

Potters Bar & District Historical Society

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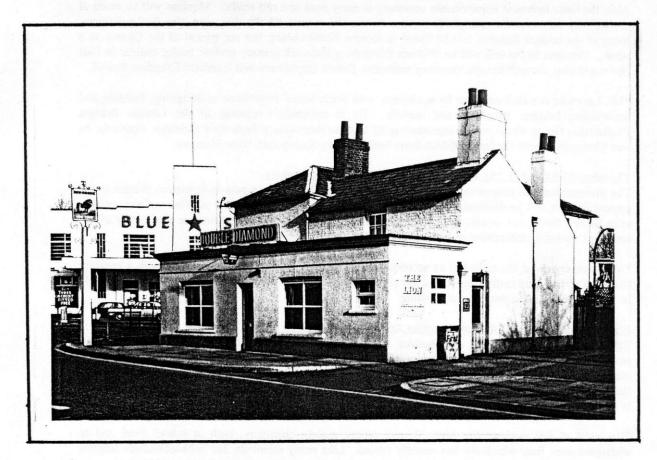
The Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 1997

VOL. 14 NO. 1

COVER PICTURE

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



The above picture shows "The Lion" situated at the corner of the Southgate and Barnet Roads; it was a wheelwright's, which was severely damaged by fire in 1837. In that year, James Wanstall purchased the site and surviving buildings and it seems most likely that he had built the present public house. The word 'Lion' has always appeared in its name, being the Lion Brewery (1861), the White Lion (1871) and The Red Lion Brewery (1891).

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings. I trust you have all had a very good summer and enjoyed your various holidays. Enclosed you will receive your programme card, giving information regarding all our lectures, which I think you will agree are varied and interesting.

You will notice that on 9th December, we are having a light-hearted Social and Quiz evening; it would be greatly appreciated if you could inform me as to whether you may be able to attend (a form for this attached) so that we can cater adequately for the evening's light buffet and refreshments, for which there is no charge.

May I take this opportunity to welcome our new members, and I look forward to meeting them, and current members at the lectures.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Those Members whose subscriptions for the year 1997/8 appear to be outstanding will be notified, individually, by post.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 23rd September. "Hertfordshire Bridges." by Mr Richard Lavender.

This talk will address the different types and styles, materials used and the first turnpike road in England. Also, the basic technical requirements necessary to carry road and rail traffic. Mention will be made of contingency measures for emergency bridges during the second World War, and also Bailey Bridges. many of the bridges featured will be found in eastern Hertfordshire, but are typical of the County as a whole. Featured in the talk will be William Edwards, a sixteenth century prolific bridge builder in East Herts. and also, the well known Victorian engineers, Robert Stephenson and Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

*Mr. Lavender is a civil engineer by profession, with thirty years' experience in designing, building and maintaining bridges, structures and tunnels. He is currently Chairman of the London Bridges Engineering Group which entails representing 33 London Boroughs at high-level meetings. Formerly, he was Chairman of both the Hertfordshire Ware Local History Society and Ware Museum.

Thursday, 23rd October. "St. Paul's Cathedral." by Mr. John Lockyer.

The presentation will concentrate upon the significance of St. Paul's in post-Reformation politics to the present day. It will be demonstrated how religion has always been embedded in affairs of our nation even though this is not usually perceived. As well as this, the lecture will illustrate the history of the cathedral, including interesting wartime photographs.

*Mr. Lockyer served the cathedral as an employee in the Verger's department, dealing with a constant stream of visitors and endless questions, for eight years prior to his retirement five years ago. Previously he had worked in advertising and publishing.

Friday, 21st November. "Ancient Egyptian Art and Paintings." by Mrs. D. Skinner M. Phil. B. Sc. Egypt is now well-established as a holiday centre but, unlike many sunny venues, it has the added attraction of possessing numerous monuments and artefacts from its ancient history. This talk will concentrate on the evidence provided by the wonderful tomb paintings and sculpture readily accessible to those visitors willing to explore around the main centres of Cairo and Luxor, as well as those nearer home in the British Museum.

*For most of her working life Mrs. Skinner taught mainly chemistry, both at school level and to undergraduates, from which she has recently retired. Like many scientists, her hobbies include subjects from the arts - music, travel, photography and art itself. During her first visit to Egypt in 1972 she became seriously interested in the art of that ancient country. As a chemist, she is particularly interested in the nature of the pigments used in ancient times and in their method of application.

THE MEETINGS START AT 8PM *PROMPT* IN THE 60 PLUS CENTRE, WYLLYOTTS CENTRE. ALL ARE WELCOME. ADMISSION IS FREE.



ENIGMA - by Ann Powelll

(Seen in a Saga Magazine)

What is a grandchild? Well may you ask! It's a song in the heart It's a dressing up mask

It's an ache in the back And swings in the park It's crumbs on the floor And a cry in the dark

It's kittens and tadpoles It's Lego and snap It's scissors and paste A squirm in your lap.

