

# *The Newsletter*

January 2014

VOL. 30 No. 2

## **COVER PICTURE**

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



This is one of the very early photos in the Frederick Cole collection from about 1930 and I have no doubt that people were worried then about the price of fuel for heating and cooking, as we are now. Here we see coal being weighed up in the cauldron before taking it into a house, or perhaps dropping it into the cellar via a manhole behind the man that is standing.

Another Frederick Cole photo of c.1936 showing *Old Ben*, who was spruced up for his photo in *The Avenue, Potters Bar*. On the front of the cart it faintly reads, '*Billing & Howard, Potters Bar Station.*' They were coal merchants and also sold building supplies. Ben may have been purchased as an ex-war horse after WW1, but was used here to pull a coal-delivery cart. On his summer days off, he would graze the field where the Cranborne Industrial Estate is now and was befriended by the local children. In winter he had stables in Cranborne Road.



*Terry Goulding*

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### **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. Welcome back to a new year with our Society.

We have a lot to be thankful for in this part of the world if you think of the terrible tales of hurricanes and willy-willies from elsewhere. At home, I have managed to do my last lawn mowing before the strange sleet, hail and snow on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. Our *Schools Education Group* was worried that the Little Heath children due in our Museum next day might not be able to make it. Luckily the next morning turned out OK for them and they enjoyed their visit, especially when they found the telephones!

The wind will be in our sails again on Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> of January with a talk by Mr. Robin Webb on '*Cromer, the last of Hertfordshire's Windmills*'. I hope to see you all then.

*Terry Goulding*

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### **MANY THANKS TO .....**

A large thank-you to Michael Cawrey who since January 2002 has organised the distribution of Newsletters. These are then separated into bundles and carried round to the individual Newsletter distributors. And there are also about 35 postal ones needing to be put into envelopes, stamps attached and posted off. Well done for over eleven years, Mike.

Sarah Bulling has agreed to do Michael's work. Sarah's phone number is 01707 653670 if you need to contact her.

We also send best wishes to our member Ann Salter who is moving to Cambridgeshire. We thank her for her help with serving the teas and coffees at Lecture evenings.

*PBHS committee (Richard Lee & Mabel Hammett)*

## NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome Paul Margetson and Geoffrey Foster on joining the Society. We hope they 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 LECTURES

**Friday January 31<sup>st</sup> 2014**

**Cromer, the last of Hertfordshire's Windmills**, by Mr. Robin Webb.

Cromer Windmill is the sole remaining windmill in Hertfordshire, and was painstakingly restored over a period of thirty years by the Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust. The initial phase of work in 1968/9 included the provision of a new ladder and fantail (the small windmill above the ladder, which used to turn the Mill itself to face the wind).



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

### SPRING LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)

Tuesday	February	25th	<i>The Bayeux Tapestry – a Play in 3 Acts</i> by Mr. Gary Fisher
Friday	March	28th	<i>Samuel Ryder, Seedsman, Golfer &amp; Friend of St. Albans</i> by Mr. John Cox
Thursday	April	24th	Annual General Meeting, followed by <i>Miss Burnside &amp; Modern Medical Research</i> by Brian Warren
Thursday	May	29th	<i>Thomas Coram &amp; Barnet's Foundling Hospital</i> by Ms. Yvonne Tomlinson

*Colin Field*

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## **POTTERS BAR MUSEUM** MUSEUM STEWARDS

Many thanks to Mabel Hammett who wishes to hand-over the organisation of the Saturday rota, which she started during 2006. Mrs. Chris Ruge-Cope, telephone 01707 653221, will now manage this rota.

*Richard Lee*

### ***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 Chris Ruge-Cope on	01707 653221

## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2013/14

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 contact 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.

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## THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

On Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> we held the Christmas Social Evening. We arrived to be told that our entertainer was unable to be there as he had to attend a funeral quite a distance away.

Terry Goulding had therefore rearranged the evening. We started as usual with a Quiz where each table competed as a team. The competition was close between the top two teams with the table including Sarah Bulling, Jean Liell, Vivienne Bell, Brian Warren, and Doreen & John Scivyer winning the prize.

