

# *The Newsletter*

May 2013

VOL. 29 No. 3

## COVER PICTURE

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



This is the procession walking towards the first church of Charles the Martyr in Dugdale Hill Road. Father Hay from St. Giles Church, South Mimms, and the Bishop of Willesden (with the mitre) can be seen, the latter blessed the stone. The Reverend T. Basil Woodd laid the Foundation Stone on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 1939.

## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

To all our members.

As I write this in the middle of April I think we have just turned around the corner on one of the coldest winter seasons. At least, the frogs in my garden think so and are in fine voice – every night! One of them is a lovely orange colour, perhaps because I fed them as tadpoles on coloured fish food.

I look forward to the 1951 Exhibition talk at the end of May if only to revive for me the memory of the new plastic cups that gave the tea there a very strange taste. We have in our Museum the steel prototype base of the ‘Skylon’ feature which was used for strength and environmental testing purposes by my company. I hope to see you all for the talk on Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> of May.

*Terry Goulding*

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

We should like to welcome Gillian Colkin on joining the Society. We hope she will come to our 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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## **SPRING LECTURE**

**Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

The last lecture for this year will be ‘*The 1951 Exhibition: Festival of Britain*’ by Mr. John Ghafur.

This is John Ghafur’s outline:

The talk will take you to the Festival as though we were going as a group on a warm August evening in 1951. We will be entertained by a famous band leader of the day and see the Festival site all lit up. We will talk about the lead up to the Festival and the key iconic structures. We will visit the Dome of Discovery and other key exhibits; and later the Battersea Festival Pleasure Gardens by river boat. We will learn about the key personalities and venues of the Festival. We will take in the Great Exhibition of 1851 (with main exhibits) and how that came about with the key personalities that ensured the success of the Crystal Palace. Members will be invited to bring any mementoes and recall their memories of the Festival of Britain 1951. Finally we will see the comparison and legacy of both exhibitions.

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 September Newsletter.

The first Autumn lecture is on Tuesday September 24<sup>th</sup> when David Thorold will be giving a talk on *Old and New Finds of the Coin Collection*. David works as the Medieval Curator, Verulamium Museum, St Albans, and among other things will discuss the "nationally significant" hoard of Roman gold coins revealed last October.

*Richard Lee*

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2012/13**

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.

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

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## **CALLING ALL THOSE WITH E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

As notified in the January Newsletter, if you would prefer to receive your Newsletter by email [rather than hardcopy], please remember to email Sarah Bulling on [pbdhs.sjb@btinternet.com](mailto:pbdhs.sjb@btinternet.com). We have had 11 replies to change to e-mail from the January Newsletter.

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## **COVER PICTURE from the JANUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER (VOL 29 NO 2)**

A letter was received from Mr R.E. Bull, ex-Gunner 1775336, suggesting the picture on the cover of the previous Newsletter was incorrectly captioned. He explained: the arm controlling the searchlight was at a distance from the light so the handler was outside the glare of that light and thus able to see not only if the beam showed up an aircraft but could then follow it. Mr Bull also added: the other piece of equipment shown in the background comprising three circles in a vertical line plus one to the right [as viewed] were sound locator receivers. The top and bottom receivers were wired for sound into either side of an operator's headphones and he moved the receivers up and down until he heard the same degree of "noise" in each ear. The middle of the three vertical receivers and the one on the right were wired to a second operator who manipulated them horizontally until he received even sound in both ears. From these co-ordinations, azimuth and elevation were passed on to the one man search light crew who tried to follow the bearing given by the two sound operators ~ far more complicated than later radio location.

*Sarah Bulling*

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## **CALLING ALL MEMBERS WILLING TO SHARE THEIR MEMORIES OF POTTERS BAR**

Our Hon. Sec. Sarah Bulling is interested in meeting Members willing to share their memories of Potters Bar with her. These personal histories would then be typed up for publication in the PB&DHS Newsletter or Journals as appropriate. Any old photographs of the area which are forthcoming will be copied by Terry Goulding for use by the Society.

