

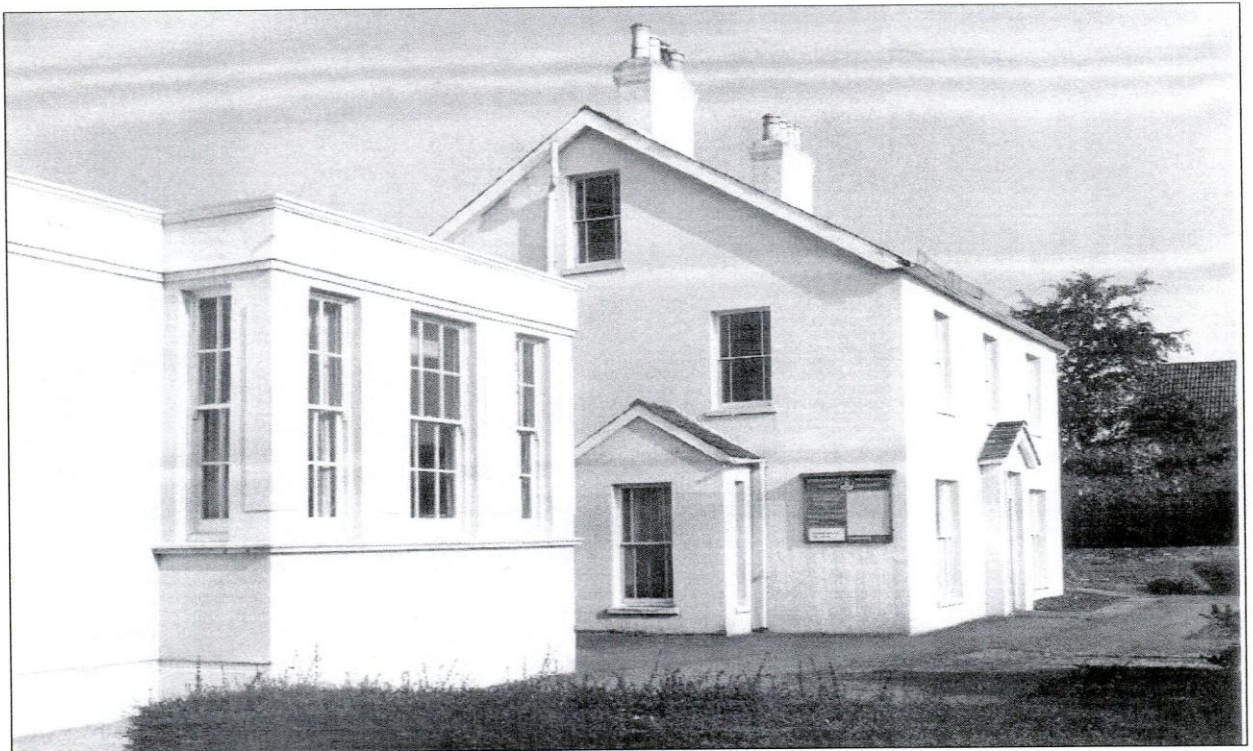
The Newsletter

JANUARY 2002

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COVER PICTURE

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



This building was originally the office of Osborne's garden nursery business and stood next to Tilbury Hall in Darkes Lane. It was later converted to house the whole of Potters Bar & District Council's staff.

An additional council chamber was added, and the first Council meeting there was held in July 1935. The building was eventually demolished and, in 1954, eight plots of land were sold for housing.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members,

The Committee and I hope that you had a Happy Christmas and we wish you all a Happy New Year. After many requests over the years we have finally published a set of eight postcard views of our area. They are all modern views rather than historic ones, but this is because it is better for the present to keep the old views for our publications. Another point on this is the fact that without a long explanation, most people in Potters Bar would not recognise the town as seen in the old photos, the planners, bulldozers, and builders and the price of land have seen to that. We must thank the volunteer planters from both the Potters Bar Society and Potters Bar in Focus (Parks & Open Spaces) for brightening our town with so many flowers for, as one shopkeeper said, "Why go to Amsterdam to see their flowers when we have them here?"

