

The Newsletter

September 2008

VOL. 25 No. 1

COVER PICTURE

This is a photo taken by professional photographer Frederick Cole of Barnet, from the collection held by Terry Goulding.



Wyllyotts Manor and a fire engine and crew from Barnet that were there to advise the Building Inspector on the fire precautions to be carried out when the Potters Bar Urban District Council took over the building for Council Offices in 1937.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members.

I hope you all had a restful and happy holiday and that the changeable weather did not catch you unprepared.

I have just finished picking up another 3 buckets full of 'windfall' apples from my garden and put them into my green bin. It reminded me of a day more than 70 years ago when I was tagging along with a few older children who intended to scrimp a few apples from the orchard which has now become the car park of Tilbury Hall. There were too many of us and there was too much noise. Suddenly, the lady of the house that was there came out and said, "I don't mind you picking up the windfalls but no one is to pick any apples off the trees." I suppose it is the distant relatives of the codlin moths that infested those windfalls that are now affecting my trees, since I live close by.

There was one other danger in scrumping there, and that was Mr. Freddie Buggs, the Council Rent Officer, who was always ready to chase children away from the area. We named the footpath beside Tilbury Hall (opposite Heath Drive) after him and always called it 'Buggs Alley'. Some of us still do, so how about putting up a sign to honour a faithful Council worker instead of one of the chief dignitaries?

Our first lecture this season is on Friday the 19th of September, with a talk by Dr. Graham Handley entitled 'The Life and Fiction of Elizabeth Gaskell.' I hope to see you all then.

Terry Goulding

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome David Freeman and Mr. & Mrs. R. Ells. We hope you will enjoy the lectures and occasional outings that are part of our yearly programme, and that you will take an active part in our Society.

AUTUMN LECTURE

Friday September 19th, 2008

The Life and Fiction of Elizabeth Gaskell by Dr Graham Handley.

A talk on Elizabeth Gaskell: Her Life and Fiction. Also references to her biography of Charlotte Brontë and to recent television productions of her work.

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

AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)

Tuesday	October	28 th	<i>The History of more local Public Houses</i> , by Brian Warren and Terry Goulding.
Thursday	November	27 th	<i>Roman Enfield</i> , by Dr Martin Dearne.
Tuesday	December	9 th	Christmas Social & quiz evening with light refreshments.

MUSEUM STEWARDS REQUIRED

Members are needed to help look after the Museum. Perhaps you could help for just one day a month? It would be of great assistance and you would be on duty with an experienced steward.

Tuesdays	2.30 - 4.30pm, contact Ian Cumming on	01707 642296
Wednesdays	2.30 - 4.30pm, contact Arnold Davey on	01707 654179
Saturdays	11.00am – 1.00pm, contact Mabel Hammett on	01707 657120

RECORDER GROUP

The Recorder Group monitors changes to Potters Bar on a daily/monthly basis and generally meets twice a year to collate the findings. This work has been going on since 1984. Reports are sent in from all over the County and stored in the Hertfordshire Archives, County Hall, where they form a valuable record for the use of future historians and researchers.

Following the last Recorder Group meeting in June, it was suggested that now John Donovan was no longer available, it would be a good idea to hold an extra meeting in September. This would enable present and new members to establish which areas they could record and so set the Group on a new footing.

If you would be interested in attending, please contact the Chairman, John Scivyer (01707 657586), for the exact date of the September meeting.

DELIVERERS REQUIRED

In each issue we pay tribute to Michael Cawrey and his band of helpers, who save the Society pounds in postage by delivering your copy by hand. Naturally, our volunteers do come and go, however at the moment we do have a full complement. If you would like to help in the future, three times per year you would be required to push a Newsletter through the letterbox of half-a-dozen or so of your neighbours' front doors. If you can help, please ring me on 01707 652975.

Richard Lee

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2008/09 ARE NOW OVERDUE

The subscription year runs from April 1st to March 31st. 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, Eileen Field on 01707 653801. Her address is 51 Highview Gardens, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5PN.

Note: you should make your cheque payable to Potters Bar & District Historical Society, and *not* Mrs. E. Field.

