



Potters Bar & District Historical Society

REGD. CHARITY NO.299475

The Newsletter

May 1995

Vol.11 No.3



WANTED :-

- a) A Secretary for the Society.
- b) Someone to volunteer to take responsibility for organising the tea/coffee rota at our monthly meetings.

No special qualifications are required, just the necessary enthusiasm.

Contact:- Ms. J Foster, the Society's new Chairman on Potters Bar 647015.

THE 36th A.G.M.

Peter Trowsdale regretfully did not seek re-election as secretary due to his commitments to teaching pottery classes at Oaklands. In his final report he stated that he had enjoyed his three years as Secretary, referring to a "very friendly reception by the Committee and many jolly moments at meetings."

He reported that Brian Warren was in the process of arranging a meeting with the head of Hertsmere's Democratic Services to put our case for keeping the Museum where it is, before the issue goes before the Board in June.

The membership figure was down on last year but he suggested that this was due to the fact that we had no Chairman chasing-up those who had not renewed their subscription.

Finally, he thanked all those members not personally mentioned in his report who had worked so hard during the past year.

It was the unanimous decision of the meeting that a letter be sent to Peter thanking him for his services.

The Treasurer's Report was duly approved showing a balance in hand of £4973, slightly up on last year.

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE for 1995/96

Chairman	M/s J Foster
Vice-Chairman	Mrs J Groves
Hon. Secretary	vacant
Asst. Hon. Secretary	Mr T G Goulding
Hon. Treasurer	Mrs S Sparkes
Hon. Archivist	Mr B Warren

Committee.	Mrs E Field, Hon. Membership Secretary
	Mrs J Charlton, Mr A Davey
	Mr B Kolbert, Mr D Lore and
	Mr J Donovan

Following the end of the A.G.M. Terry Goulding showed 100 slides in 35 minutes on "Changing Potters Bar in the 1980's". Starting at the former 'Waggon and Horses' the talk took a quick look at the numerous developments - not all for the benefit of the community!!

NEW MEMBERS

Since the last Newsletter the following people have joined the Society:- Mr and Mrs T Stebbing, Mr and Mrs A Bransby, Mr J Donovan, Mr E L Porter and M/s E Powell. We wish them a grateful welcome and trust that they will find their membership to be of interest and benefit.

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

THURSDAY 25th MAY

The Parish and the Poor as relating to Enfield, by David Pam.

The Parish of Enfield was from the earliest times overburdened with poverty. The existence of a great area of woodland (Enfield Chase) enabled its inhabitants to secure a sort of living.

In medieval times it was the dead who looked after the poor, they were feasted at funerals and their prayers, requited by food and drink, were said to release many souls out of purgatory. As the poor multiplied in the Elizabethan and Jacobean reigns, the Parish handed out yarn for poverty-stricken women to spin.

The eighteenth century vestry provided a workhouse on the edge of the Chase hoping to make a profit from the paupers' work but they did not succeed. Many of the problems of this time are still easily recognised in the late twentieth century - single mums, unwilling fathers of illegitimate children, etc.

4 OPEN GARDENS

BRITISH RED CROSS Charges:- £1 to £2 adults.

7th May Gorhambury, St. Albans 2.00-5.30

4th June Danes & Danes Farm House,
Little Berkhamstead 2.00-5.30

2nd July North Mymms Park 2.00-5.30

THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

Every Wed. West Lodge Park, Cockfosters Road

28/29th May Queenswood School

4th June West Lodge Park

9th July The Mill House, Tewin

15th Oct. Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield

22nd Oct. West Lodge Park

Brian Warren has the leaflets if one needs to know about other places that are open to the public. Enquiries only as only one copy of each is held.

WYLLYOTTS CENTRE MUSEUM JULY to DECEMBER 1995
EXHIBITION

The next exhibition will attempt to show some of the history of our local public houses, past and present, in words and photographs.

This exhibition will coincide with the intended publication of a book on 'Hertfordshire Inns' by the Hertfordshire Publications and edited by Arthur Jones. It was proposed as long ago as 1986 that a new edition of the book on Hertfordshire Inns by the late W Branch Johnson, first published in two volumes by Hertfordshire Countryside in 1962-63. Of course, South Mimms and Potters Bar were then in Middlesex and thus not included in the book, so most of the material relating to this area has not been previously published.

The latest news is that the book should be launched in September.

SEPTEMBER 5th, 1931BARNET'S TRAFFIC

"An average of 10,038 vehicles, weighing 24,029 tons, pass through Barnet every day, according to the returns of the triennial traffic census which was taken from August 10th to 16th last."

The census was taken on Barnet Hill, near The Meadway, between 6 am and 10 pm. There was no record taken between 10 pm to 6 am.

