

East Brent Parish History Group

Meeting 5th December 2012

Welcome to 2013

A belated Happy New Year to everyone. Another year is past which is now part of the Parish's history. It will go down as a great time for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations despite the weather but the wet weather also led to cancellation of the Parish's iconic Harvest Home. It was the first time since its beginnings in 1857 that the weather has caused cancellation. Unfortunately, a few properties suffered flooding towards the end of 2012 in what has turned out to be a historical year for the Parish – for the wrong reasons. I am sure we are all looking forward to much better weather in 2013 - none less than all those associated with farming in the Parish and surrounding areas.

Meeting Notes

The Parish History Group meeting on 5th December 2012 discussed two main topics.

Firstly, there was an excellent description concerning the Parish Council Website (<http://eastbrentparishcouncil.org.uk/>) and the role and function of the History Portal within it. These are now fully operational and will be expanded over the coming months. Already there are a large number of articles and photographs etc. and comments are welcomed.

Secondly, many members contributed to an extensive and detailed discussion on some of the shops and businesses which existed within the Parish. There are far too many to list out here but a few are :

- Brodericks/Dibbles/James
- The Stores
- Post Offices – East Brent & Rooksbridge
- Butchers (Ham's)
- Saddlers/Harness Maker (Comer/Hutson)
- Carpenter (Ern Francis)
- Cooper & Tinman (Emery)
- and many others.

An audio recording was made and some of it will be transcribed and archived. The discussion was far from complete and will be continued at a future meeting.

Then and Now

An example of changes in the Parish are in the two photos below. These are taken from virtually the same spot on the A38 in Rooksbridge with the Wellington Arms on the right. The earlier photo was taken in 1922 before the road was widened and straightened in 1926. The Chapel of the Good Shepherd with its bell on the roof is evident on the mid-left and is it a Postman or AA man outside the "Welly" – does anyone know? In the mid-distance is a shop front (Saddlers/General Store) did it sell BP fuel as it looks like a BP sign at the end of Gill Lane. The later photo was taken at the end of 2012.



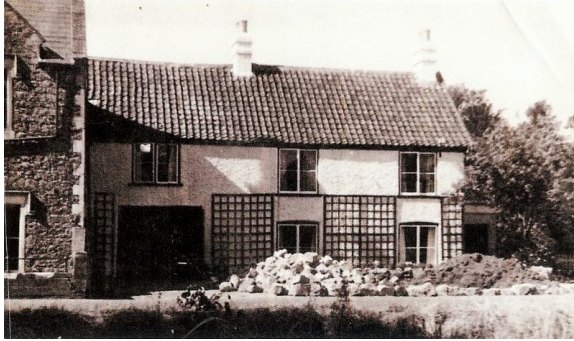
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“MOST WANTED”

Another example of a Parish business no longer in existence is the “White House” (next to Old Post Office) in Brent Road. There were petrol pumps at the front of the house selling petrol (diesel?) and oils. The photos show the front of the “White House” at the time the pumps were removed in the 1960’s and the owners at the time, does anyone remember them?



The current owners are very keen on obtaining photos which shows the White House before the pumps were removed. Does anyone have any photos in albums or in the bottom of cupboards or drawers of the “White House” or indeed any other parts of the Parish. This picture of an old Esso oil can may jog a memory or two.



Future Meetings

Members agreed not to hold a meeting in January 2013. The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 6th February 2013** and thereafter on the first Wednesday of each month (except August).

A scanner will be available to scan any documents/photos. There will be further discussions concerning the history of the Parish of East Brent and probably a talk regarding fossils found in the Parish.

I am very pleased to say that there will be another Parish History Group Exhibition on 1st & 2nd June 2013 to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. There will be various displays especially some concerning the Coronation and the British Legion. Details are yet to be discussed but if anyone has any photos/memories etc. concerning these, please let me know.

Please note also that Pat Hase has been booked for the meeting on 1st May 2013 when she will give a talk about George Reed (Lord of the Manor of East Brent).

All are welcome, please come along.

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