

# *The Newsletter*

September 2009

VOL. 26 No. 1

## **COVER PICTURE**

This is a photo taken from the collection held by Terry Goulding.



The Enfield Chace Foxhounds on an autumn 1937 exercise leaving South Mimms Lower Village. On the left is Miss Joan Henderson, daughter of Major General Henderson. Note the gas lamp on the corner for the police station that was down the road on the left. There are about 30 hounds all happy with their tails in the air, and one little terrier with shorter legs that reckons that it is time to go home.

## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

To all our Members.

Welcome back to a new season of lectures, and to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Society. It must be the need to know our local history and history in general that has helped our Society grow stronger as the years go by. For myself, I have been grateful to the old time photographers for the wealth of pictures of our area that they have taken over the last 125 years. They have kept my interests going.

We have produced two new booklets so far this year, each containing a huge amount of newly gathered together, early history on our district. Do try to get yourself copies of them.

*Terry Goulding*

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

We should like to welcome Dan & Chris Ruge-Cope on rejoining the Society. We hope they will enjoy the lectures and occasional outings that are part of our yearly programme, and will take an active part in our Society.

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## **ATTENTION ALL MUSEUM STEWARDS**

Please note

We will now have an In Tray on the main desk. Any mail given to you by the Wylllyotts Staff can be placed in the tray.

When locking up the museum. If the alarm goes off, please check the lock is twisted closed on the back door that goes through to the office. This is part of the security system

We are requesting that all stewards make sure they sign for the keys on the Wylllyotts desk. This is a record that there are staff in the museum in case of fire.

Whilst the Museum is open, a safe place to keep the keys is in the right-hand drawer of the brown reception desk.

We have two extra cupboards that now have lights. The long case behind the entrance door is switched on at the plug. The same with the small case of stones by the back door. Please also make sure they are switched off when you leave.

*Mabel Hammett*

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### ***MUSEUM STEWARDS REQUIRED***

Members are needed to help look after the Museum. Perhaps you could help for just one day a month? It would be of great assistance and you would be on duty with an experienced steward.

<b>Tuesdays</b>	2.30 - 4.30pm, contact Ian Cumming on	01707 642296
<b>Wednesdays</b>	2.30 - 4.30pm, contact Arnold Davey on	01707 654179
<b>Saturdays</b>	11.00am – 1.00pm, contact Mabel Hammett on	01707 657120

## **RECORDER GROUP**

The Recorder Group monitors changes to Potters Bar on a daily/monthly basis and generally meets twice a year to collate the findings. This work has been going on since 1984. Reports are sent in from all over the County and stored in the Hertfordshire Archives, County Hall, where they form a valuable record for the use of future historians and researchers. The next meeting is at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

If you would be interested in helping, please contact the Group's Chairman, John Scivyer, on 01707 657586.

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## **AUTUMN LECTURE**

**Friday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009**



***The History of South Mimms and Potters Bar***, by Brian Warren

This is Brian Warren's Presidential lecture to inaugurate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society.

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

### **AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)**

Friday	October	30 <sup>th</sup>	<i>The British Schools Museum, Hitchin</i> , by Mr. Kenneth Burton
Thursday	November	26 <sup>th</sup>	<i>History of Churchyards</i> , by Mr. Michael Worms
Tuesday	December	8 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Social, Quiz, Refreshments.

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## **DELIVERERS REQUIRED**

In each issue we pay tribute to Michael Cawrey and his band of helpers, who save the Society pounds in postage by delivering your copy by hand. Naturally, our volunteers do come and go, however at the moment we do have a full complement. If you would like to help in the future, three times per year you would be required to push a Newsletter through the letterbox of half-a-dozen or so of your neighbours' front doors. If you can help, please ring me on 01707 652975.

*Richard Lee*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2009/10 ARE OVERDUE

The subscription year runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> at a cost of £3 for adults, and £5 for a family/group. If you are not sure whether you have paid yet for this year, you can check your current membership status by phoning the Membership Secretary, Eileen Field on 01707 653801. Her address is 51 Highview Gardens, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5PN.

