

The Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2004

VOL. 21 No. 1

COVER PICTURE

This is the twenty-seventh 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.



On the left of this familiar scene in South Mymms stands the granite War Memorial, which records the names of twenty local people who died in the First World War, and five in the Second World War.

The White Hart, which occupies nearly all the rest of the photo, was first known by that name as early as 1727. However, in 1933 timber framing and lathe & plaster were uncovered inside the building, and surviving parts of this earlier building were dated to the late 17th century. The original entrance was on the right of the inn, facing Blanche Lane (in the foreground) that, before the building of the Holyhead Road in 1826, was the main road.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members.

Welcome back to our new season of lectures. This always seems to start before we are quite ready for it, I mean it is much too early to dismiss all of the summer jobs I promised myself I would do.

What an awful disaster has happened in Boscastle in Cornwall followed by the landslides in Scotland. Neither of these can really compare with our little problems in Potters Bar. But once again, on Thursday the 12th of August, Darkes Lane was flooded and unless paddling in 'Potters Bar on sea' was to be considered, we had to wait for the waters to subside before walking home. Perhaps the answer to our biennial flooding is to excavate under Darkes Lane and put in more flood storage tanks similar to the one under the Golf Course car park. Maybe they could double the size of the present culvert under the road, but at what cost and how much disruption that will cause?

A new plaque has been placed beside the Romano British tile and brick kiln site in Parkfield Park, let us hope that it is vandal proof.

Our first lecture this year is on Friday the 24th of September, and is entitled 'Churches in Middlesex.' The lecturer is Graham Dalling, from our next door society in Enfield. Do not forget that we were once in Middlesex, and some people feel that we still are, but a rose (or area) by any other name is still

Terry Goulding

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I wish to convey my sincere thanks for the good wishes and support I have received before and after my operation in Barnet General Hospital.

Brian Warren

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome to the Society, Mr. & Mrs. D. Grammer, Dr. G. Peterson, Mrs. E. Matthews, Mr. R. Johns, and Mr. & Mrs. A. Evenden. 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.

OBITUARIES

We were sorry to learn of the passing of one of our members, Bob Grosse, of Abingdon Place. We send our condolences to his family.

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

There has always been some debate about the founding of Walden Monastery and its local repercussions. In 'The Story of Potters Bar and South Mimms' (p.28) Dr. John Kent expressed the view that, "The closeness of these dates [1136 and 1140] and the circumstances leave little doubt that the creation of the Chase and its transfer to Enfield parish, the establishment of the manor of South Mimms, and the donation of these churches to Walden Abbey, were all parts of a single act of policy. If we are correct in seeing Geoffrey de Mandeville's strong hand behind them, it is even possible to attribute his designs to the year 1136."

In "*A History of the County of Middlesex, Volume Five*" published ten years [1976] after the above book it was stated that (p.285) "When Geoffrey de Mandeville, earl of Essex (d.1144) founded the abbey of Walden (Essex) c.1140, he included in its endowments the church of and lands in South Mimms⁶¹" (⁶¹ *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum*, iii, pp.332-3).

In 1999 Diana Greenway and Leslie Watkiss edited and translated the first complete text of "*The Book of the Foundation of Walden Monastery*", in the Oxford Medieval Texts. The original book was written by a Walden monk soon after 1203, but the first five chapters have since been lost. The introduction provides a well-referenced and researched section on the de Mandevilles noting, "The year 1136, which is given as the date of Walden's priory's foundation in *The Book of the Foundation* and the *Walden annals*, has been treated with caution by historians, but it may well be correct." On page xviii reference is made to Geoffrey being created Earl of Essex probably at the end of May 1140 and shortly after he drew up Walden's foundation charter, giving the churches of his manors, together with certain named pieces of land and two mills.

Further information in this superbly researched and referenced book leads one to conclude that the founding of Walden Monastery probably occurred in 1136. A second charter then named the donation of nineteen churches, which included Enfield, Edmonton and Mimms, to Walden Monastery in 1140. Therefore it would seem likely that the creation of Enfield Chase and the establishment of the Manor of South Mimms should, in future, be dated to c.1140.

Brian Warren

AGM SPEAKERS

To follow the next AGM (Tuesday April 26th 2005) we propose to have several short 'talks', to be given by members. If you would like to offer such a talk please contact Arnold Davey (01707 654 179).

SOUTH MIMMS

THE GOOD FRIDAY SERMON

The Rev'd Daniel Lysons first mentioned (1800) that a "Mr. Ewer gave 10s per annum to the vicar for a sermon on Good Friday charged on a house, now the Black Horse." Unfortunately he did not record his source. Dr. Brittain in 1931 continued the theme but did suggest the house on the land to which the fee is attached was not then an inn. In 1936 the Rev'd Allen Hay transferred the sermon from St. Giles to the Black Horse, where it has been held ever since. The Victoria County History of Middlesex, volume 5 (1976) attributed the bequest to Henry Ewer (d.1641) stating the "yearly rent charge of 10s out of a house, in 1973 the site of the Black Horse, for a sermon on Good Friday." However, in 1877 the Rev'd F.C.Cass had written in his history of "South Mimms" that Henry Ewer above had died intestate!

