

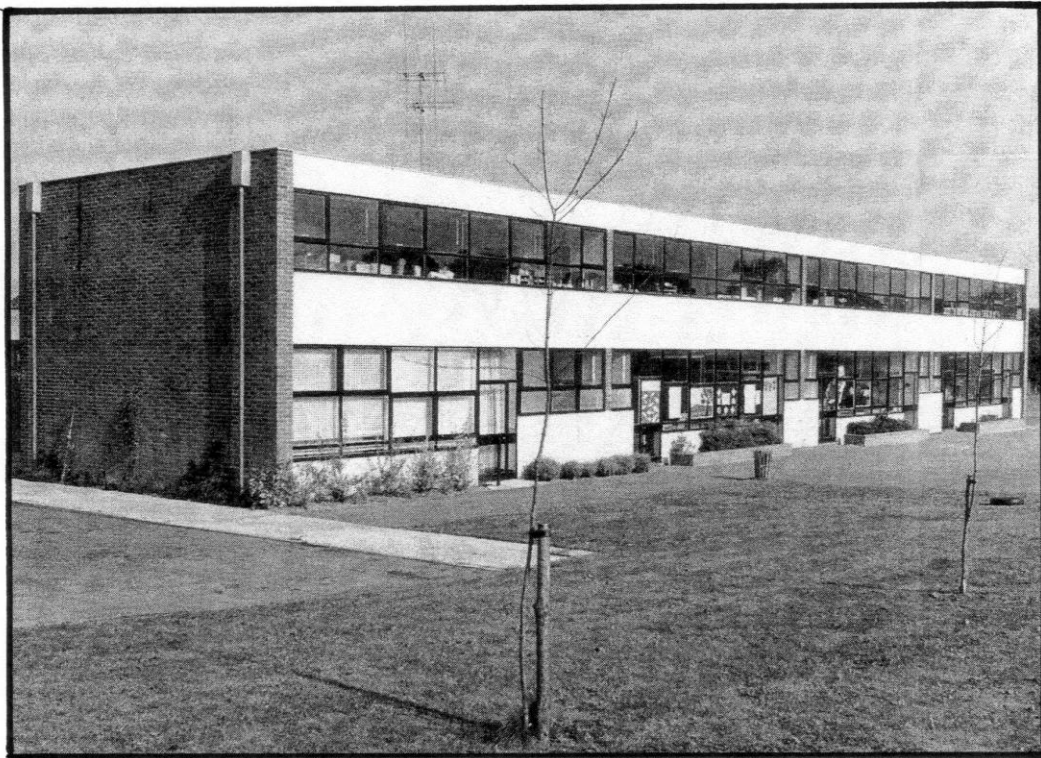
The Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2003

VOL. 20 No. 1

COVER PICTURE

This is the twenty-fourth 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.



The first Roman Catholic school in the Parish of South Mymms was in existence in 1866, in Union Street, Barnet. Over the years other such schools were built in the south of the parish, i.e. West Barnet. It was not until 1967 that the above school, known as Pope Paul Roman Catholic, was built in Potters Bar, off Baker Street, on a three-acre field. This field was one of the five known as Cottingsworth alias Cattingworth in 1691. Further information on these fields is to be found on Fact Sheet No3, available from the Potters Bar Museum.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members.

September is here again, so welcome back for the start of our new season of lectures. But what a change we have had in weather conditions compared to the floods of August last year.

Brian Kolbert and I have just viewed the areas of Parkfield Park to see if there were any signs of scorched grass that might imply more 'Romano British' tiles or buildings under the surface. I am glad to say that there were a number of odd-shaped scorch marks seen, so perhaps we may yet have something else of interest to be uncovered there.

The last of my tadpoles in my aquarium was told to leave home on the 20th of July. (Back into my pond.) It was enormous at 52mm, or a little over 2 inches long and had finally decided to grow legs. I worry about the other little froglets that have gone on their way though, because of the dry weather.

