

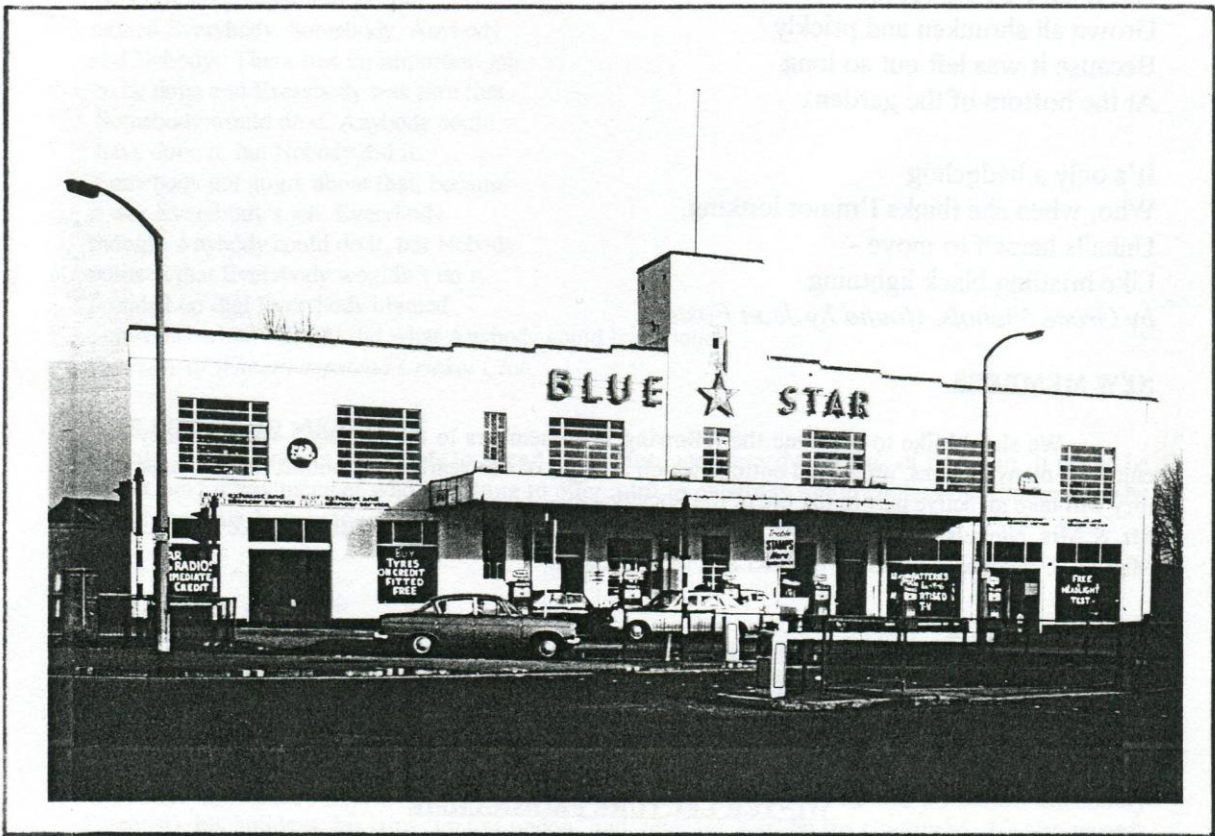
The Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 1998

VOL. 15 NO. 1

COVER PICTURE

This is the ninth 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 garage that once stood on the corner of Southgate Rd. and Barnet Rd. There does appear to have been a cottage on the site in 1745. However, in 1767 William Head surrendered two cottages to John Bliss, for which the annual rent charge to the Lord of the Manor of Wyllyotts was five shillings. Subsequently it became the site of "Sally" Vyse's sweet shop, though in 1891 Emma, for that was her real name, traded as a grocer. Part of the premises was damaged by fire in 1898, though Miss E. Vyse still had the house and shop in 1902. The site was vacant for many years but by 1938 Greyhound Garages Ltd., motor engineers, had been built. After the war it became the Blue Star and finally, Texaco, before it was demolished in December 1985 to make way for the new Abbey House.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello everyone,

Summer has flown past with its variances of weather, which included everything from gentle to torrential rain, winds and of course sunshine, mostly in tantalisingly short bursts, in spite of which, I trust you all enjoyed the holidays, whichever way you spent them.

