

Potters Bar & District
Historical Society

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Regd. Charity No.299475

The Newsletter

April 1992

Vol.8 No.3

Summer Outing SATURDAY 6th June

At the A.G.M. it was reported that 32 people had reserved places and a request was made for anyone who was thinking of going to contact Bruce Chanter, 35, Tiverton Rd., Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 5HX (0707 51931), as soon as possible. At least another twelve members or friends would be required to make the trip viable, and as there was no trip last year it would be very unfortunate to have to cancel this year's.

THURSDAY 21st MAY CONDUCTED WALK led by Brian Warren.

Meet at Wrotham Park Gates, Dancers Hill Road,
at 6.30 p.m. - lasting about 2 hours.

The walk will cover part of the talk given to the Society on the previous Monday to Norfolk Lodge and then return to Bentley Heath via Bentley Heath Lane.

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

SUNDAY 7th JUNE

WEST LODGE PARK, Hadley Wood 2 - 6 pm £1 and Chd. 20p

WROTHAM PARK, Barnet 2 - 6 pm £1.50 OAPs/Chd. 50p
Picnic area.

SUNDAY 26th JULY

The Gardens of the Rose, Chiswell Green Lane,
St. Albans, on B4630 TEAS
12 acre display garden with roses of every
description.
Adm. £3 accompanied children free.
Registered disabled £2 Daily 10-6pm

SUMMER PROGRAMME

2 MONDAY MAY 18th at Wyllyotts Centre,
Sixty-Plus Centre, 8 p.m.prompt

'The History of Dancers Hill and Kitts End'
by Mr.Brian Warren.

The talk will mention the numerous properties that have long since disappeared between Bentley Heath and Baker Street and show surviving evidence for their existence. A look will be taken at the Norfolk Lodge corner and mention made of Dancers Hill and its earlier origins.

Lastly, to Kitts End and the New Lodge estate.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE FROM THE 1st April

Please send to Mrs.E.Field, as soon as possible.

Membership Secretary,
51,Highview Gardens,
Potters Bar,
Herts.

ADULTS	£2.50
Under 18/over 60	£2.00
Family/Group membership	£4.00

MEMBERS' NEWS

Since the last Newsletter one is sorry to have to record the passing of John Clarke, a trustee of the Society and a strong supporter of the R.S.P.B. Sincere condolences are extended to Gladys and his family.

Similar thoughts are expressed to Mrs.Male following the recent passing of her husband, Archie, and to his family at Male and Wagland.

Our continued thoughts are with Joan Andrews, Marjorie Redington, Peter White and Mr.Richards for an improvement in their health.

A warm welcome is extended to Mr.T.Eason, Mrs. B.M.Smith, Mr. & Mrs.J.M.Fryer, Mr. & Mrs,D.C.Sprake, Mr.B.Mountford, Mr. & Mrs.B.Jackson, Mr.T.Murphy, Mr. & Mrs.Parks, Sue Price and Emily Price, Joanna Brasse and Keith Arnold.It is hoped that they will soon become more involved in the Society's activities.

This year was another record membership figure of 222.

THE GROWTH OF THE LITTLE HEATH AREA TO 1914

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By B WARREN



CHRIST CHURCH, LITTLE HEATH c. 1903

PUBLISHED BY POTTERS BAR AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Copies may be obtained
from:

Mr G H EVE
34 Hatherleigh Gardens
Potters Bar
Herts EN6 5HZ

Also available at:

POTTERS BAR HEALTHFOODS
21 The Broadway
Darkes Lane
Potters Bar

PRICE £2
+50 P&P

WYLLYOTTS CENTRE MUSEUM

The Broadway, (next to Potters Bar Railway Station)

Open:

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, 2.30 - 4.30pm

SATURDAY 2.00 - 4.00pm

Groups by special arrangement. ADMISSION FREE

The Secretary, Dick Harris, announced that he was relinquishing his position after seven years and looked back over a continued period of growth during that time. He made mention of the increased membership and the opportunities provided by the Museum. He noted the Society had once again not received a grant from Hertsmere B.C.

The accounts were approved and showed a balance carried forward of £3,493.12, with stocks of the publications valued at sale price of £1760.