Our speaker was due to read Victorian poems, so the nearest we could do was for Terry to supply several Poetry books and each table was asked to get someone to read a poem.

The speakers and their poems were as follows. If we have left anybody out, they can ask us to put in a special mention in the next Newsletter in May.

Mabel Hammett - Waiting for Santa and Natural Masterpiece

Sarah Bulling - The Owl & The Pussy Cat

Terry Goulding - Lake Isle of Innisfree and The Listeners.

Colin Field - Kubla Khan

Brian Warren - I remember, I remember

Liz & John Stredwick - You are old Father William

Brian Kolbert - Battle of Agincourt: Henry V at the Siege of Harfleur

Heather Rae- Xmas tree bauble



Some of the speakers:

- 1) Colin Field
- 2) John & Liz Stredwick
- 3) Sarah Bulling with Terry holding the list of poems



Our evening finished with a light supper followed by June Parks' homemade hot mince pies and coffee.

It turned out to be a real old fashioned evening with a group of friends entertaining themselves. It was very successful and most enjoyable.

June Parks'(in the background) mince pies were well received.



Thanks also to Ian Cummings for looking after the drinks, Michael Cawrey for running the Raffle, and Terry and Mabel and the rest of the Committee for arranging the evening.

*Mabel Hammett, pictures by Bruce Chanter*

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## **HELPING ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

Our member, Peter Bevan, who is the vicar of St. Mary's Church in The Walk, requested through his committee for help from our Historical Society to make a display of the history of St. Mary's, to be put up in the church on the day of their Craft Fair on Saturday October 19th.

Chris Ruge-Cope and I found some photos from our collection and also ones from the church's files and a display was made.

The church has a beautiful cross kept in the All Souls Chapel made from parts of the melted-down frame of the L31 Zeppelin that was shot down in Oakmere Park on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1916, so we took other parts of the Zeppelin and other information from our museum to add to the display.

We were also able to sell some of our books which told the history of the Zeppelin and the church, Richard Lee made some postcards of the church and the cross which he printed in colour and black and white, these will now be on sale in the museum.

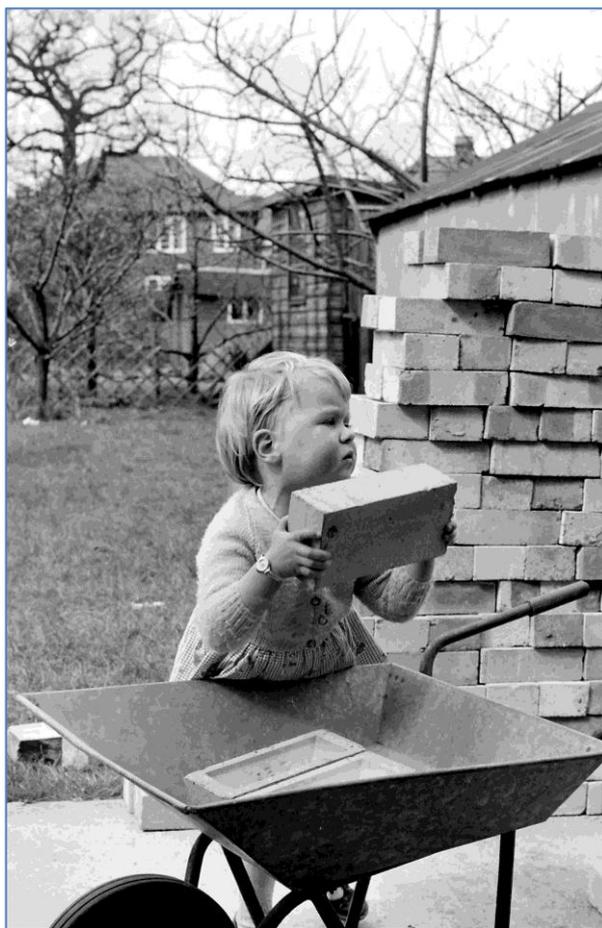
We thank Dan, Chris's husband, for helping us set up the tables.

