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STALBANS AND HERTFORDSHIRE
ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
www.stalbanshistory.org



NEWSLETTER

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November 2005

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Hon. Sec: Bryan Hanlon, 24 Monks Horton Way, St Albans AL1 4HA

SAHAAS HOSTS 2005 HALH SYMPOSIUM

Each year one of the members of the Hertfordshire Association for Local History hosts a symposium on a selected topic agreed with HALH.

This year, for the first time since 1996, SAHAAS were asked to act as hosts. The 1996 symposium was highly successful so a hard act to follow.

Our thanks go to the organising committee (David Dean, Clare Ellis and Pat Howe), to Ann Dean and Doreen Bratby and their catering team (Margaret Amsdon, Diane Ayerst, Rita Cadish, Gill Charles, Irene Cowan and Jean Taylor) and to Bryan Hanlon, Gerard McSweeney, Norman Oldknow, John Brodrick and many others who worked so hard to make the event a success.

The event was hosted jointly by Clare Ellis on behalf of SAHAAS and Christine Shearman, Chairman of HALH. The 2005 topic was **Transport and Travel before the Railway Age** and an interesting range of speakers was laid on for the 2005 event.

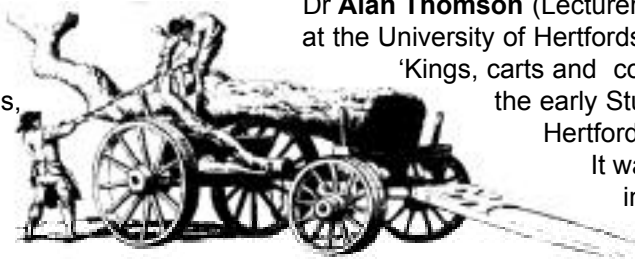
Dr **Jill Barber** (Country Local Studies Librarian) kicked us off with 'Hidden talent: journeys through the archives', bringing out a most interesting variety of examples of travel before the age of steam.

She was followed by **Dorian Gerhold** (a nationally known author on a number of historical topics with a special interest in roads and travel) on 'Goods and passenger transport by road before and after the turnpikes'. One facet he brought out was that it was not turnpikes as such that increased the speed of travel, but more the technical innovation

in stagecoach design, such as new springs.

In the pre-lunch spot we had our very own **David Dean** on 'St Albans: inns and the thoroughfare town'. Although this will have been familiar material to many SAHAAS members he brought alive St Albans' history in a very vivid way to other attendees.

After an excellent lunch, most efficiently organised by the caterers assisted by our own band of ladies, we heard from Dr **Alan Thomson** (Lecturer in History at the University of Hertfordshire) on 'Kings, carts and composition: the early Stuarts and Hertfordshire roads'. It was



interesting to discover that

James I tried very hard to keep down his expenditure by requiring Hertfordshire's carters to cart for him at rock-bottom rates! When Charles I brought in Ship Money on top it was the last straw ...

Alan Ruston (Chairman of Hertfordshire Record Society and Vice-chairman of HALH) followed on the subject of 'Maps: did travellers use them?'. Accustomed as we are to detailed maps for almost anything and anywhere, it is perhaps difficult for us to comprehend just how basic they used to be, e.g. hardly a road in sight!

Our last speaker was **Alan Greening** (Past Secretary of Hertford and Ware Local History Society) who talked about 'Turnpikes of East Hertfordshire', drawn from his meticulous research on the far side of the County.

We filled the room with almost 200 people, which was, we believe, something of a record for this type of event. We rest on our laurels until it is our turn again in nine years time.

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**DON'T MISS OUR
NEW YEAR
PARTY**

**13TH JANUARY 2006
DETAILS ON THE
LAST PAGE**

TRIFELS REVISITED

As reported in the Spring, a trip was duly made by representatives of the Museum Service, and the St Albans Worms Partnership, to the Burgfest at Trifels in Germany at the beginning of August. A handful of SAHAAS members were among the party, and a jolly good time was had by all.

