

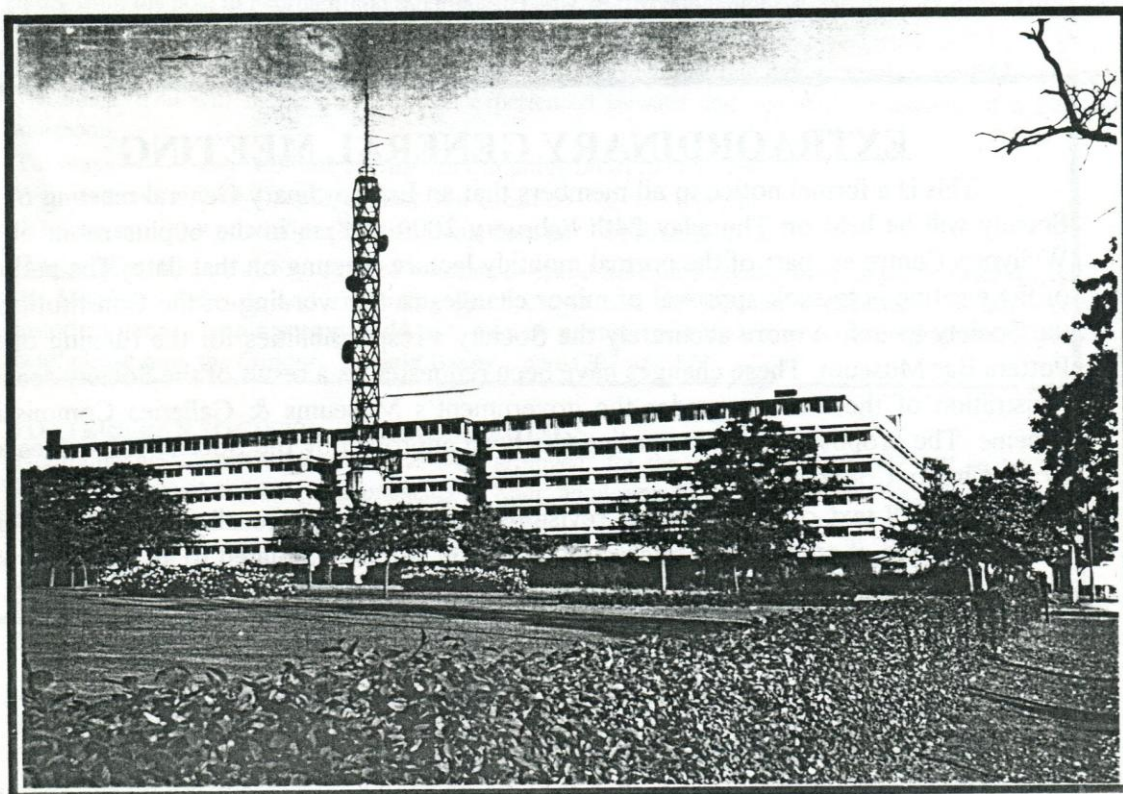
The Newsletter

JANUARY 2000

VOL. 16 NO. 2

COVER PICTURE

This is the thirteenth 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.



Star House was built on the land given in 1938 by Mr. H. W. Tilbury for a Congregational Church. The land was sold in 1963 and the proceeds were used to build a new church (now the United Reformed Church) in Darkes Lane. Star House was the regional headquarters for Eastern Gas until its closure (1998/9).

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear everyone

May I wish all our members a very happy and prosperous New Millennium year, and I hope you all enjoyed your festive Christmas.

It is with regret that I have to report that our very efficient Secretary, John Donovan, is resigning in February in order to study with the Open University. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of the committee and our members for all he has done for the Society. John is, however, remaining on the Committee and will still be doing all he can to help the Society. We therefore have a vacancy for the post of Secretary and anyone interested should give me a ring on 01707 647 015.

The members of the committee and I hope to see you at any of our monthly lectures; please make yourselves known to us, we are a friendly bunch - honestly!

Thank you for all the support you give the Society as stewards, deliverers and in many, many other ways; please keep up the good work! *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. P. Prior, Mr. G.A. Garnham & family; Mrs. H. Rae, Mr. & Mrs. A. Plummer & family, and Mr. & Mrs. E. Mardel & family;

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

This is a formal notice to all members that an Extraordinary General meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 24th February 2000 at 8pm in the 60plus room of the Wyllyotts Centre as part of the normal monthly lecture meeting on that date. The purpose of the meeting is to seek approval of minor changes to the wording of the Constitution of the Society to define more accurately the Society's responsibilities for the running of the Potters Bar Museum. These changes have been requested as a result of the Society seeking registration of the museum under the government's Museums & Galleries Commission Scheme. The proposed revised wording has been approved by the Society's Trustees and by the Charity Commission.

