

The Newsletter

May 2012

VOL. 28 No. 3

COVER PICTURE

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



Our local Olympic champion of 1948, Johnny Wright in pride of place on a horse-drawn coach in Darkes Lane after winning a Silver Medal for competing in the middleweight boxing championship match in the 1948 Wembley Olympics. The coach is on its way to the Ritz Cinema (the site is now the Sports Centre) for a Civic Reception. On the left of the picture is The Potters 'Beefeater' public house that was demolished in August 2000 to become the site for 'Potters Court' sheltered housing.



Johnny Wright and his fiancé showing his Olympic medal to mother and father at their home in Southgate Road. Johnny died aged 75 in 1998 in Dorset.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our members.

It is spring again, but what a strange start to the year we have had. With the highest March temperatures bringing the plants forward and then the more exotic ones being cut down with the sharp frosts; and that follows the driest period over winter we have had in many a year. There are now reports of this being the wettest April on record. Mother Nature does not know which way to turn, but the frogs in my pond keep their own time-table and so I have seen frogspawn jelly in dozens of clumps. Not to put too many people off, but it does make your toast very soggy!

I look forward to the final talk of our year on Thursday 31st May with a lecture by Graham Dalling entitled *Churches in Norfolk*. I hope to see you all then.

Terry Goulding

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome Mr. Michael Allen, Mr. Dennis Bird, Mrs. Marian Kemball-Cook. Mrs. Yvonne Weston 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 2012/13

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.

If you have not yet paid, please would you send your remittance on the form attached to this Newsletter.

OBITUARY

George Case (1926-2012)

In mid-1985 I interviewed George's uncle, Charles Case, and later visited another uncle, Fred, so I first heard of George. George was born on the 14th November 1926 at Isledon Road, Finsbury Park, and the family moved to 46 Laurel Avenue in 1934; it was bombed on the 26th February 1941.

George was a member of St. Mary's choir and in the scouts, subsequently the No. 57 Squadron Air Training Corps, Potters Bar. He attended Cranborne Junior School and was in the first intake at Parkfield Secondary School, (now the site of Mayfair Lodge) in 1938, with Miss Goodacre as Headmistress.

When George reached 14 it was no surprise that he started work on the railway, on the 17th December 1940, because his father and grandfather were railway men. From that time George took every opportunity for self-advancement and when he retired in 1984 he was Senior Assistant Station Master at Kings Cross. When he acted for the Station Master he met the Queen and other members of the Royal Family, as they travelled through Kings Cross. George was a special constable for many years, he played golf, bridge and also made model engines in his garage.

On the opening of the Potters Bar Museum, George would often visit and relate hilarious tales of life on the railway. I suggested he should write them down, but it was many years later he wrote his five books about his life on the railway. He was also a good salesman and always took copies to any railway meeting. George died on Saturday, 14th April 2012.

The Society was represented at the funeral on the 30th April at King Charles the Martyr. Condolences are conveyed to Lily, whom he married on the 5th March 1949, and the rest of his family.

Brian Warren

FROM THE RECORDERS

Work continues on the M25 widening. Unimportant changes in shop occupancy are taking place; Matthews, the large furniture shop in the High Street, is closing for refurbishment.

It is becoming noticeable the number of solar panels appearing on roofs. These seem especially obvious in Sunnybank Road. There is one mounted high above the roof on poles; does this meet building regulations?

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

SPRING LECTURE

Thursday May 31st, 2012

The last lecture for this year will be *Churches in Norfolk* by Mr. Graham Dalling.

Since 1965, Graham Dalling has been a regular visitor to Norfolk and the slides are from then onwards. He considers Norfolk to be one of the top counties for church architecture. There is a skilful use of flint, and the woodwork of roofs and screens. Norfolk was a hot point of Puritans but much architecture has survived in villages.

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

AUTUMN LECTURES will start again in September, and a new Programme Card will be issued with the following Newsletter the same month.

The first Autumn lecture is on Thursday September 27th when Brian Warren will be giving a talk on *The Development of Potters Bar in the 20th century*.

