

The Newsletter

MAY 2004

VOL. 20 No. 3

COVER PICTURE

This is the twenty-sixth 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.



Between 1934 and 1967 this was the site of *The Ritz* cinema, which was the hub of social life in the town and other more formal events. The first Tesco store (above) was opened at the junction of Darkes Lane and Byng Drive on the 25th February 1969. Later it was superseded by the present store, in Mutton Lane, which opened on the 7th October 1996. The *Sportz Academy* now occupies the above site.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members

Now we have reached springtime again with hopefully the better and sunnier weather to look forward to, but perhaps like me you may feel that the nights are somewhat cooler than the normal. Thank heavens for the inventor of the electric blanket, at least to start the night off well. That reminds me that in my youth I tried to get a patent on special moulded electric heaters for batteries used in missiles, but my firm (Bae Systems now) thought that there was no profit in it. Little did they know that these were later used in bottle warmers for babies by the firm that we approached for final manufacture. The first heaters I made were used successfully in missile firings, and now lie at the bottom of the Irish Sea. My wife was a little surprised when I said that I had used one of her old nylon petticoats for the heater fabric and it was last seen leaving in a missile going westward at c2000 miles an hour!

Cranborne School is holding its 70th Anniversary in the new Cranborne School building on Sunday the 16th of May, 2 to 5 p.m. I am involved on behalf of our Museum and Society in putting on a small photo display and also some slides to be shown during the afternoon. If you or your other relatives were ever a pupil there then do please come in and have a browse and chat, you never know whom you might meet!

Terry Goulding

REPORT OF THE 45th. AGM

This took place on the evening of 27th. April 2004. The President, Chairman and 45 other members attended. Terry, in his chairman's opening remarks, reported another good year. Our publications were still selling well. Attendance at the museum remained good thanks to Arnold's displays. Terry thanked all who had helped to run the Society. John Scivyer read the report of the committee. He said we have continued to hold well-attended talks on a variety of subjects. The recorders continue to log local changes. We could do with more help here, and with stewarding the museum. Sadly four members had died during the year. Membership stood at 177. Total income was £2804.55 and expenditure £1695.03, a healthy balance.

The following members were elected to office

<u>Office</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
President	Brian Warren	Mabel Hammett	Colin Field
Chairman	Terry Goulding	Arnold Davey	Brian Kolbert
Vice-chairman	Arnold Davey	Terry Goulding	John Scivyer
Secretary	John Scivyer	Colin Field	Mabel Hammett
Treasurer	Terry Goulding	Arnold Davey	Brian Kolbert
Archivist	Brian Warren	Arnold Davey	Mabel Hammett
Committee member	Brian Kolbert	Arnold Davey	Terry Goulding
	Mabel Hammett	Colin Field	Brian Warren
	Colin Field	John Scivyer	Terry Goulding

John Scivyer

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome to the Society, Mrs. A. Keane, Mr. P. Richardson, Mr. C. Dace, Mr. A. Jackson and Mr. D. Norfolk. 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.

MURIEL BRITAIN

We are very pleased to be able to report that Muriel continues to make good progress. She is now able to dine in the College Hall, which entails climbing two flights of stairs (a measure of her recovery). We send her our good wishes for her further improvement. *BW*

REQUEST FOR HELP

As a small local history project I am looking at the building of the extra bores to Hadley and Potters Bar tunnels in the late 1950s. Particularly the light railway used from the shed off Dove Lane to the site. Where was the temporary bridge over Barnet Road, and what was the rolling stock like? Any memories would be helpful. *John Scivyer*.

FURTHER TO DR. HANDLEY'S TALK ON JOHN BETJEMAN

30 January 2004

Dear Colin,

I am writing to convey my thanks for yesterday evening, and I would like you to pass them on to the various people who made it such a pleasant occasion for me - Mr Warren, who collected me and delivered me home, the Chairman, who put me so much at ease, and you, for your kind words at the end.

There were others too who contributed to the relaxed and warming atmosphere: it was stimulating to encounter such an interesting group of people.

I do hope that we meet again, and I wish the Society the very best for this series and in the future.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Graham Handley)

Colin Field

WHEN DID THE POTTERS BAR ZEPPELIN COME DOWN?

