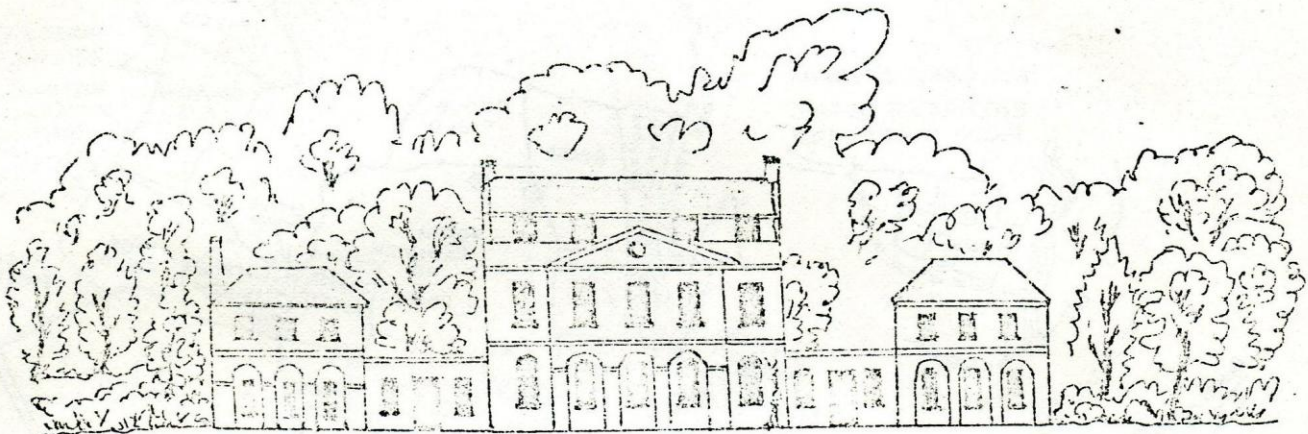


PRICE 5p. (Free to members)

FEBRUARY 1979



MR VINCENT'S SOUTH MIMMS
 from a print at the GUILDHALL LIBRARY.
 BRIDGE FOOT HOUSE - PULLED DOWN 1969.

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
THE BRIDGEFOOT ESTATE - H.M.BAKER.	3
EAST HERTS. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.	6
THE GREAT NORTH ROAD - M.TOMKINS.	7
CORRESPONDANCE	8
OUT OF THE PAST AND INTO THE FUTURE - C.T.OVEREND	9
LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY	10
THE SOCIETY LIBRARY	10
FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS	11

