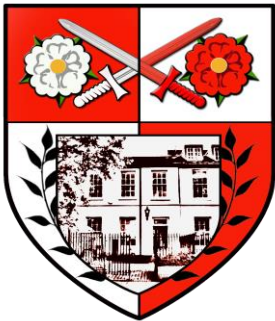


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LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Barnet History Journal

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Editor: Claire El-Arifi

Thank you very much to all the Barnet Museum volunteers who have helped in the production of this journal. Special thanks to all those who have contributed articles.

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Cover Photograph: The reopening of the Physic Well in November 2018; The Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Reuben Thompstone congratulates Mike Jordan of BMLHS

Table of Contents

Bus Journey to Work <i>Andrew Christie</i>	2
Barnet's Pearly King and Queen <i>Irene Nichols</i>	4
Barnet Phisic Well <i>Mike Jordan and Carla Herrmann</i>	6
World War Two Memories of Dorothy Isaacs <i>Penny Baxter</i>	8
The Rolf Family of Medieval East Barnet <i>Philip Bailey</i>	12
Enfield ARP Map <i>John Leatherdale</i>	16
The Victory of Edward IV at Barnet 1471 <i>Keith West</i>	25
Brief History of Clay Smoking Pipes told by the Barnet Museum Collection <i>Emily Webb</i>	27
From The Archives <i>Ken Sutherland Thomas</i>	31

Bus Journey to Work

Andrew Christie

My first job when I left school in 1952 was with John Laing Builders at Borehamwood, where they had a Plant & Transport Depot. Every morning, I would get a 107 or a 306 bus to work; the 107 was a London Transport bus to Borehamwood and the 306 was a green London Country bus to Watford.

I would join the bus in Chipping Barnet High Street, from where we would proceed along Wood Street past Barnet Church in a westerly direction passing the Congregational Church and Ewen Hall on the right, and then Victoria Maternity Hospital and the Elizabeth Allen School on the left. A bit further along was Ravenscroft Park which had an old wartime emergency water supply brick-built tank, later demolished to make way for a children's paddling pool.



Photograph: Victoria Cottage Hospital 1939-45



Photograph: Arkley Windmill

The next point was the Arkley Hotel where some 107 buses terminated. As the bus travelled along Barnet Road to Stirling Corner you passed large properties that have now been demolished to make way for smaller houses and new side roads. Through

Arkley and past St Peter's Church, there were open views across to Totteridge, some of which are still visible today. Later we arrived at the Gate Public House, having just passed on our right a view of Arkley Windmill, before descending to Stirling Corner.

At Stirling Corner on the left was the Kings Arms, now a restaurant, and on the right a garage which was opened in 1929 by a James Stirling. As you went round the roundabout, on the left was a caravan site opened in 1933 which is still there, and on the opposite side was SE Oppermans Engineers, now a supermarket.

Then we were on to the Barnet By-Pass, which was constructed between 1924 and 1927. It opened on 20 July 1927, and completely changed travelling in the area. The service road to the left going north is the boundary of the Borough of Barnet. In 1952 on the left was a depot belonging to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI).



Cigarette card showing the Art Deco RNLI Depot in Borehamwood

Further on was a factory for 'Francs Traffic Signs'. Next came the junction of Rowley Lane where the buses turned a very sharp left turn to the Elstree Way. At this corner was 'The Thatched Barn' which was closed and derelict with barbed wire enclosing the whole site. Before I reached my destination at Warwick Road, on the left a new factory was built for 'Sellotape' known as 'Sticky Tapes'. On the opposite side was the Elstree Way Hotel which was a terminus for the 141 bus from Edgware and 29 bus from Potters Bar. Also at this time in 1952 the new L.C.C. housing estate was being finally completed.

Barnet's Pearly King and Queen

Irene Nichols

One of the most exciting new exhibits in Barnet Museum, and perhaps one that is also rather surprising, is that of the Pearly King and Queen of Barnet and indeed a Pearly Princess to boot. To most people the tradition of Pearly Kings and Queens, or Pearlies as they are known, is associated with the East End of London only, but it turns out this is not totally the case. So let's have a look at the history of Pearlies and see why Barnet has had such a family.

Henry Croft

How the Pearly tradition started is rather obscure but apparently the costermongers or street traders in the 19th century often sewed mother-of-pearl buttons, which were mass produced in the East End at that time, onto the seams of their trousers whenever they found such buttons lying in the street. This could have been the inspiration for Henry Croft, the very first Pearly King

Henry was born at the St Pancras Workhouse on 24th May 1861. When he was about 10 years old, his father died and Henry was then raised in an orphanage. He worked as a road sweeper from the age of 15 and started to raise money for charity soon after, wearing clothes decorated with pearly buttons to get himself noticed and help with his charity work. He developed this idea to a fine art, with what he called a 'smother suit' covered with thousands of white buttons. He made himself 7 such suits and also pearly accessories such as hats, belts and ties. When he appeared in charitable pageants and carnivals to raise money, he certainly would have been very eye-catching and he enjoyed much success in his fund-raising work. In 1907, Henry was presented to Edward VII and Queen Alexandra at the Horse of the Year Show at Olympia. He also led a display by costermongers and their donkeys at the show in 1912.

Croft raised money for a variety of hospitals and other charities such as a temperance society. In fact, he is thought to have received around 2,000 medals and ribbons in recognition of his fund-raising efforts, which were estimated to have totalled around £4,000 to £5,000 (over £500K in 2019).

By 1911, all 28 of the metropolitan boroughs of London had its own pearly king, pearly queen, and pearly family. They were often members of the local

costermonger community. The Original Pearly Kings' and Queens' Association was established that year. South of the River Thames, the pearly families were associated into a Pearly Kings' and Queens' Guild. In July 1926, Henry Croft claimed publicly that he was the "original Pearly-King in London".

Henry Croft died from lung cancer in 1930 in St Pancras workhouse and was buried at St Pancras Cemetery in East Finchley. His funeral cortège stretched for approximately half a mile, with a procession that included a horse-drawn hearse, musicians, 400 pearly kings and queens, and representatives from the charities that he had supported. The event was filmed by Pathé News ('full titles read: "The passing of the 'King' of the Pearly Kings – Pearly Kings and Queens from every part of London pay last tribute to their revered Chief, Mr Henry Croft.>"). This very impressive event can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Gyv8TR8eVE>

A marble statue of Henry Croft can be seen in the crypt of St Martin-in-the-Fields. St Martins also hosts the annual Pearly Kings and Queens' Harvest Festival when the Pearlies arrive in all their finery.

