

SOCIETY NEWS

THE BULLETIN OF THE ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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'Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The Editor is Mr. G. R. Gillam, 23, Merton Road, Enfield, Middx., to whom articles and notes for inclusion and ~~corres~~ correspondence regarding the Bulletin should be addressed. The Bulletin is free to members. Extra copies may be obtained from the Editor (6p post free).

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ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Third Archaeological Roundabout - Sunday 2nd May 1971.

9.45 a.m. from Enfield Market Place.

Take your family or friends on an interesting day out in the car. Enjoy the fun of seeking earthworks, motte and bailey castles, historic buildings, museums, churches and abbeys, pumps, water and windmills, off the beaten track for approx. 110 miles. Nearly all the sites are not often found by the general public.

THIS VENTURE IS NOT A RALLY and we are therefore restricted to 12 cars.

No previous experience is necessary apart from being able to read a map reference (guidance will be given if necessary) and possessing Ordnance Survey maps, one inch series, Nos. 148 and 161.

The winning entrant will be presented with an inscribed trophy to commemorate the occasion.

Each entrant is responsible for their own insurance (please check your policy) and this will be confirmed by a declaration signed by each entrant before the start of the roundabout. The event will finish at approx. 6.30 p.m. one hours journey from Enfield.

E. A. S. Roundabout Sunday 2nd May 1971

NAME (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

I wish to join the Roundabout and enclose 50p entrance fee for my car. My car has..... seats and the following persons will be joining me (1).....
(2).....(3).....
(4).....(5).....

Please make cheques and Postal Orders payable to the Enfield Archaeological Society and send them to Mr. M. Kensey, 59, Kingsway, Enfield, Middx. Telephone in case of emergency 01. 363. 1015 and ask for Roger Eddington.

E D I T O R I A L

Mr. O. G. S. Crawford stated, in his book Archaeology in the Field, that he derived a deeper and more lasting satisfaction from fieldwork than he did from excavation.

While many people would agree with him the pace of modern development is so great with the demand for more and more land for motorways, new towns, housing estates, etc., that the archaeologist today has become almost solely concerned with rescue digs in advance of these developments.

We have been watching a number of sites in the area and several were examined during the past year with a view to their eventual exploration.

In Cheshunt the Council decided to incorporate the site of Old Palace House into the Cedars Park open space. It was here that James I built Theobalds Palace which was subsequently destroyed during the civil war. The feasibility of excavating and exposing the foundations of the palace to permanent view was discussed but the opinion of the Inspector for the Department of the Environment was that the problem of preserving the remains would be too difficult and costly. It was eventually decided to mark the position of the walls in the turf. We have agreed to carry out selective excavation to locate the walls should this be necessary.

Another site is Camlet Moat in Trent Park. The park has recently been designated an open space with the moated area set aside as a nature reserve. It is possible that the moat may be drained in which case we shall be on hand to watch out for any archaeological material. Talks are being held with the representatives of the Greater London Council who are responsible for the park.

The course of the D ring road north of Enfield will be watched. Apart from any other sites that may be revealed, Cathale Priory, a 13th century religious house, stood nearby. The National Monument Record have at our suggestion agreed to carry out an air survey along the line of the motorway.

In Edmonton, a school is to be built close to the Romano-British site at Churchfield which was excavated some years ago. It is hoped to carry out further excavation on the site before building takes place.

LIBRARY CATALOGUE The society now has enough books to warrant the formation of a lending library for members.

The books have been purchased by the Society or loaned by the Librarian. In addition the Society has just recently been fortunate enough to benefit by a request of several books following the death of Mr. H. S. Crocker of Waltham Abbey History Society. This is through the good offices of our own members. The W. A. H. S. is compiling a list of Mr. Crocker's books and are willing to share them with us, so we shall do the same for them. The Society is very grateful indeed to Mr. Crocker's sister who has so generously donated the books.

Besides books, there are in the library several Occasional Papers by members of the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society, Transactions, Newsletters, etc., from societies in London and Middlesex and a vast quantity of guides accumulated from outings throughout the years, on churches, houses, etc. There are also magazines and maps.

All books can be borrowed from the Librarian at:-
48, Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield. Telephone 360:1428.
Please phone in the evening to make arrangements to call.

Eventually a catalogue will be issued, meanwhile will members please note that there are books etc., on practically all prehistoric and historic periods in the British Isles and a few books dealing with the rest of the world.

Miss C. Blair
Librarian.

.....

CONSTITUTION A reprint of the Constitution incorporating the various amendments made from time to time is available from the Secretary, Mr. A. Smith, 10, Orchid Grange, N. 14.

One further amendment made at the A.G.M., since the new copies were printed:

Clause 9 ALTERATIONS add "attended by a quorum of one eighth of fully paid up members of the Society".

.....

ENFIELD CHASE

The Search for Documentary Evidence

A. Smith.

When the Medieval Research Group decided to study Enfield Chase, and in particular to try to find whether any changes in its boundaries had occurred over the centuries of its existence, it was clear to us that we would have to start by looking for documentary evidence. Most of us had no previous experience of tracking down old documents or of how to read them but our search proved to be most rewarding and even exciting at times.

