

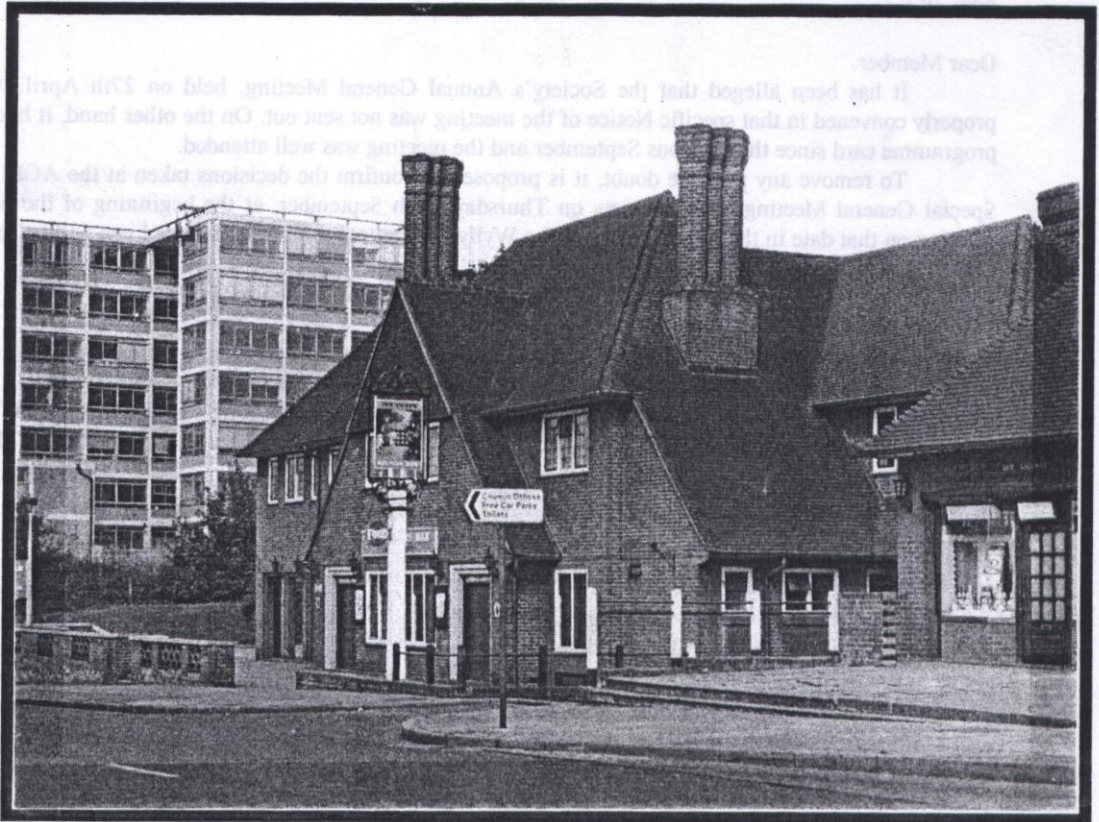
The Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2000

VOL. 17 NO. 1

COVER PICTURE

This is the fifteenth 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 Railway Tavern stood on the left of the photograph and was built to serve the needs of the passengers of the Great Northern Railway. The earliest known licensee was George Archer in 1855, but by 1876 it was known as the Railway Hotel. The above building was commenced in 1937 and completed a year later on a slightly different site from the Railway Hotel. In the photograph it was owned by Ind Coope but in recent years The Potters became one of Whitbread's Beefeater Steakhouses; now it is no more.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear All

I trust you all had really good holidays, despite our rather peculiar weather this summer. I myself had a rather good and exciting holiday in Hong Kong with my newly-wed son and my charming Chinese daughter-in-law.

Arnold, our Curator, and I had the pleasure of welcoming the Mayor of Hertsmere (Cllr Attwood); she had expressed the wish to visit our Museum and be shown around. She was very impressed by what she saw, and she stated she would be making a return visit. She was very impressed by our 'Lych-gate' picture.

