

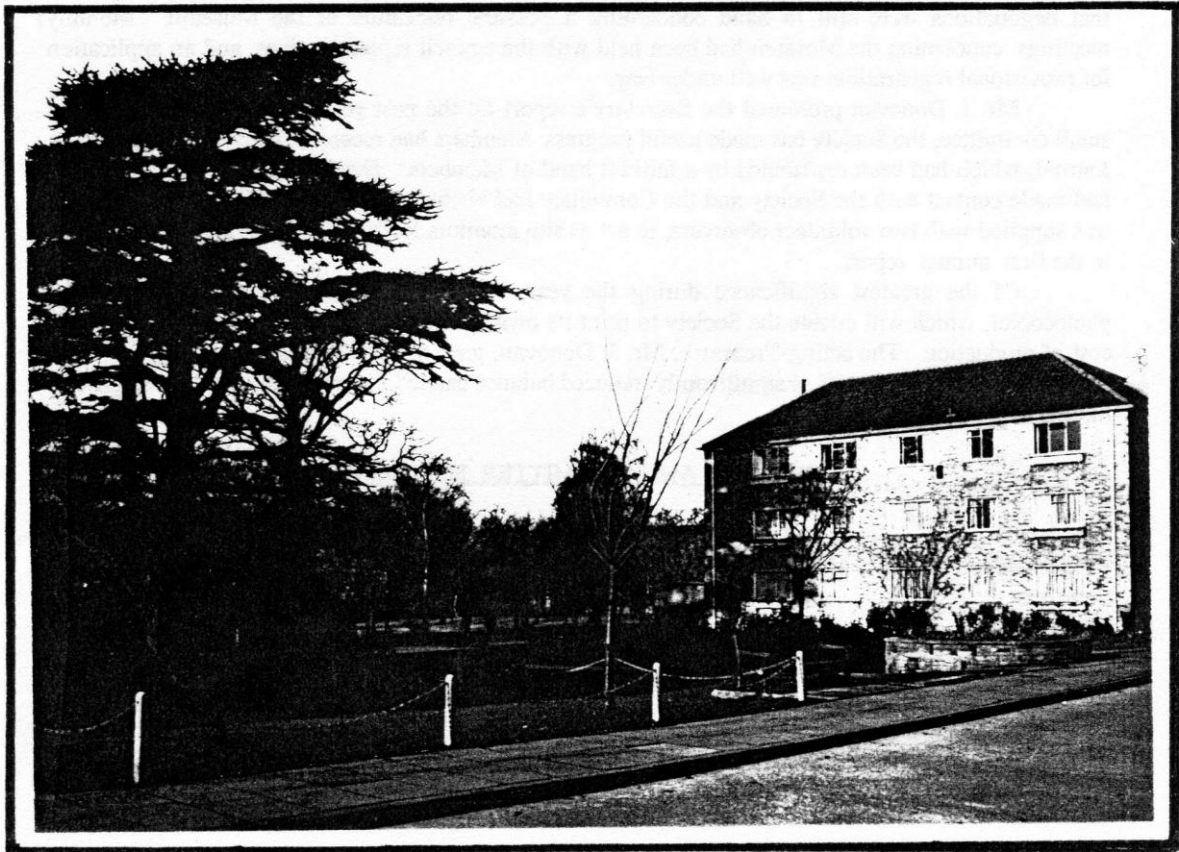
The Newsletter

MAY 1997

VOL. 13 NO. 3

COVER PICTURE

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



The above picture shows the entrance to Parkfield Park with the magnificent Cedar of Lebanon on the left. In more recent times one of its boughs was torn off by a ferocious gale. On the right is one of the blocks of Parkside flats, the left one, which is not shown on the picture, is on the site of the former Parkfield house, which was demolished in the mid-1930's.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings.