<u>RESULTS</u>	<u>1925</u>	<u>1928</u>	<u>1931</u>
Motor-cycles	965	1380	734
Motor-cars	2749	5009	3892
Motor-coaches	-	230	618
Motor-buses	731	714	542
Motor-vans	430	648	1193
Motor-lorries	765	1444	1037
Light tractors	63	43	31
Traction-engines	<u>14</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>TOTALS</u>	5708	9468	8047
Light horse -vehicles	77	72	72
Heavy horse-vehicles	166	63	19
Bicycles	1790	1651	1639
Trams	<u>319</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>261</u>
<u>GRAND TOTALS</u>	8060	11519	10038
Total weight in tons	<u>17118</u>	<u>26884</u>	<u>24209</u>

"Mr Scott adds, in his report, that a census point was located on the St. Albans-road, just beyond the Barnet Council's boundary, and he had made arrangements to obtain the returns, so as to ascertain what proportion of the traffic through Barnet followed the route to St. Albans and the proportion that used the Hatfield route. This information would materially assist in the consideration of the provision of a bypass-road to the east of Barnet."

EDITOR - It still remains to be constructed.

FROM THE EDINBURGH EVENING COURANT

September 25th, 1784

AERIAL EXCURSION,

Collected from the Conversation of Mr Lunardi.

We seize the earliest opportunity in our power, of laying before the public some particulars respecting Mr Lunardi's tour, which will be found to differ from the accounts given in most of the other prints; but, as they are of an authentic nature, they claim the credit of our numerous readers; who will find in the publication of his narrative, which is now preparing, a confirmation of the facts herein mentioned.

When the balloon first ascended, he was enabled, by the gradual progress it made, to take a distinct survey of the vast multitudes who were contemplating his flight, particularly the crowd in Moorfields; their faces, which were directed towards him, presenting the most uncommon appearance. At this moment it struck him, that if he threw his flag amongst them, it would occasion some diversion; he therefore waved it, as a farewell salute, and dropped it from his hand. His oar fell presently after, which accident, for a time embarrassed him, but still the balloon held on its course with a steady motion. -While he remained over the city, the acclamations of the populace came to his ear, softened by the distance, into a most pleasing murmur. He was enabled, by one effort of the flight, to behold each extremity of London; it was literally a bird's eye view of this vast metropolis. Its superb edifices, squares, the Thames, and the shipping on it, were objects that enriched the scene. As this magnificent spectacle diminished, he cast his eye towards his compass, and was surprised to find his course altered from a western to due north; however, he did not think it necessary to change the direction, not having fixed upon any particular spot of destination. He now looked at his barometer, and found he was at a considerable height, and that the balloon went with great celerity, the scene below continually varying, some objects withdrawing, and others presenting themselves. He was enabled, when at an altitude of full four miles, to distinguish corn-fields from pasture-lands; so clear was the vision. The balloon descended so low near Barnet, that he spoke with some persons; as it rose again, he extended his sight to the horizon round, and beheld the earth a suspended globe in the immensity of space.

Recovering from the reverie this magnificent object occasioned, he thought of his terrestrial friends, and being in a state of the utmost composure, wrote six letters to his associates on earth, some of which he committed to the winds, and such was their fate, that they have all, save one, been since heard of. Those that he retained, were delivered to some of the guests of the hospitable Mr Baker.

Grateful thanks to Terry Goulding for supplying the article.

MEMBERS' NEWS

George Riddlestone died on the 25th February following a period of illness.

In the Society George was a Museum Steward on Tuesdays and acted as the deliverer for the Birch Grove/Strafford Gate area. He also enjoyed the outings, in particular, our visit to Spains Hall some years ago.

However, like many of our members they serve the local community in many ways quietly and unobtrusively going about their various chosen tasks. George was one of those people; besides the Society he was a faithful member of St. Mary's, The Walk, where he served as a sidesman, also he was involved with the Fellowship of Service, Toc H and the Rainbow Deaf and Blind Club amongst other activities.

He will be missed and we send our sympathy to Betty.

At the A.G.M. it was announced that Alice Childs had died and the funeral service was on the 28th April, at St. Giles, South Mimms, where she would be reunited with her husband. Both were regular supporters of the Society and attended most of the monthly meetings.

INTERESTING FACTS ON THE WEATHER

The following interesting facts have been gleaned from an A5 sized publication by the Camden History Society entitled, 'Hampstead Weather 1860-1981' by Robert Tyssen-Gee.

