The Story of Potters Bar and South Mimms.
Published in 1966.

The Geology and Geography of the District

''The ground itself, where we can read the information it affords is, whether in the account of the Conquest or in that of the settlement of Britain, the fullest and the most certain of documents."

(J. R. Green, *The Making of England*. 1881.)

MANS environment has always had a profound effect upon his life: in primitive conditions his settlements and occupations were alike influenced or even dictated by the shape of the land, the nature of the soil, and its natural vegetation and resources. The Potters Bar district is no exception, for these factors can explain a good deal of our local history.

THE MAIN ROCKS

Our district lies near the northern edge of the London Basin, a shallow saucer-shaped depression between the Chilterns and the North Downs, which are its up-turned rims. Beneath the familiar clay which comprises nearly all the surface rock lies a thick layer of chalk laid down in the Cretaceous period, over 70 million years ago, when most of England was a moderately deep sea. As Tennyson aptly wrote:

> There, where the long street roars hath been
> The stillness of the central sea.

This Chalk is exposed near the Barnet By-pass and in the floor of the valley hewn by the Mimmshall Brook where, resting on it, can also be seen a narrow outcrop of the Reading Beds. These early deposits of the Tertiary period are from 30 to 50 feet thick and consist of pale-coloured sands and beds of flint pebbles, locally cemented together to form the famous 'Hertfordshire Puddingstone. These deposits were laid down by rivers long after the Chalk had been raised above sea level and partly worn away by rain and rivers, and yield no sea fossils but only occasional plant remains.

Above the Reading Beds (which give a naturally well- drained subsoil, like the Chalk), lies the London Clay, the chief Eocene deposit of the London Basin. This deposit dates from the early Tertiary period some 50 to 60 million years ago, and forms the bed rock of most of the district. The full thickness of the clay is not preserved here, but 150 feet is recorded in local wells and 200 feet near Shenley. The London Clay is blue-grey in colour when unweathered, but in surface exposures changes to brown. Layers of septaria, cement stones veined with crystallised calcite, occur in it in places. This inhospitable London Clay is similar to the brown or blue mud which forms today in depths of 100 fathoms or more. The clay has yielded few fossils in our area but elsewhere many plant remains and a large fauna, including mammals, birds, crocodiles, turtles, fishes and marine invertebrates, have been found, and indicate a warmer climate than at present.

After the formation of the London Clay the land was affected by the world-wide Alpine movements which created the highest mountain chains that exist today. Mild ripples from this great disturbance reached Britain, where the rocks were gently ruckled and tilted. It is one of these minor folds that is responsible for bringing the Chalk to the surface in the valley of the Mimms- hall Brook. Since Tertiary times the physical landscape of Britain has been produced by successive cycles of erosion. These have been responsible for the removal of any later Tertiary materials which might have been deposited here. In thinking of this process we may fitly continue our Tennysonian quotation:

> The hills are shadows and they flow
> From form to form and nothing stands,
> They melt like mist, the solid lands,
> Like clouds they shape themselves and go.

THE OVERLYING DRIFTS

The solid rocks—chalk, clay and bedded sands—make up the mass of the land. On them rest certain thin deposits of much more recent date, laid down before, during, and after the Ice Ages of the last million years, and having an important bearing on

the mineral resources and land utilisation of the district. It was during this period that the rocks were carved into the hills and valleys we know.

There are three main 'drift' deposits, at different levels. Strangely, the highest is the oldest and the lowest the most recent.

First came a deposit of sandy shingle known as the 'Pebble Gravel', which, as fortunate gardeners know, caps the highest ground in the locality, at about 400 feet. From Barnet this Pebble Gravel covers a narrow ridge to Bentley Heath, and after a short gap continues in a wider sheet along Potters Bar High Street to Little Heath. Other patches exist at Mimmshall Wood, and at a lower level at Dugdale Hill and Dyrham Park. At all these places pits have been dug to obtain gravel. These pits are shallow, for the Pebble Gravel is rarely more than ten feet thick and usually less. It consists largely of rounded flint pebbles such as occur in the Reading Beds, mixed with smaller white quartz pebbles and a few other stones—of which the most interesting are pieces of Lower Greensand chert derived from the Weald and transported by ancient rivers right across the London Basin from the Surrey area. This Pebble Gravel dates from the early Pleistocene period, early in the great Ice Age, and was probably a river deposit brought down by a tributary of the Thames when this river ran well north of its present course, roughly from Maidenhead along the line of the Vale of St. Albans, past Hertford and through Essex. The present St. Albans Vale is, clearly, 200 feet or more lower than at that time, and, more strikingly, the whole of the Middlesex plain and the present lower Thames valley have been carved out since then.

Next in order of date are the deposits directly associated with the presence of ice in the region. These materials are part of the complex sheet of the Chalky Boulder Clay which extends into the area from the north and north-east. On top of the plateau, approximately from the Mutton Lane-Barnet Road crossing south-eastwards for nearly a mile along the Southgate Road, there occurs one patch of this material—the ground moraine of an early ice-advance. It includes pieces of chalk and broken flints in a matrix of clay. Evidence of ice transport may be had from pebbles bearing scratches, and the place of origin of these 'erratics' may be quite distant—purplish

quartzites derived from the Bunter (Triassic) rocks of the Midlands, sandstone fragments from the Coal Measures, and rocks carried from the Pennines or even Scandinavia.

The most recent deposits have accumulated since the Ice Age, largely as the result of stream action. These deposits represent the old valley floors of streams; they may be found as remnants of terraces on the sides of existing valleys, and are still being formed along river courses. Such deposits are found at a low level in the main valley of the Mimmshall Brook.

QUARRIES

Most geological strata found in our district have been quarried. Pits have been sunk in the chalk to obtain material for spreading on the heavy clay land to lighten it, a process known as marling, and to provide flints for building. Probably the chalk was also used for making lime. Clays have been extensively used for local brickmaking, though not in recent years, and the very name Potters Bar suggests another obvious use. The thin superficial deposits of sand and gravel have also provided material for building and road-making.

SOILS

The chalk exposure in the west of the district and the alluvial fill of the Mimms valley carry a medium to coarse well- drained and leached[1] ‘brown earth'. The lower valley slopes are rather similar, but the narrow outcrop of the Reading Beds often produces a lighter soil. As all these conditions are favourable for arable farming it is not surprising that the recent Second Land Utilisation Survey found that nearly all the fields surrounding South Mimms were carrying barley or wheat. It was on these soils that the first settlement in the district took place; and a low chalk knoll was chosen as the site for a Norman castle.

The characteristic soil of the plateau tops of the district is a leached grey-brown earth suitable for pasture or woodland, the latter sometimes surviving in a semi-natural

1 Leaching is the process by which organic and mineral salts are washed down from upper soil layers by rainwater.

state with a typical mixture of deciduous trees such as oak, hornbeam, chestnut, elm and birch.

Between these two groups are the ill-drained slopes of London Clay which must originally have been covered with ‘damp oak forest' but which were gradually cleared for grazing and hay. Only on the better-drained parts could crops of corn or ley legumes be grown. The high water table in the London Clay and its poor drainage explain the dominant land use for the production of milk and hay, for both local consumption and the London market.

The generally wooded nature of most of our district in early times delayed other settlements for two reasons. The underlying clay which gave rise to the woods was heavy and difficult to plough, and the woodland itself impeded communications. Further, the extensive mediaeval devotion of Enfield Chase to hunting almost sterilised that area for centuries. A few trackways may have been made through the forest, and the names Bentley Heath and Little Heath suggest the existence of natural glades or clearings, but our district has no place names of the distinctive types which indicate very early clearance or settlement.

Topography

Perhaps the most notable feature of the district is the relatively flat high level on which Potters Bar High Street stands. This high land forms part of the extensive South Hertfordshire Plateau, and is often capped by Pebble Gravel resting on the London Clay. This plateau forms the watershed between the catchment area of the River Lea on the east and drainage to the Mimmshall Brook on the west. As tributaries of both these run approximately east and west the ridges which separate them take the same direction, for instance those towards Botany Bay and South Mimms.

Upland settlements can usually obtain water only by sinking wells, but in earlier times well-sinking was difficult. The result was a preference for spring-line or valley sites, where water was more easily obtained. This water factor and the light easily-worked soil of the Mimmshall Brook valley combined to cause an early settlement in that area.

The site of South Mimms is on the western side of the valley and also on a spur between two tributary valleys, those of the Catherine Bourne and the Clare Hall Brook. Communication was possible along this spur westwards to Ridge, over the tributary valleys to the north and south, and eastwards across the main valley, narrower here than further north. The tributary valleys also extend the outcrop of the easily-worked Chalk and Reading Beds.

Streams

The more important streams of the district drain westward to the Mimmshall Brook, which in wet weather becomes the headwaters of the River Colne, as the direction of its valley clearly shows. This interesting brook presents different aspects as it crosses the district. From its source, not far from Stirling Corner, it flows north-east in a broad vale. Its course through Dyrham Park is pleasantly wooded, and here the stream turns north. After crossing the Barnet-South Mimms road, its valley broadens to just beyond North Mimms, where the present valley is incised into an older one. Except when full, the brook disappears here into swallow-holes in the chalk at Water End. Many old swallow-holes filled with silty material can be found along this section of the stream. Under normal conditions the water never reaches the Colne, but passes underground through fissures in the Chalk into the River Lea: the direction of this flow has been proved by adding an extremely strong green dye (fluorescein) to the vanishing brook at Water End: the dye reappeared in all the Lea valley springs between Essendon Mill and Broxbourne, but there was no sign of it in the Colne valley.

The Mimmshall Brook has three left bank tributaries. In downstream order these are the Holmshill Brook, rising near the A.1 road north of Dyrham Park Farm; the Clare Hall Brook which enters the district south of Ridge village; and the Catherine Bourne, which crosses the A.6 road north of South Mimms just after it enters the district. The five right bank tributaries are, from south to north, the Barnet Ditches, Kitts End Stream, the Wrotham Park Stream, Bentley Heath Brook and Potters Bar Brook. The last is for much of its course adverted beneath the lower areas of the town. This tributary rises a little to the north of Ganwick Corner, winds north and then west past

the bottoms of the gardens on the south side of Brackendale, and then disappears. Its hidden course runs under the railway line and along the east side of the embankment to the Darkes Lane bridge, whence the water flows under the pavement on the east side of this road until it emerges from a culvert on the west side, near the entrance to the Golf Club. From here it runs across the golf course, turns north-west and west, and joins the Mimmshall Brook west of Warrengate Farm.

The upper sections of three other streams lie within the district boundaries on the eastern side of the main watershed.
From south to north these are Monkey Mead, which drains the slopes between Hadley and Ganwick Corner; Salmons Brook, flowing east along the valley north of Wagon Road; and Turkey Brook, fed by the ponds in Oakmere Park and the Torrington Drive area.

CONCLUSION

It is no accident that the earliest settlement in the district was sited in the shelter of the Mimms Valley where the easily worked Chalk and sandy Reading Beds come to the surface, and not on the plateau slopes of forested London Clay. Thanks to a combination of structural geology and stream erosion this Mimms valley provided the more hospitable soils, and at a later date its flints were used for the attractive walls and pleasant chequerwork exterior of South Mimms Church. In modern times the same valley has been followed by the great artery originally called the Barnet By-pass and now known as the A.1.

The Archaeology and Earliest History of the District

'"THE earliest recorded settlement in our district is Roman, and was at Potters Bar. In 1953 the Urban District Council dug a shallow trench for a concrete path, from the south-west corner of the Parkfield wood to the top of Byng Drive. This disclosed a thick scatter of Roman tiles on a small terrace about a third of the way down the field. Excavations carried out in 1953 and 1954 by a joint committee of the Barnet and District Record Society and the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society revealed a small tile-kiln, datable by the pottery found around it to the late first century A.D. The remains discovered were poorly preserved. From the north-west end of an ashpit, 12

feet long and 8 feet wide, partially paved with tile, a roughly made brick flue extended 16 feet. This flue, choked with ashes, must have ended in a sort of chimney, as its further end butted against a clay step and was finished with courses of tiles. A drain, composed of box- tiles laid end to end in the clay subsoil, led away from the lower end of the flue below the ashpit and down the hill.

Finds, now in the Barnet Museum, consisted largely of tile fragments, many of them wasters. The most interesting pieces belong to a class of box-tile used for constructing vaulted roofs, and bear a rosette and diamond pattern, applied with a roller die. These tiles confirm the late first century A.D. date suggested by the pottery. A short report on the excavations has been published by the Barnet and District Record Society.

No doubt considerably more remains to be discovered about Roman Potters Bar. The Parkfield site was not completely excavated, and is unlikely to have been an isolated feature. It seems improbable that so remote a kiln served the relatively distant settlements at Verulamium (St. Albans), Enfield, Cheshunt and Edmonton, when suitable brick-earth lay closer to hand. There is little doubt that some much nearer site to be supplied with tiles is to be sought, though there is no certainty in which direction to look. Perhaps the light loam in the South Mimms valley may provide the clue, and we may note that excavations at the Castle there have yielded several fragments of box-tile, two of them roller-patterned.

The Roman period ended over 600 years before the Norman Conquest, and the history of our district in this long era is obscure. When the curtain rises again it reveals that the oldest continuously occupied site was not Potters Bar, but South Mimms.

The name Mimms, borne by two parishes which straddle the mediaeval county boundary, may point to a very early pattern of settlement. Its etymology is uncertain; there is no agreement whether an Anglo-Saxon or even a Celtic origin should be sought. It has been suggested that it derives from an otherwise unrecorded folk-name of the early Saxon period, and conjectured that these may have taken their name

from a Celtic wood or river name. The river Mimram and rare field-names in Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead and Tring may perhaps contain the same element, for which other explanations are equally possible. If this folk ever existed it had, like many other tribal groups attested by place-names, lost all cohesion and identity before documented history begins. It is noteworthy that there is a total absence of pagan Saxon graves or characteristically early place- names for a considerable distance. We cannot therefore postulate any large-scale occupation of the Mimms area before the coming of Christianity to these parts in the seventh century, with the consequent disuse of the practice of burying grave goods with the dead.

Middlesex, and Hertfordshire at least as far as Hemel Hempstead, belonged to the East Saxon kingdom in the seventh century. But though titular monarchs of the East Saxons reigned down to the early ninth century, effective control of this area had passed by about 700 A.D. to the powerful kings of Mercia. In 793 King Offa founded the abbey of St. Albans. By the time of the Norman Conquest its endowments included the neighbouring parishes of Ridge, Northaw and Barnet, which surround and significantly exclude North and South Mimms. If we could be sure that these endowments represented the original donation, we should be able to infer the existence of Minims, perhaps still undivided, before 800 A.D. The definition of the shires of Middlesex and Hertfordshire seems to have followed the expulsion of the Danes in the early tenth century. In their early days county boundaries were drawn, and where necessary redrawn, to ensure that where possible estates under the same ownership remained in one county or even in the same hundred. We conclude, therefore, that if Mimms had not already split into two parts by the early tenth century it certainly did so some time between then and the Norman Conquest, when the county boundary ran so as to include St. Albans estates and North Mimms within Hertfordshire, and South Mimms in Middlesex.

The pattern of Saxon and early Norman settlement in the heavily wooded lands of north Middlesex and south Hertfordshire is simple in outline, though its detailed history is obscure. Early settlements on the western bank of the Lea expanded their territory westwards along the ridges; while St. Albans Abbey colonised or took possession of the waste lands of the south Hertfordshire plateau from the west. There

was more that one stage in this broad development. The name of Totteridge strongly suggests an early occupation of the East Barnet valley and beyond from Tottenham (for both contain the same Old English personal name) at some time before the Barnets, along with Ridge and Northaw, came into the Abbey's hands; and before 1066 the people of Edmonton had certainly penetrated westwards to Hadley and South Mimms, which were then in their possession. But this process was neither simple nor constant, and the fluctuations of fortune and lordship are concealed from us by the dearth of records; for when Totteridge enters written record in the twelfth century any primitive connection with Tottenham had been broken, and it was a dependency of the Bishop of Ely's manor of Hatfield, a full ten miles away. (It is likely that Domesday Book included it in Hatfield, and that its attachment there resulted from a donation to Ely Abbey). A relic of that distant time is Travellers Lane which links the two places; its course through Rabley, running west of South Mimms and Barnet and ignoring them, seems to indicate that it antedates these settlements.

In 1066 the north Middlesex properties included within the Hundred of Edmonton (except Tottenham) were held by Ansgar, Staller of London, Middlesex and Hertfordshire, an important royal official and the grandson of Tofig, standard- bearer of King Cnut (1016-1035). The latter obtained his title by conquest, and it is almost certain that the ownership of South Mimms must have passed to Tofig or one of his descendants in the eleventh century. Only the discovery of some earlier document could reveal anything about its tenure before that time.

In Domesday Book, compiled in 1086, both Mimms appear for the first time: South Mimms was entered as a BEREWIC, an outlying farm or hamlet, of the Manor of Edmonton; "To this manor belonged (in 1066), and still does, one berewic which is called Mimes, and is accounted for with this manor". As its resources were consolidated with the parent manor its size and details are lost to us, but its dependent status suggests that in the eleventh century South Mimms was not of much importance. North Middlesex was covered by a vast forest, where it was estimated that both Edmonton and Enfield could feed 2000 swine. Edmonton mustered two priests, but we have no means of telling whether one was detached to serve South Mimms. If any settlement existed at Hadley, which was not mentioned, it

may have been reckoned in with South Mimms.

The exact site of Norman South Mimms is also uncertain, but we can be sure that it was conveniently situated to exploit the only good, easily tilled land in the parish, overlying the chalk outcrop at its north end. The early importance of this area is emphasised by the location there of the twelfth century castle; the situation of Mimms Hall, the successor to the mediaeval manor house, half a mile away from the modern village, perhaps provides the most likely clue as to where it should be sought. We shall see that there are other sound reasons for believing that the earliest village did not stand on the present site but was transferred thither in the thirteenth century.
The Norman conquest of 1066 meant the transfer of the estates and offices of Ansgar to Geoffrey de Mandeville, a Norman baron. He was succeeded by his son William and his grandson, another Geoffrey, who in 1140 was made the first Earl of Essex. Geoffrey II played a most important part in the history of the district, for he was certainly the builder of South Mimms Castle, and the establishment of South Mimms as a separate manor and parish, inextricably bound up with the origin of Enfield Chase, is most probably attributable to him.

The forest wastes of north Middlesex and beyond were natural hunting ground, in which the Londoners claimed immemorial hunting rights as far as the Chilterns, rights which were confirmed as late as the reign of Henry I (1100-1135). Nevertheless it is obvious that these privileges must dwindle as the growth of permanent farms and settlements in this area went on, and eventually become extinct on the overall imposition of manorial lordship. There is good reason to attribute the latter development in this district to Geoffrey de Mandeville II, who owned so much of north Middlesex.

South Mimms first appears as an independent parish in 1136. In that year Geoffrey de Mandeville II founded the priory (later abbey) of Saffron Walden, and included in its endowments the churches and tithes of Enfield, Edmonton and South Mimms, and the hermitage of Hadley. A deed of about 1140 attests for the first time that South Mimms was also now a manor and was divided into two parts: Geoffrey granted to Hugh de Eu 'a moiety (half) of my manor of Mimms’. One centre was doubtless the

village of South Mimms itself, perhaps adjacent to the site of the castle or in its vicinity; the other was in all probability Old Fold—already 'old' in 1274, and near the sites of two place-names likely to be of Old English origin, Hadley and Sugarwell, an ill-omened spot (not far from the Highstone) named after some forgotten Saxon demon who haunted it. Hadley and its hermitage, which the document of 1136 describes as being 'in my park', may not yet have been separated from its parent manor, but the fact that this 'park' extended to Hadley shows that Enfield Chase had come into being, and that the boundaries of mediaeval South Mimms must already have been fixed.

In 1086 a 'park' already existed on the manor of Enfield; it is probably to be identified with what was later known as the Old Park. Its enlargement evidently meant the enclosure not only of most of the western part of Enfield Manor, but also of large tracts of that of Edmonton and its dependencies. This is clear from the fact that the inhabitants of Edmonton, South Mimms and Hadley, as well as of Enfield, enjoyed immemorial and undisputed rights of common in Enfield Chase which had to be extinguished by substantial compensation when the Chase was broken up in 1777. The creation of the Chase must have cut South Mimms off from Edmonton and given it, perhaps for the first time, definite boundaries; it may well have been the occasion for erecting into a separate manor the growing community that now required the services of a full-time priest.

The closeness of these dates and the circumstances leave little doubt that the creation of the Chase and its transfer to Enfield parish, the establishment of the manor of South Mimms, and the donation of these churches to Walden Abbey, were all parts of a single act of policy. If we are correct in seeing Geoffrey de Mandeville's strong hand behind them, it is even possible to attribute his designs to the year 1136—a significant date, immediately following the death in 1135 of the powerful Henry I and the beginning of the reign of the weak and genial Stephen, in whose flesh Geoffrey was to prove so terrible a thorn.

At least by the thirteenth century, and probably much earlier, major property boundaries were carefully defined by substantial earthworks. The bank and ditch

which followed the county boundary certainly existed in 1220 between Southgate and Cockfosters. Remains can be seen along the north side of Coopers Lane Road, and by the railway cutting opposite the Duty Stone three-quarters of a mile north of Potters Bar station. The Chase itself was delimited along a north-south ridge between Potters Bar and Hadley by a large earthen bank, about 30 feet wide and several feet high. This survived in Oakmere Park, just north of the north-east corner of St. John's churchyard, until 1963, when the ground was levelled for a car park. Gates into the Chase, giving access to ancient rights of way such as the Edmonton to South Mimms road (the present Cockfosters Road), and permitting the exercise of rights of common, must have existed from the beginning. It was one of these that was to give its name, Potters Bar, to the modern district.

The curious nature of Hadley deserves discussion here because of its possible connection with Old Fold. A small and strangely shaped corner of land, Hadley seems to have been a highly artificial creation arising from the emparkment of Enfield Chase, in fact nothing more than the meagre endowment of the Hermitage. Now Old Fold, no more than a stone's-throw away, was already 'old' in 1274 and probably South Minims' second centre of population as early as about 1140. It is a natural surmise that the hamlet of Hadley originally looked to it as the principal house in the neighbourhood, in fact as their manor house. It would therefore follow that Geoffrey de Mandeville probably detached a fragment of the Old Fold sector of South Mimms to form an endowment for the Hermitage, and thus severed what became known as Hadley from its earliest centre.

The civil war between King Stephen and the Empress Matilda, Henry I's daughter, brought troubled times to South Mimms, and an earthwork castle was built here which must have meant grievous burdens to its inhabitants. Although the castle is not specifically named in any record there can be no doubt that Geoffrey de Mandeville II was responsible for its erection. Playing a most discreditable part in the civil war, he 'weighed treason by its chance of success, and changed his opinion for money'. In 1141 Stephen bought his powerful but unreliable support by granting Geoffrey permission to erect one castle on his domains, wherever he wished. Next year Geoffrey deserted to the Empress, and extorted from her the right 'to maintain that

castle which he has built upon the river Lea (probably a lost site at Edmonton) and to found another wheresoever he wishes on his own land'. Most probably this second castle was that at South Mimms. It is possible that the full list of Geoffrey's extorted licences has not survived, and not improbable that he sometimes exceeded or anticipated the terms of his grant. But we may be reasonably certain that South Mimms castle was founded during this civil war, in or very close to 1142. We may imagine how the local inhabitants suffered at this time when we read in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: 'Every great man built him castles and held them against the king; and they filled the whole land with castles. They sorely burdened the unhappy people of the country with forced labour on the castles . . . and filled them with devils and wicked men.'

Fortunately for the people of South Mimms, the castle's active life was short. In 1143 Geoffrey was arrested by Stephen at St. Albans, and the price of his release was the surrender of all his castles. He perished fighting in the Fens next year, and was regarded with such horror by his contemporaries that for years his body was denied Christian burial: it eventually rested in the Temple Church in London. South Mimms Castle could have had little strategic value for the king, and "was probably soon dismantled. Whether the castle was promptly slighted then, or not until after the accession of the powerful Henry II in 1154, there was no military reoccupation, as the excavated finds show. The mediaeval manor house was prudently sited a full half mile away from the crumbling earthworks.

The remains of the castle are so overgrown and unimpressive that the site was not recognised as a castle until 1918, so completely had its identity been forgotten. The situation of the castle on the lower eastern slopes of Ridge Hill is not commanding, but it cannot be overlooked and effectively controls a ford on the brook two hundred yards away. It was a typical 'motte and bailey' castle, consisting of a high mound (motte) and an attached bailey or enclosure. The bailey is defined by a considerable rampart some 300 feet across and kidney-shaped in plan, with an entrance on the downhill side facing the ford. On the uphill side is the motte, 110 feet in diameter at the base, 65 feet across at the top, and standing about 12 feet above the present ground level. Much of the ditch which once encircled it has been filled in, leaving little

visible trace of its existence. Extending downhill from the bailey earthworks are traces of ploughed- out banks. It is possible that these are remains of an outer bailey, perhaps even enclosing the Domesday settlement of 'Mimes'. West of the castle lies a large hollow, which doubtless originated as a quarry for obtaining chalk for marling clay land and flints for building purposes. Within the last 30 years this quarry has been vastly extended and deepened by the Barnet Lime Company, but little damage has been done to the castle, which now has the protection of being scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Acts.

