

*Potters Bar & District
Historical Society*

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Regd. Charity No.299475

The Newsletter

April 1990

Vol.6 No.3

Congratulations are due to the substantial number of members who have already paid their subs. for 1990/91.

Another word of thanks is due to those members who pay their subs year after year and are quite happy to support the Society with their payment. The aim of, 'The Newsletter' is to keep these members informed of all the various activities, and it is hoped that they find it serves this purpose. If one day a majority of these members suddenly decided to attend a monthly meeting, it would create problems and exceed the fire regulations for our present meeting place. However, thank you to them for their continued support.

The speakers for the monthly programme for 1990/91 have been arranged, but due to the uncertainty of the move from Oakmere to Wyllyotts, the exact dates have not yet been agreed with Mrs.Doidge. Until the exact dates have been decided the Society's programme card cannot be produced. Therefore it might be possible that members could only receive notification of meetings for 1990/91, in 'The Newsletter'.

At the time of writing it is understood the Wyllyotts' scheme should be completed by 15th September and then Oakmere would be emptied in 30 days.

The Wyllyotts' Local History Centre is to consist of one room, 17m x 6m, and whilst it is

2 not what your Officers and Committee requested at the preliminary planning stage, discussions are taking place with the necessary local government officials concerned with the equipping of the new civic complex. Hopefully these negotiations will result in providing Potters Bar with a Centre, in which the Society can take an active part.

THANKS

The Society is very grateful to the following members for acting as distributors during the last year, namely:- Mr. & Mrs. R. Horsefield, Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Griffith, Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Weston, Miss M. H. Schofield, Mr. G. T. Riddleston, Mrs. V. Murphy, Mr. & Mrs. D. B. Green, Mrs. V. Lonkhurst, Mrs. R. J. LeBaigue, Mr. & Mrs. G. Sillis, Mr. R. I. B. Warwick, Mr. P. White, Mr. C. Overend, Mr. & Mrs. E. Ovenden, Mr. G. H. Eve and Mr. J. C. Clarke.

Similarly a big thank you to Ruby LeBaigue for organising the tea ladies and gentleman, and long may the following helpers carry on the good work:- Barbara Clinton, Mabel Hammett, Janet Davies, Vivienne Bell, Daphne Cain, Sylvia Harding, Joyce Trotman, Ivy Jones, Vivien Murphy, Myra Huber, Monica Hughes, Eileen Field, Marjorie Schofield, Kathleen Green and Len Field. I know the men can take a hint!

The provision of tea/coffee and biscuit has been a great success at the monthly meetings, so if you would like to assist during the coming year contact Ruby, at 186, Auckland Rd.

Brian Warren thanks those who answered his request for a copy of, 'The Newsletter', Vol. I No. I.

Gordon Eve has provided the Society with copies of O.S. maps which he no longer needs and Pauline Beckford presented newspaper cuttings from The Barnet Press, both items have been added to the archives.

REMINDER HERTS. RECORDER SCHEME

NEXT MEETING:- Friday 29th June at 8 pm.

62, Ladbroke Drive.

Minutes to be circulated
a fortnight before.

'The History of Ganwick Corner' by
Mr.B.Warren.

Though the encroachments on Bentley Heath and the subsequent buildings upon those encroachments are mainly of recent origin, the name Ganwick, with its many variations, is of much greater antiquity. As the eastern side of the main road was the boundary of Enfield Chase, established c.1140, maps show the buildings on that side but not across the road. Cottages on the western side of the road can be found on maps of the Manor of Wyllyotts. This division made it even harder to re-construct the history of the area because of these divisions.

The history of the building of the larger houses will be related, then using local and national records one will show how the local personalities sometimes became involved in national history.

Finally there will be a surprise just in case one has been asleep in the talk!

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME for District Nurses Benefit Fund, Nurses' Welfare, Natinoal Trust's Gardens Fund, Gardener's Sunday, Macmillan Nurses Training Fund and other charities.

Local places open are :-

- Sunday May 13 St.Paul's Walden Bury £1 and 50p chn.
Sunday June 3 West Lodge Park and £1 and 20p chn.
Wrotham Park £1 and 50p chn./OAPs
Saturday July 28 The Manor House, Ayot St.Lawrence
Sunday Sept. 9 Ashridge Management College £1.50
and 75p chn.
Sunday Sept. 30 Knebworth House £1.50 and £1 chn
Sunday Oct. 21 West Lodge Park £1 and 20p chn.

