

Friern Barnet *Newsletter*

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THE GRAND HALL CONNECTION

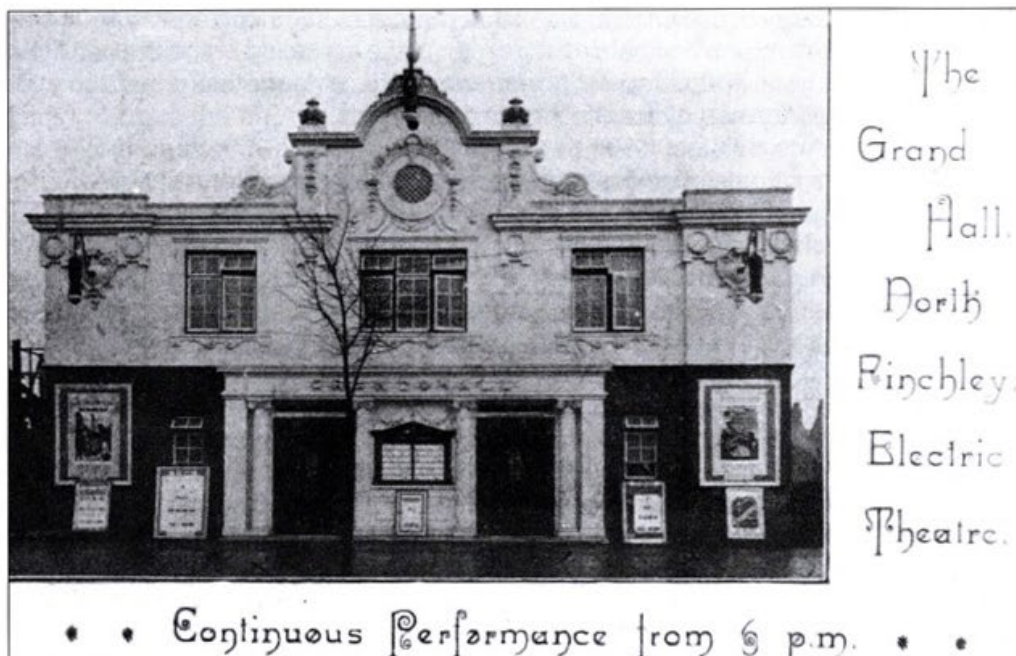
by *Ted Hudgell*

I have been asked to recall some memories of the old Grand Hall Cinema at Tally Ho Corner.

The marriage of my parents at Barnet Registry Office on 26 October 1919 brought together two persons whose lives revolved around the Grand Hall for the whole of its being.

My mother, Fanny Kitson, was born in 1890 at Denby Dale near Barnsley. On leaving school at 12 years old she was assisting her mother at Stocksbridge near Sheffield prior to going into service as soon as she was old enough to leave home. After more than one move, she was in 1910 working as a kitchen maid for Mr Henry Ball at 'Curdworth' in Borehamwood, Herts.

My father, Herbert Brier Hudgell, was born in 1891 at Hendon and subsequently moved with his widowed mother and two brothers (William and Arthur) to 217 Archway Road, Highgate, where his grandmother lived in a large house. He left school at 12 years of age and was apprenticed to a firm in Finchley to become an electrician. By 1910 I think he had become a cinema projectionist and he was working at the Rank Cinema



(previously a skating rink on the site of the subsequent premises of Carrimore Six-Wheelers Ltd, just south of the *Swan & Pyramids* pub in North Finchley, later to become the Metropolitan Police garage).

During this period (1890-1910) the freehold of that piece of land in North Finchley fronting the High Road and Woodhouse Road, stretching from Castle Street to Lambert Road was, in the main, owned by the Ball family. In 1892 the land had passed from a Rev E Castle to one Bates and thence to Mr G Ball in 1897. By 1910, or thereabouts, the Ball family had an interest in the fourteen shops (with homes above) known as Market Parade with the then National Provincial Bank (later NatWest and now Sea Rock Restaurant) on the corner of Woodhouse Road.

