

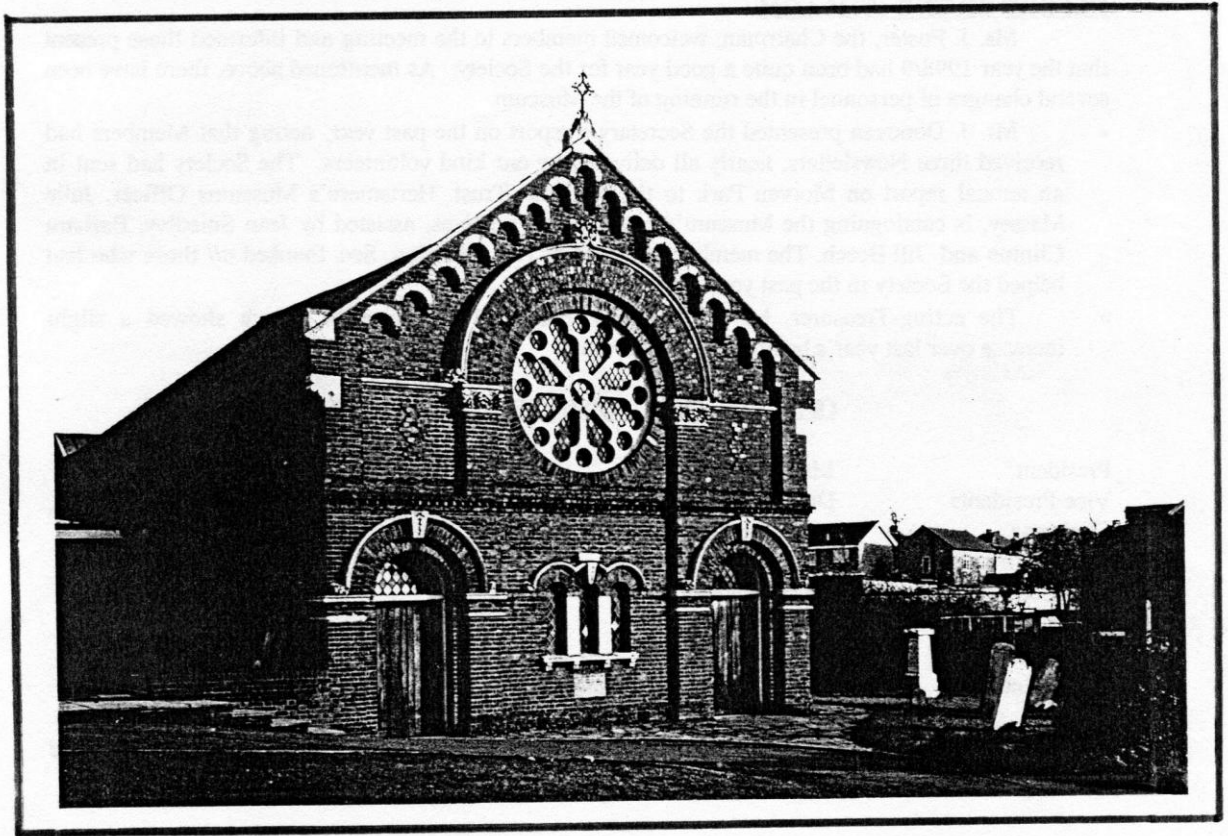
# *The Newsletter*

MAY 1999

VOL. 15 NO. 3

## COVER PICTURE

This is the eleventh 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 first Baptist Chapel was opened in the Barnet Road, on December 2nd 1789. When that building became defective the then pastor, Richard Ware, raised enough money to purchase an extra plot of land, in July 1868. The foundation stone was laid by the pastor on the 2nd August, the same year. The above chapel was completed and opened for public worship on January 7th, 1869; it is now the Ware Hall.

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello everyone,

To those of you who did not attend the AGM, I have to report that Terry Goulding has given up the Curatorship of the Museum (which he and Arnold Davey had taken up, jointly, following the retirement of Brian Warren). Terry has also resigned from the Committee, and we wish to thank him for all the past help that he has given to the Society. He remains one of our members and is also a Vice-President of the Society. Arnold Davey is now curator and also Vice-Chairman.

It was with great pleasure that we asked Dr. Arnold Lynch to be a Vice-President, to which he agreed. Dr. Lynch has also given the Society a great amount of help over the years and, as many of you know, he has presented many enjoyable lectures.

The Committee was elected en bloc and may I take the opportunity to thank all of them for their help in the past year.

We recently opened the Museum for a trial period between the times of 12 noon and 2pm on Thursdays; we may eventually take this up, but nothing definite at the moment. Should we decide to open this extra day we should like volunteers to steward; if you can help us please contact our Secretary, John (01707 642 886) or myself on 01707 647 015.

I trust that you will have (and the weather will *let* you have) an enjoyable Summer. John is going to take us on a history walk later, so I hope you will join him and us then. *JF*

### REPORT OF THE 40TH AGM

Ms. J. Foster, the Chairman, welcomed members to the meeting and informed those present that the year 1998/9 had been quite a good year for the Society. As mentioned above, there have been several changes of personnel in the running of the Museum.

- Mr. J. Donovan presented the Secretary's report on the past year, noting that Members had received three Newsletters, nearly all delivered by our kind volunteers. The Society had sent in an annual report on Morven Park to the National Trust. Hertsmere's Museums Officer, Julie Massey, is cataloguing the Museum's exhibits and archives, assisted by Jean Smedley, Barbara Clinton and Jill Beech. The membership stood at 186. The Hon. Sec. thanked *all* those who had helped the Society in the past year.
- The acting-Treasurer, Mr. J. Donovan, presented the accounts, which showed a slight increase over last year's balance carried forward.