Since our last Newsletter, Hertsmere Borough Council has provided a Museums Officer, namely Julie Massey, whom some of us have had the pleasure of meeting. She has been appointed to further and help all the Museums in the Borough. The Society would like to take this opportunity to congratulate her on the appointment and welcome her into our midst.

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GARDEN

No, it isn't an old football
Grown all shrunken and prickly
Because it was left out so long
At the bottom of the garden.

It's only a hedgehog
Who, when she thinks I'm not looking,
Unballs herself to move -
Like bristling black lightning.
by Grace Nichols. (found by Jean Foster).

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome the following new members to the Society. We trust they will enjoy the many lectures, walks and outings which are part of our yearly programme, and we hope that they will take an active part in the life of the Society:-

Mr. & Mrs. Nichols, Mr. J. Hubbard, Mr. S. Weston & Family, Mrs. B. Jenkins, Mr. & Mrs. Grosse Miss R. E. Pinchback., Mrs. J. Wheeler and Mrs R. Barry.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1998/9 are now due; adults £3, Family/Group £5. Send your cheque, payable to "Potters Bar & District Historical Society", to our Membership Secretary, Eileen Field, 51 High View Gardens, Herts. EN6 5PN. Tel. 653801. Prompt payment would be much appreciated.

If you do *not* intend to renew your subscription, kindly inform the Membership Secretary.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Friday September 25th. "The Anatomy Theatre of the Company of Barber Surgeons of London.",
by Professor Denis W. Hill.

Professor Hill was a reader in medical Physics at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and then Regional Scientific Officer for N.E.Thames region of the NHS. He is currently the Chairman of the Enfield Archaeological Society.

A papal order of 1215 had forbidden monks to shed blood, so the practice of surgery had been taken up by barbers. The London Guild of Barbers was founded in 1310. In 1540 the Guild merged with the Fellowship of surgeons to form the Company of Barber-Surgeons. There has been a Barber-Surgeons Hall on the same site since 1440. It was Henry VIII who granted the Company four bodies a year for the dissection which was so important to trainee surgeons (the bodies were those of executed criminals). In 1636 Inigo Jones designed an oval-plan Anatomy Theatre for the Hall, based on that at Padua. Samuel Pepys was one of those who attended the lectures at the Theatre.

In 1745 the surgeons split from the barbers and the Theatre was demolished.

Tuesday October 20th. "The Rolls-Royce Story." by Mr. Douglas Green.

Mr. Green is the owner of the Hadley Green Garage which, as many local people know, is a distributor for Rolls Royce/Bentley and Jaguar/Daimler cars. Hadley Green Garage has a 79 year history, and Mr. Green himself has been in the Motor Trade for 30 years.

Friday November 20th. "Lea Valley Nursery Industry." by Mr. Peter Rooke.

The talk traces the rise and decline of the industry from the mid-19th century to its peak in about 1950, and then its drastic reduction due to pressures for building land. It tells of the effects of two world wars, the growth of supporting industries and institutions, and the establishment of a huge pool of local labour with horticultural experience. There are instances drawn from the histories of two nurseries in particular - Thos. Rochford's (one of the largest) and George Rooke's (the speaker's grandfather), a small family business.

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

WHOSE JOB?

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!
Courtesy of Wheathampstead Cricket Club.

CAR LIFTS FOR MEMBERS

Certain of our members are unable to attend the lecture meetings due to lack of transport. It would be appreciated if any member who is willing to offer a lift to meetings would contact the Chairman, who would then put them in touch with the member needing the lift.

DIARY OF A DECADE

The decade in question is 1939-1950 and it forms the basis of a fascinating new book by an active member of our Society, Edward Stebbing. The book is based on the set of diaries which Mr. Stebbing kept during the war years, as part of the Mass Observation Movement, and they provide a fascinating insight to the 'opinions, changes and hardships of ordinary people in Hertfordshire and Essex.' In the book we find the views, not just of Mr. Stebbing but of the people with whom he came in contact during his life in Potters Bar, his work at Clare Hall (where he was a Medical Laboratory Scientist), his holidays, his trips 'up to London' and, after the war, on the Continent. He also records radio reports, political meetings, public events and newspapers. One feels that Mr. Stebbing must have been a very sensible, observant and mature young man.

