

# *The Newsletter*

JANUARY 1997

VOL. 13 NO. 2

## COVER PICTURES

This is the fourth in the series of black and white photographs of Potters Bar, taken by Mr. E. Bartlett, a past Secretary of the Society, between 1969 and 1972.



Salisbury House, now known as St. George's House, is one of the few remaining Georgian houses in the High Street. On the right-hand side of the picture one can see the bay, added in Victorian times, which has destroyed the original symmetry of the earlier building.

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A very Happy New Year from all of us on the Committee to all members; we trust that it will be a good one for everybody. We hope to be able to put on three outings during the coming year. Brian Warren is also taking us on another walk. Dates and times will be announced in the next Newsletter. We have a new exhibition in the Museum - "Leisure in Potters Bar", well worth a visit.

We still need Committee members, also a Treasurer please; can anyone help us out? The existing Committee members are having to bear the burden between them!

We on the Committee wish to thank you for your support; if anyone has any ideas they would like to express - certain lectures for example, do not hesitate to contact us (John Donovan 642 886 or myself).

Jean Foster (647 015).

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We should like to congratulate one of our members, Miss Enid Essame, on reaching her 90th Birthday (5.12.96). Miss Essame is a former headmistress of Queenswood School.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members who (according to the Membership Secretary's records) have not paid their subscriptions for the year 1996/7, will find attached a renewal form, which should be returned to the Membership Secretary with remittance, as soon as possible.

### CALLING ALL WORKERS - CAN YOU HELP?

Urgently required - information on the  
Light Industries of Potters Bar.

If one worked in, or has any information (reminiscences, adverts, photos, etc) concerning the Cranborne Industrial Estate, Station Close and The Hollies, please contact John Donovan, 19 Cringle Court, Little Heath, EN6 1JR (642 886).

### ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Following a nationwide investigation of the 1896 earthquake, by Mr.C.Davison, Sc.D., F.G.S. (secretary of the British Association Seismological Investigation Committee), H.G.Fordham recorded the effects of the earthquake, which occurred in the early morning in Hertfordshire.

The Herts. Mercury (1) noted that the shocks were felt all over country, but (they were worst in Wales and the West Country). In Hertfordshire, there were seventy-three observations over forty-seven districts.

At New Barnet, a report from A.Ellen Coles, at Beaufort Lodge, recorded, "About 5.27 or 5.30 a.m on 17th December, Mrs. Fryer

and myself were awakened by a noise of heavy pictures or furniture falling in the dining-room below, and almost immediately we felt our beds rock with a decided movement from East to West. I then noticed a sort of creaking of the outer wall as after a severe strain. The whole shock did not appear to last more than three or four seconds."

A.M.Dales, at Hawkshead House, North Mymms, stated, "I felt it very distinctly where I live, which is sixteen miles north of London, and four miles from Hatfield. I occupy a room at the top of the house (third floor) facing N.E. I was awake at the time, but was so startled that I did not look at my clock at once: when I looked it was 5.35. No tremulous motion was felt. I cannot say for how many seconds the vibration lasted. It was quickly over. I only felt one vibration. The movement gradually increased in intensity, then died away. The shock was not strong enough to cause doors, etc, to rattle but the bed was perceptibly moved, neither was it strong enough to stop clocks etc. The shock was accompanied by an unusual rumbling sound, and it seemed as though everything in the house was falling down. The beginning of the sound preceded the shock." (2).

In the Barnet Press, (3) it was noted that several people in Barnet felt the presence of the earthquake. "The Revd. John Matthews was awakened by a loud clattering in his house, and he was distinctly sensible of slight vibrations."

The timing of the earthquake illustrates the importance of accurate recording. Of 40 records, 3 gave the commencement of the earthquake as 5.25, 23 gave 5.30; 13 noted 5.45 a.m. It was noted the balance of probability favoured 5.34 a.m. in the west of the county.

#### REFERENCES:-

- (1). Herts. Mercury, Saturday 19th December, 1896.
- (2). Herts Natural History Society Trans. Vol. 9, P183-208.
- (3). Barnet Press, 19th December, 1896.

