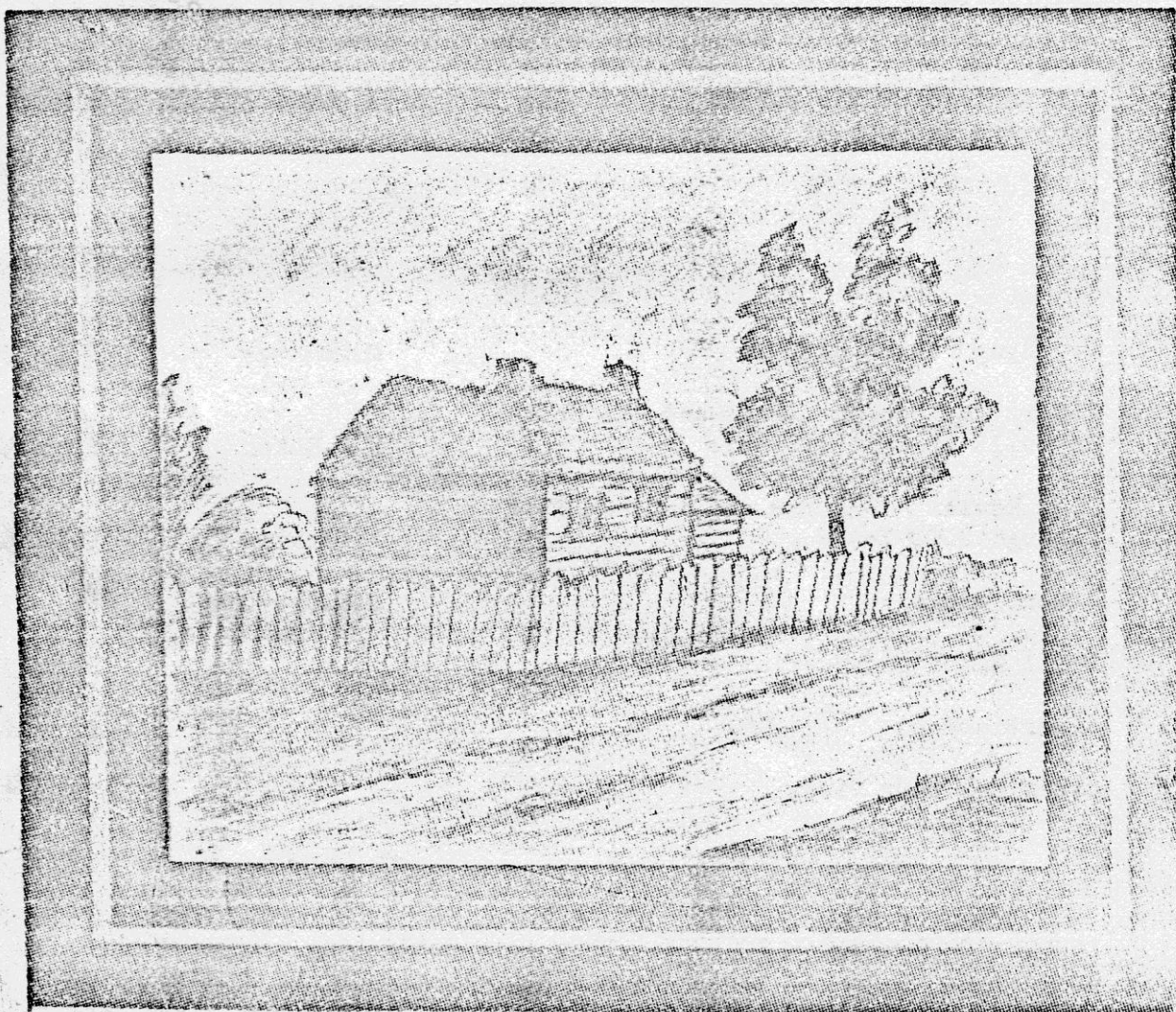


Price 2p. (FREE TO MEMBERS)

FEBRUARY 1977



*A Cottage by the Road Side, near the 13 Mile Stone beyond Bristol;
This was one of the Pipers Lodges of Infield Chase.*

POTTERS BAR AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT : Mrs. Muriel Brittain, M.P.S.