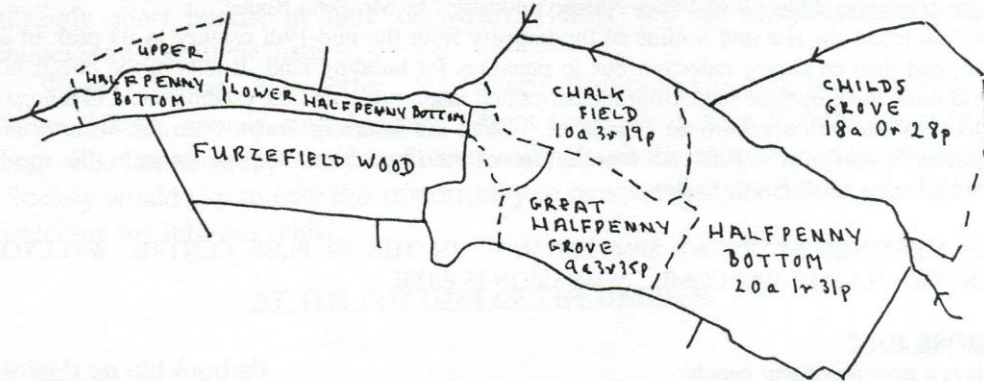
I am reading the book at present (about two thirds the way through) and I am finding it difficult to put down! I was a child during the war, so I read as much as I could about it in after years, including Shirer's *Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, but Mr. Stebbing's book, in addition to invoking many memories, is providing a wealth of facts of which I'd been unaware, precisely because he describes a *civilian's* war. JD

"*Diary of a Decade*" is a full-length hardback with attractive dust-jacket, well illustrated, and priced at £15.95. You may obtain your copies directly from Mr. Stebbing (5 Elmfield Road. P.B. EN6 2JH), from bookshops or The Book Guild Ltd., Lewes, Sussex.

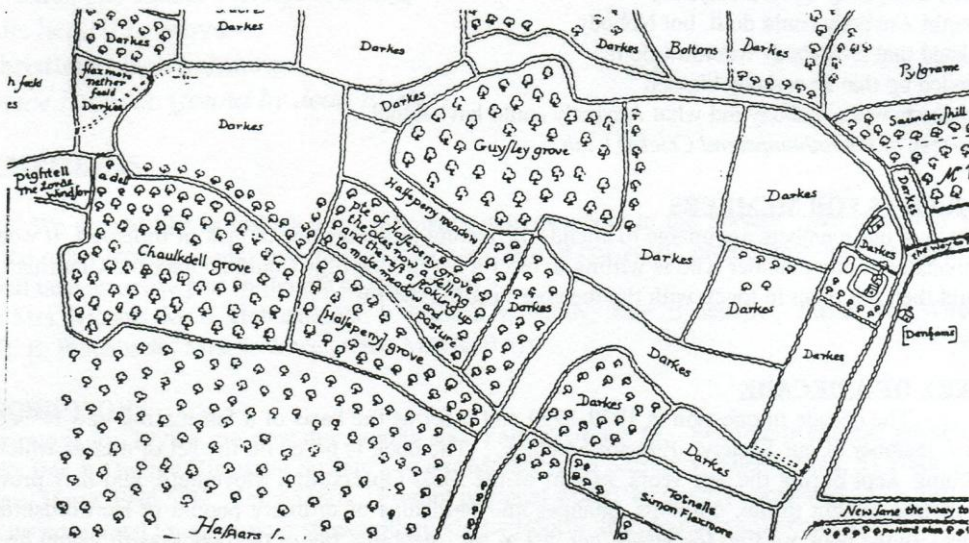
A LOCAL DROVE ROAD

While preparing the information for the present Wyllyotts Museum exhibition on Barnet Market and Fair I read that, "Most of the inns used by the drovers have disappeared but the pastures adjacent to the roads called "Halfpenny" reflected the cost of grazing per night per beast.

Reference to the local Tithe Map (1842) provided the following evidence on part of what is now Potters Bar golf course.



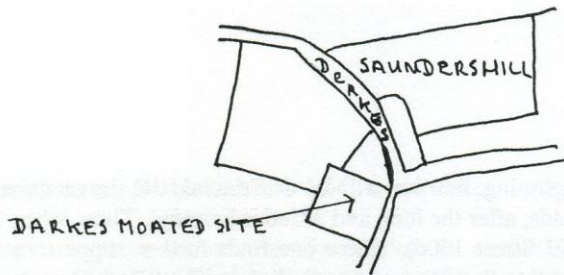
The Upper Halfpenny Bottom was part of a much larger field called The Marzerler (or corruptions of that name) prior to at least 1717. Lower Halfpenny Bottom was referred to as Long Pightle (4 acres meadow) before 1625. In 1597 Long Pightell was part of the lands on which tithes were due to the Vicar of South Mimms, whereas Lord Windsor, as Lord of the Manor of South Mimms, had free entry for carrying corn, hay, wood and driving cattle. Therefore, both these names are of fairly recent origin. I next examined Ralph Treswell's plan of Wyllyotts Manor, dated 1594.



