

Potters Bar & District Historical Society

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September 1986 THE NEWSLETTER Vol.3 No.1

After two years of a single page Newsletters the new format will include reports of meetings, summer outings, etc., so as to provide members with more information about the Society's activities.

Congratulations to all members of the Publications Committee on their efforts in producing the Society's first booklet in the, 'Potters Bar Historical Series'. If you have not got your copy look at the back page.

Wednesday 10 Sept. 6.15p.m.

OUTING TO KNIGHTSLAND, near Trotters Bottom.

Mrs.Naylor has kindly agreed to allow members to view the wall painting of the Story of the Prodigal Son, which was discovered in 1935. The panels show the story as written in the fifteenth chapter of St.Luke's Gospel. Also, to be seen is the linenfold pattern of the oak panelling in the dining room, dated not later than 1600.

If you wish to attend please contact Brian Warren (875617) or Dan Ruge-Cope (53221), so that transport arrangements can be completed. Entry will be via the driveway on the St.Albans Road.

Those attending are invited to make a donation to The Red Cross, which will be collected on arrival.

Saturday 13 Sept. 6.30 for 7.00p.m.

SOCIAL -SOUTH MIMMS VICARAGE by kind permission
of the Rev.R.Gage.

As in previous years members are asked to bring some food which will be pooled for all to consume. If more than tea or coffee is required please bring your own. One may like to bring a folding chair. For those who have not seen inside this is an opportunity, also if wet the social will continue inside.

POTTERS BAR FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER

OAKMERE HOUSE

'Public Transport in Potters Bar-
Stagecoaches, Trains and Buses.'

Speakers: Dr.A.C.Lynch, Mr.G.Eve and Mr.D.Ruddom.

Tickets £1.50 or £1 concessionary from
Oakmere House Box Office 2-5p.m., or
Furzeffield Centre, Mutton Lane.

EXHIBITION - 'OAKMERE -its PEOPLE and HISTORY'

28 Aug-19 Sept. Oakmere Library

22 Sept.-18 Oct. Oakmere House

18 Oct.- 8 Nov. Cranborne Library

HERTS. LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The annual symposium on, 'Domesday' will be held on Saturday, 1 November at Haileybury College Hertford, 10.00am - 5pm.

Members of the Herts Local Hist.Council £2.50
everyone else £3.00.

Lunch costs £2 if booked at the same time,
otherwise bring a packed lunch.

LAMAS (London & Middx.Archaeological Soc.).LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

This annual event is on, 'Domesday, London and Beyond', on Saturday, 22 November at the Museum of London, starting at 11.30 a.m.

The cost is £3 and one can buy lunch or bring a packed lunch.

Both annual events are very interesting and give one the opportunity to listen to lectures and inspect the exhibitions and publications of other local societies. Helen Baker has for many years provided an exhibition from our society, for which we are very appreciative of her efforts.

If anyone would like to go this year would they contact the chairman.

Further details will be given out at the monthly meetings.

'THE HISTORY OF SOUTH MIMMS AND POTTERS BAR'

Course leader:- Brian Warren.

The course consists of 12 weeks from Tuesday 30th September, (7.30 - 9.30) at De Havilland College, The Walk.

Class fee:- £19.80 or O.A.P's £18.80

This is the first course on this subject for 22 years and will seek to introduce much of the new information that has been acquired since then.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME - Monthly Meetings

In future besides the Secretary's notice board, the Society's Scrapbook will be on view and publications will be on sale.

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER

'Survivals: history all around us' by

Mr.G.Gillam

Colour slides will show some of the bits and pieces of history still to be seen in the Borough of Enfield, in spite of the pace of modern development. These include the origin of designs used in modern architecture, the typology of pillar boxes, the history to be gleaned from foundation stones and where Edmonton and Enfield marshes are still being used as they were over a thousand years ago, as well as many other examples of 'survivals'.

Members will remember Mr.Gillam's excellent lecture to us on, 'Death and the Victorians' and this talk is a MUST for our RECORDERS.

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER

'Follies' by Mr.K.E.Ruge

Follies are not only things we commit and regret but can also be things which our ancestors committed intentionally. This talk will illustrate those erected by the Duke of Buckingham in the grounds, landscaped by Capability Brown, of what is now Stowe School.