Another good way to advertise our Museum.

*Mabel Hammett*

## KING CHARLES THE MARTYR and BOROUGH WAY

In the Winter 2013 issue of the Potter Bar Community News, Canon Michael Burns wrote about the church hall of King Charles the Martyr, the hall having been completed ten years ago. In the article he refers to the association between the Church when it was being built in the late 1930's and a house in Borough Way built about 1936. My wife and I can vouch for the link to which he refers as by chance, we bought the Tudor-style semi when we moved to Potters Bar in 1956 ~ but it was only after we settled-in that we learned from fellow church members that a previous resident had been the minister of King Charles the Martyr and that the living room of our new home had been used for church services, with Sunday School being held in our somewhat flimsy garage constructed of asbestos sheets. We considered ourselves to be privileged to be the owners of a property with such a local history, even though the garage was in need of attention. In fact, in the summer of 1964 I demolished the KCTM "Sunday School" garage and built a new one with brick walls; the photo shows our three-year-old daughter Siân amusing herself as an excellent brick-layer's mate by sorting out the bricks for me. We would not get away with such child-labour these days!



Three-year-old daughter Siân helping to re-build the KCTM "Sunday School" garage in 1964.

We bought the house in 1956 for what we thought at the time was the enormous sum of £ 2,400. We stretched ourselves financially and took out a mortgage for 25 years, but we lived there for only nine, when we decided to move to Little Heath to be nearer to our children's school. Our house in Borough Way was put on the market in November 1965 and (such was the property market at the time) was sold within a week to an up-and-coming pop singer Spencer Davis who, in the run-up to Christmas 1965, toppled the Beatles from No.1 in the charts with his hit song *Keep on Running* - which, after almost fifty years, we still hear from time to time. As Christmas 1965 approached we were anxious to get all the documents signed and cleared before the offices of our solicitor closed for the festive season, as we had planned to move on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 1966. However, Spencer Davis was nowhere to be found for his signature, as he had gone into hiding without trace, hounded by the BBC and music press journalists. But eventually all documentation was cleared early January for our planned move.

Unfortunately, on the planned day, our move from Borough Way to Little Heath was somewhat hampered by a very heavy fall of snow in the early hour of January 6<sup>th</sup>. We transported our pet cat (securely, we thought) in his travel basket, but shortly after our arrival at our new home in he managed to escape, and dashed out through the open front door into the fresh snow. You would have thought that it was a relatively easy matter to spot a completely black cat in brilliant-white crisp snow by following his paw marks ~ but not so. He had vanished rapidly out of sight, glad to be out of his basket. But much to the delight of the whole family, he re-appeared several days later ~ perhaps pleased to find the comfort of a warm home. How is it possible for an animal to find its way back, after several days, to a new home which it had “visited” for only an hour or so? Just chance, or animal magic?

As a footnote, we often wondered whether our semi-detached in Borough Way had ever been consecrated for church services - and if so, has it ever been de-consecrated?

*Member, Colin Davies*

[We could really include other personal memories in this Newsletter – thanks to Colin Davies for providing this one. Editor]

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## **DAVID STARKEY AT QUEENSWOOD SCHOOL ON SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 7.30P.M.**

THE HEAD OF HISTORY  
MR. STEPHEN DAUGHTON BA. Hons PGCE



Thursday 5 December 2013

Dear Head of History

**David Starkey: The Tudors and Us**

The History department at Queenswood has arranged a visit by Britain's foremost Tudor historian, David Starkey, to take place in the Clarissa Farr Theatre at 7.30pm on Saturday 25 January 2014. Dr Starkey, author of many books on Tudor History, and famed for his outspoken views and for his appearances on *Question Time*, Radio 4's *The Moral Maze* and Channel 4's *Jamie's Dream School*, will give a talk on 'The Tudors and Us', encompassing what he describes as 'the most glorious soap opera of our nation'.