There has always been some doubt as to when the L31 Zeppelin was brought down. Was it the 1st or 2nd October 1916? The last recorded time in John Bennett's publication, "The Potters Bar Zeppelin, 2nd October, 1916", is shown on page 14 as 23.40 at Cheshunt, where it had inflicted much damage.

In 1995 I started to consult the school logbooks of Hertfordshire schools noting the comments of the headmasters for those days in October and any other interesting comments. Though the task is not yet complete I think the reader will agree from the following extracts that the 1st October is the correct date:

1) THE DAILY SKETCH

"Super Zeppelin brought down in flames at Potters Bar October 1st 1916"

2) LETCHWORTH FIRE BRIGADE BOOK

"Sunday 1st October 1916"

One destroyed At 11.55 pm one Zeppelin we witnessed on fire
Potters Bar in Mid-air South-East from Letchworth and fall to East
causing a great sheet of light to reach us here."

3) GOFFS OAK SCHOOL LOGBOOK

2nd October 1916 "Owing to a Zeppelin Raid on Sunday night October 1st comparatively few children attended this morning consequently registers were not marked all day."

4) BARNET PRESS (Daily Telegraph reported death 31-12-1966)

Man who shot down Zeppelin at Potters Bar dies in Canada

"It was on October 1st 1916, that Major Tempest who was then 2nd Lieutenant in the famous 39th Home Defence Squadron protecting London from German air raids, made history....."

5) A MEDAL FOR LIFE Lieut.W.L.Robinson by Leslie William Bills

Appendix 3 Air Raids

"October 1 Zeppelin brought down in flames at Potters Bar by Lt. Wm.J.Tempest"

6) SALE OF LT. WM. ROBINSON'S V.C. etc. from Theodore Ruoffe, CB, CBE, to me.

"L31 Destroyed 1st October 1916"

7) POTTERS BAR INFANT SCHOOL LOGBOOK

2nd October "In consequence of a Zeppelin Raid which took place last night the children were excited and not much fit for their usual work this morning. Several were away with bad colds in consequence of being about during the night, Though the Zepp fell at Potters Bar a fine view of the burning mass, as it descended, was obtained in the village."

8) BARNET CHRIST BOYS SCHOOL LOGBOOK

October 2 1916 "Zeppelin Raid last night. Much excitement in School today especially when boys were examining pieces of the Zeppelin brought down."

9) HODDESDON RYE COMMON LOGBOOK

October 2nd 1916 "The attendance was poor today, owing to an air raid the night before."

10) ELTHAM SCHOOL LOGBOOK

2nd October "Children in great state of excitement this morning in consequence of air-raid. Another raider was brought down on the stroke of mid-night at Potters Bar in Herts. The spectacle was thrilling and easily discernible from Eltham."

11) GEORGE POND

Finally, George Pond, possibly the only living person who was actually there, wrote in his, "Memories of Potters Bar High Street", "Mr. Beck, who lived next door to us made brooches, rings, propeller shapes and snake rings all from the Zepp pieces. I still possess a framed piece of aluminium from the L31 and an inscription on it reads.

"Brought down in flames at Oakmere Farm,
Potters Bar, at 11.55pm Oct. 1st 1916."

As I mentioned at the beginning my task is uncompleted but I would like to express, to the staff at the Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies unit, my thanks for making available the numerous school logbooks. Also, I thank Mr.G.H.White, of Lewisham, for his work on "Eltham and the Zeppelins of the First War". I gratefully acknowledge the information received from Theodore Ruoffe and George Pond, as well as the authors of the various books mentioned.

Brian Warren

THE TRITTON STORY

In the interests of historical accuracy I have been doing some research on the Tritton's son to whom the Lychgate at the cemetery in Mutton Lane is dedicated. Marguerite Emily Barrowman in our Occasional Paper on life at Rydal Mount says he was "at Rugby". Brian Warren has published in "Community News" Volume 5 No. 2 that he was at Stone House School at Broadstairs, and he died after a short illness following an accident. He was buried in Mutton Lane on 11th. October 1909. I got my grandson Alex, who lives at Rugby, to visit Rugby School museum. They only have records of two brothers in the 1880's and a Julian Tritton in 1903. These all came from Surrey - no one local to Potters Bar. Did the reference to "at Rugby" with a capital letter mean "at rugby" (i.e. while playing rugby)? Mrs. Barrowman said he died of lockjaw, aged thirteen and a half, after a kick on his knee.