Thank you to those members who send more money than the required membership fee.

POPPY FACTORY VISIT

There are 3 places still available on the coach to visit to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey. This will take place on Thursday November 6th, which is 3 days before Remembrance Sunday.

Details of the trip are as follows:

Cost £15.50, including lunch.

Leave Potters Bar 11.00 a.m. on coach from outside Wyllyotts Theatre.

Cup of tea on arrival.

A talk on the factory.

Lunch (Lite Bite: Homemade Soup of the Day served with Crusty Baguette, and Sweet of the Day)

Tour of the factory at 2.00 p.m.

Return at 3.30 p.m. arriving back at Potters bar around 5.30.

If you would like to go, please contact Colin Field before the end of September. Colin's telephone phone number is 01707 857297, and his address is 6 Inglefield, Potters Bar, EN6 1HD.

The Potters Bar Zeppelin

To help complete his forthcoming book on the *L31* incident, Ray Rimell would like to hear from any fellow members who may lend photos, cards, and/or anecdotes, etc., relating to the night of 1/2 October 1916. He can be contacted at 10, Long View, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 1BY / 01442 875838 / mail@windsockdatafilespecials.co.uk

*All correspondence will be answered and a free signed copy of *The Airship VC* sent with it.*

A NEW VENTURE

At our committee meeting in July we decided to have a stall at the Fun Day at Oakmere Park run by the Potters Bar Rotary and In Focus groups, on July 12th.

The day was fine, the atmosphere was great, and it was like a large Village Fete, with many stalls from all the different organizations we have in Potters Bar, from Horticulture to the Guides.

We erected a caravan awning that Stan Stanbrook kindly loaned us. We then set up tables and displays. We had old photos of Potters Bar, a small separate display of a large photo of the L31 Zeppelin printed by Terry Goulding, and around the edge we added quotes from John Bennett's booklet *The Potters Bar Zeppelin*. In front of this we had the Zeppelin and Captain Tempest booklets on sale. As we were in the park where the Zeppelin came down it created great interest. The large bookstand had a wide selection of our many booklets and on the table we had the Free Fact Sheets on Potters Bar. A small selection of information on Romans with the replica coins were on sale plus the Potters Bar postcards, pencils and pens. Three of the fancy telephones added interest as the children enjoyed pushing the buttons to hear Mickey Mouse speak.



It was a very successful day in promoting the Museum. Many people did not know we even had a museum in Potters Bar and I am sure they will now find time to visit us.

We hope the Committee members and Museum stewards who helped enjoyed the day and maybe next year we can go again.

Mabel Hammett

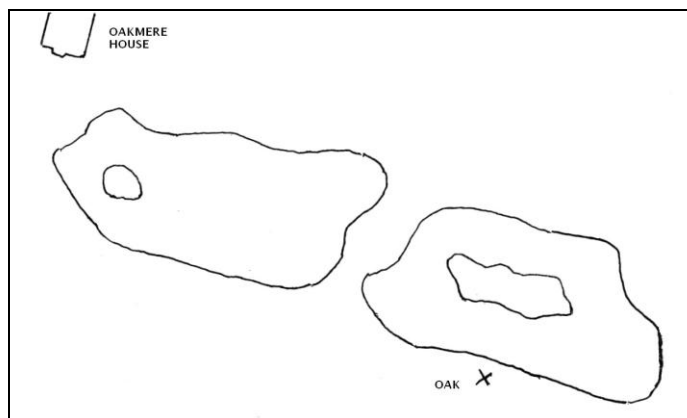
ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Perhaps some of our members follow the 'Question' section in the *Daily Mail*. Recently someone requested the origin of the name Potters Bar. The reply from a writer in Hertfordshire was incorrect, so I sent a copy of the Society's Fact Sheet No.5 to be forwarded to the correspondent. The next thing I knew a summary of our Fact Sheet appeared in the *Daily Mail* in May, beginning with, 'Further to the earlier answer?'

Just to show how things do not change the following appeared in the *Barnet Press* of July 19th 1918, under the heading 'Potters Bar News'.

