

The Newsletter

September 2015

VOL. 32 No. 1

COVER PICTURE



This was Honeywood House in Darkes Lane, next to the United Reformed Church in March 1990 with a splendid display of daffodils planted by one of our members Doreen Scivyer and her countryside group. It was a home for the elderly but was not really suitable in modern terms, and became unoccupied for some years while the planners and others considered the possible use for the site.

The site of Honeywood House has now been used for many retirement apartments for the over 70s and is now called Mandeville Court. A one bedroom apartment could cost you £347,950 plus other service fees I believe. A kitchen is in every apartment, but there is a restaurant, laundry service and assistance is provided in many ways. The retirees there are a friendly group as I found when I gave them a talk earlier in the year, but I am not quite ready to leave my home yet. (Photo by T. Goulding)

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To all our Members.

It seems to have been a rather warm and record breaking summer, much like the ones from our childhood that used to go on and on when school was closed for holidays. So I feel a spoil-sport to say that I look forward to the new season of lectures starting on September the 15th in the cooler weather. The first talk by Mike Allen on ‘Snaps of North Mymms’ is at last another one of local interest. I say that because I am often asked for more local area talks and pictures, and this year looks very promising.

Terry Goulding

NEW MEMBERS

We should like to welcome Jennifer Blumsom, Brenda Houghton, Joan Gooding, John Bennett and Ray Tomey 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

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2015/16

The subscription year runs from April 1st to March 31st at a cost of £5 for individual adults, and £7 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.

AUTUMN LECTURES

Tuesday September 15th, 2015: *Snaps of North Mymms* by Mr Mike Allen. The Meeting will start promptly at 8pm in the 60 Plus Centre, Wyllyotts Centre. Everyone welcome.

OTHER AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME

Thursday	October	15 th	<i>Treasures of the Hertfordshire Archive with some reference to Potters Bar</i> by Ms Marion Hill
Thursday	November	19 th	<i>The Rose Discovered & the Rose revealed</i> by Mr Harvey Sheldon
Tuesday	December	8 th	Christmas Social with Light Refreshments, and <i>An Evening by our Members.</i>

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 Chris Ruge-Cope on	01707 653221

**A sample of the current work of the Museum Education Committee
within the Museum Management Administration**

Potters Bar Museum – School Visit.

On Thursday 19th March 2015, Terry Goulding and I visited Wroxham Primary School, Potters Bar. We had been invited to speak to a Key stage 2 class on the subject of life on the ‘home front’ in Potters Bar during WWII. Both Terry and I personally experienced this in Potters Bar when we were school children.

At Wroxham School we covered two table tops with an assortment of WWII artefacts and local photographs, which our class members were able to inspect and handle freely during the later parts of our presentation. The session was the longest that we had ever covered at a primary school and lasted two hours.

The final sub-session was devoted to answering questions from class members that they had prepared in advance from their own thoughts and ideas, or had been inspired by Terry and me during the earlier part of the session. At the end the teacher, Kerry Furlow, offered to provide Terry and myself with copies of the class members’ questions which we gratefully accepted. We also received an invitation to attend a re-enactment of a WWII, end-of-war ‘Victory in Europe’ street-party celebration, at the school on Monday the 30th of March. We were delighted to accept.

Finally, we received a second invitation to attend for a second time, the teachers’ History Conference (2015) to be held in the old Tudor Palace at Hatfield House on the 23rd of June. We had attended a previous conference in 2014 and were pleased to accept the opportunity to keep up-to-date with regard to the progress of the teaching of primary history. As before we will take a selection of WWII artefacts and photos to display on a table and answer any questions the conference teachers might have.

There could not be a more suitable location for an English History Conference than in the hall on the site where Queen Elizabeth the First was, when in 1558 she was told, “You are now the Queen of England”.

P.S. Colin Field is also a member of the Education Committee but was not involved with the above particular events.

Brian Kolbert
Education Officer

THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN POTTERS BAR

This was the description once given in the Community News of our local Fir and Pond Woods Nature Reserve in Coopers Lane Road, with main entrance opposite the Oshwall Centre. The volunteer Warden, David Gompertz, in his talk to the society in January, revealed a good deal. He told of the Reserve once being part of Enfield Chase, which was then broken up into allotments and sold.

