

The Newsletter

January 2012

VOL. 28 No. 2

COVER PICTURE

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



This shows an itinerant 'Knife Grinder' in Barnet or Whetstone who regularly came to Potters Bar before the last war. He sharpened scissors, saws and lawn mower base blades etc. With the back wheel upon a stand and a prop to steady the front he could carry on cycling using a leather belt system to turn his grindstone. His front mudguard is missing but note the oil lamp on the front used to see his way home, c.1937.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members.

The Committee and I hope you had a Happy Christmas and we wish you all a Happy New Year.

I did hope that the first week of December would be mild as in other years so that I could polish off my garden for winter, but with the hurricanes in Scotland quoted at 165 MPH I suppose that we were lucky to have a mild blow of only 40 to 60 MPH with the cold temperatures. Since I am writing this in mid December I do wonder and dread the possible global and local weather changes ahead this winter. Most of us have seen it all before though, so wrap yourselves up and think of spring.

Our next Society meeting is on Friday the 27th of January 2012 with a talk by Mr David Perman entitled '*The Great Bed of Ware*'; I hope to see you all then.

Terry Goulding

SPRING LECTURE

Friday January 27th, 2012

The Great Bed of Ware, by Mr David Perman.

This should be a most intriguing illustrated talk in which David will ask why was this unique bed built? What happened to it? Who were the writers who wrote about it and what are/were the legends attached to it?

The bed, capable of accommodating at least four people or more, is at present on exhibition in the Victoria & Albert Museum where it is simply a rather extraordinary piece of furniture. In April it will be moved to Ware Museum where it is part of local folklore!

I found an article David wrote about the bed so interesting that I visited the V&A to see it and was amazed at its size and decorative features and look forward to finding out more about it on a cold evening in January!

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

SPRING LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)

Friday	February	24 th	<i>A Brief History of Timekeeping</i> by Mr. Geoffrey Hollis
Thursday	March	29 th	<i>From Eton Manor to the Olympics, – more Lea Valley Secrets Revealed</i> by Dr. Jim Lewis
Tuesday	April	24 th	Annual General Meeting, followed by <i>Finding Our Past through the Pages of Who's Who</i> by member Mrs. Christine Ruge-Cope.
Thursday	May	31 st	<i>Churches in Norfolk</i> by Mr. Graham Dalling

Colin Field

OBITUARIES

Maldwyn Ellis Griffith (1922-2011)

The last Newsletter had just gone to print when the Society heard of the passing of 'Griff', who had been a member since 1987/88, and only resigned as a Trustee of the Society earlier this year having served for sometime in that capacity. A Thanksgiving Service for his life was held on Friday, 16th September, at the St. John's Methodist Church, Baker Street, which was well attended, followed by refreshments, in the church hall.

'Griff' had been at a railway orphanage, but from the evidence of the people at the Thanksgiving Service he had spent the rest of his life helping people. He always found time to listen and then act. During WW2 he was a navigator in the R.A.F. but at the end he was in intelligence. After the War he started work at Potters Bar railway station, however he finished his working life as manager of the Nat-West Bank, Cheshunt. He was a strong supporter of the British Legion and treasurer of the Potters Bar branch for many years. In addition to those duties he was a Governor of Mount Grace School and Oakmere School for many years.

I had known 'Griff' for over 50 years and I was thankful for his continued support during that time.

The Society offers its sincere condolences to Pat and the family.

John Bryon

Early in December, the Society was informed of his sudden death in his mid-eighties. He and his wife, who is at present in a residential home, had been members since 1991/92.

Betty Wilson

In the last Newsletter, September 2011, members were notified of the passing of Ron. Wilson, who had moved to Warrington, after spending most of his life in Potters Bar. Since then his widow, Betty, has died.

Brian Warren

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome Mr. Eric Cruttenden and Mr. Geoff Woodgate 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

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2011/12

The subscription year runs from April 1st to March 31st 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.

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.

Tuesdays	2.30 - 4.30pm, contact Ian Cumming on	01707 642296
Wednesdays	2.30 - 4.30pm, contact Arnold Davey on	01707 654179
Saturdays	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.