There came a time shortly after 1901 when my mother, along with another servant girl, both handed in their notice. They fancied their chances in the field of Free Enterprise and wanted to return to Yorkshire to open a café. On learning of this proposed venture, Mr Ball was suitably impressed whilst equally annoyed to lose a good servant. Being a successful businessman, he quickly saw an opportunity to let one of the shop properties, and with his help my mother and her partner were persuaded to start their café at number 14 Market Parade, and thus the Cosy Corner Café was established, also selling homemade cakes and confectionery. Quickly it became a popular venue for the business lunch and for those who enjoyed a nice pot of tea with freshly made buttered scones, especially before or after a visit to the "flickers" next door.

Yes, on the vacant site between the Café and Mr Geary's woodyard, a new cinema was built in 1911 by Ashby's New Halls Ltd and given the name 'The Grand Hall Electric Theatre' and early on, my father transferred from the Rink Cinema to become its Chief Projectionist. This original building occupied only one-third of the site nearest the timber yard and the film projection ran from west to east. Later on, in 1918, the hall size was roughly trebled and thereafter the projection ran from north to south. This expansion took the cinema building right up to the cafe wall and furthermore reflected the growing popularity of film shows, albeit that they were still silent apart from a solitary accompanist playing piano just below the screen in the so-called orchestra pit. Actually, an orchestra did play at least once a year when the cinema was used for a Black Minstrels' Show performed by local police to raise funds.

After a while, my mother's business partnership was terminated, and she was, instead, joined by her younger sister Martha, absconding from boarding school. The close proximity of café and cinema naturally developed much friendship between the Kitson sisters and the Hudgell brothers, interrupted only by the Great War. Nevertheless, when war service was completed my mother and father were married in 1919; and Martha and Arthur were married in the mid-20s.

In 1922 the Grand Hall passed into the hands of National Electric Theatres Ltd which subsequently became associated with Gaumont-British. However, by 1923 when I was born, my mother decided to give up the Cosy Corner Café and move to a private house in nearby Limes Avenue. So successful had she been in selling tea and scones for some thirteen years, she invested her savings by buying the freehold of the Grand Hall site from Mr H Ball, her former master. A Miss Barnes bought the café which continued for some time and subsequently became a wet fish shop (Marshalls and later MacFisheries).

The Grand Hall prospered until 1937 when the Gaumont super modern cinema opened across the road on a site previously partly occupied by the popular surgery of Dr Stanley Rooke. Alongside the Gaumont came the new trolleybus terminus by *The Cricketers* pub and on the south side, the new Kingsway link road to Ballards Lane, and so started the Tally Ho Corner one-way traffic system still in force today.

And what of the Grand Hall? Well, as a cinema it closed with the opening of the Gaumont and simply died. It became a growing eyesore by the year. However, during WWII it gave service, as did everyone, and became a warehouse for furniture and belongings supposedly from bomb-damaged premises. For many years after the war it remained empty and hid in disgust behind huge advertisement hoardings. Demolition finally took pace in 1957 and the site was redeveloped.

Although my father fully expected to transfer to the new Gaumont Cinema when the Grand Hall closed, he was instead dismissed because of a legal dispute between Gaumont and my mother over interpretation of the terms of the ground lease. A sad blow, but Dad soon found work with Hoovers and later with Joe Lyons of the tea shop and restaurant fame. My mother disposed of her interest in the Grand Hall site in 1974.

One cannot help looking back with nostalgic pride to the really busy time at the Grand Hall. By today's standards it was anything but grand. On the other hand, it was the best of its kind and countless Finchley folk thought so. Performance was continuous from early afternoon to late evening. Thus, if you wanted to, and it was not noticed, you could sit in the theatre all day! The main feature film was shown three times a day Monday to Friday and four times on Saturday. In between each showing there was a second feature ('B' film) with the News, a cartoon and a trailer (next week's programme advert).

