
The Newsletter

January 1994

Vol.10 No.2

Just before Christmas a 'leak' informed us that moves were afoot to move the Museum from its present room to the Robert Honeywood suite upstairs. It was understood that the present Museum room would be divided into two which could be hired out to raise more revenue. Also, the dividing shutter could be pulled back so the room could be hired out as one room for wedding receptions, etc.

This was immediately followed up and resulted in a meeting with Bob Chase, the Wyllyotts Centre manager, Nigel Thompson, the Estates Valuer, Albert Light, Client Services manager and for the Society, Brian Warren and Robin Howard. The meeting took place on Thursday, 13th January and after nearly two hours of discussion it was decided that Bob Chase should discuss the proposal in greater detail with Brian Warren.

Though the Museum opens only on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday on a regular basis, it represents, to quote the manager's words an area of

low "local person usage". Consideration has been given to possibly opening on a Thursday, so if there are any members, who are not already acting as stewards, and would be prepared to steward on that day either 10.00 - 12.00 or 2.30 - 4.30, perhaps they would let Brian Warren know, as this obtains greater "local person usage"!!

From the Society's point of view it was felt that fewer people would be willing to climb the stairs or take the lift if the Museum was upstairs. At the moment there are quite a number of 'casual' visitors who see the notices and wander in on the ground floor. Would they come in if they had to go upstairs? This applies particularly to opening for Craft and Antique Fairs on a Sunday. On Jan. 9th there were 278 visitors at the Antique Fair.

The move would at the present stage in the discussions result in a 17% loss of space.

It could mean that the Committee might have to ask the membership to rise in support of the present Museum's position, but in the meantime, if any stewards would pass any suitable thoughts to Brian Warren, that would be appreciated.

S
U
B
S

A reminder form is included for those who according to the Membership Secretary's records have not paid their 1993/4 subscriptions.

Please inform Mrs. E. Field if one does not intend to renew their membership.

PROMPT replies on both counts would be much appreciated. Thank you.

OCCASIONAL PAPERS - No.4

SOUTH MIMMS

£2

By Mr F C Hart

FRED SANDERS

It is with regret one has to report the passing of Fred, on Christmas Eve, at the age of 83. He had been a member for many years, supporting the Society and attending meetings. Always of a genial nature he became a founder member of the Tuesday stewards for the Museum. In this respect he will be missed by those who served as fellow stewards. He was also Vice-President of the Potters Bar WEA group for many years and will be missed by them.

One expresses sincere condolences to Marian and all his friends in the Society.

JUST A THOUGHT

'The fear of crime is out of proportion to actual crime.'

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. M.E.Griffith on becoming grandparents for the first time.
Well done Alison!

4 SPRING LECTURE PROGRAMME - Monthly Meetings.

THURSDAY JANUARY 27th

Window on the Past - Hertfordshire on Film, 1907-59

Mrs Christine Shearman

This presentation of film from the Hertfordshire Film Archive will last for about one hour, with a brief introduction from the speaker. All the films are black and white, due to their age, and silent. However, one is encouraged to comment, discuss and ask questions throughout the presentation.

The films cover a wide range of topics, including war, transport, rural life and festivities, and a wide coverage of Hertfordshire, from Royston and Ashwell in the north, down to Goffs Oak in the south, and over to Hemel Hempstead in the west.

One should see much that is familiar and which will jog many memories, and look out for the early animation film right at the end!

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18th

The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Lipton.

Alan Dumayne.

Born of humble yet loving parents, young Tommy Lipton made his way in the world and began climbing the ladder of success by working all the hours God gave him. It was the only way he knew. He did not spare himself in those early years, and asked little in return. As his grocery empire grew, he became a confidante of Royalty.

Lipton was devoted to his mother and her death left a void in his life that was never filled.

His many attempts to win back the Americas Cup all ended in failure - yet he became a hero on both sides of the Atlantic. Lipton loved America and he was one of our best unofficial ambassadors of all time.

Sir Thomas Lipton lived for the last 38 years of his life in Southgate, and was proud to be called a villager.

FRIDAY MARCH 18th

Enfield at War 1939 - 1945 - Geoffrey Gillam.