Richard Lee & Colin Field

FUN DAY 14th July 2012

This year we will again have a stand at the *Fun Day* in Oakmere Park on July 14th. This occasion has certainly promoted and made sure visitors recognise Potters Bar has a Museum. This is an appeal for help in setting up the stall, and requires half an hour's help to carry display items from the car park to our allotted site at 10.30 a.m. and then about half an hour at the end of the day at 4.30 p.m. to help carry everything back.

A second appeal is to help for an hour during the day so that other members can look around the rest of the stalls. Please let me know if you can help.

Mabel Hammett 657120

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Following my request, in the last Newsletter, for information about the Parkfield carved tree I received only one verbal reply. However, in the latest newsletter of the Enfield Society, it was noted that Hertsmere Borough Council have produced a useful leaflet on the subject.

The Monumental Brass Society's visit to St. Giles, South Mimms, was well attended and organised. There were four talks – '*The Frowyk Family of London, and South Mimms, Middlesex*', '*Henry Frowyk's foundation stone at the Guildhall Chapel*', '*The Frowyk Monument*' and '*The Brasses of South Mimms*'. The last talk was of greatest interest to me as it showed the value of recording, a feature of the Society's Recorder Group. The brasses in St. Giles had been recorded in 1631, 1717, 1796, c.1805, 1838, 1861, 1877, 1926, 1983 and as late as 2009. I found a similar continuous recording of the coloured glass survivors, in the windows of the North aisle, dating from 1526. Various sources provided dates from 1621, 1764, 1796, 1807, 1877, 1929, 1937 and my observations in 1998. Though our own Recorder Group's records only date from 1984, they are already proving to be useful in answering enquiries of the recent past.

In connection with the mention of Bridgefoot House and its role in WW2, in the last Newsletter, I contacted my cousin, who served in a special monitoring unit of the Royal Signals. He was trained at Leatherhead and sent information to Bletchley. Of interest to us is he said that they often used large private houses. Subsequently, he served in Delhi, Sri Lanka and Singapore.

Brian Warren

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

THE SOCIETY'S 53RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Brian Warren started the meeting by saying that George Case had died the previous Saturday 16th April. He had written five books on his working life on the railway that are sold in the museum.

Our Chairman, **Terry Goulding**, opened the business meeting and later recorded that it was completed by 8.20 p.m. This year we had an attendance of 47 members.

Richard Lee read his secretary's report. He thanked Committee member **Colin Field** for arranging the very interesting Lectures and arranging two walks along The River Stort. He recorded that the Historical Society committee had met ten times and the Museum committee had met 6 times. Maldwyn Griffith and George Case (see above) had died. Terry Goulding, Arnold Davey and Brian Kolbert have now taken over the trustee posts. Membership now stands at 187 at 31st March. Richard thanked all the members who delivered the newsletters, saving many pounds in postage.

Vice chairman and Museum curator, **Arnold Davey**, then gave his report for the museum. Helen Giles our Hertsmer Heritage and Museum Officer has added the museum to Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com>). We had a repeat visit from the same French School as last year. Twenty-nine pupils plus three tutors spent about three quarters of an hour in the museum. They all concentrated very hard to understand the information being given in English and lots tried out their English on us. Terry tried to get them confused by talking about a 'gusunder'. One of the groups from the U3A had arranged a quiz and walk around Potters Bar with one of the sections being a visit to the museum where their answers could be found. Arnold said the present temporary exhibition is *Below the Marble Stairs* and the next planned temporary exhibition will be *The Titanic* in July; there was considerable murmurings from the members in the hall about this choice.

Arnold proposed **Terry** again for chairman, to which the meeting agreed, and then asked the members to agree to the rest of the committee being voted back en block for the next year.

The treasurer, **Terry Goulding**, spoke next. He had distributed to the members a copy of the annual accounts which had yet to be agreed by Mike Keevil. The end-of-year balance was £4,009 against £3,999 last year. The sale of books is still doing well but not as high as last year when we had Arnold Davey's and Brian Warren's new books on sale. Terry said that the shops around the town are still taking our books to sell.

