



Potters Bar & District Historical Society

REGD.CHARITY NO.299475

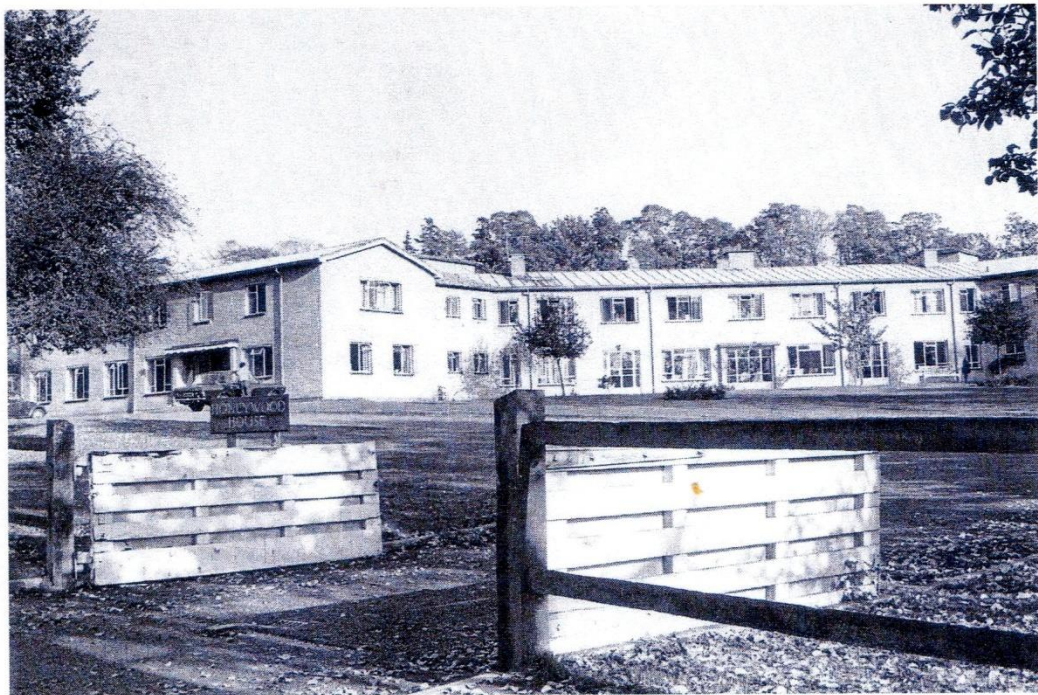
The Newsletter

JANUARY 2003

VOL. 19 No. 2

COVER PICTURE

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



Honeywood House was a home for elderly people, the property of the London Borough of Haringey. The building is now empty, apart from a caretaker, and this photograph shows how it once looked, rather than its present unkempt condition, which is a cause for concern.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members.

The Committee and I hope that you had a Happy Christmas, and we wish you all a Happy New Year. So far, it has been a very wet start to the year with more flooding in many areas, but things are surely not all that bad. If it were colder, and since one inch of rain equals about a foot of snow, then we could have been bogged down in the white stuff by now, and it is very hard to go shopping with your Zimmer frame in a snow drift! Have you noticed the urbanisation of housing creeping into Potters Bar? By that I mean the knocking down of one house, and then selling on the site for two town houses at an offer price for each of £350,000. (i.e. in Mount Grace Road). Are we to shortly to lose the pleasing look of our streets to that of London? The Comet site and the two Water Works Cottages alongside have also been obliterated, so what new 'delights' and parking problems are we to expect now?

With Christmas over and the New Year started we can look forward to listening to Dr. Jim Lewis MA, PhD., who will tell us about some of the forgotten industries of the Lea Valley, on Friday January the 31st, and I hope to see you all then.