B.WARREN.

#### WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Thursday 30th January "Stage Coaches and Turnpike Roads" by Dr. Arnold Lynch. "The Turnpike System grew from the need for good roads from 1650 onwards. The roads were good enough for stage coaches by about 1770. Both the turnpikes and the coaches had disappeared by 1865, but they had become legends. The lecture will try to discover how many people used the roads and what difference these roads made to life in Potters Bar and South Mymms."

Friday 28th February A Talk on Fir and Pond Woods, by Mr. John Scivyer. "The talk is not intended to be a full formal history of Fir and Pond Woods, far less of Enfield Chase as a whole. The latter has been well covered by David Pam and others. What will be dealt with is woodlands in general from ancient times to present day, with special reference to this locality. What is Ancient Woodland? History of management and nature conservation and the bodies who carry it out. How has recent legislation (history) affected woodlands?"

Tuesday 18th March "Sir Joseph Bazalgette (1819-91) Engineer to the Metropolitan Board of Works." by Dr. Denis Smith. PhD. MSc. "Joseph Bazalgette was born in Enfield and became one of the great Victorian engineers. He was responsible for so much of the Greater London landscape, including bridges over the Thames, the Embankment, the Main Drainage System and much more. It is possible to argue that he had as great an impact on the environment of London as Sir Christopher Wren."

THE MEETINGS START AT 8PM PROMPT IN THE SIXTY-PLUS CENTRE, WYLLYOTTS CENTRE. ALL ARE WELCOME. ADMISSION FREE.

#### CAR-LIFTS FOR MEMBERS

Certain of our members are unable to attend the lecture meetings due to lack of transport. It would be appreciated if any member who is willing to offer a lift to meetings would contact the chairman, who could then put them in touch with the member needing the lift.

#### HERTS. ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY - JOINT MEETING WITH THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Saturday 8 February 1997 at 3pm at The Friends Meeting House, Handside Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

Mr R Busby. The Mimram - from the source to the Lea.

[Established in 1949, the HALH (formerly the Hertfordshire Local History Council) is affiliated to the British Association for Local History].

#### POTTERS BAR SOCIETY. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The following illustrated lectures have been arranged for the autumn season. These will be held at the Tilbury Hall, commencing at 8pm, admission £1.50.

Thurs	Jan 16th	"Your Curious County"	Mr. John Lucas
Thurs	Feb 20th	"The Naughty Nineties"	Mr John Neal
Thurs	Mar 20th	"Scotland - North & Western Isles"	Mrs Margaret Smith
Thurs	Apr 17th	"The Work of the RSPCA"	Dr. E Reed

To obtain tickets for the lectures, please send a cheque, payable to THE POTTERS BAR SOCIETY, and SAE to:-

Mrs P. Hardiment, 34 Parkside, High Street, Potters Bar. EN6 5AU.

#### POTTERS BAR - PARISH COUNCIL PETITION

Volunteers will begin house-to-house visiting this weekend, to collect signatures for a petition to be sent to the

Queen asking for her support in the town's fight for a parish council.

Copies of the petition are ready for issue to the volunteers, who begin their mammoth task in earnest next week.

DON'T PANIC, this was in the BARNET PRESS, dated MARCH 1974.

#### FROM THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

"Sir, In your Diary story of April 27 about plans for the return to Hyde Park Corner of the equestrian statue of my famous ancestor, originally atop the Wellington Arch and now "languishing" in Aldershot, you refer to Apsley House as "the splendid home that was presented to (the first Duke of Wellington) after he returned victorious from Waterloo".

This is incorrect. The Iron Duke bought Apsley House in 1817 for about £42,000 (a very large sum in those days) from his elder brother, Marquess Wellesley, so that the latter, who had bought it in the early years of the century from Lord Bathurst, could pay his debts.

