

The Newsletter

May 1993

Vol.9 No.3

URGENT

Due to ill-health Denis Lore was unable to seek re-election as Treasurer, a position he had ably carried out during the past year. There was little time before the A.G.M. to obtain a nominee, so an appeal was made for a volunteer or someone who could recommend a person willing to be Treasurer.

This is an appeal to all members for someone to volunteer. If one is interested or knows of someone who might be willing to become Treasurer, then contact the Chairman, Brian Warren (875617).

THIS IS URGENT

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE FROM THE 1st April

ADULTS	£3
FAMILY/GROUP	£5

Please send to Mrs.E.Field, as soon as possible.

Membership Secretary,
51, Highview Gardens,
Potters Bar,
Herts.,
EN6 5PN

THE A.G.M.

Peter Trowsdale, presenting his first report, indicated that it would be brief. He noted another record membership figure of 228. His report referred to another year of progress.

The Chairman mentioned that though Denis Lore was relinquishing the post of Treasurer he was willing to serve on the Committee when his health improved. The Chairman presented the accounts, noting a record balance of £5462.95 showing a profit on the year of nearly £2000. The accounts were duly approved by the members present.

The Chairman in his review spoke of the improvement at the Wyllyotts' Museum. He mentioned that following the demise of the Leisure Department of Hertsmere Borough Council about £2000 had become available to be spent on a filing cabinet, a planned cabinet, four small display units and a large display case with suitable storage room. More visits had been made from local schools and there had been an increase in inquiries from the public. Even so evidence had indicated that not everyone in Potters Bar was aware of the museum, so over 2500 A5 sized leaflets about the present exhibition had been distributed throughout the area. Eventually all roads would be covered in the coming years.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all the members who had given voluntary help during the year - museum stewards, 'postmen', map colourers, the tea/coffee helpers ably led by Barbara Clinton and a final word of thanks to Chris. Ruge-Cope for photo-copying The Newsletter and other items. Lastly,

he referred to the donation of the Helen Baker records. Helen had been the Society's Archivist and researched the history of the area for twenty years. The records deposited with the Society would be known as the, 'Helen Baker Collection'.

Mr. I. Warwick was re-appointed as Honorary Auditor and Mr. M. E. Griffith, Mr. G. Irons and Mrs. M. Brittain, as Trustees.

Officers and Committee elected for 1993/94

- Chairman Mr. B. Warren 6, Church Close, Cuffley, Cuf. 875617
- Vice-Chairman Mrs. J. Groves 78, Barnet Rd.
- Hon. Secretary Mr. P. Trowsdale 93, Billy Lows Lane
- Asst. Hon. Sec. Mr. T. Goulding
- Hon. Treasurer VACANT
- Hon. Archivist Mr. B. Warren
- Committee Mrs. E. Field Hon. Membership Sec.
- Mrs. J. Charlton
- Mrs. J. Eason
- Mr. A. Davey
- Mr. G. Eve
- Hon. Auditor Mr. I. Warwick
- Trustees Mrs. M. Brittain
- Mr. M. E. Griffith
- Mr. G. Irons

Approval was given for the new subscription rates of adults £3 and family/group £5 and the requested expenditure referred to in an earlier letter to members. The Chairman then outlined the Budget for the coming year.

Following free tea/coffee members were shown slides of the Society's activities in the past year by Brian Warren and Terry Goulding.

MAY MEETING:-

14TH MAY NOT THE 21ST

SEE OVER

SUMMER PROGRAMME

FRIDAY MAY 14th at Wyllyotts Centre,
Sixty-Plus Centre, 8 p.m. prompt

A TREASURE HOUSE of History (work of the
County Record Office).
by Dr Kate Thompson, Herts. County Archivist.

A native of Leicester, where she was County Archivist since 1979. She has held a number of posts with the Society of Archivists and the Association of Archivists. Yet she gained her first degree by a correspondence course while working as an archives clerk. Subsequently she has gained an M.A. and a Ph.D., the latter taking 15 years, though both were done part-time.

Dr. Thompson has brought a breath of fresh air to the County Record Office with her boundless energy and equally gushing enthusiasm. Her talk will show what a vast resource centre the Record Office is for those who have never travelled to Hertford and looked inside.

MEMBERS' NEWS

In addition to those members mentioned in the last Newsletter one hopes for an improvement in the health of Mrs. Clare, Mrs. Weston and Mr. Lore.

A warm welcome is extended to Dr. J.R.A. Richards, whose ancestors lived in Northaw during the last century. He is at present on conservation work in Warsaw, Poland. Also, Mr. & Mrs. E. Batchelor are welcomed as new members.

It was with regret that Brian Warren had to inform the members present, at the A.G.M., of the passing of Marjorie Reddington. Though she had not been in the best of health in recent years, those present were saddened by the sudden departure. For many years she had attended the Society's meetings with her husband, Stan., and together they had always been strong supporters of the Society.

