

Potters Bar & District  
Historical Society

PB

# The Newsletter

September 1988

Vol.5 No.1

The first issue of The Newsletter appeared as a single sheet in September 1984, with the hope that it would keep members 'better informed of events and news'. By January 1986 it had expanded to two sheets and in September of that year it became set in its present format, providing more information. I wonder how many members retain a complete set of these valuable documents!

In this reflective mood one appends some more information concerning the progress of the Society.

Founded on the 14th July 1959, the membership averaged 49 from then until 1979, but the annual credit balance did not exceed £40 until 1970, whilst it took a further nine years before it exceeded £50.

The figures for the last ten years are:-

	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Credit balance</u>
1979	44	£57.74
1980	51	£75.54
1981	69	£79.45
1982	51	£57.00
1983	49	£160.45
1984	51	£173.57
1985	87	£564.02
1986	108	£860.79
1987	132	£1185.52
1988	162	£2157.19

Perhaps the progress of The Newsletter is reflected in the above growth. In the last edition there was no room to acknowledge the debt the Society owes to Dan.Ruge-Cope, who is entirely responsible for the duplicating of The Newsletter. Thank you for your time and effort, Dan.

See the notice opposite.

There will be a seating limit of 200, so it is hoped that every member will encourage their friends and neighbours to come and so obtain a capacity audience.

The first part of the evening will consist of slides of Potters Bar early this century followed by more recent views to show the changing aspect of certain sites.

After the interval the illustrated talk will be about Potters Bar thirty years ago.

EXHIBITION IN OAKMERE LIBRARY, 10th Sept.-1st Oct.

'Potters Bar Thirty Years Ago'

This exhibition will provide background information for the public talk.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME - Monthly Meetings

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER

'Leefe Robinson and the Cuffley Airship' by  
Mr. A. Dumayne

Alan Dumayne spent his boyhood in Winchmore Hill, attending Highfield Road School, and later Southgate County School in Fox Lane. In 1958 he moved to Southgate and he continued his hobbies of local history and photography.

Last year he had published, 'Southgate: A Glimpse into the Past', which is now out of print, and he has a book on Palmers Green at the printers.

Some years ago, Alan studied the memorial erected in Cuffley, in honour of Captain Leefe Robinson, V.C., and decided he wanted to know more about this hero of the First World War. His research has been thorough and he has tried to capture not only the incidents of the 2nd September, 1916, but also the character of a very brave man.

POTTERS BAR AND DISTRICT  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

ILLUSTRATED TALKS ON  
**POTTERS BAR:  
A PICTORIAL LOOK BACK**

BY MR BRIAN WARREN  
AND MR TERRY GOULDING

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 3**

**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**

THURSDAY 24th NOVEMBER'Epping Forest: Our Natural Heritage' by  
Mr.K.Hoy

Ken Hoy is the Chairman of the Friends of Epping Forest and was for twenty-one years, until 1986, the head of the Suntrap Field Study Centre, on the edge of the Forest. He has written much on the subject of the environment, especially for children, and has lectured extensively both in this country and abroad. In 1987 he received an M.B.E. for his work on environmental education.

Epping Forest revives sentimental memories for those who have spent their childhood in North London and it is the subject of the lecture. In particular there is the fight to save it in the last century from developers, but also there is its situation as an environmental haven, which one is still privileged to enjoy.

Ken Hoy is a keen photographer as one will see from his slides.

FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER'The Social History of Lighting' by  
Dr.A.C.Lynch

Artificial lighting is used to enable people to (1) move about, both indoors and outdoors, and (2) carry on ordinary work after dark. For thousands of years the types of lamp and the fuels for them remained unchanged. Lamps were smelly and dirty, and most needed some skill in use. Improved oil lamps date from about 1810, gas lamps and improved candles from about 1860, electricity lamps from 1880. The bright lamps that we take for granted are mainly post-1945.

ALL MEETINGS IN OAKMERE HOUSE, downstairs, at 8pm.

CHARITIES ACT 1960 REGISTRATION OF CHARITIES

The Society has now been registered as, 'Potters Bar and District Historical Society' in accordance with section 4 of the above Act.

The Society's registration number is 299475 and the entry has now been made in the Central Register of Charities, which is open to public inspection.

Members will be pleased to know that Helen Baker is happily settled in a residential home. The Chairman visited her in August and found the home is situated in beautiful grounds, with a lovely view across to St.Ippollitts Church.

