

The Newsletter

MAY 1996

VOL. 12 NO. 3

COVER PICTURES

This is the second in the series of black and white photographs of Potters Bar, taken by Mr. E. Bartlett, a past Secretary of the Society, between 1969 and 1972.



The above picture complements that on the front page of the last Newsletter, but shows the War Memorial, The Causeway, the Police Station and the British Legion HQ, on the corner of Cotton Road.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello There

Well Spring is almost upon us and what a great delight to see the sun and flowers opening up around us, a small glimpse of lighter evenings and warmer days to come, we hope.

Quite a lot has happened since the last Newsletter. Hertsmere Borough Council are now funding us on a yearly basis, as well as advertising the Society and Museum. We are also having an Agreement with the Council putting the Museum on a legal footing. On the whole, the temporary re-location of the Museum to another floor within Wyllyotts has been welcomed by members and visitors alike. Nevertheless, we intend to pursue our aim of a permanent building in which to house the Museum, to enable it to expand, as it surely will. To this end we are having regular meetings with HBC.

Please note the summer coach outings that we have arranged; details on the back page.

Good wishes to all our members and we hope to see some of you at our monthly lectures. Keep Happy!

THE REPORT OF THE 37TH AGM

The Chairman announced that the evening's speaker, John Scivyer, was unwell and unable to attend the meeting. The members present sent their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

John Donovan, the Secretary, in presenting his first report, noted the need for more volunteers to serve on the committee. Summer outings had been to Banbury, Burford and Bishops Stortford. Membership had remained about the same as last year. The Secretary mentioned that the Museum was now established in its new location upstairs at the Wyllyotts Centre.

The Acting-Treasurer, Brian Warren, presented the accounts, noting that over £1,000 referred to the Westminster Abbey outing later in May. The report was duly approved by the membership.

The gift of a portable radio was then presented to Muriel Brittain, who retired as President, having served in that position since 1973. Gift tokens were then given to the retiring committee members - Eileen Field, Joan Charlton and Denis Lore - who were thanked for their various services to the Society.

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE for 1996/7

President	Mr B Warren
Vice-Presidents	Dr J.P.C Kent, Mr T.G Goulding
Chairman	Ms J Foster
Vice-Chairman	Mr A Davey
Hon. Secretary	Mr J Donovan
Asst. Hon Secretary	Mr T.G Goulding
Hon. Treasurer	VACANT
Hon. Archivist	Mr B Warren
Committee	Mr B Kolbert
	4 VACANCIES

Mr I Cumming stated that he was willing to serve on the Committee.

The meeting concluded with a talk by Mr B Warren, ably supported by Mr T.G Goulding, on "A Walk from Northaw to Goffs Oak via Cuffley."

PUBLICATIONS

Following the success of our sales' outlet at The Healthfood Shop, in The Broadway, courtesy of Cynthia Wade, we are pleased to announce that in future our publications can also be bought at Brays Commercial Stationers, 84 High Street, courtesy of the proprietor.

This will be of great assistance to those people living in the eastern part of Potters Bar.

MUSEUM NEWS

THE OFFICIAL RE-OPENING

Wednesday 31st January 1996 saw the official re-opening of the Museum. People started to arrive at 10.30am and soon everyone was chatting happily, local Councillors, Mrs. Muriel Brittain, M.P.S (our President), Society Committee members and our chief guests, James Clappison (MP for Hertsmere) and Mikki Colne (Mayor of Hertsmere). There was sherry to start with, and the Museum staff had laid on an enticing finger buffet, complete with tea and coffee

There were reporters from the 'Potters Bar Times' and the 'Press' to record the event, while Terry Goulding took photos for our Society records.

At 11am the ceremony commenced. Mikki Colne introduced our MP, Mr Clappison. In declaring the Museum open, he said how impressed he was with the Museum's wonderful new home. He admitted that Local History was actually one of his own interests, and he was delighted to see such interests manifested in the Potters Bar Museum; he hoped it would be promoted as widely as possible. He spoke of the importance of Local History within the wider context of our National History, so important in the schools' curriculum. Observing that Potters Bar was rich in local history, Mr Clappison added that everyone was proud of the Museum, and he wished it every success

Bouquets of flowers were then presented to Mr. Clappison, and to Mikki Colne, who complimented Jean Foster on choosing her favourite flowers.

