

The Newsletter

JANUARY 1996

VOL. 12 NO. 2

COVER PICTURES

Between 1969 and 1972 Mr. E. Bartlett, a past Secretary of the Society, took a series of black and white photographs of Potters Bar. Some of these have been displayed in recent exhibitions but, in future, they will be used to illustrate 'The Newsletter'.



The above picture shows the Hatfield Road junction, with the War Memorial, in its original position prior to 1972.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

"Hello to everyone. I trust that Christmas was all you wished and one which you enjoyed to the full, but which has now become a pleasant memory; and so I wish each and everyone of you a Happy and Good New year.

Your Museum will be opened as from 6th January, hours to visit as before. You will find it on the upper floor at Wyllyotts Centre, up one flight of stairs I'm afraid but, for those unable to manage the stairs, there is a lift which, we are told, takes a wheelchair and, of course, there is a ramp to enter the centre.

I would like to welcome five new members to our Society; Miss Clayton, Mr.R.Pantoney, Mr.J.W.Evett, Mr.R.Franklin and Mr. P. Moon. We wish them a grateful welcome and trust that they will find their membership to be of interest and benefit.

If any of you have ideas as to whom or on what subject you would like to hear at our lectures in 1997, will you please contact Mrs. Joan Charlton, our Programme Organiser.

OFFICERS

At the last committee meeting Joan Groves resigned as Vice-Chairman, as she had moved to Dover. Arnold Davey agreed to accept the post of acting Vice-Chairman for which we thank him.

Sylvia Sparkes had resigned as Treasurer at the previous meeting. Therefore, if any member thinks they could fill the post of Treasurer, please contact Jean Foster, 647015.

COMMITTEE

Following the above changes, there will be two or three vacancies for the committee, which will be elected at the next AGM. If one is interested, or knows of a member who might be willing to join the committee, again contact Jean Foster, or a committee member.

SPRING LECTURE PROGRAMME.

Thursday Jan 25th. "Romanization North of the Thames -
Our Ancestors' Burden?"

Mr A B Kolbert

Romanization is an evocative word, and we may never achieve a generally accepted definition. It is a portmanteau term and as such is a summary of a series of processes. The 'change of life' of the local Catuvellauni living under the Roman administration, will be studied from evidence which has come to light at an ever increasing rate in the second half of this century. We will look at aspects of homes, farming, trade and communications in the area we now refer to as Home Counties North, with Potters Bar lying well within my area of study.

Friday Feb 23rd

"The Moated Sites of Enfield"

Mr Ian Jones

Mr. Jones was curator of Harlow Museum; he is now retired and does some part-time lecturing. We shall be looking at what little is known about the Mediaeval sites, either from records or the physical remains. There were four moated sites in the Enfield area, two of which have vanished, Oldbury and Durants, while two survive, Camlet and Old Park. Old Park was the name given to a hunting park founded in Enfield before the Norman Conquest of 1066. The buildings of Camlet were demolished in 1440 and the materials sold to pay for repairs to Hertford Castle. Oldbury lay near the centre of Enfield and is something of a mystery. Durants was demolished in 1776.

Tuesday Mar 19th

"A Walk Through Gardening History at Capel Manor" by Dr Steven Dowbiggin.

Capel Manor's gardening history only extends back twenty-five years because the name 'Capel Manor' is a modern invention; but in two ways the gardens at Capel extend back hundreds of years and a walk around the grounds at Capel is a walk through the whole history of gardening.

The real name of the Manor of Capel is, in fact, 'Honeylands and Penritches', although it was also known in Victorian times as 'Capels'. The earliest evidence of the Manor is in the 13th century, but the Capel connection did not start until 1486.

ALL MEETINGS START AT 8PM PROMPT IN THE OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE CENTRE, WYLLYOTTS CENTRE. ALL ARE WELCOME. ADMISSION FREE.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST

THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD

What's the best thing in the world?
June roses, May-dew impearled,
Sweet south wind, that means no rain,
Truth not cruel to a friend,
Pleasure, not in haste to end,
Beauty, not self-decked or curled
Till its pride is over-plain;
Light that never makes you wink,
Memory, that gives no pain,
Love is, when you're loved again.
What's the best thing in the world?
- Something out of it I think.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861).

"The love we give away
is the only love we keep."

Edward Hubbard (The Notebook. 1927)

MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum re-opened on Saturday, 6th June, with the main display in the Robert Honeywood Room, on the first floor, access by the stairs or lift. The Sir John Wylde Room, once used by the Registrar, is an office and storage room for the archives and acquisitions. Though we have the use of two rooms, the actual display area is less than that of the former Museum.

