

THE Barnet Society

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INSIDE:

- Page 6 | **Whalebones relief**
- Page 7 | **Café society**
- Page 8 | **You're so vane**
- Page 9 | **The way we were**
- Page 11 | **Tudor Park plea**



Mystery remains over exactly where the 1471 Battle of Barnet took place

The Battle of Where?

A report into the four-year project to discover the site of the 1471 Battle of Barnet explains why a team of military historians still cannot provide answers to the mystery surrounding the precise location of an epic confrontation during the Wars of the Roses, writes Nick Jones.

Despite failing to find any definitive battle-related evidence during their archaeological dig, they call for further research and recommend several sites to the north of Barnet which they believe might be worth investigating.

Glenn Foard, Reader in Military Archaeology at the University of Huddersfield, led the 2015-18 Barnet battlefield project, which was funded by the Hadley Trust.

Their 116-page report explores the many historic accounts of the battle and compares and contrasts this data with the latest experiences in battlefield archaeology and the success in locating the site of the 1485 Battle of Bosworth Field.

Despite years of study, historians have failed to agree on the exact location of the confrontation between Lancastrian and Yorkist armies that took place on 14 April 1471 in fields up to a mile north

of Barnet. Teams of battlefield archaeologists, including volunteers from Barnet Museum, conducted extensive metal-detecting searches and excavations in fields and woodland around Kitts End Lane and Wrotham Park.

At the start of the project in 2015, Mr Foard joined metal detectorists who searched one of the fields between Kitts End Lane and the St Albans Road.

Some artefacts were recovered but they failed to find military archaeology that linked the site definitively to the battle.

Volunteers at Barnet Museum, under the direction of Sam Wilson, cleaned and

recorded all the various items that were found. However, most of the objects recovered were modern "junk".

The report's conclusion is that the slight scatter of finds – and the discovery of round

shot by other metal detectorists in previous years – suggests the main action of the confrontation between the forces of Edward IV and Warwick the Kingmaker lay beyond the search site in areas where metal detecting has not yet been undertaken.

Dr Foard -- and his two other team members and report authors, Tracey Partida and Sam Wilson – say the significance of their research, and the need for it to

Continued, Page 2 ➡



▲ Top, the recently cleaned monument at Hadley Highstone to the battle. Above, Glenn Foard, from the University of Huddersfield, who helped lead the

Continued from Page 1

continue, is that Barnet still presents perhaps the best potential for further investigation out of several of the lost battlefield sites of the Wars of the Roses.

Barnet's added importance is that it is the only surviving English battlefield of the period where an army was known to have included a substantial number of hand gunners.

"Thus, Barnet might be our only opportunity in England to reveal the archaeological signature of late 15th century handguns when used in battle...and we cannot be sure which type of handgun was used by the Flemish mercenaries at Barnet."

If round lead shot had been discovered in the search area that might have helped to unlock the mysteries surrounding the Yorkist army's defeat of the Lancastrian forces and the death of Warwick.

Hundreds of Flemish hand gunners were present in the Yorkist army and if lead bullets were found at Barnet they would be "potentially



◀ The Battle of Barnet is one of the iconic military encounters in British history but still its precise location eludes historians

Cover of the universities of Huddersfield and Southampton report

of exceptional archaeological value" as no other European battlefield of the later 15th century had yet produced large scale archaeological evidence for the use of handguns. Targets for future investigation if access could be obtained would be the Old Fold Golf Course; land around Dancers Hill which was an area where most of the artillery overshots might have come to rest; and the north side of Bentley Heath where Yorkist overshots might lie.

Another priority would be a larger excavation inside Wrotham Park, the site of a medieval Kick Ends settlement to see if there was any evidence of a chapel that was built

“There has been no discovery of human remains... linked to the battle

“well upon half a myle” from the town of Barnet in memory of the soldiers killed in the battle.

Test pits were dug around a former moat within Wrotham Park, together with a geophysical survey by a team from Southampton University, but failed to identify any structures or any trace of a mass grave pit. One concern is metal contamination in some target areas which could render a systematic metal detecting survey impractical.

While a few of the high-status dead from Barnet were known to have been buried in London churches, there has been no discovery of human remains reported from the Barnet area which can be securely linked to the battle.

The report pays tribute not only to the Hadley Trust's funding of the project, but also the "tireless work" of the late Dr Gillian Gear of Barnet Museum who was "almost single handedly responsible for securing the financial and community support".

Roll on September for anniversary celebrations

An ambitious line-up of events is planned for the 550th anniversary of the Battle of Barnet and the highlight will be the return of the Barnet Medieval Festival in September.

A two-day event over the weekend of September 11-12 will include battle re-enactments and a medieval encampment and market at the Byng Road playing fields.