Excavations on the motte and associated structures have been carried out each summer since I960 by the North Middlesex Archaeological Research Committee, under the direction of Dr. J. P. C. Kent, following a survey by Mr. D. F. Renn (page 31). The first task was to define and section the filled-in ditch of the motte and to ascertain the general character of the structures on or inside the motte. From the true centre of the motte a trench was dug on an accurately radial line across the motte and ditch. The latter proved to be a formidable barrier cut into the solid chalk, 33 feet wide and 15 feet deep. Its inner face had a slope of 40° and the outer of 70°, making the section an abrupt and uneven V. A little coarse pottery came from the filling of the ditch and the primary silt at the bottom. From a well-marked turf-line about two feet above the bottom of the ditch it is apparent that most of the filling, consisting entirely of material from the motte, took place in comparatively recent times; the levelling of the motte was probably ordered by farmers, one of whose men lost a clay pipe during the work.

Four closely spaced trenches with radial sides were laid out round a quarter of the circumference of the motte top. The possibility that these would reveal the post-holes of a palisade was soon dispelled, for the demolition of the upper part of the motte had destroyed any such traces. These four sections showed that in the outer part of the motte tip-lines of material—alternate layers of chalk and loam—remained IN SITU, but that towards the centre of the mound these lines were cut off by the edge of a steep-sided hollow filled with mixed soil. Under this soil, at a depth of 9 feet, was a floor of beaten earth, covered by a black layer containing considerable quantities of coarse and glazed pottery, and objects of iron and bronze. Below this floor was a

deposit of rubble a foot thick, resting on the surface of the natural loam. Later work showed that this floor was bounded by flint wall-footings laid flat on the loam, or on ground made up to the same level by chalk rubble. These footings are about three feet wide, with a centre channel about a foot wide and six inches deep, which once held timbers. All traces of wood have vanished in the strongly alkaline soil, but zones of unconsolidated rubble showed that at least the lowest timbers had decayed in place. It was possible at one spot to determine that the timber which had lain in the socket was nine inches square.

Preliminary deductions from this evidence were that the footings formed the base of a timber tower, 36 feet square at basement level, rising from ground level through the motte, the material of which must have been piled up against the tower in successive layers. The original appearance of the tower could be deduced from evidence at two points where it could be seen that the lowest timbers leaned inwards at an angle of about 80°; this feature was not preserved beyond a height of 2 feet 6 inches above the flint footings, but if this batter continued it must have considerably narrowed the upper part of the tower. The construction of early mediaeval timber belfries, such as that at Blackmore church in Essex, gives some idea of what the timber- work may have been.

The problem of access to the tower from the bailey was solved by evidence of a passage 25 feet long and 6 feet wide, doubtless earthed over as a tunnel, through the south side of the motte. Here the wall footings ran a foot lower than on the adjacent sides, and over the footings ran a continuation of the basement floor level, flanked on the inside by uneven masses of additional flintwork and outside this by timber unsupported by flintwork. This passage may have been reached by a flat bridge spanning the ditch, which at this point was reduced to some 25 feet in width and 12 feet in depth.

At the outer end of the passage, the outer part of the motte was formed by a bank of stiff clay and flints, in the top of which, level with the end of the passage, was the bottom of a large post- hole. Between the back of this feature and the tower had been dumped rubble excavated from the ditch. One presumes that above the encircling

clay bank rose a vertical timber revetment, crowned by a palisade, and that the material from the ditch, packed between the two timber structures, was used to create a solid and level fighting platform of considerable area.

A few finds show that the tower was by no means a makeshift structure, even if its effective life was short. Two small pieces of sheet lead survive, presumably from the roofing. Pieces of well-smoothed thick wall-plaster suggest that the upper rooms were carefully finished and perhaps decorated. Iron and bronze door-studs and numerous ornate fragments of gilt bronze strip show that the woodwork too was adorned. Several fragments of Roman tile, some of it patterned, probably come from the Park-field site at Potters Bar, two miles distant. The clay and chalk surfaces are very slippery, and it is possible that some tile was brought in to provide a less dangerous surface for the castle's defenders. Apart from the considerable quantity of pottery, most of which derives from the tower floor and motte construction layers, finds have included the iron head of a single-pronged pickaxe; an iron spoon-bit; iron arrowheads; iron knifeblade; candlestick and buckle; schist whetstone; bronze brooches; bronze ring with a small silver setting; and very large numbers of nails, mostly bent. The glazed pottery falls into two main classes—wares produced commercially in the south Midlands and East Anglia, well known from a wide range of sites, and local wares with a poor patchy green glaze and coarse fabric. Too little is known as yet to enable these pottery finds to be fully assessed.

By 1147 less troubled times were returning. In this year Matilda recognised the title and rights of Geoffrey III, Geoffrey de Mandeville II’s second son, and in 1155 Henry II confirmed his restoration. Though the castle keep ceased to be occupied, finds suggest substantial use of the bailey at least down to about 1200. The discovery of fourteenth century material should also warn us against supposing that the disuse of the earthworks was immediate and complete.

One great change seems to have transformed South Mimms in the thirteenth century: the migration of the main village to its present location on the St. Albans-Barnet-London Road (the later Holyhead Road), which can hardly have existed before the establishment of Barnet Market in 1199 called it into being, but

eventually supplanted Watling Street as the way from London to St. Albans. The notion that the village was not always on its present site may be surprising to many, but can be deduced from a variety of factors. First, it would be a strange coincidence if early South Mimms happened to lie precisely on a route which did not exist before 1199. Secondly, it is intrinsically probable that the earliest occupation lay elsewhere, either near the chalk outcrop north of the modern village, in the vicinity of the twelfth century castle, or close to the later manor house, Mimms Hall. Thirdly, the original village is unlikely to have lain off the line of the primitive route from Darkes which fords the brook near the castle and was clearly intended to link South Mimms to its parent manor of Edmonton; this road continued to St. Albans and obviously antedates the 1199 highway from Barnet to St. Albans through the present village. Finally, as the chapter on communications shows, this track from Darkes was later replaced by Mutton Lane, on a more southerly line heading direct for the present village. No explanation save a shift in the site of the village is consistent with all these features. The movement of the village to its present location was surely prompted by the natural desire to minister to and profit from the traffic along a great new national thoroughfare. It is likely that people and church moved during the thirteenth century, perhaps as the result of a deliberate act of policy, and that there remains near the castle or at Mimms Hall a complete Norman village awaiting the careful excavator.

Certainly by the thirteenth century there had been some expansion in the parish, for a third centre of population had begun to develop in the north-east corner, additional to South Mimms village itself in the north-west and Old Fold in the south; this was Potters Bar, under the manorial rule of Wyllyotts from perhaps 1349 and possibly earlier. This portion is covered by two separate chapters and will be excluded from the later story of South Mimms.

South Mimms

AFTER recovering the manor of South Mimms, forming part of the Honour of Mandeville—the term for the great fief which successive Earls of Essex held direct from the Crown— the Mandeville family or one of its branches retained it for at least half a century. The family's male line and for a time the earldom died out with the wicked Geoffrey's sons, but the lands descended to the progeny of his sister Beatrice,

wife of William de Say, who assumed their mother's name. The earldom was revived in 1199 in the person of Geoffrey FitzPiers, husband of Beatrice's granddaughter, but South Mimms seems to have been detached from his inheritance and given to a kinsman, Ernulf de Mandeville, who is named as holder of the manor in 1235. Ernulf founded the small priory of Cathale in Northaw and endowed it with the earliest property that we can trace in Potters Bar. As long afterwards as 1362 it was remembered that the manor once belonged to 'Arnold de Maundevill'.

In 1253 South Mimms manor was in the hands of another family, the Leukenors, who probably came from Lewknor in Oxfordshire. How they acquired their new property, whether by inheritance from a Mandeville heiress, by purchase or by grant, is unknown. Some association with the Mandevilles is suggested by the fact that in 1268 Sir Roger Leukenor of South Mimms held a Suffolk manor from Hugh de Mandevil. During their long tenure the Leukenors seldom seem to have lived at South Mimms; they held land in other counties, mainly in Sussex. Their arrival did not however end the Mandevilles' connection, for although the second line of this family again ended in an heiress who took the title and the lordship of the Honour to the de Bohuns, a cadet branch of the Mandevilles remained at South Mimms. Richard Maundevill was living there in 1337 and in 1409 the widow of another Richard Maundevyll is mentioned. A more significant pointer is that in 15 31 Bentley- heath Lane is referred to as Maundevyle's Hill, which suggests that Gannocks near by, although not on record until 1447, may have been the home of this branch.

The holder of South Mimms manor in 1253 was Sir Roger, son of Nicholas de Leukenor, Keeper of the King's Wardrobe and an important finance official, who seems to have given him some of his estates during his lifetime and died in 1268. The manor was then and long afterwards held of the de Bohuns, Earls of Essex and Hereford, by the service of one knight's fee. Sir Roger, who became sheriff of Sussex, was succeeded in 1295 by his son Thomas, who died in 1302. His heir Thomas II, who was concerned in the abduction of young Henry Frowyk mentioned below, secured a grant of free warren in South Mimms in 1313, and may have parted temporarily with the lordship of Mimms under some settlement, as in 1316-7 he and his wife Sibilla received the manor from John D'Abernon. It descended in 1336 to his

son Roger II de Leukenor, who had an unsuccessful boundary dispute with St. Albans Abbey, whose Barnet lands overflowed into South Mimms. Another settlement of the manor was made in 1340 on Roger and his wife Katherine.

The earliest court roll of South Mimms manor comes from this Roger's time, and when he died in 1349, succeeded by his son Roger III (afterwards knighted), an extent of its annual value entered the manor house at 4s., 400 acres of arable land at 4d. an acre, 15 acres of meadow at Is. 6d. each, 15 acres of wood at 4d. each, 15 acres of fresh land at 6d. each, a windmill at 13s. 4d. with profits of court at half a mark, quitrents at £6 19s. 6d., copyhold rents at £1 6s. 8d., 806 days' work by the tenants at V2&- per day, and 606 days' work in harvest at Id. per day; the villeins were sometimes tallaged (taxed) by their lord, but never paid more than 6d. each in a year. These sums must be multiplied about fifty times to give .the modern equivalent value; an ordinary mediaeval parish priest existed on about £4 a year.

Sir Roger Ill's reign was brief, for he died in 1362, when his heir was his young son (later Sir) Thomas III. Thomas was dead by 1394 when the lord of Mimms, another Roger (IV), who was probably his son and also became a knight, granted the manor to John Byllingdon the younger for twenty years. It seems that Sir Roger's son was Sir Thomas IV who died in 1452 leaving six sons, of whom no fewer than four became Members of Parliament. The eldest of these was Sir Roger V, a Sussex M.P. who held the manor of South Mimms at his death in 1478.

Very shortly the Leukenors' tenure of over two centuries ended, although their connection with the parish continued until a distant Leukenor sold Wyllyotts manor in 1562. In the year following Sir Roger's death his eldest son Sir Thomas V granted South Mimms manor to Giles Daubeney and others, who were perhaps only trustees, but it soon came into Crown hands, and in 1484 Richard III granted it to Robert Scrope for supporting his claim to the throne, an action probably reversed by Henry VII. Nothing further about its ownership is known until 1538, when it passed from Henry Draper to Sir Edward Nevyle, William Wyndesore and others. These may have been acting as trustees for the Windsor family to whom the manor later belonged, for in 1567 the lordship was transferred to Edward, third Lord Windsor, by John Vaughan

and others, who probably held it as trustees. 'A faire warren of conies of my Lo. Windsores' at South Mimms was mentioned by John Norden in 1593. The manor was bought from the Windsors in 1606 by Robert Cecil, later of Hatfield House, and has since remained in the hands of his family, the Earls and later Marquesses of Salisbury.

The manorial owner who died in 1478 was referred to in a will of 1504 as 'Sir Roger Leukenor of Southmyrnhall'. The north part of the present two-storeyed house of Mimms Hall was probably built early in the sixteenth century and later encased in brick: some of the original timber framing is visible inside. The house is much altered and has later additions, but there are still fragments of a moat round it. The manor court was still meeting there in the eighteenth century. The earliest court roll preserved dates from 1346, and there are others of 1475 and for a long span between 1589 and 1642, besides a survey of 1598 and various papers of about that time.

The Leukenors were however usually absentees, unlike the Frowyks, the most important family in the mediaeval history of the parish, who were successful London merchants. They arrived about the same time as the Leukenors and settled at Old Fold manor, just inside the parish boundary, on the edge of Hadley Green. The site of the manor house is still marked by three sides of a moat, alongside the headquarters of the Old Fold Golf Club. For nearly three centuries their story and the history of the parish are almost synonymous. Like the Leukenors with their curious fondness for the names Roger and Thomas, the eleven generations of Frowyks were called alternately Thomas and Henry, except for a Reginald who came between Henry I and Henry II.

Of Thomas Frowyk I and Henry I (died 1286) we know little. Henry's son Reginald lived at the time when the Abbot of Walden tried unsuccessfully to tax the bread and beer of the inhabitants of South Mimms. His infant son Henry II who succeeded in 1300 was kidnapped a few years later and carried off to Pleshey Castle in Essex, where he was forced to marry Margaret, the daughter of William de Pouns; the culprits, William de Pouns and his son Richard, and Thomas de Leukenor, lord of the manor, were pardoned for this offence in 1311. The Pouns family were established in

South Mymms by 1278 and appear frequently in local fourteenth century deeds.

The son of Henry and Margaret Pouns, Thomas Frowyk II, married Margaret, the daughter and heiress of John Durham (died 1368), another local landowner, and thus acquired the estate called Durhams after his family. The Durhams' house probably stood beside Galley Lane, where there is still an almost complete moat, next to Fold Farm. The estate is now known as Dyrham Park but was still called Durhams by some of the local inhabitants about the beginning of the present century.
As Thomas Frowyk II died before his father, his son Henry III succeeded his grandfather in 1377. Four years later the Peasants' Revolt took place, and the local rebels threatened to burn Barnet and St. Albans. Henry tried to mediate between them and their overlord, the Abbot of St. Albans, but with little success. The leader of the revolt, John Ball, who has been described as the first English Socialist, was hanged at St. Albans in the same year. Henry Frowyk III died in 1386 and is probably buried in the centre of the chancel of the parish church, under a large stone slab which bears in each corner a brass inset with the Frowyk arms (a chevron between three leopards' heads) and across the middle a brass inscription in Old French: 'Henri Frowyk gist icy dieu de s'alme eit m'cy' (Henry Frowyk lies here: may God have mercy on his soul).

Thomas Frowyk III succeeded his father in 1386, ruled for 62 years, became an M.P., and added to his patrimony by marrying Elizabeth Ashe, heiress of the manor of Weld in Shenley. Shortly before his death he founded a chantry in St. Giles's church and endowed it with an estate called Gannocks, at Bentley Heath. His gravestone in the west tower of the church has lost his brass image but still possesses the effigies of his wife and their 19 children—6 boys and 13 girls, of whom only one boy and two girls survived him. There is also a long Latin inscription on the stone, praising Thomas Frowyk's kindly manners, sober life, noble deeds and love of hunting.

Henry Frowyk IV, Thomas's only surviving son, also became an M.P., for Middlesex. He was either a spendthrift or inherited financial difficulties, and parted with Durhams to his cousin Sir Thomas Frowyk of Gunnersbury. In 1476 his many debts sent him to the Fleet prison, where he satisfied his creditors, among them his brother-in-law Sir

Roger Leukenor V, lord of South Mimms manor, whose sister Joan he had married. This marriage seems to be the only link between the two most prominent families of the parish. During Henry's time, on Easter Day 1471, the Lancastrian and Yorkist factions fought each other in what is known as the battle of Barnet. In fact it was fought in the parishes of South Mimms and Hadley; Hadley Highstone, the obelisk erected in 1740 by Sir Jeremy Sambrook of North Mimms to commemorate the battle, stands just inside the old boundary of South Mimms parish, where it joins Hadley. The Leukenors were active Lancastrian supporters, but Henry Frowyk's Gunnersbury cousins were Yorkists, and so perhaps was he.

Little is known of Thomas Frowyk IV, who succeeded his father Henry after 1476 and probably died about the year 1500. His son and successor Henry Frowyk V was perhaps the most important member of the family. It is true that he gave up Old Fold, his family's oldest possession in the neighbourhood, but he regained Weld, acquired the manor of North Mimms by his marriage with Anne, daughter and co-heiress of Robert Knolles, and transformed the parish church of South Mimms, leaving it substantially as it is today.

Until then the church of St. Giles (a dedication introduced by the Normans) had consisted of a chancel, nave and west tower, all flint-walled with limestone dressings. The oldest part of the church is the chancel, with its trefoil-headed piscina, probably of the thirteenth century; its low side-window, sometimes miscalled a leper window, dates from the early fourteenth century, and the adjacent south door is also fourteenth century. The nave was built late in the same century, but the square font was made in the thirteenth and stands on a fourteenth century panelled stem, and the big chest is of the thirteenth or fourteenth century. The west tower was added early in the fifteenth; Thomas Frowyk gave a legacy towards its upkeep in 1448.

When Henry Frowyk V, whose mind may have turned to religion as the result of his only son's premature death, made his will in 1523, he bequeathed £20 'to the making of an lie or chappell, if eny be made or making, in the north part' of the church, so none existed then. It was doubtless due to him that the addition of a brick-built north chapel and aisle was quickly taken in hand, the north wall of the old nave being

replaced by a row of arches. The new north windows were filled with coloured glass, some of which still survives, with the date 1526 clearly visible. The north chapel, doubtless intended for the Frowyk chantry, was enclosed with the beautiful wooden screens which still exist, with the Frowyk leopards' heads carved on the cusps of both doorways. The whole church was probably seated with pews at the same time, but only two pew-ends remain, with linen-fold panelling. The handsome altar tomb in the north chapel, with an elaborate carved stone canopy over the effigy of a man in plate armour, and bearing the arms of Frowyk and allied families, is probably the resting-place of Henry Frowyk's only son, Thomas V, who died childless before his father. Henry himself died in 1527. What is called the Nameless Tomb, a canopied stone altar-tomb on the north side of the sanctuary, is probably his, although it may not have been completed until some years after his death, as it carries some Renaissance ornament.

When Henry Frowyk, the last male of his line, died in 1527, the Reformation had already started on the Continent. Robert Hill, who had witnessed his will, was the last Vicar of South Mimms to be appointed by the monks of Walden; since the early thirteenth century at least secular priests had been nominated as Vicars to carry out the abbey's spiritual duties. The Abbey surrendered to the Crown in 1538, the community was dissolved, and the patronage of South Mimms church was appropriated to the King. It was immediately granted to Lord Audley, and changed hands several times before the Goodyers of Hadley sold it in 1545 to William Stanford. Robert Stanford sold it in 1569 to Thomas Smallwood, and by 1618 it was in the possession of the Marsh family. Early in the eighteenth century the patronage passed to the Parkers and a century later to the Hammonds, who sold it in 1915 to Mr. E. L. Hamilton. In 1958 it was bequeathed to the Bishops of London.

The Reformation saw other changes in St. Giles's. The church was stripped of most of its ornaments, including a low rood-screen, the sawn-off end of which can be seen embedded in the stonework over the pulpit. The stone steps leading to the rood-loft were left, as were the carved screens round the north chapel and the coloured windows; additions were in fact made to these in 1543.

On Henry Frowyk V's death his estates were inherited by his daughter Elizabeth, and eventually went to the family of her first marriage to John Coningsby. In 1547 she recovered Old Fold from John Palmer and his wife Mary, whose first husband had been young Thomas Frowyk V, on whom it seems Old Fold had been settled by his father. Elizabeth Coningsby was then a widow and perhaps thought of settling in her childhood home, but in 1551, after she had married again, she and her second husband William Dodds sold it to Thomas Whyte. Old Fold was however regained once more by her son Sir Henry Coningsby, who by his will, proved in 1591, left it to his eldest son Sir Ralph. In 1566 Ralph Waller, Sir Henry's tenant of Old Fold, had confirmation from the Duchy of Lancaster court of his rights of common in Enfield Chase.

Old Fold and Durhams were not the only sizeable freehold estates in the manor of South Mimms. In the thirteenth century the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, London, held land in Mimms which had been granted by Ernulf de Mandeville and others, and had a barn there where their seed corn was stored; but by 1546 the Hospital no longer had any land in South Mimms. Mediaeval land transactions reveal many freemen families in the parish.

One large estate was Gannocks, at Bentley Heath, near Elm Farm. Before his death in 1448 Thomas Frowyk III had endowed his chantry with 'Gannok', but his family's earlier possession of this land is implied by a grant of 1387 relating to Potters Bar. King Henry VIII dissolved the chantry and sold the property for £100 to his physician Walter Cromer in 1547. His son Thomas conveyed the estate to Thomas Blackwell in 1561, when it comprised 200 acres of arable, 200 of pasture, 50 of meadow and 80 of wood—almost a square mile. It later belonged to Edmond Bowyer, who died in 1627, and during the Commonwealth was occupied by Col. William Webb, Surveyor-General of Woods. Sir William Smythe, who inherited Gannocks from the Bowyers, owned the farm in 1800, and it was subsequently bought by the Byngs of Wrotham Park. The house was described in 1877 as 'demolished within living memory', but some of what were probably its fish-ponds or moats remain. An early Tudor stone fireplace now in a farmhouse near by may have come from Gannocks, which has given its name to Ganwick (previously Galley) Corner.

An important event in the history of the parish during Queen Mary's reign was the beginning of the Parish Registers of baptisms, marriages and burials in 1558. They are complete to the present day, except that a page or part of a page has been cut out here and there. They provide valuable information on the history of South Mimms throughout the centuries, on such matters as the growth of population, visitations of plague and other epidemics, and the origin of various place-names. Kitts End, for instance, is evidently named after the Kitts, who appear in the very first year of the registers: Blanche Farm from the Blanches, mentioned in 1597; Dancers Hill from the Dancers, who appear from 1601 onwards; Knightsland from the family of Knight, mentioned between 1623 and 1695; Earls Farm from the Earls, who first appear in 1745; and Clare Hall from the Clares, mentioned in the same century. Some of these names were flourishing before the registers began; Kykesend was recorded in 1523, Dancers Hill in 1543, and a Thomas Erie of Barnet sold land in South Mimms in 1408. Blanche Farm, which recently gave its name to Blanche Lane, must be of mediaeval origin as it still has the remains of a moat. The house is partly timber-framed; it was built in the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century, apart from modern additions, and possesses the original staircase.

It is said that the population of the whole parish of South Minims in 1548 was 360; this probably means 'houseling folk', those old enough to receive Holy Communion.

The parish church contains five ornaments which probably date from the time of Queen Elizabeth I. Two are memorial brasses, but all that is left of each is a shield of arms. One, just below the chancel step, shows the arms of the Haberdashers' Company (a field nebuly, with a lion on a bend). The other, in the middle of the north chapel, bears the arms of the Eastland Company, incorporated in 1579. It is very attractive, showing a three-masted man-of-war in full sail, with a lion on a chief. All the sails and a square flag at the head of the main-mast bear St. George's cross, and the other masts are flying pennants. The three big brass alms dishes displayed on the Nameless Tomb are of very attractive workmanship, and are supposed to be of Flemish or west German origin. The rims of the two smaller ones are embossed with geometrical designs, the larger one with animals.

Knightsland, a charming house standing alone in the fields a mile outside Barnet, dates from the same century: it is timber- framed, later encased in brick. The dining room is lined with the linen-fold panelling which was so popular in the early years of the sixteenth century. One of the upstairs rooms has a noteworthy series of Elizabethan wall-paintings telling the story of the Prodigal Son. They were accidentally discovered in 1935, when some panelling under which they had long been hidden was being repaired.

The beginning of the reign of King James I was marked at South Mimms by an outbreak of plague which killed a number of the inhabitants. It came again twenty years later, and in the last two years of James's reign and the first of Charles I's the yearly average of burials was 31, more than twice the annual average for the century. It is probable that about a quarter of the population of the parish died of the plague during those three years.

A monument dating from about that time is fixed to the south wall of the nave of the parish church. Its chief feature is a carving of a human skull. The inscription that was placed under it is now illegible. It ran:
(Beh)oulde. Look on. Why turn awaye thyne eyne?
'This is no stranger's face : the phesnamey is thine.
The top right-hand corner of this monument was hacked away in 1741 to make room for a memorial to Mary Dakins. There is obviously space now for the Dakins memorial to be placed further to the right; but at the time there was a gallery stretching part of the way along the wall, and it evidently extended so far that the Dakins family committed an act of vandalism to squeeze their ugly monument in.

