



# BARNET HISTORY JOURNAL

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The Journal of Barnet Museum & Local History Society  
Volume 06 (2022)





# Barnet History Journal

**Volume 06 (2022)**

Front cover photograph: *Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visits QE Girls School in Barnet in November 1957. Headmistress Ms Freda Balaam escorts Her Majesty.*

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## Foreword

By Mike Noronha

As we enter the final months of 2022, the United Kingdom is in political turmoil. However, two events, both centred on the same person, will forever feature in the history of this year. That person is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the events are the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and the Queen's death in September.

Barnet Museum created a display in The Spires Shopping Centre to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We hung the Battle of Barnet heraldic banners in Barnet High Street to promote the Barnet Medieval Festival and also as an added decoration for the Jubilee. Less than three months later we were putting up an exhibition in the Museum to mark the sad death of this remarkable woman, dedicated public servant and monarch.

We begin this edition of the Barnet History Journal with a copy of the Eulogy for HM The Queen given by our Patron and Barnet's Representative Deputy Lieutenant Martin Russell.

Continuing the Royal theme, Hilary Harrison, our Archivist, has prepared an article about pubs in Barnet High Street (stretching down to Underhill) with Royal names and connections.

Our senior researcher, Jeff Gale, has written an article giving an alphabetical canter through Barnet's history, with the limelight falling upon some of the "supporting actors". Another piece by Jeff tells of the World War Two V1 missile attack on the STC building in East Barnet. Jeff with colleague, Irene Nichols, has also drafted an article celebrating a return to High Barnet of a local resident from the 1950s. Note also a "mystery" letter from "An Abandoned Aussie".

Scott Harrison, one of our Trustees, has contributed another "homecoming" article (this time featuring Totteridge) and a brief look at the (fortunately failed) plan of 1963 to build a bypass through Hadley Green.

Our Chairman, John Hall, gives a history of the beautifully carved Litany Desk from St Pauls Church, Hadley Wood, which has recently been donated on long-term loan to the Museum.

Finally (almost), Terence Atkins, our Deputy Chairman, has written a follow-up piece to his previous reviews on early producers of Barnet postcards.

**I hope you will enjoy reading this Journal. As ever, I wish you and yours the very best on behalf the Trustees, management and volunteers of Barnet Museum and Local History Society.**

**We reproduce below the eulogy given by our Patron, Martin Russell, Deputy Lieutenant, at a Memorial Service in Barnet Church honouring the life and service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.**



As with the overwhelming majority of the nation, I had lived only under the reign of Elizabeth II.

She was 'our Queen' and therefore our Sovereign and our Monarch. Our Head of State. Some of us thought of her too in her capacity as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Others of us thought of her as our Commander-in-Chief. She signed our Commissions and Charters, and her name was added to Warrants. We pledged life-long loyalty to her, and in extremis, it was for Her Majesty we would lay down our lives. Hers, of course, were the Queen's enemies. Hers the portrait on our postage stamps; since decimalisation, her head exclusively on our coinage, and her cypher on the buildings of ministries and on other public offices. Hers were the coats of arms under which our judges sit in courts. And for those of whom her Courts ultimately disapproved, their incarceration was 'at Her Majesty's pleasure'. They were Her Majesty's Ships. It was the Band of Her Majesty's Grenadier Guards, or of HM Royal Marines among others. The Queen's Colour Squadron RAF.

She was the fount of all honours. Her name or title prefacing recent awards: a Queen's Scout; a Queen's Guide; the Elizabeth Cross; the Queen's Voluntary Service Medal; the Queen's Fire Service Medal; the Queen's Police Medal; Queen's Counsel; the Queen's Award for Industry; the Queen's Award for Export; the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service; the Queen's Commendation for Bravery, or for Valuable Service, and of course, a birthday card from The Queen on a one hundredth birthday and at 105 and thereafter. Importantly too, a card from the Queen to celebrate sixty years of marriage. Matrimony was an institution of which she approved.

The names of a select few institutions remained unchanged on her Accession – one example is The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, named deliberately by her own late Father, and deliberately left unchanged by her. Other institutions and bodies, normally chartered bodies, whose names are prefaced by the timeless word 'Royal' may be less obviously affected.

I was asked what her death means to me.

My immediate reaction was to give the answer 'great sadness'. But on reflection, my answer develops. Her death means the loss of an inspiration, the loss of a steadfast advocate for the Christian way of life, an exemplar; a role model; a leader; even a friend; a very present companion through life.

And again my answer develops: her own stated absence of fear of both dying and of death itself provide a further lead and a further inspiration. I referred deliberately to her Christian certainty of everlasting life in my remarks to the crowds outside Hendon Town Hall at HM The King's Proclamation.

The Queen of course made many visits to The London Borough of Barnet.....

1945: July 17<sup>th</sup>: Three Dakota aircraft bearing Their Majesties the King and Queen, Princess Elizabeth and a press entourage, leave RAF Hendon for RAF Long Kesh for the first Royal Visit by air to Northern Ireland. 1945, July 19<sup>th</sup>: King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and Princess Elizabeth arrive at RAF Hendon aboard a 24 Squadron Dakota VIP IV KN386 following the visit to Northern Ireland

TRH The Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose visit Abbey Folk Park at 89, Park Road, New Barnet (Museum established in 1934)

1948: As Princess Royal HRH Princess Elizabeth when pregnant with Prince Charles visits the Drapers Cottages, Mill Hill

1952: the Queen opened Halliwick Hospital in Friern Barnet.

1957: July 1<sup>st</sup>: Queen Elizabeth II plants cedar tree to commemorate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation of Mill Hill School.

1957: November 17<sup>th</sup>: Visit of HM Queen Elizabeth II to Queen Elizabeth's School for Girls, Barnet. (This is the first visit of this Monarch to a state school)

1972: HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh attend final performance of the 'Gang Show' with the Boy Scouts at the Odeon, Temple Fortune, near Golders Green

1972: November 15<sup>th</sup>: HM The Queen's formal opening of the RAF Museum, Hendon

1974: May 31<sup>st</sup>: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opens the Peel Centre, Hendon Police College, forty years to the day after the visit of her Uncle.

1982: July 16<sup>th</sup>: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, as Colonel-in-Chief Royal Engineers, spends the day at Inglis Barracks visiting Home Postal Depot, Royal Engineers (BFPO), and unveils a commemorative statue called 'Letter from Home' to mark the centenary of BFPO.

1985: December 11<sup>th</sup>: the Queen opens the Central Public Health Laboratory in Colindale.

1992: The Queen opens North London Hospice, Holden Road N12, and unveils a plaque

2001: The Queen laid a wreath to inaugurate the Memorial in the grounds of the Metropolitan Police Training Establishment, Peel Centre, Colindale

2002: June 6th: Golden Jubilee North London celebration is held at Copthall Stadium, Mill Hill in rainy conditions: HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh review North London activities

2005: Jan 5th: Her Majesty The Queen visits the emergency call centre at Hendon Police Peel Centre after the Asian tsunami disaster

2012: March 29th: Procession of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh through Edgware on Her Majesty's North London Diamond Jubilee procession

And in that year, 2012, in a speech to faith leaders at Lambeth Palace, the Queen effectively rewrote what the Church of England, her Church, is about. Anglicanism, she said, "has a duty to protect the free practice of all other faiths in this country". This was quite the opposite of what it was created to be: an alternative to Rome and an expression of Christian Englishness.

In effect, she was saying that the twenty-first century Church of England is like an umbrella, under which other faiths and other Christian denominations can shelter.

While it may surprise people, given the Queen's coronation oaths included upholding the Protestant religion, the signs are that the Queen has long been open to other faiths. As long ago as 1952 she asked people, during her first Christmas message before her June 1953 coronation to pray for her whatever their religion. And since the 1960s she has welcomed the involvement of other faiths in Commonwealth Day Services, after Commonwealth leaders asked her to enable it to happen.

This engagement with other faiths has been matched with her efforts throughout her reign to engage with the Roman Catholic Church. The Thirty Nine Articles of the Church of England say that "the Bishop of Rome hath no jurisdiction in this realm of England". However, the Queen acknowledged that while nowadays Roman Catholicism might not have the same temporal power as Anglicanism in the UK, it does have spiritual clout, through its million weekly Massgoers and its five million members. It also has profound influence across the globe, an influence which is important to His Majesty's Government. So she played her part, visiting the Vatican on many occasions and hosting two popes, John Paul II and Benedict XVI, in the UK. She referred to the late Archbishop Basil Hume as 'my Cardinal'.

As a process of our magnificent Constitution, we now have a new Monarch, Proclaimed and in post. And a new Monarch who has shown every sign of being just as accepting and encouraging of those of other faiths.

### **Martin H C Russell**

Deputy Representative Lieutenant for the London Borough of Barnet,  
Patron of Barnet Museum and Local History Society.

I conclude with a Special Prayer or Collect for King Charles III on his accession – written in recent days by a Barnet resident, and based on Psalm 61 and inspired by the Collects of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer

**ALMIGHTY GOD, who hears our cries and listens to our prayers from the ends of the earth, watch over your servant Charles. Be his high rock, his refuge and strong tower in times of adversity. Increase the days of his life and protect him with your love and faithfulness during the years you graciously give him to be our King. Help him to fulfil his vows day after day to defend the true Christian faith and the freedom of the peoples of these islands. Comfort him and the royal family as they mourn our late beloved Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, and bring him to your eternal kingdom in heaven to praise your name and dwell in your presence and that of your blessed Son for ever. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, Saviour and everlasting King,  
AMEN.**





## Reflecting on “Royal” Pubs in Barnet High Street

By Hilary Harrison

By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Barnet was already celebrated for its market, but it was now acquiring another claim to fame – as the nearest coaching stage out of London. And this opened up great possibilities. The first time-tabled stagecoach had travelled through Barnet from London to St Albans in 1637: but it took some time for the momentum of coaching to build up and to overcome the obstacles. The appalling state of the roads was the major problem: they were totally inadequate for wheeled vehicles. Samuel Pepys described the road through Barnet in the mid-seventeenth century as ‘torne, plowed and digged up’. It was only when Turnpike Trusts (the Whetstone Turnpike was created in 1712) and other improvements were put into place that travel for larger numbers became easier and more comfortable.

Barnet, situated at the junction of two medieval roads – the Holyhead Road (High Street) and the Watford Road (Wood Street), benefited hugely from the increased traffic. The road from London to the north passed through Barnet and became established as ‘The Great North Road’ in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The inns and alehouses of Barnet fared particularly well. Many travellers made short stops while horses were being changed but, because roads and highwaymen made travelling after dark hazardous, south-bound coaches and their travellers often spent the night at Barnet before venturing across Finchley Common. Others slept at St Albans and set off early, stopping for a late breakfast at Barnet before carrying on into the city.

By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there were about thirty inns in Barnet High Street, excluding the taverns and alehouses. There was a lot of choice for the traveller. Inns provided food, drink and lodgings; taverns (which displayed a bunch of grapes as well as their name) sold wine and sometimes food and lodgings; alehouses sold only ale. Charles Dickens, who was writing in the 1830s at the peak of the coaching era, commented in ‘Oliver Twist’ that ‘every other house in Barnet was a tavern, large or small’. There were also thriving supply and maintenance industries serving the hostelries including smiths, wheelwrights, farriers, chandlers and saddlers.

The hostelries all had names: an act of 1393, in the reign of King Richard II, had made it compulsory for inns, taverns and alehouses to identify themselves with names, instead of the previous practice of hanging signs outside with distinctive objects such as kettles, boots and ploughs. In the hope of currying favour, names with royal associations were often chosen and Barnet was no exception.

There were numerous the royal choices available to the traveller approaching Barnet from the North along the High Street. Their first encounter will have been the King William IV on Hadley Green. This hostelry had been established sometime in the mid-eighteenth century, the exact date is uncertain but there is a clue from the discovery of a coin of King George II (1726-60) found in 1957 during renovation. The name probably changed to King William IV in 1830 to mark the accession of William IV, third son of King George III. It also marked the passing of the Beerhouse Act of that year. This act was particularly significant for the licence trade, because it enabled any rate-payer to brew and sell beer on the payment of a licence of two guineas. The authorities wanted to increase competition and lower the price of beer to encourage people to drink more beer. They had become extremely worried about the widespread consumption of gin and other strong spirits, which were ruining so many lives. Hogarth famously depicted the evils of gin-drinking in his picture "Gin Lane". Beer was seen as much less harmful to health and well-being.



Gin Lane by William Hogarth



The King William IV

The King William IV in Hadley was one of the many taverns and public houses that were named in his honour. He was 64 years old when he became king and not very effectual (he had been nicknamed 'Silly Billy' earlier in his life) and only reigned for 7 years but he was very popular in England because of the Beerhouse Act. A huge expansion in the number of alehouses occurred during his reign. The King William IV at Hadley survived for over 300 years closing in 2004, becoming a restaurant and now a private house.

The King of Prussia is the next tavern with a royal connection. This was situated at 149 High Street. Frederick the Great of Prussia was the king who had become a popular hero in 1756 for making his country an ally of Britain in the fight against the French.



The King of Prussia in the early twentieth century.

There is evidence that troops were billeted at the King of Prussia in 1793 during the Napoleonic Wars. The name persisted until 1914 when England went to war with Germany and the association became highly contentious. The name was changed to respect the British monarch at the time, King George V. The pub later became a bar/restaurant.



The King George became a bar/restaurant named The George, The Reks and then The Hadley House

At 126, High Street stood The Salisbury Arms/Hotel. It is included as a “royal” pub by virtue of the fact that the Earl of Salisbury was one of the titles of Richard Neville, the Kingmaker, cousin to the Yorkist king, Edward IV; he was killed at the Battle of Barnet. Furthermore, the later pub sign of ‘The Salisbury’ in Barnet, shows a portrait of Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, the Elizabethan and Stuart statesman. Cecil was a key politician in uniting the Crowns of England and Scotland, he held great influence with Elizabeth I and James I.

The first mention of the inn is in 1557 when it was called The Tabor and Pipe. By 1769, it had become The Royal Waggon and housed Barnet’s Excise Office. In 1795, at the onset of the Napoleonic Wars, the War Office required local innkeepers to provide (much to their displeasure) billeting facilities for men and horses. Prominent Barnet publican, Isaac Newton, who kept The Royal Waggon at the time, wrote complaining bitterly about the loss of income that this meant for him and the other 27 innkeepers in Barnet (apparently 8d a day for each horse stabled).

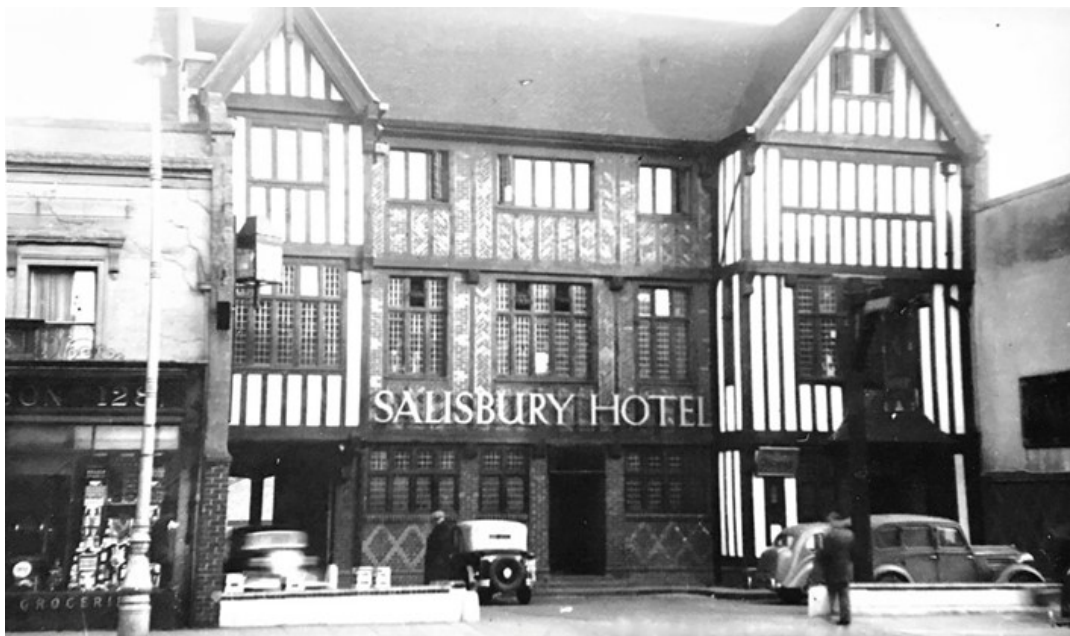
By 1821, an enterprising licensee, James Pepper had taken over. He decided to undercut the post hire trade of The Red Lion and The Green Man. He offered to supply post horses to an important customer, Lord Salisbury at threepence a mile less than the going rate. Lord Salisbury, ‘a frugal man’ appears to have snapped up the offer. Pepper also obtained his lordship’s permission to change the sign to The Salisbury Arms. It became known as the Old Salisbury to distinguish itself from The Salisbury Arms and Commercial Hotel next door which opened in 1833. However, this establishment could not compete with the Old Salisbury and closed in 1865 – it was then taken over by Henry Holman, a chemist, later becoming Boots the Chemist.