*Sarah Bulling*

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## **POTTERS BAR MUSEUM**

### **Museum Stewards: the Mystery of telephone connection from Reception Desk is solved!**

To take calls in the Museum from the Wylllyotts Theatre Reception Desk: ask the person calling from the Wylllyotts Theatre Reception Desk what number line is being used. If told "Line 1", press "1" on phone in the Museum to receive the call.

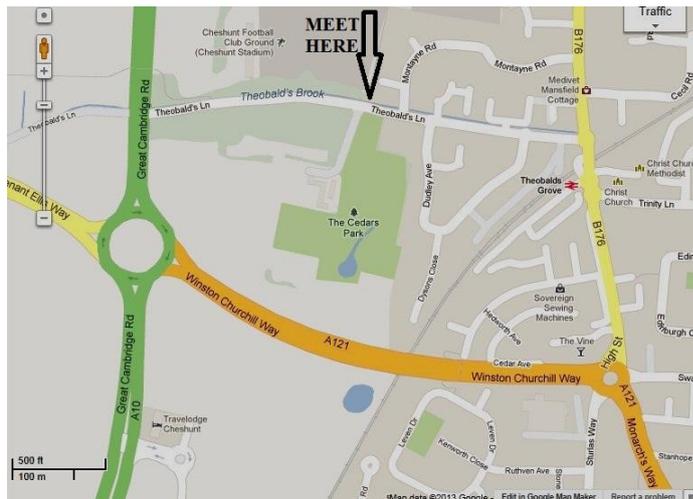
*Sarah Bulling*

## WALK IN CEDARS PARK

On Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 p.m. Mike Dewbrey will meet us at the main pedestrian gates to Cedars Park, Theobalds Lane, Cheshunt, to lead a walk in which he will recreate Theobalds Palace on site! The tour of the grounds takes one and a half to two hours. The charge will be £30 divided by the number attending.

Members may recollect that Mike promised to arrange this when his talk on Theobalds House was given in October 2012.

Any queries to Colin Field on 01707 857297.



*Colin Field*

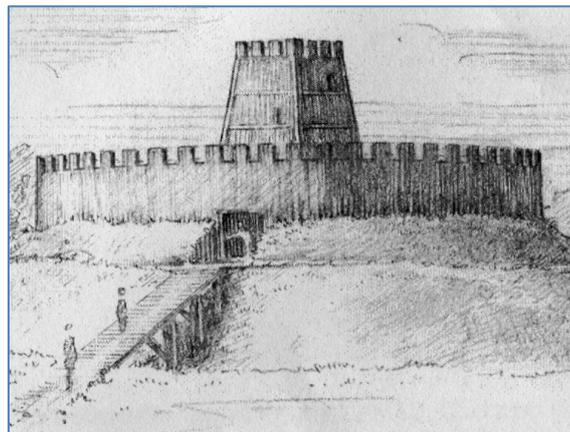
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## EXCAVATIONS AT SOUTH MIMMS CASTLE, HERTFORDSHIRE

by John Kent, Derek Renn and Anthony Streeten

London and Middlesex Archaeological Society Special Paper 16, 2013.

This is the long-awaited final report of the archaeological and documentary investigation of a motte-and-bailey castle at South Mimms. Small-scale excavations of the 1960s by the late John Kent produced important results, not least in offering a fixed point for pottery and artefacts in the region north of London in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. A timber tower built at ground level was approached from a bridge through a cutting in the motte which partly covered the tower. The manor's long ownership by the Mandeville family and their place in national history is explored, and the most likely builder of the castle proposed to be Geoffrey II de Mandeville, first Earl of Essex, between 1136 and 1143.



ISBN 978-0-903290-66-1

Price £30 + £2.50 post and packing (Cheques payable to 'London & Middlesex Archaeological Soc')

Orders to Karen Thomas, London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED.

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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

## THE SOCIETY'S 54<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Colin Field**, who arranges the Society's programme of talks and outings, started the meeting with a date for the diary: *Sunday 16 June Cedars Park [site of Theobalds]; walk led by Mike Dewbrey* who gave the talk on Theobalds House. Further details will be provided nearer the time, but the plan is to meet at 14.30 ~ and the parkland is flat.