Terry Goulding

MUSEUM REGISTRATION

I am pleased and proud to report to our members that as from 14th November 2002 the Potters Bar Museum is now a fully Registered Museum. The Registration Scheme is administered by Re:source (The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries) and was set up in 1988 by Re:sourced's predecessor body, the Museums and Galleries Commission, to set standards for museum management, collection care and public service. There are now over 1800 registered museums in the UK and similar schemes are being set up abroad. Any museum that operates on a charitable basis, but not those run commercially, can apply and will be assessed to see if they meet the national standards. What are the benefits? First of all, it demonstrates to the world, including local politicians and possible sponsors, that the museum is run to agreed national standards, cares for its collections in a proper professional way and will not suddenly disappear. As a registered museum we can apply for grants from governmental and other sources and can both lend to and borrow material from other registered museums without question. We will also more easily get curatorial advice from other, larger, museums on subjects where our joint expertise may be lacking.

This isn't just a one-off exercise. We have to maintain the standard and demonstrate that we are doing so; we can't now relax. We have to provide an approved Forward Plan and make sure no backlog of paperwork develops. I am confident we shall and I must pay tribute here to Brian Warren, who started the whole procedure, to Julie Massey for years of professional guidance and to all the helpers in the office who have conquered the paperwork backlog and got our systems up to national standards. Thanks, everyone. *Arnold Davey, Hon. Curator, 2nd January 2003*

OBITUARIES

CYRIL OVEREND (1919-2002)

Many people in Potters Bar would have known Cyril for over thirty years, as he was involved in so many activities and usually took a leading role in whatever he did. He was very conscientious and a reliable member of any society, so it is with his passing there will be many who have lost a good friend.

He was born in 1919, in the Cheshire town of Wilmslow from where he qualified as a design draughtsman. During the war he served as an officer in the Merchant Navy and visited many parts of the world. Following the end of the war he settled with his wife, Ena, at 30 Deepdene, where they raised their two daughters. When they were in the guides Cyril was soon on a committee to support their activities,

From those early days Cyril remained a staunch member of St. John's Methodist Church and in 1991 wrote their Golden Jubilee booklet. For many years he attended the local W.E.A. classes each winter and was a member of the Potters Bar Rambling Club. In more recent years he organised the drivers for the Sixty Plus for five years and acted as an escort on buses. Though a steward at the Potters Bar Museum he was also a steward at the John Wesley Museum in London.

Cyril joined the Society in 1967, and he was elected to the committee the following year; from 1971-1977 he was Programme Secretary before becoming the Hon. Secretary (1977-85). In the latter position he was the mainstay of the Society and became the first Editor of the PBHS Newsletter (1969-1981), until he resigned after fourteen editions. PBHS No.1 was first published in Feb.1969 and like the early editions used a jelly type of duplicating, which produced a blue appearance to the final product. In 1984 Cyril was one of the trio appointed by the committee to undertake negotiations with Hertsmere Borough Council and Bushey Museum Trust to establish a museum service in the Borough. The result of these discussions was the opening of a museum in Potters Bar in 1990.

In addition to the above contributions to the Society Cyril found time to write an updated version of Betty Fost's record of gravestones in the churchyard of St. John the Baptist (now the War Memorial site) in 1982. He wrote the history of St. Mark's Church, Woodhall, before completing for our Society, "The First Twenty-five Years 1959-1984" and "The Fortieth Anniversary 1959-1999".

Cyril was a person who liked to be involved and always gave willingly of his time in the service of others. The Society offers its condolences to his daughters and their families.

Brian Warren.

TED STEBBING (1920-2002)

Ted was appointed to a post in the Pathology Department, at Clare Hall Hospital, by Professor Bedson, in 1941. He worked there until September 1948, lodging in Ormesby Drive. Subsequently he held posts at several other hospitals until he retired in 1980.

He had lived in Shenley for many years and held the post of archivist to the Shenley Village Society. Following his move to Elmfield Road he became an active member of our Society, regularly attending meetings and stewarding at the Museum. Apart from contributing articles to the local press in Shenley he had published, "Echoes From Shenley's Past" in 1988. He wrote an article on his period at Clare Hall in the Society's Journal No.7. Probably his most important contribution to history was his "*Diary of a Decade*", his memories of life in the war years, taken from the records he kept as a member of the *Mass Observation Movement* (still on sale, in hardback, in our Museum). Ted was also a regular attender at St. Mary's monthly recitals until taken ill in May 2001.