Thanks are due to Doreen and John Scivyer who have just stopped delivering to the Mimms Hall Road area, although they retain their own local area. Sarah Bulling will now do the area round Mimms Hall Road.

Richard Lee

FROM THE RECORDERS

Christmas is coming; the lights are on in the High Street, Darkes Lane and Barnet Road. As a little present Hertsmeres has made parking free on these roads. Work has restarted on the houses in St Vincents Way; they are called Belgrave Court. We have a new keen recorder; her first report was a masterpiece - complete with small colour photos.

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

POTTERS BAR MUSEUM

Helen Giles, our Hertsmeres Heritage and Museums Officer, has recently set up the Museum as an entry in Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com>). You will need your name and date-of-birth to set yourself up on Facebook.



Helen has written:

Help support Potters Bar online with Facebook

Potters Bar Museum has its very own Facebook page which will be regularly updated with details of temporary exhibitions, snippets of information about the collection, new publications and images of local interest.

If you use the internet and are a Facebook user, please help supporting Potters Bar Museum by 'liking' the Facebook page. If you don't use Facebook but have friends and relatives that do, please pass on the message."

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

On December 6th 40 members enjoyed the Christmas Social in the 60+ Centre at Wylyotts. As usual we had our Chairman, Terry Goulding's intriguing objects to try and guess what they were. This causes lots of discussions and merriment at the tables as folk come up with many suggestions. Whilst this was going on we were entertained by Chris Sumner who played music from the WW1 period. We were given song sheets so that we could join in as Chris told us the history of the songs.



Each table formed a team to complete the London Station Names Quiz, then Terry had to find a Tie breaker question to find the winning team. After all this hard work enjoying ourselves we had a light supper with hot home-made mince pies and coffee to follow. The raffle was drawn and one person from each table took home the Christmas table decoration. The committee would like to thank all the members who made the evening run so smoothly which helped put us all in the mood for a merry Christmas. They wish everyone A HAPPY 2012.



Mabel Hammett, pictures Bruce Chanter

AMENDMENTS

The Newsletter, September 2011 Vol. 28, No. 1, p 9

The photograph 'The U.S. Army's General Hospital' is in fact not North Mymms but Kington Camp, with the 107th Hospital lying immediately below, and the 122nd Hospital towards the right and upper section of the photograph. Thanks to Terry Goulding for passing along the correction on the John Higginbotham Archive (KHS).

The Newsletter, September 2011 Vol. 28, No. 1, p 6

For a number of years I have considered the date of the building of South Mimms Castle as being 1140, when Geoffrey de Mandeville was at the height of his powers, to 1142. Then I dated it to c.1140 but just recently have realised that Matilda's second charter, which stated, "***Now I grant to him that he may establish one castle wherever he may wish on his own land, as I have granted to him by another charter of mine, and that it should stand and remain.***", was dated 25th-31st July 1141 at Oxford. Therefore, at the present time I suggest c.1141 for the date of the castle. I express my gratitude to Robin Harcourt Williams, former archivist to the Marquess of Salisbury, for translating the charter.

Programme Card 2011/12

At the Committee Meeting on 21/9/09 we decided to start charging members for new Journals that are to be issued in future. The latest Programme Card says it will not be charged for, and this will be corrected next year in the 2012/13 card.

Brian Warren

LOCAL TIMBER-FRAMES BUILDINGS (Part 4)