Barnet's Pearlies

Often the title of pearly king or queen is passed on down the generations but sometimes it is awarded because of good work in fund-raising for charity. This was the case in Barnet. In Barnet Museum the pearly suits of Mr Jack Hammond, his wife Brenda and their daughter Lisa can be seen. Jack was awarded the Pearly King title in 1962 by the Association of Pearly Kings and Queens. Horseshoes on the garments relate to Barnet Fair and crosses relate to Barnet churches and also St Martin-in-the-Fields. Jack sewed on each mother-of-pearl button and his suit weighs 32 lb (14 kg). It is well worth seeing along with those of other family members.



Photograph: The Pearly King, Queen and Princess at Barnet Museum

Barnet Physic Well

Mike Jordan & Carla Herrmann

Background

The date when the Barnet mineral spring was first discovered is unrecorded. It is likely that the well was used by local Barnet people living near it on Barnet Common many years before Samuel Pepys wrote about it in his diary in the seventeenth century.

The building now covering the well, Barnet Wellhouse, was erected in 1937. It was designed in the pre-war Tudoresque style then popular and remained an attractive but largely unimportant feature of the council Wellhouse estate. The Well was not opened to the public and received little if any regular maintenance. However, Barnet Museum has been aware of the Well's unique local and national importance. Our volunteers have kept a regular watch over it for more than 25 years. We regularly cleaned away winter flood-damage, monitored the water-level and noted deterioration in the building's structural condition. By 2018 the building had in fact been on the Heritage at Risk list for 20 years and it was becoming increasingly obvious to us that it needed urgent renovation work, particularly to the felt roof which was leaking.



Photograph: Physic Well 2019

We had first opened the Well to the public in 2012 (including providing a generator to light it!). This was at the request of the local Stable church, and it received over 100 visitors in two hours. It was decided that with this level of interest the Well should be opened more frequently and a team of Museum volunteers was formed to open it on a monthly basis from spring to late autumn. In 2015 we received 5,000 hits on our Physic Well Facebook page so we knew there was great public interest and that it could finally become a tourist attraction for Barnet visitors. When the Heritage of

London Trust became interested in restoring it as a part of their Great Fire of London Project in 2016 they successfully applied for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The restoration project was officially launched in May 2017 with a visit from the Patron of the Heritage of London Trust, HRH The Duke of Gloucester. Now that the refurbishment is complete, we hope to invite the Duke to return and view the finished building.

Refurbishment

The work carried out by teams of specialist heritage craftsmen has included a completely new weather-proof roof made from clay tiles, the replacement of the crumbling brickwork using traditional London bricks and the removal of the ceiling to reveal the attractive timber roof structure.

Throughout the Wellhouse all the rotten timbers have now been replaced with French oaks of the correct size. New leaded windows with shutters



Photograph: The Sumps



Photograph: Stairs leading to the Sumps

have replaced the old ones. The worn steps down to the well spring have been repaired, as has the floor. A new handrail and lighting have been installed. We are delighted with the results, and have now re-started the monthly public openings (February through to November).

World War Two

Memories of Dorothy Isaacs

Penny Baxter



Photograph:
Dorothy Isaacs

Dorothy (Daphne) Isaacs served as a secretary in the field office of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery (“Monty”) in the later stages of World War II. Following the D-Day landings (6th June 1944) until after the German surrender (8th May 1945), Dorothy and her colleagues were stationed in different towns as the front moved with the Allies’ advance. She was one of the first women in Allied uniform to enter Germany as the war ended. Dorothy Isaacs was born in Derbyshire but lived in North London. She lived in Ridgeview Road, Whetstone and later in Hertswood Court, Hillside Gardens, Barnet.

Thanks to her daughter Penny Baxter for passing on her mother’s recollections, and some of her wartime items which are now on display at Barnet Museum.

In 1940 my sister and I were staying in Margate with an Aunt as my parents were in Africa. She had soldiers billeted on her so it was quite a houseful. By this time we had both left school and were learning secretarial skills at a local establishment. I clearly remember all the boats coming back from Dunkirk as a number came back to Margate harbour. The men were down in the dumps and not all were well clothed or had boots. Soon after this Margate was evacuated as it was thought vulnerable to invasion, so my sister and I came to London and by September 1940 I was living with my mother’s brother in Kings’ Cross. I witnessed the first bombing of the docks as I was coming home from a youth club in Holloway. In February 1941 I was sixteen. I put my age up two years and joined the army. They didn’t ask for a birth certificate. The other services were more particular.

In March 1941 I went to Aldermaston for training. I had a rudimentary knowledge of shorthand and typing and was delegated for an office job. Whilst at Aldermaston the Queen visited and, as I was the smallest, I was put in the front row and of all the people she chose to speak to me! I can't remember what she said – I expect asking how I liked the army – but I remember how flawless were her features and make-up.



Photograph: Dorothy and colleagues in Germany in 1944

I was posted to an office in Whitehall, but my skills as a secretary left much to be desired, so the office was not long in dispensing of my services and putting me in the typist pool. Then in 1942 I moved to the offices of a new regiment called REME.

My accommodation was at St. Paul's School in London which was the GHQ of the Home forces. The sleeping arrangements were rather strange as there were bunks along one side of a corridor. On the other side was where the signals were, so there was activity all night. One soon got used to the noise. We did sometimes stay at Whitehall overnight, where we went down three flights of stairs and – I now understand – were next to where Churchill had his place of safety. At night it was very dry down there, so there was a small canteen to get drinks.

As the HQ got larger, houses round about St. Paul's were taken over and offices moved out to them. We were sleeping in flats round about – one right opposite the Olympia. To start with they got us out of bed to go down to the Olympia if there was a raid, but then they found it could be easily flooded so we were allowed to sleep in our beds.

In mid-1944 the doodlebugs (VIs) arrived. We had a soldier who collected our post from St. Paul's each day. If there was a doodlebug raid he used to put up an umbrella – must have felt safer!