The assembled company had just moved on to the buffet, and resumed their conversations, when a raucous buzzer sounded and a member of staff rushed in and announced there was a fire alert and asked everyone to assemble outside! It proved to be a fire-alarm fault, and most of the guests returned to the Museum to resume eating, drinking and chatting.

All-in-all we can be very pleased with, and proud of the re-opening ceremony; it went off very smoothly and everyone seemed relaxed and comfortable. Thanks and congratulations are due to Brian Warren, Jean Foster and everyone else who organised the event, not forgetting Hertsmere Borough Council for their help and support on our behalf.

This was good publicity for both the Museum and the Society.

Since the re-opening, adjustments and improvements have been made within the Museum. Though the number of visitors has been significantly down on Sundays, for the Antique Fayres, the other days have seen plenty of activity and interest from the general public.

EXHIBITION. JULY TO DECEMBER 1996.

"Photographic Views in and around Potters Bar (1930-50)

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, in particular, for TUESDAY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1996/7 are now due. An early return of the enclosed form would be appreciated.

If one does not intend to renew ones subscription, kindly inform our Membership Secretary, Eileen Field, 51 High View Gardens, telephone 653801.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Old Ordnance Survey Maps

Potters Bar (North) and Little Heath 1896

Published by Alan Godfrey Maps. Price £1.85

Whilst the reproduction of the Ordnance Survey map is of interest, the accompanying text must be treated with caution. For example, line 7 refers to 'mid-Victorian', which should be 'late'. The last sentence of the third paragraph states, "The High Street and the Causeway marked the boundary of the former Enfield Chase", this was not so, as between the High Street and Enfield Chase there was a strip of land belonging to the Manor of Wyllyotts, i.e. the site of all the present shops. The present Causeway was within Enfield Chase. Oakmere House is said to have been built in 1840, whereas the first reference to a house on the site was in 1797, and the present Victorian house was built after a fire in 1864 and then called Oakmere. According to the text the remains of the Zeppelin crews 'taken back to Germany', whereas in fact they were reburied in Cannock Chase.

"Barnet Pubs". by Richard Selby. Price £8.95.

This was published just before Christmas and sold well; it has a very attractive cover painting of Barnet at the time of the Fair, in 1849, by Edmund Walter Webb, copyright of Sothebys. Unfortunately, the quality of the cover is not contained in the contents of the book. There are numerous errors of fact and

examples of mistakes in evidence gathered by the author. Even if one produces a very readable book for local consumption, it is the responsibility of the author to ensure that all attempts have been made to avoid any inaccuracies of fact. Once in print the book is assumed, by the reader, to be correct. For example, in the early 1950's Mr. Butcher wrote about what he regarded as the line of the Great North Road; this was corrected by Arnold Lynch (See Potters Bar Historical Series, No. 2, 1986). Forty years on, one is still receiving enquiries based on Mr. Butcher's incorrect facts.

The Society's Archivist has a complete list of the errors in the above publications.

"folly island". by Rosemary E. Bennett. Price £2.50
Hertford and Ware Local History Society.
Occasional Paper No.2. Reprinted 1993.

Marion Conway drew my attention to the above publication, which describes the development of Folly Island, in Hertford. In 1778, Abraham Andrews first leased a plot, and from a little later the family was established as builders' and timber merchants, in Castle Street, until 1967 when the Gascoyne Way Relief Road severed the house from its gardens. Subsequent descendants were Robert Thornton and William Frampton Andrews, who developed the roads retaining their names in Little Heath. They were avid collectors, who later displayed their acquisitions, free of charge, to the public, at 56 Fore Street. Eventually, after a very similar experience to the acquiring of the Wyllyotts Museum, their persistence resulted in the establishment of Hertford Museum, probably their most lasting gift to the town.

On page 36, there is a photograph of William Frampton, Samuel, Robert Thornton and Walter Andrews in the garden of No.25 Castle Street, c.1906.

The author has written other works on Sele Mill and Horns Mill.

B.Warren.

