

# The Newsletter

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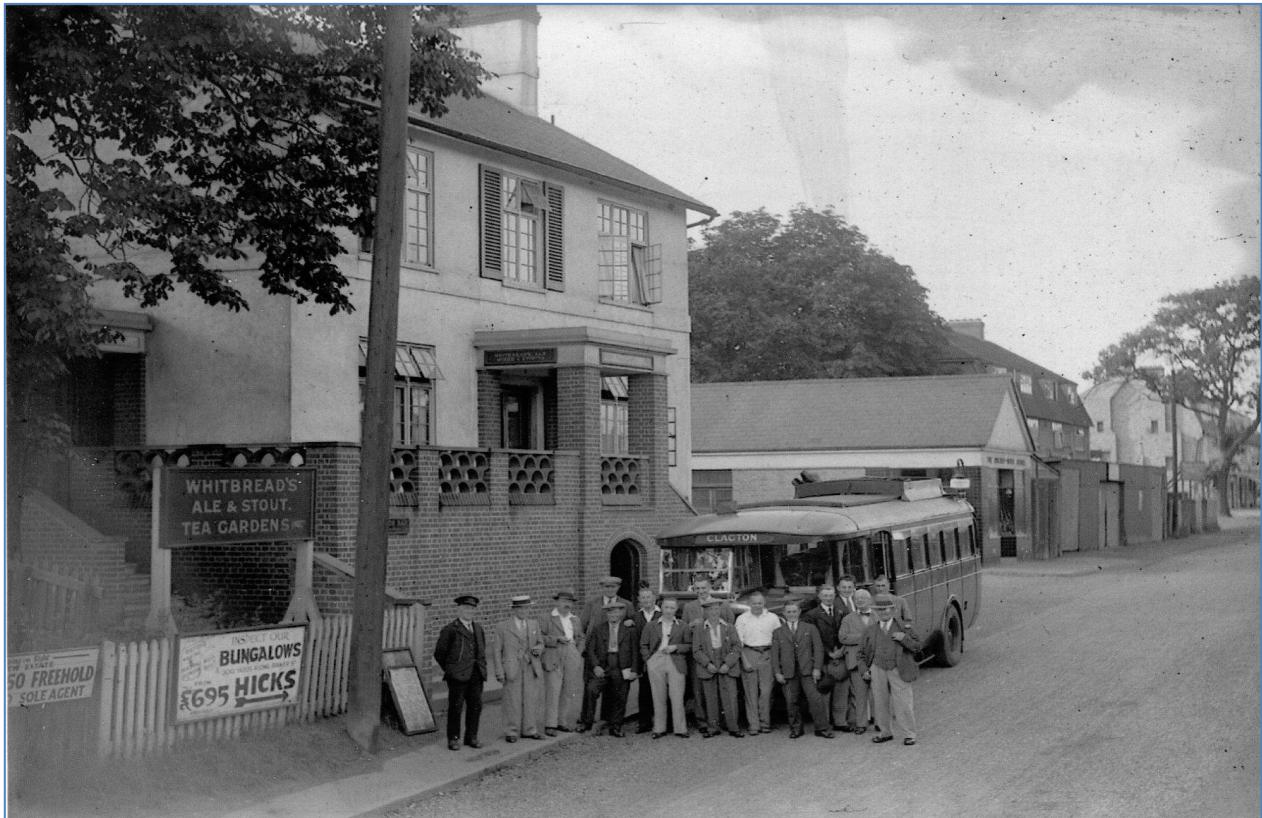
September 2011

VOL. 28 No. 1

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## COVER PICTURE

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



The Railway Hotel and view through to the Broadway. This is now the site of the Potters Retirement Homes. The Hotel darts team are here about to board the coach (I was going to say charabanc) to spend a day at Clacton on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August 1935 as their part in the Jubilee celebrations. I think they had a good day because they took two crates of beer with them. Note the advert for the Hicks bungalows in Baker Street from £695 each, I expect it is too late to book one.

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members.

The Committee and I hope that you all had a good holiday and managed to dodge the showers, but looking on the bright side, it seems to be a good year for my apple crop!