This year when working through the microfilms of the Commissary Court Wills at the Guildhall, I transcribed the will of Richard Mason, senior, of South Mims, blacksmith, witnessed 11th October 1680. In the memorandum at the end of a long will was written, "Item as a lasting testimony of my good will to the Christian Church I give and bequeath an annuall gift of tenne shillings in money to bee paid yearely and every yeare out of the rents and profits of that house and land which I have conditionally bequeathed unto Mary Burton and her heires forever which tenn shillings bee yearly paid to the Minister of our parish Church of South Mymes for the time being and his lawfull successors upon every good fryday or our saviours passion day by the severall owners or occupiers of the said house and land for a sermon on that day forever after my decease."

Earlier in the will he left the house, in which he was living, to his wife Joane for her natural life but stated on his death the property was to go to Mary Burton, wife of John Burton, the daughter and only child of his eldest son, Richard. Then touchingly he bequeathed that his sons Richard and Abraham and all persons who shall hereafter dwell in the Unicorn house (forerunner of the Black Horse), which was then in the possession of Abraham should have free entry to and from the Well

belonging to the house which he bequeathed to Mary Burton, so that all three houses could be supplied with water from the Well.

When Mary's husband John made his will in 1707 he referred to the Sign of the Unicorn and two closes, as being of his inheritance but then in the possession of one John Hudson. An indenture of a yearly lease dated 1710 between John's eldest son, Henry and Henry Beard made reference to a lately new built tenement commonly called by the sign of the Unicorn and all that other tenement which two premises contained 12 rooms, a wash house, outhouse, two stables, haylofts with one backside adjoining.

It seems to me that the confusion arose because the Ewers, in 1637, did convey the house on the site of the present No.63, Blackhorse Lane for use as the Poor House and were also involved in other property in that area.

Of further interest is the existence of a trade token dated 1682, marked Richard Mason, victualler, of the year in which he died. In future I hope that glasses will be raised by those who attend the sermon to Richard Mason, the true benefactor [first published in South Mymms and Ridge Parish Paper, April 2004].

Researched by Brian Warren.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Thursday, September 24th 2004 “*Middlesex Churches*”, by Mr. Graham Dalling.

This talk will examine the architecture of Middlesex Churches from mediaeval times up to the 20th century. It will concentrate particularly on the county's Victorian churches, which include major works by Sir George Gilbert Scott, William Butterfield and John Loughborough Pearson. Many of the slides were taken while Graham was a student at Ealing Technical College in the early seventies.

Tuesday, October 26th 2004 “*The Walkers of Southgate*”, by Ruby Galili.

The talk will be a history of the Walker Family of Arnos Grove, (now the Beaumont Care Centre) Southgate. It was their home from 1777 to 1918 through four generations of the family. In 1900 they owned some 600 acres of Southgate and Palmers Green, most of which is now built over by homes, gardens and the parks. They were wealthy landowners and they used their wealth generously. They were tremendous benefactors to Southgate and Palmers Green. They donated the land and paid much of the costs of the two local churches. They donated the cricket ground and built the first school in Southgate. In the days before the Welfare State they contributed generously to all the local charities. In this talk you will meet Isaac Walker 1 who ate potatoes to relieve his gout, John Walker who loved the gardens and plants at Arnos Grove and was an enthusiastic member of the Royal Society, and corresponded with many famous people of the 18th and early 19th century. There was also Isaac 11, who died in an epileptic coma attended only by a maid at Southgate House and of course there were his 12 children: - the 7 unmarried cricketers and his 5 married daughters. We can envy their lifestyle and can be grateful to them too.

Thursday, November 25th 2004 “*The Growth of Cuffley*”, by Mr. John Higgs.

This tells the story, in old photographs, of Cuffley's development from a tiny hamlet at the end of the 19th century into the present-day busy commuter village.

Tuesday, December 7th 2003 The Christmas Social.

Including refreshments and quizzes.

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

RECORDER GROUP

Many years ago we had one Recorder for each of the nine areas into which Potters Bar was divided. Sadly, that number has dwindled to just three! Between us we attempt to record all the changes that affect the appearance and daily working of the town on a weekly/monthly basis. These changes tend to occur most where shops change hands, but we also note road works and alterations to houses (loft extensions, etc.). Every six months we meet to collate our findings, which are then sent to the *Herts. Association for Local History* where they become part of a valuable, countywide archive, for the use of future generations of historians and researchers.

