

*Potters Bar & District  
Historical Society*

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# *The Newsletter*

April 1987

Vol.3 No.3

KEN. RUTHERFORD-DAVIS

Members will be sorry to hear of the passing of Ken, on the 30th March, in Rome. The funeral service was on Friday 10th April at St. Mary's, where Cyril Overend represented the Society. A letter of condolence and flowers were sent on behalf of the Committee and members.

Geoffrey Pulzer writes:-

Ken was educated at Lord William's Grammar School, Thame. He entered the civil service and then served six years in the war, with an RNVR commission. He subsequently read history as a part-time student at Birkbeck College, University of London, and was for several years an extra-mural tutor in Hertfordshire and Middlesex.

Ken was a member of the Society from almost its beginning in 1959. He was chairman from 1967-76 and only relinquished the position to become chairman of the East Herts. Archaeological Council. He represented the P.B. & D.H.S. in a variety of fields and will be remembered for his successful leadership of the excavations in April 1963, at Tilbury's Bakery (now occupied by Canada Life). He was an ardent environmentalist and, during his chairmanship of the Society, he made strong representations to ensure the preservation of Wyllyotts Manor, Salisbury House, Chace House and Folly Arch.

Ken's studies concentrated particularly on the medieval period and in 1982 his book "Britons and Saxons- The Chiltern region 400-700" was published. His other publications included the editorship of "The Story of Potters Bar and South Mimms", and his own "The Deserted Medieval Villages of Hertfordshire"; also he produced excavation reports, papers on medieval Hertfordshire and extensive research into his own family. He gave various lectures to the Society on these subjects and will be remembered for his specialist knowledge on place-names and genealogy.

As a recognition of all his work it gave him great pleasure to be accepted as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries earlier this year.

Ken's wise council and good humour will be sadly missed.

He is survived by his wife Hilary, also a long standing member of the Society, and two sons, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

#### MEMBERS' NEWS

The following are welcomed as new members and we hope they will gain the most benefit from their membership:-

Mrs.M.B.Bennett, Mrs.V.Lonkhurst,  
Mrs.K.M.Male, Mrs.B.Wheatley, Mr. & Mrs.A.J.Cooper,  
Mr.N.Cracknall, Mr.J.F.H.C.Ottley, Miss M.G.S.  
Clayton, Mr.A.Davey, Mrs.A.Curson, Mrs.P.Hardiment,  
Dr. & Mrs.W.M.Landers and Miss S.Hastings.

We wish Ted Salter a speedy recovery and a particularly happy eightieth birthday in July.

#### REMINDER HERTS.RECORDER SCHEME

NEXT MEETING:- Thursday 25th June at 8.00pm

51, Highview Gdns.

THE A.G.M.

The Secretary's report noted another very successful year, with a 25% rise in membership, to 132. The meetings and outings showed the enthusiasm in the society, as they were all very well supported. The average attendance for the monthly meetings had risen to 42 and necessitated the move to a larger room in Oakmere House.

Though the Potters Bar Festival had not been very successful for most participants the Society had benefitted by £36 from its contribution.

The Treasurer's report reflected the buoyancy of the Society with a balance carried forward of £1185.52. This was due to the increased membership, fees from lectures and the success of the three publications during the year. The Society had purchased two small Marler Hayley display stands, for use at exhibitions and as the noticeboard at monthly meetings.

The following officers and committee were appointed for 1987/88:-

- Chairman Mr B.Warren 6 Church Close, Cuffley. Cuf. 875617
- Vice-Chairman Mrs J.Groves 78 Barnet Rd.
- Hon.Secretary Mr R.Harris 25 Cotton Rd.
- Asst Hon. Sec. Mr B.Chanter 35 Tiverton Rd.
- Hon.Treasurer Mr.T.G.Goulding 12 Church Rd. 56429
- Hon.Archivist Mrs H.M.Baker 12 Oakroyd Close 53659
- Committee Mrs B.J.Clinton, Miss J.Andrews, Dr.A.C.Lynch, Mr.W.S.Taylor, Mr.G.H.Eve.

Reg.Crook did not seek re-election as vice-chairman because he is moving from the district. In recognition of his services as an officer of the Society and programme organiser he was presented with a copy of Tony Rook's, 'A History of Hertfordshire'.