The Chairman in his review thanked the retiring members of the Committee - Dick Harris, Peter White and Len Field - for their willing services during their period of office. He went on to name the improvements in the Museum during the past year - a Visitors' book, Donations' box, Fact Sheet No.1 and Children's Quiz. He thanked Terry Goulding for his work in providing a new display case and all the voluntary Stewards. Planning and publicity were the main themes for the Museum and he hoped to see a continuing improvement in the coming year.

Officers and committee elected for 1992/93:-

Chairman	Mr.B.Warren	6,Church Close, Cuffley. Cuf. 875617
Vice-Chairman	Mrs.J.Groves	78,Barnet Rd.
Hon.Secretary	Mr.P.Trowsdale	93,Billy Lows Lane
Asst.Hon.Sec.	Mr.T.Goulding	12,Church Rd.
Hon.Treasurer	Mr.D.Lore	23,Osborne Rd.
Hon.Archivist	Mr.B.Warren	
Committee	Mrs.E.Field	Hon.Membership Sec.
	Mrs.J.Charlton	
	Mr.A.Davey	
	Mr.G.Eve	
Hon.Auditor	Mr.I.Warwick	
Trustees	Mrs.M.Brittain, Mr.R.Jones and Mr.M.E.Griffith.	

After the interval the late Mr.A.M.Watts' slides of, "Old Potters Bar" were shown.

POTTERS BAR 1914 A3 size with seven pen and ink sketches by Mr.J.B.Norman, plus a little historical information and the O.S. map of Potters Bar High Street, 1914. Cost 50p.

SOON IN THE SAME SERIES:-

SOUTH MIMMS A3 plus seven pen and ink sketches by Mr.J.B.Norman and historical information. Map of Blanche Lane and Blackhorse Lane. 50p.

When the SOUTH MIMMS one is available there will be a selling point in South Mimms for our members and villagers to purchase. This will be notified on publication, to save the volunteers from endless unnecessary enquiries.

MUSEUM

Mr.John Harrington, of Rickmansworth, having heard of the exhibition on the railway made a special visit and purchased Gordon Eve's booklet on the railway at Potters Bar. He was delighted to see the photograph on p.14 of No.4496 'Golden Shuttle', as he had never before seen the photograph.

Subsequently he wrote to Gordon and stated between 1953 and 1961 he was on the footplate at Kings Cross Top Shed and on several occasions worked on the 4496, by then renumbered 60008 and called, 'D'Wight D Eisenhower.

Last year Mr.Harrington went to Green Bay, U.S.A. and climbed on the footplate of 60008 and as he said, "even though it wasnt in steam though for a few moments brought back some happy memories for me." He also went to Montreal and saw 60010 Dominion of Canada. He is a member of the Gresley Society.

POTTERS BAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CIVIC BULLETINS

Some members might remember these A5 sized green booklets published as annual reports of the Council's work. Brian Warren possesses numbers 3 - 13, dating from June 1964 to July 1973. If anyone has Nos.1 and 2 he would be grateful to have them or make photocopies.

6 THANKS

The Society expresses its thanks to the following members for volunteering to act as Stewards at the Museum during the past year:-

TUESDAY -Mr.L.Field, Mr.F.Sanders, Mr.J.Scivyer,
Mr.D.King, Mr.G.Riddleston, Mr.G.Irons,
Mr.J.Gamby and Mr.G.Eve.

WEDNESDAY -Mrs.J.Christie, Mr.D.Green, Mr.P.Trowsdale,
Mr.J.Basinger, Mrs.S.Fryer and Mr.C.
Overend.

SATURDAY -Mr.D.Lore, Mrs.B.Clinton, Mrs.V.Murphy,
Mrs.J.Groves, Mr.E.Childs, Mr.P.Trotman,
Dr.A.Lynch, Mrs.M.Hammett, Mr.C.Irons,
Mrs.J.Eason, Dr.W. and Mrs.M.Landers and
Mr.T.Shirley.

If you would like to help contact Brian Warren.
Assistance would be welcome on Wednesdays.

TEA HELPERS

Thanks to Mrs.B.Clinton for organising the monthly tea rota at our meetings and to the following ladies for their assistance, viz:-
Mrs.R.LeBaigue, Mrs.M.Huber, Mrs.V.Bell,
Mrs.J.Bush, Mrs.J.Davies, Mrs.S.Harding,
Mrs.K.Green, Miss M.H.Schofield, Mrs.J.Groves,
Ms.J.Eason, Mrs.M.Baker, Mrs.L.Smithson,
Mrs.M.Hammett and Mrs.I.Jones.