Her address is:-

Sloe Hill Residential Home,  
Mill Lane,  
St.Ippollitts,  
Hitchin,  
Herts.

If anyone intends to visit Helen perhaps they would contact Brian Warren, as it is not that easy to find once one has reached St.Ippollitts.

Anthony Cooper and his wife moved from Brookmans Park to the following address:-

3, Lower Street,  
Thriplow,  
Royston,  
Herts. SG8 7RJ

Telephone:- Fowlmere STD 0763 82 507

It has been brought to our notice that Jeff Ottley has not been too well. We hope that he does improve and send our thoughts to his wife at this time. It is only recently that he rejoined the Society.

Also, we wish Joan Andrews a speedy recovery from her present incapacity.

Dick and Shirley Harris visited Reg. and Nan Crook recently and found that they had joined the Brackley Local History Society. They wished to be remembered to their friends in this Society.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:- Mr.D.A.Stokes, Mr. & Mrs Gamby, Mr. & Mrs F.Beer & family, Mrs M. Hughes, Mrs P.Peacock and Mrs C. Myford. Also Miss M.E.Baxter, who has rejoined after a lapse of some years.

It is hoped that they will take full advantage of their membership of the Society.

Members who have not yet renewed their subscription, according to our records, will receive a reminder with this Newsletter. The latest date for repayment is December, but the Treasurer would welcome prompt payment.

TO BE FOUND AT

HATFIELD HOUSE



REMINDER: HERTS. RECORDER SCHEME

NEXT MEETING:- Friday 2nd December, 8pm  
at 51, Highview Gdns.

After several months off work Len Field has been allowed to return and has set in motion the process to take early retirement next year. We trust that this will be a long and well earned rest period with Eileen. That is of course until he returns to tracing up his ancestors!

# Potters Bar Historical Series

## No. 6



*Clare hall at South Mims Middlesex the seat of John Barwick Esq*

from a GUILDHALL LIBRARY PRINT.

## GEORGIAN HOUSES

CLARE HALL

BRIDGEFOOT HOUSE

CATHALE

by Helen Baker

## THANKS

Thanks are expressed to Bruce Chanter, Arnold Lynch and Brian Warren for organising the most interesting outings which comprised the Summer programme. There were many appreciative comments from members.

The Chairman wishes to thank the following members for acting as 'postmen' for the Society, during the past year:-

Mrs.R.LeBaigue, Mr.G.H.Eve, Mr. & Mrs Horsefield, Mrs E.Gordon, Mrs J.Groves, Mr. & Mrs Sillis Mr.C.Overend, Mrs V.Bell, Mr.E.Elliott, Mr.R.Weston, Miss J.Andrews, Mrs V.Murphy, Mrs B.Clinton, Mrs V.Lonkhurst, Mrs.M.Myatt, and Mr.R.I.B.Warwick.

As a result of the survey, 'How Can You Help The Society' eighteen more members have offered to deliver The Newsletter, etc. Therefore some who have been doing it for some years will be given a well deserved rest, whilst some areas will be decreased in size. Thank you to everyone for their invaluable services.

## WAR MEMORIALS

No doubt some of you read Dr.Borg's letter in The Times (March 5) regarding a national project to locate, record, photograph and transcribe every war memorial as soon as possible.

Besides the war memorials in towns and villages there are those erected by offices and other groups of workers. I noted one just recently to railwaymen at Waterloo Station.

If anyone knows of any memorials in our area, apart from the civic war memorials, would they contact the chairman.

B.Warren.



WHAT WOULD THEY THINK TODAYDAILY MAIL AIR RACE24th July, 1911The Air Race

A correspondent writes:- "Did Potters Bar sleep or did she not?" was a query. Motors and bikes were flying through before daybreak on Monday making for Hendon and other places of advantage to watch the great air race. Hence the disturbed attitude of the inhabitants, who were abroad by 3.30.

First one and then another appeared on the scene. A great number mounted their iron steed, and made for Ridge Hill. When Mims was reached 'twas a sight to see the great pilgrimage ascending Ridge Hill. Motors, bikes, and shoeless children swelled the great throng. There were rushes to places of greater advantage as the first airman appeared at 4.15. Each was watched with keen interest until out of sight. At 6o'clock the folk gradually thinned away and made for the breakfast table. The early morning air had given them an appetite. A large concourse of children and mothers gathered in Walk Fields to watch the race from that point. Children were playing baseball to while away the time, while others had clambered into trees and on to hay stacks to gain a better view. As the first airman passed along over St. Albans the children sent up a shout. But some were heard to say, 'What! That thing a flying machine? Get out; it's only a bird. Think I'd left my cosy bed to be fooled! I'm off back.' But the majority stayed it out, and were rewarded. About 6o'clock one machine returned, flying overhead so you could see the occupant and hear the motor at work. Potters Bar will not soon forget its first flying episode.