The "gift of the nation" myth has persisted ever since 1949 when the house and magnificent collection of silver, porcelain and paintings were handed over to the nation by my father, the seventh Duke. When he made this extremely generous gesture, with my full agreement, certain sections of the press (not 'The Times') tried to prevent our retaining a portion of the house as our London residence.

It has been suggested that since the house had been presented by the nation to the first Duke, it was right and proper that the seventh Duke should return it. My father was deeply hurt that his generosity should be received so uncharitably, and did his best to refute the story; but it has persisted.

Perhaps I should add that Stratfield Saye House was indeed given by the nation to the first Duke, after Waterloo."

Reproduced from THE TIMES. 15 MAY 1995

#### DISTRIBUTION TEAM

No doubt many members are aware of the 'good neighbours' who poke the PBHS Newsletters and Journals through their doors, year in and year out, but for those who are not, a brief explanation.

The publications in question are delivered to the volunteers, who then walk around their specific areas, 'stuffing letterboxes'. Some members deliver half-a-dozen, some a dozen, but the actual distances walked vary considerably. From time to time, one of our volunteers has to resign, but another cheerfully steps in. Of course, we do have to rely on the Royal Mail to deliver to those members who are beyond the reach of human foot, but without our intrepid 'post-folk', the Society's expenditure in stamps would quite immense. On behalf of all our members, therefore, we should like to offer our grateful thanks to our wonderful 'Distribution Team'.

### THAT HUNGARIAN SWORD

In his talk on "The Saxons in Hertfordshire", Mr. B. Adams mentioned that among the artefacts of that time in this county is a Hungarian sword dated 1014 AD.

When I was in Hungary recently I visited Erztergom, where the first Christian king of that country, St. Stephen, was crowned in 1000 AD. Fourteen years later the two young sons of Edmund II, Saxon king of England, sought refuge here when their father was defeated by King Canute in 1014.

Was the owner of that sword one of the Hungarian mercenaries over here to assist the Saxons against the Danes? perhaps he was killed in battle; perhaps he lost the sword in flight from the field? Perhaps he was among the defeated Hungarians returning home and escorting the princes to safety?

The two boys stayed in Erztergom throughout the Danish rule in England and during that time the eldest, Edward the Atheling, married the Hungarian Princess Agatha. They had two children, Edgar the Atheling and Margaret, and all returned to England when the Saxon monarchy was restored under Edward the Confessor in 1042.

In 1068, Margaret married Malcolm, King of Scotland. She was later canonised as "St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland."

Mrs. J Charlton.

### WAR BALLOON AT POTTERS BAR

MEYERS ENFIELD OBSERVER. 16th May 1890.

"On Saturday afternoon, the trial of a large war balloon was successfully carried out from the Royal Military Exhibition, Chelsea. There was a large concourse of people around the enclosure to witness the ascent which took place at a quarter to five. There were six passengers in the car, including Mr. Charles Salveson of the Royal Engineers who made some important observations at various altitudes. The balloon is to be used for a series of scientific experiments applied to warfare.

The balloon having been folded and packed, the aeronauts were about to make their way to Potters Bar railway station assisted by a number of labourers, when the owner of the meadow, Mr. G. Briers appeared and demanded compensation for the damage done to the grass crop. Mr. Spencer suggested that the claim be sent in a formal manner but Briers replied that a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush, and he would not allow the balloon to be removed until his claim was satisfied. The bystanders took up the dispute and ultimately the money was forthcoming but the labourers then crowded round the car and made a great show of fatigue and, to a man, declined to allow it to be taken away until their claims also were satisfied, though not a twentieth of their number had touched the baggage."

### TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER - THE HOME GUARD IN HERTFORDSHIRE

By Lt. Col. Sainsbury.

The first "Home Guard" was raised by William Pitt, in 1794, to counter the threat of invasion by the French, and formed part of H.M. Army. They wore uniforms similar to the Regulars and

some existing Territorial units descend from that militia.

The second "Home Guard" was in the form of the Volunteer Training Corps, raised in 1914-15, but not of the Regular Army. The VTC consisted of males outside military age.

