



Potters Bar & District Historical Society

REGD.CHARITY NO.299475

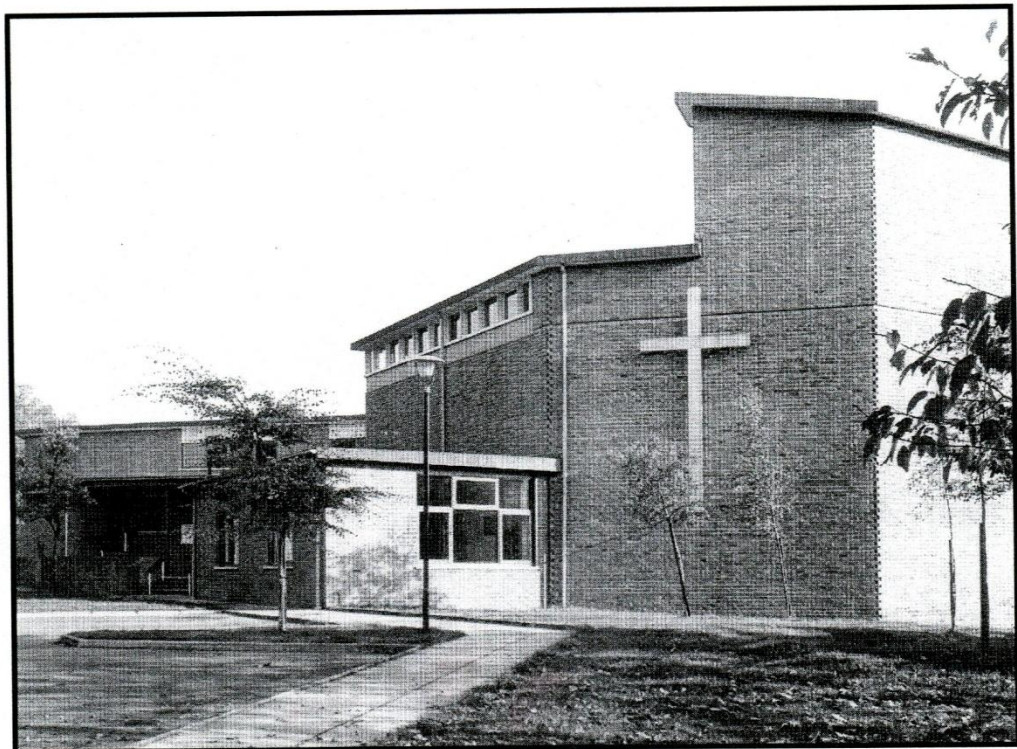
The Newsletter

MAY 2003

VOL. 19 No. 3

COVER PICTURE

This is the twenty-third 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.



The United Reformed Church, which opened in 1965, was built on the site of the earlier Congregational brick church (1930). Some of the money for the existing church came from the sale of the present Tesco petrol station land in 1963. This land had been given to the church by Mr. Tilbury, the baker, in 1938.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members

By the time this newsletter is distributed I am expecting some 2000 babies to be born! Baby tadpoles/froglets that is. Now what can be done with them? Last year I had a smaller number of them, and over a period of weeks they gradually all hopped away. Things have a nasty habit of haunting us, and remembering the old expression about 'what goes round comes round', well, they have come round. This year I had at least 16 frogs in my pond, singing their prowess and virility to the world - and me - all through the night! In a way, it is quite an honour to be serenaded like this and brings the natural world closer. But 2000 frog voices next year! Even with losses to lawnmowers and magpies perhaps there will be a choir of 50 survivors. I only removed the masses of frogspawn from my pond to a large aquarium, to stop my fish from eating the lot. Is there anyone out there willing to conduct the frog choir next year in a midnight roundelay, or maybe a lady willing to chance her luck in looking for a Prince?

The mention of a 'volunteer' reminds me that we do need at least three new members to come onto our Committee and a treasurer at some time please. As a committee member you will find no hard tasks, but it will take you out of the rut of downhill retirement and give you a real interest in something that matters. Perhaps even give you another 30 years of life before you notice the arthritis and the other brain problem I cannot remember. (asinine? astigmatism? no it is Alzheimer's, my wife says.) Do have a word with any committee member if you think that you might like to join us.

On Friday the 30th of May, Dr. Oliver Natelson of the Friern Barnet Historical Society will give us a talk on the Colney Hatch Asylum. This will be a most interesting evening with some light-hearted surprises - he was the pharmacist there. This is a talk that you must not miss.