Though the configuration of the fields has changed from 1842 to 1594, one can observe that Great Halfpenny Grove, on the Tithe Map, occupies most of Chaulkdell Grove. Halfpenny Bottom covers most of the three fields, named in 1594 as Halfpenny grove, part Halfpenny grove and Halfpenny meadow. Halfpenny grove is shown to be wooded but its other half is noted as, 'the okes now a felling and the rest a stoking up to make meadow and pasture.' Halfpenny meadow perhaps was once the route of an earlier drove road.

In 1575 there was a reference to, "the herbage and pasture of Halfpenny Grove and Gyeslees Grove." In the same group of documents there was mention of the pound or watering place on the east of a lane, near the tenement called Darkes, which lead to Potters Bar.

In the Society's Journal No. 1 I postulated that the mediaeval road continued along the present Quakers Lane and followed the footpath across the Potters Bar Golf Course, towards South Mimms castle (1141-1143 AD). In June 1470 reference was made to, "one ditch at Saundershill leading between a lane called Derkes and Halfpenny Grene."

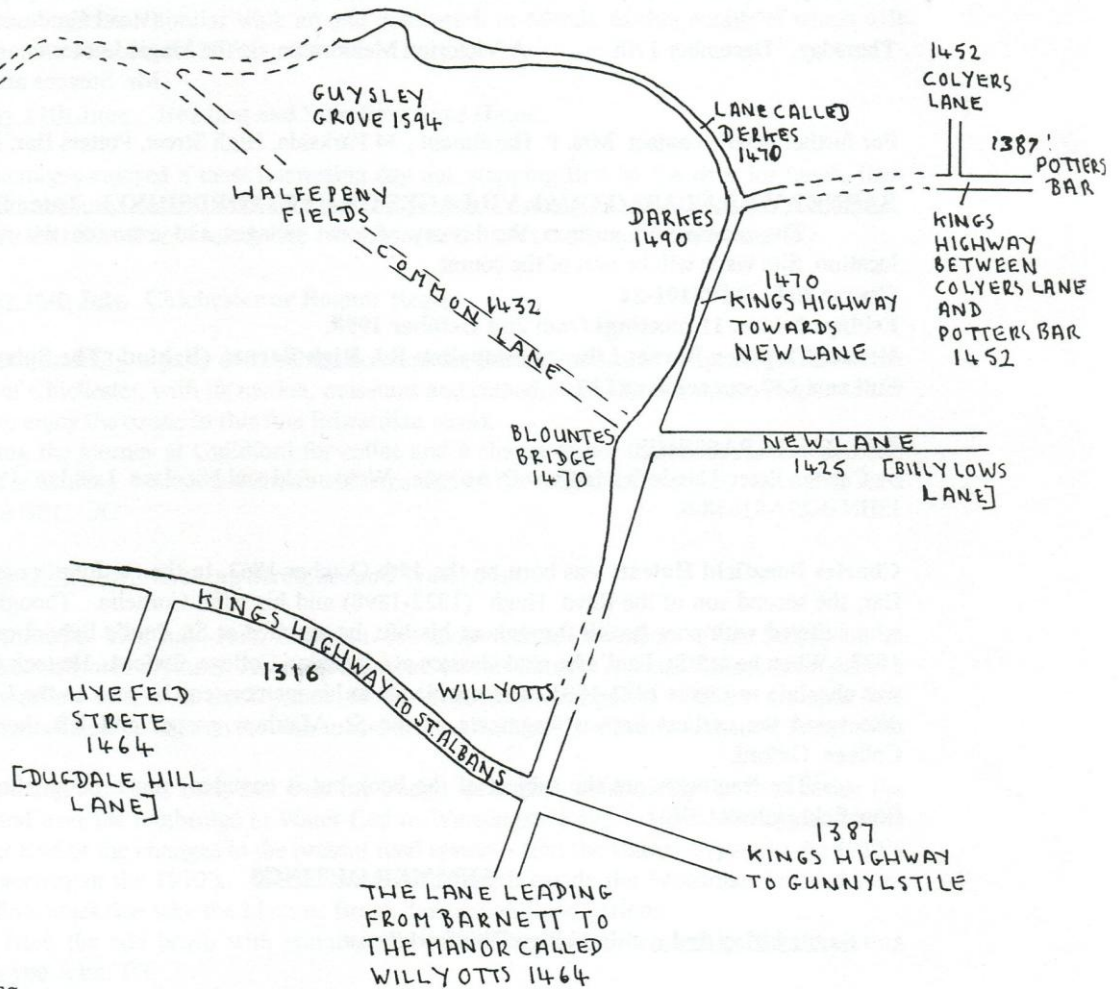


At the same time there was noted, "at Halpeny Grene on the north lane called Derkes." Does this imply there was a south lane and, if so, what is the evidence?

In March 1432 there was an indenture drawn up between Thomas Pouns and Thomas Wheeler relating to lands in the Manor of Willotts. Of particular interest is, "betwixt the Common Lane going from Bluntes Bridge into said Giles Lyce" (1594 Map - Guysley grove). The earliest known date for Blountes bridge is 1470.

Using the above evidence I suggest the mediaeval road system was as indicated below:

LANELYING BETWEEN
OSGARS LAND AND
MARZELER 1453



REFERENCES:

- British Museum BM MSS 23066 Add Ch. 19907
- Guildhall Library MS 6809
- Hatfield House South Mimms C.R.14/27 fols. 2, 5 & II
- P.R.O. Cal. Ancient Deeds vol.2 p.102
- Cal. Close Rolls 1485-1500 No.501

If, as proposed at the beginning, one has a local drove road, the drovers could have rested their animals on the Halfpenny fields, after the long and arduous journey. Then, when refreshed, they proceeded along Baker Street (Old Street 1606), where one finds further supporting evidence for a drove road (hedges set well back and with wide grass verges) along Kitts End Lane to Hadley Green and Barnet Market. *B. Warren.*

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY. SOCIAL EVENINGS