Unfortunately, the place was full of tobacco smoke most of the time, especially when busy. A uniformed fireman was always in attendance and also a member of St John's Ambulance Brigade – a perk of their trade I suppose. Usherettes were constantly active with their torches and became expert in walking backwards, especially when selling ices. The uniformed doorman was very smart and took command of the inevitable queue of waiting patrons. It was quite usual in the event of a very popular film to allow standing across the back of the theatre where you could await a vacant seat; and for the cheaper seats down the front there was an in-house side area where you could queue (having paid for entry) until ushered into a vacant seat. Uninterrupted viewing was unknown! Thank goodness for improvements of today; although it would be nice once again to see the Manager in evening dress and the audience not averse to respecting the National Anthem at the final curtain. Additionally, there were special morning shows for children only and, furthermore, during the 1930s, Sunday evening shows were introduced following a public referendum. I recall that my father was very upset about that decision; it put paid to his only day off!

I spent many happy long Saturdays at the Grand Hall in the 30s whilst my Dad was busy in the projection room, or the separate room for rewinding reels (separate to comply with strict fire prevention regulations). The projection room was always referred to as 'the box' and it took a team of four operators to man it throughout the week, working in shifts. A feature film could easily consist of seven reels which had to follow each other without a visible break on the screen; and definitely in the correct order! Teamwork was important. The technique was to have two projectors side by side (about four feet apart) and to transfer the image from one to the other at the precise

moment by starting the next reel rolling before the other finished and then to switch over by moving a shutter on one machine that was connected to the shutter on the other machine by a simple pull cord. Very crude really – but effective once perfect timing was achieved. To assist the operation of reel transfer, small symbols momentarily appeared on the screen in the top right hand corner, but in a modern cinema you will not notice these indicators because I believe the film is now on a large reel. The operator had to keep a constant eye on the brightness of the image by adjusting the arc light (the same as used on the wartime searchlights) which projected the film onto the screen; and keep calm if the film snapped whilst running. Recovery from such a break called for cool nerves and swift action (a bit like stopping when firing a machine gun) for the audience in a packed house very soon lost their patience and the Manager “went bananas”.

I remember hearing about when the talkies came to the Grand Hall in the 20s. Another nightmare for my Dad during the early days of introduction. Initially, new projectors were installed and the sound was produced from large gramophone records. The problem was to get the voices to synchronise with the speaker’s lip movement, or the music to match the dance routine etc. Subsequently, of course, the so-called sound track was invented and added to one side of the film itself and that perfect synchronisation certainly made life much easier for the operator. However, the record turntables remained on the projectors until the last days but never revolved again.

And now we watch those old 30s films on TV in the comfort of our own homes and appreciate just how good the best of them were. My Dad retired when he was 67 years old and thereafter spent many hours and days in “retirement” at the Community Centre in Mayes Lane. I believe he almost rewired the place just for pleasure. He sadly passed away in his home at 156 Fitzjohn Avenue, Barnet in 1971 and my dear Mum lived until she was in her hundredth year, still recalling the good old days at “The Cosy”.

HAPPY XMAS (WAR IS OVER)

by Percy Reboul and John Heathfield

In Barnet and the rest of Britain, the end of World War Two in 1945 did not see the end of wartime conditions; at least ten years were to go by before there was any real return to pre-war lifestyles.

Take this 1946 advertisement as an example: “There is no shortage of wine,” said the Victoria Wine Company. “However, there is a severe shortage of empty bottles. We urge our customers to return their empties so that we can continue to supply our fine wines.”

Among the reasons for this and more serious situations, was that Britain was flat broke. Its huge wartime debts, principally to the USA, had to be repaid and that meant that most British-made ‘luxury’ goods went for export. Also, a devastated Europe had to be rebuilt just as today’s Iraq and Syria need rebuilding. Germany and many other parts of Europe were facing starvation and this was to lead to an extra tightening of belts in this country – bread and potatoes were to be rationed for the first time.

