

# *The Newsletter*

SEPTEMBER 1999

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## COVER PICTURE

This is the twelfth 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 old church to right of this photograph is now Ware Hall, in memory of Richard Ware, the Pastor for over thirty years, who laid the foundation stone of the 'new' church (Ware Hall) on the 20th August 1868.

Work started on the 'new' new church, to the left of Ware Hall, in 1963, and the building was opened by Miss Kate Brown, who was the oldest member and an Elder of the Church, on Saturday 7th March 1964.

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello to everyone,

I trust that you all had a good summer regarding holidays, outings or just sitting in the garden enjoying the good weather - when possible. You will see by your programme card the list of Lectures in store for you, all or some of which we hope you will find to your liking.

Good news; we now have a Treasurer! Her name is Barbara Lewis and she has very kindly agreed to join us. We welcome her as our Treasurer and Committee Member.

We are extremely short of Museum Stewards for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, 2.30-4.30pm, and Saturday afternoons, 2-4pm. Can I plead for anyone who can help us to *keep the Museum open* at the above times to contact myself (01707 647 015) or our Secretary, John Donovan (01707 642 886)? If you could help only once a month on any one of those days, it would relieve those of us who are doing two, sometimes three a month.

The Museum has, as you will know, a different set of Teddy bears on show that children and grown ups I am sure will find interesting - we also have some rather unusual Telephones on display, well worth a visit. Do visit your Museum; a lot of hard work goes into it. I am sure that most of you know that our new Curator is Mr. A. Davey and, should you wish to contact him on any matter, his telephone number is 01707 654 179.

Mrs. Joan Charlton, who has been our Lecture Programmes Organiser for many years is to relinquish her post; this series of Lectures is her last, and I am sure you would all like me to thank her for all the hard work she has done for our Society. Thank you Joan from all of us. Colin Field has taken over as Programme Organiser and if any of you have any ideas as to a particular lecture or subject, please contact him on 01707 857 297. *JF*

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During May of this year I went to watch and hear a friend of mine sing with the Finchley Chamber Choir; they sang a 'first performance' of *Amo Ergo Sum* ('I love, therefore I am'), a poem by Kathleen Raine (b. 1905), the words of which were put to music by Antonin Tucopsky. Not only was the music beautiful but also the words, as below. *JF*

## AMO ERGO SUM

Because I love,  
Sun pours its rays of living gold, pours out its gold and silver on the sea.

Because I love,  
The earth upon her astral spindle winds her ecstasy-producing dance

Because I love,  
Clouds travel through wide skies, through skies wide and beautiful, blue and deep.  
Wind blows white sails, the wind blows over the flowers, the sweet wind blows.

Because I love,  
The ferns grow green, and green the grass and green the transparent sunlit trees.

Because I love,  
Larks rise up from the grass, and all the leaves are full of singing birds.

Because I love,  
The summer air quivers with a thousand wings, and myriads of jewelled eyes burn  
in the light

Because I love,  
The shells upon the sand take forms as fine and intricate.



There is an invisible way across the sky.  
Birds travel by that way.  
And the sun and moon and all the stars travel that path by night.

Because I love,  
There is a river flowing all night long into my sleep.

Because I love,  
All night the river flows into my sleep, ten thousand living things are sleeping  
in my arms,  
And sleeping wake, and flowing are at rest.

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### ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

#### ORCHARD SURVEY

There is a Hertfordshire County survey to identify and name old fruit trees, to ascertain the survival rate of such trees. Four sites have been examined in our local area but, if anyone is aware of even a single, old tree, would they please inform the Archivist.

In one place in Hertfordshire, a tree has been discovered of a species which was thought to have died out. Also, historical evidence has proved the site was an orchard in the 17th century - so keep looking, as one never knows! In fact, someone has already pointed out that there are several fruit trees in the grounds of Oakmere Library.

#### DRAIN-COVER SURVEY

There are known to exist in driveways and gardens, in this area, drain covers which record, for example, (the local builder ) **BARKER**  
(the town) **POTTERS BAR**  
**BUILDER**

If anyone knows of the existence of such drain covers or similar ones would they please contact the Archivist.

