



*Potters Bar & District Historical Society*

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REGD. CHARITY NO.299475

# *The Newsletter*

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September 1994

Vol.11 No.1

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This edition marks yet a further improvement in the appearance of The Newsletter, which it is hoped members will approve. The application of modern technology is once again due to the efforts of Terry Goulding, for which we are most grateful.

Thanks are expressed to Dan and Chris Ruge-Cope for all their work in running off The Newsletter and to Richard Osborn who has agreed to take over from them.

If members are interested in attending lectures of fellow societies then the programmes are on display at the Wyllyotts Museum of :-

Barnet and District Local History Society,  
Edmonton Hundred Historical Society'  
Enfield Archaeological Society and  
North Mymms Local History Society.

In some cases visitors are charged an entry fee but in other cases admittance is free.

MEMBER'S NEWS

Eve Gordon, a familiar figure at our monthly meetings for many years and one of our longest serving members, died at the age of 87, this month. She was an ardent walker and every year went on the late Lawrence Jones's tours of churches. When the society visited Ely Cathedral a few years ago, it was not Eve who sat down and waited for the coach like everyone else, she set off on another quick walk. This perhaps is a good illustration of her independent nature and of a person who did not like to waste time. Our condolences are expressed to her son and daughters.

Ron Kingdon It is not often that one is able to find out about the many activities our members pursue, but if you want to know more about Ron then read two pages in this month's 'Hertfordshire Countryside'. Colour pictures as well.

The Society welcomes the following as new members:-Mr & Mrs Cullen, Mr D R Reidy,  
Mr Gough, Mr & Mrs Merrill,  
Mr & Mrs Hollis, Mr & Mrs Widgery and  
Mr A E Challacombe.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BARNET PRESS

19th August 1893

"On Saturday the ninety-four miles between Coventry and London were covered by the old stage coach 'Perseverance', at an average speed of eight miles per hour. Horses were changed at the Railway Hotel, Church End."

7th October 1933 - Memories of 75 years ago.

August Bank Holiday, 1897.

Lady footballers played a match against a team of gentlemen at the Green Man, Whetstone.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE AUGUST 1994

Page 19 New Roman column points to an identity crisis for Potters Bar by David Brooks

Mr Brooks came to the Museum and was given the Fact Sheet No.1 which refers to the origin of the name Potters Bar.

In the published article he states, "Brian Warren refuses to believe a link with Roman pottery could survive some 1100 years to 1387, the earliest known reference to Potters Bar. But others, including at least one fellow member of the local historical society, suspect it could date back to the Roman remains" i.e. Parkfield Roman 1st/2nd century kiln.

Perhaps the use of the words, "refuses to believe" is a little unfortunate because if one has studied local history for a long time one knows unless there is irrefutable evidence one always qualifies a statement. In this case perhaps a better terminology would have been, "regards it as being very unlikely".

Over recent years there has been a growing amount of information about the Roman occupation in this area, particularly in the 1st and 2nd centuries, as is the case in other areas.

From the presumed departure of the Romans to 1387 represents about 1000 years. Apart from archaeological evidence there survives no evidence of the Roman occupation in this area. There does survive place-name evidence for the Saxon period, which can be traced through to the Tythe Map. A recent survey by myself of the modern field-names shows that almost all those on the Tythe Map, 1842, have vanished, and that is only 150 years.

Little is known of the area until at Domesday (1086 AD) when reference was made to Mimes berewick of the Manor of Edmonton, no mention of Potters Bar. Such documents as have survived to cover the period from 1086 to 1387 make no mention of Potters Bar. In particular, the deed of 1220 which conveyed an assart (a clearing in the waste) near the present bus garage, to the Prior<sup>and</sup> Canons of Cathale, gave the buttings and boundings as, 'lying between the land of Peter Hunilade and the land of Adam the forester by Enfield Chase' (Cass, South Mimms p15-16). Between the assart and Enfield Chase was the road from Waltham to Barnet, which is known to have existed at that time. As the bus garage site is so near to the medieval site of Potters Bar (Morven grounds) one might have expected a reference such as 'the way to Potters Bar', if it had existed.

It is possible that the first part of Potters Bar might be derived from the family of Geoffrey le Potter, who lived in the parish of South Mimms (not Potters Bar) in 1294. This might suggest the name of Potters Bar was established between 1294 and 1387 along with the settlement. I would very much like to be the person to discover an earlier reference to Potters Bar than 1387.

Meanwhile, if the other member of the Society might state their case, it could appear in the next Newsletter.

B Warren

#### FROM THE BARNET PRESS

7th October 1933

New Scout Group at St. Mary's Potters Bar, inaugurated this week. Two Rover Scouts from Palmers Green are helping Mr W B Phillips, the Scoutmaster.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME - Monthly meetings.

TUESDAY 25th OCTOBER at the Sixty-plus Centre,  
Wyllyotts, 8 pm PROMPT

'Villages of Hertfordshire'  
by Mr Basil Edmond.

