

The Newsletter

September 2014

VOL. 31 No. 1

COVER PICTURE



The Waggon and Horses free house was built on the top of Ridge Hill, South Mimms, after the Telford road to St. Albans was made in 1826 to 1828. This picture was taken in August 1984 when the building was abandoned prior to demolition to make way for the wide M25 motorway. Inside the building, the radiators had been stolen and water was running through the ground floors.

Parts of the very much older road still exist on the left of the Telford road as you descend the hill before the little lane to Salisbury Hall. It was a popular public house in early years for horse-drawn traffic and cyclists on reaching the top of the long steep hill; later it became the base for the Potters Bar Line Dancing Club. (Photo by T. Goulding)

ADDITIONAL PICTUES OF THE WAGGON AND HORSES



The balcony of the Waggon and Horses with the view south towards South Mimms.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members.

The Committee and I welcome you all back to a new series of lectures.

Writing this in late August, I am suddenly aware that we must have been softened up by the splendidly warm summer, and now with the first touch of autumn I am looking for my pullover.

I am glad to see that we have as usual a number of local area lectures this year, but with Sydney Harbour Bridge our first lecture, only just on the other side of this little world, I hope to see you all at the first lecture on Tuesday the 16th of September.

Terry Goulding

MEMBERS' NEWS

Gordon Eve

Gordon has been resident in the Quantum Care home, at Mayfair Lodge, in The Walk, for over two years. On the 1st October he becomes the first-known member ever to become a centenarian. Congratulations.

Brian Warren

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 Chris Ruge-Cope on	01707 653221

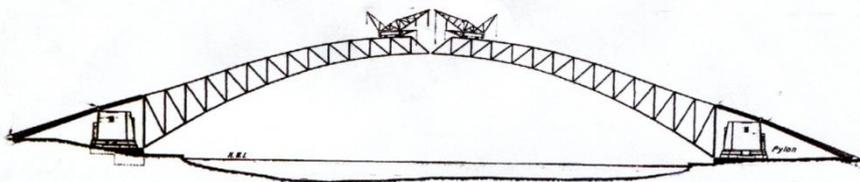
AUTUMN LECTURES

Tuesday September 16th, 2014

The Sydney Harbour Bridge and how the iconic “coat-hanger” was built, by Mr. Colin Davies.

Potters Bar & District Historical Society

THE SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE ~ and how the iconic “coathanger” was built.



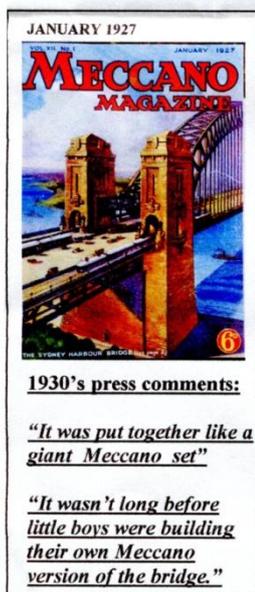
An illustrated talk by local resident

Colin Davies

Chartered Civil & Structural Engineer

8.00pm Tuesday 16th September 2014

At the Sixty Plus Room, Wyllyotts Centre,
Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 2HN



1930's press comments:

“It was put together like a giant Meccano set”

“It wasn't long before little boys were building their own Meccano version of the bridge.”

The design of the bridge was the outcome of a world-wide open competition in 1923, won by Dorman Long & Co Ltd of Middlesbrough, with a steel arch having a substantial span of 1650 feet .

The whole of the calculations, designs and working drawings were made in Dorman Long's office in central London, specially set up for the work.

Most of the structural steel was rolled in Middlesbrough and shipped to Australia to be fabricated in a purpose- built works near the site of the bridge.

Site work started on the steelwork of the arch itself in August 1928 and the bridge was opened to traffic in March 1932.

As well as a slide presentation, there will also be a rare opportunity to see a short vintage 16mm film of remarkable footage shot during construction.

Admission:

Free to PB&DHS members.

Non-members /visitors: £1.00 (pay at door)

Car parking at the Wyllyotts Centre public car parks (and street parking) is free after 6.30pm.

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

OTHER AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME

Thursday	October	16 th	<i>It's not the Cough that carries you off</i> by Mr. Charles Nethercott
Thursday	November	20 th	<i>Railway History Part 1 – Enfield to Hertford</i> by Mr. David Cockle
Tuesday	December	9 th	Christmas Social with Light Refreshments. Followed by <i>An Evening by our Members</i> .

Colin Field

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2013/14

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 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.