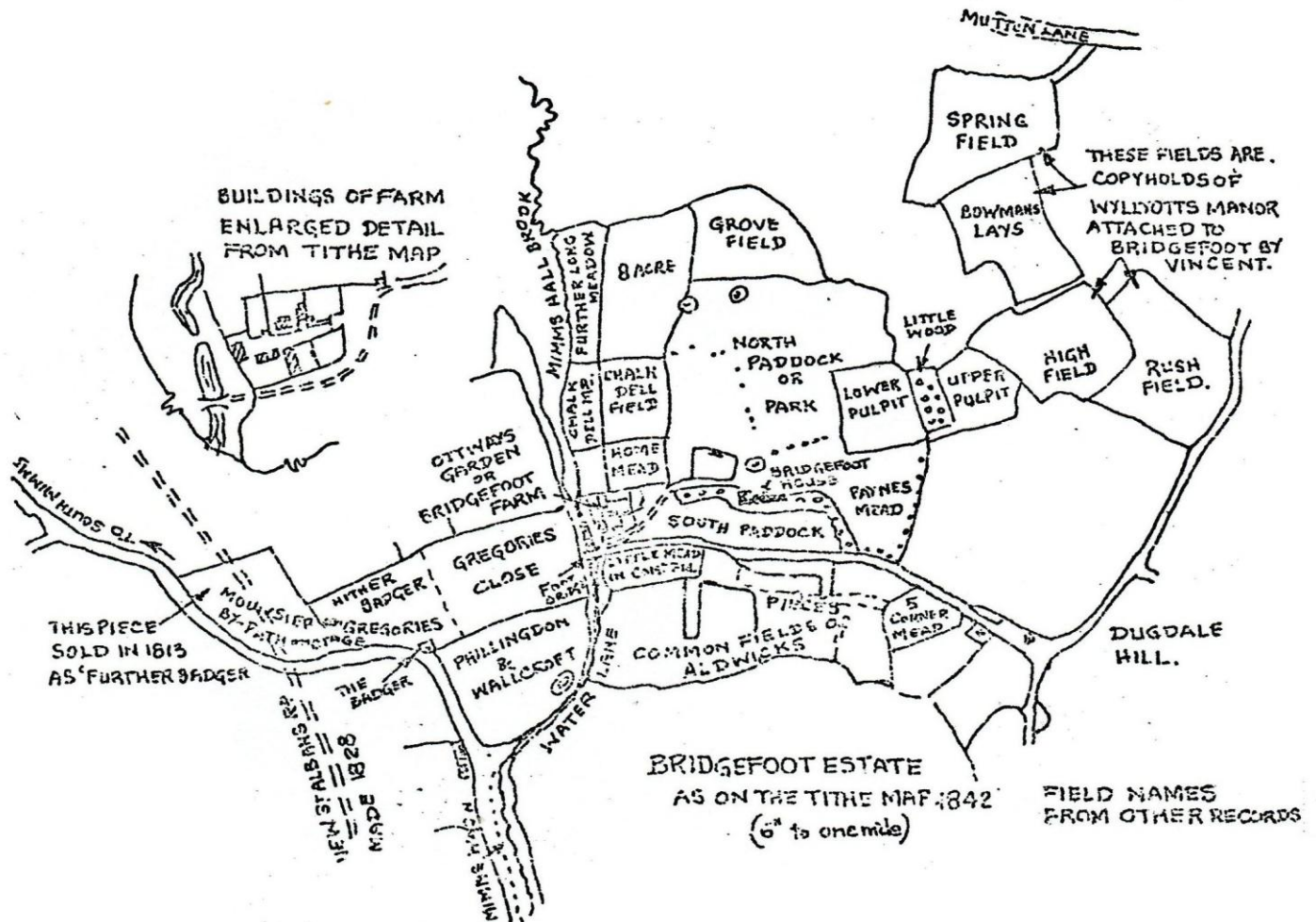
POTTERS BAR AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT : Mrs. Muriel Brittain, M.P.S.

CHAIRMAN : G. Pulzer.

HON. SECRETARY : C.T.Overend, 30 Deepdene, Potters Bar.

Tel.44493.



BOOKS

The Beauty of English Churches by Lawrence E. Jones, published by Constable & Co. £3.95

A very useful guide to all who are interested in exploring English Churches.

Writing a Church Guide by David Dymond, published by the Standing Conference on Local History, 26 Bedford Square, London. 75p. inc. postage (cash with order please).

Opinions expressed in this journal are those of the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the members of the Potters Bar and District Historical Society either as body or as individuals.

Hon. Editor : C.T.Overend, 30 Deepdene, Potters Bar.

Published by Potters Bar and District Historical Society.

Bridgefoot, although it was one of the larger properties in South Mimms is probably the least well known as it lies away from the main roads and can only be approached on foot or horseback down Bridgefoot Lane or by the drive from the Lodge in Wash Lane.

The original house, known as Bridgefoot House, was not built until the second half of the 18th. century. No records of its actual building have appeared and it is first described as a mansion house called Bridgefoot with stable and coach house and paddocks in a marriage settlement made in 1780.