If anyone would like to help please contact
Barbara Clinton, 58730.

'POSTMEN'

Grateful thanks are due to the following people who deliver The Newsletter and other information to members:-

Mr.R.Horsefield, Mr. & Mrs.M.E.Griffith, Mr.
& Mrs.R.A.Weston, Miss M.H.Schofield, Mr.G.Riddleston,
Mrs.V.Murphy, Mr.& Mrs.D.B.Green, Mrs.V.Lonkhurst,
Mrs.R.LeBaigue, Mr.& Mrs.H.Sillis, Mr.I.Warwick,
Mr.P.White, Mr.P.Trowsdale, Mr.C.Overend, Mrs.J.Bush,
Mr.J.C.Clarke and Mr.G.Eve.

ENTRANCE FREE

7

Visit The
Wyllyotts Centre
MUSEUM
POTTERS BAR

(Next to the Station off Darkes Lane)

Special 50th Anniversary Exhibition

H.M.S. POPPY

Potters Bar's Adopted Ship during the War

JUNE - DECEMBER 1992

OPEN

Tuesday and Wednesday 2.30-4.30
Saturday 2.00-4.00

ENTRANCE FREE

Since publication further evidence has been discovered concerning the demise of the White Hart by Mr.Gaussen.

John Chuck Whitehead was for several years a yearly tenant of Robert William Gaussen, Lord of the Manor of Brookmans, of a messuage, farm and lands in the parishes of North Myms and Hatfield and two public houses in the parish of North Myms.

Mr.J.C.Whitehead, Bell Bar, brewer, sub-let the White Hart with its yard, garden, outbuildings, etc., to its then occupier, Charles Dawes, from 25th March 1837, on a yearly tenancy. Mr.Dawes came from Alstone, Gloucestershire, but John Docking was his predecessor at the White Hart.

In the tenancy Mr.Dawes was not given use of the Brewhouse, store house, back Cellar, small Beer Cellar, half the Granary, Malt house and the Malt Mill, which was to remain in the room adjoining the brewhouse, as these were occupied and used by John Chuck Whitehead. Further, all dung or litter on the premises was the property of Mr.Whitehead and Mr. Dawes was to purchase all the ale and beer to be sold on the premises from Mr.Whitehead.

Mr.Gaussen served notice on Mr.Whitehead at Michaelmas before the 25th March 1839 to quit his lands by the following Michaelmas. On the 21st March 1839 J.C.Whitehead served notice on Mr.Dawes to quit by Sept., but he refused.

At the time of the refusal Mr.Gaussen wished to seek the eviction of Mr.Dawes from the White Hart. It must have taken some time as Richard Dawes was still listed as the licensed victualler in 1841 and the White Hart was not pulled down till 1842.

Source:HCRO D/EL E68

B.Warren.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SEEN WHEN MOTORING ALONG BAKER STR.

St.John's Methodist noticeboard

When feeling down
Try looking up.

Contents

1. The Poor Law in Hatfield 1900-30 P.Kingsford
2. Benington: the killing of P.C.Snow
L.Woodley
3. Social Life in Braughing 1903-13
J.C.Richardson
4. Thomas Rooke of Hertford & Hawaii
R.Bennett
5. Kings Langley: a Hertfordshire Village
S.Hastie
6. The Old Bull Inn at Hemel Hempstead
E.Buteux

A5 size 48 pages ONLY THREE LEFT ON SOCIETY'S
STALL FOR NEXT MONTH'S
MEETING. Price 95p

THE CHEQUERS P.H., The Causeway, Potters Bar.

During yet another renovation there was the opportunity to observe the building. This revealed that in fact it had been two buildings since 1811. At that time the southern part was a Brick House and the northern structure nearest Northaw was designated as a Cottage. The Cottage was revealed as a timber-framed building dating to c1650.

The present width of the 1811 cottage is still the same today. However, in 1811 the length was thirty feet, whereas today the two storeys are nineteen feet in length. Evidence from the position of lath and plaster suggests the upper storey once extended further, possibly the whole thirty feet.

The main corner uprights were of oak, but the first floor horizontals were of pitched pine. This plus an internal chimney on the outside wall suggests a date of c1650. So far the documentary evidence supports the same date. Further research will be undertaken on the surviving Enfield Manor Court records, as Potters Bar only acquired this area in 1924.

