

Potters Bar & District
Historical Society

6 Drayton Ave.

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The Newsletter

September 1987

Vol.4 No.1

The Committee is pleased to announce yet another improvement for the benefit of members at future monthly meetings. At the next three monthly meetings, starting in October, tea and coffee will be available during an interval at approximately 9.00 p.m.

Seven ladies have volunteered to organise it for this trial period but other volunteers - gentlemen or ladies - would be more than welcome.

Also, anyone who would be willing and able to arrive at 7.30 p.m. could help in arranging the chairs and some others could replace them after the meeting.

It would be nice to have enough volunteers to do it only once a year.

FIRST MONTHLY MEETING :- Monday 26th October 1987
"The Growth & Development of
Little Heath" by B.Warren.

ON SALE AT THE SOCIETY'S MONTHLY MEETINGS

Potters Bar Historical Series:- 70p to members

No.1 'The Railway Through Potters Bar' by G.H.Eve

No.2 'The Turnpike Road to Hatfield' by A.C.Lynch

No.3 'Malcolm Tomkins 1930-1981 - A Collection of his
Writings'

Hertfordshire Past 21 & 22 Price 80p but 65p at the
Society's meetings.

HERTS. LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The annual symposium on, 'Hertfordshire People' will be held on Saturday, 7 November at the Rudolf Steiner School, Kings Langley, 10.00 am - 5 pm.

LAMAS (London & Middx. Archaeological Soc.).LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The date for the 22nd Local History Conference has been set for Saturday 28th November, 1987.

The overall theme will be 'London Spas and Pleasure Gardens.'

Further information about the above conferences will be given at the monthly meetings.

REMINDER: HERTS. RECORDER SCHEME

NEXT MEETING:- Friday 4th December, at 8.00 pm.
at 62, Ladbroke Drive.

SUMMER PROGRAMME REPORTS2 MAY HARPENDEN

Twenty-five members were guests of Harpenden and District Local History Society at their history centre, where there was an exhibition about Queen Victoria. The variety of the items on display was quite astonishing and provided a very interesting half an hour.

The second part of the visit was a conducted tour of Harpenden Common, starting at the Queen's House, so-called because it incorporates the architecture from the reigns of three queens.

Finally members proceeded to Harpenden Railway Museum, where the Woodward family displayed their many railway relics.

14 JUNE SYON HOUSE

Fifty members and friends made an early start on Sunday morning when they went by coach to Charing Cross Pier for a ferry ride up the Thames to Kew.

The group visited Syon House, the seat of the Duke of Northumberland, designed by Robert Adam.

The house and its two lodges looked unpretentious from the Lime Drive but once inside, the ceilings were magnificent, the furniture superb and there were many paintings.

Members then had the choice of visiting the Heritage Collection Motor Museum or the London Butterfly House.

There was plenty more to see in formal gardens, the rose garden, the art centre, garden centre, whole food shop and gift centre.

Bruce Chanter had once again organised a very interesting outing.

8 JULY ESSENDON

On a gloriously fine evening twenty-eight members and friends enjoyed a pleasant guided tour of the village starting at the church. Following a footpath from the churchyard the party had excellent views across the River Lea before reaching 'The Salisbury Crest', a 17th-century building.

Returning through the village, various houses were described, including the Old Forge down the hill.

At the end of the tour the evening's host, Diane Goodwin, provided coffee and cakes in her garden, as well as a display of old photographs of the village.

OAKMERE LIBRARY (see advert.)

The Society will have a stall along with many other local organisations. See YOU there.

OAKMERE

LIBRARY

INVITES YOU TO OUR

COMMUNITY GROUPS' OPEN AFTERNOON

on the lawns of OAKMERE LIBRARY, on

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

2 - 5p.m.

Come and meet your local organizations, and join us

NOW WE ARE...

