



Potters Bar & District Historical Society

REGD. CHARITY NO.299475

The Newsletter

May 1994

Vol.10 No.3

October 11th marks the tenth anniversary of the Society's Recorder Group, quietly and efficiently the recorders have noted the changes of the last decade in and around Potters Bar. In particular a future local historian will find a very complete record of how the empty, and dare one note, the not required office blocks of the 1980's were planned and arrived in the area.

At the annual County Recorder meeting it was noted there had been an under recording of industry in the County, as a whole.

INDUSTRY IN POTTERS BAR

Anyone interested in discussing how one might investigate the past and present industry in the area is invited to attend a meeting at the MUSEUM, on THURSDAY 12th MAY, at 7.00 p.m.

There is a society which seeks to protect industrial heritage in Greater London called GLIAS - membership application forms at the Museum. Retired £5 Individual £7 Family £8.

THE 35th A.G.M.

The Secretary, Peter Trowsdale, showed his literary skill when reviewing the successes of the past year, by managing to make the members laugh through his use of the written word.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance in hand of £4409, in spite of spending over £2,000 during the year. The sale of publications made a profit of almost £1,000 and continued to be a significant source of income. A donation of £50 had been made to help preserve the Panshanger manuscripts at the Herts. County Record Office (see page 9)

The Chairman, Brian Warren, indicated that he would not be seeking re-election, after a decade in that post. He took the opportunity to review the highlights of his period in office. These had been recorded in the Society's four scrapbooks, which were on display. The first scrapbook had been started on the 1st April 1984, at the suggestion of the late Bill Taylor, former Curator of Barnet Museum. In the same year the Society's Recorder Group started and the first meeting was held to discuss the idea of starting, what has proved to be a successful series of publications. The first Journal appeared in April 1985, and since then nearly 11,000 booklets have been published (see p.12).

A programme of outings had been established but the Chairman expressed the view that as there was no organiser at the present time, he regarded the present situation as rather disappointing.

The Newsletter had been the means of communication which had helped to inform members of what was going on, though he felt that perhaps someone else could have improved on his efforts.

He thanked all those members who had been involved in assisting the Society's development in anyway during his period of office, mentioning that over a fifth of the present membership did more to assist the Society than just pay their subscriptions.

Finally, he looked forward to devoting more time, in his capacity as Hon. Archivist, to developing the Museum in the coming years.

The President, Muriel Brittain, then chaired the rest of the meeting. Firstly, it was unanimously agreed to elect Brian Warren as a vice-President. He was given a crad signed by all those present and a book token. He thanked those present for making him a vice-President and quoted Captain Scott, "After all, it is the work that counts not the applause that follows."

Officers and Committee elected for 1994/95

Chairman	vacant
Vice-Chairman	Mrs.J.Groves
Hon.Secretary	Mr.P.Trowsdale
Asst.Hon.Sec.	Mr.T.Goulding
Hon.Treasurer	Mrs.S.Sparkes
Hon.Archivist	Mr.B.Warren
Committee	Mrs.E.Field Hon.Membership Sec. Mrs.J.Charlton Ms.J.Foster Mr.A.Davey Mr.D.Lore
Hon.Auditor	Mr.I.Warwick
Trustees	Mrs.M.Brittain Mr.M.E.Griffith Mr.G.Irons

The President noted that someone had indicated they might be willing to accept the post of Chairman towards the end of the year.

Following the refreshment break Bill Killick gave an illustrated talk on his original research, which required consulting written records and constructing a map, concerning the enclosure of North Mymms Common, 1780. Both Arnold Lynch and Brian Warren congratulated the speaker on his fine piece of research.

WATLING CHASE COMMUNITY FOREST

- 9th May Main display at Potters Bar Library.
12th May Talk to Potters Bar Society at
Wylllyotts Manor (Sixty-plus 8.00 pm.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE 1st APRIL, except for those new members who joined after the 31st December 1993.

Please send to Mrs.E.Field, or let her know if one does not intend to renew their membership, as soon as possible.

ADULTS £3 FAMILY/GROUP £5

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

JUST A THOUGHT - continued from the last issue.

'The fear of crime is out of proportion to actual crime.'

Several members of the Society were fortunate enough to attend the evening with Brian Johnston, at Wyllyotts, sadly one of the last he was to give.

Amongst many facts, anecdotes and humorous incidents, he mentioned that during his 14 years of doing 'Down Your Way', he had travelled all over the country meeting many marvellous people undertaking numerous good deeds for the benefit of their community. It had been a privilege to meet them.

Perhaps if the media gave more attention to the good works of so many people, there would be less fear of so many things, which are thrust before the viewing public.