CHAIRMAN : A.W.Longden

HON. SECRETARY : A.Harding, M.A., 83 Byng Drive, Potters Bar. Tel.52973

Formed in 1959 to encourage the preservation of things of local interest and to study both local and general historical matters. Meetings are held throughout the winter months at intervals of approximately three weeks. Details of these are exhibited in the Public Library notice boards or may be obtained from the secretary. Subscriptions are 75p. per annum and 40p. for those under the age of 21 and for senior citizens.

In 1973 an archaeological group was formed but so far no digs have been carried out. The Society will, however, be pleased to hear from any member of the public who wishes to help with one.

All members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings whether they are members of the Society or not.

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CONTENTS

Mr. Byng Passes By	M.Tomkins	Page 3
Robert Taylors New Lands and the House He Built at Cattall Grove	H.M.Baker	Page 4
Book Review - Elstree and Boreham Wood Through 2000 Years	M.Tomkins	Page 6
Recent Books	C.T.Overend	Page 7
Local Notes and Queries		Page 9
Advertisement		Page 10
Dates for Your Diary		Page 11

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LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY. This is a publishing society: its purpose is to assist the study and appreciation of London's history and topography by making facsimilies of maps, plans and views, and by publishing research. The annual subscription is £2.50 and for this the members receive the publication of the year and may also purchase other publications at a reduced rate. Details may be had from the Hon. Sec. Stephen Marks M.A. R.I.B.A., 50 Grove Lane, London SE5 8ST.

All opinions expressed in this journal are those of the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the members of the Potters Bar and District Historical Society either as a body or as individuals.

HON. EDITOR : CT Overend, 30 Deepdene, Potters Bar.

Published by Potters Bar and District Historical Society.

MR. BYNG PASSES BY

One misprint crept into my article "Travellers Through Kitts End" in PBHS8 (page 5);; it was not as Kitts End that John Byng referred to the hamlet but as 'Kitts Inn'. Perhaps he thought that was the name of the inn, whichever one it was, at which his coach stopped on June 7th. 1970.

He had become, in his travels about the country, a connoisseur of inns, yet of the hundreds he sampled he did not think there is so cheap an inn in England as the White Hart at South Mimms, 14 miles from the Capitol (sic), on a great road.' He was implying that its position might have been expected to put up its prices; conversely he had been led to expect remote Welsh inns to be cheap, but 'of the boasted cheapness of Sth. Wales a traveller never tastes, being considered as fair plunder : - Sth. Mimms in the St. Albans Road, 14 miles from London, is a cheaper station than any we met with in Sth. Wales.'

We can picture the inn at the time Byng knew it, assuming that there was little change between then and 1802, for this is the date of the water-colour reproduced in THE STORY OF POTTERS BAR AND SOUTH MIMMS and more than once shown on the screen at our meetings. The 'great road' it faced is now, of course, the village street, for this was before Telford's road had caused it to turn its face that way.

As well as the St. Albans road through South Mimms Byng knew the Great North Road through Potters Bar. On September 5th. 1790 he was on that stretch of road, walking towards London, when 'an approaching storm' led him to seek shelter. Being so near his kinsman's seat of Wrotham Park, he might (one would have thought) have sought refuge there; but not so. He disliked the building and considered that his 'foolish uncle Admiral Byng' had been 'gulled (blockhead as he was) by an architect to build a Stare-about Pile near Barnet.' He chose instead to shelter 'in the stable of an unlicensed alehouse at the 13 mile syone.'

'Within sight at a small distance is a cottage by the road side near the 13 mile stone beyond Barnet,' he wrote, adding that it was 'one of the keeper's lodges of Enfield Chace.' This, to pass the time, he sketched; and his drawing still exists in his diary of this journey, which is in Luton Library: it depicts a typical tiled and weatherboarded cottage surrounded by a fence. (Reproduced on the front cover. Ed.)

