

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

October 2023

Newsletter

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 11th October**
8pm at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ
Doors Open 7.30pm

London's Secret Canal **The River Lee Navigation**

a talk by Dr Jim Lewis

Forgive me for stating the obvious that the River Lea was in existence long before the creation of the Lee Navigation. The focus of the talk will be centred on the journey of the Navigation, through the Lea Valley on its way to the Thames and it is hoped that the audience will be introduced to some of the interesting sights and smells that the walker, cyclist and boater will also enjoy.

Jim Lewis



Enfield Local Studies & Archive ©

Lee Navigation near Angel Road, Edmonton in 1951

Our speaker Dr Jim Lewis is well known to us as President of the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. He is also Consultant to Terry Farrell & Partners on the historical development of London's Lea Valley, and since 2012 Contributory International Professor of the Clark H Byrum School of Business, Marian University, Indianapolis. A freelance writer (with nineteen published books) Jim is an avid researcher and broadcaster for his specialist subject – London's Lea Valley. His latest book is the subject of tonight's talk.

Rachael Macdonald

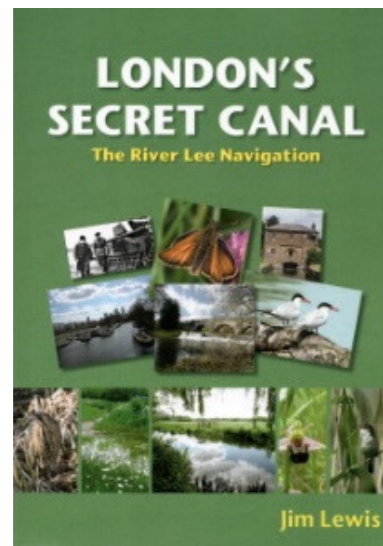
Copies of the book will be available on the night – next page for details

London's Secret Canal The River Lee Navigation By Jim Lewis

Most of us are aware of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the busy manufacturing town of Luton, but fewer will be familiar with the waterway linking these two locations. Using myriad sources, Jim Lewis maps out the River Lee Navigation, from locks to reservoirs, nature reserves to country parks and with the former Gunpowder Mill and Small Arms Factory thrown in for good measure, the author shows his passion for the area's rich industrial heritage as well as its flora and fauna. This book will help readers to discover the secrets and the unique charm of this little-known area.

ISBN 978-1-912969-57-9

Price £12



November Meeting

The Day Conference on 28 October mentioned in our September newsletter will not now take place. However we shall still celebrate the 250th Anniversary Year of Luke Howard, Namer of Clouds, Father of Meteorology and discoverer of the Urban Heat Island with a talk on

by **Margaret Burr** on **Wednesday 22 November at 3pm**

Membership Renewals

At least half our members have now renewed. Please renew by sending cheque with the form in the September Newsletter or bring it along to Jim's talk on 11 October.

If you have any queries please email edmontonhundredevents@gmail.com

or ring/text 0734 1212 813.

Haringey History Fair 2023 – Saturday 7th October

10.30am (doors open 10.15) to 4.45pm

Stalls (including EHHS) and an all day talks programme: 10.35am the Hillcrest Estate, Highgate; 11.15am People's History of Finsbury Park; 11.55am Back to Black virtual tour of Alexandra Palace; 12.35pm poet, community activist & storyteller Bridget Badoe McQuick (aka Lady Esi); 2pm Priscilla Wakefield women's champion; 2.35pm the Haringey Footways Map; 3.35pm Pinhole London, the first photo; 4.10pm discovering a Beatrice Offor painting.

Diary Dates - talks and events arranged by other organisations

Tuesday 10th October. 6.30pm. Booking required via Eventbrite

Stamped Roman timbers from London and elsewhere: Tracing evidence of economy and emperors. Sadie Watson and Damian Goodburn. *London & Middlesex Archaeological Society*

Friday 13th October. 7.30pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ

Roman road to dual carriageway – archaeological consultancy on the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project. David Lakin *Enfield Archaeological Society*

Sunday 15th October. 1.30pm. Meet outside Finsbury Park Station (south side) by Pret A Manger Black History Tour with Avril Nanton. Stroud Green Road Legacy Walk.