John Scivyer

ACCESS TO MATERIAL RECEIVED

Those of you who have attended our meetings will be familiar with this. The Society receives material, newsletters etc. from other organisations that we belong to. The Committee has decided this material should be made available to members. In future this will be displayed on the table at our meetings. It will also be listed in our newsletters. It may then be examined or borrowed by members either at meetings or by phoning me.

Material at present available:

LAMAS Newsletter No.1. 10 January 2004

LAMAS Transactions Vol. 53 2002

John Scivyer 01707 657586

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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2004/2005 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).

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

In the period from September 1991 to December 2001 I answered on average fifty enquiries a year. Therefore it seems appropriate to give further details of some of the most recent requests.

In February I received a phone call from Sharon Macdonald of Halifax, Nova Scotia, then in London, who was doing a PhD. on women (?Canadian) who had worked in India. She required information on Miss Mary Chesley, who in 1930 had a school at 21, Quakers Lane. Subsequently she went to India as a missionary, where she influenced Gandhi. She died in India in 1936. I was able to supply her with details of Anthorne School.

John Burton was given information on The Green Man P.H. to assist him in his degree module on architecture, at Kingston University.

Though not yet completed I am searching for evidence about a Mr. Gibson, who was in the local A.R.P. during the war and left the service of London Transport, at Potters Bar garage in 1955. I suggested to the enquirer that a short note in the Potters Bar Community Newsletter might be worthwhile.

A letter from a Mr. Dancer, of Spalding was useful, as I was able to provide more knowledge on the family than just Dr. Brittain's references to Henry Dancer 1601, Ann Dancer 1649 (should be 1643), Sarah Dancer 1668 and Elizabeth Dancer 1694. In the South Mimms Parish Registers there are seven baptisms and seven burials between 1601 and 1694. Thomas Dancer is noted in the 1641 Protestation Oath and in the later 1667 Hearth Tax return, where he paid for one hearth. Mention of Danners Hill, in the will of John Coningsbie (1543), Lord of the Manor of North Mymmes, indicates the name before the earliest known member of the Dancer family (1601).

My next letter, in March, came from Mr. Sweetland of Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway, whose great grandparents lived in South Mimms. James Sweetland, police constable, is on the 1861 Census but in the following returns for 1871 and 1881 he was licensee of "The Queen's Head". The licence was withdrawn after James's time in 1892. In addition to the above I was able to send a photocopy of "The Queen's Head" and an inscription from a gravestone in St. Giles' churchyard.

Since December 1997 I have had intermittent correspondence with Rita Walters concerning Lt-Gen. Richard Plaistow (d. 1791) and Francis Plaistow Trapaud, who resided at Parkfield. In 1997 she wrote, "I will put together all the information I have and send it to you. It will probably be after

Christmas now." The next letter arrived five years later in December 2002! This year I sent her a copy of all the Chancery Proceedings involving the Plaistows and Plaistowe (Irish branch) from the Bernau Index at the Society of Genealogists.

My last request in March was to supply details of the Hull and Barnsley Railway, which I was able to do by reference to Gordon Eve's books. I found it interesting to note the length that the railway engines were in service.

	<u>BUILT</u>	<u>WITHDRAWN</u>	<u>MINIMUM LENGTH OF SERVICE</u>
J23	1889-1908	1925-1938	36 years
J80	1892	1930-1931	38 years
J75	1901-1908	1937-1939 and one in 1949	36 years
NII	1901	1943-1946	42 years
N12	1901	1936-1938 and one in 1948	35 years
Q10	1907	1931	24 years
D24	1910	1933-1934	23 years
J28	1911-1915	1934~1938	23 years
N13	1913-1914	1948-1956	35 years

I wonder how long the present diesels will remain in service?

The Hull and Barnsley line was mainly concerned with freight traffic, transporting coal from the local collieries to the Alexandra Docks, Hull. This included the necessary double-heading of trains on the seven miles of 1 in 100 up to and through the Drewton tunnel. From 1901 with one million tons the export of coal had risen to three million in 1906.

The above are the main requests I have received for two months of this year.