Most important ecologically are the trees, mainly oak, hornbeam and holly. The woods are full of plants, animals and fungi. Woodland butterflies, flowers and birds are attracted to the Reserve. An animal which is a mixed blessing is the muntjac deer, which is eating the heart out of our woods. Planting over three hundred new oaks has addressed this problem. Fungi play a central role by recycling dead timber.

The meadow is that very rare thing in Hertfordshire, deliberately left unimproved acid grassland. It has not been mown or fertilised for hundreds of years. As a result it has a range of flowers and fungi not seen in most of our fields.

The Turkey Brook and Pond represent a further ecological area. The Olde Ponde used to be much as shown as a medieval fishpond. Currently it was silting up, being invaded by bulrushes. These have been ravaged and the view much improved. In Spring and Summer this area is full of life with various dragonfly and birds.

Volunteers are given a ready welcome to join the working parties, the Green Team, who help to maintain the Reserve and monitor its wildlife.

Colin Field

THE RELIEF OF LADYSMITH

Where do we obtain our historical information from events long ago? Typically of course from written documents – newspapers, diaries etc? For the local historian there are fewer sources available.

During the Boer War in South Africa, the garrison of Ladysmith was besieged by the Boers for several months. The Relief of Ladysmith on 1st March 1900 was a cause of great celebration in Britain. Looking at contemporary records how did our local schools commemorate the events? The mixed school logs for the period are available for Little Heath, South Mimms and St John's National School in Potters Bar.

Firstly, South Mimms. No entry for 1st March but perhaps something the following day? 2nd March – *“The average attendance is about the same as last week viz 98.6 or 91%. Two girls have left today having reached the age of 13 yrs. Sent off a list of irregulars to the School Attendance Officer. Miss Bain visited during the Singing Lesson”*.

So how about Potters Bar? *“Had a half day holiday in commemoration of the relief of Ladysmith”*. Well at least news seemed to have reached the village.

Did Little Heath have a little more to say? *“To-day being the day of the ‘Relief of Ladysmith’ it was fit that some notice should be taken of the event, that it might be impressed upon the minds of the children, and increase their patriotic feelings which have been very much in evidence during the War. So, at 3pm the Vicar and Mrs Pollock visited the school, and the former addressed the children, the National Anthem was sung, and the prayers of Thanksgiving offered up by the Vicar, and afterwards extra recreation time was allowed to children. To-morrow afternoon is to be devoted to recreation, the school closed to further celebrate the Relief”*.

Can anyone tell me if other local schools outdid Little Heath in their enthusiasm?

Chris Cook

THE POTTERS BAR PROJECT

For those who attended the AGM some of the following will be known but as a large proportion of the readership of this Newsletter were otherwise engaged that evening I give a brief outline.

The Project as it has come to be known is an ambitious attempt to capture public information about residents of the greater Potters Bar area anchored around the 1911 census. This encompasses census records from 1911, 1901 and further back, baptism, marriage and burial records from our local churches, school admission records from Potters Bar, South Mimms and hopefully Little Heath, Water End and North Mymms in due course. These are overlaid with property records from the 1910 – 1915 ‘Doomsday’ survey and other data as becomes available.

The earliest parish and census records readily available for Potters Bar date back to the 1840s. It should therefore be possible to compile a detailed timeline over some seventy years and beyond. We may be able to trace the families who have continually resided within our borders and determine where people came from (and perhaps guess why) and even where they went to whether through marriage or work.

We will be able to explore demographic data such as age at marriage, infant mortality, occupations and life expectancy. We will see how the area developed. Along the way, I hope that we will be able to add colour through photographs, reports and anecdotes. I am working on a dedicated website but at present this is limited to a front page only.

As we are working with original data we will be able to cut it anyway that we want.

At the time of writing these are the numbers.

Type	Sources	No	Earliest	Latest	Comments
1911 Census	N/A	5,635	N/A	N/A	Complete for area
1910 Census	N/A	2,921	N/A	N/A	Potters Bar, South Mimms and Little Heath
Baptisms	Potters Bar	599	1835	1928	Incomplete
Baptisms	Little Heath	522	1893	1931	Previously North Mymms
Baptisms	South Mimms	238	1890	1907	
Baptisms	North Mymms	441	1901	1933	
Baptisms	Northaw	312	1897	1921	More available prior to 1897
Marriages	Potters Bar	390	1844	1915	
Marriages	Little Heath	150	1895	1915	Ongoing
Marriages	South Mimms	200	1839	1919	Non-contiguous
Marriages	North Mymms	62	1900	1919	Earlier records only on microfiche
Marriages	Northaw	26	1881	1940	
Burials	Potters Bar	561	1892	1925	
Burials	Little Heath	N/A			In North Mymms or Potters Bar
Burials	South Mimms	496	1878	1915	
Burials	North Mymms	800	1897	1946	
School	Potters Bar	583	1896	1912	
School	South Mimms	1379	1866	1917	
School	Little Heath				Believed to be available
IR Property	N/A	1,077	1910	1915	Potters Bar and South Mimms