Should you pay by post, be sure to collect your receipt at the subsequent lecture meeting. If you want us to *post* the receipt to you, please enclose a SAE. **Note:** you should make your cheque payable to Potters Bar & District Historical Society, and *not* Mrs. E. Field.

Thank you to those members who have already paid by using the form in the last Newsletter.

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## **POTTERS BAR MUSEUM**

The latest exhibition in the Potters Bar Museum is *Votes for Women*. This traces the history of women's rights and is presented with numerous pictures on 4 story-boards on the wall of the Museum.

Described are its beginnings in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century with the start of publication, by women, of alternative views on marriage, education and politics. The French Revolution played its part by providing radical changes to the traditional models of government.

Mary Wollstonecraft's and John Stuart Hunt's contributions are discussed. Parliamentary failures in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century are elaborated on, and followed by the large significance of the Suffragette movement, special personalities being Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst.



*Richard Lee*

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## ZEPPELIN L31 DVD

I have bought a commercially produced DVD on the history of airships, and shown on it are two short movie clips that feature our Zeppelin L31. The first, very short, clip shows the troops guarding the wreck, recognisable from similar stills we already have. The second, longer, extract shows the burials in Mutton Lane cemetery. The Lych gate is very prominent.

The DVD, entitled *The Airships*, is produced by a firm called Delta and is their reference serial number 94900. It was obtainable from one of the mail order CD/DVD firms that bombard one with catalogues.

*Arnold Davey*

## THE POTTERS BAR FUN DAY

I must first apologise to all our members. We did not announce in the last newsletter that we would have a stall at the Potters Bar Rotary Club Fun Day which took place in Oakmere Park on July 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a great day and I am sure many of you would have enjoyed walking around the field and visiting the stalls of all the wonderful organizations we have in Potters Bar.

Last year was our first time and the committee felt it was a good way of showing we have a Museum in Potters Bar so we went again this year.



We had a tent with also a gazebo in front, kindly loaned by Stan and Margaret Stanbrook. This gave us a much larger area to put up our displays and also gave us shelter when a light shower passed over. We invested in a large **POUERS BAR MTSETM** banner and we attracted many families and people who were interested in seeing our displays and old photos of Potters Bar.

We gave away many free fact-sheets about the area and sold many of our Local History booklets. Let's hope this will encourage many extra visitors to our museum.



*Mabel Hammett*

## ST. GILES, SOUTH MYMMS

On Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> 2009 a group of members met at St. Giles church, South Mymms, where our President, Brian Warren, took a gentle walk around the graveyard, as part of our fiftieth year celebration for the Historical Society. The earlier part of the day was piping hot, reaching 30 degrees, but by 6.30 pm when we met under the trees outside the South entrance door of the church, it appeared much cooler.

Brian started his talk by saying in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Potters Bar the only church was the Baptist one in Barnet Road so everyone who wanted to attend the Parish Church had to travel to St. Giles Church at South Mymms. They would mostly walk from the High Street down to Bridgefoot Lane then across the fields to arrive at the church.



We walked around the outside of the church, and saw a very old bench mark in the church wall, then Brian explained why there were not many graves on the North side, The few stained glass windows on this north side were very special ones as they were only the third known windows in the country to be subscribed to by the villagers. At the end of the church he talked about the geology and showed us where many years back a large window was replaced with a smaller one and the stone mason had used a different pattern of flint to fill up the gap. In this wall you could also see thin Roman red bricks and a pattern of stone where a wooden scaffold was erected to complete the building work.

We then turned left to see the graves of the wealthy Victorian upper class of Potters Bar. People from the big houses. Daniel Carpenter who was a church warden and his wife Margaret of Oakmere House were buried in the large white tomb where others of the Carpenter/Kemble family were also laid to rest. The family from Parkfield house (now the bus garage) and the grave of Mendelssohn's daughter who had lived in Norfolk Lodge at the top of Baker Street. Brian gave us a glimpse into the type of life these families led

When we met the main path again we were shown graves of teachers and one of South Mimms School's headmasters from the more recent times, Mr. Gowar.

