

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

November and December 2023

Newsletter

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 22nd November**

2.30pm at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ
(Doors open 2pm for refreshments)

The Inspiring Mr Howard

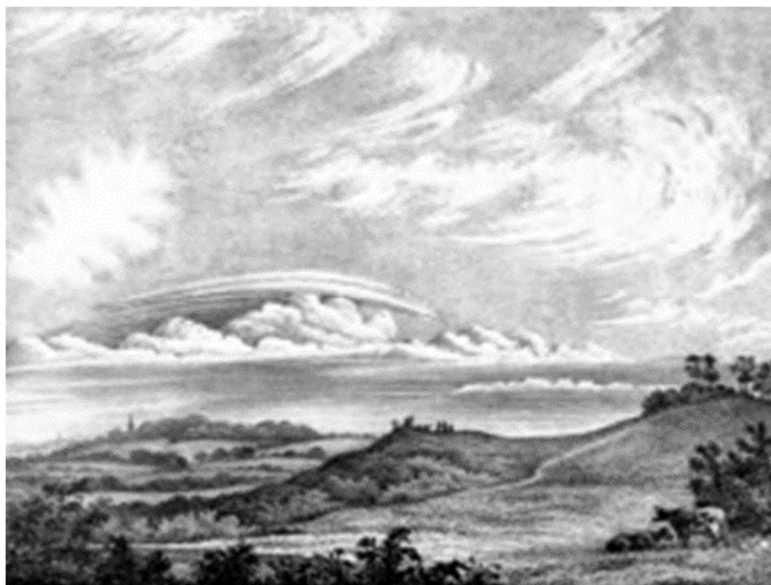
a talk by Margaret Burr

The Day Conference on 28 October, at which we were planning to focus on Luke Howard, the Namer of Clouds and Father of Meteorology, was unable to go ahead. We shall, however, still celebrate Luke Howard (28 November 1772 - 21 March 1864). His 250th anniversary year is drawing to a close and we are fortunate in having a talk by Margaret Burr, local historian and founding member of Tottenham Clouds.

Luke was a man of many talents, an amateur meteorologist giving clouds the descriptive names used world-wide for the last 200 years, but also the man who saw the relationship between the built environment, the burning of fossil fuels and climate change, something we are all aware of today.

"Luke Howard identified virtually all of the factors that are responsible for the urban heat island (UHI) – that he did so in 1820, at the very beginning of the scientific study of weather and climate is remarkable. By any measure, *'Luke Howard's account is monumental'*."

International Association for Urban Climate (IAUC)



From: On the modification of clouds. 1803

A cumulostratus cloud. Cloud drawn by Luke Howard, landscape by Edward Kennion, engraving by Thomas Milton.

And on Wednesday 20th December

2.30pm at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ
(Doors open 2pm for seasonal refreshments)



Cribs, Cards and Christingles



the Origin of Christmas Traditions and Customs a talk by Mark Lewis

One of our popular regular speakers, Mark gives us a light-hearted seasonal talk accompanied by wine and mince pies. Tea and biscuits also available.

Please Note.

The next newsletter will be sent out at the beginning of January

Membership Subscriptions

Since we started collecting membership subscriptions again in July only 63% of our last known membership total have renewed. We have kept the amount unchanged at only £9 per individual (plus £1 for each additional member at the same address). This will last right through next year, the next payment being due on 1st January 2025.

In order for the society to function efficiently, we shall stop sending out the newsletter (one of our major expenses) to those who have not renewed by February next year. From January we shall once again be asking visitors for a small contribution to attend our talks.

Members are the lifeblood of any small society. Ours is particularly good value for money and we hope you will all remain with us as we enjoy our 88th year with interesting talks and outings planned. That said, members are welcome to make their suggestions!