Christmas 1946 was in some ways worse than the wartime Christmases. True, the dreaded air raids and blackouts were things of the past and many servicemen had been reunited with their families. But the chronic shortage of food and consumer goods remained. As a gesture to the spirit of the season, the government allowed some extra

food rations but just for Christmas week. They make interesting comparisons with today's consumption:

Special weekly ration (per person) in Christmas

- Sugar: increase from 1/2lb to 2lbs (900g)
- Meat: (rationed by price) increased from 1/4d (7p) to 2/- (10p) of which 4d must be taken in corned beef
- Sweets: increased
From 2oz (63g) to 10oz (315g) for people under 18 or over 70 years of age, upon proof of identity by the Food Office

Set against this was the bad news that the popular local government-run civic restaurants which had provided nourishing meals at reasonable prices were scheduled for closure. A typical civic restaurant wartime menu was:

Lentil Soup	1d
Rabbit Pie & Veg	6d & 8d
Braised Liver & Veg	6d & 8d
Steak & kidney Pie & Veg	6d & 8d
Sultana Roll	2d
Rice Pudding	2d
Children's Meals	4d

What of Christmas entertainment? There was no television. The radio and local cinemas were the main sources of amusement and many people enjoyed the delights of the gramophone. HMV's December record releases included the hugely popular local stars, Ann Ziegler and Webster Booth (who lived in Torrington Park) singing *Fold Your Wings* from *Glamorous Night* by Ivor Novello.

The King's Christmas broadcast to the Empire was a must for most families. The Odeon at Barnet was showing *Blue Skies*, with Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire and Joan Caulfield. The North Finchley Gaumont screened *Three Little Girls in Blue* featuring June Haver, Vivian Blaine and Vera-Ellen, while The New Bohemia in Finchley offered *London Town* with a British cast that included Sid Field, Kay Kendal, Greta Gynt and Petula Clark. Ballroom dancing was immensely popular The Arcadia Skating Rink in Finchley opened each day from 2.30pm and hosted dances on both Christmas Eve and Boxing Day.

Much of the entertainment, however, was organised by local clubs and societies. The Finchley and Friern Barnet Rabbit and Poultry Club held its annual show at Martin School, East Finchley, on December 7 – admission was 6d (2.5p). Holy Trinity Church in Finchley performed Handel's *Messiah* while nearby Christ Church had Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. There were many Christmas gift services including those at North Finchley Congregational Church and Edgware Sunday School, and a fundraising for St Dunstan's Home for wounded ex-servicemen was held at Mill Hill. As ever, schools relaxed their timetables over the Christmas season.

When staff at Manorside School organised their Christmas party, they aimed to make it 'as good as pre-war' in spite of the shortage of rations. They would make up for it, they said, by the high quality of the games and the good companionship which had characterised the war years. This year, as we indulge in unlimited food and drink;

mellowed by the port wine and entertained by *The Great Escape* on TV and the mellifluous call of the mobile phone, may we wish our readers the compliments of the season.

Footnote: This article first appeared in *Barnet Times* on 18 December 2003.

A COUNTRY PARSON

by John Philpott

The Rev Abel Lendon became rector of Friern Barnet in the year of the Battle of Waterloo; he remained as rector for thirty-one years, until his death. With the seven years he had already served as curate, his ministry is one of the longest among Rectors of this parish.

He was born in Westminster on 20 November 1770, son of William Lendon, gentleman, and his wife, Ann. Abel was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, graduating BA in 1795, MA in 1798. In 1795 he was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Oxford and priest the following year. Around 1799 he married Sibylla, born 1782 at Westbury-on Trym, Bristol, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Seyer. They had seven children: Lucia (born 1801), William (1807), Abel (1808), Sibylla (1812), Edward (1815), Elizabeth (1819) and Ellen (1821).

We do not know where Abel served before coming as curate to this parish in 1807; the only clue is Lucia was born in the parish of Pentonville. The rector of Friern Barnet from 1798 to 1815, John Jeffreys, seems to have been absent, leaving the care of the parish to the curate. It is the curate's signature throughout on the registers of baptisms, banns, marriages and burials and it was Abel Lendon who, in 1809, was an instigator, together with four other gentlemen, of what was probably the most far-reaching event in the parish during the first half of nineteenth century: the establishment of its first school for the children of the poor.