Dan Ruge-Cope retired from the committee, but had agreed to continue the indispensable work of duplicating the Newsletter and other notices. Also, he remains as the distributor for postal applications to the Society's publications - another invaluable service.

The Chairman in his review noted the new format for, 'The Newsletter', which he hoped members appreciated as another step forward. He thanked the Publications Committee of T.Goulding, G.H.Eve and Dr.A.C.Lynch for their excellent work in the preparation of the highly successful publications, which had been established during the year.

He mentioned that every link with other organisations provided an invaluable opportunity to promote the Society and establish a point of contact. Within the Society 29% of the membership were involved in other ways than just being a member, also the introduction of a Members' Evening would enable further participation.

Looking to the future he envisaged the Society obtaining its own premises, hopefully in the proposed new Willliotts' complex.

He thanked the committee members for their time and energy willing given in the past year. He was pleased to note that Joan Andrews, co-opted to the committee during the year, had enjoyed her work and had agreed to serve as a full member for the coming year.

Following the AGM Mrs.Helen Baker presented a 'Baker Miscellany' using the slides of her late husband, Richard. This was well received by the forty-eight people present.

WEA CLASS - 'The History of Potters Bar & South Mimms' 1986-87.

This class proved so successful that the initial twelve weeks were extended for a further ten sessions and a large proportion of the participants are now members of the Society.

MAY LECTURE Wednesday 20th Oakmere House 8 pm.

"Potters Bar from the air" by Mr.T.G.Goulding.

When one examines Potters Bar from a high vantage point, like Canada Life or Station House, there is no doubt that it is "a green and pleasant land". If one doubts this, then come along and be pleasantly surprised.

Come early or there might not be a seat, as this meeting is upstairs.

FAMILY HISTORY

Whilst members of the Society are able to assist with research, (contact the chairman) the North Middlesex Family History Society meets locally at two venues:-

BARNET BRANCH -Church House,Wood Street,Barnet  
3rd Tuesday in the month 8pm

ENFIELD BRANCH -Celbic Hall, Lancaster Rd.Enfield  
1st Tuesday in the month from 7.30

Membership of the N.M.F.H.Society entitles one to attend both branches,

ACQUISITIONS

Following a previous donation by Mrs.LeGros, noted in September 1986, she has now given to the Society her eight volumes of 'Hertfordshire Archaeology' and we thank her for this kind gesture.

The Society's Photographic collection continues to increase as a result of loans and gifts.

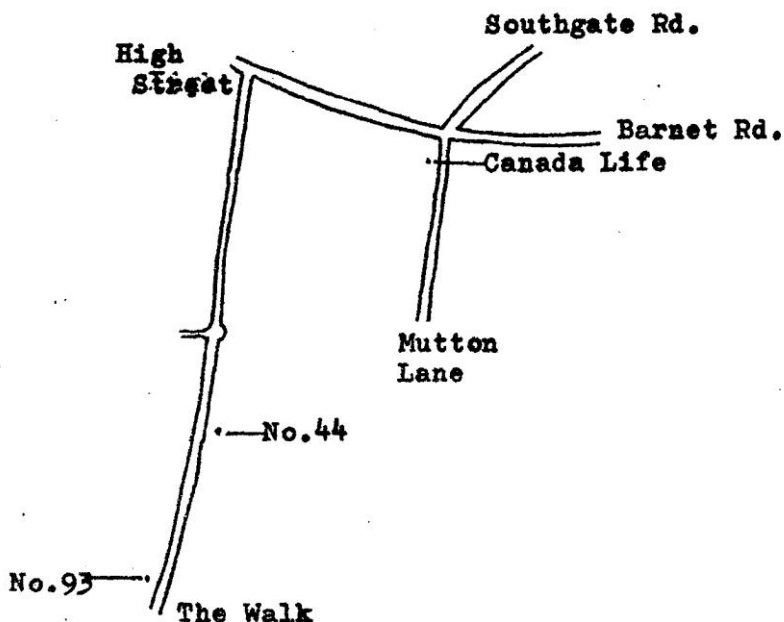
Before one throws anything away please remember the Society.

THANKS

The Society is grateful for the time Dan Ruge-Cope has spent in duplicating The Newsletter.