At this time of great sadness the members present at the meeting were in agreement with the Chairman in conveying their condolences to Stan and wishing him every support in the coming months.

Dr. Frederick Brittain, Litt.D.

The late husband of our President, Muriel Brittain, was born on the 24th October, 1893, at 33 Bruce Road, Barnet. He attended Christ Church school, St. Albans Road and subsequently gained a Hertfordshire County Scholarship, in 1906, to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Barnet.

Members wishing to know more of his illustrious career are recommended to read his autobiography, 'It's a Don's Life' Heinemann Educational Books Ltd., 1972, ISBN 435 32140 4.

EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE his centenary:-

- a) Visit to Jesus College, 13th July. SEE p.7
- b) July - December exhibition at the Wyllyotts Centre Museum, entitled 'SOUTH MIMMS'.
- c) A Society publication of the writings of the late Mr. F.C. Hart on South Mimms.
- d) Tuesday 23rd November at the Wyllyotts Centre a talk by Brian Warren and Terry Goulding, on South Mimms. Details in September Newsletter.

PROGRAMME 1993-4

Whilst it has always been the policy of this Society to arrange its monthly meetings on different days, but in recent years the demand for the Sixty-Plus room has limited the choice to Thursday and Friday.

On a vote of members taken at a recent monthly meeting it was agreed to try for four meetings on each day, for 1993-4.

POTTERS BAR - 1939-45 World War

Recent requests at the museum and the acquisition of a quantity of photographs of the local Home Guard from Hertsmeare Borough Council has raised the question of what information does the Society possess?

Bernard Clark, sent a few items from Derbyshire, including the following:-

No. 7 COMPANY - 19th BATTALION

MIDDLESEX HOME GUARD

No. 1 PLATOON

SUPPER

AT "THE ROBIN HOOD," POTTERS BAR

THURSDAY, 29th JANUARY, 1942

TOASTS

ARTISTES

THE KING

ABSENT FRIENDS

Proposed by The President

THE COMPANY—THE VISITORS

Proposed by 2nd Lieut. Collier

Reply by Major Hart

THE PLATOON

Proposed by Captain Simms

Reply by Lieut. Bebb

THE PLATOON OFFICERS

Proposed by Vol. McFarlane

Reply by Lieut. Bebb

THE N.C.O.'s

Proposed by Vol. Woolf

Reply by Sgt. Dowdeswell

THE MEN

Proposed by Cpl. Hawes

Reply by Vol. Wallis

Pianoforte Solos

and Choruses

... Vol. Whiting

Songs

... Sgt. Workman

Entertainer

... Mr. Ben Clark

Recitations

... Sgt. Dowdeswell

Accordion Solos

... A Visitor

Ventriloquist

... Mr. Clark

Songs

... Vol. Whessell

Quartette

Sgt. Workman Vol. Neale

Sgt. Dowdeswell Vol. Wallis

"AULD LANG SYNE"

GOD SAVE THE KING

Some of our members must have been in Potters Bar during the last war, so would they communicate with Brian Warren, any memories or loan items such as shown above. Apart from the Home Guard there were many other organisations which participated in the defence of England at that time.

Hopefully this request might lead to a small exhibition in the museum. At least of the Home Guard photographs, so one might identify the people.

VISIT TO JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Tuesday 13th July 11.00 am Arrive for coffee at the College. Parking at Jesus College.

After coffee visit the town.

3.00 pm Return to Jesus for a tour of the College.

4.00 pm Tea in Muriel Brittain's rooms.

Optional: 6.00 pm Sung Evensong by the choirs of Kings College and St. John's College, in St. John's Chapel, St. John's College.

To assist with the parking it would be appreciated if members could double-up with other members. If one is willing please indicate the number of places available when making one's application.

PLACES - LIMITED to 21 members - It is requested that first priority is given to members who have not been on a visit to Jesus College, in previous years.

The Society is again grateful to Muriel Brittain for making this visit possible.

Apply to Brian Warren.

1940



1944



"HERE'S TO 1945!"

No. 71 Company 21st Middlesex Battalion
HOME GUARD

STAND-DOWN SUPPER

December 13th, 1944

MENU

SOUP

ROAST TURKEY

POTATOES · GREEN VEGETABLES

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

CHEESE

COFFEE

THE TOASTS

THE KING

" No. 71 COMPANY "

Proposed by S. A. DOWDESWELL, Esq.
Response by Major F. G. M. BEBB
and by C.S.M. DEARING

ENTERTAINMENT

AULD LANG SYNE

GOD SAVE THE KING

THURSDAY JANUARY 28th Recent Work of the Herts.
Archaeological Trust by
Miss Claire Halpin.