I was looking through a Spalding catalogue yesterday for a replacement Victoria plum tree, when I noticed they had walnut trees for sale. That reminded me that the drive to Warrengate Farm and the lower drive to Mymms Hall Farm both had walnut trees along them. I remember them with advantage, for when I was a lad, I was shinning down one tree near the *Flint Cottage* in Warrengate Lane when a sharp nail cut into my inner thigh - ouch! I still have the scar.



The *Flint Cottage* by the little brick bridge in Warrengate Lane. My school friend Jim Rose once lived here at the small holding with chickens and ducks everywhere. (Postcard c. 1909).

Our next Society meeting for the start of the new season is on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September with a talk by Mr Richard Thomas entitled *The River Stort*; I hope to see you all then.

*Terry Goulding*

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## AUTUMN LECTURE

**Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

***The River Stort*, by Mr Richard Thomas.**

The 13½ miles of the Stort Navigation are generally acknowledged to be among the prettiest in England. This talk looks at the history of the river and follows its story from 1766 to the present day. We travel the whole waterway from the head of navigation at Bishops Stortford to the Lee Navigation at Hoddesdon.

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

## AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME

Thursday	October	27 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Potters Bar in the Thirties</i> , by Brian Warren & Terry Goulding
Tuesday	November	15 <sup>th</sup>	<i>50 Years of the Hendon District Archaeological Society's Work</i> , by Mr. Donald Cooper
Tuesday	December	6 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Social with light Refreshments and entertainment by Mr. Chris Sumner..

## **MEMBERS' NEWS'**

With the passing of Stan Redington there are only four members left who are recorded on the Society's membership list of 1977. In the early days of his membership Stan attended the lectures with his wife and next-door neighbour, Mrs V Harding, until the latter died. Then he would come with his great friend, the late Cyril Overend (Secretary of the Society 1977-85). They did many things together, one of which was attending country walks. Over the years he was a regular attender at the Society's meetings and supporter of the Society's other activities. During at least the last five years Marion Baker assisted him until she moved away to Chipping Sodbury in Gloucestershire. Their last meeting was in November 2009. Stan was a genuine member over many years whose familiar face and stature will now be missed.

It is with regret that we heard of the passing of two long-serving residents of Potters Bar, Arthur Smith and Ron Wilson. I first met them when they sang with my father at the Barnet Choral Society, in the 1950s. They both sang in the choir, at St Mary's, The Walk. Arthur, a bachelor, lived at the bottom of Park Avenue, and spent many years looking after his mother until she died aged 93. Recently he was a resident at St Christopher's Nursing Home. In recent years Ron and his wife, Betty, moved to Warrington in Cheshire after a lifetime in Potters Bar. The Society conveys its condolences to Betty and her family.

Though the exact date is not known, best wishes are extended to Geoffrey Pulzer on reaching 90. He was the chairman of the Society 1977-84.

David & Hazel King have recently moved to Holland-on-Sea. They regularly attended the monthly meetings, were stewards in the Museum, and maintained the publications at Elaine's in Darkes Lane.

George Case has now gone back into hospital. We all wish him well.

*Brian Warren*

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

We should like to welcome Mr R Locke and Mr & Mrs C Rabley on joining 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.

*Richard Lee*

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## **SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2011/12**

The subscription year runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> at a cost of £3 for individual adults, and £5 for a family or group.

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.

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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

## **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*

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## **FUN DAY 2011**

We again this year had a stall at the Rotary run Fun Day in Oakmere Park on July 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a great occasion to showcase our Potters Bar Museum and many local people were able to stop and see some of our exhibits that we take from the museum.

As other years Stan and Margaret Stanbrook loaned us their tent and gazebo and we were able to make a good display.

The weather held out, rain was expected but the day remained fine. As usual the sale of our Local History Booklets was good and the children were attracted by the great display of character telephones. The display of photo's of old Potters Bar always makes people stop and reminisce.

Thanks to all the members who came to help put up the stall and also to man it for the day.

We all decided it was a very good way to show the people of Potters Bar what a fine museum we have at the Wyllyotts Centre.





*Mabel Hammett*

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### **FROM THE RECORDERS**

Not much is happening at the moment. The widening of the M25 is on-going. There are the usual changes to shops and house extensions.

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.

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

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## **POTTERS BAR MUSEUM**

The new display at the Museum is *Toll Roads and Stage Coaches*.

The Museum is open from 2.30 to 4.30 pm Tuesday and Wednesday, and 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday.