The Local Defence Volunteers were established on the 14th May 1940, but the name was changed to Home Guard, in August 1940, at Churchill's request. Though the age range was from 17 to 60, everyone was a volunteer up to February 1941, when the Home Guard became part of H.M.Forces. The Lord Lieutenant was responsible for recruiting within his own county, but within London the Metropolitan Police Divisions were used, so Potters Bar came within "S" Zone. The 21st Middlesex Battalion covered Potters bar with its Battalion Headquarters at Ravenscroft Park, Barnet. Seven Company and Seventy-one Company were specifically for Potters Bar, the latter being a mobile unit later in the war.

The speaker noted that the Home Guard was only under-equipped at the beginning of the war, and the Government bought vast quantities of US rifles and machine guns. He dealt with other aspects of armoury and ended by showing slides of wartime strong-points, some of which had been edited by the Censor.

It was an interesting lecture, which was enjoyed by all.

From notes by A. Davey.

THOUGHTS OF YESTERYEAR (THOS. MOORE 1779-1852)

Believe me, if all those endearing young  
charms,

Which I gaze on so fondly to-day,  
Were to change by tomorrow, and fleet in  
my arms.

Like fairy gifts fading away!  
Thou wouldst still be adored as this mo-  
ment thou art

Let thy loveliness fade as it will,  
And, around the dear ruin, each wish of  
my heart

Would entwine itself verdantly still.

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\* In 1807 the poem was set to an Irish melody.

J.Foster.

## GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 1996

Our Society's publication "The Railways Through Potters Bar", by Gordon Eve, was reviewed by Dick Tarpey in the above magazine, of which Gordon is a member. Mr Tarpey informed his members that, "it is recommended reading and available at the bargain price of £1.30, including postage and packing..."

### THE SOCIETY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE!

Following an enquiry from Mr. Tom Morgan when he was researching an article on the L31 Zeppelin, which crashed at Potters Bar, in 1916, he was sent a copy of John Bennet's Occasional Paper on the subject. He found this to be such a complete account of the subject that he had no need to pursue with his intended research. Subsequently, he made a request to the Society to place John Bennet's entire booklet on the Internet. Your Committee decided that it was good idea in promoting the Society's publications, but felt a resumé would be more appropriate. Tom Morgan readily agreed to the suggestion, and has placed it on his own site and members can access the information on:-

file:///C:/HELLFIRE/MATHY.HTM

Hopefully, Denis Lore will receive a veritable flood of orders from all over the world, and the conversion rates from these will not cause him too many sleepless nights!

If this venture proves to be a success, then perhaps our other publications could be advertised in a similar way.

### MORVEN. NATIONAL TRUST SITE

Members may not be aware that the National Trust now operates a system of Volunteer Observers on their sites, to enable them to monitor the condition of the land and buildings concerned. As part of the observers' work an annual return has to be made of the present state and condition of specific, numbered features, and suggestions for any necessary rescue work.

As a result of correspondence with the National Trust, concerning the St. Mary, Islington Boundary Stones, John Donovan and Brian Warren have been appointed as Volunteer Observers for the Morven fields.

In connection with their work, they would be pleased to receive any information, in particular photographs, concerning the observations of the Morven site, which members may have made in the past.

### THE MAY 1997 NEWSLETTER

We were pleased to note the present Newsletter contains more contributions from members than previous editions, which is to be welcomed. Therefore, if you should wish to offer articles for inclusion in the May edition, they should be with the Editor by April 30th at the latest.