Our Chairman **Terry Goulding** opened the official business of the AGM which was completed by 8.15 p.m. Attendance comprised 35 members.

**Sarah Bulling** began her first Secretary's Report by thanking **Richard Lee** for his endeavours as Secretary before she took over from him in August 2012. Having outlined the programme of talks arranged by **Colin Field**, she continued with thanks to **Christine Ruge-Cope** who has taken over from Eileen Field as Membership Secretary; to **Mabel Hammett** and helpers for providing tea, coffee & biscuits at the lecture evenings and also the food at the Xmas Social; & **Richard Lee** again, this time for reproducing the Society's Newsletters, Journals & other publications [and also deputised in the kitchen as Mabel presented the post AGM talk on *The History & Design of Gloves*]. Sarah also thanked those who deliver the Newsletters, saving the Society postage costs. Printing costs would also been saved by those electing to receive Newsletters electronically: further email addresses should be given to Sarah Bulling. For the record, the Historical Society Committee met 10 times & the Museum Committee 6 times over the past year.

Vice-Chairman & Museum Curator **Arnold Davey** presented his report on the Museum. Ruth Stratton had taken over from Helen Giles as Hertsmere Heritage & Museums Officer. *The Titanic* exhibition finished at the end of 2012 and was especially popular during its final days between Xmas & New Year. Currently *Boudicca* is on display [she may have passed through PB on her way between London & St Albans]. The next display will be *150 Years of the Underground* [not, as some portions of the Media insist on calling it, The Tube, which came some time later]. Arnold also mentioned a couple of donations to the Museum: a mediaeval tile found in South Mimms by Dr Lesley Boatwright & a watercolour of old St. John's Church.

In his capacity as Treasurer, **Terry Goulding** highlighted elements in the Annual Accounts which had been distributed earlier. The deficit of £873 was explained by the need to purchase both a new projector and a new printer ~ though a second printer had come "free" with an order for inks for the first.

Arnold took over the meeting and Terry was again elected as Chairman. The remaining members of the Committee were elected en bloc:

Vice-chairman	Arnold Davey
Secretary	Sarah Bulling
Treasurer	Terry Goulding
Archivist	Brian Warren
Committee member	Brian Kolbert
Committee member	Mabel Hammett
Committee member	Colin Field
Committee member	Richard Lee

After the AGM closed and refreshments had been consumed, Mabel's talk on *The History & Design of Gloves* caused a great deal of interest. An informative Powerpoint presentation [using the new projector] was well illustrated with stills and video clips. After this, Mabel distributed a large variety of fashion glove types to her audience, most being tried on by many or just stroked, the materials being beautifully soft. So enthralled was the audience that 9.30 p.m. came & went without a vote of thanks ~ which would have been effusive in its praise.

*Sarah Bulling*

## THE LIMERICK HOUSE SITE (Part 2)

### The Beerhouse

Members of Mary Welch's family were resident in the beerhouse until the end of the Nineteenth Century. In December 1835 Thomas, the son of Mary and James, was baptized at St. John's, High Street, Potters Bar, this revealed that James was bailiff, at Darkes Lodge, and perhaps he was still there, at the 1841 Census. Mary was then recorded as a beer seller and it must have been about this time beer was sold at the later Limerick House site. In 1851 Mary was a '*beer shopkeeper*', James having died in 1845. Mary was succeeded in 1866 by her son, Thomas, who was a '*beer retailer*'. In 1871 is the first mention of the Railway Inn Beer House followed in 1878 as the Railroad Inn. The 1891 Census recorded Thomas as a beer retailer and four years later as a '*beer retailer and straw dealer*'.