"A correspondent complains of the growing nuisance of boys assembling near the corner of Mutton Lane of an evening and molesting and insulting people who pass that way. He complains also of window breaking and of damage to garden crops."

In Oakmere Park there is an old Pedunculate Oak tree, which is a survivor from the time of Enfield Chace. It is near the lower lake as shown on the plan below. At four feet from the ground it measured 15 feet in circumference. Other such survivors can be found around the area, for example, take a walk in Trent Park.



2nd March 2008



16th August 2007

STORIES OF MEMBERS OWN FAMILIES

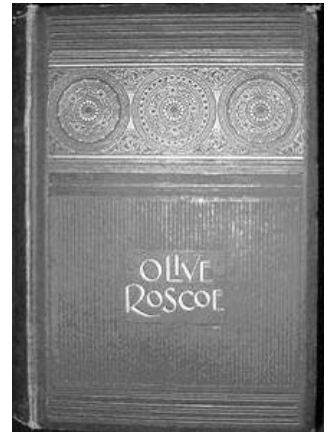
MABEL HAMMETT

COINCIDENCES

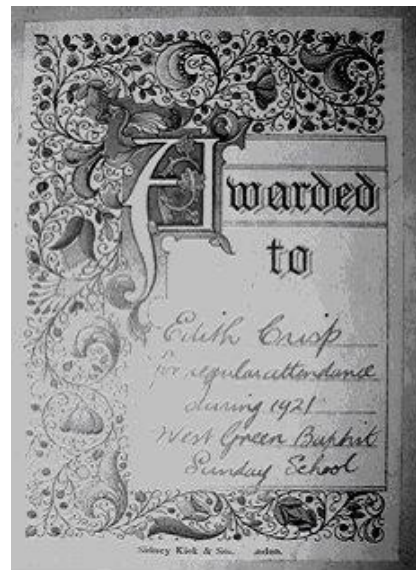
In 1966, Roy and I purchased number 3 Heath Cottages. An elderly single lady Julia Leonard who had lived in the cottage all her life had died and as her relatives lived a long way away, we offered to use or take all the unwanted items to the tip.

Amongst the books was a Sunday School Prize: *First prize in First class of girls in 1902.*

Presented to Julia Leonard by the Rev James Pollock of Christ Church Sunday School, Little Heath It was a novel *Olive Roscoe* or *The New Sister* by E. EVERETT-GREEN, published by T Nelson & Sons in 1902 with eight black and white prints. The book is bound in green with gold lettering and gold edged pages.



By coincidence I had a copy of the same book which I had read many times. It was a Sunday School Prize given to my mother Edith Crisp for regular attendance at West Green Baptist Church Tottenham London N17 in 1921. My mother had lived in Australia for ten years from 1909 - 1919. The book had travelled there and back with the family. I am one of five children and over the years the book had a few pencil scribbles and pages 15/16 are missing. Imagine my joy at being able to read the two missing pages. This book is much smaller than the other one. It was published by Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd and there is not a publishing date but it has three coloured prints, and so shows how the printing business had improved over the years between the two books being published



Mabel Hammett

Do you have a family story that we could include in a future Newsletter?

ADRIAN T.HARDMAN, architect.

Whilst searching through copies of the Northaw Parish Magazine, in connection with the erection of the Cuffley Mission Church, Plough Hill, I read in September 1910, 'that the new line of railway has been opened to Cuffley, it is expected that the population of the district will gradually increase and before very long the accommodation in the schoolroom will be insufficient for the needs of the Church people living in it. The cost of the new Church is being wholly provided by the kindness of Mrs. Kidston and Miss Le Blanc.'

Further reading proved that Mr. & Mrs. Hardman, who lived in Church Lane, Northaw, in a cottage once on the present site of No.35, were strong supporters of the proposed church. When it was completed a painting by Mrs. Hardman of, 'The Nativity' was later placed over the altar. Their son, Adrian, was educated at Christ's Hospital and the Architectural Association, where he gained the fourth year travelling studentship and had passed his intermediate examination of the R.I.B.A He was articled to Mr. F. R.Farrow, F.R.I.B.A., and served his improvership with Sir Ernest George, A.R.A., and Yeates. It was under his supervision and guidance that the little Mission Church was built and he completed much of the interior decoration.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH 1916

In 1910 St. Andrew's Church was built on The Green next to The Plough.