Slides and sound effects, as well as the spoken word, will be used to show how the area now covered by the London Borough of Enfield was affected by the events of the Second World War. Preparations began in 1935 when local councils were asked to take measures to protect their respective populations from attacks from the air in the event of war. These measures received a further impetus with their legal compulsion following the Air Raid Precautions Act in 1937. The building of air raid shelters, wardens' posts, A.R.P. Headquarters, gas decontamination centres, fire and ambulance stations was again speeded up after the Munich crisis in 1938 and gas masks were issued, but only after people had queued for hours at local schools and halls.

The talk will deal with the blitz in the area leading on to late 1944 when the three districts received 35 flying bombs and 23 long range rockets.

HERTFORDSHIRE: A PORTRAIT IN COLOUR by John Hodder
and John Lucas (Dovecote Press, £14.95).

John Lucas has been a member of our Society for a number of years and the author of several other books. This latest book has been written by John and the 145 magnificent colour photographs of about 70 Hertfordshire towns and villages, taken by John Hodder.

Bill Gelder, who reviews our own publications for the Potters Bar Press, gave this book an excellent review on the 6th January. In his review he stated, "One more thing. If you think £14.95 is a lot to pay for a book, I can only say that I'm astonished they can produce such a superlative book for such a comparatively modest price."

BILL GELDER

As stated above Bill has always made good reviews of our publications and so it is apt to mention that last September he celebrated fifty years of contributing to the Barnet Press. He was first appointed to review plays and still does for two societies in Barnet, one in Friern Barnet and three at the Wyllyotts Centre. He then wrote feature articles on local history which later formed the major part of his four books. Then for twelve years he wrote a television column.

When Barnet Museum is open he acts as the steward for the rooms upstairs.

Congratulations from this Society and long may you continue your good works.

A History of Enfield

7

by David Pam

Volume 3 — 1914-1939

A DESIRABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD

A DESIRABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD, the final volume of David Pam's masterly History of Enfield, begins in 1914 with the outbreak of the Great War and ends with the country on the brink of the Second World War in 1939.

David Pam vividly describes the drastic and far-reaching changes which took place in those eventful 35 years, setting the pattern for the Enfield we know today. More than 225 illustrations, many of them never published before, embellish this unique volume, which will be published by Enfield Preservation Society early next year.

SPECIAL PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER

Take advantage of this special pre-publication offer and reserve your copy of A DESIRABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD, signed by the author, at the unrepeatabe price of only £16.00 per copy plus £3.50 inland postage and packing. **All advance orders, with full remittance, must be received by 31 March 1994.**

I enclose cheque payable to Enfield Preservation Society Ltd.

To: Mrs Irene Smith, Hon Secretary, Enfield Preservation Society,
107 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 0AB.

LAMAS MEETINGS

Lecture Theatre, Museum of London.

Time: Tuesdays at 6.30 pm

Refreshments: Coffee, tea & sherry from 6.30
in the Lecture Theatre Foyer.

8th March Current issues in the Conservation of
Historic Buildings & Structures by
Oliver H.J. Pearcey.

12th April Tree Rings from the London Area: What
they can tell us by Ian Tyers.

10th May Building stones in the London area:
Recent Findings by Eric Robinson.

AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME REPORTS

8

THURSDAY OCTOBER 28th

Discovering London's Roman Harbour -Gustav Milne.

The story of how the archaeologists pieced together the picture was explained in graphic detail by the speaker, which had resulted from twenty years' work. As warehouses were knocked down archaeologists worked quickly on the sites to obtain as much as possible before the new buildings were erected.

The Roman river front was discovered about one hundred metres north of the present north bank of the R.Thames. Huge oak beams were shown in place after nearly two thousand years. The Roman quay, warehouses and the bridge were all uncovered by excavations.

To end Mr.Milne showed graphs which indicated that flooding would engulf London at sometime in the future, if nothing is undertaken to prevent it.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 23rd

South Mimms - B.Warren and T.Goulding.

Even though people had to pay a large audience assembled in the Wyllyotts Centre to enjoy the talk dedicated to the late Dr.Frederick Brittain, unfortunately his widow and our President, Muriel, was unable to attend being confined to bed with the 'flu.

The first part of the talk was a walk through the Village, starting in Blackhorse Lane, showing slides of the old properties which once stood there. Much information was given about the history of the buildings and the people who inhabited them.

After the interval a deeper look was taken of the church and its surroundings. The speaker showed that even just over one hundred years ago the church looked very different from today. He mentioned that renovation was nothing new, it had been the responsibility of the parishioners to maintain the church for generations. The present building appeared to be of mediaeval origin and that the earlier church was to be found elsewhere in the neighbourhood.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 3rd

The Early History of Television - Dr.A.Lynch.

