

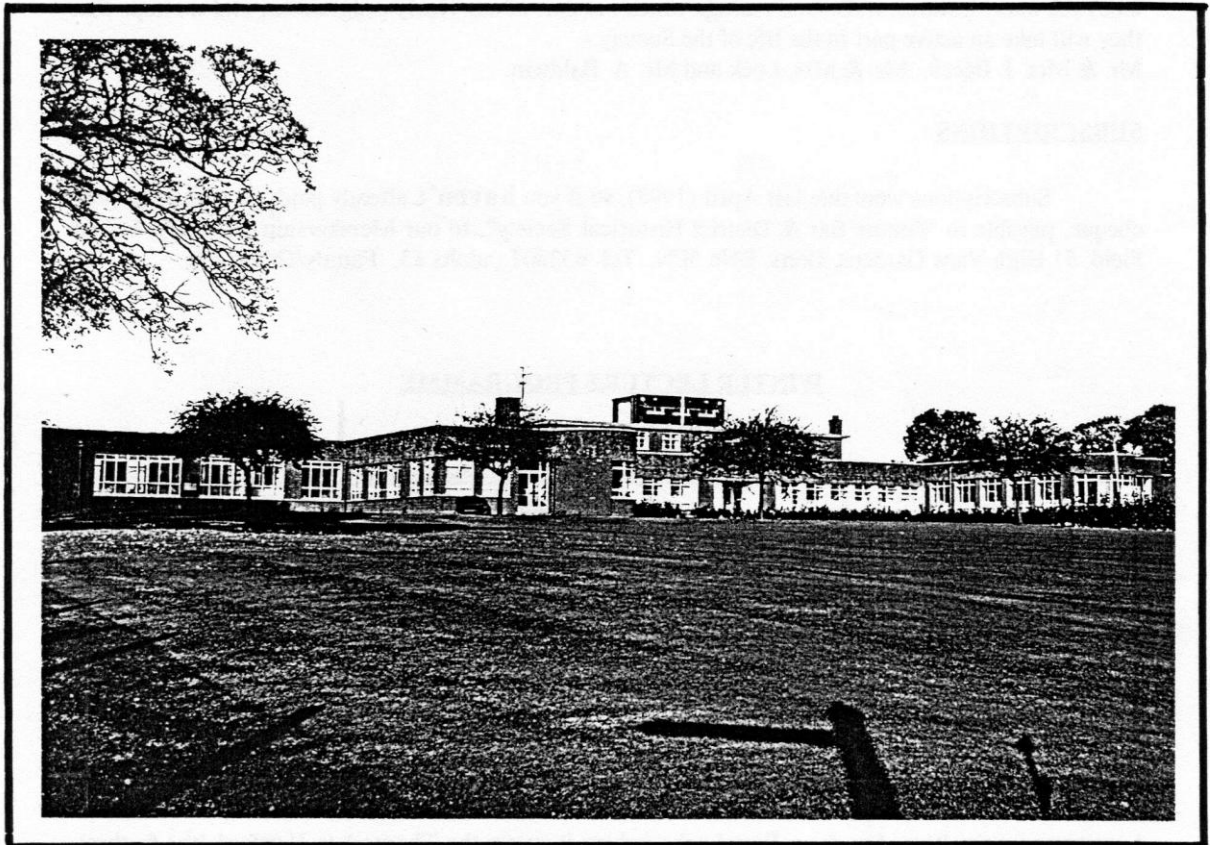
The Newsletter

JANUARY 1999

VOL. 15 NO. 2

COVER PICTURE

This is the tenth 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 hospital was dedicated on the 12th August, 1939, and the first patients arrived three days later. It was not long before the Second World War commenced and the hospital became part of the local emergency medical service. During the war, besides local casualties, patients were referred to Potters Bar from London. The hospital was so busy at the time of the V2 rocket bomb, in Southgate Rd., on January 20th, 1945, that patients were accommodated at other hospitals.

The final patients were moved to the new two-storey hospital, in the Barnet Rd., on Saturday 7th January, 1995, so closed Potters Bar's second hospital.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello everyone,

A very happy and prosperous new year to all our members from myself and the rest of the Committee. We hope to see all of you at the Museum at some time during the coming year; the more visitors we have the happier we all feel, and that makes everyones effort well worthwhile.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Committee for all their hard work during 1998; each and every ones efforts are much appreciated. I would also like to thank all of our stewards who manned the Museum during the year, without whose help the Museum could not be opened.

We are in the process of arranging for the Museum to be opened earlier in the day for a trial period of one month, which is to be April, starting on Thursday the 8th, from 12noon to 2pm.

As you know, Joan Charlton has been our Programme Organiser for many years, and a wonderful job she has done. In May of this year she will be retiring from the post and I would like to express our grateful thanks for the many hours she has spent in producing lectures on many subjects for our delight. Colin Field is considering taking on the task. If any of you have a subject or a lecture that you think would be of interest to everyone, please contact Colin on 01707 857 297. *JF.*

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome the following new members to the Society. We trust they will enjoy the many lectures, walks and outings which are part of our yearly programme, and we hope that they will take an active part in the life of the Society:-

Mr. & Mrs. J. Beech, Mr. & Mrs. Lock and Mr. A. Baldwin.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions were due last April (1998), so if you **haven't** already paid, you can send your cheque, payable to "Potters Bar & District Historical Society", to our Membership Secretary, Eileen Field, 51 High View Gardens, Herts. EN6 5PN. Tel. 653801 (adults £3, Family/Group £5).