McMullens the Hertford Brewers recently celebrated their centenary at the Builders' Arms in Little Heath. Many thanks go to Mabel Hammett who arranged with the landlord to sell a great number of our Little Heath booklets there during the celebrations. He has also offered to continue selling them for our Society.

The lectures for the coming year look to be again interesting and varied. The first one on Thursday the 25th of September is entitled 'The History of Surnames', by Mr Andrew Mussell, so do come along just before 8pm and find out how your surname came about.

Terry Goulding

OBITUARIES

Joyce Taylor

It was only March a year ago that Vic passed away and since then Joyce has not had the best of health. She was devoted to Vic and together they served St. Mary's, Potters Bar Society and the Historical Society since they came to Potters Bar in 1982. They supported Society meetings, coming early to assist in arranging the chairs and always willing to help in anyway they could.

Joyce was born in Stoke Newington, in November 1924, the daughter of a furrier. In later life she was very skilful with her hands, making all sorts of items and attending a weaving group. She met Vic in 1945 and they were married three years later and had two sons, Robert and Paul.

Several members of the Society attended the funeral on the 4th September and we convey our condolences to all the members of the family.

Peter Rooke (1927-2003)

It is with regret that one records the sudden death of Peter, at the age of 76. He lectured to the Society on Theobalds in 1992 and the Lea Valley Nursery, 1998. Peter's grandfather and father owned and worked a nursery in the Lea Valley but later he worked for the Broxbourne Council. He lectured on local history, wrote books and presented exhibitions but he was a staunch member of St. Mary's Cheshunt, all his life. For the last thirty years he edited the Parish Magazine. In a book on St. Mary's, published in 1997, he stated he had been collecting information and pictures on the church for well-over fifty years.

I attended the funeral at St. Mary's, on behalf of the Society on the 7th August. The church was more than full and chairs were put at the ends of the pews to accommodate everyone, which showed how much Peter's life meant to so many people.

The Society sends its condolences to his family.

Brian Warren

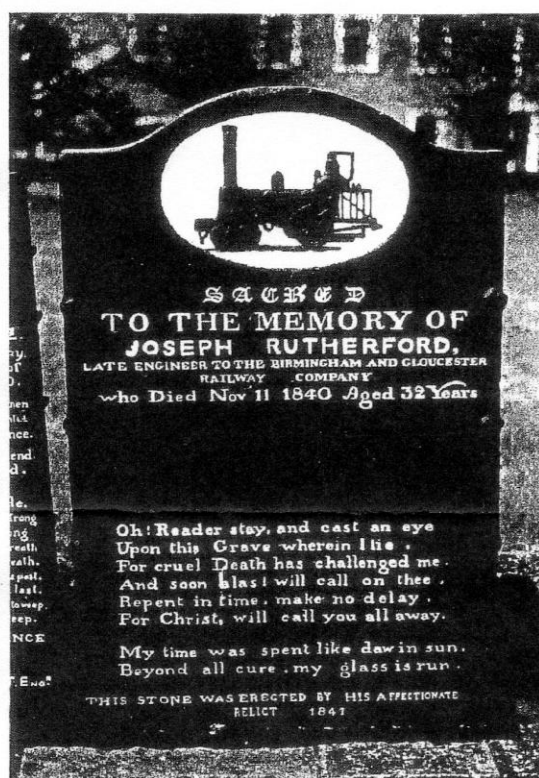
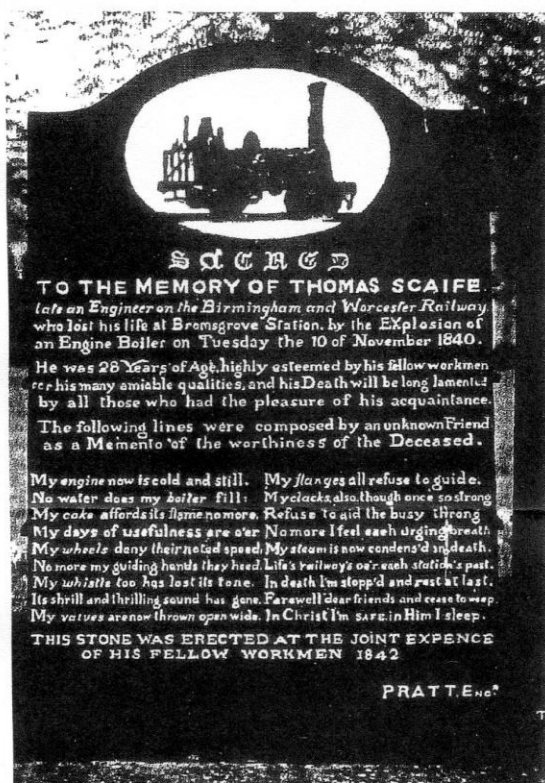
CAR LIFTS FOR MEMBERS