Richard Lionheart (*alias* Simon West) and Archbishop Stephen Langton (*alias* Brian Adams) (*pictured right*) together with a motley retinue made a big impact on the locals attending the festival. The multilingual exhibition St Albans – a city in Europe, which depicts the history of St Albans in the European context, was well received at the festival. It then moved from the castle to the City Museum in Worms. There, following the grand opening ceremony during our visit, it will remain for a month, before moving to the Town Hall (Rathaus) and then on to Alzey (the twin town of Harpenden). Next March, it will be

taken to Nevers, our French twin town and then, at some future date to be fixed, it will go to our Hungarian twin town.

A highlight of the festival was the lecture by John Gillingham on Richard Lionheart, competently delivered in German language. On this occasion Professor Gillingham concentrated on the relationships of the royal personages: to what extent was it unacceptable for Richard to be imprisoned in this way by the Emperor, given his standing, and was this unreasonable revenge for the slight imposed on the other royal personages by Richard himself? John accompanied us on a side trip to Speyer, where he was able to add considerably to our understanding of the significance of this Rhineland area under the Staufer imperial family in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Kate Morris



IMPROVEMENTS AT SOPWELL PRIORY

In July the Sopwell Residents' Association opened a new disabled access bridge into the Sopwell Priory Open Space. The bridge is part of the Greenspace Action Plan (GAP), devised by the Sopwell Residents, the Countryside Management Service and St Albans City and District Council. The GAP is an agreement between the partners to maintain and improve the space, including installing new benches, planting bulbs and surfacing the riverside path. Volunteers from the Countryside Management Service built the bridge, which allows wheelchair and pushchair users into the area.

Anne Kaloczi, one of our members, who died tragically not long after the opening of the bridge (see page 3), worked hard to bring the partnership into existence. She said: "This project has brought the community together. People living in the area have been involved and will have an opportunity to continue to be involved in managing and caring for their open space."

The plan includes measures to entice more wildlife to use the open space. Uncut areas will offer habitats for water vole and kingfishers. Flowers have been planted and will be left uncut to encourage butterflies and bees. The priory ruins themselves make a feature in the open space and future plans will involve better signage and the planting of appropriate medieval roses nearby.

NEW MEMBERS' PARTY

The New Members' Party held on 14th October was well attended and seems to have been greatly enjoyed by both old and new members. Sincere thanks are due to those who provided excellent displays, illustrating the work of the 17th Century, Property and Archaeology Groups. Considerable interest was shown and potential members were recruited.

The need for experienced librarians and assistants, when we move to the Town Hall and can open more regularly, resulted in a good response. Hopefully, Jill's description of the joys of Clockwatching will also lead to a lighter load next year for the regular stalwarts.

Our thanks are due to Bryan Hanlon for the splendid food and drinks. Definitely a good way to make new members feel more involved in our activities: we hope to repeat this event periodically.

Clare Ellis

SECOND-HAND BOOKS?

David Reidy, who describes himself as 'an ex-pat' member of SAHAAS has some books about Herts and St Albans, including old copies of the Transactions, for sale.

If you are looking for something to complete your collection please ring him on 020 8668 2991

OBITUARY: ANNE KALOCZI

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of one of our younger and most active members, Anne Kaloczi, moth of Civic Society Vice-chairman David. Our condolences to David, his father and three other siblings and the whole family. Anne died on 31st August after a fight against cancer.

Although she had been aware of her illness for five years, Anne was to be struck down in the prime of her life, just when she had begun to preen her feathers as a local history contributor; indeed, her excellent article on founding children appeared in *Herts Past and Present* in 2004.

Anne was remarkable lady. I had the privilege of knowing her for too short a time, scarcely four years. During this time she was working very hard for St Albans, both as a local issues campaigner and as history researcher; she was a member not just of the Arc and Arc but also of the Civic Society and U3A. For the Arc and Arc, where she was a member of Council, she researched the founding children from 18th century London who were fostered in St Albans and buried in St Peter's churchyard. Anne also had broader national issues on her agenda.

