

## **Circular Walk from Mutton Lane along High Street via Oakmere Park and return**

Start from the traffic lights adjacent to Abbey House at the junction of Southgate Road and High Street. Walk along the right-hand side of High Street.

### ***The Great North Road***

Until the rapid expansion of the 1930s, Potters Bar was a linear village. It stretched along the High Street, on the Great North Road which was the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> century equivalent of the M1.

### ***Original Inns in Potters Bar***

The inns along the High Street developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century during the era of the stage coach. There is reference to three early inns in the Potters Bar area, The Red Lyon, The Swan with Two Necks and The Green Man. Nothing remains of the Red Lyon, except possibly its foundations under the lawn in front of Morven Park at the North end of High Street.

### ***The Cask and Stillage***

First on this walk is the Cask and Stillage. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century this pub was called The Swan with Two Necks and occupied a site on the opposite side of High Street. Later it became known as The Bull and may also have been called The New Inn. In 1760 The Bull was rebuilt on the opposite side of the High Street and became known as The White Horse. In 2014 the refurbished Grade II listed building opened as The Cask and Stillage.

### ***Old shops***

Continuing along High Street, numbers 75 to 79, built around 1875, are typical shops with accommodation above. Despite the modern shopfronts, they are among the oldest buildings on High Street. Adjacent to the shops is Salisbury House, a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed building, which is now used as offices.

Continue a little further along High Street to:

### ***The War Memorial***

Designed by Arts and Crafts architect C.F.A. Voysey, Potters Bar War Memorial was erected in 1920. Originally located at the top of the High Street, in 1973 it was moved to St. John's churchyard and given Grade II listed building status. Although the churchyard remains, St John's Church fell into disrepair and was replaced in 1915 by St. Mary's Church in the Walk.

To the left of Voysey's War Memorial is a small tablet commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in 2007, of the Royal British Legion in Potters Bar.

Continue along the High Street, cross Salisbury Close and walk towards the gates. In 1999, this main entrance to the park was redesigned with gates and railings based on the original 19<sup>th</sup> century design. Go through the gates and take the path into:

### ***Oakmere Park***

Oakmere Park was once the private grounds of Oakmere House. Although the grand entrance lodge and sweeping carriage drive have been removed, the classic 19<sup>th</sup> century layout of the grounds is

largely intact. Prominent features include two lakes, which attract a wide range of birds and wildlife, and mature specimen trees. More recent additions to the landscape include the acorn and oak leaf carved sculpture near the platform area of the top lake, playground equipment for children and teenagers and outdoor fitness equipment for adults.

Perhaps the most notable event associated with Oakmere Park occurred in 1916. On the night of 1<sup>st</sup> October a Zeppelin was shot down by Second Lieutenant W.J. Tempest. Tempest Avenue, which borders the park, was named in his honour. The Zeppelin split in two and part crashed into an oak tree to the east of the park. The pilot and his crew were all killed. Follow the path which runs alongside High Street to:

### ***Oakmere House***

In 1861, Margaret Carpenter inherited her father's estate and with her husband, Horatio Kemble, began building a larger residence. However, their nearly completed house was destroyed by fire in 1864. They then built the present Oakmere House and lived there for many years. In 1937, Potters Bar Urban District Council acquired the house and most of the surrounding land. It is now a Harvester restaurant.

Oakmere House is a Grade II listed building in the neo-classical style. The 19<sup>th</sup> century stuccoed building has a slate roof, a porticoed entrance and large sash windows.

Leave the park and turn right onto High Street.

### **Modernist Architecture**

On the right is a row of seven single-storey shops. Built in 1930, the parade has three doorways facing the High Street and a fourth at the chamfered corner: all have moulded surrounds and keystones in door cases that break through the roof line which has ball finials above pilasters.

Continue along High Street, crossing Oakmere Lane, past the Library and Highview Medical Centre, to the junction with Cotton Road.

The narrow triangle of land opposite, between The Causeway and Hatfield Road, is the original site of the War Memorial. Turn right onto Cotton Road.

### **Cotton Road**

Cotton Road is named after Thomas Cotton who lived in a house to the north where the old police station, now a children's nursery, stands.

Numbers 9-19 and 10-20, are six pairs of red brick semi-detached two-storey houses built between 1890 and 1898 by Samuel Worboys Ltd on land formerly part of the Manor of Wyllyotts. The land was owned by the Cotton family from 1789 until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was sold to Samuel's father, Gabriel Worboys. These houses have original features such as slate roofs, projecting eaves with ornate barge boards and large central decorated chimney stacks.

Retrace your steps, cross the High Street at the pedestrian crossing and turn left towards Mutton Lane.

### **The Green Man**

Near the pedestrian crossing is the former Green Man public house. Built in 1672, this Grade II listed building was remodelled and extended during the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Currently, the site is being redeveloped for residential use. Continue along High Street.

### **The Bus Garage**

Opened in 1930 by the Overground subsidiary of the London General Omnibus Company, the bus garage has survived several threatened closures. When London's bus fleet was privatised, it became part of MTL London, in 1994, before being acquired by Metroline in 1998. Unusually for garages with TfL contracts, it also has its own commercially operated routes. It now operates more buses than at any time in its history.

Continue past Parkfield. On the corner of The Walk, a children's nursery occupies premises built in 1929 for the Westminster Bank. With the adjacent row of shops, dating from 1925, it forms part of early 20<sup>th</sup> century High Street redevelopments. Pass The Park Educational Support Unit, and continue to the junction with Mutton Lane.

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 4' now updated for this edition celebrating The Potters Bar Society's Diamond Anniversary in 2021.

#### **The Potters Bar Society**

Founded 1961

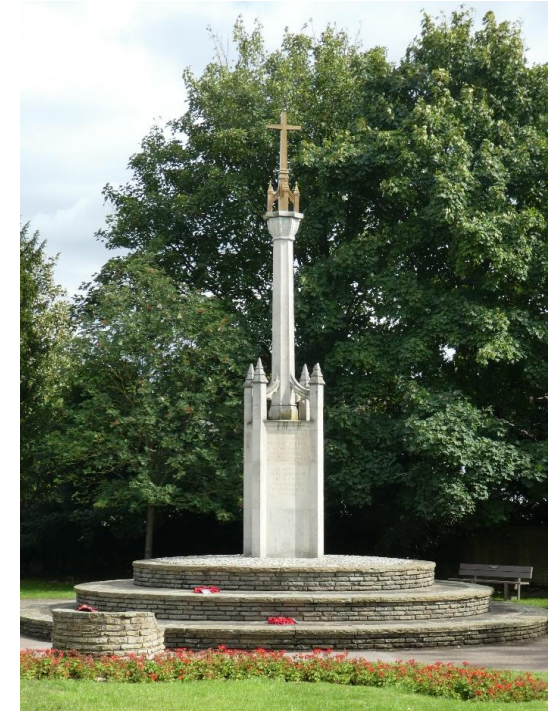
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## ***The Potters Bar Society***

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### **Diamond Anniversary Walk 4**

**Along High Street, via  
Oakmere Park and return**

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