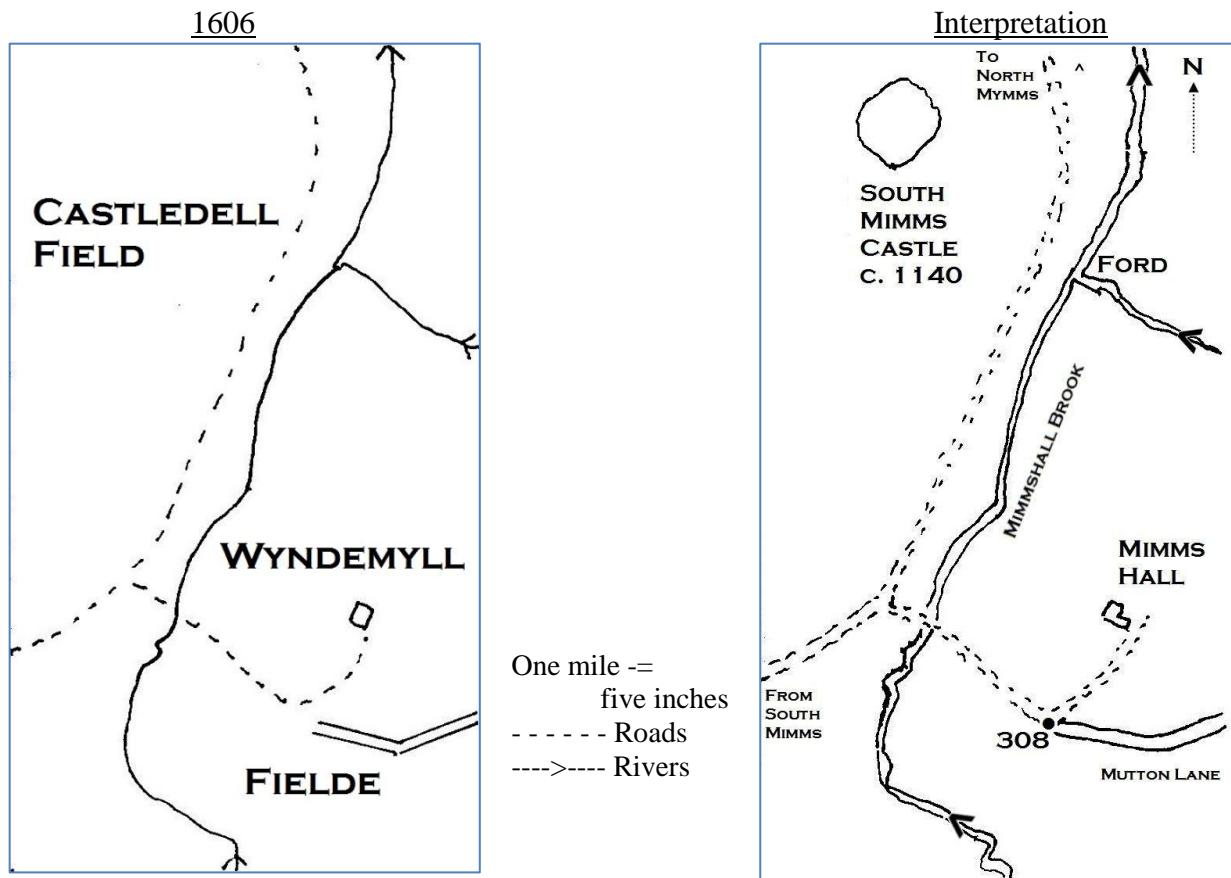
*Richard Lee*

## THE WINDMILL AT SOUTH MIMMS

It has long been recognised that the most likely site of the original South Mimms was in the Mimms Hall valley, "in the vicinity of the twelfth century castle or close to the later manor house, Mims Hall." <sup>(1)</sup> This was further confirmed by the statement, "The water factor and the light easily-worked soil of the Mimms Hall Brook valley combined to cause an early settlement in the area." <sup>(2)</sup>

Recently, I obtained a copy of the classic *Medieval England An Aerial Survey* <sup>(3)</sup> in which reference was made to the location of a mill, "the ideal site for a mill was on high ground to catch the wind but yet neither too far from the village to which the flour would have to be taken, nor too far from the fields where the corn was grown."

