

*Potters Bar & District
Historical Society*

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Regd. Charity No.299475

The Newsletter

September 1990

Vol.7 No.1

It is hoped that the Society's Newsletter is not one of those neverending items which come through one's letter box, and are immediately dispatched into the waste bin. Every effort is made to make it interesting and worth reading. Some members carefully file each treasured copy safely away and possess a complete run, but one wonders what happens to the vast majority. If you are one of those who soon deposit it in the bin, perhaps you will think twice with this and subsequent issues.

From writing to typing and setting a master copy takes two days. The reprinting takes about an hour, then the pages are collated and a twelve mile journey deposits the completed issues to the army of volunteer distributors, who take a varying number of hours to see that you receive your Newsletter.

Unless you would volunteer to help, think again if your first thought is to throw this gem in the bin !

Sometime between now and Christmas the facilities at Oakmere will be transferred to the new Wyllyotts Manor Centre. The 1990-91 programme was printed and is inclosed, but we are now given to understand that it is most likely that the NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE AT OAKMERE HOUSE. As there is no easy way to inform members of any subsequent changes please consult the local newspapers, as once Wyllyotts is open all our meetings will be there.

Sorry we cannot be more helpful.

WYLLYOTTS MANOR CIVIC CENTRE

When the LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE OPENS it is envisaged that the Society will provide stewards, as in any museum, for example, Barnet Museum opens four days a week for two hours each day.

If you are willing to give up two hours a week to help with stewarding please inform Brian Warren or a committee member. The more who volunteer the easier it will be to spread the load.

MEMBERS' NEWS

It is with regret that one has to record the passing of three of our members during the summer, and the thoughts of the Society and personal condolences are expressed to their close relatives.

'Bill' Taylor joined the Society in 1968, was on the committee from 1971 - 88 and was elected an honorary Life Member at the 1988 AGM. It was Bill who suggested the Society should start a Scrapbook in 1984.

Bill was born in Southgate and like his father attended St. Mary's Church, East Barnet, for most of his life. They both sang in the choir and were churchwardens, Bill for 24 years until 1985.

Since 1930 he had been a member of Barnet Records Society (now the Barnet & District Local History Society), for 18 years since 1949 he was its Secretary and from 1965 for 23 years Curator of Barnet Museum.

Bill passed away on the 24th July, a day before his 85th birthday. The chairman represented the Society at the funeral at St. Mary's Church along with his many friends from Barnet.

Eileen Martin and her husband, Ray, joined the Society in 1986, having previously been members of The Potters Bar Society since 1981.

Even during her long illness Eileen remained cheerful and optimistic at meetings. She was most

pleasant and considerate and appeared to be very efficient in all that she undertook. Again the chairman represented the Society and joined with other members in the service at King Charles the Martyr Church.

Gordon Little lived in The Grove, Brookmans Park, for many years until his wife died and about three years ago moved to 'Furze Spinney', in The Causeway. He joined the Society about two years ago, as a result of listening to a lecture given by Terry and Brian, at Brookmans Park United Reformed Church. Whilst a member he was nearly always the first at the monthly meetings and gained great benefit from his membership, as well as companionship. About a year ago he contracted cancer and died at the end of August, in his eighties.

Congratulations to Dr. John Kent on his retirement, at the end of September, as the Keeper of Coins and Medals at the British Museum. No doubt like most of us he will welcome a long and well-deserved rest and one hopes that in his new found leisure he will have time to attend the monthly meetings, where he will be more than welcome.

In January one reported that John Guttridge had broken his ankle, so it was nice to see his picture in the Potters Bar Times, on the 6th September. Growing all his own plants he had won the London Underground Station Garden Competition for the Best Garden of All category for a record fourth time and the Best Hanging Basket group for the second time, but that has only been going for two years! Well I hope all our members who travel via High Barnet will fully appreciate his efforts. Make the most of the next year as he retires in March 1991.

The following have joined the Society since the last Newsletter:- Mr. A. N. Buckley, Mr. W. Richards, Mrs. M. Drinnan, Mrs. D. Harrison, Mrs. P. Delatouche, Mr. J. P. B. Clarke, Mr. & Mrs. F. Manners and Mr. & Mrs. E. P. Grant. One looks forward to seeing them at the October meeting and in the future.

A large audience listened to Brian Warren speak on the history of Ganwick Corner. The name Gannok was given to the greater part of the endowment lands of the Frowyok Chantry, in South Mimms church, in 1439. There were at least twenty known variants of the spelling of Gannok.