THE CHEQUERS P.H. POTTERS BAR NGR TL 2693 0175 SMR9992

History

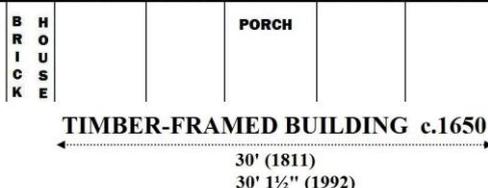
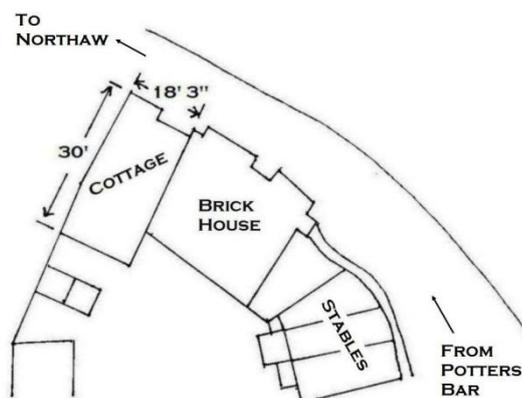
All the buildings at The Chequers' corner were located on former illegal encroachments in the once royal hunting ground of Enfield Chace, during the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1924 this area was transferred to South Mimms Rural District from Enfield, and including the land to Stormont School was 26 acres.

The original Chequers was across the road in the present Georgian Chase House (Grade 2 listed). A document dated 1843 and relating to Chase House mentioned, "**All that messuage or tenement called or known by the name or sign of the New Inn or Chequers but then used as a messuage or Grocers shop**". The Jacques' family were licensees of The Chequers from 1770 to 1805 and possibly from 1765. It is likely that when their licence terminated the transfer took place in 1805, as a fire insurance certificate, two years later, referred to a brick and tile dwelling house. This is likely to be the present building. At a 1920 sale it was a stucco building with slated roof consisting of four bedrooms (three with fireplaces) and a large sitting room on the first floor. On the ground floor there was a bar of two compartments, Bar Parlour, living room, kitchen with tiled floor and a cellar with a stone floor. It was a freehold fully-licensed public-house let to Mr. Smith, at an annual rent of £25.

The Building

During extensive renovations in January 1992 the present building was revealed to be two distinct structures which was confirmed by a deed of 1811 as a brick house and a cottage (Middx. Deeds Reg. 1811/3/720).

The tiles were probably 200 to 300 years old when removed in 1992.



