

*Potters Bar & District
Historical Society*

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Regd. Charity No.299475

The Newsletter

April 1991

Vol.7 No.3

Wylyotts Museum and Local History Centre

The priority in the coming year is to develop the Museum, so that members of the public will make more than one visit. So far the comments have been very favourable and the response has been good. After the initial problems with the stewarding the Society is managing to cope with opening on three days a week.

The first organised visit was made by twenty-one members of the Middlesex Society, on Saturday the 20th April, which they all seemed to enjoy.

When the Society's archives have been indexed then they will be available for study and research work, by members and the public at large.

There are so many small jobs to be done that if one has a skill perhaps they would inform a Committee member.

SUMMER PROGRAMME

FRIDAY MAY 24th MAY LECTURE at Wyllyotts Centre
8 p.m. prompt

'Changing Potters Bar' by
 The Society's Recorder Group.

In the early 1980's the Herts. Local History Council set about establishing a Countywide system of recorders, either individuals, groups or societies. The hope was to have at least one recorder in each parish. The initial role of a recorder was:-

1. To record the present and particularly changes for the benefit of future historians.
2. To record evidence of the past.

The Recorders were asked to provide the Local History Council with a summary of their recording during the year.

The inaugural meeting of the Society's Group was held at 21, Chace Avenue, on Thursday 11th October 1984, at 8.00 p.m.. Gillian Gear, the County Organiser, attended and spoke about the scheme to C. Overend, T. Goulding, N. Brown, D. Ruge-Cope and B. Warren. At that meeting Potters Bar and district was divided into nine areas and four recorders were appointed.

Since then the boundaries of the areas have been changed in the light of experience, but the number has remained the same, and all but one area has a recorder. The Group has met regularly twice a year and sent a report to Gillian Gear annually.

The May talk will show the great variety of recording that has taken place mainly over the past year. It is intended to use each area to show a different aspect of recording the changes in and around Potters Bar, both large and small.

If you wish to participate then look at the centre pages.

Sunday 9th JUNE Afternoon walk round Ganwick
Corner and Bentley Heath.

Meet 2.30 pm by Footpath 60, on the Barnet Road, south of Ganwick Corner.

It is probably best to park cars in the short piece of road from the Barnet Road to Dancers Hill Road, remember it is now only one way from the Barnet Road.

Wednesday 17th JULY Village Tour round Little
Berkhamsted, organised by the
Curate, the Rev^d J.Price.

Meet by the Lych Gate to the Church, in Little Berkhamsted, at 6.45 pm.

Next to the Lych Gate there is a narrow entrance to a field where one's car may be parked. The Curate is arranging for us to use the field, as the village has many narrow roads.

THE A.G.M.

The Secretary reflected that when he first took office, in 1985, the Society was not in such a prosperous situation as six years later. The membership was larger, the meetings and outings well-attended and sales of publications provided a continual flow of finance into the Society's funds in 1990-91.

The Treasurer's report showed a very healthy balance, in spite of spending £1780 on the Museum at Wyllyotts and not receiving a grant from Hertsmere Borough Council.

The Chairman in his review noted that the past year had been very successful, with the membership exceeding 200 for the first time and the establishment of the Wyllyotts' Centre Museum

and Local History Centre already stimulating public interest in the area and resulting in several inquiries for information and items being brought to the Museum for identification, or donated. He hoped the coming year would result in the development of the Museum, thus providing the Society with a great opportunity to develop local history in the area.

The Chairman thanked Ruby LeBaigue for her four years' service on the Committee and so ably organising the tea/coffee rota at the monthly meetings. Also, Peter Trotman for three years on the Committee and arranging the programme. He welcomed Arnold Davey to the Committee and hoped he would enjoy the friendly atmosphere of its meetings.

Barbara Clinton had agreed to organise the teas and Joan Charlton would be responsible for the programme. In view of the large membership Eileen Field agreed to accept responsibility of Membership Secretary.

The following officers and committee were appointed for 1991/92:-

Chairman	Mr.B.Warren	6,Church Close, Cuffley. Cuf. 875617
Vice-Chairman	Mr.T.G.Goulding	12,Church Rd.
Hon.Secretary	Mr.R.Harris	25,Cotton Rd.
Asst.Hon.Sec.	Mrs.J.Groves	78,Barnet Rd.
Hon.Treasurer	Mr.P.White	39,Byng Drive
Hon.Archivist	Mr.B.Warren	
Committee:-	Mrs.E.Field	Mr.L.Field
	Mrs.J.Charlton	Mr.D.Lore
		Mr.A.Davey
Hon.Auditor	Mr.I.Warwick	
Trustees	Mrs.M.Brittain, Mr.J.Clarke and Mr.R.Jones.	