# Wylllyotts Museum and Local History Centre

## POTTERS BAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COLLECTION

### POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ARCHIVE - marked - PBHS

### POTTERS BAR and DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS 1985-1995

PBHS No. 82	The Motor Bus in Potters Bar Before 1939 by M.Lynch	1987
83	Memories of Potters Bar 1913-20 by Eileen Baillie	1987
84	Georgian Houses by Helen Baker	1988
85	The Stage-coach Through Potters Bar by A.C.Lynch	1992

### THE JOURNAL of the PBDHS

PBHS No. 86	No.1 April	1985
87	No.2 April	1986
88	No.3 April	1987
89	No.4	1988
90	No.5	1989
91	No.6	1991
92	No.7	1992
93	No.8	1995
94	No.9	1995

### OCCASIONAL PAPERS

PBHS No. 95	No.1 The Potters Bar Zeppelin 2nd October, 1916 by J.E.Bennett	1989
96	No.2 Growing Up In Potters Bar 1938-1945 by M.Drinnan	1990
97	No.3 Growing UP In Potters Bar 1946-1954 by M.Drinnan	1990
98	No.4 South Mimms by F.C.Hart. Edit.B.Warren	1993
99	No.5 Life As Remembered From Rydal Mount (1905-1927) by Mrs.Marguerite Emily Barrowman	1994
100	No.6 The Barnet Road by G.L.Field	1995

### SPECIAL BOOKLET

PBHS No.101	The Growth of the Little Heath area to 1914 by B.Warren	1992
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PBHS No.102	Potters Bar Official Guide 1971/2	
103	Celebration and Events Coronation 1953 in PBUDC	
104	The Seal & Arms, and the Chaplain's Badge, of the Borough of Hertford 2nd edit.1949	
105	Journal of the N.Middx.Family Hist.Soc. Summer 1979	
106	Pinner Local Hist.Soc. Voyage to Liverpool	1988
107	Local History in Hertfordshire-W.Branch Johnson	1964
108	Ancient Monuments Soc. Winter:Newsletter 1992	
109	As I Recall Fifty Years by FR.F.Perkins, OGS 1911 -	1988
110	As for PBHS 109	
111	Bushey Village Trail	1984
112	Journal of the Brackley & Dist.Hist.Soc. June	1986
113	" " " " & " " "	1987
114	Genealogists' Magazine Vol.20 No.6 June	1981
115	Footpath Walks Around Potters Bar n.d. ?1960's	
116	The Waggon & Horses Ridge Hill by F.C.Hart	1973
117	Background to Civilised Living -Middlesex	n.d.
118	London Bus Magazine p.34 Potters Bar Update	1987
119	New Middlesex County Pictorial June/July	1962
120	New Middlesex County Pictorial Dec.	1963
121	The Deserted Medieval Villages of Herts. K.R.Davis	1973
122	Middlesex in Shakespeare's Day -Exhibition	1964

# Wylllyotts Museum and Local History Centre

## POTTERS BAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COLLECTION

### POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ARCHIVE - marked PBHS

PBHS No. I23	Popish Recusancy in the Elizabethan Hundred of Edmonton by David Avery. Edm. Hundred Hist. Soc. c.	I966
I24	Out Of Doors Autumn 1946	I946
I25	Out Of Doors Summer 1946	I946
I26	Hertfordshire Gardens Trust Newsletter No.9 Autumn	I995
I27	A Decade of Change IOth anniversary Exhibition arranged by The Potters Bar Society	June I97I
I28	The Coal Duties of the City of London and their boundary marks by Martin Nail	I972
I29	Steam World (Article on the Potters Bar crash I946)	I996

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### POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT HISTORICAL - THE NEWSLETTER

PBHS No. I30	THE NEWSLETTER Vol. I No. I	Sept. I984
I31	" " 2	Jan. I985
I32	" " 3	May I985
I33	" " Vol. 2 No. I	Sept. I985
I34	" " 2	Jan. I986
I35	" " 3	May I986
I36	" " Vol. 3 No. I	Sept. I986
I37	" " 2	Jan. I987
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I53	" " 3	Apr. I992
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I61	" " 2	Jan. I995
I62	" " 3	May I995
I63	" " Vol. I2 No. I (Marked Vol. II No. 4)	Sept. I995
I64	" " 2	Jan. I996
I65	" " 3	May I996

### HERTFORDSHIRE Past & Present (Pub. Herts Local Hist. Council)

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I67	" " " " 7	I967
I68	" " " " 8	I968