

The Newsletter

JANUARY 2005

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COVER PICTURE

This is the twenty-eighth 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.



On the end wall of these Alms Houses at South Mimms the date 1856 indicates when they were built, and the flint wall was probably erected at the same time, as an extension to the one in front of the church, which dates from 1846. Alderman Hickson, Lord of the Manor of Wyllyotts, brewer, by his will proved 1689 left in trust the Manor and other lands at South Mimms for the upkeep of six Almshouses at Kitts End. They were built next to Lower Kitts End farm, but by the 1850s they were in a poor condition, and the new ones (pictured above) were built in South Mimms. They are still under the jurisdiction of the Master Wardens and Court of Assistance of The Worshipful Company of Brewers.

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.

It is with much regret that we lost Dr. Arnold Lynch, a Vice President of our Society, in November 2004. Arnold always had a scientific train of thought, but could just as easily give us a glimpse of life beyond our neatly ordered world where everything has its rightful place and we know who and what we are exactly. In particular, some years ago, both he and I were friends of the Chief of Standards, Peter Clifford, at British Aerospace. When Peter passed on, Arnold asked me to produce a film slide with a poem on it that could be shown at the Institution of Electrical Engineers' Memorial for Peter. It was one of Peter's favourite poems and obviously affected Arnold and had also embedded in my own memory bank, for I still remember it with some pleasure.

*'There was a dachshund once so long he hadn't any notion,
How long it took to tell his wagging tail of an emotion,
And so it was that when his eyes were filled with tears and sadness,
His little tail went wagging on because of previous gladness.'*

Our New Year lectures start on Friday the 28th of January with an illustrated talk by Mr. David Dent entitled 'Railways to Hertford'. I hope to see you all then.

Terry Goulding

ARNOLD CHARLES LYNCH

(3-6-1914 - 13-11-2004)

Arnold had been a member of the Society for about thirty years, following an outstanding career at the Post Office's Dollis Hill Research centre and during the 1939-45 War, where it took forty years for him to be given security clearance for that work.

Arnold was a very modest and private man and it is only over a long association that one gleaned something of his achievements. He was a pupil at Owen's School, which was then in Islington, from where he attended Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He later obtained his doctorate from that College on the strength of his research papers. Arnold was involved with the first computer, Colossus, and the brass plate at Bletchley acknowledges his assistance in its reconstruction there. Though known to be a Fellow of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, it was only a few years ago that I was informed he had been awarded their Gold Medal, an honour that was rarely given. Some of his work for the Post Office was revealed when he gave a talk to the Society on the transatlantic cable. Until quite recently he was a lecturer at the Open University's Summer Schools.

After such an outstanding career he still continued to research and lecture but having settled in Potters Bar in the 1950s, he made a significant contribution to the Society. By 1980 he had joined the Committee, from 1982-86 he was vice-Chairman then returning to the Committee until 1990. In 1999 he accepted the invitation to become a vice-President. It was during the 1980s that the Society really expanded and Arnold made his influence felt with the commencement of the Society's publications. He not only wrote "The Turnpike Road to Hatfield" but advised the authors of most of our early publications. He was on the sub-committee of three, which resulted in the opening of our Museum, of which he was subsequently a Steward.

I cannot forget that when I was Chairman and I consulted him, Arnold always listened to my queries, he would pause for a moment and then give his considered judgment, for which I was always grateful.

I feel privileged to have known Arnold, whose wife predeceased him. He is survived by his son Cedric, and daughter Janet. May he now rest in peace. *Brian Warren*

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome Mr. & Mrs. Frost, Mr. A. Plowman, Mr. P. Liell, and Mrs J. Dand to the Society. 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. We are pleased to welcome Mrs. R. LeBaigue back to the Society, and we should also like to welcome Mrs. P. Chamberlain (Australia).

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL, TUESDAY 7th DECEMBER 2004

This year's social seemed to be one of the best, perhaps it was the fact that the decorations and tables were all beautifully arranged as one entered the room that enhanced the atmosphere. Thirty-six members once again tried to solve Terry's mystery objects, to which he later supplied most of the answers. There was a local history quiz of twenty-five questions, which tested the memories of the participants. All the time Michael Cawrey was selling the raffle tickets and Ian Cumming was keeping one's glass full.

Mabel Hammett was responsible for the delicious array of food and Wendy Davey's table arrangements were finally taken home by the person whose birthday was nearest to the date of the social. As a conclusion Terry thanked all the contributors to a most successful evening. *BW*

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Recently Ted Stebbing's widow gave me a copy of, 'Soldiers who died in the Great War 1914-1919 The Essex Regiment'. It contains 86 pages of double-column entries of those who had fallen, amounting to about one hundred entries a page. Taking it steadily I read several pages at a time and found the following entries for Potters Bar:-

- p.33 Redding, Robert William b. Holloway Middlesex, e. New Barnet, Middlesex
(Potters Bar, Middlesex), 303/6, L/Cpl,
k in a., F & F., 3/5/17.
- p.68 Jenkins, Ernest, b. Enfield Middlesex e. Barnet Middlesex
(Potters Bar, Middlesex) 204609 Pte,
k in a., F & F 2/9/18,
formerly T4/238096 A.S.C

KEY: b - born, e - enlisted, k in a - killed in action, F & F - France and Flanders (including Italy)
Their names do appear on the war memorial in the High Street.