Within a couple of weeks of D Day (6 June 1944) the whole of the HQ moved to Sunningdale where we stayed a couple of nights and then we were put in trucks to Portsmouth. We boarded the ship and were off to France. We landed at Armands, docking at one of the Mulberry Harbours. The time on the ship was very pleasant as the navy had white bread and butter, something we hadn't had since before the war. On landing we were put in trucks and taken to the nearest village, Bayeux. We were hailed all the way by soldiers, shouting "Look, girls!" At Bayeux we were housed in tents, but with every comfort, as a square hole had been dug the size of the tent and four beds installed. Once a week we were allowed a shower which was erected in a big tent. We arrived in welly boots and an overcoat, disrobed and shouted for the men outside to let the water run.

The army had made very good progress so our stay in Bayeux was short and we were transported by truck to Brussels where we were put up in a block of flats in Avenue Louise. The REME also had a house there so I did not have far to go to the office. I loved it in Brussels. The Belgians welcomed us in open arms. We were invited into their houses and they showed us round their city. We heard many tales about the occupation.



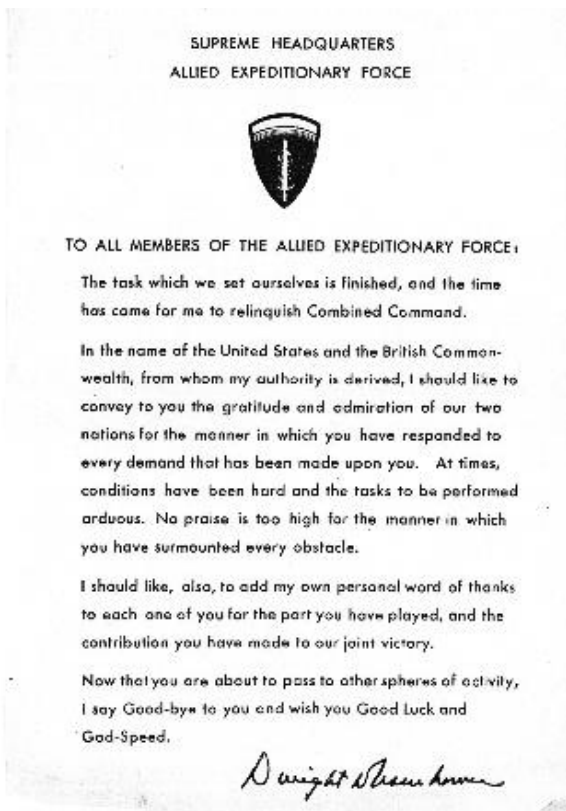
Photograph: Dorothy and her sister, Joan, in 1941

On VE Day we took a tram and went round Brussels until the early hours. Then we upped sticks and went on to Germany, to Montgomery's HQ. The local population were made to leave and we raided their allotments for nice potatoes, and I'm afraid a lot of their belongings found their way to England with some not so scrupulous soldiers. There was not much fuel as a hill we could see was gradually deluded of trees. At one time we had the car of Hitler's deputy, a lovely green open tourer. On days off we went to Hanover in a lovely Porsche car where a motor cycle track had been erected out of the rubble and the DR's raced their souped-up bikes. I can remember someone of note visiting the HQ, so it was 'poshed' up and flowers put in the ground with no roots. At this time I was made a Sergeant

and so got to be in the Sergeants' Mess. We had whist drives and much entertainment. It was a very happy time. I was demobbed in May 1946.

In 1948 I was taken by workmates to the Czech Club where I met my future husband. He had decided not to return to Czechoslovakia as the Communists had taken over. We married in 1951 and we rented a flat. In 1955-6 we bought our first house by which time we had a daughter, Jacky. Penny was born three years after Jacky, and when the girls were at school, I took a part time job.

These are edited extracts from the wartime recollections from Dorothy Isaacs.



Photograph: Note of thanks to Allied Forces from General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander

The Rolf Family of Medieval East Barnet

Philip Bailey

Anyone looking into the medieval or early post-medieval history of East Barnet will come across numerous individuals with the surname Rolf, most often with the forename William or Thomas.

The Reverend Frederick Cass in his 1885 book about East Barnet¹ says:

“It is noticeable that the surnames of Rolfe and Nichole, met with from the commencement, have survived in the neighbourhood. The former is scarcely ever absent from the East Barnet Subsidy Lists during the sixteenth century and at the beginning of the following, and in 1571 is borne by no fewer than seven out of ten contributories. The Rolfes, scattered throughout the conterminous parishes of Finchely, Totteridge, East and Chipping Barnet, must indeed, as the registers testify, have attained to the proportions of a clan.”

The various generations are difficult to tell apart since they often passed on their forename to a son who then continued to hold the same land as his father. However, there are some interesting aspects to the lives of particular members of this family which give a flavour of the family's contribution to East Barnet's early history.

The earliest Rolf we find in Barnet's Manorial Court Rolls is a Robert Rolf in 1278, although as early as 1267 we have a Robert son of Ralph son of Wolvin. In the original Latin *Radulphus* means Ralph or Rolf. Taking this into account, from the few years before 1278, we may also count the names, John son of Ralph/John Ralph and William Ralph as 'Rolf's' and may be able to regard Radulphus son of Wolvin as the founder of the Rolf family.

In 1328 we find a John Rolf junior, who held a messuage (house) and 20 acres of land at his death, which he passed on to Thomas, his son. This causes a typical confusion, as another John Rolf junior is described as dying in 1349 and leaving the same size estate as his forebear and with a son called Thomas (see below).

In May of 1349 the sad news was reported that three members of the Rolf family in East Barnet had died of the Black Death (along with many other people). John Rolf junior died, leaving 1 messuage and 20 acres, and his son and heir Thomas aged 6 years, both in the guardianship of Richard Rolf. William Rolf died, leaving 1 messuage and 20 acres to his son and heir John, who was of full age. John Rolf senior died, leaving 1 messuage and 4 acres to Robert Rolf. Thomas Rolf died, leaving 1 messuage and 2 acres to his brother and heir Robert, who was of full age².