The full text of the proposed revisions will be available to all members attending the meeting and, if approved, a revised Constitution will be circulated to all members with the next newsletter.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Friday January 28th. "Historic Hoddesden." by Mr. David Dent.

Covering some of the more important and interesting buildings around the town centre, together with some of the famous and infamous characters associated with them. Featuring, in particular, the home of John Warner, the well-known Quaker and benefactor to the town in the mid-19th century, and Rawdon House, the home of Sir Marmaduke Rawdon. Yew House, and Boreham House, two properties now demolished but with interesting histories, will also be featured. Mr. Dent has studied the history of Hoddesden, Broxbourne and Wormley for the last twenty years, and is a published author.

Thursday February 24th. "Enfield Chace; a View from South Mimms." by Mr. Brian Warren.

The talk will show that while royalty did hunt in the Chace and for many years writers referred to this aspect, it was far more important in supporting the local communities. David Pam has shown how the inhabitants of Enfield depended on the Chace and jealously guarded their rights; yet encroached, poached and stole from the royal preserve. Were the reactions of the people of South Mimms the same or different from Enfield? Come along and find out!

Tuesday March 21st. "The Golden Age of Thames Finds." by Mr. Jonathan Cotton

Covering the period 1820 to 1900, when the dredging of the Thames coincided with the activities of antiquarian collectors, many of whom amassed large collections of historical artefacts now, happily, in public ownership. Touching on river politics including matters such as the conservancy of the river; how river dredging was actually done and what happened to the dredged material; how the artefacts came onto the market, and some of the colourful personalities involved.

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

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.

HELP REQUIRED

Secretary. We *urgently* need a replacement for the Secretary to the Society, as John Donovan plans to retire from the post in February 2000. If you can help, please phone the Chairman, J. Foster, on 01707 647 015.

Stewards to help look after the Museum. If you could help just one day a month it would be of great assistance. You will be on duty with an experienced steward and you will be assured of a pleasant afternoon.

Tuesdays 2.30-4.30pm, contact Ian Cumming on 01707 642 296.

Wednesdays 2.30-4.30pm, contact Don Green on 01707 854 613.

Saturdays 2.00-4.00pm, contact Denis Lore on 01707 656 833.

Recorder. We are also in need of someone to spend time on a regular basis (once or twice a week) 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.

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY. SOCIAL EVENINGS

The following illustrated lectures have been arranged for the start of 2000. These will be held at the Tilbury Hall, Darkes Lane, commencing at 8pm, admission £1.50 (incl. refreshments), payable at the door. Non-members are welcome. Dates as follows:

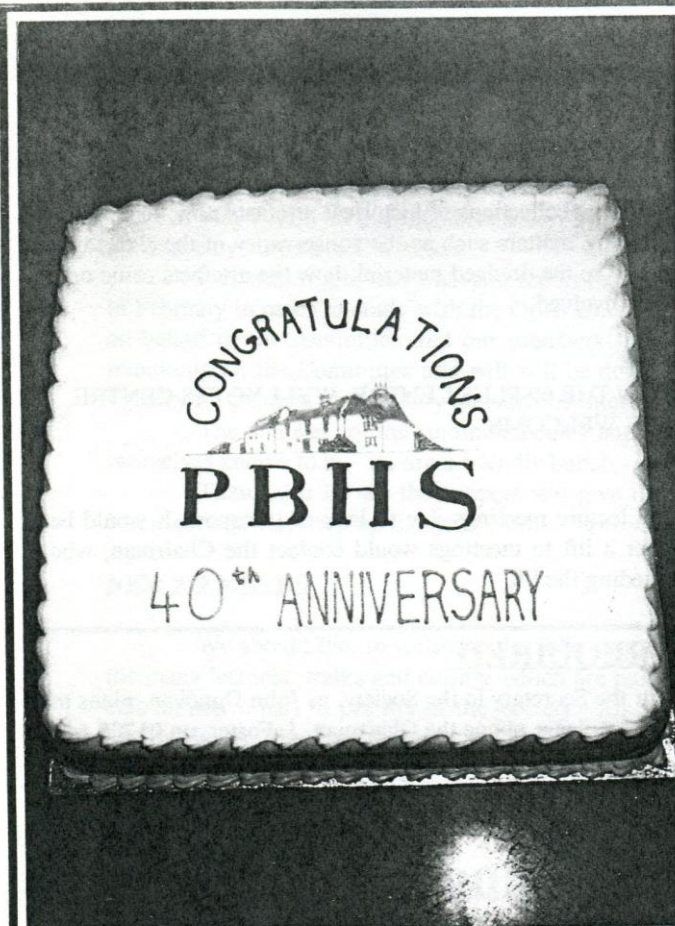
Thursday, January 20th.	The Golden Age of the Postcard.	Mrs. C. Wade.
Thursday, March 23rd	English Cathedrals and Towns	Mr. B. Edmond
Thursday, April 27th.	The Drovers Route to Dorchester.	Mrs. J. Donald.

