

The Newsletter

JANUARY 2006

VOL. 22 No. 2

COVER PICTURE

Since we have now used up all the black and white photographs of Potters Bar, taken between 1969 and 1972 by Mr. Bartlett, a former Secretary of the Society, we shall run a new series of photos supplied by Terry Goulding.



This is the second of a short series of wartime photos by Frederick Cole of Barnet. Sunnybank Road beside the railway was bombed at 5.34 on the morning of 18th October 1940. A number of the bungalows, on both sides of the road, were severely damaged but the two shown were the worst.

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.

With my tongue in my cheek and a glance out of the window I would say thank heaven we have not had any real snow this year. However, yesterday I had 43 fieldfares and one redwing in my garden eating apples at the rate of some twelve a day. The birds will have obviously flown from somewhere cold on the Continent, so let us hope that our wind and weather stay as they are.

Thinking of the weather and the season, I was reading through the adverts in a newspaper of the 1st of January, 1785 (220 years old), well, doesn't everyone read the latest newspapers! I was tickled by the advert for 'Cloaks and Levettees' (I do not know either). The copy came from 'The Daily Universal Register', printed 'Logographically, by His Majesty's Patent' (George IV). This was issue No.1 of a short running newspaper priced at two-pence halfpenny.

With the New Year started, let us look forward to our next Society meeting on Friday the 27th of January, when Dr. Alan Thompson will talk to us about James I and Hertfordshire, I hope to see you all then. *Terry Goulding*

TO THE FAIR SEX. MECKLENBURG AND HUSSAR CLOAKS AND LEVETEES.

A Number of Ladies there are, whose tender and delicate constitutions, will not permit them to take proper exercise in the Winter season, neither by walking nor riding, for want of proper warmth of covering, which nourishes the body almost equal to food; and as health is the first blessing human nature enjoys, under God, how careful should we endeavour to preserve so valuable a blessing; and for its preservation,

BRYANT, at No. 77, CHISWELL-STREET,
Some time since invented Mecklenburg Cloaks for Ladies, which merited the approbation of a great number of ladies of distinction, whom the proprietor hath had the honour to serve. They are made of fine Bath beaver, are light, warm, and convenient, have a genteel and pleasing appearance, and are put on and off with as much ease as a common cloak. Ladies may be measured, and have them made to their liking, from 25s. to Three Guineas each.

Likewise all sorts of Ladies Riding Great Coats made in every manner described. Plain Bath Beaver Cloaks, at 8s. 9s. 10s. 6d. 12s. 13s. 14s. 15s. 16s. 18s. and 21s. to Three Pounds each, all proportionably cheap, according to their different sizes and qualities, for ready money only.

Town or Country Shopkeepers supplied, with good Allowance to sell again.

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome Mr. M. Hallett and Mr. N. Woodroffe 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.

MURIEL BRITAIN, M.P.S.

Muriel is retiring from the post of Assistant Keeper of the Records at Jesus College, Cambridge, a position she has held with distinction for many years. As from January she will return to live at Ingham Lodge, South Mimms.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL, TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER 2005

Once again some thirty members were treated to a lovely evening in good company and in delightful surroundings. Each table had a floral decoration, hand-made by Wendy Davey, and the 'refectory' table was laden with delicious food prepared by Mabel Hammett, with assistance from June Parkes. Michael Cawrey was in charge of the raffle and its numerous prizes, while Ian Cumming kept everyones glass full at the drinks table.

Terry brought along part of his large collection of intriguingly obscure artefacts, instruments and tools (mostly in wood) from yesteryear. It was our job to try to identify the objects, although Terry is quite honest about the fact that *he* doesn't know what *all* of them are either!

It was the chaps who had helped to set the tables and put the food out and, at the end of the evening, it was the ladies who helped clear everything away and wash up (you could not *move* in the kitchen). At each table, the person whose birthday was farthest from the date of the social took Wendy Davey's floral arrangement home. In conclusion Brian Warren thanked all who had contributed to a most successful evening. *JD*

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

In this report I have included a number of items, which might be of interest to members.

"In Search of Suburbia" is an exhibition at the Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture, Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet, which runs until the 26th March 2006. Opening hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm.

This exhibition considers six developments in North London, built at different times during the past hundred years, e.g. Laing's South Lodge estate at Oakwood. Maps, old photographs, tenants' handbooks, house plans, estate agent's brochures and advertisements are all well displayed.