The thirteenth milestone was at Ganwick Corner. The Duke of York had been built there in 1785 according to THE STORY OF POTTERS BAR AND SOUTH MIMMS, though it appears not to have been so called in 1793; and its predecessor, the White Horse, was in all probability the unlicensed inn where Byng sheltered. From there, looking across the road towards the south, he would have had a view of the Pinfold Cottage, which may well have been the keeper's cottage he sketched. It was so called because it had been attached to the pinfold where stray beasts from the adjoining Enfield Chace were impounded, but the enclosure of the Chace in 1777 meant that they were no longer turned out on it; consequently the pinfold had become unnecessary, and the keeper's cottage as well. By 1793 it appears from Mrs. Baker's researches that the cottage had been replaced by 'a newly erected brick messuage adjoining the late pinfold or pound'. Unwittingly therefore, Byng made his sketch of it not long before its disappearance. Perhaps there's a lesson to be learnt here!

ROBERT TAYLOR'S NEW LANDS AND THE HOUSE HE BUILT ON CATTALL GROVE

In the introduction to the seventeenth century rentals of the manor of Wylllyotts, recently produced by the Society, it was mentioned that the rental of 1605 came from a rough manuscript book which gave details of additional freehold lands, not part of the manor, which had been bought by Robert Taylor in 1594, the same year in which he became the owner of the manor of Wylllyotts.

The details of these freehold lands were not included with the 1605 rental. They are of considerable interest because they became, in time, the Parkfield Estate part of which still remains as a public park. It therefore seems worth while to set out some of the details of the previous owners and of the building of Robert Taylor's house on Cattall Grove.

The sale to Robert Taylor states that the lands were 'anciently of the inheritance of John Graunt' who in 1480 sold them to John Goodier of Monken Hadley. In 1537 his descendant, Francis Goodier, sold three pieces of land called Woodfields, Smithes and Cottingwithes in the parish of South Mimms to Walter Marsh acitizen and mercer of London. Within a year Walter Marsh had resold the same lands to James Needham, who at the same time purchased from Francis Goodier another thirty acres of land called Cattall Grove. It appears that Francis Goodier had retained some rights in Cattall Grove which he only released after James Needham had, in 1543, sold the original lands and Cattall Grove to Henry Goodier of Southwark, an uncle of Francis Goodier.

Henry Goodies and his heirs held the property for nearly fifty years. In 1594 his grandson, Henry Goodier of Newgate Street in Hertfordshire, sold all the lands to Robert Taylor who had just bought the Manor of Wylllyotts from Robert Stamford.

The sale in 1594 includes four small properties besides the original lands of Woodfields, Smithes and Cottingwithes and the wood called Cattall Grove. These were a house and land at Potters Bar occupied by Thomas Therowgood, leased by Henry Goodier to John Adams for 21 years from 1580 at a rent of £24. Another house with two acres of land held by Robert Pylgrim during the life of his wife Alice, by virtue of a lease made in 1580 to her first husband William Piers for as long as either he or Alice should live, at 6s.4d. rent. A third house with $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of ground occupied by John Cumber was held by a lease made to John Bankes in 1580 for 30 years at 6s.3d. for the first 22 years and after for 12s.6d. And lastly a House and two acres of ground, a part of Cattall Grove, held by a lease made in 1587 to Richard Rolph for thirty years at 30s. rent.

Except for the last it is impossible to tell if these small properties were part of the original lands. Some of these are listed under 'Mr. Goodier's rents' in the 1605 rental, but already some of the tenants and rents had changed and there are doubts as to which was which.

Four years later Robert Taylor bought another small piece of land from John Flexmere. It was part of a field called Cattall Mead on which it abutted towards the north and west and towards Cattall Grove on the south and east sides. With it was a strip of bushy ground or bank measuring 27 poles (about 445 feet) long by 5 feet wide which was between the first piece and other land of John Flexmere. The Flexmere family had held land called Cattall since before 1569 for in that year Thomas Flexmere had, by his will, left his field called Cattall field to his son John after the death of his mother Margaret Flexmere, who was to have it during her life.

These lands called Cattall or Cathale at Potters Bar are thought to be part of the endowment of a small Priory called Cathale which was founded by Ernulf de Mandeville about 1220. Its site was somewhere near Cattlegate Farm whose name is also thought to be derived from Cathale. By 1240 the priory lands had been transferred to the nunnery of Cheshunt which seems to have sold them. In 1425 a grove and croft called Cathale was the subject of a grant made by three grocers of London. It was described as being by Enfield Wood and the lane called New Lane (now called Billy Lows Lane).