As we are interested in the medieval boundaries of the Chase, any early maps which have survived would be most helpful but we have found nothing earlier than about 1600 and these are not maps of the Chase itself but of small areas just outside. In any event early maps are not usually accurate by modern standards as they are often of a pictorial nature and are not drawn to scale. We therefore have no alternative but to obtain our information about the early boundaries from other sources.

Where we went:

1. The Guildhall Library.

We have made several visits to the Guildhall Library in the City. This is a convenient library for those who have to work for their living as it is open all day on Saturday, a facility which does not apply at many other libraries. Furthermore, no tickets are required for admission and books or documents are usually produced within a few minutes. Mr. Arthur Hall was librarian at the Guildhall until his retirement and many members will recall the talk he gave to the Society when he described the very wide resources of the library. We are very grateful to him for accompanying us on our first visits and showing us some of the specially interesting documents which the library possesses.

2. The County Record Office.

Although Enfield is now in the area of the Greater London Council, whose main Record Office is at County Hall, the documents which interest us are still kept at the old Middlesex Record Office at Dartmouth Street, Westminster. As at

Guildhall no tickets are required here but it is closed on Saturdays.

3. The Public Record Office.

This is in Chancery Lane and is, of course, the main repository of the national archives. One has to obtain a reader's ticket before being admitted and the accomodation is cramped and uncomfortable. Also there is often a long wait for documents to be brought up. It is often so crowded that it is difficult to find a vacant seat but it is the only place where certain types of documents can be found. It is open on Saturday mornings but any documents for these mornings must be ordered in advance.

4. The Bodleian Library.

We found this an exciting place to visit and a trip there makes a very enjoyable days outing, especially if you stay for an evening meal in one of the noted eating places in the vicinity of Oxford. The oldest part of the Bodleian is called Duke Humphrey's Library and was founded in the 15th century. There is a link with Enfield in the fact that the Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, after whom it is named, was a grandson of the last Humphrey de Bohun who was lord of the Manor of Enfield in the 14th century.

As at the Public Record Office, one has to obtain a reader's ticket for the Bodleian and you have to undergo a sort of medieval ordeal to get it. I presented myself in the special place designated for the ceremony and handed in my application form. I was then given a large card with some printing on it, rather like the card which the customs officer gives you when you return from abroad, and asked to read it. I scanned it quickly and said that I understood it but was told "read it aloud please", so I stammered through the following declaration:-

"I hereby undertake not to abstract from the library, nor to mark, deface, or injure in any way, any volume, document, or other object belonging to it; not to bring into the library or kindle therein any fire or flame, and not to smoke in the library; and I promise to obey all the regulations of the library".

This is printed on the back of your ticket to make sure you don't forget it. I expected I should have to kiss Duke Humphrey's bible as well but that wasn't required and after writing my name in a huge volume I was given my ticket without further ado.

5. The Library at Hatfield House.

There is a large collection of documents relating to Enfield and Edmonton in the Marquess of Salisbury's library at Hatfield House. This is not a public library but by arrangement with Miss Talbot, the librarian, one or two visitors at a time are allowed. You work in a room which has a view of the park down a long avenue of trees. To reach this room you are conducted through the magnificent long gallery where the walls are hung with armour and weapons and past the private chapel. Miss Talbot is very helpful and produces documents within a few minutes. She has a Xerox copying machine with which she produces copies of documents for a small charge while you wait.

6. Other libraries.

Some of us have made visits to the Students Room in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum and also to the offices of the Duchy of Lancaster which are just off the Strand. At the time of writing we are trying to arrange a visit to the library at Belvoir Castle which belongs to the Duke of Rutland. Finally, the mention of these world-famous libraries should not cause us to overlook the good collections of books, maps and documents bearing on our locality in the Central Reference Libraries at Enfield and Edmonton.

It will be realized that our visits to these libraries have not been made by the whole group together but usually by two or three of us at a time or sometimes by only one. One of the difficulties we have met in many of the libraries is in trying to understand how their indexing systems work. However, we have gradually collected some hundreds of references to documents and maps which relate to Enfield and we have read some of the actual documents. Our next task is to select some more of those which seem likely to be the most useful to us and then return to the libraries to see the documents themselves.

Some of the documents we found:

1. Maps.

In the Public Record Office there is a large map of Enfield Chase dated 1656. A tracing of this was made by one of the members of the Group and was exhibited at a meeting. Also in the Public Record Office are the field sheets of Russell's survey in 1776 from which no doubt the

map for the 1777 division of the Chase was drawn.

At Hatfield House there is a remarkable plan of Edmonton dated about 1590. This has thrown some light on the boundary of Enfield Chase where it adjoined the parish of Edmonton. At Hatfield House there is also a terrier for Edmonton dated 1606. This included a number of plans of parts of Edmonton which, of course, included Southgate in those days. Of particular interest to us is a plan covering what is now the Grovelands Park area in Southgate, as this shows the boundary of the Chase along the stretch where Winchmore Hill Road now runs.

