

*Potters Bar & District Historical Society*

REGD. CHARITY NO.299475

---

# *The Newsletter*

---

January 1993

Vol.9 No.2

---

Just as one was pondering on ideas as what to write about, the latest edition of The Journal of the London and North Middlesex Family History Society, re-named, 'Metropolitan' came in the morning post. Three articles all referred in some way to the organising and running of their Society. In particular, one must have fresh blood if a society is to thrive and flourish. This leads one to our own Society's need of someone to volunteer to organise the future summer activity programme.

In 1986 we had an excellent outing to Spains Hall, a social at The Vicarage, South Mimms; a visit to Knightsland house, the first of the village walks to Ridge, a walk to Northaw and a visit to Jesus Collage, Cambridge. By contrast, in 1991, the Society only had a village tour to Little Berkhamsted and a walk round Bentley Heath. By comparison our neighbouring society - Barnet and District Local History Society - always manages outings in June, July, September and October.

A new impetus is required, dare I say we need to do for our summer activities what Pam Moore has done for the Potters Bar Society's social scene.

If one would like to know more, or have some bright ideas then contact Brian Warren.

Whilst on the subject of volunteers, if one would like to arrange a display on one of the Museum boards ( 4ft x 4ft., plus 2ft x 4ft. at the bottom for larger visual items), which would be of interest to visitors then contact the chairman.

It is very important to maintain changing displays in the Museum, so visitors will make more than one visit. It would be ideal to arrange a list of members who would be willing to provide such displays. For example, in the Harpenden Local History Society, two members take full responsibility for one Saturday exhibition each year for one month. So they have about twenty members involved in their exhibitions.

Any volunteers would be given every assistance in preparing a display.

Anyone wishing to assist with the tea/coffee at monthly meetings contact Barbara Clinton - 58730. The more volunteers, the easier it is to arrange a monthly rota.

If one feels there are other ways to improve the Society then do speak up. For example, this newsletter has remained in its present format for some time, there must be someone with bright ideas for its improvement!

Finally, only those members who have paid their subscription for 1992/3 will receive a copy of the Journal, which is in the course of production. A reminder form is included for those who according to the Membership Secretary's records have not paid.

Mrs.E.Field,  
Membership Secretary,

51, Highview Gardens,  
Potters Bar,  
Herts.,  
En6 5PN

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

It would be of assistance if one informed  
the Membership Secretary, if one did not  
intend to renew their subscription.

RECEIPTS can be collected at the monthly  
meetings.

# DO YOU REMEMBER 'THE SPIRIT OF FREE ENTERPRISE'?

When first reported by the media it was  
stated that the ferry had sailed with the cargo  
doors shut and the storm driven waves had  
smashed open the doors.

It was only later revealed that the ferry  
had sailed with the doors open. At the time it was  
regarded as a unique event.

1953 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY.

A total of 128 people were feared dead tonight  
after the car doors burst open on an Irish Sea car  
ferry, the Princess Victoria.

The 2,694-ton British Rail ferry had just  
entered the open sea off Stranraer when the  
mountainous waves, caused by the weekend storms,  
smashed in through the cargo doors, and the ship  
soon developed a list to starboard.

TURN TO page 10.



NOW ON SALE  
TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS

# Potters Bar Historical Series

No. 7

£1.00 or \$1.30 POSTAL



THE TELEGRAPH STAGE-COACH

## *The Stage-coach Through*

## *Potters Bar*

by A. C. Lynch

SPRING LECTURE PROGRAMME - Monthly MeetingsTHURSDAY JANUARY 28th Miss Claire Halpin

Archaeological investigations in advance of the construction of the A41 Kings Langley and Berkhamsted By-passes

The talk will describe the manner in which the archaeological sites lying in the paths of the new by-passes were revealed. Many techniques are used, for example, aerial photography and field-walking, but the principal method employed by the Trust was to trial trench the entire routes of the by-passes.

Eight new sites were discovered. Although considerable Iron Age and Roman evidence was identified, there was also an unexpectedly high incidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity.