Other land called 'Cathale Close' containing 16 acres of meadow and $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of underwood near the hamlet of Potters Bar was the property of the Guild or Brotherhood of Barnet. In 1547 when the Guild was dissolved the land at Potters Bar was sold to James Nedeham of Westminster, brewer, who had been its tenant since 1536.

We know from other records that the Barnet Brotherhood land was on the east side of land called Longcrofts, which is shown as held by Thomas Mossoff Billy Lows Lane, in the old Wylllyotts plan of 1594. Henry Partridge and John Flexmere are named as owners after the Barnet Brotherhood, which suggests that the land called Cattall belonging to John Flexmere in 1598 was this land.

To return to Robert Taylor and his land. During his ownership a fine house had been built for him on Cattall Grove. In a book of plans by John Thorpe, an Elizabethan builder, which is at the Soane Museum in London, is a plan of a house entitled 'Mr. Taylor at Potters Barr 1596' which may be a plan of this house on Cattall Grove. The Historical Society is fortunate in having a photograph of the plan among Mr. Butcher's collection of notes and photographs. The plan is of the ground floor and first floor only, it shows an almost square building with a projecting, two storied porch in centre of the front with bay windows on either side. A similar projection and bay windows are at the back. On either side wall, square projections contain a circular staircase to the upper floor and a door to the gardens. A light well down the centre of the house, brings light to passages and inner rooms. On either side of it are the great chimney stacks of the fireplaces in the parlour and hall and two bedrooms on the lefthand side and the kitchen and bedrooms above on the righthand side. A buttery and another small room on the ground floor on the right have stairs apparently to cellars.

There is, unfortunately, no way of proving if this was the house on Cattall Grove. Robert Taylor certainly built a house there between 1594 and 1603. Its approximate site is marked on Edward Vickers's survey plan of Wylllyotts Manor of 1745, as 'CootHall', but the house had been pulled down and the materials sold some time before and no traces have been found.

In 1603 Robert Taylor sold the Manor of Wylllyotts and his new house, described as a capital mansion, lately built on Cattall Grove with stables, barns, outhouses etc., courts, gardens and the small houses and their pieces of land.

Sir Roger Aston, the new owner, sold it all two years later, in 1605, to Robert Honeywood of Hoxton. The first rental of Wylllyotts Manor was made in the same year. The deed of sale shows two changes in the tenants. Myles Postelett has now a lease of Thomas Thorowgood's house and orchard at a rent of 5s. a year, and Richard Rolph had leased another house with 12 poles of land at 5s. a year.

Although Robert Honeywood only owned the manor for two years, he sold many of the manor lands. Six groves and some meadow lands were sold to Thomas Marsh of Darkes. Lezesers Meadow and Little Woodgrove were sold to Simon Flexmere. Wyllyotts Grove, Waldens Grove and Perryhill to John Andrews and Blountsfield to John Hall.

Also about the same time he sold the new house on Cattall Grove with its gardens and lands belonging and three cottages and the Woodfields and Smithes to Simon Flexmere. The land called Cottingwithes was also disposed of but no record of its sale at this date has appeared. It consisted of four fields off Baker Street and did not form part of the Cattall Grove estate.

The story of the Flexmeres of Potters Bar and their ownership of Robert Taylors house on Cattall Grove from 1606 to 1741 and its later history must wait for another News Letter

H. M. Baker

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BOOK REVIEW

A fellow-member of Hertsmere has now had its history written - "Elstree and Boreham Wood through Two Thousand Years" by Anthony Frewin. My first criticism of it must be its price: for £3.50 (or £7.50 in a limited edition) one expects more than 25 pages of text supplemented by two maps and ten photographs. The publishers' mistake was, perhaps, to issue the book in stiff covers, as - to judge by other publications - in soft covers it would have cost much less. As it is, I cannot see many of the nearly 30,000 inhabitants of Elstree and Boreham Wood acquiring it.