In February 1915 he obtained a commission in the Royal Fusiliers (Special Reserve) and was appointed bomb instructor. The following February he was promoted to lieutenant and went to the front. The May 1916 Magazine recorded the death of Lt. Adrian T. Hardman, on the 30th March. There was an obituary in

The Times but the report in *The Hertfordshire Mercury* for the 1st April 1916 noted that Adrian was an architect of great promise and had designed Nos. 80 - 84, High Street, Potters Bar. The builders were Messrs. Ekins of Hertford.



c. 1919



August 2007

Close examination of the photograph on the left indicates the occupiers were (left to right) Cyclists' Rest, Cobb Bros. and W. A. Bray. My uncle kept a pocket diary from 1914-1920 and recorded on the 16th August 1919 that he came with his future wife (married 10th July 1920) to Potters Bar — "Good tea at Cyclists' Rest and then stroll towards South Mimms."

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Ken Stroud for giving me access to the Northaw Parish Magazines. Also, to John Higgs for giving me permission to reproduce St. Andrew's Church photograph.

Sources

Northaw Parish Magazine, May 1916.

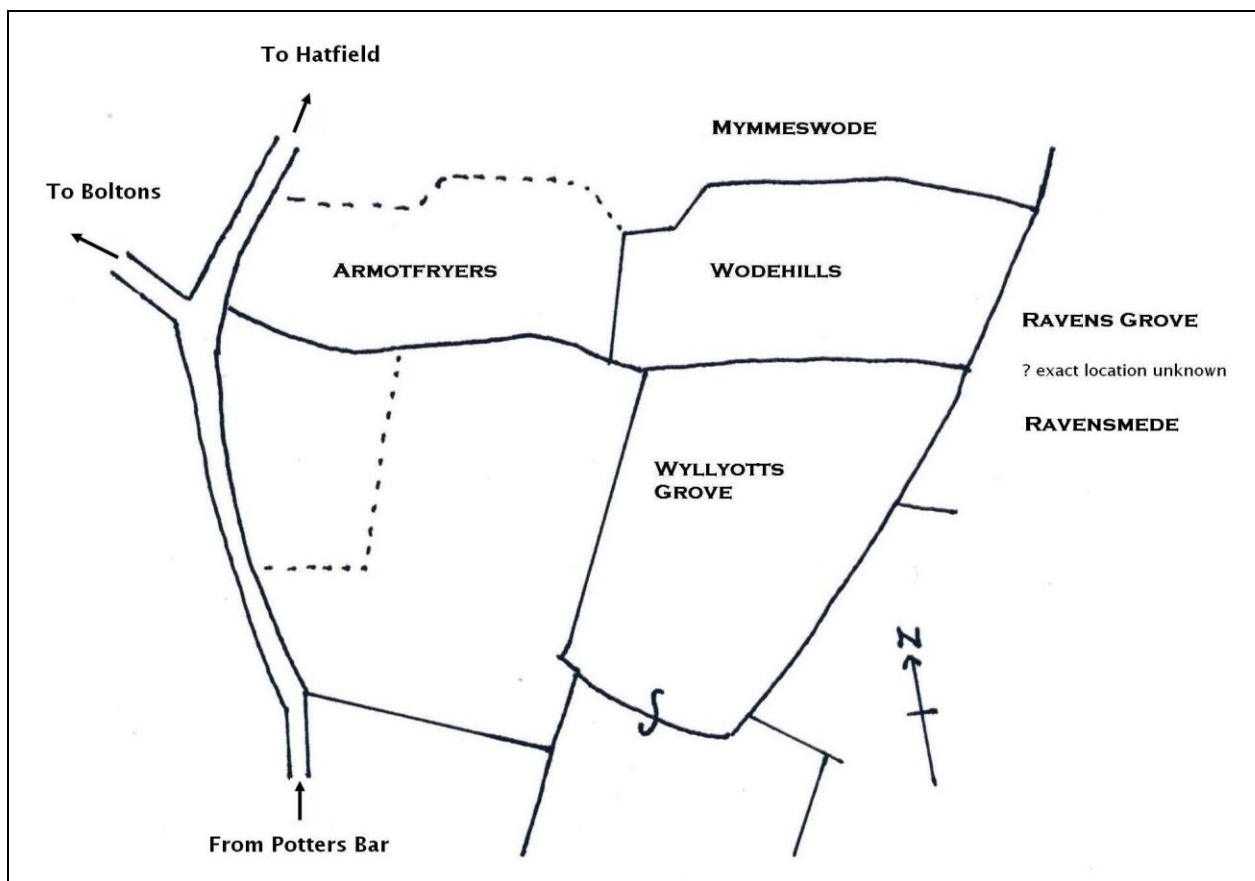
Northaw Parish Magazine, September 1910

1919 diary of Mr. W. H. Warren

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ARMOTFRYERS

