

GOOD HISTORY

**Journal
of the
Eynsham Junior
History Group**



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The Journal of the Eynsham Junior History Group

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My thanks, also, to the members of the group, who may not have made written contributions to this issue, but have added to our discussions.

Front Cover: The Houses of Parliament



This cottage features on page 10.

EDITORIAL

This term we have been looking at the history of parliament. This theme was started for us by David Cameron, our local MP when he visited the school in July. He talked to some of the group about what he did and what parliament was and gave us some booklets to help us with our studies. We have picked out certain events that we feel have helped in the development of our present day parliament.



David Cameron talking to members of the History Group



We started off the term with a walk around Eynsham's Heritage Trail. We also again took part in the Remembrance Sunday Service on November 13th

Pamela Richards, Editor

Eynsham Abbey Heritage Trail on Saturday afternoon, 17th September 2005.

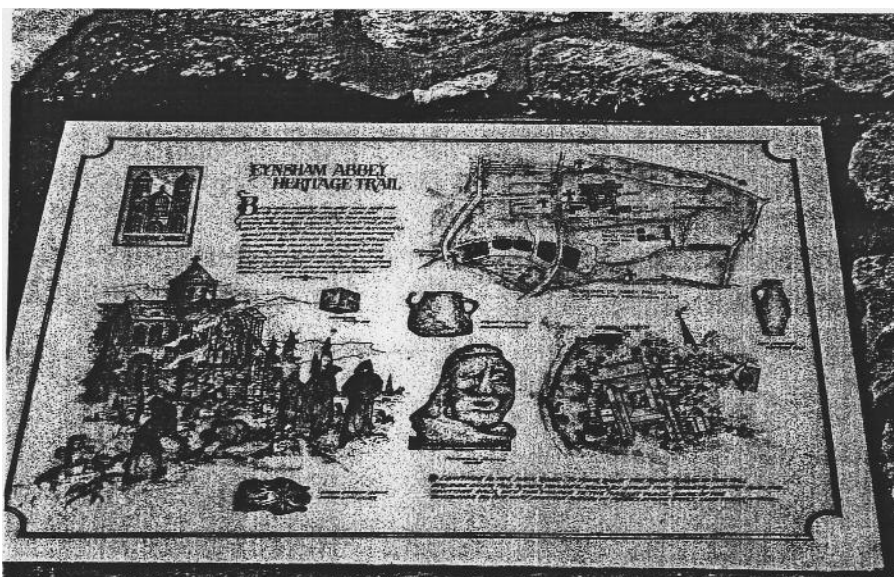
Some recollections:

We started at St.Peter's Church and followed the trail around. We all looked at where the Abbey used to stand and we could see where the fish ponds used to be. We ended the trail in Eynsham Square opposite St. Leonard's Church.

RosalieMeyer



We walked and we saw lots of Abbey stones. Some were carved and some were not. There were six different collections of abbey stones with a picture on. Chad Maskell



First we assembled at St. Peter's Church. We went past Mrs. Richard's house which had some abbey stone in it. Then we went to the site where fish ponds used to be. I saw some proof that they had been there, including reeds that must have grown near water. We finished at St. Leonard's church, where the last display stone was. It was a most enjoyable experience, and I am looking forward to the meetings of the group.

Philip Zealley



The Gun Powder Plot by Philip Zealley

King James I was a bad king. He was the son of Mary Queen of Scots. His heir, King Charles I was also a bad king. This led to King Charles being executed.

In James's time, some Catholic men planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament when was opened in November. However, one of the men had a friend in Parliament and did not wish to see him blown to pieces. So he sent a letter to Parliament, saying that it would be a good idea to hold Parliament somewhere different that year. Parliament sent some men to the cellars. They found Guy Fawkes with a lighted fuse, caught in the act. They caught him and tortured him, trying to make him give up the names of his companions. He would not tell them anything. Eventually all the Gunpowder Plotters were caught and executed and King James lived on.

Further Research on The Gunpowder Plot by Sabrina Wood.