The speaker said that the excavation work along the A41 by-passes from Tring to Kings Langley, a distance of 11.9 miles, provided the first opportunity to observe an entire section cut through a chalk valley. The excavations fully realised their potential, in particular, she noted the major sites at Bottom House Lane, Crawleys Lane, Grim's Ditch, Pea Lane, Oakwood and Stony Lane. Although there was known Iron Age and Roman evidence in the valley, many Neolithic and Bronze Age finds were a complete surprise. Pre-historic sites were also found at Apsley and Rucklers Lane, on high ground to the south of the River Gade.

One item of great importance was the 'Pingo' peats discovered on Boxmoor Common. Pingos are periglacial features formed by subterranean ice action. The samples taken will probably provide a rare opportunity to study the pollens, molluscan and macrofossil remains of the late Glacial and early post-Glacial environment. These deposits are the only known examples immediately north of London.

Miss Halpin said that although aerial photographs had helped to show where likely sites were hidden the real discoveries came from trench digging.

Tom McDonald then answered any questions before the chairman, Brian Warren, thanked them for a most interesting and illuminating evening.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19th The Story of Lighting by
Miss Margaret Halstead.

Miss Halstead, formerly head of Thorn's colour section, gave an interesting talk illustrating examples of lamps from various countries, from 3,500 B.C. to the present day.

The second part of the talk showed how the provision of artificial light affected man's activities at work, home, travel and leisure. It was not common to work at night until the last century and the introduction of electricity revolutionised work after dark.

The pattern of work was changed away from cottage industries when people did not have to depend on the length of daylight. Thus the speaker showed how man's activities widened when he no longer relied on the sun's natural cycle.

Miss Halstead's lecture was full of technical detail but her message was conveyed in clear and concise language for the audience to be very appreciative of her talk. Dr. Lynch expressed these sentiments in proposing a vote of thanks.

THURSDAY MARCH 25th Tales from Potters Bar
Tombstones by Brian Warren.

Society chairman Brian Warren told of his researches into the lives of people buried in the Baptist churchyard in Barnet Road, Potters Bar. Engraved in stone was virtually a roll call of the local farming families of the 19th century: Tingey, Whaley, Cole and Booth. The families of Booth, Cole and Whitehead being strong supporters of the chapel. An earlier ancestor of theirs, John Pickles, had provided the land for the chapel and Everett Whitehead had subsequently made available the land for the burial ground. Many of their monuments had survived the levelling of the burial ground and could be viewed, as was illustrated with the slides.

Mention was made of people who lived outside Potters Bar yet had found their resting place in the Baptist burial ground:- Herbert Wilbraham Taylor of Hadley Bourne, Hadley; Sergeant-Major John George Baker, a survivor of the famous Charge of the Light Brigade, who had resided at 22, Tapster Street, Barnet. Of eight men who turned out of one tent in the morning he was the only to return at nightfall.

Richard Amery, John Thompson and Samuel Wells all lived near Dark's-lodge Farm, the first are known to have been strong supporters of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, in the Hatfield Road. Why were they buried at the Baptist Chapel? The speaker suggested that his research had shown the Baptist Chapel should be regarded as the Nonconformist burial ground for the area.

The speaker ably illustrated the lives of the people of Potters Bar, who in their day had served the community with as much industry as we their successors attempt to do.

HERTFORDSHIRE RECORD OFFICEMOVE TO NEW ACCOMMODATION

The temporary accommodation will be in Room 100, adjoining the Local Studies Library on the ground floor.

During the period 24th May-16th July we shall endeavour to provide as full a service as possible. However, some items may be inaccessible during this time, so users should telephone Hertford (0992) 555105 in advance of their visit.

The operative dates are:-

17-21 May inclusive: Search Room CLOSED for move to temporary accommodation

24 May-16 July inclusive: Search Room operating a limited service (see below)

19 Jul-30 Jul inclusive: Search Room CLOSED for move to permanent accommodation

2 Aug: Search Room fully operational

FROM THE HERTFORDSHIRE MUSEUMS Spring Newsletter

The 1993 ESSEX HISTORY FAIR will take place on Sunday June 13th at Waltham Abbey. For further details of this biennial event contact Mr.C.B. Manning-Press, 14 The Avenue, Colchester CO3 3PA.

The Official London Transport Guide to All London's Museums is now available. This new A5 size paperback costs £3.50 and has been published by London Transport in association with the London Museum Service and Book Production Consultants. The book will be available from Tourist Information Centres and other outlets.

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

WEST LODGE PARK Open Sundays June 6th (2-6pm)
Adm.£1.50 Chdn 30p Oct.24th (12-4)

WROTHAM PARK Open Sunday May 23 (2-6pm)
Adm.£1.50 Chdn./OAPs 50p