The meadow called Armotfryers, in North Mimms Parish, corresponds roughly to the field from School Road, Little Heath, towards the boundary stream of Leggatts. The only reference I have found occurs in the Manor of Brookmans Court Roll for the 11th March 1530, following the death of Robert Grubbe. His widow, Alice, surrendered to the Lord of the Manor a field called Wodehills between the grove called Wylllyotts Grove on the south and a great wood of Mymmeswode on the north. Ravens Grove and Ravensmede were to the east, with Armotfryers on the west.



According to the reference to Wylllyotts Grove it most likely included Waldens Grove within its boundaries. Does the name Ravens refer to a person or a bird? However, it was the name Armotfryers which fascinated me. After consulting several authorities without success I wrote to Dr. Joan Thirsk but she replied that it “leaves me totally puzzled.” Similarly, Margaret Gelling, the place-name authority, suggested ‘hermit friar’. The Old French/Middle English ermite becomes armet, as in Armetridding, in Lancashire. This she noted was an outside guess if we had no record of a friary or any ecclestial association, which we do not.

If anyone does find another reference I would be pleased to know. It is interesting to note that Armotfryers was meadow in 1530 and is still pasture today.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my thanks to the experts mentioned above and those who tried to help. Similarly, to Robin Harcourt Williams for his assistance, and the staff of HALS.

End of 'Fools Luck' (B.17 42-31068)

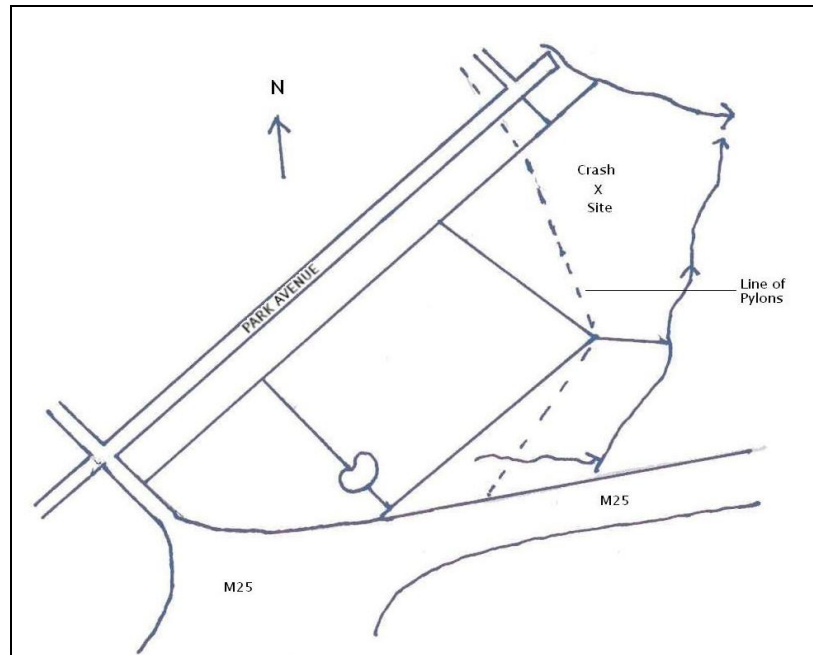
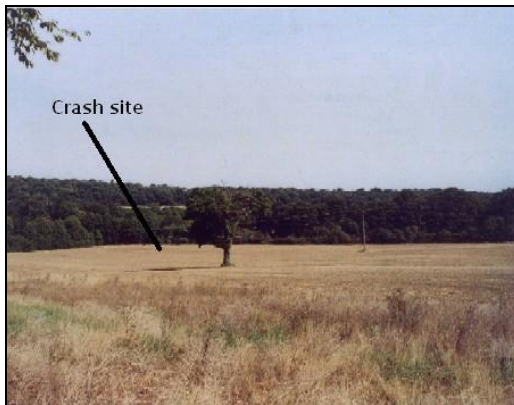
My name is Ted Foulser. This is my account of an air crash which occurred when I was nearly 7 years old.