Dr Starkey will speak for an hour; this will be followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers, with a book-signing session in the foyer of the theatre at the end of the evening. Refreshments will be available before and after the talk in the Gunner Bar.

Tickets are priced at £16 for adults, £12 students & concessions. If you wish to purchase student tickets, we would ask you to email your request to [boxoffice@queenswood.org](mailto:boxoffice@queenswood.org). We are offering a free adult place for every ten student tickets booked. If you have any questions about the event please do email me at [stephen.daughton@queenswood.org](mailto:stephen.daughton@queenswood.org).

This would be a fabulous chance for your pupils to listen to and meet a genuine top class historian in an intimate environment for a bargain price. We would especially encourage those who study the Tudor period to attend. We anticipate that demand will be high, not only from our own girls and parents but from the History departments of other local schools, so we urge you to book quickly.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Daughton

  
**QUEENSWOOD DAVID STARKEY  
THE TUDORS AND US**

**SATURDAY 25 JANUARY 2014**  
**7.30pm in the Clarissa Farr Theatre, Queenswood School**

The UK's leading constitutional historian, known for his forthright views, talks about the period he describes as "the most glorious soap opera, with the whole future of countries turning on what these huge personalities felt like when they got out of bed in the morning".

One hour talk, plus Q&A session and book-signing.

Tickets £16 adults | £12 students | One free adult ticket for every 10 student bookings  
[boxoffice@queenswood.org](mailto:boxoffice@queenswood.org) | 01707 602579 | [www.queenswood.org/David-Starkey](http://www.queenswood.org/David-Starkey)

Please let Stephen Daughton, the Head of History, know on 01707 602500 if you wish to attend as he may be able to get reserved tickets.

Otherwise tickets can be booked at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/86336](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/86336) where they are available for £16 per adult or £12 per concession.

*Richard Lee*

## LONDON'S LOST BATTLEFIELDS

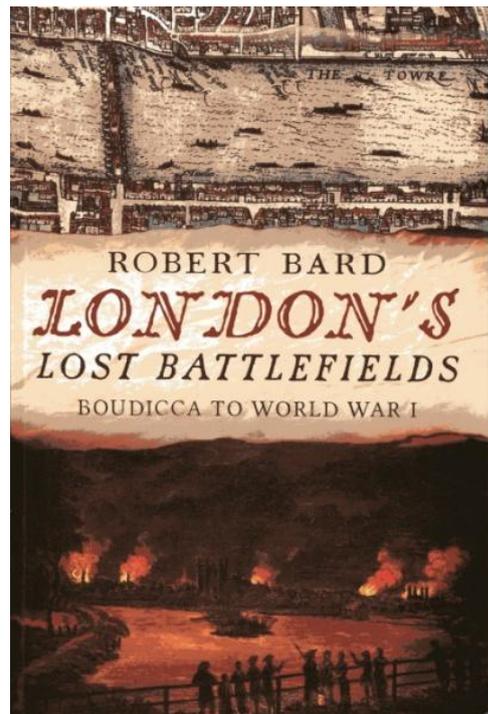
This new book by Robert Bard covers some of the battles in London between Boudicca to World War I.

Pages 87 to 100 on the Battle of Barnet refer to the Society's publications.

There are also sections on the Cuffley and Potters Bar Zeppelins, and the First and Second Battle of St. Albans.