"The Lads of Enfield Lock" - The story of the RSAF Apprentices by Graham Birchmore and Roy Burges. The Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock survived for 172 years until it closed in 1988. This book tells the story of the apprentices, who once they had completed their course could secure a place anywhere in the engineering industry. Available from Ottakars, Enfield and other local bookshops at £10.

"Individual Work & The Dalton Plan" by A.J.Lynch, Headmaster of West Green School. Tottenham. George Philip & Son Ltd. Published 1924. A full account of the working of the Dalton Plan in the Elementary School.

Page 15, "Is there any valid reason why the pupils in the schools of the future should not be encouraged to work 'on their own', silently consulting books and making experiments?"

A.J.Lynch was Arnold Lynch's father who, as an Alderman, became Mayor of Tottenham in the 1940's. As Arnold attended his father's school he was educated under the Dalton Plan.

Potters Bar Cottage Hospital

In the January 2003 Newsletter I informed members of the records of the Hospital, which were held at Barnet Museum. As a result of two donations the Potters Bar Museum now hold the following Annual Reports for the Hospital:- 1885(1st one), the 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th-12th, 15th, 21st-24th, 26th-29th, 32nd-34th, 38th (1912), 1913, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1922, 1937, 1938, 1940, 1944, 1946 and 1947. Also held is the Inventory for 1931.

40th London & Middlesex Archaeological Society's Conference.

"WHEN LAMAS BEGAN: LONDON IN 1855"

I attended the conference to celebrate the Society's 150th year and in one session we heard about the early stalwarts of the Society, all of whom I had never heard of before. Barney Sloane of English Heritage delivered this paper. John Yonge Akerman was secretary of the Society of Antiquaries and interested in Bronze Age Barrows. Sir William Tite (1798-1873) was a leading architect, while Charles Roach Smith (1807-1890), a chemist, considered the topography of London, and the British Museum bought his collection in 1856 for £2000. Henry Syer Cuming (1817-1902) thought and theorised on Roman London and linked small keyhole excavations. The leading light of the Society was the Revd. Thomas Hugo (1809-1875) who gave lectures, led outings to the suburbs and was into everything. On the flimsy, evidence of two coins and a brooch, the former from the Thames, he sought the elusive Saxons! In connection with the finds from the Thames it was reported that he stopped paying a boy one penny. His forte was the Medieval period. Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (1811-1878) and Sidney Smirke (1798-1877) were also involved.

As with my articles on 'Local People From The Past', in the 'Community News' it is important to remember those who came before us, otherwise like us they will soon be forgotten.

Brian Warren.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Friday January 27th, 2006

"James I and Hertfordshire" by Dr. Alan Thomson

This talk falls just after the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot. It will deal with James' impact on the country: the swapping of Hatfield House for Theobalds, his hunting lodge at Royston, the new River, and how this affects the country people who have to foot the bill!

Friday February 24th, 2006

"Literary Hertfordshire" by Ann-Marie Parker

The talk will involve a chronological look at authors who have lived and worked in Hertfordshire. We may not have a Shakespeare but we have many other authors of note, and some lesser known. Authors range from Francis Bacon of Verulamium, Henry Chauncy, Charles Lamb and W.E. Johns of *Biggles* fame.

Tuesday March 28th, 2006

"Malting in Ware" by Mr. David Pearman

Ware was at one time the main malting centre for Britain. It provided brown malt for the porter drinkers of London, porter being a much-favoured 18th century drink. In Victorian times there were 100 malt houses in Ware. David will trace the development of this industry.

Tuesday April 25th, 2006

Annual General Meeting, followed by two speakers from the Society.

Don Grammar will talk to the title, "*A Seat in Many Counties; Bent or Boded.*" This is a mystery item, but we think it will be about bent wood chairs.

Anthony Plowman will take us through the history of the Somerset and Dorset Railway from its early days until its closure in 1964. He lived at Blandford Forum in Dorset and reminisces over the early milk train, the Pines Express, the livery (a mix of Midland and Southern green) and the lines ultimate takeover by GWR, with Dr. Beeching finishing it off. A must for railway enthusiasts!

