day Conference on 28 October will celebrate the 250th anniversary year of Luke Howard, Namer of Clouds, Father of Meteorology and discoverer of the Urban Heat Island.

Rachael Macdonald

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### Membership Subscriptions

We are now taking membership fees - renewals and new members. Our membership year is 1st January to 31st December but all new memberships and renewals made now will last until 31st December 2024, incredible value as the amount has not been increased from the old subscription rate of £9.00 (add just £1 for a second person at the same address).

An application form is attached at the end of this Newsletter. Please use it to renew by post or in person at a meeting. Alternatively, pop into your bank and make a bank transfer to:

Lloyds Bank, Silver Street Enfield branch  
Account Name: Edmonton Hundred Historical Society  
Sort Code 30-99-86  
Account No 05105072

As your reference, please give your name (followed by 2 if paying £10 to include a 2nd member). Then send an email with your details to [edmontonhundredevents@gmail.com](mailto:edmontonhundredevents@gmail.com) so that we know you have paid.

Rachael Macdonald

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### EHHS Website

The Society has a new website or rather the old website is in process of getting a big upgrade with news, talks and membership details. You can also find some of our past newsletters there

[www.edmontonhundred.org.uk](http://www.edmontonhundred.org.uk)

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### Diary Dates - talks and events arranged by other organisations

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September. 2pm

Heritage walk at Palmers Green. Led by Joe Studman. Free to members of TES.

Non members £10. Book via [visits@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:visits@enfieldsociety.org.uk)

*The Enfield Society*

#### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. 7.30pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ

London's Waterfront 1666 to 1800 and London's involvement in Slavery

John Schofield

*Enfield Archaeological Society*

#### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. 2pm. Bruce Castle Museum, Tottenham, N17 8NU.

Reminiscence Café. We Are What We Eat. What we have given way to supermarkets. The thriving corner shops, dairies, grocers, butchers and bakers have all gradually closed, as did the once numerous fruit and veg stalls

*Bruce Castle Museum*



**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September.** 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ  
AGM. & Enfield Chase. Part One  
Martin Paine

*The Enfield Society*

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September.** 12 noon for 12:15. All Hallows Church, Church Lane, N17 7AA.  
Special Visit & Ray Swain Memorial Talk: All Hallows Church and the Garden of the Priory.  
John Laverick. Free. **Book** via **Eventbrite**

*Bruce Castle Museum*

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September.** 7pm for 7.30pm. Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, N17 8NU.  
The GI Bride-In-A-Box: A Tottenham Woman's Story. Free. **Book** via **Eventbrite**.  
Oona Kelly

*Bruce Castle Museum*

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October.** Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, N17 8NU  
Haringey History Fair @ The Castle. More details next month.

*Bruce Castle Museum*

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## Open House Festival 6<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September

The Open House Festival is now a two week long event with drop in visits, walking tours, and talks, covering a large range of venues (including many local ones). Times and dates vary and booking is often required. For the full programme visit <https://programme.openhouse.org.uk/>

**Bruce Castle** will be open on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>** from 1 to 5pm with tours every half hour from 1pm till 4pm. **All Hallows Church** will also be open on those days from 2pm to 5pm.

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## Exhibition. Enfield Industrial Evolution: Past, Present and Future

As part of Enfield's Festival of Industry the exhibition now open at the Dugdale Arts Centre, Palmers Green Library, Edmonton Green Library and at Ordnance Unity Centre, highlights just a few of the industries that have called Enfield home. The industries included have been inspired by objects currently in the museum collection. However there are many industries missing and Enfield Museum would be interested in acquiring or loaning objects relating to industries that are not represented. In addition to objects on display at the four sites, there is also an outdoor exhibition consisting of 18 graphic panels that will tour the borough (currently in Grovelands Park).

And on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm**, on the Mezzanine Floor, Dugdale Arts Centre, **Jim Lewis** will give a talk on **Sir Jules Thorn**. Max 20. Free. Booking is advised.

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## British Association for Local History - Local History Live.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September.** 10.15am to 4.30pm.