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

Bruce Castle Museum

Monday 16th October. 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ

Enfield Chase. Part Two

Martin Paine

The Enfield Society

Tuesday 17th October. 2pm. Bruce Castle Museum, Tottenham, N17 8NU.
Reminiscence Café. Who Do We Think We Are ? Tracing the family tree or writing a family memoir has become increasingly popular. There is a wealth of variety for us Londoners, with forebears from across the British Isles and the world. Even if we do not want to delve into the records or write a memoir there are still many family stories that help us understand where we came from.
Bruce Castle Museum

Sunday 22nd October. 1.30pm. Meet main entrance Bruce Castle Museum
Tour of 400 Years of Black History with Avril Nanton. In and Around Bruce Castle.
Free. **Book** via **Eventbrite**
Bruce Castle Museum

Wednesday 25th October. 7pm for 7.30pm. Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, N17 8NU.
An Evening with Judith Jacob
Free. **Book** via **Eventbrite**.
Bruce Castle Museum

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society Local History Conference Animals in London History

Saturday 18th November 10.15 am to 5.30 pm Docklands Museum of London

Talks include, From Cockney sparrers to the parakeeting, a Soho church, Fantastic Beasts: regal gifts of exotic animals, Regulating Performing Animals, history of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, provision of Turkish baths for animals, & construction of Haute Ecole Riding Arena in 1610.
Tickets: £15 early bird (before 31st October) or £17.50 or £20 on day. Available through LAMAS Eventbrite website <https://www.lamas.org.uk/conferences/20-local-history.html>

Letters and Emails

Howard Whisker

We received many messages of sympathy and condolence after our Chairman's death, one of which was from Deborah Hedgecock of Bruce Castle Museum who wrote:

Until the interruption of the pandemic, Howard was always here at the talks and other events and could always be relied upon to keep an interesting conversation going, adding his own Tottenham family connections to the mix. He stepped in to do talks at the last minute – literally – and did so with such aplomb and wit and calmness. He was a real gentleman to us working here at Bruce Castle and a wonderful support and a true friend. When I heard he had died, I happened to pick up a card that was right next to me – and it happened to be from Howard, thanking us for the history fair event before the pandemic. He was always thinking of others here and we will miss him dearly

Another Human Head

Following last month's newsletter article about the human head found on Enfield Chase, Mark Bailey wrote.

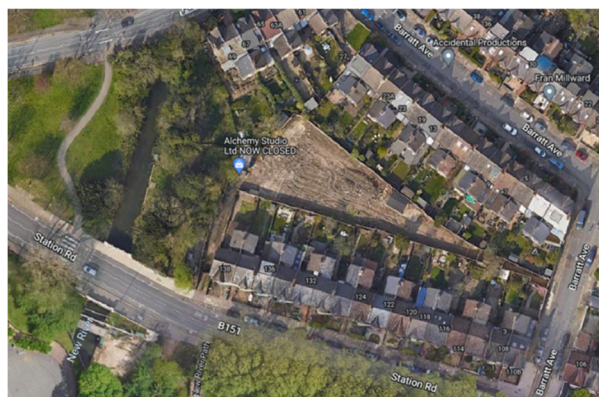
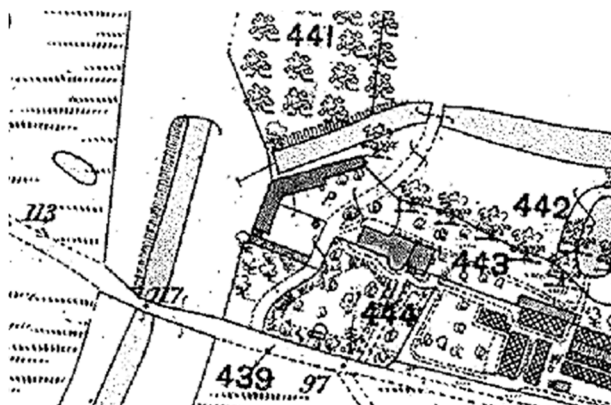
Back in 1947/8 when I was attending the Woodlands Park Junior School in Blackboy Lane, Tottenham, on several occasions my class were taken on a visit to Bruce Castle Museum. On my first visit I was much taken by what I thought to be really detailed carvings of a head, hand and foot in a glass case. It was only much later and to my absolute horror that I discovered said carvings were actually mummified remains. On an even later visit, I discovered that they had been removed from public display. To this day I have wondered who the unfortunate person must have been.

I have two other memories of missing exhibits at Bruce Castle. Back in the late 40s at the same time as the 'Head' discovery, I noted a larger glass case with a collection of model London buses, ranging from the famous B type of 1910 onwards to the 1930s, built to about half an inch to the foot scale, possibly by one of the bus-men at Tottenham Garage. In the same case (possibly by the same model maker) were several models of scenes from 'Alice in Wonderland'. In the mid-60s I asked museum staff about the models and was informed that these models had been loaned by a previous Curator (no names mentioned) to the school in nearby Roundway, but apparently never returned.