As postage is going to be increased in the next few weeks the committee discussed either charging for Newsletters sent through the post or increasing the membership fee. Both of these will be left unchanged as the sale of books (all written by members) are still selling sufficiently well to cover the costs. He reported that the cost of Speakers is increasing, some now have Powerpoint presentations which may have added a cost to their lectures. The committee decided that the quality of speakers that we have had in this last year is certainly worth paying the extra but all these costs would be reviewed at the committee meetings. Mabel Hammett asked for it to be noted that over fifty of our members support the Society and Museum throughout the year by taking on jobs to help the Society which out of a membership of 187 is fantastic.

As usual at the AGM the committee invites a member to give a lecture after the tea break. This year we were entertained by **Chris Ruge-Cope** who had worked at Who's Who for many years. The lecture was so different from our normal speakers and enjoyed by everyone. Chris covered the history of how the book was first published and then the history of the local Potters Bar people who were in the book. She then went on to show us how the information in the book could be used as an aid to investigating family history plus lots more that kept us all interested. After questions from members in the hall, Brian Warren gave a vote of thanks and mentioned that our first Journal was planned in Chris's home in 1984.

Mabel Hammett Committee Member

WALKS ALONG THE RIVER STORT

The first walk along the River Stort took place on a cool Sunday 15th April. Starting at Roydon, and walking up-stream to Hunsdon lock. On the way, the route passed Hunsdon Mead Nature Reserve, which lies between the canalised section and the original river. The Nature Reserve contains common grazing that been carried out for over 600 years following the Lammas principle.



Roydon lock-keeper's cottage contains a shield to George Jackson, who was the principal shareholder of the Commission that canalised the river.

In later years, he changed his surname to (Sir George) Duckett to inherit his second wife's uncle's (Thomas Duckett) Hartham Estate near Corsham in Wiltshire.

The walk through Hunsdon Mead Nature Reserve. There were plenty of cowslips to be seen.



The second section 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 Adderly 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 second walk will probably start at 10.00 a.m. on **Sunday May 20th 2012**. Please contact Colin Field, 6 Inglefield, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1HD. Refreshments are available at Sawbridgeworth. Bring appropriate footwear as the towpath can be muddy.

Richard Lee & Colin Field

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

SOUTH MIMMS CASTLE OBSERVATIONS 1977-79 A1(M) CECIL ROAD – ROESTOCK GREEN

(PART 1)

INTRODUCTION

Empress Matilda granted by her second charter (25-31 July 1141) to Geoffrey de Mandeville II the following, “*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.*” Subsequent writers have presumed this grant referred to the motte and bailey castle situated north of South Mimms village. The castle was only in existence from 1141 to 1143 when it was presumed to have been destroyed. It remained undiscovered for nearly 800 years, when in Autumn 1918 Mr. G F Cruickshank and Mr. A F Major discovered it while investigating the course of Grimsdyke. Though a report was made in 1920 there was no follow-up. Eleven years later Mr C Lee Davis and his son, with Mr P Davis, of the *Mill Hill Historical Society* rediscovered the castle. By July 1933 a *South Mymms Excavation Committee* had been established and an appeal launched for subscriptions to allow an excavation to proceed. For some unknown reason nothing was undertaken but in 1936 the site was scheduled as an Ancient Monument (AM18/6846).

A new survey was published by D F Renn, in the *Barnet and District Record Society Bulletin*, No. 10, November 1957. According to Dr. J P C Kent this was an excellent survey which he used during the excavations he led every summer between 1960-67, on behalf of the *North Middlesex Archaeological Research Committee*. Dr. Kent’s work was primarily concerned in excavating the motte but he readily acknowledged there was little known of the bailey and the pre-castle phase of the castle.