In 1362 we have a 'Thomas son of John Rolf' taking on his father's property. This is clearly the same Thomas recorded above, as being 6 years old in 1349, now an adult and taking on the house and land of his father, who had died 13 years before. Interestingly the properties Thomas takes over are itemised and amount to a messuage and about 20 acres of land in East Barnet in multiple plots:

"...a messuage with 3 crofts of land called Saundreslonde containing 3½ acres, and a grove called le Nethergrove containing 1 acre of wood, and 1 grove called le Overgrove containing 2 acres of wood, and 5 crofts of land of which: 1 croft called le Longefeld and containing 2 acres of land and wood, and 1 called le Middelfeld containing 4 acres of land, and 1 called le Homfeld containing 1 acre, and 1 called le Leyfeld containing 3 acres of land and wood, and 1 croft called le Hacchefeld containing 3 acres of land, and a piece of meadow containing 2 acres."

In 1359 several members of the Rolf family were in trouble with the Lord of the Manor. Adam Rolf had sold a field called Kotefeld to William Doget without licence and the land was seized into the hand of the Lord. Then three more men were in mercy and fined for breaking the assize for brewing ale: Robert Rolf senior 6d, Richard Rolf 3d, Robert Rolf junior 2d.

Despite occasionally breaking the customary rules of the manor, members of the Rolf family were, for several generations, tasked with collecting the manorial rents. In 1406 a 'William son of Thomas Rolf Rentgatherer' was recorded and also in 1446. A William Rolf was a Rentgatherer in 1438 and 1443 and a Thomas Rolf in 1533. It is clear that members of this family had long held positions of responsibility in the local community.

Family members can sometimes be seen to be living next to each other and with neighbouring plots of land. In 1423 the Lord of the Manor granted to

William Rolf junior a meadow called Hitherburymead, whilst in the same year Yonderburymead was granted to William Rolf senior. In 1476 William Rolf junior surrendered a cottage between the King's Highway and the cottage lately that of William Rolf senior.

In 1553 a Thomas Rolf may have been the Parish Clerk for Barnet as he was recorded as being the Parish Receiver for East Barnet for the Crown Survey of 'Furniture and Ornaments' belonging to England's parish churches of that year³. This man seems to have lived at Church Hill itself because in the Manorial Court Rolls between 1552 and 1583 we find a 'Thomas Rolf of Church Hill'. He is also listed in the same way in Lay Subsidy Lists of the time. Interestingly his brother William held Churchfield and Churchgrove in 1557.

Hagdell was also near Church Hill and again in 1557 another brother of Thomas, Richard, was said to be 'of Hagdell'. In fact, through various of its members, the Rolf family held Hagdell for most of the 16th century (for at least the period covering 1526-1579). In 1572 we find a John Rolf of Hackney junior and Agnes his wife surrendering 'a grove called Hagdells in East Barnet' to the use of Simon Rolf.

As well as John Rolf of Hackney (1572) mentioned above, we also find a Robert Rolf of Hackney (1406) mentioned in the will of John Rolf of East Barnet. A John Rolf of Wheston (Whetstone) is mentioned in the Court Rolls in 1427, and in the Ministers' Accounts for c.1540 for Friern Barnet we have a Marion Rolf⁴.

One branch of the family seems to have based at a house near Chase Side (now Cockfosters Road) on the site of the later Mount Pleasant/Belmont House, which was about where the church in Freston Gardens now sits. This is evidenced by repeated references to a 'William Rolf de Chaceside', who in his will of 1558 left 'the house at Chacesyde' to his son William.

The latest member of the family that I came across was a Joseph Rolf of East Barnet, Yeoman, in his will dated 1719. However, Frederick Cass in his statement, seems to be saying that there were still Rolfs in East Barnet when he wrote his book in 1885. This means that there were members of the Rolf family living in East Barnet for over 600 years.

Former local place-names recorded in the area which were derived from the Rolf family name are: Rolf's Haw (1427,1436,1532), Rolf's Field (1312,1362), Rolf's Field at the Mill (1286,1537) and Rolf's Pightle (1348,1366) The Rolf family is commemorated in the modern place-name of Rolfe Close off Park Road in East Barnet, although I wonder how many people living there actually know that.

References

1. East Barnet, Frederick Charles Cass (1885)
2. Studies In Manorial History, Ada Elizabeth Levett (1938)
3. 'Crown Survey of Furniture and Ornaments', J. E. Cussans (1873)
4. The Fields of Friern, Pauline Ashbridge (2012)



ENFIELD ARP MAP

District A – Air Raid Precautions

John Leatherdale

ARP Wardens

The Air Raid Precautions Act of January 1938 required local authorities to set up the ARP Wardens Service manned mainly by part-time volunteers, charged to sound air raid sirens, report and deal with bombing incidents, provide first aid and arrange temporary accommodation for people who were bombed out. Wardens also enforced the blackout and issued gas masks and air raid shelters. One siren survived opposite Hadley Wood railway station until quite recently and Anderson shelters still exist in several back gardens – it's hard to get rid of them.

Enfield District A was responsible for the area shown on the map covering Hadley Wood, West Lodge, Trent Park, Slopers Pond Farm, Plumridge Farm and Parkside. Four ARP posts were set up:

A1, a concrete hut near the bottom of Waggon Road;

A2, at the top of Crescent West;

A3, at the back of Hadley Wood Golf Club; and

A4, the Tin Room on the Cockfosters Road, which was the headquarters under the chief warden, Charles Coubrough.

ARP Bombing Map (shown below)

This map was compiled to record the locations of all the bombs that fell in Enfield District A throughout the Second World War.

At the end of the war Nancy Clark, author of the definitive history of Hadley Wood, retrieved the map and passed it on to Pat Taylor for safe keeping until it was deposited in the Hadley Wood Archive at Barnet Museum. Nancy explained that the posts were all manned 24-hours a day in five or seven hour shifts from 31 August 1939 until 7 April 1945.

Bombing Raids in 1940-41

Hitler had specifically prohibited attacks on civilians while he still had hopes of negotiating peace with Britain but on 24 August 1940 several bombs were dropped on central London accidentally and the RAF bombed

Berlin the next day. The first bomb to fall on Hadley Wood landed a few days later just north of Waggon Road near Slopers Pond Farm on 28 August 1940.