WANTED

John Scivyer is anxious to own a complete set of all the material published by The Society. To achieve this he needs copies of Nos. 2 and 4 of The Journal. Does anyone have surplus or unwanted copies of these? John may be contacted on 01707 657586 or through The Society. A small reward will be considered!

Note: The Editor is willing to publish any other 'small ads' that members may have.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST

"All love is sweet
Given or Returned,
Common as light is love,
And its familiar voice
Wearies not ever."

P.B.Shelley (1818-1819)

FINSBURY PARK; WHY THE NAME?

Commuters from Potters Bar and neighbouring stations who travel through Finsbury Park each day may be interested to know how the station achieved its name.

The London district of Finsbury lies immediately to the north of the City, adjoining Clerkenwell to the west and Shoreditch to the east. The present inner suburb of Finsbury Park and the open space of that name are about three miles to the north and, on the face of it, there is no obvious connection. So, how did the area and the GNR station end up with that name? The answer came in an article in a recent Newsletter of the Islington Archaeological and Historical Society.

The people of Clerkenwell and Islington during the 1840's were becoming worried by the extent of building in what was then open land to the north of the City. They petitioned the Commissioner of Woods and Forests, asking for a Parliamentary Bill authorising the purchase of land to be laid out as a park comprising 500 acres bounded by the Holloway and Hornsey roads in the west and Green Lanes, the road to Enfield, to the east, with a main entrance in Highbury. It was to have been named Albert Park. This could be described as an early attempt to form the nucleus of a 'Green Belt'.

The Bill was presented twice but both times the Government fell from office before it could get a reading. As time passed, building in the area defined above continued unabated and by the mid-1850's, it was no longer possible to lay out the park as planned.

Before 1885, the Finsbury Parliamentary Division was represented by two members and the Division extended from the City of London boundary out as far as Finchley and Friern Barnet. In 1857, William Cox MP finally introduced a measure and the Act was passed. It was called the FINSBURY PARK BILL.

It was not until 1865 that plans were prepared by the Metropolitan Board of Works, embracing 113 acres. The land cost £54,000. Bickering over the design went on for several years so the park wasn't opened until 1869. The GNR promptly renamed Seven Sisters station as 'Finsbury Park' and it was to become one of the major junctions of the line. Not for nothing did the Islington Gazette comment in 1867: "Finsbury-Park and delay seem to be synonymous terms". Some cynics might say that at times, that could have been said of the station too!

Gordon Eve

SUMMER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Friday May 24th. "The Parliamentary History of Enfield", by Mr. Graham Dalling.

Potters Bar was once part of Enfield Parliamentary Constituency and, with the imminence of a General Election, this lecture promises to be topical. The core of the lecture will be devoted to the period from the formation of the Enfield Parliamentary Division in 1885 to modern times.

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

MEMBERS' NEWS

Since the last Newsletter, the following people have joined the Society; Mr. T.C Field, Mr. & Mrs. Stanbrook, Mrs. M Brace, Mr. J Evett, Mr. R Franklin, Mr. R Panteney, Mr. P Moon, Mr. E.G Pearce and Mrs L.F. Bennett.

We extend a warm welcome to them and trust that they will find their membership to be of interest and benefit.

It has come to our notice that the following members, Jim Basinger, Denis King, Alan Johnson, John Scivyer and Val Horsefield, have had a period of ill-health and we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

It is with regret that we record the passing of Mr Flowers. He was regular worshipper at St. Mary's and known to many of our members. We extend the Society's condolences to his wife and family.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

MEMBERS TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We urgently need:-

**A TREASURER
A MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
A PROGRAMME SECRETARY
AND UP TO THREE COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

PLEASE HELP YOUR SOCIETY

**IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE PHONE:-
POTTERS BAR 642886 OR 647015**

SUMMER OUTINGS

WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE

An historical evening stroll, commencing at the Furzeffield Centre. Meet by the Astroturf at 6.30pm for 6.45pm.

The walk, which will be led by Brian Warren, will go via Furzeffield Wood, past Warrengate Farm to Mimms Hall, and returning to the Furzeffield Centre.

SATURDAY 20TH JULY

Muriel Brittain has consented to host a visit to Jesus College, Cambridge, which is limited to twenty-two members. As in previous years, members can park in the Jesus College grounds, and may like to take the opportunity to visit Cambridge during the morning.