The start of a new and interesting summer season. At the AGM your committee was voted in en bloc, and we would like to take the opportunity to welcome a new member to the committee, Mr. T.C.Field. We are, I would add, still in need of a Treasurer; this particular position does not take up too much time per month. Also, we need Museum Stewards for Tuesday afternoons, 2.30 - 4.30pm, once a month or once every two months. The more helpers we have, the less each one has to do; please give this some thought. The number to ring is **653449**, Brian Kolbert, Co-ordinator.

As you will see, we are arranging two outings, one in June and one in September, plus two walks, one by B. Warren and one by J. Donovan. Details will be found below. Later in the season we shall be holding a Quiz/Social evening, details of which will appear in the next Newsletter.

We trust that our choice of lectures proves to be of interest to our Members, and we look forward to meeting you at one or all of these. If any of you have a special subject on which you would like to hear a lecture, please phone Mrs. Joan Charlton, our programmes Organiser (**658532**).

We look forward to seeing you all sometime during the year.

THE REPORT OF THE 38TH AGM

Ms. J. Foster, the Chairman, welcomed Members to the meeting, and informed those present that negotiations were still in hand concerning a possible relocation of the Museum. Monthly meetings concerning the Museum had been held with the council representatives, and an application for provisional registration was well under way.

Mr. J. Donovan presented the Secretary's report on the past year, noting that in spite of a small committee, the Society has made useful progress. Members had received three Newsletters and a Journal, which had been distributed by a faithful band of Members. The Friends of Bushey Museum had made contact with the Society and the Committee had visited the Museum. The National Trust was supplied with two volunteer observers, to act as site monitors for Morven Park, and they had sent in the first annual report.

Of the greatest significance during the year, was the purchase of a new Canon 6216 photocopier, which will enable the Society to print its own publications at a significant saving in the cost of production. The acting-Treasurer, Mr. J. Donovan, gave a brief summary of factors affecting the accounts., which showed a significantly reduced balance carried forward, due to the purchase of the above photocopier.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1997/8

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. Sec.	Mr. J. Donovan.
Asst. Hon. Sec.	Mr. T.G. Goulding.
Hon. Treasurer	VACANT
Hon. Archivist	Mr. B. Warren.
Committee	Mr. I. Cumming, Mr. T.C. Field, Mr. B. Kolbert, 3 VACANCIES

After the termination of the AGM, Mrs. M. Smith gave an interesting talk on "Estovers, Turbery and All That", which enlightened everyone present to the significance of these terms.

PUBLICATIONS

Since obtaining the new Canon photocopier, Nos. 3,4,5 & 6 of The Journal have been reprinted, and are available from the normal sources, price £1 each. It is hoped that Nos. 1 & 2 will be available in the near future. These reprints have been unavailable for some time and should be of interest to any new members.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH EVENTS

Members may be interested in the following:-

- ⇒ **25th May.** A walk, organised by the Friends of St. Mary's. Details from Geoff Foster on 658837.
- ⇒ **22 nd June.** A private garden open to the public, organised by the Social Committee of St. Mary's, The Walk. For details, phone 644539.

MUSEUM NEWS

The forthcoming exhibition, commencing on Tuesday 1st July, is entitled, "The Motor Bus in and around Potters Bar." Our Society member, Ron Kingdom, has provided many of the illustrations and for this we are grateful to him. Several of the other exhibitions will be changed at the same time.

In accordance with the Service Level Agreement between Hertsmere Borough Council and the Society, the first annual report ending 31st March was submitted to the Council.

During the year the Museum was opened 161 times with an attendance of 1,991 visitors. Two exhibitions were displayed - "Photographic Views in and around Potters Bar (1930-1950)" and "Leisure in Potters Bar from 1897." Both proved to be of great interest to our visitors, as can be seen from the 256 entries in the Visitors' Book.

Visits were made by local schools, and other educational establishments were provided with information.