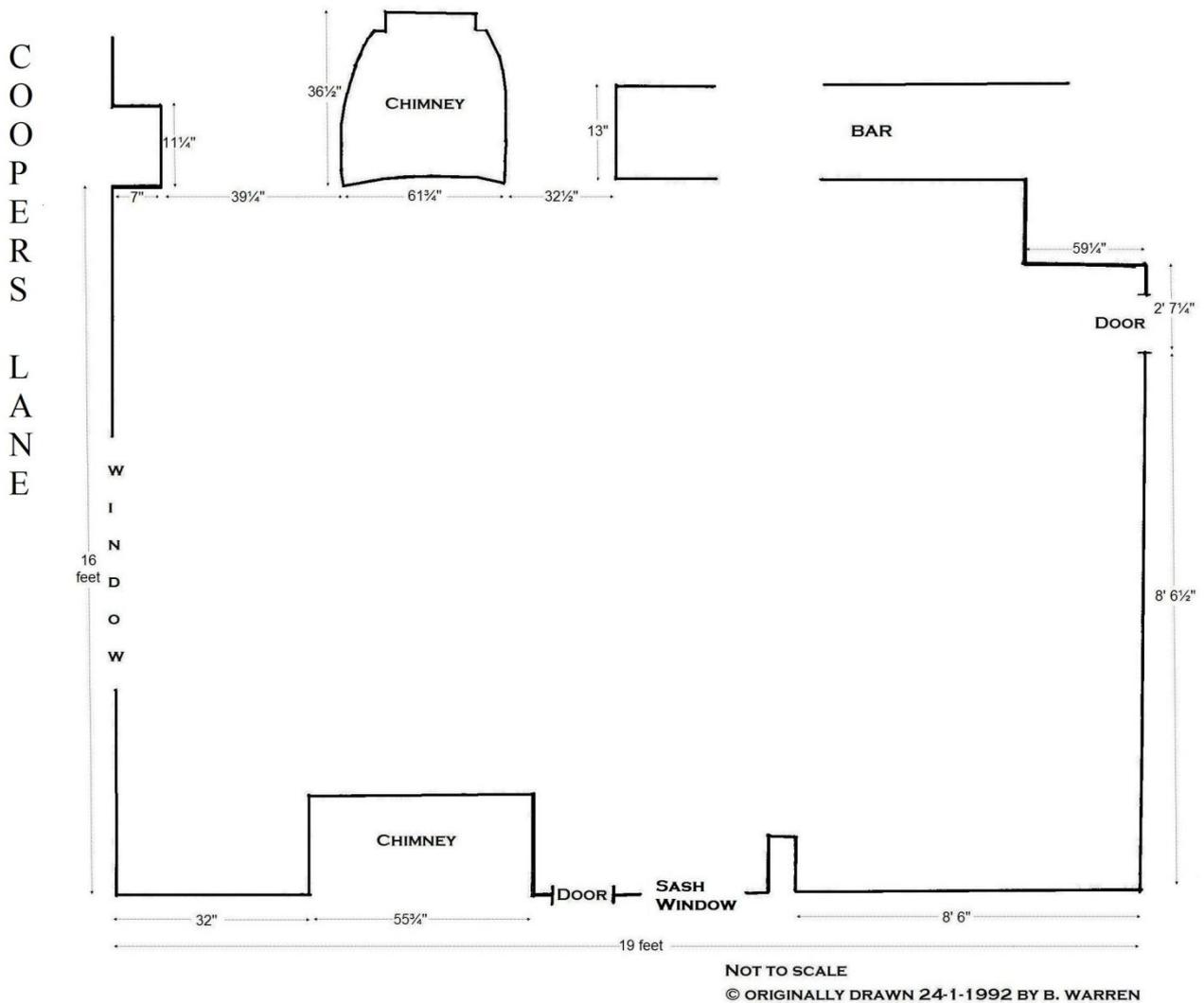


View of The Chequers P.H. (1992)

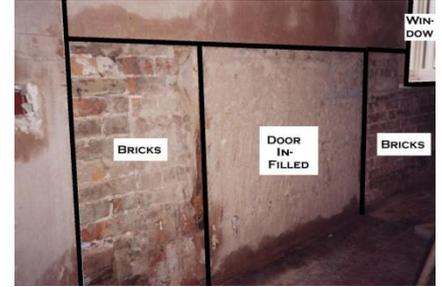


Enlargement of the front wall showing laths, timbers and brickwork (1992)

PLAN OF THE BAR PART OF THE TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDING (24-1-1992)



In January 2005 further changes were made inside and recordings taken. Overleaf is a photograph of the inside front wall indicating a filled-in door space.



Acknowledgements

I express my grateful thanks to the licensees for granting me access to undertake a detailed survey. To the staff of HALS (Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies) and the London Metropolitan Archive for their courteous assistance. Terry Goulding provided two of the photographs and finally the late Adrian Gibson for his considered opinion.

© Brian Warren

THE ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Following the recent series of articles on WW2, in the vicinity of Old Fold Golf Course, Mike Bolton, from Kings Lynn, contacted the Society concerning Bridgefoot House. His father worked for W. S. Bush and Company of Mare Street, Hackney, and their office was moved to Bridgefoot House. When his father was there he went a few times to 'work' with him, on a Saturday morning, but he always played in the stables with a 'minder'. The question is did Bridgefoot House have another role in WW2? M. Bolton's father was born in Moscow and spoke French, German and Russian. He was a lieutenant in the 21st Battalion of the Middlesex Home Guard in 'A' platoon Machine Gun Company.

Recently, I received two enquiries about the carved oak tree, in Parkfield. If any members have information concerning the tree, would they contact me? My telephone number is 01707 875617. It was carved by Jennifer Ulrich and British Rail donated £1,000. Terry Goulding took a photograph in 2001.