The dispute between Charles I and the Long Parliament, which led to the outbreak of civil war in 1642, was preceded by a Parliamentary order for the destruction of what Puritans considered objects of superstition. It is most probable that the coloured windows in the parish church were demolished at this time, except the small parts of them which still survive. We know that the windows were intact in 1621 and they had disappeared by the eighteenth century, so there seems little room for doubt.

The restoration of the monarchy in 1660 was followed five years later by the Great Plague of London. South Mimms was apparently free from it, since the names of only seven parishioners are given in the list of burials for that year. They are however followed by this striking note: 'besides above 100 more, which died of the plague in the same year.' As these people are nameless it seems probable that they were strangers fleeing from the plague in London, hoping to escape it, but struck down before they had gone twenty miles.

Three charities were founded in the parish during the second half of this century. The first was in 1652, when John Howkins built five almshouses between the church and the vicarage for poor women. Owing to the smallness of the endowment, they fell into decay and were demolished in 1927. The income from this charity has since then been given as pensions instead. The second was founded in 1689, when James Hickson left Wyllyotts manor in trust to the Brewers' Company, of which he had been a member, for the maintenance of six almshouses which he had built at Kitts End. These were moved into the village in 1856, to a site between the church and the White Hart on which the Cross Keys Inn had stood until then. The third charity was founded by John Bradshaw, who died in 1698. He left money to provide a loaf of bread to be distributed to all who should attend Evensong at the parish church on Christmas Eve; the bread is still distributed every year.

The seventeenth century also saw newcomers at Old Fold; the Frowyks were only the first of a long succession of families attracted to a village so near the metropolis. In 1639 Thomas Coningsby of North Mimms sold Old Fold for £7,600 to Thomas Allen of Finchley, a member of a prosperous London family who was soon afterwards knighted; by this time the estate extended beyond South Mimms into the parishes of Hadley, Barnet and Enfield. Sir Thomas died in 1681, succeeded by his eldest son Edward. A Thomas Allen was in possession when a map of the estate was made in 1726, and another Thomas in 1777 when the estate received an allotment from the break-up of Enfield Chase. On the death of another Thomas Allen in 1830 Old Fold was inherited by a Mr. Cooper, who died three years later leaving it to his son the Rev. E. P. Cooper, who sold it to the Byng family of Wrotham Park in 1841.

Durhams, too, had new owners. At the death of Sir Thomas Frowyk of Gunnersbury in 1485 it had passed to his second son Sir Thomas, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who died in 1506. The estate covered about half a square mile and by this time extended into Hertfordshire, comprising a house, 200 acres of arable, 100 of pasture, 20 of meadow and 30 of Wood, worth altogether £15 a year in South Mimms, and 38 acres in Ridge worth 40s. Until 1965 the county boundary ran through a corner of the present mansion. In 1593 Durhams belonged to John Lacye, whose heir was his son Sir Rowland, but by 1685 the owner was Thomas Austen, whose son Sir John succeeded him.

Throughout the eighteenth century South Mimms, like most other English parishes, was practically a self-contained and self-governing community; owing to the decay of the manorial system, it was probably even more completely self-governing than in the past. The vicar and churchwardens had important civil duties to perform in addition to their ecclesiastical duties; and the vestry meeting, which sat under the chairmanship of the vicar, and at which all ratepayers had a vote, was supreme in matters of local government. It levied the rates, was responsible for the upkeep of the roads, appointed overseers, and was responsible for the maintenance of the poor in its own parish workhouse. It suffered little interference from higher authorities, because county councils and district councils did not exist until the closing years of the nineteenth century.

The earliest surviving minute-book of the parish covers the years 1727-32. It concerns only the proceedings of the trustees of the poor. There were two poor-houses at the time—one in the Lower Village, just across the stream, on the right, the other at Kitts End. Poor-houses were managed by contract. The office of master of the house was put up to tender, and the contract, which was generally for a year at a time, was renewed if both sides were satisfied. The master received an agreed sum for feeding and clothing the inmates, together with a fixed rate per head for casuals.

In this minute-book we find, in 1728, a mention of the appearance of a disease which

was to scourge the parish for nearly two hundred years:

The wife of John Goudin which lives at Mims Side near Barnet apered and desiered thay wold pay her more for the smallpox she and her family had.'

The average number of burials per year throughout the century was 36, but in this year there were 54, and two years later 59- IN 1741 there were 91—the highest number on record for the parish, excepting only the year of the Great Plague. There were 58 burials in 1758, 70 in 1762 and 61 in 1763. Smallpox probably accounts for most of them. In 1768 there are 68, and in that year the vestry decided to get all the paupers inoculated at 5s. 3d. a head. A similar resolution was passed in 1775. The use of inoculation as a preventive of smallpox had been introduced into Europe from the East in the same century.

A second minute-book, with a much wider scope than the first, covers the years 1750-78. From it we find that the number of inmates of the poor-house was increasing too rapidly to please the ratepayers. They accordingly ordered in 1754 that all paupers were to wear arm-badges to show their status. The paupers apparently revolted against this degradation. The ratepayers consequently gave orders that malcontents were in future to be confined to the village 'cage', or lock-up, until such time as they could be brought before a magistrate. In 1760 an order was made that any inmate of the workhouse who got drunk on a Sunday should be expelled forthwith and that any who were capable of going to church but failed to do so should have no dinner that day.

The life of the best known of all Mimmsians, Admiral John Byng, had been brought to a tragic end shortly before this. In 1752 he bought Knightsland, which his collaterals still own and occupy, but he had already begun to build a much larger house on higher ground to the north-east, nearly a mile away. He called it Wrotham, after the Kentish village in which his family had lived until late in the previous century. The house, designed by Isaac Ware and completed in 1754, is in the pure classical style ('Palladian') of its time. It is mostly of red brick but was covered with white stucco early in the nineteenth century, when it was enlarged. The interior was gutted by fire

in 1883 but was refitted on its old lines.

Admiral Byng did not enjoy his new house very long. He sailed from England in 1755 and was shot at Portsmouth in March 1757 after trial by court-martial. There is no doubt that he was the victim of politicians who were looking for a scapegoat and were all too readily helped by unscrupulous journalists. As a historian wrote fifty years later, he was 'cruelly sacrificed to the safety or popularity of men who had no just claim to either'.

The Admiral, who never married, was succeeded at Wrotham by his nephew, George Byng, a staunch Whig, who opposed the war against the American colonies. At his death in 1789 he was succeeded by his son, George Byng junior, who like his father was a Whig Member of Parliament for Middlesex, which he represented for 57 years. His younger brother, General Sir George Byng, who succeeded him in 1847, was created Earl of Strafford in the same year. The General's son, the second Earl, who succeeded to the title in I860, was followed by three of his sons in turn. The last of these, the fifth Earl, was succeeded in 1918 by his son, the sixth Earl, who died in 1951. As he had no sons, the title then went to another branch of the family. His elder daughter, Lady Elizabeth Byng, inherited Wrotham and has continued to live there.

The court-martial which tried Admiral Byng had included another Mimmsian, Captain Augustus Keppel, who did all he could to save the Admiral from execution. He was a younger son of William Keppel, second Earl of Albemarle, whose wife and eldest son bought Durhams in 1733 from Sir John Austen, M.P. for Middlesex. Sir John's huge tomb, surmounted by a pear-shaped urn and decorated with skulls and crossbones, stands close to the tower in the churchyard at South Mimms. The Keppels were responsible for diverting the road now called Trotters Bottom to its present position, as its old course ran too close to the house for their liking. They left Durhams in 1773, when the Hon. W. Keppel sold the estate to Christopher Bethell.

Bethell was responsible for building the striking entrance gateway to Durhams (now Dyrham Park), with its Tuscan columns, rosette ornaments, surmounting elliptical urn, and flanking lodges. The legend that it was first put up in London to celebrate the

return of Charles II is an impossible one. If it had been built before 1714 it could hardly have failed to be included in the Middlesex volume of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, which ends with that year. Professor N. Pevsner, an authority on English architecture, is confident that it dates from the last third of the eighteenth century. Since the publication of Professor Pevsner's book, evidence has been found which appears to show that the gateway was built during the years 1790-1798. No one appears to have noticed hitherto that it is practically identical, even in small details, with the now unused entrance gateway to Sopwell House (or New Barnes) on the southern outskirts of St. Albans—a gateway to which there appears to be no reference in any works on Hertfordshire topography or architecture.

The Bethells, after staying at Dyrham for twenty-five years, sold it in 1798 to John Trotter, who had made money by supplying clothing to the Army. He had scarcely taken possession when the Elizabethan house was burnt to the ground. It was rebuilt practically on the old site. Its design, Professor Pevsner says, 'looks as if it might be inspired by Inigo Jones's St. Paul's, Covent Garden'. Four generations of Trotters held the estate. The last of them sold it in 1938 to the Middlesex and Hertfordshire County Councils—it lay in both counties—and left the district.

After 1778 there is a gap in the surviving minute-books of the vestry meetings until 1799; but a minute-book which starts in that year and runs to 1814 gives fairly full details of life in the parish during the Napoleonic wars. During this period the vestry was chiefly concerned with such serious problems as the great rise in the cost of living, the semi-starvation of labourers and the consequent increase in the poor-rate. The vestry meetings at the time were normally held once a month, in the three chief inns of the village in turn. These were the Cross Keys, which stood between the church and the White Hart; the Black Bull (usually called simply the Bull), which lost its licence in 1909 but survived as a very picturesque private house until recent years, when it was demolished to make room for Frowyke Crescent; and the White Hart, which still exists.

As the Napoleonic wars continued, Acts of Parliament were passed requiring each parish to provide a certain number of men for military service from time to time. These

were drawn by lot, but any man whose name was drawn could pay another man to serve in his place, if he could find one willing to do so. The vestry minutes give details of a system of insurance against the risk of having to pay such a substitute. By the year 1800 the poor were suffering such privation that their wages had to be subsidised from the rates. This subsidy, which was only £31 for the year 1807, had jumped to £329 by 1813. The vestry therefore decided that out-door relief for able-bodied men must stop; but the result was only that the workhouse was unable to hold the number of men who applied for admission.

During the first thirty years after Waterloo a number of important changes took place in the parish. The first of these was in 1826, when the celebrated engineer, Telford, made a new direct road from Barnet to the top of Ridge Hill: this is detailed in the communications chapter.

The Poor Law Act of 1834 was as important for South Mimms as for all other rural parishes in the country. It abolished the village workhouse and made South Mimms part of the new Poor Law Union of Barnet, with a Union workhouse controlled by a Board of Guardians. Sick or needy Mimmsians requiring indoor relief now had to make a four-mile journey to Barnet instead of walking a few yards down the village street.

This Act of 1834 left the ancient parish of South Mimms no longer a self-contained unit and began a process of splitting it into smaller units in both ecclesiastical and civil affairs.

A first step towards ecclesiastical disintegration was taken in 1835, when a church was built at Potters Bar, which became a separate ecclesiastical parish. A further step in splitting the ecclesiastical parish was taken in 1845, when Capt. John Trotter built a church at its southern tip, on the border of Barnet, where the population was larger than at Potters Bar. Christ Church, as it is called, is in a much better architectural style than St. John’s at Potters Bar, being built of flint, like the mediaeval churches in the neighbourhood, from designs by Sir George Gilbert Scott. It did not become a fully independent parish church until 1900.

In 1866, the Earl of Strafford built a private chapel of the Holy Trinity for his family (though admitting the public to services) at Bentley Heath; but the ancient parish church of St. Giles, the mother church of St. John's, of Christ Church, and of Bentley Heath chapel, kept its depressing eighteenth-century interior for another decade. A clean sweep was made in 1877, when the lath-and-plaster ceilings were removed, together with the gallery which ran right across the western end of the church and half-way up both sides, and the box-pews which disfigured and blocked the greater part of the church, including the chancel. G. E. Street, the architect responsible for transforming the building, fined the chancel with stalls, re-seated the nave and the aisle with pews harmonising with the two pew-ends surviving from the Middle Ages, and designed a chancel screen in harmony with the mediaeval screens surrounding the Frowyke chantry. Additions were made to the screen in 1904 and in 1910 it was coloured and a crucifix and attendant figures were placed over it.

The chantry was refitted as a chapel in 1898, after being used for 350 years in turn as a school-room, a vestry, and an organ chamber. The church as it stands now must be more beautiful than it ever had been in all its previous history.

Disintegration of the civil parish began in 1863, when the newly formed Barnet Local Board annexed the built-up part of the area served ecclesiastically by Christ Church and known locally as Mimms Side, Barnet, or sometimes as West Barnet. West Barnet, however, continued to be ruled by the South Mimms vestry for some local government purposes for years. A stray dog, for instance, was safe on the Chipping Barnet side of the High Street, but was liable to immediate arrest if it crossed to the Mimms side. A further step towards splitting the civil parish into two was taken in 1888, when County Councils were established by Act of Parliament. West Barnet, being within the area of the Barnet Local Board, was transferred to Hertfordshire for county affairs, but was still partly ruled by the South Mimms vestry. In 1894, when a further Act of Parliament established District Councils, West Barnet was separated entirely from South Mimms and was included in the Barnet Urban District as the civil parish of South Mimms Urban. The rest of the ancient parish became the Rural District of South Mimms. South Mimms Urban, which covered only 74 acres, was

enlarged by a further 199 acres in 1896, at the expense of South Mimms Rural. Barnet had maintained its tradition of scoring over South Mimms in boundary disputes—a tradition which dated back to 1347, when the Abbot of St. Albans beat Sir Roger Leukenore on the same question.

In 1934, by which time Potters Bar had grown into a town but South Mimms had remained a village (as it still is), the Rural District of South Mimms became the Urban District of Potters Bar.

Local Government and Public Services

Local government has assumed many forms over the centuries. It can be traced back to Saxon times, when shires were ruled by ealdormen and sheriffs (shire-reeves), and groups of village communities were organised into hundreds', each of which possessed its own court where lawsuits and indictments were heard, and taxes assessed. South Mimms began as an appendage of the village of Edmonton, after which one of the Hundreds of Middlesex was named because the hundred moot (assembly) was held there—a conveniently central point for the men of Enfield and Tottenham, the other members of the Hundred. When South Mimms became an independent village, about 1136, it naturally remained part of that Hundred. Affairs of the shire and the hundred were however remote from village life, and for the story of our local government we must for the most part look within.

THE DISTRICT

Our boundaries have changed relatively little. The area of the present Urban District of Potters Bar is founded on the ancient ecclesiastical parish of South Mimms, a triangular tract which originally contained about eight square miles. The only loss has been the transfer to Barnet of two areas at the southern extremity of the old parish. In 1863 the Barnet Local Board of Health was formed for an area which included 74 acres of South Mimms which practically formed part of High Barnet, i.e. the portion from and including the west side of Barnet High Street and lying north of Union Street, a locality known as Mimms Side, Barnet Side or West Barnet; but although sundered from South Mimms the area remained for county purposes part of Middlesex until

1888. In 1894 this area became the civil parish of South Mimms Urban and part of the new Barnet Urban District.

Barnet took an adjoining slice of 199 Acres (including the greater part of Sebright, Puller and Calvert Roads) from South Mimms in 1896, apparently because Barnet had the only sewerage scheme available.

The northern and most of the western boundaries of the district have remained unchanged from the eleventh century at least, but until 1777 the eastern side of the district was demarcated by Enfield Chase's original boundary, which ran parallel to and a little to the east of Potters Bar High Street and along the early Barnet Road. In that year South Mimms was enlarged by the award of 1097 acres which formerly belonged to the Chase; this addition is now occupied by the Torrington Drive area, the Tottenham estate and the Hill Rise area. At the same time Old Fold near Hadley was given 36 acres of the Chase, which addition also formed part of South Mimms parish.

Two minor alterations to the boundary were made in the 1920's. In 1924 a small area including Stormont, the Chequers inn and other properties in Coopers Lane was transferred to the district from Enfield Urban District, following a petition by the residents. The second affected Galley Lane, down the middle of which used to run the boundary between South Mimms and the Hertfordshire parish of Ridge (in Barnet Rural District), an inconvenient arrangement for repairing the road. In 1926 the lane was divided transversely so that South Mimms obtained the south-east portion and Barnet Rural the northern. Barnet Urban District sought unsuccessfully to engulf the Grimsdyke area of South Mimms in 1928 and renewed proposals are not unlikely.

DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

As in a typical English village, we can trace in South Mimms three successive but partly overlapping local government systems before the nineteenth century—first manorial rule, which survived in attenuated form into modern times; secondly the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace; and finally the government of the parish Vestry, headed by the churchwardens. All these arose as natural developments of the growth

of society, and the two latter were forced to administer matters for which they were not originally intended, with inevitably mixed success. The modern notion of devising special agencies of government for a wide range of strictly local purposes was unheard of until little more than a century ago, when the previous systems had proved incapable of dealing with the multifarious burdens imposed by increased population and economic development. With the modern conception and structure of local government also came the idea of democratic control.

The Rule of the Manor

Really local government began with the manorial system, whereby the affairs of a largely self-sufficient rural community were managed by the manor court, headed by the Lord of the Manor himself or, if he was an absentee or the manor belonged to a corporate body, by the bailiff or steward. South Mimms eventually had two or perhaps three manors; the Manor of South Mimms which originally comprised the whole parish, and the Manors of Wyllyotts and possibly Old Fold, doubtless created by detaching territory from the parent manor. The history of these manors is given in preceding chapters; here we may merely note that the successive families who held South Mimms manor —Mandevilles, Leukenors and Cecils—were non-resident. This factor explains the local dominance of the Frowyks of Old Fold.

Manor courts dealt with the whole range of matters (except of course ecclesiastical) which concerned the citizen—land tenure, labour and monetary obligations, cultivation, pasture and commons, and offences against the common law as well as lawsuits between those who owed 'suit of court', including freemen besides villeins and serfs. Many manorial lordships had wide powers of criminal jurisdiction, save for the gravest crimes against the king which were reserved to the royal courts, but throughout mediaeval times there was an increasing tendency for criminal and civil cases to be tried in the royal courts; the business of ecclesiastical courts suffered in the same way.

The rule of the manor was not arbitrary, nor did it necessarily always reflect the will of its lord, who like his tenants was subject to the paramount custom of the manor as decided by men of its court—men whose function combined that of jury and judge. As

landowner the lord might lease land in his own hands or have it tilled by those who owed him certain specified services; he might insist on the payment of recognised dues at customary times, or refuse consent to a villein's son becoming a priest; but at every step he could act only within the traditionally defined limits which generations of compromise had handed down. In the village community of all ranks no party could exceed its rights or act without the consent of others who were intimately affected. The vested interests of society tended to keep it in equipoise.

In such a world change was inevitably slow, especially as the population expanded gradually and few new needs arose when technology was primitive. The country lost perhaps a third of all its people in the fourteenth century visitations of the Black Death, which accentuated a tendency for services in kind to be exchanged for money rents. Capacity for progress was limited when every man's land—almost the sole source of wealth— lay in scattered strips over the common fields. In each field all must plant the same crop, harvest together and turn their beasts on to the stubble at Lammas. There is no trace of these normally large fields at South Mimms, so it may be that most or even all the land was individually held in separate fields, but there would still have been considerable communal control of agricultural operations.
No manorial records of Old Fold exist, but fortunately some court rolls and other documents of South Mimms and Wyllyotts manors have survived, as related in the historical chapters. Most of the entries in these records concern land and property. For example, in 1614 the manor court of South Mimms fined tenants for taking in strangers, for obstructing a highway, and for not cleaning ditches, and long afterwards it continued to appoint constables. At the Wyllyotts manor court held in 1734 various offences reported were unauthorised enclosure of the waste, John Smith's allowing his cottage to fall into ruins, William Winch's removing a cottage from Mutton Lane to Potters Bar, and Samuel Maton's building of a hovel' on the waste.

The Justices of the Peace

By the time of that meeting the age of the manor was moribund and its jurisdiction almost an anachronism, for its effective powers over the citizen's affairs had passed to the Justices of the Peace and the parish Vestry. The evolution of the unpaid office of Justice of the Peace was completed by Acts of 1361 and 1368 which defined their

functions as magistrates, but in addition to judicial duties they were gradually made responsible for a great variety of matters which fall within the scope of local government, such as supervising parish officers, levying rates, licensing, and ensuring the upkeep of roads and bridges. The Justices were usually local landowners of substance and experience, with a sprinkling of trained lawyers. In their heyday, Justices of the Peace were the principal means by which Tudor administrations governed the country and saw that central policies were applied, and even today their duties are far from negligible. The Justices met frequently at Petty Sessions to try minor offences and at Quarter Sessions for serious crimes. The Petty Sessions for the Potters Bar district meet weekly at Barnet, while Quarter Sessions were held at the Middlesex Guildhall until April 1965, when the county ceased to exist, and are now held at Hertford.

Of even greater antiquity is the Coroner, an officer of the Crown, now appointed by the County Council (in counties) or County Borough Council, and who is responsible for enquiring into circumstances suggesting violent and unnatural death, and watches the Crown interest in Treasure Trove. In 1561 the Coroner held an inquest into the death of Thomas Mosse of South Mimms, who was killed by an arrow while practising at the butts, and in 1583 another was held on a local yeoman, Roger Ludford, who died in a brawl during a football match.
Under the eye of the J.P.s worked the parish organisation or Vestry, which took shape during the sixteenth century and was based on the ecclesiastical parish. In this respect the Vestry system differed markedly from the manor, for there was often more than one manor in a parish, as in South Mimms. The Vestry consisted of the parson, the two elected churchwardens, and a number of others elected at an annual meeting of citizens of the parish. From the virtual breakdown of the manorial regime (except for estate matters) until almost the end of the nineteenth century the elected parish officers and the J.P.s, or wider groupings based on them, together formed our local government. The earliest extant Vestry records of South Mimms are minute books of the Parish Workhouse Trustees, which begin in 1727, and from not long after that date (with some gaps) the Vestry minutes themselves. These show that meetings were held regularly, often at one of the village inns, and that up to 1768 'strong beer' was provided.

The Church played no part in local government, although it then carried out two functions which for over a century have been taken over by civil authorities. In 1538 parish incumbents were made responsible for keeping records of all christenings, marriages and burials, although during the Commonwealth, for a few years after 1653, a lay 'Register' (registrar) was appointed. South Mimms is unusually fortunate in having parish registers which begin in 1558, and the registers of the ecclesiastical parish of Potters Bar start in 1835 with the founding of St. John's church. In July 1837 civil registration of births, marriages and deaths began and the General Register Office was set up in Somerset House; registration districts were formed and Registrars appointed by the Poor Law Guardians. In 1930 registration work was handed over to County Councils. The Church's other function was that of dealing with wills, which were originally regarded as religious instruments, but in 1858 this was transferred to the Central and District Probate Registries.

The repercussions of the Reformation, agrarian changes in the sixteenth century and a long period of inflation, which all brought poverty and unemployment on a scale previously unknown, presented the two fold organisation of J.Ps and Vestry with its first challenge. Elizabeth I’s Parliament passed in 1598 an important Act to cure and relieve the troubles. The Act was a temporary one and was replaced by the famous 1601 Act which was later made permanent and which is still the foundation of liability for rates. From 1601 [there ensued a succession of legislation which was not supplanted in principle until the Welfare State arrived. There is much detailed evidence of the Poor Law in South Mimms, to be seen presently. Meanwhile we may note that burdensome poor rates were the main but not the parish's sole concern. The Communications chapter shows how local government failed to maintain the roads properly, until these were taken over by private enterprise in the form of Turnpike Trusts. Time and the decay of manorial rule added to parish responsibilities. Increasing population and its concentration into large towns presented new civic problems for which adequate powers were not available: the need for policing, sewerage, public health, housing and education became apparent during the nineteenth century and resulted in a number of unsystematic attempts to deal with

these questions. The fashion was to create single purpose authorities alongside the original structure, so that operating simultaneously in the same area were Guardians of the Poor, sanitary authorities, local Boards of Health, highway boards, drainage boards, burial boards, school boards and school attendance committees, among others. Areas overlapped, finances were uncoordinated: the position was chaotic. Not surprisingly, towards the end of the nineteenth century it became clear that a radical reform of the instruments of local government was required, in particular larger units with a broad range of duties. A further change was the introduction of more democratic rule. Vestry government was not necessarily democratic: customs and qualifications for voters varied from place to place, and the Vestry was often an autocratic oligarchy.

A major reorganisation came with the Local Government Act of 1888, which divided the country into new units called administrative counties, usually but not invariably coinciding with the traditional counties. The new counties consisted of boroughs and urban and rural sanitary districts. County Councils became responsible for main roads, county bridges, policing and a variety of other tasks, and each levied a generally uniform rate over its area. Under the Act each County Council could make by-laws having the force of law but applicable only within its territory.