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

A decision was taken at a recent committee meeting that the Society should have its *own* photographic collection. This is an appeal to all members asking them to donate to the collection, or loan photographs/negatives/postcards for copying. Photographs taken within the last thirty years are just as valuable as earlier ones. Contact should be made through the Archivist.

Also, John Donovan was appointed as the Society's official photographer, so let him know if one is aware of anything worthy of a photographic record (01707 642 886).

**Archivist:- Brian Warren, 6 Church Close, Cuffley, Herts. EN6 4LS (875617)**

### WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

**Thursday September 30th.** "Along the Golden Road.", by Mr. Ian Jones.

Central Asia, the land between the Caspian Sea and China, and now occupied by Uzbekistan and its four neighbouring republics, was once the heart of the Silk Road, that great trade route connecting China with the Mediterranean world. From the birth of Christ people began to benefit from the increasingly rich caravans traversing the area as can be seen from the remains left by the Sogdians in the middle first millennium AD. From the 8th century the area was part of the Islamic world and under a series of local, and later Mongol dynasties the great cities including Bukhara, Samarkand and Khiva flourished until the final decline set in during the 16th century as more of the China trade went to Europe by sea.



**Friday October 22nd.** "Alfred the Great; London's Forgotten King ." by Mr. John Clark.

Mr. Clark, of the Museum of London, tells us that his talk will be a 'mixture of history and archaeology'. The talk is based on the exhibition on the same subject being held from September to Christmas 1999 at the Museum of London to celebrate the 1100th anniversary of Alfred's birth which was, appropriately enough, on October 26th!

**Tuesday November 16th.** "Adventures of an Edwardian Lady parachutist, Dolly Shepherd."  
by Miss M. Sedgwick FRSA, FSBT. (Dolly's daughter).

*John Lucas writes,* "Society members are reminded of the *local* connection of the "Edwardian Lady Parachutist", Dolly Shepherd. She was born in "Hawthorne Villas" in the Barnet Road in 1886, and became a member of the parachuting team at Alexander Palace between 1904 and 1912. A disastrous double jump from a balloon earned her a place in the Guinness Book of Records, but nearly killed her. Nevertheless, she lived to the fine old age of 96."

This fully-illustrated presentation introduces the men and women pioneers of flight - balloonists, parachutists and pilots - those who unknowingly made aeronautical history, and paved the way for the incredible technical advances of today's aeronautical feats.

Dolly's life is brought full circle - during the intervening years, as a driver mechanic on the Western Front in WWI and Shelter Staff Officer in WWII - meeting modern parachutists and flying with the Red Devils at the age of 90. Her story has been on radio and television, and in her book, "*When the Chute Went Up.*"

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

#### **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.

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

"Those who forget their history are doomed to repeat it."  
Santayana (1863-1952)

#### **MUSEUM NEWS**

As part of the expansion of the Museum's service to the public, we are endeavouring to interest our local schools in the work of the Museum and what it can offer their pupils. To this end, an Education Sub-Committee has been formed (Julie Massey, Brian Kolbert, Colin Field and Terry Goulding), which liaises with the schools on a regular basis. In the Museum Julie Massey (our Curatorial Advisor) has arranged various 'hands-on' collections (at child-height) and, as our Chairman has pointed out, above, our current exhibition is of "A Century of Teddy Bears." There are lots of bears on display (some of which may be handled) and the exhibition extends to include some A.A.Milne characters too, so why not bring your children and grand-children along (opening hours are on your new, pink Programme Card, delivered with this Newsletter).

We still have copies of Ted Stebbings' excellent book "*Diary of a Decade*" on sale, and also available (free of charge) are the new *Wyllyotts Museum and Local History Centre Fact Sheets*. **No. 1**, "*The Origin of the Name 'Potters Bar'*" was actually produced by Brian Warren some years ago; **No. 2** is "*The City of London Coal Tax Boundary Markers.*" Work has started on **No. 3** "*St. Sepulchre's Stones, Park Avenue*", and others are in the pipeline.