In addition, the Archivist dealt with 26 general enquiries, 10 family history, 10 identification of objects, 8 school topics, 5 'A' level projects, 5 history of properties and the provision of copies of photographs. The second batch of local War Memorial recordings was sent to the Imperial War Museum.

Grateful thanks are expressed Messrs. D. Green, T. Goulding, B. Kolbert and D. Lore for organising the rotas and to those who have acted as voluntary stewards.

MUSEUM STEWARDS

As our Chairman pointed out at the AGM, stewards are urgently required for Tuesday 2.30 - 4.30pm and if anyone thinks they can be of assistance, please contact Mr. B. Kolbert (653449) as soon as possible.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1997/8 are now due. An early return of the attached 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.

SUMMER LECTURE PROGRAMME

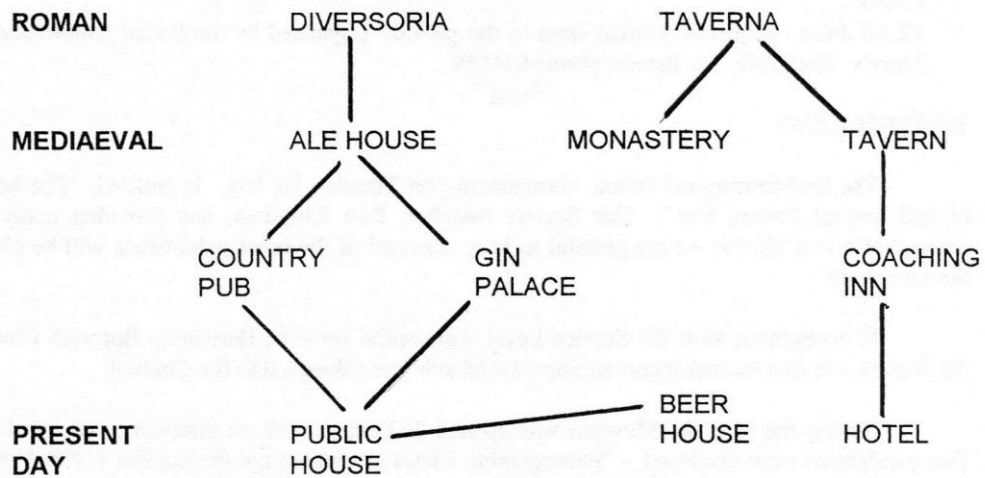
Tuesday May 27th. "Queen Eleanor and the Crosses Erected in Her Memory.", by Mr. Jack Edwards.

For many years Mr. Edwards was librarian and local historian of Cheshunt. In this respect he became an acknowledged expert on that area, and since his retirement has organised 'Third Age' courses using the facilities of the Hertfordshire County Record Office.

Mr. Edwards has spoken to the Society on previous occasions and his lectures have always been of a high standard and fully appreciated by the audience. Therefore, his chosen subject of the Eleanor Crosses should not be missed.

THE MEETING STARTS AT 8PM **PROMPT** IN THE 60 PLUS CENTRE, WYLLYOTTS CENTRE. ALL ARE WELCOME. ADMISSION IS FREE.

EVOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC HOUSE



(Grateful acknowledgements to the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society).

SUMMER OUTINGS

- **Saturday 14th June and Sunday 7th September**
Enfieldian outings; see the attached form.
- **Thursday 26th June.** Historical walk led by Mr. B. Warren.
Meet 6.30 for 6.45pm at the junction of Dugdale Hill Lane and Santers Lane. The walk will take in Santers Lane, Bentley Heath Lane and will return by Sawyers Lane.
- **September.** Historical walk led by Mr. J. Donovan; details in the next Newsletter.

RECORDER GROUP

As a result of Ian Warwick moving to Anglesey, the Recorder Group has been re-organised so that the Potters Bar area is now divided into nine sections.

The next meeting of the Group will be Thursday 29th May, at 9 Hill Rise, courtesy of John and Doreen Scivyer. The meeting starts at 8pm.