South Mimms (less the 74 acres effectively lost in 1863, which passed to Hertfordshire) was included in the new administrative County of Middlesex. For the election of county councillors South Mimms was until 1904 linked with Friern Barnet in a single electoral division returning one member; then it became a separate electoral division.

In 1894, when civil parishes were created and urban and rural districts set up, South Mimms became the Rural District of South Mimms, a rare example of a rural district composed of a single parish; the population of 3,134 was large enough to justify this. At the same time the 74 acres detached in 1863 became the civil parish of South Mimms Urban in the new
Barnet Urban District. The 1894 Act abolished highway boards, and Urban District Councils became responsible for all highways except main roads and for sanitation.

By this change civil administration was severed from the old ecclesiastical parish organisation of vestry and churchwardens; the modern structure of local government was complete.

The new Rural District Council met for the first time on January 3rd, 1895, at the Barnet Union Workhouse, where monthly meetings were held for many years. Later on they met at their solicitor's office in Barnet. The first council consisted of five members, three of them elected by the whole district who were also Guardians of the Poor of the Barnet Union, and two appointed by the Local Government Board after receiving the suggestions of a local meeting, apparently to represent the outlying areas of South Mimms. The Council adopted on its common seal a design including a shield bearing three notched swords, emblematic of the ancient kingdom of the East Saxons and resembling the arms of the Middlesex County Council.

As the parish and the Rural District coincided South Mimms had no parish council, but an annual public meeting was held alternately in the Parish Hall, South Mimms, and in the Village Hall at Cotton Road, Potters Bar, and was normally attended by the Clerk of the Council. Local councillors gave an account of their work, and the meeting (often lively) made representations about allotments, rights of way, commons and burial grounds. These resolutions had no legal power and were often ignored. The last parish meeting was held in 1933.
Shortly after its formation the new Rural District was seriously depleted by the transfer in 1896 of the further portion of 199 acres in West Barnet to Hertfordshire; while the population of the whole original parish in 1901 was 7,402, only 2,671 were in the reduced Rural District.

The Rating and Valuation Act of 1925 affected the whole country. The Elizabethan office of Overseer of the Poor was abolished, the poor rate and other dues formerly levied separately were consolidated into one general district rate, and boroughs, urban and rural district councils became their own rating authorities, subject to appeal to County Assessment Committees. Rating valuation was eventually transferred in 1950 to the Board of Inland Revenue, by the Local Government Act of 1948. Under the Local Government Act of 1929 rural districts lost their highway powers, and the

Middlesex County Council became the authority for all roads in the district, although by agreement it delegated to the South Mimms Rural District Council certain powers and duties over unclassified roads of local importance.

The Council appointed in 1927 its first whole-time salaried Clerk, Mr. T. T. Thorpe, and retained the former part-time Clerk as its Solicitor.

In April 1934 by the Middlesex Review Order 1934 the Rural District, then the only remaining one in Middlesex, was transformed into the Urban District of Potters Bar, a name chosen by the Minister against the wishes of the Council, who wanted to retain 'South Mimms' as whole or part of the designation. Its population was then about 7,500. The Council adopted a new seal, still in use, embodying in the centre a potter's wheel, with a fallen stag and arrows reflecting the ancient association with Enfield Chase, and roses representing the Duchy of Lancaster's ownership of the Chase. The same design appears on the jewel attached to the Chairman's Chain of Office.

On its formation the Urban District was divided into two wards, South Mimms and Potters Bar. Today there are five— North, South, East, West and Central, returning three members each. Whereas all county councillors retire simultaneously every third year, district councils may choose either this method or the retirement of one-third of their members annually; Potters Bar prefers the latter, which gives greater continuity.

The old Rural District Council had for long had no proper offices and met at the Union offices or at 93 High Street, Barnet, where the Clerk rented an office from the Council's solicitors. In 1932 offices for Council staff were rented in Tancred House, a Victorian semi-detached house in Darkes Lane, adjoining the present offices. Council meetings were held there until 1935, when the Osborne Nursery in Darkes Lane was bought and the house there converted into offices accommodating the whole staff, with the addition of a Council Chamber where the first Council meeting took place in July 1935. Eight plots of surplus land on this site were sold for private housing in 1954.

As the growth of population necessitated more office space the Council bought

Wyllyotts Manor in 1937 for occupation by the Surveyor, the Treasurer, the Public Health Inspector and their staff. A scheme for a civic centre in Mutton Lane on land given by Mr. H. W. Tilbury next to the present Hospital was considered as early as 1939 and delayed because of the war, but eventually abandoned as most of the facilities originally envisaged had been built elsewhere, and the held was sold in 1959 for private housing. It was then intended to build new offices and a public hall on the site of Wyllyotts Manor, but later Oakmere was chosen and after a public enquiry the Minister of Housing and Local Government decided in favour of the latter site. The forthcoming acquisition of St. John's churchyard and the demolition of the building will enable the approach to the civic centre to be landscaped.

Under the London Government Act of 1963 the administrative county of Middlesex ceased to exist on April 1, 1965, when almost its whole territory was placed under the Greater London Council, but Potters Bar Urban District was transferred to Hertfordshire, a move approved by the majority of residents. For the first time the district was divided into two electoral divisions, each returning one member to the Hertfordshire County Council.

The population of the Urban District is now about 25,000 and the total loan debt is over L2,250,000. As rates and Government grants are normally insufficient to fund capital expenditure on roads, houses and offices, loans repayable with interest over a period of years are raised to avoid violent fluctuations in rates. The Urban District collects rates not only on its own behalf (accounting for less than half the levy) but on that of the County Council, the Metropolitan Police and the West Hertfordshire Main Drainage Authority.

For parliamentary representation Potters Bar formed part of the Enfield constituency until 1950, when the constituency was split into two, and Potters Bar was placed in Enfield West. Constituencies in the Home Counties are under review and it is likely that Potters Bar will be taken from Enfield and joined with some neighbouring Hertfordshire area.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

After the historical structure and broad evolution of local government in the district, we turn to its specific problems and aspects, which in the past were often entrusted to the special bodies already referred to.

Poor Law and Welfare

By far the most serious of these problems was widespread poverty and hardship, which resulted in the Poor haw legislation. An Act of 1598 first enjoined parish Vestries to appoint, from among the householders, unpaid Overseers of the Poor, charged with the duty of setting the able-bodied poor to work and relieving the incapable. The cost was to be met by levying a poor rate on householders proportionate to the value of their property; this was the real origin of our present rating system, although specific levies were not unknown before. Each parish was responsible only for its own poor, and strangers needing relief or thought likely to become a burden were (under the 1662 Act of Settlement) liable to be deported to their original home or last residence, with a small pittance for the journey. No general Act authorising the establishment of workhouses was passed until 1722, but before then many parishes provided premises where the poor were fed, clothed and given some useful occupation.

South Mimms was unfortunately placed: being on a great road and near the metropolis it had more than its share of casuals'. The Vestry records show that to preserve the poor from following idle and vagrant courses' it was decided in 1724 to repair and use as a workhouse a dilapidated dwelling which had been bought by the parish in 1637 with money given for the poor, and to appoint Trustees and a Master and Mistress. This seems to have been South Mimms' first workhouse and was perhaps the one known to have been at Kitts End in 1727. Later another was provided in the lower village. In 1763 another workhouse opened at Hadley Side, and in 1766 one at ‘Updale Hill' (unidentifiable unless meant for Dugdale Hill). The Trustees met at ‘The Cheaker, Kix End' and at the workhouse. The financial burden was reduced by putting the maintenance of the workhouse poor out to tender in the (‘Poor to Let—South Mimms') and accepting the lowest quotation, to ensure that the unfortunate inmates were not pampered at the ratepayers' expense.

Mortality from smallpox was high, especially among the poor, and workhouses were prone to infectious outbreaks. South Mimms suffered severely, and the Vestry minutes of 1768 record that the poor were to be ‘inoaclat' (inoculated) at a cost of 5s. 3d. a head. There is no evidence that the poor in South Minims work- houses were treated harshly for the times, but the openly discontented could be committed to the village 'cage' or lock-up (mentioned in the Vestry minutes for 1755), pending the justices' decision. The cage was demolished in 1847. A common practice in the parish was bagging' the workhouse inmates with 'P.M.' (poor man) in red cloth on the right arm, in accordance with an Act of Parliament.

The Vestry minutes from 1799 to 1814, a time of acute agricultural distress and inflation caused by the Napoleonic Wars, show much concern with the cost of living, the semi-starvation of labourers and the increasing poor rates. The cost of feeding and clothing workhouse inmates rose from f 360 in 1778 to L570 in 1801. Wages were low in relation to enhanced prices, and the workhouse master could not cope with the numbers requiring relief, so that in 1800 the Vestry authorised wages to be supplemented from the rates on a sliding scale, under what was known as the 'Speenhamland system'. As a result, by 1813 out-relief had risen to JE329 p a. and two-thirds of the parish rates was spent on poor relief; in 1816-7 £1,274 was raised for this purpose. Those who could not afford vaccination could be treated at public expense. However in 1814, in an effort to lower costs, the Vestry decided to channel all relief, out-door as well as workhouse, through the contractor, and so reduced the sum allowed that many who had previously sought out-relief were forced into the workhouse.

This pauperising system could not last, and in various parts of the country there were riots over high food prices. Ratepayers resented being forced to subsidise the low wages paid by farmers. The situation began to change with the onset of constitutional reform just before 1830, and particularly with the Reform Act of 1832 which widened the Parliamentary franchise and ended certain political abuses.

A big step forward was the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, which created a Board of Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales who could group parishes into

'unions' for the purpose of poor relief, regardless of county boundaries. By Orders made in 1835-6 the Barnet Union was established, comprising six Hertfordshire parishes and four in Middlesex- South Mimms, Hadley, Friern Barnet and Finchley. Each Union had a Board of Guardians elected by the parish Vestries, two members (later three) being nominated by South Mimms, and a central workhouse usually replaced those of the individual parishes. The Commissioners exercised control over the Guardians' actions and expenses, and over the appointment and salary of their officers. Accounts were audited by a nominee of the Guardians until 1863, when the appointment was made by a Government department. The Guardians were not popular, but their difficult task was performed reasonably well. The new arrangement was more economical and less amateurish, but paupers often had to leave their own village. The Guardians system foreshadowed later developments in that central government and local administration worked more closely together; government was extended on a more regional basis, and proper auditing of public expenditure was introduced. Significantly, the old close association between the ecclesiastical parish and civil government began to dissolve.

The Barnet Union Workhouse, built in Wellhouse Lane in 1836, is now the Barnet General Hospital: Union Street was probably so named because it led to the workhouse. The Guardians held their first meeting at the Red Lion at Barnet in 1835, when it was reported that in South Mimms 'there is a building belonging to the parish, old, but in good repair and capable of holding about 40 persons'; according to an inventory of 1833 it had 17 rooms including a brewhouse. This workhouse was sold for f 345 in 1836 to a Friendly Society, The United Society of South Mimms', and the inmates were transferred to Barnet. The parish overseers continued to assess local properties and collected the rate required by the Guardians to meet their expenses. The Barnet Union Guardians continued to administer the poor law down to 1930, their revenue being obtained through the district councils whose general district rate' included sums for the county, the district and the Guardians.

The 1834 system survived almost a century, until by the Local Government Act of 1929 Boards of Guardians were abolished and their poor law duties and sundry others, such as vaccination and registering birth and deaths, were handed over to

County Councils. Local administration was subsequently carried out by Guardians' Committees appointed by the County Councils and including representatives of local councils. The old workhouses, many of them infirmaries for the sick poor, were also transferred and eventually put to other uses such as general hospitals or the care of the mentally ill and defective.

In 1948 the National Assistance Act gave to the National Assistance Board the last remaining poor law functions of County Councils, and those of the Unemployment Assistance Board. County Councils, however, remain responsible for the care of deprived children and for providing temporary accommodation in an emergency, and as welfare authorities they care for the aged, the infirm and the physically handicapped. Former Middlesex homes for old people at Howgate in Barnet Road and Honeywood House in the grounds of the former Rosary Convent in Darkes Lane now belong to the London Borough of Haringey, but Greenhill in Waggon Road is vested in the Hertfordshire County Council, and another in the district is now proposed.

The development of local highways is covered in another chapter, but the Vestry's responsibility for maintenance should not be overlooked here. The Vestry minutes for 1772 recording the appointment of parish surveyors reveal that for highway purposes the parish was divided into 'Mims Town', Kitts End and Potters Bar'. Mimms Hall was added as a fourth in 1783 but replaced in 1793 by Durham Lane, and the latter by Mimms Side in 1798. In 1801 'Bentley Heath and lanes' was added. In 1805 the parish clerk was receiving £15 per annum as highway surveyor but only £8 for his church duties.

The Highways Act of 1835 ended 'statute duty' on the roads and required parishes to elect a surveyor annually and to levy a highway rate. Its other provisions on the grouping of parishes and highway boards were not applied in South Mimms, which kept responsibility for its own roads, divided into Mims Town, South Mimms, Bentley Heath and Potters Bar. Accounts were submitted to the Highway Sessions of the Justices at Edmonton. Parish roadmen worked long hours—in 1831 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer and from light to dark' in winter, and in 1895 their wages were only

13s. a week.

The Urban District formed in 1934 automatically became highway authority for all roads in the area except 'main' roads, for which Middlesex retained responsibility, but as from 1st April 1965 the Council became highway authority for all roads except Trunk Roads.

Parish constables, mentioned in 1285 in the Statute of Winchester, were originally appointed by manor courts and later by J Ps., but the Vestries often took over this duty. For some years before 1829 South Mimms had appointed a constable and a headborough for each of the Mimms Town and Potters Bar divisions; they were perhaps not very efficient but they were local men—and unpaid. However in 1829 Sir Robert Peel's new police force (hence 'bobby' and 'peeler') was established in the metropolitan area, and in 1833 a professional policeman made his unwelcome first appearance in South Mimms, supplanting the Vestry's constables. South Mimms Police Station was built in 1847 and married quarters added in 1908. The present Potters Bar Police Station dates from 1891 and replaced 'Potters Bar or South Gate Station' which existed in 1883.
Until about a hundred years ago little attention was paid to public health, except to punish offenders for not cleaning ditches or removing dung heaps, because the nature of bacteria and viruses was unknown. There were no sewers, cesspits overflowed into ditches, and water was often polluted. South Mimms buried over a hundred victims of the Great Plague of 1665, outbreaks of smallpox and diphtheria were numerous in the eighteenth century, and cholera rife in the nineteenth, but no effective national measures were taken to safeguard public health, although later the Guardians could deal with sanitary nuisances under the Nuisance Removal Acts of 1846-66.

Urban growth made urgent the improvement of sanitation and water supplies. The Public Health Act of 1848 set up a General Board of Health, with power to constitute elected local Boards of Health for populous areas on the inhabitants' petition or where the death rate was high. Powers were conferred to deal with nuisances, sewerage, drainage, water supply, burial grounds, highways and street sanitation, and a clerk,

surveyor and inspector of nuisances had to be appointed, but a medical officer of health was optional. The cost was to be met by rates and accounts were subject to audit. Under the Local Government Act of 1858 the community round the top of Barnet Hill (Chipping Barnet parish, part of Hadley and the Mimms Side or West Barnet part of South Mimms) was able to adopt the provisions of the 1848 Act, and thus the Barnet Local Board of Health was formed.

The Public Health Acts of 1872 and 1875 divided the country into urban and rural sanitary districts, besides consolidating and extending law on public health into a comprehensive code. But while new urban sanitary districts followed the lines of the local boards of health, the rural sanitary district was formed out of that part of the poor law Union not included in urban sanitary districts, and unlike the urban districts had no highway powers. Thus South Mimms and other rural parishes became in 1872 the Barnet Rural Sanitary District, under the Barnet Guardians of the Poor—a confused situation, with each parish minding its own roads and the Barnet Guardians acting as authority for both poor law and public health.

The Barnet Rural Sanitary Authority appointed a Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances in 1873. In 1877 the local Medical Officer of Health for the combined rural sanitary districts of St. Albans, Hendon, Welwyn, Watford, Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Barnet, as well as the urban sanitary districts of Tring, East Barnet Valley and Barnet (an enormous area for one man to cover) reported that the sewage from Potters Bar village overflowed from cesspools into ditches, a principal outfall being into an open ditch near The Barracks' (apparently on the site of Howgate). The water supply almost wholly depended on shallow wells, and a similar insanitary state of affairs existed at South Mimms, where water came from either a polluted pond or a deep well with heavy tackle almost impossible to work.

In 1884 the Medical Officer for the Barnet Rural Sanitary District made a report on the wretched state of houses in South Mimms. There were frequent attacks of diphtheria and the village school had to be closed for three months. General insanitary conditions and the absence of a proper drainage system were blamed.

As a result, the Barnet Rural Sanitary Authority in 1887 constituted as a Special Drainage District that part of South Mimms parish which was not in the Potters Bar Water Area. This South Mimms Drainage District' was created to enable the Potters Bar area, which had no sewerage scheme, to escape paying the special rate for the South Mimms one. The South Mimms Drainage District was not dissolved and differential rating ended until 1929, following the laying of a trunk sewer from Grimsdyke to Potters Bar sewage farm, after which the cost of sewerage was spread over the whole Rural District.
In 1889 the Barnet Rural Sanitary District bought from the Brewers' Company about 11 acres adjoining St. Albans Road at South Mimms, and in the next two years a sewage disposal works there and sewers were constructed. On part of this land Cecil Cottages were built in 1915 and 1921, and more was used in 1946 for prefabricated houses, replaced in 1958-60 by permanent dwellings called Brookside.

The growth of Potters Bar led to a similar scheme there. In 1899 the Rural District Council bought 22 acres at what is now the north end of Cranborne Road for a sewage farm; between 1898 and 1902 the main Potters Bar sewers were laid, and by 1907 most, if not all, houses in the district had been connected. In 1925 sewers were laid in Mutton Lane and Coopers Lane, and in 1929-30 the Grimsdyke area was joined up. An extensive soil sewer reconstruction scheme was carried out in 1956 in the south-east part of the district.

The tremendous rise in local population between the wars and after 1945 made it clear that the two disposal works at Potters Bar and South Mimms were becoming inadequate, and similar problems faced other authorities on the Hertfordshire periphery of London. The 1936 Report on Greater London Drainage recommended regional drainage boards round London, and the Middlesex County Council promoted its own scheme, but it was impracticable for Potters Bar to connect with the county sewers, except for a small area round Waggon Road which drained towards Enfield. So the Potters Bar Urban District Council joined with several Hertfordshire authorities to form the Colne Valley Sewerage Board (renamed in 1959 the West Hertfordshire Main Drainage Authority), which built a central sewage disposal works at Maple Lodge, Rickmansworth, and trunk soil sewers taking effluent from them all. The work

began in 1939 but owing to the war was not completed until 1959, and when Potters Bar sewers were connected in 1957 the two local plants became redundant. Strictly, the Authority is bound to take only a specified amount of soil sewage, and the Potters Bar Council is responsible for any excess and for disposing of surface water, which is usually turned into streams and ditches. From 1851 local authorities could erect houses for the 'working classes', but this was not obligatory and in the rural district there was little desire to build any. It was not until 1915, when the demand had become insistent, that the Rural District Council, under an Act of 1890, built its first Council houses, the 12 Cecil Cottages fronting St. Albans Road and Blackhorse Lane, followed in 1921 by ten more on adjoining land. By 1939, 344 such dwellings had been built in the district, mainly along Mutton Lane and on the Cranborne estate, and the total has risen to well over 1,000.

As long ago as 1899, by the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, local authorities could lend money to enable members of the working classes to buy houses they occupied. The South Mimms Rural District Council first operated the Act in 1923; later Acts have dropped the opprobrious term working classes' and removed loan limits. In 1929 the Council began a scheme enabling Council house tenants to buy their houses by instalments. The Potters Bar Council now advances money to buy, convert and improve houses; over f1,500,000 has thus been lent. A few post-war Council houses have also been sold to occupants, with the aid of 100 per cent, loans. Many older houses are structurally sound but lack such amenities as hot water, baths and proper sanitary conveniences. Under powers conferred in 1958-9 the Council has given many grants to enable such substandard houses to be modernised.

In 1952 the Edmonton Borough Council made a Compulsory Purchase Order on 31 acres which were part of Potters Bar (or Briers) Farm, adjoining Mutton Lane and Barnet Road, and the Tottenham Council took similar action on 49 acres of Furze Spinney Farm, behind The Causeway and Tempest Avenue. Despite strong objection by the local Council the Minister upheld the orders, no doubt because these two congested boroughs' housing needs were most urgent, and two large housing estates were built.

The Vestry resolved in 1850 to levy a 6d. rate to bring gas lighting to Mimms Side, and according to the Barnet Press

gas lamps were installed there in that year. There was however no street lighting in South Mimms village until two electric tamps were erected in 1929: the Council rejected oil lamps as far back as 1896. Potters Bar was slow to acquire street lighting as a main supply of electricity did not arrive until 1925, and in 1928 a number of gas lamps there were adapted for electricity. The Council had obtained specific powers on street lighting in 1926-7.

About 1930 it became necessary to have police on traffic control at the High Street crossroads. The policeman's lot during the hours of darkness on this duty was not a happy one, since neither the motorcar headlamps of the day nor the converted gas lamps illuminated him. To save needless expenditure of policemen, it was decided to suspend a light immediately over the point-duty man's position. When the wind blew, however, the light took up unexpected positions and illumination was provided in a variety of places, but seldom over the policeman. Today all the major routes in the district are brightly lit and residential roads taken over by the Council as well provided.

Street Works

Although Rural Districts could not carry out street works, the Council obtained in 1910 specific powers to make up Cotton Road and Hospital (now Richmond) Road, then private roads, and to take them over as public highways. Many residential roads have since been taken over. House-builders often constructed poor roadways which soon deteriorated, and purchasers sometimes paid a price inclusive of eventual road-making, only to find that promises were not fulfilled and that they had to pay again for this at greatly increased cost. The New Streets Act of 1951 obviated this difficulty by requiring developers to enter into an agreement with the local council or deposit the full cost, and it is now usual for new roads to be made to the council's specification so that they can be adopted at once.

The foresight of Potters Bar's first urban district councillors provided ample open spaces when land prices were low. Park- field was bought in 1934 with assistance from the County Council, and in 1937 the lake there and an access from High Street were added, making in all 24 acres, on part of which a school was built. In 1935, 40 acres called Furzefield, between Mutton Lane and the Cranborne Road sewage farm, were acquired with help from the County. The Council decided to develop 18 acres of

this as a sports centre, towards which the King George V Foundation promised a grant. War delayed work but the King George V Memorial Field, including a pavilion converted from the British Legion's Cobb Memorial Hall, was opened in 1957.
In 1936, 25 acres north of the Cranborne Road sewage farm was bought, and in 1937, 25 acres of Oakmere Park with its lakes and mansion, later used as a social centre, education office and library. A strip of this along Oakmere Lane was sold in 1937 for housing, and other parts were used in 1949 for Council housing and in 1957 for a carpark. In 1947 the Council accepted the gift of the Prisoner of War Memorial Garden, a part of the Mutton Lane cemetery which commemorates the sacrifice of those who did not return after the 1939-45 war.

Town Planning

Town planning became the responsibility of district councils under an Act of 1909, but little was done locally. In 1921 the East Barnet Urban District Council, with the consent of the South Mimms Rural District Council, prepared a scheme including a small part of the latter's south-east area, and in 1923 the Barnet Urban District Council undertook a similar scheme which included the southern portion of the rural district. The South Mimms Council decided in 1926 to prepare a scheme for the rest of its area, and was a constituent of the North Middlesex Joint Planning Committee which submitted an outline plan in 1928. The Council prepared a partial scheme under the more comprehensive Town and Country Planning Act of 1932, and in 1935 the new Urban District Council completed a plan for the whole district, but this was never confirmed by the Minister and had little effect.

Stronger measures were obviously needed. An Act of 1943 providing for planning restrictions on the passing of a local resolution to prepare a scheme was promptly adopted by Potters Bar, but despite Professor Abercrombie's Greater London Plan of 1944 planning was still piecemeal and not co-ordinated until the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947 provided a fresh start. This important measure gave all planning powers to county councils, required each to draw up a plan showing the proposed use of all land, and made all development subject to planning permission. The Middlesex Council appointed a County Planning Committee and divided the county into areas, each with a sub-committee (including local authority representatives) to consider applications for planning permission. The County Council delegated to local

authorities power to deal with most applications, but had the last word in important cases. The planning policy of Hertfordshire is basically identical with that of Middlesex, and their system differs only in details.

The Middlesex Plan approved in 1956 was designed to restrain the overall growth of population and industry in the area, and to decentralise inappropriate development under a scheme dividing Greater London into Inner Urban, Suburban, Green Belt and Out Country rings. Middlesex lay mainly in the middle zones, and Potters Bar wholly in the Green Belt.