Visit The Wyllyotts Centre

MUSEUM

POTTERS BAR

(Next to the Station off Darkes Lane)

LOCAL PUBLIC HOUSES - PAST AND PRESENT

EXHIBITION-JANUARY-JUNE 1996

OPEN

Tuesday and Wednesday 2.30-4.30

Saturday 2.00-4.00

MUSEUM STEWARDS are required for :-

Tuesday and Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30
Saturday	2.00 - 4.00

Please contact the following if one can help:-

Tuesday	Len Field, 51 High View Gardens.	653801
Wednesday	Don Green, 63 Oakroyd Avenue.	854613
Saturday	Denis Lore, 23 Osborne Road.	656833

This is an **urgent** request to members, if one could cover for one day a month this would be of great assistance.

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The following illustrated lectures have been arranged for the winter season. These will be held at the Tilbury Hall, starting at 8pm, admission £1.50.

Thurs. 18 January 1996. The Bayeux Tapestry. John Neal.
Thurs. 29 February 1996. Antarctica. Ronald Smith.
Thurs. 28 March 1996. The R.N.L.I. Major Downton.

To obtain tickets for the lectures, please send a cheque, payable to THE POTTERS BAR SOCIETY, and SAE to:-

Mrs P.Hardiment, 34 Parkside, High Street, Potters Bar. EN6 5AU.

MEMBERS' NEWS

We should like to thank Mabel Hammett for taking responsibility as organiser of the refreshments at lecture meetings. If anyone would like to volunteer their services in helping to prepare the tea/coffee then contact Mabel at 4 Heath Cottages, Heath Road, as soon as possible.

RECORDER GROUP

The Group has been in operation for eleven years, meeting twice yearly to exchange information. Recently, Viv Murphy and Hazel Powell have tendered their resignations and so there are vacancies for the following areas:-

- Area 2 - Oakmere Estate
- Area 4 - Daleside Drive to Meadow Way
- Area 5 - Mimms Hall Road Estate
- Area 8 - South Mimms

If anyone is interested in becoming a recorder then speak to Gordon Eve, Len Field, Ian Warwick, Terry Goulding, John Scivyer, Michael and June Axford or Brian Warren, who are the present recorders. Also, consult the Group's Notice Board in the Museum, which shows the exact location of the areas.

COVER PHOTO, NEWSLETTER, SEPT. 1995

The photograph (1933) on the cover of the last issue of The Newsletter depicted a twenty-two ton gravel barge, passing through Stanborough en route from Lincoln to Ashford (Middx). The barge was 13ft by 8ft wide and 53ft long, making many streets on its journey impassable. Consequently the whole journey took four days.

Keen-eyed Members will have noticed that I numbered the last issue Vol. 11 No. 4. Of course, it should have read, Vol 12. No.1; my fault.

A MATTER OF PRESERVATION

The study of Prehistoric Man is a fascinating discipline, but it can be most tantalising; the problem is, we do not really know what he looked like. Although the teeth of humans and animals are well-nigh indestructible, and bones can become fossilised under favourable conditions, the soft parts, such as skin, organs, viscera and tissues rarely survive from pre-historic times. Bacteria consume dead tissue within a very short time, and it was to combat such decay (by depriving the bacteria of oxygen) that the Egyptians wrapped corpses in bandages soaked in various oils and chemicals (Grandma Nefertiti's secret 'down home' recipe). Prehistoric man wasn't so clever, which is why we have yet to find preserved cave-men. The Egyptian mummies are rarely more than 5,000 years old anyway; to be really pre-historic you have to be over 10,000 old.

A rather more drastic form of preservation was falling into a tar-pit in Trinidad but, although numerous extinct species (such as sabre-toothed tigers) have been dredged from those sticky, black depths, hominids have been conspicuous by their absence. In addition to tar and oily bandages, other preservatives which have proved successful are hot, very dry caves, and stagnant water. The skin of a large Sloth, probably pre-historic, was found in a deep cave in South America, and the famous 'Tollund Man' was fished out of a black lake in Denmark. The Dane was fully preserved, right down to the contents of his stomach. He had a rope tied around his neck and a smile on his face, so it is assumed the he was the victim of religious sacrifice but, at 2,000 years old, he was a mere baby. The question with which we are left is, what did pre-historic man actually look like? Scientists of all disciplines have done wonders of re-construction, sometimes postulating a complete specimen from one tooth but, to this day, we have no idea whether our forebears stood upright or stooped, what colour skin they had, and to what extent they were covered in hair.

Russian scientists have spent years studying the remains of mammoths that have been found out in the frozen wastes of Siberia. The species became extinct over 10,000 years ago but one or two fell into crevasses and were so effectively refrigerated that when they finally thawed out, one leg at a time, the local wolves could still eat the flesh (which is what brought them to the attention, first of hunters and, eventually, scientists). Now, who can doubt that, sooner or later, a preserved prehistoric human will be unearthed (or de-iced)? To date, all that has ever been found are the imperishable bones and teeth of our ancestors, and yet Neanderthal Man (pronounced nee-ander-tarl) was Lord and Master of the frozen North for centuries before Homo Sapiens moved up from The Fertile Crescent to oust him.

