

POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sept. 1984

THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. I No. 1

This is the first number of The Newsletter, which it is proposed to issue three times a year, September, January and Easter. It is hoped to keep you better informed of events and news. Also, some of those who volunteered to distribute newsletters have been asked to deliver The Newsletter, so you might be confronted by a different face at your door, on behalf of the Society. I hope they will be welcomed.

It is hoped that next year all subscriptions will be paid as soon ^{as possible} after 1st April, when they are due, ~~as possible~~. There has been a good response this year but those who have not yet paid will receive a reminder with this newsletter and it would be appreciated if the appropriate remittance could be sent soon.

B. Warren

25th ANNIVERSARY

The Committee was very gratified by the excellent response to the activities organised for this event. All three were blessed with fine weather. Bruce Chanter is to be congratulated on organising the memorable visit to Cliveden: those who did not go certainly missed something. Our President's house, Ingham Lodge, provided an ideal setting for an enjoyably informal social. Finally, the historical walk was highlighted by a conducted tour of Myms Hall and South Mimms church. At the latter, members climbed the tower and beheld the splendid view of the surrounding countryside, before the M25 is completed to spoil it.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following:

Mr R. Whiteside, Mr C. Dudley, Mr G. L. Field, Mr N. Brown, Mrs B. Fox, Mr C. Case, Mrs R. Clarke, Mr Cawrey, Miss B. S. G. Barber, Mrs V. Bell and Mrs T. Canning.

We hope you will participate in and enjoy our activities. It is up to you.

FAMILY HISTORY

If you are thinking of tracing your ancestors we can help you before you make too many costly errors! Several members have experience in this field, but contact Brian Warren (Cuffley 875617) in the first instance.

ST GILES, SOUTH MIMMS GRAVESTONES

Unfortunately, notice of the first two meetings was received too late to inform most of you. However, there was a good response from other societies and two sections of the churchyard were transcribed.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Saturday 6th October at the churchyard from 2.00 - 5.00 pm. You will need a clipboard, sharp pencil and a kneeling pad or small stool. Hope to see you there in force.

OBITUARY

It is with regret we record the death of Mrs K. E. Scharff, the daughter of the late Sir Joseph Burn, KBE of Rydal Mount. She had an article on the Zeppelins published in PBHS 14, where she recalled her memories.

Though small in stature she had tremendous courage, coupled with a strong personality. She was very energetic and could speak French, German, Italian and Malay. Not only had she an excellent memory for poems and stories but was a prodigious writer. In addition she was more than capable as an artist.

She died on 8th October 1983, at the age of nearly 87.

EXHIBITION

The exhibition on the history of brewing in Hertfordshire called 'Here for the Beer', shown at Watford Museum until 8th September, will be coming to Oakmere House, 2nd February - 2nd March 1985.

FUTURE OUTINGS

Bruce Chanter has produced a questionnaire and would be grateful for a 100% return. From the look of some of the questions, he is hoping to plan some ambitious outings in the near future.

HERTFORDSHIRE RECORDER SCHEME

There was an encouraging number of volunteers to the questionnaire and the first meeting will be held at 21 Chace Avenue on Thursday 11th October at 8pm. Those who did volunteer will receive a reminder but others are welcome to come.

POTTERS BAR FESTIVAL - the Society's contribution

Thursday 27 Sept. at 8pm Oakmere House. Tickets £1.00/50p concessionary

'Potters Bar from 1920 Onwards' by Brian Warren

After the interval we shall be showing films including 'And her People Cheered', the 1953 Coronation film of the festivities in PB, and the Roman Tile Kiln Excavation at Parkfield, in 1954. We are indebted to the PB Cine & Video Society for their help with this programme.

15 - 20 October Exhibition in the foyer of Oakmere House, entitled 'The Age of the Train in Potters Bar'.

Wednesday 17 October at 8pm Oakmere House, Committee Room 1

'The Coming of the Railway to Potters Bar' by Gordon Eve

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

If you require a lift to these meetings or are able to give a lift, please complete the form at the foot of the page and return it to a committee member as soon as possible.

Instead of arriving just in time for the lecture, why not arrive ten minutes earlier and look at the noticeboard? We are most grateful to Cyril Overend for undertaking this essential means of communication.

Thursday 25 October South Mimms Village Hall 8pm

'South Mimms' by Helen Baker

The talk will trace the history of the the buildings in the village from the 17th century to the Tithe Map, 1842. The evidence is taken mainly from the Manor Court records held at Hatfield House along with other material which was not available to Dr Brittain when he wrote his fine history of South Mymms, in 1931. Come early, or you might not get in!

Thursday 15 November Oakmere House, Committee Room 3 8pm

'St Albans Organ Museum' by Keith Pinner

The show consists of a series of slides of mechanical musical instruments, steam organs, player pianos, mechanical fiddles and a variety of phonographs.

The slides are accompanied by a spoken commentary and an illustration of the music that can be produced by these marvellous old instruments. Some of the instruments are in the museum while others are actually working on sites.

Thursday 6 December Oakmere House, Committee Room 3 8pm

'The Highgate Tunnel' by Dr A. C. Lynch

Highgate Hill was a notorious obstacle to traffic and in 1811 a tunnel through the Hill was planned as a by-pass. The partially-built tunnel collapsed and was replaced by the present cutting. The road surface was troublesome and in 1832 the first-ever concrete road was made there. The old bridge carrying Hornsey Lane became an obstruction and was replaced in 1900. Part of the road collapsed in 1928 into a forgotten brook.

GILLIAN GEAR

We wish Gillian a speedy recovery after her recent short stay in hospital.

I/We require a lift to the monthly meetings.

I have _____ seats and am willing to transport members to meetings

If you cannot return this slip please ring Cyril Overend (PB 44493) or Brian Warren (Cuffley 875617).

Thank you.