The new monthly lectures look to be interesting and varied, and I trust you will find all or some of them to be to your liking, and I look forward to seeing you there. Can I once again **plead** for stewards for the Museum? Saturday stewards are very urgently required. Without stewards we cannot keep the Museum open, even for the existing two-hour periods, so **please** do give this some thought. If you *can* help, please contact Ian Cumming 01707 642 296 (Tuesdays), Don Green 01707 854 613 (Wednesdays) and Denis Lore 01707 656 833 (Saturdays).

NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

9 Hill Rise
Potters Bar
EN6 2RX

Dear Member.

It has been alleged that the Society's Annual General Meeting, held on 27th April 2000, was not properly convened in that specific Notice of the meeting was not sent out. On the other hand, it had been on the programme card since the previous September and the meeting was well attended.

To remove any possible doubt, it is proposed to confirm the decisions taken at the AGM by holding a Special General Meeting of the Society on Thursday, 28th September, at the beginning of the normal lecture meeting on that date in the 60-plus room of the Wyllyotts Centre, at 8pm. It is hoped you will be able to attend.

AGENDA FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING

1. Apologies for absence.
 2. To confirm the proceedings of the AGM held on 27th April 2000.
- The Trustees have been informed of this proposal and have no objection to it. After the close of the business, the meeting will continue with a talk by Mr. Ken Cain on 'Spritsail Ahoy - a history of the Thames sailing barge.'

Yours faithfully
John Scivyer.
Hon. Sec.

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome Mr. Ken Rickard to the Society. We trust he will enjoy the many lectures, walks and outings which are part of our yearly programme, and we hope that he will take an active part in the life of the Society.

HELP REQUIRED

Volunteers are still required for the Recorder Group, details from John Scivyer 01707 657 586.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2000/2001 were due on April 1st 2000, 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.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Veteran Tree Survey

Besides the survey of orchards, which is still in operation, the Herts. Natural History Society has a Veteran Tree Survey, the aims of which are;

- a) To locate and record the existence of as many of Hertfordshire's veteran trees as possible.
- b) To set up a data-base of all trees.
- c) To use such information to promote their full management and conservation.

If anyone knows of any large trees, please contact Brian Warren. For guidance, the following are the circumferences of the largest trees recorded to date (measured at four feet from the ground).

Ash	20' 4"	Hornbeam	17' 4"
Alder	13' 7"	Sweet Chestnut	26' 0"
Beech	19' 0"	Yew	20' 11"
Oak	26' 8"		

Morven Park

The National Trust employed Bronwyn Thomas to produce a Landscape Plan, which has been completed. The Trust is now obtaining estimates for some of the work and then, those who use the footpath will see replacements and improvements, mainly along the boundaries.

Photographic Collection

The Society's photographer, John Donovan, has now taken some 72 colour-slides of buildings of local importance, which are now in the Society's archives. The purpose of this millennium survey is to record the present so that in thirty years time the slides will be of great value to the then local historians. The work continues.

Mutton Lane Cemetery Recording

There was a nil response to the appeal for assistance in the May Newsletter on this subject, but one does not give up hope!

Request - for those with long memories!

Can any of our members remember anything about a German aircraft which machine-gunned Arnos Park, Southgate, between June - October 1940? If so, contact the Archivist.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Monday, June 5th.

Walk at South Mimms, led by Brian Warren. About 16 members met on a fine evening outside *The Black Horse*. We walked to where the road narrowed into a country lane, and marvelled that this was once the major coaching route; the Holyhead Road. Brian then described the buildings which once stood on the site of modern housing. He also outlined the history of Town Farm and *The Black Horse*, and his theories of where the original church possibly stood.

