

The Newsletter

MAY 2001

VOL. 17 NO. 3

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.



Largely unchanged since its opening in 1850, Potters Bar Station was rebuilt in 1954. A new booking office, seen here, stood fronting the forecourt with space for buses, taxis and limited car parking. Sainsbury's supermarket followed in the 1980's on the site of the redundant goods yard. Then came the station office block (Albany Gate) in the 1990's

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members,

Thank you for electing me as your Chairman at our recent Annual General Meeting - even if there were not other volunteers for the job. I was offered the position some six years ago but declined it since at that time I was already doing the photography, projecting and the sound reproduction at our meetings, conservation of Museum exhibits, display work and typing for the Museum; in my spare time I was typing, putting together and printing all our handbooks and publications. I felt then that if I accepted the Chairmanship as well, I would be running the whole shop. My understanding is that the Society should always run as a team effort and not as a one man band, however good the tune might be.

The position of Treasurer seems also to have come my way until we can find a volunteer from among our members. I was our treasurer for 16 years but gave it up after losing 5p - it turned up next morning after a sleepless night. (I do wish my figures were more legible.) Mr Ian Warwick our previous auditor suggested that I was too particular and that if the pounds column was correct there would be no worries. The treasurer's job is not particularly arduous so please volunteer your help if you can.

It fell to me to try and change our constitution to make it more democratic, so that our Chairman would have to change after three years in office and not return for one year. (This was three years out in the original document.) The proposal which was signed by 30 people - almost all of them being our Committee and workers for our Society, failed to win approval at the A.G.M., although we achieved a vote of 57.5% for the amendment. We needed a vote of 66% to pass it, but I know that some of our 'yes' members were at the Potters Bar Society's lecture that night which clashed with our own meeting. Thank you to all those who voted for the proposal which I feel would have been good for our Society; then again, how would I know, I have only been a member for nearly 40 years.

We must all thank Jean Foster for her Chairmanship of our Society for the past 6 years, and when I look into my crystal ball I think I can see another trip to Hong Kong for her.

There have been one or two controversial decisions made in Committee during the last few years which I do feel need correction, but that is a coming problem that with a fair wind we can smooth over.

In mentioning the wind, how about all this rain? I believe we have had some 53 inches plus of rain during the winter and early spring period. As well as being a record since measurements began in 1766, in 1939 when we had a similar wet spring, there was a huge growth in the trees, which showed up in tree ring spacing. Will this year show up a similar way? Now before things get any worse in your garden, get your wellies on, start paddling, and cut that grass!

Terry Goulding

REPORT OF THE 42nd AGM

- Ms. J. Foster, the Chairman, announced that she was standing down, as was Mrs. Barbara Lewis our Treasurer. She reported that we have a new display cabinet on the landing outside the museum. We had helped with the display in Parkfield as we will with the dig planned for this year. She thanked the committee for support during her term.
- Mr. John Scivyer, the Secretary, read his report on our year's activities. During the year the Society held eight talks, covering a wide range of subjects. Walks were led by Colin Field (Spitalfields), Brian Kolbert (South Mimms) and John himself (Fir and Pond Woods). J. Donovan had produced three Newsletters, and we had published a book of Gordon Eve's railway pictures. Several more publications are in the pipeline. We continue to provide stewards for the museum. He gave a brief review of our education sub-committee (see below).
- The Treasurer, Mrs. B. Lewis, confirmed this was her last year. She thanked the committee and auditor for their help. She explained the large publication cost was due to the railway book, which we could recoup from sales.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2001/2002

President	Mr. B. Warren
Vice-Presidents	Dr. A Lynch. C.Eng, Mr. T.G .Goulding,
Chairman	Mr. T. Goulding.
Vice-Chairman	Mr. A.Davey
Hon. Sec.	Mr. J.Scivyer
Hon. Treasurer	VACANT
Hon. Archivist	Mr. B. Warren
Committee	Mr. I.Cumming, Mr. B.Kolbert, Mr. T.C.Field.

- A motion was put by a member, T. Goulding, proposing that "The Chairman may only be elected or re-elected to stand for a maximum of three years and must not be re-elected for a further three years," the

latter being changed to one year prior to the vote, but the motion failed to receive a two-third majority and was therefore not carried.

- Following the AGM, Mr Frank Bayford gave an interesting and well-received talk entitled "Memories of Chase Farm" (hospital site).

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome Mr Armitage, Mr. Alan Brock, Sylvia Fry, Mrs. Cecily Minter, Mr Paul Roper and Mrs. B. Workman 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.

HELP REQUIRED

* Following the resignation of Barbara Lewis, the Society urgently needs a **Treasurer**. If you can help us, please contact the Chairman, Terry Goulding, on 655 794

* There is a desperate need for volunteers at the **Museum**. If you wish to be a steward, please contact Ian Cumming 01707 642 296 (Tuesday), Don Green 01707 854 613 (Wednesday) and Denis Lore 01707 656 833 (Saturday).

