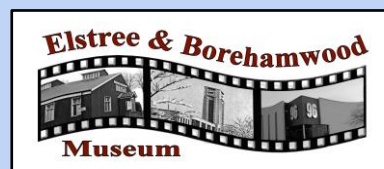
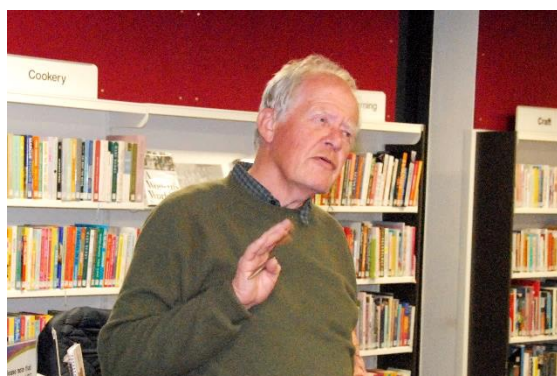


Elstree & Borehamwood Museum
Friends Newsletter
May 2025: Issue Number 32



BOREHAMWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
A FRIENDS EVENING WITH ALAN MARTIN

On the 2nd April, we held the first Friends evening of the year, which was hosted by Alan Martin, who talked about his book “Borehamwood Grammar School” which recounts his personal experiences of attending the school, and the various challenges that he endured as a student there. During the evening, he recalled extensive passages from the book, including his long lonely walks to school – further burdened by homework, to the gender segregated classrooms where girls sat on one side of the class and boys the other. The event was well attended, 30 Friends of the museum came to the talk, and around six attendees were fellow ex-pupils of the school. This book is currently available at the museum shop for £9, or £12.90 from our website.



BOREHAMWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL



ALAN MARTIN

LISTED BUILDINGS IN ELSTREE & BOREHAMWOOD



According to Historic England, there are 31 Grade II listed buildings in Elstree and Borehamwood. There is a high proportion in Elstree, since the area was designated for conservation in 1976, though Borehamwood also has some properties, with several on Allum Lane alone. An eclectic mixture of stately homes, schools, churches, pubs, farms and almshouses have been preserved for posterity.

St. Nicholas Church has the earliest historic lineage. Dating from 1188 when a chapel was built in a monastery, it has been rebuilt three times. In 1360 the site was reconstructed by Abbot Delamere when the area became a parish. Later in 1582, the site was rebuilt and enlarged, incorporating parts of the medieval structure. Further additions by Lewis W. Wyatt in 1824 included a north-aisle, bell tower and vestry. By 1852, the building was in need of repair; Phillip Charles Hardwick recommended it needed to be entirely rebuilt. Works lasted just over a year, the medieval chancel, the 1824 bell turret and vestry were demolished, whilst the north and south aisles were retained but modified. Designed in the gothic revival style, a new flint tower with entrance porch and shingled spire was added, along with a larger chancel and adjoining vestry. Later, an organ chamber was built by Sir Arthur Blomfield in 1880, and extension to

the vestry in 1897 respectively. The site was listed in February 1952; although the majority of the building is Victorian, some 15th century features remain, including several roof truces and lower portions of pillars in the south aisle and a font with elaborate quatrefoil panels.

Adjacent to the church is the former St. Nicholas School. Opened in 1884, it was commissioned by Henry Hucks Gibbs (1st Lord Aldenham) at Aldenham House, who instigated a number of new buildings along Elstree High Street between 1880-3. Originally called the National School, it was intended to accommodate 200 boys and girls, replacing an earlier site built in 1814 next to the Artichoke public house. The new building was designed in the Arts and Crafts style, built in red-brick over two storeys, part roughcast with sham timber framing. Asymmetrical in appearance with leaded windows, projected gabled end wings and two oriel windows. The building continued to be used as a school until 1972, when a larger modern site was completed. It was listed in 1974, and in 1977 it became a Synagogue. Beyond the intersection with Barnet Lane is Hill House, built in the 18th century as a large domestic residence owned by the Rudge family. In 1842, Edward Rudge leased it to Rev. Edward Rowsell to teach several pupils. Rev. Leopold John Bernays succeeded

him in 1845, bringing in more students and establishing it as a successful school. In 1869, 300 acres of surrounding farmland were brought by his successor Rev. Lancelot Sanderson, where a chapel, gymnasium, sanatorium and swimming pool were built; the main building was extended at the north-end and classrooms and dormitories were added to the upper floors. In 1939, the school transferred to a new site at Woolhampton House. During WW2, it was used by the military, where an armoury, gun range and assault course were installed. In 1946, eight acres were sold off for housing, and the main building was brought by the Oliver Borthwick Memorial Trust for unfortunate young men. Hill House was listed in 1950, though the chapel was demolished six years later. The site is currently used as a nursing home.