Members are asked to meet Muriel in the College carpark at 3pm, where the tour will commence, followed by tea.

If one interested in taking part in the tour, please contact Brian Warren, 6 Church Close, Cuffley. EN6 4LS. (01707 875617), before Monday 1st July. If anyone needs, or can offer, a lift, please inform Brian at the same time.

RECORDER GROUP

Following the request in the last newsletter, grateful thanks are expressed to Don Green for taking over Area No.4.

Vacancies still exist for Nos 2,5 and 8.

The next meeting of the Recorder Group will be on Thursday 6th June at 62 Ladbrooke Drive, commencing at 8pm.

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IF there be righteousness
in the heart, there will be
beauty in the character.
If there is beauty in the
character there will be
harmony in the home. If
there is harmony in the
home, there will be order
in the nation. When there
is order in each nation
there will be peace in the
world.

Very old Chinese Proverb.



Potters Bar & District Historical Society

Regd. Charity No.299475

Be a Volunteer

The Committee invites members to assist in the running of the Society. Therefore it would be appreciated if one could indicate YES or No, whichever is applicable to the following questions:-

MUSEUM

Willing to steward on:-	Tuesday	2.30-4.30	YES	NO
	Wednesday	2.30-4.30	YES	NO
	Saturday	2.00-4.00	YES	NO
	Sunday occasionally		YES	NO
	Other days, if arranged		YES	NO
Help with woodwork, painting, etc.			YES	NO
Willing to type			YES	NO
Willing to catalogue			YES	NO
Join the map colouring group, which has met twice a month on Tuesday evenings (7.30-9.45), to colour the 1594 and 1745 maps which the Society has sold in the past.			YES	NO
Join a Research group			YES	NO
Please indicate research interest				

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Willing to help with the tea/coffee	YES	NO
Willing to help set out the chairs at 7.15 p.m.	YES	NO
Willing to give a vote of thanks once a year	YES	NO

MISCELLANEOUS

Access to photocopying facilities	YES	NO
Access to duplicating facilities	YES	NO

A Society with over two hundred members must possess a wealth of individual ability, either professional or resulting from one's hobby. For example one knows of sign writers, artists, surveyors, railway enthusiasts, etc. all belonging to the Society. If you have a skill which could be of use, please indicate

Thank You

NAME (Block letters)

PLEASE RETURN TO 15 GREGORY AVENUE or 19 CRINGLE CT, THORNTON RD

POTTERS BAR AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ENFIELDIAN COACH OUTINGS 1996

* Tues 25th June. "JANE AUSTEN COUNTRY". £10.45

This new tour takes us through Chawton where Jane Austen derived her inspiration to write "Persuasion" and "Emma". We stop for lunch in Winchester, where she was buried in the Cathedral. The tour next stops at the Viables Craft Centre near Basingstoke. Here, we can browse around the workshops of a craft community that supplies a high quality of workmanship for gifts and commissioned work. There will be time for tea at this stop. Home by approx. 7pm.

BOOKING DEADLINE 22nd May.

* Fri 20th September. "STAMFORD MARKET AND RUTLAND WATER" £10.95

Stamford is one of our finest stone towns and is the centre of this tour. The view from Barn Hill is unforgettable. On the return journey we drive around Rutland Water to stop for tea in Oakham. Home approx. 7pm.

BOOKING DEADLINE 17TH August.

The pick-up point for both tours will be at the bus-stop in the Southgate Road at the junction with Highview Gardens.

Tues. 25 June Jane Austen Country, pick-up time 9.10am.

Fri. 20 Sept. Stamford Market, pick-up time 10.20am

Cheques to be made payable to "Oakfield Tours Ltd", and sent with this form to Jean Foster, by the dates indicated above.

CUT-----

To: Jean Foster, 15 Gregory Avenue. Potters Bar. EN6 5PX
(phone 647015)

Please reserve ... seats for the Jane Austen trip:

Please reserve ... seats for the Stamford trip:

I enclose cheque for total £.....* payable to Oakfield Tours Ltd.

Name (please print).....

Signed

Address.....



SEPARATE CHEQUES
FOR EACH TRIP PLEASE