



# *The Newsletter*

September 1993

Vol.10 No.1

Following the items printed in the last Newsletter on the 1939-45 World War it has been agreed the Museum's exhibition for Jan.-June 1994 will be, "POTTERS BAR at War, 1939-45".

If members have any items or memories that might be incorporated in the exhibition, please contact Brian Warren (875617). In particular, there were many pamphlets published by the Government on what to do if certain events, etc., happened. If they could be borrowed for photocopying it would be appreciated and hopefully enhance the exhibition.

## MUSEUM STEWARDS

If one would be prepared to help steward at the Museum for two hours, then contact:-

<u>TUESDAYS</u>	Len Field	51, Highview Gdns.	653801
<u>WEDNESDAYS</u>	Don Green	63, Oakroyd Ave.	654613
<u>SATURDAYS</u>	Denis Lore	23, Osborne Road	656833

Tues. & Wed. 2.30-4.30pm Sat. 2.00-4.00pm

If one was prepared to support the present stewards for one day a month this would be of great assistance. No previous experience is required.

COMMITTEE

At the first committee meeting in September Denis Lore was co-opted onto the committee for 1993/4.

SUBS.

SUBS were DUE FROM THE 1st April

REMINDER SUBS NOW:- Adults            £3

Family/Group £5

Seven members paid early at the 'old' rates, if their conscience reminds them perhaps they would send the balance to the Membership Secretary. Please inform the Membership Secretary if one does not intend to renew their membership.

RECEIPTS

These will be placed on the table where one signs in for the monthly meeting. Please collect.

LASTLY, PROMPT PAYMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

COMING SOON

OCCASIONAL PAPER No.4

SOUTH MIMMS

by  
F.C.Hart

This is the first book to be published solely on South Mimms since Dr.F.Brittain's 'South Mymms' in 1931. Having waited so long we hope for a great demand. An excellent Christmas present for all those former residents of the village, who now reside elsewhere.

POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

3

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
*THE WYLLYOTTS CENTRE*

PRESENT  
AN ILLUSTRATED TALK ON

# **SOUTH MIMMIS**

*Commemorating*

*Dr. F. Brittain's Centenary*

BY MR BRIAN WARREN  
& MR TERRY GOULDING

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 23rd, 1993  
AT 8 P.M.

AT THE WYLLYOTTS CENTRE,  
POTTERS BAR



ADMISSION £3.00

£2.50 (Concession)



TICKETS IN ADVANCE, OR ON THE NIGHT,  
FROM: THE BOX OFFICE, WYLLYOTTS CENTRE,  
WYLLYOTTS PLACE, DARKES LANE  
BOX OFFICE 0707645005



The Cinema - its early history in Potters Bar.

The earliest reference I have found was in February 1920, when it was proposed that St. Mary's Church Hall was to be opened as a picture house, on Mondays and Saturdays for the next three weeks. The star programmes included "Mother Love" (from Rudyard Kipling's "Mother of Mine"), with the programmes changing on Saturdays. The doors opened at 7.00 pm, the films commenced at 7.30 pm.

Further reference to the Church minutes might provide additional information, as to whether the film shows continued longer than three weeks. However, St. Mary's Hall was to be used for a further film show in December 1922, on a Saturday evening, but it was postponed owing to the meagre attendance.

Major W.J.King, who was the prime mover in the development of Potters Bar into a residential suburb, presented plans in December 1924 for the widening and making-up of Billy Lows Lane. This was referred back, though he did gain approval for twenty houses in the road, subject to the construction of the sewers. Two years later (1926) he submitted plans for a new cinema in the Great North Road, backing on Billy Lows Lane, to seat four hundred people. It was deferred because it infringed the building line.

In September 1928, a far more ambitious proposal was made by Captain Tempest Keeping, for a British film-producing <sup>company</sup> to establish a film studio on the Oakmere estate. It was to be built at the rear of the old St. John's Church (War Memorial site today) and adjacent to the land where Messrs. Sainsbury Ltd. proposed to develop shops and other buildings. Two large studios, each about 300ft. in length were to be built. It was necessary to proceed without delay, as from after April 1929 British films had to be produced in this country.

The South Mimms Rural District Council (SMRDC) considered the application and the town's planning expert, Mr. Louis Carr, saw no objection to the town-planning scheme being amended from open space in order to grant the film company's plan. Cllrs.

Tilbury and Shillitoe disapproved, as it would spoil the Oakmere estate, so the plan was refused. That was not the end of the matter, as the Potters Bar Ratepayers Association discussed the matter and passed a resolution for the Council to reconsider their decision. 5

At the SMRDC meeting in October Capt. Keeping was allowed to speak but it was felt the Ministry of Health would not sanction another open space if the planning application was approved. Therefore Cllrs. J. Gerken (chairman), C.H. Knifton, H. Shillitoe and H.W. Tilbury saved Potters Bar from becoming the centre of a local film industry.