After the Battle of Britain removed the immediate threat of invasion, the Germans intensified their bombing raids on London and other cities - the Blitz. 15 bombs were dropped in this area in the second half of September, 64 in October, 31 in November, but only one in December - an incendiary at the top of Bartrams Lane field. After a lull, three bombs were dropped to the north of Plumridge Farm in March 1941. As the Germans prepared to attack the Soviet Union in *Operation Barbarossa* in June 1941, most of the Luftwaffe's resources were redirected to the Eastern Front. This is reflected in the sharp reduction in the tonnage of bombs dropped on British targets after the spring of 1941 (including V-weapons):

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
36,844	21,858	3,260	2,298	9,151	761

Bombing raids

115 bombs were dropped in the area between August 1940 and March 1941 followed by a break of nearly three years before the final onslaught between January and August 1944 when 23 bombs fell, 11 of which failed to explode.

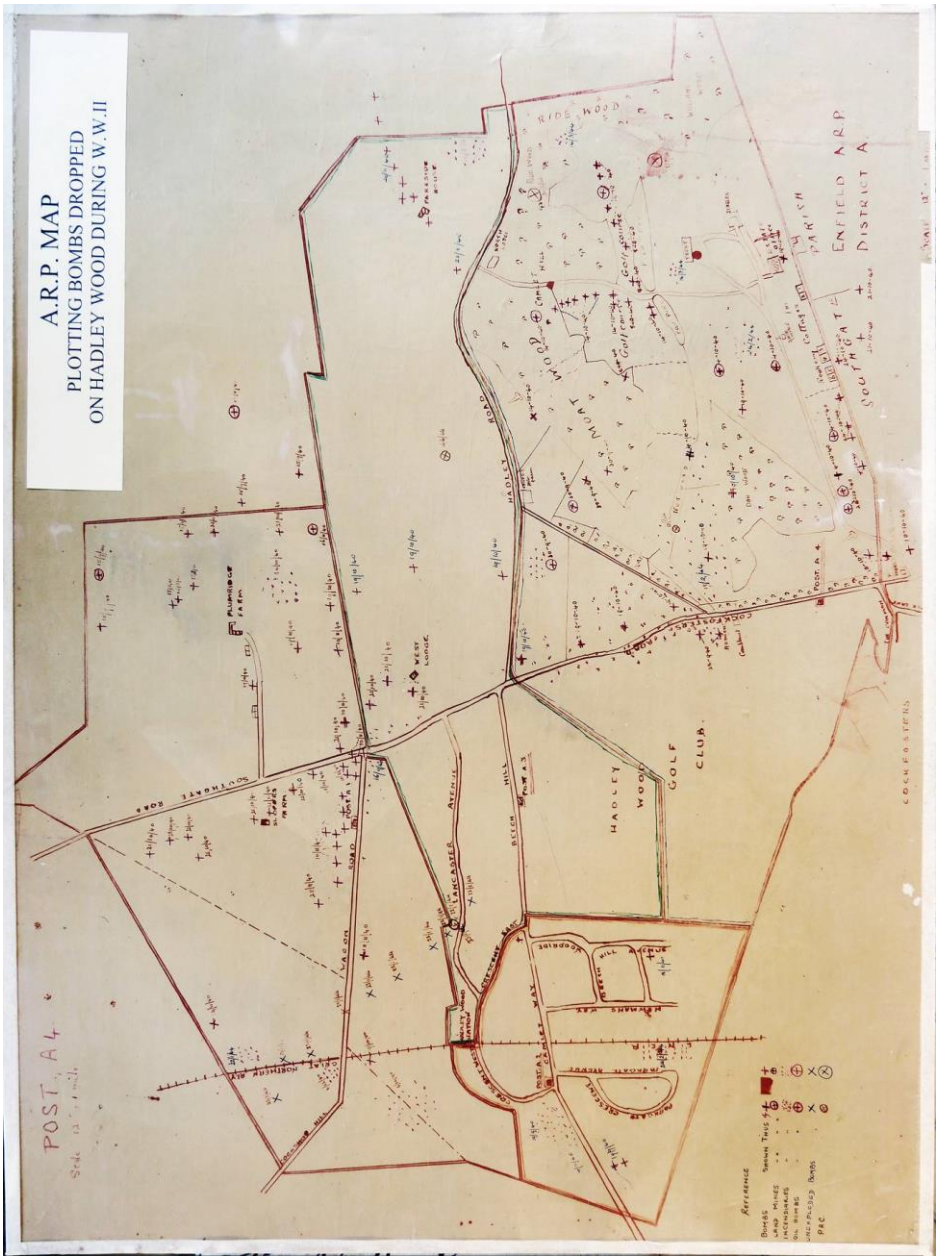
Bombs dropped between 28.8. 1940 and 15.3.1941

Date	Type of Bombs and location	Total
28.8.1940	1 bomb (SW of Slopers Pond Farm)	1
15.9.1940	4 bombs, 1 oil bomb (Plumridge Farm)	5
16.9.1940	1 incendiary (Cockfosters/Waggon Road)	1
19.9.1940	2 bombs, 1 incendiary (Camlet Way)	3
28.9.1940	2 bombs (Cockfosters Road)	2
30.9.1940	2 bombs, 2 oil bombs (s of Ferny Hill Farm)	4