A crowdfunding campaign – see details below – is well underway to help finance what the festival committee hopes will be a truly memorable event to commemorate Barnet's role in the Wars of the Roses when the Yorkist army of Edward IV defeated the Lancastrian forces led by Warwick the Kingmaker.

If all went to plan, the High Street should have been decorated with heraldic banners in time for the 550th anniversary date of Wednesday 14 April.

To mark the occasion a socially distanced wreath laying ceremony was due to have been held at Hadley Highstone which was erected in 1740 to commemorate the battle.

Volunteers at Barnet Museum, who painted 72 heraldic banners featuring Yorkist and Lancastrian coats of arms, refurbished them during the winter months ready for installation on lamp posts in the High Street.

Dr Susan Skedd, a founder member of the festival committee, stressed the importance of building support for the two-day event

once lockdown restrictions are eased. Last year's medieval festival had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic and when it became evident that holding this year's event in June, as originally planned, was no longer possible, the organisers opted for the weekend of September 11-12 instead.

"We are busy planning how to deliver an exciting and spectacular programme that will bring the community together safely, working within whatever guidelines are still required, and create a truly memorable celebration," said Dr Skedd.

Over the two-day festival there will be re-enactments at the Barnet Elizabethans RFC's playing fields in Byng Road of both the Battle of Barnet and the Battle of Tewkesbury which were both fought in the spring of 1471.

In order to fund this special event, the committee has launched a crowdfunding campaign and has bid for funds from the Mayor of London and Barnet Council.

"Public support is vital to the success of our bid and the more people who pledge their support now for our 'Battle of Barnet at 550' campaign, the better chance we have of getting backed by the major funders and reaching our target of £25,000".

Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so by visiting www.spacehive.com/battle-barnet-550 or e-mailing the Festival team at info@barnetmedievalfestival.org



Kitchen sink drama lifts the lid on women's food role

The Bull Players' performance of Fog of War – their contribution to commemorations to mark the 550th anniversary of the Battle of Barnet – is to be staged in mid-September in the historic setting of the garden of Monken Hadley church, writes Nick Jones

Two afternoon performances during the weekend following the Barnet Medieval Festival will attempt to bring to life the daily toil of women working in a medieval kitchen as the local inhabitants ready themselves for what became one of the decisive confrontations of the Wars of the Roses.

The scene will be set by a large black and white drawing that forms the backdrop for the stage and the production will also include medieval music written specially for the occasion.

Siobhan Dunne, the Players' director and producer, opted for open air productions on the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday 18-19 September as it will provide the safest acting environment for the cast and take advantage of an

▲ Illustration of the typical medieval kitchen, in this case Barnet's closed beguine lay women order
▶ James P Godwin, author of the play, Fog of War

“Much of the action takes place in the kitchen of a medieval beguine, a women-only community

historic setting close to the scene of the battle.

Monken Hadley church was rebuilt in 1494 shortly after the battle of 1471 and the church gardens are thought to be close to the site of the chapel that was erected to commemorate the men who lost their lives in what was one of the decisive confrontations of the Wars of the Roses.

Fog of War has been written by Ms Dunne's son James P Godwin, a budding playwright, who is about to complete a three-year creative writing course at Bath Spa University.

James wanted to explore the impact of the looming clash between the two armies and its aftermath on medieval life in Barnet.

The challenge he faced was to create a setting and script suitable for an amateur dramatic group, so he devised a story line with parts for the women and men who make up the 22-strong group of players.

Much of the action takes place in the kitchen of a medieval beguine, a women-only community, which he has placed next to the hermitage that later became Old Fold Manor at



Monken Hadley, close to what is believed to be the battlefield site. Fearful that

victorious soldiers will pillage their beguine, the women of the house prepare themselves for the imminent battle and the trouble it might bring for local community.

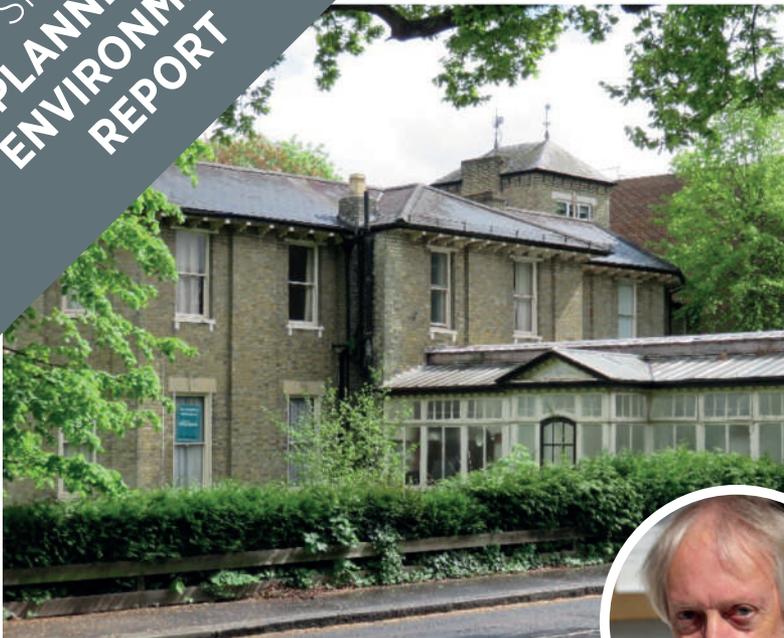
They bake extra bread for the troops and embroider coats of arms of the competing forces in the hope they can be considered the allies of whichever army prevails.