The talk will describe the archaeology of these sites, and the analysis and the interpretation of the remains.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19th

'The Story of Lighting' by Miss Margaret Halstead

The talk will give a 'light-hearted' look at the world describing the impact that the development of lighting had on social conditions and the pattern of life in earlier times. For many centuries, the only artificial illuminants were based on burning vegetable matter and it is only within the last hundred years or so that other types of light source have become available. Over the centuries, control of the light emitted from the incandescent sources improved and this had a marked effect on the working conditions and social life of people. Although the benefits of having light during the hours of darkness was immense, the sources did present a considerable fire hazard which was only reduced when gas and electric lamps were developed at the end of the last century.

THURSDAY MARCH 25th

'Tales from Potters Bar Tombstones' by B.Warren

The 200th anniversary of Potters Bar Baptist Church, Barnet Road, in 1988, led to the levelling of the churchyard. Fortunately, a long-serving worshipper, Percy Colbert, had made an earlier record of the inscriptions and a plan. Just before the changes when the ground was overgrown Barry Gabbott recorded all that he could see and made a plan. By that time some stones had already been moved.

Since then the speaker has reviewed all the previous work and produced a comprehensive record of the monuments and a plan of the graveyard, a copy of which has been deposited with the church.

Tonight's talk will refer to some of these people and relate their very different and interesting lives, who lived in and around Potters Bar, serving their church and community just as we do today. Some even touched the history of the nation.

ALL MEETINGS AT THE WYLLYOTTS CENTRE,  
SIXTY-PLUS CENTRE,

8 p.m. prompt.

VISITORS WELCOME - ENTRANCE FREE

LAMAS MEETINGS

Lecture Theatre, Museum of London

Time: Wednesdays at 6.30 pm

Refreshments: Coffee, tea & sherry from 6.00  
in the Lecture Theatre Foyer.

10th March

A Warrior Burial From Folly Lane, St.Albans  
by Rosalind Niblett.