The year, 1815, that Abel Lendon became the rector of Friern Barnet, he was licensed also as perpetual curate in the nearby village of Totteridge. Totteridge at that time was a chapelry in a detached part of the parish of 'Bishop's Hatfield' (it became a parish in its own right only in 1892), within the diocese of Lincoln (coming under St Albans when that diocese was formed in 1877). Abel and Sibylla seemed to have moved in 1815 to Totteridge, for the youngest three children were born there and it was there that Abel died. The move is understandable: Totteridge already had a parsonage whereas Friern Barnet had no rectory until after Frederick Hall built one on coming to the parish in 1882, although he was not resident in Friern Barnet, and had a curate there, Abel was not neglectful in his care of the parish; his signature occurs regularly in the registers and on the Vestry minutes. Today the Lendons would recognise Totteridge more readily than Friern Barnet; the present St Andrew's Church built in 1790 was the one they knew, while our St James's Church was rebuilt in 1853; our parish is now wholly urban, whereas Totteridge still has working farms.

There were no sources of information on parish life such as the rector's annual report or parish magazines until later in the century; there was no Parochial Church Council, no annual parochial meeting; we have to glean what information we can from the legal documents; the parish registers and the clerk's minutes of the Vestry meetings. The Vestry would meet in the parish church several times a year; its functions were those today carried out by PCC and Barnet Borough Council put together. Once a year the

Vestry nominated the parish officials for the coming year, a vestige of this remains in today's brief Vestry meeting, immediately preceding the Annual Parochial Meeting, at which the churchwardens are elected. There were several other offices to be filled in Abel Lendon's time – the Poor Law Overseers, Surveyor of Highways, Vestry Clerk, Constable, Headborough (deputy constable) and Ale-connor (responsible for ensuring the quality of beer sold in the parish). The Vestry also set the rates – Poor Rate, Highways Rate, rate for church repairs, and examined the accounts of churchwardens, Overseers and Surveyor. There is concern with law and order. Agreement is reached with Finchley Vestry for the erection of a place of confinement for use of both parishes, and an estimate is accepted for the building of a cage on the west side of Whetstone turnpike. It is "ordered that the Constable be desired to apprehend and take up all vagrants found begging or loitering." It is ordered that the Beadle be provided with a hat band.

Sometimes the Vestry authorised specific payments to individuals under the Poor Law; some human tragedies now preserved only by terse entries in the copperplate of the Vestry Clerk. It is ordered that widow Godfrey be supplied with proper medicines for herself and her family and that she be placed in hospital as soon as possible; that Wm Pratchett be supplied with clothing and shoes for himself and his family; that the support of Mary Collins's illegitimate child should be paid for. Rebecca Collins applies to have her child of 14 months provided for – agreed; Mrs Cartwright applies for the assistance of a midwife – agreed. Care is taken that money is not expended on those for whom another parish is legally responsible: "Ann Powell and her two children having been brought from Hadley to Friern Barnet – ordered removal as she does not belong to this parish" and "removal of Elizabeth Cutler and her two children to Wing which appears to be their place of settlement." (The parish of Wing appeals; solicitors and counsel are appointed.)

The baptism registers provide information on the occupations of the parishioners of the time. Taking 1827, the year halfway through Abel Lendon's ministry in Friern Barnet, we find that 10 of the fathers of the babies baptised are farm labourers, 2 are gardeners, 2 carpenters, 2 ostlers, 2 bakers and 1 each of wheelwright, hurdle maker, baker and innkeeper. Other years give much the same picture, with farmer, land steward, servant, coachman, cooper and postman among the occupations recorded. In 1808, just after his arrival as curate, Abel baptises the daughter of Sir William Johnston, Bart, and his wife Maria, daughter of John Bacon of Fryern House (Precursor of the house in Friary Park.)