On independent campaigning issues she was highly active, especially in Sopwell Ward. At Cllr Robert Donald's meetings with the 'St Albans against Litter Campaign', she led a vociferous battle where, significantly another regular campaign member was our MP-in-waiting, Anne Main.

For me personally, the highlight of our friendship was the U3A lectures she gave, as recently as October 2004, on the Aesthetic Movement in St Albans, on behalf of History Group 2, in which she highlighted 23 Hatfield Road as a vitally important local building.. This was a timely reminder that a work I had started in 2000 had fallen behind because of other pressures. Sadly, far too late really, we began a dialogue and I looked forward to a new book bearing both our names, but although Anne remained full of energy until April, and surpassed herself with very late help,

it was not to be, and I intend to complete the book and dedicate it to her memory.

Anne, you will be sadly missed by all of us: this town has few enough supporters anyway, and those who are prepared to be active and speak out vigorously, as you did, are a vanishing species. You gave great support to David in his Oaklands Action Campaign against the proposed redevelopment of the St Albans City Campus site, and researched the history of Horace Slade's house at 23 Hatfield Road. It is our duty, in your memory, to do all in our power to defeat Fairview Homes' plans to demolish it and much of the surrounding area. Although it may not fit in with John Prescott's plans for hundreds of new homes, there is every reason to look forward to the campaigners' saving 23 Hatfield Road, recycling it into sympathetic new housing and naming it Anne Kaloczi House. A photo taken in March shows Anne and David with



Civic Society members celebrating after the Oaklands referral meeting.

A well-filled congregation attended the funeral service at St Peter's Church on 8th September. Anne, who arranged and virtually published the order of service herself, surprisingly chose verses from Land of Hope and Glory, which were lustily sung. A beautiful autumn day for our farewell to her, and one which she must very much have enjoyed herself. Those who wish to can make donation to Cancer Research in her memory.

Tony Billings

OBITUARY DR JOHN LUNN, 1923-2001

When the Society was restarted in 1951, John Lunn, who was then the Director of Verulamium Museum, became our first Director of Excavations. His guidance in those formative years was greatly appreciated, and before he emigrated to Canada in 1957 he was made an Honorary Vice-President of the Society. Since then our contacts have been increasingly tenuous, but we have at last had confirmation from one of his sons that he died in 2001.

He had an illustrious career in Canada, and in 1971 received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Ottawa, in recognition of his restoration of the Fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia. At the time of his retirement in 1987 he was Director of Museum Services in Alberta.

Not many of our present members will have known him, but the late Archie Boutwood remembered him well

Brian Moody

FIELD NAMES OF VERULAMIUM PARK

ST GERMAIN'S FARM

Perhaps we should all desist from referring to the length of land adjacent to Bluehouse Hill and including John O'Conner's recently cleared compost heap as 'summer meadow'; it does have a name after all, Hutchinson's Meadow. Benjamin Hutchinson was vicar of St Michael's for most of Queen Victoria's reign from 1850 and it bears his name; until 1929 this side of the old field path to Windridge remained part of the church glebe.

It is moot to remind ourselves that other parts of St Germain's Farm also had proper names whereas they are now all massed together as Verulamium Park. The fields, part of whose boundaries still show, were, ascending from the river, Lower, Middle and Upper Darrowfield, the name probably being a corruption of Deerfield or Darvil. At the top of Upper Darrowfield, alongside King Harry Lane, was/is Little Hugger-Mugger and the field running down alongside the Causeway was Nether Darrowfield. (Hugger-Mugger is believed to be of Indian origin, the dictionary meanings being 'secrecy' (it is quite well concealed), and 'confusion' or 'slovenliness'. I am tempted to say that until recently the whole park could at times be described as a "Great Hugger-Mugger).

The farmhouse of St Germain's, occupied by tenant farmers of Lord Verulam, was taken down to build the Roman Museum in 1937/8. Frank Dean, farmer of St Germain's, and George Willshin, farmer of Kingsbury Farm in Branch Road, combined earlier than 1929 with Prae Wood Farm to be managed by Gorhambury Estate with Wilf Curtis as manager. Later Express Dairies ran the business and, until shortly before its closure, St Albans milk floats used the name of the present northern owner, Dale Farms, but customers did not recognise this name and sales fell, causing the dairy to revert to the name Express Dairies.

