



*Potters Bar & District Historical Society*

REGD.CHARITY NO.299475

# *The Newsletter*

MAY 2005

VOL. 21 No. 3

## COVER PICTURE

This is the twenty-ninth (and last) 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 White Hart pub, Hickson's Almshouses and St. Giles Church, South Mimms. If Mr. Bartlett had moved backwards down Blanche Lane to exclude the modern lamp post on the right, and include the War Memorial (see Newsletter September 2004) it would record the photographic scene, which was often portrayed in "The Hertfordshire Countryside" over the years.

## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

To all our Members.

Spring is with us again and I have just cut my lawn for the fifth time this year - and it is still April. It is not just my wife standing over me with her whip, it is more a case of if it is not cut now, it will be too long to cut by tomorrow. The frogspawn from my pond has all hatched out this year, and there are some 3000 tadpoles in my outside aquariums. Arnold Davey also had about 300 plus eggs to start a new frog family in The Walk.

I have just acquired a new post card picture of Potters Bar that shows Darkes Lane from the fields of Mount Grace. There are only a couple of the 1909 houses to be seen and one that seems to be in The Avenue. Apart from fields, there is so little else in the view that I wonder why it was taken, and who would have bought it in those days? (c1910). Of course, we are glad to have it now, since almost all of the empty fields pictured are now covered with houses.

Dr Oliver Natelson of the Friern Barnet and District Local History Society will be giving us a 'Hands On' talk on 'Herbs and Folk Remedies'. He was the pharmacist at Colney Hatch Asylum and after his last intriguing talk to us we have invited him back. Don't eat anything he might offer you - you never know! His talk is on Friday the 27th of May at 8pm, I hope to see you all then.

*Terry Goulding*

## **REPORT OF THE 46th. AGM**

Terry welcomed the well-attended meeting. He reported a good year with good sales of our publications. This allowed us to keep our subscription unchanged. The museum had had another good year much enjoyed by young visitors from the schools. Sadly a number of our members had died. He thanked all who had worked for the Society during the year.

The members present approved the minutes of the 45th. AGM, which had been circulated. There were no matters arising.

John Scivyer read the report of the committee. We had held the usual eight meetings during the winter. We had published three newsletters and an updated version of our work on documents from Wyllyotts. Our recorders group continued to monitor changes in the physical environment. The temporary exhibitions at the museum remain popular. The most prominent member to have died during the year was Arnold Lynch, a Vice-President.

Terry presented our accounts, which showed a satisfactory position. Brian Kolbert pointed out that we would not always be able to rely on sales of parts of George Case's life story. The accounts were approved unanimously.

The officers, committee members, independent examiner and trustees were confirmed unopposed. There was no Any Other Business and the meeting closed at 20.18

The business was followed by two talks by members. David Clark spoke on the Trans Siberian Railway and John Donovan on local milestones. *John Scivyer*.

The following members were elected to office

President	Brian Warren
Vice-President	Terry Goulding
Chairman	Terry Goulding
Vice-chairman	Arnold Davey
Secretary	John Scivyer
Treasurer	Terry Goulding
Archivist	Brian Warren
Committee members	Brian Kolbert Mabel Hammett Colin Field

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We should like to welcome to the Society, Mr. E. Payne, Mrs. L. Halton, Mr. & Mrs. Osborne, Mr. S. Hamilton, Mrs. A. Downie, Mr. N. Hill, Mrs. C. Davis and Mr. P. Donantonio.

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**

It is with regret that one has to inform members of the passing of two of our senior and long-standing members, Len Field and Ruby LeBaigue, also of Betty Smith.

### **Len Field (1925-2005)**

Len joined the Society following St.Mary's, Festival of Flowers and Music, in 1984, when the Society mounted one of the displays. It was not long before he was using his expertise as a quantity surveyor when he volunteered to become a Recorder. From 1985 until 1995 Len carefully noted the changes in Area 2 (Southgate Road and the Oakmere estate), then from 1995 to 1999 he covered Area 3 (Barnet Road and the Edmonton estate) as well. From 1989 until 1992, Len was a member of the Society's Committee, where he made a very useful contribution.