In addition there are property records for Little Heath, North Mymms and Northaw yet to be entered. Furthermore there are records of 'strays' (people born in the area but moved away) and earlier census records including some for Ridge. Finally, there are miscellaneous records that will add background.

I trust the reader can see that this is an ambitious project but one that has huge potential.

Chris Cook.

PBDHS ARCHIVES

The Society has a quite extensive archive, built up over many years by Brian Warren in his role as Hon. Archivist, including periodicals such as Hertfordshire's Past, Enfield Archaeological Society News and Antiquity, maps, plans of local developments, photographs, parish magazines from churches in the vicinity and books on a variety of subjects.

This mine of information is backed up in Brian's memory so that he has been able to answer many queries from his own knowledge. As his successor as Hon. Archivist, I don't have this advantage, so am only gradually finding my way round the available resources. If you have a question, I shall be very happy to try and answer it – but it may take me a while! And if you would like to consult any part of the archive for your research, please do enquire at the Museum.

Every now and then I 'discover' something which is new to me, though may be well-known to everyone else. Here is one such bit of history, gleaned from the notebooks of Mr Butcher, the first local historian of Potters Bar. (If you haven't read it recently, the transcript of his 1930s writings about Bygone Potters Bar in PBDHS Journal no.6 is well worth revisiting.)

ELECTRIC STREET LIGHTING IN POTTERS BAR

On Saturday 9 February 1924 at 8pm, a Public Meeting was held in St Mary's Hall, To Consider the Question of the Immediate Supply of Electricity to Potters Bar and District. C. H. Belsey, Esq. would be in the chair, and all interested Ratepayers were invited to attend and join in the discussion.

Next to a copy of the printed flyer advertising the meeting Mr Butcher pasted the following comment: 'It must be remembered that, when this meeting was called, the only Electric Light in Potters Bar (South Mymms had none) was supplied to the Potters Bar Estate, *ie* Heath Drive, the Avenue etc, from the private plant run by Major King from Darkes Farm buildings. ' . A previous meeting was held about 1921 at the Village Hall to consider street lighting but it was defeated mainly by the votes of the tradesmen in the High Road. Darkes Lane was not yet then developed. I tried hard . . . to find out why . . . pointing out that buses had started (in 1921) giving competition from Barnet as people would go there, where they could see their way about. It was sheer old-fashioned conservatism and fear of the rates going up.'

Electricity did come to Potters Bar in 1924/25 but not, apparently, for public use, as the scrapbook has a report from the Barnet Press for 19 December 1925 of a parish meeting held in the Village Hall about installing street lighting in Potters Bar. It is a very full report, with frequent references to (laughter) when, for example, Mr Forbes ridiculed the idea that ladies didn't like walking home from the station in the dark. His daughters, he declared, never made a fuss about it [though see page 10 of Eileen Baillie's Memories of Potters Bar 1913-20, PBDHS Historical Series no.5, for a rather different view!]. Other Ratepayers clearly shared his attitude as the meeting ended with a vote of 53 to 18 against this extravagant notion. The extra charge there would be on the rates was plainly a deciding factor.

The last of Mr Butcher's scraps which mentions this subject is an election address from three Labour candidates for election to Potters Bar Urban District Council in 1934. One of the key items in their manifesto was 'the provision of adequate street lighting'. They were not elected.

So when *did* Potters Bar eventually get adequate street lighting? If you have the answer, please do let the Archivist know!

Chris Ruge-Cope

NEW EDITOR

When I agreed to take on the editorship of the Newsletter I had certain revolutionary ideas. I was then given copies of the previous Newsletters and found that in fact my ideas had already been employed. Oh well – no reinventing of the wheel necessary.