Terry Goulding

REPORT OF THE 44th. AGM

This was held on Tuesday 29th April 2003. It was attended by the President, Chairman and 41 other members. In his opening remarks Terry Goulding welcomed the members present. He acknowledged another successful year for both the museum and our publications. He noted with sadness the deaths of a number of members and wished two who are ill a speedy recovery.

The minutes of the 43rd. A.G.M were agreed without comment. John Scivyer then reported on the year. He largely agreed with Terry and noted a new initiative. The museum display, just mounted, was by the Potters Bar Theatre Company to mark their 50th anniversary. Terry then presented the accounts for the year. They showed a satisfactory position financially. He mentioned the heavy expenses of buying a new copier to improve pictures in our publications. The accounts were accepted unanimously.

There were nominations for all committee positions except treasurer. After re-electing Terry as Chairman the rest were re-elected *en bloc*. The Trustees and the independent examiner had agreed to serve again.

Ian Cumming again raised the problem of persuading people to steward the museum. Nobody offered to help. The meeting closed at 8.00p.m to be followed by a talk by John Scivyer on "*The History of Natural History*"

John Scivyer

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome to the Society, R. Chilcot, Mrs. A. Marlowe, Mr. J. Bevil and Mr. B. Stewart. We trust they will enjoy the lectures, walks and outings that are part of our yearly programme, and we hope that they will take an active part in the life of the Society.

OBITUARIES

Valerie and Reginald Horsefield

Valerie and Reginald were two of our longest serving members of the Society, having attended their first monthly meeting on the 10th October 1973, when David Paw spoke on 'Tudor Enfield'. They were regular attenders at the monthly meetings until the Society moved to the Wyllyotts Centre. Even so they both remained active supporters, and Reg had been the 'postman' for the Oakmere estate since our delivery scheme first commenced in 1984.

It was only earlier this year that we heard of the passing of Valerie last November. Though it was known that Reg was coping on his own, it is with regret that one has to record his death as well.

The Society extends its condolences to their two sons, Stephen and Michael.

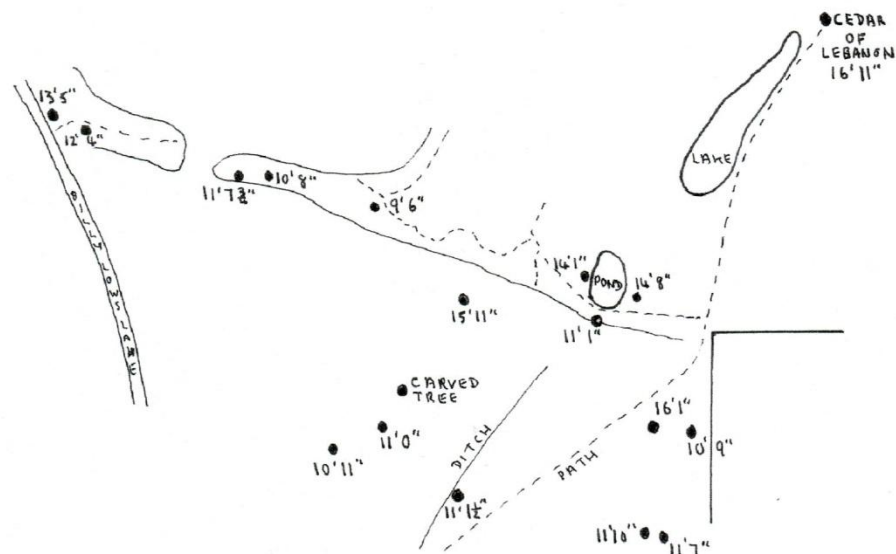
BW

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.

HERTFORDSHIRE VETERAN TREE SURVEY

When the excavation of the Roman kiln site was taking place at Parkfield, in 2001, I noticed several large Oak trees. On the 13th April this year I completed the following survey of the park. The measurements were taken at 4' 3" or breast height.



Though the Cedar of Lebanon tree measured 16' 11", such trees were first brought into the country in the Seventeenth Century. When Charles Marryat acquired the property from Joe Clark and Francis Plaistow Trepaud in March 1837 the deed noted, "commonly called *Easy Lodge* now intended to be called *Cedar Lodge*". Does this indicate that the Cedar tree dates from 1837 or is it earlier?