As Len's family had lived in the Barnet Road and Southgate Road as far back as 1841, it was not surprising that he wrote Occasional Paper No.6, on 'The Barnet Road', which was published in 1995.

When in 1989 his health declined, and in recent years his Parkinson's Disease became increasingly progressive, he maintained a cheerful disposition, ably supported by Eileen. After six months in Barnet Hospital, where he received excellent treatment, he passed away on the 1st February, just short of his 80th birthday.

### **Ruby LeBaigue (1927-2005)**

Ruby became a member of the Society in 1985. She always had an infectious grin and was very cheerful. She was always willing to help in many small ways and was a regular attender at the Society meetings for many years. Barbara Clinton was her great friend and together they attended walks, socials and outings, therefore it was a great pleasure to see Barbara at the funeral, all the way from Cambridge.

From 1988 to 1991 Ruby was a member of the Committee, where she used her skills to great effect. Following the opening of the Museum, Ruby became one of a group of ladies, who met regularly, to colour in Helen Baker's two maps, which the Society used to sell. When her husband became ill Ruby withdrew from the Society and only re-joined last October. There she was with her grin and cheerful welcome once again. It was therefore with surprise that one heard she had passed quietly away on the 6th February.

### **Betty Smith (1924-2005)**

As Betty lived in Bush Hill Park most members will not have known her, though she occasionally did attend our meetings. From 1966 she worked in the library at Trent Park and became the site librarian in August 1980. In her capacity as a quietly efficient person she had been chairman of the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society for ten years until quite recently.

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Sincere condolences are offered to the families and relatives of the above. The Society was represented at all three funerals.

*Brian Warren*

## **STOP PRESS**

It is with deep regret that we learned of the passing of David Banks, former Mayor of Hertsmere and Chairman of The Friends of Barnet Hospital. We should like to express our condolences to his family.

## STEAM ENGINE AT WROTHAM PARK

The Society has been presented with a copy of a booklet, "The Steam Engine at Wrotham Park", written by members of the Greater London Industrial Archaeological Society and describing in great detail the 'grasshopper' beam engine installed there in 1856 and used to pump water to the mansion and drive a sawmill. The booklet runs to 23 A4 pages with coloured photographs and fold-out drawings of the engine and its setting.

The booklet will be available to read in the museum, but if interested members would like to buy their own copy, the contact is Brian Strong at 14 Eversleigh Road, Barnet. EN5 1NE. and each copy costs £6.80 including postage. *AD.*

## WAR DOGS (See THE JOURNAL No.8)

In the Daily Mail for the 20th April, 2001 there was an article headed, "Masking of our dogs of war". At that time the relevant secret files from the Public Records Office indicated that dogs carrying messages, sniffing mines, etc. needed protection from gas. The chemical research centre at Porton Down, Wiltshire, devised a mask of rubberised cloth, with glass eyepieces and holes for ears. Three sizes for different breeds of dogs were tested at the War Dogs Training School, at Northaw. Unfortunately the scientists had forgotten the dogs relied on smell, as their work was almost entirely based on scent. The problem was never solved by the end of the War.

*BW*

### SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2005/2006 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

Some of our members may have seen the request in the local newspaper for information on the history of 'The Strafford Arms', Mutton Lane. Mr Maguire, who was requesting the information, had already approached me and I indicated there was very little. The name Strafford Arms, originally applied to the building, still standing next to the Almshouses, in Bentley Heath village. In 1872 it was referred to as, the 'Prince of Wales' beerhouse. In 1880 the tenant wrote to the magistrates stating that he did not want to pay a licence for a beerhouse, and it became an off licence. The Census Return the following year recorded it as, 'The Strafford Arms', occupied by Henry Cox, grocer and beer retailer. In 1927 Bertie Johnson was the beer retailer. After Lord Strafford of Wrotham Park had purchased it from the brewers, he wrote that he did not want a licensed house on his estate and the licence lapsed after April 1933.

The Mimshall Estate was being built and Cannon Brewery Co. applied for licensed premises in Mutton Lane, which was completed on March 29<sup>th</sup> 1937. The Kelly's Directory for 1938 noted, 'Strafford Arms P.H. Leonard D. Walker'.