September Meeting Report. Wood Green: a spectrum of life from the middle ages to the 19th century. By Rosa Greco and Les Capon

It was a dark night and the rain was coming down in torrents, but stalwart EHHS members turned out in numbers to hear the talk by Rosa Greco and her colleague, Les Capon, on the archaeological site in Station Road Wood Green. A desktop survey carried out before excavation began showed that by the time of the 1619 map of Tottenham (the upside down map) the plot boundaries already existed and must have predated the New River which passed through Wood Green in 1612. The same plot was also identifiable on an 1817 survey map of Tottenham and on the 1843 Tithe Map. By the time of the OS Map of 1873 the New River had been culverted and the mansion known as the Grange was clearly evident.

When the archaeologists arrived in February 2022 a small 2 storey building, a former coach house, was still standing and had been in use as a music studio. Removal of the top soil revealed the remains of 3 buildings. The first was the 19th century Grange, only part of which could be excavated, the rest of the building remained under gardens in Station Road, but two levels of tiled flooring were found in the area interpreted as the scullery. Archaeology revealed the different phases of the building's life, a new scullery floor had been laid over an old one.



The site between Station Rd and Barratt Avenue. OS map 1873 and Google Maps 2023

The second building on a different orientation from the Grange was believed to have been of an earlier date. It had been divided into 4 rooms with an underlying timber frame. It may well have served as stables to the house at some stage, though was likely to have had a different functions in different phases of its life.

The third and earliest building on the site had brickwork dating from the period between 1590 and 1650. A sill on top of the foundations indicated that there had been a timber frame and there was also evidence of a doorway, later filled in. It is possible that this was the building shown on the 1619 map and that it was there at the time that the New River was built. There was much interest and speculation around this building. Les Capon suggested the course of the river may have been diverted around the building. There were other suggestions from the audience that it had been used by the workers on the river as a store or accommodation. All very fascinating stuff and worth further investigation.

After Rosa had spoken about the buildings, Les took over to talk about finds. An abundance of glass and stoneware bottles from the 19th century had been uncovered. Among the usual ginger beer, lemonade and codd-neck bottles was a spirit bottle identified as coming from the Queens Head at 405 The Strand Westminster. After the buildings had been recorded, they were removed and further excavation revealed a silted grey layer of clay in which randomly spread pottery was found, most of which was Roman. With no associated Roman features, no walls or ditches, and no evidence of a Roman settlement nearby the finds were baffling. The audience again joined in with contributions and suggestions that the soil had been imported from elsewhere or that it was spoil removed during building work on the New River. But the Roman finds remained unexplained.

At the time of the 1843 tithe map the property belonged to William Hollier of Loves Lane, though it is unlikely that he would have lived there. A description at that time lists house, buildings, stables, paddock, shrubbery and two kitchen gardens. The 1841 census lists James Dyer and in 1871 James Kidd of Yorkshire whose widow had inherited the house by 1891.

It was well worth turning out on that terrible night - a really interesting evening, a demonstration of archaeology and local history working together.

A report on the excavation will eventually appear on the Archaeology Data Service website under AOC archaeology and possibly in the London Archaeologist. It will also go to the Haringey Planning Department

Kate Godfrey

A railway line in the Edmonton Hundred

It doesn't seem possible that it's now over sixty years since the last regular passenger train ran to Palace Gates Railway Station in January 1963

Six years earlier John Betjeman wrote in the 21st August 1957 issue of Punch about a railway journey he made by steam train from Liverpool Street to Palace Gates via Seven Sisters.

He wrote. "Travelled by train (steam) to Seven Sisters where I changed trains at that High Wooden Junction, crossed a little bridge to catch the train from North Woolwich waiting at the Platform to Palace Gates which stopped West Green and Noel Park before reaching the terminal." He also wrote that he had climbed to Ally Pally over the municipal grass in the summer evening sunshine where he could see the steeples and water towers of north London.

Sadly part of this journey is not now possible but some of views from Ally Pally may still be the same.