Broadcasting live from The National Archives in Kew, the BALH team, plus special guests, will be providing a day packed with fascinating talks, short videos and live interactive panel discussions celebrating all things local history. <https://www.balh.org.uk/lhl2023>

Tickets £15. Booking open until 7pm Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

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## New Books

**London & Westminster Family History Society** have published two new parish guides

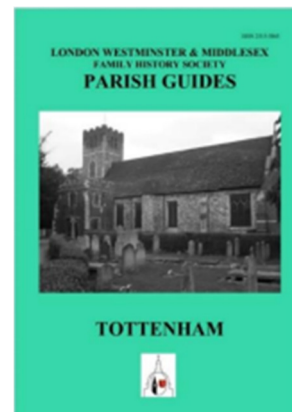
### Parish Guide to Hornsey

Places in Hornsey Ancient Parish include Crouch End, Finsbury Park, Fortis Green, Harringay, Highgate, Hornsey, Manor House, Muswell Hill, Stroud Green and Turnpike Lane

### Parish Guide to Tottenham

Places in Tottenham Ancient Parish include Alexandra Palace, Bounds Green, Bruce Castle, Bruce Grove, Noel Park, Seven Sisters, Tottenham, West Green and Wood Green

£6 each. Available from <https://www.paritychest.com/london-westminster-middlesex-fhs-4577.php>



## A Tale of Two Heads

### Ian Jones

The Observer on April 7<sup>th</sup> 1899 published the following somewhat ghoulish and decidedly odd item from the Enfield Parish Books for 1730.

*The Parish Records are an unfailing source of interest, not only to the parishioner, but to the antiquarian, to the philosopher and the humanitarian. Here is a transcript from the Enfield Parish Books which appears in the current number of the Parish Magazine and which the editor describes as a "somewhat gruesome account sent to the Vestry by the parish constable who was the visible representative of the law in rural places." His account is set out as follows:*

*August 1730, for carrying the woman to prison for cutting her child's head off:-*

	£	s.	d.
<i>For eating and drinking for my aid and myself all night</i>	0	1	6
<i>For eating and drinking for the aid and myself</i>	0	1	6
<i>Cornelius Sanders for carrying her to prison for his horse and self</i>	0	2	6
<i>For a horse for myself</i>	0	2	0
<i>For a coach from Shoreditch to prison</i>	0	1	6

*William Sansun, Constable*

0 9 0

There is no indication as to why this woman committed this unspeakable act.

Just over 2 months later on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June in the same paper there appeared, just above the report of the meeting of the District Council a piece entitled, "Vicissitudes of a Traitor's Head", which covered a very odd sequence of events finally involving Enfield Chase that took place just over 300 years earlier.

*Among the literary treasures at Hatfield House, says the Weekly Times and Echo, recently overhauled by the Historical manuscripts Commission, is the following note dated September 24<sup>th</sup> 1597 of the "Examination of John Dewrance of Enfield, gentleman, touching a head found in Enfield Chase:" "About a month past one John Lane bought the said head to my house in Enfield saying it was the head of 'Fervgh Makehewe,' an arch-traitor of Ireland who was slain by Captain Thomas Lee and his company, and the head brought into England by John Lane to the Earl of Essex who referred him to Mr. Secretary, [Robert Cecil], for his reward. But as the head money had already been paid in Ireland, John Lane was told he might bestow the said head where he would. And, having it with him, he came to my house and wished to leave it there. This I would not permit nor let it be buried in my garden. He then gave the head to his boy to bury in Enfield Chase, who, instead, put it on a tree, where it was found by two boys who went to fetch their cattle." The deposition is endorsed, "Taken by me, Richard Candeler, September 24<sup>th</sup> 1597." There is no clue as to the ultimate disposition of the ill-used head.*

John Lane was presumably originally from Enfield and had been fighting under Captain Thomas Lee in Ireland. Lee, was a typically ruthless and brutal



*Captain Thomas Lee*

officer fighting the Irish during the Nine Years War from 1593. The head mentioned above was that of the elderly and unwell Fiach McHugh O'Byrne who was murdered by Lee, for which he was imprisoned for a short time. Lane probably hoped that nobody in London would check when he brought it there for the head money. One would hope it was given some sort of decent burial. Lee, a strong supporter of the Earl of Essex, attempted to kidnap Queen Elizabeth in 1601 to force her to release Essex from the Tower in the aftermath of his pathetic attempt at rebellion but he was captured and executed at Tyburn.

Ian K. Jones, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023

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## Letters and Emails

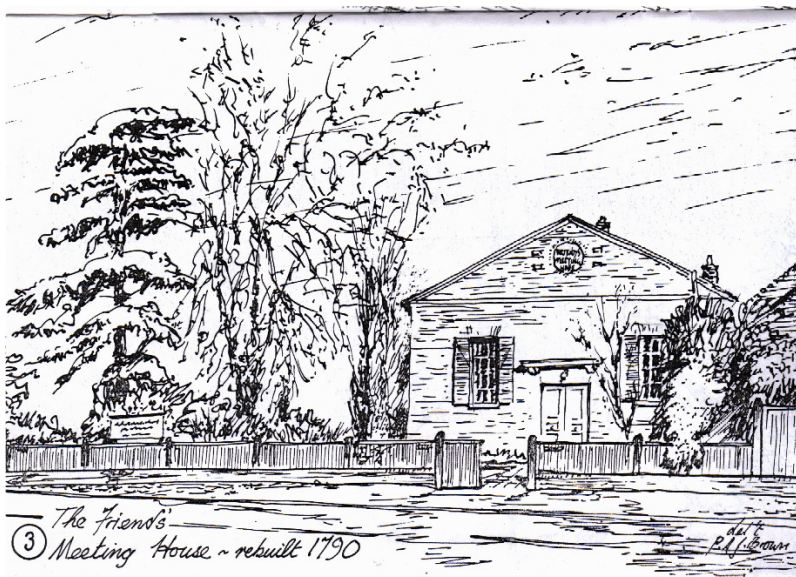
### Burial Ground at the Winchmore Hill Meeting House