In 1988 extensive renovations were made by Benskins' brewery and it was re-opened in July of that year. *BW.*

## SMOKERS PARADISE

Further to the article in the January newsletter, Angela Downie (one of our members) contacted me from Edinburgh to say that No.75 Darkes Lane was definitely *Pay & Take* in the 1960s (either preceded by or followed by *The International Stores*). She says her two aunts (Joan Henson and Gladys Tyler) worked there. It was a proto-supermarket, and the manager was a Mr. Hen (Mr. Head?). Opposite No.75 was *Readers the Butchers*, where they sold meat and cheese. Among *their* customers was Bernie Winters (the TV comedian) who ran a guest house in Whetstone.

Meanwhile, Ron Kingdon rang me to say that the proper spelling was *Payantake*, and that the owners, Harvey & Shillingford, also had a *Payantake* store in Hampden Square, Southgate (in 1936). Eventually, a rival store opened across the road, calling itself *Buyansave*. Harvey & Shillingford's main depot was next door to the *Swan & Pyramids* pub in Whetstone. The local pirate buses (one-man businesses) used to park in their forecourt.

However, having moved from a stone at No.75 Darkes Lane marked 'N. Van. S 1953' to 'pirate buses' in Whetstone; I think we'll close that story now! *JD*.

## THE GUILDHALL LIBRARY, LONDON

'London Apprentices' (from South Mimms)

In September 2003 I recorded in 'The Newsletter' entries from the, London Apprentices', as far as volume 35. I express my thanks to the author, Clifford Webb and The Society of Genealogists' as there are now 41 published books.

In the following extracts to local people, the person on the left was apprenticed to the London master on the right.

### VOLUME 36 BREWERS' Co. 1531-1685

- 16-5-1598 Nathaniel Bromer als Davie son of Thos. to Lawrence Tristam
- 23-5-1588 Richd.Flaxman son of Simon collier to Maurice Waide
- 9- 7- 1594 Jn. Hasillwood son of Wm. husbandman to Mathew Merten
- 29-4-1600 turned over to Richd.Balthropp
- 3- 9- 1584 Edmund Whetherhed son of Wm. husbandman to Christopher Butler
- 23-2-1618/9 Jn.Bromer son of Thos. Mimms husbandmen to Anthony Jeffes

### VOLUME 37 FELTMAKERS' Co. 1676 - 1682, 1692-1800

- 24-5-1680 Richd.May son of Richd. Potters Bar coachharnessmaker to Daniel Grimball

### VOLUME 38 PAINTER-STAINERS' Co.1655, 1666-1800

- 5-4-1775 Henry Bennett son of Henry. Hadley Hrts. linen draper to Wm.Walter
- 3-4-1695 Edw. Guy son of Edw. Barnet cheesemaker to Leonard Cotes
- 2-8-1727 Lucy Pinchbank dau of John, Northaw clerk to Rhoda Moorland.

*Brian Warren.*

## SPRING LECTURE

**Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005** *Herbs and Folk Remedies; a Hands-On Experience.* by Dr. Oliver Natelson.

The audience may sample this and that - aromatic herbs, dried opium poppy! etc. Folk remedies will be traditional, the sort of thing granny used successfully in the past. Come and sample the traditional way leaving your syringes at home! Ollie will gather the herbs on the day!

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

### AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)

Friday	30 <sup>th</sup>	September	Mr. Mike Packham.	<i>The History of Panshanger Airfield</i>
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	October	Mr Alan Ruston.	<i>Nonconformity in Hertfordshire</i>
Thursday	17 <sup>th</sup>	November	Mr. Brian Warren	<i>The History of Northaw Place</i>
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	December	Our Christmas Party	

### PUBLICATIONS' CORRECTIONS

THE JOURNAL No.9 p.3 Third line from the bottom.  
'Forrest' not 'forest'.

MEMORIES OF POTTERS BAR 1913-20 by Eileen Baillie

Joan Charlton is thanked for noticing that on p.13 it should read, Princess Marie Louise and not Princess Victoria.

