

Potters Bar & District
Historical Society

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Regd. Charity No. 299475

The Newsletter

January 1992

Vol. 8 No. 2

Wylyotts Museum and Local History Centre - One year old.

Grateful thanks are expressed to all those members who volunteered to act as stewards, which enabled us to open the Museum on 151 times during the past year and entertain 2352 visitors. On only four days has no-one attended, which Mill Green Museum staff thought was very good.

Group visits have been made by The Middlesex Society, Stormont School, North Mymms Historical Society, the United Reformed Church Tuesday Group and a WEA class, in which they received an hour's conducted tour, plus time to view the exhibits at their leisure.

Like other exhibitors at the Centre the problem has been to entice the public into the building, once in they do visit the Museum. As a result the Museum has been opened on Sundays for Antique and Craft Fairs, with good attendances on every occasion; one Sunday achieved 103 visitors.

The introduction of a Visitors' Book in June proved that people come from far and wide. There were overseas' visitors from the U.S.A. and Canada, whilst others nearer home came from Dyfed, Surrey, Lincolnshire, Wiltshire, Sussex, Kent, Dorset, Cheshire and Scotland. Their comments have been very appreciative of the Museum.

Donations have been made and can be seen in the Recent Acquisitions' case. Numerous enquiries have been answered along with more detailed requests from students.

There are many things to be done and it has been a case of trying 'to run before one can walk' during this first year. It is hoped that during the coming year visitors will be able to notice such improvements on their second visit.

OPENING TIMES

SATURDAY	2.00 - 4.00 p.m.
TUESDAY	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

EXHIBITION JANUARY TO MAY 1992

THE RAILWAY IN POTTERS BAR

CONGRATULATIONS

Members of the Society on the 3rd October 1970

Mrs.E.Clare	Mr.C.T.Overend
Mr.L.A.Devonish	Mr.G.Pulzer
Mrs.E.M.Gordon	Mrs.H.G.Thompson
Mr.T.G.Goulding	Mr.R.I.B.Warwick
Mr.W.P.Jackson	Mr.B.Warren

If one has kept up their subscriptions then

CONGRATULATIONS on TWENTY-ONE YEARS of
MEMBERSHIP, or more.

SPRING LECTURE PROGRAMME - Monthly MeetingsTHURSDAY JANUARY 23rd Mr.H.Baddeley, FRRS, MBKS

Historical Films: Medieval Society - It is probable that this is very close approximation to life in Potters Bar in medieval times!

Industrial Revolution - The story of the industrial developments that transformed cottage industries into the great power driven mills. The important developments of transport are shown. More than 30 organisations including The Science Museum, The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust etc. assisted.

Life in Ancient Egypt - This film shows the everyday life of the people of Ancient Egypt as revealed through their art. One is reminded that these people were the first to build in stone, invent a calendar and evolve a means of writing. An introduction shows the great monuments as they are today.

Mr.Baddeley is chairman of the North Mymms Local History Society, whose profession for more than 40 years has been the production of documentary, educational and charity films around the world.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21st

Unfortunately Mr.Robert Whytehead is unable to fulfil his commitment to speak on, 'Saxon Settlement'.

'How the Speaking Clock went to war' by
Dr.AC.Lynch

By accidents of 19thC history the Post Office became the main source of good time-signals in Britain. In 1935 it introduced the Speaking Clock for automatic announcements of the time, available over telephone lines, using a unique system of sound recording. During the war this recording system was found useful for other purposes too (nothing to do with time) and special-purpose machines were made not only for the Post Office but for the Army and the R.A.F.

THURSDAY MARCH 26th

'Damsels, Fellows and Spurs (Herts Watermills)
by Mr.R.Busby

With its long agricultural tradition and network of rivers and streams, Hertfordshire has been home to numerous watermills. This talk, illustrated with slides, concentrates largely on the most critical period in the development of watermilling, from the late 18th century to about 1914, using Hertfordshire examples.

Along with the traditional corn mills, paper and fulling mills, silk and gunpowder mills came and went. So too the rise and fall of the millers, papermakers, silk throwsters and millwrights can be followed.

One valuable, but less used source of milling history, are 19th and early 20th century newspapers, both county and local.

MONTHLY MEETINGS at Wyllyotts Centre,
Sixty-Plus Room,
8 pm PROMPT

MEMBERS' NEWS

Since the last Newsletter Joan Andrews and Mr Richards have been in hospital and one sends them best wishes in their recovery.