Only a few years ago a 7,000 year-old, Bronze Age man was found preserved in ice on the Similaun glacier (Austria); I'm firmly convinced that it is only a matter of time before a frozen Neanderthal emerges from the ice, fully preserved, to answer all the old questions. Perhaps Neanderthal Man never did actually die out, but survived in small groups, hidden from our view for thousands of years in the snowy wilderness of the Himalaya or in the impenetrable northern forests of America? Perhaps the Abominable Snowman (Yeti) and Bigfoot are nothing more than Neanderthals?

LOCAL HISTORY DAY AT WINSTON CHURCHILL HALL, RUISLIP

SATURDAY, 24 FEBRUARY, 1996

"PEOPLE ON THE MOVE"

9.45-10.10 COFFEE will be available. Please
take your seats promptly.

10.15 Welcome to "People on the Move" ... Jim Golland

10.30 Prehistoric Footprints in the
West London Landscape ... Dr Jonathan Cotton

11.15 Incomers and natives -
Harrow Weald, 1845 ... Dr Isobel Thompson

11.35 Trimmers Down-Under ... Doris Yarde

12.00 Pinner People on the Move ... Play by Stage Two

12.30-1.40 LUNCH - Coffee & Tea available

1.45 Questionnaire - Initial Analysis of
Population Movement ... Jo Crocker

2.15 From the East End to the Suburbs -
Movement of a Jewish Community ... Eddie Cohen

3.00-3.25 TEA
3.30 Licensed Victuallers ... Dr Coleen Cox

3.50 A Community Destroyed - The Building
of Heathrow Airport ... Dr Philip Sherwood

4.30 Close of the Day.

COST £4, TICKETS FROM BRIAN WARREN BEFORE 31 JANUARY 1996.

EDITORIAL

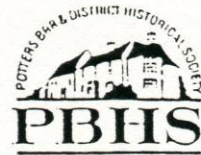
As a newcomer to Potters Bar, I was surprised to learn that very few PB&DHS members actually patronise our excellent Museum. It would be nice if every member, who was physically, able could visit the Museum at least once during 1996. In fact, the major exhibitions are actually changed twice a year, so more than one visit each would be mutually-rewarding!

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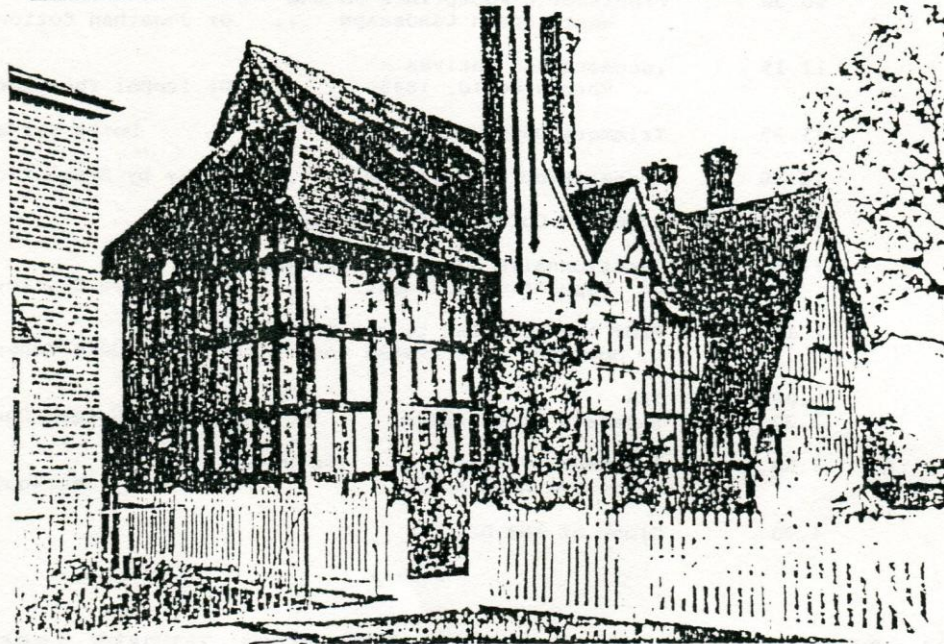
Please note that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on THURSDAY 25TH APRIL 1996 in the Old People's Welfare centre at the Wyllyotts Centre, 8pm sharp. The AGM will be followed by a talk on "Fir and Pond Woods" by Mr John Scivyer.

If any members are able to display, either at home or in some other place, A5 or A4 sized posters to advertise our monthly meetings, publications or half-yearly Museum exhibitions, would they contact Brian Warren.

The
Journal



of the Potters Bar & District Historical Society No.9



THE COTTAGE HOSPITAL c1905

POTTERS BAR HOSPITAL (1884 - 1948)

THE TELEPHONE IN POTTERS BAR

WASH LANE COMMON

A free copy of The Journal shown above has been sent to all paid-up members (according to the Treasurer's records). Others will find a Membership Subscription Form attached.

PLEASE DO NOT USE IT IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID FOR THIS YEAR
(up to March 31st 1996).