

Potters Bar & District  
Historical Society

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# The Newsletter

May 1988

Vol.4 No.3

The clarion call in the last Newsletter not only raised the membership figure to 150 but it reached 162. Well done everyone concerned.

Five new members have already joined us this present session. A Miss J. Jones joined at the AGM but we do not know her address. If anyone knows Miss Jones would they ask her to contact the Treasurer, Peter White.

At the AGM the Chairman took as his theme, 'The problems of a growing Society.' In four years the membership has trebled and the financial position has been improved by over £1700 in the process.

Whilst it has been possible to offer the members better value for the same subscription there has been the loss of a smaller society in knowing everyone by name. The same resources are now required to produce three times as much administrative material. Therefore it is more important that everyone makes a contribution to share the extra work, if this is at all possible.

It was with this in mind that everyone had a copy of, 'HOW CAN YOU HELP THE SOCIETY?' Thanks are due to those who have returned the form, even if only one thing has been offered, and it is hoped to receive the rest in the next fortnight.

REMINDER HERTS. RECORDER SCHEME

NEXT MEETING:- Monday 27th JUNE at 8.00 pm.

51, Highview Gdns.  
(venue changed)

EDWARD THOMAS SALTER, OBE, ARIBA, T.P.Dip.

It is with regret that one has to inform members of the passing of 'Ted' on 21st February. Some members will remember that he led the first of the Society's evening walks round Ridge, which ended with refreshments and an exhibition in the Village Hall.

Our President writes:-

Ted was trained as an architect the London County Council (as it then was) and spent most of his working life as a Civil Servant becoming Principal Regional Architect in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. He retired in 1973 but was retained as a Consultant on the Preservation and Renovation of Ancient Buildings for a further ten years.

His passion in life was local history and particularly that of Ridge, with his late wife Laura their life and the life of the village were intertwined for over half a century. They had three homes in the village, Pottshays which he designed, Orchard Mead, formerly the almshouses, which he converted and finally Kitwells. St.Margaret's Church may also be said to have been his home since he served it in many capacities and especially as Church Architect, caring for it lovingly over the years and saving the parish untold thousands in architect's fees.

He kept parish records meticulously, took photographs of the district to show changes at all seasons and enjoyed nothing so much as sharing the fruits of his labours with the Historical Society and other local organisations.

At his funeral the Vicar, the Rev.Robert Gage gave an address from which I have permission to quote:-

"The death of Ted Salter is very much the end of an era .....He was possibly the only person in South Mimms or Ridge whom it would not be an affectation to describe as 'old world' or even 'courtly'. He carried with him something of a former age, a former generation, partly in his toughness and stubbornness, partly in his courtesy

..... No-one will ever know the many acts of quiet kindness which he went about doing. If ever there was a person who took to heart the saying about the right hand not knowing what the left hand was doing, it was Ted. He was the sort of person who lived wholly by trust in God, God the Creator, God the Sustainer, God his Redeemer, and the manner of his death mirrored the manner of his life. It can be described as quietly confident and peacefully trusting .... it was as if he simply sailed off quietly from the quayside into another world ..."

Ted will be sorely missed, principally of course by his three daughters and their families, to whom we offer our warm sympathy, but also by his many friends, by the Society and the district at large.

May his good, kind Christian soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

MEMBERS' NEWS

We wish Eric Elliott a happy retirement and many more years in his new home.

Mr. and Mrs. Pryke have moved from Park Ave. to Cambridgeshire and we hope they are now settled in their new abode.

It is with grateful thanks and much pleasure to see Dick Harris and Joan Groves once again involved in the Society's activities.

Thanks are express to Miss S. Longman who has donated two coloured slides of Potters Bar in the winter of 1961/2.

We offer sincere condolences to Mrs. Sanderson on the recent passing of her husband, who was also once a member of the Society.

EARLY NOTIFICATION

Following the success of the Society's public lecture it has been decided to repeat the event on Monday, 3rd October, probably on the popular lines of a 'Then & Now' theme. This will be at Oakmere House at 8 pm, so tell your friends to book the date as the seating capacity this year will be 200.

The meeting approved the changes in the Constitution, so the Society could seek charitable status.

Secretary, Dick Harris, reported another substantial increase in membership, an increase in the monthly attendance at meetings and well-supported summer activities.