We crossed the present main road, noting how it rotated through a right-angle when re-aligned by Thomas Telford in the 1820's. We continued up Blanche Lane examining Hickson's Almshouses and noting the site of the Howkin's Almshouses. Brian related their history and that of their founders. We saw the Parish Rooms of South Mimms (sic). When Brian was describing how a row of houses was timber-framed, a lady leaned out of a window and invited us in. We were able to get a ring-side view of the timbering and trace its history through various changes.

The highlight at the top of the village was the most complete known timber-framed building in the district. We then looked at the line of the road in the area of New Road, noting how the original route followed the line of what is now a long drive-way into a house.

The tour ended at the gates of St. Giles Church. Brian described a stained-glass window, which is one of only three known in the whole country, that was provided by the ordinary men and women of their village. We finished with a half-promise to see this interesting listed building on a future visit. *John Scivyer*.

Sunday, June 25th.

Trip to Spitalfields. The weather was kind and 12 members gathered in Spitalfield Market to sample ethnic foods and folk stalls - the Thai green chicken lived up to its reputation, given by Gareth Harris, our youthful, enthusiastic, Spitalfield-resident guide, provided gratis by the Spitalfields Trust. The Trust has rescued

the area from wholesale redevelopment, as it is a prize site, adjacent to the City of London, with some of the finest early Georgian houses in London. These houses, with their wonderful door-cases and staircases have to large extent been saved by the trust, attracting lively new residents who have made the maintenance of their homes and the revival of the area a priority. In addition to the houses we were shown some fine examples of 18th Century shop fronts, the Soup Kitchen for the Jewish Poor, Hawksmoor's Christchurch and the great Church/Synagogue/Mosque on Fournier Street. The group gave generous donations to the Trust and were presented with a book 'The Saving of Spitalfields' by Gareth, for our Museum Library.

The visit concluded, but for a few who stayed behind we had the added thrill of visiting the Trust's headquarters in Princelet Street with its interior, that of an 18th Century Huguenot weaver family, intact, added to by the Jews who had built a synagogue over the garden. The floorboards creaked ominously with age and we beat a retreat finally to the 21st century world outside. *Colin Field.*

Wednesday, 19th July

Walk in Fir & Pond Woods. Ten members turned out to see what historical remains are still visible on this part of Enfield Chase. We started with a brief look at Hook House opposite from its gateway, recalling this was the Greyhound Racing Association's kennels before and after the Second World War. During that war it was the war dogs training school (see our Journal No. 8 - "War Dogs Training School"). To bring its history up to date, it is now Oshwals, a religious foundation.

We noted the ditch on the opposite side of the road was deeper than usual. This marked the traditional boundary between Middlesex and Hertfordshire. The rest of the evening was much occupied in the study of ditches.

We entered Fir Wood and immediately picked up the ditch between this wood and the adjoining field. This formed the boundary between lots 13 and 14 when the Chase was sold off in 1777 (see Journal No.20 "The Old Pond of Enfield Chase"). On the bank we found two very old pollarded hornbeams - another traditional boundary feature. There were also oaks which appeared to be evenly spaced. These could also have marked the boundary but Brian's attempt to pace them was not very successful.

Passing into Pond Wood we noted its northern boundary with the field was another ditch. This one was paralleled by a very old layered hornbeam hedge. There were also dense clumps of rhododendron which was largely planted in the nineteenth century as cover for pheasants.

At the Old Pond Brian explained how this would have been used for rearing fish - a more important part of our diet in the past - for about seven years then drained and crops grown. We compared what we could see on the ground with a drawing in "The History of the Countryside" by Oliver Rackham, and wondered if there were any remains of sluices anywhere. We wondered about the history of the dam. I wonder if the present one was installed for emergency water at the start of World War II, but people have told me they learned to swim here in the 1930's! Any ideas? In the wood beyond an older shore line was visible, showing that the level of the pond has fallen. This was also marked by an old layered hawthorn hedge.