November 5th 1605 was meant to be a special and happy day. King James I was going to parliament for an important ceremony and the building would be packed with people. Little did they know that their lives were in danger! For more than a year

a gang of men had been planning secretly to kill the king and all those in parliament in one explosion. Robert Catesby was the brains behind the plot. He was said to be a wild and dangerous man but he could inspire others with his ideas. He could not carry out the plot on his own, so he gathered a group of like-minded men, including the famous Guy Fawkes, to help him. Those involved were Bates the devoted servant of Catesby who is said to have confessed the plan to a priest in 1604. Robert Winter joined the plot early in 1605. He and his brother Thomas were cousins to Catesby. Thomas Winter was one of the first to be told of the plot and did a lot of the organising. Old friends of Guy Fawkes from York were Christopher and John Wright, and their brother-in-law Thomas Percy. Guy Fawkes, sometimes known as Guido, had spent time fighting in Spain and was known to be an expert with gunpowder.

The action began when Guy Fawkes and Thomas Percy rented a house very close to parliament. Guy Fawkes called himself John Johnson and pretended to be Percy's servant. They tried to dig a tunnel from the cellar of the house into the Houses of Parliament cellars. This proved to be impossible but in March 1605 Percy was able to rent a cellar underneath the House of Lords and the plotters were able to store 36 barrels of gunpowder there. They covered the barrels with stacks of firewood to hide them.

On October 26 1605 Lord Monteagle, a friend of Thomas Winter and a very important man, received a letter while he was at dinner, which had been handed to his servant earlier in the evening by a mysterious figure. Puzzled, he took the letter to show his friends in the government, unsure whether the warning was a hoax or a serious warning. King James was away hunting so the ministers waited for his guidance. Catesby discovered that the letter had been written but decided to continue with the plot and sent Guy Fawkes to make sure the gunpowder was safe and to stay and guard it, ready to light the fuse. In the middle of the afternoon Fawkes heard voices approaching the cellar. Soldiers had come to search the storerooms just in case the letter was true. They found Fawkes but they did not discover the gun powder, even though they questioned him. Fawkes thought they had got away with it but he was wrong. Later that evening the soldiers came back and this time they found the deadly gunpowder. Fawkes was arrested. The gun-powder plot had failed. After his arrest he was taken to King James to be questioned but he refused to answer which showed he didn't have any regrets. He even said he would have blown James and his court back to their homelands (presumably he meant Scotland). These were brave words from a man who had to try to commit such a terrible crime, punishable by death.

William of Orange by Philip Zealley

William of Orange was born on 4th November 1651. He was the son of Prince William II of Orange and was the great-grandson of William the Silent, who helped make the Dutch Republic. Twenty years after William's birth, France and Holland were at war. The Dutch asked William to help them fight the French as their leader and William accepted. He fought the French for six years until peace was made in 1678. He married Princess Mary one year before the war ended, in 1677. In 1689, Parliament invited William and Mary to come to England and become King and Queen. They accepted and came over to England immediately.



It was during their reign that the Bank of England was established. William was away from England a lot fighting wars, while Queen Mary ruled England. His first war as King of England was against the Irish, before fighting the French in Flanders. While he was away in France, Queen Mary died of smallpox in September 1694 at the young age of 33. William did not marry again. He died eight years later on 8th March 1702 at the age of 51.

William & Mary

Voting was not always as it should be and we learnt about rotten boroughs and bought votes. This picture shows a scene of voting in the 18th century.

Witney MPs by Philip Zealley

The Witney constituency was formed in 1983. Their first MP was Douglas Hurd, who was a Conservative. He was born on March 8th 1930. His father, Anthony Hurd was an MP for Newbury. His son Nick Hurd, is an MP for Ruislip-Northwood. Douglas Hurd is now a novelist, writing such books as *The Arrow War* and *An End to Promises*. He became Baron Hurd of Westwell in 1997, the same year that he resigned as Witney's MP.

His successor, Shaun Woodward, was born on October 26, 1958 in Bristol. He was elected Witney MP in 1997, when Douglas Hurd resigned. He left both the Conservatives and Witney in 2000, joined the Labour party and became MP for St. Helens South.

David Cameron was elected Witney MP in the 2001 General Election, and has since then held his position.

The Suffragettes by Elizabeth Gornall



Emmeline Pankhurst



Christabel Pankhurst

The suffragettes were a group of women who wanted the vote. This really started in 1897 when Millicent Fawcett founded the National Union of Women's Suffrage. Millicent Fawcett believed in a peaceful protest. She felt that violence and trouble would persuade men not to let the women have the same rights as men. Fawcett's progress was slow. She converted some of the Labour Party, but most men in parliament thought that women did not understand how parliament worked. This made women angry and in 1903 the Women's Social and Political Union was founded by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters, Christabel and Sylvia. They wanted the women to vote and they wouldn't wait for it. The Union was better known as the Suffragettes. Members were prepared to use violence to get what they wanted.