Marjorie Redington is in hospital in Kent under observation for a complaint that has been troubling her for some time. Similarly, the Society's Treasurer, spent Christmas in Barnet General and at the time of writing is still there.

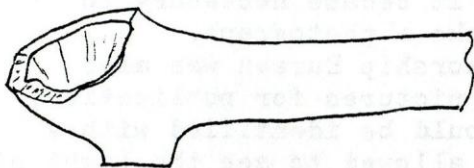
The Society hopes their illnesses are soon discovered and they return to health in the near future.

It is with regret one records the passing of one of our new members, Muriel King, on Boxing Day. She joined just over a year ago and will be missed by all her friends at Christ Church, Little Heath.

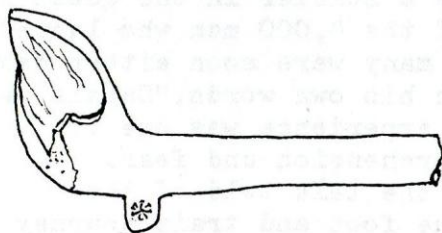
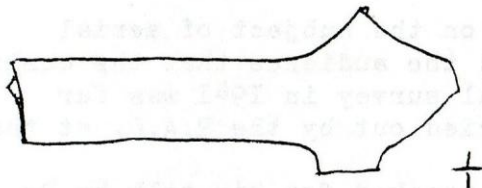
The following new members are welcomed to the Society:- Mr.& Mrs.Gatward, Mrs.Bernhaut, Miss D. M.Howard, Mary Broan, Doris Minchenton, Hwyl J.Morris and Mr. and Mrs. Male.
We look forward to seeing them at the meetings.

CLAY PIPES

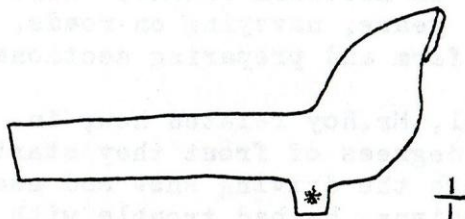
Ian Warwick found the following pipes in his garden at 62, Ladbroke Drive and they were identified on the 14th October 1991.



I640-70



I700-I750



OVERHEARD on 'Trivia Test Match Special' Radio 4.

Fined for playing cricket on a Sunday -

24th March 1611.

OCTOBER Photography as Information, Propaganda and Records in Wartime by Mr.M.Seaborne.

The censorship of photographs during World War II was the subject of the talk given by Mr.M. Seaborne, curator of historic film at the Museum of London.

The speaker said that censorship was brought in on September 16 1939, from which time the sale of film was banned and it became necessary to obtain permission to take a photograph.

The Press and Censorship Bureau was also established to vet all pictures for publication, and all photos which could be identified with a certain place were not allowed to see the light of day.

He also touched on the subject of aerial photography, and told the audience that the quality of the German's aerial survey in 1941 was far superior to that carried out by the R.A.F. at that time.

Mr.Seaborne was thanked for his talk by Dr. Arnold Lynch.

NOVEMBER Capture and Escape by Mr.D.Hoy.

The speaker became a soldier in the Queen's Victorian Rifles and of the 4,000 men who landed in Calais in May 1940, many were soon either dead, wounded or captured. In his own words, "Calais was a shambles." The whole experience was one of humiliation, guilt, apprehension and fear.

The first half of the talk told of the hardships endured on the foot and train journey from France to Fort 17 in northern Poland, where he spent the next four years, navvying on roads, working on the estate farm and preparing sectional buildings.

After the interval, Mr.Hoy related how, in January 1945, with 35 degrees of frost they started to move westward through the driving snow and away from the advancing Russians. He had trouble with frostbitten nose and feet and they stayed in a variety of accommodation on the long trek.

Eventually, having heard the US forces had crossed the Rhine he and a friend escaped but were

captured. A second escape was more successful and on Sunday 8th April 1945 they found themselves in no-man's land with shells coming from both sides. In the morning they were feted by American troops.

Mr.G.Eve proposed the vote of thanks, saying that those present who had been prisoners later in the war had fared better than the speaker.

DECEMBER The Rev^d.Allen Hay, Vicar of South Myrms, 1898-1954 by The Reverend R.Gage.

The audience was given a brief reminder of South Myrms prior to the arrival of The Rev^d.Allen Hay. The vicar was born in 1866 and served as a curate at St.Andrews, Plaistow, where he was involved in social problems and showed an interest in drama. The Reverend Hay left the people of Plaistow and was appointed to St.Giles on the 13 Aug.1898.