The object of the Green Belt is the preservation of a stretch of open country encircling London's built-up area, both to prevent the outward spread of development and to provide space where urban residents can find recreation and enjoyment. It does not follow that the public have access to private land zoned as Green Belt, but only that building there is generally prohibited.

The desirability of limiting London's expansion and preserving as much open land as possible round it had long been in Government minds when a Greater London Regional Planning Committee was formed in 1927. In 1935 the London County Council began to offer grants to councils in the Home Counties towards the cost of acquiring and preserving land as part of a green girdle, and the 1938 Green Belt (London and Home Counties) Act conferred special powers. So far 35,000 acres have been preserved in this way, including 7,950 acres purchased or safeguarded in the outer parts of Middlesex. The designation of this and other land as Green Belt should help to keep it rural.

In addition to providing its own open spaces the Potters Bar Council contributed generously to the Middlesex Council's acquisition of Dyrham Park, Old Fold Golf Course and land near Southgate Road and The Ridgeway. The Hertfordshire County Council has inherited from Middlesex the right, in certain circumstances, to purchase Wrotham Park, with a contribution from Potters Bar.

Hospitals

As long ago as 1884, a voluntary Cottage Hospital was started in Richmond Road at Potters Bar, but Clare Hall at South Mimms, although it became a private smallpox hospital in 1896, taking some cases from local authorities in Middlesex, has a much longer ancestry. This hospital was established in Clerkenwell in 1746, moved to Battlebridge at Kings Cross in 1793, and then to Highgate Hill in 1850. The Hall was a private residence until 1886, when it became St. Monica's Priory (closed in 1896). South Mimms objected strongly to the hospital and was not a member of the Middlesex Districts Joint Smallpox Hospital Board (a combination of local authorities formed in 1905 following the epidemic of 1902) which bought the place in 1907. In 1911 the National Health Insurance Act allowed public funds to be spent on tuberculosis sanatoria and a Local Government Order permitted tubercular patients to be admitted to Clare Hall; the first came in 1912. In 1919 the South Mimms Rural District joined the Hospital Board, which was dissolved when the County Council took over Clare Hall in 1929. The Hall became an emergency hospital during the 1939-45 War and many air raid casualties were treated there.

District Councils were enabled to provide hospitals by the Public Health Act of 1875, and many alone or together built isolation hospitals. Enfield and Edmonton formed a joint hospital district in 1905 to care for patients suffering from infectious diseases other than smallpox, and ran an isolation hospital at World's End, Winchmore Hill, but Potters Bar sent its patients wherever beds were available until 1938 when it joined the Enfield, Edmonton and Potters Bar Hospital Board.

In 1939 the old Cottage Hospital was replaced by a new building in pleasant grounds beside Mutton Lane, but its voluntary basis hardly outlived the war. Under the National Health Services Act of 1946 all hospitals were transferred to the Minister of Health in 1948; that at Potters Bar became vested in the Barnet Hospital Group, and Clare Hall is now a thoracic hospital of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

Before 1938 local authorities outside London were not compelled to provide a fire service, although by the Public Health Act of 1875 they could do so, and parish councils might provide a pump under an Act of 1898, but local authorities had to

arrange for fire hydrants to be installed at appropriate places. Chipping Barnet however possessed a 6re engine in 1859. Having no fire brigade, South Mimms Rural District Council arranged in 1925 for fires in its area to be attended by the Barnet Council's brigade, at a suitable charge; Barnet, South Mimms and Enfield jointly paid for the fire engine. The agreement was confirmed by the Potters Bar Urban District in 1935, when the cost was raised to 14 penny rate.

The Fire Brigade Act of 1938 made local councils responsible for establishing fire services in their own districts, and Potters Bar built its own fire and ambulance station (the first part of a projected civic centre) on land in Mutton Lane given in 1939 by Mr. H. W. Tilbury, a local baker, but on the outbreak of war that year all Are services were grouped in regional schemes for mutual assistance and replaced by the National Fire Service in 1941. The duty of providing fire hydrants was laid on water undertakings by the Water Act of 1945, and wartime experience on the value of services co-ordinated over a wide area led to the Fire Services Act of 1948, which made County Councils the fire authorities. The Mutton Lane station was thus transferred to Middlesex. Potters Bar was grouped in one division with Southgate and Wood Green, and appointed a member of the County Fire Brigade Committee. Potters Bar is now joined with Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City in the East division of Hertfordshire for fire and ambulance purposes.

A County Civil Defence ambulance stationed at Oakmere provided a service until in 1945 the Potters Bar Council bought its own vehicle, also kept at Oakmere, and engaged drivers. Under the National Health Services Act of 1946 the county took over the ambulance service, and when this was amalgamated with the fire service in 1948 the ambulance moved to the Mutton Lane station.
Space is insufficient to give more than a mere indication of the variety of the Council's activities on the citizen's behalf. Some, like requisitioning property to accommodate families blitzed from their homes during and after the war, have only been temporary, but enrolling and training volunteers for Civil Defence may be a long-term duty. Others involved a single act, such as the Order by which the Council in 1950 allowed Sunday cinema opening, after a town poll. One of the most essential of these services is refuse collection, which was done privately until 1931 when the Council

took it over. As long ago as 1923 the Council assumed the maintenance of South Mimms' 1914-18 War Memorial, erected in 1921, and in 1950 it accepted charge of the one at Potters Bar.

These miscellaneous duties have much increased in recent years, and range from a complete survey of public footpaths and rights of way, compiled by the Council (on behalf of the county) under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949, to the inspection of shops, offices, factories and railway premises. The Council has instituted schemes for training child cyclists, and appointed a Road Safety Organiser in 1962. Although Potters Bar air is noticeably good and free from London's notorious 'smog', the Council, under the Clean Air Act of 1956, have applied a pilot scheme for a smoke control area' on the Edmonton estate and intend to extend this in stages to the whole district. Traffic congestion in the main shopping areas has led to the making of car parks at Salisbury Close (1957), the Ritz cinema (1959), Wyllyotts Manor and behind the White Horse inn (1964), and pedestrian crossings have not been overlooked.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The pollution of local water supplies has already been touched upon under drainage. The Barnet Guardians received complaints of bad water at South Mimms and Potters Bar in 1873, but the Barnet District Gas and Water Company had no power to bring a supply until their private Act of 1883 extended their limits to the Potters Bar District'; several houses were connected that year. South Mimms still lacked an adequate supply in 1885 when the Vestry even considered gathering and storing water from the church roof, but the rural sanitary authority would not accept a tender of £350. The Barnet Gas and Water Company obtained powers to extend their mains to the rest of the district in 1887, and next year, after their tender had been accepted by the sanitary authority, water was laid on in South Mimms.

The Potters Bar Pumping Station (a few hundred yards north of the railway station) commenced operations in 1896 after promising trial boring the previous year, and with stations at New Barnet and East Barnet supplied enough water for the

Company's area until 1904. Other wells were then sunk outside the district and supplemented in 1926 by agreement with the Metropolitan Water Board. Nationalisation of the gas industry in 1948 confined the Company to supplying water. About that time falling yield caused pumping from the Potters Bar well to cease, and the district became dependent on outside supplies. The Barnet Water Company merged in I960 with 15 other undertakings to form the Lee Valley Water Company, which serves a population of 650,000. Demand continues to rise to such an extent that Potters Bar may one day have to draw water from the river Ouse.
The Potters Bar Gas and Coke Company was incorporated in 1869, and the Barnet Consumers' Gas Company (to supply a belt from Ridge and South Mimms to Barnet and parts of Enfield) in 1871. Next year both amalgamated with the East Barnet Gas and Coke Company (incorporated in 1866) to form the Barnet District Gas and Water Company. The site occupied by the old Potters Bar Company behind the Baptist Church on Barnet Road is still used as a district governor station. The gas section of the Barnet Company was nationalised under the Gas Act of 1948 and now forms part of the Eastern Gas Board.

It appears that electric lighting was first provided at Potters Bar in houses in The Avenue and Heath Drive from a small 100 volt generator run by the developer, Mr. W. J. King. In 1925 the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company (later the Northmet Power Company) extended the public supply from Barnet to a transformer station in Hatfield Road at Potters Bar, adjoining which offices and showrooms were built in 1931; these moved to new premises in Darkes Lane in I960. The Council were slow to adopt the new medium in their houses, Cranborne Crescent being the first equipped.

It seems appropriate to mention this State service here. The first telephone exchange opened in 1903 in a private house at 68 Hatfield Road, replaced in 1930 by a large exchange at the corner of Hatfield Road and Billy Lows Lane. An automatic telephone exchange was installed in 1947, an extension was made in 1959, and the automatic trunk dialling system was inaugurated in 1962. The first South Mimms Exchange was established in the sub-Post Office at 62 Blanche Lane, probably about 1932. In 1938 a new exchange in a nearby site was opened and this will shortly be replaced by a

larger exchange on land once part of Hamilton Farm, Blanche Lane.

EPILOGUE

For many centuries South Mimms slumbered. The popular demand for reform and improvement, and the industrial revolution, left little mark locally. No spectacular events occurred to highlight parochial affairs, and records of the larger issues are scanty and unrevealing. An account of the evolution of local government in the parish is therefore not as clear or as interesting as in an ancient borough steeped in history, where records abound from the earliest times. Yet it has been seen how local government started in a simple way with the landowner and the people of the ancient parish, acting through the medium of the manor court and the Vestry, enforcing originally the communal obligations of the parishioners, then the repair of the highways and the relief of the poor, under the supervision of the justices; how local government, under pressure from below and the spread of education, became more democratic, and through trial and error and to meet the demands of a rising population in a more complex age, assumed the forms we know today, with once undreamed-of powers and duties and an approach to the rights of the individual and the welfare of the community such as not long ago would have been regarded as subversive.

Communications by Road and Rail

IN Roman times the Potters Bar-South Mimms district lay between but remote from two great trunk roads from London —the Ermine Street through the Lea valley to Ware and the north, and the Wading Street (Edgware Road) to Verulamium and the north-west. The Roman tile-kiln found in Parkfield attests only a brief and undistinguished development of the area, and is not likely to have been served by a metalled road. Apart from the important city of Verulamium (St. Albans) the nearest large Roman sites were at Cheshunt and Edmonton; it is possible that there was a road between Edmonton and St. Albans on the approximate line of the Cockfosters Road, on which Roman Potters Bar might have stood. At present this is mere

surmise; Roman roads running north-south through the district have been suggested, but rest on implausible conjecture and ambiguous fieldwork.

A brief summary may clarify the long subsequent story detailed below. By the time of the Norman Conquest the district was served by a track linking Edmonton, South Mimms and St. Albans. Thereafter we can distinguish four successive trunk roads on which Potters Bar and South Mimms lie. First was an early mediaeval road between London, Barnet, South Mimms and St. Albans; in the seventeenth century came the Great North Road through Potters Bar; then the mediaeval road from Barnet through South Mimms was superseded in the early nineteenth century by a more direct and vastly better route; finally a main arterial road, the Barnet by-pass (now A.1) was driven through the area.

The earliest of these five ways seems to be based on the local manorial traffic created by the rise of South Mimms as a 'berewic' or outlying portion of Edmonton manor, before 1066.

This settlement was founded on the easily worked loam over- lying the outcrop of chalk and Reading Beds on the eastern slopes of Ridge Hill—a site now marked by South Mimms' twelfth century castle, near which there is reason to believe the village originally stood. There is little doubt that this westward expansion of Edmonton into largely untamed woodland was made along the northern ridge of the East Barnet valley, and the present Cockfosters and Southgate Roads must represent its line. The abrupt change of direction towards Mutton Lane which Southgate Road made beside the site of St. John's School until 1964 (when road alterations obscured the swing), and the continuation of this new course along Mutton Lane, probably denote a diversion conditioned by two factors—the shift of the site of South Mimms village to a new Barnet-St. Albans road (probably in the early thirteenth century), and the existence of the western boundary of Enfield Chase, which had been defined along the Potters Bar ridge by 1220.

North-westwards from St. John's School, which lay almost on the Chase boundary, parts of the original road still survive as a footpath from Billy Lows Lane, behind the

Council offices and past the site of Darkes, then west across the golf course and north of Warrengate Farm to South Mimms Castle, crossing Mimms Hall Brook by a ford still in use. Beyond the Castle there are distinct traces, lengths of aligned hedgerows and existing roads and paths, of a continuation of the road through Colney Heath to St. Albans. The course of this road has been sadly mutilated in the built-up centre of Potters Bar, but until about 1930 its track survived as a path across the present cricket ground to Billy Lows Lane. A Byng Drive garden on its line has produced a Scots penny of Alexander III (1249-1286), and the obliteration of the path there in 1930 led to the cutting of Park Drive in replacement. After the ancient South Mimms road had been superseded by Mutton Lane it still doubtless served the moated Darkes Farm. Mutton Lane itself underwent minor modifications of uncertain date and purpose. The most recent alteration (excepting the 1962 flyover at the A.1) was the cutting of Cecil Road in 1863, supplanting the old Water Lane which ran into Blackhorse Lane from the face of the Mimms Hall bluff.

The first of the trunk roads through the district was the route from London through Barnet to St. Albans, and its origin is probably to be traced to the establishment by St. Albans Abbey of a weekly market at their High Barnet property, under a royal grant of 1199. As late as the reign of Henry I (1100-1135) Watling Street remained the recognised route between London and the north-west, as did Ermine Street to the North: South Mimms was remote from their traffic. The foundation of Barnet Market however implies the creation by the Abbey of a new route to London, and South Mimms henceforth lay on a national highway of growing importance, which also became the cattle road from the North and the West to the London meat market.

This highway, the later Holyhead Road, originally entered London via Whetstone, Friern Barnet, Colney Hatch, Crouch End and St. Pancras, a circuitous route avoiding Hornsey Park, a seat of the Bishops of London. In the fourteenth century the road from Islington up Highgate Hill was gravelled, and the bishops allowed it to continue through their park to Finchley Common to join the older road at Whetstone. The road ascended Barnet Hill by a precipitous incline west of the present embankment, and entered the ancient parish of South Mimms just north of Chipping Barnet Church, at Union Street (1835). Thence it ran past the east side of Old Fold manor and along

Kitts End Road, where until a century ago flourished a large hamlet. Snaking over Dancers Hill the road encountered a major obstacle, Mimms Wash, where there was no made ford, travellers crossing as best they could along a frontage of two hundred yards. From Mimms Wash the road entered South Mimms village by Greyhound Lane and Blanche Lane, passed the west end of the church and left for Ridge Hill and St. Albans along Blackhorse Lane. This tortuous road has undergone only one important modification: at some time before the early eighteenth century the owners of Old Fold diverted it away from the front of their house to its present line further east across Hadley Green. The changes of direction in Barnet High Street and Kitts End Road are still apparent.

By the fourteenth century this road was a national highway, as shown by the Gough Map, and through heavy use its surface degenerated. The Church assisted by proclaiming the merit of road repairs, and asserted that even merchants might earn salvation by repairing bad roads and broken bridges. Accordingly the Frowyks of Old Fold and lesser gentry often bequeathed money for various stretches of this road between the last quarter of the fourteenth century and the first decades of the sixteenth, when bequests ceased abruptly, either because of a decline in social morality or because the roads had been vastly improved. The maintenance of roads had from Saxon times been a local duty and in 1555 was made a parish responsibility by the Highways Act, which created for each parish the unpaid office of Surveyor of the Highways, annually elected by the parishioners. The Act stipulated the duty of every man to give four (later six) days 'statute labour' annually on the roads.

Improvement was slow and complaints numerous. Nevertheless by the early seventeenth century it was possible to hire coaches in London at ten shillings a day for one or two days' travel, 'the ways being so far sandy and very fair, and continually kept so by labour of hands' (1617). Even over longer distances coaches and carriers ran to a sort of timetable, and in 1637 the London to St. Albans service via South Mimms ran twice weekly. Pepys remarked that country gentlemen no longer made their wills before venturing on the journey to London, and movement became altogether more easy. Then the vicious circle began again—improved roads, increased traffic, deteriorating roads. As many parishes on the trunk roads proved

unable to maintain the required standard, attempts were made to coerce them. In 1670 Justices of the Peace were authorised to levy a highway rate, and in 1672 the Middlesex Justices assessed South Mimms at a sixpenny rate. Yet in 1675 John Ogilby, who had travelled many thousands of miles throughout England, asserted that the highways round London still enjoyed a reputation for relative excellence.

The second of the trunk roads in the district, the Great North Road (the A.1 until 1954, now A.1000), dates from the latter half of the seventeenth century. There is no reason to suppose that any road between Potters Bar and Hatfield was of more than minor importance in the Middle Ages. Direct communication between Potters Bar and Barnet was obstructed by Enfield Chase, and what traffic there was used the St. Albans road as far as Dancers Hill, and entered Potters Bar via Bentley Heath and Ganwick Corner. By the seventeenth century, from the opposite end of Potters Bar, a now vanished lane ran northwards out of Quakers Lane through Little Heath to Hatfield.

In Stuart times this road from Barnet to Hatfield seems to have become an important alternative route to the North. The highway at Welwyn (though failing in places to attain the modest minimum legal width of eight feet) was described in 1663 as 'the great road to London'. By 1675 it had been somewhat shortened, as the Kitts End Road, Dancers Hill and Bentley Heath stretch had been by-passed by an unfenced and technically illegal road running through Enfield Chase (see Chapter 5). This road, having no legal existence, was no one's responsibility, and in 1720 the stretch between Hadley Green and the Angel at Ganwick Corner had never been repaired in living memory.

The inability of parishes on major roads to keep them in proper repair led in the late seventeenth century to the Turnpike system. Specifically excluding agricultural carts from charges, the turnpike trusts aimed at charging road users in proportion to the amount of maintenance their passage caused. Narrow-rimmed vehicles that rutted the surface were charged more than broad-rimmed waggons, which were supposed to have a rolling effect. Drovers and their herds, coming from as far afield as Scotland and Wales to Barnet Market, were charged. The moderate tolls seem to have been

no deterrent to travel, and immense improvements in road conditions rapidly followed the turnpiking of the Holyhead Road and the Great North Road. The Holyhead Road, with its bar at the White Hart in South Mimms, did particularly well, according to Daniel Defoe in 1725: the 'great North West Road' between St. Albans and South Mimms 'is so well mended, the work so well done, and the materials so good, so plentifully furnished, and so faithfully applied . . . the bottom is not only repaired, but the narrow places are widened, hills levelled, bottoms raised, and the ascents and descents made easy'. Widespread improvement in travelling conditions spread rapidly to all major roads, aided by the regular springing of coach wheels from the end of the seventeenth century and the decline of the highwaymen who haunted South Mimms in the 1690's.

The Whetstone Turnpike Road Trust took over the maintenance of the North road between Highgate Gatehouse and Barnet Blockhouse, at the foot of Barnet Hill, in 1712. In 1720 it extended its control northwards to the Angel Inn at Galley (now Ganwick) Corner. From this point, through Potters Bar, the Lemsford Mill and Galley Corner Toll Bar Trust, set up in 1730, maintained the road as far as Lemsford Mill beyond Hatfield. The course of the turnpike road was much as today as far as Potters Bar War Memorial. Beyond this point the High Street continued a short distance to the front of the house now called Morven, where there was a T-junction. The seventeenth century route had taken the western branch, Colliers (now Quakers) Lane, off which a turning led to Little Heath and Hatfield; but the turnpike, for the convenience of the Northaw gentry, chose the eastern road along The Causeway (a troublesome stretch) and Coopers Lane (where the bar stood near the Chequers) to the Turnpike Oak, a great tree still standing on the east side of the road. Here the turnpike turned sharply north-west, past the front of Northaw Place and along the stream to the line of the modern road at the foot of Little Heath Hill. An early improvement was the shortening in 1735 of the road at Ganwick Corner by the present curve in front of the Duke o' York. Much trouble was caused here by a bed of shifting sand, the problem which also bedevilled The Causeway.

The direct route from Potters Bar to Hatfield was made in 1802, when the present Hatfield Road from the War Memorial to Little Heath was built, and the eastern

extremity of Colliers Lane near the T-junction went out of use as a road, though it gave access to the Red Lyon inn for some years. Its track still survives as a well-marked depression continuing the line of Quakers Lane to The Causeway. As a result of this diversion the toll bar was moved in 1804 to the north end of High Street near the Green Man. After its gates were dismantled about 1866 the toll house served as a shop and as 'The Cyclists' Rest' until its demolition in 1896; the War Memorial stands on the site.

Owing to the steady increase in traffic, particularly after the advent of mail coaches in 1784, the Holyhead Road was no longer the model way Defoe knew. 'The turnpike road from Hadley through South Mimms is insufferably bad, and disgraceful to the Trustees', wrote Middleton in 1798. The loose gravel with which it was repaired was cut into permanent ruts by the first vehicle that passed, and coaches travelled at a mere five miles an hour by keeping to the ruts. The only regular maintenance was the copious use of water-carts to lay the dust, which at the first rain turned into a sea of mud. Such were the delays to the important Irish mails that in 1810 the Government instructed Thomas Telford, the famous engineer, to prepare a report on the condition of the whole Holyhead Road; five years later a Board of Parliamentary Commissioners authorised the carrying out of his recommendations. Improvements to the roads from London were already under way. A scheme for a completely new road from the General Post Office to Potters Bar and South Mimms (1811) did not materialise, but the Finchley Road was built in 1826; and Archway Road, by-passing High- gate and its formidable hill, was cut, and after much trouble opened in 1813. Telford was not impressed by the Holyhead Road at South Mimms, finding it 'a succession of unnecessary bendings and inconveniently steep ascents and descents'. He remodelled it completely, thus creating our third trunk system. The old lane through Kitts End was superseded by the present straight A.6 road from Barnet to the north side of Ridge Hill, the Barnet-South Mimms section being completed in 1826. The former precipitous ascent of Barnet Hill was replaced by the present embankment in 1827. The immediate effect of Telford's work was to double the average speed of coach travel: the Holy- head Mail, for example, now reached South Mimms from London in one hour and forty minutes. This new route virtually doomed the hamlet of Kitts End to extinction.

Relieved by the turnpike trusts of its main burden, South Mimms parish successfully maintained its minor roads, which in the late eighteenth century enjoyed a good reputation for firmness of surface. Little change is to be noted apart from occasional diversions by landowners anxious to repel public highways from their front doors. In 1736, for example, the Justices allowed the Earl of Albemarle to close two public highways across Dyrham Park; the road now called Trotters Bottom replaced what became the carriage drive, at the entrance to which the present handsome archway was later erected, while another diversion ran to the west of the estate.

Little more than ten years after the completion of Telford's improvements came the opening of the London and Birmingham Railway in 1838. The effect on road traffic and therefore toll receipts was serious from the start, and, although cattle continued to arrive on the hoof for Barnet Market, coach and carrier traffic through South Mimms soon dwindled to insignificant proportions.

Our local communications received their greatest advance with the coming of the Great Northern Railway, promoted primarily to convey passengers and freight (mainly coal) between Yorkshire and London. That railways would also generate vast local traffic was far from their creators' minds, and indeed the suburban services ceased to pay their way after about 1875; shareholders referred to them as an incubus. Cheap coal for the London area was a great factor in attracting support for the railway. London's coal cost 30s. a ton, whereas at Barnet the price stood between 42s. and 45 s.: even great houses used it sparingly. The Great Northern Railway Bill received the Royal Assent on June 26, 1846, and work progressed steadily, the stretch between Hornsey and Peterborough being under the famous contractor Thomas Brassey. An army of navvies invaded the district, brickworks were opened beside the line at Potters Bar tunnel, and to avoid local shortages of provisions the company opened its own stores, illegally paying the men by vouchers negotiable at these alone. The siting of stations was left to the end, that at Potters Bar being only a recommendation as late as December 1849. Although the line was completed here by February 1850 despite the difficulties of winter working, when damage to the parish roads on the railway's account was £35, 'Potters Bar and South Mimms' station was 'as yet in a

very incomplete state' when a public service began on August 7, 1850. There were five up and eight down trains daily.

Expectations of a fall in the price of coal were fulfilled. Wherever a coal siding was established the cost fell to 17s. a ton, and moralists saw in the increased comfort of working class homes additional incentives to temperance and thrift. The suburban trains were an immediate success. Cheap fares and rapid travel soon led to the start of the massive daily movement so familiar to us. Scarborough's Hatfield coach, taking 2 hours 30 minutes each way on its daily circuitous journey to and from London, via Potters Bar, Southgate, Green Lanes, Stoke Newington, Clerkenwell and Oxford Street, could not compete with trains that took 35 minutes. In 1855 1st and 2nd class season tickets were issued between London and all stations to Hitchin. In that year, of the 18 passenger trains leaving Kings Cross daily between 6.30 a.m. (all stations to York) and 9.30 p.m., 11 stopped at Potters Bar. From Potters Bar one could travel to Kings Cross between 7.55 a.m. and 9.40 p.m. on 10 trains.