Basil Edmond is a well-known speaker and a WEA lecturer, who offered a number of subjects, of which the one selected seemed to be of most interest to members. It will take a look at a number of the villages in the county and no doubt the slides will bring back memories of visits to the places of yester-year.

FRIDAY 25th NOVEMBER at the Sixty-plus Centre,  
Wyllyotts 8 pm PROMPT

'Eleanor Coade - A Georgian Business Woman'  
by Miss Alison Kelly.

Eleanor Coade invented what was essentially an alternative to natural stone. Her work was immensely successful and employed by every eminent architect of the Georgian period. Her work can be found at such important buildings as Buckingham Palace, St. George's Chapel at Windsor and the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

Coade stone is a type of clay, which when mixed with other ingredients, is kiln fired at great heat, transforming it into stoneware.

Alison Kelly has been a lecturer for over twenty years for London University and the author of a number of books.

TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER at the Sixty-plus Centre,  
Wyllyotts 8pm PROMPT

'Tree Rings from the London Area -  
What they can tell us'  
by Dr Ian Tyers.

Dr Ian Tyers is another speaker from the Museum of London, who has been persuaded to come and speak to the Society. His subject was given as one of last year's lectures to the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, at the Museum of London.

PUBLICATION

'Broomfield - An Illustrated History of the House and Gardens' by Steven Brindle.

Published by Southgate Civic Trust (in association with Broomfield Historic Buildings Trust).

Twenty pages, A5 paperback with 9 photographs, including maps and line drawings.

Price £2.75 including postage and packing.  
Cheques payable to Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. TO :- Miss Jean Pinkham  
18 Fairlight Road  
Hadleigh  
ESSEX SS7 2QJ

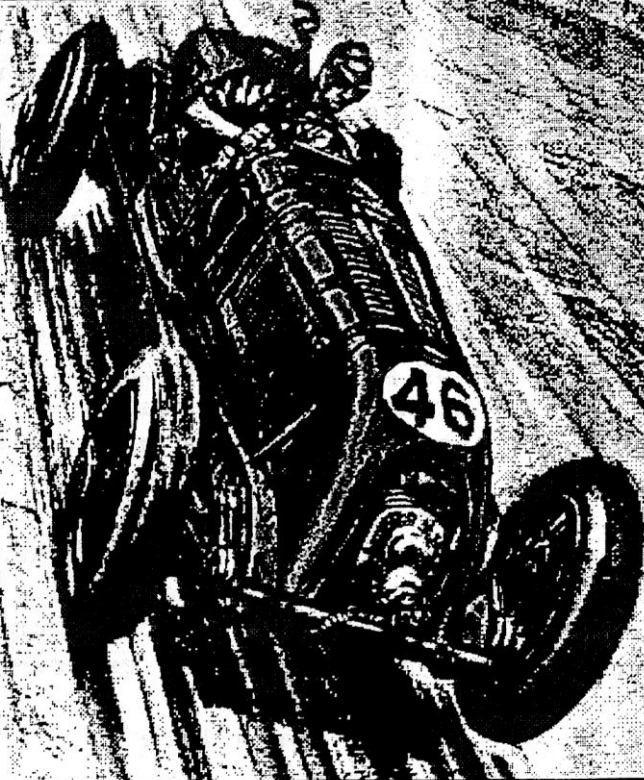
FROM THE BARNET PRESS

20th January 1934

Cranborne Road section of the 2nd Potters Bar (St. Mary's Church) Troop of Boy Scouts inaugurated on Thursday night under Mr S A Wiggins, Scoutmaster of St. John's, Palmers Green Group.

# BIRKIN'S BENTLEYS

AN EXHIBITION ABOUT  
**SUPERCHARGED RACING CARS**  
FROM WELWYN GARDEN CITY: 1929-1932



**10th September - 13th November 1994**

**ADMISSION FREE**

Mill Green Museum, Mill Green, Hatfield, Herts.

TELEPHONE: 0707 271362



*Leisure*  
WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

McMullen & Sons, Limited

Following the lecture by Mr Rutledge on the family firm in May, twelve members went on a guided tour of the Hertford Brewery. Not only was the lecture both informative and amusing but the tour was a great success.

"Thursday 2nd June 1994

Visits to see manufacturing processes are usually fascinating and this was no exception. Founded in 1827 by Peter McMullen, the company is still family owned. The old brewery built in 1891 dominates the site. Large fermenting tanks made of oak and lined with copper have been used for over 100 years and create a nostalgic atmosphere. A new brewery was built in the 1980's to increase capacity and brew lager. A total contrast here with gleaming stainless steel tanks, vats and huge ovens. We followed the brewing process from the start - through many different critical stages - to the finish. We saw the ingredients - malt, maize, hops, sugar and yeast and heard about the 3 water wells - deeper into the ground than Nelson's column. We saw bottles filled and labelled at 28,000 an hour and much more. Tasting the products and a quick look round the Museum suitably ended a delightful experience."