Have you visited the 1951 Festival of Britain exhibition in our Museum yet? Arnold Davey our Curator has put together a magnificent show, and since it might not be on view again until 2051, don't miss it, it's a long time to wait.

We are still appealing for Stewards for the Museum who would be there for two hours on Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday, even one day a month would help. You would be with another Steward who has had some experience, or maybe bring along your partner to stop him/her from watching television all day, and give them a new outlook on life. There are also vacancies on the Committee particularly for ladies who feel they can change our 'gentlemanly' outlook on the Society. Watch out for the January lecture meeting of our Society, that has an intriguing title, 'Reality in your lap, an historic 3-D Stereo Experience, by Eileen and Harry Spence. I hope to see you all there on Friday, 25th January 2002. *Terry Goulding.*

OBITUARY

With the recent death of Robin Howard, Potters Bar has lost one of its prominent citizens. Although not a member of our Society, Robin was well known to many of our members. He was chairman of the Potters Bar Society for many years, and he chaired and ran their Town Group. Robin will be greatly missed in the town! *JS*

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome Mr. D. Banks, Mrs. K. Gritten, Miss P. Kirk, Ms. A. Page, Kathleen Blake and Mr. J. Gouriet to the Society. We trust they will enjoy the lectures, walks and outings that are part of our yearly programme, and we hope that they will take an active part in the life of the Society.

MILESTONES

Observant members may have noticed that the 15th milestone, just downhill from Little Heath Farm Cottage (on The Great North Road) is leaning to one side somewhat. I drove past last week and couldn't even *see* the stone and, given the amount of thefts (and attempted thefts) of such local items in the last few years, I feared the worst. Fortunately, upon closer examination, the stone proved to be *there* but in two pieces, the bottom was half out of the ground and the top was a few feet away, hidden in the undergrowth. A broken headlight, lying near the stone, suggested a car out of control with our milestone in its path, no doubt late at night. I just phoned Terry Goulding and within half a day, he had glued it all back together again.

Those of you who have taken one of our free sheets on local milestones from the museum, will remember that we hadn't been able to locate either the 18th or the 20th milestones along the Old North Road (A1000). One of our members, Ron Kingdon, has now supplied me with a copy of a photo of the 18th stone, which had disappeared when the Welham Green roundabout had been constructed, and I have also tracked down the 20th, which had once stood in front of Hatfield Station. I happened to be talking to a chap at a Local History Symposium at the Brookmans Park Vet College last month, and he told me that the missing stone now sits outside Mill Green Museum! Needless to say, I went straight there and took its photo.

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.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

I expect that some of our members read the article, "*The Perfect Location*" in the Barnet and Potters Bar Times, concerning the making of television and films, at Wrotham Park. It also mentioned the 1976 *Likely Lads* movie being filmed near the Green Dragon pub, in the St. Albans Road. If any members can remember other places where television or films were shot within old South Mimms Rural District Council's area (Potters Bar Golf Course to Ravenscroft Road, Barnet and Galley Lane to the Enfield Boundary) I would be grateful to make a list of such events.

In the last edition of the Newsletter I drew attention to the spelling of South Mimms from the Court Rolls. Below I note examples from the Thirteenth Century from other sources:

St. Bartholomew's Cartulary South Mimms Nos. 1219-1227

Dated

c.1220 Sumymmes
c.1230 mimmes
Suthmymmes
c.1250 Sutmymmes

Dated

1235
1273/4
1286/7
1294

Crown Cases

mimes Just 1/536/fol.8
Mimmes Just 1/538
Mymmes Just 3/36/1
South Mymmes Just 1/544