On arrival at St.Giles he soon introduced incense at services. Other early interests in the village were the Boy Scouts and the erection of houses in St.Giles Avenue.

Freddie Brittain first met the vicar when he delivered a letter in 1905. Following this initial meeting they became great friends and the speaker using extracts from extant letters highlighted incidents in their friendship. The first letter was written in 1921 and there were no letters between 1933-48 which had survived.

Some of the highlights mentioned included:- 'UGBED' -Union for getting back the 11 days (lost in 1752 with the change of the calendar). The Archdeacon's Horse (1926), which concerned the Archdeacon's visitation on a horse. This reached the headlines of national newspapers, and when the Archdeacon did arrive on a horse in 1952! The 'Matchless Maidens of Mimms' lasted for fourteen months; concerned the lack of marriages at St.Giles.

Allen Hay had a lifetime dedication to King Charles the Martyr and so it was not surprising that the new church at Cranborne received that dedication. He was a lifelong Socialist and a friend of General Booth, who lived at Hadley.

Mrs.M.Brittain thanked the speaker for his incite into the eccentric ways of the Rev^d. Allen Hay, who was never known to become flustered, yet possessed a wonderful sense of fun.

WAR MEMORIALS

Several references to recording war memorials have appeared at various times in, 'The Newsletter'.

Following correspondence with the Imperial War Museum it is quite likely the County Recorder Scheme could become involved, because apparently there has not been much response from Hertfordshire and they would welcome any assistance in Potters Bar and South Mimms.

MEMORIALS BEING RECORDED include the Crimea, Boer War, 1914-18, 1939-45, Korea and Falklands.

If you know of any memorials in schools, churches, institutions, railway stations, Post Offices, etc. in and around POTTERS BAR/SOUTH MIMMS do let us know. It is those put up by institutions that disappear with closure and amalgamations.

Dr. Brittain in his, 'South Mymms' lists the names inscribed on the war memorials at South Mymms (p155) and Potters Bar and Little Heath (p156). These will be checked against the present memorials.

The Headmaster, Mr. P.E.J. Thwaites, of Northaw School, has sent the promised list of those that fell in the two Great Wars and were once in the School Chapel at Northaw Place. The memorials are now in the School Chapel, near Salisbury.

DEEDS OF YOUR HOUSE

The Society's Archivist, Brian Warren, would be grateful if members would allow him to copy the deeds of their house, as they are a valuable source for local history, and often provide detailed plans.

With the advent of the Land Registry solicitors are often disposing of the old deeds, and it is important they are copied before that happens.

The Society's archives already contain some deeds which have either been copied or the originals donated.

This was the Flower Class corvette that was adopted by Potters Bar in the last war (1939-45). Next May is the 50th anniversary of the ship's commission and about 30 members of the crew are hoping to gather for a reunion of the 6th/7th June.

Planning is taking place and for our part it is hoped to mount an exhibition in the Museum from June-December.

As members might be aware the ship was purchased by Potters Bar in Warship Week 1942. The ship's flag and bell are in St. Mary's, another flag is in King Charles the Martyr and the ship's shield is on the wall in the Museum.

More news later but if you can remember anything about H.M.S. Poppy do let us know.

MUSEUM OF LONDON PUBLICATION

DOCKLAND LIFE

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF LONDON DOCKS 1860-1970

by Chris Ellmers and Alex Werner

The Port of London formed the largest and most comprehensive system of docks the world has ever known. With a workforce of over 100,000 men, women and children, London Docks reached out to the four corners of the globe.

DOCKLAND LIFE examines every major aspect of the port. The text is comprehensive and definitive, with many photographs.

Available from Museum of London Bookshop and the Museum in Docklands, Library and Archives,

PRICE £17.50

"BE A VOLUNTEER"

Grateful thanks to the 10% of members who returned the form offering their services to the Society. Though the previous appeal for help had a 26% return the latest return has meant some new volunteers. All the new Museum stewards have been contacted.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE SOCIETY'S LATEST EFFORT:-'POTTERS BAR 1914'

This is a folded A3 sheet with the O.S. map 1914 of the High Street. Our member, Mr. J. B. Norman, has drawn exquisite black and white illustrations of St. John's C of E School, St. John's C of E Parsonage, The Robin Hood P.H., The Infants' Sch., St. John's C of E Church, The Green Man Public House and the Cottage Hospital, as they were in 1914. Several lines of text accompany each illustration.