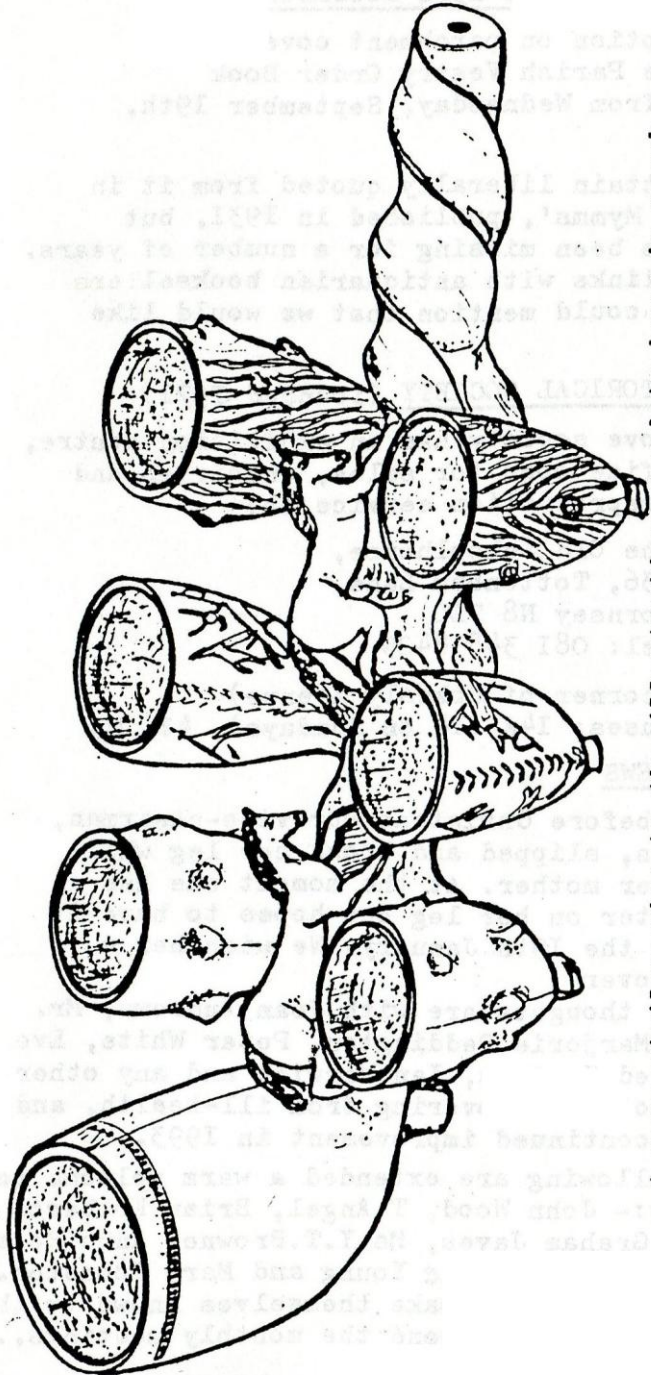
7th April

Pilgrimage to Canterbury  
by Helen Paterson.

12 May

Talk by Martin Biddle. Title later.

# THE SEVEN BOWLED PIPE



A very similar pipe to the illustration, used to hang in a pub called "The Fiddle" in Gornal (wood) near Dudley, Worcestershire, about the turn of the century, and was used as a competition piece. One had to keep all seven bowls alight at once. The only man known to have done this was a local, named Nehemiah Burrows.

What maker put animals on the stem and had three bowl patterns and a larger bowl in production at the same time? The person who assembled this pipe was very skilled.

Acknowledgements to Clay Pipe Collectors Club Newsletter No.3,  
July 1983

SOUTH MIMMS PARISH VESTRY MINUTE BOOK  
19 September 1750 to 23rd December 1778

Inscription on parchment cover,  
 "South Mimms Parish Vestry Order Book  
 Commencing from Wednesday, September 19th,  
 1750."

Dr. Brittain liberally quoted from it in his, 'South Mymms', published in 1931, but the book has been missing for a number of years. If one has links with antiquarian booksellers perhaps one could mention that we would like it found.

HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (founded 1971)

The above society has an exhibition centre, shop and office open for sales, enquiries and photo copy reproduction service at:-

The Old Schoolhouse,  
 136, Tottenham Lane,  
 Hornsey N8 7EL  
 Tel: 081 348 8429

(corner of Rokesly Avenue)  
 Buses: I4A (I4 on Sundays), 4I, W3

MEMBERS' NEWS

Just before Christmas our vice-chairman, Joan Groves, slipped and broke her leg while visiting her mother. At the moment she has a heavy plaster on her leg but hopes to have it removed on the 19th January. We wish her a speedy recovery.

One's thoughts are with Joan Andrews, Mr. Richards, Marjorie Reddington, Peter White, Eve Gordon, Fred Sanders, Ian Warwick and any other members who are recovering from ill-health, and wish them continued improvement in 1993.

The following are extended a warm welcome to the Society:- John Wood, T. Angel, Brian Kolbert, Mrs. J. Fry, Graham Javes, Ms. Y. T. Browne, Anne Hoos, Bill Killick, Jacqueling Young and Mary Johnston. It is hoped they will make themselves known to the chairman, when they attend the monthly meetings..



**INTENDING VISITORS TO THE OLD COUNTRY**

SHOULD CAREFULLY PRESERVE THIS NOTICE.

**"THE WONDER" COACH**

Carried 1935 Passengers last Season.

**M**R. P. J. RUMNEY, of "RIDGES FOOD" fame, is still running his celebrated four horse stage coach, "THE WONDER," between London and St. Albans, leaving Hatchett's Hotel, in Piccadilly, London, every morning at 10.45, returning to Piccadilly at 5.45 p.m.

Ample time is allowed at St. Albans for lunch and for passengers to inspect the CATHEDRAL, which is one of the FINEST and OLDEST IN THE WORLD.

The trip is one of the most delightful that can be taken, and the price charged for the return fare is fifteen shillings.