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.

MORE RAILWAY EPITAPHS

How often when the attention is drawn to a subject do we then keep seeing examples. Since my interest in (railway) memorials was aroused I have come across another example.

I was recently shown two gravestones in the church yard at Bromsgrove in the West Midlands (see picture). Side-by-side were the graves of two railway men who happened to be in the wrong place at the time; standing beside a locomotive when it exploded. *John Scivyer.*



NEWS OF MEMBERS

I visited Muriel Brittain, at the end of August, when she had just moved to the following address:

Marlowe House,
Ada Darwin Site
Hinton Road,
Fulbourn,
Cambridgeshire.

Muriel has been in hospital since last March, first in Addenbrook's and then Brookfields, Mill Road. When I saw her she was mentally very alert but her problem is getting about. Hopefully, with more attention and physiotherapy at Ada Darwin, she will improve.

Brian Warren

MEMORIES OF POTTERS BAR HIGH STREET by George Pond

George is now 96 and last year he committed his memories of the High Street into a small ten-page A5 booklet, with photographs. He has lived in Potters Bar all his life and for many years in Cotton Road.

The booklet is available from Hair Design, 246. High Street. Potters Bar, price £1, with all the money being donated to Potters Bar Hospital.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Members who have not visited the Museum lately might be interested to know that the following Fact Sheets, written by John Donovan or myself, are available free at the Museum.

- No.1 The Origin of the name 'Potters Bar'.
- No.2 The City of London Coal Tax Boundary Markers.
- No.3 St.Sepulchre's Stones, Park Avenue, Potters Bar.
- No.4 Milestones along the Great North Road (Barnet to Hatfield).
- No.5 Potters Bar - Its History.

Recently a book entitled, "Women at War: In uniform 1939-1945" by Carol Harris, has been published by Sutton Publishing, 138 Pages, at £10.99 paperback, It records the life of members of the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS), Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF), anti-aircraft command and various military nursing services. First-hand accounts and contemporary photographs make it an excellent record of the women's war effort.

THE GUILDHALL LIBRARY, LONDON

'London Apprentices' (for South Mimms),

Contd. from May 2002, Vol.18, No.3 to May 2003, Vol-19, No.3.

Volume 33
29-12-1677

Plumbers' Co.

Jn.Bowchett son of Jas. farmer to Richd.Hodsden
[25-4-1684 as Jn.Bockett turned over to Jas..Dobins]
Richd.Hodgedon son of Jn. yeoman to Thos.Lingford
Ralph James son of Roger yeoman to Ralph Massey
Robt.Tapster son of Thos, Barnet to Lancelot Burton.

5-4-1654
8-4-1629
25-4-1796

Volume 34
23-6-1654
25-4-1626
23-4-1659

Plasterers' Co.

Wm.Avis son of Thos plasterer to Thos.Wright
Edw.Ellis son of Richd. yeoman to Anthony Staynerodd
Roger Hodgson son of Jn husbandman to James Bringhurst
[25-7-1661 turned over to Hy,Hodgson]

Volume 35
6-12-1625
5-10-1602

Cutlers' Co.

Jn.Broomer son of Hy husbandman to Wm.Gable
Roger Francklyn son of Edw. ?Mimms husbandman to Richd. Smyth.