Of Abel and Sibylla's children, William and Abel followed their father to Christ Church and into the priesthood. William's signature occurred in the Friern Barnet registers for a time, until in 1841 he became rector of Wymington, Bedfordshire. He died in 1848, aged 41, and was succeeded as rector of Wymington by his brother Abel. The third son, Edward, became a farmer on the Isle of Thanet. Of the four daughters, after the deaths of their parents Lucia, Elizabeth and Ellen continued to live together. Their home was in the parish of St Mary, Brookfield, where they remained until their deaths; Lucia in 1863, Elizabeth in 1900, Ellen at the age of 90, in 1910. The other daughter, Sibylla, lived in her later years as a boarder in Hastings, where she died aged 83.

From 1843, the signature of Abel Lendon, senior, once firm and clear, becomes increasingly shaky. On the 4th August 1846 he died, aged 76, "of natural decay." His wife Sibylla died in November the following year. Their grave is close to the east wall

of St James's church. The grave of their daughters Lucia, Elizabeth and Ellen is close by.

George Hodgson Thompson, Abel Lendon's successor, was rector of Friern Barnet for only four years. He died in 1850 at the age of 55, of kidney and heart disease. He and his wife Jemima lived in the parish at Colney Hatch, where Jemima continued to live until her death, aged 80, in 1880. They are buried close to the south-east corner of the church, with their eldest son, who died three years after his father at the age of 24, buried close by.

The parish continued much as before during George Thompson's incumbency, but in a register entry of February 1847 there is the first harbinger of the drastic changes soon to come: in that month the rector baptises Jemima, daughter of a platelayer on the railway.

BLACKETT'S BROOK

by John Heathfield

Yvonne Ruge send me a Christmas card (yes, I can still read). It says: "Everyone at the history society says: 'I don't know - ask John Heathfield.'"

One of the questions was "Where does Blackett's Brook rise?" Whetstone High Road runs along a gravel ridge about 30 feet deep. Rain percolates down until it meets a sheet of London clay. It then leaks out in the form of several springs on both sides of the ridge. One is in the back garden of a large house in Green Road called 'Woodlands'. The spring was between the back wall and the top of North Middlesex Golf Course. It formed a large pond which was used by a film company for making naval films (see *Whetstone Revealed*, page 82).

The last time I looked, the pond had largely dried up but survives as a patch of wet ground. A stream runs along the bottom of Friary Park and it was prettified by Richardson. It then runs under Friern Barnet Lane in a culvert. When the Council turned the local rubbish tip into Bethune Park, it was again culverted - you can trace its course by a series of manhole covers. It continues under the railway through (or under) Brunswick recreation ground and eventually to Pymmes Brook.

Incidentally, I found traces of medieval bricks in the Brook about 100 yards from the culvert. Edmund Richardson's bricks are, of course, Victorian (he built the present house in 1871) and many of them are overtired. I believe that the friars might have built their first farm buildings down there and that HADAS did their 2004 survey of Friary Park in the wrong place.

Two points: Firstly, I can find no reference to Blackett in any of my records. My guess is that he was a tenant farmer and that any documents were lost in the chaos following the breakup of John Bacon's estate. Secondly, the modern practice of covering everything means that rainfall goes down the sewers rather than onto the soil, thus drying up natural water courses.