Along the part of the graveyard that runs parallel with the road, one could see the land was used a second time as there were graves from the 1800's containing many names of families who still live in the area and then between them were very recent graves. It was interesting to see the variation of stone used and the shapes of the gravestones with the different fonts the stone masons used to cut the inscriptions.

We wandered on; it was the perfect mild summer evening to walk under the beautiful trees. There was a very large hawthorn and a magnificent maple. It sadly had an infection growing very strongly on its leaves.

We saw the very large mausoleum to the Cavendish/Bentinck Family and the huge flat slab (approx 10 feet square) to the Trotter family of Durham Park (now the golf course) at Trotters Bottom, around the large stone there are many small slabs for people who have died over the years.

Brian finished by saying what a peaceful place these folks had as their final resting place.

*Mabel Hammett*

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### **VISIT TO THE BRITISH SCHOOLS MUSEUM, HITCHIN**

This is an **urgent** reminder about the visit described in the previous Newsletter. We still have 11 places left on the coach for the planned visit to *The British Schools Museum, Hitchin* on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. This visit is in conjunction with the lecture to be given by Kenneth Burton on Friday October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Final arrangements are:

- Leave 60+ Centre at 12.30, return at 5.30.
- 3 hour tour including Masters House, Museum, Gift Shop.
- Break for light refreshments.
- Cost £13 each.



To Mr. Colin Field, 6 Inglefield, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 1HD

The British Schools Museum, Hitchin visit Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

I enclose £ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s) (Cheques to be made payable to Potters Bar and District Historical Society.)

Name	
Address	
Phone	

## ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Recently I was looking through one of Dr. Brittain's books, which included extracts from the South Mimms Parish Account Books, indicating how much was paid to travellers along the Holyhead Road. The following might be of interest to members:-

1822	7 Sept	Relief to a Poor Irish Man	1s	
	26 Nov	Three Seamen in Distress	2s	
1824	3 July	Relief to 5 Soldiers Wives with 24 Children belonging to the 52 <sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot, in their way to Ireland at 1½d per mile, with a Magistrates Rout	1s	9d
1825	1 Feb	Relief to a Number of Soldiers Wife with several Children from the West Indies, with Passes and found out since to be forged, now in Prison	£2	10s 6d
1826	31 Mch	Relief to a Poor Man Native of the East Indies		6d
	28 Nov	Relief to 7 shipwrecked Men	2s	6d
1827	23 Jan	Relief to a East Indian	1s	0d
	3 May	Relief to 13 shipwrecked sailors	4s	0d

### OTHER ENTRIES

1827	17 Aug	Sacramental Wine	16s	0d
	25 Aug	Two Ringing Days	13s	4d
	3 Oct	Vestry Dinner at the White Hart	£2	
	10 Nov	Letter from the house of Lords		1d

Poor in the Workhouse 1827 Total in 35; Pensioners 39

Further to my article *A Polish Prisoner of War* in the previous Newsletter, I visited The Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum at 20 Princes Gate and met the Archivist. The German name for the town is Woldenberg but the Polish one is Dobiegniew. Unfortunately the Polish V.C.s are not recorded as in England but consist of long lists of names. However, I now have the address of The Central Archive of Modern Records, in Warsaw, to which I shall continue my research.

Following the Society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary walk round St. Giles' churchyard, our member, Doris Minchinton was able to find forty-one plants there, many of which were in flower. As on the walk I noted the variety of grasses in the churchyard, one only needs to find an expert to identify them.