Terry Goulding, treasurer, presented the accounts for the past year, noting that the sale of publications had made a profit of over £500. He announced that after 16 years in the post, he was not seeking re-election.

He was thanked by the Chairman for all his work as treasurer over such a long period.

The Chairman announced that two other long-serving members of the committee Mrs H.M.Baker, archivist, and Mr W.S.Taylor, would also be retiring. Mr.Taylor was made an honorary life-member, whilst in recognition of Mrs Baker's invaluable services in a multitude of activities to the Society she was elected a Vice-President, as a small reward for many years of voluntary work.

Following the AGM, Gordon Eve gave a short talk on the rise of the Herts.Public House Trust. Unfortunately Dan Ruge-Cope was unable to report on the Society's collection of Parish Magazines, so Brian Warren gave a , 'Chairman's Miscellany' on the history of some of the public houses in Potters Bar, the history of Billy Lows Lane, Roger Fenton and Mountgrace, a benefit from helping someone with their family history and the last letter despatched by the retiring Archivist in Somerset.

The following officers and committee were appointed for 1988/89:-

Chairman	Mr B.Warren	6,Church Close, Cuffley. Cuf. 875617
Vice-Chairman	Mr.T.G.Goulding	12,Church Rd.
Hon.Secretary	Mr.R.Harris	25,Cotton Rd.
Asst.Hon. Sec.	Miss J.Andrews	8,Fair View
Hon.Treasurer	Mr.P.White	39,Byng Drive



Hon. Archivist Mr. B. Warren  
 Committee:- Mrs B.J. Clinton Mr. G.H. Eve,  
 Mrs J. Groves Dr. A.C. Lynch,  
 Mrs R. LaBaigue Mr. P. Trotman

Trustees Mrs M. Brittain  
 Mr. R. Jones  
 Mr. J.C. Clarke

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN

HOLES IN THE ROAD!

- 1) Canada Life opposite Westons revealed brickwork under the present road surface, which indicates an earlier building line, or a possible one.
- 2) Corner of Thornton Road, Little Heath, revealed two previous road levels of the Great North Road. The lower level was about two feet down.
- 3) Heath Drive excavation exposed a thick layer of ash-like material to quite a depth below the present road surface.

Keep looking you never know what you might find!

PUBLICATIONS

Due to demand Journal No.2 has been re-typed and re-set in our present format. This contained the article on the Worboys' Centenary and our President's reminiscences of South Mimms since 1900.

PBHS No.6 Georgian Houses: Clare Hall,  
 Bridgefoot,  
 Cathale by Helen  
 Baker

is in the process of being compiled and should be ready in about a month's time.

These articles were originally reproduced in earlier Society Newsletters produced by Cyril Overend and now out of print. As a recognition of Helen's excellent work it has been decided to reprint them as one of the PBHS series, with additional photographs.

MAY LECTURE Monday 23rd Oakmere House 8 pm.

'The Work of Harlow Museum' by  
Mr. I. Jones, Curator.

Harlow Museum was opened in 1973, in the old manor house at Passmores to provide a home for the large amount of archaeological and other material collected by the Council during the previous few years. Since then the collections have continued to grow and now cover all aspects of life and work in the Harlow area from the earliest times to the setting up of the New Town in the late 1940's.

The Archaeology displays are centred around important collections of material from the Roman Temple site and associated civil settlement and material covering the local 16th-17th century Metropolitan Ware pottery industry whose products have turned up as far away as New England.

In addition to excavation and general collection of material, the Museum also has its own conservation facilities.

In 1982, the Mark Hall Cycle Museum opened to house a nationally important collection of bicycles and related items. It illustrates the history of the bicycle in Britain.

Mr. I. Jones is a good speaker and will be known to some of our members as a WEA lecturer in Potters Bar. He was a schoolmaster before he took qualifications in the Museums' Service.

### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING Monday 23rd May

This meeting will be held at the beginning of the above meeting to seek members' approval of the following change in the Constitution:-

#### 8 FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY

Delete 'Withdrawal from the deposits shall be on one of three signatures, ordinarily those of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer.'

Insert 'Withdrawal from the deposits shall be on two of three signatures, ordinarily those of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer.'

SUMMER PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 11th JUNE Visit to Ely.

See enclosed leaflet.

SATURDAY 25th JUNE New River.

10.00 am Meet at Broadmeads Pumping House,  
(A 119 Hertford to Ware Rd.)