The same error occurs on p.20, line 8 from the bottom in, 'The Journal No.11'. The original source for the mistake was in Mr.H.J.Butcher's, 'Book 6. Hatfield Road, Darkes Lane and The Walk'.

BW.

### SHEEPSHEAD HALL

Ron Kingdon gave me this photo, taken from a postcard. The 'Hall' once stood on the southern side of Bradmore Lane, on the first major bend heading west (*away* from Brookmans Park), almost opposite the gateway where the fly-tippers tip.

The reverse has the postmark - Potters Bar, 9.30AM. July 13<sup>th</sup> 1911, and is addressed to a Mr. T (J?). Knott, c/o Mr. Sheppard, 15 Beaconsfield Road, New Southgate, and the message reads,



"Dear T (J?) Hope you arrived home safely on Tuesday, sorry you got "had" over at Mimms. I don't think it has been quite so hot to-day do you? but still that suits us all the better. Hope you have got over Monday. I must just be feeling the effects of it. I have felt very tired to-day. Hope to see you Sat.

Yours etc Kate.

I suppose you must have seen this historic mansion in your travels."

'Historic mansion' sounds somewhat 'tongue-in-cheek' doesn't it, and the 'Hall' itself is no more than a cottage. I have visited the site, but there's no trace of the house left. Can anyone provide information on this enigmatic building and its occupants? JD.

### **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.

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

## **RECORDER GROUP**

We still have one or two areas not covered. If you think you could note down the many changes to Potters Bar, and would enjoy adding to our archives, why not give John Scivyer a ring on (01707 657 586) and ask him for details? An obvious change is the demolition of the Catholic Church in Mutton Lane!

## **CYCLING DAYS**

Since writing about *The Apple Pie* cafe in the last Newsletter, I have been gathering information about other cyclist's cafes in the area. Both Ron Kingdon and Colin Brutey (North Mymms LHS) have been telling me about *The Old Maypole* pub and the *Merrythought* and *Marshmoor* cafes (Ron wrote an article on these in *Hertfordshire Countryside* a few years ago). I hope to report more in the next Newsletter, but if you have any useful information on the subject, please ring me.

## **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 dates (all Thursdays) for your diary.

<b><u>2005</u></b>		<b><u>2006</u></b>	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	September	19 <sup>th</sup>	January
20 <sup>th</sup>	October	23 <sup>rd</sup>	February
24 <sup>th</sup>	November	23 <sup>rd</sup>	March

## **1808 SEATING PLAN OF ST. GILES, SOUTH MIMMS**

It was many years ago that I discovered the original of this document, in the Map Drawer, at Barnet Museum, but later when I went to check some details I could not find the plan. However, I express my grateful thanks to Graham Javes who found the original some two years ago.