Brian Warren



BATTLE OF BARNET WALK – 16th June 2003.

On a lovely June evening about a dozen members met our President outside Old Fold golf club. We had come to see where the Battle of Barnet was, or was not, fought according to which books you read.

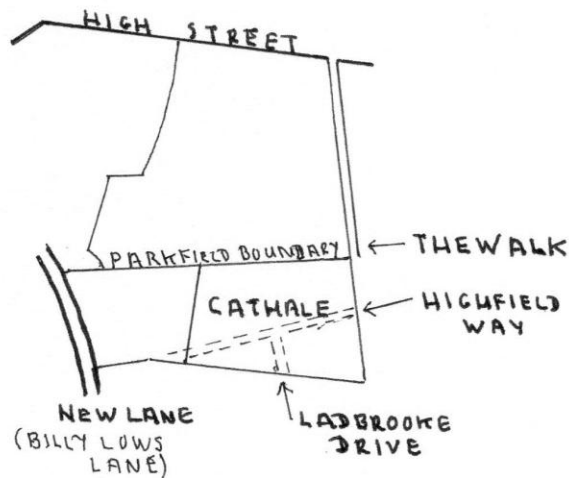
We walked across the golf course to a hedge where the king's (Edward IV) army is said to have hidden. On the way we found a cast iron post marking the 1896 boundary of Barnet Urban District Council (history is all around us!). We then walked back to Monken Hadley church and noticed some gravestones of local notables. Our final stop was at Hadley Highstone erected much later to mark the site of the battle. We noted it had also been used as a signpost giving distances to Hatfield (via the great north road) and St. Albans (via the Holyhead Road). The course of the latter is now the minor Kitts End Road. *John Scivyer.*

HERTFORDSHIRE VETERAN TREE SURVEY

As a follow-up to the article in the last Newsletter I subsequently discovered two larger Oak trees in Parkfield than mentioned in the previous article. I happened to park my car at the top of Byng Drive and as I walked along the footpath towards The Walk I noticed two large Pedunculate Oaks. The one near the path and a bench measured 17 feet in circumference, whereas the other one nearer The Walk, on the southern boundary of the former Parkfield estate, measured 16' 3". This is the northern boundary of the Cathale site (see the article on Cathale),

Brian Warren

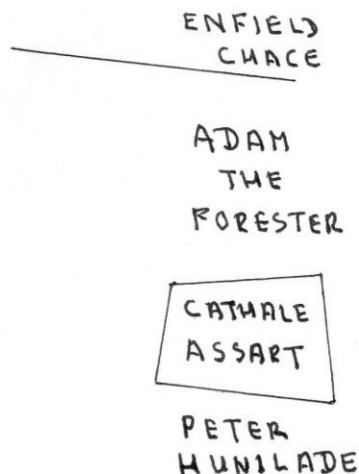
CATHALE



In 1425 three citizens and grocers of London, William Boverich, Edward Twyne and John Parker conveyed to John Danyell of Edmonton, maltman, and John Canon, citizen of London, a croft and grove called 'Cathale' in South mymms, by Enfold Wode and a lane called New Lane of twenty acres, Subsequently when The Brotherhood of the Holy Trinity in the Church of St. John the Baptist, Chipping Barnet was dissolved in 1547, 'Catalle Close', of 16 acres meadow and pasture plus 3½ acres of underwood, was sold to James Nedeham, brewer, for £10.

As noted by Helen Baker in the Society's publication, "Georgian Houses" she thought the lands were part of the endowment of a small Priory called Cathale, which was founded by Ernulph do Mandeville in 1220. That endowed land was an assart (former woodland now cultivated) which was between the land of Peter Hunilade and the land of Adam the forester by Enfield Chace.

An interpretation of this could be:



However, at the time of the 1842 Tithe Map the two fields from The Walk to Billy Lows Lane (see upper diagram) only totalled 17 acres and 27 perches, so while the bulk of the assart is probably as indicated above there is another 2 acres 1 rood 13 perches to be accounted for in adjacent land.