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

40th ANNIVERSARY SOCIAL

Friday 10th December.

Thirty-six members enjoyed a most agreeable Social Evening which, this year, celebrated the Society's **40th Anniversary**. Members were greeted by Ian Cumming and Colin Field, who supplied a glass of seasonal wine to each. Following convivial conversation, Jean Foster and her team provided an excellent spread of cakes, sandwiches and so on and (as you can see below), a magnificent celebratory cake (white, with green icing!). Brian Warren gave an outline of the growth of the Society over forty years, before presenting Cyril Overend with the first copy of "The Fortieth Anniversary 1959-1999", which Cyril had produced for the occasion. Those present received a copy of the booklet, after which a presentation was made to the retiring Secretary, John Donovan. In all, it was a very pleasant evening.



PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY SOCIAL

RECORDERS GROUP

Many of you will know that this group of the Society exists to note the changes (mainly 'physical') taking place in the area. These are recorded and we hope that such records will be of use to future historians.

The work is done by a numbers of recorders, each taking responsibility for an area of the town. Advancing years and ill-health have left some areas uncovered; in particular we need recorders for the Causeway (and roads off), the Sunnybank Road area and South Mimms. It is, of course, a great advantage to live *in* the area but this is not essential.

The work does not involve a great deal of effort and it does add interest to walks around the district. This need not be left only to the recorders; I am always interested to hear of any changes in the far-flung corners of Potters Bar. We hold a friendly, informal meeting twice a year to compile the report, and if you want to get a fresh slant on your town please offer to help with recording its history.

John Scivyer 01707 657 586

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2000/2001 will become due in April 2000 so please 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.

OBITUARIES

It is with regret that one has to inform members of the passing of two of our older and long-standing members; Mrs. E.P. Clare and Miss E. Essame.

Erica Clare was born in Switzerland in 1910 and came to England in 1928. She soon married the Reverend Percy Clare, vicar of St. Saviour's, Hampstead. In 1959 he became vicar of South Mimms and so she came to live in the area. Subsequently, when a member of the Society, she lived in the almshouses, Bentley Heath, before moving to Greenhills, where she passed away in November.

Enid Essame's passing (aged 93) was reported in the Daily Telegraph in December. She was for many years the respected Headmistress of Queenswood School, Shepherds Way and, on her retirement, she joined numerous local societies, one of which was the PBDHS, though she only rarely attended a meeting.

It is with further regrets that we report the death of Peter Sayce, who had only recently become a member of the Society, as a result of tracing his family history. In particular, he had been a member of the 57(Potters Bar) Squadron Air Training Corps, at The Elms (now The Elms Clinic) High Street, early in the Second World War. Some members will remember that he took over the running of The Linen Shop, Parkfield Parade, High Street, from his father.

Sincere condolences are offered to the family and relatives of the above. *BW*

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The members who responded to the appeals in the last Newsletter concerning orchards, drain covers and photographs are thanked.

Whereas one was thinking of drain covers dating to the early part of the century, ones relating to the 1950's were revealed which, indirectly, led to the discovery of an old barn that was being dismantled to be re-erected in Northamptonshire.

Orchards have now been located in six places, and individual trees in five gardens. The survey will continue next year to verify previous identifications and hopefully find some more.