This will be a pity, for - brief as it is - it is full of interest. It has the merit of being right up to date: its bibliography includes a reference to a paper published as recently as April 1974. The photographs are of a set of postcards dating from about 1913; and one of the maps is an Ordnance Survey map contemporary with these. The earlier history, except for a drawing of Elstree Church, is not illustrated, though an attractive pictorial map by John Mansbridge to some extent makes up for this.

Although Elstree (in the form of Tidulfes Treow) is recorded as far back as 785, as the book points out, it finds no mention in Domesday Book. The latter does however mention 'Titeberst' - a name that appears to have been applied to a fair-sized area to the east of Watling Street. It has been counted as one of "The Deserted Medieval Villages of Hertfordshire" by Mr. Rutherford Davis, who located it at grid reference 180995 but as it covered several holdings according to the V.C.H. I wonder if 183970 is another possible location. Here no fewer than five footpaths meet today on a site which must, surely, have had some feature to attract them and which indeed is still not entirely featureless: it lies within the angle formed by the converging lines of trees which may be remnants of old hedgerows but could also be the successors of trees which surrounded a settlement and served it as a windbreak. It is also near the site of the hamlet of Theobald Street, which derived its name from Titburst according to "The Place Names of Hertfordshire".

Just as Elstree eclipsed Titburst, so Boreham Wood was to eclipse Elstree. The name meant the wood by the hill-homestead; and the question is raised by Mr. Frewin: where was this homestead? He suggests Nicolls Farm as a likely site; and those who can picture its position may be inclined to agree. Boreham Wood had grown into a hamlet, we learn, by Tudor times; the one house that survives from then is used today as a store for wood! It had become by 1818 'one of the genteelest neighbourhoods in the vicinity of London' according to a book of that date that I came across the other day; but it was the railway that stimulated its later growth. Mr. Frewin speculates on the difference that would have been made if this had run nearer to Elstree. There is a parallel here with Potters Bar and South Mimms station, which resulted in so much development of Potters Bar, because it was nearer, that South Mimms has been dropped. How long will it be, I wonder, before Elstree and Boreham Wood station becomes simply 'Boreham Wood'?

Two brief appendices are devoted to the over-celebrated murder of William Weare and to Sir Richard Burton's connection with Barham House. A third could have been added on Macready the actor, who lived at Elm Place and ^{made} many affectionate references to the neighbourhood in his diary. But perhaps this will come later, for the publishers - Ann and Lionel Leventhal - hope to produce further volumes. They invite contributions which should be sent to Elstree History Project, 13 The Rise, Elstree, Herts. We can only hope the project survives the high cost of this first venture into print.

M. Tomkins

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RECENT BOOKS

Circles and Standing Stones, by Evan Hadingham, published by Heinemann, 1975, price £6.50.

In this well written book the author has certainly achieved his object to introduce recent material to the general reader. He deals not only with the stones themselves but also with both ancient and modern theories concerning them and dabbles in folklore and the supernatural. The book, which is profusely illustrated, contains an extensive bibliography, a list of sites to visit (including map references and a brief description of what to see), a list of radio active dates and an index.

Mediaeval Craftsman, by John Harvey, published by B.T.Batsford, price £5.50.

A well written and very readable book. Discusses the crafts and Guilds of the period and the training of craftsman. The book has an appendix of illustrative documents, a general index and an index of artists and craftsmen. A large number of excellent photogravure plates illustrate the text and in themselves make the book very good value for the price. Mr. Harvey is to be congratulated on having written such a well researched and informative book.

The names of three of the craftsmen mentioned in the text would appear to be of local interest. Were Thomas and Roger Frowick, goldsmiths, related to the Frowickes of Old Fold? The former made a crown for Queen Margaret in 1303, the latter one for Edward II in 1313. One wonders if

John de Mymmes, who died in 1349 leaving property in the Poultry, was ^{he} a native of North or South Mymms?

Old Hertfordshire Calendar, by Doris Jones-Baker, published by Phillimore & Co. Ltd., Chichester. Price £4.50

A miscellany of historical fact, folklore legend and quotations arranged in calendar form. The book illustrates the pattern of life in the towns and rural communities of the county coupled with the Church Calendar and older beliefs and superstitions. Many little known events are mentioned including the declaration of war on Spain by St. Albans in 1761: almost a month before the government did! There is a glossary of notes and sources and an index. This should make an excellent bedside companion for all who love Hertfordshire.