In January 1932, approval was given for the erection of a 'New Cinema' designed by Major W.J. King, an architect and enthusiast for large, grand cinemas, on land owned by Major Diamond at the corner of Darkes Lane and Billy Lows Lane. However, revised plans were approved on the 25th January 1933; then in December an application for a cinema in Darkes Lane by Little Heath Estates was approved by the Council. I know nothing more of this, whether it involved Majors King and Diamond is not evident and one can find nothing more about it. The final plans of the two men were approved on the 31st January 1934 and the imposing cinema was opened on the 8th October and to the general public the next day.

B. Warren

#### MEMBERS' NEWS

It is with regret that one has to record the passing of Ernie Childs just recently. Since joining the Society he was nearly always one of the first to arrive at the monthly meetings and willingly acted as a steward on Saturdays at the Museum. In spite of his illness he kept these activities going for as long as he was able.

The chairman represented the Society at the service and committal at St. Giles' Parish Church, South Mimms on the 6th September.

Sincere condolences are expressed to his widow and relatives from the Society.

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETYENFIELD IN THE THIRTIES

DAY CONFERENCE SATURDAY

6th November 1993, at  
 Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane,  
 Enfield, near the junction  
 with Chase Side, Enfield.

- 10.00am Introduction Betty Smith Conference  
 Chairman
- 10.10am My Boyhood Years - Alan Dumayne
- 11.15am Coffee
- 11.40am The Piccadilly Extension Line -  
 Graham Dalling
- 12.30am Lunch
- 2.00pm Industry & Depression in the Thirties by  
 David Pam
- 3.00pm Tea
- 3.30pm Preparations for War - Geoffrey Gillam

The charge for either the morning or afternoon session will be £3.00 (£2.50 to members). For the whole day £5 (£4.50 to members) Morning coffee and afternoon tea will be provided and is included in the charge. Cheques payable to Edmonton Hundred Historical Society, sending a SAE if receipt is required, to Michael Parker, 24I, Ladysmith Road, Enfield, EN1 3AQ.

HERTFORDSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

This office will probably be closed in late October, to enable the move into the new searchroom.

The Local Studies Collection will be closed, probably in November to facilitate redecoration.



*"Little Heath Through The Ages"*

Talk by Brian Warren

(Potters Bar Historical Society)

Tuesday 5th October 1993

Little Heath Parish Hall at 8pm

Admission by ticket £1 available from

R Craighead (644229) or Gillian Rickards (642661)

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME - Monthly meetings

THURSDAY 28th OCTOBER at the Sixty-plus Centre,  
Wyllotts 8 pm PROMPT

'Discovering London's Roman Harbour'  
by Mr Gustav Milne.

The Society welcomes the return visit of Gustav, who is employed by the Museum of London, as an archaeologist. In his previous lecture he gave a superb description of the Great Fire of London. He also sold all the copies of the book he had written on the subject, which he had brought to the meeting. If one missed the earlier lecture then make sure to note this one in your diary.

TUESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER at the Wyllotts Centre  
Theatre.

'SOUTH MIMMS' by

Brian Warren and  
Terry Goulding. SEE ADVERT.

FRIDAY 3rd DECEMBER at the Sixty-plus Centre,  
Wyllotts 8 pm PROMPT

'The Early History of Television'  
by Arnold Lynch.

The system of television as we know it was developed (except for colour) in the period 1925-1936. It was Baird who first demonstrated television publicly, and it was he who used political influence to force the BBC to broadcast 30-line television from Brookmans Park. By 1936 improved systems were being developed both by Baird's company and, in secrecy, by an almost anonymous team in the EMI company. When the two systems were compared publicly in broadcasts from Alexandra Palace, the EMI system was by far the better. The only remnant of Baird's system still in use is the word "television".



INFORMATION REQUIRED - DENHAM FAMILY

For several years I have been trying to trace the origins of the origins of the above family on behalf of a lady in Germany whose ancestor, James Denham, lived at Deephams Farm, Edmonton, in the 1830s. A James Denham married Elizabeth Graves in South Mimms in 1812 and I have found some scattered Denham references in the late 1700s. But I have now checked all the obvious sources - and some less obvious ones as well - without finding any real leads to the Denham family. Is there anyone out there in the Potters Bar area who can give me any clues?

Margaret Harcourt Williams,  
Innyngs House,  
Hatfield Park,  
Hatfield,  
AL9 5PL

Phone:-(269516)



**London & Middlesex Archaeological Society**  
 incorporating **Middlesex Local History Council**  
*A Registered Charity*

LECTURES at the Education Dept., Museum of London,  
 London Wall EC2.

TUESDAYS at 6.30 Refreshments from 6.00.

Tuesday 9th November

The Royal Exchange by Ann Saunders

Tuesday 14th December

London from Southwark: The earliest painting  
 of London by Mireille Galinou.

Tuesday 11th January

The Hugh Chapman memorial lecture:

Roman metalwork from the Wallbrook - Rubbish,  
 Ritual or Redundancy! by Ralph Merrifield.

TEA HELPERS at the Society Monthly Meetings

The Committee is grateful to the following ladies for providing tea/coffee:- June Axford, Ruby LeBaigue, Joanne Brasse, Jean Foster, Mabel Hammett, Myra Huber, Ivy Jones and Lilla Smithson. Also, to Barbara Clinton, the organiser.