The farmhouse and lands, however, have a much longer history. They were what was known as customary or copyhold lands held of the Manor of South Mimms and their records appear in the court rolls and rentals of the Manor, which are in the private collection of the Marquis of Salisbury; the Cecils having been Lords of the Manor of South Mimms since 1606.

The earliest recorded owner is Robert Mayhew who is listed in the first surviving rental of the Manor as paying a quit rent of thirty-three shillings and fourpence for a copyhold holding in 1567. Robert Mayhew died in 1597 and his property passed to his wife Anne. In his will he mentions three daughters Elizabeth, Margaret and Susan, each of them is to have a sum of money at 18 years of age, two pairs of sheets, one pair flaxen and one town. Also to each a table cloth and a dozen napkins as well as three good beasts divided between them and a ewe and a lamb.

His wife Anne died in 1602 and her two younger daughters were named as her executors. Her will shows that she had been married before and had a son and two daughters by her first husband.

In 1607 Susan Mayhew married Christopher Colson and in a court record of 1617 we find the first full description of the house and lands of the copyhold.

To the manor court on the 24th. April 1617 came Margaret, the other daughter, now the wife of Richard Aldworth, a merchant of London, and Christopher Colson, a dyer of London, and were admitted as tenants of one messuage with a field and garden known as Ottways Garden. The lands are listed as Five Acres, Pound Mead, the Little Grove, Thayne Field and Wall Field, Pound Field and Tirret Field, le Great Wood, Peaseland and Pulpit and four parcels of land called Doles lying in the common field od Aldwicks at a rent of 33s.4d. Then Margaret and Richard Aldworth surrendered their share to the Colsons.

Unfortunately there is no plan of the property until long after when most of the names were changed so we can only place one of the pieces, the croft called Pulpit is the piece of land at the top of Mimms Hall Road on which the 5th. Potters Bar Scouts now have their Headquarters and the little Grove may well be the small wood behind it.

In 1627 Christopher Colson purchased some additional fields from Roger Hoddesdon on the other side of Mimms Hall Brook. These were an eight acre field called Gregories Close and two closes called Phillingdons and Wallcroft together nine and a half acres. Gregories lay just over the bridge and the other two to the south bounded by the brook and Wash

Lane. These three peices are listed in the manor record with other pieces as 'Shurley Croft and other lands' and have an abstract of title from 1511 when they were held by Johan Turner, a widow, and her son John. In 1514 the lands were transferred to Simon Birde, alia Hoddesdon, and Elizabeth his wife. Three generations of Roger Hoddesdons succeeded, the third Roger selling the three pieces to Christopher Colson.

It is perhaps a good time to consider the reason for the name Bridgefoot. The Mimms Hall Brook bounded the original lands on the west side and the lane now called Bridgefoot Lane was the shortest way to South Mimms church for those who lived in the area of Dugdale Hill and Bentley Heath and a footbridge existed at this point from early times. The manor court records are full of requests to the Lord of the Manor to repair this important bridge. In 1607 for instance, we have a 'humble petition to the Right Honourable Lord of the Manor that we might have such a bridge repaired, being in the Lord's waste and the church path for all that come to the church, called by the name of Mayhews bridge'.

The plea coupled with other pleas for the high bridge at Mimms Wash and Margery bridge at Kitte End were at last successful as in 1610 the manor accounts record the following bill for the repair of the three bridges:- For felling timber 3s., for carrying timber 5s., for carpenter for 19 days 4s.4d., for sayring timber 14s., and for making a say pit 12d., total £3 7s 4d. The lower end of Bridgefoot Lane was known as Water or Watery Lane and to this day it is flooded in winter with a shallow stream. The horse or cart road continued by bearing left and along the bed of the brook to Wash Lane and was still in use by farm carts in the 1920's and is still a bridleway today.

By 1641 Christopher Colson had died, leaving his property of Ottways Garden and its lands to his wife Susan and his lands in the common field to his son John. In 1644 his mother died and John inherited the whole property. A manor rental of 1653 shows that another piece of the common field had been bought from one of the Flexmeers, rented at 3s. and the fields purchased from Roger Hoddesdon were rented at 15s.6d.