In 1977 with the forth-coming construction of the A1(M) Cecil Road to Roestock Green road (3.17 miles) permission was granted for a watching brief to observe and record any archaeological artefacts and features in the vicinity of the castle. It was on the 12th March 1977 that a preliminary visit was made by Graham Deal, Richard Coxshall and Brian Warren, of the *Enfield Archaeological Society*. Between that visit and the final observation, on the 26th December 1979, fifty visits were made.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Mr. Mawdesly, the resident Site Engineer, for granting permission to observe the construction of the A1(M). My gratitude is expressed to Robin Harcourt Williams, until his retirement, the archivist and librarian to the Marquess of Salisbury, for using his expertise to translate Empress Matilda’s second charter (July 1141) to Geoffrey de Mandeville for me. Also, I would like to thank Graham Deal, Richard Coxshall and Geoffrey Gillam, of the *Enfield Archaeological Society* for their assistance. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Ellison, of the *Institute of Geological Studies*, in analysing the soil samples from the site. In addition I thank Stephen Castle, for bringing to my attention his finds and to John Lee, of Cuffley, for identifying the Mesolithic finds. Originally the pottery was examined by John Cherry, Adrian Havercroft, Alison Laws, Clive Orton, Michael Rose, Chris Saunders and Myfanwy Stewart but I am indebted to Jacqui Pearce of the *Museum of London Archaeology*, Alison Turner Rugg, formerly, of *Verulamium Museum* and Dr. Isobel Thompson, *Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Officer*, for bringing the classifications up to present-day interpretations. Finally, to Dr. John Kent, who supervised the 1960-67 Castle excavations, for his considered observations on the evidence I showed him and his opinion to my questions. However, without the great assistance of Richard Lee and his computer skills this article would not have been published, so I am most grateful to him.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

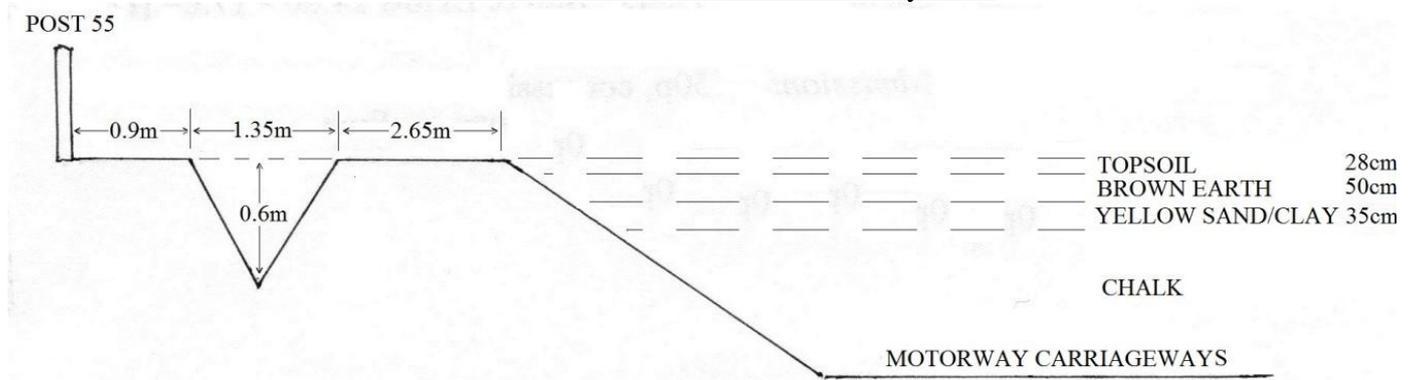
The length of the ditch observed was from TL c.2305 0260 to TL c.2306 0250. A V-shaped ditch parallel to the western boundary fence, of the motorway, was excavated between the 13th and 18th March 1977. The western posts of the fence were numbered from 1 to 120, no. 20 being the Grand Marker Post 114.



20th March 1977

The man standing in the ditch (above) is by Grand Marker Post 114 (later post No. 20), with the castle to the West, i.e. left. Horizontal and vertical measurements were taken from the fence to position any artefact. Nearly all the finds came from the western (left) side of the ditch in the photograph.

Ditch Section at Post 55 taken 24th May 1977



THE AIM

The main purpose was to record all finds and features in the V-shaped ditch and on the line of the motorway.

Secondly, to observe for any evidence which would confirm or refute the possible existence of an outer bailey feature first seen on a 1934 aerial photograph.