Barnet Press 29 July, 1911.

Does anyone know of someone who witnessed this event ?

DAY CONFERENCE

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

5 November 1988

at Enfield Grammar School Old Hall

Programme

10.00 Alan Dumayne  
Capt. Wm. Leefe Robinson & the Cuffley  
Airship (illustrated)

Coffee break

11.30 Graham Dalling -The Spanish Flu 1918

Lunch to be brought if one goes.

2.00 David Pam  
War Work in the Lea Valley

Tea break

3.15 Geoffrey Gillam  
Enfield and the First World War  
(illustrated)

4.00 Question + comment

FEES Full day, incl. coffee and tea £3  
Half day, incl. coffee/tea £2

Apply to:- Mr.D.O.Pam, 44, Chase Green Ave.,  
Enfield.

Tel. 01-366-3887.

NOTE that Alan Dumayne is speaking to us on  
the same subject, in October.

ALSO it is the same day as the Herts. Local  
History Symposium.

ACQUISITIONS

Throughout 1987 Len Devonish collected all  
the circulars put through the front door of 118,  
Dugdale Hill Lane. He has donated these to the  
Society and they should make interesting reading  
in years to come. Not that we suggest that every  
member should follow his lead!

ARMADA CELEBRATIONS, 1988

Having witnessed the lighting of the beacon on Hadley Church, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of its lighting to notify all that the Spanish Armada had been sighted off The Lizard, I have arrived home and penned this description of the events at eleven o'clock the same evening.

I parked my car in Taylor's Lane and listened to the radio until ten o'clock on the 19th July, 1988, opposite the Old Windmill pub, at Hadley Highstone. There were many parked cars and groups of people were heading along Drury Road towards the church. It was quite mild and warm for that time of evening, few people had coats. Some cars tried to go along the road but their progress was slow and tortuous, it was amazing that the roads had not been closed, as they were narrow. On gaining a view of the illuminated church front one noticed orderly groups of people, on either side of the road. In places children were trying to gain a better view of the dancers. One boy near me, about twelve years of age, who was clasping his skateboard, jumped up and down but his efforts were to no avail until I suggested he squeezed through the crowd to join other children at the front. Then he saw the Morris dancers and heard the beat of the drum. When they stopped the crowd applauded politely and where I was we edged forward to fill the dancers' vacated area.

Perhaps, rather late one noted the vertical letters on the church tower which read, 'FIRE OVER ENGLAND', they had practically blended with the flintwork. Applause followed another rendering by the band nearer the church. By now the road was nearly blocked by a very cosmopolitan crowd - the residents of Hadley were obvious, otherwise there were young and old, family groups and near me several youngsters from a children's home. All were very orderly and looked towards the tower as the lighting time approached.

There was movement on the tower, a shout greeted the igniting of the fire-lighter, this was then taken towards the beacon at ten-nineteen, when the Rev. Ettlinger, vicar of Hadley, tried to light the beacon. It proved to be no easy task, but at ten-twenty the beacon finally appeared to be ignited. A shout went up, as the sparks blew away on the wind and the band struck up, 'Land of Hope and Glory'. The crowd joined in, all was very light-hearted as the vicar conducted those below in another rendering. Two press photographers were taking pictures from the top of the tower, whilst below a television cameraman was recording the scene.

At first it was the groups of young children and the elderly who departed, whereas others stood around chatting and watching the beacon as it flared away. Then at ten-thirty another cheer as the bells were rung, all was complete - nothing more to be seen and soon people began to leave. I left about ten thirty-five, pleased to have witnessed the occasion and hoping that this description will be available at the 500th anniversary, even in '400 years' time. Will it be any different? Will people travel in cars?

B. Warren

HERTS. LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 5th November.

LAMAS (London & Middx. Archaeological Soc.).

LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 26th November, at the Museum of  
London.

Title:- 'London between the Armada and the  
Glorious Revolution'.

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

THE LONDON MUSEUM LIBRARY

As this Society is affiliated to LAMAS members can use the London Museum library. It is advisable to make an appointment.