Under Any Other Business Peter White proposed, with the full agreement of the Committee and unbeknown to the recipients, that Brian Warren and Terry Goulding be made Honorary Members in recognition of their services to the Society. This was approved by the meeting.

Following free tea/coffee the meeting concluded with the late Mr.Alec Watts', 'Bygone Days'.

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THANKS

The Society is grateful to the following members for acting as 'postman' during the past year:-

Mr.D.B.Green, Mr.J.C.Clarke, Mr.M.E.Griffith, Mr.G.T.Riddleston, Mr.P.White, Mr.I.Warwick, Mr.G.Eve, Mrs.V.Murphy, Mr.R.Horsefield, Mr.&Mrs.R.A.Weston, Mrs.V.Lonkhurst, Mr.C.Overend, Mrs.R.LeBaigue, Mr.& Mrs.H.Sillis, Miss M.H.Schofield and Mrs.E.Ovenden.

Mr. & Mrs.Ovenden and family have now moved to Leeds. Mrs.J.Bush has agreed to take over their area for the coming year.

The Society also acknowledges the valued services of the following for serving tea/coffee at the monthly meetings:-

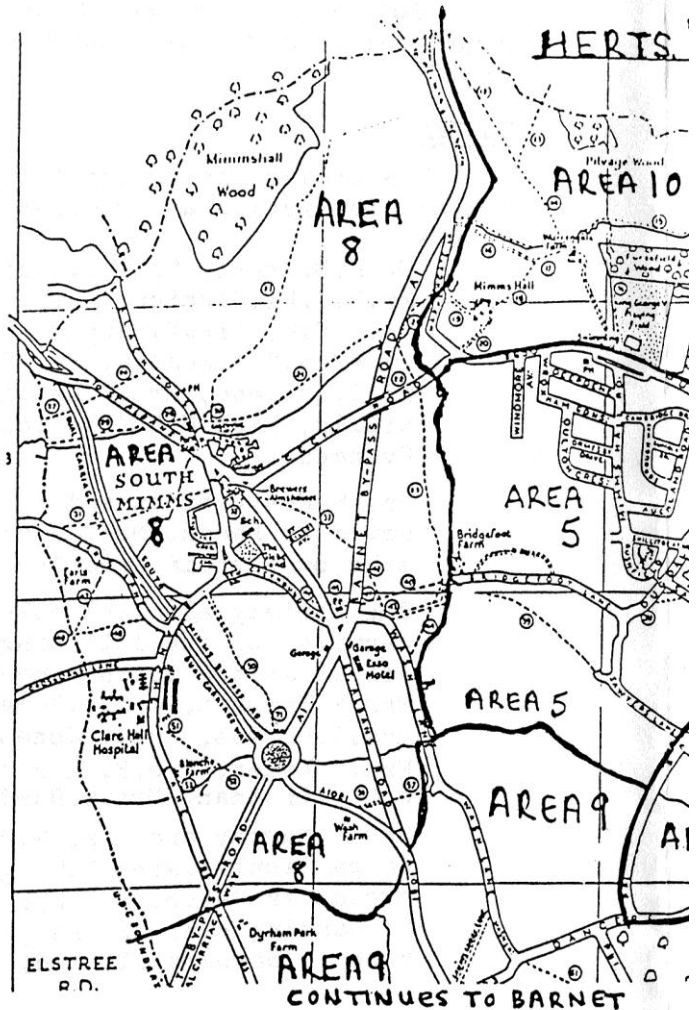
Mrs.M.Hammett, Mrs.M.Huber, Mrs.V.Bell, Mrs.J.Davies, Mrs.I.Jones, Mrs.J.Bush, Mrs.M.Baker, Mrs.B.Clinton, Mrs.S.Harris, Mrs.J.Trotman, Mrs.S.Harding, Mrs.K.Green, Mrs.V.Murphy and Miss M.H.Schofield.