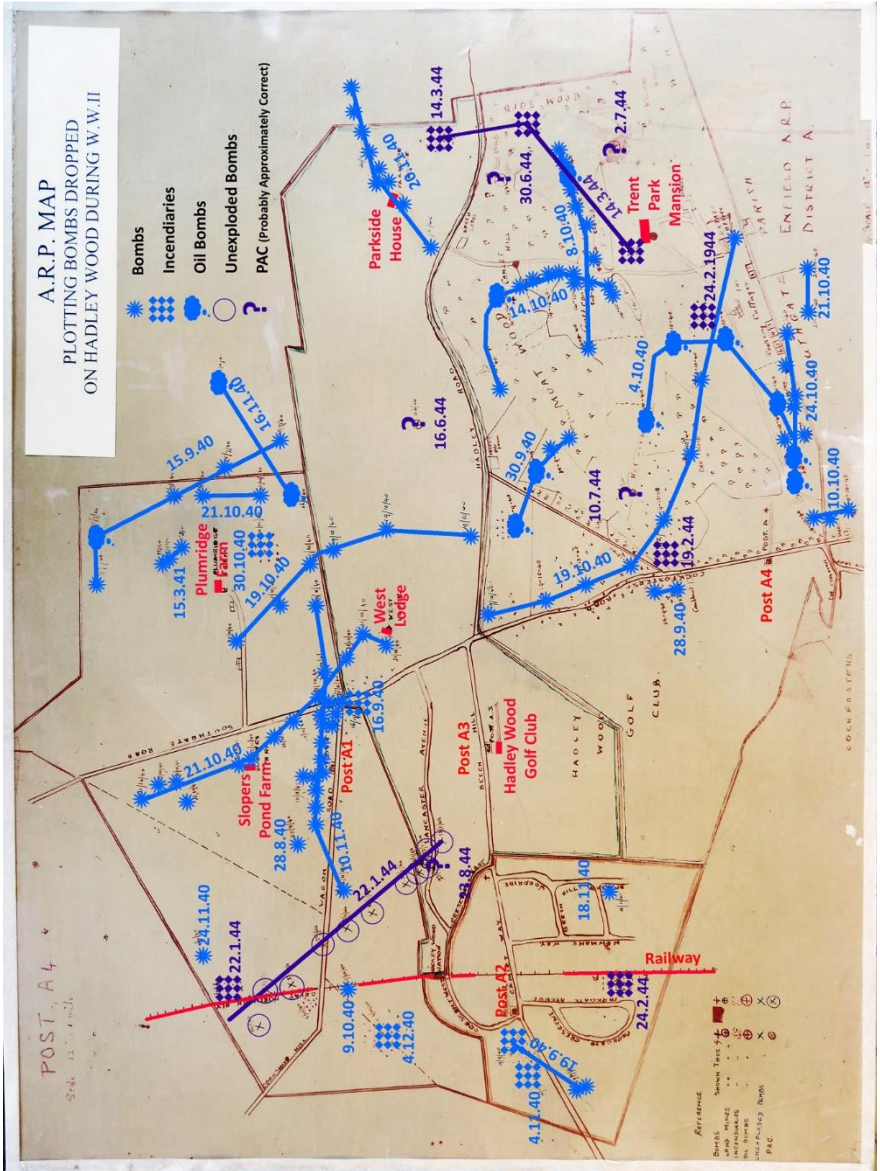
Date	Type of Bombs and location	Total
4.10.1940	2 oil bombs, 4 oil bombs (Avenue, Trent Park)	2
8.10.1940	8 bombs, 1 oil bomb(Trent Park, north of lake)	9
9.10.1940	1 bomb(on top of North Tunnel - crater visible)	1
10.10.1940	3 bombs (Trent Park, Cockfosters Gate)	3
14.10.1940	11 bombs,1 oil bomb (Trent Park, north of lake)	12
19.10.1940	6 bombs (east of West Lodge)	6
19.10.1940	8 bombs (S & W in Trent Park)	8
21.10.1940	2 bombs (Southgate)	2
21.10.1940	2 bombs (Plumridge Farm)	2
21.10.1940	12 bombs (Slopers Pond Farm to West Lodge)	12
24.10.1940	4 bombs, 2 oil bombs (Trent Park south)	6
30.10.1940	1 incendiary (Plumridge Farm)	1
4.11.1940	1 incendiary (Camlet Way)	1
10.11.1940	17 bombs (Waggon Road) ONE FATALITY	17
16.11.1940	2 oil bombs (east of Plumridge Farm)	2
18.11.1940	1 bomb (Beech Hill Avenue)	1
20.11.1940	9 bombs (Parkside House)	9
24.11.1940	1 bomb (NW of Slopers Pond Farm)	1

Date	Type of Bombs and location	Total
4.12.1940	1 incendiary (Bartrams Lane field)	1
15.3.1941	3 bombs (Plumridge Farm)	3
TOTAL	99 bombs 11 oil bombs 5 incendiaries	115
	Bombs dropped between 22.1.1944 and 23.8.1944	
22.1.1944	11 unexploded bombs, 1 incendiary (Railway to Lancaster Avenue)	12
19.2.1944	1 incendiary (Trent Park west)	1
24.2.1944	2 incendiaries (Parkgate & Trent Park Avenue)	2
14.3.1944	3 incendiary (Trent Park Mansion & Parkside House)	3
16.6.1944	1 PAC (north of Hadley Road)	1
30.6.1944	1 PAC (Trent Park)	1
2.7.1944	1 PAC (Trent Park)	1
10.7.1944	1 PAC (Trent Park)	1
23.8.1944	1 PAC (Lancaster Avenue)	1
TOTAL	11 unexploded bombs 7 incendiaries 5 PACs	23

A.R.P. MAP
 PLOTTING BOMBS DROPPED
 ON HADLEY WOOD DURING W. W. II



Map: ARP map of bombs dropped on Hadley Wood



Map: ARP map of bombs dropped on Hadley Wood

District A is a thinly populated area of agricultural land, Trent Park, Hadley Wood Golf Club and the small outer London suburb of Hadley Wood. The total population in 1939 would have been less than 1500. The only strategic target in the area was the East Coast main line railway. One bomb landed on top of the North Tunnel in October 1940 and two incendiaries and three unexploded bombs fell on either side in January and February 1944. Captured Luftwaffe airmen were being interrogated and bugged by surreptitious listeners at Trent Park but security was very tight and it is difficult to see how the German High Command could have known that some of their strategic secrets were being disclosed there. Just one incendiary fell close to the mansion in March 1944.

Airmen interrogated at Trent Park had described the navigation equipment they used to locate their targets, Knickebein and X-Gerät, and counter measures were swiftly developed to bend or interfere with the beams. The German navigators were not given sufficient training in conventional navigation techniques and most of their bombs were dropped miles off target. The RAF had the same problem. Their first bombing raid was on the seaplane base on the German island of Sylt in March 1940. The aircrews reported a great success, which was announced in Parliament, but photo-reconnaissance found no evidence of damage. It later transpired that they had hit an island 40 miles to the north in neutral Denmark. In 1940 bombing by both sides was usually miles off target. The photo-interpreters who kept reporting that no damage had been done to intended targets were extremely unpopular with RAF Bomber Command.