A COMPLETE LIST WILL BE AT THE MAY MEETING ON THE 17th.

4 St.MARY'S 75th ANNIVERSARY

St.Mary's church, in The Walk, is celebrating this event throughout the year.

In June, on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th, the church will be open from 10.00 am - 5.00pm so that the public can view the church and the exhibitions. The Society's contribution will be entitled, 'Potters Bar in 1915', to show what it was like in the Church's first year.

As the final details have not yet been agreed members intending to visit the church should check on the opening/closing times nearer the event.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Congratulations to Mr.& Mrs Ovenden on the birth of their son, William, earlier this year. This is a rare occurrence for our Society, in fact, the first in six years at least.

Congratulations too, to Shirley Harris, on being granted her early retirement at the end of the school year. Life on the other side of the fence is so much greener! We wish her well and may she have many more years to do what she wants to do.

Gladys Clarke and Phyllis Eve are much in our thoughts and we wish them well. Similarly, Mr.Little has been missed at our monthly meetings.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery are sent to Mr.D.B.Green, following his recent slight heart attack.

It is hoped the following new members will make full use of their subscription and make a valuable contribution to the Society. We welcome Ms.J.M.Lee, Mrs.E.Laverick, Mr.Bruce Watters, Mrs.Margaret Smith and Mr.& Mrs.R.C.Williams and Adam.

A HISTORY OF ENFIELD by David Pam. Vol.I Before 1837

ENFIELD - A PARISH NEAR LONDON

It is known that some members took advantage of the reduced offer in the last Newsletter, and it is hoped they are enjoying reading what will become the standard text book on the history of Enfield for many years to come.

Once again there was a good audience to hear the various reports of the Society's progress through its thirtieth year.

The Secretary, Dick Harris, reported another successful year with all the Society's functions and meetings being well-attended.

The Treasurer, Peter White, noted there had been an increase in the overall balance, though in fact, the total profit over the year had been almost the same as last year, about £700. The income on the sales of the publications was down on the previous year, but this was not a true reflection of the position as there was quite a large reserve stock, which remained unsold and should be sold in the coming year. A grant for £200 had been received from the Hertsmeare B.C., as in the previous year, and the Society was grateful for this continued source of income.

The Chairman, Brian Warren, in his review said that every organisation needed a new input or challenge every so often, either a new leader or Chairman to provide a further impetus was required or something else.

Whilst he did not wish to occupy the chairmanship of the Society forever, he was pleased to announce that during the coming year Hugh Baddeley, of the North Mymms Society had agreed to use his expertise and equipment to produce a video, similar to his one on North Mymms, which he had shown to the Society, a few years ago. All those who have seen that video must agree that it was superb and one hopes that we can do as well for South Mimms.

The Chairman thanked Arnold Lynch and Joan Andrews, for their services to the Society and for their help and advice they had given to him personally, whilst on the committee. Arnold was retiring after nine years and had been most appreciated by the present Chairman, when Arnold served as his vice-Chairman. The Chairman hoped they would enjoy their rest, but continue to support the Society, as they had done in the past.

The meeting was brought to a close with short talks by Peter White, Len Field and Brian Warren.

For those who did not attend refreshments were free!

THE STORM, Thursday, 25th January, 1990.

As with the Great Storm of October, 1987, the Archivist has kept a file of such relevant items that he could find, so with the storm in January.

Photographs, newspaper cuttings, personal notes, etc. would be gratefully received and placed in the file. It does not matter how small the information is, it all adds to the picture for future historians.

PHOTOCOPYING

Sometime ago a request was made to members if they had access to photocopying facilities, and as a result some half-a-dozen members volunteered. The idea was to spread the load so four people could do ten copies each rather than one person forty copies.

Due to retirement there are only two people available at the present time.

If anyone can help with this matter would they notify the chairman, as soon as possible.

Thank you to anyone who does volunteer.

OCCASIONAL PAPER No.2

'GROWING UP IN POTTERS BAR 1938 - 1945'

by

Molly Drinnan

This time the Society is in even greater debt to Terry Goulding for the production of this booklet, as apart from all his usual work connected with producing our publications, he had to type this one himself, during his lunch-times. Thank you for another good effort.