For Time-Cards and other particulars apply to "WONDER" Coach office, Hatchett's Hotel, Piccadilly, London, England.

**EXHIBITION HONOR—GOLD MEDALS**

Awarded at Melbourne, Adelaide, Cape, Christchurch, &c., to

---

**SPECIAL TELEGRAMS.**

---

**PROPOSED VISIT OF ENGLISH CRICKETERS.**

LONDON, June 14.

Mr. B. S. Wardell, manager of the Australian team now in England, is arranging to bring out an English team to Australia. The team will include the best amateurs and four leading professionals. Messrs. Shaw and Lillywhite complain of the action of Mr. Wardell in taking a team to the colonies.

**FROZEN MEAT.**

LONDON, June 14.

The Rimutaka arrived (all well) at Plymouth to-day. The frozen meat is in good condition.

**THE IRISH BISHOPS AND POLITICS.**

LONDON, June 14.

The Vatican has advised the Irish Bishops to abstain from taking part in the approaching political strife.

**MOONLIGHTERS ORGANISING.**

LONDON, June 14.

The Moonlighters in the South and West of Ireland have organised themselves into a body with a central council of control.

Thanks to Terry Goulding for this information.

## RADIO CRACKER

On Tuesday, 8th December Jodi Ginsberg interviewed the chairman, Brian Warren, about the Society for an hour.

In between records he spoke about the start and growth of the Society, the Wyllyotts Museum and Local History Centre, enquiries from the public mentioning, in particular, the most interesting ones.

The hour ended with a mention of the Recorder scheme and the work involved. Lastly, there was just time to advertise the publications.

The following week our President, Muriel Brittain, spoke on the Revd. Robert Gage's programme, about the Society.

One hopes that all members take every opportunity to inform their friends, neighbours and relations about the Society. There are still people in Potters Bar who do not know it has a museum!

## CAR FERRY

1953 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

### SUNKEN CAR FERRY SAILED WITH DOORS OPEN

The cargo doors on the ferry Princess Victoria were open when she left port on the day she sank last month, one of her crew told an astonished inquest jury today.

A member of the crew said the guillotine doors above the stern gates were never closed. A heavy wave hit the ship and burst them open.

The water swept into the car deck and swept the cargo onto the starboard side, causing the ship to list.

An inquiry will be launched soon, and it seems certain that it will investigate why the doors burst open. There has been some criticism that they were badly designed.

IT READS LIKE A REPEAT OF THE FREE

ENTERPRISE

ENTRANCE FREE

---

Visit The  
Wyllyotts Centre  
**MUSEUM**  
**POTTERS BAR**

(Next to the Station off Darkes Lane)

---

---

*1953 Remembered...*

**40 YEARS AGO**

EXHIBITION~JANUARY~JUNE 1993

---

---

**OPEN**

---

---

Tuesday and Wednesday 2.30-4.30

Saturday 2.00-4.00

# H.M.S. POPPY

Following all the work on this special exhibition the veterans were very pleased with all our efforts. As a result a visit was made by two members of the Corvette Association because there is an exhibition on the 'Battle of the Atlantic', at the Naval Museum, Portsmouth, from May until the end of the year.

They, too, were quite impressed and have now borrowed our exhibition, with the intention of using two-thirds of it at Portsmouth.

## DARKES LANE THEN & NOW

AND

## WYLLYOTTS

This was a great success, even the staff at Wylllyotts agreed. Thank you to all members who told their friends and neighbours, as a result there were 296 in attendance.

The result was the sale of £100.50 sales of the publications and a profit on the sale of the tickets of £271.66.

### NEW BOOKS

Leafing through literature:

Writers' Lives in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire  
by David Carroll

208 pages A5 paperback £7.95

ISBN I 871199 01 8 July 1992

Changes in our landscape: Aspects of Bedfordshire,  
Buckinghamshire and The Chilterns 1947-1992

from the photographic work of Eric Meadows

176 pages A4 hardback & 19.95app.

ISBN I 871199 31 X October 1992