In particular, Ruby LeBaigue, the efficient organiser deserves a special mention as she is handing over the responsibility for next year to Barbara Clinton.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO:- Mrs.E.Field,
Membership Secretary,
51, Highview Gardens,
Potters Bar,
Herts.

REMINDER:-

Adults	£2.50
Under 18 and over 60's	£2
Family/Group membership	£4



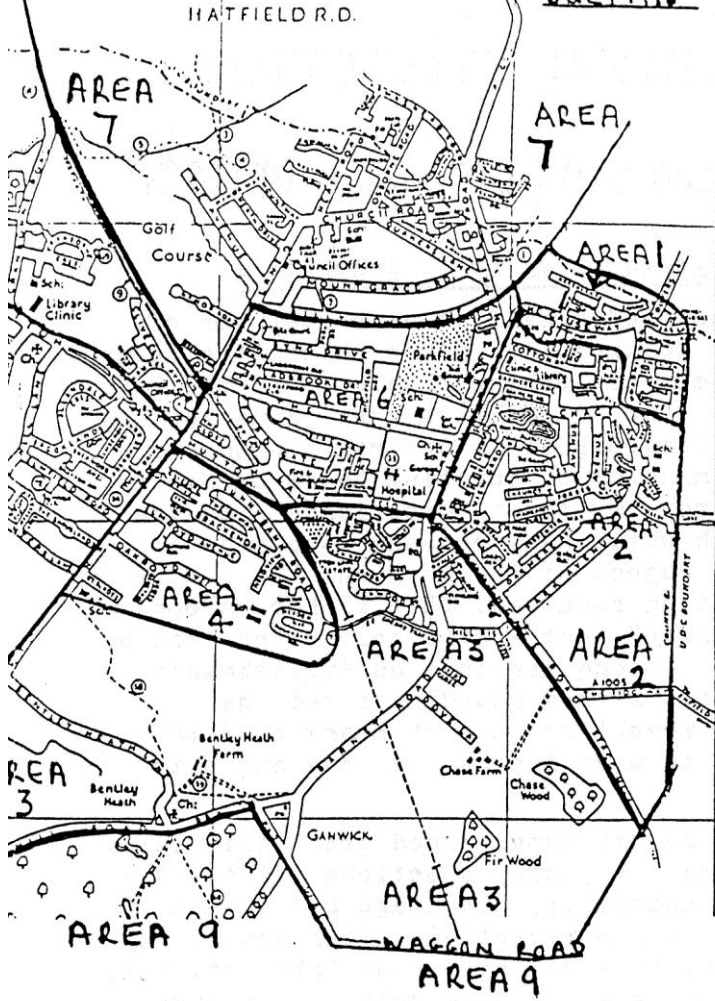
HERTS. RECORDER SCHEME

If YOU notice anything which should be recorded then make a note and inform the appropriate Recorder. Ideally if members acted as a watcher for their road then the Recorders opposite would act more as co-ordinators.

RECORDERS

Area 1 Mr.G.Eve	56831
Area 2 Mr. & Mrs.K.Smithson	52047

RECORDER SCHEME AREAS
JULY 1986



Area 3	Mr.L.Field	53801
Area 4	Mrs.V.Murphy	58447
Area 5	Mr.S.Redington	58000
Area 6	Mr.I.Warwick	53400
Area 7	Mr.T.Goulding	56429
Area 8	Mr.A.Benson	45057
Area 9	Barnet to P.B. no recorder	
Area 10	Mr. & Mrs.M.Axford	50590

A Timely Reminder to all Family Historians, or seekers after the truth!

1871 CENSUS - EXPERIENCES OF AN ENUMERATOR

Having equipped myself as an enumerator of the period - a leathern bag slung across the left shoulder, an ominous-looking Blue book in the left hand, which was also filled with suspicious looking papers, and a lead pencil in the right hand - I started on my mission of counting heads on Monday the 27th of March. My first "experience" was the difficulty with which many persons were made to understand the object of the work and the nature of the information required. They either "stood upon their dignity" in the firm conviction that no one had a right to enquire into an Englishman's private affairs; or they roundly abused the Government for resorting to such means to obtain information as to what income-tax they ought to pay!