Walk (about a mile each way) to see  
Gauge Houses and Chadwell Pond.

Then to Amwell to see original "New  
River Head" and family tomb of  
Mylnes (engineers to New River  
Company).

Pause for lunch (Pub or take  
sandwiches)

2.00 - 2.15pm Turnford Pumping Station to  
see Beam Engine (well preserved  
but not running)

If members did not wish to go in the  
morning they could go direct to  
Turnford in the afternoon.

If you are interested contact Arnold Lynch at  
the monthly meeting on May 23rd, when you will be  
advised of the final details.

It would be useful to know if you could take  
any passengers or if you require a lift.

SUNDAY 10th JULY Harlow visit - follow up to  
lecture by Ian Jones on May 23rd.

2 pm Meet at Passmores Museum, Harlow.

Way to Harlow - M25 to junction 27,  
then onto M 11 to next junction (No.7),  
then on A414, straight across 1st roundabout  
(Southern Way), turn left at next roundabout  
(Second Ave.). Left at second roundabout  
along Third Ave. to Abercrombie Way. Access



to Museum between bollards into car park.  
After looking at the Passmores Museum and the  
Mark Hall Cycle Museum a visit will be made  
to Harlowbury Chapel, hopefully inside as well  
as out. (Adrian Gibson told us about this in  
May 1986).

There should be at least one excavation in  
progress and, weather permitting, the site(s) will  
be visited.

Depending on time and weather, the chapel  
visit may be the first item on the programme, as it  
is the only place not affected by closing times.

It is hoped to provide a cup of tea at the end  
of the visit.

A map of Harlow can be provided.

Those interested contact Brian Warren by  
11th JUNE (Cuf. 875617)

SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER Social at Ingham Lodge,  
South Mimms, the home of our President.

Further details later.

St. ANDREW'S CHURCH, GREENSTED-JUXTA-ONGAR, ESSEX.

Those of you who came on the outing to Spains  
Hall, two years ago, will remember the Herb Festival  
at the above church.

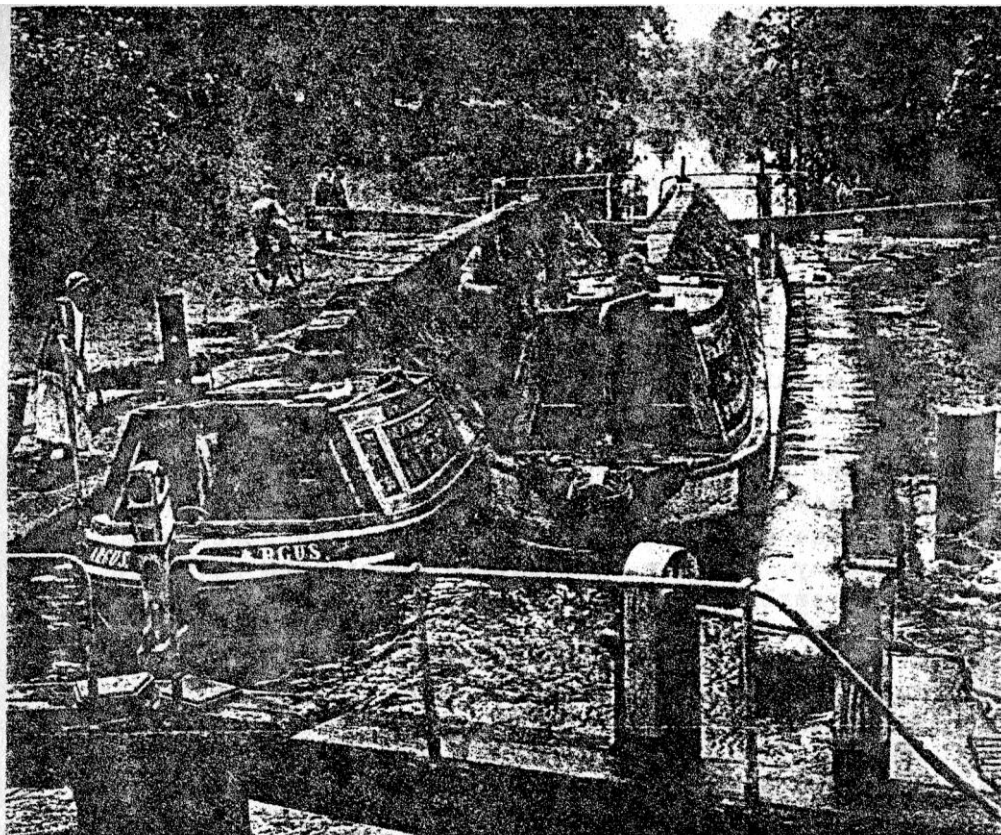
Though not an official Society outing you  
might be interested to know that the Herb Festival  
is on this year -17th/18th & 19th June.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Normally reminders that subs are due are sent  
out with the notice for the AGM, but due to the  
change of Treasurer this was not possible this year.