Variants of the name Cathale can be traced through the records, though not necessarily referring to the assart. To note a few:- Cathal Grove, Cattall Grove, Cattell Grove, Catholes, Cuttoles Grove and Cuttells.

Brian Warren

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Thursday, September 25th 2003 “The History of Surnames”, by Mr. Andrew Mussell.

How English surnames have developed and the meanings of surnames, with the audience being asked to feed in their surnames for analysis/explanation.

Tuesday October 28th 2003 “The Manor of Plardiwick”, by Mr. Ronald Smith.

This talk will centre on Ronald’s acquisition of the title of Lord of the Manor. The Manor in question is Plardiwick in Staffordshire. Ronald acquired this nominal title in order to investigate an apparently insignificant bit of England and see what he could find out about it, with special reference to the local history of commons and open spaces going back to pre-1066.

Thursday November 27th 2003 “Inns and Inn Signs”, by Mr. John Weston.

This is a follow up to Mr. Weston’s U3A talk in July 2002. It will include Inns’ contribution to our social structure, Inn signs as an advertisement, the reasons why Inn names have changed, and the origins of Inns’ names.

Tuesday December 9th 2003 The Christmas Social.

Including refreshments and quizzes.

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

WANTED!

WE NEED YOU

Working in our museum is very interesting.

Meeting people - young, old and in between

Passing on knowledge - Local information - Help with students studies - Accepting items from the public that will add to the Museum collections - Selling the many information booklets that are produced by our society.

The Museum is open Tuesday / Wednesday 2.30pm - 4.30pm. Saturdays 11.0am - 1 00pm

Could you spare two hours of your time perhaps once in six months or twice would be better

Training and help is given Please contact Arnold Davey 01707 654179

We also require an organizer to arrange the Wednesday Rota’s (Please help if you can)

HIDDEN RELICS

Occasionally, while walking around the northern end of Potters Bar, I come across signs of times past. For example, between the houses known as Nos.77 and 117 Great North Road and the A1000 runs a short service road, and to the immediate west of *that* is a line of large trees, with bushes and a grass strip. This is all that remains of the grounds of *Heronfield*, one of the several large houses that once stood in the town. Furthermore, running along the western edge of this ‘spinney’ are the remains of the red brick wall, just three courses high.

Probably better known (and not actually ‘hidden’) is the tall, red brick wall that separates the bus garage from Parkside. This was the northern boundary of *Parkfield*, another former large house. Less

noticeable is the short stretch of iron railing that runs along the western edge of St. Michael's Green and, finally, we come to the meadows opposite Quakers Lane telephone exchange. Now owned by the National Trust, these were once part of the grounds of *Morven* (which still stands) when it was a private house, and they contain all *sorts* of Victorian ironwork. Hidden among the bushes and in the ditches are fragments of gates, spike-topped fences and wire-stretchers (for field boundaries).

If you know of any other such relics in Potters Bar, please ring me on 01707 642 886. *JD*

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY, SOCIAL EVENINGS

The following illustrated lectures have been arranged for the start of 2003/4. 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	September 18 th	<i>The Silk Route to Samarkand.</i> Mr. Ian Torrence
Thursday,	October 23 rd	<i>Stereo experience, Maldon etc..</i> Mrs. Spence & son.
Thursday,	November 13 th .	<i>Whistle While I Work.</i> Mr M. Osborne.

For further details (tickets, lifts, mailing list) contact Mr. A. Maclean, 01707 653 636

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2003/2004 **ARE NOW OVERDUE**

Adults £3, Family/Group £5

Please pay at the September meeting, or to the
Membership Secretary, Mrs. Eileen Field,
51 Highview Gardens, Potters Bar, Herts., EN6 5PN

If you do not intend to renew your subscription,
kindly inform the Membership Secretary (653801).

FINALLY

Thanks go to our team of volunteers, without whose help we should not be able to distribute the Newsletter, and the man who organises the volunteers, Michael Cawrey.

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 (01707 642 886) 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.