Rachael Macdonald

Diary Dates - talks and events arranged by other organisations

Monday 13th November. 3pm. Barnet Parish Church, junct Wood St & High St, Barnet, EN5 4BW
"Out of Africa". David Livingstone on Hadley Green
John Hall *Barnet Museum & Local History Society*

Tuesday 14th November. 6.30pm. Booking required via Eventbrite
A Tale of Two Fords? An alternative model of Roman road infrastructure in Southwark and beyond.
Becky Haslam *London & Middlesex Archaeological Society*

Tuesday 14th November. 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ
Social Capital; Merchant Capital; Not Enough Capital? Richard Arnold, his Neighbours and the
Social Networks of Trade in Late 15th Century London. Dr Justin Colson *Historical Association*

Saturday 18th November. 10.30am-4.30pm. Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU
Festive Tottenham Flea & Designers' Fair. Stalls, local makers, artists, curios, ceramics &
collectables, retro furniture, clothes, brocante and vintage. Entrance £2. *Bruce Castle Museum*

Saturday 18th November. 10.15am-5.30pm. Docklands Museum of London
Local History Conference – Animals in London History. Tickets £17.50. £20 on day.
Booking via Eventbrite *London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*

Monday 20th November. 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ
The Capital Ring
Colin Saunders *The Enfield Society*

Wednesday 22nd November. 2pm. Dugdale Arts Centre, 39 London Road, Enfield. EN2 6DS
Sir Jules Thorn: The man and his Empire. Tickets £3. Book via website or phone 020 8807 6680.
Dr Jim Lewis *Enfield Museums*

Thursday 23rd November. 2.30pm. Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU
Curator's Pick. Departing Day – Studies of Sunsets. Sunset over Manor Farm, Highgate.
Deborah Hedgecock. Booking via Eventbrite *Bruce Castle Museum*

Monday 27th November. 11.15 for 11.30am Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU
Munch & Listen. Special Film Screening of 'Mutiny' (2018 Reversion). Black British veterans tell
their story of the First World War. Booking via Eventbrite *Bruce Castle Museum*

Friday 8th December. 7.30pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ
The Petroglyph Survey.
Anna Nicola *Enfield Archaeological Society*

Tuesday 12th December. 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ
Who Wants to be a Trillionaire ? Causes and Consequences of the Weimar Hyperinflation.
Dr Christopher Dillon *Historical Association*

EHHS at the Haringey Local History Fair



*EHHS committee members at the Haringey Local History Fair 7th October 2023.
Left to right: Robert Musgrove, Victorine Martineau and Rachael Macdonald*

A Thank You to our Membership Secretary

After the long break from collecting our subscriptions, membership secretary, Esther Temerlies, has decided it is time for her to retire. Esther joined the committee as the representative for the Jewish Research Group (now sadly no more) and then took over the membership records when Jean Pinkham retired in 2002. She has maintained our database (a shoebox of 5x3 record cards) ever since. We all thank her for her 20 years of quiet and efficient service and wish her well. When I suggested that we might announce her retirement in the newsletter, with typical modesty, Esther said “please don’t make it too flowery”.

Kate Godfrey

Letters and Emails

Finsbury Park in World War II

One afternoon in the late spring of 1944 grandmother, mother and I decided to go for a walk in nearby Finsbury Park. We entered via our usual the gate in Green Lanes. The first thing we noticed was that the internal road had strange markings along its length. On turning left and following the road uphill and under the tree lined section we came upon a large collection of what I later discovered were Sherman tanks. I recall that the soldiers on duty were looking at us. At that time I thought no more about it, but when much older I realised that it must have been part of the Normandy invasion force hidden amongst the trees and that those men were perhaps wondering how we had managed to get into the Park, when it should have been closed to the public. I never did find out what regiment or group they were, or what fate awaited them in Normandy.

It was only a few months later that the V1'Doodle Bug' pilotless jet powered flying bombs started coming over. On one occasion whilst passing the Finsbury Park Cricket ground (on the way home) near the junction with Endymion Road we spotted the almost complete remains of a V1 that had landed or crashed in the park. I wonder if there are any surviving records.

Mark Bailey

Edmonton Girls' Charity School



Photo: Rachael Macdonald

Edmonton Charity School with Irene's Cottage on left

Plans are in hand for the old Charity School building in Church Street, Edmonton, whose last custodian was EHHS member Irene Money. Some of you may remember attending meetings there. It is now envisaged as a place for young people, but with meeting space available. A highly appropriate venue for our society, it might also enable us to interest a younger generation in their local history.

<https://londonhistoricbuildings.org.uk/index.php/former-girls-charity-school-edmonton-development-phase/>

Rachael Macdonald

Fords Grove by Stuart Delvin continued.