In 1661 among the legal documents of the manor is a certificate stating that the 'common and public wooden footbridge leading from Dugdale Hill to the parish church of South Mimms is now rebuilt and in good repair soe the people may safely pass over the bridge'.

By 1670 James Ware, a citizen and vintner of London, then living at Hampstead, had purchased the whole estate. James Ware had already bought Blanches in South Mimms in 1669, his will made in 1672 states that he had lost much of his property in the late dreadful fire of London. The lands he bought in South Mimms were intended to form marriage portions for his four daughters, Anne, Mary, Sarah and Grace. His eldest daughter Anne had married William Ellis in 1671 and half of the Ottways Garden property had been her portion. The other half and Blanches were to be divided between his three youngerdaughters and his wife Elizabeth, she as his widow was entitled under the customs of the freeman of the City of London to a one third share of all his property, another third called the 'orphans part' went to the three unmarried daughters to be managed by trustees.

In 1680 Mary Ware married Daniel Luddington, a year later the next daughter married Thomas Parker and thyoungest, Grace, also being of age,

each of them inherited a third of the half of the Ottways Garden property and a third of Blanches. Within the next few years by agreement and much legislation the Luddingtons settled at Ottways Garden and by 1700 Grace had married Thomas Herriot and Blanches was in their possession.

In the 1680 marriage settlement of Mary and Daniel Luddington the alternative name of Bridgefoot Farm is given for Ottways Garden for the first time. In 1702 Daniel Luddington bought from the descendants of the Hoddesdons two more closes called Mounsiers, Gregories, Bypath or Otage which adjoined Gregories Close on the east, Wash Lane on the south and the lane which we now call Greyhound Lane on the west. Both Wash Lane and Greyhound Lane were at that time part of the main road from Barnet to St. Albans. With these closes was a cottage with half an acer in Mymmshall Lane, nom Mutton Lane.

In 1714 Daniel Luddington died leaving two sons William and Daniel, and six daughters. Daniel was left an inn called the "Badger" built in one of the new close near the site of the present lodge in Wash Lane, the closes being renamed the Badger Fields.

In 1717 the Luddington family agreed to sell the whole of the Ottways Garden, alias Bridgefoot Farm, to Robert Vincent, a citizen and stationer of London. Two years later Robert Vincent enlarged the property by adding four copyhold fields of the manor of Wyllyotts lying to the north and west of the Pulpit.

In 1738 Robert Vincent died leaving the estate to his son Robert for his life and then to Robert's son Edward and his heirs. In 1762 after complaints of flooding at Mimms Wash the Turnpike Trust appointed a commission to examine the cause. They reported that the ancient channel of the water course had been diverted by Mr. Vincent to make a fishpond leaving an insufficient channel for the water to pass through, it, having become blocked, had caused flooding to the great inconvenience of those using the King's Highway. In 1763 Mr. Vincent had been informed of the need to remedy this but nothing had been done.

In 1780 Edward Vincent's son Robert married Susanna Philimore of Cheshunt and the marriage settlement lists for the first time the capital messuage with coach house, stables etc. called Bridgefoot and also that farm called Ottways Garden or Bridgefoot Farm. All the field names except Pulpits had changed.

Edward Vincent died in 1810 and his son Robert and his wife Susanna took possession. The tithe map and award show that in 1842 Bridgefoot House was empty but the farm and land were let to William Baker. Another Robert succeeded his father in 1848 and he sold the whole estate to Stanley Orde Percival. In Kelly's Directory for 1855 under Stanley C. Percival, Bridgefoot House is named Bacons Hall and in the first Ordnance Survey of one inch to the mile, published in 1822 it is also Bacons Hall. But a later Kelly's Directory of 1867 reverts to Bridgefoot House so perhaps Bacons Hall was a misprint.