1966 21 1987



HERTFORDSHIRE
LIBRARY SERVICE

MEMBERS' NEWS

It is with regret that one noted the reported death of Lena Le Gros, on the 25 July, in St.Albans. Mrs. Le Gros will be remembered by many residents of Potters Bar as the former head of Parkfield Junior and then Sunnybank Schools. She was the only Life Member of the Society and her main contribution to the local history of the area was the chapter on, 'Education' in, 'The Story of Potters Bar and South Mimms' published in 1966.

Following her retirement she was a founder member of the National Trust in St.Albans and a very active member.

Also, Doris Ethridge passed away earlier in the year. Though she had only been a member for eighteen months, she was just beginning to make a useful contribution to the Society. She helped with the supervision of the second coach on the outing to Spains Hall and undertook some of the writing for the exhibition in 1986.

Doris was head of De Bohun Junior School for twenty-four years, a staunch member of St.John's Methodist Church and will be missed by all those who were privileged to have known her.

If anyone would like to write to Reg.Crook his new address is:-
 40, High Str.,
 Syresham, near Brackley,
 Northants,
 NN13 5HL

The following new members have joined since the last Newsletter:- Mr.& Mrs.K.J.Cain, Mrs.J.Davies, Mr.& Mrs. D.S.Dredge, Mr.A.C.Smith, Mr.& Mrs.R.A.Watson, Mr.& Mrs.R.J.Lawson and Mrs.M.Stroud and family.

A warm welcome is extended to all of them and one looks forward to seeing them at our meetings.

KEEPING YOUR EYES OPEN

FOUND IN 1959 NOTIFIED TO THE SOCIETY IN 1987 !

Peter Kearns found the following token in the garden at 126, Park Avenue early in 1959. A letter from R.A.G. Carson, an assistant keeper in the Dept. of Coins and Medals, at the British Museum, identified it as a token halfpenny of the late 18th century. This particular token is from Newgate, in Middlesex. The obverse shows the front view of the prison, the name NEWGATE and the date 1794.

The reverse gives the name of the local firm for whom it was issued.

Such tokens are fairly common and of no particular value.



PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU FOUND SOMETHING YEARS AGO
AND THOUGHT NOTHING OF IT.

'POTTERS BAR IN THE THIRTIES' (see advert.)

This is the Society's first attempt at a public lecture not under the auspices of the Potters Bar Festival. It is the Committee's hope that all 200 seats will be filled but this depends on members encouraging their friends and neighbours to leave the T.V. and listen to real, live speakers! Do your best and make it a success.

This meeting will be the publication day for:-

'The Pre-War Buses of Potters Bar'

by

M.Lynch.

70p. on the night.

EXHIBITION 'Potters Bar in the Thirties'

28th Aug. - 19th September at Oakmere Library.

21st Sept. - 3rd October at Cranborne Library.

POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ILLUSTRATED TALKS ON
POTTERS BAR
IN THE 'THIRTIES

BY MR BRIAN WARREN

SUPPORTED BY

DR ARNOLD LYNCH AND MR TERRY GOULDING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

AT 8 P. M.

AT OAKMERE HOUSE, POTTERS BAR
(OPPOSITE THE BUS GARAGE)

ADMISSION £1

TICKETS AT THE BOX OFFICE, OAKMERE HOUSE
IN ADVANCE OR ON THE NIGHT

RESEARCH AND EXCAVATION

a) POTTERS BAR CRICKET CLUB

It would appear that with the death of Mr.H.J. Butcher in 1966, all the records prior to 1946 disappeared, or more likely were destroyed. A request from the Club on celebrating its 125th anniversary has resulted in consultation of the Barnet Press. So far all entries concerning the Club have been abstracted from 1870-1914 and 1930-33.

The first match recorded took place on Sat. 27th Aug.1870 between Potters Bar and North Mymas, which was won by Potters Bar.

Though the Club's foundation dates from 1862, a meeting was called in April 1871, 'having for its object the formation of a village cricket club' and about 30 names were entered. In the 1880's concerts were held to raise funds, but following the foundation of the Working Men's Institute in 1893, the village cricket club came under its patronage and a football club was started in 1895.