Though ill for some eighteen months he always maintained his interest in the Society until he passed away on the 19th November. He was laid to rest in St. Botolph's churchyard, Shenley, on the 2nd December.

Ted was a gentle, kind man who will be missed and we extend our sympathy to his widow and family.

Brian Warren

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome Mrs. M. Gladwyn to the Society. We trust she will enjoy the lectures, walks and outings that are part of our yearly programme, and we hope that she will take an active part in the life of the Society.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL, TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER 2002

As members gathered for the evening, Ian Cumming welcomed each one with a glass of their choice. On each table were several mystery items provided by Terry Goulding, and conversation was constantly interrupted as guesses were made as to what the objects were. Later, when Terry gave the answers, it was disclosed that *some* objects were unknown even to *him*!

At the given time, members selected their food for the evening from the delicious array of items on the back table. When nearly everything had been consumed, Terry announced the results of

his 'Local Picture' quiz; Michael Cawrey then drew the raffle, for which there were several prizes. As usual, Wendy Davey provided the table decorations, which were taken home by the lucky winners. Everyone was thanked for their part in providing a convivial evening, in particular, Mabel Hammett and her team. *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, who would then put them in touch with the member needing the lift.

SHOPPING BY BUS IN THE 1950's

From time to time both the railways and bus companies would run promotions backed up by posters and adverts to encourage the travelling public to make greater use of their services.

I remember on one occasion in 1956, having walked with my two young sons, one in a pushchair along the line side path to Potters Bar railway station (I expect we were train spotting). We wended our way up to the High Street. We did some shopping on the way and then called in at Page Calnan's the builders' merchants in Barnet Road. The object was to purchase some green colouring powder to mix with cement for making paving slabs.

On returning from the stockroom the assistant told me they only had a small bag of the green material but had a half-hundredweight (fifty-six pounds in Imperial measure) of red colouring. As they were discontinuing these items from their inventory I could have the lot for a 'give-away' price. I cannot recall the actual amount.

We loaded all this along with other small purchases into the pushchair and walked to the bus stop nearby. We boarded the route 303 bus and deposited the pushchair and its contents on to the platform by the conductor as was the practice of the day and took our seats at the front of the vehicle. When asked for the fare I said I would like one adult and one child's ticket to the 'The Rookery' with the younger son under three years old travelling free. The conductor politely remarked that we were doing rather well as to our journey costs with all that shopping, to which I laughingly replied by pointing to a poster inside the bus, which read, "Make the most of your public transport." Happy days of company/passenger relations. *Ron Kingdon*

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

In the September Newsletter I contributed an article on the, "Potters Bar Cottage Hospital" based on the annual reports I had discovered in Barnet Museum. Since then Barnet Museum have been re-arranging their archives into special archival boxes. The minute books for Potters Bar Cottage Hospital 1884-1894 and 1894-1907, Potters Bar Hospital 1929-1947 and Potters Bar and District Hospital 1947-1948 will be found in a box marked 'Potters Bar Hospital'. At the present time I have not been informed of the reference for the annual reports. In my article in the last Newsletter, on page 6, the number 15 referred to Shenley, and one patient was admitted.

At the Cheshunt Natural History Society's *Bring and Buy* stall I obtained a copy of James Brown's, '*Gamlingay six hundred years of life in an English village*' (Pub.1989) for the bargain price of 25p! Though I have read better village histories I would recommend it to anyone who is not familiar with the various documents one needs to consult to write local history. The book is very readable, often consisting of short chapters explaining the type of documents, e.g. Manor Court Records, the Star Chamber cases, wills, inventories, etc., and giving examples, which relate to Gamlingay. On p.158 mention was made of a Burgoyne family who sold property to Sir George Downing, from whom Downing Street in London takes its name, because of his property there. '

He was M.P for Dunwich from 1710-15, a 'rotten' borough if I remember correctly. As he left no heirs his estates went to his cousin, Jacob Garrard Downing, but following later protracted legal action by subsequent heirs, it was not until 1807 before the foundation stone was laid for Downing College, Cambridge.

On p.209 perhaps one of the shortest sentences in the book caught my attention -"History is a story without end."