It is interesting and worthwhile work, and it need not take up much of your time; if *you* would like to join our group and look after one of the areas, please phone John Scivyer (01707 657 586) for details now. *JD*

ST. JOHN'S VICARAGE (1846-1915); ST. MARY'S VICARAGE (1915-1935)



The Vicarage garden

Eileen Baillie, daughter of the Rev.G.R.P.Preston, (vicar in Potters Bar 1913-1920) recorded her memories of the Vicarage garden in Potters Bar Historical Series No.5 as follows:-

“The garden in midsummer was ablaze with flowers: an acre-and-a-half of it, plus an orchard with a wonderful selection of apple-trees: beyond that again a paddock:

Just by the front entrance towered an enormous Poplar-tree, which seemed never to stop the rustling and whispering of its leaves. Here the front-drive began, sweeping in a circle up to the Vicarage porch, where it looped round again to rejoin itself. From the loop branched the turning to a stable-yard; here was a large coach-house, - now to be used as a garage - with stabling for two horses, a tack-room, and living-rooms above.

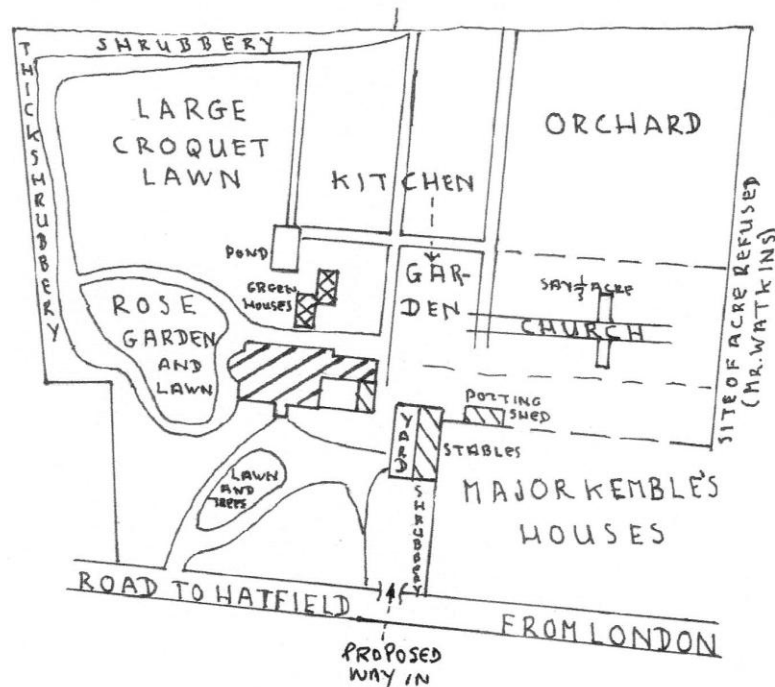
I spent weeks in discovering the delights of the garden: a small pond, a greenhouse, two large lawns, a tennis court, and a long grass-walk, bordered on both sides by banks of herbaceous plants.....

At the height of the fruit-season, I could not resist all those delicious raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, black, red, and white currants growing so temptingly in the kitchen garden.”

When researching in the Lambeth Palace Archives I discovered a plan of the Vicarage garden dated 11th March 1910, just before Eileen Baillie arrived at the Vicarage. By comparing it with the Ordnance Survey map 1913 (25-inch) I have reconstructed the garden as it was in 1910.

It is interesting to observe that the new church was to be built within the Vicarage grounds in 1910, before Mr. Hart gave the land where the present St. Mary's stands in The Walk, Potters Bar.

Mr. Watkins' Lands



THE PLAN IS NOT TO SCALE

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the staff at the Lambeth Palace Library and permission to reconstruct the plan, (17667, Part One).

Brian Warren

MUSEUM NEWS (PRESS NOTICE)

“What does Art Deco mean? The high life, ocean liners gliding across a moonlit sea, with the clink of cocktail glasses drowned by the jazz coming through the open portholes, or perhaps a Busby Berkeley spectacular showing at the local Odeon? Or maybe it means the General Strike, the Great Depression or the rise of fascism?

Whatever the resonances, the new exhibition at the Potters Bar Museum in the Wyllyotts Centre aims to cover most aspects of Art Deco from architecture to jewellery, with photographs, drawings and exhibits of ceramics by famous names of the period.”

The exhibition will run until January 2005, admission is free, and the opening times are as usual –

Tuesdays	2.30 – 4.30pm
Wednesdays	2.30 – 4.30pm
Saturdays	11am – 1pm
Sundays	all day, on those

Sundays on which the Antiques Fair is held.

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 Arnold Davey on 01707 654 179
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 2004/5. 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:

2004

Thursday September 23rd *Spritsail ahoy! – a history of Thames barges, past & present.*
Mr. Ken Cain

Thursday, October 21st *Knebworth House and the Lytton family.* Ms. Clare Fleck

2005

Thursday, January 20th . *California here we come!* Mr Adrian Gray.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2004/2005 **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).

LAMAS

The London and Middx. Archaeological Society will hold its 39th Local History Conference on Saturday November 20th 2004. The subject will be *St. Paul's and the Diocese of London: Fourteen Hundred Years*. The venue will be the Museum of London Lecture Theatre (10am-5pm). Further details from John Scivyer (01707 657 586).

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.**