The Old Salisbury Arms Hotel, which preceded the present Salisbury Hotel on the same site.

The Salisbury Arms became a popular meeting place for local groups, including The Amicable Society founded 1780 for professionals and tradesmen who enjoyed eating and drinking together. It became the headquarters of Barnet Football Club which was founded there in 1888 but it was not a convenient location and the club moved to The Black Horse in Wood Street, nearer to where the games were played in Queens Road. The inn, however, continued to develop into an important part of the community life of Barnet, aided by its reputation for good catering, particularly under George and Minnie Toone who enthusiastically supported the new craze for cycling. 'The Old Sal' became a favourite meeting place for cyclists to stop for refreshment (but not alcohol as Minnie Toone fervently believed in drinking tea while cycling). Cycling had become hugely popular by this time. It is said that an observer standing outside Barnet Church one Sunday in 1898 counted more than 1000 cyclists pedalling northwards, before giving up the count.



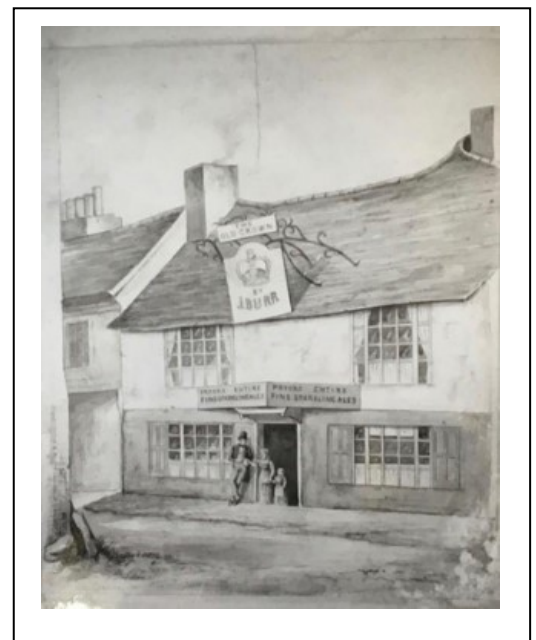
In 1922, plans were made to rebuild and extend the property which was subsequently bought by the Regent Catering Company Limited. The new Salisbury Hotel was built by 1930 in mock-Tudor style and set back from the road with a forecourt for the motor car. It was a comfortable place to stay and catered for masonic banquets, dances and private parties, as well as motoring and golfing parties. A branch of the Rotary movement representing Chipping and East Barnet was established there shortly after the re-building and for many years the Rotarians lunched there weekly.

During World War Two, The Salisbury Hotel was a regular meeting place for servicemen on leave. It continued to be a popular venue until its demolition in 1988. Its sign, featuring Robert Cecil, is now in Barnet Museum.



A particularly popular name which was widely adopted from the time of King Richard II, was The Crown: this indicated allegiance to the monarch and did not have to be changed when the monarch died. Several hostelrys in Barnet took this name. At 3, Wood Street, there stood a tavern that was established in 1594. It remained until 1876, when it was demolished to enlarge the house of the headmaster of Queen Elizabeth's Boys' School. The site is now part of Barnet College.

The Old Crown in Wood Street



Another Crown reference was The Crown and Anchor at 47 High Street. The earliest reference to this is in 1756 when it was known as The Saracen's Head.



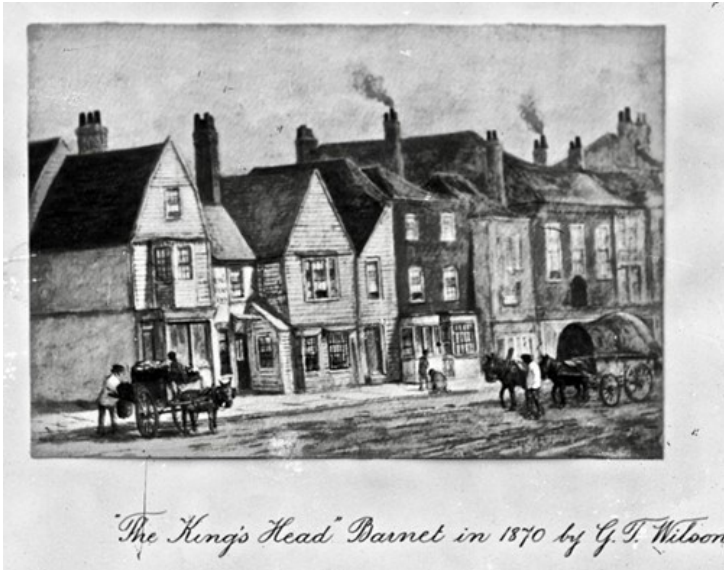
The Crown and Anchor before a rebuild in 1936

During the reign of Charles II, Randolph Holmes a former Parliamentary captain allegedly met with religious fanatics at this house to plot to assassinate the king. Spies reported him and he was held and arrested but later released. He then appears to have settled in Barnet, becoming a landlord himself. A change of name to The Boar's Head occurred sometime before 1688 when it was referred to by the Chipping Barnet Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor as being a very convenient meeting place! It finally became The Crown and Anchor in 1860 and was rebuilt around 1890 and then again in 1936 when it acquired the mock-Tudor façade.



The Crown and Anchor after rebuilding in 1936. It closed as a public House in 1999

Moving down to the 'Bottleneck' there is The King's Head at 84 High Street. Although the present premises are modern, it is one of the oldest inns with the earliest known reference in 1626.



The king's head that of is King Henry VIII who is known to have stayed in Barnet while on hunting expeditions to Enfield Chase. During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries it was also used as a kind of workhouse to accommodate poor people, sick travellers, casualties of the Napoleonic wars, pregnant women and even smallpox victims. Sometime before the First World War, the house acquired a nickname: locals referred to it as 'The Glass-house' because it is reputed to be the first house in Barnet to serve beer in glasses rather than pewter mugs.

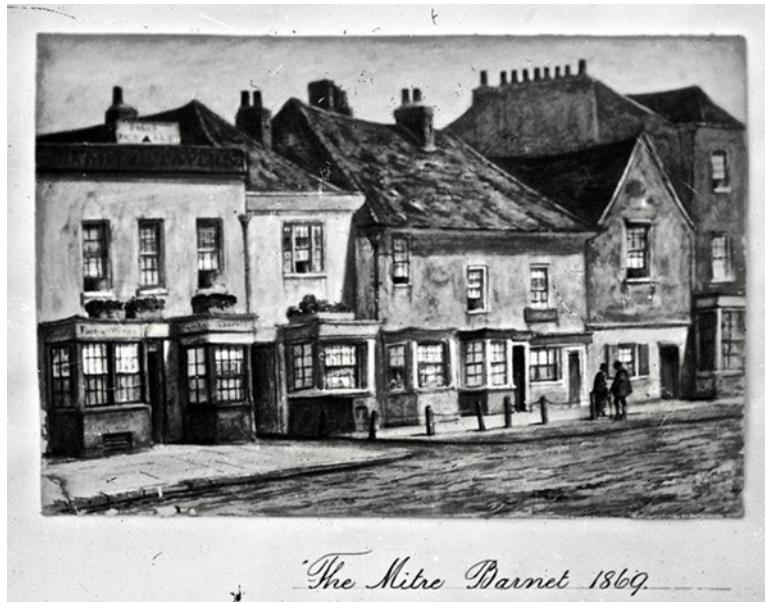
Just down from The King's Head on the site of 72-76 High Street there was another hostelry. This was The Red Lion. After it closed, the name was adopted by The Red Lion further down on the other side of the High Street. This Red Lion was where Samuel Pepys breakfasted after an early visit to the Physic Well in 1667. It was here that he had the 'some of best cheesecakes, that I ever ate in my life'. The inn became The Assembly Rooms, then Barnet Theatre (the archway from the theatre is now in Barnet Museum) and lastly shops.



The site of The Red Lion



On the same side of the High Street is The Mitre. This is on the site of three separate inns called – ‘The Rose’, ‘The Crown’ and ‘The Man’. By 1667 they had joined together and were known as ‘The Man and The Rose and Crown’.



One of these inns was probably where Lady Arbella Stuart stayed when she was on the run from her cousin King James I, who viewed her as a great danger to his throne. She had a claim through her grandmother, Mary, Queen of Scots. Various plots had already been hatched to make her queen, one of these being engineered by Sir Walter Raleigh himself. In 1611, Arbella married in secret and her position became even more problematic for James, so he decided to remove the threat by sending her to Durham to be placed under the care of the Bishop. On the way to Durham, she fell ill and was taken to the Crown – one of the three inns that were later incorporated into The Mitre. Her story did not end well because when she was recaptured, James showed no mercy. She was incarcerated in the Tower of London where she died, sick, starving and insane in 1615.

In 1660, General Monck also famously stayed overnight at one of the inns. Monck had become a very powerful and distinguished soldier during the Civil War and was now on a top secret mission, accompanied by 6000 troops, to restore Charles II to the throne after Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth had collapsed. In the middle of the night, the troops, who had apparently been billeted in Barnet, rioted over pay. Monck is said to have run down The High Street in his night clothes to try to calm the situation. He may have had a very disturbed night but his mission was successful. He went on to help restore the Stuart monarchy and he was handsomely rewarded for his trouble.



The Mitre before its rebuilding in 1935

Over the other side of the street is The Red Lion, which has a long and chequered history. It dates from earlier than 1439: its name then being The Cardinal's Hat.

By 1439 it had become The Antelope. This antelope, a white heraldic beast with golden spots, was part of the arms of Kings Henry V and his son Henry VI who between them reigned from 1413 to 1471.



The Arms of King Henry VI



There is a suggestion that this inn is where King Henry VIII stayed when visiting Barnet in 1529. It adopted the name of The Red Lion on the demise of the other Red Lion but the date of this is uncertain. The name originates from the time of King James I, who had succeeded Elizabeth I in 1603. James was the son of her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth's nearest relative. He was already King James VI of Scotland and so to stamp his authority on his new kingdom he ordered that the heraldic red lion of Scotland be displayed on all buildings of importance including public houses. This name was destined to become the most common name for a pub in England (followed by 'The Crown').

By 1720, The Red Lion had become a Tory inn in rivalry with The Green Man which was affiliated to the Whigs. There was immense and bitter commercial rivalry between the two houses over the postal business with The Red Lion taking most of the post going north and The Green Man took that going south. The 'boys' working for The Red Lion wore yellow jackets and black hats and those from The Green Man wore blue jackets and white hats. There was frequent brawling between the two groups as they attempted to disrupt the trade of the other and poach customers.

While this rivalry was taking place in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, The Red Lion was rebuilt with an imposing porch below its main window and at the back, a capacious yard with stabling for over 100 horses. The inn had become very popular with visitors and travellers by this time with increasing pressure on the accommodation. A story illustrates this problem facing the landlord. While on their way to London, an army officer, his wife and daughter tried to get a bed for the night, but the place was full. The army officer was very insistent and the landlord was persuaded to see what could be done. He ordered that a couple of rooms be prepared as quickly as possible. The family got their rooms. However, they were in for a shock. Once in her room, the daughter, in the course of settling in, opened a cupboard door. A dead body crashed out at her feet. Apparently, this unfortunate soul had died in the night and in their rush to prepare, the staff had not had time to dispose of the corpse. They had bundled him temporarily into the cupboard intending to remove him the next day. It is not known whether the family stayed the night after that.

When the London Postal Headquarters were destroyed by The Great Fire in 1666, their offices were temporarily transferred to Barnet and the innkeeper at the Red Lion was appointed as Barnet's Postmaster. It continued to be Barnet's Post Office until 1793. Isaac Newton was in charge at this date but while he proved to be a prosperous innkeeper, he was an indifferent postmaster and the postal business was removed from him. It was, however, widely used as a meeting place by various groups including local magistrates for petty sessions, the governors of Queen Elizabeth's Boys' School, Freemasons and the Coroner. Later, Charles Dickens stayed at the inn but it appears that his dinner was cut short by the news that his wife had given birth to a daughter and in dashing back to London to see her, he lamed his horse.



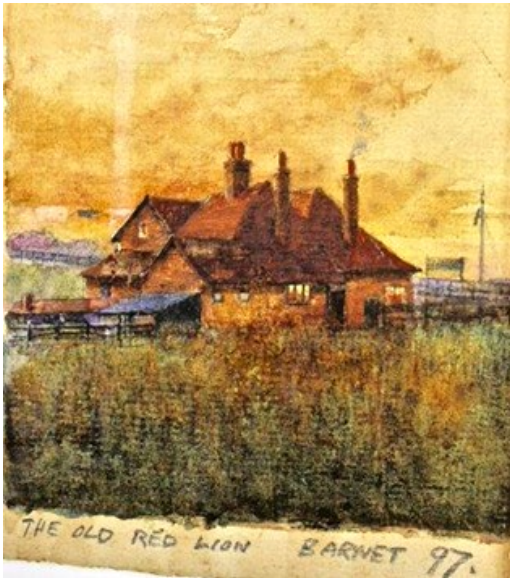
By the end of the nineteenth century, The Red Lion had stabling for 200 horses, vast paddocks and fields extensive gardens with a bowling green and a tennis court. But in 1901, it lost much of this when it was truncated for the construction of Fitzjohn Avenue. It was rebuilt in 1930. It briefly became The Dandy Lion in the 1980s, when the red lion was painted gold, then The Felix and Firkin before reverting to The Red Lion.

The other Red Lion was at Underhill. In the mid-eighteenth century what was originally a cottage alehouse was rebuilt by Silver Crispin and became known by the sign of The Red Lion. Weary travellers could stop here before the gruelling ascent of Barnet Hill, a hazardous exercise in winter.



The original site of The Red Lion before its rebuilding in 1934,

The Red Lion in 1897



A later picture of The Red Lion



The Red Lion after rebuilding.

Many of the inns and taverns that graced Barnet High Street have now passed into history. W.H. Gelder in his chapter in 'Historic Barnet' says this is a 'sad business' but puts this into perspective with these words:

'Although 'Merrie England' conjures up a vision of roaring fires, groaning boards and jovial hosts the reality was, all too often, damp beds, charred food and insolent servants'.

# A Return to Gladwyn's Farm, Totteridge

By Scott Harrison

In 2020 Michael Knight moved back to Hertfordshire and took a trip to Totteridge to visit the house where he grew up, Gladwyn's in Totteridge Lane. On his first attempt there was no access to the house and when he tried again some months later, he found that it had been demolished and replaced with new housing. He met the developer, Paul Henty, who was fascinated to discover how much Michael knew about the property. Paul approached Barnet Museum to interview Michael to explore this further and provide a record.