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Illustrated Lectures have been arranged for the autumn season (speakers to be confirmed). These will be held at the Tilbury Hall, Darkes Lane, commencing at 8pm, admission £1.50. Dates as follows:

Thursday, September 18th.

Thursday, October 23rd.

Thursday, December 18th.

For further details contact Mrs. P. Hardiment, 34 Parkside, High Street, Potters Bar, EN6 5AU.

ROMAN COIN HOARD

In July 1995 a local metal detectorist, with the permission of the local landowner, discovered a Roman coin hoard of 65 denarii at Potters Bar. A further number of coins belonging to the same hoard was found during the summer of 1996. Dating from the reign of Claudius (AD41-54) to that of Commodus (AD177-192), most of the coins are in remarkably good condition.

The fact that the coins represent a continuous succession of Emperors means that this coin hoard was accumulated over several decades, probably by one person. This find adds to the previously known Roman activity in the area.

Mill Green Museum has acquired this exciting hoard, for which it has had to provide a sophisticated security-cabinet, and plans to display the coins in the near future.

STOP PRESS!

The Herts. Archaeological Trust's current excavation of a mediaeval cemetery at Haverhill, Suffolk, is producing large numbers of burials, all of which need cleaning and processing.

Would you like to help?

Work is now under way, so we need to know as soon as possible. If you want to help, please contact the Trust Administrator, Carole North, on
01992 558170

POTTERS BAR - BIRTHPLACE OF AN EDWARDIAN PARACHUTIST

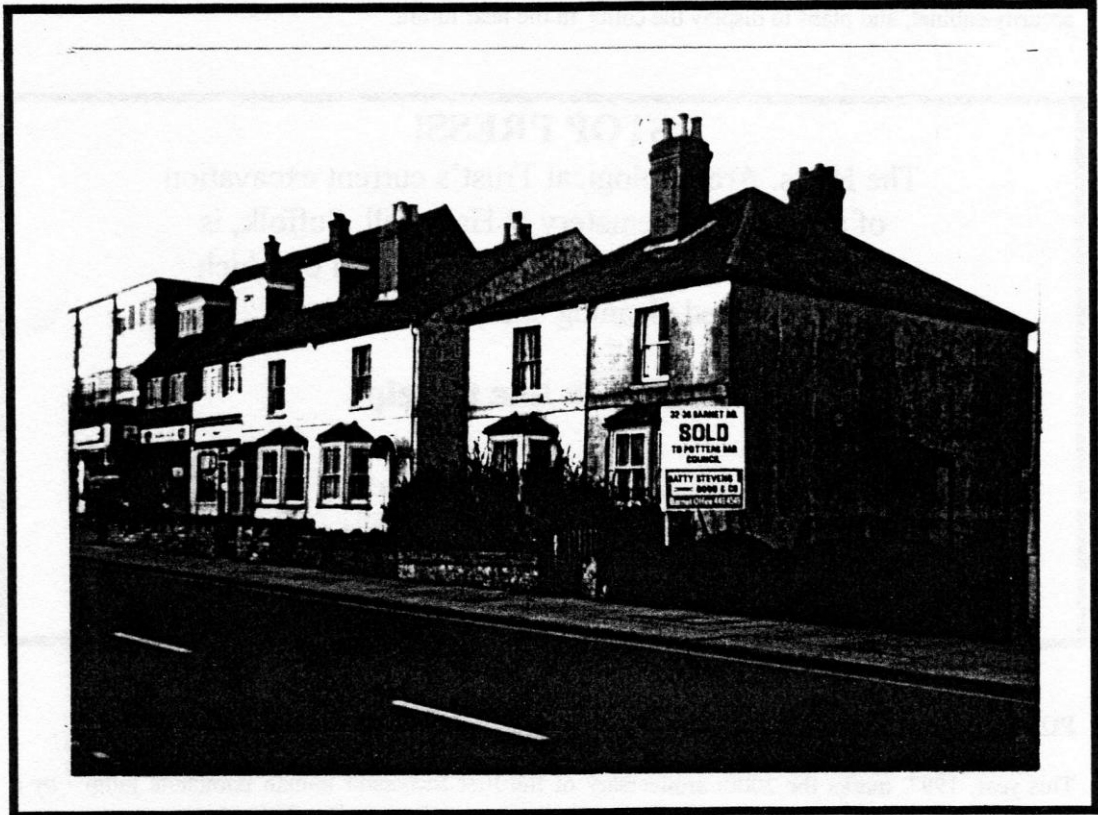
This year, 1997, marks the 200th anniversary of the first successful human parachute jump - by a Frenchman, Andre-Jacques Garnerin, from a balloon over Paris. His fifth jump was made over London from where Selfridges stands today.