View West Down  
Mutton Lane before 1896



Close-up of about the same date  
looking South



In 1898 the road was widened for the convenience of carters and wagons. The 1901 Census noted Thomas Welch as the publican of the Railroad Inn, with two daughters. He died on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1902; the following year the licence was transferred to Frederick Newman, with Pryor, Reid and Co. holding a repairing lease from Harriet Tomlinson for 21 years since 1893. On 8<sup>th</sup> March 1906 the House was referred under the Licensing Act, 1904, which allowed redundant licensed houses to be closed on payment of proper compensation. By an Order of the Middlesex Quarter Sessions at the Guildhall, Westminster, 10<sup>th</sup> November 1906 the House was closed.

### The Twentieth Century from 1906

From the loss of the licence until 1914 it was used as a store house by Hawkins and Son, from Thornton Road, Little Heath, where they had a wood yard. In 1910 Edward George Hawkins occupied the premises owned by Mrs. Harriet Tomlinson. The Census, a year later, noted he was a carman and James William Beal, oil and sundry, had the adjacent structure seen in the photograph overleaf. The Beal family lived in a house next to the Case family below The Bridge House.



About 1925, Edmund May, the head postman, purchased the premises, refurbished it and put in the bay window. He named it Lych Grove. He was buried in Mutton Lane Cemetery on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1926 by J. Seymour-Hill, the vicar of Christ Church, Little Heath. His wife, Frances, remained at Lych Grove until her death in January 1947. Dorothy Gevers, from Crouch End paid £2,300, in August 1948. The British Red Cross Society acquired Limerick House in June 1960 and it was adapted for their required needs. As a result of the implementation of the Greater London Plan, Limerick House was transferred to Hertfordshire in exchange for a Barnet Centre built by Hertfordshire, at a cost of £5,500 to Branch Funds. From December 1967 to May 1972 there was the threat of a road improvement scheme which restricted development. In March 1973 all units abandoned the semi-derelict building and the Potters Bar Branch of the Red Cross vacated the building 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. Mr. Michael Fitch, of Dixon Hill Close, purchased the site in August 2007 and it has been converted into business units.



### Conclusion

In future, if a researcher is to use Mr. H.J. Butcher's books I would strongly suggest the references should be checked against the original Williotts' records held at the Guildhall, London.

© Brian Warren

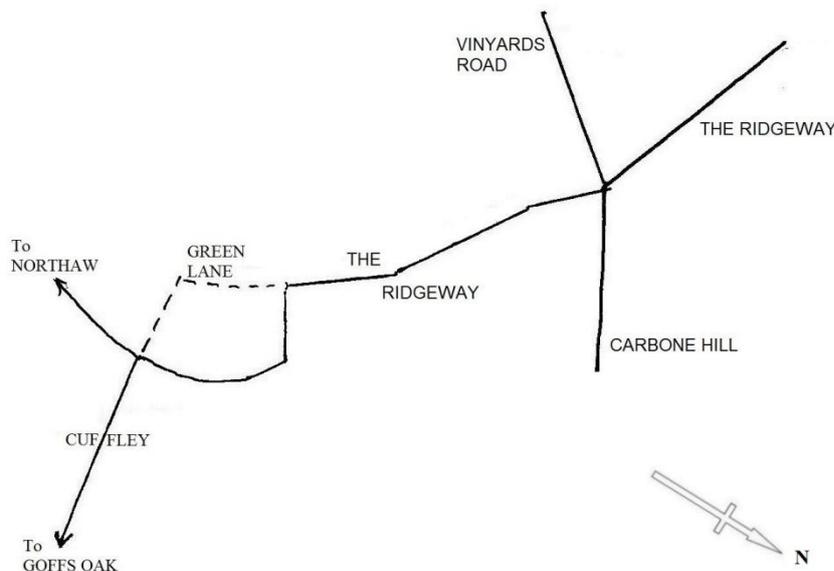
## THE ROMAN ROAD THROUGH CUFFLEY

In the early 1960's I.D. Margery, a leading authority on Roman Roads, was chairman of a group of eight other researchers, who tried to locate Roman roads in the South-East Midlands. They were called the 'Viatores', which loosely translated from the Latin means 'travellers on Roman roads'. It was a thorough study but there were some gross errors. Locally, they proposed a Roman road along the Cockfosters Road and up Stag Hill from where they indicated it went diagonally across fields to join Hatfield Road, in Potters Bar. That road dates from 1802!