St. Nicholas Church

There used to be four farms on Theobald Street, yet only Tilehouse Farm remains. The barn dates from the 17th century, while the farmhouse and stables were added in the late 18th century, and the Granary was added in the early/mid-19th century. In 1947, the site closed after a compulsory purchase order was made by London County Council, who brought up a large amount of farmland in the area for residential development. Tilehouse Farm survived the cull, but fell into dereliction. Chiltern Open Air Museum restored the

buildings, but they had to transfer the cattle byre to their museum site, as it was in the way of the new housing development. The farmhouse and stable bothy were listed in 1974, along with the Granary latterly in 1985. Today the farm buildings are tucked away within a residential housing estate.



The Holly Bush

One the oldest pubs in Elstree is the Holly Bush. Built c.1450 as a late medieval hall, in the 17th century the building was extended, gaining another storey and inglenook fireplaces; allegedly some of the beams were sourced from Newgate Prison. It was re-fronted with tile and brickwork in the 19th century, along with timber framing, steeply pitched tiled roof and a three-bay extension to the cross-wing. By 1796 it was a public house run by Thomas Clutterbuck & Co, it was famed for not being level with the street – leading customers to step down into the bar, and its number of hauntings. In 1974 it gained listed status, however the pub closed in 2012 and has remained vacant ever since. Likewise, Nelson's Cottage is another former public house, dating from c.1600, from 1841 it operated as a pub. It was originally called The Mop and Brooms, due to the weapons used in a fight between gypsies and labourers. The building is two storeys high with timber framing and a slate roof. It was later re-fronted with brick, and shortly after McMullens took over in 1912, it was extensively renovated with a left bay added, two-storey extension to the right and the entrance was re-sited. Latterly called The Lord Nelson, it closed in 1932 –

when a new larger pub was opened down the road. The building was listed in 1983, it has since returned to residential use.

Schopwick Place was built on a site dating to 1528, the present manor house was constructed in 1722, and extended in 1776. The building is a redbrick structure with steeply pitched green slate roof, three flat top dormers, and two flanking wings, which were later additions. In 1921, Percy Everett moved in. He was deputy of the Boys Scouts movement, honorary secretary of the girl guides and first scoutmaster of the 1st Elstree Scout Movement in 1908. After he died in 1952, the building was listed and his daughter Winn Everett inherited the property; she became the local district medical officer, setting up a surgery in the village. She died aged 95 in 1998, and the property was brought at auction by Norman Shuker in 2000. The Leys is another listed manor house, constructed in 1901 by Scottish architect George Walton for his friend JBB Wellington, photographer and member of the Royal Photographic Society, who managed Wellington and Ward, a local photographic manufacturer. Built as a small country house, it is a rare example of the Glasgow Arts & Crafts style in southern England. Two storeys high and asymmetrical in design, the ground floor is constructed in orange-red brick, while the second floor is fronted in pebble dash. A hipped roof surrounds a semi-circular bay that occupies the centre which is timber framed with herringbone brickwork and a flat roof, an additional wing was added by Walton in 1923. Wellington lived at the house until his death in 1939. Since then, later additions to the property included new roof tiling, a single-storey rendered link, balustrades and posts to the gallery respectively. Various parts of the estate have been individually listed including the coach house and tower, entrance gate and the lodge house respectively, in addition to the main building. – **by Mike Goldwater**

MIKE'S NOTE

Thank you for supporting the museum this year, we look forward to your continued support over the coming months ahead. Please note that deadlines for renewing annual subscriptions is the 31st August, after which those who have not renewed will no longer receive Newsletters or invites to Friends events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next reminiscence meeting is on 10th June 2025, at 96 Shenley Road at 10:30am.

Elstree & Borehamwood Museum

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Instagram: www.instagram.com/ebwm2007/

Trip Advisor: <https://goo.gl/RTbKQi>

Open: Tues, Wed & Thurs: 12pm – 6pm

Sat: 10am – 3pm

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