POTTERS BAR MUSEUM

There is now another Display that has been written by Arnold Davey, our curator, to commemorate World War 1.

(Potters Bar Museum opening hours are 2.30 pm. to 4.30 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, and 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday.)

Richard Lee

POTTERS BAR MUSEUM

HOW DID BRITAIN GET DRAGGED IN?
An Exhibition on the causes of the First World War 1914-1918



Opening hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30 PM, Saturday 11 AM - 1 PM.
Sundays when the Antiques Fair is held. ADMISSION FREE.

DAVID PAM (1920-2014)

David spoke on numerous occasions to the Society dating back to the 1960's. His excellent, well-researched lectures always had good attendances. He was the senior librarian for the London Borough of Enfield and local historian. He really deserved the award of FRHS for all his work, which culminated in three volumes of *The History of Enfield*.

Brian Warren

WALK ROUND MUCH HADHAM FORGE MUSEUM & CROMER WINDMILL 21ST JUNE

This tour was organised by Colin Field, and looked at two buildings owned by the *Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust*.

Much Hadham Forge Museum

We were shown round by custodian Christina Harrison.

The Forge was a farmhouse of Moor Place, the earlier parts of the building date from the 15th century, Horseshoe Cottage and Forge Cottage date from the 16th century. The forge and bellows room are part of a 17th century barn conversion.

In 1811 the shoeing room and blacksmith's shop were added when Frederick Page moved in. The Page family ran the village smithy at Much Hadham until 1983, when Charles Page died aged 91. Charles's daughter, Miss Jean Page, in 1988 conveyed the forge and its two cottages to the *Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust*.



The Forge Museum



Inside the Blacksmith's Shop

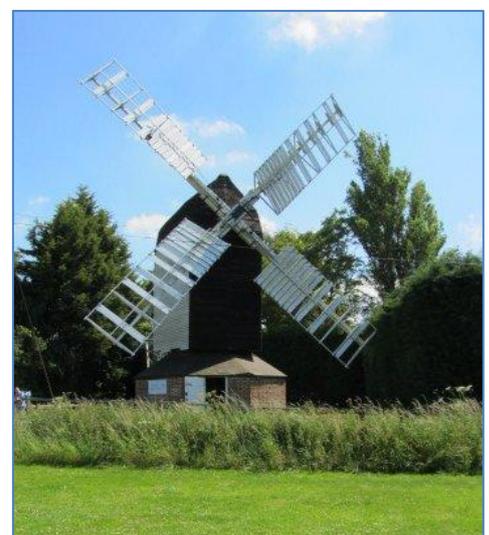
Cromer Windmill

This tour was taken round by one of the Honorary Mill Curators, Robin Webb, and another assistant.

The Cromer Windmill is the only windmill left in Hertfordshire, and dates from 1681, although milling was first recorded there in 1222.



(Photo Chris Ruge-Cope)



(Photo Chris Ruge-Cope)



Main post upper (within windmill)



Main post lower (within bricked-in roundhouse)

The Main Post is over 18 feet long, and allows the windmill to be moved to face into the wind. At the base of the Main Post, are angled Quarter Bars which support it.



Patent Sails. The vanes are lifted and set from within the windmill, and the amount showing is dependent on the wind speed.