*Brian Warren*

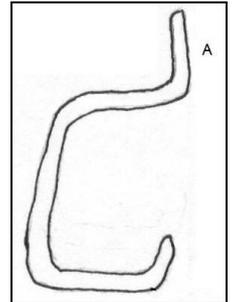
## LOCAL MOATED SITES (Part 2)

### **OLD FOLD, HADLEY GREEN**

The original line of the medieval road from Barnet to South Mimms and St. Albans passed in front of the Old Fold Manor House and the moated site. A Close Roll for 1586 gives a very detailed account of the buildings within and without the moat, providing precise measurements.

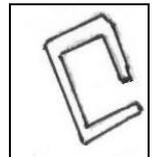
The number of buildings and the size of the moat were no doubt due to the Frowyk family, who were the resident Lords of the Manor of Old Fold from c. 1271 to 1527. In addition they were prosperous London goldsmiths.

The map, dated 1843, shows an outward curve to the north 'A' but by 1863 it had become detached to form a pond. In 1911 (VCH vol.2 9) it was a well defined moat, where the eastern side had been filled in with cow houses on the site. The southern side was 18 feet wide, while on the west and north to 28 feet. The water was from 4-5 feet deep and the banks were clothed in wood and undergrowth. This is of interest because the Old Fold Manor Golf Club was formed in 1910 and now the centre of the moat is a well-kept 18<sup>th</sup> green.

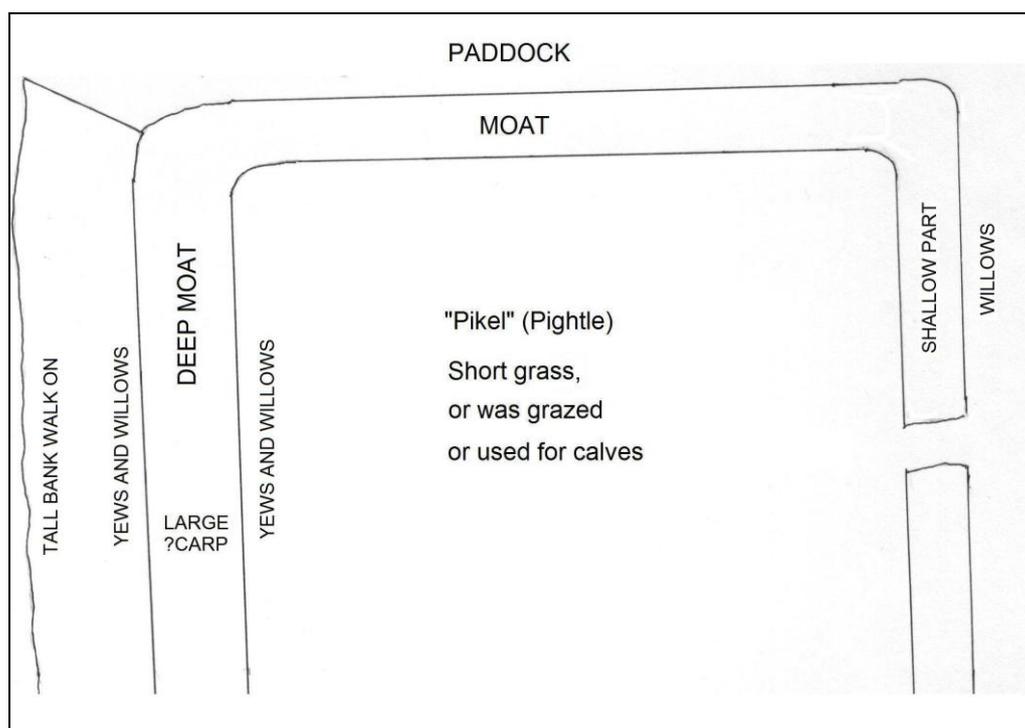


### **OLD FOLD FARM (SMR 2648) TQ2258 9751**

In 1911 (VCH vol.2 9/10), the moat was more or less complete with four sides of an oblong plan, as shown. The entrance was from the south-east.