*Gladwyn's (renamed The Conifers) boarded up ahead of demolition*



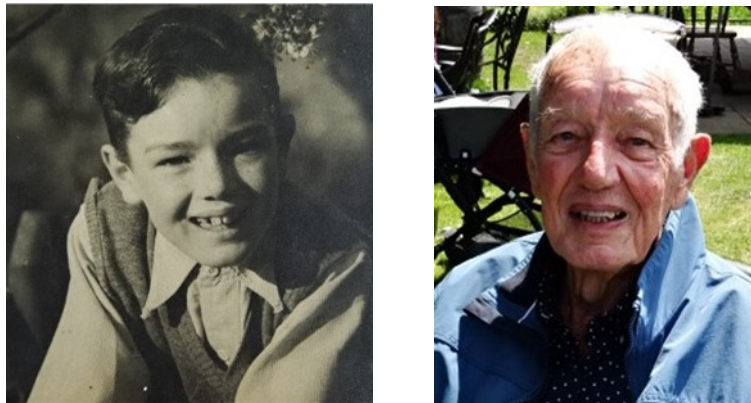
Michael was born in 1937 and lived at Gladwyn's from 1940 to 1961. At this time it was a Victorian house, but it has a long history and some remnants of its ancient past remained. A quick survey of the Barnet Museum library and archive provided some background information. The name Gladwyn can be linked to 'Taterigge' from 1380. At that time John Gladwyn sold off some 30 acres of land and two acres of wood for 20 marks (about £12). In 1481 the Gladwyns are mentioned again in connection with a court case over land in Taterigge.



*Details from Map of Totteridge drawn in 1840 showing Gladwin Farm at 188*

The location of Gladwyn's farmhouse can be seen on this map from 1840, with a school (180) to the west and the farm (189) to the east. The records show that around that time the farm had 220 acres and employed 7 labourers.

Michael Knight arrived at the farm in 1940 with his mother, stepfather and stepsister, Patricia. The new family took it over first as tenants and then as owners. It was a working farm with 250 pigs and additionally cows, chickens and 11 acres used mainly for vegetable farming. There were also 22 greyhounds, bred for racing. Additionally, it was used as a guesthouse with 22 rooms and counted amongst its residents Winston Churchill's personal secretary.



*Michael Knight in 1945 and 2021*

Michael's earliest memories are of the war: on one hand of the blitz on central London, only eight miles away; on the other, of the relative safety of living in the countryside – relative because there was always danger, with several 'near misses'. A doodlebug exploded nearby, shattering Gladwyn's windows – later, Michael's stepfather located the fuselage and brought it back to the farm.



*The blue circular marker shows where the doodlebug landed. The central white marker shows that material from anti-aircraft fire fell next door to Gladwyns, and the black marker shows high explosives fell on the house beyond that.*

The farm contributed to the war effort in several ways – not the least as a billet, in supplying food and in yielding its ornate wrought iron gates for metal scrap. Another war memory is of Paul Gunter, a German POW who was placed at the farm and stayed on for two years after the war. The war also changed Patricia's life- she met and then married Hal West, an American soldier. They moved to Florida where they raised their family.



*Patricia, the GI bride with Hal West*

Michael remembers Gladwyns as a working farm. At the heart of activity was the great kitchen, which seems to have been a remnant of a much older building at the heart of the new Victorian house which had replaced it. The kitchen contained one of the farm's two wells, with a great cast iron hand pump; a large boiler; and brick ovens situated in the thickness of the walls. Four great hooks were suspended from the ceiling for hanging meat. The farm produced much of what was needed to get by. Local residents benefited by joining the pig club. This gave them a regular rationed supply of pig meat in return for a weekly contribution, typically cleaning out the pigs. As Michael grew, he took on jobs around the farm. At the age of 15, but claiming 17, he gained a driving license so that he could do the daily round to hotels in the Euston area to collect waste food to feed the pigs.

Totteridge at that time was, of course, much less busy than today. Michael remembers playing tennis across the lane, only pausing now and then for passing traffic, such as the 251 bus. The village hall provided a place for community meetings, but St Andrew's school was used for dancing and Michael's stepfather played drums and piano in a local band. However, much of his time was spent in the fields around Totteridge. Modern entertainment was just arriving: in 1947, the family acquired a six-inch TV and an accompanying magnifying glass. Michael was aware of some famous neighbours including Cliff Richard, Frankie Vaughan, and Des O'Connor, who lived next door. Dennis Compton visited the house and Michael recalls playing the Subbuteo version of cricket with him. Michael was encouraged to take over the farm, but he decided that this was not the career for him. He moved away in 1961 and, after the death of his mother in 1965, the farm was sold.





*The old wall in the Garden, with the new building nearing completion behind.*

When Michael revisited the site in 2021 he found that little remained of the building he remembered; but in the garden there still stands a gated wall, probably dating to the Victorian building but possibly older. However, Michael will have recognised that the new house has been built in keeping with the architecture of Gladwyns, thus providing reminders of the original.

## A to Z: An Alphabetical Jaunt Through Barnet's Past

By Jeff Gale

Conducting research for the museum is always a pleasure and an honour - but all too frequently one can find the mind drifting away from the subject in hand to follow an interesting fact or fancy that has become known during the hunt for something specific! Occasionally this may lead to an idea for a new line of research, but more often the outcome is a miscellany of odd but interesting notes and jottings that usually lie fallow....

Realising that a theme amongst these recent jottings often relates to people that have in the past contributed in some way to the history of Barnet - perhaps hidden or long fallen from the public eye, or sometimes places and events that have contributed to the town's rich history, I offer below an A-to-Z of just some of the many that I have encountered across recent years. I hastily add that the list is not intended to be exhaustive; indeed, I hope it may stimulate readers to call to mind other notable people, events, and places from the town's long history. Here we go....!

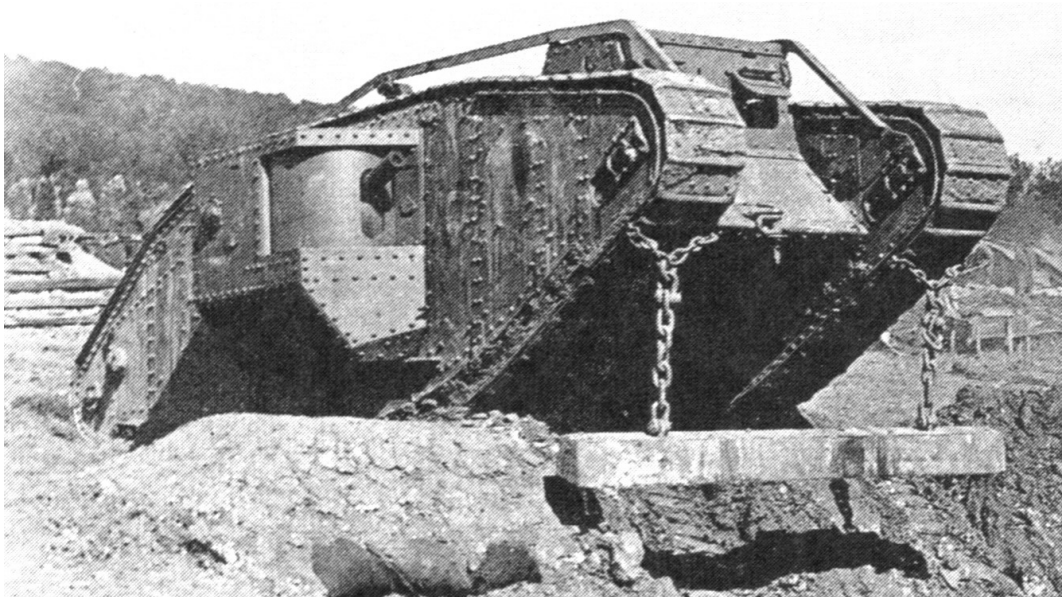
**Acres:** Birt Acres (1854-1918) was born in Virginia, USA of British parents and he died in Whitechapel in 1918. By 1892 he was living in Barnet where he would become famous as a pioneer of moving pictures. His early film entitled 'Incident at Clovelly Cottage' was made in 1895 featuring his wife and their infant son outside his then home at 19 Park Road, Chipping Barnet.

**Byford:** Samuel Byford (1812-1898), a local farmer and butcher, recorded his recollections of the history of the town and they were published by Stephen Baldock, Market Place, Barnet in 1891. A copy is held in the museum, and his memories have proved to be one of several sources that have contributed to this miscellany of alphabetic ramblings.

**Cattley:** William Cattley (1788-1835) was a businessman associated with the East India Company and a horticulturalist with an interest in collecting specimens from overseas including orchids - the variety 'Cattleya' being named in his honour. He lived at Cedar Lawn, a house in Wood Street, which later became the Victoria Cottage Hospital, then Victoria Maternity Hospital, and is now private apartments. He is remembered there on a blue plaque and an acknowledgement is also given on a stone tablet in the garden fronting Wood Street. His botanical interests are also remembered on a marble plaque in the garden of St John the Baptist church - see right



**d'Eyncourt:** Louis Charles Tennyson d'Eyncourt (1814-1896), a Privy Counsellor who at one time lived at Hadley House - the Grade II listed property on Hadley Green. Samuel Byford (see above) recorded that the property was once known as the Jews House and, on behalf of Mr d'Eyncourt, he had employed a Clerkenwell watchmaker of his acquaintance to repair the unusual clock above part of the house at far less expense than using a local man. Mr d'Eyncourt's son (Sir) Eustace Henry William Tennyson (1st Baronet KCB FRS - 1868-1951) was born at Hadley House and, after a career with Armstrong, Whitworth & Co, became Director of Naval Architecture from 1912 to 1924. In February 1915 he was asked by the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, to chair the Landship Committee, a team of Royal Naval Air Service officers charged with designing 'a vehicle capable of crossing No Man's Land and suppressing the enemy machine guns that had caused heavy casualties in the first six months of the First World War'. The result, His Majesty's Land Ship Centipede, underwent initial trials in January 1916 at Hatfield House. The 'Tank' was born.



**Elliott:** Joseph John Elliott (1835-1903), who also (later) resided at Hadley House on Hadley Green. Together with Clarence Edmund Fry (1840-1897) he established photographic studios in London specialising in taking and publishing photographs of Victorian public and social, artistic, scientific, and political luminaries. By the 1880s they had three studios and four large storage facilities for negatives, and in 1890 they established a printing works at Talbot House in Park Road High Barnet which also manufactured and marketed photographic materials such as slides for magic lanterns.



**Frusher:** (Samuel) Eli Frusher (1883-1965), butcher and shopkeeper. Well known locally for the large pink pig displayed above his shop, now demolished, on the corner of East Barnet and Victoria Roads in New Barnet - and for the summer excursions made over many years to his Folly Farm on the southern edge of Monken Hadley Common where entertainments would see hordes of families and children arriving by road and rail on day trips. The farm was used for military parades during the First World War and also served as a location for local victory celebrations in 1919.

**Gyll:** Ralph Gyll (??-1620), a resident of a house in East Barnet village known as 'Dudmans' - which later became known as The Clockhouse as it sported a small clock turret. He was at one time the keeper of the lions that formed part of the menagerie at the Tower of London, and he is buried in The Chapel Royal of Saint Peter-ad-Vincula inside the walls of the Tower. When The Clockhouse was demolished in 1925 the clock and its tower were re-located, and although the clock itself is now removed (and is in storage with a local clock-repairer) the tower can still be seen standing above the shops in Clockhouse Parade which faces the junction with Churchill Road in East Barnet



**Hadow:** The Reverend Charles Edward Hadow (1826-1912). He served as Chaplain to the Forces during the Crimean War and then as a Chaplain in the service of the Honourable East India Company. He was nominated by the Crown to the rectory of St Mary's in East Barnet in 1855 where he served until retirement in 1909. His grave, together with that of his wife Jane Mary Macgregor Hadow who pre-deceased him in 1900, lies just beyond the lych-gate entrance to the churchyard at St Mary's. Of note is that his son, Charles James Hadow (1857-1935) served for many years with the 1st Volunteer Brigade Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) company based in High Barnet, the Barnet Press recording him having said in December 1899 that, as their Major, he much regretted being too old to serve alongside the men of his company who had volunteered to fight in Africa during the Second Boer War (1899-1902).

**Ince:** Piggott Ince (1719-1765). Piggott Ince was appointed as a governor of Barnet Grammar School in August 1753 according to the Reverend Frederick Charles Cass MA, Rector of St Mary's Monken Hadley, in his renowned 1880 history of the area. Internet research reveals that the Ince family were once landowners in the Counties of Bedford, Northampton, Leicester, and Essex, and in the City of London. Piggott Ince and many other members of the family were clearly living in Monken Hadley in and around the 17<sup>th</sup> century as can be observed from the many plaques to their memory in St Mary's, as well as a family vault in the churchyard.

The will of Piggott's father Charles Ince (1682-1740) records that he was 'a citizen and Woolman of London' and it might be surmised that the family's wealth was derived from the wool trade. Perhaps as the family grew they decided that the well-to-do Monken Hadley - on the Northern Heights set above an increasingly crowded and unsanitary London - was a fine place to live, as well as being well situated for travel between the city and their properties to the north. However, Piggott Ince appears to have died 'cash poor but property rich'; after his death his widow Mary, 'apprehensive that she might be involved in expensive lawsuits with creditors', sought legal powers to secure for her son, James Piggott Ince (1750-1829), his entitlement to a moiety [*half share*] of land and properties in Wilstead, Houghton Conquest, Colmworth, Eaton Socon, Wroxhill, Marston Moretaine and Winnington in Bedfordshire.

**Joslin:** William Joslin (1815-1898), a local baker and confectioner. His obituary in the Barnet Press of 5<sup>th</sup> November 1898 noted that he was born on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1815 - the day of the Battle of Waterloo - and acknowledged his long commitment to service with many local public bodies including the management committee for Hadley Woods and as an Overseer of the Poor. He was also a director of the Barnet Permanent Benefits Building Society and of the Barnet District Gas and Water Company. He lived at Joslin House where the High Street meets Hadley Common. William Joslin is also remembered through the eponymously named adjacent pond.

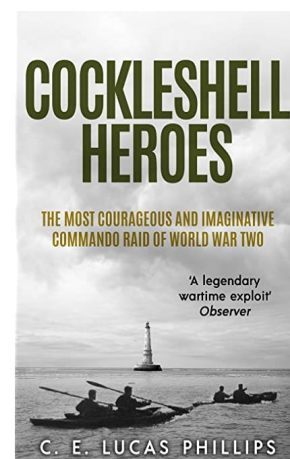
Note: There is currently a campaign to see the imposing pink marble public drinking fountain that was erected in 1885 next to the pond recommissioned. It is being led by Peter Wanders, owner of nearby Wanders shoe shop, together with the Town Team and Barnet Museum.



**Keppel:** Lieutenant-General William Keppel (1727-1782), third son of the 2nd Earl of Albemarle. Around the mid-1750s the Keppel family became the owners the Palladian Mansion at Dyrham Park estate just to the north of Barnet, and between 1767 and 1772 William Keppel commissioned the famous Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown to design and landscape the grounds into a grand park - perhaps the most significant work to have been undertaken by the distinguished garden designer near to Barnet. On William’s death the estate was purchased by John Trotter (1757-1833) - hence the nearby road name of ‘Trotter’s Bottom’. The estate remained in the Trotter family until the late 1930s when it was bought by the County Council; today it operates as a golf/country club and a wedding venue.



**Laver:** Corporal Albert Laver (1920-1943). Corporal Laver served with the Royal Marine Boom Patrol Detachment in World War 2. He took part in the Dieppe Landings in August 1942 and later was a member of the twelve man canoe team that raided German shipping in the occupied port of Bordeaux in France in December 1942 - thus becoming one of the so called ‘Cockleshell Heroes’. Posted missing, it was not until after the war in Europe ended in 1945 that captured German records would reveal he had been taken as a prisoner of war to Paris and, after interrogation, executed. His family are recorded as having lived in Sherrards Way Barnet.



**Mellish:** Edward Noel Mellish VC MC DL (1880-1962). Born in Oakleigh Park, Edward Mellish served in the Second Boer War (1899-1902) and then with distinction as a Chaplain to the Forces during World War I. In March 1916 he performed actions rescuing wounded men from the line of fire for which he became the first member of the army chaplaincy to be awarded the Victoria Cross. He also received the Military Cross for gallantry during the final two months of the war. During World War 2 he served as an air raid precautions warden, and in 1946 was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for the county of Essex. In March 2016 a plaque to his memory was installed by The Barnet War Memorial Association in the pavement at the junction of Oakleigh Park South and North near to the house where he was born.