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

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Possibly a less well-known side of the Society's work is the Education Sub-committee which consists of Brian Kolbert, Colin Field and Terry Goulding, who work with Julie Massey (Hertsmeres's Museums Officer) to bring history to our school children. During the year they were involved with two outside events; at Potters Bar Carnival they manned a stall next to the Society's and, on the weekend of September 26th, they assisted Hertsmeres Museum Service staff with a display in Parkfield, when a geophysical survey was carried out to investigate how much more exists of the Romano-British tile-kiln. Several schools sent parties (totalling some 130 children) who had the process explained to them by Brian Kolbert, while Tony Rook (Director of Welwyn Archaeological Trust) supplied the historical background. Over the past twelve months Ladbroke, Oakmere, Pope Paul, Wroxham and Sunnybank schools have all sent groups to be entertained at the museum, and on several occasions, the museum was opened for cub packs from Little Heath and Furzefield. *BK*

THE ROMAN ROAD

The Roman Road runs straight and bare
As the pale parting-line in hair
Across the heath. And thoughtful men
Contrast its days of Now and Then,
And delve, and measure, and compare;

Visioning on the vacant air
Helmed legionaries, who proudly rear
The Eagle, as they pace again
The Roman Road.

But no tall brass-helmed legionnaire
Haunts it for me. Uprises there
A mother's form upon my ken,
Guiding my infant steps, as when
We walked that ancient thoroughfare,
The Roman Road.

From *Time's Laughingstocks*, (1928 edition), by Thomas Hardy.
Chosen by *BK*

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2001/2002 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.

A complete revision of the membership list has been made and it is possible that, if your subscription is not up-to-date, you will be asked to pay the visitors' fee (£1) at meetings, or re-join the Society.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Following the advent of foot and mouth restrictions, I have not visited Hatfield House, to continue my work on the South Mimms Manor Court Rolls. This has given me the chance to work on the records which have been transcribed.

For frequency of field names, each group can be classified into four categories:

- a) 19. May 1345. This single Court Roll is the earliest by one hundred and six years and stands alone in its Fourteenth Century format. There is only one mention of a specific location (Kyngeslane) the document being concerned with the breaking of the Manorial law, i.e., not attending the court, taking in lodgers, selling by false measures, breaking the assize and damaging the Lord's hedges. Of greater interest is the mention of a Lord's fishpond and a Lord's mill at this early date.
- b) 1451-1455 Different field names on almost each roll.
- c) 1473-1475 These rolls contain very similar field names, with the following occurring on all the rolls: Denhams, Newland Grove, Worthylandmede (a different spelling on each roll), Richards land, Sawyers field, Bedellesmede and Revestrete lane.
- d) 1499-1508 These rolls contain many names, for example, one roll (SM14/28 F.10 - 4th June 1506) contains twenty nine individual field names and five buildings called Sparowes, Hunts, Manndevyles, Algores and a messuage at Updell Grene. There are three bridges (Hye bridge, Wall bridge, Waylbridge), a Hye Wey, Reeves Strete, Bronns Gate and the place-name of Suthmymmes.

Taking just one name I noted the following sequence:

1471	Revesstrete
1472	Revestrete
1473	Reve Strete Lane
1475	Revestrete Lane
1501	Ryvestrete
1506	Reves Strete and Revestrete
1508	Revystrete and Revestrete
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1750	Green Dragon Lane
2001	Dancers Hill Road

I gratefully acknowledge the help and assistance I have been given by Robin Harcourt-Williams, the Archivist at Hatfield House. *BW*

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 655 794), who would then put them in touch with the member needing the lift.

SPRING LECTURE

Friday, May 25th "Hidden Historical Treasures of Whitehall", by Peter Lawrence.

Mr. Lawrence has a wide knowledge of the Whitehall area and his talk will reveal some of the discoveries made there during recent researches, including a jousting area.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Friday , June 25th. Islington Walk, led by Colin Field and Peter Bear. See back page for details.

Tuesday, July 17th Summer evening walk, to study the various routes used by the St. Albans Turnpike (which was part of the Holyhead Road) in the South Mimms area. Meet at 7pm at the *Black Horse*, South Mimms. Leader John Scivyer (phone 01707 657 586 for further information).

AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)

Thursday, September 27th 2001 "The Story of Hampstead Heath" , by Margaret Smith.

Tuesday, October 30th, 2001 "History of Technology", by Denis Smith.

Thursday, November 29th, 2001 "Mediaeval Arms and Armour", by Michael Dewberry.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

A few months ago I videoed an old black and white film from TV for my grandson - "Boys will be Boys", starring Will Hay, Claude Dampier, Gordon Harker and a very young Jimmy Hanley. I sat and watched the first half-hour to see if it had recorded properly and, as Will Hay arrived at the Public School at which he was to be headmaster, I realised that both the wrought-iron gates and the octagonal lodge were familiar - the school was none other than North Mymms Park! What's more, it was filmed in 1935 - so Will Hay's taxi arrived along Tollgate Road, with the war memorial on its original site.

I wonder whether any of our members can recall the film being made there; one would have thought it would have caused quite a stir locally. Please let us know if you have recollections (or even photos). *JD*

BOOK REVIEW

"The Origins of Hertfordshire", Tom Williamson.

Origins of the Shire series, Manchester University Press, 2000, £45.