KEEPING YOUR EYES OPENCLAY PIPES

Following the article in vol.3, no.2 of The Newsletter the clay pipe finds have been plotted as follows:-

Canada Life (Tilbury's dig 1963)

27 bowls and bowl fragments, giving a date range from I620-70. The majority of types belonged to the range I620-50

No.44 The Walk

2 bowls dated I620-40 and I690-I740.

No.93 The Walk

1 bowl dated I670-I710.

RESEARCH and EXCAVATION

a) MOATED SITES

Following the meeting at Letchworth Museum on the 28th February, the chairman has undertaken, with the help of interested members of the Society, to survey the seven known sites in the neighbourhood of Potters Bar.

In some cases there are no visible remains, but an historical assessment will be made. The sites are:-

- Mimms Hall, Darkes, Wyllyotts Manor,
- The Hermitage, Blanche Farm, Fold Farm and Old Fold.

If one is interested in joining a small group to undertake this work, please contact the chairman.

b) WILLIOTTS MANOR SITE

As a result of attending the Herts. Archaeological Council's Annual Conference on the 11th April, one discovered that the newly formed, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust under its director, Adrian Havercroft, had been provided with funds to undertake the excavation of the Willliotts Manor site.

If you are interested in helping in this 'dig' please inform the chairman, as soon as possible. Arrangements will have to be made as to how our Society can assist the Trust.

DISTRIBUTORS

The Chairman wishes to thank the following members for their time in acting as 'postman' for the Society, during the past year:-

- Mrs.R.LaBague, Mr.G.H.Eve, Mr.& Mrs.Horsefield,
- Mrs.E.Gordon, Mrs.J.Groves, Mr.& Mrs.H.Sillis,
- Mr.C.Overend, Mr.R.Crook, Mrs.V.Bell, Mr.E.Elliott,
- and Mr.R.I.B.Warwick.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Any items for the next Newsletter to the chairman by Friday, 28th August.

SUMMER PROGRAMMEREMINDER- Saturday 2nd May Visit to Harpenden.

I.40 pm Meet in Baker Street opposite  
the Methodist Church.

Sunday 14th June SUMMER COACH OUTING to SYON HOUSE  
and PARK

See application form.

Wednesday 8th July EVENING VILLAGE TOUR of ESSENDON

Meet outside Essendon church at 6.45 pm.

Mrs. Diane Goodwin, our resident member in the village, has agreed to conduct us round the village and then show us the church. The party will be able to view the area from the church tower, see the bells, examine the clock mechanism and find out about the Zeppelin bomb damage.

Diane has kindly agreed to provide some refreshment at the end of the evening at her house.

If one would like to come please notify Bruce Chanter, 35, Tiverton Road, (51931), or Brian Warren, 6, Church Close, (Cuf. 875617), by 26th June, indicating whether one is willing to give a lift or requires one.

SEPTEMBER - Arrangements are being made for an activity and will be notified in the next Newsletter.

EARLY NOTIFICATION -1st week in OCTOBER

As there will be no Potters Bar Festival this year the committee has decided to continue its own historical evening, with the support and help of the manager of Oakmere House.

The title is, 'Potters Bar in the Thirties'.

When more information is available please encourage your friends to make it a full house.

There will be an exhibition on the same theme in Oakmere Library from 29th August to 19th Sept.



SPRING PROGRAMME REPORTS22 JANUARY "The Sassoons of Trent Park"

by Dr. Stephen Doree

So great was the demand for this lecture that some members had to stand.

Dr. Doree traced the separate histories of the estate and the Sassoon family up to 1908 when Sir Edward Sassoon acquired the lease. The family's attempts to establish a niche for themselves in the upper echelons of the society world of their day were described.

The immense family wealth assisted their climb, which culminated in the purchase of the freehold from the Crown in 1923. Most of the important people of the day, including royalty, visited the Sassoons and recorded their names in the visitors' book.

Son and heir Sir Phillip Sassoon, until his death in 1939, and his sister, Sybil, maintained the lavish life style at Trent Park, which their parents had started.

Dr. Doree's slides portrayed the remarkable changes which had been made to the house over the period of the tenancy and ownership of the Sassoons. However, many of the original features are still visible, in particular, the original landscaping of the grounds.

A vote of thanks was given by Reg. Crook.