The suffragettes started off quite peacefully. It was only in 1905 when things went weird when Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenny interrupted a political meeting. They asked two politicians, Winston Churchill and Sir Edmund Grey, if they believed women should get the vote. Neither man replied. As a result, the two women got out a banner saying 'Votes for Women' and shouted at the two politicians to answer. Pankhurst and Kenny were thrown out of the meeting and arrested. The suffragettes started to work violently because they wanted to spread the word around the country so more women would know about it and do the same thing.

Suffragettes were happy to go to prison. They went on hunger strike and when they were so weak that they were released they would start up more trouble. As a result, the suffragettes became more extreme. The most famous act was at the June 1913 Derby when Emily Davison threw herself under the King's horse. She was killed. In World War I, Emmeline Pankhurst told all the suffragettes to stop violence and support the war effort. The work done by women was vital. In 1918 the representation of the people Act was passed by parliament and women over 30 got the vote.

Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament by Sabrina Wood



During World War II in 1941, an incendiary bomb destroyed the commons chamber of the Houses of Parliament but the clock tower remained intact and Big Ben continued to keep time and strike away the hours. Its unique sound was broadcast to the nation and to the world; hope of reassurance to whoever heard it. Big Ben actually refers not to the clock tower but to the thirteen ton bells instead. The bell was named after the first commissioner of works Sir Benjamin Halls.

Built: 1858-1859 Clock tower height: 320 feet. Clock dials: 4
 Dial's diameter - 23 feet Largest bell weight: 13.5 tons Number size - 2 feet.