Mr.Ruge was unfortunately ill last year, so now he is presenting it this year.

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER

'The secret code-breaking computers of 1944'
by Dr.A.C.Lynch

In 1975 it was revealed that the first-ever electronic digital computers had been built in 1944, and used for a secret war-time purpose. Dr.Lynch had helped to design them, but was not told what they were for. He will describe how most of the story has now emerged, and the use that was made of the information that these computers helped to provide.

ALL MEETINGS IN OAKMERE HOUSE, ROOM 3, at 8 p.m.

Anyone who is willing to give a vote of thanks please contact the chairman.

If you require a lift to these meetings, or are able to provide one, please inform a committee member.

ACQUISITIONS

Mrs.Watts is thanked for presenting the Society with her late husband's slides and photographs, as was his wish. They will be added to the Society's collection and kept together as the, 'Alec Watts' Collection'.

Mrs.LeGros has presented her copies of the local history exhibitions at Oakmere House, in 1950 and 1959. We thank her for this kind gesture.

Remember the Society before you throw anything away.

APOLOGIES

In the last Newsletter Harvey Sillis was unfortunately referred to as Graham. Please accept this apology for the slip and the Society's thanks for all your support, with Thelma, in South Mimms.

CORRECTION -The Journal, No.2 April 1986

p2 line 18 'Samuel Stanley Worboys (Sam)'
Sam should read Stan.

RESEARCH

If any member is interested in undertaking any research in local history please contact a committee member. Most societies have a small nucleus of researchers but this society would welcome an expansion of its nucleua.

Don't be shy, we all had to start once with little knowledge or expertise.

KEEPING YOUR EYES OPEN

Terry Goulding found a small piece of bone near the entrance to the Golf Club, in March. On examination by the staff of the Natural History Museum, it proved to be the left radius of an adult Neolithic cow, or later, and had been distorted by burning.

It is amazing what one small piece of bone can reveal if one is an expert!

Peter Gibbons, 33, Tiverton Rd., gave his neighbour, Bruce Chanter, a worked flint flake, which on first inspection corresponds with the other Mesolithic long blades found in the area. This is the first find for two years.

Whenever one digs in their garden one is likely to find something that man has made. Many famous archaeological sites have been the result of chance finds, or someone keeping their eyes open.

By plotting these finds onto maps, a picture is gradually drawn up. Many small pieces of evidence combine to produce an overall pattern. It is very important the finder notes the exact location and all the relevant details.



HERTS. RECORDER SCHEME

The above map indicates the revised areas, as agreed at the last Recorder Group meeting.

If you know of any changes to buildings or landscape please contact the appropriate Recorder:



Area 1	Mr G Eve	56831	Area 5	Mr S Redington	58000
Area 2	Mr D Ruge-Cope	53221	Area 6	Mr R Warwick	53400
Area 3	Mr L Field	53801	Area 7	Mr T Goulding	56429
Area 4	Mrs V Murphy	58447	Area 10	Mr & Mrs Axford	50590

There are vacancies for areas 8 and 9, so do not hesitate to volunteer. The group meets twice a year.

MEMBERS' NEWS

It is pleasing to report that Mrs. Claro ~~has~~ made a remarkable recovery since her stroke in April. She is grateful to all those members who visited her in Barnet General hospital.

Mr Case slipped and broke his ankle while on holiday, but is now on the way to a complete recovery.

Mr. & Mrs. Martin and John C. Clarke of Bromley have joined the Society. John Bennett has re-joined after a lapse of a number of years, and we extend a warm welcome to all of them.

SUMMER PROGRAMME REPORTS

14 JUNE SUMMER OUTING TO SPAINS HALL

Seventy members of the Society and their friends travelled in two coaches to their first stop at St. Andrew's Church, Greensted-juxta-Ongar, which claims to be the oldest wooden church in the world, dating from 845 AD.

Members were able to admire the nave wall of split oak logs. In addition to the superbly decorated church, members had the opportunity to buy from the many stalls manned by local people for the biennial herb festival.

Lunch was taken at Thaxted, after which members could admire the fine 'wool' church, the Guildhall and the windmill.