James, who is 21, has completed several drafts of the play which became his final year project, and it is ready for read throughs by the group.

Ms Dunne said the choice of the Monken Hadley church garden as a setting for the production seemed to be the ideal solution; she and the cast are hoping for a repeat of the recent run of warm and dry September weather.

“We have the advantage of not only an historic setting but also one outside where a cast of senior performers will feel safe.”

There will be 150 seats available for the two performances and tickets, at £10 each, will be on sale through the Bull Theatre in Barnet High Street.



Happily, Barnet has denied plans to build solar farms and batteries on what it what it terms 'low-value, low-quality' parks such as Highlands Gardens and Tudor Park. Two new cases particularly concern us. The first is applications for 175 lamp-post advertising banners in High, East and New Barnet and in Whetstone. We've objected to the one for Barnet Hill and High Street, which would negate the decluttering achieved since 2000, contradict Conservation Area policy and undermine the aims of the Chipping Barnet Community Plan.

◀ The Victorian villa at 33 Lyonsdown Road has been saved from developers who wanted to knock it down and build flats, above

The second, a proposal to add two storeys and a side extension to Barnet House as part of a scheme for 263 1-3 bed flats, is outside our patch, but very much in our view.

We will also be studying closely a plan for a 90-place school for pupils aged 5-18 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder at 50 Moxon Street.

New versions of both the London and Barnet Plans have been finally published. Having submitted many comments on both, by and large we support the end results - especially the lower housing targets, which have been so problematic.

Those Plans will count for little, however, if the government's radical planning reforms go ahead.

Read more about our recent activity on the Our Work page on our website.

“ Our campaign to stem abuses in Conservation Areas is progressing

Developers knocked back three times

Robin Bishop writes

We've had three big wins since I last reported. Mayor Sadiq Khan has refused to overturn Barnet's rejection of the Victoria Quarter and Whalebones developments. Also, demolition of a Locally Listed Victorian villa, 33 Lyonsdown Road, in favour of flats has been rejected by the Council. We wait to see what the developers decide to do next.

We're also waiting for an application for High Barnet Station car park. Similar major developments at other tube stations, as well as others on the former Finchley Homebase site and

elsewhere in North London, have recently been refused, so politicians have begun to notice public concern about drastic change to the character of our suburbs.

Our campaign to stem abuses in Conservation Areas is progressing. The Council issued enforcement notices in respect of 70 High Street & 1 Sunset View, and the owners have appealed to the Planning Inspectorate. If the Council wins, it will send a powerful message to would-be abusers.

We've objected successfully to three developments in the Green Belt at the former Arkley Riding School, the former Cottage Garden Nursery and near Hadley Highstone. But decisions on a new gas plant and electricity battery off Partingdale Lane are still awaited.





◀ Walk on: The council has appointed a Rights of Way officer to help meet the 2026 deadline

75 saplings for 75 years

Robin Bishop writes

On 28 January Society volunteers planted the last of 75 Hawthorns on Barnet Hill to celebrate 75 years of our existence and also Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish New Year of the Tree. They form part of a line of some 300 that our Vice-President, David Lee, planned along the south-west boundary of the hillside.

A year ago, the Jewish charity Kisharon helped us to plant the first 50 Hawthorns, which now grow at the top of the hill. Last autumn they offered to plant more on Tu B'Shvat, but unfortunately Covid-19 prevented that.

Hawthorns bloom in May, the month that the Society was founded. Their magnificent white blossom inspired a 1904 poem by Algernon Charles Swinburne, Hawthorn Tide, that seems especially resonant after a year of lockdown:

Dawn is alive in the world, and the darkness of heaven and of earth Subsides in the light of a smile more sweet than the loud noon's mirth.

A whole white world of revival awaits May's whisper awhile...

How we all look forward to May and the easing of lockdown.