Members who have not renewed their subscription,  
which became due on April 1st, will find a reminder  
notice included with this Newsletter.





## THE GRAND UNION CANAL IN HERTFORDSHIRE

by Alan Faulkner

Paperback 48 pages 27×21 mm 23 photographs

A history of the canal and its use, from the  
1790s to the present day.

Published by  
HERTFORDSHIRE PUBLICATIONS

Available from public libraries in the county, or from  
Hertfordshire Publications, Hertfordshire Library  
Service, County Hall, Hertford SG13 8EJ

Price £2.40

The above book can be obtained for members at a cost of £2. If you are interested in purchasing a copy notify the Chairman, as soon as possible. A list of purchasers has already been obtained from members at the last two monthly meetings and will be applied for in the next fortnight.

## SPRING PROGRAMME REPORTS

### 28 JANUARY "The Restoration of Dudman's Clock, New Barnet"

by Mr.D.Ruge-Cope

Dan Ruge-Cope's talk was an account of how he restored to working order a Turret clock.

He first became interested when Gillian Gear spoke to the society on the "History of East Barnet" in 1984, and mentioned the clock had not been working for 15 years.

Originally it was in the 16th century Dudman's House, but the house was demolished in the 1920s and the clock transferred to Clockhouse Parade opposite.

The removal of the clock from the tower was not easy. Further examination showed the movement to be early to middle 18th century, although the bell was dated 1782.

There followed an explanation of many technical terms relating to clocks, and the precise function and position of each was more evident when the 36 slides were projected. The three original iron wheels stood out among the 19th and 20th century brass replacements of the other wheels.

Roy Whiteside gave a vote of thanks.

### 22 FEBRUARY "Medieval Crafts & Industries in London"

by Mr.J.Clark

John Clark said that unpleasant occupations, like tanning, were generally banished to the outskirts but in the mid-14th century, there were complaints from the neighbours about the noise emanating from the armourer's shop. A medieval clerk listed 111 crafts which were carried out in the City of London. The best-known of the craftsmen were those who worked for the king, for their activities were well-recorded.

Knife-making involved the trades of the blacksmith, who forged the blade, and the cutler who finished and sharpened it and added the handle which was no doubt provided by yet another craftsman.



Each master tradesman would have his own small shop where he might have one or two apprentices and a few journeymen. Hours of work and the number of apprentices were controlled by the guilds.

At the close of the meeting Brian Warren thanked Mr. Clark for his well-delivered and informative talk.

18 MARCH "Church Life in 18th Century England"

by Mr. A. Harding

Alan Harding began by outlining the main strands of religious development from 1660. From the Act of Uniformity he traced the growth of organised non-conformity, which was epitomised by John Bunyan and others.

Other legislation led to the growth of a body of unhappy Presbyterians and less happy Baptists, Quakers, etc., by the end of the 17th century, all of whom had to make the best of a forced society.

While the Roman Catholics were able to go about their business with minimal interference, the Anglicans lost out with the fall of Archbishop Laud, which ended any chance of reform.

By the end of the 18th century the dissenting congregations went Unitarian, the Anglicans avoided a watering down of doctrine and in the Church of England there was a reaction against extremism with an emphasis on God the Creator.

The 18th century Church of England was slothful and corrupt, it was left to the 19th century to tackle the abuses of the previous century.

Peter White in proposing the vote of thanks congratulated Mr. Harding on his superb lecture and presentation.

GREAT STORM -16th Oct. 1987

There was quite a good response for photographs and it is hoped to display some of them at the May meeting. Thanks are expressed to those who responded to the appeal.

However it is still not too late to make amends for the lack of written material in the Society's hoped for record of this unique event.



ROGER FENTON (1819 - 1869)

Roger who I can hear you saying. That was the answer that most people in Potters Bar would have given until about a month ago.