Now to a tale of woe or what should not happen! This concerned the construction of the South Mimms to Moat Mount Gas Pipeline of the early 1990s. From the Sites and Monuments Record I obtained a list of the finds made during the construction of the pipeline, which consisted of flints (not specified) and over 400 sherds of medieval pottery.

As I was desirous of obtaining more information I first enquired as to whether the supposed full Pottery Report and Flint Report of 1993 could be seen. Then followed a series of phone calls to Robert Whytehead, Regional Archaeologist for the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service; British Gas, Pipeline Project Office; Essex County Record Office and several other places without success. Finally, to Dr. Janet Swan of RSK Environment Limited who continued the pipeline from South Mimms to Peters Green. She did not know if any reports had been prepared but passed me on to Sarah Newth, Transco South Area Team. Many months later I received a negative reply.

All one knows is that north of Dyrham Park Farm, near Trotters Bottom, a shallow pit Context 505 contained 402 sherds of medieval pottery (TQ 22343 99510). It was densely packed but did not appear to be 'waster material'. Further information of the fabric is that it was hard, grey reduced coarseware, hand made as from Pinner (Hurst, 1961) from large cooking jars/storage vessels, with only one handle.

I am grateful to Alison Tinniswood, Herts.' Sites and Monuments Officer, for the information in the final paragraph. It would have been so nice to have read the reports, which I feel were probably never written, and handled the property.

Recently I transcribed the St.Giles, South Mimms marriage register from 1837-1901 for the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies office. I was interested in how many of the participants signed their names with a cross. The results are as follows:

	<u>Crosses</u>		<u>Number of Weddings</u>
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	
1840-49	63	62	126
1850-59	31	23	88
1860-69	26	13	83
1870-79	6	4	39
1880-89	2	1	29
1890-99	3	0	66

It is interesting to note that women could on every occasion sign their names more than the men. Perhaps someone else would like to find out why there was a sudden decline in the number of marriages after 1869.

WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME

Friday January 28th, 2005

"Railways to Hertford" by Mr. David Dent

Hertford's first railway connection was opened in 1843 and although further extension was promised, only one other line to Hertford was built to completion during the 19th century. By the 1920s Hertford could at last boast of a line that actually passed through the town. Such details will be expanded upon in David's talk.

Friday February 25th, 2004

"The History of Northaw House" by Mr. Brian Warren

My interest was first aroused when I received a letter from Arnold Davey stating that the Museum had acquired two large, damaged stained glass windows from the house. From the beginning of 2003, with the co-operation of Lynn Cooper, the secretary at Northaw House, I was able to view every aspect of the present building. Fuller research enabled one to construct a comprehensive history of Northaw House and its occupants, which will be revealed in the lecture. *BW.*

Tuesday March 29th, 2004

"John Keats, associations

with Enfield & Edmonton" by Mr. Mick Scott

Keats is regarded as the cockney poet. He was educated in Enfield and trained as a surgeon in Edmonton before turning to poetry. Keats House in Hampstead is where he lodged and fell in love. Tragically he died of consumption in Italy. His short life and local associations will be examined. *CF.*

Tuesday April 26th, 2004

Annual General Meeting, followed by two talks -

David Clark will illustrate the history of the Trans Siberian railway with slides – he will travel from Moscow via Lake Baikal, Ulan Bator and finally Beijing.

John Donovan will illustrate hazards faced by the Milestones along the A1000 from Potters Bar to Welwyn.

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

TEMPLE BAR

If one is in the vicinity of The Guildhall, London, there is an excellent exhibition of prints through the ages of Temple Bar. It is well displayed in the Print Department until the 31st March 2005.

Also, one could view the refurbished Temple Bar, in Paternoster Square and see St. Paul's Cathedral at the same time. I understand that both look fine since renovation. *BW*

ENIGMATIC STONE

In our May 2004 Newsletter I asked for information about the stone carved with **N. VAN. S. 1953** on the corner of No.75 Darkes Lane (*Smokers' Paradise*), and received information about a couple of gaps in the adjacent numbering sequence. I have since been told by *one* member that *Smoker's Paradise* is on the site of a very early *Tesco* shop (before the one that replaced the cinema), then by a *second* member that it had been, in fact, *Pay & Take*, and by a third that it was *Pay & Take* first and *then Tesco* (in the 1970s). *JD*

MEMORIES

I popped along to see my neighbour Pat Kirk; she was reading the Newsletter in which Brian Warren had written about Lochinver House (January 2004, front page). This had bought back a memory to Pat, her father had been in the Home Guard and the commanding officer was J M Hart who lived at Lochinver House in Heath Road. Mr Hart knew it was Pat's 21st birthday in December 1943. The family and Aunt's and Uncles who had travelled down from London were celebrating in their cottage, when there was a knock on the door. Mr Hart had bought a gift for Pat from his cellar of fine wines, it was a bottle of wine vintage 1922 the year she was born, and he then stayed to join the party. The merriment became quite loud as Pat's Mum played the piano, Pat was on her violin and Pat's sister Jean who had a good voice was leading the singing. There was another knock at the door and outside on his bicycle was the local Bobby he was on his rounds he inquired why there was so much noise, was told about the party and decided to join them. *Mabel Hammett.*

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.