A WARTIME MEMENTO

by David Berguer

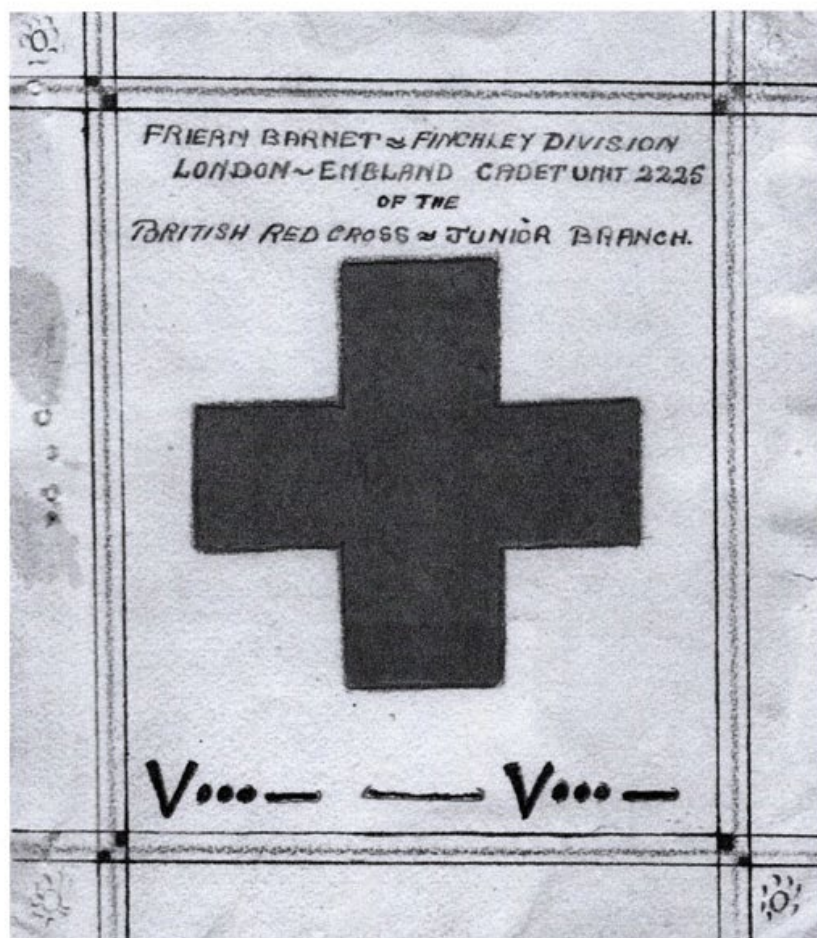
On 14 September last we received an email from Austin, Texas from Bernadine Eaton who told us that her mother used to be a teacher in a small town in Texas called Bruni

during the Second World War. Apparently Junior Red Cross Units established pen pals between the USA and Britain and her mother had kept an album which had been compiled by 32 girls from the Friern Barnet and Finchley Division of the British Red Cross Junior Branch in July 1944.

Bernadine was due to be in London in October and she suggested that we meet when she would hand over the album. Pat and I duly met her on Tuesday 2 October and took her on a whistle stop tour of the area and pointed out the various landmarks in Friern Barnet, North Finchley and Whetstone. Over a cup of tea at our house Bernadine produced the album which proved to be a wonderful document.

The girls of Finchley and Friern Barnet had compiled various articles and pictures describing the work of the Junior Red Cross and also giving a picture of what life in Britain was like. We will be producing extracts from the album in future *Newsletters* and we hope that some of you may recognize the names of the girls who contributed the articles.

The symbols at the bottom of the front cover of the album are the morse code for the letter 'V' (dot-dot-dot-dash, or dit-dit-dit-dah in amateur radio parlance), standing for Victory. This motif (based on the opening of Beethoven's epic Symphony Number 5) was used by the BBC before every wartime broadcast to Europe and came to be a sign of resistance to the German occupation.



From Barnet.

Cadet Unit 2225.

Finchley Division.

Middlesex.

London.

England.

July 24th 1944

Dear Friends in America,

Greetings from the From Barnet,
London, Junior Red Cross members, to

our friends in Bruni, Texas, America.

We are a Unit of 32 members all girls,
their ages vary from 11-16 years.

We have enjoyed your album very much,
and we hope that you will like ours,
too we have had much pleasure in
preparing it for you all.

We are a very busy Unit, with many
calls on our time, and you will see
that it has not been possible for
everyone to contribute in this album.

but every Cadet from Unit 2225
joins most whole heartedly in
sending you their very best wishes
and success in your "Chapter".

We are eagerly awaiting your reply
with another album, so please make
it soon.

Your English Friends

Cadet Unit 2225.

From Barnet.

Middlesex.

London.

England.

To, The Eighth grade,
Bruni,
Texas,
America.

ALMSHOUSES

by David Berguer

The talk on 24 October last by Simon Smith on 'The History of Almshouses' proved to be hugely informative and fascinating. Simon, who is one of the trustees of The Jesus Hospital Charity which runs almshouses for women over 50 in Barnet and also gives grants to individuals in need in High Barnet, New Barnet, East Barnet and Friern Barnet, explained that the London Borough of Barnet has over 1000 almshouses, more than any other London borough.