**Nunneley:** Arthur Nunneley (1856-1946) was the proprietor of 'Nunneleys', the linen drapery store at 144 High Street Barnet first established by his father around 1850 (see picture right). He served on the committee that raised the Chipping Barnet war memorial unveiled by Lord Byng in April 1921, a campaign that would see the name of his son, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Wilfred Herbert Nunneley MC (1898-1918) recorded. He died in action serving with the Essex Regiment in France and is remembered there alongside 274 other men of the town who gave their lives in World War I. (Another son, Arthur Ernest Nunneley (1890-1954), who also served in the Great War, would later become Chair of Barnet Council and of the Barnet Branch of the British Legion. In the latter role he would emulate his late father's commitment by giving the Legion's support in 1939 to plans for the war memorial's relocation to the churchyard of St John the Baptist church to facilitate roadworks to enable the trolleybuses that were to replace the trams to turn at the east end of the church).



*Barnet Coronation 1937*  
Nunneleys in 1937

**Owen:** Captain John Owen (??-1679), Member of the Fishmongers' Company, Alderman of London. In May 1677 Alderman Owen gave by Indenture\* the sum of 20 shillings (one pound) to be paid in perpetuity by the Fishmongers' Company to the Governors of the Free School in Barnet towards the repair and upkeep of the Barnet Physic Well. He was a governor of the school from July 1651 until his death in February 1679. He was buried in the town.

The history of the Physic Well has been recorded at length by Barnet Museum, and the mock-Tudor well building constructed in 1937 was fully restored in 2018. The well is now opened to the public by the museum on the third Saturday of the month February to November inclusive.

However, long before 1937 the well had fallen unused, and, as the letter (below) from Frederick Cass and published in the Barnet Press in October 1890 shows, the bequest was by then subject to public concern as to what had happened to the bequest. As the letter records, Captain Owen had added a further proviso allowing, should the well 'become forsaken or disused', for the bequest to be used to support the education of an extra 'poor boy of the town' at the Free School. (Now Queen Elizabeth Boy's School).

[\* The original Indenture is held in the archives of QE School – see fuller details at [explore.qecollections.co.uk](http://explore.qecollections.co.uk)]

**THE BARNET PHYSIC WELL.**

SIR, - My attention has been called to a notice in your last issue, in which it is stated that it was explained that the late Rector had *diverted* "the bequest for the maintenance of the Physic Well, to the Grammar School." The word *diverted*, with its inverted commas, has a dubious appearance, and I do not like its application, in such a form, to the late Rector, to whom Barnet is surely under obligations, and who is no longer here to defend himself. Besides which, it has the demerit of conveying a simple untruth. John Owen, described at the time as Captain Owen, an alderman of London, was elected a Governor of the Grammar School, 18th July, 1651. He was buried at Barnet, 21st February, 1678-9. By indenture, dated 28th April, 1676, he gave authority to the Fishmongers' Company to pay annually, with other sums, to the Governors of the Free School at Barnet, for the time being—"towards the reparation of the Physic Well on the common, £1." In another deed, dated 23rd May, 1677, the following proviso is added as to the Physic Well:—"Provided, that if any obstruction should take place (as therein mentioned) in the use of the Physic Well, or the same should be forsaken or disused, so as to produce no profits to the tenants or town aforesaid, in that case the said £1 shall be paid to the schoolmaster of the said Free School, for the instruction of one more poor boy of the said town of Barnet, in like manner as the other three boys." Mr Hutton, consequently, found the charge resting with the Governors, and there left it. This record is to be met with in the "History of the twelve great Livery Companies of London," by William Herbert, Librarian to the Corporation, the standard authority in relation to the City Companies, Vol II. 114.—

Obediently yours,  
FREDK CHAS. CASS.  
Monken Hadley, 20th October, 1890.



**Parsloe:** Thomas Parsloe JP (1826-1903). A true 'mover and shaker' for the town during the thirty nine years he resided here as landlord of the long lost Edinboro' Castle Inn. His obituary in the Barnet Press of 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1903 recorded the depth of respect he gained across the town from his many public appointments - local politician (Chairman of both Barnet Urban and Rural District Councils), Justice of the Peace, parish way-warden, Surveyor of Highways, workhouse Guardian, philanthropist, and leading businessman. For many years he also provided a taxi service between New Barnet and Hadley.



**PARSLOE AND SON,  
EDINBURGH CASTLE, High Street, BARNET,  
CAB PROPRIETORS & JOB MASTERS.**

BROUGHAMS, LANDAUS, and all kinds of OPEN CARRIAGES can be had.  
CABS MEET ALL TRAINS AT HIGH BARNET STATION AT METROPOLITAN FARES

**AN omnibus**  
RUNS DAILY BETWEEN HADLEY CHURCH and NEW BARNET STATION  
at the following times:-

	Arrives at			Leaves
	High Barnet.	New Barnet.	New Barnet Station.	
Leaves Hadley Church .....	8.20 a.m.	8.35 a.m.	8.50 a.m.	8.52 a.m.
" Salisbury Arms .....	8.30	8.28	8.42	8.39
" Hadley Church .....	10.22	10.38	11.5	11.8
" Hadley Church .....	1.0 p.m.	1.17 p.m.	1.35 p.m.	1.31 p.m.
" Salisbury Arms .....	1.50	1.42	2.15	2.25
" Hadley Church .....	3.30	3.42	4.0	4.14
" Hadley Church .....	5.0	5.10	5.20	5.29
" Hadley Church .....	6.0	6.10	6.25	6.29

Pantehnicion and all kinds of Covered Vans for the REMOVAL of FURNITURE to all parts of the Country. at Carrier's or Owner's Risk.  
CARTING OF ALL KINDS BY CONTRACT OR OTHERWISE. 668

An advertisement in the Barnet Press August 1885



**Quinta:** 'The Quinta' was a large property in Arkley once owned by Alfred George Malins (1853-1925). When the Whittings Hill housing estate was built south-east of Arkley Road in the mid-1950s the house was lost but the name lives on via Quinta Drive which links with the (then) new estate.

Alfred Malins is recorded living at The Quinta in the 1911 Census, his occupation given as a 'Retired Manufacturer - Fat Melter' (perhaps a clearer meaning of this can be gleaned from earlier Ancestry UK records where in the 1881 Census for Mile End Old Town he is listed as an 'Oil and Grease Dealer', and in the 1885 Post Office Directory where he is listed, together with his brother George Daniel (1855-1919), under the category 'Melters and Tallow Chandlers' in Hackney Wick.

It appears that the brothers first became associated with Barnet in about 1890 when they became part owners of 'The Bow House' in Wood Street, gaining full ownership in December 1912. Alfred served on the Urban District Council representing Arkley Ward moving through the ranks to become chairman in 1919 and representing the Barnet Urban District Council as a Governor of Queen Elizabeth's School between 1910 and early 1925. The 1911 Census records George living at 'Whalebones Park' in Wood Street. He also served on the District Council between 1904 and 1907 and as one of the Overseers at St John the Baptist Church from 1904 to 1916. In June 1911 the Barnet Press carried a detailed report of the 'Beating the Bounds' of the parish of Chipping Barnet after a lapse of 23 years. George Malins accompanied the many townsfolk taking part in the ancient custom\* riding his white horse (seen below at right of picture). Later he delivered a lively speech on behalf of the Church Overseers at a celebratory dinner held at The Old Salisbury Arms Hotel.



Beating the Bounds on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1911

(\*Originally intended to ensure that the location of parish boundaries were known and preserved by residents, but now purely symbolic).

**Racecourse:** Although Barnet racecourse was already declining in popularity, the coming of the railway in 1871 led to the demise of the course which once adorned part of Barnet Common. In his 1912 book 'A Chat about Barnet and its History' Sydney Herbert Widdicombe (1870-1937) records that it stretched for almost two miles along the southern slope of Barnet Hill towards Barnet Gate. He also notes that a frequent visitor was once the then Prince of Wales, later George IV.



“Sighwell” shown racing at Barnet in the 1830s.

**Strugnell:** John Strugnell (1930-2007). Born in Barnet, the son of James A Strugnell BA (Eng) (1899-1962) and Margaret J Strugnell (1898-1985). At the age of 23 he became the youngest member of a team of scholars led by Roland de Vaux, the director of the Ecole Biblique, a French Catholic Theological School in East Jerusalem, formed to study and edit the Dead Sea Scrolls in Jerusalem. The scrolls are considered a keystone in the history of archaeology and now provide historic details about the emergence of Christianity and of Rabbinic Judaism. Although he quickly learned how to read the Scrolls, and he published some important editions detailing parts of the texts during his sometimes controversial 40 year association with the project, he was increasingly criticised for being a slow worker and after dismissal from the project he was institutionalised in a psychiatric hospital in Boston Massachusetts. (In 1939, his parents were living at 12 Greenhill Park Barnet).

**Thomas:** John Lewis Harper Thomas (1870-1960). Born in Birmingham, by 1899 local directories record him as a 'Cycle Maker' at 92 High Street Barnet. The age of motor vehicles was burgeoning, and although a discussion of the history of British motorcycles might well recall such names as Triumph, BSA, Norton and Royal Enfield, any reference to 'The Celeripede' might raise some eyebrows.

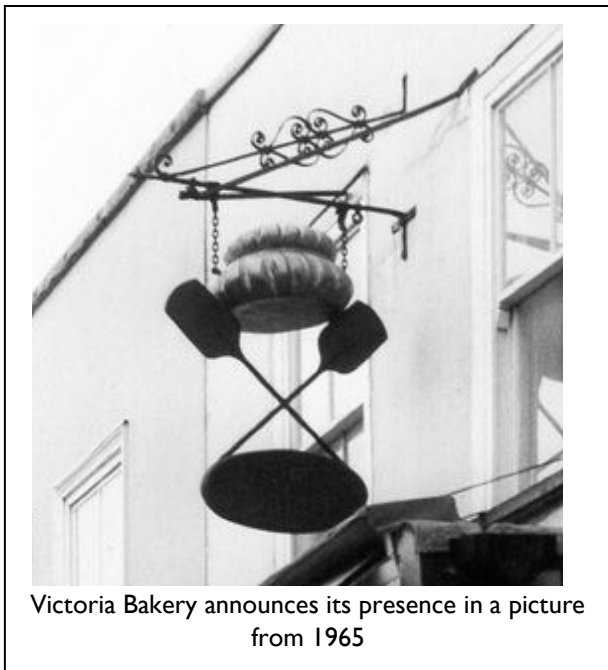
The Celeripede was designed and built in Barnet by Mr Thomas; in September 1902 the Barnet Press announced that it was to be exhibited at the Stanley Motorcycle Show in London's Royal Agricultural Hall the following month - just one year after the Royal Enfield's first machine appeared there. Although short lived as a full machine, the name 'Celeripede' would continue with other manufacturers adopting the design of Mr Thomas's sprung front forks. He continued to trade for many years as a motor engineer at various addresses in the High Street.

**THE THOMAS MOTOR CYCLE.**  
**STANLEY SHOW, STAND 97.**  
Inspect the **Celeripede Spring Fork**  
(THOMAS' PATENT).  
APPLICABLE TO ANY EXISTING MOTOR BICYCLE.  
Particulars on application to J. L. THOMAS, Cycle Manufacturer, BARNET, Herts.

Mr J. L. Thomas, of Celeripede cycle fame, is going ahead with Celeripede motors, and at the November exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, will show not only cycles, trailers, etc., but also motor bicycles entirely of his own manufacture, as well as some fitted with the Minerva motor. There is no need to send to Coventry for a motor cycle; indeed there are advantages in having it built locally where it may be seen through every stage of manufacture and fitting, and where repair and adjustment are done speedily and without the necessity of sending the machine a long railway journey.

**Underne:** Edward Underne (??-1598/9) Rector of St Mary's East Barnet. His presence there is recorded in some detail by Frederick Cass in his history of East Barnet dated 1885. Instrumental in securing the foundation of Barnet's Grammar School, he was appointed a Governor in the original Charter of 1573 and remained such until 1597 when he resigned the living at St Mary's. In 1583 the Bishop of London wrote to the Archdeacon of St Albans saying 'I am given to understand, by common observance, that many ministers within your Archdeaconry do seldom or never wear the surplice... I do order you to let me know at my visitation who they are, that they may be proceeded against.' In reply it was stated of Mr Underne that 'He doth not wear the apparel, but he is ready and willing to wear them.' Cass further notes that in 1584 the Rector was considered to be 'of honest disposition' and had been appointed as Rector by the Queen as patron of the benefice, also observing that 'Mr Underne may be ranked with the better instructed of the clergy.'

**Victoria:** The renowned Victoria Bakery had traded at 83 High Street Barnet for over fifty years before it closed in June 2019 to the disappointment of its many loyal customers. Although the property currently remains empty, photographs in the archives of Barnet Museum reveal that it has long been associated with the sale of edible commodities - however the often made suggestion that it was on the doorstep of this shop that Charles Dickens observed the young urchin that he would later immortalise as Oliver Twist has its doubters.



Oliver Twist meets The Artful Dodger

**Woodcock:** Benjamin Woodcock (1792-1848), Born in Barkway Hertfordshire, he served as the Master of the Barnet Union Workhouse from 1836 to 1838. The 1841 Census for the Workhouse records him as such, together with his wife Elizabeth, the Matron, and a daughter Francis aged 19, recorded as the School Mistress. Two further daughters are also recorded aged 15 and 11. (A fascinating book recording his daily life there drawing from his diaries was published in 2010).

Barnet Union Workhouse was built in 1836-37 between West End Lane and Wellhouse Lane to replace two smaller workhouses that were established in the town (one before 1777, another in 1807) following the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 - known widely as 'The New Poor Law'. It became a military hospital during the First World War, and by 1920 the Guardians had renamed the site as 'Wellhouse Hospital', the Barnet Union moving to provide care for needy children in other locations around the town such as at 'Guyscliffe' at 27 High Street and at 'Moray House' in Victoria Road New Barnet – replaced in 1929 by 'Rosendale' at 18 King Edward Road. The site and buildings were taken over by Hertfordshire County Council in 1930 when the Poor Law Unions were finally abolished and it then became the Wellhouse Public Assistance Institution. After becoming a hospital again during World War 2, it was taken over by the National Health Service in 1948, renamed Barnet General Hospital in 1950, and after a complete redevelopment was reopened by the Princess Royal in February 2003 as the Barnet Hospital we see today.

**X:** 'The X-factor'! Unable to find a reference to any individual 'X' candidates to explore in detail here, I have chosen instead to suggest just a few of the many things that may claim to provide the town with an 'X-factor'. The 1471 **Battle of Barnet** is the only battle site in the UK that can be reached via the London Underground – and the **medieval heraldic banners** that the Museum has produced for display along the High Street each summer since 2018 serve to proclaim it alongside the Town's annual **Medieval Festival**. The refurbishment of the **Physic Well**, completed in 2018, harks back to the time in the 1600s when Samuel Pepys visited the 'spa town' of Barnet to take the waters there, and can now be visited on some Saturdays – even if it is advised that the waters themselves are not now drinkable. The discovery in 2020 of the **ancient timbers** dating from the 13th and 14th Century that form the structure of 'Chudy's' shop (now a florist) in the High Street have been called 'London's architectural/archaeological find of a generation'. Also in Hadley Common/Wood lies a prehistoric mound, which Barnet Museum are investigating. A final mention here is that any visitor coming to see any of these, and more of Barnet's many attractions, should note that Chudy's also sits adjacent to the **Mitre Inn**, Barnet's oldest surviving coaching inn....

**‘Y’ Station:** The ‘Y’ was itself shorthand for the abbreviation of ‘WI’ (for Wireless Intercept). A house at Arkley became one of many listening stations monitoring the airwaves for coded German wireless signals during WW2, the intercepts recorded being forwarded by motorcycle to the famous decoding centre at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire for decoding. Staffed by the military, British Cypher School staff (which later became GCHQ) and carefully chosen and vetted radio ham volunteers, the stations would later come under the control of MI6. In the 1950s listening operations were relocated to Sandridge and Eastcote, but the Arkley house was kept on for other MOD/GPO communications work and training into the early 60's when it closed.



An example of a typical ‘Y’ Service listening room displayed at the Signals Museum at RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire

**Zoo:** A zoo, in Barnet ? Surely not!

Well, we seem to have come pretty close to having one (of sorts) when George Bruce Chapman (1885-1935) established ‘Chapman’s Animal Dealers’ based in Tottenham Court Road in London in 1922 - also using premises at or behind 11, High Street Barnet as ‘an animal depot’ to house some of them!! The business offered ‘Complete Menageries Available for Hire’, and although their letter head declared that ‘We cannot hold Ourselves responsible for the Death of any Foreign Livestock’, the 1926 press item reproduced here shows that they were not exempt from sanction when an employee at their Barnet depot lost his finger following the unwanted attentions of a lion! How times have changed. It could not happen today.