It's a quivering lip And a hot clutching hand It's a stake in the future, The hope of our land.



PUBLICATIONS

Terry is in the process of republishing Journals Nos 1 & 2, which were only available in limited numbers twelve years ago. Therefore, they should be of great interest to those members who wish to have a complete set of the Society's publications.

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Illustrated Lectures have been arranged for the autumn season . These will be held at the Tilbury Hall, Darkes Lane, commencing at 8pm, admission £1.50. Dates as follows:

Thursday, September 18th. STEREO EXPERIENCE - Mr.E. Spence & Mr. J. Boxall.

THE CHICKEN SHED CO. THEATRE - Mrs. Sandy Gonzales. Thursday, October 23rd. VICTORIAN MELODRAMA THROUGH THE MAGIC

Thursday, December 18th.

LANTERN - Mr. D. Stevens.

Tickets from Mrs. P. Hardiment, 34 Parkside, High Street, Potters Bar, EN6 5AU. (PLEASE ENCLOSE STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE), or at Tilbury Hall for each event.

MUSEUM NEWS

Just a reminder to all members that the present exhibition is entitled, "The Motor Bus in and around Potters Bar." Ron Kingdom has provided many of the illustrations and much of the information concerning the buses, and it is hoped that all members will take the opportunity to visit the exhibition.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, INVENTORY OF WORLD WAR MEMORIALS

The following War Memorials have been recorded and forwarded to the Imperial War Museum:-

	Boer War	World War I	World War II
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Nat. West Bank. High St.			*
Village Hall PB	Geo. Littlechild		
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South Mimms		*	*
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Northaw School in Northaw P	lace		
(now at West Tytherley Nr.		*	*
St. Mary the Virgin. The Walk		*	*
Christ Church, Little Heath		*	*
Christ Church, Little Heath.			(P.O. F.S.GREGORY)
Christ Church, St. Albans Rd,			
Barnet.	*	*	
Christ Church C of E School	*		
Queen Elizabeth's School, Bar	rnet *	*	*

If anyone knows of other local War Memorials would they please contact Brian Warren (01707 875617).
 6 Church Close. Cuffley. Herts. EN6 4LS.

RECORDER GROUP

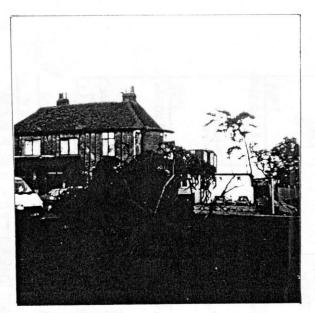
The County Recorder Group meeting will be held on Saturday, 11th October at Nicholls Farm, Lybury Lane, Redbourn. Coffee will be served at 9.45am and the morning session of swapping ideas and discussing the work of recorders will start at 10am. Soup and coffee will be provided for lunch around 12.30, but it is suggested that you might like to bring some sandwiches. Alternatively, there are pubs in the village. Jonathan Hunn, a landscape archaeologist, will talk about how to recognise features of the landscape which ought to be recorded, and will lead the recorders on a field walk, to finish about 3.30pm.

Anyone interested should contact Brian Warren.

SUMMER OUTINGS

Warwick Castle. On Saturday, 14th June we left Potters Bar on our way to Warwick. The trip had been advertised as "Stratford upon Avon or Warwick", but we all decided that Warwick was our choice for the day. The weather was dry but somewhat cool. The castle itself was magnificent, and set in beautiful gardens. Many things were taking place within the Castle and grounds; jousting, ladies in costume roaming around transporting us back in time. Within the castle the State Apartments, Haunted Tower, stables, etc. were able to be viewed, with models depicting how each looked all those years ago, creating an impression of yesteryear and, I may add, quite a few sound effects. There were, of course, many other places of interest in Warwick to visit, and an abundance of antique shops. By 4.15, when the coach was timed to leave, we had all had a great day seeing at least some places of interest in Warwick and just as we boarded, it started to rain, lucky us! In all, a great day. Jean Foster.

Historical Walk. On the evening of Thursday, 26th June, several members met at the corner of Santers Lane and Dugdale Hill Lane for a walk led by Brian Warren. The weather had been foul all day and this was reflected in our relative lack of numbers. Five intrepid walkers took advantage of the one hour when it did not rain during the day to learn a little of the history of the area surrounding Santers Lane, Baker Street and Sawyers Lane. All evening the clouds had hung dark and heavy over our small but brave party, and one was reminded of Henry V's Agincourt speech, "He that outlives this day, and comes safe home, will stand a-tiptoe when Santers Lane is named..." but the rain did hold off! Despite the weather, we had a most interesting evening and went home with a sounder knowledge of one corner of Potters Bar. John Donovan.



WYLLYOTTS MANOR

TEN YEARS ON

THE STORM ENABLED FLORA AND FAUNA TO FLOURISH AND ENRICH THE DEVASTATED WOODLANDS.

THE LEGACY HAS BEEN POSITIVE.

3-4AM. FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 1987 TEN YEARS AGO.