2. Surveys of Enfield Manor and Chase.

These surveys were made in the 16th and 17th centuries, the earliest we have found being dated 1572. The original documents are in the Public Record Office but we have found later copies in other libraries and these are usually easier to read than the originals. These surveys usually start with a "perambulation", that is to say, a description in words of the boundaries of the manor as though one was walking round them. For example, part of the perambulation in the 1635 survey, (after the spelling has been modernised), is as follows:-

".....begineth at Swainspond (which was east of the London Road and just south of the present Private Road) and from thence southwest by the north hedge of the way leading to Bush Hill unto the north end of a close in Edmonton in the tenure of Sir John Baker Knight in the occupation of Owen Hodges and from thence leading between Hillgrove and a little coppice adjoining unto a great ditch whence formerly the park pale stood (the park referred to is of course Enfield Old Park) and from thence by the said ditch unto Hammonds Hook Gate by the park pale (this was an entrance into the Chase near the present railway bridge in Green Dragon Lane, on the 1777 map called Filcap Gate) and from thence to Hunter Gate (this was near the small roundabout at the bottom of Wades Hill) and from thence to the house of Huxley Esq, and from thence southwest by the ditch and hedge of Edmonton unto another cottage of the said John Huxley in the tenure of William Darkely opening into the Chase and from thence to Highwood Gate alias Winchmore Hill Gate (this was near the present Chase Tavern at the bottom of Winchmore Hill Road) and thence by the Ring ditch to Southgate....."

The perambulation continues in a similar way to Cockfosters, Hadley, Potters Bar and right round the boundary in a clockwise direction until we arrive back at Swainspond where we started.

From a study of these perambulations we were able to construct a map showing the boundaries of the Chase and the different ways in which they were marked in the 16th and 17th centuries, that is, in some places by a ditch, in others by a bank or hedge and so on. The boundaries of the manor of Enfield described in these perambulations are of course those which applied before the Chase was divided in 1777 and differed in many places from the boundaries of the Borough of Enfield as it existed up to 1965. The boundaries of the present London Borough of Enfield are of course much more extensive but they still correspond with the old boundaries over certain stretches, for example, from Southgate Circus to Cockfosters and along the north and east of the borough.

These surveys contain much more than the perambulations, for example, there are lists of all the holdings of land in the manor giving the position, the area, the name of the tenant and the rent. There are also sections dealing with encroachments, the state of the fences, etc.

3. Inquisitions Post Mortem.

In medieval times, when a person who held land of the king died, a detailed enquiry was made into the extent and value of the holding. This is called an Inquisition Post Mortem. A reason for the valuation was to establish an assessment to be made of the payment which had to be made to the king before the heir could take possession. There is thus some resemblance to the modern procedure for obtaining probate of a will and paying estate duty.

These inquisitions are kept in the Public Record Office and are difficult to read because the script is small and sometimes faded and the language is medieval latin with many of the words greatly abbreviated. Printed calendars of these inquisitions give brief summaries in English and comprehensive indexes which enable one to trace all the inquisitions which contain a reference to a given place, e.g. Enfield or Edmonton. Some of the county archaeological societies have published translations of the inquisitions covering their counties but the inquisitions covering Enfield do not seem to have been translated and published. Some inquisitions include a perambulation of the boundaries but we have not found one for Enfield giving this

information. One dated 1336 mentions a manor house worth 13s 4d a year, with a garden and dovecote, 420 acres of arable land in demense, a park called the Frith (i.e. Old Park), a great Park (i.e. Enfield Chase), and many other interesting items. We have three other inquisitions covering the manor of Enfield dated about 1300, 1363 and 1373.

4. Various other documents.

Among the more interesting of the many documents we have seen are Richard Gough's unpublished history of Enfield in the Bodleian and the draft of his autobiography. There are numerous miscellaneous documents relating to the manor court of Enfield which probably contain much interesting information but which do not seem to help us very much with our research on the Chase. There are several documents of the early 17th century conveying property to Sir Nicholas Raynton and others. These are useful in giving us the names of various areas of woodland or of fields or other enclosures, thus helping to build up a picture of Enfield in that period.

It is clear that a great amount of work remains to be done but I think it is fair to say that the Medieval Group has already produced some worth-while results.

ELSYNGE HALL

Last September the Eastern Gas Board notified the Department of the Environment (then the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works) of their intention to lay a pipe line through the scheduled ancient monument at Forty Hall, just to the north of the previous pipe line (North Orbital). The Dept. (then the Ministry) gave permission to the disturbance of the scheduled area provided that I had a watching brief when the trench was cut.

At a site meeting in October with the kind permission of Mr. Findlay a slight alteration to the original line was agreed which would take the trench to the perimeter of the site in the hope that the buried remains of Elsynge Hall would not be damaged (the new route also avoided some fine trees).

The work has just been completed and I carried out my watching brief. Nothing of Elsynge Hall was revealed and the only stray finds were one or two sherds of 16th century pottery and the odd brick and tile.

I. W. Drayton.