The evening of 31st December 1943 I was with my family at our home in Park Avenue, probably listening to the wireless when there was a tremendous roaring sound, and then nothing. There had not been an air-raid siren, so people went into the road looking for signs of fire, but there was none.

On the following day I went with my older brother, Frank, and others to a field at the bottom of Park Avenue.

In the field close to the overhead electric pylon was a B.17 American bomber. The first aircraft I had seen on the ground. The air crew had apparently baled out.

Crash Site of B.17 42-31068



My most vivid recollection is standing in front of the nose cone section, which was completely shattered. There were pieces of Perspex lying on the ground that other boys were picking up as souvenirs.

Sometime later I remember the aircraft being dismantled and taken away on long low-loader lorries.

Sixty years on my interest in the aircraft was awakened when I met Brian Warren, the Honorary Archivist for the Potters Bar and District Historical Society, at the home of my sister, Florence, who still lives in Park Avenue. Brian was able to furnish me with a copy of the photograph from January 1944, which showed the registration numbers and Bomb Group markings on the tail of the crashed aircraft.

I took the photograph to the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division U.S.A.A.F. at The Forum in Norwich. A representative of the Trust informed me that the aircraft was from the 401 Bomb Group U.S.A.A.F. Deenethorpe, Northamptonshire. He also gave me the name of Cliff Bishop, author and bookseller of books about the American bombers of W.W.II.

I contacted Cliff Bishop at Elsenham, near Bishops Stortford, where I bought a book of the History of the 401 Bomb Group. I showed Cliff the photograph of the B.17 and he informed me that his brother, Stan, was compiling a book about aircraft losses of the 8th and 9th U.S Air Forces in W.W.II.

A short time later Stan Bishop wrote to me with information about the B.17 which was as follows:

B.17G-1-BO 42-31068 SC:D 'FOOLS LUCK'

This aircraft was first reported to being abandoned near Ware.

The crew of 42-31068 were as follows:

Pilot	Captain Jere W Maupin	C-P	2nd Lt Earle C Owens
Nav	Captain Walter E Eaberer	Bomb	Cap Ronald Woodhouse
TTG	S/Sgt Foster E DeWees	RO	Sgt James J Graham
BTG	Sgt John Farmer	LWG	Sgt Henderson
RWG	Sgt Burton A Markle	TG	Sgt William D Smith

Captain Jere Maupin and crew were forced to bale out over Hertfordshire due to battle damage and weather conditions. All landed safely and returned to duties.

Brian Warren was able to give additional photographs of the crash site which I passed on to Stan Bishop for entry into his book: *Losses of the US 8th and 9th Air Forces (June 1942 - December 1943)*, which was published in 2004. My contributions are on pages 458 - 461.