THE GREAT STORM STRUCK.

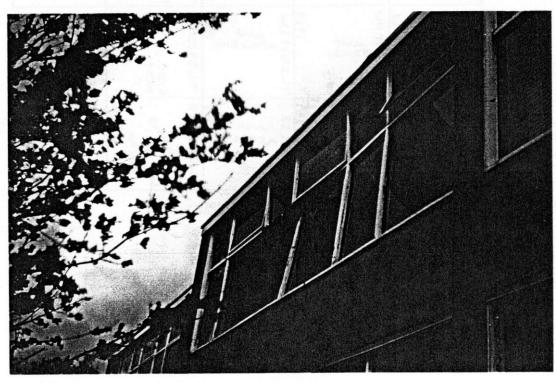
FALLING TREES - ROADS BLOCKED

TILES REMOVED - WALLS DOWN

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN CHAOS



NORTHAW GREAT WOOD



THE SCIENCE ROOM AT OAKMERE JMI SCHOOL. PHOTO..MRS. V. BELL

THE COUNTY LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY, HERTFORD COMPILED BY B. WARREN 1997 A GUIDE TO THE SOINCH = I MILE MAPS HELD AT OF POTTERS BAR

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Members will be sorry to learn that the Acer tree (*Crimson King*) planted in memory of Helen (former Vice-President and Archivist of the Society) in Oakmere Park has been vandalised. Fortunately, negotiations are taking place between Hertsmere Borough Council and the Potters Bar Society to plant a replacement tree in a more suitable place. The original tree was planted on Wednesday, 22nd March, 1989, in the presence of twenty two members and friends.

AUTUMN & WINTER ACTIVITIES

- <u>Sunday 7th September</u>. The Enfieldian outing to the coast will be reported in the next Newsletter
- Sunday, 28th September. Historical walk led by Mr. J. Donovan, exploring the meadows around Morven. Meet at the corner of Billy Lows Lane and Hatfield Road (by the Telephone Exchange) at 4pm. There should be sufficient street parking locally. Please bring footwear suitablefor walking in (possibly) wet grass and cowpats.
- Saturday, 6th December. Enfieldian outing to Lincoln's Christmas Market.

Details on application form, attached.

• Saturday, 9th December. Festive Quiz and Social Evening. Details on

application form, attached.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH. THE WALK

Sunday, September 28th. Harvest Festival Service and Lunch, 10.30am. Saturday, November 22nd. Christmas Bazaar, Church Hall, The Walk. 10.30am. December. (date to be decided). Carol Service (with mince pies, coffee, tea). 6.30pm. * For further information, phone 644539

THE STORY OF ST. ALBAN

For the historically minded tourist, the two chief delights of St. Albans are the cathedral and the magnificent Roman remains of Verulamium. For the Christian, the two are significantly bound together. In the late third century, the Roman Empire was still a thriving concern, and much of Britain lay under its sometimes benign and sometimes ruthless rule. Verulamium was a military city of no small importance. Generally, the Roman rulers tolerated Christianity, not really caring what gods people worshipped. Sporadically, however, there would be intense bouts of persecution, usually linked with the refusal of the Christians to acknowledge the Emperor as a god by burning incense in his honour.

It was at one such time that a priest was fleeing from pursuing soldiers, and was given refuge by Alban, who himself probably belonged to the military. Impressed by his guest, Alban believed the gospel he preached and was converted. When the soldiers arrived to search the house, Alban disguised himself with the priest's cloak whilst the man escaped. The new convert allowed himself to be arrested and, resolutely testifying to his faith, was duly executed. Thus Alban became the first known Christian martyr in the British Isles. The place of his death became a place of pilgrimage very quickly, and later the cathedral was built on the site of his selfless bravery. *Sunday Link*.

L.A.M.A.S. LECTURE PROGRAMME 1997

All lectures are held in the Interpretation Unit of the Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London, beginning at 6.30pm. Refreshments are available from 6pm.

Thursday, 9th October. Recent discoveries on the Thames foreshore.

By Mike Webber, Thames Archaeological Survey Officer.

Thursday, 13th November. Ephesus: from Diana to the Virgin Mary. By Geoffrey Toms

Thursday, 11th December. Recent archaeological work on churches in Middlesex and

the City of London. By D. John Schofield, Archaeologist

on the London Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Wyllyotts Museum and Local History Centre

POTTERS BAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COLLECTION

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

TRANSACTIONS OF THE LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY cont.

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Wyllyotts Museum and Local History Centre

POTTERS BAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COLLECTION

MRS.L.LE GROS' DONATION

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ENFIELDIAN COACH OUTING

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 1997. LINCOLN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET. FARE £9.95

An opportunity to join in the fun and music of this special Christmas occasion held against the backdrop of Lincoln Cathedral and the squares, alleyways and courtyards that are set around this imposing building. As well as festive entertainment there are a host of stalls offering a variety of traditional Christmas produce. Home by approximately 7.45pm.

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Please return by Monday 20th October