But what, you ask, has this to do with Potters Bar? Garnerin was the first of many parachute pioneers, one of whom, many years on in the 1880s, was born in this town and became a renowned Edwardian parachutist. Her name was Dolly Shepherd, who made many hazardous balloon ascents and parachute descents over Alexander Palace and numerous other pleasure venues in Britain. No harness and reserve parachute for her, just a wooden trapeze bar to grip with her hands and a webbing "sling" between her legs to help take the weight of her body.

Recently, while revising and updating my history of the parachute, "The Big Umbrella", first published in 1973 and due to re-appear this summer, I re-read Dolly's autobiography "When the 'Chute Went Up". Potters Bar was given as her birthplace in the first paragraph, but not the specific location. Dolly died many years ago, so I got in touch with her daughter, Molly Sedgwick, whom I had first met 23 years ago, and who obligingly sought out Dolly's birth certificate. This stated that she was in 1886 in Hawthorne Villas in Potters Bar. All Molly could recall was that Dolly had told her she remembered hearses passing by on their way to the cemetery.

In Mutton Lane then, near Potters Bar cemetery? But this cemetery did not exist in 1880s. However there was another cemetery at hand - a few hundred yards away up the road at St. John's Church, now demolished, in the High Street. So where was Hawthorne Villas? It was our Society's archivist, Brian Warren, who helpfully located them for me. These houses, a block of four semi-detacheds, appear on maps showing the development of the east side of the Barnet Road between the Lion public house and the Baptist Chapel 1911-1935 (see PBHS Occasional Papers. No. 6, 'The Barnet Road', by G.L.Field).

32-38 Barnet Road (originally 1-4 Hawthorne Villas)



(Photographed by B. Warren, April 1971, just prior to demolition in July of that year)

The villas were numbered 1 to 4 (32-38 Barnet Road). The number of Dolly's house is unknown. They were demolished in 1971, and made way for the Toc H hall and the small car-park owned by Hertsmere Council, at the southern end of the parade of shops.

The Shepherd family did not stay long in Potters Bar. They left after a year or two and took up residence at No 15 Station Road, New Southgate - a happy choice for Dolly, for there in the middle distance, hugging the skyline, was the hulk of Alexandra Palace, where she was launched on her parachuting career, which she pursued between 1904 and 1912.

* * *

In my book I had described a hazardous, nearly fatal double descent from a balloon in 1908, made by Dolly in the Midlands, near Uttoxeter, in Staffordshire, in company with a younger woman. Although Dolly broke her back, she was determined to survive - and did. From scant information I had when writing my book, I assumed Dolly had died. But not at all. After publication, I received a letter from Molly, telling me Dolly was alive and well and living in Eastbourne. "Do come and visit her," she said. I seized the chance, and spent two or three hours with Dolly and Molly, listening enthralled to Dolly's reminiscences and looking through her photographs.