The road through Cuffley was part of the road designated as Route 212, from Verulamium to Cheshunt, a distance of thirteen and a half miles, which was described locally as, 'The Ridgeway, running very straight and wide for three-quarters of a mile, now marks the course to the crossroads at the north-east corner of Great Wood, after which some deviations to the south-east occur to keep the road right on the crest of the ridge. At Cuffley the modern road turns off to the north-east (299029) but the Roman road continues straight on, marked for 370 yards by a derelict green lane, 20 feet wide, with signs of agger along it.

*The road turns, almost at right angles, towards the north-east, 30 yards beyond the end of Green Lane and then crosses King James Avenue to follow the modern road, which runs wide and straight to Goff's Oak (323030).'*

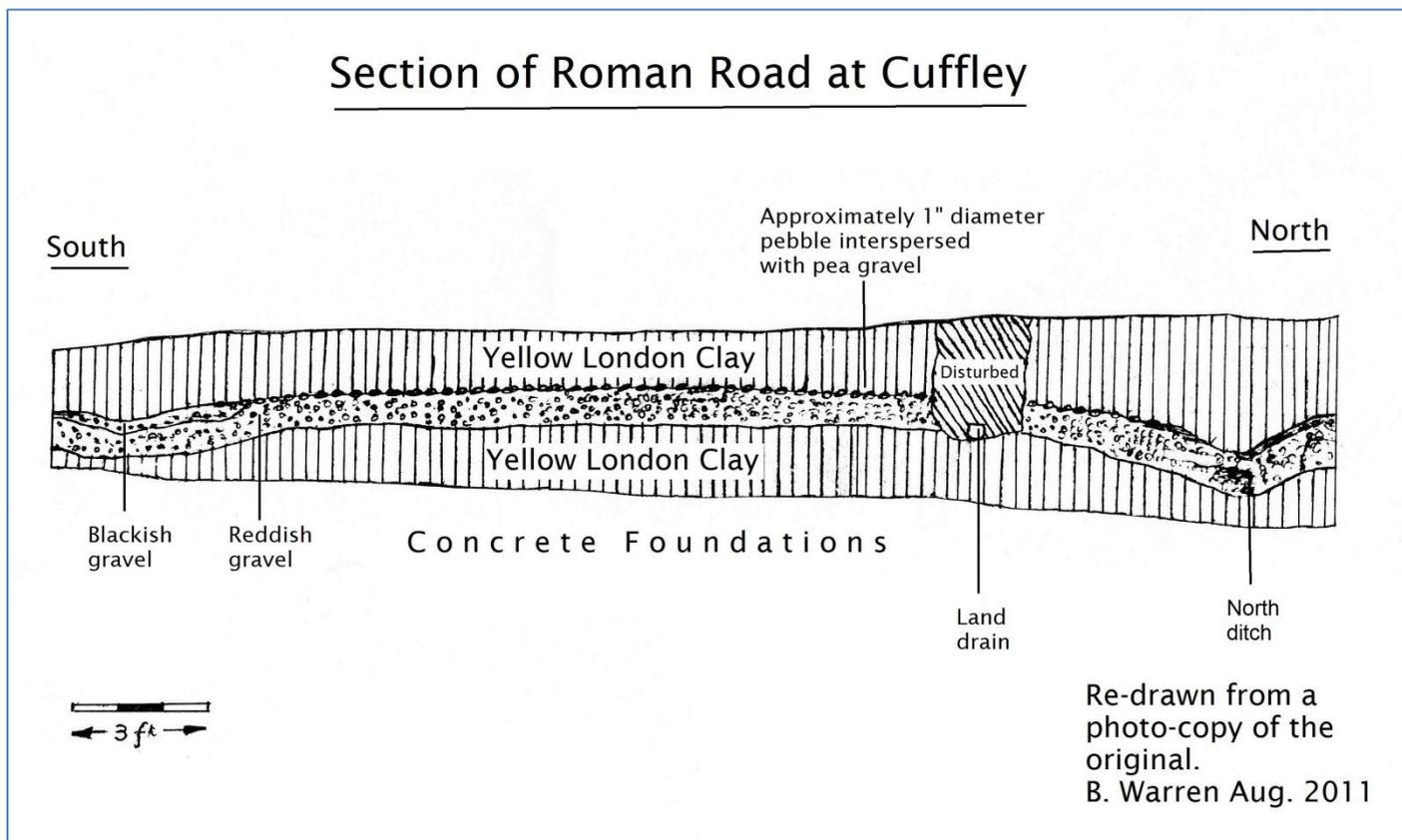
### SKETCH MAP OF THE ABOVE ROUTE



The first possible indication of the existence of the proposed road occurred about 1964, when the 1<sup>st</sup> Cuffley Scout Group's hut was being built, just below 36 King James Avenue, where Trevor James lived. He recalled (1998) "A road-like feature of hard-packed gravel was uncovered when a bank behind houses in King James Avenue was levelled to build a Scout Hut ..... on land that had previously been allotments" (HSMR 9543). In April 2007, while I was on the British Naturalist Associations (Herts Branch) day, in Northaw Great Wood, Trevor recounted to me, "When the present Scout Hut was built behind his parent's house (36 King James Avenue) the Roman road was exposed. It was about twenty feet wide, with a gravel surface but no side ditches, as far as he could recall."

Early in 1971, when the North Sea Gas pipe was being laid, a layer of gravel was uncovered two feet below the surface in the trench and resting on virgin London clay. At the time it was not possible to take a detailed record because the trench was soon backfilled. The section was about 100 feet north of Cuffley Hill and on the opposite side of Cuffley Brook from Brook Farm (311028). (Ward 1971).

Two years later, with the sinking of foundations for the Library and Clinic, at three feet down, a complete cross-section of the Roman road was exposed.