ON SALE at:-

- 1) Monthly meetings,
- 2) Potters Bar Healthfoods,
21, The Broadway,
Darkes Lane.
- 3) Mr.G.H.Eve,
34, Hatherleigh Gdns.,

PRICE 80p, or postal enquiries £1 from 3)

22 JANUARY "Leisure and Pleasure in a Victorian Suburb" by Mr.D.O.Pam.

A large audience gathered to hear David Pam talk on his subject as it applied to Enfield. He showed how the lot of the poor gradually improved throughout the century. How more leisure-time was provided as the working week was limited by law.

The Victorian period was one where many of today's local organisations had their origins. The Town Band, the Cricket Club, etc. Many of these organisations are now celebrating their centenary, but they owe their origins to the industry and effort of the Victorians.

In Enfield one saw the growth of the suburban Middle Classes, the supporters and founders of the Music Society, the lending library, etc.

Though the title was about the Victorians it was noticeable that the speaker did include information upto 1914, which did not detract from the enjoyment of the evening.

Dr.Landers echoed this enjoyment of an evening without slides, when he proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker.

19 FEBRUARY "The History of Packaging" by Mr.J.Griffin.

The speaker said that when he was first appointed as the Museums' Officer of the London Borough of Enfield, he wanted to encourage people to donate to the local museums items associated with Enfield. He chose packaging because everybody has it at home and people are inveterate hoarders. He was so successful that in Forty Hall one can see the results of his labours.

Using a selection of items from that collection the speaker proceeded to talk about each one according to its origin, not in date order.

The largest part of the display was made from tin because tin cans survive the best and had secondary uses, though each firm was very secretive about its industrial processes. The Tabloid tea tin was a late 19th century example of transfer printing,

later offset lithography was used, and finally photo-lithography, to decorate the tins.

Other types of tin were classified as novelty, commemorative or war-time ones. The Huntley and Palmer novelty library series of books, 1902, was the best tin ever made in England. War-time tins lost their colours and became drab, in keeping with the times.

Examples of card packaging were the sailor in Players Navy-Cut cigarettes, the Bisto kids designed by William Owen, 1919, and Rowantrees very successful Black Magic chocolate boxes.

Paper, glass, ceramics, textiles, wood and plastic have all been used for packaging, as John Griffin outlined with further samples, most of which were passed round the audience.

Mr. Overend, who by coincidence once worked for the Metal Box Company, proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker for an interesting and stimulating lecture.

16 MARCH "Roman Roads in Potters Bar?"

by Dr.A.Lynch.

Dr.Lynch first became interested in the subject of Roman roads as a small boy at the time of the long-distance coaches in the 1920s. In particular the roads often included right-angled bends, which in some cases appeared as gentle curves. Roman roads were often straight but not always, as later obstructions on the roads when by-passed resulted in curves. Roman roads can now be found as parish boundaries, footpaths, tracks and crop marks.

Characteristics of these roads were the joining of settlements, including places with the name 'chester' or its derivations. Roman roads were often found to be narrow with wide verges, whilst long straight sections were often joined by sharp corners on hilltops, to gain a military advantage.

Old roads can be traced by using the appropriate one of the fifteen Roman itineraries, which relate to Britain. One thousand paces equalled a Roman mile and one Roman pace equalled

two paces. A pace was equivalent to 5½ft. Though the distances were found to be 2-3% greater one was still able to use the distances to pin-point the places with some accuracy.

In the 1900s Codrington produced a map of the major Roman roads; he was followed by Ivan Margary in the 1920s, who devoted his life to tracing the roads. Followers of Margary, known as "The Viatores" published "Roman Roads in the S.E. Midlands" in the 1960s. R.H. Reade documented the local area and described roads from Colney Heath to Cheshunt, Coldharbour Farm to Cheshunt, and Baldock to Bell Lane, and through Potters Bar to Southgate.