Rambling into the future

Robin Bishop writes

One of the few benefits of Covid-19 has been revival of interest in the countryside, with a noticeable increase in walkers and cyclists on local paths and bridleways in the last year.

As part of its duty to complete a Definitive Map of Rights of Way by 2026, the Council has appointed a Rights of Way Officer. Frances Wilson has been leading the Society's work with the Council and Ramblers to ensure that all existing footpaths are included.

Among these will be, we expect, the routes mapped in 1947 by the Society's Treasurer, EH Lucas. In 2012, four of his walks were published by the Society (with Barnet Museum) as Rambles Round Barnet – In the footsteps of EH Lucas. In 2013 a further three walks followed in Volume II.

Volume I of Rambles is out of print, but we've decided that it's appropriate, at the conclusion of our 75th anniversary year, to reprint it. A facsimile of the 2012 edition will go

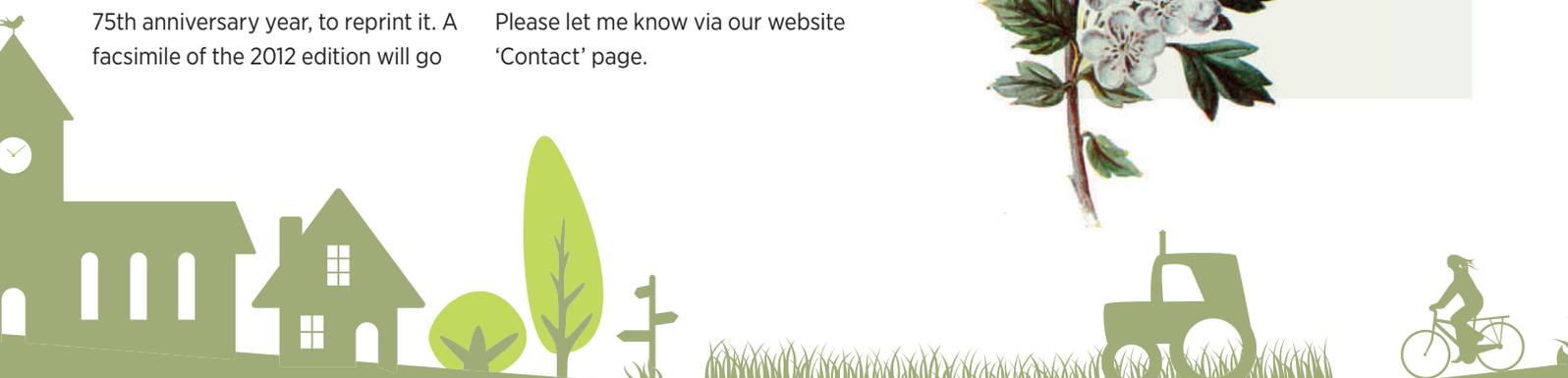
on sale in April as a Limited Edition of 50 copies, with a 4-page insert of updates and additional information. It will be priced at £6, the profits going to the Society.

We also think that, in view of the widening demography of walkers – with interests not only in nature but in local history, architecture, parks and urban development – that the time is right for a new kind of guide. Simon Kaufman is heading research into what we're provisionally calling Rambles III. It will include new routes suitable for families, cyclists and the disabled, and we hope it will also be available digitally.

Do you have suggestions for:

- favourite places to go for walks?
- lovely green spaces and places with great views?
- secret places, features or buildings you'd like others to know about?
- favourite playgrounds and places to go with the family?

Please let me know via our website 'Contact' page.





Victory for campaign against Whalebones houses and flats

The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has decided not to overrule Barnet Council in its refusal to give the go ahead for the redevelopment of the Whalebones fields and woodland with the construction of 152 new homes, **writes Nick Jones.**

Local objectors urged the Mayor not to intervene and to respect the council's decision to reject the planning application.

In welcoming the Mayor's backing for local decision making, the Barnet Society has appealed to the Whalebones trustees to rethink their plan and to re-examine the possibility of using the fields for urban farming or another green project.

Nearby residents who have been campaigning for months to save Whalebones had appealed to the Mayor to acknowledge the strength of their argument that an irreplaceable green space between High Barnet and Arkley should be preserved.

Mr Khan said he was "content" to allow the council to make decisions on the future of the site subject to

any possible future intervention by the Secretary of State.

Hill Residential's application for planning permission to redevelop Whalebones was rejected by the council last October after years of campaigning by local activists and organisations, and the Chipping Barnet MP, Theresa Villiers.

Over 500 objections were registered to the application and the depth of local opposition was cited by the chairman, Councillor Shimon Ryde, when he used his casting vote to refuse permission after the planning committee was tied by a five-five vote.

However, Barnet Council's refusal was not final because the application to build 152 homes was pitched sufficiently high to trigger the process under which proposals for large developments of 150 homes or more can be referred to the Mayor who has the power to overturn decisions by London boroughs.