The Archaeology of London, by Ralph Merrifield, Assistant Director of Guildhall Museum, published by Heinemann Educational Books, price £2,50

This is an introduction to the archaeology of the London region, ranging from the earliest appearance of man to the dawn of English civilisation, when the pagan Saxons were converted in the seventh century. There are also lists of sites and museums to visit and a list of books for further reading.

Urban History Yearbook, edited by H.J. Dyos, Professor of Urban History, University of Leicester. Subscription rate £3.00 per annum (back issues £3.50 each). Published by Leicester University Press.

From its inception in the spring of 1974, the yearbook aims to advance the further development of urban history wherever it is studied. The Yearbook derives from the work of the Urban History Group in Great Britain and the success of the URBAN HISTORY NEWS LETTER. The principal contents are: reports of conferences, bibliographies, papers on research methods, register of research in progress, reviews of books and articles, surveys of completed theses.

REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGIES

We would draw our readers attention to the series of Regional Archaeologies produced under the general editorship of D.M. Wilson, Professor of Archaeology, University of London and published by Heinemann Educational Books Ltd. The titles so far issued are:-

Roman Frontiers of Britain, -by David Wilson- - - -	£1.00
East Anglia, by Helen Clarke - - - - -	£1.25
Edinburgh and South East Scotland, by Graham and Anna Ritchie - - - - -	£1.60
Wessex, by P.J. Fowler - - - - -	£1.00
South Wales, by C. Houlder and W.H. Manning - - - -	80p.
Yorkshire, by Ian Longworth - - - - -	80p.
Ulster, by Laurance Flanagan - - - - -	90p.

The Severn Basin, by K.S.Painter - - - - - 80pp

This series, written as a general rule by professional archaeologists, is designed to provide an authoritative introduction to local archaeology for schools and school libraries, students, adult education groups and amateur field workers.

C. T. Overend

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LOCAL NOTES AND QUERIES

Victoria County History

This summer (1976) the new Volume V of the Middlesex Victoria County History, covering the whole of the ancient Hundred of Edmonton and the remainder of the Hundred of Gore, has been published. The Hundred of Edmonton covers the old parish of South Mimms, which of course includes Potters Bar. It also covers Hadley, Enfield and Edmonton itself.

I had the honour of going to an informal reception at the Middlesex Guildhall at the end of June to meet the Editorial Staff and those who had in any way helped or were interested in the areas covered and to inspect the new volume. I was pleased to see that South Mimms and Potters Bar had a good share of the pages devoted to their history. The cost of over £30 seems prohibitive for the ordinary member but perhaps if enough of us ask we can persuade Hertfordshire to provide a copy for our local ex-Middlesex libraries

H.M.Baker

I have since been informed by Mrs. Baker that a copy of Volume V is now available in the Elms Library - thanks, no doubt, to her sustained efforts on our behalf. Editor.

The Junction That Never Was

Readers may not be aware that Potters Bar, one of the first four stations on the southern end of the Great Northern Railway, nearly became a railway junction.

In 1866 the Edgware and Highgate Company promoted a bill to construct a line from Barnet to link up with its existing line at Finchley. This was opposed by the Great Northern Company who had plans for a line from Finchley to Potters Bar which would form a loop line to relieve the pressure on their already overburdened main line. In the event the smaller company won the day and the loop was never built. The line from Finchley to Barnet was opened to traffic on 1st. April 1872.

For this information I am indebted to 'The History of the Great Northern Railway' by Charles H. Grinling, published by Methuen in 1898.

C.T.Overend

ROMAN ROADS

Some years ago a group of people calling themselves The Viatories produced a book called "Roman Roads in the South East Midlands" in which they postulate the existance of a road from Cripplegate to a point somewhere near Stevenage and which supposedly passed through Potters Bar on the line of what is now Hatfield Road. Doubts have been cast on these claims in learned quarters. Nevertheless there is a bank alongside the North Road of which they state 'this would appear to be the agger'. This bank, which is cut by Frampton Road and which terminates abruptly in the grounds of the former Calrgate School, has often been stated to be the boundary bank of Enfield Chace. Was it constructed expressly for this purpose or was it an existing bank which happened to be conveniently sited?