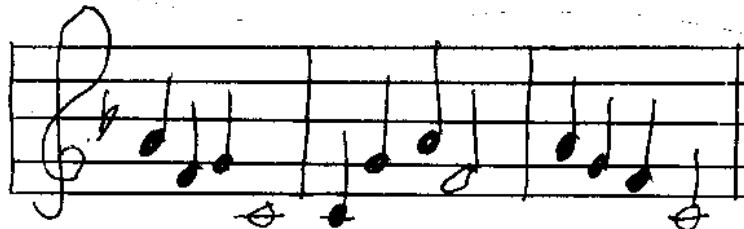
1st Quarter



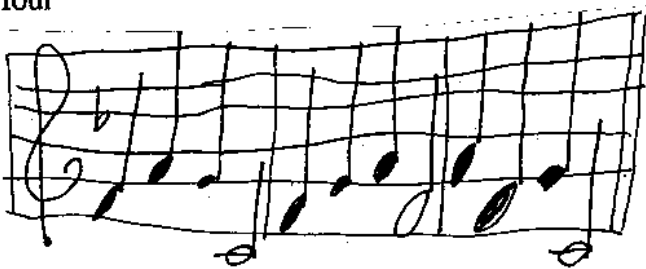
2nd Quarter



3rd Quarter

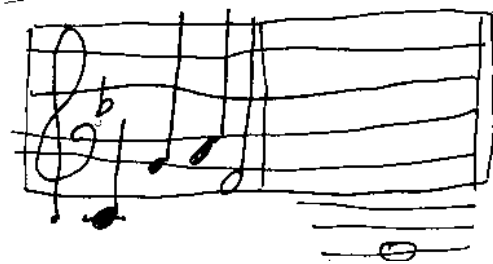


Hour



All through this hour Lord be my guide And by thy power

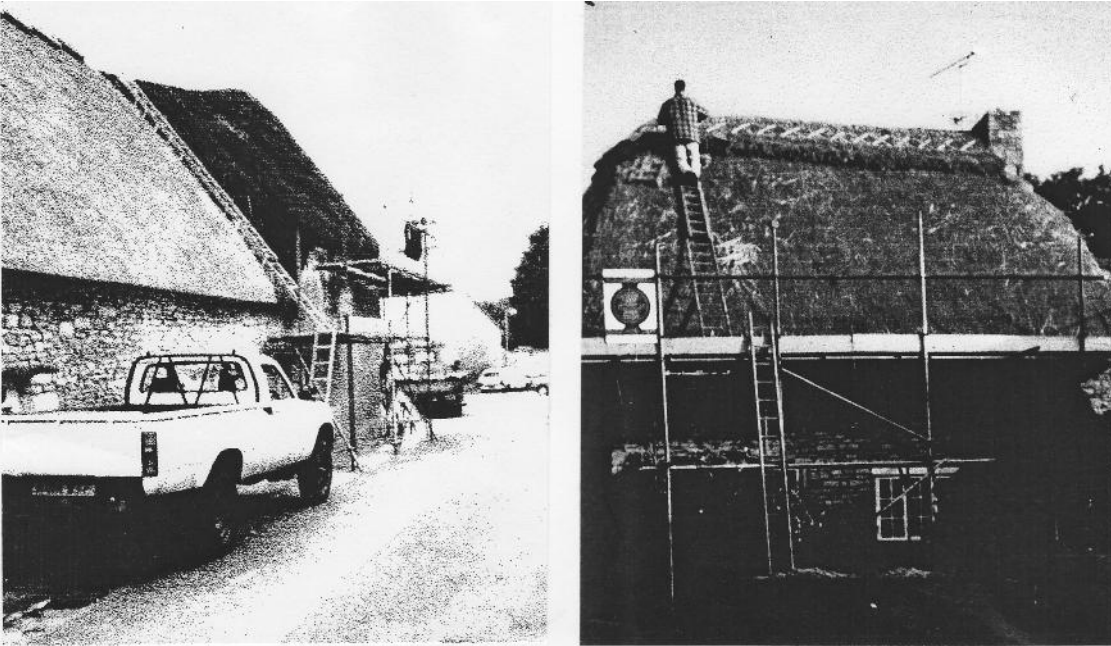
The Westminster Chimes



No foot shall slide

Thatching in Eynsham

In 1994 we noted that thatching that was being done in Church Street.



This November the top capping of the thatching had to be re-done. From this we learn that a good thatch should last over ten years. The thatching this year was done by Messrs Russell & Buckingham from Bicester.



Remembrance Sunday, November 13th 2005.

Once again we were asked to take part in Eynsham's service of remembrance and this year we had a representative of the Bartholomew School as well as a member of our primary school group.

Sara Greenwood spoke of her experiences with a school party last year.

"This time last year I went with a school party to the Belgium/French border on a World War I history trip. Before the trip I had been unable to imagine what it was like for the soldiers. I knew all the dates and something of the lifestyle but it seemed so long ago that I could not see how it was relevant today. Yet, standing at the Thiepval cemetery, when in every direction you could see hundreds of graves it really hit home. I was there on an exciting, enjoyable yet thought provoking trip, and although I felt slightly homesick I knew that I would be with my family again fairly soon. But these men, on the other hand, had all had parents, siblings, children, friends, memories and ambitions, of which they had been robbed.

The statistics we were told while we were in the region of the Battle of the Somme were incredible. How could 20,000 individuals die in a matter of hours?

My last feeling was one of pride that these men, not separated in anyway by class or rank, (every grave stone was identical) had all united to defend my country. Nobody deserved to go through what those men did for me and I am massively grateful to them. My friends who went on the school trip all felt the same and we trust the lessons we learnt will be very much part of our everyday lives.

Sadly the lessons were not learned well enough after the First World War so that once again men and women were called upon to defend their country in 1939.'



Connor Byles read from the diaries of Arthur Hicks, now a resident of Eynsham, and we learned of the way death could affect those who were in the midst of the battles of the 1939-45 war and how one event can affect another. Writing of May 1940

"When we first reached the beach, (at Dunkirk) we were told that we would stay until our ammunition ran out, while the rest of the Troop, who weren't on the guns, would make for the boats. It seemed that the chances of our getting away were not good and Yorky Williams, one of our team, was constantly grumbling about the officers who had stopped his second leave (apparently he was late returning from his first one) as he feared he would never see his baby daughter who had been born in the mean time. His premonition proved right as he was killed when a group of Heinkels

targeted the jetty, at the same time killing a number of the Engineers who were still working on it, and two of our chaps of the gun team."

He also recalls the 23rd March 1943, "a day I shall never forget. A3 (a gun team) Jammy, Bakey, Dave, Mac and Roland dead. Slim and Edgy and Tommy Wilson wounded. Jammy and Bakey were two of my best pals." The writer of these words, Arthur Hicks, had been transferred from this team a few weeks before.

Some time later Mr Hicks received the above photograph of the graves of Serg. Jameson `Jammy; Gnr. Robinson, 'Dave'; Gnr. Baker, 'Bakey'; LBor. Rowlands, 'Taff' Gnr. Maclaren, 'Mac'. All attached to Armoured Brigade supporting a New Zealand Infantry Division in North Africa. Killed 23rd March 1943.



Elizabeth Gornall, the monk, at the Summer Fair 2005