A short stop was made at Finchingfield, where photographs could be taken of this picturesque Essex village.

Sir John Ruggles-Brise, whose family had lived at Spains Hall for over 200 years, greeted the party. In a relaxed and charming manner Sir John and his butler conducted the party round the house, showing numerous family mementoes.

It was certainly an outing to remember, and Bruce Chanter must be congratulated on the arrangements.

30 JUNE RIDGE VILLAGE TOUR

Twenty members were conducted round the village by Ted Salter, a resident since 1934 and its local historian.

After meeting on the green the party walked through the churchyard, and viewed some of the graves, including that of Field Marshal, Earl Alexander of Tunis, whose family were once connected with Tytenhanger.

Once in the church of St. Margaret, Ted noted the first vicar was Henry Lake in 1349. He then described the 1450 wall painting of St. Christopher and the Christ Child, the chancel arch of 1881, the early 19th century hatchments and the Florentine gold and silver wire altar frontal.

A short walk down Deeves Lane led to a stop at a gate where everyone could look across the scene to Ridgehill and Brookmans Park.

The tour continued through the village looking at all the buildings. In particular, mention was made of Potshays, the Old Guinea pub, Orchard End, the Forge, Kitwells and Ivy Cottage.

Ted had arranged refreshments in the village hall, and an exhibition of Ridge's local history.

This first venture into a village tour was a great success and it is hoped such future events will be as successful.

Ted Salter was thanked for all his efforts and those of Sybil Rowson, who served the refreshments.

12 JULY JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE VISIT

It was a dismal day, but sixteen members were first shown Muriel Brittain's room, where she explained the origins of the College.

In the 6th century, St. Radegund founded a nunnery which flourished until 1496, when John Alcock, Bishop of Ely, closed it and founded a men's college on the site.

The 12th century cloisters were charming, with their hanging baskets. In the chapel, the fine painted wooden roof of William Morris was superb and there was an unusual 13th century double piscina.

In the Second Court the party saw the new student buildings of North Court (1965), where Prince Edward was until recently in residence.

The wooden doors leading to the old library had been given by the old members and were suitably inscribed to the memory of Dr. Frederick Brittain, for 32 years a Fellow of the college.

The party examined priceless books in the old library, before taking tea in the president's room. The visit ended with a tour of the college dining room, the combination room and the Fellows' walled garden.

Muriel Brittain was thanked for organising such an enjoyable visit.

20 JULY ANNUAL WALK

Fourteen intrepid walkers assembled at the top of Quakers Lane and proceeded across the land of Morven, which had once been purchased by St. Mary's Islington. On reaching the North Mymms' boundary a stone was found with 'St.M.I.' inscribed on it.

After a short walk the party arrived at the very run-down looking edifice, that was once Northaw Place. Then on to Nyn Park, where a very pleasant walk was enjoyed down the path which led to the ruined Nyn house. Whilst enjoying the beautiful surroundings the owners, Major Russell Dore and his wife arrived in their car. Mrs. Dore chatted with the party and was most hospitable.

On climbing the path towards Northaw a fox was seen and a group of baby toads. At the church members took advantage of the pews and the cool atmosphere, once they had examined the building.

Fortunately Hook path was not too muddy and Mrs. Driver acted as guide round the nature reserve. After viewing the Old Pond the conditions were more akin to foreign lands, with water underfoot, head high grass and in some cases ferocious gnats. Nevertheless, all survived and by various means found their way home.

'THE TURNPIKE ROAD TO HATFIELD'

by
Dr.A.C.Lynch

READY BY OCTOBER

POTTERS BAR HISTORICAL SERIES No.3

'MALCOLM TOMKINS 1930-1981 -

A COLLECTION OF HIS WRITINGS'

Publication date December.

Malcolm Tomkins joined this Society in 1969 and served on the committee. He was a member of the Herts.Local History Council and wrote articles for the Hertfordshire Countryside magazine. He often obtained interesting information from the most unlikely of sources, which had often been missed by other local historians.

His widow, Joy, readily accepted the Society's offer to publish the articles which he had contributed to PBHS series of the Society's publications.