And so I reach the end of what I hope was a gentle but interesting ramble through a bit of Barnet's rich history. As stated in the preamble, this is intended to be just a distillation from some of the items I have encountered during other research activities. I hope a light has been thrown on some of the people and things that lie unknown or forgotten below the 'headline' level .....

There is much, much, more to be found and I hope the reader is encouraged by these jottings to seek it out.

Copies of the local histories written by Samuel Byford, Sydney Widdicombe and the Rev Frederick Cass are held in Barnet Museum's reference library. Also held is a copy of 'Cowing's Guide to Chipping Barnet and Neighbourhood' published in 1887.

Fascinating further details of the daily life of the Master of the Union Workhouse are to be found in Hertfordshire Record Society's 2010 book 'The Diary of Benjamin Woodcock, Master of the Barnet Union Workhouse, 1836-1838'. Edited by and with an introduction penned by Gillian Gear, late curator of Barnet Museum, a copy is also available for reference in the Museum.



# The Hertfordshire County Council plan for Barnet, 1963

By Scott Harrison

In a year of royal tributes, let us give particular thanks to George V, in whose memory 471 public areas ('King George V Fields') were established all over the country, including two in Barnet. The one from Hadley Green to Tudor Road is one of my favourite walks – it is always lovely, occasionally spectacular, and a walk I can do every day. And at the top is Hadley Green, delightful even though bisected by traffic, and the lovely public footway to Old Fold Golf Club adds an extra delight with its views over Hertfordshire countryside.

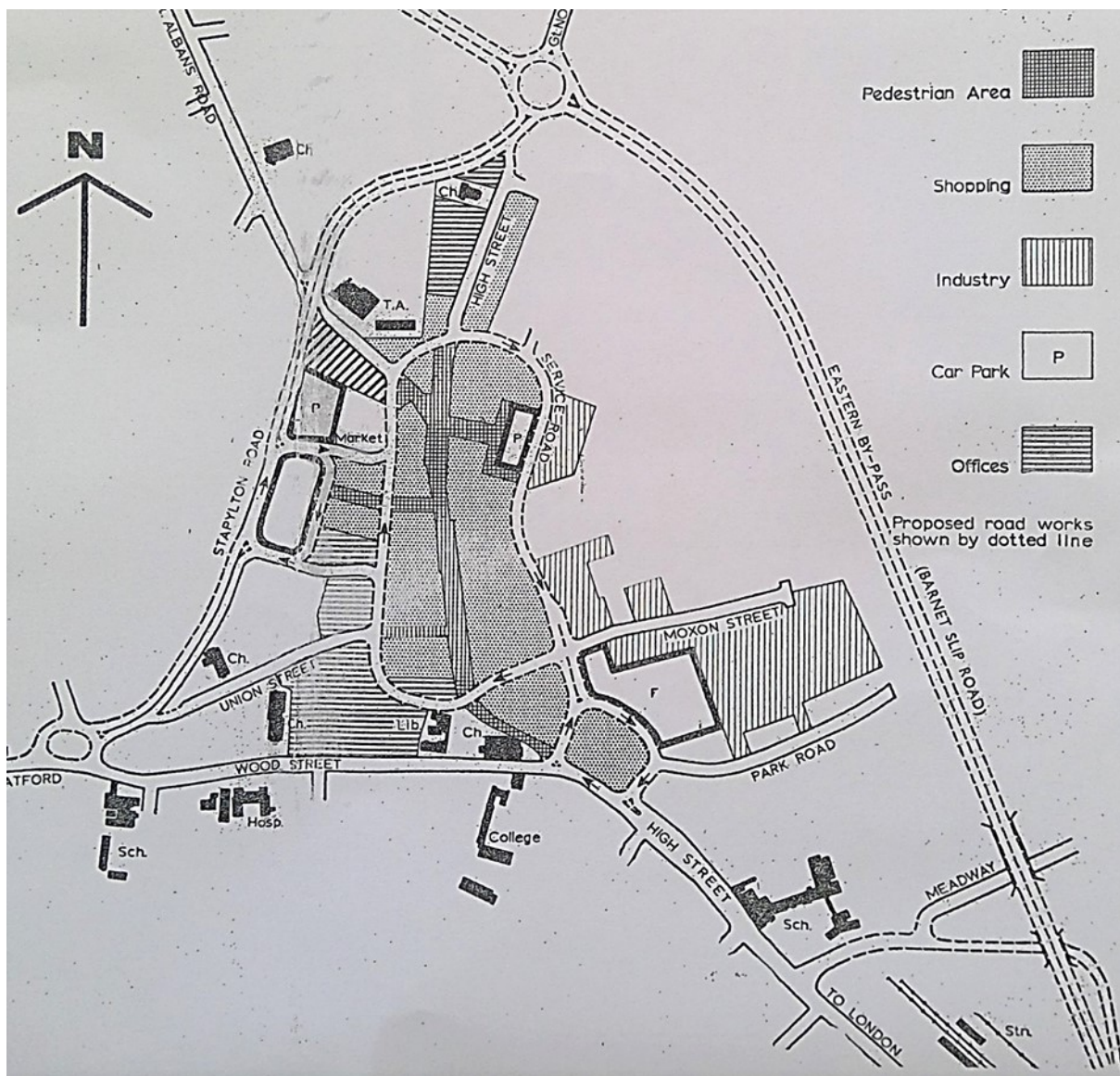


The entrance to King George V Field in Monken Hadley

Now stroll back in time to 1963 and consider how this might have all been taken away from us, giving way to cars and commerce. This was Hertfordshire County Council's plan for the 'Barnet of the Future'. This plan was reported with approbation by the Barnet Press of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1963, describing it as 'salvation for Barnet, a town now choked with an ever-swelling volume of traffic'.

The aim was to 'create from a tired conglomerate of buildings a shopping Mecca that could hold its own against the pull of North London, Enfield, Watford and St Albans'.

Here is the plan, with a central pedestrianised area from just north of St John's Church to just north of the St Albans Road junction, all surrounded by a service road. North-south traffic would avoid the high street by use of the slip road cutting through the Old Fold golf course to a roundabout on Hadley Green, then down the top and margin of King George's field, crossing Meadway and re-joining the Great North Road at the foot of Barnet Hill. Traffic from Wood Street would go south via a roundabout adjacent to St John's Church, or north to the new slip road via a dual carriageway on Stapleton Road.



The plan shows designated areas for shopping, offices, 'industry' and car parking. In a particularly telling section entitled 'Skyscraper flats in Barnet', the paper reports that 'The county council want (sic) to see maisonettes above many of the shops to be built in the precincts of the High Street. They suggest that 2.75 acres of land between Union Street and Salisbury Road should in time be rebuilt with high density flats.'

In summary, the Barnet Press said that the plan 'is bold, sweeping, imaginative – and realistic'. It further announces that 'The attractive and lucidly presented report on the plan will be on sale to the public from Monday at 15s. a copy.' (The purchasing power of 15s in 1963 would be about £15 in 2022).

The following week's Press took up the story, commenting on 'people flocking in' to Barnet Library to see the scale model of the proposed new town and accompanying drawings. The paper reported that 'Reactions to the proposals were, of course, very mixed. They ranged from high praise for a brilliant scheme to outright objection and several attempts by irate residents to make speeches to other visitors.'

Subsequent editions of the Press saw views expressed on both sides in letters from readers. In the interests of balance, here is one from each side.

*Sir, Surely no one who has seen or heard of the "resurrection" of Plymouth and other towns could ever justifiably quibble about the desperately necessary re-birth of Barnet. Thank heaven for someone with the constructive imagination plus the courage to put it into effect.*

W.S.S. North Finchley

*Sir, Barnet is an ancient market town bounded on the north where a famous battle was fought. Under the proposed town centre plan Barnet will lose its visual identity and the green its unspoilt beauty and interest. Both are to be sacrificed to the moloch of road transport and the craze for shopping precincts...*

*A machine made, artificial precinct in the heart of Barnet is incongruous, entirely alien to the local idiom and spirit. The arguments put forward in favour of these drastic changes are very controversial. Let not the individual character of Barnet and its environs be lost for lack of protest, for lack of seeing the other side of the picture before it is too late...*

MB Honeybourne, 16 Highland Gardens.

Well, we know which argument won; or that the case for change was not sufficiently well made; or (and most likely) that the Hertfordshire plan simply fell away as Barnet became a London Borough. We still complain about the traffic, the shops, the lack of affordable housing – but we retain our beautiful green spaces and a historic and unique town centre of which we can be proud.

And Plymouth it isn't.

# Coping with Catastrophe - Flying Bomb at STC in New Southgate

By Mike Noronha & Jeff Gale

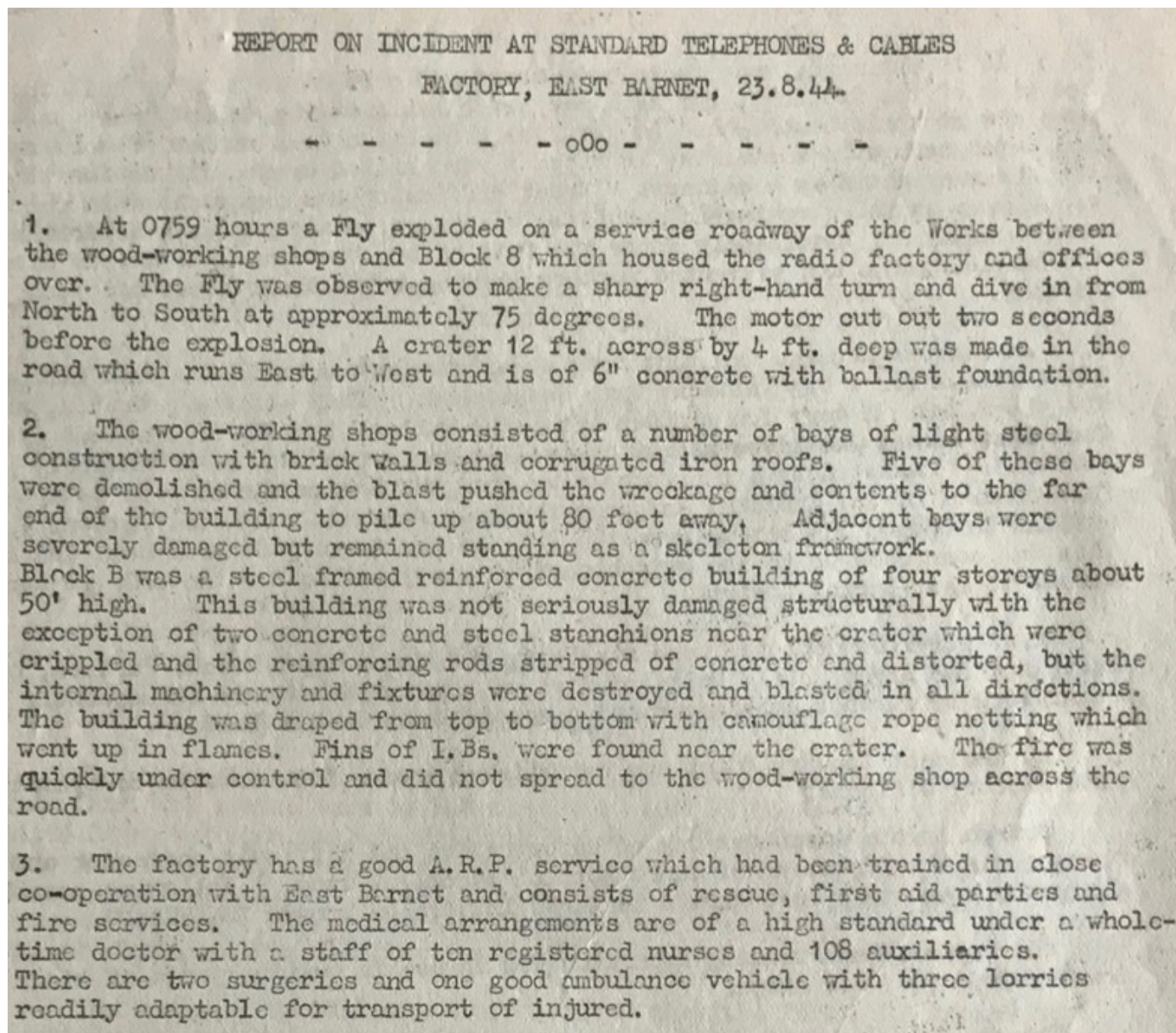


The V1 flying bomb.  
“Vergeltungswaffe 1—  
Vengeance Weapon 1”  
An early cruise missile  
used by Nazi Germany  
in World War II, known  
as “The Doodlebug”

Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd (known locally as ‘The Standard’) was for many years one of the largest employers in the area around their factory, which was situated in Oakleigh Road, New Southgate. STC acquired the site in 1921 from J Tyler & Sons - sanitary engineers, brass founders, and pump manufacturers - who by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century had also begun to manufacture petrol engines for road vehicles. By WWI, Tyler was making engines at the site for the War Office, which powered lorries used on the Western Front. A similar association would develop in WW2 when STC used their expertise to develop and manufacture communications technology, which saw the company involved with developments such as radar and radio equipment for the war effort.

Although it seems that the STC site had become a target for German air attacks, the guidance and control systems used in the V1 ‘Doodlebug’ that fell on the factory in June 1944 were not that accurate, as the adjacent LNER railway line was also a prime target. Several other V1 strikes also occurred in the wider local area, but none of them managed to wreak a larger toll on civilians as the STC incident, which killed 33 workers. More than 320 of the staff were injured, many of them severely. Details of the event were included in the museum’s book ‘The Chipping Barnet War Memorial - World War Two’, published in 2017. We have recently received a copy of an official report dated September 1944 (held at The National Archives in Kew under reference AIR 20/4376), which provides a new, fascinating insight into how well the specially trained factory staff responded to working as an in-house Air Raid Precautions (ARP) unit alongside the local authority response teams.

Here we draw from the report, adding narratives on both the event and the work of the factory.



These opening paragraphs provide evidence of the explosive power released by the V1 'fly' on impact, together with clear evidence of how the wider civil defence system across the southeast of England could identify and track the weapon's approach. Not all impact sites would have benefited from the ability to respond in place at STC, which was both long planned and trained for. It is fascinating to note the level of medical staff and facilities that, after being put in place, were ready to respond. They were also there to provide care for the many vital staff working in shifts every day. It is also interesting to note that 'the motor cut out two seconds before the explosion' - belying an oft stated view that the V1 would fall to the ground only when its sound cut out.

4. The operation of the warning system is thus described.

The factory acts as an A.W.A. control centre employing part-time Raid Spotters who take over duty upon commencement of A.W.A. plotting or public siren, whichever operates first.

On this occasion, excellent plotting resulted in a 30 mile signal being transmitted to satellite factories of control at 0750 hrs. Public siren 0751. Message to "Standard" factory employees - "Public sirens are sounding" (repeated three times). Second signal to satellites at 15 miles 0754. Third signal indicating Fly at 5 miles at 0755 to satellites and to "Standard" factory employees by a message on loud speakers - "Area Warning" (repeated three times).

0756 "Area Warning cancelled" (repeated three times) as plotting showed Fly had passed out of the area.

0757 Area Warning repeated.

During the whole of this, a running commentary is taking place between Controller on duty and Raid Spotters and vice versa.

Spotters had reported visibility as about 300 yards and mentioned sound of Fly at 0759 very close and said "Take cover" and rang warning bell to control. This resulted in Controller broadcasting at once in an imperative voice "Lie down, lie down, lie down." The incident occurred approximately 30 to 40 seconds later.

It would appear that it was not the practice for personnel to proceed to shelter but to lie down under their benches on receipt of the imminent warning.