The author spent fourteen years on research and the foreword to the book was by the late Rowland Parker. He wrote, "*The Common Stream*" (Pub. 1975) on the history of another Cambridge village, Foxton, which is an extremely good read.

THE GUILDHALL LIBRARY, LONDON

'London Apprentices' (from South Mimms), continued from
May 2002, Vol.18, No.3 and Sept. 2002, Vol.19, No.1.

<u>Volume 23</u>	<u>Coachmakers & Coach Harness Makers' Co.</u>
26-1-1758	Thos. Childes son of Jn innholder to Christopher Halls
13-8-1728	Michael Lee son of Richd. coachman to Thos.Chitter
2- 12-1708	Thos. Rosse son of Nathaniel gentleman to Philip Brigham,

<u>Volume 24</u>	<u>Ironmongers' Co.</u>
23-11-1717	Wm.Cleaver son of Jn shoemaker to his cousin Jn. Cleaver.

<u>Volume 27</u>	<u>Masons' Co.</u>
23-10-1707	Jn.Gladman son of Ralph yeoman to Geo.Collins
14- 6-1699	Ralph Gladman son of Ralph yeoman to Wm.Collins

Brian Warren

ODD EPITAPH

At the time I was reading Brian Warren's piece about epitaphs I was also reading the Bulletin of the Railway and Canal Historical Society. This mentioned another unusual one in a churchyard at Abram near Wigan.

IN MEMORY OF
LUDOVIC BERRY
AGED 67 YEARS
WHO LOST HIS LIFE APRIL 30th 1945 AND
LIES BURIED WITH HIS LOCOMOTIVE DOROTHY
IN NO. 7 PITSHAFT BROOKSIDE COLLIERY
A TOKEN OF ESTEEM FROM
HIS FELLOW WORKERS AT
MAYPOLE WIGAN JUNCTION
LOW HALL COLLIERIES AND
LANSDALE
HE HATH DONE ALL THINGS WELL.

That publication asked its membership if they knew of the incident and how the worthy citizen and his trusty locomotive ended up at the bottom of a mineshaft. *John Scivyer*

HERTFORDSHIRE VETERAN TREE SURVEY

I have been measuring the circumference of trees in the local area since the construction of the M25. Therefore I would grateful to be notified of any large trees, generally over 16 feet in circumference for oaks, at 4' 3" from the ground.

Thanks to John Scivyer I have already measured several trees near Northaw FP4 and a Pedunculate Oak near Swanley Bar Lane. The pollarded oak near North Mymms vicarage is 17' 8". The largest I have measured in the present survey is the 'Tumpike Oak', in Coopers Lane, Northaw, at 25 feet. Other details are required for the survey and photographs are requested. *Brian Warren*

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Friday January 31ST, 2003

"Forgotten Industries of the Lea Valley" by Dr. J. Lewis.

This talk will cover the length of the River Lea from its source in rural Bedfordshire, past the gazebos at Ware, numerous flour mills and maltings to its lower reaches, once the industrial heartland of England where the world's electronic communications started! Renowned for its furniture manufacture and its iron foundries from whence the Dreadnought "Thunderer" was launched, it can also claim the largest tide mill in the country and its own lighthouse.

Thursday February 27th, 2003

"Early days of Christianity in Britain" by Mr. Basil Edmond

We look at Lindisfarne, Iona, Durham and St. David's.

Tuesday March 18th, 2003

"Local History using Old Maps" by Hugh Petrie

A fascinating insight into the history of maps and mapping, and their relevance to local history, by the Heritage Officer of the London Borough of Barnet.

Tuesday April 29th, 2003

Annual General Meeting followed by

"The History of Natural History", by J. Scivyer.

This talk will give a brief outline of how Man has seen the natural world about him. It will cover the times of the Ancient Greeks, through Darwin and Linnaeus to the present day naturalists. It is a Monument to Man's curiosity about the world he lives in.

THE MEETINGS START AT 8PM **PROMPT** IN THE 60 PLUS CENTRE. WYLLYOTTS CENTRE. EVERYONE WELCOME.