INQUISTION POST MORTEM

1268 Su Mimms Nicholas de Leukenore
1295 South Mymmes Roger de Leukenore

QUEEN ELEANOR'S CORTEGE

A.D. 1290

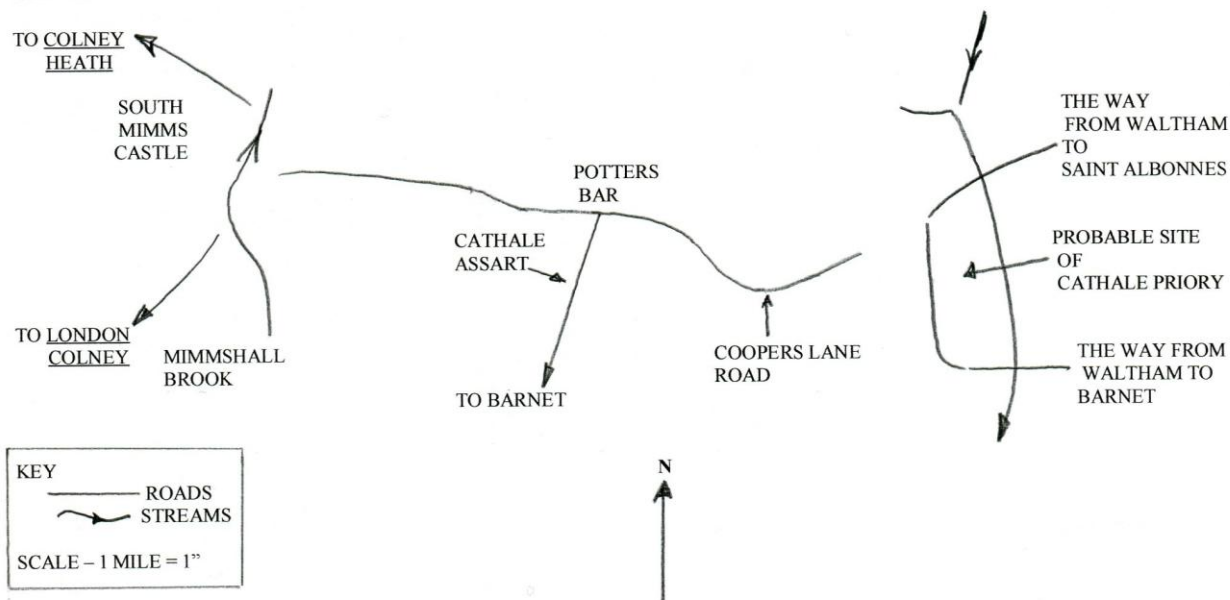
St. Albans to Waltham Abbey

Queen Eleanor, the wife of King Edward I, died at Richard de Weston's manor house, in the Nottinghamshire village of Harby, on the 28th November 1290. It is not the purpose of this article to comment on the journey of her cortege from Harby to Westminster, only to examine the course of its route in the local area between St. Albans and Waltham Abbey.

In the detailed and well-researched account,¹ Jean Powrie indicated the route from St. Albans to Waltham would have been via Sandridge to Welwyn, Watton-at-Stone and Ermine Street, from there it would have come south to eventually reach Waltham Abbey. At The Museum of London one can view the surviving fragments of the Charing Cross, but a map, in the same display, seems to indicate a slightly more southerly route via Ware. This is similar to one drawn by Martin Smith² which traces the route through Hertford. Another source³ states the usual route from Stamford was to Walmesford, Huntingdon, Royston, Puckeridge and Cheshunt. However, a majority of authors avoid the question of considering the exact route taken by the cortege, noting St. Albans and then moving on to the events at Waltham without stating the route. Peter Rooke noted, "...the funeral procession travelled across to Waltham Abbey", but added the telling observation, "The exact route from St. Albans to Waltham is an interesting subject for conjecture."⁴

When writing on the subject of, "Cathale Priory and its medieval setting",⁵ I did note that Thorpe's Map of 1611 depicting the Theobalds estate showed a road, 'The Way from Waltham to Saint Albonnes' and another road, 'The Way From Waltham to Barnet.' As Cathale Priory dated to

c.1220 was situated very near where the two roads met, it would be reasonable to suggest there was once a medieval road. In addition the Priory held an assart c.1220. 'which would have been to the west of the present Potters Bar bus garage, thus extending the medieval road as far as Potters Bar, where any travellers could have turned south for Barnet. The way to St.Albans continued along the present Quakers Lane, across Potters Bar golf course towards the north flowing Mimms Hall Brook and South Mimms Castle (1141~1143 A.D.). As Geoffrey de Mandeville's other castle was near the River Lea, there must have been an east-west link, which I consider to be the route I have described above.