The earliest map showing properties at Ganwick Corner was the Gunton and Rolfe Survey of Enfield Chase, 1658. Using other maps and sources, the speaker traced the history of all the properties in the area.

In particular he referred to the Duke of York pub as "the perfect example of historical research," for he had traced its origins back to the illegally-built house of Richard Godfrey, near Gali Corner in 1743.

Brian Warren told of the contribution made by one family in the development of the area. First, John Pickles came from London to be licensee of the White Horse, 1776-84. Secondly his grand-daughter married Everett Whitehead, who had built Hillside, Ivy House, Whiteheads and Arkley Windmill. Two members of the family were involved in national history, Edwin Whitehead tramping across the USA and John Oliver Whitehead being a soldier of the Royal West Kent Regiment was part of the column sent to attempt the relief of General Gordon at Khartoum.

After the refreshments the speaker took the audience on a walk round the present Ganwick Corner illustrating what can still be seen by the observant walker.

Arnold Lynch thanked the speaker and Terry Goulding for another evening packed full of historical detail.

EXHIBITION IN OAKMERE LIBRARY 17th Sept. - 5th Oct.

This is a much expanded exhibition of Potters Bar in 1915, which was shown at the 75th anniversary of St. Mary's Church, in June.

HERTS.RECORDER SCHEME MEETING

THURSDAY 29th November at 8 pm.

51, Highview Gardens.

Minutes to be circulated a fortnight before.

The Society is grateful to Andrew Benson for taking over as recorder for Area 8 -South Mimms.

BARNET

Members might be interested to know that an archaeological dig at 'The Mitre' and the rear of 19/21, High Street, near the corner of Fitzjohn Avenue, uncovered pottery dating from 1150 - 1350 on both sites.

M25 - FACTS and FIGURES LOCALLY

5th Sept. 1975 opened Southgate roundabout to South Mimms roundabout. First section of M25 to be opened.

28th March 1979 opened South Mimms roundabout to Roestock Green.

20th July 1981 opened Southgate roundabout to A10.

29th October 1986 opened South Mimms roundabout to Micklefield Green. Last section of M25 to be opened.

So the M25 has been with us locally for fifteen years, it does not seem possible.

ST.MARY'S 75th Anniversary 15th - 16th June.

The following members are thanked for acting as stewards for the Society's exhibition:- Peter Trotman, Len and Eileen Field, Denis Lore and Barbara Clinton. A letter of appreciation was received from Hillary Follett, the organiser.

HERTFORDSHIRE CURIOSITIES

by John Lucas

E. M. Forster once wrote of Hertfordshire, with its winding lanes and peaceful meadows, as 'England meditative'. But Hertfordshire has another side to its personality - its 'curious' side. John Lucas, who has spent much of his life in the county, describes scores of follies, strange buildings, monuments, places where history was made, and interesting graves - places you can visit, not simply read about.



See where the Saxons surrendered to William the Conqueror... Visit the tomb of a dragon killer, and the monument to a slave reformer on the busy Great Cambridge Road... Sit in the same inn porch where King James I is said to have knighted a tinker... See the mysterious carvings in Royston Cave... and the house to which came a warning of the Gunpowder Plot...



Where was the first and only English Pope born? Why was a historic Harpenden house moved 90 miles? Where did a mad hermit offend Charles Dickens? Who was the famous woman highwayman known as the Wicked Lady? Who was the Canal Duke? Where can you see extinct animals? Where is the tomb of the frightened rector? And why was poor John Gotheridge buried twice?

This book, which contains nearly 70 pictures, will help you to explore a Hertfordshire you never knew existed...

HERTFORDSHIRE CURIOSITIES by John Lucas

The author is a member of the Society and has written four previous books. He was born in Winchmore Hill and later became a reporter on the Barnet Press. He was a founder member of The Sunday Telegraph and is now on the staff of The Daily Telegraph.

He has spent over a year gathering information about the curiosities included in the book - there are 82 in all.

This handy sized book 5½" x 8½" is an invaluable guide to some of the not so well-known places, people and objects in the county.