The Barnet Press, 14th November 1914

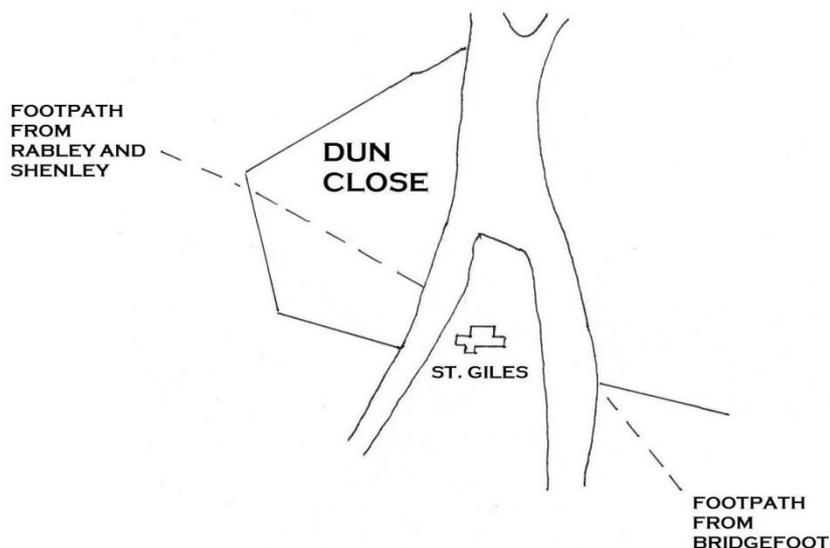
"Life gives us nothing better than kindly and sympathetic thoughts of one another" Creighton

"A man's virtues are to be measured not by his extraordinary efforts, but his everyday conduct" Pascal

Brian Warren

DUN CLOSE, SOUTH MIMMS

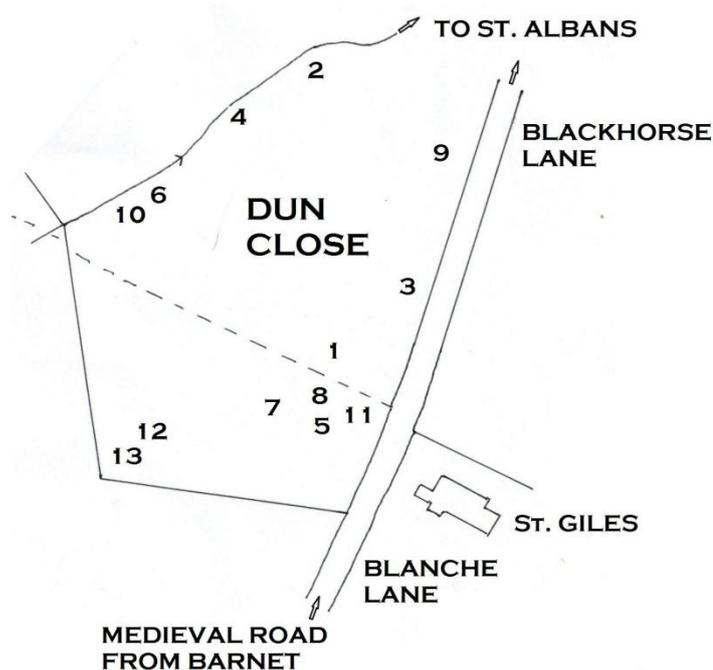
Most churches have footpaths leading towards them, as they were the early routes by which parishioners attended services. Like many other churches St. Giles is no exception, which is opposite to Dun Close.



In Israel Amyce's survey of the Manor of South Mimms, when Robert Cecil became Lord of the Manor, in 1606, William Hewet, who has descendents in Australia, held, "one messuage with curtilage and seven closes adjoining together called Dun Close, Great meade, Little meade Arnolds, Pond field and wheatfield adjacent on the East on Kings highway and on the lane called Bakers Lane on the West."

In the mid-1980's I was fortunate enough to make contact with five local metal detectorists, who informed me of their finds. My main object was to record their discoveries accurately and return the objects to them. Now the view from Blanche Lane looking West is dominated by the large mounds of the motorway 'bund' and Dun Close no longer exists, below are the results of the metal detectorists' finds.