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 (incl. refreshments), payable at the door. All are welcome. Dates as follows:

Thursday, September 17th.	The Salvation Army.	Capt. S. Westwood.
Thursday, October 29th.	The Gardens of Hatfield House.	Mr. D. Beaumont (Head Gardener).
Thursday, December 17th.	A Victorian Melodrama via the Magic Lantern.	Mr. Stevens and friends.

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

BARNET WEA CLASS (LOCAL VILLAGES OF HERTFORDSHIRE). Tutor Brian Warren

The course will uncover the history of local villages and examine the reasons for their location. Site visits will be part of the course.

Course Ref.: BT98101-22

Fridays 2-4pm, 11 meetings from 2nd October 1998.

Venue: Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Rd. High Barnet. (Behind "The Spires").

Full cost £40, concessions £30.

THE JESUS PAPYRUS

by Carsten Peter Thiede & Matthew D'Ancona. Weidenfeld and Nicolson. London. 1996.
ISBN 0-297-81658-6.

Charles Bouzfield Huleatt was born on the 19th October 1863, in the St. John's parsonage, Potters Bar, the second son of the Revd. Hugh (1822-1898) and his wife, Cornelia. Though a sickly child, who suffered with poor health throughout his life, he enrolled at St. Paul's School on 1st December 1873. When he left St. Paul's he read classics at Magdalen College, Oxford. He took Holy orders and was chaplain to Luxor 1893-1901, where a plaque to his memory can be seen in the Luxor Hotel. He discovered the earliest known fragments of the St. Matthew gospel and left them to Magdalen College, Oxford.

The fragments are the subject of the book but it contains much about the Revd. Charles Bouzfield Huleatt. *BW*

SUMMER OUTINGS

- **Sunday May 3rd. Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust.**

Somewhat surprisingly, only three members joined the Enfieldian coach party on this trip. The weather was overcast and wet during the first stage of the outward journey along the M40 to Oxford, for the elevenses stop. The next stage took us to Cirencester for lunch with no change in the weather. The sun finally broke through as we left Cirencester for Slimbridge, and it remained fine for the rest of the day.

Slimbridge, Peter Scott's wildlife sanctuary, is renowned in particular for a very wide variety of ducks, including species from Egypt, Hawaii, the Argentine and America. Altogether thirty four different species of bird were seen in and around the sanctuary.