In 1872 Charles Cock bought the estate as Bridgefoot and obtained the freehold from the Gascoyne Cecil Estates. When he died in 1903 the property was bought by the Earl of Strafford, a sale plan was produced for the sale a copy of which is at the Middlesex, Greater London Record Office; but it gives no field names and includes land which did not belong to the original estate.

The estate still belongs to the Byng family as part of the Wrotham Park Estate but the house was pulled down in 1969 and its site and gardens were sold on a 125 year lease in 1970. A new house has since been built which, though unlike the old, fits pleasantly into its site. The farmhouse still stands with its cottages but the old barn is in a sad state.

H.M.Baker 1979

References of Manuscript sources and abbreviations

Manor of South Mimms record, Cecil Estate Archives (Cecil/SM) at Hatfield House by permission of the Marquis of Salisbury.

Cecil/SM.CER.23/16 Rental 1567	Cecil/SM.C.R.23/12. 1617
" " Gen.32/10 1603 Court paper	" " Legal 108/17 Shurley Croft
" " Gen.115/11 Sale of	1551 - 1665 title
Philindons etc.	" " Gen.116/7. Church Bridge 1606.
" " 18th. century Court Books:	" " Gen.118/1. Repairs 3 bridges
Vols. I to V. 1702 - 1872	" " Legal 104/3 Certificate 3
Ludington and Vincent	Bridges.
entries stc.	" " Acc. 47a/ 15 1653 Rental.
" " Box SM/1/15 1780 Vincent	" " SM/3/108 Rental to 1771.
Philimore settlement.	

Wills:- Herts. County Record Office. Ref. No.7.R.176v. Rbt. Mayhew 1597.
Public Record Office: Commissary Court of Canterbury
Ref. PROB.11.339.f67. James Ware 1672.
Ref. PROB.11.688.f80. Rbt. Vincent 1738.

Greater London, Middlesex Record Office (GL/MRO) Acc.641 Sale Plan 1903.
The Tithe award and map of South Mimms shows estate lands 1842.
Potters Bar Historical Society Record Publication No.2a Plan of Wylllyotts
Manor and adjacent land owners or occupiers shows the Pulpit field and
Vincents lands where next to roads or Wylllyotts lands in 1745.

* * * * *

EAST HERTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Forthcoming Lectures

Friday 23rd February 1979

"Recent Excavations in Ware" - Mr. Clive Partridge.
Red Cross Hall, Hertford at 8 p.m.

Thursday 22nd. March 1979

"Medieval and Post-Medieval Graffiti in Hertfordshire"
Mrs. Doris Jones-Baker. Red Cross Hall, Hertford at 8 p.m.

History of Hertford and Ware

It is proposed to form a group devoted to the study of the local history of Hertford and Ware. Anyone interested should get in touch with Mr. Alan Greening, 15 Wellington Street, Hertford.

THE GREAT NORTH ROAD

It is true, as Dr. Lynch pointed out in PBHS 11, that John Byng usually referred to what we know as the Great North Road simply as the North Road. He did, however, quote an advertisement for a house 'little more than a mile from the great North Road' in 1790 and the following year wrote that he 'join'd the great North Road.' Admittedly the 'g' was still a small one, but in speech there would have been no distinction. Similarly it was with a small 'o' that he wrote of the 'old North Road' in 1792 and in 1790, when he noted that it was 'almost abandon'd for the new one, upon which are better inns.' Thus the term Great North Road - if not by this time in general use - would, I think, have been understood by him to refer to the road through Barnet and Potters Bar which was superseding the other through Waltham Cross and Ware.