From this we can deduce that there was some confusion regarding the warnings that were transmitted to the STC and other factories about 3-4 minutes before the impact, although by then STC staff were already on high alert at their workstations (as dictated by company policy), listening to continuous updates from the factory air raid Controller, done via the internal broadcasting system. Although the factory had constructed underground shelters in tunnels parallel to the adjacent railway line, the norm was for staff immediately to take shelter below their benches should the order to 'Lie Down' be broadcast, indicating an attack was potentially imminent. This undoubtedly saved many lives on that day in August 1944 - and the importance of those words was echoed in an interview with an uninjured survivor of the attack that we recorded in the Museum's 2017 WW2 book:

***"Oh dear, every day I can still hear that man's voice shouting, LIE DOWN! LIE  
DOWN!! -  
I still wonder whether he survived."***

The following two paragraphs of the report cover the immediate aftermath of the VI's impact. They record that a number of staff, possibly those moving to and from shifts, succumbed after taking shelter in a stairway which acted as a chimney for the flames caused by the explosion. This indicates the efficacy of the decision to tell staff to take immediate personal action by sheltering under their bench.

5. It is estimated that there were about 250 persons in the two buildings at the time of the incident, but as a new shift was arriving on duty many persons were not at their benches and so got less protection. A number of workers who had taken refuge on a stairway in Block B were killed by the flames for which the stairway acted as a chimney. Great difficulty was experienced in checking casualties as the clocking-in machines, which are located in each department, were damaged. Immediately after the fall of the bomb the gate keeper closed the main entrance and prevented workers leaving until their names had been checked.

6. An Express Message was sent from a Wardens Post outside the main gateway and services for a big incident were despatched. They arrived promptly, as did the N.F.S. A very few minutes after the fall of the Fly an Incident Officer from East Barnet who lives nearby arrived at the gates and was immediately admitted. Assisted by a representative from the Company he at once took over full control of the incident and sent for help from his own Local Authority. A field telephone was set up from the I.P. to the factory Control Room and as this was connected up to the switchboard it was possible for the I.O. to speak direct to East Barnet Control.

L.A. services deployed were six Heavy and three Light Rescue Parties, one Heavy and one Light Mobile Unit and five ambulances which were subsequently reinforced by further ambulances and a second Heavy Mobile Unit.

An Incident Inquiry Point was established inside the works in co-operation with Factory officers.

Search in the workshops was of an extensive and difficult character and a feature was the formation of lanes between stacks of wood. Following search along the lanes they were marked in large letters on boards "SEARCHED".

The oxyacetylene welding apparatus was in use in cutting parts of steel framing from the wood shops.

The fire was quickly extinguished by the Factory Fire Service assisted by the N.F.S.

At 1800 hrs. the incident was clear of casualties except for a complete check up of factory employees of the two shifts. Rescue work for recovery of missing persons was continuing under the direction of Mr. Christian, Rescue Staff Officer Group 6, assisted by Mr. Howell, East Barnet Deputy Rescue Officer with six Heavy and three Light Rescue Parties and some N.F.S. personnel. Work was not proceeding through the night and reduction of the number of parties was in operation.

29th Middx. Bn. Home Guard were on duty cordoning off the area and police were patrolling the factory.

The work was called off for the night after ten hours of intensive rescue work and checking, and it was established that all casualties were identified and accounted for. Men from the 29<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Battalion Home Guard were charged to work alongside the police to secure the factory.

The report then made note of the number of casualties and confirmed that the number was high due to many of the staff not being at their benches due to the shift change.

8. The recovery and treatment of casualties is thus described by a Casualty Services Officer.

From the nature of the damage there was little required in the way of rescue work, the majority of the casualties being immediately accessible and all readily so when the fire had been dealt with. The numbers involved meant a heavy call on the first aid personnel of the factory reinforced by the staff of the two Mobile Units and L.R. parties.

Slight casualties were dealt with at three points viz. the two factory aid posts and the mobile units which opened close to the incident. Serious casualties were sorted out at a collecting point in a large car shed near the main gate from which they were dispatched to hospital. Five doctors were present and helped in this work.

A temporary Mortuary was arranged in the entrance hall of the Administrative block, pending transfer to the Local Authority Mortuary.

Four Hospitals received casualties: Friern Hospital, North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, Victoria Hospital, Barnet, and Wellhouse Hospital.

It was admitted that one of the main objects was to clear casualties from the factory area as rapidly as possible and all available vehicles were used to distribute 200 serious casualties and a considerable number of slight cases to the hospitals named.

From the factory we proceeded to Church Farm Aid Post where it was ascertained that the Mobile Units had recorded on M.P.C. 44 some eight cases, three of which had been sent to hospital. The personnel had, however, dealt with numerous slight cases which were not noted. The fixed F.A.P. had received and treated ten cases which arrived there in C.D. ambulances.

Wellhouse Hospital was then visited and here we saw the Medical Superintendent who stated that he had received about 70 admissions from the incident with about the same number of slight cases. The cases arriving here included none due to glass, these being replaced in this incident by injuries caused by flying wood splinters. Multiple wounds and lacerations with several cases of compound fracture, head injuries, ruptured ear drums, one case of eye injury due to flying debris and three cases of burns, made up the causes of admission.

The Medical Superintendent also stated that the first aid treatment applied to cases had been satisfactory and that labelling had been good, and added that while he was not in the reception room for long, he had seen several cases with "M" for morphia clearly marked on their foreheads. The supply of stretcher bearers at the hospital was arranged by Barnet Urban L.A. and plenty were available.



From this it is clear that the immediate on-site triage and treatment provided by the STC medical staff was excellent. This no doubt sped up the treatment of the more seriously injured when they arrived at one of four hospitals - one of them being Wellhouse in Barnet (later Barnet General, now part of the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust group).

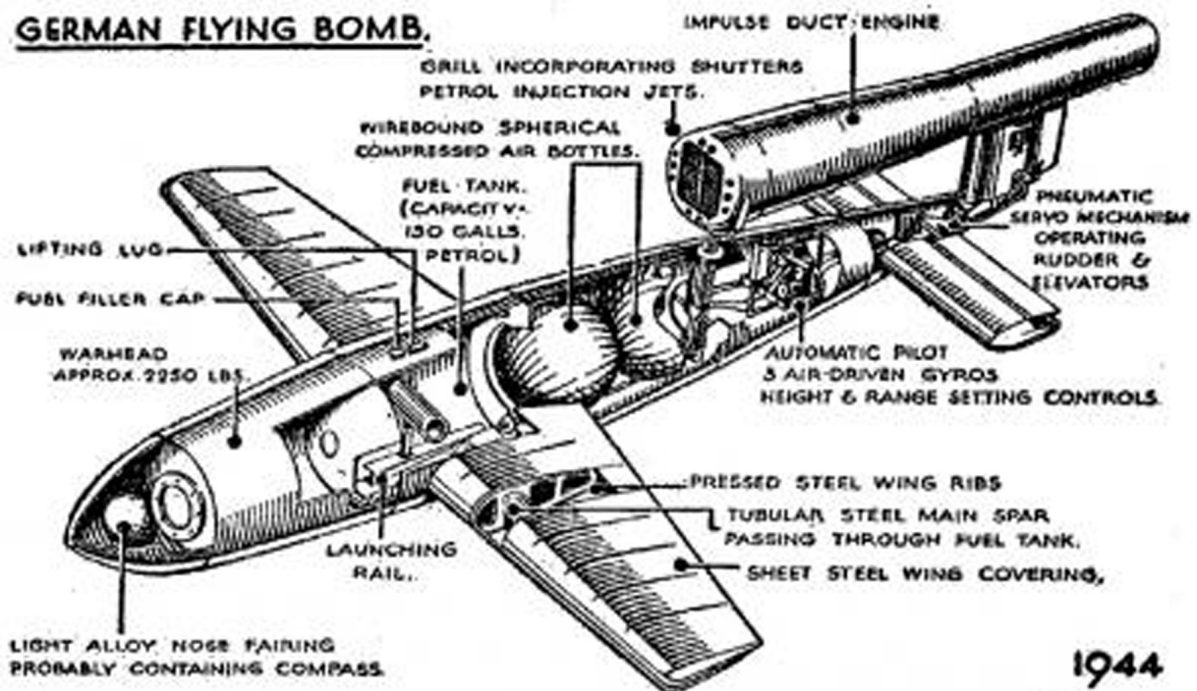
In conclusion, the report's final paragraph gives a summary of the exemplary way that the joint planning for the attack, and the execution of the response to it, were managed to excellent effect.

9. The incident may be considered a good example of co-operation between an industrial concern and the Local Authority and this co-operation was not fortuitous but was based on years of close contact and mutual goodwill. Standard Telephones had previously given assistance at incidents outside their factory area and here the reciprocal opportunity was taken.

The factory officers and personnel gave every possible assistance to the L.A. services as instanced in their A.R.P.O's. collaboration with the I.O. and the establishment of a joint I.I.P. with the W.V.S.

I am of opinion that the handling of this serious incident reflects credit on all the services concerned.

**GERMAN FLYING BOMB.**



1944

## 'A House Through Time' – Barnet Style

By Jeff Gale and Irene Nichols

Do you remember the TV series in which David Olusoga chronicles the history of a house through time? There was a similar experience here in Barnet recently when a former Barnet resident, 100 year old Bert Anthistle, accompanied by his son Richard, returned to the house in Salisbury Road where he and his family had been tenants from 1949 to 1956. A real 'living history' experience! Over afternoon tea, the story of life at home and in Barnet in the post-war 1950s was explored.

This particular house in Salisbury Road has featured in articles about the development of the area by the Drew Estate published in the Journals of 2020 and 2021. Built in 1879, it stands next to the site of the former Militia barracks, now occupied by the Spires shopping centre. The structure of the house itself though is largely unchanged. Despite the years that have since passed, Bert remembers much from his life in Salisbury Road some 70 years ago. The road itself, despite being just off the High Street, was then a very quiet road with cars a rarity.



Bert Anthistle (right) and son Richard (left) in the garden of No 18 during the visit together with Jeff Gale

They lived on the first floor of the house as tenants while the owner, elderly Miss Agnes Giles, occupied the ground floor. She was always addressed formally as Miss Giles, whereas Bert's children, Richard and Marion, could call her Aunty Giles. She clearly had a soft spot for Richard, occasionally making him toast on the top of a freestanding paraffin stove. (It often got burnt, Richard recalled.)

Bert was a Scientific Instrument maker and worked at W. Watson's and Sons at the top of Bell's Hill. However, at one time he worked together with a friend, even more locally, in the garden of another house in Salisbury Road doing engineering rework for Frigidaire. It is so striking that there were many good employment opportunities locally with the various industries that there were here in Barnet at that time.

Bert's wife Jean was a full-time Mum to their two young children, both of whom were born in the Victoria Maternity Hospital in Wood Street. Life for Jean had its difficulties. They had no fridge so food had to be kept cool two floors down on a shelf in the coal cellar. There was no washing machine either so it was all washed by hand. It was also written into their tenancy agreement that Jean could go into the back garden once a week to hang out the washing.

Of course, the family was coping with post-war food rationing, but Bert recollected that although there was a shortage of some food products, they were all adequately fed. Apart from food rationing, there were also ration coupons for other goods such as furniture and clothing.

Bert remembered many shops on the High Street, including a fishmongers, Freeman Hardy and Willis shoe shop, Sainsbury's with counter service and two men's shops Burtons and Shotters. Boots, one of the few surviving shops, had a library and a resident nurse at that time.

The Salisbury Hotel was an attractive feature of the High Street and there was also a Gaumont cinema as well as an Odeon at the bottom of Barnet Hill. The Hyde Institute Public Library was in Church Passage and there was also a private library in St Albans Road. Bert and his family went to the Congregational Church in Wood Street, now Barnet United Reformed Church.

In terms of public transport there was a regular service provided by trolley buses from Barnet Church as well as the underground from High Barnet Station. Many people came up from London to enjoy walks in Hadley Woods and by Jack's Lake at that time. For example, in June 1953 during the Whitsun Bank Holiday over 40,000 people visited this area for its green spaces.

Bert and Richard's visit was really a golden opportunity to get a first-hand account of Barnet life in the fifties. We were honored to play a part in organizing this visit and to be present that afternoon to discuss and record Bert's and Richard's memories of bygone days.

# **From Somerset to South Africa via 'Silesia' and South Australia; The Travels of an Anti-Hero**

By "An Abandoned Aussie"

Dear readers

I come from humble beginnings, born in December 1864 in Bridgewater, Somerset and, although my later life might belie it, I was baptised in St John the Baptist church in the parish of Eastover on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1865. I would later embark on an interesting and varied life involving much change and a fair degree of notoriety along the way. Although it ended prematurely at the age of 37 in South Africa I find that I have been long remembered, and as my journeys at one time saw me living for a while in Chipping Barnet I thought you might like to join me as I take a reminiscent look back into my past.....

My parents served as Master and Matron of the Union Workhouse in Bridgewater, and although my father Edwin died shortly before I was born my mother Catherine continued to work in her post there until she retired in 1882. Unbeknown to me, she passed in 1899.

By then my travels found me living in Adelaide, South Australia and about to begin the final chapter of my life which served to make me someone of doubtful repute even today. But before we return to those days let me first take you back to the formative years of my life which I hope will be of particular interest to you all.

Recollection of my schoolboy days in Bridgewater are rather hazy - although perhaps in view of my escapades in later life I may have chosen not to recall them in too much detail!

By 1881 I had left Bridgewater and had somehow managed to secure a post as one of five tutors living and working at a boarding school with seventy-six pupils that occupied a rather grand house which had been built some years earlier on high ground to the north of London in the town of Chipping Barnet. The town was by then expanding westwards onto former common land that overlooked Totteridge to the south across the Dollis valley, and purely by co-incidence I soon discovered that the house was located quite close to the Union Workhouse, providing care for local paupers just as my parents had back in Bridgewater.

I must claim to have 'acquired' enough learning and experience by the age of seventeen to have secured such a job, although I must admit to you another possibility.

The schoolmaster, John Russell - himself the son of a schoolmaster - hailed from the village of Othery, just 7 miles east of my hometown, and another of the tutors was also born in Bridgewater; it might therefore equally have been down to JR collecting some local 'likely lads' to take with him when relinquished one role as a schoolmaster in Bridgewater to establish a new career nearer to the metropolis. I am sure that his previous school would not have secured paying custom from parents of pupils born not just from in and around London but across the country as far as Wales and Ireland, and even some from Germany and even South Africa.

Located in Bells Hill and known in my time as Silesia College, the house had already amassed a history of uses - and I understand that it would continue to do so long after I had left my post there for pastures new. In 1860 it housed an asylum for orphans of the Crimean War under the patronage of Queen Victoria's Royal Patriotic Fund, and I learnt that a gallery for the boys had been constructed for them not far away in New Road at Christ Church a few years after it had become the Parish church for South Mimms in 1853.

From an advertisement in a dog-eared copy of a magazine called 'The Vegetarian Advocate' that I found hidden away in the house soon after I arrived at the school I discovered that another ten years before that a gentleman named John Edgar, a so styled 'Professor of Hydropathy and Atmopathy', had for eight years been offering treatments at what was then known as Silesia House which he claimed were cures for a range of disorders ranging from gout to headaches via torpidity of the bowels, and another for, and I quote, 'speedily removing the derangement of the functions of life peculiar to females'. Those were the days!

In fact I have been given to understand that an advertisement in 'The Temperance Recorder' as early as 1842 shows that the house was even then being used for remarkably similar purposes by a Mr J Spencer - who was then, on 'modest terms, offering a course of hydropathy treatment based on the system successfully pursued by Vincenz Preissnitz at his spa in Gräfenberg in the Kingdom of Bohemia and by other Continental hydropathists'.

I thus deduced that the name of the property - which I believe was originally (and know was later) called Oakmede House - was probably changed to Silesia House by Mr Spencer as a result of Gräfenberg being in Austrian Silesia, an autonomous region of Bohemia.

In 1881 the life and times of the town were being recorded in a local paper called 'The Barnet Press' - which also reported news from Hendon, Finchley and Edgware, as well as carrying advertisements from across North Middlesex and South Hertfordshire, and the pupils were naturally encouraged to take an interest in the affairs of the town by reading it.

Through those endeavours they would read items such as the paper's third annual review recalling demands made to the railway companies by the Barnet Local Board and residents during 1880 which had secured improved services to both High and New Barnet stations. Another report included lengthy discussions by the Board about how best to improve the district's street lighting and whether the gas used to light the lamps should now be metered to better control the costs. The hope was that the boys would learn from this that well intentioned progress will often be hard to secure in the face of bureaucracy!