Richard Lee

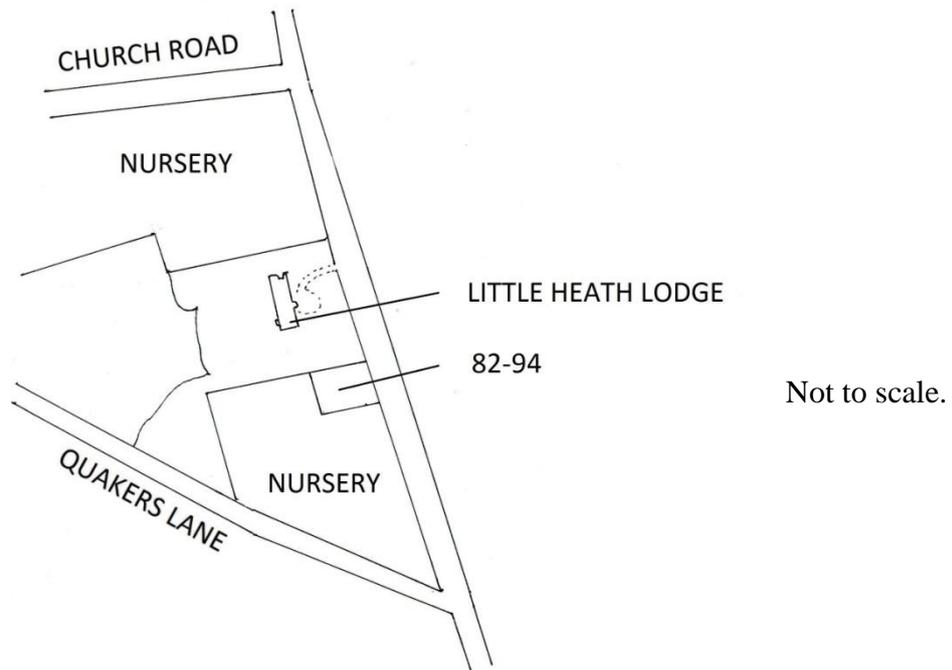
THE HIGHLANDS AND 82-94 HATFIELD ROAD

Introduction

As a result of two enquiries at Potters Bar Museum the following research was undertaken into the history of The Highlands (once Little Heath Lodge) and the distinctive group of properties adjacent on the south side, nos. 82-94.

Maps

The first edition of the 25" Ordnance Survey map surveyed in the 1860s and early 1870s, published in 1881, shows the area between Church Road and Quakers Lane as mostly fields. The 1898 edition shows nurseries on either side of a large detached house (Little Heath Lodge).



By the 1914 edition of the map the houses 82-94 had been built in a distinctive style.

The 1901 Census records Charles Belsey as residing at Little Heath Lodge, aged 49, with his wife, niece and four servants. He was born in Lower Norwood and though apprenticed to the fancy leather trade he became a publican. In 1883 he moved to Potters Bar and subsequently bought and sold three further pubs in north London. In 1900 he was given a silver salver and a pair of candelabra as souvenirs of his year in office as governor of the *Incorporated Society of Licensed Victuallers* and the *Licensed Victuallers School*.

In 1895 he was elected to the *South Mimms Rural District Council*, coming third with 88 votes. Three years later he was made a magistrate of the Barnet Bench.

In 1925 Sir Nicholas Doyle became Gratten-Doyle and two years later occupied Little Heath Lodge. He sat unsuccessfully for Gateshead in January 1910, as a Lib-Unionist. From December 1918 he was M.P. for Newcastle-on-Tyne North until he resigned in April 1940, then living at Highfield, Hadley Wood. He died on the 14th July 1941.



Little Heath Lodge was demolished after WW2 and by 1960/61 there were 36 properties on the site.

Brian Warren



Note numbers 92 and 94 with their balconies. The board in 94 reads Preparatory School and Kindergarten, Miss Ware's private school, Verulam.

PRIMARY HISTORY CONFERENCE AT HATFIELD HOUSE

Two members of Potters Bar Museum's Education Committee were invited as guests to attend the above event in the Old Palace, Tudor Hall on Monday 9th June.

Hatfield House was completed in 1611. It was built by Robert Cecil, first Earl of Salisbury and son of Lord Burghley, chief minister of Elizabeth I. The deer park surrounding the house and the older 'Old Palace' had been owned by Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, who had used it as home for his three children, Edward, Elizabeth and Mary. It was while she was living in the Old Palace that Elizabeth learned of her accession to the throne, in 1558.



In the light of the above site history, the organisers could not have chosen a more appropriate location for a history conference. The reason for our invitation to take part as guests rather than fee payers, as were all the teachers, is our past museum work with Steve Davey, the history co-ordinator at Wroxham Primary School, and conference organiser.

The one day programme was a mixture of lectures, discussions and workshop sessions.

The conference outcome aimed at providing the teachers of key-stage one and two pupils, with inspiration about how to teach primary history in a 'principled inspirational manner', within and beyond the constraints of the government's new primary level curriculum.

Approximately 140 teachers attended plus a small number of history educators from varying history associations. Lord Salisbury and Dame Alison Peacock (Head Teacher at Wroxham School), opened the conference.

Terry Goulding and I were invited to join the proceedings because of our joint knowledge of 'home front' events in World War II. We both lived in Potters Bar and during the war attended Cranborne and Parkfield (now defunct) schools. We have visited Wroxham Primary School on a number of occasions to describe our experiences under the threats of German bombers, V1 pulsed-jet propelled pilot-less 'doodlebugs' and V2 rockets. We were also asked to bring some of our museum WWII exhibits and set up a display table. Our display items included incendiary bombs, gas masks, pieces of a German parachute, bomb and shell shrapnel and local wartime photographs of bomb damage etc. around the town.