Other local roads were mentioned by the speaker as possible Roman roads. Slides were shown of the footpath across the local golf course which seemed to indicate a raised profile of a Roman 'agger'

Following interesting comments and observations on the subject, Joan Groves proposed a well-deserved vote of thanks to Dr. Lynch.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN

While on a visit to Gloucester Cathedral June and Michael Axford noticed the following memorial and took a photograph:-

'To the Dear Memory of
Mowbray Trotter Canon
of this Cathedral
4th son of Capt. John Trotter
of Dyrham Park, Herts.
At rest 8th Feb. 1913
quietness assurance forever'

The members of the Society's outing to Bayford last summer would have noticed on the north wall of the church the following:-

'In loving memory of
John Trotter
of Brickendon Grange
son of Captain John Trotter
of Dyrham Park
B April 8th 1854 D April 25th 1913'

The Bayford memorial continues with information about his wife and two sons.

John Trotter of Brickendon Grange was the youngest son of Capt. John Trotter (1808-1870) of Dyrham Park, and Canon Mowbray the second youngest son.

If any members happen to visit Salisbury Cathedral perhaps they will look for a memorial to Henry Trotter (1842-1910), a canon of that cathedral and at one time vicar of Christ Church, Barnet. He was the second eldest son of Capt. John Trotter of Dyrham Park (1808-1870).

ANOTHER EXAMPLE

On a recent visit to All Saints Church, Herstmonceux, Sussex, Brian Warren's attention was drawn to the beautifully decorated Dacre Tomb, in memory of Sir Thomas, 8th Lord Dacre (1470-1533) and his son, Sir Thomas Fiennes, who pre-deceased him in 1528.

During the restoration of the tomb, in 1970, a shield on the South side was identified as belonging to Mandeville.

The present holder of the Dacre title is Rachel, daughter of the 4th and last Viscount Hampden, who married the Hon. William Douglas Home.

The Fiennes family have links with the area since 1328 and Sir Richard (1447-1484) married Joan Dacre, and by patent in 1459, became the 7th Lord Dacre. Sir Ranolph Fiennes, the present explorer, is descended from the above family.

There were two other items of interest in the church, at Herstmonceux:-

- 1) A memorial to Viscount Hailsham on the wall and the fact his son, Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone, had lived in their home at Cowbeech nearby, until 1964.
- 2) In the list of vicars was 1860-66, Henry Wellesley, D.D., nephew of the 1st Duke of Wellington.

The Society's Summer outing last year was to Stratfield Saye, the home of the Dukes of Wellington.

When you are on holiday this year or touring round the country, perhaps you will keep a careful watch and note any links with local people and places.

This could be a pleasant way of adding to our local knowledge and discovering information in unusual places. If one does perhaps they would inform Brian Warren, so he can pass on the facts and also help to fill, 'The Newsletter!'

SUMMER PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 9th JUNE

Arrangements are being made for this date to visit Long Melford, Ickworth House (National Trust) and go to Lavenham via Bury St. Edmunds.

Members will receive further information as soon as possible.

SUNDAY 1st JULY A WALK FROM The Cock, Cockfosters through Hadley Woods to Hadley Green and back.

Meet in suitable attire at The Cock, at 2.30 p.m.

Park in Chalk Lane.

The history of various places on the walk will be explained.

MAKE SURE YOU READ THE BACK PAGE - URGENT!!!

SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER HARROW SCHOOL VISIT.

Visitors will be shown buildings that are representative of the oldest in the School, the expansion of the Nineteenth Century and modern developments.

The buildings visited depend on the length of the tour and are chosen from the Fourth Form Room, Old Speech Room, Art Gallery, Speech Room, Chapel, Shepherd Churchill Dining Hall, Sports Centre, War Memorial building, Alex Fitch Room and by special arrangement, the Vaughan Library.

The Society is booked in for a full tour from 2.15 - 4.15, which costs £3.25 per person and £2.60 retirement pensioners.

At the end of the tour one can have a full cream tea for £2.20, for a minimum of 20 people if booked in advance. This has been recommended.

As there is limited parking near the School it has been suggested that we take as few cars as is possible.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM to Brian Warren by the 17th May -last monthly mtg.

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- I/we wish to go on the full tour of Harrow School.
- I/we have a car and could give a lift topeople.
- I/we require a lift.
- I/we would require the cream tea.
- Name/s (Please PRINT)

Final arrangements will be made when these forms have been returned. Leaving time will be about 1.15 p.m.

This tour has been recommended by one of our members.