Denis Lore

As the numbers permissible were limited, the tour was only offered to those who attended the lecture.



# BRITAIN'S HERITAGE OF CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS -AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

## CIVIL ENGINEERING HERITAGE



SOUTHERN ENGLAND

R A OTTER

*The following are available :-*

Southern England at £12.50 each (0 7277 1971 8)

Eastern and Central England at £12.50 each (0 7277 1970 X)

Wales and Western England at £8.75 each (0 7277 0236 X)

Further details on a Northern England book may be requested

### HOW TO ORDER

By Post to :- The Sales Department,  
Thomas Telford Services Ltd.,  
1 Heron Quay,  
LONDON E14 4JD

(Please make cheques payable to THOMAS TELFORD SERVICES LTD.)

Or alternatively by telephoning the Sales Department of the Institution of Civil Engineers, direct on 071 987 6999, for the book/s/further information required.

RECORDER GROUP

Thanks are expressed to Stan Reddington for all his work as Recorder for Area No.5 since the inauguration of the scheme.

There are now vacancies for Areas No.5 (Mimms Hall Estate) and No.8 (South Mimms) if someone would like to volunteer, please contact Brian Warren.

ENFIELDIAN COACH OUTINGS

From those members who took advantage of the three tours there was nothing but praise. The weather was excellent for the visit to Hever Castle, and the last tour to Guildford with the boat along the River Wey was much appreciated by everyone. The only comment one received about the tour to Cadbury Bournville Chocolate factory was that one would have liked more time on the guided tour.

Unless someone volunteers to organise the Summer outings then a similar programme will be offered next year - three trips to different places.

FROM THE BARNET PRESS

9th November 1946

FAMILY LIFE BREAKDOWN

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Plain Speaking at Diocesan Conferance

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THE CHURCH'S TASK

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"A breakdown in English family life and depreciation of the nation's morals were condemned at a St. Alban's Diocesan conference....."

ENFIELD HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ENFIELD IN THE FORTIES

Day Conference : Saturday 5th November 1994 at Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane,  
Enfield (junction with Chase Side) 9.45 for 10.00am.

The Conference will be arranged in 2 Sessions as shown below. You may attend the morning session, the afternoon session, or both. The charge for either the morning or afternoon session will be £3.00 (£2.50 for members). The charge for those attending both sessions will be £5.00 (£4.50 for members). Morning coffee and afternoon tea will be provided and is included in the charges.

10.00am	Betty Smith	Introduction
10.10am	Geoffrey Gillam	"Enfield at War"
11.15am	Coffee	
11.40am	David Pam	"Enfield in 1946"
	Jim Deamer	"Enfield in 1947"
12.30pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	Betty Smith	"Enfield in 1948"
	Margaret Halstead	"Enfield in 1949"
2.45pm	Tea	
3.10pm	Alan Dumayne	"The 1940's - My Teenage Years"

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Day Conference, Saturday 5th November 1994

I/We wish to attend the morning/Afternoon/Both Sessions. I/We enclose a cheque/postal order (payable to Edmonton Hundred Historical Society) for the sum of £ .....

Name/s .....

Address .....

.....Tel.....

PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IF A RECEIPT IS REQUIRED. RETURN TO :-

Mr Michael Parker, 241 Ladysmith Road, Enfield EN1 3AQ.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL



## TWENTY-NINTH LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

WRETCHED LONDON - The London Poor 1700-1900

Saturday 19 November 1994

10.10am-5.00pm, Museum of London Lecture Theatre

- 10.10-10.30am Exhibitions open - coffee available in foyer
- 10.40am Opening remarks
- 10.45am **The Care of the Infant Poor in 18th Century London**  
**Eileen Bowlit**, University of London extra mural lecturer in local history
- 11.45am **The Victorian Poor Law - City of London**  
**Andrea Duncan**, a professional researcher for 15 years;  
 currently working for a PhD at Birkbeck College on the Poor Law in  
 the City of London
- 12.45-2.00pm Lunch
- 2.00pm **The Labouring Poor - work, home conditions, diet, clothing, child labour**  
**Dr Anna Davin**, on the editorial staff of the History Workshop Journal
- 3.00-3.50pm Tea
- 3.50pm **The London Rookeries in the 19th Century**  
**Peter Street**, attached to Department of Extra Mural Studies, Birkbeck  
 College; history tutor Open University; WEA lecturer

There will be displays of recent work and publications by local history societies in the Interpretation Unit (formerly Education Department) from 10.10am.

Early application is advised. There is no guarantee that tickets will be available on the day.

Local History Conference  
 c/o 31 Lynton Road  
 Harrow, Middlesex HA2 9NJ

Please send me ..... tickets at £3.50 for the conference on 19 November 1994  
 I enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope and a cheque/postal order for £..... payable to  
 London and Middlesex Archaeological Society.

Name ..... Telephone .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Are you a member of LAMAS?

A local society?  if so, please state name of society .....