

East Brent Parish History Group

Meeting 3rd April 2013

Brent Knoll History Group

On 25th March, a few of our members attended a meeting of the Brent Knoll History Group at Brent Knoll Village Hall. Their meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the fourth Monday in the month under the direction of John Page. John presented a review of the Turnpike Road from Cross down to Edithmead. Some interesting old drawings of Cross were shown. There were a number of similarities with the presentation at our last meeting although John covered much more of the road outside East Brent Parish. John continued with an interesting film of the Somerset & Dorset Railway from Evercreech Junction through Glastonbury to Highbridge and Burnham. We had a few discussions on the nature of cooperation of our two Groups.

History Portal - East Brent Parish Council Website

The East Brent Parish History Group portal can be accessed through the PC website at <http://eastbrentparishcouncil.org.uk/>. The content is steadily increasing and being fine-tuned. If you have Internet access, please take a regular look and let me know of any changes or additions to the content or if you experience any problems. If you don't have Internet access and would like to take a look at the content, please also let me know. The Village Hall now has access to the Internet and we will demonstrate regularly at future meetings. Let me know in advance or come along to a meeting.

General Discussion

We had an excellent general discussion on future meeting and possible content. It was agreed that we should continue with the regular monthly meetings with possible breaks at Christmas/New Year and during the Summer Holiday period. A few good ideas for research and presentations were suggested and these will be developed.

East Brent Parish Council – Early Minutes

A member of the Group has extracted parts of early minutes of the East Brent PC. A selected few of these make interesting reading :

Tuesday December 4th 1894

“The first Parish meeting for the election of Parish Councillors for the Parish of East Brent was held at the Parochial School, East Brent. The Rev. Henry Phipps Dennison of East Brent was elected Chairman of the meeting. 18 were nominated and 6 selected after a show of hands. These were - Mr. Gilbert Dibble, Rooksbridge; Mr. William Cook Comer, East Brent; Mr. George Body, East Brent; Mr. George Henry Slade, Edingworth; Mr. Robert Board, Edingworth; Mr. William Cox Day, Rooksbridge.”

March 31st 1896

“That this meeting of Parochial Electors deeply regret the death of the Ven. Archdeacon Dennison, who has been Vicar of this Parish for the last 50 years. And desire to express their heartfelt sympathy with Mrs. Dennison, the Misses Henley and the Rev. H.P. Dennison in the severe loss they have sustained.”

March 7th 1904

“The bad state of the roads especially the Turnpike Road at Rooksbridge was complained of. It was considered that in the latter case which is in much the worst condition, the damage is

chiefly caused by Traction Engine traffic. It was suggested amidst approval of the whole meeting, that the Parish Council make complaint thereof to the proper authorities.”

November 10th 1922

“The chairman Rev. Wickham on behalf of the war memorial committee asked the Council to accept the care of the war memorial monument which had now been completed and was free from debt.”

18 July 1940

“Mr. Watkins proposed posters to be displayed throughout the Parish calling the attention of occupiers of land to their danger of enemy aeroplanes landing, and to request obstacles be placed in such field to prevent same.”

There are many more extracts available and the early PC Meeting Minute Books are held at the Somerset Heritage Centre.

Discussion with Ken Huett

The usefulness of the Community News being distributed to all households in the Parish was demonstrated by Ken Huett making contact and offering to discuss his time in the Parish. Ken is a long-term parishioner and lived in Manor Close, East Brent in his early years and now lives at Rooksbridge. The discussion with Ken will be presented at a future meeting but in the meantime, Ken has provided this photograph of the garage owned by a relative. This was located on the A370 to the left of Laurel Cottage.



Future Meetings

The next meetings will be held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 1st May 2013** when Pat Hase will give a talk about George Reed (Lord of the Manor of East Brent). There will be a further meeting on **Wednesday, 5th June 2013** and thereafter on the first Wednesday of each month (except August). A scanner can be made available to scan any documents/photos.

There will be **Parish History Group Exhibition** on Saturday/Sunday 1st & 2nd June 2013.

All are welcome, please come along.

Colin Loader

Tel. 01278 760713, Mob. 07931 429927

e-mail: ebphgroup@talktalk.net

Parish Council Website: <http://eastbrentparishcouncil.org.uk/>