Brian Johnston was President of the Metro cricket team for the blind and partially sighted, based at Highgate Woods. Their season ended with a tournament on the Lords cricket ground.

SUMMER PROGRAMME at the Wyllyotts Centre,
Sixty-Plus room, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY 26th MAY The History of McMullen and Sons
(Brewers) Mr.D.Ruttledge, Archivist
to McMullens.

No SLIDES, but a very entertaining talk on how
the once 400 independent Herts. brewers have become
one caring family firm. If true to form the speaker
will sit on the corner of a table and chat, including
his 'standard' jokes about McMullen and Sons.
DO LEAVE the TV and come and be entertained.

PROGRAMME 1994-95

The evidence from this year's meeting days
was inconclusive, as both the Thursday and Friday
meetings before Christmas had lower attendances
than the same two days after, and this was no
reflection on the speakers or their subjects.

Hopefully, things will be better next
session as we now have the choice of Tuesday,
Thursday or Friday.

One trusts the wider choice will be
appreciated by the membership.

DISCOVERED AT THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY

(MS Gough Middlesex 6)

Transcribed entry from the South Mimms Burial
Register:-

"James Clarke being of y^e age of
100 and odd years was bur. 27 of June 1621
who lived all y^e time of his years as is
was reported for truth without any time
of sickness and so died without any
sickness of y^e judgment of Man"

NB y^e = the

MUSEUM

Further to the information noted in the January 'Newsletter' concerning a proposed move of the Museum upstairs, nothing further has resulted since the meeting, on the 13th January.

However, one must remain ever vigilant.

MUSEUM PENCILS

Following Terry Gouldings' suggestion the Committee agreed to purchase 250 pencils with a rubber at the end, but more important they are marked with the Society's name.

On sale at the Museum for 20p each, excellent presents for the grandchildren, whether they want them or not !

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE September, 1969

Photograph at a cottage in Essendon, sent in by R.D.Barrett-Lennard:-

'Be ye man be ye woman

Be ye coming be ye going

Be ye early be ye late

Dont forget to shut the gate'

Perhaps a member would let us know if it is still there.

THE NEWSLETTER January 1994

Sincere apologies to anyone who received creased pages in their copy, hopefully it will not happen again.

ENTRANCE FREE

— Visit The —
Wyllyotts Centre
MUSEUM
POTTERS BAR

(Next to the Station off Darkes Lane)

A
PICTORIAL VIEW
of changing
POTTERS BAR

JULY - DECEMBER 1994

OPEN

Tuesday and Wednesday 2:30-4:30
Saturday 2:00-4:00

ENTRANCE FREE

NORTH MYMMS PARISH MAGAZINE 1885

CHILDREN The number in England and Wales in 1881 was about 7,500,000 of whom it is calculated 3,000,000 are absent from public worship every Sunday from tender age and unavoidable causes. The average number of children in each family is 3.7

POVERTY In London 3,000 children sleep every night out of doors - under railway arches, in sheds, etc. 24,000 are living homeless and in destitution: 12,000 are regularly trained and live as thieves.

WHO REMEMBERS THE SUPERB SOCIETY OUTING TO SPAINS

HALL in 1986 ?

NOW on SALE:-

The Ruggles of Spains Hall, Finchingfield
by Edith Freeman. Cost £12

Privately published from Sir John Ruggles-Brise
Spains Hall,
Finchingfield,
Essex.

ISBN 0 9521168 0 4

Professor Kenneth St. Joseph O.B.E. died 11th March,
aged 81

To all archaeologists he was the doyen of the use of air photography which he used to discover thousands of unknown human occupation sites.

Educated at Bromsgrove School he obtained a first degree in Geology at Selwyn College, Cambridge. His wartime work with the Ministry of Aircraft Production further stimulated him to realise the significance of the potential use of aerial photography.

A permanent memorial to his work is the Department of Aerial Photography at Cambridge, which he founded and was made Professor of Air Photographic Studies in 1973.

One of those few people who is the first to see the potential of something and see it through to fruition.

THE PANSHANGER MANUSCRIPTS APPEAL

This second most important Hertfordshire archive has been on loan to the County Record Office for the past 40 years. When the last owner died in 1992, it was offered to the C.R.O. if they could raise half a million pounds.

Your Committee, on behalf of the members, made a donation of £50 and received a letter from the County Archivist, Dr. Kate Thompson, thanking us for the very generous contribution.

In mid-April just £44,000 more was required.

11th LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE, Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip, 26th February last.