On the survey, made by Israel Amyce, on the acquisition of the Manor of South Mimms by Robert Cecil, in 1606, reference was made to Wyndemill Fielde (38acres 1r 9p) as being 'good pasture' <sup>(4)</sup> By the time of the Tithe Map, in 1842, the field had been divided into Windmill Field and Hall Field, near or adjacent to the moated site of Mimms Hall, Mutton Lane. <sup>(5)</sup>



The height spot 308 (see Interpretation above right) marks the present-day junction of Mutton Lane and Warrengate Road and would be the ideal spot for a windmill, as from there the land drops quickly into the valley of the Mimms Hall Brook. Some years ago the late Cyril Moore, who wrote *Hertfordshire Windmills and Windmillers* <sup>(8)</sup> confirmed that the mill at South Mimms was of an early date, based on the evidence submitted to him. The Inquisition Post Mortem (IPM) of Roger de Leukenore (1295) stated that, 'They say further that the mill of the wind is worth .?10s.' <sup>(6)</sup> Earlier in 1268 Nicholas de Leukenore's IPM recorded, 'And one windmill and annual value 13s 4d' <sup>(7)</sup> In the St. Bartholomew's Hospital's Cartulary c.1220 <sup>(9)</sup> there is reference to Gervas the miller and Arnold the miller. The earliest known Hertfordshire windmills were at Ardeley (Cromer), Caddington (Markyate) and Sandon (East of village) dated to 1222.

The location of South Mimms windmill was very near to the Manor House and only a short distance from the castle. On the above evidence this would add further support to the possibility that the original South Mimms village was not far away.

#### REFERENCES

- 1 K. Rutherford (Ed.) 1966 *The Story of Potters Bar and South Mimms*, Potters Bar Urban District Council, 34.
- 2 ibid, 19
- 3 M. W. Beresford and J. K. St. Joseph 1979 2nd edition, *Medieval England An Aerial Survey*, C.U.P., 64.
- 4 Hatfield C.F.E.P. Deeds 280/10
- 5 London Metropolitan Archive TA/S.Mimms
- 6 National Archive C133/72/4
- 7 ibid. C132/35/12
- 8 Cyril Moore 1999 *Hertfordshire Windmills and Windmillers*, Windsup Publishing
- 9 St. Bartholomew's Hospital Hc2/1 f487 recto Guulfus de Maundevyle to Simon Capellanus

© Brian Warren

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#### January / February 1947

Rentless cold weather and coal crisis.

Not above freezing point for a fortnight.

Eighteen days without sunshine.

River Thames, Cam and Medway frozen with three inches ice.

M.P.s wore overcoats in the House of Commons.

Fuel crisis worsens, with power cuts affecting the whole country.

Only sixteen days coal stocks at power stations.

B.B.C. to close down early to eke out fuel supplies.

An hour's electricity cuts at breakfast in most of the country.

Thirteen thousand men, including lorry drivers on strike.

Coal shortages caused problems throughout Europe.

but we survived.

Now tell your grandchildren and compare with today's austerity!