Except for the few fast trains, times have not greatly improved for the 49 up and 55 down services which now call each weekday, although accommodation and comfort are enormously improved.

With the growth of population the railway became an increasingly important service. In 1863 the Metropolitan Railway was opened and most of our suburban trains were extended to Farringdon Street, and in 1869 to Moorgate Street. After 1866 it was possible to travel through to Crystal Palace and Victoria on the London, Chatham and Dover Railway, and to Woolwich on the South Eastern, facilities which did not disappear until 1907, after the electrification of the Inner Circle in 1905 made the 'Underground' less disagreeable. Potters Bar was further served by the Great Northern Railway's High Barnet branch (1872), steam-operated until 1940, when it was linked to the Northern Line tube extension at Highgate. In 1875 a line was built from Finsbury Park to the North London Railway at Canonbury, enabling a service between Potters Bar and Broad Street to be operated, first by the North London Railway and after 1923 by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway. The London and North Eastern Railway did not take over this section until after the Second World

War.

Initially the whole Great Northern Railway service used a single pair of tracks. This proved inadequate within a few years and, apart from the Welwyn and Potters Bar sections, all the track was at least quadruple by 1892 and all level crossings replaced by bridges. Plans to widen these two bottlenecks were shelved in 1898, when it was decided to extend the Enfield branch (opened in 1871) via Cuffley and Hertford to rejoin the main line near Stevenage. These works were completed in 1924 and proved an invaluable relief to the main line. Widening of the Potters Bar section and the rebuilding of the station were delayed by the 1939-45 war and not completed until 1959. Within the next two years steam locomotives were replaced by diesel engines and rail-cars. Electrification was mooted in the 1920's and more recently planned for 1964, but now seems unlikely to take place in the near future.

The Cockfosters extension of the Piccadilly Line in 1933 provided a further rail outlet for Potters Bar's army of commuters.

The following table illustrates the slow growth of the urban district, and the way in which development has been matched—and stimulated—by an improving train service:

Year	Census Returns Population		Number of trains calling at Potters Bar Station each weekday Up	Down
1801				
1811				
1821				
1831				
1841	(ancient parish)			
1851				
1861	1698			
1628			7	8
			10	14
1871	3571 (2)		13	16
	South Mimms and Potters Bar	'West Barnet'		
1881	2628	1374	14	17
	South Mimms Rural District	South Mimms Urban		
1891	2422	3151	24	26
1901	2671	4497	27	28
	South Mimms	Potters Bar		
1911	941	1793	29	31
1921	1479	1743	24	29
1931	2255	3465	33	35
1941	—	—	32	39
1951	6907	10265	31	33
1961	23360		47	51

1906

2010

2760 (I)

2825

3238

Notes: (i) The population of 1841 was inflated by the inclusion of non-local haymakers.
(2) Most of the increase in this year was attributed to the growth of "West Barnet".

During the During the heyday of the railway the roads languished. Local carriers and horse-’buses sometimes flourished as feeders to the stations, but direct competition invariably failed. To quote two local examples—Pickard’s Southgate-London ’bus ceased working in 1879 and ended its days as a pigeon loft at Bridgnorth; the Enfield-London coach had an even more bizarre fate, being last seen, many years ago, plying between Alexandria and Suez. From November 1, 1884, advertisements announced cabs to meet every train at Potters Bar, while by applying to Mr. W. Dickenson of the Railway Hotel 'conveyances of every description’ might be had. A station taxi flourishes still. The old station at Potters Bar, where an up train would wait if the driver saw one running, had an uneventful career, except on February 10, 1946, when a derailed 'local’ at the north end of the station was struck by two express trains, with the loss of two lives.

The modern revival of the roads began in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The turnpike roads were freed from tolls in 1872. The burden of maintaining these and other principal thoroughfares, all classified as 'Main Roads’ was in 1878 laid jointly upon the county and local rates, under the supervision of the County Surveyor. In 1888 these roads were transferred to the newly created County Councils. At first the water- bound macadam laid down for coaching days remained in use. Repair was carried out by navvies loosening each half of the road surface in turn, then covering it with two inches of fresh gravel. As steamrollers were not used till the end of the century, consolidation of the surface was left to traffic. Surface drainage was haphazard; cottages fronting the roads used to keep loose floorboards by the door, so that when rainwater flooded in these could be raised to allow the water to flow under rather than through the house. The perennial trouble of dust in summer was still dealt with by water carts. Gradually, however, the characteristic 'iron-tyred wheels crunching on the road surface’ gave way to rubber. Then came pneumatic tyres, so destructive to the old surfaces that tar-bound and asphalted roads became a necessity as the twentieth century opened.

Bicycles were the first vehicles to herald a revival of road traffic. From the 1880’s our local roads were increasingly the haunt of bicycle enthusiasts and clubs, and in 1901 South Mimms Rural District Council requested the County Council to erect signs

desiring cyclists and drivers to slacken speed when passing through South Mimms and Potters Bar. Three years earlier, an observer recorded one thousand cyclists travelling northwards past High Barnet Church in a single hour one Sunday morning.

It was summer holiday traffic, too, that first brought 'buses to Potters Bar. In 1907 the Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead Railway opened its northern terminus at Golders Green, which quickly became an important centre for 'buses. In 1912 the 84 Route began to run from Golders Green via South Mimms to St. Albans. A Sunday service ran between Golders Green and Hatfield via Potters Bar High Street between 1913 and 1916, and intermittently thereafter between 1919 and 1925 (Routes 109,155 and 82). The London terminus was briefly changed to Aldwych in 1926 and 1927 (Route 82), but this service was then withdrawn in favour of Route 137 (Golders Green- Welwyn), operating via the newly opened Barnet By-pass. It appears that Potters Bar itself attracted little traffic.

Barnet had been a 'bus terminus since about 1880, and had enjoyed a frequent service of electric trams since 1907. Southgate was even earlier in the field. Not until the development of the Ladbrooke Estate (The Walk and Byng Drive area) in 1930 was it profitable to bridge the gaps to Potters Bar. In that year the London General Omnibus Company extended its Route (6)29 from Victoria to Potters Bar station via Wood Green, while the short lived Cream Line 'bus company, under the proprietorship of a Potters Bar man, Mr. Joe Lewis, began a peak hour service between Charing Cross and Brookmans Park via Golders Green and Barnet, which survived until September 1933. Down to 1933 the L.G.O.C. services were operated by a subsidiary, the Overground Company, which built the Potters Bar Garage (1930), and in 1932 extended to Potters Bar its Victoria-Hadley Highstone Route 284. In 1933 underground and surface transport were unified under the London Passenger Transport Board, and in the following year Routes 629 and 284 became the familiar 29 and 134.

'Bus services extended rapidly through the district, matching its suburban growth. Route 84 ran through Barnet to South Mimms and St. Albans, while 29A 'buses worked to South Mimms from 1939. Other connections were being established —with

Chingford (205), Hitchin (303), Enfield and St. Albans (313), and Hertford (342). Faster services over longer distances were furnished by Green Line coaches and those of Messrs. Birch Bros. Though some routes have been renumbered or slightly modified, the pattern established by 1939 has been little changed.

Meanwhile the inadequacy of the nineteenth century road system led in 1909 to the establishment of the Road Board, with powers to construct new roads. In 1912 the Board introduced the concept of 'arterial roads': the North Circular Road was one of its first proposals. After the First World War the Road Board was merged in the newly-formed Ministry of Transport, and Potters Bar received its first 'arterial road', the 'Great North Way' or Barnet By-Pass (A.1), authorised in 1923 and completed in 1927. A typical new road of its period, it was built for three-lane traffic and furnished with grass verges and trees. Adequate in its day, this road proved after the Second World War unable to carry the increasing volume of traffic, which led in 1954 to the decision to convert it to dual carriage-ways, now (1965) completed as far north as South Mimms. In 1962 a flyover was built to carry Cecil Road over the A.1. The South Mimms By-Pass, a further development of the old Holyhead Road, has also been constructed (1963), to divert through traffic on Telford's road (A.6) to the west of the village.

This new re-orientation of our roads under the influence of Motorways has not yet ceased, for the 'D-ring Road' is now planned to run east and west across the district from South Mimms to Enfield.

The Growth of Potters Bar

IT is clear that Potters Bar was an off-shoot colonised from South Mimms, probably more than a century after the Norman Conquest. Its uninviting heavy clay and woodland would not tempt settlers until a steadily increasing population led to land hunger: mediaeval agriculture produced such low yields that a large area was needed to support comparatively few people.

The origin of the first part of the name, first found as 'Potterbare' in 1387, is not known with certainty. It may be derived from the family of Geoffrey le Pottere, who was living in South Mimms parish in 1294. The 'bar', a gate into Enfield Chase which is clearly shown and named on a plan of Wyllyotts manor dated 1394, stood across the west end of The Causeway, by the present entrance to Morven.

There is no doubt that there was some settlement in the vicinity of Potters Bar by the beginning of the thirteenth century. About the year 1200 Ernulf de Mandeville, a successor of the builder of South Mimms Castle, endowed the small Augustinian priory of Cathale near Cattlegate (which preserves its name) in Northaw parish with certain land, later described as an assart (a clearing in the waste) which is known to have been situated near the north end of High Street, near the 'bus garage. All available evidence points to this end of High Street as the original centre of Potters Bar, a geologically significant position, as one would expect the gravel-capped ridge along the High Street to be a favoured site for early settlement.

This monastic property was referred to in an agreement of 1200 concerning the division of tithes between William, vicar of South Mimms, Hugh, prior of Cathale, and the abbot of Walden. This document mentions the two earliest known residents of Potters Bar—Adam the Forester and Peter Hunilade, a member of a family whose name, variously spelled as Ennilade and Onnilade, occurs among witnesses to other local thirteenth century charters. The priory's land lay between the holdings of Adam and Peter. Although the priory of Cathale proved too poor to survive and its possessions were in 1240 transferred to Cheshunt nunnery, the name of this endowment long persisted in such corrupt forms as Cattails and Cutholes. Cheshunt priory evidently disposed of this property, for in 1425 three citizens and grocers of London, William Beverech, Edmund Twyne and John Parker, granted 'a croft and grove' called Cathale by Enfeld Wode and the lane called New-lane' (now Billy Lows Lane) to John Danyell of Edmonton, maltman, and John Canon of London. The owners shared the parish rights of common on Enfield Chase, and Oakmere Lane probably originated from their track into the Chase. Not only the name but also the identity of this property was preserved despite changes in ownership and extent, and Cattails was the forerunner of the Parkfield estate, on which several fields long

retained the old name.

The modern town is roughly co-extensive with the sub-manor of Wyllyotts, which at some unknown date was created by splitting off part of the parent manor of South Mimms. What appears to be the first mention of Wyllyotts (although not actually called a manor) occurs in 1349, when it was held by 'Master John Wyliot, son of Thomas Wyliot of Suthmymmes', but it may well go back to the previous century. Another member of this family was doubtless Henry Wyliot, who tried a lawsuit at Barnet in 1344 and was described as 'of Southmymmes' in 1346. John Wylyot, chancellor of Exeter Cathedral, who in 1380 conveyed to John Turk lands in North and South Mimms, may also have belonged to the family, and Robert Wylyot witnessed a deed relating to the parish in 1383. There are still traces of a filled-in moat at Wyllyotts, but of the mediaeval buildings nothing survives. The earliest part visible today is a very interesting bam of about 1500. In the plan of 1594 mentioned later the contemporary buildings appear, but not the moat. A full description of the present buildings is given in an Appendix.

The full story of the ownership of Wyllyotts is unknown. By 1478 it had come into the possession of the Leukenor family, who were also lords of the main manor of South Mimms and retained Wyllyotts for nearly a century longer. There are, however, certain important and illuminating charters which suggest that between the tenures of the Wyllyotts and the Leukenors the manor may have been held by the Pouns family, mentioned in the chapter on South Mimms. The first of these deeds, dated 1387, relates to the southern part of Potters Bar. Thomas Pouns of South Mimms thereby granted to John Sharpe and his wife Massilla a tenement called 'Geffrons' with its lands, pastures and woods, all bounded on the east by the highway from Potter- bare' to Barnet, on the north by the highway from ‘Gunnylfoile' (unlocated) to St. Albans, on the west by land of Master John Wokyngham, and on the south by land formerly of Henry Frowkye, presumably Henry Frowyk III (of Old Fold) who died in 1386. The importance of this document is not merely that it contains the first mention by name of Potters Bar. It also suggests that Henry Frowyk's land included the estate called Gannocks, which when we first hear of it in 1447 was in the possession of Thomas

Frowyk III. The highway to Barnet was a precursor of the present Barnet Road. The other road must be Mutton Lane, not the original track from Edmonton to St. Albans, which would have become an inconveniently roundabout route when South Mimms village migrated to its present site, probably in the thirteenth century. The conclusion is that Geffrons must be located in the south-west quadrant formed by the High Street crossroads, and is indeed an earlier name of the property which in the sixteenth century was called Worthylands and later Potters Bar Farm.

A second deed, nearly half a century later, concerns land in the northern part of Potters Bar which certainly formed part of the manor of Wyllyotts. Dated 1432, it is a lease for 12 years by Thomas Pouns to Thomas Wheeler of a meadow called 'Longefeldes' and various other fields and crofts identified by their name, situation and boundaries. We hear again of the New Lane, and learn of an adjoining field lying along 'the fayerfild under Cathall' which extended to 'another part of Williottes land', and of Pouns' land in Withibrok next to 'ye gret medowe of Williottes'. This document strongly suggests that Pouns was at that time the holder of Wyllyotts manor itself, and prompts the surmise that Withibrook was the original name of the Potters Bar Brook: there is no other nearby stream where withies are likely to have grown. New Lane, so marked on the plan of 1594, was certainly the present Billy Lows Lane. The lease mentions William Otes's land, and some field names, Bluntesfyld and Barbourisfyld, which reveal landholders of 1432 or earlier.

Little is known of the house called Darkes, which stood at the north end of Darkes Lane, on the west side, until it was demolished in 1830 and replaced by Darkes Farm, itself pulled down about ten years ago. The original house, like Wyllyotts, was surrounded by a moat, which indicates its mediaeval date and status. The name Darkes must be derived from early owners or occupiers, who may have included John Derk of Mymmes', sentenced to the pillory at London in 1382 for selling defective coal sacks there. His association with this site seems highly probable as Colliers Lane was the old name of Quakers Lane, which before the making of Church Road a century ago continued further west to the north end of Darkes Lane. The property is first recorded in 1490, when John Fortescu sold ‘Darkys' for 250 marks to his kinsman Sir John Fortescu (died 1500), the prominent Lancastrian and a Hertfordshire Member of

Parliament, who lived at Ponsbourne Manor near Newgate Street. In 1592 Darkes was owned by Thomas Marsh, Clerk to the Star Chamber Court, and in the following century it was still occupied by his family, who also held the patronage of South Mimms church.

How long before 1490 the Fortescu family had held Darkes is unknown, but they had some earlier connection with Potters Bar, for in 1455 Sir John Fortescu—certainly not the owner of Ponsbourne who was then a child, but evidently his uncle the Lord Chief Justice (died ?1476)—acquired from John Graunt and Cecilia his wife premises called 'Bovyngdons' and 'Gyfferons' in South Mimms parish. The former property has not been identified, but the latter is clearly the Geffrons referred to above in 1387. This appears to have remained with the family until Henry Fortescue and Elizabeth his wife conveyed to Henry Clerke in 1551 premises called 'Gefferons, Pounceris and Powys, otherwise Pouncys' in South Mimms. The last name again recalls ownership by the Pouns family.

It is evident that by about 1400 Potters Bar had already assumed the shape which lasted unchanged until the mid-nineteenth century, when housing development on new roads followed the coming of the railway. Mention in the Cathale deed of 1220 of at least three properties on Potters Bar High Street implies the existence of a track serving them: even a subsistence farming economy required this. So we may assume that even then a rudimentary lane ran along the present High Street, skirting the earlier boundary bank of Enfield Chase. The charters quoted above of 1387, 1425 and 1432, taken in conjunction with the moated sites of Wyllyotts and Darkes, are enough to show that Barnet Road, Mutton Lane, Darkes Lane, Colliers (now Quakers) Lane, New (now Billy Lows) Lane and The Causeway had already come into existence, supplementing the earlier Edmonton-St. Albans track which obliquely crossed the area and survives in part as Southgate Road. This network of roads and little crofts proves that a good deal of development of primeval forest land had taken place in Potters Bar well before the end of the Middle Ages.

Apart from the roads themselves no physical trace of the mediaeval period has survived, with the important exception of the thirteenth century coin found in Byng

Drive on the exact line of the primitive track from Edmonton. The earliest building still standing is the barn part of Wyllyotts, which dates from about 1500; nothing else today is older than the seventeenth century. Not even a fragment of pottery has been reported earlier than the mid-seventeenth vessels discovered during excavations at Tilbury's bakery, mentioned below. It is scarcely credible that the mediaeval centuries left no trace whatever, and the conclusion is inescapable that any small finds or foundations turned up by chance have been unrecognised and disregarded; it is significant that the mediaeval coin was found by the neighbour of a numismatist. Potters Bar's earliest buildings were probably for the most part of flimsy wooden construction: even in the eighteenth century there is mention of erecting a hovel' and moving a cottage'. These must have been insubstantial, but two wooden houses in the High Street survived until pulled down for redevelopment about 1950, and others remained in The Causeway until a few years ago: doubtless these were normal when timber was plentiful. However we know of at least one fair-sized Elizabethan brick house in the High Street, and the presence of a nearby brickyard in the seventeenth century should warn us that this house was possibly not exceptional.

As noted above, the manor of Wyllyotts was in the possession of the Leukenor family in 1478, when Sir Roger V died leaving it to his younger son Roger. In the following year the manor was held by Henry Kyghley and Thomas Bartelot, who were probably trustees for the Leukenors. The manor then consisted of 80 acres of arable, 44 of pasture and 48 of woodland, with f 1 annual rent from other property. By 1604 it had been considerably enlarged by the transfer of land from South Mimms manor.

Wyllyotts manor descended from the younger Roger Leukenor of 1478, who was referred to in a will of 1504 as Roger Leukenor squyer lord of the manor of Wyliotts' and was later knighted, to his son Edmund, whose own son Thomas Leukenor and his wife Bridget conveyed it in 1562 to William Dodds of North Mymms and his wife Katherine, but reserved an annual rent-charge of JE20 which his family sold in 1568 to William Larke. Thereafter the manor changed hands ten times during the next ninety years. The Dodds sold it in 1575 to Robert Staunford or Staniford, of Pury Hall, Staffs., whose father Sir William was buried at Monken Hadley. Robert in turn conveyed it in 1594 to his cousin Robert Taylor and his wife Elizabeth, who

purchased the rent-charge which Larke had bought in 1568.

In 1603 the manor was again sold to Sir Roger Aston and his wife Mary, who soon sold it, in January, 1605, to Robert Honeywood of Hoxton. The conveyance included the mansion house occupied by Edmund Burr and the ‘capital Messuage' lately built upon Cattail's Grove, with common rights of pasture in Enfield Chase. This deed is the first evidence of a building on the ancient Cathale property. The arms and pedigree of Francis Flexmer of Cattail house' were recorded in 1634.

Within a few years Wyllyotts passed rapidly through the hands of several more families. Honeywood conveyed it in 1607 to Elinor Hyde, widow, and her cousin and heir, John Wylde; Sir John Wylde sold it in 1619 to Henry Fetherstone, from whom it was bought in 1623 by Walter Lee, citizen and merchant tailor of London, who made a deed of gift of Wyllyotts to his nephew Walter Lee in 1629. Walter became bankrupt and his assignees sold the manor in 1650 to Alexander Wilding, who in the following year conveyed it to Stephen Ewer and Brett (? Brent) Netter. They were probably trustees for James Hickson, alderman of London, a member of the Brewers' Company and the founder of the almshouses at Kitts End, to whom they conveyed the manor in 1651.

A number of interesting Wyllyotts records survive, the oldest being a valuable plan of the manor dated 1594. This carefully made and coloured survey, measuring 45 ins. by 31 ins., shows almost every held, wood, road and house in the manor (Plate VIII) and gives some occupiers' names. Darkes with its moat and Wyllyotts with its outbuildings and its pound at the Mutton Lane crossroads are attractively drawn, as are the few houses round the bar. The main part of the map shows the Darkes Lane area, with much land on its west. Unfortunately High Street to the east is not included, except for an inset of its north end round the original potter's bar; to accommodate this inset the middle of Quakers Lane is omitted. There is another larger inset in the south-west corner, which similarly cuts out part of Mutton Lane: the whole of the western quarter of the map, including this second inset, is almost indecipherable. The plan shows much woodland, especially to the north and west, with in one place the significant legend: ye okes nowe in fellinge ... to make more meadow and pasture'. To

the north of The Causeway the manor extended into Hertfordshire.

There are copies of Wyllyotts court records of 1613, 1645 and 1713, but the earliest extant court book covers the years 1727-1765, although an index exists to older books now lost. Other records include a rental of 1623, a list of admittances to copyholds from 1651 to 1691, and a custumal of about 1700. These documents, some of which were exhibited locally in 1950 and 1959, have not all been examined for this History, but there is no doubt that a thorough search would reveal much interesting information and provide a more detailed picture of Potters Bar in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A few entries from the records are quoted in the chapter on Local Government.

Alderman Hickson, by his will of 1687, proved in 1689, left Wyllyotts manor, including the Chiefe Mannor House' lately in the tenure of Benjamin Robinson, to the Brewers' Company as an endowment for his almshouses. The Company sold the house in 1925 to Mr. A. Hugh Seabrook, who carried out a thorough restoration. Wyllyotts was bought by the Potters Bar Urban District Council in 1937 with the object of securing its future, and has since been used as Council offices.

From Wyllyotts we turn to the rather meagre further information about Potters Bar in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: more research on this period is required.

On the site now occupied by Messrs. Cobb's bakery in High Street, just south-east of St. Mary's Church, there stood until about 1911 a fair-sized brick Elizabethan house of two storeys with attics, called Ladbrooke Farm after a Victorian owner, but referred to as Goodwin Stile in James Hickson's will of 1687. Its appearance suggests that it was built about 1580 or soon afterwards. The structure became so seriously damaged by a thick garment of ivy that it was pulled down, a most unfortunate loss because it was the only building of this type in Potters Bar to survive until modern times.

Another sixteenth-century holding named Worthylands in Hickson's will of 1687 was situated where the Victorian buildings of Potters Bar Farm stood until about three

years ago, just south-west of the corner of Barnet Road and Mutton Lane. This was probably identical with the property called Geffrons in 1387 and 1551. Even the modern name was of some antiquity, for in 1719 when Dorothy Jervis sold the farm it was described as 'Worthy Lands now called Potters Bar'.

On the north side of The Causeway adjoining the original Potters Bar' the Wyllyotts plan of 1594 marks some small crofts, including those of Simon Flexman and John Moss. It also shows on the south side of New Lane Thomas Moss's house, perhaps the cottage occupied in the eighteenth century by one Billy Low, from whom it is said the present name of the road was derived.

Shown in Gunton and Rolfe's survey of Enfield Chase in 1658 is a house called Cob's Corner which stood just within the Chase limits at the angle of The Causeway and Cooper's Lane. Here in 1636 lived Jasper Horsey, deputy-woodward of the Chase.

More tangible evidence on domestic life in seventeenth century Potters Bar was gained by excavations carried out in 1963 by the Potters Bar Historical Society at the north-west corner of the High Street crossroads, on a site recently cleared by the demolition of Messrs. Tilbury's bakery. The destroyed buildings evidently dated from only about 1830, but under one of the back rooms of the house was discovered a shallow well, filled in about 1660 and used as a rubbish pit after the upper part of its brick lining had been removed. Among the contents was a large quantity of broken pottery, including a few good English delft majolica dishes and other fine wares, such as a green-glazed white-bodied vessel probably of French origin, and many lustrous black-glazed tygs (two-handled beakers). Some of the tygs and most of the coarse pottery were probably of local manufacture. The dating of these distinctive types was confirmed by about a score of small clay tobacco pipes typical of the midseventeenth century. The wooden cylinder of the winch mechanism was also found intact at the bottom of the well, preserved from decay by the constantly wet and acid conditions. It is hoped that all these finds will eventually be shown in a Potters Bar museum.

Equally interesting was a miscellany of building materials in the refuse, consisting of bricks, roofing and ridge tiles, fragments of window glass and small lengths of lead

window kame —the strips with recessed channels on opposite sides for holding small leaded' panes. While the bricks were similar to the lining of the well and some may have fallen in during its dismantling, the other debris plainly points to the contemporary construction, alteration or destruction of a substantial domestic building in the immediate vicinity. In all probability this was the Swan with Two Necks inn, only a few yards away, which is marked as ‘New Inn' on Gunton and Rolfe's map of 1658. Continued domestic occupation near by was shown by potsherds ranging from about 1700 to about 1830, which had accumulated in garden soil over the filled-in pit. A complete report on the excavations and finds is to be published by the Potters Bar Historical Society.