This was an excellent conference, even though it took nearly four hours to travel by Underground. A modern hall was able to accommodate over 200 who attended. The day commenced with an hour's lecture from the leading member of the Brick Society, Mike Hammett, in which he ably traced the use of brick from medieval to modern times. Pat. Clarke followed him with a talk on timber-framed buildings. The fifteen minutes before lunch was on the life in Harefield cottages. Perhaps the least interesting talk of the day - no map of the place just a list of people, occupations, etc., which meant nothing unless one knew Harefield.

After lunch two short talks on local great houses - Dawley House and Swakeleys - were followed by Estate Cottages and Railway Cottages. Two excellent lectures providing useful information for comparison with our own area.

Finally, Marion Ball, from St. Albans, ended the day with an interesting insight into Metroland and suburban development.

An excellent day and if the programme is as good next year everyone should go!

SPRING LECTURE PROGRAMME - Monthly meetings.

Thursday 27th January - Window on the Past -
Hertfordshire on Film.
Mrs. Christine Shearman.

As with the last time we had a film meeting there was a good attendance.

Our speaker is in charge of the Hertfordshire County film archive, which has collected over 400 films in the past 15 years. The film shown at the meeting was an hour's compilation of some of the films collected by the archive. For obvious reasons much of it consisted of small sequences from all over the county. Of particular interest to members were the historic scenes of the burial of the German servicemen shot down in September 1916, at Cuffley, but buried in Mutton Lane cemetery. The coronation scenes of George VI at Royston and Ashwell and slightly later the evacuees at Welwyn reminded members of their younger days.

Agricultural scenes were shown with ploughing, reaping and harvesting. Teams of horses and steam-driven machines were the order of the day in the 1930's. Finally, traffic on the Great North Road at Stevenage and steam trains at Welwyn brought the transport enthusiasts in the audience alive.

Brian Warren, from the chair, thanked Christine and her husband for showing the film and wished them many years of happy marriage.

Friday 18th February - The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Lipton.
Alan Dumayne.

Alan Dumayne is well-known as a good speaker, who involves his audience in his reminiscent journeys through his beloved Winchmore Hill, Palmers Green and Southgate. The subject of his talk involved the latter, where Sir Thomas Lipton lived half of his life. Long before Thomas Lipton was the only surviving child of an Irish peasant couple who had settled in Glasgow. He first found work as a cabin boy which took him to America. The money he had saved enabled him to set up his first

shop and by dedication to hard work he thrived and eventually from the profits of his chain of stores he became a millionaire. He established a tea plantation in Ceylon and grew and sold the tea associated with his name.

However, it was his love of the sea, which further enhanced his reputation, even though he challenged and lost in five attempts to win the America's Cup. The Americans regarded him as a hero, perhaps it would have been different had he won!

He settled at Osidge, an estate set back from Chase Side, Southgate, and died a bachelor, leaving his wealth to charity and the house as a retirement home for nurses.

NEWS EXTRA Some of our members may remember being told about a Mrs. Elvin, from Australia, requesting information about her ancestor, Henry Condell, who died at Oak House, Wagon Road. He was the first Mayor of Melbourne. From later correspondence, it transpired that her grandfather was Thomas Lipton's secretary before 1914, but when he volunteered to serve in the war Sir Thomas Lipton never spoke to him again.

Friday 18th March - Enfield at War 1939-1945.
Geoffrey Gillam.

This was a most appropriate lecture in view of our own exhibition on 'Potters Bar at War 1939-45', also as several of our members were once resident in the London Borough of Enfield. This included the lady who said that her two sisters had attended Chesterfield School when it was mentioned by the speaker.

Mr. Gillam related and illustrated the build-up preparations to the war and the even more harrowing scenes of the war, yet it was the comradeship and caring of the population which contrasted so vividly with the attitude of many today. Hardship bonded communities together and provided the strong nostalgic feeling of those people who remember what it was like fifty years ago.

The first bomb fell on Enfield in the summer of 1940 and because of its nearness to London and many industries it suffered far more than Potters Bar.

The speaker mentioned good and bad stories of how fate struck at the Enfield residents until the first V2 rocket descended from the skies on the town. The celebrations eventually came with the end of the war in 1945.

Joan Groves expressed the thanks of the audience to the speaker and noted that she now taught in the area mentioned by Mr. Gillam.

THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS April 1985 - Dec. 1993

<u>THE JOURNAL</u> No. 1	255 copies
2	400 "
3	500 "
4	400 "
5	400 "
6	600 "
7	500 "

ONLY NOS. 6 and 7 are still in print.

CCCASIONAL PAPERS

No. 1	800 copies
2	600 "
3	600 "
4	400 "

POTTERS BAR HISTORICAL SERIES

No. 1	1,100	"
2	800	"
3	600	"
4	800	"
5	700	"
6	500	"
7	400	"

SPECIAL BOOKLET

The Growth of the Little Heath
Area to 1914 600 "

(out of print)