Simon explained that the reason why women over 50 were stipulated was that in the 17th century there had been three wars and the monasteries had been dissolved, leaving a large number of widows without means. The age of fifty was then seen to be old age; the average life expectancy in those days was 38 years!

Our own local almshouses, the Lawrence Campe Almshouses in Friern Barnet Lane, were set up on 17 March 1612 by an indenture between Lawrence Campe 'citizen and draper' on the one part and 'the churchwardens of the parish church of St John upon Walbrook, London, and other parishioners of the said parish on the other.'

The indenture read as follows:

"The said Lawrence Campe had then newly erected and set up six almshouses, in a place called Thromers in the parish of Fryern Barnet, for the free harbour and dwelling of twelve persons, or more, for ever: And the said Lawrence Campe, for and towards the relief of the said poor people, did thereby grant to the said churchwardens and parishioners, their heirs and assigns, the annuity yearly rent or sum of 15/ (£15) to be issuing and going forth of all that meadow called Wild March, containing, by estimation, twenty-three acres, and all that other meadow called Horse Leys, containing by estimation, ten acres, lying and being in the parish of Allhallows in the county of Hertford:

By a schedule to the indenture, the annuity was declared to be to the uses following:-

Seven pounds sixteen shillings yearly, to be paid by 12s a month, every fourth Saturday, towards the relief of the said almsmen or almswomen, viz; twelve-pence a piece monthly; and, when any of the almspeople should die, the share of him or her so dying to be divided among the survivors, till the vacancy be filled up.

Five pounds to the Drapers Company, for the relief of their poor.

Thirteen shillings and four-pence to the parson and churchwarden of Saint John upon Wallbrook, for their care in receiving and paying the annuity.

Four shillings to the churchwardens of Fryern Barnet, for their pains in going to London to receive and in distributing the 7/ 16s (£7 16s 0d).

One pound six shillings and eight-pence to come to the heirs of Lawrence Campe, to keep the almshouses in repair."

The building originally contained six almshouses with a small garden at the back of each house plus an apartment called a house of prayer with a room under it for

common use of the almspeople to bake, brew or wash in. Prayers should be read morning and evening by one of the almspeople, or if none of them could read, by someone living nearby. In 1728 the prayer room and wash house was burnt down and a seventh apartment was built in its place.

A poor box was kept which had three keys - one held by Lawrence Campe's successors, another by his brother, Mr John Trott, and a third by the upper churchwarden. The contents would be distributed to those in need.

If anyone should fall out with another, 'or give evil words whereby blows might arise, or should complain of each other, not having good cause', the offender would forfeit a month's pay, and for a second offence, two month's pay, to be put into the poor box. A third offence would lead to the offender being ejected from the almshouses. Some other penalties, such as for staying out late, were also to be put into the box.

Paupers passed from other parishes and others "by no means deserving objects of charity" were placed by the overseers in vacant apartments, "merely from the want of a convenient of disposing of them."

The almshouses were kept in repair by the parish and were externally in good condition, though in some instances they required whitewashing inside.

GREAT ELEPHANT HUNT

The following appeared in the *Evening Telegraph* of 30 November 1925:

"An elephant which was today being transported by Messrs Chapman, of Tottenham Court Road, from their depot, High Street, Barnet, broke loose on the High Road.

The animal became frightened, and crashed through a shop window, scattering the contents over the floor.

Getting away, it went down Friern Lane and entered a nursery, broke down about twenty yards of fencing, smashed flower pots and overturned cucumber frames. After breaking some more fencing, it entered a motor engineer's establishment. There it broke more fences and entered the gardens of Clydesdale, Oakleigh Park. Here it trampled flower beds out of all recognition and broke some more fences.

The elephant caused great consternation and people kept a safe distance; but some more daring spirits kept track on the huge beast. At last, in the gardens, it was secured by attendants, but, again becoming more alarmed, broke loose once more. Finally, the beast entered a shed, where it was eventually secured by the keepers."

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