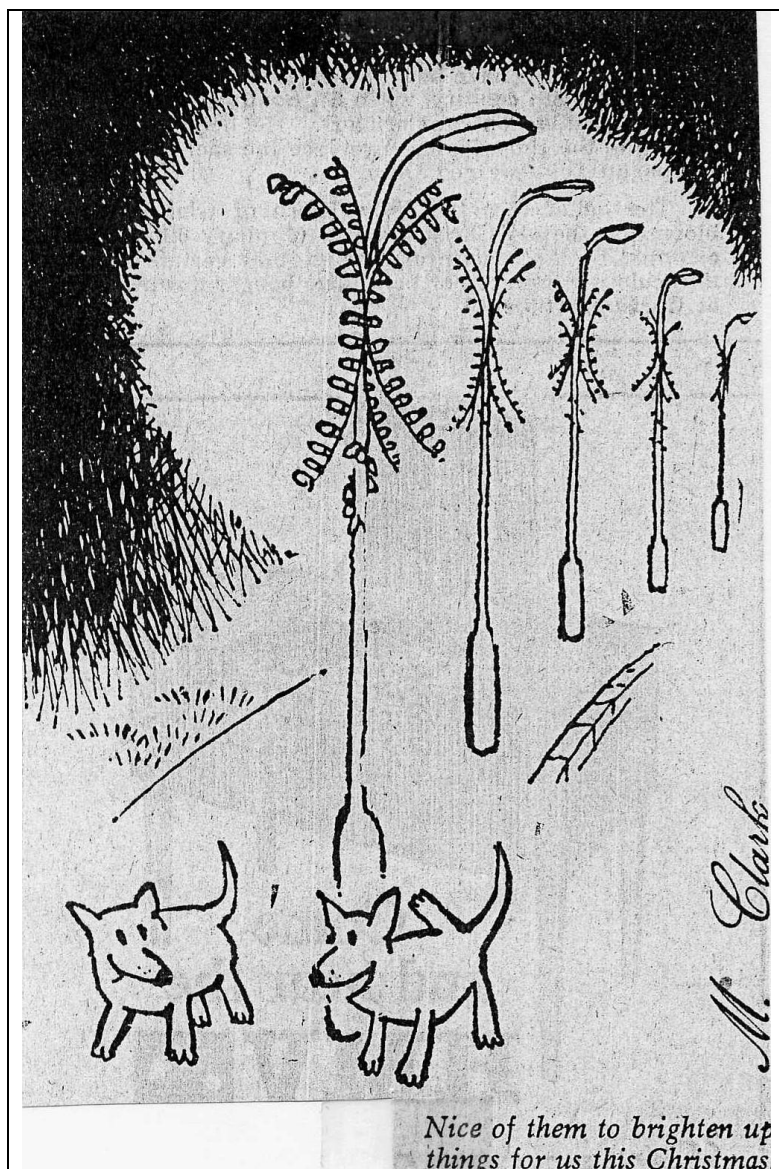
I would like to thank Brian Warren for awakening my interest in 'Fools Luck' after so many years.

Ted Foulser

These photographs were taken by Frederick Cole, of Barnet, and the copies given to Ted Foulser were provided by Terry Goulding. [The number painted on the fin of U.S.A.A.F. aircraft (*tail number*) is formed from the last digit of the year (42) and the serial number suffix (31068). So for the B.17 above, serial number 42-31068 is shown as 231068 on the tail number. *Ed.*]



POTTERS BAR XMAS LIGHTS 1966



Let there be light

I WAS impressed with my first view the other evening of the Christmas lights in Potters Bar. They provide just the right festive, atmosphere in the, two main shopping areas – in High Street and Darkes Lane.

The lights give a Christmas-tree effect and provide attractive “avenues” of lights high above the traffic on the street lamps on each side of the road.

The results, will more than repay Potters Bar’s enterprising Chamber of Commerce for their contribution towards the cost of the scheme shared by Potters Bar Council.

The above appeared in The Barnet Press dated the 9th December 1966. The cartoon is reproduced by the kind permission of Michael Clark, once of Cuffley, but since 1969 of Tewin.

Brian Warren

The PB&DHS Newsletter is produced in September, January & May of every ‘season’. Mabel Hammett looks after photocopying and collation, and Michael Cawrey organises, with volunteers, the distribution of The Newsletter

If you wish to submit an item for inclusion (preferably of a ‘local-history’ nature), please phone the Editor, Richard Lee (01707 652975) 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.