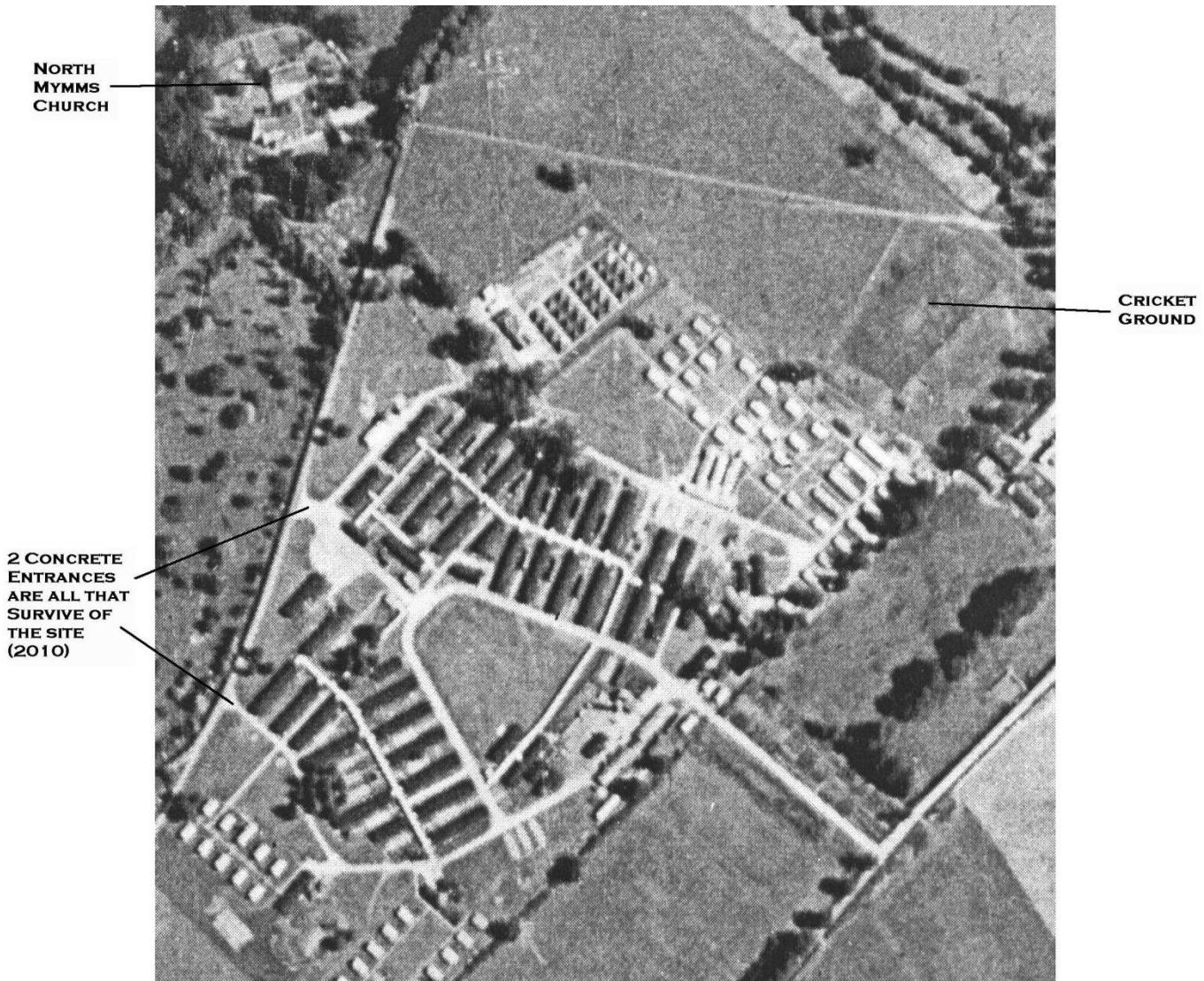
Brian Warren

## NORTH MYMMS PARK IN WORLD WAR TWO

### Introduction

During the late WW2 there were two hospitals on the estate, which are often confused. In the Newsletter May 2002 there was a short article on the North Mims Auxiliary Hospital, which was in the home of Major and Mrs. Burns, in North Mymms Park. The other hospital was the U.S. Army's General Hospital in the grounds of the Estate and the subject of this article.

The U.S. Army's General Hospital, 1946



The 1<sup>st</sup> Surgical Auxiliary Group from the U.S.A. was at the site from 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1943 for just over 2 months. Then on the 27<sup>th</sup> December 1943 the 1<sup>st</sup> General Hospital departed Boston Harbour and arrived at North Mymms on or about 9<sup>th</sup> January 1944, which marked the continuation of the U.S. Army's operations at that site. A few weeks before D-Day 'Detachment A' of the 1<sup>st</sup> General Hospital was sent to prepare the hospital at Kington, Herefordshire, before the arrival of the permanent hospital units from the United States. The Executive Officer of 'Detachment A' was Col. McEwan, with 6 officers, twenty nurses and one hundred enlisted men. Also, working alongside 'Detachment A' were the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoons of the 29<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital. The 7<sup>th</sup> General Hospital arrived at North Mymms Park on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1944 and took over from the 1<sup>st</sup>, when they departed 7 days later.