A report prepared for the Greater London Authority concluded there were "no sound planning reasons"

▲ Part of the Whalebones site from Wood Street, and above, the plans for developments

for the Mayor to intervene – a decision that still leaves open the possibility of an appeal to the Secretary of State.

Hill Residential's plan to redevelop Whalebones on behalf of the Gwyneth Cowing trustees proposed that half the site – excluding the privately-owned Whalebones house – would remain as parkland and green space, which would be open to public access.

Much of the new housing would be in the field next to the new Elmbank redevelopment.

The plan provided for 53 family houses; 99 flats in three blocks up to four storeys high; 179 car parking spaces; and the construction of a new access road joining Wood Street opposite the Arkley public house, where there would be a new road junction with Galley Lane.

Alongside the new housing would be two new public open spaces, a children's play area and a woodland walk. Hill would also construct a purpose-built community building for the Barnet Guild of Artists and the Barnet Beekeepers Association.

Robin Bishop, chair of the Barnet Society, urged the developers to take the opportunity to rethink the project and back away from such "a big suburban housing development".

Whalebones included the "last remaining fields" of historic High Barnet, a deliberate legacy of the late Gwyneth Cowing, who bequeathed the land for continuing agricultural use.

Representations to the Mayor in advance of his decision included 289 written objections.

“Over 500 objections were received by the council against the development”



Work-from-homers wake up and smell the coffee

With so many city centre office staff continuing to work from home, the daily demand for take-away coffees has been rising out in the suburbs – creating new business opportunities for hard-pressed café proprietors.

The Perk coffee bar opened in mid-February at the height of the 2021 lockdown in the hope of tapping into the market for speciality coffees among the growing band of High Barnet home workers who live in the streets in and around Alston Road and The Avenue.

Hugo James and Annabelle Shields-Porter are delighted with the response to their neighbourhood coffee bar situated at the corner with Wentworth Road. They seem sure their venture has every chance of success.

“We had to give up the coffee shop and salad bar which we were running in Camden next door to several office blocks. Our trade just disappeared overnight when all the office workers were told to stay at home.

▲ Perk barista Thomas Mannion and customer Jackie Arthur

“Our hunch was that high-end coffee remains just as popular, and it was simply a question of finding a suburban location surrounded by lots of family houses and flats where people are working from home and where they do like their daily take-away.

“Our pitch is that we see ourselves as a neighbourhood café. We want to build a customer base among local people and become part of the neighbourhood.”

The Perk offers a range of speciality coffees, cakes, savouries, and snacks and will provide light meals when outside seating is permitted, and then inside once lockdown has eased.

In the first month of trading the couple’s hunch proved correct: there is a strong trade during the morning from people taking a break or walking the dog.

Some customers seem in a rush to get home, saying that they must get back to work, while others are enjoying the fresh air, probably

heading for Ravenscroft Park or taking the dog for a walk to the nearby Byng Road playing fields.

With the return of children to Foulds Primary School, mums popping in for a cup of tea or coffee add to the morning and mid-afternoon trade.

Perk has two baristas, Thomas Mannion and Alejandro Berro, and they both appeared surprised but pleased to find they had so many satisfied customers.

Another recently opened coffee bar, The Huddle, at the Hadley Green end of Barnet High Street, says it too has benefited from the demand for high-quality coffees and teas from home workers and dog walkers.

Manager Arjan Dema said the switch to home working had helped to sustain trade. People who used to get a coffee on their way to the office still wanted the same treat when working at home and that had helped maintain footfall.

The weathervanes forecast looks good



Weathervanes date back in documentation to early times in ancient China and Greece, *write Geoffrey Crabtree and Paul Huggins.*

However, they only really came into prominence in Christendom when a papal edict in the 9th century made it compulsory for every church steeple to be surmounted by a weathercock. The cockerel had become the symbol of St Peter, and hence of the papacy, as he was the first Bishop of Rome. The symbol originated because Jesus told Peter that he would deny knowing Him three times before the cock crowed that day. Hence, weathervanes were also known as weathercocks, and the oldest one still functioning is atop of the church of Ottery St. Mary in Devon dating from 1340.

In times before weather forecasts were available, wind direction was very important in determining what sort of weather to expect, and whether it was an appropriate day for horse transport. Hence, many weathervanes were placed on stables, and there are seven examples in Barnet.

Later, weathervanes diversified to depict such symbolic figures as dolphins, fish, griffins, and dragons. Pennants (pennons) also became popular, sometimes bearing the arms of the local landowner. It was only in the 17th century that pointers or arrows became common.