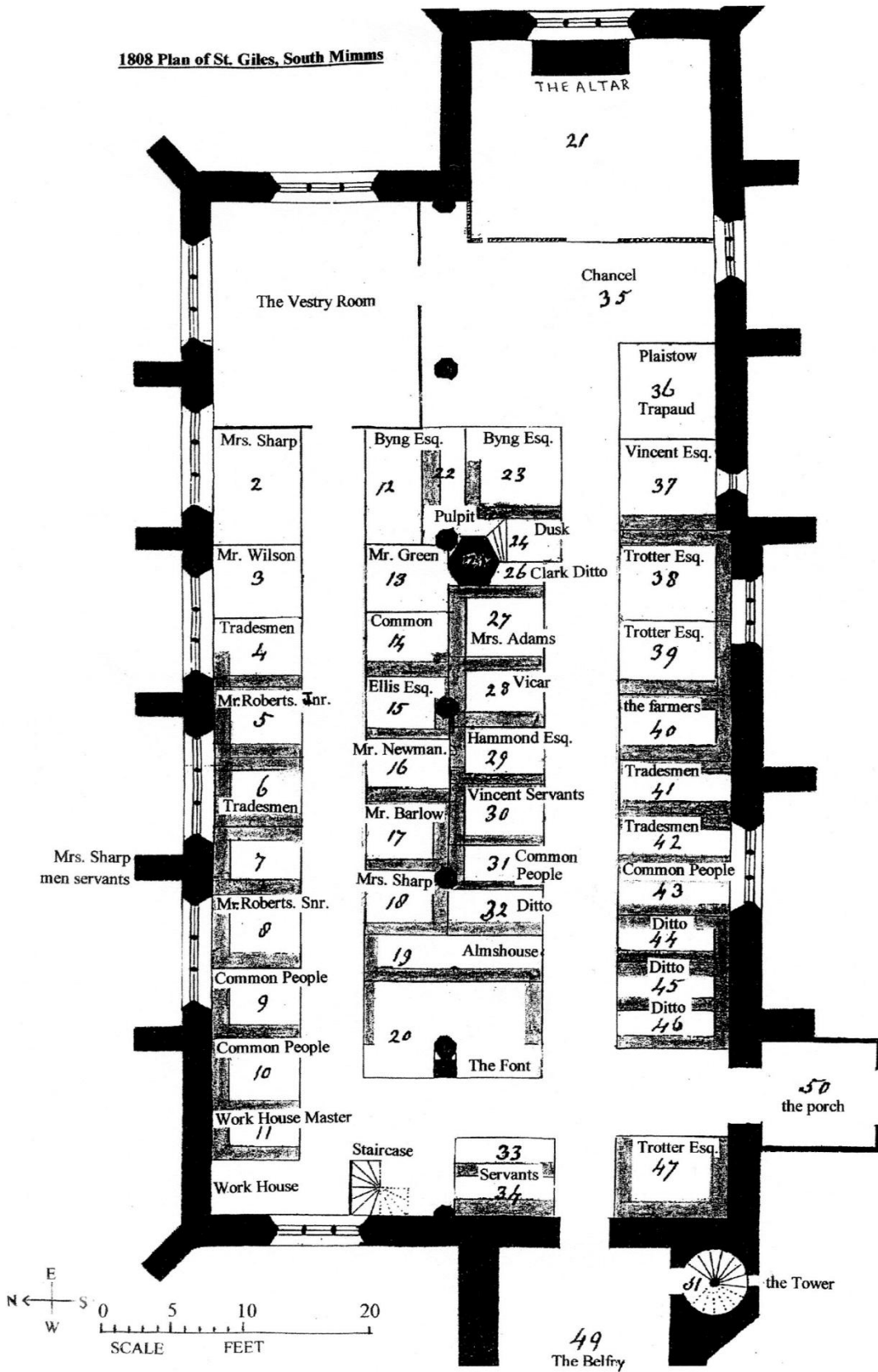
The following plan (see page 8) has been adapted from the original, as the names towards the Chancel and those towards The Vestry Room were recorded in opposite directions. Also, it was not easy to read the script. For example, No.24 quite clearly reads 'Dusk' but possibly it should be 'desk', so No.26 could be 'Clark's Desk'.

The plan shows the structured seating according to class. Francis Thomas Hammond, M.A. became the vicar in 1806, and like his predecessor held the parish of Widford, in Hertfordshire, at the same time. In the seating nearest the altar there is Francis Plaistow Trapaud of Parkfield, George Byng of Wrotham Park and Mrs. Catherine Sharp of Clare Hall. Then follows Edward Vincent of Bridgefoot (d.1810), John Trotter of Dyrham Park, Mrs. Mary Adams of Knights (now approximately near the site of the Byng mausoleum, Wrotham Park) and Francis Thomas Hammond of Morven. In the North aisle there was a Mr. Wilson, possibly Thomas of Darkes Lodge or Knightsland. The Roberts were farmers, at Gannick Farm and Earls Farm and a Thomas Green did occupy land owned by John Hunter, which would have been in the north end of the Parish, i.e. the Church Road area.

As yet I have no information on Ellis, Esq., Mr. Newman and Mr. Barlow. Those of the lower status were the farmers, tradesmen, servants, almshouse occupants and the workhouse. Perhaps most of us would have been the 'Common People'!

I thank Dr. Gillian Gear, Barnet and District Local History Society, for granting permission to reproduce the plan.

1808 Plan of St. Giles, South Mimms





**FINALLY**

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

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**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.**