## The U.S. Army's General Hospital



Following the end of WW2 films were made, including *Odette*, with Trevor Howard and Anna Neagle, at North Mymms House. The U.S. hospital became a de-mob camp for the ATS and other women's forces. Though the military authorities had not relinquished all their interest in the camp, by early 1949, Hatfield R.D.C. were considering its use for eighty families. Discussions continued with the War Department and in November all the site was handed over. Families began to occupy the wooden huts, in January 1950, at a rent of 13s 4d. The Nissen huts were divided internally by brick walls, panelled with a type of fibre board. Each section had one or two bedrooms, a kitchen with a coal-fired *Kitchener* cooking range and a 'bathroom'. Water was supplied to the kitchen and to the 'bathroom', in which there was one tap sink and a W.C. but no bath. Tin baths were used often purchased by the occupants. Only *Baby Belling* electric cookers were allowed because of the low power supply, but old *Tortoise* stoves were used for heating.

Much of the shopping was obtained on foot from Brookmans Park, but a greengrocer did call and later a butcher established a shop on the site. There was a 343 bus which stopped at the end of the lane.

Hatfield R.D.C. offered families who resided in the huts on the site, known as 'Occupation Lane' but better known as 'The Hockey'. Residents of 'The Hockey' (Hockey Lane), would be given priority for a new house on the Housing Waiting List for the New Town.

In May 1950 it was agreed to call the camp 'the Hockey Lane Estate' with a rent increase to 15s a week and 135 converted huts by June 1951. In September 152 huts had been completed and a Welfare Clinic approved. From 1950 for five years it was a community of 230 families led by the *Hockey Lane Tenants Association*. In which time they successfully had the first elected Labour councillor on the Hatfield R.D.C.

R. P. Kennedy and Son, on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 1955 auctioned fifty Nissen huts, which varied in size from 140 feet x 24 feet and 78 feet x 24 feet, with others larger or smaller. Surplus building materials were also auctioned.

## Acknowledgements

I express my grateful thanks to Ron Kingdom for supplying information from Arkay Productions in the U.S.A. and Israel. Also from a letter supplied by Paul Jiggers to him. I thank HALS for supplying the aerial photograph.

*Brian Warren*

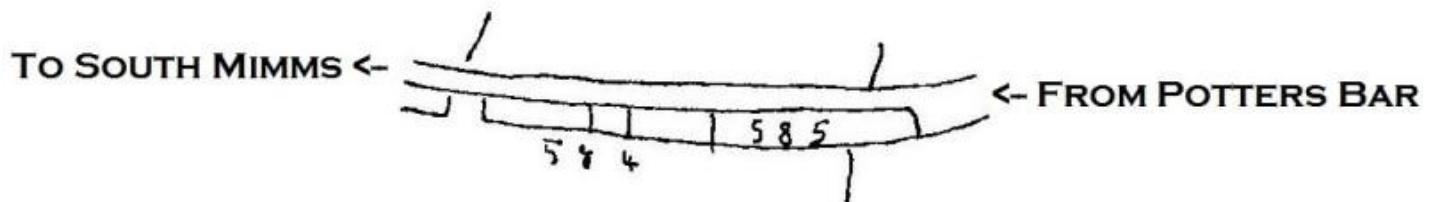
## THE HISTORY OF THE BRIDGE HOUSE SITE, MUTTON LANE

On 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1740 a messuage (dwelling house) was erected on a piece of waste by William Winch, without the licence of the Lord of the Manor of Williotts. Just over a month later (31-10-1740) Samuel Hawkins was admitted to the house on the death of William Winch. By September 1745 the building had been allowed to run into decay.

The Court records of the Manor of Williotts provide a continuous run of the occupiers until the premises and land were enfranchised in 1867. Of some interest from these records is the mention of a William Lowe being in possession prior to 6<sup>th</sup> July 1762. He was of St. John Street, London and a victualler. It is quite likely the earliest mention of William Lowe, whose name is remembered in Billy Lows Lane (see Potters Bar Community Newsletter, Sept. 2004, volume 7.3 p.21). From 1766 he was the licensee of the White Horse (now Cask & Stillage) in the High Street.

The next significant date was 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1823 when John Hopewell surrendered to James Abel Brett, St. Albans, innholder, as by then the one building had been divided into three. By his Will proved 19<sup>th</sup> February, 1849 all two parcels of land with the messuage built by him on one of them. At the Court held 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1851 by Deed Poll dated 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1847 the other parcel (2 roods 5 poles) had been sold to the Great Northern Railway.