The driver made the return journey via the M4 more interesting with his occasional information about scenic and historical sites we passed, including the proximity of Prince Charles' country seat. *BK.*

- **Saturday 6th June. Historical Tour of Clerkenwell.**

Thirteen members started from Farringdon St. station to tour historic Clerkenwell. Our guide Carol took us first to the Clerk's Well, where medieval parish clerks from the city came to enact mystery plays. We then moved on to St. Johns Gate, entrance to the Priory of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John. We were shown the Council Chamber, the magnificent Chapter Hall, the Grand Priory Church and its crypt, one of London's few remaining Norman buildings, an architectural gem. The Order's Library, collection of silver and Museum were also viewed.

From here we were taken through Jerusalem Passage with memories of Thomas Britton 'the musical small coal man', a charcoal dealer (1644-1714) who held weekly concerts above his warehouse, to Clerkenwell Green. St. James Church on the site of St. Mary's nunnery, the Marx Memorial Library where Lenin worked in exile, the underground Victorian prison known as the House of Detention and the Peabody Estate, model dwellings for the poor, were other places visited in what was generally viewed as an interesting and informative venture.

I hope to organise a similar walk around Southwark in March, further details of which will appear in the January Newsletter. *TCF.*

- **Wednesday 17th June. Reading and Stratfield Saye House.**

Five members enjoyed a most interesting day out, stopping first by the river for lunch, then moving on to the house, which was built as the Nation's tribute to the Duke of Wellington. Fortunately, the rain held off until late in the afternoon, so it didn't really spoil the outing. *JD*

- **Wednesday 15th July. Chichester or Bognor Regis.**

On a dull morning, a party of members boarded the Enfieldian coach to spend the day in the old walled city of Chichester, with its market, museums and cathedral, or the alternative destination of Bognor Regis, to enjoy the ozone in this fine Edwardian resort.

Breaking the journey at Guildford for coffee and a chance to see its modern cathedral, with an added bonus of hearing two school choirs accompanied by the magnificent organ, rehearsing for a broadcast on the BBC. *JC*

- **Wednesday 29th July. Evening Stroll around Water End.**

On Wednesday 29th July, John Donovan led about a dozen members of our Society on an evening walk around North Mymms. As members stood on the Church Avenue bridge, John showed photos of the overflow torrent of the Mymms Brook in flood, as compared with the dry river bed below us. We then walked up Church Avenue to and around St. Mary's Church which we found to be open.

On retracing our steps back and over the bridge we turned right, along the road beside the dry river bed, and over the footbridge to Water End in Warrengate Road. Here John explained the effects on Water End of the changes to the present road system - first the Barnet Bypass in the 1920's and the A1 motorway in the 1970's. We followed the footpath beside the Woodman Inn and were shown the swallow holes that take the Mymms Brook during non-flood periods.

Apart from the odd brush with stinging nettles we found it a memorable and interesting evening. Thank you John. *TG.*

WINTER OUTING

Wednesday 9th December. Enfieldian Outing to Peterborough Cathedral and Market. Details on application form, attached.

ENFIELDIAN COACH OUTING **PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL AND MARKET**

WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 1998

FARE £9.45

The ancient city of Peterborough is dominated by its 800 year old Cathedral, the resting place of Katherine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII. The huge Queensgate shopping complex has over 800 shops including John Lewis, East Anglia's largest department store. The nearby Museum and Art Gallery will be holding exhibitions on 'The Romans' all winter. There is also a covered market and many other shops in the older part of the city. Home by approximately 6.45pm. Note: we shall be the last pick-up and the first drop-off!

Pick-up point is Southgate Road, Potters Bar, at **10.20am**.

Return the application form to:-

Ms. J. Foster, 15 Gregory Avenue, Potters Bar, EN6 5PX.

Cheques made payable to **Oakfield Tours Ltd**, please.

Closing date for applications is 31st October 1998.



I/we wish to reserveplaces for the **DECEMBER 9TH** outing at £9.45 per person.

I enclose cheque for £.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone.....



POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY **FESTIVE QUIZ AND SOCIAL, WITH REFRESHMENTS.** **7.45PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH. 1998**

This will be held at the 60+ centre at Wyllyotts. To assist with the catering arrangements, it would be appreciated if you would complete this form and return it to our Chairman at 15 Gregory Avenue, Potters Bar, EN6 5PX, or phone her on 647015.

I/We shall be attending the Festive Social.

Name-----Address-----

----- Phone-----

Please return by Monday 19th October