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1999/2000

President	Mr. B. Warren
Vice-Presidents	Dr. J.P.C.Kent F.B.A, Mr. T.G .Goulding, Dr. A Lynch.
Chairman	Ms. J.Foster
Vice-Chairman	Mr. A.Davey
Hon. Sec.	Mr. J.Donovan
Hon. Treasurer	<b>VACANT</b>
Hon. Archivist	Mr. B. Warren
Committee	Mrs. J.Cullen, Mr. I.Cumming, Mr. T.C.Field, Mr. B.Kolbert.

- Following the AGM, Mrs. Cynthia Wade gave an interesting and well-received talk on "White City Exhibitions 1908-1914."

### HELP REQUIRED

From the above it will be seen that, for the third year running, we are without a *Treasurer!* The post, while being most important to the society, is not onerous, and we appeal to anyone who could help to phone the Hon. Sec on 01707 642 886 for details.

### 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. Legate, Mr. & Mrs. R.J.Biscoe, Mr. & Mrs. G. Lewis, Miss M.Gibney, Mr. K. Johnson, Mr. G. Twyman, and Mr. & Mrs. Cartwright & family.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions for 1999/2000 are now due, 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). Prompt payment would be appreciated and, if you do not intend to renew your subscription, kindly inform the Membership Secretary.

## **MUSEUM NEWS**

We have been asked by members to explain the significance of 'Registration' for our Museum. Julie Massey has given us the following information.

The Registration Scheme for Museums and Galleries was introduced in 1988 as a way of ensuring minimum standards by measuring performances against accepted professional standards. It provides an assessment of quality and accountability, and encourages all Museums and Galleries to achieve (at least) minimum standards in management, care of collections, and public services. Furthermore, it fosters confidence in the competence of Museums and Galleries.

Benefits to Registered Museums and Galleries include public recognition that they meet approved standards (fostering confidence among potential donors of objects), and eligibility for Museum and Gallery Commission and Area Museum Council grant aid and subsidised services.

Registration is also taken into account by a wide variety of other bodies such as the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the National Lottery Fund.

## **ANOTHER SPRING**

Aged self, disposed to lose his hold on life,  
Looks down, at winter's evening and perceives,  
Continuance in some crinkled primrose leaves.  
A noise of nesting rooks in tangled trees.  
Stillness - inbreathed, expectant, shadows that bring  
Cloud-castled thoughts from downland distances.  
Eyes, ears are old. But not the sense of spring.

Look, listen, live, some inward watcher warns.  
Absorb his moment's meaning: and be wise  
With hearts whom the first primrose purifies.  
*by Siegfried Sassoon. 1886-1967. (found by Jean Foster).*

## **ARCHIVIST'S REPORT**

Since retiring as the Hon. Curator, I have been able to catalogue the acquisitions since 1990 into 'Acquisition List. December 1998'. This includes the Society's Newsletter and similar publications from other Societies, donated books and booklets, miscellaneous items, and a selection of books originally donated by Mr. Richard Cowley to Barnet Museum. The Richard Cowley Donation was acquired on the condition that it is never sold (PBHS Nos. 346 - 359).

This acquisition list includes the Society's records and Parish Magazine collection, which at the present time is stored in the two-tier filing cabinet in the main Museum. If members wish to refer to this acquisition list, would they contact me.

In future, it will be the aim to produce an *annual* acquisition list. *BW*

## **SPRING OUTING**

### **• Saturday March 27th**

It was a wonderfully sunny day and some twenty members enjoyed a walk around historic Southwark, led by Colin Field. The party visited the Old Operating Theatre at St. Thomas' Hospital, the historic George Inn (where Dr. Johnson wrote his famous dictionary), Winchester Palace, the site of the Clink prison, and the remains of the Marshalsea prison. Then on to the 'new' Globe Theatre for a conducted tour. The party stopped for an excellent lunch at the 17th century Anchor Inn on Bankside, and the tour finished with a visit to Southwark Cathedral. Everyone agreed it had been a most enjoyable day. *JD/TCF*

## SUMMER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Friday May 21st. Robert Hooke 1635-1703, Architect & Surveyor  
by Prof. Michael Cooper (City University)

Though Hooke was often reviled in his lifetime, and overshadowed by Newton and Wren for more than 250 years since his death, his reputation is undergoing a transformation as a result of the work of scholars in the history of science, architecture and surveying. These aspects of his activities, particularly in the aftermath of the Great Fire of London, are reviewed and illustrated. The importance of his work is assessed in relation to modern practice in all three areas.

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

### SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- **Tuesday June 22nd** Come for a Mid-summer's stroll and find out all about the history of Northaw. Meet 6.30 for 6.45pm on the village green in front of St. Thomas's Church, Northaw. Leader, Brian Warren.
- **Wednesday July 21st** An evening stroll to Bentley Heath. Meet outside Pope Paul R.C. School, Baker Street at 6.30 for 6.45pm. Leader, John Donovan.

### AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)

Thursday, September 30th 1999 "Along the Golden Road", by Ian Jones.

Friday, October 22nd, 1999 "Alfred, London's Forgotten King", John Clark, Museum of London.

Tuesday, November 16th, 1999 "An Edwardian Lady Parachutist", by Miss M. Sedgwick.

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Friday, December 10th, 1999 40th Anniversary Social

### POTTERS BAR SOCIETY. SOCIAL EVENINGS 1999

The following 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 (incl. refreshments), payable at the door. All are welcome.

Thursday, September 16th	"From the Towpath"	Mr. K. Cain.
Thursday, October 28th	"Graphology"	Mrs. L. Coates.
Thursday, December 16th	To be advised.	

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.

### CAR LIFTS FOR MEMBERS

Finally, 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 (on 01707 647 015), who would then put them in touch with the member needing the lift.

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