The Tithe Map of 1842 locates the two parcels of land:-



<u>Owner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	
James Brett	Wm.Shepherd 584 cottage & garden	0a 0r 37poles
"	Mary Welsh 585 slipe meadow	0a 0r 35poles

The earliest reference I have found to the Bridge House site being used as a beerhouse was in 1859, with John Shepherd, as a beer retailer. The inn would appear to have been a consequence of the coming of the railway, in 1850. Later the houses, on the same side below the inn were occupied by railway employees. On the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1873 John Shepherd was buried at St. John's cemetery (now the site of the War Memorial, in Potters Bar). His wife Mary was the occupier in 1874, but two years later Thomas Read became the beer retailer. He was still at the Bridge House Inn, in 1902. In 1906 a survey was taken in the Edmonton Division to reduce the number of licensed premises (LMA-MA/C/L minute Book). The Bridge House Inn (a Beer House), '*had a Bar and Tap rooms and a cab business. The previous Licensee, John Thomas Read, had just died after 34 years at the house. It had a very old License transferred to this new house. There was a good pull up for carts and they provided dinners and teas and had two special rooms for letting. Hadley Brewers of Barnet were the Freeholders and gave evidence that 2 barrels of beer and 196 bottles of beer were sold weekly. There was also a Public Bar, Private Bar, Parlour for dinners and teas, kitchen and other offices. This License was renewed.*'

The Burial Register for St. John's recorded that John Thomas Read was buried on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1906. William Read was the beer retailer, in 1906, presumably his son.

A View of the Bridge House c. IWW



Subsequent known publicans were Herbert Dodge, Sydney Durrant, Henry Dove and Herbert Rogers until 1938. In 1939 Fremlins Ltd., Pale Ale Brewery replaced Harris Browne Ltd., The Hadley Brewery, Barnet, as freeholders. The licensee was Edward George Morris. In 1956 alterations were made to service in the Saloon Bar, but four years later there were extensive alterations. By 1988 Whitbread were the owners and Graham Jones and Michael Macken licensees.

The Bridge, March 1988



The present owners, Lantern Recovery, have made more than one application to develop the present site and by July 2011 had been granted planning permission for the construction of houses and flats.

## ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Following my talk on *Local Light Industries* at the AGM, only three members volunteered to undertake further research. As a result it has been decided to continue to collect information on the local industries, as a resource for a future local historian to research and write on the subject.

The result of the above took me back to the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1993, when Terry and I attended the Herts. Recorder Group's Autumn Workshop, on '*under recorded industry*'. As a result I called a meeting at the Museum, on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 1994, at 7.00pm for anyone who was interested in discussing how one might investigate the past and present industry in the area. RESULT - no-one turned up!

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When preparing the article on *The Bridge House* I chanced upon the following, concerning Mr. Butcher's glass-plate slides.

*'One morning soon after the close of the 1914-18, [he] went to see Hunt, the local photographer in the Barnet Road, when I discovered a large table in his studio covered with old negatives. He informed me that a cart was coming to take them away as he was overloaded with them - I replied not before I had checked them, and I spent 2 or 3 hours running through - the result being the bulk of ½ plate photos in his albums, the negatives being in the hands of the P.B.U.D.C.. Needless to say some years afterwards Hunt badly wanted them, but altho' we were very good friends [Hunt projected for Butcher's talks], I would not part from them.'*

Mr. Butcher came to Barclays Bank, High Street, Potters Bar, in 1914 and retired as manager in 1939. In the 1950s he wrote up his researches concerning local history, which are now held by the Society. The Society also holds his quarter-plate slides and Terry Goulding has made copies. The half-plate slides he left to P.B.U.D.C., such as have survived; are held in the Potters Bar Museum, on behalf of Hertsmere Borough Council.

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The Society's Recorder Group's minutes are a source of valuable information back to 1984. Two extracts follow:-

28<sup>th</sup> November 1996 "The building of the new Tesco supermarket in Mutton Lane was opened on the 7<sup>th</sup> October - no Sunday opening - YET!! "

29<sup>th</sup> May 1997 "Reported that three shopkeepers in the High Street thought there would be no retail shops in the street in five years' time. Another shopkeeper reported that not a single customer in a single shop in the whole of Monday."

*Brian Warren*

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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.**