This is a very readable, well-illustrated book, which attempts to encompass a wide-range of a vast amount of information. For much of the book the author succeeds in producing a succinct analysis of the subject material, combining archaeology, geology, land-use, place-name studies and historical evidence. It is a thought-provoking book, which I enjoyed reading and would recommend to those interested in the subject to obtain through the Library Service, as it is rather highly-priced.

There is one serious flaw, in that when dealing with this area the author is out-of-date with his material and makes no reference to the alignment of the parish boundaries on either side of the River Lea, and that Enfield and Waltham Churches were Saxon Minster churches. It is an example of studying one county and not considering the neighbouring areas for evidence, which might affect one's particular study. There is a lengthy bibliography but much of it from the same source. *BW*

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY. SOCIAL EVENTS

Illustrated lectures have been arranged for the autumn season (details later in the year). Please note the dates in your diary:-

Thursday, September 20th

Thursday, October 25th

Thursday, November 22nd

The lectures will be held at the Tilbury Hall, Darkes Lane, commencing at 8pm, admission £1.50 (incl. refreshments), payable at the door. All are welcome.

OAKMERE HOUSE

While preparing the Society's next publication, on the above subject, it was drawn to my attention that I had written that the site of St. Johns Church (War Memorial site) had been conveyed by Lt. Col. Carpenter in 1833, yet his mother, Margaret, did not die until 1835.

Dr. Brittain in his book, "South Mymms", made no mention of the conveyance just stating that Potters Bar Church was built and endowed by George Byng the younger. "The Story of Potters Bar and South Mimms", noted that, "Lt. Col. W.L. Carpenter of Oakmere Park conveyed the site in the High Street to George Byng, Esq. M.P. of Wrotham Park, who contributed most of the building funds." Finally, "The Victoria History of Middlesex" recorded that, "St. John the Baptist, Potters Bar, was opened in 1835 as a chapel of ease, on a site in the High Street given by Lt. Col. W.L. Carpenter of Oakmere House."

Fortunately, in the references to "The Story of Potters Bar and South Mimms" book, the source was given as, 'Guildhall deeds.' Though the exact source was not given, I had first seen those documents, in 1967, and made a further study of the three brown boxes, in which it was to be found, in 1985. This present year I had returned to complete the recording of the items in those boxes.

The document is to be found MS5521 (box 1 of 3) No.1 in the larger bundle. The date of the relevant conveyance is 25th September 1833, whereby Mrs. and Col. Carpenter and the Brewers Company convey to George Byng, Esq. a small piece of land and pond as site for a new church or chapel to be built there and endowed by Mr. Byng. Col. Carpenter lived at The Grange, Northaw; 'Mrs.' was his mother, Margaret, and not his wife, because she would have been living on the Oakmere Estate from which the land had been conveyed. Finally, the Brewers Co. were involved because *they* owned a thin strip of land extending along the whole length of the present High St., on the eastern side, as Lord of the Manor of Wyllyotts.

The above article outlines the full story not recorded elsewhere in published sources.

BW

SOURCES

Brittain F., "*South Mymms The Story of a Parish*", W. Heffer and Sons Ltd., 1931. p97.

Pugh R.B. (editor) "*The Victoria History of the Counties of England. Middlesex. Vol 5.*"

Oxford University Press, 1976. p300.

Rutherford Davis K. (editor) "*The Story of Potters Bar and South Mimms*",

Potters Bar U.D.C., 1966. p72.

EXHIBITION

31 March - 3 June 2001

Church Farmhouse Museum, at the top of Greyhound Hill, Hendon, N.W.4.

Festival of Britain (1951) - 50th Anniversary Exhibition.

Monday - Thursday, and Saturday. 10am-12.30pm & 1.30- 5.00pm.

Sunday, 2.00 - 5.00pm.

A WALK ROUND ISLINGTON

FRIDAY 15TH JUNE 2001

Led by Peter Bear and Colin Field

Meet at 9.30am at Potters Bar Station to catch the 9.51am to King's Cross, for a start at 10.30am from the Angel Underground Station. Coffee will be followed by a walk around Islington, our guide being Peter Bear, Official Islington Guide. This will follow the route Angel, Upper Street to Almeida Theatre, Cross St., Little Angel Theatre, St. Mary's Church, Charles Lamb's house, New River, Camden Passage, Noel Road (Joe Orton), Regents Canal, Colebrooke Row, Chad Street, Arlington Way, Sadler's Wells, New River head, Amwell Street, Claremount Square, Pentonville Road, back to the Angel for lunch.

This should take 2½ hours depending upon our walking rate, time spent at the magnificent Royal Agricultural Hall and weather (come prepared!). We can cut the walk short if some wish. Providing between 10 and 20 persons come it will cost £3 per head payable on the day plus the transport fare.

If you want to join the party, please phone Colin on 01707 857 297 or send the slip to 6 Inglefield, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 1HD.

☞ **When and where to meet -** 9.30 am in the Booking Hall
Potters Bar station.



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To: Colin Field, 6 Inglefield, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 1HD

I/We intend going on the Islington Walk on Friday, 15th June 2001

Name(s).....Signed.....