How many remember Meadowside Cottage? This stood a little nearer to

St Michael's Church than St Michael's Lodge (the entrance to Gorhambury) and consequently was demolished when in 1962 Blue House Hill was straightened and widened and extended to the Redbourn Road. Jack Knight of Blacksmith's Lane remembers that the cottage had a deep well. The tenant was Mrs Shellard, a widow, whose husband had been coachman at Gorhambury and whose son worked for Albanian Coaches, alas now also a distant memory. Jack's brother, Peter Knight of Nelson Avenue, spent his working life with Albanian, but that is another story...

VERULAM HILLS FARM

This stood near the Causeway and its pastures lay down to the Holywell Bridge on what is now the Westminster Lodge part of Verulamium Park. In living memory it was tenanted for Lord Verulam by Arthur Tingey. It was rumoured that he was ordered by the War Ministry of Agriculture to put the land to plough but he refused and moved to a property in Waverley Road. In the 1950s it was farmed by Reg and George Brown, who had a prize-winning Friesian herd and subsequently farmed Salisbury Hall Farm. A very noisome piggery stood alongside the Causeway and allotments lined both sides of Mud Lane right down to Holywell Hill. For some now unknown reason Verulam Hills Farm was known as Diddlum Hall and apparently a halt named as such was proposed on the LNWR extension from Abbey Station to St Michael's. Reg and George Brown were the farmers when the council bought the land to add to the park in the 1950s.

Near Verulam Hills Farm, but not a part of it, stood Ver Cottage on a narrow strip of land now occupied by the so-called fish ladder. The tenant here was Mrs French. During the war the adjacent Fighting Cocks pub was run by Jack Knight's uncle Bill Brown, formerly from the Rose and Crown at Sandridge. A wartime publicity broadcast from 'England's oldest licenced house' took place here. Reg and George Brown were the last

occupiers of Ver Cottage; both it and the farm disappeared from the landscape during the 1950s.

Back to St Michael's. A well-known character up to the 1950s was Mr Burgess the baker of 29 St Michael's Street. He alternately enjoyed a daily pint at each of the four (existing) locals: Six Bells (Taylor Walker), Rose and Crown (Benskins), Black Lion (Adey and White) and Blue Anchor (McMullen). Mr and Mrs Jack Knight of Blacksmith's Lane live in a house with a very interesting plaque on its end wall facing Bluehouse Hill. This stone tablet bears a coronet, initials E.J.V. (Elizabeth Joanne Verulam) and the date 1877 in which year Elizabeth was due to unveil the terraced houses in what had previously been Back Lane until 1871. Unfortunately Elizabeth did not live to unveil the properties built by Gorhambury Estate.

Tony Billings

© TONY BILLINGS, February 2005.

ST PANCRAS CHAMBERS

In late August, prompted by the note in the July Newsletter, I joined a tour of St. Pancras Chambers, the old Grand Midland Hotel which fronts St. Pancras station.

Having passed through it twice every working day for over 10 years it was a revelation to see the interior and hear the history of the building from the guide.

Thank you to the author of the note. I urge any member who might have any similar recommendations or knowledge that could be of interest to other members to submit them to the Editor.

Roger Miles

ARCHAEOLOGY & LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our 2005/6 season opened on 6th September at an unusual venue – St Saviour's Church – by courtesy of Rev Peter Wadsworth. Our lecturer, Peter Collins, traced the history of organs from the early Roman models to the present day. Peter Collins received part of his training in Austria, now runs his own company, and has over 40 years experience in organ building. Early organs had goatskin pumps worked by the feet, and by 1500 all the elements of the modern organ had been invented. The St Saviour's organ is an 18th century replica, built in the 1980s in the French style, with fine decorative wood carving. Mr Collins completed the evening with a short organ recital, ending a most enjoyable evening.