Other table displays (mainly paperwork) were English Heritage, Herts Museum Service and The Historical Association.

During the conference break periods and at the end of the proceedings, we had conversations with teachers about our exhibits and personal wartime experiences in a town that not only received bombs and rockets from Germany, but also the presence of the American army in the empty Darkes Lane, ('Broadway' north side), just newly built shops and flats, when they were used as an American army barrack block.

Following the departure of the 'Yankees', British troops moved in, in the preparation for the invasion of Europe.

One fun memory was watching the training of motorcycle dispatch riders on the undulating piece of open ground that today houses the Roman Catholic Church and the Wyllyotts Centre and adjacent offices. A stretch of a wide ditch used in the training, is thought to have possibly been the final remains of a one-time

Wyllyotts Manor moat.

This is the type of town history information that teachers like to offer their pupils on World War II studies. Terry was in conversation with one particular lady teacher when he received a very notable offer, here is his story.

(Terry) 'In the lunch break when most of the questioners had been satisfied by our answers, one tall lady in a black dress asked if we could talk at her school on WWII and perhaps on WWI? She was obviously impressed by our display of artefacts and photos. I said, "We will be pleased to come to your school. Where is it?" She replied "Tring!" She obviously recognised the surprised look on my face, because she said' "Don't worry, I can send a car to pick you up and take you home."

When Terry told me about her offer, I said 'Wow! a 50 mile round trip to give a museum talk, that's 45 miles further than we have ever gone before.'

Finally, a few words about the proposed changes to the National Curriculum that are being introduced by Ofsted. Some parts of the revised programme of study are new and some aspects of the previous curriculum have been retained. There are however, some marked changes at Key Stage 2 that have significant implications for the way in which senior leaders (?history co-ordinators), structure the curriculum, and how classroom teachers actually teach history. We were told that history teachers would from now on do well to start by answering this fundamental question as they move into the new phase. 'How are we going to structure the new curriculum so that we strengthen history teaching and improve pupils' historical knowledge and understanding, in particular their chronological understanding? i.e. a clear time-line progression of human development, Stone-age to the 20th century.' It appeared to Terry and I that teaching history is becoming an increasingly involved subject.

Brian Kolbert (July 2014)

FOLLOW-UP TO THOMAS CORAN AND BARNET'S FOUNDLING HOSPITAL

Yvonne Tomlinson sent me the following reply to the question asked during the lecture "*Why did parliament cease funding in 1760 when income from taxes on gin and sugar must have been high?*" Her information was provided by David Allin who said that taxes from gin and sugar were not great, there was much expense on the Seven Years' War with France. David wrote, '*Government Income and Expenditure, 1760*'

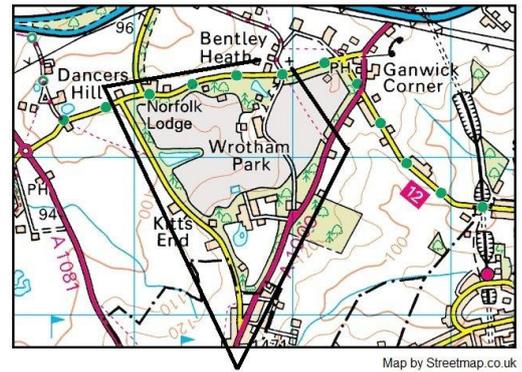
<u>Total Net Income</u>	£9,207,000
Main Taxes Custom	£2,115,000
Excise	£4,218,000
Stamp	£289,000
Post Office	£87,000
Land Tax	£2,407,000
<u>Total Net Expenditure</u>	£17,993,000
Main Items National Debt Change	£3,172,000
Civil Government	£1,152,000
Army	£8,249,000
Navy	£4,539,000
Ordnance	£682,000

Thank you to David Allin, who wrote, '*The Early Years of the Foundling Hospital, 1739/41-1773*, and Yvonne Tomlinson for the above information.

Brian Warren

WALK ROUND WROTHAM PARK 11th JUNE

Brian Warren led this walk, which started at the entrance to Wrotham Park on Dancers Hill Road. Down the footpath to its left and coming out on the Barnet Road. Then right at the memorial up Kitts End Road, and right along Dancers Hill Road again. (See map right.)



Map by Streetmap.co.uk



Main entrance on Dancers Hill Road



Entrance on Barnet Road and the lodges.



Battle of Barnet memorial



Kitts End Lodge



Upper Kitts End Farm entrance



Buildings with "S" = Earl Strafford



Buildings with E = Viscount Enfield (eldest son)

Richard Lee

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