From there we just had time to admire a golden sunset before returning to our cars at dusk. *John Scivyer.*

AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)

Thursday, September 28th 2000 "Spritsail Ahoy! A History of the Thames Sailing Barges", by Ken Cain.

The Speaker, in his retirement, spends much of his spare time researching the history of Thames Sailing Barges and that of the Inland Waterways. He is a member of the Thames Barge Sailing Club, who own two of these vessels, and with whom he has often sailed. He has also sailed on a number of other Thames Barges around the East Coast. He is currently a member of the Barnet and Finchley Photographic Society.

This will be preceded by a *SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING* - see page 2.

Tuesday, October 31st, 2000 "The Cuffley Airship", by John Higgs

John Higgs has spoken to the Society on a previous occasion and we therefore welcome his return. As a resident of Cuffley for more than forty years, he has been interested in collecting old postcards and photographs of Cuffley and Northaw. These he has used in compiling talks and mounting exhibitions. In particular, he has been interested in the subject of his talk, which he has given to local groups over a wide area since 1988. On September 3rd 1916, Lt. Leefe Robinson became a hero overnight and was awarded the V.C. when he brought down the first airship over Britain (Schutte-Lanz 11). It crashed in a field behind the present Plough Public House, at the top of Plough Hill, which was then the centre of Cuffley.

Thursday, November 23rd, 2000 "Chipping Barnet and its Ancient Market", by Graham Javes.

The talk is the subject of ongoing research which the lecturer hopes to publish in 2000. The lecture will consider what Barnet as a town and a manor was like in 1199, when King John granted a market charter, and the strategy of locating a market there. It will then trace the history of Barnet as a local market and a market to

London. Topics covered will include the 1588 charter, which added two annual fairs; opposition from the butchers of the City of London; the Middle Row and the building of the Market House, change, decline and closure. Reference will be made to the new Victorian Cattle Market.

Graham Javes is Honorary Editor of the Hertfordshire Association for Local History, in which capacity he edited *So that was Hertfordshire*, by the late Malcolm Tomkins. The speaker has an M.A. degree in Industrial and Social History but his present interests lie mainly in the pre-industrial period.

Friday, December 8th, 2000 Christmas Social with refreshments. 8pm at the 60+ Room at Wyllyotts. In order to assist with catering arrangements, please let Jean know if you intend to come to the Social (tear-off slip, below).

NEW PUBLICATION

'RAILWAY PHOTOGRAPHS FROM HADLEY TO HAWKESHEAD'

In 1986 the Society introduced the first of a series of booklets, No. 1, which was entitled 'The Railway Through Potters Bar'. This was well received and a second and enlarged edition was published in 1996. The present work can be considered a sequel to the booklets.

This collection covers an area somewhat greater than that in Booklet NO. 1 and extends from the point where the railway bridge dissects Hadley Wood and hard by the bridge carrying the bridle-path between Cockfosters and Monken Hadley. The northern limit of the area covered is the Hawkeshead Lane bridge, a short distance beyond the Coal Tax obelisk and the original boundary between Middlesex and Hertfordshire.

In the first half of the last century, many amateur photographers used their skills in recording the passage of trains, expresses, locals and goods. This collection contains a representative selection from the postcards held by Gordon Eve, and many of which were published by F. Moore in the inter-war years and give a vivid picture of railway working in the steam era. It is hoped that the publication here will appeal to those who know the district and newcomers alike.

We hope to have it available by late September from our usual outlets, price to be announced.

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY. SOCIAL EVENINGS 2000

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 28th	"Jubilee Sailing Trust"	Mr. M. Lavender-Jones.
Thursday, October 26th	"A Taste of Suffolk"	Mr. R. Curran.
Thursday, November 23rd	"Barn Owls"	Mr. R. Lindy-Jones

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



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To J. Foster. 15 Gregory Ave, P.B. EN6 5PX. 01707 647 015.

I/we shall attend the Christmas Social.

Name Total members