After the Battle of Britain our air defences proved sufficiently effective to force the Luftwaffe to fly bombing raids mainly at night. No mention has been found of anti-aircraft artillery batteries in this area, which would have been regarded as low-risk, nor of decoy lights to lure raids away from urban and industrial areas.

Both Slopers Pond Farm and Plumridge Farm attracted concentrated attacks. Could it be that their blackout precautions were deficient?

Three bombing runs lie parallel to Cockfosters Road, Waggon Road and Stagg Hill but none follow the railway line. Moving vehicles, even with hooded headlights could have attracted the attention of bomber pilots desperate to find something to bomb in the darkness.

The raid on Waggon Road on 10 November 1940 was the only attack known to have caused substantial damage and a fatality. Albert Davey, an ARP warden who had just come off duty, lived at Culvermead in Waggon Road, close to ARP Post A1. He was injured in the air raid and died on 1 January 1941 at Chase Farm Hospital.



Photograph: Bomb damage in the Hadley Wood area

Eleven of the bombs dropped in 1940, 10% of the total, were described as oil bombs. This large incendiary device was known to the Germans as the flam or flammenbombe. It contained an oil mixture and a high explosive bursting charge but the impact fuse often failed to detonate and was withdrawn in January 1941.

The ARP map also lists 'Land Mines' but none were plotted. The Luftwaffe was known to drop its standard sea mines, fitted with a suitable detonator and a parachute to retard its descent, on land targets. They could do a great deal of damage in built-up areas.

Bombing in 1944

The bombing between January and August 1944 was much more limited, reflecting the weakened capability of the Luftwaffe and our much-improved air defences. Only 23 bombs were dropped, 11 of which failed to explode in a single sortie on 22 January 1944. All the identified bombs were incendiaries, rather ineffective in a rural area in winter, probably indicating a shortage of high explosive. Two did land close to the railway line and a third between Trent Park Mansion and the lake but the other four landed ineffectively in Trent Park.

The last five bombs dropped between June and August 1944, shortly after D-Day, are labelled 'PAC' which is taken to mean 'Probably Approximately Correct'. The ARP wardens may have been allocated additional tasks in support of the Normandy landings and did not have time to investigate the types of bombs that landed harmlessly in Trent Park. The last bomb was dropped on Hadley Wood on 23 August 1944 and landed in Lancaster Avenue but no reports have been found of any damage and it may be assumed that nobody was injured.

V Weapons

The Vengeance weapons, V1 doodlebugs and V2 rockets, were even more indiscriminate. There was no directional control after firing and they landed when they ran out of fuel. None fell in this district but the worst V1 incident in the war occurred in August 1944 just down the railway line at the Standard Telephone and Cables factory in New Southgate killing 33 and injuring 200. V2s landed in New Barnet, Potters Bar and Enfield. It has been calculated that more prisoners-of-war and engineers died manufacturing the V-weapons than were killed by them. As the Allies overran France and the Low Countries, London was soon out of range as the launching sites were moved back into Germany. More were dropped on Antwerp than on London.

Conclusion

It is clear from the haphazard pattern of bombs dropped on open farm land, Trent Park and the thinly inhabited settlement of Hadley Wood, an area of no strategic significance to the war effort, that this was not the intended target for German bombing raids. The East Coast Main Line railway, which would have been a strategic target was not systematically attacked in this area. The logical conclusion is that the German bombers were all, or nearly all, completely lost and either missed their intended targets by miles or simply jettisoned their load before returning to base.

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Victory of Edward IV at Barnet, 1471

Keith West

The painting by Barnet artist Keith West is a collaborative project between Barnet Museum, Barnet Guild of Artists and the painter.

The painting depicts the aftermath of the battle when the victorious King Edward IV was presented with the bodies of Warwick the Kingmaker and his brother Lord Montagu both killed in the battle. An attendant returns the crown to Edward, watched by the King's brother Richard Duke of Gloucester... later Richard III. The deposed King Henry VI stands behind the corpses of the Warwick brothers and he and a Benedictine monk offer up prayers for their souls. The ever loyal Lord Hastings stands opposite the restored king and behind him Edward's other brother George Duke of Clarence.

When the cartoon was shown to the Museum team and Barnet Guild of Artists a comment was made that the painting might be considered to be about death but working on the painting, the painter concluded that although death is of course a consequence of warfare the painting is less a celebration of war but rather depicts retribution being the price of treachery. Warwick twice betrayed his sovereign, first removing Henry VI in order to put young Edward of York on the throne but Edward was no puppet so realising his loss of control, Warwick deposed Edward to put the saintly, somewhat childlike, King Henry back on the throne. Warwick fatally paid the price for his treachery at Barnet. The painting not only refers to Warwick's treachery but also to that of Edward's brothers Clarence and Gloucester. Clarence stares defiantly at the viewer, indicating a rebellious nature and anticipates his attempted coup for which he paid the capital punishment, according to Shakespeare, drowned in a butt of Malmsey wine. Richard of Gloucester glances at Edward's crown, a portent of his usurpation and murder of his Edward's successors, the lost boy-King Edward V and his brother Richard of York.

Details in the painting echo the main subject, for instance the dandelion; French for lion's teeth, at the foot of Edward suggests he was a ferocious general, the other spent dandelions near the bodies of Warwick and his brother indicate time ran out for them both. Perhaps the most telling detail is the broken twigs and branches, a kind of memorial for all the unnamed and unmarked bodies of

the ordinary soldiers, pressed into service to their lords and blown in the wind as though they never existed: No mausoleums or monuments for those lost souls.

The painter thanks Barnet Museum for the opportunity to make the painting, specifically Mike Noronha, Hilary Harrison and Barnet Guild of Artists' chairman Nichola Hunt for their generous sponsorship. Thanks also to Geoffrey Wheeler for invaluable guidance ensuring details of armour, weapons and heraldry are broadly correct, also to Gwyneth Hibbett for her generous support and loan of her sons Aidan and Matthew who posed for Edward and Gloucester and to several other patient souls who also modelled. Thanks also to Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans, and Revd. Grant Holmes and all supporters past and present. Finally, this painting is the first of a trio – a painting of the battle and the third a Te Deum .



Editor's Note: The painting (above) features when schools visit Barnet Museum. Pupils re-enact the battle around the table in the Museum's back room; during this scramble (mirroring the events of 1471) the painting is covered. After the battle is "lost and won", the Museum volunteers unveil the painting – quite often to gasps – and the aftermath of the battle is graphically explained.

