

East Brent Parish History Group

Meeting 6th November 2013

Meeting Notes

The East Brent Parish History Group met on 6th November 2013 in East Brent Village Hall where the following topics were discussed followed by a presentation on Berrow Church.

Metal Detectorist

A request had been received from someone outside the area requesting information on possible archaeological sites to investigate in the Parish. He was referred to SDC and asked to inform any landowners of his activities.

Laurel Fisher

Laurel has contacted the Parish History Group to ask if anyone can help her find Greens Road near Hurne Lane that was part of Berrow in 1840s and 1850s. It does not appear on modern maps and old maps available on the Internet do not show it.

She also says that if anyone has family history puzzles related to the nearby parishes of Berrow and Bleadon, she may have information useful to others. Laurel's HURDACRE family history may be in Loxton and definitely in Huntspill and then Berrow before emigrating to Australia... as did many other local families in the 1840s and 1850s.

Graham Deacon

Graham Deacon has contacted the History Group from his home in Western Australia. He writes that his grandfather, Ralf Hill, owned and farmed Ashtree Farm from ?? until approx. 1965. He has always been aware of stories about tunnels supposedly from the Church to Ashtree Farm. He asked for more information about Rossholm(e) School and Lake house. He knows about parts of these and is interested to know more. Some information has been forwarded to him. Graham's mother was born in Ashtree and he lived in the house next door (Wayside) until 1974.

Graham further writes : ".....go to the Rossholm end of the pond in the field next to the junior school you will see the water disappears into a tunnel, (or it did when I was last there), and in Church street there is a drain grating by what was a shed I think it is now car parking. Look down it!" Caution is advised!

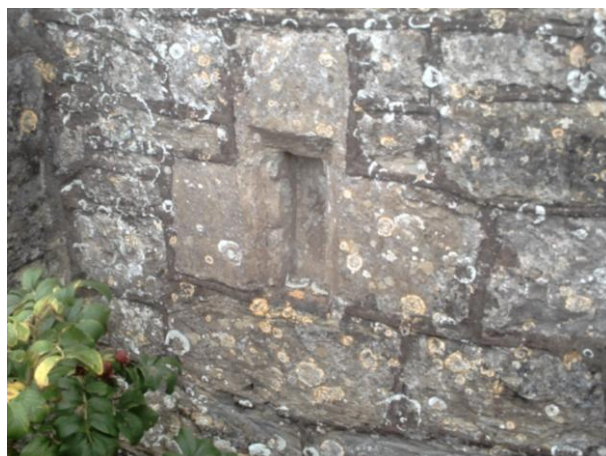
E-mail and postal addresses are available if anyone wishes to contact him.

St Mary's Church, Berrow – An Illustrated Talk by Pete Williams

Pete started his very interesting talk with a photograph of part of the wall of the Church and asked if anyone could identify the feature – answers are welcomed from those not at the meeting.

Wikipedia states that :

"The Church dates from the 13th century and was restored in the 19th. It has been designated as a grade I listed building. The church is built of limestone from the Mendip Hills with Hamstone for the decoration. The south aisle is from the 15th century but was remodeled during the Victorian era.





The two-stage tower, which dates from the 15th century, contains a bell dating from 1801 and made by Thomas and James Bilbie of the Bilbie family, along with four other bells. It can be seen from the sea and was once painted white to act as a lighthouse. The interior includes 14th and 15th century fonts.”

Pete’s talk pointed out the many interesting people either buried or were connected with the Church or Berrow. One of these was :

GEORGE CAVE of Richmond GCMG, KC, PC. Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain from 1922-1924 and 1924-1928. He was Chancellor of Oxford University 1925-1928. His gravestone records that he was “a man who neither sought or shunned greatness but found it in the path of duty”. His devoted wife was born in 1855 and died in 1938.

He was trained as a lawyer and was called to the bar in 1880. He practised as a barrister for a number of years, being made King's Counsel and recorder of Guildford in 1904.

He was ennobled as Viscount in 1918 and died in March 1928, aged 72, at St Ann's, Burnham, Somerset. There were no heirs to the titles.

There are memorials to the men who not only fell in the Great War but also to those who served and returned. Some of the names listed will be familiar to East Brent Parish residents.

Of particular poignancy is a memorial to Albert and Elizabeth Clapp who died together on Sept 28th 1902 aged 66 and 68 years. The Burnham Gazette of Saturday October 4th 1902 reports “The internment took place at the churchyard at Berrow, on Thursday afternoon of the victims of the treacherous Gore sands, Mr and Mrs Albert Clapp, aged 66 and 68 respectively, who were found dead on the foreshore between Berrow and Brean recently.There was a large concourse of people from Burnham and neighbouring parishes, owing to the sad nature of their deaths, and the greatest sympathy was apparent on every hand.” It is thought Albert went out fishing, got trapped; his wife then went searching for him and they both succumbed to the tides.



Pete Williams has many photographs and stories concerning Berrow Church and may be contacted through EBPHG.

Future Meetings

East Brent Parish History Group Meetings take place at 7:00 pm in East Brent Village Hall generally on the first Wednesday of each month.

The next meetings will be on **Wednesday, 4th December** and then on **8th January 2014**.

All are welcome, please do come along. There are many stories to be told. Have a great Christmas and New Year.

Colin Loader

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