Some enumerators experienced great difficulties in answering the posing questions put to them respecting the necessity, advantage and object of a Census, and quickly regretted, after commencing their task, that they had ever undertaken it. One, whom I know said he would give half-a-sovereign to get out of it; and he had not half finished his delivery. Another was nearly driven frantic in merely getting out his schedules, and he called at the last few houses in the district in this style:- knocking at the door and bowling himself in when it was opened to him, he threw himself into a chair nearest at hand, and, handing a schedule to the astonished housekeeper, said in a despairing tone- "There! don't want any taxes, and I haven't come for any rent; but do fill that paper up and let me have it again on Monday."

Another, whom I know personally, nearly scratched from the top of his head the few hairs which still grace it. But his excitement and disturbed state consequent upon the annoyance experienced in distributing the schedules was not equal to the alarm which he experienced at the close of his task of collecting them again. Calling at a house where his knock was answered by a little girl, to whom he tried to explain the nature of his visit, he was requested to "come in", by some unseen person. Walking into a room, he found a female nursing a child with a well-developed form of small-pox. Taking but little time to state his object, he quickly "made tracks;" marking the house for his next visit. In collecting his schedules on the Monday, he knocked and gave the door a wide berth; and again heard the invitation "come in!" "Not for Joe" He peremptorily told the girl to bring the paper to him which he had left the other day; and he would fill it up outside the house. It was brought as requested, and, finding it was already filled up, he with but very little ceremony placed it in his bag along with two others about which he had grave suspicion. Hurrying home, he rushed through the house, not stopping to inform his affrighted wife what was the matter with him, and consigned the infectious schedules to the backyard for the night; and before they were again allowed to be brought into the house he had them, bag and all, well fumigated, forbidding his family to enter the room which he occupied while entering them in his enumeration book. For the future peace and happiness, perhaps longevity of District Registrars, I warn them of that man; for he has threatened that he will, with one blow, reverse the perpendicular position of anyone who asks him to again assist in taking the census!

A third enumerator whom I know had become slightly fogged about his schedules, and was seen wandering about a certain road in the rain, making anxious enquiries, if he had "called and received those papers he had left the other day." An affirmative answer perplexed him still more; and he "wondered what he could have done with them."

10 He consequently discovered that, in consequence of his not being over careful in numbering them, his schedules, like the farce of Punch's cabby, had got "mixed,"

But to turn again from the enumerator to the enumerated. I have already noticed some of the objections which were taken to, giving the required information, but there were others which were nearly as ridiculous as those of the Cingaleese, who believed that the object of the Government was to ascertain how many single men there were in the island who could be spared to husband French widows and spinsters! It is a fact, - at least it is so stated - that many mothers in Ceylon sent their unmarried sons into the jungle out of the reach of the enumerators in the hope that they might escape the much-feared French connubial conscription! I don't know whether anything of the kind was done in England on an extensive scale; but at one house I found that a person had slept there whose name, age, and occupation could not be given by anyone in the house. He had been there a week, and, therefore, could not be said to be "temporarily present," and not knowing if his parents would return him as "absent", I endeavoured to discover them. The young lady who informed me that she had this "lodger," about whom she could give no information, gave me a clue by which I found out his mother. I consequently got that name upon my list, which made up for the loss, I sustained through the interference of a police-officer, who "nailed" one of my clients between the time of my leaving and calling for a schedule; but, in getting it I hope I didn't cause any ill-words between mother and son. If they did quarrel, I am inclined to think, from the bully-ragging I got in making the enquiries, that the son came off second best!

To be concluded

SPRING PROGRAMME REPORTS

These reports along with two other items have been held over until the next issue.

The thoughts of all members wish Joan Andrews and Mrs. Weston in a speedy recovery during the coming months.

As mentioned elsewhere Harriet & Eric Ovenden and their four children (quite a record for a current member of the Historical Society) have now moved to Leeds.

The following new members have joined since the last Newsletter and are warmly welcomed to the Society:-

Mr. & Mrs. J.F. Basinger, Mr. & Mrs. W. Borrows, Mr. & Mrs. J. Bryon, Mr. & Mrs. V. J. Irons, Mr. D.G. King, Mrs. M. King, Mr. & Mrs. H.T. Lewis, Mrs. M.J. Love, Mr. & Mrs. Monk, Mr. J.B. Norman, Mr. & Mrs. J. Scivyer, Mr. & Mrs. B. Sewell, Mr. T. Shirley, and Mrs. J. Wilkerson.

It is hoped that they will make the most of their subscription.