*A further contribution from Stuart Delvin following the visit to the Friends Meeting House in March*

The following extract from *Winchmore Hill Village 1780-1830* might appeal to the membership 'At a Monthly Meeting held at Tottenham 11<sup>th</sup> of 8 mth. 1791. The following Report was brought in and read, from Friends appointed respecting the new Meeting House at Winchmoor hill, "We your Committee report that the rebuilding the Meeting House at Winchmoor hill is completed; and also a Tenement for a doorkeeper, and a considerable Addition of the Wall for the Burial Ground, the total Amount of which is £710. 2s. 6d which has been paid by the kind Subscription of Friends agreeable to Account Sent herewith.

Tottenham 30<sup>th</sup> of 6 mo 1791 James Healey, John Decka, Thos Phillips, Wm. Forsters

Subscription & Expenses in rebuilding the meeting house at Winchmoorhill - Samuel Hoar £50, Samuel Hoar junr. £50, Isaac Walton £50, David Barclay £50, Abraham Gray £50, Isaac Smith £50, Josph. Osgood Freame £30, John Gray £30, Jn. Vickris Taylor £25, Hannah Plumstead £25, Ann Fothergill £21, Thomas Weston £21, Jonathan Bell £20, Nathl. Newbury £10 10s, Richard Chester £16 15s 6d, Thos. Broadbank £10 10s, Robert Barclay £10 10s, Elizabeth Welch £10 Mary Steny £10, John Chorley £5 5s, Thos. Home £5 5s, Rachel Marshall £5 5s, Thomas Phillips £5 5s, John Goad £5 5s, Joseph Woods £5 5s, Thomas Smith £5 5s, Nathl West £5 5s, Priscilla Bevan £5 5s, Mary Vaston £5 5s, John Decka £5 5s, Richard Hillary £5 5s, John Elliott £3 3s, William Forster £1 2s, John Decka Jun. Trus. £2 2s. £710 2s 6d"



③ *The Friends Meeting House ~ rebuilt 1790*

*This lovely sketch is by local artist and Quaker, Peter Brown. It was published with his permission in my "Winchmore Hill Village 1780-1830" (still in print). The high front plaque reminds us that the rebuild was in 1790.*

Stuart Delvin



## The Bethnal Green Tube Station disaster

In his talk in July, Nick Dobson referred to the Bethnal Green Tube Station disaster.

Chris Whippe explains

In the later part of World War Two a new type of anti-aircraft weapon was introduced. Each one consisted of sixty rockets and were known as 'Z' batteries. The 'Z' Batteries were first used in the London area in early March 1943. The noise when fired frightened thousands of Londoners.

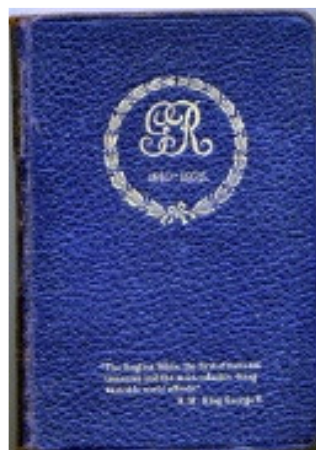
It was the first firing of the 'z' battery based in Victoria Park (East London) that caused the Bethnal Green disaster.

Chris Whippe

## A Missing Sunday School

Recently from a charity shop in Enfield Town I bought a copy of the Bible bound with a cover celebrating the silver jubilee of George V in 1935. Inside was a bookplate announcing it had been awarded to Doreen Hume for regular attendance at the Angel Road Mission Sunday School during the year 1934-35. A look at various local histories has not produced any information on this institution and there is nothing else written inside the book which might help. I would be interested to hear if any EHHS members know anything about this institution and its superintendent, J. Johnston. This is only the second example of a labelled local pre-World War II royal commemorative that I have come across which, like the mug described in an earlier newsletter, refers to Edmonton.