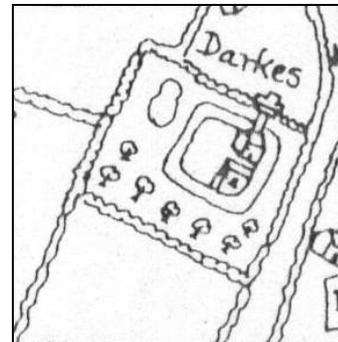
John Stobbs wrote an article entitled '*A Hertfordshire Boyhood*' which was published in the May 1994 *Hertfordshire Countryside*. He used to visit his mother's family at Fold Farm and often stayed for holidays c.1927-36. I visited him at Marsworth and he drew me a plan of the farm, as he remembered it, including the plan below.



It was a small oblong moat c.50m East to West and c.105m North to South, with an entrance in the S-E corner. In the 1960s I remember it as a water-filled moat, but by the mid-seventies it was dry and being used as a rubbish dump. A site visit in January 1986 noted that the eastern arm no longer existed, but the northern and western arms were water-filled. In 1999 the site was completely levelled.

**DARKES (SMR 11257) TL2537 0206**

The Ralph Treswell map of the lands of Wyllyotts Manor in 1594 shows the moat at Darkes with two buildings on the island and a pond to the north-west.



Even though residential development has taken place, the outline can still be traced in the garden of 9 Heath Drive, where it was used by a former owner as a play area for his children (see below).

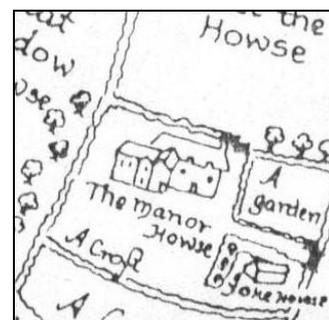


Little is known about the estate and house of Darkes, but the earliest documentary reference appears to be in 1490 when John Fortescue sold it to a kinsman, Sir John Fortescue M.P. of Ponsbourne (Herts.) who died in 1500. It is most likely previously linked with the Fourteenth Century family of Derk. The earliest known reference is to a Thomas and Henry Derk in May 1345, in the first surviving Manor Court Roll of South Mimms (Hatfield House CR14/27).

The old house was pulled down in 1830 and replaced by Darkes Farm, a typical Victorian building. Later known as Darkes Lodge and occupied by Lt. Col. Gerald F. Carter in the 1920s. This was demolished in the mid- 1950s.

**WYLLYOTTS MANOR (SMR 4268) TL2493 0130**

The Ralph Treswell map of the lands of Wyllyotts Manor in 1594 shows the moat at Darkes, as indicated above, but two buildings shown as 'The manor Howse' are much larger and there is no moat. One would have expected to have found a moat at Wyllyotts, but there has never been located any substantive features. In 1925 experts stated (Trans. London & Middx. Arch. Soc. Vol.5 pp 289-96) "The original line of the moat, if it were such, is well defined. Its banks form a rectangle which is complete except in one place." Similarly, two ponds in the Ordnance Survey maps might have been remnants of an earlier moat, However, from records, maps. and a study of the ground there is insufficient evidence to conclude there was a moat.



*Brian Warren*

## **THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH and its links with South Mymms.**

In a recent edition of the South Mymms and Ridge Parish Paper the Revd. Brenda Tipping wrote a short piece on The Old Catholic Church. This is a more comprehensive article.

In 1908 the Old Catholic Church was established in England and in that year the noted English priest, Dr. Arnold Harris Mathew, who had left the Roman Church, was consecrated by the Archbishop of Utrecht on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. He was in charge of the English mission and on St. Paul's Day, 1911, elected Archbishop of Great Britain. After a break of ten centuries the Old Catholic Church, in Archbishop Mathew's time, linked with the Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and so reunited the East and the West. Even after the death of Archbishop Mathew in December 1919, the small body of Old Catholics in England were subject to attacks from their opponents.

Every year members of the Old Catholic Church made a pilgrimage to St. Giles, South Mymms, to visit the grave of Archbishop Arnold Harris Mathew, near the South Porch.

“OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY TO THE GOOD ESTATE OF  
ARNOLD HARRIS MATHEW D. D.  
ARCHBISHOP OF THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH AND  
DE JURE EARL OF LANDAFF OF THOMASTOWN, CO. TIPPERARY  
WHO ENTERED INTO REST 20th. DECEMBER 1919  
BEHOLD A GREAT PRIEST WHO IN HIS DAYS PLEASSED  
GOD AND WAS FOUND JUST”



On the occasion of the Church's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1968) the pilgrimage commenced with a requiem Mass at its headquarters, at Steenoven Mission House, Highbury. The pilgrims travelled by road to pray at the shrine of St. Alban and then to the Archbishop Mathew's grave at St. Giles. The day ended with benediction at Highbury. Though the Church numbers remained small it had increased since 1965. As all the members were earning a living in secular jobs they were in close contact with lay and non-Christian people.

On one occasion, in the Revd. R. Gage's time, I was in the churchyard when a party of about ten people arrived and stood round the grave to join in a service to Dr. Mathew. As far as I remember they were not there for long.

One wonders why the Archbishop was buried at St. Giles, which would have been in the time of the Revd, Allen Hay. Did the Revd. Hay have some connection or sympathy towards that Church?

**SOURCES:** *The Barnet Press* 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1968.  
World Wide Web. British Old Catholic Church.

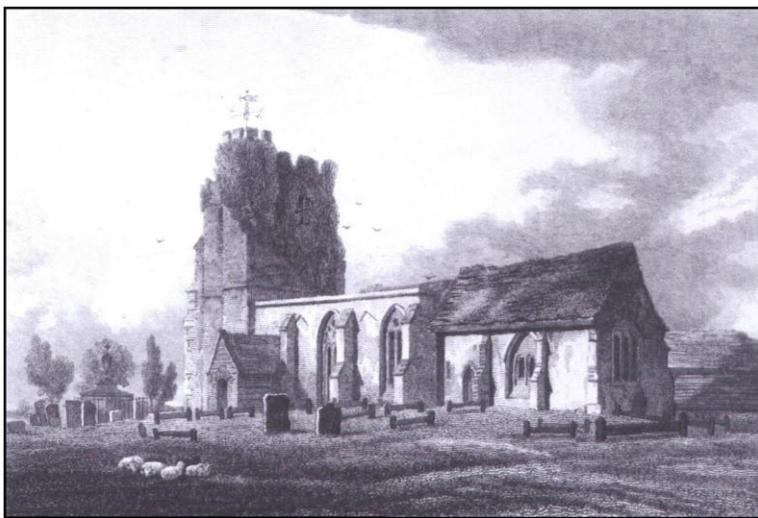
*Brian Warren*

## NEW PUBLICATION

POTTERS BAR AND DISTRICT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD IN THE LOCAL AREA



ST. GILES' CHURCH, AN ENGRAVING OF 1816

By B Warren

Brian Warren has written the first book ever published on the Manorial history of the local area. Evidence is provided of the medieval roads, bridges, moats and manors; some of the sites still survive today. The structure of the manor is explained and a detailed explanation is given of the earliest South Mimms Court Rolls dated 1345, 1451 and 1452. The book concludes with extracts from wills on how the inhabitants viewed the hereafter. In addition it is well-illustrated with plans and photographs.

The booklet costs £2, and is available from the Health Food Shop in Darkes Lane or the Potters Bar Museum in the Wyllyotts Centre, and is also available from Brays in the High Street.

It can be obtained by post from Mabel Hammett, 4 Heath Cottages, Heath Road, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 4LS. With post and packing, the cost is £3. Please make cheques payable to *Potters Bar and District Historical Society*.

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**The PB&DHS Newsletter is produced in September, January & May of every 'season'. Mabel Hammett looks after photocopying and collation, and Michael Cawrey organises, with volunteers, the distribution of The Newsletter**

**If you wish to submit an item for inclusion (preferably of a 'local-history' nature), please phone the Editor, Richard Lee (01707 652975) 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.**