At this point the road could have followed a route through Colney Heath to St. Albans or towards London Colney; there might even have been medieval roads for both routes. There is confirmation of a medieval continuation of the latter route. In deeds of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London,⁶ reference was made in 1222 to 'one acre and 3 roods of this land are in the field of the Abbot of Walden between the land of the same Abbot and the road to St. Albans, at South Mimms.' The deed is dated c.1220. Also, in the same document reference is made to 'one headland abuts on the holle lane and goes towards Sandridge', part of which route might have been used if going towards Colney Heath.

Though local historians, with a greater knowledge of St. Albans have been consulted, I have not been able to obtain specific references to the medieval road from St. Albans to either London Colney or Colney Heath, but with a glance at an old map, prior to residential development which obscured the footpaths, it is possible to reach a satisfactory answer.

As quoted before, one will never know the precise route taken by the cortege, but at least realise there are alternatives worthy of consideration.

REFERENCES

1. *Eleanor of Castile* by Jean Powrie, Brewin Books, 1990
2. *Eleanor of Castile 1290~1299* edited by David Parsons, Paul Watkins, 1991
3. *Archaeologia* 29, 1842 pp.167-191
4. *Broxbourne Topics-3* "The Waltham Eleanor Cross" by Peter Rooke pubd. P. Rooke 1993
5. Edmonton Hundred Historical Society '*Chronicle*' September 1983, 50th Edition.
Potters Bar Historical Society '*The Journal*', No.1, April 1985.
6. St. Bartholomew's Hospital's Cartulary Hc 2/1, ff. 476 recto - 478 recto.

Brian Warren, October 2001

DISTRIBUTORS

As many of you know, this newsletter is put through your door by one of our team of volunteers and they, in turn, are 'fed' by our 'organiser' who was, up until early this year, Ian Cumming, and whose place has been taken by Michael Cawrey (both of whom helped by Dianne Rebbetts). Without their help we should not be able to distribute the Newsletter, so my thanks to them all.

FROM DR. BRITAIN'S DIARY

6th July 1938 "Watched television for the first time."

16th January 1962 "A meeting was held in our library at Ingham Lodge to consider publication of a joint history of Potters Bar Urban District Council. (Published in 1966)." *BW*

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Friday January 25th, 2002 "Reality in your lap. An historic 3-D Stereo experience"

by Eileen & Harry Spence

This will be an evening of three-dimensional picture projections similar to the 3-D innovation in the cinema of the 1960's. The pictures will have an appropriate musical background, and the programme will cover several different subjects and locations. Definitely different.

Thursday February 28th, 2002 "Looking at Roman Coins" by Mr. David Thorold

Mr. Thorold will be looking at the information displayed on Roman Coins, and how the Roman 'spin doctors' used them to spread propaganda around the Empire, extolling (and exaggerating) the virtues of the Emperors and presenting the positive side of all the news. We shall see how such coins were a sort of 'News of the Roman World.'

Tuesday March 19th, 2002 "The Three Barnets" by Dr. Gillian Gear

A dip into the history and development of East, Chipping and New Barnets, in order to compare and contrast the ways in which the growth and expansion of the three has given them very different 'personalities.'

Thursday April 25th, 2002 **Annual General Meeting**, followed by "Potters Bar High St. at the turn of the 20th Century" by Mr. Brian Warren

Since it is a while since we heard about the High Street, Brian will give us his talk on its history.

THE MEETINGS START AT 8PM **PROMPT** IN THE 60 PLUS CENTRE. WYLLYOTTS CENTRE. EVERYONE WELCOME.

FORTHCOMING WALKS (further details in the next Newsletter)

Early May Brian Warren will lead a follow-up walk to his talk on the High Street.

June John Scivyer will lead the South Mimms walk which was postponed last year due to weather conditions.