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

WYLLYOTTS CENTRE.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

THE TOLL HOUSE AT POTTERS BAR - UPDATE

As noted in the last Newsletter (September 2005, p.5) the Barnet Press 3rd August 1898 (it should have read 13th) stated that, "the former toll bar had been sold for £40 twenty years ago." I have now located a further reference. In a series of advertisements for 'Disney's noted boots' commencing on the 23rd July 1898 reference was made to 'The old toll bar, the last relic of olden times, is being removed'. *BW*

MOUNT PLEASANT

You will recall that, in our September 2005 issue, Brian Warren wrote of, "The Toll House at Potters Bar", and he also mentioned the Toll House in Mount Pleasant. I have done some research into the latter and found that the house once stood near 'Jack Oldings' corner at Hatfield, close by Tesco's superstore. I tracked down a photo of the house at Mill Green Museum, and its owner, Mr. R.B.Coleman, has given me permission to publish it. No doubt the actual 'toll' part is that small building at the front, with the door bricked up. *JD.*



PHOTO: COPYRIGHT. MR. R. B. COLEMAN. HATFIELD

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

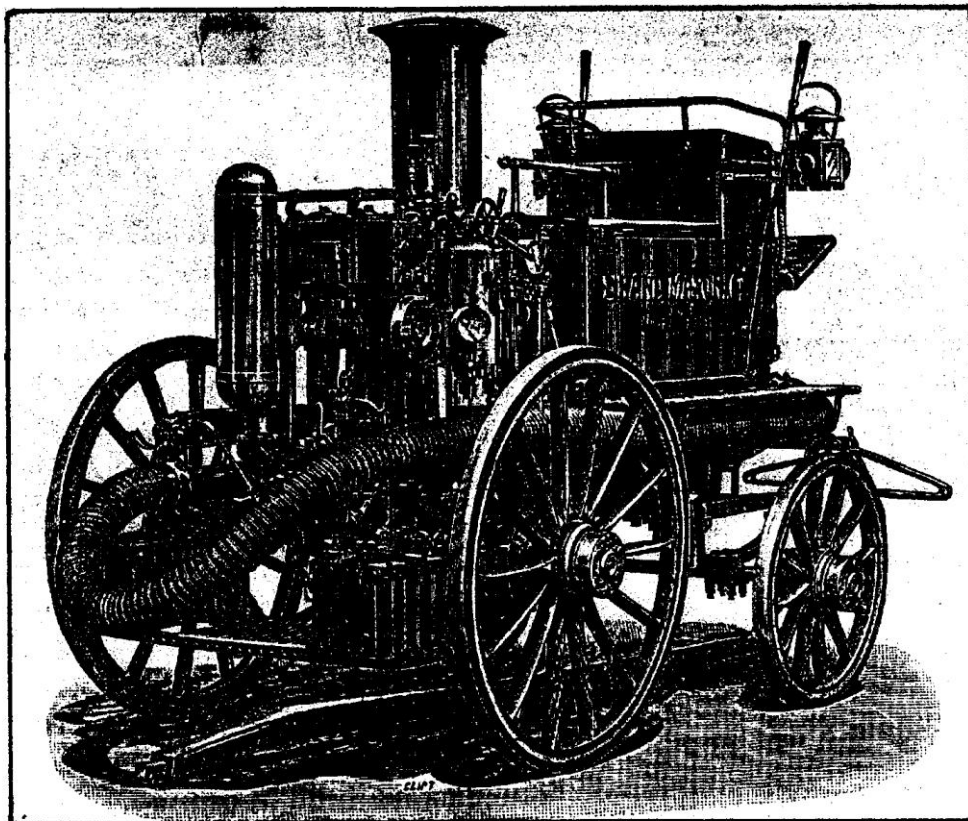
The following illustrated lectures have been arranged for the start of 2006. These will be held at the Tilbury Hall, Darkes Lane, commencing at 8pm, admission £2 (incl. refreshments), payable at the door. Non-members are welcome. Dates as follows:

Thursday	January 19 th	"Colney Hatch Asylum"	by Dr. O. Natelson
Thursday,	February 23 rd	"The real Norway"	by Mr. Rod Chilcot
Thursday,	March 23 rd	"Informal Quiz Evening"	

BARNET REQUIRES A NEW FIRE ENGINE

The Barnet Volunteer Fire Brigade was one of the brigades which was called out to attend to fires in the South Mimms and Potters Bar areas. The Barnet Local Board had purchased a manual fire engine before 1870, which by 1899 was not suitable for the requirements of the time. The Barnet Urban District Council proposed to patch it up at a cost of £28 and add a further £10 for brakes, because the firemen were endangered every time they rode downhill at walking pace. At that speed they often arrived too late to extinguish the fire,