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Thursday January 28th. Archaeological Work on Churches in Middx. and City of London.

by John Schofield (Museum of London)

John Schofield, FSA, is a Curator of Architecture at the Museum of London. He is also the Archaeological Advisor on the Diocesan Advisory Committee of the Diocese of London, and has therefore been in a good position to monitor and encourage the recording of changes to parish churches both in the City of London and Middlesex. His review of work on two-thirds of the City's 108 pre-Fire parish churches was published in the Transactions of the London and Middx. Archaeological Society in 1994.

Tuesday February 23rd. My View from the Towpath - Thames to Hertford. by Mr. John Higgs.

A progress up the River Lea from Bow Locks (where it enters the Thames) to Hertford (the furthest navigable place on the river). Illustrated with present-day pictures and also views from the past, particularly the golden age of postcards (pre-1914) together with interesting anecdotes on their history. John Higgs also includes the delights of the Lea Valley Park.

Friday March 26th. Before the "Six Pips". by Dr. Arnold Lynch.

There is a problem with a clock, however good it is, in setting it to the "right" time. We shall consider what happened when every town kept its own local time, rather than Greenwich time (before the days of the six pips on the radio), and there was difficulty in putting the clock right in the first place.

Thursday April 22nd. Annual General Meeting followed by
White City Exhibitions 1908 - 1914 by Mrs. Cynthia Wade.

The story of this 143 acre site will be traced, with the help of postcards on slides, from its opening in 1908 to its heyday in 1914.

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

MODERN YOUTH

“The modern youngster lacks discipline, particularly home discipline. This is due to a slackening of parental control. Increased leisure hours were largely wasted by young people, always watching television. Cultural standards and appreciation of literature were consequently much lower. Young people had a lack of drive and initiative today.”

May 1956!! (Barnet Press).

MODERN YOUTH FINDS CHAMPION IN FORMER HEAD

“Modern youth has never been right. Parents have been upset about you, the press has been upset about you. But the one thing that is never mentioned is that for one or two youths who are a nuisance, there are hundreds and thousands of first-class boys and girls who are first-class citizens- in-the-making of this country. That is something we tend to forget.”

December 1967!! (22 years head at Chase Secondary School, Enfield) (Barnet Press).

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 would then put them in touch with the member needing the lift.

ARCHIVIST'S REQUESTS

Morven park

Bronwen Thomas, landscape architect, has been commissioned by The National Trust to prepare a full, accurate restoration plan for Morven park gardens, orchard and farm. She would be grateful to hear of any memories or photographs of Morven Park in its heyday. In the early 1960's the gardens were open from April to September, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for a modest cost of entry, at sixpence. Does anyone know of anyone who worked there?

Orchards

David Curry of the Museum of St. Albans initiated an orchard survey of Hertfordshire, starting in 1998. If members are aware of any local orchards, or group/single trees which once formed part of an orchard would they inform Brian Warren.

Some of the trees at Morven have been identified and require a second look this year. At the October meeting individual trees of some age were noted at 23 Heath Rd, and 36 Osborne Rd.

If one measures the girth of a fruit tree at 4'3" from the ground and it is over 2', then it is quite old.

If one has information on either subject please contact Brian Warren on 01707 875 617.

MUSEUM HELP

We are in need of volunteers. We have to sort, file and card-index the museum's exhibits and we need some willing hands. If you have the odd hour to spare during the day, and you feel you could help out, please ring Arnold Davey on 01707 654 179.

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY. SOCIAL EVENINGS

The following illustrated lectures have been arranged for the winter season. These will be held at the Tilbury Hall, Darkes Lane, commencing at 8pm, admission £1.50 (incl. refreshments), payable at the door. All are welcome.

Thursday, January 21st	Beautiful Britain	Mr. Terry Over.
Thursday, February 25th	Estovers, Turbery and all That "Talk about commons"	Mrs. Margaret Smith.
Thursday, March 25th	Ashridge House and Garden	Mr. Mike Thompson
Thursday, April 29th	Deep Sea Fisherman's Mission	Mr. Paul Youngman.

For further details (or should you need a lift to, or from, Tilbury Hall) contact Mrs. P. Hardiment, 34 Parkside, High Street, Potters Bar, EN6 5AU.

SPRING OUTING

- Saturday March 27th. A Walk around Southwark.

See attached tear-off sheet.

MUSEUM CURATOR

* At a meeting of the committee on 14 October 1998, Mr. Warren announced his decision to retire from the position of Museum Curator. Having been involved in setting up the Museum for the last fifteen years, during which time he had brought it up to a reasonable standard, he felt that it was now more important that he should devote time to committing to paper the results of his many years of historical research. With the appointment of Julie Massey as Museums' Officer, this would seem an opportune moment to retire. Mr. Warren stressed that he was remaining in the post of Hon. Archivist and President of the Society.

Our Chairman, Ms. Foster, expressed the sincere thanks of the committee and the membership for all Mr. Warren's devoted work over the years, and observed that, without his efforts, we should probably not *have* a Potters Bar Museum.

Brian Warren wishes to thank all those members who have assisted in any way, at the Wyllyotts Museum and Local History Centre during the past eight years. Also, he thanks the committee and members for their kind gesture of a book token, which was presented to him at the Society's Social in December.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S MUSEUMS' OFFICER

Julie Massey was appointed to the above post last summer and members attending the Christmas Social will have made her acquaintance.

Since August 1998, Hertsmere Borough Council has created a new post of Museums' Officer to help the two museums in the borough (Potters Bar and Bushey), as well as to assist with heritage projects within the borough.

The main assistance will be advice on all aspects of managing and running a museum service, and will concentrate on:

- * The museum gaining registration (this is a scheme to provide a benchmark of quality and professionalism for museums in the UK), which will involve help in producing policies and documents, and practical help with the documentation of the collection.
- * Increasing public awareness of the huge potential the Museum can offer, which we hope will lead to a greater number of visitors.
- * Investigating, and applying for, grants and sponsorship to help with funding.