In 1896 Alfred Bennett was killed when he collided with another player in attempting to catch a high ball in a pre-match practice.

By the end of the first decade of the present century a disagreement had occurred between the Club and the Institute as is indicated on the 23rd Dec. 1911, "Since the Institute officials withdrew their support from cricket and football, a year or two ago, the village has been without a cricket club."

In 1912 the newly-formed club had arranged a good fixture list.

If members have any fixture cards, photographs, or other memorabilia concerned with the Potters Bar Cricket Club, please contact the Chairman.

b) SOUTHGATE ROAD ALLOTMENT SITE

The Society provided much information in trying to trace the origin and history of the site, during the battle for survival against the threat of housing development.

Six years after the original request one has found the answer!

In view of the present Council being willing to provide an alternative site on the Barnet Road, it is rather ironical to find that in early 1895, the Earl of Strafford agreed to provide either the residue of the new burial ground in Mutton Lane, or a field in the occupation of Mr. Cole, between the Southgate-road and the Barnet-road, each a little over two acres in extent.

This was not taken up and by Sept. 1895 Mrs. Kemble's trustees offered a field of four and a half acres, at 40s per acre, for seven years, which was accepted by the SMRDC, in that month. At the Nov. meeting the Clerk was instructed to draw a cheque for £6 to pay Mr. Charles Ayre on giving up the field known as School Meadow, for allotment purposes when the lease was signed. A statement of expenses was provided for the half-year ended the 31st March 1896.

c) ELECTRICITY

Dr. Lynch is assisting the local WEA, "Industrial Archaeology" class into research on the coming of electricity to Potters Bar. If anyone has information or memories, etc., or knows of anyone who could be of assistance please contact him.
(8, Heath Drive - 53822)

- d) Assistance is being given to the Potters Bar Baptist Church, Barnet Road, which celebrates its 200th anniversary next year.

FAMILY HISTORY

Enquiries answered concerning:-

connections with the House of Gordon,
Peter & Sarah Whelan (nee Burr) of Potters Bar,
c1870's, whose great, great grandson now
lives in Canada,
Lucy Goodspeed interred in the family grave at
South Mimms, 12-8-1895,
the Dell family of Ridge, and
Dr. Art Greene, in the USA, who was in Clare
Hall Hospital during the War and was
pleased to receive photographs and
information about the Hospital. He is now
a cancer research specialist in the USA.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME - MONTHLY MEETINGS

All items from local or national newspapers, or information to make the Secretary's notice board interesting, to Dick Harris, 25, Cotton Road.

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER

'The Growth and Development of Little Heath' by
Mr. B. Warren.

Little Heath was for most of recorded time an insignificant and not very productive part of the parish of North Myms, and like Potters Bar is a result of recent growth. It was in the 1880's that expansion commenced around Thornton, Frampton and Upton (Coopers) Roads, whilst the large houses and farms provided work for the local inhabitants and Little Heath was regarded as a high-class residential area.

Most of the talk was originally given in March 1985, as part of the centenary celebrations of the Little Heath C.P. School.

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER

'Hannibal the Great' by Mr. D. Alderson.

The Carthaginian general of 3rd century B.C. is chiefly remembered for his crossing of the Alps with elephants to defeat the Roman army twice.

The talk will consider the life of Hannibal, particularly its effect on the Punic Wars, which shaped the destiny of the world as we know it today. Hannibal the man, his tactics, successes and failures will be considered.

This talk has been recommended to us, so give it your support.

FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER

'The New River' by Dr. Denis Smith.

This water-supply channel was opened on 29 September 1613 and is still in use. It is a man-made aqueduct, originally 38 miles long, conveying water from Chadwell and Amwell in Hertfordshire to Islington in London. Recent plans made by Thames Water Authority have raised doubts about the future of the New River. This illustrated lecture will discuss its history, industrial archaeology, and the conservation and environmental issues affecting its future.