Copper was later succeeded by wrought iron in flat silhouette. The Victorians liked exuberance, and they introduced exotic animals, mythical creatures, sporting motifs and trade signs.

Finally, mass-produced cast iron ones have mainly taken over from hand-made wrought iron ones, and they are still produced in a great variety of forms. Perhaps some Barnet Society members may be tempted to enhance those found in the area by commissioning a weathervane for their house. In the Barnet Society area, 41 vanes have been spotted.

Among these are eight weathervanes depicting the historic emblem of



a cockerel, none of which is on an ecclesiastical building, which would not please the 9th century pope mentioned above.

There are four examples depicting the traditional pennant, in various forms, including swallowtail, wavy and rectangular. The most popular type is in the form of an arrow, a favourite of the Victorians, half of which are feathered examples.

Different types of birds are popular for weathervanes, which is understandable considering that they are associated with wind and air.

The fine collection includes a swan, an owl, a myna bird, a duck and a dove, the latter with an olive branch to depict peace.

From the animal kingdom, there are two cats, a fox and four horses, one walking, two trotting, one galloping with the highway man Dick Turpin on his back.

Two extreme forms of transport are included; one ancient in the form of a Viking ship, the other modern in the form of a Formula One racing car, on the former residence of the racing driver, David Coulthard.

There is a delightful recent weathervane on the Monken Hadley parish school depicting the church tower and 18th century copper beacon.

Finally, there is one depicting the Grim Reaper.





▲ Dennis Bird has pored over the 1911 census to reveal fascinating insights into life in 1911. Left, Alston Road from 1911

As the 2021 census is completed, historian looks at life in 1911

Research by a local historian provides a fascinating insight into the occupations and everyday life over a century ago among the several hundred families who lived in a respectable working-class enclave close to Barnet town centre, **writes Nick Jones.**

Dennis Bird, a long-standing member of the Barnet Local History Society, has completed a detailed examination of the 1911 census for the streets that make up SPACES – the group of houses bounded by the four roads of Sebright, Puller, Alston, and Calvert.

His study is a snapshot of what, shortly before the First World War, was a solid, respectable working-class area – only one person was unemployed; two households had a servant; and the inhabitants included a Belgian hairdresser and a German optician.

Barnet had expanded rapidly after the railway reached the town in 1872 and the farmland on the west side of the High Street was gradually built over, including the fields that disappeared under the streets that now make up the SPACES community.

Development was piecemeal as

the family of the Liberal peer, the Earl of Strafford (George Byng) sold off fields. The new houses and gardens followed the field boundaries, and the streets were named after four MPs who served after the Great Reform Act – Sebright, Puller, Alston, and Calvert.

The two biggest employers were the nearby factory of the Barnet Dental Manufacturing Company (now Alston Works) which supplied dentistry equipment, and the photo-engraving works of John Swain and Son in Bath Place, which was renamed Brake Shear House, and which was demolished last year.

The 1911 census was held on Sunday 2 April and Dennis, a trustee of Barnet Museum, describes the information he extracted from a census that went into greater detail than earlier surveys and which had to be completed by the head of the household and not an enumerator:

“The roads known as SPACES were built up after about 1870. Development was piecemeal and generally of a lower standard than the rest of the town.

“As a former resident of Alston Road, I thought it would be interesting to see what the census

reveals about 1911. “Remember, there was no tarmac, no electricity, tap water was a recent arrival, people had tin baths, outside privies, coal fires. School leaving age was 14, there was no NHS, families had lots of children and an average working week of 55 hours.

“The Dental factory in Alston Road was established in 1890 and their football team, Dental Alston, were the forerunners of Barnet FC. Five hours work on Saturday morning and a 3pm kick off!

“I looked at the census schedules for the area and these are some of the things I found:

“There were 324 households in the area and 308 returned schedules. The total population was 1,680 including 562 children aged 0 – 14 (not including several 14-year-olds already at work). There were two elementary schools well established locally, Christ Church and Elizabeth Allen. Foulds (Byng Road School) opened in 1910.

“There was no evidence that any child was educated beyond age 14, the grammar schools were for those who could pay.

“There were 832 males and 848 females so it does not appear that the women here took any notice of the suffragettes’ campaign for votes for women and their rallying call for the day, ‘If women don’t count neither shall they be counted’.

“The 1870 Education Act meant that elementary education was compulsory for all children. It was fascinating to see 1911 handwriting from copper plate to barely legible.

“Obviously many male household heads were not used to writing and spelling could be eccentric, eg ‘Baernet’ and ‘Hearts’.

“There were 328 residents, mainly adult, born outside the London and South Herts area. Many also came from Inner London Boroughs. Clearly Barnet was attracting many incomers but not immigrants.

“There were only five people born in Ireland, a Belgian hairdresser and a German optician. I wonder what happened to him in 1914?”