Having given my maiden lecture to the Society at the AGM (and thank you for the positive feedback), I am more convinced than ever that we need to work harder on understanding and preserving the history of our area. Readers may not be aware that the North Mymms History Society has folded but that your committee has agreed to take up the slack and integrate the area. Whilst we have the museum in Potters Bar and some excellent publications, North Mymms have a web presence and, through Mike Allen, a comprehensive photographic record of the area.

We are not alone as a society in struggling with dwindling numbers. In just about every facet of local life there is a shortage of volunteers and participants especially among the younger age group. Cricket clubs that ran two teams on a Sunday now struggle to field one, my chess club used to run coaching sessions for juniors but now they are nowhere to be seen outside particular projects. Being the father of four children aged between 11 and 24, I don't find it difficult to understand why. There are so many attractions like playing games online. My children rarely watch TV so they have not been exposed to many of the influences of my childhood. Perhaps that's good!

Returning to my project, I hope that the amount of time that I am investing in it will encourage people to explore aspects of our past. None of us lived through the 19th century and pre-World War 1 in Potters Bar, South Mimms, Little Heath, North Mymms and Northaw so we all have something to learn and discover, questions to ask, ideas to explore, hypotheses to test. History isn't just about the great, the good and the not so good but also about the ordinary common people – yes, you and me.

The new programme concentrates heavily on our local area so do come along to as many talks as possible.

Chris Cook.

LOCAL TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDINGS (Part 6)
THE GREEN MAN, HIGH STREET, POTTERS BAR



INTRODUCTION

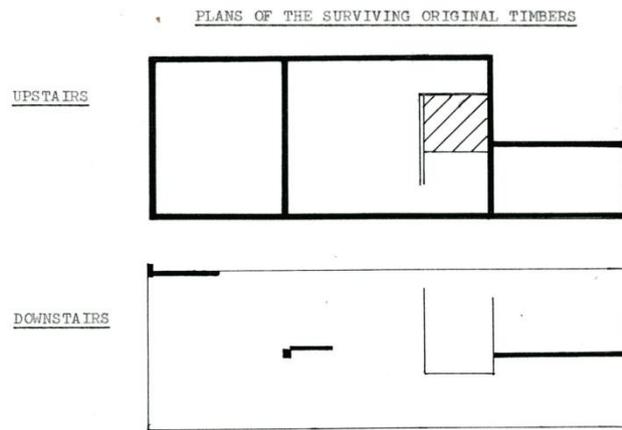
Now the former Green Man Public House has closed it is time to record the history of the oldest extant building in the High Street. In the Newsletter January 2009, Volume 24/2, an article showed the importance of The Green Man serving travellers out of London, while the Red Lyon, then in the forecourt of the present Morven House, provided refreshment for travelling to London.

TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDING

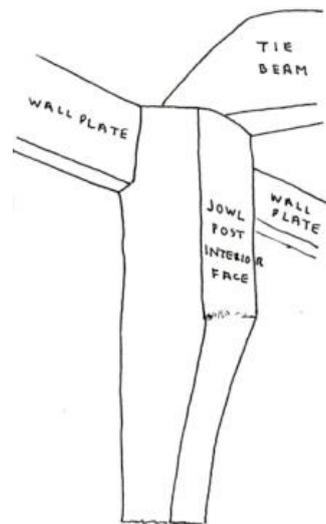
From November 2002 to January 2003, with the co-operation of the then licensee, I was able to make a careful study of The Green Man. Most of the surviving timber-frame evidence survives upstairs, as shown below

Plans of the original surviving timbers are shown over.

Upstairs



Downstairs

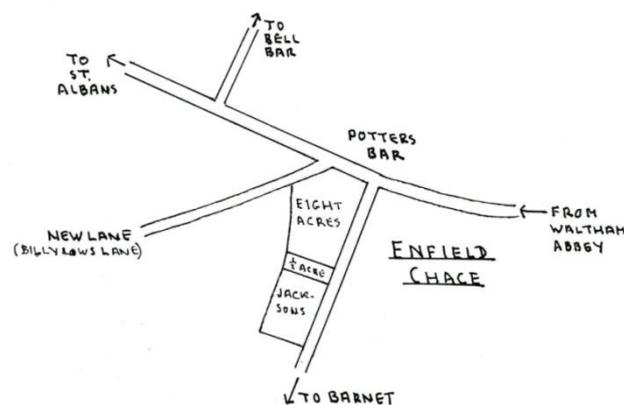


SURVIVING EVIDENCE

It was originally a single two-storey block of three rooms, dating to the Seventeenth Century. The building was extended in the subsequent centuries, with a single-storey added to the back in the 20th century.