The oldest of the Oak trees, according to my measurements, is the one near the Roman kiln site, at 16' 1". It was almost certainly planted at the same time as the one measuring 15' 11". These trees are the oldest surviving known evidence in Parkfield, after the Roman kiln. The two lakes appear on the 1842 Tithe Map of South Mimms and are referred to in a deed dated 1837. *Brian Warren*

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2003/2004
ARE NOW DUE

Adults £3, Family/Group £5

Please pay at the May meeting, or to the
Membership Secretary, Mrs. Eileen Field,
51 Highview Gardens, Potters Bar, Herts., EN6 5PN
If you do not intend to renew your subscription,
kindly inform the Membership Secretary (653801).

FROM THE BARNET PRESS, 12th MARCH 1938

Heil!!

On Sunday I journeyed to the ambitious and prosperous neighbouring town of Potters Bar, in the hope of seeing Herr von Ribbentrop for the last time before he quitted these shores. As you have probably guessed I paid a visit to the German memorial service at the Zeppelin crew's grave in the Mutton Lane churchyard. But I didn't have a glimpse of Herr von Ribbentrop. The bird had flown, metaphorically, and he had flown literally in a plane from Croydon to Berlin that same morning.

I didn't see him, unfortunately, but I saw quite a lot of his countrymen, as well as a lot of police officials, closely resembling civilians. A little bird told me that there was a possibility of trouble, owing to the rumour of a ban on banners. But there was no sign of it, unless you call Nazi saluting a form of trouble. I am afraid it would be too much trouble for me. What did strike me was that if the feeling shown in the Potters Bar churchyard last Sunday could be extended to more important spheres, there would not be so much anxiety about war.

I cannot trace the person who sent me this cutting. JD

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Further to my reference, in the January Newsletter, to the Annual Reports of the Potters Bar Cottage Hospital, they are now to be found in a small archival box in the basement of Barnet Museum. Though the Society possesses a good collection of local parish magazines, I was pleased to discover, in the office at Barnet Museum, a complete run of magazines for King Charles the Martyr church from December 1944, to January 1981. Though not that informative, they were published twice a year in January and December. The Society holds no copies of those magazines.

Since the last Newsletter I have read a very interesting book entitled, "*George, Memoirs of a Gentleman's Gentleman*" by Nina Slingsby Smith (ISBN 0 224 022261). It is a well-written story about her father, George Slingsby, born 1889, who went into service and took every opportunity to improve his position in life. Of particular interest to us is because he eventually became the personal servant to Sir Frederick Orr Lewis, a Canadian, who owned and resided at White Webbs house,

Enfield. Chapter Seventeen is a gripping account of how he was rescued from the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915. The Epilogue relates the ups and downs of life after the First World War, and ended with his death in 1967, aged 78.

Sometime ago Arnold Davey informed me that, in 1962, the owners of No.93, Mutton Lane (opposite the cemetery) had given him the following information. The removal of the bodies of the Zeppelin crews had taken about seven days, and they were re-buried in Staffordshire. The original headstones, with all the names on, were left behind, broken into several pieces. The enterprising owner of No. 97 Mutton Lane removed them to make a rockery in his back garden. Perhaps the final word on the Potters Bar Zeppelin is that there is now no rockery at No.97 Mutton Lane. To paraphrase the popular song, "Where have all the stones gone?!"

THE GUILDHALL LIBRARY, LONDON

'London Apprentices' (from South Mimms),
contd. from May 2002, Vol.18, No.3 to January 2003, Vol.19, No.2.

Volume 28 Farriers' Co.

7-10-1647 Rbt.Harding son of Andrew husbandman to Jn.Salisbury
10- 4-1716 Jn.Bythell son of Wm. Kitts End to Ann Whitsey, widow
16-4-1746 Henry Tyler son of Geo. Kitts End yeoman to Sam.Kendrick
21-4-1709 Jn.Mitchell son of Jn. Potters Bar labourer to Thos.Lee.

Volume 29 Carmen's Co.

16- 4-1744 Sam Crossley to Wm.Buck (25-11-1747 turned over to Wm.
Patston; 21-11-1740 to Jn.Willmott).
27-10-1719 Chas.Wood son of Thos. to Rbt.Leathermore.

Volume 30 Curriers' Co.