As we learned in Dr. Lynch's talk last October, the name 'Great North Road' appears on one of Cary's maps of about 1800, and by 1797 the road between Barnet and Hadley was being alluded to as part of the Great North Road in Hertfordshire Quarter Sessions Books (vol.16, p. 330). According to this, 'by an act of Parliament passed in the third year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Third it was enacted that part of the Great North Road from London lying within the said parish of Chipping Barnet.....should be repaired.....' Turning up the Act, which was passed in 1763, we find a reference to 'Part of the great North Road from London, begining at Barnet Block-House, and ending at the Bear Inn in Hadley' (Geo. III: 3:c.37). The 'G' in Great had yet to become a capital, but the word was already in use.

With a small 'g' and a small 'n' Arthur Young mentioned the road in his Six Weeks Tour through the Southern Counties of England, published in 1768. Placing first in excellence the road from Salisbury to Romsey, he wrote: 'next to this uncommon road, the great north one to Barnet, I think, must be ranked.'

Whether the 'G' was envisaged as a capital letter in a book published in 1782 entitled A Description of the Towns and Villages &c. on, and adjoining, the Great North Road, from London to Bawtry (British Library: 291.e.4.) it is impossible to say as the title is all in capitals. But its publication under that title implies that the term would have been generally understood; and there is no doubt that it referred to what we know as the Great North Road. In the text, ~~how~~ however, the name is not repeated: Hatfield and Welwyn are both described as 'in the great coach road to the north', and Barnet as, 'the first stage on the great road from London to York and Chester' and 'on the high north road from London.'

This reference to the high north road at Barnet is repeated in William Kitchiner's Traveller's Oracle of 1828 (British Library: 1046. b.27, p. 151). The writer 'going the North Road' and at Barnet told the postboy he 'had determined to go the Low, not the High Road' - to his consternation, because he was counting on getting half a guinea from the landlord for taking his fare to a certain inn on the 'High North Road'. It looks as if this was the Great North Road while the Low North Road was the Holyhead Road, which ran downhill from Barnet towards South Mimms.

Before the road became known as the Great North Road it was frequently referred to as the Great Northern Road. This name occurs in a manuscript

journal published in 1897 as a journal of a tour from London to Elgin (British Library: 10370.aa.67.). From the internal evidence it can be established that it was in 1782 that 'on Friday morning, the 28th. of June, at seven o'clock' the writer - R. L. Willis - 'bade farewell to London, and proceeded on the Great Northern Road to Barnev...'

Earlier references to the Great Northern Road occur in the Herts. Quarter Sessions Books. In 1663, for instance, it is stated that 'the said Parish of Welwyn is seated in the Great Northern Road from London (vol. 3:f.103); and in 1656 a petition from the men of Radwell (north of Baldock) referred to 'ye great ~~Muskhaxx~~ Northerne Road lying for two miles together in their said Parish' (Quarter Sessions Rolls: vol. 10: 1044). It must be admitted, however, that the same name was sometimes given to the Old North Road. In 1723, for instance, a complaint was made 'that part of the great Northerne Road leading from Buntingford to Royston...is often very bad and out of repairs' (vol. 9:27).

That same road - the Old North Road - was referred to as 'the ~~great~~ greatroad' by a gentleman who revised Defoe's Tour through the whole island of Great Britain in 1762 (British Library: 10348.bbbb.9). But it was part of the Great North Road (between Baldock and Biggleswade) that was referred to as 'the great Roade' in the earliest turnpike bill in 1622 (Bulletin of Historical Research: xii, p. 108).

Norman Webster in his book The Great North Road suggested that in the 'Golden Age of Coaching' (1815- 35) 'a new epithet was being applied to the principal highways....they were ~~being~~ called "Great".' But it is evident that the term was being used two centuries before that and, in conjunction with 'North', at least a generation before.

M. Tomkins

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CORRESPONDANCE

THE "GREAT NORTH ROAD"

Dear Sir,

I am grateful to Mr. Tomkins for the 1797 reference. But his letter supports my belief that "Great North Road" (with a capital G) was not the normal usage, for he gives only one example of it and six of other names used instead.

