

## **East Brent Parish History Group**

### **Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012**

Thank you to all who attended. I appreciate that it is not always possible to attend so the meeting is always open to anyone who wishes to come along occasionally. We also appreciate the comments and contributions from anyone who cannot attend the actual meetings, so please, keep it coming. Regarding the house formerly known as 'Avalon' (last month's edition). I have had a call from the current owner who said the house is now called 'Heronsmead' (not 'Erinsmead') - thank you for the clarification.

#### **Aerial Photographs**

Some intriguing and possibly unique photographs were shown. These are aerial photographs of the Parish taken by aircraft from Yeovilton in 1984. These were sent to the Headteacher (Mrs. Osborne) for a project being undertaken by the CoE First School at the time. Does anyone remember taking part in this project and what it was about? I have gained permission from the MoD to use these photographs so long as Crown Copyright is maintained. These photographs are mostly of Brent Knoll but a good one of the Old Bristol Road in the foreground is below.



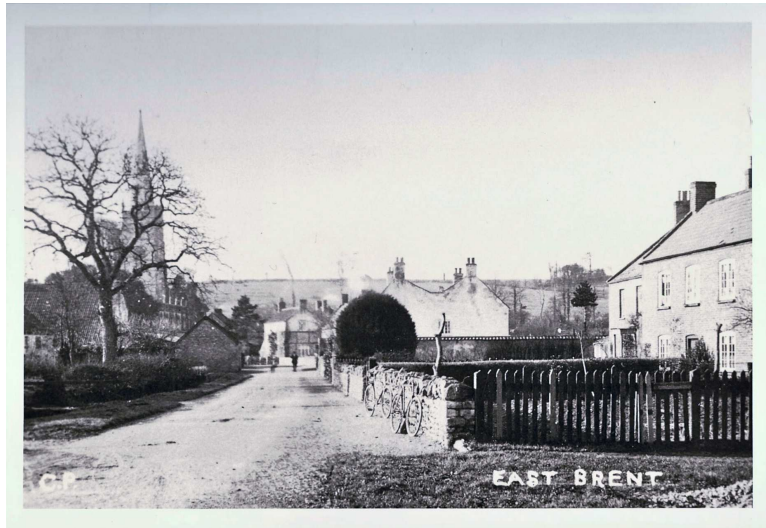
East Brent 1984 - (MoD Crown Copyright)

#### **Spring Bulb Planting**

Thank you to Joan Harding who has named a number of those on last month's photograph of the planting of spring bulbs at the War Memorial in 1973. Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Poole and Mrs. Jackson feature on one picture and some of the children are named as Deborah Barber, Julie Elton, Penny Harris and Robert Evans. Joan's son is also in the background.

#### **Church Street Photograph**

Molly Richards has provided an intriguing photograph of Church Street. Can anyone provide an approximate date?



### Cheddar Valley Dairy

John Rigarsford (a.k.a. Fred Smith, I believe!) has added a soft copy (electronic) to add to his hard copy (paper) of his history of the Cheddar Valley Dairy. This will be placed in the archives as soon as possible.

### British Newspaper Archive

John has also been studying the recently launched British Newspaper Archive ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)) and obtained a number of interesting cuttings from local newspapers from East Brent Parish. John presented some of these at the meeting. As with today's press, it is generally only the more sensational matters that are usually reported. A less sensational selection are as follows:-

Western Gazette, 23rd Dec 1887 - "Fight at Knoll Inn"

pleading for him, was fined 7s 6d and costs — *Wm. Tutton*, ostler at the Brent Knoll Inn, East Brent, *Thomas Sandford*, *John Harvey*, and *George Ham*, labourers, were summoned for assaulting Edward Brown, at East Brent, on the 29th ult. — In a cross-summons *Brown* was charged with assaulting Sandford. — From the evidences of Brown, a labourer residing at Rookbridge, it appeared that the defendants were drinking together at the Brent Knoll Inn, the landlord's son having been married that day. Between six and seven in the evening, defendants came out of the inn and "pitched into" him. Tutton and Sandford knocked him down, and when he was on the ground they allkicked him. As soon as he was up he was down again. — Albert Stephens, labourer of East Brent, saw Brown on the ground, and Tutton strike him with a stick. — Sandford deposed that Brown was the aggressor. He was druak and running after everyone he met. — The Bench dismissed both summonses. — *Robert Simmons*, turf haulier, of Westhav. Mears, was summoned for cruelty ill-

Western Gazette, Jan 1887. - "Rev Denison defends Cheddar Cheese!"

#### THE CHEDDAR CHEESE CONTROVERSY.

Sir,—One more Cheese letter, and I have done. The formal competitive examination of the two cheese, "Cheddar of Somerset" and "Cheddar of the World," in the neighbourhood of London, does not find favour with Mr. Moore. I never thought it would. It is not a promising thing for him to touch.

Meantime, pending its taking place, it is fortunate that every man, who really cares to know what the difference is between good cheese and bad, can have his own private competitive examination in his own house.

Let him buy two cheeses of equal weight.

1. A "genuine Cheddar," certified to him as such, and as such to stay, and be better as it grows older. If, being so certified, it fails in either of these particulars, the money to be returned to him by the seller.

2. A "Cheddar of the World," from any part of the world except Somerset. Both cheeses to have maker's name, place, and day of making attached. If a foreign "Cheese of the World," the seller's name.

Before he begins to eat No. 2 let him cut off a wedge, and put the wedge with all customary care into a cupboard, and keep the cupboard locked. Let him do the same in another cupboard some way off with No. 1.

In six weeks' time let him try to approach the cupboard No. 2. I should be sorry to be the man, because I prefer pleasant and wholesome smells.

Let him draw the one conclusion—viz., that food may taste well for a little time and yet be unsound, and therefore unwholesome, from the day that it is made to the day in which it gives its own verdict by its own smell.

This method of arriving at decision wanted has been tried many times, and always with the same issue. I don't suppose Mr. Moore has tried it. It might be as well if he did.

GEORGE ANTHONY DENISON.  
East Brent, January 15th, 1887.

Western Gazette, 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 1866 - "E B Harriers meet at the Wellington Inn"

#### EAST BRENT.

**THE EAST BRENT HARRIERS.**—On Wednesday week, writes a sporting correspondent, this beautiful little pack, with their worthy master, Mr. John Arney, met for the first time at the Wellington Hotel. At about twelve o'clock, the hounds, were thrown off on lands of T. Salvadge, Esq., when it soon became evident that puss was near, "Look out my lads," sang out Dickey, "she is not far off." On they went till near Lake-house, the residence of Mr. T. Burrows, where puss sprung up. Away the beauties went, like swallows, to Edingworth, where she gave them a double back to Brent, from thence to the plantation belonging to — Deen, Esq.; there being coursed by a sheep dog, the hounds not being able to run any farther, puss was lost. Another hare was soon up, and after a splendid run of 40 minutes was killed at White House. Here ended two of the first runs of the season. At five p.m., the party returned to the Wellington Hotel, and threw their legs under Host Bowley's mahogany, and a very pleasant evening was pent.

#### Next Meeting – East Brent War Memorial

At the next meeting (7<sup>th</sup> March 2012), there will be a talk by John Flavin. John has been researching the people named on the War Memorials at Lympsham and East Brent. His research is extensive and some fascinating information will be presented.

All meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month - 7:00 pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Colin Loader  
3 Johnson Close, East Brent, TA9 4RZ  
Tel. 01278 760713, Mob. 07931 429927  
e-mail: [cloader2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cloader2@tiscali.co.uk)