A RECENT SURVEY showed the following % of items held by people in Britain:-

96% vacuum cleaners, 90% Colour T.V.,
85% washing machines, 83% Telephones,
46% video recorder, 34% Tumble-dryer,
30% micro-wave ovens and 8% Dishwashers.

FOR YOUR CONTEMPLATION!

NEVER GO BACK

"Never go back where small memories are,
Though they beckon and call like the evening star,
For the path may be gone that you used to walk
through,

A house may be built where the violets grew.
The small brook you waded in when you were small
May be dried up completely; the oak so tall
That it seemed its branches pierced the sky
May look smaller to you than in years gone by.
Worldly things change so, dissolve, break apart.
Never go back except in your heart."

¹² Are you doing anything on the
first Tuesday in the month?

Why not come to recitals at
St Mary's in The Walk.

12.00 - 2.00 p.m. PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH
90p

12.30 - 1.10 p.m. RECITAL (no charge)

4th June

John Blaskett.

Chapel Organist at Queenswood School.

A concert performer who has played at,
inter alia, St. Paul's, Ely, Southwark
and Winchester Cathedrals.


Sounds good enough to make it your
first visit !

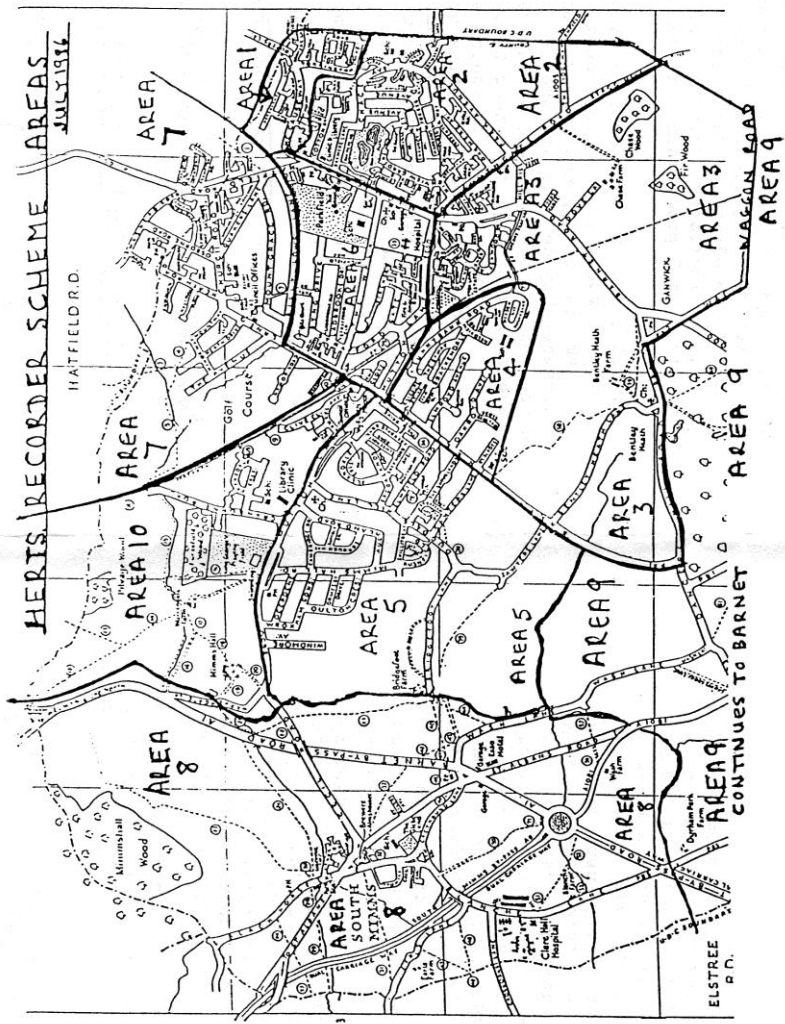
2nd July

PROBABLY Terence Atkins, organist at
Chipping Barnet Parish Church.

Postponed recital from February.

ALTERNATIVE- Mount Grace School Choir.
Postponed from March.

Music — FOOD — FRIENDS




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- Area 6 Mr. I. Warwick 53400
- Area 7 Mr. T. Goulding 56429
- Area 8 Mr. A. Benson 45057
- Area 9 Barnet to P.B. no recorder
- Area 10 Mr. & Mrs. M. Axford 50590