I am also grateful to Mrs. H. M. Baker, who has found "Great North Road" on maps by Cary (1801) and Milne (1800). These are curious because Cary's Itineraries do not use the name (neither do their rival Paterson's). Neither does Cary's set of road maps for the whole of the country.

What Byng and his contemporaries understood by "the North Road" and "the Great North Road" is another matter, which I did not mention in my first letter. In their day the names applied not only to the main road but to many branches too - compare the use of the name "Great Northern Railway" to mean not only the main line but all its branches. So I have references to St. Albans, Bedford, Cambridge, and Carlisle all being on the Great North Road. The final narrowing down to a single route came only in 1920, with the numbering of one of the roads as the A1.

Yours faithfully,

A. C. Lynch.

OUT OF THE PAST AND INTO THE FUTURE

REFLECTIONS ON AN ANNIVERSARY

During the period 20th. to 24th. April 1959 the Potters Bar Urban District Council, on behalf of the National Register of Archives, staged an exhibition at Oakmere House. The theme of the exhibition was "Potters Bar and South Mimms : from Village to Urban District" and it comprised a display of local records. One of the purposes of this exhibition was to celebrate the Urban District's Silver Jubilee, but it was to be of special significance for us for it was as a result of this event that the Potters Bar Historical Society was formed.

At a meeting, also held at Oakmere House, on 14th. July 1959 the Chairman of the Council, Councillor E.T. Allen, explained 'that in response to a number of requests, following the very successful exhibition of Local Records, an attempt was being made to ascertain the amount of support likely to be given to the formation of a local history society.' Some 40 to 50 people attended this meeting and it was unanimously agreed that a society, to be called 'The Potters Bar Historical Society' should be formed.

Early public meetings were held in the Cranborne Branch Library, but in the latter part of 1960 the venue shifted to Ladbroke School and in 1961, after complaints about the school's uncomfortable seating, to the more relaxed atmosphere of the Potters Bar Hotel where, it was advertised, refreshments could be obtained. By the end of that year, however, meetings were being held at Mountgrace Lower School, which (under different names) has been our home ever since. (PARKFIELD).

Outings to Enfield and St. Albans were planned for 1960 but I have not been able to ascertain if either of these took place. Certainly visits have not been a strong feature of our Society; with one or two exceptions they appear to have attracted little support. Perhaps too much caution has been shown when planning these expeditions, maybe a bolder and more ambitious approach to the subject (or better publicity) would have created a better response.

Ten years ago, in February 1969, the Society published its first Newsletter; a publication which (with this issue) has now appeared twelve times. Other publications have been produced in recent years, including some excellent maps.

This year, therefore, we celebrate our twentieth birthday, but we should not look solely and nostalgically to the past, however pleasant this may be. It is a time to look to the future determined to go forward and increase the strength of and the respect for the Potters Bar and District Historical Society. We should make every effort to increase our membership, to reach and pass that seemingly elusive fifty members. If we each try to interest at least one other person in the PB&DHS this can readily be achieved. More members would mean that we could attract more eminent speakers, carry out more research and actually get started on the archaeological field work we have so often talked about. More members will also help to keep down the subscription and (who knows?) we might even be able to afford to print the Newsletter - or at least to have it professionally typed.

C.T. Overend.

* * * * *

"CHALKY" STRIKES IT RICH

"Chalky" White, a caterpillar tractor driver employed by C.P. Roberts had a lucky find in the new station carpark at Wyllyotts Manor last autumn. While driving his machine "Chalky" unearthed a pot of early Victorian young head copper coins and tokens. The find was made at the foot of a 240 year old Elm tree.

LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Tour of Greece 1979

This 15 day tour of Greece commencing on 30th. July 1979 is being organised by the above Society.

Itinerary: Fly to Athens, then coach tour of principal monuments including Athens, Corinth, Micenae, Argos, Tyrins, Epidaurus, Nauplia, Olympia, Sparta, Delphi, Meteora, Salonica, (seeing the recently excavated treasures of King Philip of Macedon), Platamona etc.