ITS HISTORY

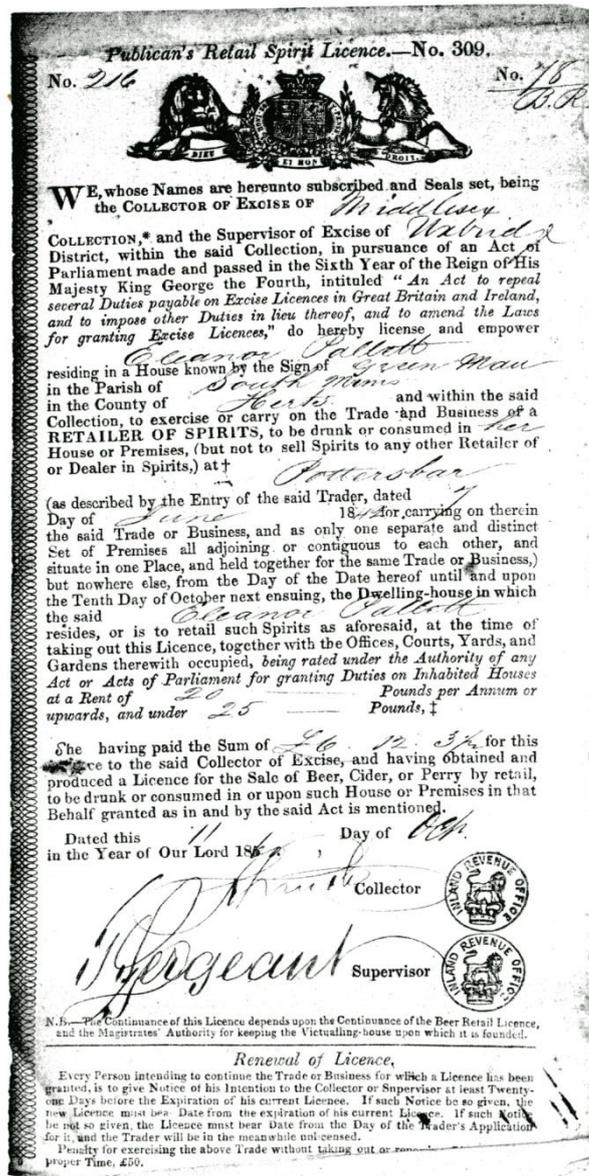
The first indication of the use of the building as an inn occurred in the Licensed Victuallers list dated 14th September 1730, when Thomas Worple was appointed as licensee. Prior to this on a lease marked 1603 on the outside the site was referred to as 'containing half an acre adjoining to a dwelling called "Jacksons which Simon Flexmer still holds'



PLAN

It is not until 1672 when Henry Carey surrendered a house an acre of land to Robert Powell, that one has the earliest reference to a property. According to the surviving rental lists of the Manor of Wyllyotts from 1689 – 1750 members of the Goffe / Gough family paid 8d p.a. rent. The first reference to Thomas Waple occurred in the Wyllyotts Manor records in 1738. In the 1743 – 45 Edward Vicker's Survey of the Manor of Wyllyotts it was noted that 'a house and an acre of land was held by Gough with Thomas Waple as tenant. In 1751, John son and heir of Thomas Waple was admitted, who surrendered to Welles.

Using the Licensed Victuallers' lists from 1730 and the annual Land Taz returns it is possible to trace the licensees to 1805 when Mary Wood was the occupier and Thomas Clutterbuck the owner. Beyond this other sources indicate the Pallett family as licensees for much of the Nineteenth Century.



Eleanor Pallett's application for a licence 1842

Ken Rutherford-Davis, a former chairman of the Society published in the Newsletter, November 1970, that the Green Man was a mid-17th century building on the 'axial plan' consisting of three rooms, with the 'chimney between the middle and northern rooms'. I agree with his conclusion and the present chimney by its size looks to be the original.

SOURCES

The Manor of Wyllyotts records held in the Guildhall Library, London. (refs not clear from handwriting!)
Licensed Victuallers' lists
Land Tax returns
Census returns

Brian Warren

The PB&DHS Newsletter is produced in September, January & May of every 'season'. Chris Cook is the new editor, 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, Chris Cook (01707 642027) 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