Published by Dovecote Press, £5.95 and available from Bookshops and museums in Herts. Also, from John at 17, Causeway Close

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE Archivist on the book.

p22 Hadley Highstone - Mrs. Baker always told me the obelisk is now 32 yards further south than its original position.

p82 Folly Arch - It is presumed to have been put up by Sir Jeremy Sambrooke but I know of no actual proof. Recently I came across another name but cannot now recollect it.

p86 Field Marshall the 1st Earl Alexander of Tunis - on the Harrow outing we discovered he was one of the few artists produced by that school.

p98 Vincenzo Lunardi's Balloon Flight 1784. Malcolm Tomkins wrote an article some years ago in 'Hertfordshire Countryside' where he quoted Lunardi's actual version of the journey, also spectators' comments. These proved to my mind that his landing occurred in fields adjacent to the North Myms/Northaw parish boundary.

p113 Eleanor Cross - Waltham Cross

The cortege stayed at St. Albans and then went to Waltham for the following night, but the King went on to London so as to be able to receive the procession when it arrived at London. Nobody knows the route it took from St. Albans to Waltham but it most likely went through our area. Thirty years after, in 1220, one knows the main road from Waltham to St. Albans came near Cattlegate Farm, and almost certainly along Coopers Lane Road to the ford on Mimms Hall Brook.

THE TIMES 26 May 1847

A letter to the paper compared visiting Westminster Abbey free, though once a long time back they charged 1s 3d, with St. Paul's where a person demanded two-pences through a grating.

So payment to visit a cathedral is not a new subject, like most things in history it has all happened before somewhere in the world.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME - Monthly meetings.FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER - OAKMERE HOUSE 8 pm

'The Church in Doomsday England'
by Mrs. Marilyn Lewis

Mrs. Marilyn Lewis is the wife of the Rector of Newport Pagnell and a lecturer on various subjects. As she will be coming from quite a distance it is hoped that members will make a special effort to attend. She is also the sister of the Revd. Robert Gage, a member of the Society.

The speaker will show how William the Conqueror and Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, attempted to impose uniform control on the English Church, the feudal obligation and administrative reform, as well as genuine pastoral and theological concern. However, they set the scene for bitter confrontation between their successors. Mrs. Lewis poses the question, "Did William conquer the English Church?"

THURSDAY 8 NOVEMBER - OAKMERE HOUSE 8 pm

'Southgate Before 1914' by Mr. G. Dalling

Mr. Graham Dalling is the present Local History Officer for the London Borough of Enfield.

The speaker will cover the period 1900-14 and by a close examination of the process of urbanisation, including house building and local building firms show the suburban attitude of the newcomers, as revealed by them in the local press. Controversies of the period, eg., 1911 should the lake in Broomfield Park be used as a swimming pool? The Suffragette Movement in the area. The newcomers living beyond their means and running up heavy debts.

If there is anyone who needs a lift to the monthly meetings please inform a committee member, so that a lift can be arranged.

FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER - WYLLYOTTS MANOR CENTRE 8pm

'Brickmaking in Enfield and Edmonton'
by Mr.S.Beadle

Mr.Sid.Beadle is a retired schoolmaster and has made the study of bricks his retirement hobby.

The talk will cover brickmaking in Outer London, the Lea Valley, but mainly within the Edmonton Hundred. The use and making of bricks from the CI3th - CI4th onwards will be described, this was due to the growth of London. The original London Brick Company works were in Emfield, before they moved to Bedfordshire. Using a CI9th painting the processess involved in brickmaking will be described.

THANKS

On Saturday 9th June the Potters Bar Garage celebrated its Diamond Jubilee and many people went along to view the many displays and a variety of buses that were on show. The garage actually opened on 28 May 1930.

Our grateful thanks are due to Gordon Eve, who went along and sold quite a number of the Society's publications.

NEXT PUBLICATION

"Growing up in Potters Bar 1946 - 54"

by

Molly Drinnan

Due out the end of September. Price £1

PUBLICATIONS

Having held the price of our publications to 80p since our first booklet in 1985, the Committee agreed at its last meeting to the new prices:-

Price £1 Members 90p Postal Price £1.30

Saturday, 9 June

The excellent coach driver took the party on a very leisurely ride through the countryside of Hertfordshire and Essex to Long Melford. Members were able to wander about the linear village and those who made the effort to reach Holy Trinity Church, on the edge of the settlement, were well rewarded in seeing the magnificent church.

Ample time was allowed to wander round the spacious grounds of Ickworth House and examine its interior. The lofty rotunda formed the central position from which radiated curved flanking wings. Inside one viewed the splendid furniture, books, silver, glass and family portraits.