A Brief History of Clay Smoking Pipes, told by the Barnet Museum collection

Emily Webb



The new display of clay pipes at Barnet Physic Well

Clay smoking pipes were produced and used frequently between the late 16th and early 20th centuries. They are therefore a common find during excavations and can be used to date and interpret archaeological deposits from these periods. Barnet Museum is in possession of 66 clay pipes with dates spanning the entire period of their use. This collection is now on display at the Physic Well and illustrates the fascinating history of these items.

The practice of tobacco smoking is of Native American origin, brought to Europe in the mid-1500s. It very soon caused religious controversy. In 1604 James I (1603-1625) produced a pamphlet entitled 'A Counterblaste to Tobacco' in which he argues that the habit of pipe smoking is ungodly, unsanitary and bad for the lungs. James I's 'Counterblaste' is one of the earliest anti-tobacco publications ever written.

"A custome lothsome to the eye, hatefull to the Nose, harmefull to the braine, dangerous to the Lungs, and in the blacke stinking fume thereof, neerest resembling the horrible Stigian smoke of the pit that is bottomelesse." – James I, 1604ⁱ

Despite the efforts of James I, pipe smoking increased in popularity. Unable to dissuade his subjects from smoking, James resorted to incredibly high taxation of tobacco imports. For every three pounds of tobacco imported the crown would receive £1, an extortionate amount at the time. This explains why the earliest pipes found in England have such small bowls in comparison to later designs; many people simply could not afford to smoke larger amounts.

During the Great Plague of 1665 smoking and chewing tobacco was widely encouraged as a healthy habit to protect individuals from catching the plague as it was thought to clean the lungs and balance the humours. This superstition may have helped to spread the habit of pipe smoking, particularly in London. Samuel Pepys is known to have had faith in tobacco. After seeing some houses in Drury lane marked with a red cross (indicating that the plague had reached them) he wrote:

“It put me into an ill conception of myself... so that I was forced to buy some roll-tobacco to smell to and chew, which took away the apprehension” – Samuel Pepys 7th June 1665ⁱⁱ

If the bowl of a clay pipe is intact and the location in which it was found is known, the pipe can be dated. This is because pipe design chronologies vary regionally and are based on the shape of the bowlⁱⁱⁱ. Sadly, most of the pipes in the Barnet Museum collection are unprovenanced, many that do have a known location are incredibly vague and are merely recorded as being from the River Thames. Only two pipes are recorded specifically as being found in Barnet. For the ease of dating, all unprovenanced pipes (except 6 which are believed to be foreign) have been assumed to be from London. The earliest pipes had small, barrel shaped bowls. As smoking became more popular and prices dropped, the bowls became larger and the stems longer. Another aspect that changed over time is the frequency of decorated pipes which first appear in small numbers at the beginning of the 18th century and increase thereafter. These decorated pipes were known as ‘fancies’ or ‘fancy clays’.

The earliest example of a decorated pipe in Barnet Museum's collection may date from as early as 1640-80. It was found in the churchyard of St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, London and is decorated with a simple mulberry bush. There are also several examples of decorated pipes dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the collection. One of these was found in Barnet, in the garden of 67 Bedford Avenue. It depicts a man riding an early bicycle known as a 'boneshaker' due to how uncomfortable they were to ride. The collection also holds a large souvenir pipe, known as a 'cadger' as they hold more tobacco. This pipe was produced to commemorate the Great Exhibition of 1851 in Hyde Park and the bowl is decorated with an image of the Crystal Palace building. The Maker's mark on the stem "W. T. Blake" refers to a pipe maker on City Road in London. The appearance of decorated pipes such as these marks the appearance of leisure smoking as a hobby.



Pipe found in Bedford Avenue (left), Great Exhibition souvenir pipe (right)

A Barnet Press Cutting from the 5th of November 1910 advertises a 'Grand Smoking Competition' for pipe smoking enthusiasts at the Wellington Hotel on Barnet High Street^{iv}. Anyone who could keep their pipe lit for an hour would receive a certificate and the ten contestants who could keep their pipes lit for the longest would win a prize. In 1910 it is possible that most competitors were using pipes made from wood or meerschaum, but some may have still used clay pipes. By the early 20th century, the clay pipe industry was under pressure from makers producing pipes from more robust materials like wood and meerschaum. Another

factor was the increasing popularity of cigarettes, which were cheaper and far more convenient to light and smoke. Therefore, by the 1920s, most makers of clay pipes had ceased production.

ⁱ A full text of 'A Counterblaste to Tobacco' is available online at: <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/poltheory/james/blaste/blaste.html>

ⁱⁱ All of Samuel Pepys' diary entries are also available online at: <https://www.pepysdiary.com/>

ⁱⁱⁱ All of the pipes in the display were dated using the London chronology published in Atkinson and Oswald's 'London Clay Tobacco Pipes' in the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 1969, an online version is available from the National Pipe Archive at: <http://www.pipearchive.co.uk/Resources/resources.html#London>

^{iv} This Newspaper cutting was found on the British Newspaper archive website: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

From the Archives

Ken Sutherland Thomas

Barnet Railway

The front page of the **Barnet Press** on Saturday 8 February 1862 was made up of adverts, including one by W T Healey, Brewer of Hadley. It was followed by four pages of World, National and local news items, including this report on the proposed Branch Railway to Barnet:

“The adjourned meeting of the tradesmen of this town and others interested in the above movement was held at the Red Lion Hotel on Monday evening. There was a large attendance, upwards of 50 including several of the gentry of the neighbourhood being present. Mr Duckworth was voted into the Chair. He had sent down a practical man (Mr Wilson), one of Mr Johnstone’s assistants, to help him survey the land.”

Barnet Museum

“People who think that museums are ‘stuffey’ places should visit Barnet Museum. Never have relics of the past been so attractively displayed in such pleasant surroundings. The Museum, of which Mr F.N. Bath is curator, was re-opened by Major Graham Wallis, president of the Barnet & District Record Society, in the presence of a large gathering of leading local citizens. Barnet Museum is still going strong and planning for the future.”

From **Roundabout** magazine for Barnet & District, 12 December 1959

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