

Walk along Mutton Lane from the High Street to Darkes Lane and return

Start at Canada Life Building, at the junction of High Street and Mutton Lane.

Canada Life

The Canada Life Building was erected in the early 1970s, despite local opposition, after planning permission had been given over ten years earlier by Middlesex County Council, which was disbanded in 1965. Facing away from the building, turn to the right and walk away from the High Street towards Darkes Lane.

Tesco

The next turning on your right leads to the Tesco supermarket.

The land on which the supermarket was built has always been regarded as the "The Tilbury Site" as Horace Tilbury, who owned a bakery and tea rooms at the junction of the High Street and Mutton Lane, was a generous benefactor to the town. He left a large area of land to the people of Potters Bar, which stretched from The Walk to Mutton Lane and at the present time houses the Cricket and Bowls Clubs, St John Ambulance and the Fire Station. The original Potters Bar cottage hospital was in Richmond Road. In 1939 it was rebuilt on the site where Tesco now

stands and received its first patient on 15th August of that year. Local residents raised the £26,000 required to have the hospital built. They were very unhappy when Tesco acquired the site in 1995 and the hospital was demolished. In order to purchase the site, Tesco had to agree to build a replacement hospital in Potters Bar and a smaller hospital was built on a site on Barnet Road.

The land currently occupied by the Tesco petrol station and car wash used to be the British Gas building, Star House, which was demolished in 2000.

Originally, this site was also Tilbury land, given in 1938 to the local Congregational Church where Mrs Tilbury was a member. Foundations for a new Church were laid but almost immediately the site was requisitioned by the MOD. However, on receiving it back after the war, the Church decided to sell the site and redevelop their existing complex in Darkes Lane – hence Tilbury Hall.

Continue walking along Mutton Lane towards Darkes Lane until you reach the Fire Station

Fire Station

The Fire Station was built in 1939 and houses both fire engines and ambulances. It became part of Middlesex Fire Brigade in 1948 and

then, in 1965, part of Hertfordshire Fire and Ambulance Brigade (East Division).

Carry on walking and cross the bridge (built about 1849) over the main East coast railway line between Kings Cross and Edinburgh.

Walk on until you reach the traffic lights at the junction with Darkes Lane. Cross the road and start walking back the way you came.

Just past the first block of houses is Potters Bar Brook, while the cottages just after the brook were built in the early 1900s.

The Bridge House Pub

You then come to Bridge Court built on the site of the Bridge House pub. Beer was sold at this location for much of the 19th century and it is now thought to be the site of the Pilot Engine Beer Shop.

Continue onwards crossing the railway bridge.

Limerick House

The next building on the right is Limerick House. Records show it as the probable site of the Railway Inn Beerhouse and then the Railroad Inn. It was frequented by navvies building the railway. From 1906 until 1914 it was used as a storehouse by Hawkins of Little Heath and James Beal, the oil supplier.

In 1960, it became the local Red Cross headquarters and was renamed after Lady Limerick, Vice-President of the British Red Cross Society. In 2007 it was sold and converted into business units.

For many years a mulberry tree stood in the grounds, a rarity in this country, until over-zealous tarmacing of the ground around it caused its demise.

Potters Bar Cemetery

Just past Limerick House is St. Mary's cemetery, consecrated in 1896. There is a fine Gothic style lych gate erected in 1909 in memory of Robert Tritton who died, aged 13, after an accident.

In 1916 the crew of the German Zeppelin which crashed in Oakmere Park were buried here. Later, in February 1939, the German Ambassador, Von Ribbentrop, attended a ceremony at the site. He was not popular as he was one of Hitler's henchmen. The bodies of the crew, and those of the Cuffley Airship crew, were exhumed in 1962 for reburial in a dedicated German war graves cemetery.

The cemetery contains thirteen Commonwealth war graves, three from the First World War and ten from the Second World War. In the nearby Remembrance Garden is the memorial

commemorating prisoners of war who perished during the Second World War.

Ingram Cadet Hut

If you carry on past the cemetery you will see the Ingram Cadet Hut. This is where young men and women of the Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire wing of the Air Training Corps meet. Once Army and Air Cadets met there.

TS Forbes

Just beyond the Cadet Hut is where the Sea Cadets meet. TS Forbes is the name of their headquarters and in naval tradition it is named after a ship. The building has been there since 1949.

Just past these huts is the start of what was known as the Edmonton Estate, built after the Second World War to house Londoners in need of accommodation.

The Potters Bar Society gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Brian Warren and the Potters Bar Museum in the compilation of the original pamphlet 'Jubilee Walk 1' now updated for this edition celebrating The Potters Bar Society's Diamond Anniversary in 2021.

The Potters Bar Society

Founded 1961

President: Ronald W G Smith

Affiliated to:

The Campaign to Protect Rural England,
London Green Belt Council,
Open Spaces Society, Communities 1st

The Potters Bar Society

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www.pbsoc.org.uk



Diamond Anniversary Walk 1

**The High Street
to Darkes Lane
via Mutton Lane
and return**

***Protecting the character and
amenities of Potters Bar***