'The Barnet Press' dated 3rd June, 1898, strongly advocated that rather than patch-up the old machine the Council should purchase the one illustrated below, with appurtenances, for about £400. This new light 200 gallon "double vertical" engine made by Messrs. Shand, Mason and Co., won the Challenge Shield, at the Fire Tournament in London, in 1896. It was without doubt the most effective type of fire engine yet invented, weighing 24½ cwts. In 9½ minutes a pressure of 120 lbs. was obtained, and water discharged to a height of 147 feet, and in a horizontal water test was thrown 260 feet. The head of the steam was easily maintained and the engine ran smoothly without vibration. These type of engines were in service in Swindon, Lichfield and Potton (Beds.) Volunteer Fire Brigades, but I have not yet discovered whether Barnet did purchase one,



BW

VISITORS TO OUR MUSEUM

Tom Forrest had spent a day at Crufts, and thought his elderly mother who lived in Scotland might be interested in the information in the programme so he sent it up to her. When he next spoke to her she said that it had brought back memories of when she worked in Potters Bar helping to train dogs at The Hook Army War Dogs' Training School at Northaw.

His mother asked if he could find out any information on the dog training at Potters Bar. Tom, who lives in Finchley, searched the Internet and found that Potters Bar had a museum, so he came to visit us. Terry was able give him several copies of photos from his collection. Tom also purchased a copy of our Journal No 8, in which one of the articles is, *The Army War Dogs Training School* written by D. Hipgrave.

An interesting note from Dennis Hipgrave's article

Period

April - Sept	1942	900	dogs entered the school
By March	1943	2000	
By January	1945	4400	
By May	1945	over 5000	

Breeds

Alsations, Labradors, Elkhounds, Spaniels, Dobermans, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Huskies, Mastiffs, Great Danes, plus numerous non-pedigree types.

Anna Bisset was ambling round the museum looking at all the exhibits when she picked up George Case's Book No 1. She flicked through the pages and came to the photo of San Marina (at Bignell's corner on the Barnet By -Pass), and she could just not stop laughing.

This was her story: In 1958 the family lived in Rushfield and the children liked to go down to the brook at Bridgefoot where they would take a picnic and enjoy crossing the brook and playing. Then they would cross the fields and get to the very derelict San Marina. The swimming pool was

still in the back, half-full of water, and they would continue to play in the 'Sub-Marine'. The reason Anna was laughing was that she always thought the place *was* called 'Sub-Marine'. On page 20 of his book, George describes a similar episode; when he went there the cafe and swimming pool were still in operation. Anna purchased the booklet, and then it was off to catch up with her sister to reminisce on their childhood. *Mabel Hammett.*

MOUNT GRACE

The site of the present school occupies fields once named Spring Field, Round Field, The Spring and parts of Great Mead and Long Mead. These were once part of the estate known as Denhams. The house of that name was near the present entrance to Honeywood House, in Darkes Lane. The earliest known reference to the Denhams' estate is 1554, when it was conveyed, with Boltons (Boltons Farm) by Henry Fortescue to William Tooke. Subsequently, in 1560, Denhams and Boltons were owned by John Lyon and became part of the endowment for Harrow School when he founded it in 1592.

The Mount Grace estate formed part of a much larger speculative building venture, when Messrs. Singer and Robert W.W. Vickery purchased from Robert Cooper Lee Bevan, of Trent Park, in 1855. Osborne Road and Heath Road were marked out and the total area was divided into 233 building plots of various sizes. From 1859 Roger Fenton commenced to purchase small building plots which were to form the site of the present school.

Roger Fenton was born in Lancashire, in March 1819, and studied at University College, London. In 1851 he was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple, London, practising from chambers in the Temple. For some unknown reason he became interested in photography and was one of the founders and the first Secretary of the present Royal Photographic Society. He was the first photographer of the British Museum, in 1854, and the following year went to photograph the Crimean War. In 1862 he retired from photography, to his new house at Potters Bar, called Mount Grace, which was probably built 1862/63. The name most likely is derived from Mount Grace Priory, in Yorkshire, as his wife came from that area and her name was Grace. He died in 1869 and was buried in St. John's churchyard (now the site of the War Memorial Garden). His wife, Elizabeth died in 1880, and though the gravestone was destroyed when St. John's Church came down in 1969, the memorial was transcribed, as follows:

God is love.

Roger Fenton born March 28th 1819

died August 8th 1869 and his wife

Grace Elizabeth died July 14th 1880.

In May 1888, when it was advertised for sale as a freehold estate it comprised of, "a most substantial RESIDENCE commanding extensive views, approached by a carriage drive containing ample accommodation for a family, with detached offices and stabling for three horses, double coach-house, harness-room, yard, laundry, etc extending over 61 acres."