16 FEBRUARY Members' Evening

Vivienne Bell described the pleasures and pitfalls in researching her family tree back to 1564. She revealed how much she had discovered from her mistakes in tracing the Lines' family, who were blacksmiths in Harpenden. Her brother had used the present telephone directory for Herts. and written to all the Lines. This had resulted in some sixty replies, all very helpful, though not necessarily related. These letters had enabled the speaker to construct other unconnected branches.

Another member, Cyril Overend, then related the chequered history of the church of St. Mark's, Woodhill, a well-known landmark in Kentish Lane, from its building in 1854 up to the last act of worship there in 1976.

The history of the church was dominated by the patronage of the Cecil family, owners of Hatfield House.

The final item in the evening's programme was the presentation of the video tape made by the members of the North Myms Historical Society. The result was a superb record of life past and present in the parish of North Myms. Although amateur in origin it achieved a very high professional standard.

A vote of thanks was given by Brian Warren.

## 12 MARCH "Portraits of Power"

by Dr. J. P. C. Kent

Dr. Kent, vice-President of the Society, showed how in the days before photography and television, rulers of great nations and empires wielded absolute power and required that their subjects should know their profiles and be able to recognise them easily. They did this by means of the ruler's face on coins, by statues in public places, and by paintings.

Using an impressive set of slides, Dr. Kent showed just how these rulers wished to appear. Julius Caesar was the first ruler to have an effigy to be made in his own likeness. The coin portrait displayed was very unflattering but it must have been approved by him. Another coin depicted Mark Anthony where he was shown with a thick neck and flat face, which gave him the air of a prize fighter.

Some emperors were shown as successful generals; a coin of Probus depicted him helmeted and carrying an aegis as a shield. The message here was one of invincibility - INVICTUS became a common title for later third century emperors.

Identification with a particular God was also favoured, so the public was encouraged to think of their emperor as very nearly a God.

Paintings of the king of the Visigoths and his son showed them wearing helmets. This type of helmet evolved into the crown of later rulers. The halo which surrounded the head of Byzantine emperors represented the divine aura emanating from them, as in their opinion they were infallible at all times.

Thus Dr. Kent traced the interesting story through the ages to the 19th century, where the rulers were no longer regarded themselves as God-like figures. Then into the modern period where rulers were shown in family groups in informal settings. It was the politicians who now adopt the pose or stance of the rulers of past ages, as they appear on the television screen.

A vote of thanks was given by Dr. Lynch in which he wondered how the speaker and chairman might be portrayed!

#### EXTRACTS FROM 'THE BARNET PRESS' December 1861

"Christmas at the Workhouse - On Christmas-day, as usual, the inmates of the Barnet Union Workhouse were regaled with a supply of substantial English fare, in the shape of roast-beef, plum-pudding, ale, etc; and that which remained unconsumed was supplied to the inmates on the following day."

#### Retrospect of the Year

....."It is perhaps a common failing to overrate the importance of the age in which we live, but we doubt whether the importance of 1861 can be too highly esteemed."

Census year upward of 20 million.  
Prince Albert died in 1861.

## HERTFORDSHIRE'S PAST

The Society has sixteen copies to sell at the Publications Stand, after the monthly meetings.

They are published jointly by the Hertfordshire Archaeological Council and the Hertfordshire Local History Council, each Spring and Autumn.

### HERTFORDSHIRE PAST 21

#### CONTENTS

Potterells by John Brushe (An excellent local article)

Sir William Bucknall of Oxhey Place, Watford:

1629-1676 by Edgar J. Chapman

Medieval Finds from Aldenham, 1983

The Landscape and Early Settlement of

Puttenham by Jonathan Hunn.

### HERTFORDSHIRE PAST 22

#### CONTENTS

Parish Life in Hertfordshire in the 13th C.

by Rosalind Hill

John Bunyan in Hertfordshire by A. Deacon

Hertfordshire Members of the Kensworth

Baptist Congregation, 1675 by E. Haines

Sermon Tasting in St. Albans, 1835 by A. Ruston

Caroline de Lautour and her life at Hexton

by Anne Ashley Cooper.

Aldenham: Further Evidence Regarding the Site

of the Blood Products Laboratory in

Dagger Lane by W. Newman Brown

Further Excavations at Golden Parsonage,

Gaddesden Row by J. Hunn & N. Doggett

PRICE 80p but on sale at the Society's

meetings for 65p each.