PUBLICATIONS

HISTORICAL RECORDS NUMBER 2 'Transcripts of Williotts Manor Documents South Mimms, Middlesex. Seventeenth Century Records by H.M. Baker and B. Warren.

This was one of the Society's first publications, printed in 1976 and reprinted in 1992. This new edition has been expertly upgraded by Mabel Hammett and Terry Goulding. The book consists of the Williotts manor rentals for 1605, 1619 and 1623 and contains a map drawn by Helen Baker of where most of the lands mentioned were to be found in the parish. The originals can be seen at The Guildhall, in the City of London, but belong to the Worshipful Company of Brewers, from whom permission to publish was originally obtained.

The new edition costs £1; the original one was 20p, if my memory is correct! *BW*

POTTERS BAR SOCIETY, SOCIAL EVENINGS

The following illustrated lectures have been arranged for the start of 2005. 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 20 th	"California here we come!"	by Mr. Adrian Gray
Thursday,	February 24 th	"Hatfield House & the Cecil family"	by Mr. Robin Perkins.
Thursday,	March 17th	"Looking up in London"	by Mr. David Pearce

CYCLING DAYS

My family and I moved into Friern Barnet in 1966, and it wasn't long before we were driving up the A1000 to visit the *Dutch Nurseries*. On the way back we stopped for tea and cakes at *The Apple Pie Cafe* (just north of Swanley Bar Lane), and I was surprised to see several decent pushbikes by the door. As a youngster I had spent many happy hours cycling around Britain, so when I looked up and saw *The Cyclists' Touring Club* (CTC) 'wheel' badge above the door, the memories came flooding back.

A few years later the building moved 'up market' and became a high-class restaurant. In fact, there have been several in the last forty years, of which I recall *Zorba's Inn* (1970s), and *La Dolce Vita*. It is now under new management and recently opened as *Dhanshree* (contemporary Indian restaurant). I know this is supposed to be local history and not public relations, but I should like to wish the new owners every success. *JD*.

SIR BANISTER FLETCHER (1866-1953)

As a follow-up to my article on the above architect in the Potters Bar Community Newsletter (Autumn/Winter 2003) Arnold Davey purchased a copy of the seventeenth edition of "A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method" for the ridiculous price of £8. It contains 1390 pages but was the architects' bible from when it was first published in 1896, then written in collaboration with the author's father, Professor Banister Fletcher (1833-99).

Sir Banister had completed the preface of the 16th edition on the 6th June 1953 (Coronation Day) but he died soon after on the 17th August. By then the book had been translated into Russian and Spanish and was in general use throughout the English speaking world. Since the first edition the number of drawings, restored models, aerial views and photographs had increased from about 100 to over 3,200. He had visited all the places noted in the text, which meant he had travelled all over the world.

Under the terms of his Will the Royal Institute of British Architects and the University of London became the joint beneficiaries of a Trust Fund, of which the copyright of the book is one of the principal assets. The shared income was to further architectural teaching. The first sixteen editions were published by Messrs. B.T. Batsford Ltd., but the following edition was produced by the Athlone Press of the University of London. That 17th edition was prepared by Professor R.A. Cordingley, Professor of Architecture in the University of Manchester, with the assistance of specialist experts.

I express my thanks to Arnold Davey for loaning me his copy of a most interesting book. *BW*

A CALL FOR HELP

This is a new feature where members may ask other members to provide information to help with their research projects. Here is one to start it off.

A lady researching her family history has come across mention of a private school in Potters Bar called Selwyn House. Does anyone know where this was, and any other interesting information about it? Please send anything known about it to John Scivyer.

VOLUNTEER WANTED

We are aiming to index the last ten year's issues of our Newsletters, and we need the services of a person with a typewriter (or a computer) and a couple of hours spare. There are no more than thirty issues involved, and only the archive and historical items are to be indexed, so it would not take more than a few hours to complete the exercise. If you would like to lend a hand, please phone me on 642 886. *JD*.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your subscription year runs from April 1st to March 31st, even if you join later in the session. From time to time we have members who forget to pay in April, then fall behind with their subscriptions (a year or more in some cases). It is important that you keep your receipt in a safe place, to avoid confusion. If you pay by post, be sure to collect your receipt at the following lecture meeting. If you want us to *post* the receipt to you, please enclose a SAE. If you need to check your membership status, please ring the Membership Secretary, E. Field, on 01707 653 801.

FINALLY

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

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.