Fords Grove Cottage, the Tills Family and the Mortiboys

Fords Grove Cottage was on the south side of Fords Grove near what is now The Broadway in Green Lanes Winchmore Hill. Henrietta Cresswell, who was born in 1855, writes of Fords Grove during her childhood, '..... the oaks and elms made the lane green and shady It was a favourite stroll for lovers and old folks in the summer evenings, and they mostly sat upon the logs to rest, and listen to the nightingales who sang rapturously in the snow white hawthorns'



Photo: Enfield Local Studies & Archive

Fords Grove c.1905, green and shady on summer evenings

Miss Cresswell described the senior inhabitants of the cottage: 'Captain Tills was a sweet faced little old sailor man with a fresh colour and silver hair and whiskers. The path up to the house passed between gay flower borders sweet with white pinks and clove carnations, and backed by a long row of pink cabbage-rose bushes. Mrs. Tills was a tall pleasant old lady, who might have stepped out of a picture as she stood in front of the ancient cottage, with its diamond paned leaded windows and mossy roof of shingle tiles, every shade of rich red and brown, bright near the eaves with yellow patches of poor-man's pepper, light green mosses, and huge rosettes of house leeks.'

In Chapter Nine of her classic '*Winchmore Hill: Memories of a Lost Village*', Miss Cresswell tells us that Captain Tills, who had served at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, and his wife had lost their only son Frank, who had been killed, aged 27, as an NCO in the armed forces at the Siege of Delhi in 1857. In fact there was an article on him in *The Enfield Gazette and Observer* of 3rd February 1933, which was quoted in my (still in print) book on the village 1831-71. The Tills also had two daughters named Charlotte and Ellen. The Captain and his wife died in the early 1860s and Ellen, who never enjoyed good health died soon after her mother. After the death of her parents and sister, Charlotte, supported herself by teaching village children, including Henrietta. Miss Cresswell writes in her charming book,

'... so Charlotte was left in the old cottage to face the world alone. I do not think she had a relation in the world. She took up her life bravely with such pupils as the Village could give her, and was an excellent teacher, endowed with endless patience and good temper. Winifred (i.e. Henrietta Cresswell) at ten years old became one of her pupils, and many a happy hour she spent at Ford's Grove Cottage. Two of the Vicar's, Mr. Frost's, daughters, and some others used to meet on Saturday mornings for the lesson. Winifred must often have been a trial of patience, as she usually arrived breathless and dirty, having made a bee line across Highfield Park over muddy fields and mossy walls, but she was sent to wash and never scolded, and worked for the love of it to make up.

It was Charlotte Tills, who left us the fine painting of the ancient Fords Grove Mansion reproduced in last month's newsletter.

In 1871 Charlotte moved to the low white house on the north side of Winchmore Hill Green, which had been Miss Watkin's and later Miss Tebb's school and the old cottage was taken by Mortiboy, the cow-keeper. He left such an imprint on the area that for years Fords Grove was known as Mortiboy's Lane.

The Enfield Gazette and Observer of 31st October 1924 contained an article that ran, 'The road now known as Ford's Grove was 8 ½ years ago one of the most rustic and delightful shady lanes in the district, yet close to the busy Broadway [then a fairly recent development of rural Green Lanes]

Twenty five years ago Ford's Grove was known as Mortiboy's

Lane, owing to the land on both sides being farmed by the late Mr. Mortiboy, who about the year 1870 became tenant of the old cottage which was demolished a year ago. The cottage had stood for 400 years, during which time it had undergone various alterations. Up to about 1909 it possessed an old Jacobean chimney corner, and in one of its tiny, quaint rooms there was a horn window, and Mr. Mortiboy had stored upstairs the old leaden frames which were at one time used as window casings.



Photo: Mr Waring

Mortiboys Farm, in Fords Grove then known as Mortiboys Lane



Mortiboys Boys Farm in 1922 shortly before demolition

Photo: Enfield Local Studies & Archive

In 1911 the Southgate Council issued a closing order for the cottage because its ivy clad roof and its floors were in very bad condition. It stood on the south side of the lane and was very picturesque, most of its ancient walls remaining to the end; little of the building, however, was visible owing to the whole of it being overgrown with creepers More than half the southern

side of Ford's Grove has recently been covered with houses; the road is being widened and a footway constructed

Stuart Delvin

One Hundred Years Ago

Enfield's Hospital

The enlargement of Enfield's War Memorial Hospital has naturally brought about the need for increased voluntary help in all directions, and possibly in no respect greater than that of needlework. The need for further help in this branch of the hospital's work is very urgent, and ladies who are willing to give a little time for needlework will be cordially welcomed by Mrs. Hollington at the hospital every Wednesday from 10am till 1pm.