Dolly died in 1983 - only just two months before her 97th birthday. Her life had been busy, fulfilling and rich in excitement. Her autobiography, published in 1983, has recently been revised by her daughter - a thrilling saga, but one that ended with a surprising abruptness.

During her eight years of parachuting, Dolly made scores of parachute descents. Then, one day in 1912, while in mid-air, she heard an inner voice. Its message was clear: she must never make another parachute drop. If she disobeyed, she was told, she would die. Dolly obeyed, and never took to the skies again.

There is an unusual memorial to Dolly at "Ally Pally". Near the Great Hall is a mural depicting scenes from the Palace's life, and among them, in a familiar pose, is Dolly Shepherd, in her neat uniform of peaked cap, knickerbocker suit and boots, the trappings of a parachute queen of a bygone age.

I feel honoured to have met a woman with such panache and such courage. Potters Bar should be proud, too, that such a woman occupies a place in its history.

John Lucas.

● The revised edition of "When the 'Chute Went Up", by Dolly Shepherd with Peter Hearn and Molly Sedgwick, is published by Skyline and is available at £8.95 (hardback).

● An updated edition of "The Big Umbrella", John Lucas's history of the parachute from Leonardo da Vinci to the present time, will be re-published by Airlife in paperback under the title "The Silken Canopy", in June 1997. It will contain the original foreword by the late Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Brian Kolbert has advised us of the following events which may interest our members:-

- ◆ **Conference on Early Christian Archaeology.** 26-28th June 1997. An overview of recent work in the British Isles and Mediterranean Europe. Venue:- Society of Antiquities of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1V 0HS. Write to the Society's general Secretary for details.
- ◆ **Roman Finds Group, Verulamium Museum, Spring Meeting.** Museum visit and review of recent excavations in the area. For details write to Roy Friendship-Taylor, Toad Hall, 86 Main Street, Hackleton, Northampton. NN7 2AD.

AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)

September 23 1997. "Hertfordshire Bridges", by Mr. R. Lavender.

October 23 1997. "St. Paul's Cathedral", by Mr. John Lockyer.

November 21 1997. "Ancient Egyptian Art and Paintings", by Daphne Skinner M. Phil. B. Sc.

HERTFORDSHIRE'S PAST

Members wishing to obtain the latest issue (No.41) of this excellent magazine should, in future, purchase a copy from their local library. This Autumn/Winter 1996 edition costs £1.25 and has articles on 'Growing up in Hatfield before 1945', 'The Leasing of Lord Burghley's Hoddesden Woodland in 1595', 'John Dickinson and the Brandywine' and 'George Alfred Muskett, 1788-1843'. costs £1.25.

There was a Crooked Man

*There was a crooked man
Who walked a crooked mile.
He found a crooked sixpence
Against a crooked stile.
He bought a crooked cat,
Which caught a crooked mouse,
And they all lived together in a little crooked house.*



This rhyme commemorates the bloodless battle of Duns (1639), during the Scottish Bishops' War, and the "crooked man" in question was Sir Alexander Leslie (c. 1580-1661), later 1st Earl of Leven and Lord Balgonie (1641).

It was as Lord General of the Army of the Covenant fighting against the Church reforms of King Charles I that he marched, or "walked a crooked mile," from Edinburgh to the Scottish border, or the "crooked stile." There he met King Charles I, who was also known as the "crooked sixpence" due to his constant lack of money to pay his troops. The Scottish Army was the "crooked cat."

Although the rhyme states that the cat caught the "crooked mouse," there was no true battle and both armies went their separate ways – and lived together in a "little crooked house," or Britain.

They did not live together in peace for long, however, for only three years later both armies were again at odds in the English Civil War.

We are indebted to Stuart G.C. Morris of Balgonie Castle for this explanation. The 14th century castle is open to the public. (For further information, tel: 01592 750119).