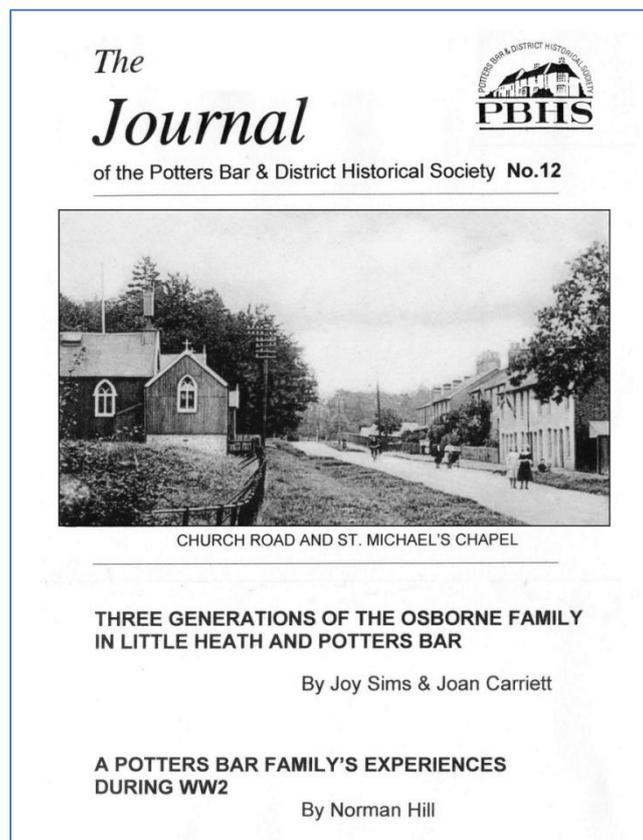
Priced at £14.99 from Fonthill Media, ISBN 978-1-78155-248-3.

*Brian Warren*



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## LATEST PBHS PUBLICATION



There are two articles in this Journal:

- 1) Three generations of the Osborne Family in Little Heath and Potters Bar.
- 2) A Potters Bar Family's experiences during WW2.

Priced at £1 from *Potters Bar Museum* or by-post from Mabel Hammett on 01707 657120.

Alternatively from:

Potters Bar Health Foods, 21 The Broadway, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 2HX

Barnet Road Post Office, 84 High Street, Potters Bar EN6 5AB

Elaine's, 67 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BJ

Little Heath Stores, 53 Church Road, Little Heath EN6 1EY

## AS TIME GOES BY

In nineteen hundred and twenty-six when we were young and gay  
We used to come to Potters Bar to spend a happy day  
We used to picnic in a field quite near to Baker Street  
And sit beneath a chestnut tree our goodies then to eat  
But now that we are old and grey we have that tree in sight  
For on that field our bungalow was built so new and bright  
So now we have our memories with visual reminder  
And photo's of those happy days when youth was so much kinder  
A footpath through our garden went for eighteen months or so  
But now the hikers have to trek around our bungalow  
The pond that was is now filled in but we have made another  
The fish therein swim slowly round with lily leaves for cover  
So now this tale is near its end there's something we must say  
We're glad we came to Potters Bar and chose this place to stay.



*William Hurst Mathews*; reproduced with the permission of the poet.

This is the poem included within *Journal* no.1. From the next *Newsletter* in May 2014, we will be giving Members a complete list of all the publications there are in the Museum.

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## EXCAVATIONS AT SOUTH MIMMS CASTLE

After previous *Newsletter* articles, note that PBHS members could read the Museum's copy of *Excavations at South Mimms Castle, Hertfordshire, 1960-91* if they ask Arnold Davey, the Museum's curator.

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**The PB&DHS *Newsletter* is produced in September, January & May of every 'season'. Richard Lee prints and produces the copies, and Sarah Bulling 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.**

Regd. Charity No.299475

## POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 55th Annual General Meeting is to be held at 8PM on Thursday 24th April 2013 at the Sixty Plus Room, Wyllyotts Centre. The Society would like to invite anybody wishing to become a Committee Member to fill in the form below, with a Proposer and Seconder's signatures. Completed forms need to be returned to the Hon. Secretary by Thursday 13 March 2014. (Sarah Bulling, 94 Mimms Hall Road, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3DX).

The positions available:

Chairman  
Vice-Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Archivist  
6 Committee members

After the AGM has been closed, there will be a talk given by Mr Brian Warren on *Miss Burnside & Modern Medical Research*.



**Potters Bar & District Historical Society**

**NOMINATION FORM**

**AGM 24 April 2014**

I propose	
For the office of	
Proposed by	
Seconded by	
Candidate's Signature	