

East Brent Parish History Group **Meeting 5th June 2013**

Exhibition

On the weekend of Sat/Sun., 1st/2nd June 2013, some members of the Group put together an exhibition to mark the anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth the Second and featuring a Royal British Legion display. Over the two days many people attended and spent an interesting time viewing the displays.

Amongst others, sections of the exhibition contained information on:

- St. Mary's Church and Rossholme,
- Rooksbridge Baptist Chapel,
- 1st East Brent Brownies,
- The Brent Knoll Motorcycle Hill Climb – does anyone remember watching or participating?
- Domesday Survey of 1086 and the early 19th century Tithe Map
- A selection of fossils found on Brent Knoll – it was under the sea millions of years ago!

Special thanks must be given to Betty Griffin, Jenny Binning, John Rigarsford and Jan Williams for their time and effort in putting together an incredibly wide range of the Parish's History. Betty, Jenny and Jan spent both days at the exhibition to deal with the many questions which arose from those attending.



Harvest Home 1857 to 1957

As many will know, the East Brent Harvest Home began in 1857 when the idea was suggested to St. Mary's vicar, Ven. Archdeacon George Denison by the Curate Mr. Griggs.

The Morning Post of Saturday 5th September 1857 reported :

"On Thursday the first annual harvest festival took place at East Brent, commencing with Divine service. The villagers and their friends, all dressed in their best, went to church where they devoutly joined in prayers, and listened to a sermon preached by Archdeacon Denison, from the 5th chapter of the general epistle of St. James, and the 13th verse.

Afterwards the male part of the rustic population sat down to a substantial dinner spread in a large tent, erected in the vicarage meadows. Festooned and decorated at every point, the interior of the canvas erected looked exceedingly pretty. 'Temperance in all things;' 'Old England for ever;' 'Long live the Vicar;' 'God save the Queen;' 'God bless the Prince of Wales;' 'Agriculture,' and similar mottoes met the eye at every point.

Not very much had changed 100 years later in 1957 except that all men and women could sit down together for the sumptuous lunch and tickets had to be paid for. A number of photographs have recently been made available to the Parish History Group by a long-time resident and a number are shown here. Anyone recognise the faces?



Details of this year's Harvest Home are available elsewhere in this edition of the Community News.

Future Meetings

The next meetings will be held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 3rd July 2013**. As there will be no meeting in August, the meeting after that will be on Wednesday, 4th September 2013 and thereafter on the first Wednesday of each month. A scanner can be made available to scan any documents/photos.

All are welcome, please do come along. There are many stories to be told.

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