Wylliotts Museum and Local History Centre

POTTERS BAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COLLECTION

POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ARCHIVE - marked PBHS

HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW

PBHS No.	I69	Hertfordshire	Aræological	Review		Spring	I970
	I70	"	Archæological	Review		Autumn	I970
	I71	"	"	"		Autumn	I97I
	I72	"	"	"	No.6	Christmas	I972
	I73	"	"	"	No.9	Autumn	I974

HERTFORDSHIRE Past and Present

PBHS No.	I74	Hertfordshire	Past	and	Present	No.	IO	I970
	I75	"	"	"	"	"	II	I97I
	I76	"	"	"	"	"	I2	I972
	I77	"	"	"	"	"	I3	I973

HERTFORDSHIRE'S PAST

PBHS No.	I78	Hertfordshire's	Past	No.	I	(SEE MAP ON BACK)	Autumn	I976
	I79	"	"	"	2		Spring	I977
	I80	"	"	"	3		Autumn	I977
	I8I	"	"	"	4		Spring	I978
	I82	"	"	"	5		Autumn	I978
	I83	"	"	"	7		Autumn	I979
	I84	"	"	"	8		Spring	I980
	I85	"	"	"	9		Autumn	I980
	I86	"	"	"	IO		Spring	I98I
	I87	"	"	"	II		Autumn	I98I
	I88	"	"	"	I2		Spring	I982
	I89	"	"	"	I3		Autumn	I982
	I90	"	"	"	I4		Spring	I983
	I9I	"	"	"	I5		Autumn	I983
	I92	"	"	"	I7		Autumn	I984
	I93	"	"	"	I8		Spring	I985
	I94	"	"	"	I9		Autumn	I985
	I95	"	"	"	20		Spring	I986
	I96	"	"	"	22		Spring	I987
	I97	"	"	"	23		Autumn	I987
	I98	"	"	"	24		Spring	I988
	I99	"	"	"	25	(Index to I-25)	Autumn	I988
	200	"	"	"	26	Contents on back	Spring	I989
	20I	"	"	"	27		Autumn	I989
	202	"	"	"	28		Spring	I990
	203	"	"	"	29		Autumn	I990
	204	"	"	"	30		Spring	I99I
	205	"	"	"	3I		Autumn	I99I
	206	"	"	"	32		Spring	I992
	207	"	"	"	33		Autumn	I992
	208	"	"	"	34		Spring	I993
	209	"	"	"	35		Autumn	I993
	2IO	"	"	"	36		Spring	I994
	2II	"	"	"	37		Autumn	I994
	2I2	"	"	"	38		Spring	I995
	2I3	"	"	"	39		Autumn	I995
	2I4	"	"	"	40		Spring	I996

Wyllotts Museum and Local History Centre

POTTERS BAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COLLECTION

POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ARCHIVE - marked PBHS

HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

PBHS No.	215	HERTFORDSHIRE	ARCHAEOLOGY	Volume I	1968
	216	"	"	"	2 1970
	217	"	"	"	3 1973
	218	"	"	"	4 1974-76
	219	"	"	"	5 1977
	220	"	"	"	6 1978
	221	"	"	"	7 1979
	222	"	"	"	8 1980/82
	223	"	"	"	9 1983/86
	224	"	"	"	10 1988
	225	"	"	"	11 1993
	226	"	"	"	12 1997

LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS

PBHS No.	227	Southwark Excavations 1972-74	No.1	1978
	228	" " " 1972-74	No.2	1978
	229	Special Paper No.8	The Roman Quay at St Magnus House, London	1986
	230	" " " No.9	The Cemetery of St. Nicholas Shambles	1988
	231	" " " No.10	Surrey Whitewares	1988
	232	" " " No.15	Timber Building Techniques in London c.900-1400	1992
	233	Prehistoric London by Nick Merriman		1990
	234	Excavations in Staines 1975-76		
		The Friends' Burial Ground Site		1984
	235	Excavations in Southwark 1973-76	Lambeth 1973-79	1988
	236	The London & Middlesex Historian	No.1	July 1965
	237	The " & " " "	No.2	Dec. 1965
	238	The " & " " "	No.3	Oct. 1966
	239	The " & " " "	No.4	Apr. 1967
	240	Special Paper No.1	The Archaeology of the London area Current knowledge and problems	1976
	241	" " " No.2	Collectanea Londiniensia Studies presented to Ralph Merrifield	1978
	242	" " " No.3	The Roman Riverside Wall and Monumental Arch in London	1980
	243	" " " No.4	Excavations at Billigsgate Buildings Lower Thames Street, London, 1974	1980
	244	" " " No.5	Medieval Waterfront Development at Trig Lane, London	1982
	245	" " " No.6	Medieval Pottery London-Type Ware	1985
	246	" " " No.7	The Roman Art Treasures from the Temple of Mithras	1986

TRANSACTIONS OF THE LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PBHS No.	247	Volume 21	Part I	1963
	248	" 21	" 2	1965
	249	" 21	" 3	1967
	250	" 22	" 1	1968
	251	" 22	" 2	1969
	252	" 22	" 3	1970
	253	" 23	" 1	1971
	254	" 23	" 2	1972
	255	" 24		1973
	256	" 25		1974
	257	" 26		1975
	258	" 27		1976

*Potters Bar & District
Historical Society*

Regd. Charity No. 299475

Subscription commencing

April 1997 to March 1998

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name: (Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms)

Address:

Postcode:Telephone No.

**I/We enclose £ as my/our subscription to the
Potters Bar & District Historical Society.**

**Subscription:- Adults £3
 Family/Group £5**

Prompt payment is much appreciated - THANK YOU

**If it is not intended to renew your subscription,
please notify the Membership Secretary,
51, Highview Gardens,
Potters Bar,
Herts. EN6 5PN**

TELEPHONE:- 653801

If a receipt is required, please send a S.A.E.

Office Use	Adult	Subscription
	Family/Group	Date received
	Cash/cheque	Receipt No.

ENFIELDIAN COACH OUTINGS 1997

SATURDAY 14 JUNE 1997.
BESIDE THE AVON AT STRATFORD OR WARWICK
FARE £10.45.

Both of these historic towns are set on the River Avon in country that Shakespeare knew, with its ancient castle and manors. Stratford is steeped in the history of Shakespeare and it also has a world-renowned 'Teddy Bear Museum'. Set in an Elizabethan house, it includes the oldest and most valuable bears in the world. Warwick Castle spans 1,000 years of history and is the finest mediaeval castle in England. The state rooms contain a wealth of historic treasures, whilst the private apartments now house an exhibition, "A Royal Weekend Party 1898". Home by approximately 8pm.

Pick-up point is Southgate Road, Potters Bar, at 9.10am.

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 1997
RAMSGATE'S VICTORIAN FAIR or BROADSTAIRS.
FARE £9.00

An opportunity to enjoy either the atmosphere and stalls at Ramsgate's special Victorian Fair, or five hours beside the sea in the quiet, family resort of Broadstairs, renowned for its quaint harbour, beautiful gardens and associations with Charles Dickens. Home by approximately 8pm.

Pick-up point is Southgate Road, Potters Bar, at 8.00am.

Send application forms to Ms. J. Foster, 15 Gregory Avenue, Potters Bar, EN6 5PX.

☞ Please make cheques payable to **Oakfield Tours Ltd**, and send a **separate cheque for each outing**.

Closing date for applications for **June** outing is 6th June '97.

Closing date for applications for **Sept** outing is 28 August '97.



I/we wish to reserveplaces for the **SEPT. 7th** outing at £9.00 per person, and I enclose cheque for £.....

Name

Address.....

.....



I/we wish to reserveplaces for the **JUNE 14th** outing at £10.45 per person, and I enclose cheque for £.....

Name

Address.....

.....