July Following the publication of "*A Walk through Ridge*" by Jenny Wilson (Daughter of Ted Salter), it is hoped to repeat the 'Village Tour', which Ted led in 1986.

PUBLICATIONS

Brian Warren's "*Oakmere House and Estate Through the Ages*" has now been published and is on sale from our usual Potters Bar 'outlets'; Bray's in the High Street, The Health Food Shop in Darkes Lane,

our Museum in the Wyllyotts Centre, and at our Lecture Evenings. A copy of this informed and entertaining account of one of Potters Bar's landmarks will cost you just £2.

Those who have already bought a copy of the book should note the following amendments:-

Page 7		1783, <i>not</i> 1793
Page 9	line 28	"along", <i>not</i> "alone"
Page 20	line 18	insert "her" following "after"
Page 36		under "Wulstan" Close add "...and Tempest Avenue."

HELP REQUIRED

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 11.00am - 1.00pm, contact Denis Lore on 01707 656 833

Recorder Group. Volunteers are still needed to help record the everyday changes taking place in Potters Bar, details from John Scivyer 01707 657 586.

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY, SOCIAL EVENINGS

The following illustrated lectures have been arranged for the start of 2002. 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 17th.	"Grandmothers London"	John Neal
Thursday,	March 21st.	Subject and Speaker to be announced -	
		for details watch <i>The Community News</i>	
Thursday,	April 18th.	Subject and Speaker to be announced -	
		for details watch <i>The Community News</i>	

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

"FIFTY YEARS AT JESUS"

The Diaries of Frederick Brittain, Litt.D (1919-1969), edited by Muriel Brittain.

'When I die', wrote Dr. Brittain, 'I should like my ashes to be divided into two parts, one of them to be buried (if it were allowed) in Jesus College, Cambridge and the other part in the churchyard at South Mimms.'

This request reflects the two great passions of his life and so half his ashes rest outside the east end of the Chapel wall at Jesus and the other half in his parents' grave at St. Giles, South Mymms. This well-known local character had no easy path to success: he sprang from the labouring class of the Hertfordshire countryside and only after three years as a student teacher and service in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the First World War did he achieve admission to Jesus College to read Modern and Medieval Languages. Even then the way was not smooth, but 'Freddy', as generations of his friends will testify, had above all a tremendous capacity for enjoying life that enabled him to carry out his multifarious tasks with zest and vigour.

Dr. Brittain left behind him his diaries, which are a faithful mirror of his very full life. As is to be expected from such an author, they are witty and amusing and the pages are full of characters and incidents which took place in South Mymms and its environs, as at Cambridge. In his full life he found time to write twenty books, ranging from the scholarly Medieval Latin & Romance Lyric to AD 1300 to *The History of The Jesus Boat Club*, *The History of South Mymms* and *Tales of South Mymms & Elsewhere*.

Apart from his deep affection for his home and Cambridge he was sustained by his love for the Anglican church in which he took an active part as chorister, server, lay reader and churchwarden. Though the book relates amusing anecdotes of life in the first half of the twentieth century at Cambridge, there are numerous references to South Mymms and the surrounding area. His beloved bluebells in Mymms Wood, the Mymms Labour Party, harvesting at Knightsland, Founders' Day at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School and local walks, one of which covered 18 miles.

The diaries record the many eminent people, in all walks of life, who became his friends. Some are known for their national and international stature, while others were pre-eminent in their chosen field of study but less well-known to the general public. As a social document it records a way of life that has long since vanished. Nevertheless, this aspect will make them of interest to a wide circle of readers, and their grace and charm will win the author yet more friends.

SPECIAL OFFER The book retails at £20 but members can purchase it for £17, payable by cash, or by cheque to *Muriel Brittain, Jesus College*; either can be given to me. The Society's copy will be available for inspection, at the January meeting. *Brian Warren.*

The PB&DHS Newsletter is produced in September, January & May of every 'season.'
If you wish to submit an item for inclusion (preferably of a 'local-history' nature),
please phone the Editor, John Donovan (01 707 664 447) at least one month
before the publication month (i.e. August, December or April).
Note; inclusion of such items is at the Editor's discretion.