

East Brent Parish History Group **Meeting 6th February 2013**

Meeting Notes

The Parish History Group held a meeting on 6th February 2013 and discussed the following.

Firstly, there was a follow-up talk concerning the Parish's shops and businesses discussions held at the last meeting. This mainly covered the Old Post Office and the White House next door. Several people have contacted me to pass on their memories of these two businesses and I thank them for that. Unfortunately, we still have no photographs of the White House before the petrol pumps were removed. If you could dig deep and come up with anything, the History Group and the current owners would be most grateful.

Parish Council Website & History Portal

The content of the History Portal is growing steadily with many articles added in the last few weeks. There are too many to list here but a few which may be of interest are :

- Memories of Life in a Somerset Village – including photographs & illustrations
- Earlier Days in East Brent – memories from retired farmer Mr George Hill (1992)
- Last Thatch at East Brent. A copy of the painting referred to is shown below :-



This was painted by Ernest Bishop of East Brent and is of Nut Tree Farm considered to be the last thatched building in East Brent and possibly in the Parish – unless anyone knows differently? The picture is in the possession of Marlyn Truckle-Whattley whose grandparents were Ernest and Edith Bishop. They lived in "The Lilacs" Burton Row, East Brent, as did three generations of the Bishop family.

Ernie was a Lead Driver in the Royal Horse Artillery in WW1 and saw action in Egypt, Italy and Africa. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star - British War and Victory medals. He "did ditches and things" and was hard working and well respected. He worked as an Agricultural contractor for local farmers and the River board. Ernie was a devout Methodist and both he and his father, Walter Bishop were organists at East Brent Chapel.

Much of this information comes from Marlyn Truckle-Whattley who would welcome any information or memories of the Bishop and Curtis families.

Fossils of East Brent

Jan Williams gave an excellent presentation on fossils which were found on the slopes of "The Knoll" when some excavations were being carried out for a civil engineering project some years ago. They consisted mainly of ammonites but a few belemnites were also evident.

Ammonites were common animals that lived in the seas during the Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods (200 to 65 million years ago). They became extinct at the same time as the dinosaurs about 65 million years ago. There was a huge variety with thousands of species and their living relatives are the octopus, squid, cuttlefish and nautilus. Jan spoke of a few concerns over safety and commercial fossil hunters. More details of this presentation may be provided in a future report.



A typical ammonite fossil

St. Mary's Church Clock

Some Group members who are interested and involved in looking after St. Mary's Church clock are investigating its origins and history. This will form the subject of a presentation at a future meeting. If anyone has any memories or anything related to the clock, please let me know and I will pass it on to those concerned.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 6th March 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 further discussions concerning the history of the Parish of East Brent and probably a talk regarding fossils found in the Parish.

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 formulated 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/>