Enfield Gazette 23rd November 1923

Chief Superintendent of Chase Farm Schools

Unofficially, we hear that it is the intention of the Enfield District Council and the Edmonton Board of Guardians to refrain from filling the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Edward Livock until the statutory six months have expired.

Enfield Gazette 23rd November 1923

Cinder Track for Durants

The Council adopted the recommendation of the Parks Committee to construct a cinder track for foot racing in Durants Park, to be fenced on the outside only, at an estimated cost of £350. It is to be left to the chairman of the committee, the surveyor, Mr Grant (hon.sec.), and Mr Dufton (local representative) of the Middlesex County Amateur Athletic Association, to fix the exact position. When the position is decided upon, tenders will be invited for the turf four inches in thickness. The Guardians are to be asked to provide free labour for the execution of the work.



Enfield Local Studies & Archive

Enfield Technical School Sports Day in Durants Park in 1930

Enfield Gazette 30th November 1923

An Ideal Tea Shop

New Premises Opened by the A.B.C.

One of the modern changes in Enfield is the erection of an A.B.C. depot by the Aerated Bread Company, at 24 The Town, which was opened on Saturday. Since it became known that the Company were opening a depot at Enfield, no little interest was created in the construction of the premises. With accommodation for 180, it ranks amongst the foremost tea shops in Enfield, and is fitted with every modern convenience for the benefit of its patrons. The building comprises two floors, and the first thing one notices on entering the premises is the effective colour scheme. The decorations are very tasteful. Standard electric lamps are fitted throughout, and an abundance of palms and flowers give the rooms a cosy and attractive appearance. The walls are surrounded by panels and mirrors, and both floors are fitted with opal glass ceilings and jointless floorings.

The kitchen is a large one, with white tiled walls. It contains every modern and up-to-date apparatus, including the firm's own coffee-making machine. The premises throughout are heated by radiators. The illuminated script sign on the front of the building is very effective, and materially adds to the attractiveness of the premises.

Patrons are afforded the widest possible variety of tasty dishes from which to select a dainty tea or a most enjoyable luncheon. Efficient service, ideal cuisine and popular prices are features of this new A.B.C. branch.



Old buildings in Enfield Town (left) demolished to make room for A.B.C. premises (right)

Enfield Gazette 7th December 1923

Sport and Charity

Walking Football Match.

Mr. J. H. Haydn, Mine Host of the "Prince of Wales", Enfield Wash, is to be commended for not only introducing a novelty into the district as a means of providing seasonable Yuletide merriment, but more especially as being the means of raising a goodly sum of money for the Prince of Wales Hospital, Tottenham.

The effort took the form of a walking football match, which took place in Albany Park, Enfield Wash, on Boxing Day morning, the contesting teams representing the married and single members of the "Prince of Wales" Old Boys' Club. A condition which ruled the match was that any player breaking from a walk into a run gave away a penalty kick, and the official referee, Mr. T. Hearn, saw to it that not only that rule, but others were strictly enforced.

There was a goodly number present when Councillor Mr Horace Short kicked off amidst cheers. The heavy state of the pitch was by no means conducive to a fast game, but under the conditions that fact was negligible. There was, however, plenty of fun in the game, which resulted 3-3.

A collection was made on the field for the Tottenham Hospital, and a goodly sum was subscribed, as indicated by heavy boxes, which are to be opened in the presence of a representative of the Hospital on Monday evening next.

Mr Hayden, besides organising the football match, has employed various other means of raising money for the Prince of Wales Hospital. On Monday evening there was a well-attended smoking concert in the club room of the Prince of Wales, Mr. T. Hearn acting as M.C. An amusing item in the programme was the presentation of trophies to the winners of the mystery prizes.

Enfield Gazette 28th December 1923

Graham Frost

Registered Charity No. 299073. Please send contributions to the newsletter to
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