LATE MESOLITHIC/NEOLITHIC

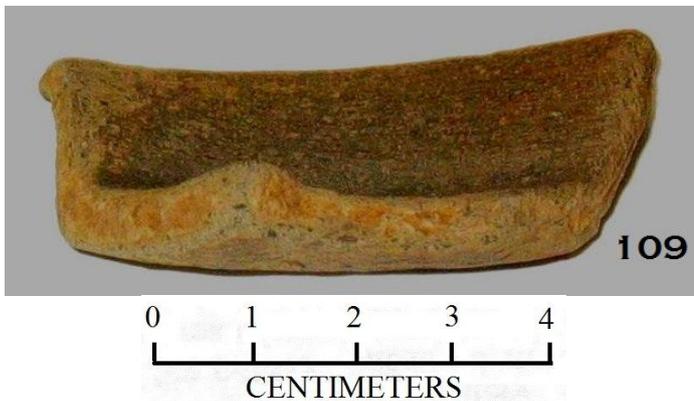
In 1987 it was noted that Mesolithic man had entered the local area from the rivers Thames and Lea, via the catchment area of the Turkey, Cuffley and Ponsborne Brooks on the East. Since then subsequent finds have proved that Mesolithic man also entered the area from the West, along the River Colne. These incursions occurred after the retreat of the last Würm glaciation, somewhere between 5000 – 6000 B.C.



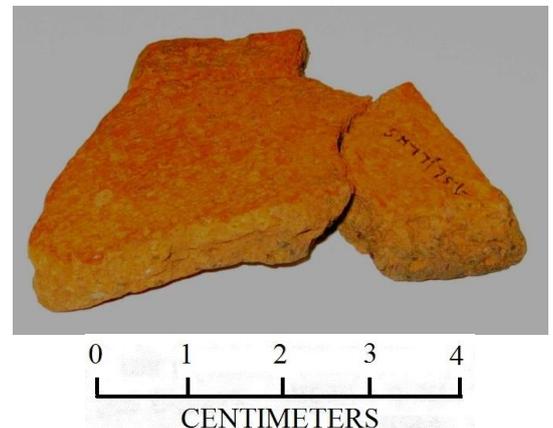
98 & 113 Flint blades
 115 Worked burnt flint
 117c Truncated twinned flint marginally retouched
 122 & 126 (not in photograph) flakes
 106, 117a, 117b and 119 are all struck flints

POTTERY

Iron Age



This is part of a late Iron Age copy of an imported plate, similar to others made at Verulamium, AD 20-50.



Three joining sherds from a Late Iron Age plain jar AD 20-50.

Following a meeting of the Barnet and District Record Society (11-2-1981) Dr. Kent was shown the above sherds and he stated he had not found anything like them.

Roman

No positive Roman evidence was obtained but four pieces of brick and tile, a rim and a sherd were queried as Roman. All were quite small, similarly five sherds (SM77/20-24), from between Posts 55 and 56 resulted in complete disagreement from Saxon, Roman and Medieval. This evidence confirmed Dr. A Streeter's opinion after examining most of the finds from Dr. Kent's excavations (1960-67) in that, "*the evidence for Roman occupation in the castle site remains slender*" (letter to B Warren, 8-7-1985). In c.1969, T G Goulding had found three pieces of Samian ware on the field to the North of the castle.

The following parts will be produced in subsequent Newsletters.

© Brian Warren

LEARNING BY LOOKING

I have always maintained that when moving into a new area one can soon learn about some of its history by examining drain covers. In the September 1999 *Newsletter* one was recorded locally as:-

BARKER
POTTERS BAR
BUILDER

In the January 2000 *Newsletter* members were thanked for their replies to the Archivist of other local drain covers. Below are photographs of some known local drain covers, but the locations have not been given because the house owners would not welcome hordes of people in their sideways.