7-12-1764 Stephen Field son of Thos. tollman to Jn.Varley
19- 9-1746 Jn.Lofty son of Jn carpenter to Rbt.Allen (free)
1- 4-1738 Geo.Wildes son of Geo. gentleman to Jn.Arnett (dead)

Brian Warren

SPRING LECTURE

Friday May 30th, 2003

"*The Colney Hatch Asylum*" by Dr. Oliver Natelson.

What did Prince Albert bury under the foundation stone and why wasn't it there a century later? Also, the past, present and future of this grand old building.

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

EVENING WALK

(Come and see where the Battle of Barnet was *not* fought!)

Monday, 16th June, 2003.

Meet 6.30 for 6.45pm in the slip road outside Old Fold Manor Golf Club. Walk to be led by Brian Warren.

AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)

Thursday	25 th	September	Mr. Andrew Mussell <i>The History of Surnames</i>
Tuesday	28 th	October	Mr. Ronald Smith <i>The Manor of Pardiwick</i>
Thursday	27 th	November	Mr. John Weston <i>Inns and Inn Signs</i>
Tuesday	9 th	December	Christmas Social

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Some members may not be aware that Brian Kolbert, and Muriel Brittain, our former President, have both recently spent time in hospital. We are pleased to report that they are now making steady progress.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Two stained glass windows, 6' x 3', have been donated to the Society. They were taken out of Northaw House some years ago and, since then, they have been in storage. They are in a fairly poor condition, and we are currently seeking an expert to restore them (assuming we can *afford* to do so!).

RECORDER GROUP

Part of the work of a local history society is concerned with preserving items and images of an area for the future, and *our* Society does this by recording all the changes that take place in Potters Bar on a weekly/monthly basis. Such changes can involve roads (junctions, traffic lights, re-surfacing), private houses (extension, loft conversions), shops (new frontages, new owners, new businesses), public buildings (demolition, alterations), in short, anything at all that changes the appearance of the town.

Our group comprises several volunteers who each have a section of the town to record, and twice a year we meet to discuss our findings. All the reports are then collated and sent to Dr. Gillian Gear, the County Recorder, and she sends them to the Herts. Local Studies Unit at County Hall.

One or two of our 'sections' are currently without recorders so, if this is something with which you would like to become involved, please ring John Scivyer (01707 657 586) for details.

PLACES TO VISIT

* LOWEWOOD MUSEUM, High Street, Hoddesdon, near the Civic Offices.

Exhibition of over 80 photographs depicting old views of Goffs Oak, with similar views taken in 2000 underneath, i.e. a then and now exhibition.

Wednesdays to Saturdays until June 28th, 10.00 am to 4 pm.

Admission free.

* NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM, Greenwich.

An exhibition to mark the tercentenary of the death of Robert Hooke, one of the leading natural philosophers of his day. As an inventor, he was second to none; he also played a major role in the rebuilding of London after the Great Fire. The exhibition features his private diary and the ground breaking book, '*Micrographia*', as well as many contemporary scientific instruments. Isaac Newton and Christopher Wren are known to most people, but Robert Hooke is a neglected leader of the 17th century who deserves to be better known.

Daily to the 10th September, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, last admission half an hour before closing. Admission free but there may be charges for some special events and exhibitions. Free access includes the Royal Observatory and the Queen's House.

* GUILDHALL LIBRARY, Aldermanbury, London.

If in the vicinity of the Guildhall, it is worth visiting the exhibition of prints, drawings, books and manuscripts to mark the tercentenary of the death of Samuel Pepys. It was a great pleasure to view so many original works of his time on display, whereas they are normally locked away from public view.

Monday to Friday until June 7th, 9.30 am to 5.00 pm. Admission free.

Entry via the Guildhall Yard, follow the sign for the Library, then up some stairs towards the Print Department.

Brian Warren

FURTHER COMMENTS ON ITEMS IN NEWSLETTER Vol. 19 No. 2 (Jan '03)

Mystery Site

This has received little attention but I did receive a phone call from a member (*someone* reads the newsletter!) pointing out that there were once cottages in the wood, but not the field. We have studied other aerial photos with different crop marks, but we can only conclude that, unless we receive other evidence, these marks are just the result of agricultural operations.

Odd Epitaph

Further information has come to light about this incident. It seems this was an area where railway sidings were laid over a number of capped mine shafts. One of these gave way and the train started to be engulfed. The guard jumped clear and ran to warn the locomotive crew. The fireman also managed to jump clear but not the driver. So it seems that not only the locomotive but also the guards van and thirteen trucks went down.

John Scivyer

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.

FINALLY

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

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.