Chris Whippe

Websites

Tottenham Summerhill Road

New on the website. <http://tottenham-summerhillroad.com/whatsnew.htm>

Harold Charles Kenworthy: Tottenham man prominent in codebreaking at Bletchley Park
Cecil Victor Shadbolt: pioneer aerial photographer, from Crouch End; John Giggins – obituary;
The West Green Road Murder 1913; Lea Valley Sailing Club – updated; Coronation Memories;
River Lea, Tottenham – updated, new maps and photos; Philip Lane - updated

Barnet Museum & Local History Society

Online archive where copies of the Society's Journals, Bulletins, Research Papers and Self-Guided Walks can be found in pdf format <https://www.barnetmuseum.co.uk/our-archive-online.html>

British Association for Local History

New ten minute talks; Did the Plague Ever Visit Milford Haven ?; Language Where You Live; James Harley a Black Edwardian Intellectual. Blogs on Tudor & Stuart handwriting; Durham City FC and original title deeds, plus back issues of *The Local Historian* and *Local History News*.
<https://www.balh.org.uk/>

Fords Grove Green, Fords Grove Mansion and the Cricket Club Stuart Delvin

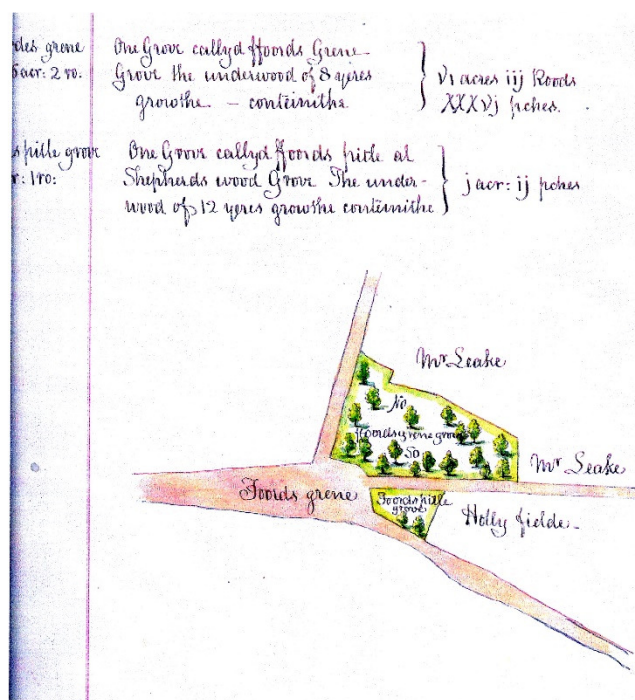
I was flicking back through some old issues of the newsletter and found my contribution on Fords Grove Mansion (June 2020) and it occurred to me that I had forgotten to mention the painting of the mansion I have in my possession by Charlotte Tills who lived at Fords Grove Cottage.

This started me on yet another article on Fords Grove, the mansion, the nearby cottage, and the Tills family, which I hope doesn't repeat too much of what I have submitted before.

Fords Grove Green

No one knows the full story of Winchmore Hill village's origins, but there is reference to a Yarildesfeld, by The Green, in the first half of the 13th century, when it was associated with a William de Forde. It is possible that the de Forde family had its name commemorated in the name Fords Green and Fords Grove.

Fords Green is named in 1599 in a survey of the woods and groves belonging to Sir Robert Cecil. A copy of this fine set of colour maps, made by John Walker Ford in 1881 from originals at Queen Anne's Bounty Office, is held at Enfield's Local Studies Library and Archive. There is reference to Fords Green in various old documents. From details given in a document (ref. ACC/10106/29-38) at the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) I was able to work out that Fords Green included what are today the NE and SE ends of the Broadway (and so, presumably, the middle piece too), Holy Trinity Church and the northern end of Duncan Court. It also included the junction of Farm Road and Fords Grove just west of the New River, and the northern foot of what we now call Station Road, approximately where the corner vet is.



Plan from the 1599 survey of woods and groves

Enfield Local Studies & Archive ©

Fords Grove Mansion and the Cricket Club

The Victoria County History (VCH) of Middlesex says that in 1605 there was a mansion where Capitol House recently stood on Green Lanes, near the junction with Fords Grove. It may have been the house where the Quaker, George Fox visited Edward Mann in the 1680s. It was the home of the Goulds, and related Teshmakers, in the 18th century. For much of that time they were Lords of Edmonton Manor.

In September 1800 Sarah Thomasine Teshmaker married Barrister Edward Busk, of Bedford Row, and the family was shown to be a major local landowner in the Edmonton Enclosure Schedule of 1801-2. Their eldest son Edward Thomas, a barrister, married Susan Pease in 1851. The eldest of their five children, Thomas Teshmaker, was born in 1852.