A letter from Mr. & Mrs. Allen to Graham Dalling, the Local History Officer of the London Borough of Enfield, enquired why Roger Fenton who was buried in Potters Bar was in the West Middlesex volunteers.

On receiving the letter a look at the 1871 Census established that a Grace Elizabeth Fenton and her three daughters were living at Mount Grace. The tombstone at St. John's (site of the present war memorial) had been destroyed in 1969, when the church was demolished, but Betty Fost had recorded all the inscriptions for the Society.

Next one visited the Hayward Gallery to see the exhibition of the work of the great Victorian photographer, Roger Fenton. He was one of the most important figures in the history of photography, noted for his photographs of the Crimean War and as one of the founding fathers of the Photographic Society.

Contact was made with Ms. V. Lloyd, the official art historian of Roger Fenton's life. A visit to Mr. Elliott, the Headmaster of Mount Grace, found that he knew of the photographer's connection with the site and had a small exhibition in the School.

Further research has discovered that Roger Fenton started purchasing land in the area in 1859. As there is no record of a house being at Mount Grace in the 1861 Census, the original house probably dates from 1862/3, as it is known that Roger Fenton ended his photographic career in 1862.

The house is almost certainly named after Mount Grace Abbey, near East Harsley in Yorkshire where his wife came from. Postcards, held by Terry Goulding, of the Abbey and House reveal the same window shapes in both.

Following his death in 1869 the estate was sold to John Currie in 1871. The deed in question notes, "Firstly All the messuage or dwelling lately built by Roger Fenton and in occupation at the time of his decease situate at or near Potters Bar .."

(Middx. Deeds Register, G.L.R.O.)



# Potters Bar & District Historical Society

SUMMER OUTING TO ELY

SATURDAY 11th JUNE 1988

ITINERARY

Potters Bar Bus Garage	10.00 am
Potters Bar Baker Str.	10.10 am
Wansford for Nene Valley Steam Railway	11.15 am approx.
Depart Wansford by train	12.10 pm
Arrive Peterborough	12.50 pm
Depart Peterborough by coach	1.00 pm
Arrive Ely	1.45 pm approx.
Cathedral guided tours	3.00 pm
Depart Ely	6.00 pm <u>x -see below</u>
Stop at Braughing (energy permitting)	6.45 pm approx.
Arrive Potters Bar	8.00 pm approx.

PRICE £10.00 £8.00 OAP/Children

This includes:- All coach travel - gratuity for driver -  
Train journey - Ely Cathedral entrance &  
guided tour - entry to stained glass  
exhibition.

NOT INCLUDED:- Lunch - bring your own to eat in Ely OR  
there is an extensive range of food  
in the Cathedral Refectory, lunches  
served to 2.30 pm, otherwise snacks  
and beverages available all day.

Brass rubbing - admission free - closes 5.00pm  
Tours of Cathedral West Tower - £1.30 admission  
70p concessionary - closes 5.00pm

x see above NOTE apart from Ely Cathedral, the tourist info.  
map gives details of 25 other places of interest  
which will be available to all participants.

We are hiring a 53 seat coach, so it is FIRST COME FIRST SERVED,  
but we shall be running a reserve list with a view to filling a second  
coach. Please send a SAE ~~so~~ we can let you know the position of your  
application. The SAE will be returned soon if you are in the first 53,  
or, if you are on the reserve list, we shall let you know your position  
as soon as possible.

Please complete the form below and return to:- Bruce Chanter, 35,  
Tiverton Road, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 5HX, with your remittance and SAE.  
In the event of your subsequent need to cancel, please inform  
Bruce as soon as possible, so that he can try to sell your ticket(s).



Potters Bar & District  
Historical Society

Dear Member,

May I remind you that the Society's financial year ends on 31 March. All subscriptions became due on 1 April and will be gratefully received at any meeting thereafter, or they may be sent by post using the form below.

Yours faithfully,

P.White  
Hon.Treasurer.

.....  
Hon.Treasurer,  
Potters Bar & District Historical Society,  
39, Byng Drive,  
Potters Bar, Herts.

I/we enclose £        as my/our subscription to the  
Potters Bar & District Historical Society for  
the year 1988/89.

Name .....

Address .....

Subscriptions - Adults            £2.50  
                         Family/Group   £4.00  
                         Juniors & OAPs   £2.00