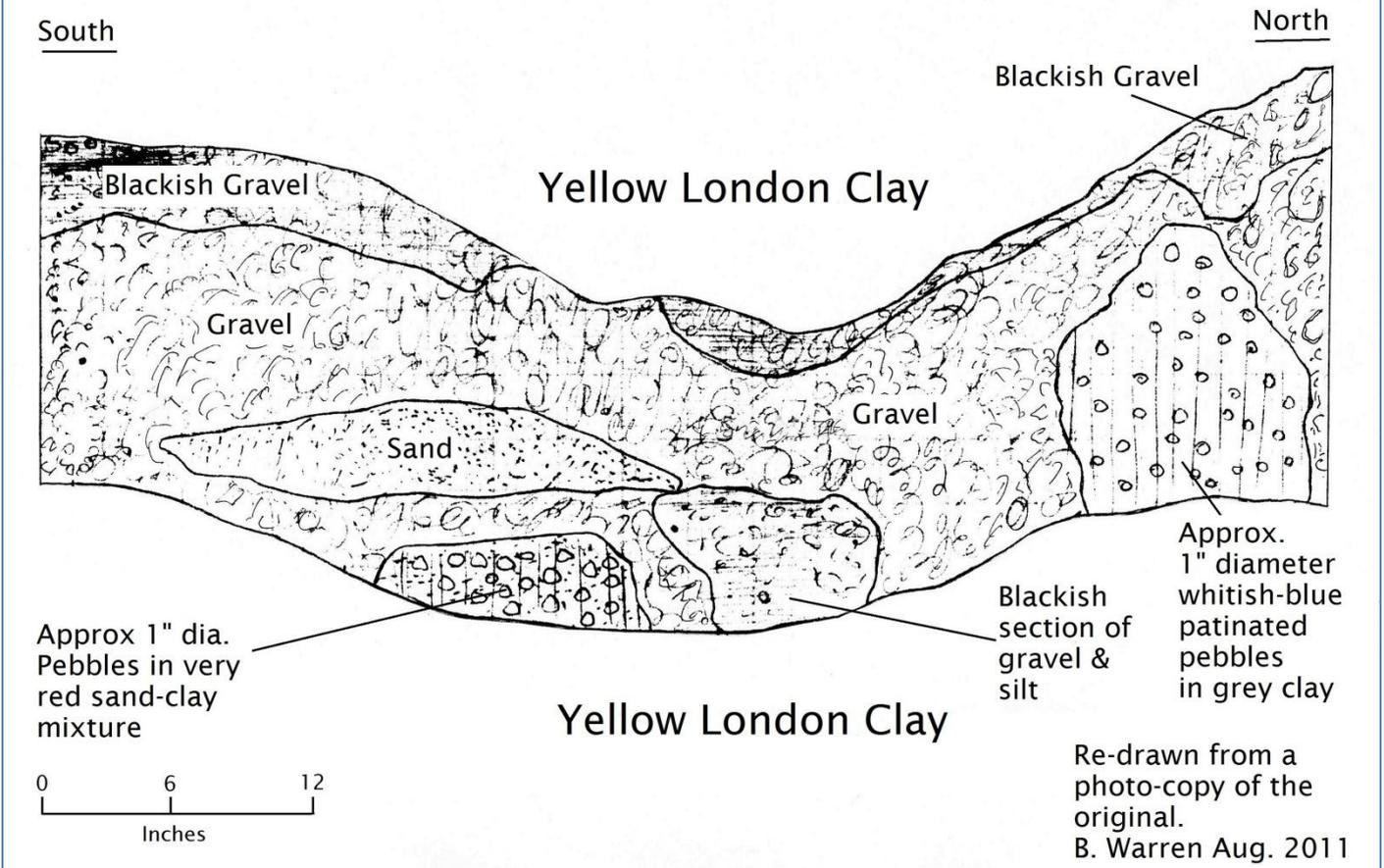
The arrows indicate the ditches

#### Photograph of the section of Roman Road

The foundations of Cuffley Hall are in the foreground and the buildings at the back still exist, behind the shops and the Northaw Parish Office.

The road was about 22 feet wide (wider than the present Station Road), with the usual ditches on either side, the northerly one (see below) being the deepest. The road was about 2 feet thick, built of small gravel and pea gravel heavily compressed, though with sand in the bottom of the ditches. It appeared to be more heavily used than the main Roman road from Verulamium to Colchester at Braughing, which surprised archaeologists. It has been stated that the humps in Tolmers Road and at the bottom of Plough Hill are part of the line of the road (Middleton 1973). Its surface was evenly laid with a single layer of about one inch diameter pebbles, in between which, on the upper surface of the road was 'pea' gravel.

## Section of the North Ditch of the Roman Road at Cuffley



Road Sign of Gas Works starting 31-5-2011 (photograph 15-5-2011)