Hampstead's average temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) for each decade since 1910 are as follows:-

1910-1919	49.0	1950-1959	49.4
1920-1929	49.2	1960-1969	49.3
1930-1939	49.1	1970-1979	49.6
1940-1949	49.4		

HOTTEST YEARS 1921 1949 1959

COLDEST YEARS 1917 1963 1931

HOTTEST MONTHS July 1976, July 1921, Aug. 1911

COLDEST MONTHS Jan. 1963, Feb. 1947, Jan. 1940

COLDEST WINTERS (Dec. to Feb.)
1962/63, 1946/47, 1928/29

HOTTEST SUMMERS (June to Aug.)
1976 1947 1911

EARLIEST FROST September 20th, 1919

LATEST FROST May 17 1935

WETTEST YEARS 1927 1924 1915

DRIEST YEARS 1921 1933 1973

WETTEST DAYS Aug. 14, 1975 6.72" in 2.6 hours
Aug. 16, 1977 3.13" in 7.1 hours
July 9, 1923 2.57" in 5.0 hours
approx.

Further information from the Society at:-

Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, London NW3 3HA

FROM THE BARNET PRESS - 1937TELEVISION AT POTTERS BAR

The exhibitions of television, which are being given daily by Mr Fred D Powers, radio dealer of Potters Bar, in conjunction with His Master's Voice Company, have aroused considerable interest.

The demonstrations take place at Mr Powers' showrooms in Potters Bar High-street, from 3 to 4 p.m., and from 9 to 10 p.m., and Mr Powers will welcome anyone who is interested in this latest marvel of invention.

When a "Barnet Press" representative visited the exhibition, a 9
clever conjurer was being televised. It was a most amusing
performance, but it was the sight of the tricks, allied with the
"patter," that gave it an entertainment value.

A notable feature of the receiving sets which Mr Powers
demonstrates is the simplicity of control. The instalment system
brings sets within reach of many who are unable to afford to pay for
them outright, and another feature of the H.M.V. Company's
programme is that those enthusiasts who purchased H.M.V.
television instruments since August, when they were introduced at the
radio exhibition, the company is sending cheques representing the
difference of the price of the sets at that time and the present-day
price.

Mr Powers exhibition is well worth a visit.

ON THE RADIO RECENTLY

Sir Anthony Havelock Allen, actor, was being
interviewed when he said, "I was very fortunate
with my school" and "Down in the cellars did
not do much work". He added he was "Allowed a
last look" but another clue was, "Three miles
from where two 'Zeppelins' came down".
Finally, the school was located when he said
other pupils were John Snagge and David Cecil.
He could have mentioned Clement Attlee; the
school was at Northaw Place.

If anyone knows of other well-known people
who attended this school, please let us know.

FROM THE BARNET PRESS

SEPTEMBER 9th, 1882

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL

"The result of Colonel Yolland's last visit
to the Channel Tunnel is, it is now stated,
that he found the works in exactly the same
position as when he made his previous
inspection, the boring-machine being quite
rusty and evidently unused for some time. It
was further ascertained that an error occurred
in the last measurement, and that the heading
had not been advanced an additional 70 feet,
contrary to the order of the Board of Trade, as
was at that time stated."

JANUARY 16th, 1932

10

"NORTHMET ENTERPRISE

NEW SHOWROOM OPENED AT POTTERS BAR

The North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company's new offices and showrooms, at Hatfield Road, Potters Bar, were formally opened on Thursday afternoon, in the presence of a large gathering of local residents and members of the company. The new premises have been wisely designed to allow for expansion as necessity arises. They include a large, well-lighted showroom, with an imposing display of electrical apparatus for every conceivable purpose, spacious offices, a demonstration kitchen, and a well-equipped workshop. The exterior of the building is lit by powerful floodlights."

"There was a charming little ceremony after the opening. The chief engineer's little son, Master Harry Guy, in chef's attire, brought forward a large iced cake bearing the company's crest, and invited Mrs Knifton to "cut the showroom's christening cake." Afterwards, Master Guy presented Mrs Knifton with a bouquet of carnations."

FROM THE BARNET PRESS 1937

MORRIS FILMS AT POTTERS BAR

Mr F L Cranmore, motor engineer and Morris specialist, has this year again provided an entertaining film "tie-up" in connection with Morris show week, which has taken place this week at his showrooms at Potters Bar and Barnet.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights, in St. Mary's Hall, Potters Bar, displays of highly interesting sound films, produced by the ciné department of the famous firm of Morris Motors, were shown. On all three occasions there were packed "houses," and it is some gauge of the interest evinced by the motoring public to learn that the car-park statistics in connection with the displays showed that there was an average of one car to every 3½ people attending.

An afternoon display, which Mr Cranmore arranged especially for schoolchildren, likewise proved highly popular.



Potters Bar & District Historical Society

Regd. Charity No. 299475

Subscription commencing

April 1995 to March 1996

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**

Name: (Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms)

Address:

Postcode:Telephone No.

I/We enclose £ as my/our subscription to the
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Subscription:- Adults £3
 Family/Group £5

Prompt payment is much appreciated - **THANK YOU**

If one does not intend to renew their subscription,
please notify the Membership Secretary,
51, Highview Gardens,
Potters Bar,
Herts. EN6 5PN

TELEPHONE:- 653801

If one requires a receipt, please send a S.A.E.

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