“There’s no evidence that any child was educated beyond the age of 14



United in a Common cause

The Churchwardens of Monken Hadley Common (“the trustees”) have lodged a petition with Parliament to authorise the transfer of the Common to a registered charity to be known as the Monken Hadley Common Trust. Following a consultation, which elicited a favourable response, the petition was lodged on 27 November 2019. The Bill provides that the primary objects of the Trust are the preservation of the Common as a place for peaceful open air public recreation and enjoyment and the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Common for the benefit of the public.

These objects will therefore be “embedded” by primary legislation so that, for example, any attempt to develop part of the Common would require another Act of Parliament.

The Bill had first and second readings in the House of Commons and, as there was no opposition, it passed to the House of Commons Unopposed Bill Committee for consideration.

It was listed for a hearing in early March 2020 but that had to be adjourned as further preparatory work needed to be done and then Covid-19 intervened.

It was decided that a charitable incorporated organisation would be the most appropriate structure and an application for registration of the Trust was made to the Charity Commission in September 2020.

There have been discussions with it and the form of the constitution has been agreed but it will not be registered until further progress has been made on the Bill.

A hearing took place before the House of Commons committee on 17th November 2020 and it started well as the chairwoman, Dame Eleanor Laing, mentioned that she was reading one of Anthony Trollope’s political novels and I was able to tell her that he and his mother had lived on Hadley Green and one of his novels, *The Bertrams*, was set in the area.

The committee was satisfied with the Bill, subject to some relatively minor amendments to be agreed

▲ It is hoped that the Bill for Hadley Common will become law next year

Picture: William Boyes

“ Felling a tree can cost up to £750, so it is hoped that a new charity will encourage donations

with Counsel for the committee. With luck the Bill will become law in the first half of 2022.

Those who run the Common are very keen that local residents should take an active interest in it. Already many provide financial support through the Friends of Monken Hadley Common and it is likely that after the Act comes into force the Friends will be amalgamated with the Trust.

This will be a membership organisation with annual elections of the trustees and the management committee. In practical terms the Common will probably still be managed by the Curators, who are supported by a volunteer group of some 20 people who work in the woods each Tuesday, and be supervised by a committee.

Despite the inadequacy of the current rules, the Common is managed satisfactorily within the limit of its financial resources. Felling a dangerous tree can cost up to £750 so it is to be hoped that a new charity which actually owns the Common will encourage donations and, just as importantly, obtain a membership which has a genuine interest in the preservation of the Common as a place to be enjoyed by the public and wild life.

The Common website (www.monkenhadleycommon.net) is updated from time to time with progress on the Bill. If anybody would like to be emailed the draft Bill and/or a transcript of the House of Commons committee hearing or requires further information please email me.

A petition to Parliament requires the employment of a Parliamentary Agent and this is an expensive operation so that additional donations to the Friends will be very welcome not only to pay for this but also to repair some of the extensive physical damage caused during the lockdowns by the massively increased use and the exceptionally dry and then wet weather.

William Boyes
Clerk to the Churchwardens

williamboyes@btinternet.com

Paean to the pavilion

Barnet Society committee member Simon Cohen has organised a survey that shows the strong demand to restore Tudor Park to its former glory

To the members of the Barnet Society and residents of High Barnet, Barnet Vale and New Barnet and East Barnet:

On the 1st of January 2020 while walking with my family through Hadley Woods and out into Tudor Park, we reached the pavilion and for the first time I noticed the date above the entrance A.D. 1920.

The pavilion was one hundred years old but, as far as I am aware, for the past ten years it has not been in use.

I posted a tweet about the situation that day with the hashtag #SaveTudorParkPavilion, which had a strong response with people wanting it to be put to good use.

I have known the pavilion for 50 years, and my children have grown up as regular visitors to the park and playground having gone to Cromer

Road school. It seems ludicrous to me that such a popular and well-loved park has this derelict building standing for a decade without being utilised. Despite numerous attempts by resident asking local politicians to help re-use this building for the benefit of the community, all these requests seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

There is talk of the high cost of repairs but I understand only one quote has ever been sought by Barnet Council and I don't know anyone who has seen the surveyor's report commissioned by a past Environment Director.

Following the council recently stating the park was of "low quality and low value", I set up a survey to canvass local opinion on the park and its pavilion.

To date there have been 1,016 responses to the survey, 984 people wish to see the pavilion brought back to good use, with the most popular requests being 85% wanting a café, 41% want public toilets and 39% want a community space.