The following week, Mr T C Stevens, keeper of the ruins at Berkhamstead Castle for over 30 years, spoke about the castle built soon after the Conquest, initially of wood and then rebuilt in stone in 1150 with money provided from the privy purse by Thomas Beckett. Associations with the castle over the years include Piers Gaveston, the Black prince and Cecily Neville, mother of both Edward IV and Richard III. The castle was abandoned after 1495 and, in 1600, was stripped of its facing stone by Sir Edward Carey to build Berkhamstead Place. Then in the 18th century, the springs which once fed the moat were diverted to the Bridgewater canal, the moats themselves having been cut through by the railway in 1845. Mr Stevens had many anecdotes collected during his tenure at the castle.

Bruce Watson paid us a return visit to trace the history of the Roman port of London and described the discoveries made during the 1995/6 excavations. The dock was at its zenith between AD 63 and AD 102, and was thought to have been constructed by the Roman army. Wooden components of the dock were in excellent condition, as was a mud brick wall. Pieces of armour, broken pottery and some fine lead 'pigs' bearing the stamp of

Vespasian (probably from the Mendip lead mines) were found, and are now in the museum. Mr Watson's amusing account shed a lot of light on this busy port and life during the early days of the Roman occupation.

In October, the lecture by Tony Woodhouse was on the architectural history of Dunstable Priory, built by Henry I near his Kingsbury Palace. Excellent drawings represented the buildings of the Augustinian establishment as they probably appeared. Its church of St Peter boasted the shirt of St Hugh as its main relic and also housed the shrine of St Fremund, attracting many pilgrims. A storm in 1222 brought down the two west towers, and by 1240 the church was rebuilt, although the towers were replaced by Grimthorpe-like turrets. During the reformation the church was wrecked and the surrounding buildings disappeared, leaving just the church nave and the west front, as it appears today. Excavations, the most recent in 2004, have revealed very little. The Priory, part Norman, part Early English, must have been a very fine building.

Our next October lecture, by Michael West of international civil engineers Oscar Faber, was on the restoration of the Chandlers Cross mansion now known as The Grove Hotel. The original 18th century mansion was the country seat of a governor of South Africa. Extensions were built in the latter 18th century and again in the mid 19th century. Sold by the family in the 1920s, it was for many years used as the railways headquarters and training centre. After years of standing empty and deteriorating rapidly, it is now a five-star hotel with golf course. Mr West described the remedial work needed to correct some of the astonishingly poor alterations and additions suffered by the buildings: it seemed a miracle that the structure remained upright in that condition for so long; now it is an impressive and extensive structure.

Betty Mills

ST AMPHIBALUS SHRINE SYMPOSIUM PAPERS

In September 2004 a Symposium was held to consider St Albans Cathedral's second shrine-base, that of St Amphibalus, the name given to the priest to whom Alban gave shelter. The shrine languishes in a dark corner of the north presbytery aisle, and is often passed by unnoticed. The Symposium, however, demonstrated the importance and unique features of the surviving structure.

The Fraternity of the Friends of St Albans Abbey sponsored the Symposium and have now made papers from this event available for purchase. These include Professor Martin Biddle's summary of the history of the cult and shrine of St. Amphibalus, Dr Richard K. Morris's detailed assessment of the stonework of the shrine-base and Richard Lithgow's study of the painted decoration. Together they present a fascinating picture of the history of the Abbey's second shrine.

The papers cost £5 and are available by post directly from the Fraternity of the Friends, St Albans Cathedral, Sumpter Yard, St Albans, AL1 3BY. Cheques should be made out to the Fraternity of the Friends of St Albans Abbey. Copies are also available on the Abbey's bookstall.

Ailsa Herbert

OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTION?

If you have not renewed your subscription (which was due on 1st October), **this will be the last issue of the newsletter that you will receive.** We hope this is no more than an oversight, and that you will continue as a member.