The soft, deep red bricks from the well were approximately of modern dimensions but a trifle thinner and without ‘frogs'. The bricks were obviously hand-made, being slightly irregular on face, and bore the marks of the straw packing on which they were fired in the kiln. On seventeenth century roads heavy goods such as bricks did not usually travel far, and we have only to look across the High Street for their likely source, for the survey of Enfield Chase made by Gunton and Rolfe in 1658 shows a large brickyard covering seven acres just north of the site of St. John's School. This map provides the first definite evidence of brick-making in Potters Bar since Roman times, although the fabric of Ladbrooke Farm points to this industry in Elizabethan days. It is not impossible that brick-making was also carried out on the Tilbury's site, where a gravel deposit on the clay is lacking and the odd dimensions of the destroyed well, only 9 ft. deep and 4 ft. 4 ins. wide internally, suggest that it may have been designed as a water reservoir into which brick- moulds could be lowered and wetted to prevent the clay from sticking.

Fuel for brick-making no doubt consisted of wood from Enfield Chase, and depredations for this purpose and other needs of the Potters Bar community explain why the western part of the Chase had by about 1700 much less forest cover than further east. Many disputes must have arisen over the ancient rights of South Mimms parishioners there, rights which were strictly defined but easily overstepped. John Batt, a Potters Bar blacksmith imprisoned in 1762 for unlawfully felling beech trees and taking them away by horse and cart, cannot have been a lone offender.

Especially it was tempting to poach deer in the 8,000 acres of the Chase, for the rangers could not be everywhere. Probably many a man escaped justice, but in 1574 Thomas Rede of 'Southemymes' and others were prosecuted for hunting the deer and killing a hind.

The illegal taking of timber and deer were not the only threats to the Chase, which south of Potters Bar thrust a broad salient westwards and included a considerable area of what is now Wrotham Park. Here the early Barnet Road mentioned in 1387 ran along the outside of the Chase's boundary bank, on a course which the people of Potters Bar evidently considered unduly circuitous. Accordingly it was reported in 1686 that all the fence from Hadley Windmill to Potter's Bar, all the way by the outside of the said Chace, being nine hundred and twenty poles, is quite down and hath been so many years, and, by reason of the Bank being down, South Mimms make an inroad into the said Chace, and desert the old road there, and make a road in the said Chace, to the great damage of His Majesty's deer, and to the loss of His Majesty's tenants of many hundred acres of Common'. The culprits were obviously Potters Bar folk.

At this time Potters Bar had only two inns, the Swan with Two Necks of 1658, and the Green Man. The former had a long history, for although on another site it was the forerunner of the White Horse of today. It changed its style to the Bull and in 1760 migrated across the road as the White Horse. The name reverted to the Bull in 1827 but was later changed back. The Green Man, recorded in 1672, is our oldest inn building and the earliest extant structure in the High Street, for although considerably altered it dates from the seventeenth century. Doubtless these two amply sufficed for the thirst of a small and scattered hamlet.

For centuries Potters Bar hardly changed, pursuing a quiet backwater existence well away from the busy road from London to St. Albans which brought travellers and trade to the parent village of South Mimms. Yet change though slow to come was inevitable: no village could remain unaffected by the general influences of a steadily developing country with the increasing population and wealth of England in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, especially a village barely fifteen miles from the

ever-growing capital. So the tranquillity of this once remote hamlet was twice disturbed, by Ending itself early in the eighteenth century on a new major road, and little over a century later on a main line railway; and between these remarkable events came the break-up of the ancient preserve of Enfield Chase.

A detailed account of the development of communications belongs to another chapter, but to sketch its effects we must relate the general story.

Even in the reign of Charles II the Great North Road' through Potters Bar had appeared as a new route between London and the North. Hitherto Potters Bar had been approached only by country lanes from South Mimms, Barnet, Edmonton and Northaw, and was avoided by travellers from the North who reached London by either South Mimms or the Lea valley. The era of change had begun with this new route, yet it may be doubted whether this development alone would have been decisive. The real importance of the Great North Road was that it prepared the way for further developments.

The occasion of the first great change was the wave of turnpike roads which began to spread over England at the end of the seventeenth century and, for the first time since the Roman period, ensured that roads were properly surfaced and maintained, from the proceeds of tolls. This comparatively cheap and highly popular innovation heralded the economic revolution that transformed the country in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and helped to make them possible. By 1720 turnpike trusts had taken over the road from London as far north as Ganwick Corner. In 1730 another trust made itself responsible for the whole stretch onward through Potters Bar to Lemsford, beyond Hatfield, along the pre-existing Barnet Road, High Street, and then The Causeway in a circuitous course to the foot of Little Heath Hill. The turnpike chose this route instead of the more direct one taken by the late seventeenth- century Great North Road along Quakers Lane, off which a road led via Little Heath to Hatfield. It was not until 1802 that the turnpike constructed the present Hatfield Road straight from the High Street.

Now Potters Bar was conveniently served by a much improved Great North Road,

and subjected to the stir of heavy traffic. The import of the change would have been more revolutionary for Potters Bar had not Barnet already developed into a major staging post on the old route from London to St. Albans, so that it naturally assumed the same function on the new turnpike artery. Even so the increase of transport and trade in Potters Bar must have seemed striking, and had decided effects.

The immediate result of the turnpike through Potters Bar was the appearance of a third inn on the High Street, the Robin Hood and Little John built in 1730, which has dropped the latter part of its name. It was here that in the nineteenth century the Bedford Times coach changed horses, and we know from the recollections of an old resident that in his boyhood about 1850 he served beer to the passengers—at 11/2d. a glass.

Soon there was a string of new inns along the main road, from the angle of The Causeway to the Duke o' York at Ganwick Corner, rebuilt in 1785, and in 1791 briefly known as the White Horse, with consequent confusion with its High Street namesake. The present Chequers by The Causeway was referred to in 1843 as the New Inn doubtless to distinguish it from a predecessor called the Punch Bowl which stood at the rear and had a cockpit in the yard. Near by was a convenient small brewery which was later converted into Chace House. This hamlet was known in late Georgian times as Hell Corner, probably because pugilistic contests were held there.

Only one other of this crop of inns survives today as the Lion at the corner of Barnet Road and Southgate Road. It was formed in 1761 by the conversion of two cottages and renamed the Red Lion about 1880, but soon reverted to its original style. An inn that has vanished was another Red Lyon, which according to a lease of 1765 had been lately kept by William Smith, the then occupier. The site of this inn, which catered for a group of small timber cottages that once stood immediately north of the present War Memorial, along what was then the northernmost end of High Street, lies in the centre of the pasture held west of Morven, on the former eastern extremity of Quakers Lane. This section was cut off and abandoned when Hatfield Road was made in 1802. No longer accessible by road, the inn wasted away and its site was leased to the owner of Morven in 1856.

Another important effect of the turnpike road was to make Potters Bar a popular seat for gentry within easy reach of London, as can be traced from the significant number of Georgian residences in the neighbourhood—Wrotham Park, Bridgefoot House, Dancers Hill House, Parkfield (as it later became), the Clock House (now represented by Morven), Salisbury House, Oakmere and perhaps Blake Hall. There is no need to describe here the first three, which lie outside Potters Bar itself: Bridgefoot was a fashionable rebuilding on an earlier site, while Wrotham Park and Dancers Hill House seem to be entirely new.

The earliest Georgian mansion in Potters Bar, latterly known as Parkfield, was a new development on Cattails, the oldest property in the district. The old house, perhaps the one mentioned as recently built in 1605, was apparently pulled down in 1740. Major-Gen. Plaistow bought the estate, about 75 acres, and in 1745 erected a mansion called Easy Lodge, a little distance to the south of its predecessor's site. His family sold the place2 in 1835 to Charles Marryat, who renamed the house Cedar Lodge and added a kitchen wing. Some of the fine cedars still stand. It is said that his relation, Captain Marryat, borrowed the former name of the house for the title of his novel A Mr. Midshipman Easy, published in 1836: the dates make this suggestion possible, but in any case the author may have known Potters Bar while a pupil at Dr. Freeman's school at Enfield.

Cedar Lodge belonged to Col. W. L. Carpenter (of Oak mere) in 1839, when it was leased to Henry Parker, who bought the freehold in 1877, much improved the house and grounds (the rock and water garden was his work), and altered the name to Parkfield. (Fortunately there is no chance of confusion with the property in South Mimms which was called Parkfield in 1591) After his death in 1892 the house was successively occupied by Henry Burt, Chairman of the Middlesex County Council, and Sir Lionel Fletcher, a shipping magnate. Later it became a nunnery for a short time and in 1935 a girls' boarding school. The Parkers remained owners until Henry Parker's daughter Mary Elizabeth sold it in 1934, but this same year the Urban District

2 An 1836 plan of High Street lists Francis V. Trapand, Esq., against the property. It is not known whether he was occupier or owner.

Council acquired part of the land as a public open space, which was extended when the house was demolished in 1936. Photographs exist showing both the Georgian and Victorian parts of the large and rambling mansion, and its stable range surmounted by a clock and cupola which have been preserved for re-use on some public building.

Another Georgian house which was a development on an older site was the Clock House, hard by the original ‘Potter's Bar'. Hereabouts on either side of The Causeway lay several crofts, shown in the 1594 plan of Wyllyotts manor, among which may have been a farmhouse on the north side of the road which Ambrose Asty sold with its land in 1718 for £80. Asty's Farm passed to the Hammond family, who were relations of the Astys and built the Clock House about 1750 to replace the dilapidated old farmhouse. The Hammonds retained the property until 1850, except for an interval between 1739 and 1780 when Sir John Lade occupied it. The name of Sir Thomas Hammond appears against the property in the 1836 plan. The Clock House in its turn deteriorated and about 1850 Morven, one of the few remaining large Victorian houses in the district, was built in its place. In 1856 the owner, Mrs. Catherine Lee, a widow, obtained from the Brewers' Company, lords of the manor, a 99-year lease at £4 p.a., of the site of the former Red Lyon on its resignation by the executors of Sir Francis Thomas Hammond. Morven now belongs to the National Trust.

Salisbury House, on the east side oi High Street, is a modest but carefully designed specimen of the Georgian genre. Its symmetry has unfortunately suffered from a Victorian alteration to bow windows on the south side. Although the house was clearly intended for private occupation, nothing is known of its history save that it was an Academy during the years just before and after Waterloo.

Another Victorian house which replaced a Georgian one is Oakmere. All but a narrow strip in front formed part of Enfield Chase until 1777, when from the area allotted to South Mimms for enclosure James, 6th Earl of Salisbury, as lord of the manor of South Mimms, received this estate of 108 acres. In 1787 his son sold it to John Hunter of Gobions, Brookmans Park, who gave the land as a wedding present to his niece Amelia Chauncy on her marriage to Col. W. L. Carpenter, Deputy

Adjutant-General of the Bombay Army. He retired from Indian service in 1816 and built a house on the estate, where he lived until his death in 1861. This was inherited by his daughter Margaret and her husband Horatio Kemble, who soon began to rebuild on a larger scale, but the nearly-completed mansion was destroyed by fire in January 1864. The Kembles shortly afterwards built the present house and lived there for many years. The estate was inherited by their son, Lt.-Col. Horace Kemble, who leased the property and moved to Scotland, where he died in 1935. In the early 1890s the tenant was Henry Lofts, and after his death his family had the lease until 1915, when Mrs. William Forbes took over the tenancy until she died in 1936. Colonel Kemble wished to preserve the rural character of Potters Bar and disliked selling any of his land, but eventually sold much of the estate in 1920, retaining the house and grounds, which were both purchased by the Urban District Council in 1937. The house has since been used for social functions as well as Council purposes, and the grounds have been well maintained as a park.

No trace remains of another house, Blake Hall in Mutton Lane, which probably belonged to this Georgian group, and even its exact site is uncertain. Some maps show it on the site of Elm Court, but Rocque's map of Middlesex (1754) marks it several hundred yards further west on the south side of the road.

From time immemorial Potters Bar had been bounded on the east by Enfield Chase, the hunting preserve established by Geoffrey de Mandeville and inherited by the Bohun Earls of Essex. Through the marriage in 1380 of Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Humphrey de Bohun, last Earl of Hereford and Essex, the Chase passed to her husband Henry, Duke of Lancaster, who became King Henry IV in 1399. The Duchy thus became an appanage of the Crown, and the Chase was a favourite royal hunting ground under Elizabeth I and the early Stuarts because it was so near London. James I was so fond of the sport that he persuaded the Earl of Salisbury to give him Theobalds in exchange for Hatfield Old Palace.
By the middle of the eighteenth century the Chase had long been in decline. Cromwell allocated parts to his senior officers, some was built on, and local indignation at the highhanded behaviour of Parliamentarian troops was expressed in riotous assemblies. There were Commonwealth plans for selling the whole Chase in

lots, and commoners whose rights—and excesses—were thereby threatened must have rejoiced at the Restoration. But neither Charles II nor his successors frequented the Chase, and the Hanoverian sovereigns took no interest in hunting.

Finally, by an Act of Parliament of 1777, the special status of the Chase was terminated and some of it was given to the surrounding parishes and landowners to compensate for the loss of their ancient rights. A long strip of 1,026 acres adjoining Potters Bar was allocated to South Mimms parish, to be enclosed and divided among eligible parishioners, and Old Fold manor received nearly 37 acres. The allotments were henceforth an integral part of the parish and contributed to its rates, while it was soon estimated that enclosure had increased the annual yield per acre from 2s. to 15s. Before long the Duchy constructed the Ridgeway road linking Potters Bar with Enfield.

The eighteenth century opening-up of Potters Bar shown by these new inns and country houses must have wrought marked changes in its size and social structure. It would be interesting to see a study of local occupations here towards the end of this century. In Napoleonic days there were even barracks in Barnet Road, near the Baptist church.

Potters Bar was clearly growing, and there are signs that the inhabitants of this once insignificant hamlet resented their status and hankered for more independence from the parish government. The Vestry evidently had some difficulty in imposing discipline here, and resolved in 1801 'That there be a Pair of Stocks Erected in Potters Bar, for the punishment of Bad, disorderly people', but within a few weeks were shocked to learn that this unwanted amenity had been thrown down, obviously by those for whose benefit it was intended. Unruly some Potters Bar people evidently were, for in 1816 the Vestry minutes mention an otherwise unknown 'Riot and assault Committed at Potters Barr'. In 1887 there was alleged to be the almost incredible number of 22 policemen there.

It is understandable that Potters Bar was becoming independently minded, for early in the nineteenth century it was beginning to rival the parent village. In 1827, for

instance, a 10d. rate on the whole parish of South Mimms yielded £517 : of this South Mimms village produced only £87 and Potters Bar as much as £68.

Domination from South Mimms was not the only complaint. For centuries Potters Bar lacked any place of worship, and the three-mile journey to St. Giles's church must have been a growing nuisance as its population increased. So long as there was no alternative the hardship must be borne, but the eighteenth century saw Methodism break away from the established church, and its popular appeal encouraged a drift to non-conformity. Quakers were meeting at South Mimms in that period and the residence of one of their number in Colliers Lane in 1825 led to its name being altered to Quakers Lane. By 1800 the Methodists had a chapel at Barnet Side. The non-conformist movement spread to Potters Bar, where in June 1788 a small Baptist group began to meet in a barn, with such success that in December 1789 they built a chapel in Barnet Road. One of the founders was John Whaley, after whose family a nearby road was named. The chapel was replaced in 1869 by another which stands on the same site; a new church adjoining it was opened in 1964.

By the early nineteenth century, an Anglican church in Potters Bar was a necessity if the Church of England was to retain its congregation and influence there, especially after the civic disabilities of dissenters were removed in 1828. Yet action was surprisingly slow, though whether from a likely shortage of funds (the Church concentrated on building in new industrial areas) or because of resistance from St. Giles's at the prospect of losing its long monopoly is unknown.

Eventually a meeting to consider providing Potters Bar with a church was held in 1833, and on September 25 that year Lt.-Col. W. L. Carpenter of Oakmere Park conveyed the site in High Street to George Byng, Esq., M.P., of Wrotham Park, who contributed most of the building funds. The church of St. John the Baptist was consecrated on November 4, 1835, by Dr. Blomfield, Bishop of London. In a plain neo-Norman style, it was designed by Edmund Blore, an architect of minor note, and erected at a cost of £3,000 by Thomas Cotton, a local builder (after whom Cotton Road is named) in ‘Ranger's Patent Stone', a genteel term for concrete blocks. The new parish contained about 600 souls and came under the patronage of the Bishop of

London.

St. John's church, disused since 1915 and probably to be demolished shortly, was utterly unlike its successor St. Mary's but typical of the period before the Tractarian Movement, which instead preferred the Gothic style and emphasised the Catholic traditions of Anglicanism. Internally it was a simple whitewashed rectangle with a Hat roof, plain glass, box pews and a western choir gallery—a utilitarian preaching house centred on a three-decker pulpit, not on the small altar in a diminutive recess.
At last Potters Bar had been separated from its mother church of St. Giles, but for ecclesiastical purposes only: it remained part of the civil parish of South Mimms. The parish registers of St. John's begin in 1835, and its first Vicar was the Rev. H. G. Watkins, a rich man and a devoted priest who held the benefice until his death in 1890. It was he who founded in 1839 the first church school here, which moved in 1872 and became St. John's School, and in 1861 started the Infants' School which developed into Ladbrooke School.

The climacteric year 1850 introduced the railway to Potters Bar, perhaps the most important event since men first settled here, and certainly one with the most far-reaching effects. Yet the inhabitants at that time cannot have foreseen that those smoking, clanking monsters which terrified their cattle and set their corn on fire were going to be the main factor in multiplying the district's population tenfold during the coming century, utterly transforming its appearance in the process. The local signs gave no hint of drastic change. The navvies' temporary camps (near Dove Lane and Mutton Lane) soon vanished, although an inn called the Pilot Engine opened for their benefit in Mutton Lane beside the railway cutting, carried on for many years. It is now Limerick House, the local headquarters of the British Red Cross Society. About thirty years later the old Station Hotel was built in Darkes Lane; it was completely rebuilt about 1938 and renamed the Potters Bar.

These new buildings had little intimate connection with the life of Potters Bar. In fact no real change was apparent for two generations. It is likely that South Mimms rather than Potters Bar provided most of the local passenger and freight traffic on the railway, and the creation of Cecil Road in 1862 as a more convenient link between the

two places probably reflects the railway's major function. The development of the district did not seriously begin until the outward thrust of London reached its gates.

What changes did occur in the mid-nineteenth century were more of an internal character. From about 1830 the Byngs of Wrotham Park gradually bought up land in the southern part of Potters Bar. A plan of the High Street made by R. Ely in 1836 labels as 'Mr. Byng's Road' The Walk, which until 1930 extended no further west than the present cricket pavilion, whence a footpath led to the station. That this plan was made for the Brewers' Company reminds us that they were still lords of Wyllyotts manor and not merely the principal landowner. Little by little, however, their grasp on Potters Bar was slipping, as many of the copyhold tenancies became enfranchised or sold off during the nineteenth century. The homage' of the manor court, whose consent was necessary for such transactions, dutifully met as late as 1868; but by then the manor was hardly more than a legal fiction, and 'rubber-stamping' formal agreements was the court's sole function. The 1836 plan shows that on the east side of High Street the manorial boundary ran about 50 to 70 feet behind the frontages; the curtilages extended back about as far again, indicating old encroachments on the Chase before 1777 or later purchases.

One such Brewers' deed is specially important because it concerns the first attempt at suburban development in the district. All previous building had arisen from natural growth and internal pressures; now we begin to see the looming shadow of the railway and its future possibilities. Two London speculators, George Singer and Robert W. W. Vickery, became copyhold tenants of about 30 acres in the northernmost part of Potters Bar on June 7,1855, and purchased the enfranchisement for £829 10s. the following day. They made elaborate plans to develop what became known as the Osborne Park Estate, and laid out not only Osborne Road and Heath Road, but also the eastern half of Church Road, the name of which was extended to cover the western part of Quakers Lane, evidently straightened and improved at the same time. The estate was divided into over 200 building lots, all subject to strict and detailed covenants governing the use and minimum cost of the property. It seems that this early essay at garden city' planning was premature, for comparatively little was actually built: a few cottages and shops in

Church Road, the Builders' Arms (hopeful title!) in Heath Road, and in the 1870's some of the older houses in Osborne Road and Heath Road. Probably Lochinver also owes its genesis to these plans.

Elsewhere in Potters Bar development mainly consisted of a sprinkling of large private houses, such as Mount Grace on Church Road and a few on Baker Street. A string of cottages also appeared on the south side of Southgate Road. At last the Methodists secured their own church: after meeting since 1880 in a barn at Darkes Farm by leave of the tenant, Mr. Capuer, they built a chapel in Hatfield Road in 1884. This became disused in 1941 and has been incorporated in the Stanhope Garage as a showroom. About 1900 one more public house appeared, the Globe in Barnet Road, near Whaley Road, which before 1930 had become a newsagent's shop.

The growth of population led to plans for enlarging St. John's church, which were frustrated by the owners of certain family vaults, including the Lemms of The Hollies'. The Rev. J. A. Forrest, who became Vicar in 1900, vainly proposed a new brick church, but in 1904 built a corrugated iron chapel dedicated to St. Michael in Church Road—which bore that name in 1877. The chapel was burned down about 1942 and not replaced.

The building of the present 6ne parish church of St. Mary the Virgin and All Saints in The Walk was precipitated by a fire which seriously damaged the roof of St. John's in 1911. The project owed much to the vigour of Father G. R. P. Preston, Vicar of Potters Bar from June 1913 to 1920. Mr. J. Hart gave the site, the diocese granted £2,000 towards the cost, and by 1914 £3,000 had been raised locally. St. Mary's church, designed by J. S. Alder in a modern form of Gothic and built of Bath stone, was consecrated in June 1915 by Dr. Winnington- Ingram, Bishop of London. It consists of a nave and aisles, chancel and two side chapels, with ample vestry accommodation; the west end was left unfinished, with the intention of adding a tower. The completion of the building, without a tower, began in 1965.

St. Mary's also marked a pronounced change in the religious complexion of the parish. Whereas the two Vicars who held the living from 1890 to 1913 were mildly

Anglo-Catholic, Father Preston was a strong adherent of that persuasion, and the ritual practices he introduced caused much consternation and opposition at first. Under his successor, Father A. B. C. Robinson (1922-1956), and since, the church has maintained the Anglo- Catholic tradition.

The Potters Bar Historical Society is fortunate in possessing a valuable collection of lantern slides made from photographs taken between about 1905 and 1920 by Mr. H. J. Butcher, a local bank manager and amateur historian. These depict an almost completely rural scene, except for the High Street which has the air of a quiet and uncommercialised village. At the corner of High Street and Southgate Road we see Sally Vyse's sweet shop, a timbered cottage. North of The Walk, gated until 1912, the high red brick boundary wall of Parkfield marches opposite the fence of Oakmere. There is no street lighting, and even horsedrawn vehicles are uncommon. There are no buildings at the Broadway crossroads, and except for the old Station Hotel no shops or houses in Darkes Lane except at the north end, where a few houses were built shortly after 1900. Looking eastwards from the station only fields can be seen, traversed by a single footpath—the original of The Walk, at the foot of which in the 1930's a wooden hut proclaimed itself the first shop in Darkes Lane'. The upper part of Billy Lows Lane was so overgrown that even as late as 1932 it was difficult to push a bicycle between the encroaching bushes.

Such was old Potters Bar on the eve of dissolution. The principal agent in its transformation was the explosion of London's population into the vast outer suburbs, due to the social changes caused by the First World War. Yet history owes much to chance, and perhaps Potters Bar sprang to fame chiefly through the bringing down of a Zeppelin in Oakmere Park in October 1916.

A burst of suburban growth began to affect Potters Bar in the 1920's. Between 1911 and 1921 its population actually fell from 1,793 to 1,743, but by 1931 it had doubled to 3,465. Rapid development continued through the 1930's and resumed after the 1939-1945 war. In 1951 the population of Potters Bar was 10,265 and most of this increase had occurred before 1939. The first generation of suburban newcomers, few of them native to the district, did not mix much with 'the village'.

The pattern of development began in the 1920's with the building of large houses with big gardens in The Avenue, Heath Drive and Mount Grace Road, soon matched by Council houses along Mutton Lane and on the Cranborne estate in 1929. In the next decade speculative private housing, largely bungalows, was mainly concentrated in the area between High Street and Darkes Lane, and round Baker Street; in both places the principal developer was Mr. E. Hicks. Building was usually at low density, as land was still cheap. The first multiple stores arrived in High Street about 1930, but the southern half of Darkes Lane and the Broadway were soon lined with shops and became the main shopping centre. The Ritz cinema opened in Darkes Lane in 1934. The Byng family owned the west side of Barnet Road and resisted any development there.