Last year (1991-2) there were twelve people willing to assist, so if one can help in the coming session then contact Barbara Clinton, 658730, as soon as possible.

LETTER received by the Archivist:-

Mr. B. Warren

1st Class  
StampPotters Bar and District  
Historical Society

Congratulations to the Post Office.

BOOK REVIEWThe Royston Cave - Used by Saints  
or Sinners? by Sylvia Beamon.

The Royston Cave is situated 13 miles south of Cambridge near to two former major routes across Britain - the Icknield Way and Ermine Street. The cavern's origin or purpose has been a source of much interest and conjecture since its discovery in the mid-18th century. This book examines every aspect of the Royston Cave and costs £39.50 !

Further details from the Chairman.

PROGRESS

"The sad defect about the progress of the human race is that whilst we are occupied in learning one thing we are almost always engaged in forgetting another."

Bishop Gore

**MANHOOD RESTORED.**

A Clergyman having tried every known remedy for the CURE of NERVOUS EXHAUSTION, PREMATURE DECAY, &c., has at last discovered a simple SELF-CURE, which for the sake of suffering humanity, he will send FREE the Prescription which CURED him. Address with self-addressed stamped envelope—

**Dr. E. A. Clarke, P. O. Box 292, Sydney.**

J. E. HAYES.

**WANTED** Known, largest and cheapest stock of Gas Fittings in N.Z. J. E. Hayes, Lambton-quay.

**WANTED** Known, Gas Brackets from 1s to 4s J. E. Hayes, Lambton-quay.

**WANTED** Known, two-light Chandeliers from 41 to £15. J. E. Hayes, Lambton-quay.

**WANTED** Known, Gas Globes from 1s 6d to 10s each. J. E. Hayes, Lambton-quay.

**WANTED** Known, Gas Cooking and Heating Stoves sold on monthly payments. Hayes, Lambton-quay.

**WANTED** Known, Brass Casting every day. J. E. Hayes, Brass Foundry, Lambton-quay.

**WANTED** Known, Locks picked and Keys fitted immediately. J. E. Hayes, Lambton-quay, 196

**JUST PUBLISHED (NEW EDITION)**  
Price One Shilling (post, twopence extra, in any stamps.)

**THE PHYSIOLOGY OF MARRIAGE**

DR. LA MERT'S Work on "The Physiology of Marriage" describes how the powers of manhood are lost or suspended, how they can be re-invigorated and maintained until an advanced period of life, and is intended to enlighten thousands on most important subjects, in regard to which they are entirely ignorant. It also contains many valuable hints and instructions (derived from a long and successful practice) for the treatment of the various disorders arising from hot climates, sedentary habits, or the follies and indiscretions of early life.

Where a secret infirmity exists, involving not only the happiness of one life, but also that of others, reason and morality dictate the necessity of its removal, for it is a positive fact that premature decline of the vigor of manhood, matrimonial unhappiness, compulsory single life, local and physical debility etc., have their source in a GREAT AND TERRIBLE CAUSE, the germ of which is planted in early life, and the bitter fruit tasted LONG AFTERWARDS.

The above work may be obtained by post from Dr. LA MERT, 86 Latrobe-street east, near Russell-street, Melbourne.

All correspondence SACREDLY private and confidential.

Dr LA MERT can be consulted by letter or personally at his address, in the AFTERNOONS ONLY, from 2 till 6 o'clock.

Consultation Fee—One Pound.

**WANTED.**—Re-engagement as resident governess. Acquirements—English, French, Music, and Elementary Drawing. "M.H.," Box 68, Post Office, Dunedin.

**28th Local History Conference**

**London - in sickness and health**

20th November 1993  
10.10 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Museum of London Lecture Theatre

10.10 - 10.35 am *Admittance to exhibitions - coffee available in foyer*

10.45 am **Monastic Hospital to NHS Trust** - London hospitals through the ages  
- **Jonathan Evans**, archivist of the Royal London Hospital Archives & Museum

11.45 am **Outside the Hospital Walls: Medical Practitioners, and "Neighbourhood" in the 16th & 17th centuries**  
- **Ms. Margaret Pelling**, Deputy Director of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Oxford

12.40 - 2.00 *lunch*

2.00 pm **In at one end . . . pipes, wells and troubles in London's 19th century water supply**  
- **Dr. Anne Hardy**, lecturer in the History of Modern Medecine at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London

2.45 - 3.45 pm *Tea*

3.45 pm **Out at the other . . . problems and solutions in the disposal of London's effluent in the 19th century**  
- **Dr. Denis Smith**, Chairman of the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society

There will be displays of recent work and publications by Local History Societies in the Education Department from 10.10 am.

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**TICKET APPLICATION - 28TH LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE**

To Local History Conference,  
c/o - 20 Rosebury Vale, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 6AQ

NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....

Please send me . . . . . tickets at £3.50 each for the 28th Local History Conference on 20th November 1993. I enclose a crossed cheque/postal order for . . . . . made payable to 'London & Middlesex Archaeological Society'.

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your tickets.