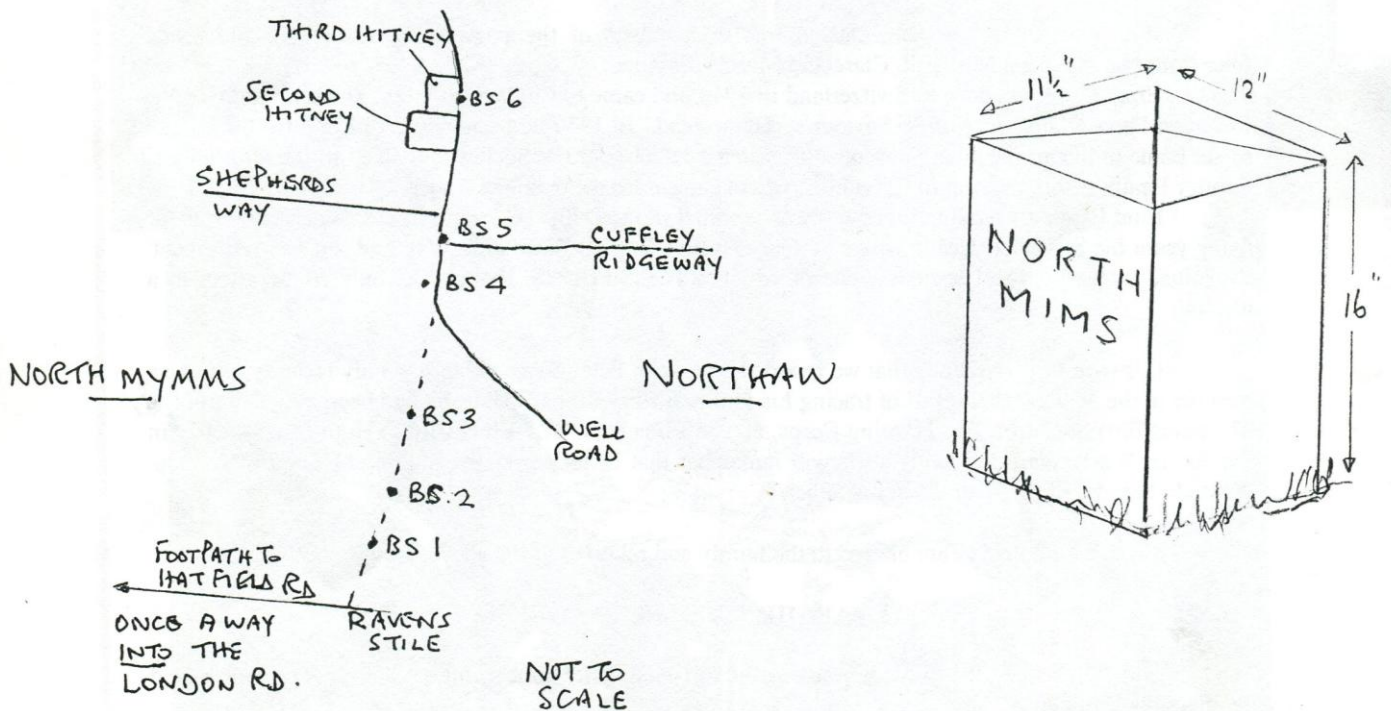
An article on the history of Oakmere House appeared in the December issue of *Hertfordshire Countryside*. A list is being produced of the Society's acquisitions during 1999. *BW*

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NORTH MYMMS

Why not pay a visit to the church, on Wednesdays, where coffee or tea is being served between noon and 2pm, in the new Parish Hall. One has to enter through the south porch door and walk across the church to the hall, which enables one to have a good view of the church. The ladies need your support and the only charge for the refreshments is a donation. Incidentally, John Donovan sampled the tea and biscuits last autumn, and he had a most interesting chat with the other visitors; he recommends the experience to you all!

BOUNDARY STONES (1757) AND VINCENZO LUNARDI (1784)

In 1996 when yet another application was made to develop Leggatts, North Mymms, I became involved because the proposal involved diverting the footpath (Footpath No. ???) from the Northhaw Place end to Hatfield Road around the field below Rosemead, at Little Heath. As part of the reason why the application should be rejected, as it was, one drew attention to the boundary dispute over the common land between Northhaw and North Mymms. That dispute was settled by an Act of Parliament, in 1757. Stones were set in the ground with Northhaw inscribed on the east side and North Mims on the west side. The evidence of the boundary stones did not affect the issue of the footpath diversion, but it did bring the stones to the attention of the local council.



As with everything, if someone does not keep a vigilant watch even large stones disappear, as in the case of numbers 1, 3 and 5; the latter one was there as late as 1991, near the coal duty stone.

On the afternoon of September 15th, 1784 Vincenzo Lunardi, the Italian balloonist, made his first landing at North Mymms. William Baker of Bayfordbury not only entertained Lunardi but he noted that "The particular spot in the field is on the east side, very near the boundary line between the manor of Northhaw and North Mymms." The only fields that agreed in every detail with all the evidence were Second and Third Hitneys. BW.