J Barker. Photographed 17-5-1999



Charles Bros Ltd. Photographed 25-9-1999



A L Foulser. Photographed 17-5-1999



Williams & Sons. Photographed 17-5-1999
(Williams lived in the Southgate road)



E Hicks. Photographed 27-4-2012

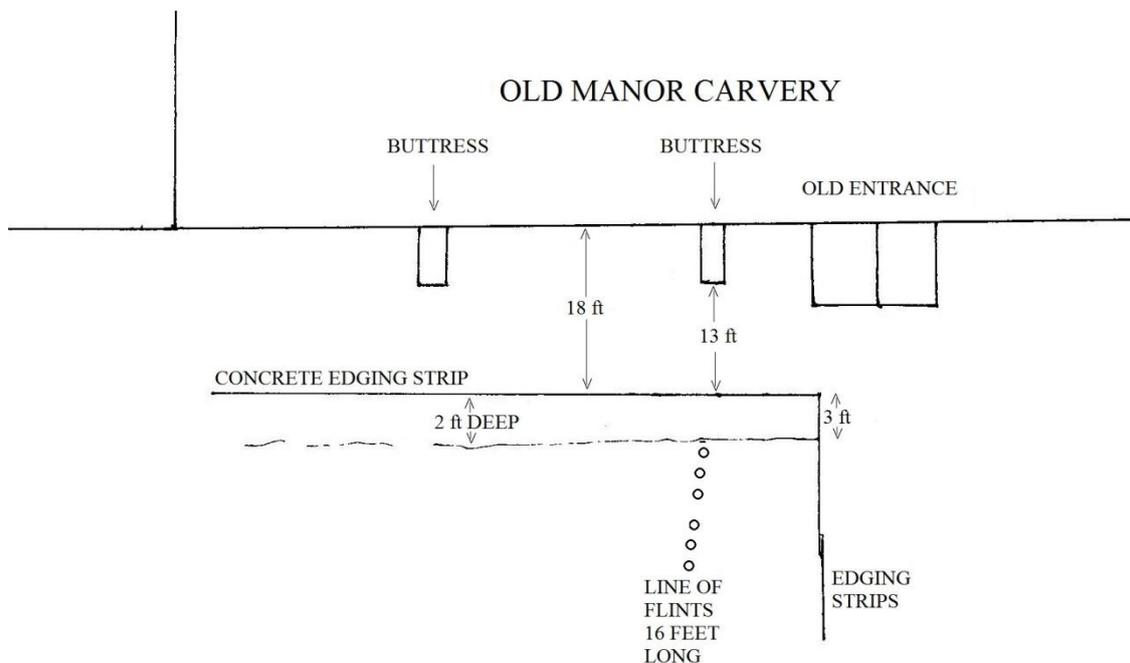
Please report any further locations to the Hon. Archivist.

© *Brian Warren*

WYLLYOTTS MANOR

Before the building of the present Wylllyotts buildings, containing the theatre, Sixty-plus room and the Potters Bar Museum, the *Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust* (HAT) undertook an archaeological excavation from early 1988 to January 1989. Some of the finds are on display in the Museum.

On the 4th December 1990, Terry Goulding recorded a line of flints from the Old Manor Carvery building, in a southerly direction.



Location of Flints



Key:  The above marks the line of flints as recorded by Terry Goulding.

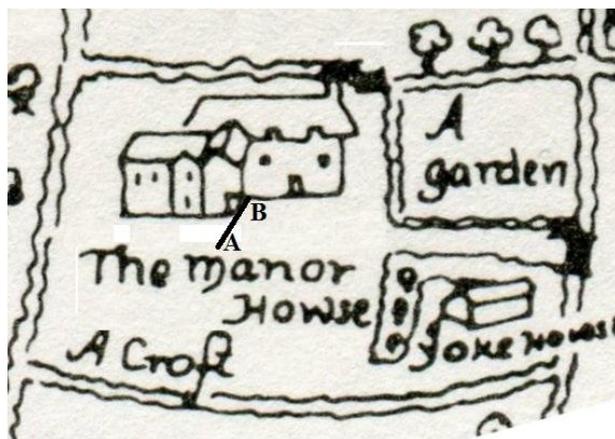
An Enlargement of the Flint Line

The
line
of
flints



Some of the flints were as large as 13" x 10", within half an hour of Terry's observations and photographs the area was covered with gravel.

Ralph Treswell, 1594, Plan of Wyllyotts Manor (enlarged) (Guildhall Library Map Case 66)



When the line of flints is located on the above plan they would appear to be the foundation line A – B of the building at right angles to the Old Manor Carvery.

Acknowledgment

Terry is to be congratulated on recording the line of flints and I thank him for granting me permission to reproduce his work.

© *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.