The speaker mentioned that as in many spheres of life the wrong person was given credit for something and in turn this became part of popular mythology. This was the case with television, Logie Baird is the name that most people remember when asked about TV. However, as the speaker explained the real hero was Alan Blumlein, who worked for EMI. Trained as an electrical engineer, he turned his mind to the complexities of radio and the transmission of signals that would end up as a picture in homes throughout the land.

Baird worked in the glare of publicity but EMI kept their work secret. Eventually when the different systems were put to the test EMI won the day. Baird's work was history but his name lived on in the minds of the public.

Locally, Alexandra Palace had a major role in the world's first TV service in 1936. The two transmitters at Brookmans Park were used for the broadcasts upto 1939.

MUSEUM

Just for interest in three years we have had visitors from Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Israel, Japan, Poland, Switzerland and the USA.

Following the success of the exhibition on H.M.S. Poppy and the visit of the veterans, an invitation to attend the Service of Remembrance and Reconciliation on board HMS Belfast to mark the fiftieth Anniversary of the Action off the North Cape of Norway, was accepted by the chairman. It was a very moving occasion with one of the 33 survivors from the Scharnhorst reading a lesson. John Beardmore, the actor, who was one of the three veterans from HMS Poppy who provided much information for our exhibition, also read a lesson.

TREASURER Grateful thanks are expressed to Sylvia Sparkes for accepting the invitation to become the Society's Treasurer. We wish her well in her new post.

POTTERS BAR AT WAR 1939 - 45 EXHIBITION

Most of the information on display has been uncovered in researching for this present exhibition. It is hoped that members and visitors will inform the stewards of any reminiscences they may have of Potters Bar and South Mimms at that time. For this purpose a special book has started to record those memories of long ago. This will then become part of the Society's archives for future generations to use in their research.

The Society welcomes the following new members -

The Greater London History Library	
Mrs. V. Goalen	Mrs. S. Sparkes
Mr. & Mrs. Carr	Mr. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. V.E. Taylor	Christine Comras
Mr. W. Robinson	Mr. L.T. Williams
Mr. J. Cumming	
Mr. & Mrs. R.K.S. & P.R. Baker	

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. K. Arnold on the birth of a son, David William John on the 5th October 1993, weighing 5lbs. 12ozs. and now doing well.

Hertfordshire 1731 - 1800

as recorded in

The Gentleman's Magazine

This book brings together for the first time all the items on the County from that prime source of local history, *The Gentleman's Magazine*. It reprints hundreds of extracts in chronological order many of them extensively annotated by leading Hertfordshire historians, supplemented by separate lists of births, marriages, bankruptcies and deaths.

The *Gentleman's Magazine*, aimed at a newly educated gentry largely removed from city affairs - the landowner, clergyman, schooled farmer and ladies of county society.

Cost £18 + £1.50 from the New Barnfield Centre, Traveller's Lane, Hatfield, AL10 8XG.

Cheques payable to Hertfordshire Publications.

To save postage one could go straight to the library.

11th Local History Conference
 WINSTON CHURCHILL HALL
 Ruislip

'A ROOF OVER
 YOUR HEAD'

10-00am	Coffee will be available	
10-15am	Welcome to the conference	-Len Krause
10-30am	"Brick-from medieval privilege to modern popularity"	-Mike Hammett
11-30am	Timber-framed buildings.	-Pat Clarke
12-15pm	Life in Harefield cottages	-Harefield LHS
12-30pm	<u>LUNCH</u> (not in the cost).	
1-55pm	THE GREAT HOUSE Dawley House and the Estate c1700 Life in Swakeleys in Victorian times	-Terry White -Eileen Bowltt
2-15pm	Estate cottages	-Colleen Cox
2-35pm	Railway cottages	-Peter Scott
3-00pm	<u>TEA</u>	
3-30pm	Metroland suburban development	-Marion Ball
4-30pm	CLOSE OF CONFERENCE	

February 26th 1994
 Tickets £4 Sat 10am-5pm

FOR TICKETS AND FURTHER DETAILS :

Telephone (0895) 673534 , 638060 or 638991

or send SAE and cheque/PO payable to 'RNE Local History Soc'

to: Mrs E C Watling (Hon. Sec.)

7 The Greenway Ickenham UXBRIDGE Middlesex UB10 8LS