#### **ROMAN POTTERS BAR - an introduction.**

This booklet, with its attractive 'Imperial Purple' covers, is the first product of a potential new series of booklets/articles to be printed and distributed by Hertsmere Museum Service, under the logo, "Wyllyotts Museum." The text has been written, and some of the illustrative work prepared, by Brian Kolbert, one of our members, and other illustrative work, plus the publishing editorial work, was completed by another of our members, Terry Goulding.



Due to the speculative content within the text, resulting from consideration of the factual evidence, and other sources of information and opinion, the booklet was considered to be outside acceptability for publication by the Society.

In his book, Brian, who specialises in Roman history and archaeology, examines the existing Roman finds in the modern Potters Bar area and speculates on what life would have been like here around the year 100AD, and how a 'settlement' would have fitted into the wider scene of Roman life in an area that was strategically placed between Londinium and Verulamium. Brian suggests that the Roman Pottery Kiln found at Parkfield, the Roman Coins found on the outskirts of the town, and the Roman pottery found on the Wyllyotts site, along with Potters Bar's position on a number of Roman routes that crossed the area, could be used to suggest a Roman settlement. Of course, until archaeological evidence of Roman *dwellings* is found in Potters Bar, such a settlement can be no more than speculation but, as the old maxim has it, '*lack of evidence*' does not mean '*evidence of lack of.*' Brian's hypotheses make for interesting reading.

The booklet contains many useful sketches, diagrams, maps and photos, and is now on sale both at Wyllyotts Museum and the Potters Bar Health Food shop, priced at £2. *JD.*

### **HELP REQUIRED**

**Deliverer.** As you know, this copy of the Newsletter was pushed through your letterbox by one of our excellent team of distributors. Due to one of that team moving away from Potters Bar, we are in need of a deliverer for Dugdale Hill Lane (currently six letterboxes). You will be required to deliver no more than four or five times a year, so if you *could* help, please ring **John Donovan** on 01707 642 886.

**Recorder.** We are also in need of someone to spend time on a regular basis at the Museum indexing and recording the Society's and the Museum's collections of artefacts and historical items. Such a person could be a Society member or a student or an undergraduate. If you can help, please ring the Curator,

**Arnold Davey**, on 01707 654 179.

### **SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

- **Tuesday June 22nd**

Some 23 members enjoyed a mid-summer's stroll around Northaw Village, while Brian Warren pointed out items of interest and gave us all a brief history of that picturesque village. The weather though dull was, thankfully, dry. *JD.*





• **Wednesday July 21st**

Another dull but dry evening saw 14 members joining John Donovan for a walk from Pope Paul School across country to Bentley Heath. This is a typical Victorian 'Estate Village', nestling outside Wrotham Park (Cockfosters was Trent Park's 'Estate Village'), but parts of the village date from earlier than that, including, of course, Elm Farm House - originally a 16th century timber-framed, two-bay, open-hall house. The presence of some large, frisky horses in one of the fields persuaded the party to return along Baker Street!



**THE SOCIETY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY SOCIAL**  
**WILL BE HELD AT THE 60+ CENTRE AT WYLLYOTTS ON**  
**FRIDAY DECEMBER 10TH, STARTING AT 8PM.**  
**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE. FREE TO MEMBERS**

**POTTERS BAR SOCIETY. SOCIAL EVENINGS**

The following illustrated Lectures have been arranged for the autumn season. 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 16th.	From Brentford to the Summit.	Mr. K. Cain.
Thursday, October 28th	Graphology	Mrs. L. Coates
Thursday, December 16th.	Stereo Experience.	Mr. & Mrs. Spence..

For further details (tickets, lifts, mailing list) contact Mrs. P. Hardiment, 34 Parkside, High Street, Potters Bar, EN6 5AU.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions for 1999/2000 are now due, so if you **haven't** already paid, you can 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 (Adults £3, Family/Group £5).

Prompt payment would be appreciated and, if you do not intend to renew your subscription, kindly inform the Membership Secretary.