With the flood of houses came banks and new churches. In 1895 the first bank here, Messrs. Sharpies, Lucas Tuke and Co., later amalgamated with Barclays Bank, rented a room in a schoolmaster's house and opened for an hour on two days a week. When the schoolmaster died in 1907 Barclays bought the present premises next to the White Horse, but used only half the ground floor and opened for three hours thrice weekly. In 1921 came a daily service, and in 1924 the bank took over the whole ground floor. In 1930 the Westminster Bank built premises at the corner of High Street and The Walk.

The early postal arrangements in Potters Bar were equally simple. The first post office was conducted at the Later, until Barclays Bank acquired their present premises, Mr. Tyrrell used them as the village post office. Soon an official post office was built in Barnet Road, and in 1935 a sorting office was erected in Darkes Lane, adjoining a Crown Post Office opened in 1963.

Several new churches were built to serve the rising population between the wars. The Congregationalists bought part of the Rosary Convent land in 1930, and in 1934 built a brick church on the Darkes Lane frontage. In 1938 Mr. Tilbury gave them land in Mutton Lane adjoining Potters Bar Hospital for a larger church, plans for which were abandoned on the outbreak of war in 1939- This valuable site was recently sold, and

with the proceeds the building of a new Congregational church, next to the original one, was finished in 1966.

The Methodists outgrew their first chapel (1884) in Hat- held Road and completed their red brick church (now called St. John's) in Baker Street in 1941 at a cost of £10,000. It has since been enlarged and two meeting halls added.

Much development in the western part of Potters Bar led to the creation of a second Anglican parish, detached from St. Mary's. Viscount Cranborne (later Lord Salisbury) gave a site in Mutton Lane and the church, dedicated to King Charles the Martyr, was finished in 1941: designed by F. C. Eden and R. Marchant, it is of red brick, with nave, chancel and aisles under one roof.

Roman Catholics had no parish church in Potters Bar until 1950. When Mr. Beckett came to live at Wyllyotts Manor in 1920 he placed at their disposal a room there, where his son Father Maurice Beckett held services at weekends. Two years later Sir Nicholas Grattan Doyle provided a chapel in his home, Boundary House (now demolished), at the Little Heath end of Hatfield Road. The chapel furnishings were later transferred to Hillside, in Barnet Road, which the Vincentian Spanish Fathers acquired in 1922 for a college to train young priests for foreign missions. About the same time Irish Dominican Sisters bought a large house in Church Road, between Mount Grace and Darkes Lane, and established the Rosary Convent, whose chapel local Roman Catholics could attend. The convent closed in 1937. The building was demolished in 1956 and the maisonettes called Rosary Court stand in its site.

In 1925 the Vincentians built at Hillside a temporary church, which was destroyed by a German V.2 rocket in 1945. Services were then held in their Community Chapel and Hall, which was converted into a church. The Archbishop of Westminster decided in 1950 to relieve the Vincentians of pastoral duties, and the temporary brick church of Our Lady of the Assumption was built in Mutton Lane. Father Davey became its first priest with parochial charge over Potters Bar, South Mimms and Ridge. The Vincentians also replaced their destroyed church by a brick one in Southgate Road, which was completed in I960 at a cost of f40,000 and opened to the public. Dedicated

to St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, it was designed by Felix Velerde, and a Spanish artist, Joachim Camin, made both the black marble altar and the mural, 30 feet by 16 feet, behind it.

Potters Bar suffered some bomb damage and casualties during the 1939-1945 war. The last and worst incident was caused by a V.2 rocket which fell in Southgate Road in January 1945, killing several people and destroying some houses as well as the Vincentians' church.

Light industry began shortly after 1945 with Randall's toy factory near the Cranborne estate, and has since been permitted to the north of the station and at the rear of the 'Hollies' site, on the north side of the bus garage. When building controls were lifted early in the 1950's private housing development on the fringes of Potters Bar was resumed. In that decade two large council estates were built by outside authorities, by Edmonton in the quadrant between Barnet Road and Mutton Lane, and by Tottenham on the east side of High Street. Nine acres of land which Mr. Tilbury had given to the Urban District Council for a civic centre, immediately west of Potters Bar Hospital, were sold and privately developed. Another large private housing estate, with roads named after places in Devon, covered land between The Causeway and the Tottenham estate, and there was much building on the southern fringes of the town. Building since 1950 has tended to high density, with increasing numbers of maisonettes, because of a steep rise in the price of land due to scarcity and planning restrictions. Recently there has been recourse to small-scale infilling and development on the grounds of big Victorian houses.

Even the skyline of Potters Bar is changing. The first speculative office building, of five storeys, was erected in 1963 in High Street on the Hollies' site, and in 1964 an eight-storey office block was built in Darkes Lane opposite the station. A similar block has recently been built in Mutton Lane, on the site sold by the Congregational Church. Potters Bar has progressively lost its rural character as trees and grass have given way before the monotonous march of brick and concrete, although the surrounding countryside has been preserved by the Green Belt policy. Now that Potters Bar is in predominantly rural Hertfordshire, planning resistance to thoughtless

development is unlikely to weaken, despite the inevitable pressure of a population of about 25,000 in the urban district. Those to whom Potters Bar is home, especially those who are aware of its long history, must hope that progress will not sacrifice its still pleasant and varied character.

Education in the district was first provided by the Church.
In 1752, South Mimms Vestry gave Mr. Chalonar 'free Liberty to Teatch Schooll in the Church until Sutch time thare shall appear aney Missbehaviour or Bad action by him', and there is evidence that a Sunday-school existed in 1816. In 1800 it was stated that there is no endowed school, but the children of the poor are taught by a voluntary subscription of the inhabitants'. In 1816 twenty children of the parish were clothed and educated in a school instituted by Mrs. Byng of Wrotham Park. The expense of this establishment is defrayed by the lady with whom the design humanely originated'. The hamlet of Potters Bar as yet possessed neither church nor school, although Salisbury House was in use as a boys' boarding school in 1805 and appears as Academy' on a map of 1819.

The National Society was founded in 1811 to promote education on Church principles. The parish accounts for 1823 record a payment for Expences of Mr. Lord and Mr. Goodman's going round the Parish respecting the National School', apparently to invite support. Yet it was not until 1834 that the Vicar applied to the Society for aid to build 2 schoolrooms at South Mymms and Potters Bar'. The number of children awaiting 'cheap or gratuitous instruction' was estimated at 200 boys and 200 girls, only 40 of whom were attending Sunday-school. Each school was to accommodate 200 and designed to have one room with a partition dividing it into two. Children were to pay twopence weekly, and the charge to the Society was estimated at £40 for each school. The building at South Mimms was opened in 1837 at the upper end of the village, and was pulled down only in I960; but the application for Potters Bar was unsuccessful. Meanwhile, St. John's Church at Potters Bar had been built in 1835, and the Vicar, the Rev. H. G. Watkins, erected a school in 1839 At his own expense on land in Barnet Road given by George Byng. This National School at Hillside', near Hill Rise' opened with 41 children. Mrs. Abbiss, who had been in charge of the Sunday-school in Potters Bar, was the first mistress, and Mr. Woodrow, the

master at South Mimms, attended to organise the school. This arrangement not proving satisfactory, Mr. and Mrs. Wright were appointed in 1841. It was the custom for the Headmaster's wife to take responsibility for the needlework, which formed a large part of the curriculum. This custom persisted to the end of the century.

The Church School Enquiry of 1846-7 gives some interesting details. South Mimms had 109 children who attended school seven days a week; another 88 attended Sunday-school only. In a rural parish children were grudgingly withdrawn from work in the fields. There were two paid teachers and eight monitors'. These senior scholars learned a lesson from the master, then taught it to a group of younger children: the schoolrooms (now three) must have been very noisy at times. The school at Potters Bar did not accommodate infants. It boasted two rooms and had 83 children attending every day; 12 went on Sunday only. There were two paid teachers but no monitors. Both schools recorded some 'gratuitous' help. The Vicar was a frequent visitor and did much of the teaching needed before the Diocesan Inspection, while a few of the local ladies could be relied upon to help with the needlework, often getting some of their own sewing done in the process.

The National School at Potters Bar was well established by 1861 when an Infants' School was opened on Vicarage land. This was built by the Vicar and is now part of Ladbrooke School. In 1864 Mr. Cotton, the builder, was called in to repair cracks in the walls and door of the National School, allegedly due to subsidence caused by the cutting of the railway. In 1863 Mr. Samuel Greenway, the master, began a log book which throws light on many of his problems. It was, for instance, the duty of the older girls to scrub the school on Friday afternoons, and numerous entries testify to the unpopularity of the task. Broke up for Easter Holidays. School cleaning. No water, so obliged to fetch some from the ponds in Mutton Lane.' School cleaning but very few girls to do it. Mrs. Greenway obliged to set to work —a thing which ought not to be. Some alteration must be made with respect to the cleaning, the parents setting themselves entirely against it. I can but think that if the Managers would but give up the point they would confer benefit on the school and greatly please the parents. By raising the school fees the cost of a woman to clean the room would be easily met.'

In 1870 education between the ages of 5 and 10 was made compulsory by Act of Parliament, yet boys still stayed away from school to work in the fields. Some of the elder boys out in the fields. This is only the beginning of this sort of thing. I expect a regular Exodus of all working boys. Farmers find it cheaper to employ boys at 5/- than their fathers at 15/- a week. The result is the boy grows up in ignorance, the father in the winter and early spring has to seek parochial relief or to plead his poverty to his rich neighbour (too often the clergyman) and thus obtain their pity and help, while the farmer pockets the 10/- and laughs at the law makers whose laws are only for the poor and not for their masters' (St. John's 15.3.1872). 'A promising boy may at times awaken hopes of better things but as soon as an interest is taken in him, the farmer takes him to "scare birds" or "drive plough" and then alas for the teacher's hopes!' (South Mimms 23.9.1873). This was a common problem and an Act of Parliament passed in 1873 sought to reduce the employment of children in agriculture, but with little effect.

The Church schools at this time depended on financial support from a variety of sources, such as voluntary subscriptions; school fees varying from 2d. to 4d. per head weekly according to age; grants from the National Society, and Government grants based on the standard of school work. The annual visit of Her Majesty's Inspector decided the amount of grant, and both schoolmasters show increasing concern about their standards in face of the battery of excuses for non-attendance. 'Maying', hay making, gleaning, blackberrying and picking acorns, all took their toll, culminating in 'Barnet Fair'—Short school and likely to be the whole week, to-morrow being the "pleasure fair" the people of Potters Bar doing "pleasure" to such an extent that they are unfit for anything for the rest of the week' (6.9.1869). It is not surprising that the log book shows wry comment when attendance was unusually good. In South Mimms —'It was given out yesterday that fourpenny pieces and oranges given by Mr. Christian would be distributed among the children. The attendance to-day was very large' (23.12.1881). 'It was given out yesterday afternoon that a photographer would come at twelve o'clock to-day, weather permitting, to photograph the School. I was surprised to see how many of the children who had been absent so long with "severe colds", "chilled feet", etc. managed to be present this morning' (16.2.1882.)

The Government Inspector who visited South Mimms in 1871 was no less a person than Matthew Arnold, who commented that "too many children are kept back from examination on the plea that they have not been long enough at school to be properly prepared. This must not occur again". In 1872 he was still unimpressed and the schoolmaster wrote his justification in his log book. "The failures are more frequent than in schools in general, and they are likely to be, while parents maintain the same indifference to education. The attendance is most irregular, and this I think a schoolmaster cannot be responsible for. If parents in Myms can but get sixpence per week for each child they prefer this to sending them to school. I have had a fair share of changes of situation, but never before found a district equal to Myms in the carelessness of parents in the education of their children, the consequent irregularity of attendance, and the early age at which they are taken from school. . . . Very rarely do you meet with a labourer who can write his name or read. . . . Wages are very low here, and consequently a very small payment for the work of children is, in their estimation, better than having to pay school fees; but they can manage to find money for beer. There is more drunkenness in this place, for its size, than any I have been acquainted with previously.' On his third visit the Inspector found some little improvement' and on his fourth visit was appreciative of alterations: Great improvement has been made in the premises since my last visit. The schoolroom is now a spacious Well-shaped, and well-lighted room, prettily coloured and furnished with a high dado, with desks.'

The subsidence at the National School at Hillside brought the school into such disrepair that it was decided to build on another site in Southgate Road, on a part of the Oakmere estate offered for school use (under a trust deed) by Mr. Horatio Kemble. A building grant of £60 was received from the National Society, and in 1872 the school moved to its new premises, known as St. John's School. The buildings were demolished in 1964 after several years' disuse.

The three local Church schools suffered from the competition of dame schools. Such schools were not subject to inspection, registers were not kept, and parents could keep their children away without incurring embarrassing attention from an attendance officer. In South Mimms the dame school closed in 1883, to the Headmaster's relief.

In Potters Bar 12 children were admitted to the National School between 1875 and 1877 from Mrs. Disney's school; there is no further record of her tuition.

Children's pence were never easy to collect, and gave rise to sorrowful comment. Inability on the part of the parents to pay the school fees is the cause of many absentees' (South Mimms 1886). The introduction of free education in 1891 should have solved this problem, but: Free education has not improved our attendance. On the contrary I think the parents in many cases are far more indifferent thinking it does not matter' (St. John's 1892). Attendance did improve, though still the cause of much heart-burning. Schools were closed when infectious diseases were rampant, and a seven-week closure for scarlet fever, or three months for diphtheria could wreak havoc on the school results, with disastrous effect on the Government grant of 10s. per head per year on average attendance.

On the death of the Rev. H. G. Watkins in 1890, the Infants School which he had supported financially became a charge on the parish, and was placed under the same management as the National School. These Managers wished to co-opt one of the parents but found none with the necessary qualification for a Manager—a contribution of f 1 annually or a donation of £20. Money became an increasing problem as Inspectors recommended improvements to buildings and salaries, and there were constant appeals for donations, often in the form of a voluntary rate. In the list of subscriptions for 1894 the Great Northern Railway contributed 25 guineas out of a total of £l23 7s. 0d. thus accepting its responsibility for the growth of population in Potters Bar. The Enfield Chase Hunt was still a lure: The staghounds came by the school during the dinner hour, and the boys could not resist the temptation to follow them. Many of them late' (St. John's 3.11.1896).

Mr. R. Goodacre became Headmaster of St. John's National School in 1883, and was very active in village life until his death in 1915, when his daughter, Miss D. Goodacre, succeeded him as Head of the School.

The schools were centres of village activity, where various clubs operated. Such titles as Mothers' Club, Children's Club, Provident Club and Coal Charity indicate

payments by instalments for clothes and other commodities. Sometimes there were bonus additions by wealthier members of the community. The schoolmaster comments: 'The Provident Club payment this morning and this like all other than school work causes disorder by taking away part of the school area, as also by the noise and distracting influence of persons walking backwards and forwards through the room. Clubs are good for the parish . . . but they are bad things for the teachers.' (St. John's 1875). There were over 100 children and only two teachers at this time. During the hay season, towards the end of the century, the hundred or so visiting haymakers who were billeted in the parish would be entertained in the school on a Saturday. This hospitality may have been a tradition, as visiting haymakers are reported as early as 1841.

The 1902 Act rescued voluntary schools from penury, by making the County Council the controlling authority. It is significant that the managers' minutes of December 1902 record for 'this year an equality of receipts and expenditure'. The small school at Bentley Heath on the Earl of Strafford's estate, the descendant of that mentioned in 1816, was taken over by the managers of St. John's in 1903. In 1915 this school closed, Lord Strafford making a condition that the infants should be taken by conveyance to the Infants' School in the High Street. In 1920 the school managers of Potters Bar, faced with increasing expenditure and a diminishing income from voluntary sources, decided to hand over their schools to the County Council, but that at South Mimms still remains a Church school.

By 1918 the age for leaving school had been raised to 14, and classes were very large. In 1913 there were classes of 65 and 68, though a Middlesex circular had recommended reduction to 55 in a class. Time-tables were always signed in committee by the chairman of the managers, which gives point to the entry in one log book: Discovered that insects have eaten holes in the time-table.'

The rural character of the district is reflected in the fact that in 1916 the date of the summer holiday was left open in view of the wartime need for lads in the hay and harvest seasons. Patents ate absolved from blame this time. In 1917 was recorded 'The worst winter attendance on record owing to illness; suggested as partly result of

Zeppelin raid, but as a matter of fact, illness is rife throughout Europe.' (St. John's Minutes). In 1918 the school closed for three weeks during the influenza epidemic.

Between the wars Potters Bar began to expand at a rapid rate and its rural character was lost, though South Mimms did not suffer in the same way. In 1930 a new school was opened behind the Infants' School on the High Street and was called Potters Bar Senior Council School'. While this building was being planned the Managers recommended unsuccessfully that the rooms should be smaller so as to accommodate 40 children, not 50 per class, as was the general practice. An exchange of children was effected, and the infants of 5 to 8 years went to St. John's School, while Miss Goodacre took the seniors of over 8 years to the new premises. The former Infants' School became the domestic science centre for the Senior School and a hut built in the playground was the manual or woodwork centre. There was no attempt for some years to put into operation the Hadow Report (1926), whereby the transfer to Senior Schools took place at 11 years.

A new area was being opened up in Cranborne, and in 1929 requests were made for transport for children from Cranborne Road to St. John's. By 1931 overcrowding was such that two classroom huts were built behind St. John's School to house the overflow. In 1933 when the new Cranborne School was opened with Miss E. E. Dowling as Headmistress, the district was reorganised according to the Hadow Report. The High Street School became a Senior Mixed School for children over 11, with Miss D. Goodacre in charge. The Southgate Road School, still known as St. John's, became a Junior Mixed and Infants' School for children 5 to 11 years old, with Mr. C. E. Le Gros as Headmaster. Cranborne Junior Mixed and Infants' School had the same age range. No child now remained in the Junior School until he had reached a certain standard, but was transferred to the Senior School before his twelfth birthday. This was a major change from the days when slow children never reached the top of the school, and so gained no benefit from the extension of the curriculum to include such subjects as woodwork and gardening, art and domestic science. South Mimms school was lent a wireless apparatus' in 1924 and so entered early into broadcasting to schools.

The population was rising steadily. Soon new classrooms were needed at Cranborne School, and St. Mary's Church Hall was hired for extra classrooms for St. John's. In 1936 Cranborne became two separate schools, with Mr. S. G. Sims as Headmaster of the Junior School and Miss E. E. Dowling remaining as Headmistress of the Infants' School! There was additional building later at Cranborne and the roll trebled. There were in 1962 three times as many children in the district as there were in 1938.

Parkfield School in The Walk was opened in 1938. 210 Seniors moved there, leaving the High Street School to be taken over by Juniors and Infants, and re-named Ladbrooke after the farm which once stood beside it. St. John's was retained as an Infants' School for children who lived east of the main road. South Mimms School (of which Mr. F. W. Gowar was Headmaster from 1919 to 1947) continued undisturbed until 1947, when children over 11 were transferred to Parkfield.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 schools in Potters Bar closed for a time while air-raid shelters were being built. The Senior and Junior pupils attended school in shifts while the Infants worked in groups in private houses. Later, during air raids, the shelters became classrooms. In 1945 the Head of Ladbrooke School reported two children seriously hurt by enemy action.

From 1920, when Potters Bar schools were taken over by Middlesex Council, the district was administered as part of the Southgate Division. Reorganisation dictated by the 1944 Education Act led to Potters Bar being controlled instead by a District Education Sub-Committee directly responsible to Middlesex Education Committee. In April 1965 Potters Bar came under the administration of Hertfordshire as part of the Mid-Herts Division.

The Education Act of 1944 introduced many new features. The leaving age was raised to 15, and huts were built at Park- held to provide extra accommodation. Parkfield became a Secondary Modern School, the others Primary Schools. As yet there was no Grammar School provision in Potters Bar. Children who reached the required standard in an examination held at 11-plus' went to Grammar Schools in other areas, travelling to Enfield, Barnet, Southgate, Wood Green, Hornsey and

Islington. This deficiency led Middlesex Education Committee to choose Potters Bar as the site for one of their three mixed Comprehensive Schools. In 1948 this school, providing in one establishment Grammar, Technical and Modern School education, began at Parkfield under Mr. C. L. Le Gros in anticipation of the building of a new school at Mount Grace. Despite initial controversy on political lines and opposition from parents who desired a traditional education for their children, this type of school proved successful and gained support. Mount Grace Comprehensive School, with fine buildings imaginatively designed to make full use of a beautiful site, was opened in 1954, and under Mr. 1. A. McBeath as Headmaster earned high praise and respect. Its expansion necessitated taking over Parkfield as Mount Grace Lower School.

Parkfield had accommodated Ladbrooke Juniors (7 to 11 years) since 1954, when Ladbrooke School became the Infants' School. Two large estates later developed in Potters Bar by Edmonton and Tottenham Councils created more pressure on school accommodation. Parkfield and Ladbrooke Schools together coped with over 1,200 children before new buildings were ready. Oakmere Primary Schools were opened in 1958; Sunny Bank Primary Schools followed in I960. Ladbrooke was reorganised as a Junior and Infants' School once more. A new St. Giles's Church School, replacing the old buildings at South Mimms, was opened by the Bishop of London in 1957 on former glebe land adjoining the village green.

Apart from broadening the curriculum and opening new schools there have been other changes. From the Education Act of 1906, which authorised assisted meals in case of need, arose * the full provision of school meals and free milk. The medical service instituted in 1908 expanded and regular inspection has raised the standards of care and cleanliness. A dental clinic opened at Cranborne in 1939 and served the whole district until The Elms' clinic on the High Street was opened in 1959.

Private schools have shared in local education. At one time there was a girls' boarding school at 'Parkfield', the house being demolished in 1936. The oldest of the private day schools is Potters Bar High School, mainly for girls, which was founded t in Quakers Lane in 1930 and incorporates a flourishing ballet school: boys are

catered for in the kindergarten and junior sections. Linden opened in Ladbrooke Drive in 1932, but now occupies premises in Byng Drive for 65 pupils of 3 to 11 years. After 1954, Claregate, founded as a private school after the war, expanded from 8 to 60 children, aged from 3 to 16. Both these are co-educational.

There are independent Preparatory Day Schools for girls at Stormont, and for boys at Lochinver. Both are recognised by the Ministry of Education, and controlled by Educational Trusts formed by parents. Stormont School developed from a war-time arrangement for day girls in one of the houses at Queenswood in the parish of North Mimms. After the war the house was needed for boarders and the day girls went with Miss H. Dyson to Stormont, established in 1944, which takes girls of 4 to 12 years and boys under 8 years. Lochinver School was established in 1947 by Mr. H. M. Bayley, Headmaster of Aylesford House School at St. Albans. Mr. W. Salter was appointed Headmaster and became proprietor in 1953. He retired in 1961. The school has 200 boys between 5 and 13 years. Up to 1939 there was an independent boys' day school at Norman Court.

Further education began in 1886, when a Reading and Recreational Club was formed with the Headmaster of St. John's, Mr. R. Goodacre, as Secretary. Two rooms in Mr. H. Parker's house at Parkfield were lent for Club meetings. When the Village Hall was built, rooms at the back were allocated to this club, later called the Working Men's Club, which no longer exists, the premises now being leased to the British Legion Club. In 1912 a voluntary library was established at St. John's which later became a County responsibility, though still largely run by volunteers. Cranborne Library opened in 1939 and served the entire district until facilities were provided at Oakmere House. A new County Library was opened in 1965 on the east side of High Street.

In 1907 evening classes were held at the Infants' School in Elementary Shorthand, Book-keeping and Commercial Arithmetic, Elementary Science, Needlework, Dressmaking and Horticulture—an impressive list for a village. After such an auspicious beginning, it is surprising to find that in 1931 the only classes offered were Woodwork and Cookery. However, with the subsequent rise in population classes again began to flourish, and an Evening Institute developed, first at Ladbrooke, then

at Parkfield. The Evening Institute is now an important part of the Education Service and classes in a variety of subjects now claim over 1,300 students. A local branch of the Workers' Educational Association was formed in 1942 to provide cultural and non-vocational courses, and now assists tutorial classes run by the University of London Extra-mural Department.

Other organisations contribute to a wider interpretation of education. Potters Bar and Little Heath Women's Institute was founded in 1918, and the district now has several branches. The Education Act of 1944 stimulated the formation of Youth Clubs (including a Young Farmers' Club), a Youth Committee and Parent Teacher Associations. The Potters Bar Historical Society was founded in 1959, and shortly afterwards the Potters Bar Society, affiliated to the Civic Trust. There are also a local orchestra, and photographic and dramatic societies. The variety of these activities shows the wide cultural interests of the district.