Other known occupiers were John Currie (1870s), Edward D. Higham (1890s) and Walter J. Mappin (1900-1907). The Barnet Press, 21st September 1907 announced the sale of the house and effects. In 1910 James Forbes occupied Mount Grace having previously been resident in Mowbray Lodge, Heath Road. He lived at Mount Grace, with his wife and nine children, until he died in 1939. His wife Caroline died in August 1942, aged 87 years and was buried with him in the Potters Bar extension churchyard in Mutton Lane. One of their sons was Admiral Sir Charles Forbes, K.C.B., D.S.O., who was Commander-in-chief of the British Home Fleet from 1938 to 1940 and then Commander-in-chief at Plymouth. On Saturday the 24th September 1949, as Admiral of the Fleet, he officially opened the Ingram Cadet Centre, in Mutton Lane.

Early in the War of 1939-45 the house was used as a Children's Home, subsequently the children were moved to Chequers Mead, Coopers Lane Road, just before the house was to be demolished in the early 1950's. The need to achieve the full secondary school requirements in Potters Bar and South Mimms lead to a new school being erected at Mount Grace, where the first-year

secondary children moved in 1952. Mount Grace Comprehensive School was officially opened two years later. The influx of pupils from the Edmonton, Tottenham and Potters Bar estates resulted in the building of a new science block in Church Road, which became the main school for third to sixth form boys and girls, in 1960, while the first and second years were at the Lower School in The Walk, previously Parkfield Junior School.

© Brian Warren.

HALH

The *Hertfordshire Association for Local History* is the umbrella organisation for all of Herts. Local History Societies. Its origins go back over fifty years to the *Hertfordshire Local History Council*, founded by the well-known author, W. Branch-Johnson. Twice a year HALH publishes a Journal, *Herts. Past and Present*, which has articles on a wide variety of historical topics pertaining to Hertfordshire. Among the articles in the latest (Autumn 2005) issue are, The Knights Templars in Herts., Hall Place and the First Battle of St. Albans, Francis Combe of Hemel Hempstead and Recording Old Buildings, plus book reviews and an editorial. The price is two pounds per copy (but free to individual members). HALH also publishes a News and Events sheet four times a year (also free to members). If you would like to *buy* a copy of the Journal, just phone me on 01707 642 886. In addition, I shall bring some along to our next lecture meeting

HALH also organises three meetings a year. The Spring Meeting & AGM (admission free) and the Autumn Symposium (open to the public, and at reduced prices to individual members) both feature scholarly but accessible lectures, and attract display stalls from numerous Herts. Local History Societies. In the summer there is the delightful Garden Party (individual members only). Our own Society is an associate member of HALH, but there's nothing to stop *you* joining as an individual member; just phone me for details. *JD*

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your subscription year runs from April 1st to March 31st, even if you join later in the session. From time to time we have members who forget to pay in April, then fall behind with their subscriptions (a year or more in some cases). It is important that you keep your receipt in a safe place, to avoid confusion. Should you pay by post, be sure to collect your receipt at the subsequent lecture meeting. If you want us to *post* the receipt to you, please enclose a SAE. You can check your current membership status by phoning the Membership Secretary, E. Field, on 01707 653 801.

FINALLY

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

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.

**POTTERS BAR AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

General Secretary, John Scivyer 9 Hill Rise, Potters Bar, EN6 2RX

The 47th Annual General Meeting will be held in the 60+ centre at 8.00 p.m.
on Tuesday April 25th 2006

Agenda

- 1) Chairman's opening remarks
- 2) Apologies for absence
- 3) Minutes of the 46th A.G.M. and Matters Arising
- 4) Secretary's Report
- 5) Treasurer's report and accounts
- 6) Election of officers and six committee members. These are:-
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Vice Chairman
 - c) General Secretary
 - d) Treasurer
 - e) Archivist
 - f) Six committee membersPlease use the attached form to nominate candidates. This must be returned to the General Secretary (address above) **no later than 11th April 2005.**
- 7) Appointment of an independent examiner.
- 8) Appointment of trustees
- 9) Any Other Business – items must be sent to the General Secretary (address above) **no later than 18th April 2005.**

NOMINATION FORM

I propose (print name).....

For the Office of

Proposer.....

Secunder.....

Candidate's signature.....

After the Business there will be two short talks on historical subjects
by members of the Society