BEFORE 1603

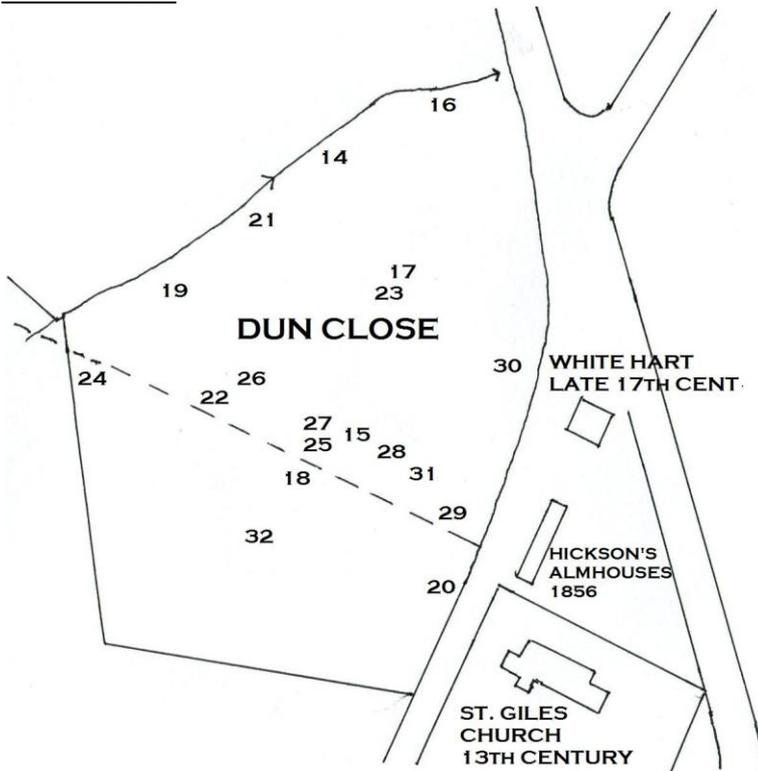


KEY

1	Edwd. I, II, III silver 1d London Mint	1272-1377
2	Unknown silver 1d	c. 1300-1500
3	Edward III silver 1d	1351-1361
4	Henry VI silver groat Annulet issue	1422-1427
5	Elizabeth I silver groat	1558-1603
6	Elizabeth I silver 6d	1569
7	Elizabeth I silver 6d	1571
8	Elizabeth I silver 3d	1580-1581
9	Elizabeth I silver half-groat	1582-1600
10	Elizabeth I silver groat	1588-1603
11	Elizabeth I silver half-groat London Mint	1592-1595
12	Spur Rowel	late 14 th cent.
13	Lentoid weight	13 th -16 th century

groat = 4d
half-groat = 2d

AFTER 1603

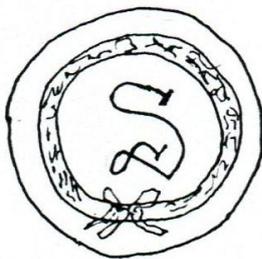


- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 14 | Charles I silver 6d | 1625-1649 |
| 15 | Charles I silver 1d | 1625-1649 |
| 16 | Charles I silver 2d | 1628-1629 |
| 17 | Charles I silver 2d | 1631-1632 |
| 18 | Charles I silver 6d | 1638-1639 |
| 19 | Charles II silver 4d | 1660-1662 |
| 20 | Charles II copper ½d | |
| | Possible overstruck | ? 1672 |
| 21 | William III silver 6d | 1694-1702 |
| 22 | William III silver 6d | 1694-1702 |
| 23 | William III copper ½d | 1694-1702 |
| 24 | George III ¼ guinea | |
| | gold London mint | 1762 |
| 25 | 18 th century token | 1765 |
| | This was presumably relating to a company's continuing trade links between Britain and America during the War of Independence. Which company is uncertain due to corrosion. | |
| 26 | Parys Mine Co Anglesey | 1787 or 88 |
| 27 | George III gaming token | 1796 |
| 28 | George III silver 6d | 1816 |
| 29 | William IV silver 6d | 1830-1837 |
| 30 | William IV silver 6d | 1830-1837 |
| 31 | Lead Token 9.87g | |
| 32 | Brass weight 1 oz | |

Brooch late 16th - 19th century
 Pottery dating 17th - 19th was picked up on the field.