Brian Warren

POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE JOURNAL

The following are available from

- * Potters Bar Museum.
- * Potters Bar Healthfoods
21 The Broadway
Darkes Lane
and
- * Bray's Commercial. Stationers
84 High Street, Potters Bar.

The price is £1 each; they are only free to members at the date of publication,

THE JOURNAL No.1 When Lexie was young. Cathale Priory and its medieval setting. The Quiet Bang. As time goes by. Some finds from our area.

THE JOURNAL No.2 Samuel Worboys Ltd. 1885~1985. Murder near South Mims 1751. The first Girl Guides in Potters Bar. The Old Pond of Enfield Chase. Life from Ingham Lodge, South Mimms.

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- THE JOURNAL No.3 James Barker's store. Fifty years in Ridge. Mesolithic man in our area.
- TILE JOURNAL No.4 Reminiscences of the Past (1835-1889). Map of the South Mimms area, 1588. Five buildings in Potters Bar, c.1900. South Mimms memoir 1911-1939.
- THE JOURNAL No.5 How I shot down the L31 Zeppelin by Lt.W.J.Tempest. A history of TOC H in Potters Bar.
- THE JOURNAL No.6 Bygone Potters Bar. Inns at Bell Bar. Barclays Bank, Potters Bar.
- THE JOURNAL No.7 History of the Ritz, Potters Bar. Potters Bar - A 17th century Brick Kiln. Some recollections of Clare Hall (1941-48). Inns at Bell Bar – Update.
- THE JOURNAL No.8 The Hook, Northaw 1942-45. How I spent V-Day, May 8th 1945. The Army War Dogs' Training School.
- THE JOURNAL No.9 Potters Bar Hospital (1884-1948). The Telephone in Potters Bar. Wash Lane Common.
- THE JOURNAL No.10 Potters Bar's second hospital (1939-1995). Westons - The Drapers. A classification of local clay pipes.
- THE JOURNAL No.11 The Chapel for the dead of the Battle of Barnet. Mrs.Kate Dore, MBE, remembers life at Chequers Mead, Coopers Lane Road. The beginning of Scouting in Potters Bar and Little Heath (1909-1924).

SPRING LECTURE

Friday May 28th, 2004

A Big Screen Video Evening with John Parkes. Potters Bar in the 1930s and 1950s, plus The Story of Sir Hugh Myddelton's New River, produced by John Astin.

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

ENIGMATIC STONE

I have yet to discover the significance of the stone carved with **N. VAN. S. 1953** on the corner of No.75 Darkes Lane; perhaps it was the architect or builder? However, one of our members (Mrs. Irons) has thrown light on why No.75 (*Smoker's Paradise*) is right next door to No.67 (*Elaine's*).

Apparently, there used to be a gap between The Post office and No.75; it was just waste ground. There was another piece of waste further along, to the immediate north of Leighton House. This one was landscaped by the coal merchants opposite (Billing & Howard). Perhaps there had once been a set sequence of numbers allocated to the proposed shops between Leighton House and No.75, which subsequently only reached 67 (instead of No.73). *JD*

RECORDER GROUP

All over Potters Bar and District shops are changing hands with monotonous regularity, buildings are being pulled down, blocks of flats are being put up, lofts are being converted, bus

garages are being altered, trenches are being dug, pipes and cables are being buried, roads are being resurfaced (and then dug up again). There's even a posh new fence around Honeywood House.

All this (and more) is being noted down by members of our Recorder group, and we still have one or two areas not covered. If you have an eagle eye and a penchant for noting down the changes you see, why not give John Scivyer a ring on (01707 657 586) and ask him for details?

AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)

Friday	24 th	September	Mr. Graham Dalling <i>Churches in Middlesex</i>
Tuesday	26 th	October	Ruby Galili <i>The Walkers of Southgate</i>
Thursday	25 th	November	Mr. John Higgs <i>The Growth of Cuffley</i>
Tuesday	7 th	December	Christmas Social

We are looking for speakers on a variety of historical topics to follow the AGM on Tuesday April 26th 2005; short talks, about twenty minutes each. If you can help, please contact me. *Colin Field.*

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY, SOCIAL EVENINGS

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.

The illustrated lectures have yet to be arranged but we publish here the likely dates for your diary (all Thursdays).

2004 – 23rd September, 21st October,

2005 – 20th January, 24th February and 17th March.

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

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.