Available at the Wyllyotts Museum,
The Healthfood Shop
and monthly meetings.

COST 50p and worth every penny!

THE NEXT A5 publication is in the process of being completed. As it will be twice as large as previous booklets in the series, it has taken twice as long to complete.

Entitled:- 'The Growth of Little Heath to 1914',
by
Brian Warren.

It outlines the early history of the area and then deals with the growth of the settlements of Church Road, Little Heath and around the Builders Arms from the 1870's onwards. The benevolence of the upper classes in the large houses, with servants, towards the lower classes is detailed. As the area grew the need for a church, school and public services is dealt with in separate chapters. The last chapter concludes the account with the Edwardian period in the area.

There are maps, plans and some twenty photographs, quite a number published for the first time.

Until finished it will not be possible to set the cost of the book.

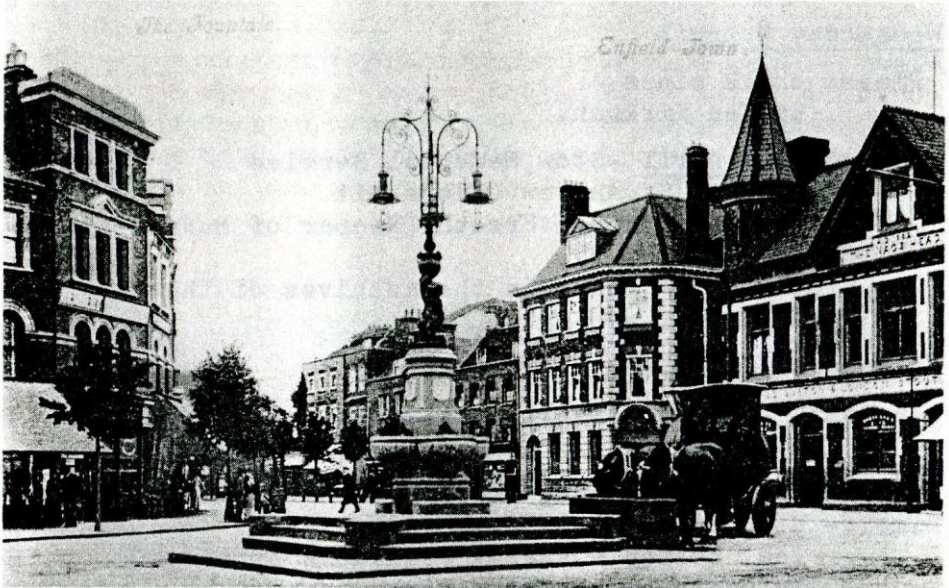
A History of Enfield

II

by David Pam

Volume 2 — 1837-1914

A VICTORIAN SUBURB



The Fountain, Enfield Town, from a postcard published in 1905

Copiously illustrated, A VICTORIAN SUBURB describes how, in the years between 1837 and 1914, Enfield was transformed from a country parish into a rapidly expanding residential and industrial area.

SPECIAL PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER

Cost £14.50, saving £3.45, plus £3.35 postage/packing.
All advance orders, with full payment by 5 March 1992.

TO: Mrs Irene Smith, Hon.Sec., Enfield Preservation
Society, 107, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AB
Cheques:- Enfield Preservation Society.

To save postage books can be collected at EPS H.Q.,
Jubilee Hall, 2, Parsonage Lane, Enfield. Expected to be
ready April 1992 when one will be notified. Please
indicate if the book is to be collected.

LONDON and MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY1992 Lecture ProgrammeWednesday 26 February

AGM and Presidential lecture by Hugh Chapman.

Wednesday 11 March

Further historical treasures in Whitehall
by Peter Lawrence.

Wednesday 8 April

Pinner chalk mines
by Ken Kirkman.

Wednesday 29 April -Stow Memorial Service

12 noon at St. Andrew Undershaft

Address by Stephen Freeth, Keeper of Manuscripts,
Guildhall Library.

Stow and his place in the archives of the City
of London.

Wednesday 13 May

Ancient Monuments, their care and preservation
by Helen Paterson.

Venue:- Museum of London Lecture Theatre.

Time :- Wednesdays at 6.30 pm (AGM 6.15pm)

Tea, coffee & sherry available from 6.00
in Lecture Theatre Foyer.

THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

God give me work
Till my life shall end
And life
Till my work is done.

REMINDER:- AGM Friday April 24th