It is hoped that many of our new members, who did not have the good fortune to know Malcom, will find this collection of his articles of interest.

January 1987 NEWSLETTER

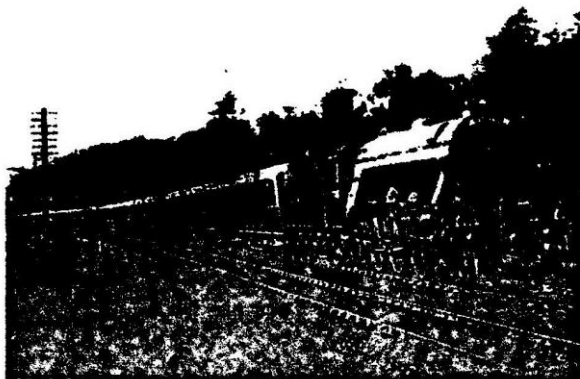
Anyone in the Society is welcome to contribute towards the next Newsletter. Anything that is not too long and would be of interest to other members should be given to the chairman, by the December meeting on the 10th.

THANKS

The grateful thanks of the Society are expressed to Dan Ruge-Cope for the duplicating of The Newsletter.

Potters Bar Historical Series

No.1



THE FLYING SCOTSMAN AT GANWICK, 1935

The Railway Through Potters Bar

by G. H. Eve

Mr. W. H. Gelder wrote an excellent review of this publication in the Potters Bar Press, dated 21st August, on page 22, entitled, 'Trains, steam and speed.'

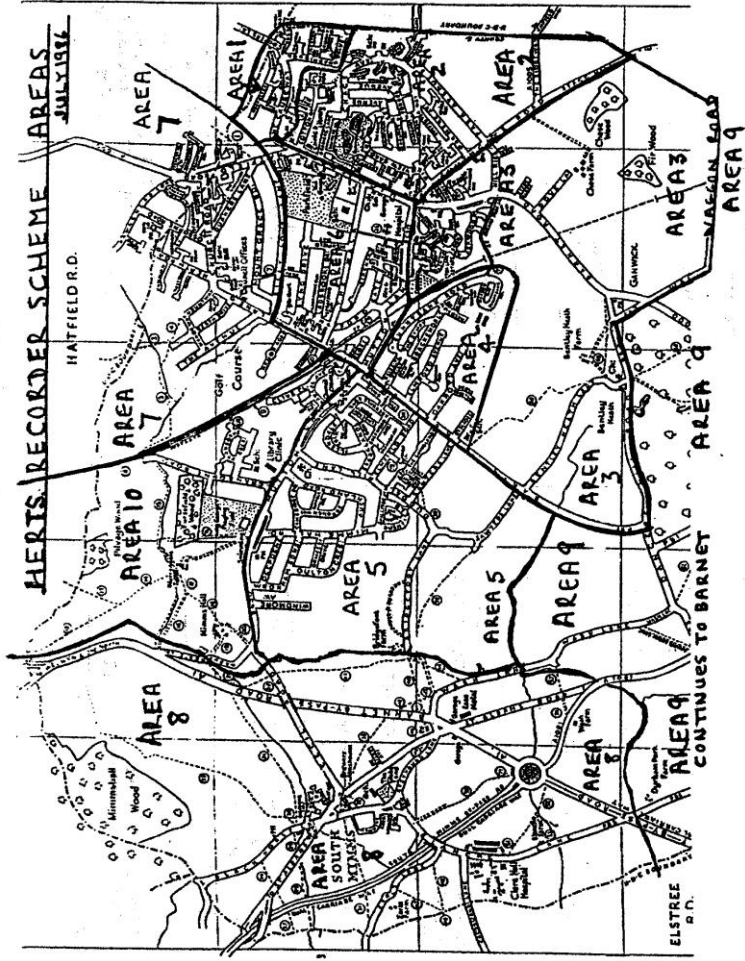
Price 70p for members

80p for non-members

£1.00 postal enquiries to
Mr. D. Ruge-Cope,
21, Chace Ave.

At present copies may be obtained through the chairman, but they will be on sale at all future monthly meetings.

Terry Goulding is to be congratulated on producing such an excellent publication, as the final stages were entirely his work.



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