Moral lessons could also be learned. Reports of cases brought before the Petty Sessions included local offences such as poaching, thieving and drunkenness, and a page was usually devoted to coverage of national and international news items. In June the sports page carried the results of a cricket match held on the school pitch between the college and the Barnet Press staff team, the result being a win for the visitors by 70 runs to 37. I also recall that in March the paper carried information about the Census that would take place 'shortly after sunrise' on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1881; I am sure that future researchers will find my presence at Silesia College recorded therein - although I am sure that my passage through later years will prove far less easy for them to trace in any real detail from then on....!

Looking back on my time in Chipping Barnet I ponder how it might have influenced me in later life. It was prospering following the arrival of the railway in 1871, clearly wished to improve the living and health standards of its citizens and was keen to attract new residents into the town to populate the new estates that were being built. My role as a tutor there might well have led me towards a more staid existence in the sphere of teaching or another professional area of toil. However, I suppose that I must admit that I had begun to realise that a more exciting and challenging road lay ahead of me as I entered my early twenties...

The prospects of a new life beckoned. By May 1883 a cheap sea passage found me leaving Plymouth bound for Cooktown in Queensland, Australia, and I arrived there that June.... I will neither deny nor admit that there may have been other, less respectable, reasons for leaving my home country, but on my arrival records will show that I then sought to distance myself from my past by changing my name before soon entering into a marriage - which I will own was probably short lived as I began my new life there.

But hold, I fear that I am perhaps now moving away from that part of my life that will have been of most interest to those of you living in Chipping Barnet.

Much of the rest of my life is well recorded elsewhere - through written histories and even in a moving picture! - so all I will say here is that I went on to become an accomplished horseman in the outback (giving me a nickname by which I am now better known) and a lay poet during the 1890s - one of the so-called Aussie 'Back Block Bards'.

Perhaps composing poetry led me too close back in time to my days tutoring at Silesia College for yet another chapter in my life, which would eventually lead to my downfall, stretched ahead of me.....

In 1899, I volunteered to serve as a Lance-Corporal with the South Australian Mounted Rifles and my riding and bush skills would serve them well as we joined the fight against the Boers in South Africa in early January 1900. I believe that I served well there being promoted to Sergeant and I saw action at the battle of Diamond Hill that June.

After a spell of leave during which I ventured back to England for several months - not all of which I must confess were exactly well spent in respect of my dealing with the fairer sex - I returned to the fight in South Africa where I then accepted a commission to serve with the Bushveldt Carbineers.

Now a Lieutenant, I soon saw action again against the Boers who were now adopting commando tactics fighting in effect a guerrilla war against the might of the British Empire. Engagements were to say the least pretty brutal at times - and I eventually found myself being charged with the unlawful 'revenge' killing of several Boer prisoners of war and a German Priest. Enough to say I was court-martialled in January 1902, found guilty and was executed by firing squad at Pretoria on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1902. In defence of my comrades and me, we were ordered by no less than Lord Kitchener to "take no prisoners".

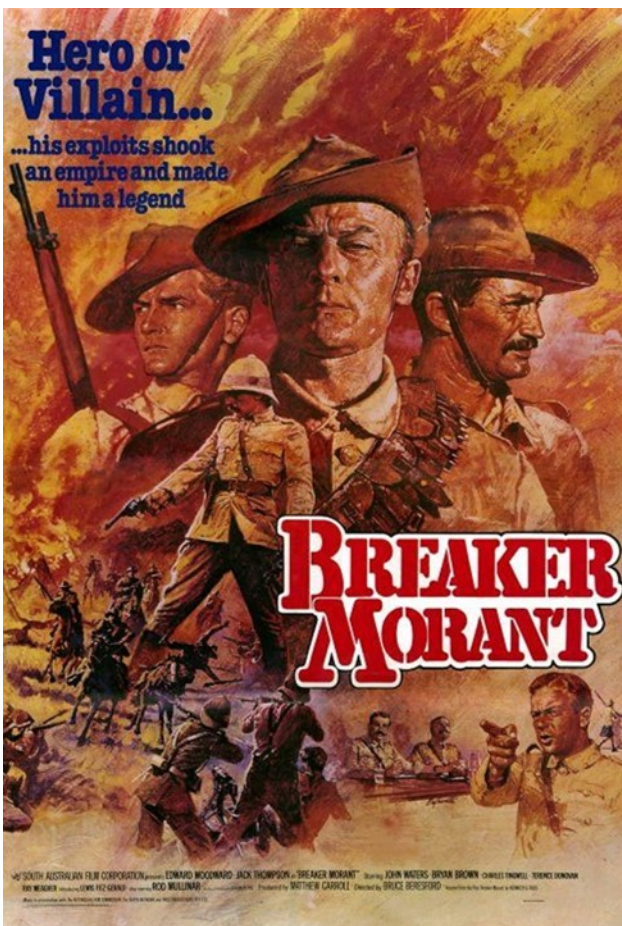
I faced the end with stoicism and will not comment here on the justification for it. All I will say is that even today there are people who seek a pardon for me - although I personally doubt that one will ever be given.

Some say that my real name was Edwin Henry Murrant; in Australia I have become known as Harry Harbord Morant, which has enough similarities to make it a plausible nom de plume. But it is the nickname that I acquired due to my skill with horses by which I am probably most widely known - 'Breaker Morant'.

Note: Four other old boys from Silesia College also fought in the Boer War of 1899-1902: Bertie Crane, W Crawford, Jack Wright and Ernest Cecil McKechnie.

Although none were local men, their names appeared in a Barnet Press report recording a dedication service held at the college on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1903 when an oak lectern bearing a brass plaque was unveiled in memory of Sergeant Ernest McKechnie, the only one of the four men who did not survive the conflict. Killed in action aged 20, he was one of the many men who died fighting with the 91st Company (Sharpshooters) 23rd Battalion Imperial Yeomanry at Tafel Kop, in Orange Free State, on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1901.

Although the Silesia College memorial lectern is presumed lost, the War Memorials Register of the Imperial War Museum records that Sergeant McKechnie is still remembered at Acton Cemetery in West London where his name and service details appear as an inscription on his late mother's gravestone.



*Breaker Morant* is a 1980 Australian War drama film directed by Bruce Beresford

The film concerns the 1902 court martial of lieutenants Morant, Hancock and Witton in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Boer War. It was one of the first trials in British military history.

The three Australians, serving in the British Army were accused of murdering captured enemy combatants and an unarmed priest in the Northern Transvaal.

The film is notable for its exploration of (what became known as) the Nuremberg Defence, the politics of the death penalty, the human cost of total war and the dismissive treatment by British authorities of soldiers from the dominions.

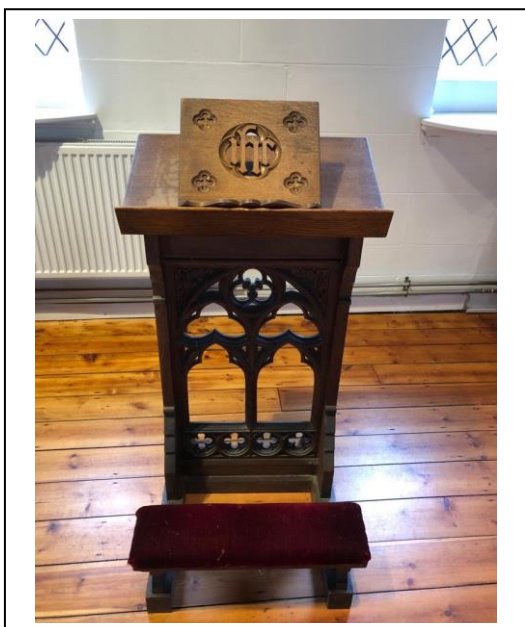
The film became anti-Imperialist cause celebre in Australia. As the trial unfolds, the events in question are shown in flashbacks.



## 'Litany desk' from St Paul's Church, Hadley Wood - a short history

By John Hall

This autumn Barnet Museum acquired, on permanent loan from St Paul's Church, Hadley Wood, a finely carved piece of furniture known as a 'litany desk' or 'faldstool.' A small brass on the front of the desk records that it was presented to the Church on 31st March 1911 as a 'token of regard' for the Rev'd William Warren, who was Vicar of Christ Church Cockfosters and also the first Vicar of St Paul's. As a 'founding father' of St Paul's Church, the completion of the 'Church Room' (as the Church was then known) in 1911 was the crowning achievement of his ministry. At the litany desk William Warren, and the Vicars and Curates who succeeded him, would sit and kneel during Sunday services to pray.



On top of the desk there is a handsome reading stand on which the Book of Common Prayer would be placed. It bears the carved letters 'IHR', an abbreviation from the Greek of the name 'ΙΗΣΟΥΣ' (Jesus).

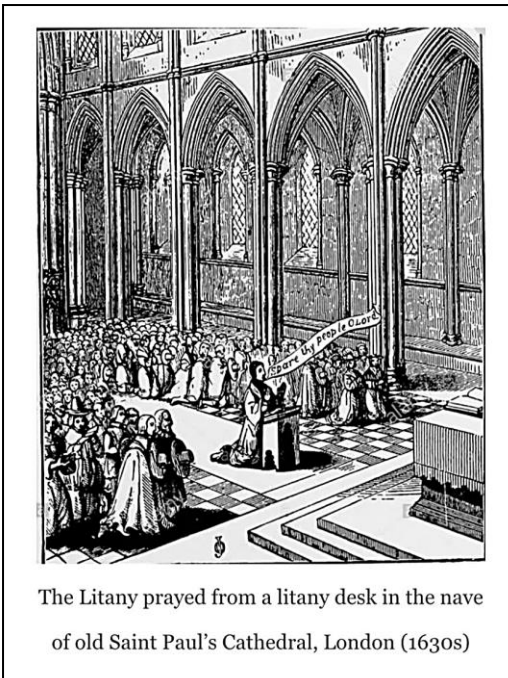
'Litany Desks' have an interesting and ancient pedigree, spanning many centuries and providing a link with the emergence of the Church of England and publication of the Book of Common Prayer in the sixteenth century.

'Litanies' were very old prayers originating in Antioch and dating from the fourth century and possibly earlier. They constituted a large part of

the Latin mass, in which the congregation participated by responses, and over the years developed into penitential processional services used in times of trouble to lament sins and petition God for help.

During the English Reformation in the sixteenth century the 'litany desk' made its appearance as a result of theological and liturgical change.

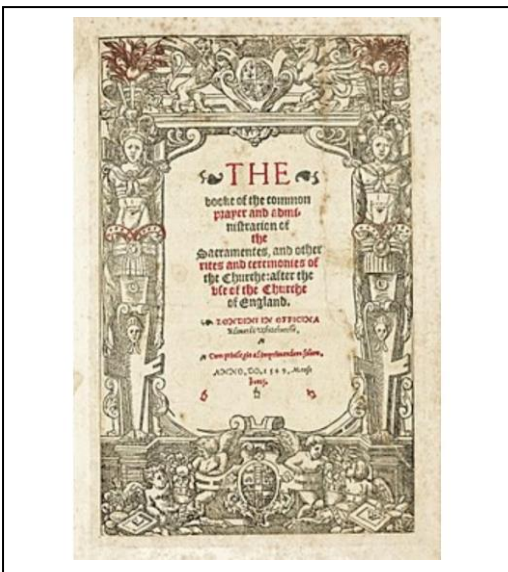
Archbishop Thomas Cranmer compiled the first English litany in May 1544. This was the first service in the native tongue to be authorised in England and was included in the first Book of Common Prayer published in 1549 and in the later 1552 and 1559 editions. In a letter to King Henry VIII Cranmer expressed the hope that it "will much excite and stir the hearts of all men unto devotion and godliness."



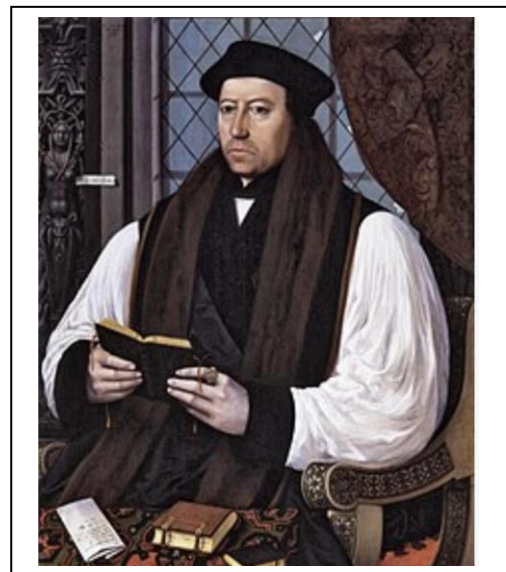
The Litany prayed from a litany desk in the nave of old Saint Paul's Cathedral, London (1630s)

But such “excitement” and “stirring up” did not extend in the view of the Reformers to the litany being sung in triumphalist public processions, and so in August 1547 after Edward VI became King, all processions were banned, described by Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch as “one of the most decisive moments of liturgical change...now the English litany that Cranmer had devised for Henry VIII was going to be frozen as a static rite, within the church building. One of the traditional liturgy’s greatest dramatic assets, its use of movement and invasion of public space, was to be removed from English life for centuries.” Thereafter the litany was recited by the Minister in the middle of the congregation from a kneeling desk located on the floor of the nave in front of the chancel (rather than near to the altar where most prayers were said).

It is said that the positioning of the desk was influenced by the words of the prophet Joel read on Ash Wednesday as the Epistle: "Let the Priests, the Ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the Altar, and let them say, 'Spare Thy people, O Lord!' " Injunctions issued during the reigns of Edward VI and Elizabeth I made the ‘litany desk’ a permanent piece of Reformation furniture. Since the Book of Common Prayer which includes Cranmer’s litany is so central to Anglican doctrine, the finely carved kneeling desk with its reading stand from which prayers could be recited would have been the perfect gift in 1911 for the Rev'd William Warren in gratitude for his work in founding a new church building “to celebrate Divine Worship in accordance with the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England” (in the words of the deed of indenture dated 25th August 1911 which established the St Paul’s Church trusts).



Title page, 1549 Book of Common Prayer



Thomas Cranmer 1489 -1556



According to Hadley Wood historian, Nancy Clark, William Warren was greatly loved by his congregation for “his courtly manners, his noble features and his gentle kindness.” A sense of this is evident from the archive photographs featuring the bewhiskered Vicar and his wife surrounded by beautifully attired female ladies of the parish and accompanied by his young Curate, taken after the annual Church Bazaar in 1907.

Life in Hadley Wood at the turn of the twentieth century was very different from today. Despite the opening of a station in 1885 and the clustering of houses within walking distance of the Great Northern Railway, the rhythm and pace was that of Victorian England. Residents still enjoyed their pleasant walks on Sunday mornings down the lanes and bridleway to Christ Church Cockfosters to attend morning service. Roads which we today take for granted were little more than country tracks through open agricultural land and woods. Londoners, such as General William Booth and his son, Bramwell, of Salvation Army fame, the Lock family and the eccentric Margaret Radclyffe-Hall and Una Lady Troubridge bought homes in the quiet and open countryside of Hadley Wood for rest and respite, calling them ‘Rookstone’, ‘Homestead’, ‘Camlet House’ and ‘Chip Chase.’ But the walks to Cockfosters grew too much for the expanding population of Hadley Wood and the local congregation soon began to outgrow St Ronan's School for evening services, and so a decision was taken in 1908 to build a new ‘Church Room’ on land gifted by the estate of a local worthy, Charles Jack. Albert Kingwell was appointed Honorary Architect and under his able stewardship and the direction of William Warren and a Committee of Hadley Wood homeowners the building works were started in 1910 and completed in less than a year. Funds were raised by public subscription with donations averaging £15 per household.

On Friday, 31st March 1911 the ‘Church Room’ (renamed ‘St Paul’s Church in 1936) was formally opened by the Bishop of Islington, and the ‘litany desk’ took up its place at the front of the chancel. The litany is still to be found in the Book of Common Prayer, appropriately revised to include prayers for King Charles and the Queen Consort, “to be sung or said after Morning Prayer, upon Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and at other times when it shall be commanded.” But its use has greatly reduced in public worship in recent years, and the imposing ‘litany desk’ on display in

the Museum has been replaced at St Paul's by a smaller and more practical prayer desk from which the Minister leads services today.