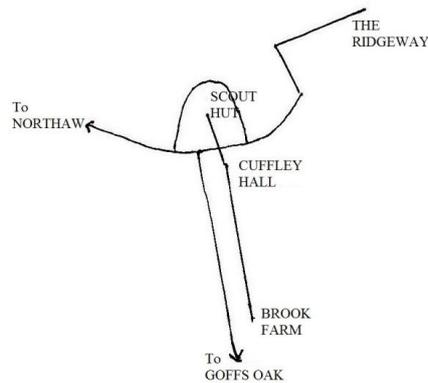
Though the above sign indicates 31<sup>st</sup> May as the starting date to renew the gas pipe from behind Cuffley Hall to Station Road, I made my first observation on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May by the Library. The trench was narrow and made it difficult to obtain a clear photograph. Some undulations can be seen in this section but it was too difficult to form any positive conclusions.

## Ditch Section



There was little doubt that by the Library (as shown above) the soil was very disturbed, whereas from Maroulo Designs (the first shop) to beyond the Co-op the tarmac was three inches (7cm) thick, with a further nine inches (22cm) before solid yellow London Clay was reached.

Whereas a line from Brook Farm to Maynards Place is a straight line, a similar line from there to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cuffley Scout Hut requires a slight deviation from a straight line.



Though the evidence submitted indicates a Roman road, to positively confirm it as such, requires other confirmatory proof, such as pottery, tiles, coins, etc.