The exact locations of these is unknown

Georgian Button



18th century seal of foreign origin and possibly Russian



19th century cast, alloy crucifix



CONCLUSION

It is interesting to note that the earliest finds were around the edges of the field, rather than after 1603 when they were concentrated where one would expect, along the footpath. Does the range of coins and the pottery indicate that Dun Close was used for the celebration of the festival of St. Giles (1st September), to which South Mimms church was dedicated?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am very grateful to Richard Coxshall, formerly of *Enfield Archaeological Society*, for identifying the coins.

Brian Warren

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.

WALKS ALONG THE RIVER STORT

To get a sense of the River Stort and its place in local history, I have visited three sections of the river and each provided a pleasant walk.

I suggest the walk from Roydon (lock 13) to Hunsdon (lock 12) taking in Hunsdon Mead Nature Reserve where common grazing has been carried out for over 600 years following the Lammas principle of growing grass until Lammas Day, August 1st, when grazing is allowed – hence you have a wild flower area of much beauty, full of butterflies, in Springtime. This walk is 2 to 3 miles long and flat, and will take place Sunday April 29th, 2012.



The Maltings

The second walk would comprise two sections and best shows the industrial side of the river. From Sheering (lock 6) to Sawbridgeworth (lock 5) takes in the Maltings, the best example of these buildings in Hertfordshire. The prime purpose of the Stort Navigation was to carry malt to London. At Sheering Mill the Lawrence wood-yards made the wooden fuselage and wings for the de Havilland Mosquito. Sheering Mill Cottage dates from 1799 and is the only surviving timber-framed lock-keepers cottage on the canal. A very short walk of 1 mile is also flat. This can be extended to Feakes (lock 7) and views of Pishionbury Park originally granted by Henry VIII to Ann Boleyn. This would then be 2½ miles, and will take place Sunday 20th May, 2012.

P.T.O.



Sheering Mill Cottage

Section 2 takes us from Bishops Stortford to the end of the Stort Navigation, historic Waytemore Castle and Coopers a 16th Century timber-framed building. We would also see St. Michael's Church with monuments to Sir George Duckett and Thomas Adderley who created the Stort Navigation, then past Nettleswell House where Cecil Rhodes was born, and is now part of the Bishops Stortford Museum. The walk then takes us out into the country to Southmill (lock 1) or Twyford (lock 2) – a distance of 2½ or 4 miles, also flat.

The Roydon trip is not so far. Sawbridgeworth and Bishops Stortford are respectively 25 and 30 miles away from Potters Bar. For this trip we would meet earlier in the morning, say 10 a.m., and those who didn't wish to do the afternoon walk could spend time in Stortford.

Please indicate if interested in either or both of these walks and return to Colin Field, 6 Inglefield, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1HD or at a forthcoming meeting.

Refreshments will be available at Roydon and Sawbridgeworth. Bring appropriate footwear as the towpath can be muddy.

Colin Field



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

		✓
Roydon to Hunsdon	Sunday April 29 th 2012	
Sawbridgeworth to Bishops Stortford	Sunday May 20 th 2012	

I/we would like to take part in the walks above:

Name(s):

Phone no:

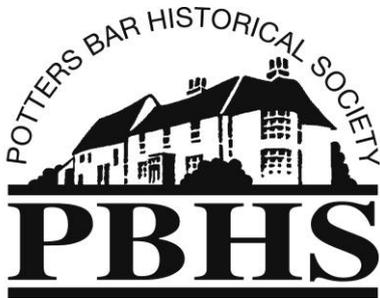
POTTERS BAR AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 53rd Annual General Meeting is to be held at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 24th April 2012 at the 60+ Centre. We would like to invite anybody wishing to become a Committee Member to fill in the form below, with a Proposer and Seconder's signatures. These need to be returned to the Hon. Secretary by Tuesday 10th March 2012. (Richard Lee, 38 Ladbrooke Drive, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 1QR).

These are the positions available:

- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Archivist
- 6 Committee members

After the Business there will be a talk by Mrs. Christine Ruge-Cope on *Finding Our Past through the Pages of Who's Who*.



2012 PBHDS NOMINATION FORM

I propose	
For the office of	
Proposer	
Seconder	
Candidate's signature	