In the autumn of 1880 the Busks' Head Gardener, John Moore, approached Thomas for permission to play cricket in his grounds. This was granted, free of charge, and so Winchmore Hill Village Cricket Club was formed, with Thomas Teshmaker elected President. The family were the Club's landlords for its first 40 years, the 'Village' being dropped from the title in 1912. In 1885 Thomas married Miss Mary Acworth, and they left for Sussex after a few years, whence Fords Grove Mansion was tenanted by several 'incomers' to the district. From 1903, it was left unoccupied, and so fell into ruin.

In 1920 most, if not all, of the Busk estate was sold and the Mansion immediately demolished. William Paulin paid £8,000 for the adjoining playing fields to help the cricket club, for which John Moore, now nearly 70, was still playing ! Sir William, as Paulin became in 1929, died in February 1931, and his daughter Irene accepted the Presidency of Winchmore Hill Cricket Club. In 1948 the Club renamed its home The Paulin Ground. When Miss Irene passed away in 1960 her Will granted the Club a 99 year lease at the yearly rent of one shilling. She also made provision that the land should remain a recreation area in perpetuity. For those not familiar with the area, the cricket club is nestled in the angle between Firs Lane and Fords Grove. A remnant of the old estate associated with Fords Grove Mansion.

In 1929 The Capitol Cinema was opened on the site of the old mansion, boasting a Compton organ. There was accommodation for nearly 2,000 comfortably seated people. Admission charges for all ages after 4pm. in 1930 were stalls - 6d, 9d, 1/3d and 1/6d; balcony - 1/6d and 2/-. In 1933 it became part of the ABC chain. Attendance at the cinema is described affectionately by Alan Dumayne, in his *Fond Memories of Winchmore Hill*, and by Brian Bennett of The Shadows in two of my earlier publications. In the Second World War there was a Royal Observer Post on top of the cinema, which would trigger an air raid siren at the nearby police station if enemy planes were spotted. The Capitol closed in December 1959, and following its demolition was replaced by the tax offices which perpetuated its name. These have now also gone!



*Fords Grove Mansion,
c.1910.
Painted by Charlotte
Tills of Fords Grove
Cottage*

There do not seem to have been many likenesses of *Fords Grove Mansion* around. In fact, the only other one I am aware of is the rather hazy sketch by Dr. John Creswell published in his daughter Henrietta's excellent book on the old village. So I am particularly grateful to Mrs. Paula Harber of Lowshall, Suffolk for the Tills painting. Mrs. Harber buys and sells antiques for a hobby, and bought the painting in a bundle. She managed, somehow, to find out who Charlotte Tills was, and who I was too, and then kindly gifted me the painting. One of the many acts of kindness shown me in my researches on Winchmore Hill.

The story of Fords Grove Cottage and the Tills family will continue in the next issue of the newsletter.

One Hundred Years Ago

Enfield Court's New Owners

This week the many rumours that have for some time been prevalent concerning the future of Enfield Court have been laid to rest by the purchase of the mansion and grounds as an adjunct to Enfield Grammar School. The action of the Grammar School Governors will elicit the approval not only of educationists but of that large section of the community who cherish a sentimental interest for the relics of an older Enfield. From being overcrowded, Enfield's ancient school now leaps into a fuller life which will be reflected in the enhanced educational and recreational benefits afforded by the extension of premises. The School Governors and their chairman, Colonel H. F. Bowles, J.P. are to be congratulated on bringing their efforts for Enfield's educational benefit to so satisfactory a conclusion.



Enfield Gazette Friday 5th October 1923



Widening South Street

An improvement, which will do away with the bottle-neck near the High Street end of South Street, Ponders End, is to be carried out shortly. The ground on the south side (seen on the right of our illustration) will be taken back to within about ten feet of the houses, thus forming an uninterrupted sweep from South Street into the main road.

Enfield Gazette Friday 19th October 1923

Huge Gas Reservoir at Ponders End

A new gasometer erected at Ponders End by the Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Company is nearing completion. The huge tank is 190 feet high and 225 feet through the middle. More than 2,000 tons of metal have been used in its construction. The capacity of the tank is 7,000,000 cubic feet of gas, only sufficient to supply their customers with 12 hours gas on a winter's day. This new reservoir will enable the Company to more than double the total storage capacity

Enfield Gazette Friday 19th October 1923

Graham Frost

Registered Charity No. 299073.

Please send contributions to the newsletter to Kate Godfrey
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