JOTTINGS FROM THE BARNET PRESS, 1952

- Feb. Work on the new £350,000 school at Mountgrace, has been progressing slowly after a steel shortage crisis nearly brought the project to a standstill.
- March Potters Bar Colts Cricket Club broke away from Potters Bar Cricket Club and will be known as Potters Bar Templars.
- May Potters Bar W.V.S. started Meals-on-wheels on the 21st April.
- June Televised lessons in Classroom. Pilot scheme at Arnos School, New Southgate was one of six schools chosen for the experiment, which had been of great significance.
- July No threat to Green Belt as Potters Bar extends. Parkfield and Oakmere open spaces will be extended and new civic buildings and a hospital extension in Mutton Lane are planned.

SPRING LECTURE PROGRAMME - Monthly Meetings.

THURSDAY JANUARY 23rd Historical Films by
Mr.H.Baddeley.

For the first time ever the Society was entertained to a film show and what excellent films were shown.

Hugh Baddeley and his assistants showed a film on "Medieval Society", which was the most difficult to make because little suitable material remained. Commencing with the King, each member of the agricultural society was illustrated, showing their obligations to the monarchy and nobility, both lay and clerical.

Next came a film entitled "Industrial Revolution", in colour, because of the demand for visual aids in schools at the time. Scenes were shown of the cottage

industries - spinning and weaving - before introducing the development of canals and steam engines of Watt, Newcomen and Trevithick.

Following the interval, "Ancient Egypt" by Hugh Baddeley Products, illustrated the massive surviving structures built without any modern machinery, just slave labour.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Baddeley for reminding the members of what was achieved, without any modern machines, and had survived the passage of time.

FEBRUARY How the Speaking Clock went to war
by Dr. A.C. Lynch.

The speaker outlined the early history of the Post Office, when every town had its own local time.

G.M.T. was introduced in the 1860s. A time signal was sent from Greenwich, at 10.00 a.m. to every Telegraph Office, to synchronise them all. Later Telephone Exchange clocks were controlled by signals from the Central Telegraph Office.

In 1926 a six-pip signal was introduced and the Speaking Clock came into use in 1935. Two problems were making sure the Speaking Clock kept accurate time to a tenth of a second, and how to make the clock speak. The first was solved by a new perpetual pendulum, the second by a twelve-inch glass disc machine, which was the best way of sound recording in 1939.

In 1940 a team of three, including the speaker, was established to solve the Post Office's request for an automatic machine recording, "Your call cannot be put through because of damage to the line." The main reason for this was because the military were using the trunk lines, they were not available for the public. Other tasks solved during the war were the development of a more audible inter-com in tanks, overcoming aircraft noise for radio operators, and background noise to night fighter contact with ground controllers.

A Speaking Teleprinter with eighteen messages on one line was developed, but cancelled in 1943, as the country moved on to the offensive.

Cyril Overend expressed a vote of thanks for a very interesting lecture on a very technical subject expressed in non-technical detail.

MARCH Damsels, Fellows and Spurs(Herts. Watermills)
by Mr.R.Busby.

Richard Busby, the librarian at Hatfield, said that windmills had a more attractive public image than watermills, but Hertfordshire possesses most types of watermills.

In the first part of the talk he showed slides of various mills to illustrate a variety of points. Moor Mill was once a monastic mill with perfect machinery, which stopped working about fifty years ago. Mills at Broxborne and Charlton were water corn mills, whilst the mill at Cassiobury Park, Watford, was a small estate mill. Hertingfordbury Mill was built in the last century and Walkern Mill has been converted into flats. However, Essendon Mill was the only one known to the speaker where rural graffiti of the workmen had been found.

The second half showed some of the associated industries linked with milling and took a closer look at the technical structure of mills. Milling was once a hand process where women undertook the most unpleasant jobs. When industrialisation came Dickenson's set up their paper making industry in the west of the county. Tewin Mill was probably unique as it was used for making optical glass. At Mill Green, Hatfield, the mill closed in 1911 but after much hard work and expenditure the machinery was refurbished in the 1980s and now produces its own flour for sale.

Joan Groves said that as she came originally from the north and was used to industry, it came as a pleasant surprise to learn about an industrial aspect of Hertfordshire. She thanked the speaker for his informative talk.