OAKMERE LIBRARY

IT NOW HAS A BOX FILE FOR OUR NEWSLETTERS !

Also, there is a useful Local History Collection.

ACQUISITIONS

The Society continues to acquire more items and the donors are thanked for their gifts.

REMEMBER US BEFORE YOU THROW IT AWAY.

TODAY'S DISCARDED MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOMORROW'S HISTORY.

BOOK REVIEW

Of interest to the specialist is the new book, 'A Manual for the Identification of Bird Bones', by Alan Cohen and Dale Serjeantson. This is a field guide for the majority of bird bones likely to be found on British sites. The major bones of twenty-seven commonly found birds are illustrated life size.

Price: £6.50 incl.postage, cheques/POs payable to 'A.Cohen'.

From: D.Serjeantson & A.Cohen, University of London, Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, 26, Russell Sq., London, WC1B 5DQ.

THANKS

The Chairman wishes to thank the following for acting as stewards at the exhibition:- Joan Andrews, Gordon Eve, Val. and Reg.Horsefield, John Harrison, Barbara Clinton, Joan Groves and Peter White.

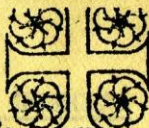
The Society is once again indebted to Dan.Ruge-Cope for his time well spent in duplicating, 'The Newsletter'.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Any item for the January Newsletter to the Chairman by Friday, 4th December.



XERANTHEMUM



ST MARY'S FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 1987

ST MARY'S CHURCH
CHURCHGATE CHESHUNT

Wed. 16 - Sat. 19 Sept. 7.30p.m.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

by William Shakespeare

TICKETS £2 and £1.50

Box Office W.X. 25098

Sun. 20 Sept. 8p.m.

LEA VALLEY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

TICKETS £1.50 and £1

Box Office W.X. 23489

Tue. - Wed. 22-23 Sept. 8.15p.m.

ST MARY'S DOWN THE AGES

A Son et Lumière Spectacle

TICKETS £2 and £1

Box Office W.X. 37978

Sat. 26 Sept. 10a.m. - 5p.m.

CRAFT FAIR

St Mary's High School

Churchgate

30 stalls Pay at door 25p

CULMINATING WITH

Fri. - Sun. 25-27 Sept. 10a.m. - 8p.m. (Sun. 12 noon - 6p.m.)

ST MARY'S FLOWER FESTIVAL

Admission free Car Parking Refreshments Stalls

TOUR of HISTORIC CHURCHGATE with Jack Edwards

Sat. & Sun. 26 & 27 Sept. 3p.m. Tickets £1 from W.X. 37242

SEPTEMBER OUTING

THEOBALDS AND FORTY HALL

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

ITINERARY

- 1.50 Meet in the car park at Theobalds Park.
(From PB via Botany Bay, Crews Hill
and White Webbs Lane. Lookout
for the new entrance since M25
construction. It is c100yds.
West of the old entrance.)
- 2.00 Walk round the grounds to look at
Temple Bar and the architecture of
Theobalds.
- 3.00 Tea - highly recommended.
- 3.30 - 4.30 Slide-talk on the history of
Theobalds.

There is a charge of £2 for this section.

At 4.30 we shall leave for Forty Hall.

The 27th is the last day of the Enfield
Archaeological Society's excellent exhibition
on the 'Archaeology in Enfield'. It starts
with pre-history and ends with a section on
Industrial Archaeology (Small Arms Factory,
Wrights Mill and the Grape Factory)

It is well displayed with photographs,
maps and artefacts.

Apart from this one can stroll in the
grounds if it is fine, or look round the
permanent exhibitions in the rooms. Also,
there is usually an art exhibition of
paintings in one room.

Forty Hall closes at 6.00pm

THEOBALDS REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF TWENTY.

I/We require places for the September outing,
and can take passengers/ would like transport
for person(s). Delete as appropriate.

Name

Return to Brian Warren, 6, Church Close, Cuffley, Herts.,
by WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER.

SEND NO MONEY-collected at Theobalds.