They also suggest that Baker Street and Kentish Lane were once part of one and the same Roman road. They claim that the line of Baker Street is continued by Darkes Lane and was, until some years ago, continued further by a hedgerow. They point to the straightness of Kentish Lane, after the initial bends, as far as Woodfield House. Here, as is well known, the B158 makes a turn to the east returning to the original alignment near to the entrance to Warren Wood. Alongside this latter stretch of road there is a tree clad embankment on the west which approaches the road gradually and merges with it shortly before the entrance to Camfield Place. The Viatories claim that this bank could also be the agger of a Roman road.

So far as I can ascertain no work has been done on either of these embankments to prove the claims of either school of thought. Should not some investigation be carried out before the vandals in high places destroy them altogether in some possible future road 'improvement' scheme?

C.T.Overend

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SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Last year the Potters Bar and District Historical Society published the following sets of historical records.

- No.1 Records of the Gravestone Inscriptions in the Churchyard of St. John the Baptist Church, High Street, Potters Bar, Herts. Collected and recorded by Mrs. Betty Fost. Price 10p.
- No.2 Transcripts of the Williotts Manor Documents - Seventeenth Century Rentals. By Mrs. H.M.Baker and B.Warren. Price 20p.
- No.2a. Plan of the Manor of Williotts redrawn from the supposed plan of Edwaed Vickers survey of 1745. Price 10p.

Copies of the above may be obtained from the society's archivist, Mrs. H.M.Baker, at meetings or at other times by telephoning Potters Bar 53659.

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The Society has just published No.3 in its series of historical records
- Northaw Parish registers Transcripts, Taken from the Bishops
Transcripts, St. Albans, Herts. Collected and compiled by A.W.Longden.

Copies, price 15p. each, are obtainable from Mrs. H.M.Baker at meetings
or at other times by arrangement, please telephone Potters Bar 53659.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ARCHAEOLOGY IN HERTFORDSHIRE + HAC Conference - Mid Herts College ,
Welwyn Garden City, Saturday March 12th. 1977, 11.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Tickets: £1.00, Students and OAPs 50p. are obtainable at the door.
Afternoon session only: tickets half price.

Programme:

- 11.00 Recent Work in the St. Albans Area - Chris. Saunders &
Adrian Havercroft - Verulamium Museum.
- 11.40 Coffee Break.
- 12.00 Recent Work in East Hertfordshire - Clive Partridge
East Herts Excavation Group.
- 12.40 Where did the Smoke go P - Adrian Gibson, Vernacular Architect.
- 1.00 Lunch Break.
- Work
- 2.15 Recent Work in Hertfordshire - Gil Burleigh, North Herts
District Museums
- 2.45 Archaeology and the School Child - David Short, Ashwell Field
Studies Centre.
- 3.15 Recent Work in Mid Hertfordshire - Tony Rook, Welwyn
Archaeological Society.
- 3.40 Tea Break
- 4.10 The Tower of London, Excavation and Conservation at the
Wakefield Tower - Peter Curnow, Department of the Environment.

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THE FIRST ELIZABETH and a Thousand Years of British Monarchy. A lecture
by D. A.L. Rowse and Sir Arthur Bryant at St. Albans Civic Hall.
Wednesday 18th. May - Tickets £1.00.

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The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society will be held on Tuesday 22nd.
March at 8.00 p.m. prompt and will be followed by a talk "OLD HATFIELD"
by Jack Flegg.

The final meeting of the 1976/77 session will be held on Thursday 5th.
May when Adrian Gibson will talk on "THE CARPENTRY OF CHURCH DOORS AND
ROOFS"

The opening meeting of the 1977/78 session will be a slide lecture
"POTTERS BAR OLD AND NEW", details will be announced later.

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We once more appeal for the loan of old photographs, picture post cards
etc. of old Potters Bar, South Mimms and district. After copying these
will be returned in good condition.

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