Thus one item of church furniture reflects the ebb and flow of church history and the evolving nature of the liturgy of the Church of England. It also honours and remembers William Warren, a beloved local cleric.

Acknowledgments:

'Hadley Wood,' Nancy Clark 1978

'Thomas Cranmer,' Diarmaid MacCulloch

## Barnet's Local Postcard Publishers: No. 3 The Handful in the High Street

By Terence Atkins

Previous Journal articles on local publishers of postcards have covered William Wilson of Wood Street and Samuel Hockett of New Barnet. Passing reference has been made to Cowing, who was the most prolific and will be dealt with in due course, as will some others from New and East Barnet. Meanwhile, here is a look at some of the lesser-known publishers. They all flourished in Barnet High Street, the majority in the first decade and a half of the twentieth century and the small remainder during the inter-war years.

**James Ager** *Stationer & Fancy Goods Importer* of 180 High Street was already in business in the 1890s. He later moved to No. 82 and could afford to advertise on the spine of at least one Kelly's Directory. His 'Pictorial Letter Card' required a 1d stamp (twice the cost for a simple postcard) and contains a dozen views from about 1900, some rather 'run of the mill'. Two are illustrated here:-



The view east from Coe's Alley is familiar, but pre-dates the building of the Ewen Hall. It was deemed perfectly safe for children to be lined up in the road to face the camera.

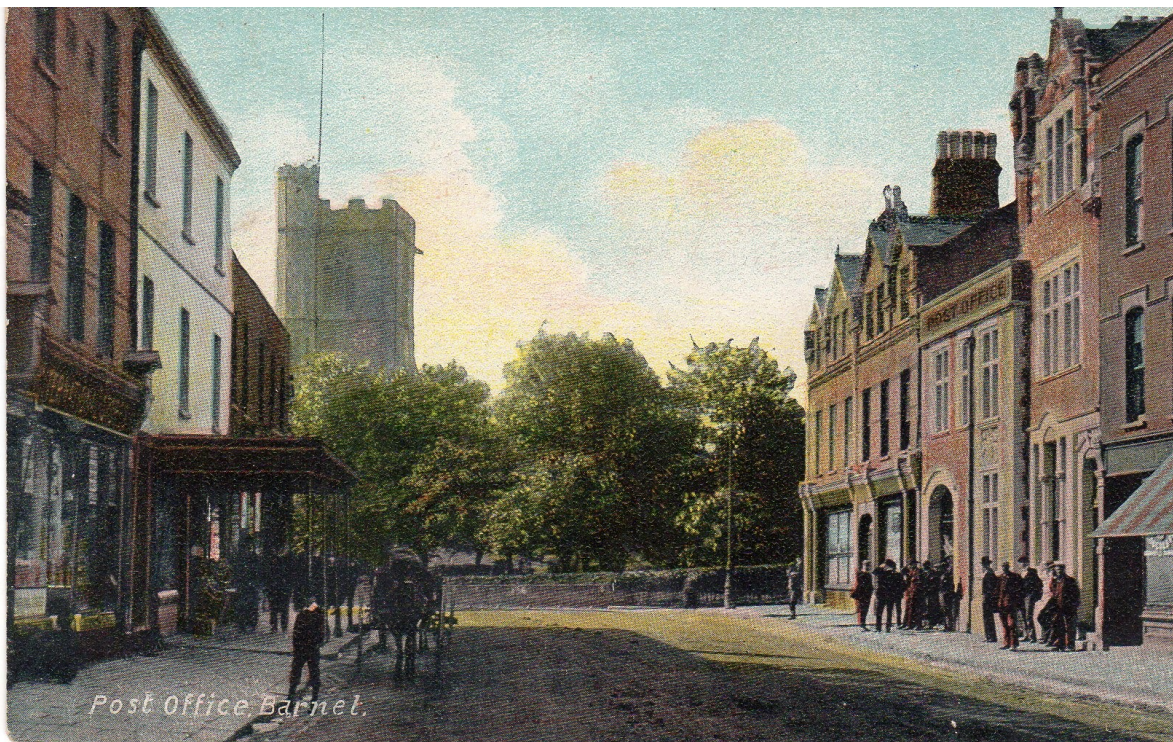


The Cottage Hospital stood between Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School and what is now Meadway junction. The smoke of a departing train is visible and no doubt a smoother ride was on offer than by horse and carriage on the leaving-much-to-be-desired road surface of Barnet Hill.

**Edwin Ward Berrill** of 70 High Street produced Berrill's "Barnet" Series. Berrill's Bazaar was well established before the end of the Victorian era. Coloured postcards were attempted from the earliest days, but they lacked the quality of photographic cards, as can be seen:-



Many a local publisher endeavoured to picture their own premises in one of their postcards, as shown with Berrill's Bazaar on the right. This classic view depicts Barnet Church a couple of years before the trams were extended up from Whetstone .



Around the corner looking the other way, the position of the Post Office was still a novelty following its removal not long before from the other side of the road, further up the High Street.

**Parkins** of 69 High Street was another stationer from the turn of the century who produced coloured postcards from the start. He was the first of our 'handful' to depart, and was indeed absent by the time of the 1908 Kelly's.



The name Parkins is clearly visible above the first shop front on the left. The Rising Sun almost next door, The Hart's Horns on the corner of Union Street and The Star Tavern opposite are a reminder of just how well-endowed Barnet was with public houses. The card was sent as a birthday greeting in June 1906 from 'The Quinta' in Arkley.



The Grammar School in its original setting is shown from the playground, including the Tudor Hall where it began in 1573 and the headmaster's house on the right .



**H. G. Hamshar & Co. Pictorial Postcard Publishers** took over 69 High Street from Parkins, but lasted only about five years at most. These cards have only a hint of colouring



Like his predecessor, Hamshar has included his shop front in this almost identical view to card 5 above. A tall building has gone up next to the Star. The 'Printing Office' is easier to pick out on the white Barnet Press building than on the Parkins card, and just beyond can be seen the former premises of the Post Office.



The High Barnet station view was posted in 1911 and shows the Great Northern Railway buildings, most of which are still in use. The footpath slope looks as if it must have been an even greater challenge than it is today!

**James Thomas Boyce** of 105 High Street traded as “The Dolls’ House” Barnet, during the brief reign of Edward VII. His postcards appear to be solely composite ones using the photographs of others. Each of these cards was matched by another with an identical title, and no others by Boyce have been located.



The vast majority of all topographical postcards have inevitably been ‘landscape’, but this one of Barnet Fair was sent to a young lady in 1906 because “I know you like upright ones”.

Was a pun intended with Peeps Round Barnet? Central place is given to the fine view of the 7<sup>th</sup> Kings Royal Rifles marching away from the barracks, past Berrill’s Bazaar and the Old Bull pub. The same Cattle Fair scene appears on both postcards.



**Albert Edward England** of 50 High Street was the only photographer and postcard producer to remain in business from Edwardian times until after the First World War and beyond.



The band had become known as the Barnet Town Silver Prize Band by 1921 and this postcard appears to date from around then. Many cards were made of the uniformed band with instruments and trophies on proud display, but this is the only one showing England's name on the front.



Chesterfield Road was not renamed from Mays Lane Road until 1930, by which time Albert England had long vacated the High Street premises. The conundrum is solved by finding that he was by then living near the bottom of Bells Hill, just a moment away from where this fine view was taken. Moreover, a Tom England, photographer, newly set-up at 238 High Street may well have been a son, but this is conjecture.

**Richard Knapman** of 46 High Street was another fine photographer, producing many postcards of quality during the 1920s. His output justifies looking at four of these:-



The serious business of the Horse Fair is illustrated in 1925 on open land to the east of High Barnet station. A train can be seen just beyond the prominent water tower, whilst on the upper right the path that became Meadway is visible.



The Red Lion is shown not long before the re-build that remains familiar. Its famous iconic sign is now thankfully listed.



Boots “Cash Chemists” is nicely portrayed in this card posted on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1923. The message refers to “where I get my books”, a reminder of Boots’ lending library days which lasted into the 1960s. There is also mention that “The King passed here this morning on way to races”.



Looking south from the St Albans Road junction when there was still a horse trough but no traffic lights, one can only marvel at how little traffic there was, though there is clearly a garage on the right .

**T. William Stevens** *Newsagent and Stationer* of 70 High Street was around for only a short while in the early to mid 1920s, his 'domestic stores' occupying the former Berrill's Bazaar. At premises almost next door he also sold china and was briefly a ladies' outfitter. His cards, all in the same brown-tinted non-glossy style, are rather lifeless views of Hadley, clearly aimed at the many excursionists arriving by train and tram.



Some of the impressive housing can be seen from Joslyn's Pond, just as today.



The old stocks were a little further north on the left hand side of the main road out of Barnet, but all trace of them disappeared many years ago.

**Edward Williams** *Arts and Crafts Depot, Photographic Supplies* of 10a & 12 High Street (later just 12) flourished throughout the 1920s and 1930s, producing a small number of quality postcards.



The premises are visible on the left with his name boldly displayed on the awning. The new tram, nicknamed Bluebird, shown at the start of its descent of the hill, later crashed when it reached the bottom!



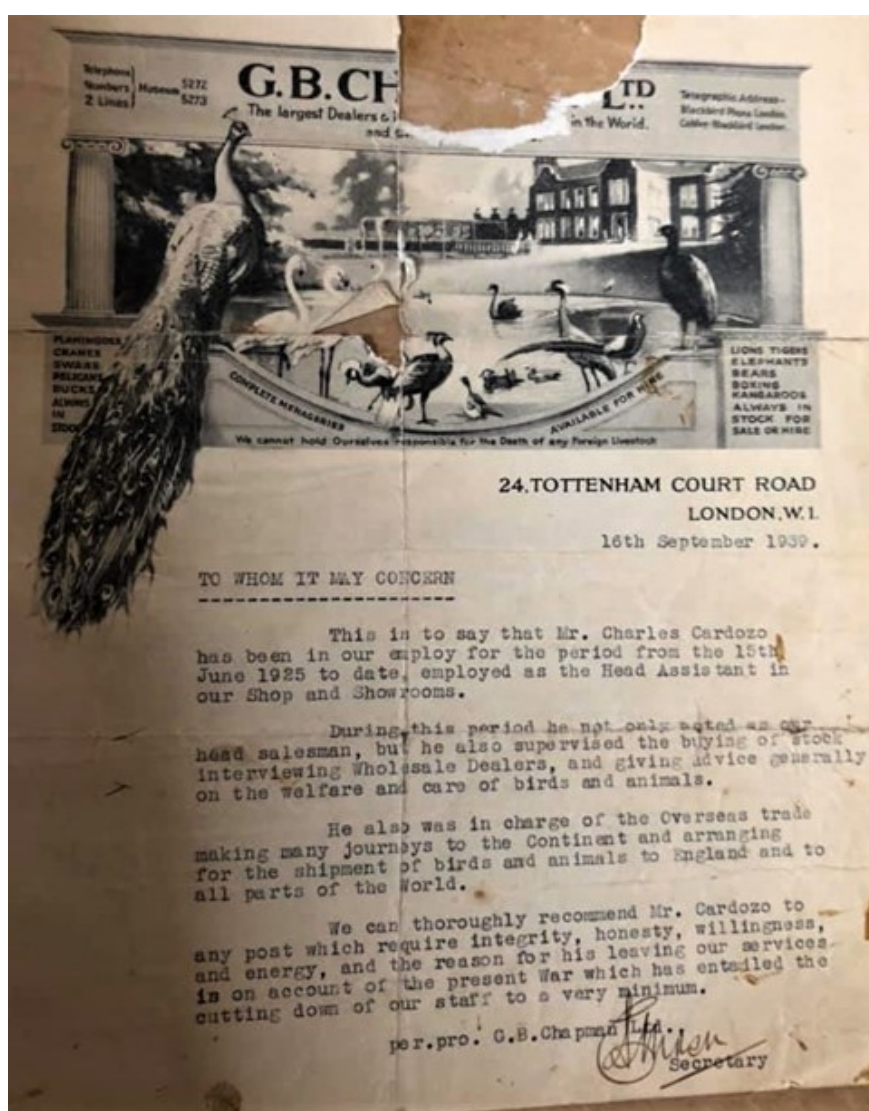
This view of Church House is a rarity, revealing what it was like before the 1939 rebuild which so skilfully blended the old and the new. The sign is pointing to the public conveniences over the road.

## Beyond A to Z: Research - How one thing leads to another.....

By Jeff Gale

In the opening paragraph of the 'A to Z of Barnet's Past' item earlier in this Journal I noted that during research for one topic, other interesting items often catch one's eye. As the item concluded (with 'Z' for 'Zoo') I observed that looking back into the past can reveal how attitudes and perceptions of right and wrong can and do change across the years. Examples of this came to light as I delved into the background of George Bruce Chapman and his animal exploits for the 'Zoo' item; I share them here for interest and amusement.

A letter I found posted online - see below - reveals a reference given by his company to an employee, Mr Charles Cardozo, in September 1939 as the onset of WW2 required the company to reduce staff as it reacted to the needs of war.



I remember Mr Cardozo well from when I was a child living on the Grasvenor Avenue estate in the 1950s and recalled that he was also the grandfather of a friend from my schooldays.

I would often see him - fit, healthy, strong, and tanned - striding across Brook Farm open space towards Whetstone. He was always smartly dressed, usually with a white shirt, his collar open over a grey jacket.



My school chum confirmed my recollections and has now provided the following of his own regarding his grandfather, which he has kindly agreed I may share further here

*With regards to the Zoo - Charles Cardozo was my grandfather who resided at 90, Western Way and this letter refers to him. My mother told us stories of her travelling, as a child, in and out of Europe with my grandparents. Grandfather would often smuggle small birds and other small creatures into the UK by concealing them in my mother's knickers and having her pretend to be sleeping or resting on the backseat of the car with a blanket over her. Grandfather was released from service because of the war commencing as the appetite for zoos and trading in animals fell through the floor. He deeply regretted his career change as he enjoyed working with animals so much. This might be the reason why he kept pigeons in his back garden. If the family went down to Hastings for the day, Grandfather would take one of his pigeons with him and on route would open a train door window and throw the pigeon out so it could fly back to the coop in his back garden.*

As I concluded earlier, how times have changed! I always thought that 'Budgie Smugglers' were just items of 'contour hugging' Australian gentlemen's swimwear!!

(Although not Barnet related I would also recommend a read of the 1934 Chapman related 'Gloucester Echo' news item via:  
[https://www.elephant.se/location2.php?location\\_id=1712](https://www.elephant.se/location2.php?location_id=1712))

## **A Postscript**

### **Peter Willcocks: Goodbye to a Giant**

Peter Willcocks who died earlier this year, a few weeks after his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, was truly a Barnet “player”.

Born in Camden Town and educated in Finchley, Peter trained as a quantity surveyor working for the London County Council and then the Civil Service.

On his retirement at 60 years of age, Peter threw himself into Barnet conservation and heritage matters. He was chairman of Barnet Museum and District Local History Society, Barnet Society and the Chipping Barnet Conservation Area Advisory Committee (which covers development in both the Wood Street and Monken Hadley conservation areas) he was also a member of the Westminster and Middlesex Family History Society.

It is not a stretch to say that Peter was a member of Barnet Museum’s “royal family”. He gave long and notable service to the Museum and History Society; his late wife Doreen was a renowned researcher, contributor to, and officer of, the Museum; his son, Graham, is currently the photographic archivist and IT specialist; his granddaughter, Jasmine, has volunteered at the Museum.

He is missed.

MN

# **Barnet History Journal**

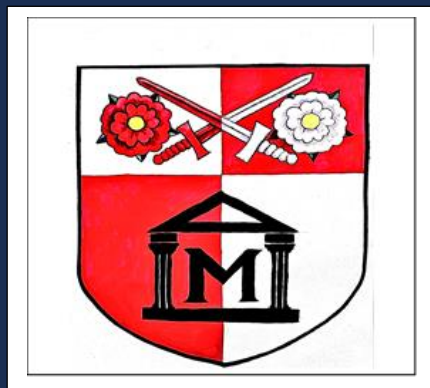
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