HELP REQUIRED

Stewards to help look after the Museum. If you could help just one day a month it would be of great assistance. You will be on duty with an experienced steward and you will be assured of a pleasant afternoon.

Tuesdays	2.30 - 4.30pm, contact Ian Cumming on	01707 642 296.
Wednesdays	2.30 - 4.30pm, contact Arnold Davey on	01707 654 179
Saturdays	11.00am - 1.00pm, contact Denis Lore on	01707 656 833

Recorder Group. Volunteers are still needed to help record the everyday changes taking place in Potters Bar, details from John Scivyer 01707 657 586.

MYSTERY LAMP POST

Several years ago I was driving along Cucumber Lane when I noticed what appeared to be a sawn-off lamp-post with a badge on it, so I stopped the car and took a closer look. The post was some eight feet tall, very ornate and painted jet-black, while the large badge attached to its base was actually the City of London Coat of Arms, painted white, with the sword and cross a bright red. The whole thing was so impressive and mysterious, that I determined to investigate its background. For one thing, what on earth was a City of London badge doing in Cucumber Lane?

The post stood in a short road that appeared to be the rear entrance to the Hatfield London Golf and Country Club at Bedwell Park on the Essendon Road, so I addressed my enquiries to them. Despite several phone calls and a personal visit, I could find no one who could tell me anything about the post. I even asked Alison Tinniswood, Herts. Archaeological Records Officer at County Hall, but she could offer no help, either. Finally, after two



or three years of sporadic investigation, I decided to visit the post again. To my surprise, the short road did not lead to the *back* gate of the Golf Club, but to the *front* gate of a private house. I rang the bell hoping, at last, to find the answer to the puzzle, but no one was at home. Just as I was about to get into my car and leave, a car drove up slowly, with a lady sitting next to the driver (it was a taxi). I quickly stepped out in front of the car, and she wound her window down.

"I'm looking for information regarding that thing there, that looks like a sawn-off lamp post with a City of London badge on it – do you know what it is?" I asked.

"Of course," she replied, with a twinkle in her eye, "It's a sawn-off lamp-post with a City of London badge on it!"

Seeing the look of incredulity on my face, she went on to explain that they had wanted a robust 'marker' for the entrance to their property, and so her husband (who had worked for many years in the City) had bought an unwanted lamp-post, and the badge (which was most appropriate, given his City connections), and had had them made into the 'marker' that had mystified everyone to whom I'd spoken.

I thanked the lady and went on my way. In the future, anyone with the same query will be able to find the answer at County Hall, because I reported back to Alison, and gave her the photo. *JD*

MYSTERY SITE

I have recently been shown some aerial photographs of the Fir and Pond Woods nature reserve in Coopers Lane Road. In an adjacent field; between the arm of the wood along the road and Pond Wood is what appears to be a large crop mark (so beloved of " Time Team "). This occupies the whole width of this field. I have seen four 1:25,000 O.S maps spanning the period 1880 to 1930. None of these show any buildings on this site. Does any member know of any wartime building in this position: an offshoot of the War Dogs School perhaps?

John Scivyer

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY, SOCIAL EVENINGS

The following illustrated lectures have been arranged for the start of 2002. These will be held at the Tilbury Hall, Darkes Lane, commencing at 8pm, admission £1.50 (incl. refreshments), payable at the door. Non-members are welcome. Dates as follows:

Thursday,	January 23rd.	" <i>Mediaeval Magic</i> " by Mr. David Pearce.
Thursday,	March 20th.	" <i>Peru – Every day life of the South American Indians.</i> " by Mr. Ian Torrance
Thursday,	April 24th.	" <i>Admiral's Walk</i> " by Mr. Richard Thomas.

FINALLY

Thanks go to our team of volunteers, without whose help we should not be able to distribute the Newsletter, and to the man who organises the volunteers, Michael Cawrey.

The PB&DHS Newsletter is produced in September, January & May of every 'season.'
If you wish to submit an item for inclusion (preferably of a 'local-history' nature),
please phone the Editor, John Donovan (01707 642 886) at least one month
before the publication month (i.e. August, December or April).
Note; inclusion of such items is at the Editor's discretion.