Now the line of the road is known any further opportunity should be taken to definitely confirm it as a Roman road.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank John Higgs for supplying the photographs of Maynard Place and the two cross-sections but the original source is unknown, also Val Higgs for the use of her notes (held by the author). I am grateful to Pat Klein for providing an extract from *Focus*, the magazine of the Cuffley Free Church (now the Life Church). Trevor James is thanked for memories concerning the Scout Hut. Richard Lee has maintained his usual standard in producing the article and is thanked for his skill.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Viatores, 1964, Roman Roads in South-East Midlands, Gollancz

Herts. Archaeological Review Autumn 1971, 74

Herts. Archaeological Review No.8 Christmas 1973, 152

Focus, March 1973

*Brian Warren*

## ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

In my last report (Jan. 2013) I noted that the work at Trent Park moved to Latimer in Buckinghamshire. However, an obituary in *The Times* (11<sup>th</sup> March 2013) revealed there were three centres under MI19, namely, Trent Park, Latimer and Wilton Park, Sussex. In those houses there were hidden microphones in every room to record prisoners' conversations. The obituary was to Susan Lustig, a Jewish lady, who had fled from Breslau, in early 1939 to Britain. When working at Latimer, her work was translating the recording tapes; she also met her future husband there, a fellow German refugee.

There is now a £7.4 million project to restore the buildings at Bletchley and reveal the secrets of Hut 6, after seventy years. The project is due to be completed before the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day 2014.

As a result of an inquiry I went to use the microfilm reader at the Chipping Barnet Library. Unfortunately the printer was not working. Following a letter to Hannah Richens (Divisional Manager, Barnet Libraries) I was informed that the printer could not be replaced, as it was now out of date. I presume that one can still copy by hand from *The Barnet Press* microfilms but not copy any pictures.

Sometimes I receive enquiries about the sculptured Oak tree in Parkfield. There are pictures and information in copies of *The Barnet Borough Times* dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May 1994.

Recently I came across an interesting early reference (1613) to the present Tylers Causeway, which read, "A lane way or passage leading from Newgate Street towards Tyle house Causey Wey gate on the West".

Some of our older male members when young belonged to the *No. 57 (Potters Bar) Squadron* of the Air Training Corps Cadets, at The Elms, High Street, Potters Bar. When reading a copy of *The Barnet Press* it recorded the proposed squadron was for the district of Potters Bar, North Mymms, South Mimms, Brookmans Park, Northaw and Cuffley and the aim was for one hundred youths. Cty. Cr. C.G. Maynard, who lived in Springfield, Coopers Lane, was the chairman of the Squadron committee and mentioned the growth of the Squadron from the former Air Defence Cadet Corps Squadron formed in 1938. The Marquess of Salisbury officially opened the H.Q. in September 1941.

From the Revd. H.G. Watkins' reminiscences, c.1835, the most used local transport to London was the Scarborough coach from Hatfield, which started from there at 8 a.m. It left the high road at the 16<sup>th</sup> milestone and went via Mimwood, Northaw and Coopers Lane, reaching Potters Bar an hour later. Though seats could be booked beforehand, it was used daily by many of the gentlemen of the neighbourhood. Then to Southgate, the Green Lanes and Stoke Newington to reach the Cross Keys, St. John's Street, Smithfield about 11 o'clock. On to Oxford Street from where it started its return journey at 3.30 p.m.

*Brian Warren*

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**The PB&DHS Newsletter is produced in September, January & May of every 'season'. Richard Lee and Mabel Hammett manage the printing 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.**



# Potters Bar & District Historical Society

Regd. Charity No.299475

## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2013/14

The subscription year runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> at an unchanged cost of £3 for an individual adult, and £5 for a family/group. If you haven't already paid for this year please send the application form (below) to our Membership Secretary, Mrs. Chris Ruge-Cope, at 21 Chace Avenue, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5LX. You can check your current membership status by phoning her on 01707 653221.

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. C. Ruge-Cope.



To Mrs. C. Ruge-Cope, Membership Secretary P.B. & D.H.S.  
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