Cost, including flights, coach, good hotels etc. is £268. Full details from Lawrence S. Snell, M.A., F.S.A, F.R.Hist.S., Newman College, Bartley Green Birmingham BB2 3NT. S.A.E. please.

* * * * *

THE SOCIETY LIBRARY

Since our last issue the following additions have been made to the Society's library (intending borrowers please phone Mrs. H.M.Baker - Potters Bar 53659).

London and Middlesex Archaeological Society - Transactions Vol.28 1977.

Newsletters of the East Herts. Archaeological Society. 1977, Jubilee Issue, parts 1 & 2, Nos. 42 & 43.

Copies of three papers on the Ravenscroft family, donated by Mt. Ralph Walker :-

1. 1595-1630 James Ravenscroft of Barnet.
2. 1632-1683 George Ravenscroft, City of London, Merchant.
3. 1643-1704 Edward Ravenscroft, Restoration Dramatist.

From the Brewers Company of London, former owners of Wyllyotts Manor :-
A list of additional records and plans of the Manor of Wyllyotts deposited this year at the Guildhall Library, London. Records from 1826 to 1934.
Plans from 1770 to 1880.

A map case of plans connected with Dame Alice Owens School and bequest of lands in Clerkenwell in 1609; and in 1832.

A map case of plans of Aldenham School and alms houses belonging to the Brewers Company 1841, Platt.

Plan of Owens Girls School, Islington 1885.

Copies of transcripts of some early records of the Wyllyotts Manor collection at the Guildhall Library :-

1. Tho. Ponns to Tho. Qweler lease 1431/2. Ref: MS 6809.
2. John Wyllyot - Deed of Gift 1380. Ref: MS 6809.
3. Perambulation of the Manor of Wyllyotts, about 1836.

Barnet Local History Society. Bulletin No. 21, November 1978. How Barnet Got its Railways, M.L.Rose, M.A.

* * * * *

OBITUARY - PETER MOLD

It is with regret that we record the death last June of our late Honary Assistant Secretary, Peter Mold. Peter was a likeable and popular member of the committee and one with whom it was a pleasure to work. He was the Society's projectionist for some years and was responsible for the compilation of this year's programme. A car salesman, he lived in St. Albans and leaves a widow and two sons.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONSH.A.C. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Hertfordshire Archaeological Council will be held on 24. March at the Mid Herts College, Welwyn Garden City. Admission charges are: for the whole day £1, half day 50p., full time students, children and senior citizens 50p.

The programme will be:-

10 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Recent Archaeological Work in Hertfordshire.

2 p.m. - 5 p.m. after the Romans.

Guest speakers will be Dr. David Wilson, Director of the British Museum and Christopher Taylor of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments.

* * * * *

POTTERS BAR AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday 7th. March - Windmills - speaker Harry Meyer.

Tuesday 3rd. April - A.G.M. - Church Life in 18th Century England - speaker Alan Harding.

Friday 11th. May - The Mesolithic period in the Lee Valley - speaker Adrian Gibson.

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BARNET AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday 14th. March - Recent Work on Sites in London - speaker Harvey Sheldon.

Wednesday 4th. April - The Postal History of Barnet - speaker Don. Knight.

The Barnet Society has a number of visits planned for the summer months. Details of these may be had from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W.S.Taylor, telephone Potters Bar 54150.

* * * * *

20th, BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Potters Bar and District Historical Society is twenty years old this year. To celebrate this event a number of suggestions are being considered by the Committee but we would like to hear other members ideas. What do you suggest? If you have an idea which you would like to have considered please let me know before 20th. March.

One event to mark the occasion will be a special talk by Peter Walne, the County Archivist, on Friday 28th. September (the first public meeting of the Historical Society was on 29th. Sept. 1959). The subject of this talk and the venue will be announced later.

C.T.Overend,
Hon. Secretary.