This is not rocket science, the

“ To date, there have been 1,016 responses to the survey, with 984 people wanting to see the pavilion brought back to good use

▼ The pavilion dates from 1920 and is in bad need of repair

most environmentally friendly way to have these facilities in Tudor Park is to re-use the existing Pavilion building. If you agree can I suggest that you write a letter or send an email to your local councillor and ask them to act as your representative to make this happen. A few hundred letters might have an impact in an election year.

So, for the sake of our mental and physical well-being, please act now to #SaveTudorParkPavilion.

High Barnet Ward.

David Longstaff.

cldr.d.longstaff@barnet.gov.uk

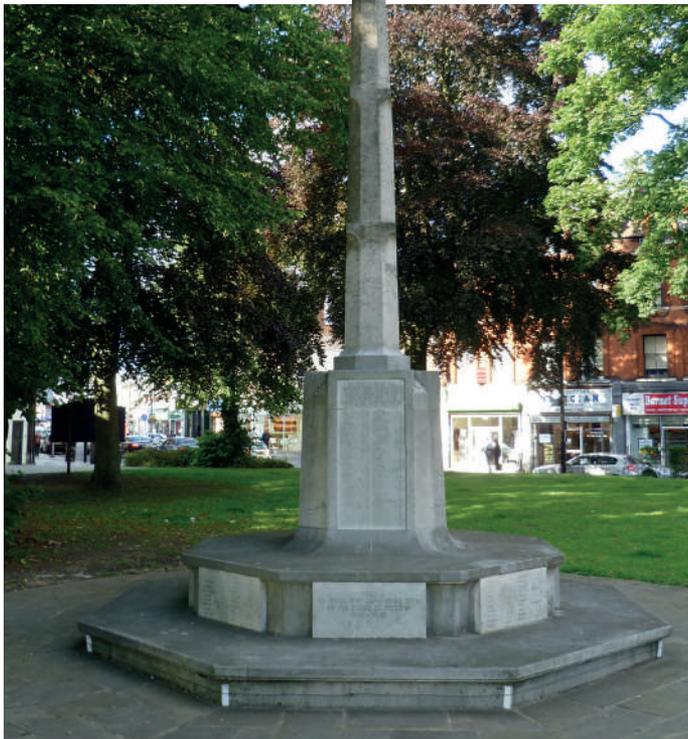
Wendy Prentice.

cldr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk

Julian Teare.

cldr.j.teare@barnet.gov.uk





War memorial centenary...
but cleaning and conservation
will have to wait

A commemorative booklet has been published by Barnet Museum and Local History Society to mark the 100th anniversary of the erection of the Chipping Barnet war memorial, **writes Nick Jones.**

Sadly, a clean-up of the Portland stone base, plinth, and column did not take place in time for an Act of Commemoration on Easter Saturday to mark the centenary

of the memorial's official unveiling at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist on Sunday 3 April 1921.

Many names of the fallen from the First and Second World Wars are hard to read and some are barely decipherable because of lichen and soot deposits.

Local History Society members had hoped that Barnet Council would carry out



▲ Crowds at the unveiling of the memorial in April 1921

the necessary conservation work as part of a programme for restoring the borough's ten war memorials.

Councillor Stephen Sowerby, who is heritage champion for the Borough of Barnet, told the Barnet Society that the council did not have sufficient funds.

An application has been submitted to the War Memorial Trust in the hope of obtaining match funding for a full programme of refurbishment and the council was hoping for a positive response.

Chipping Barnet's war memorial was unveiled by General Lord Byng of Vimy, who was born at Wrotham Park, in tribute to what he said were the "Barnet boys who gave their lives...by paying the greatest sacrifice".

The booklet, written and compiled by Jeff Gale and Mike Noronha, relives the determined local efforts to raise funds for a memorial and to complete the

onerous task of ensuring that all the names of the Barnet men who lost their lives in the First World War were recorded on the plinth.

Illustrating the booklet are numerous photographs and newspaper cuttings from the Barnet Press together with detailed accounts of the services and wreath laying held at the memorial every year to mark Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

"Peace! How the news was received" was the headline over a Barnet Press report (16 November 1918) on how the townspeople of Barnet responded on first hearing news of the signing of the armistice.

"It was about nine o'clock when the town was apprised. What the Rector did was to have the Union Jack hoisted above the tower of the parish church, and the church bells rung."

EDITED BY EAMONN RAFFERTY, DESIGN: RICHARD COOKE

Help the Barnet Society carry on its work by joining.

Annual subscriptions are £8 for an individual or £12 for a family. Additional donations are greatly appreciated.

Website - www.barnetsociety.org.uk

Chair - Robin Bishop robin.bishop@gmx.co.uk

020 8449 0088

Membership Secretary - Kim Ambridge

Kimbarnet6@gmail.com 07974 225950

Correspondence - The Secretary, 27 Elton Avenue, Barnet, Herts EN5 2EB