Ian K. Jones, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023



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## One Hundred Years Ago

### Runaway Motor Cycle

An unusual incident happened in Fotheringham Road on Friday. While Geo.Wm. Jeffery of Kimberley Gardens, was testing an Indian combination. The machine slipped out of his hand and collided with a lamp post, the standard of which was loosened. The sidecar came off and was damaged.

### Overtaken Cab

A hackney cab owned by Mr. Welch and driven by Frank Everett, overturned at Windmill Hill, on Friday, causing slight injury to the driver and to a lady passenger. As the cab overturned it fell on an unattended bicycle. The driver was bruised on the left leg and the passenger, Miss Spicer, Westbourne Terrace, W., complained of bruises on the left side.

### Horse Smashes Bicycle

A horse attached to a van bolted on the Ridgeway on Saturday, opposite Lavender Hill, through a mongrel dog jumping at it. All efforts to catch the horse failed as it careered along the Ridgeway and down Windmill Hill, until it collided with a stationary bicycle, when the horse came to a standstill. Both shafts of the van were damaged and the horse sustained bruises to its hind flanks. The driver of the van was Walter Smith of Edmonton.

Enfield Gazette 27<sup>th</sup> July 1923

**Enfield War Memorial Hospital  
Two Hundred Guinea Gift**

The Hospital Management Committee is pleased to be able to acknowledge the receipt, through its chairman, of an anonymous gift of 200 guineas. This comes at a particularly opportune moment, when the equipment of the new wing has already involved an expenditure of nearly £800.

The X-Ray installation, the cost of which, our readers will remember, has been provided for by generous local donors, has already justified its need, and we understand that seven examinations were made last week and already eight this.

The Old English Fair which is planned for Oct. 9, 10 and 11 in aid of the funds of hospital, has received further assistance from a donation by the Wesleyan Church. Mr L. W. Thompson and his troupe, who are well known locally and elsewhere, have kindly promised to appear, and sideshows will be provided by Mrs. Blackford and Mrs Hollington.

*Enfield Gazette 17<sup>th</sup> August 1923*

**Weekend Grass Fires**

Three outbreaks of fire occurred in the Enfield district during the weekend. The first was received by the Enfield Volunteer Fire Brigade on Saturday, about 10.am, to a field on fire at the rear of the Queen’s Hall Cinema, London Road. By the courtesy of the proprietor of the cinema the hydrant inside the hall was used, thus avoiding using the hydrant outside the Catholic Church, which would have meant a considerable delay of traffic. The fire was rapidly got under. The Brigade were grateful to the proprietor of the cinema and much regretted the inconvenience caused.

Another call was received on Sunday morning to a field in Hadley Road. A telephone message was sent from “Woolverton”, Hadley Road, to the Enfield telephone exchange, and through lack of instruction or misguided information the Ponders End Fire Brigade was called instead of the Enfield Brigade. When the Ponders End Brigade arrived and found that it was Enfield ground, Enfield Brigade was informed. They attended with motor appliance under Captain Graham and put the fire out.

Later in the day, about 3.15pm, the Volunteer Brigade were called to a haystack at Cuffley. On arriving with motor appliance it was found that no water was available, and the stack had to be allowed to burn out. The Hatfield Brigade was summoned as it was their district; they kept watch as there were two other stacks close by.

*Enfield Gazette 17<sup>th</sup> August 1923*

**The Co-op’s New Branch**

Last week we illustrated the opening ceremony of the Enfield Highway Co-operative Society’s New Branch Stores at 17 London Road, Enfield. The above shows the interior of the up-to-date Grocery and Provision Store – a part of the new premises.



*Enfield Highway Coop, London Road Enfield*

*Enfield Gazette 31<sup>st</sup> August 1923*

Graham Frost

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Registered Charity No. 299073. Please send contributions to the newsletter to Kate Godfrey 69 Margaret Road, New Barnet. Website: [edmontonhundred.org.uk](http://edmontonhundred.org.uk). Twitter @Edmonton100. Email: [info@edmontonhundred.org.uk](mailto:info@edmontonhundred.org.uk).



# The Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

## Application/renewal form (delete as appropriate)

I/We wish to join/renew my/our membership of the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other (Name)

.....

Address

.....

.....

.....

Postcode .....

Telephone No. ....

Email .....

I enclose a cheque for £9.00 for individual membership (add £1 per person at the same address). Membership runs from 1 January to 31 December. Members joining or renewing from July 2023 will receive membership till end 2024.

Total amount enclosed £ .....

Please make your cheque payable to

**Edmonton Hundred Historical Society**

and send it together with this completed form to:

EHHS Membership  
13A Palmerston Road  
Bowes Park  
London  
N22 8QH