Finally the last place on the visit was the medieval wool town of Lavenham, with its many fine timbered houses built between 1450 and 1500.

Members and friends were once again appreciative of the efforts of Bruce Chanter in organising the visit.

Sunday, 1 July

The starting point at The Cock, Cockfosters, proved too far away for most members, but those who did come had a very enjoyable historical walk through Hadley Woods, ending at Hadley Church. It is surprising to learn how much history there is on such a short walk. Along the former boundary of Enfield Chase one heard about Buckskin Hall, West Farm, Ludgrove to New Pond Head. Then the delights of Folly Farm, the railway Footpath diversion, the Iron Age encampment, Capons House and the climb past the magnificent houses of Hadley to the Church.

The walk was led by Brian Warren.

Saturday, 8 September

Twenty-six members and friends had a most enjoyable tour of Harrow School, with Jim Golland, a former master at the School, acting as a very able guide.

As the Burns Society were visiting the School at the same time members were welcomed by a solo bagpipe player. A brief introduction was made in the Art Gallery and Museum and then to the old Harrow School Room, which was used as such for 200 years. Four classes in one room - so much for the modern

idea of open-planning - and with all the pupils' names carved around the walls. Amongst them were Sir Robert Peel, R.B.Sheridan, Anthony Trollope, Lord Byron, W.L.S.Churchill and W.H.Fox Talbot, the photographer. Behind the fireplace, erected in 1737, is the original Jacobean one with a Tudor arch.

In the Old Harrovians Room one saw the portraits of former Headmasters and heard about two of Harrow's outstanding Headmasters, Dr. Vaughen and Dr.H.M.Butler, who established much of the School's reputation as it is today. The Alexander Fitch Memorial Room commemorated the dead of the First World War, then there was the magnificence of the Speech Room. Across the road one visited the Chapel, built by Sir George Gilbert Scott and then to the cream tea in the refectory.

Many felt there was so much that they ought to make another visit.

HERTS.COUNTRYSIDE

The Society's collection includes all editions from Spring 1961 to 1983 (inclusive) except for:-

June/July 1965
 January 1966
 March 1983
 May to July 1983
 Sept. to Dec. 1983

We also hold Winter 1955 - 56
 Winter 1949 - 50

LAMAS Programme of Lectures

Lecture Theatre of the Museum of London,
 Wednesday at 6.30 pm. Tea, etc from 6.00.

10 October Hygiene & Sanitation in the Tudor Palaces
 by Simon Thurley

14 November Further Treasures of Whitehall
 by Peter Lawrence

5 December Uphall Camp and Iron Age London
 by Dr.Pamela Greenwood

16 January The Middle Saxons - Middlesex from
 c400 - c850 AD by Keith Bailey.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN

Mention was made in the April 1990 edition of The Newsletter of Sir Thomas Dacre, 8th Lord Dacre (1470-1533) and his son, at Herstmonceux, Sussex.

On examining Cass's 'East Barnet' between pp64-5 one discovered a pedigree of 'Morley of Glynde, co. Sussex, and Trevor of Trevallyn, Glynde, and East Barnet. The eldest son of Gertrude and the Hon. Charles Roper became the 18th Lord Dacre, bapt. at East Barnet 1 July 1745. His youngest sister became Baroness Dacre and was born at Southgate, 1750. Her eldest son was the 20th Lord Dacre, whose brother, Henry Otway Brand, assumed the name of Trevor in compliance with will of last Lord Hampden, 21st Lord Dacre, d 1853. The above was in connection Church Hill House, East Barnet.

HARROW VISIT

There were quite a number of local connections spotted during this visit, which resulted in the chairman and his passengers going with the guide, Jim Golland, into the library to search the Harrow books. As a result information from our area is being sent to Harrow concerning the Bevan family of Trent Park. The initials R.Y. Bevan 1865 having been spotted inscribed in the old Harrow School Room.

On hearing of the lack of artists produced by Harrow mention was made of Rodney Burn, R.A., and this caused much interest. The Burn family lived at Rydal Mount during the earlier part of this century.

A former pupil Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis is buried in Ridge Churchyard, inside the gate and to the right, for those who might like to visit his grave.

Sir Banister Fletcher designed the Chapel but Pevsner in, 'The Buildings of England -Middlesex' informs one that he was the architect for The Gables, once on the corner of Darkes Lane/The Avenue and at Seldown, 23 The Avenue.

Doubtless there are other connections with Harrow, so it pays to KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!