Please send your cheque as a matter of urgency to the Membership Secretary, SAHAAS, 29 Bury Green, Wheathampstead AL4 8DB

CLOCK TOWER VISITORS 2005

The 2005 'open season' for the Clock Tower ended with a bang. We opened for two of the Heritage Open Days (10-11th September) when 842 people visited the Tower over two days. Since we usually see between 100 and 180 per day, 400 or so people in one day was rather a squeeze! It unfortunately prevented some people getting to the top, because of the numbers of people making their way down, and the absence of 'passing places'. Some visitors are blithely unaware of the restraints of the building and ask 'Is there another way down?' (Apart from abseiling, no!) Luckily we had no



extreme problems during the two days, but we need to have a system of time-controlled admission in future, and perhaps retain our modest admission charge. We had been told that the Mayor wished to visit on the Saturday morning, so Clare Ellis and I were at the Clock Tower to greet him and I accompanied him up to the roof.

Apart from this final weekend, the rest of the season brought a total of 6185 paying visitors (5041 adults and 1144 children) which is an increase over the previous two years. But we had considerable problems in finding sufficient volunteers to fill the rota, and it meant making perhaps 20 telephone calls before getting enough cover for a weekend opening. A number of regular 'clockateers' have had to drop out, for understandable reasons, so we urgently need to recruit more help for next year. Even more worrying is the decrease in numbers of those of us acting as Weekend Organisers. Having lost a few stalwarts this season, there were just 8 of us to cover 13 weekend openings - of which Mike and I did three.

There are benefits to SAHAAS from opening the Clock Tower, as we receive part of the 'takings' each year. Last time it was £500 – could be more next year – so it represents a useful income to the Society. I am sure there must be many of you who could spare 90 minutes during a weekend to sit in the Clock Tower, greeting visitors, handing out leaflets and taking the money? It is actually fun chatting to overseas tourists, and locals who have only just discovered it – you'll wonder why you never did it before! Don't wait for next year to offer, contact me now if you'd like to join us.

Jill Bennett

Clock Tower Co-ordinator; Tel: 01727 867685

17TH CENTURY POPULATION RESEARCH GROUP

Research from previous centuries yields many odd names that prompt much speculation about their owners. Here are a few from the 17th C Population Research Group's database. Would Afradosia and Pataian think our names today equally strange, I wonder?

Pat Howe

Gordy Adams	Origen Burton
Abilend Tweeday	Patatian Meadcafe
Affradosa Williams	Peregrina Onge
Affliction Roase	Salvances Gutteridg
Belknapp Tibbals	Sence Ainge
Blastus Godley	Stonehall Ashby
Charvell Woolley	Theadocia Roase
Emblem Tarbox	Troth Bankes
Fromabove Dove	Twiford Wath
Harbottle Grimston	Virtue Ruth
Jeningsdobyms Hall	Wheeler Budd

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP REPORT

This autumn it became apparent that our villa site at Amwell is more extensive than just the building confirmed in the last two seasons work. In order to improve drainage in the field it was deeper ploughed this year, with the exception of the area containing the building. Anticipating that this might throw up evidence of so far undiscovered features, the field was re-fieldwalked with the result that a fresh area of large flints, brick, tile and pottery was quite clear. As before, a ground resistivity survey was then carried out in the area of interest some 60 to 70 metres from what we can now refer to as Site 1. It showed that there was indeed another building and that it appears to have been at least as large in plan as the first, if not larger. This is somewhat surprising as Site 1 is itself fairly large by villa standards. What it all means can only be explained by excavation. The Group is now turning attention to another Roman site on Cross Farm which has similarly been located by fieldwalking in the past. For the coming year the field where the site is located is in set-aside so that we have maximum accessibility for investigation. One of the benefits of the CAP!

Roger Miles

GOODBYE TO JOYCE

Our November Council meeting saw us saying goodbye to a stalwart of the team, as Joyce Winn finally retired as Minutes Secretary after 17 years. Her contribution to the efficient management of Society business has been enormous and we hope she will give the benefit of her years of experience to her successor, Wendy Klein

THIS SEASON'S LECTURES

Tuesday 29th November 2005

Jim Forrester, A.K.A. 5th Earl of Verulam

John Cox

Gorhambury archivist for many years

Tuesday 6th December 2005

Gothic Revival - It Started Much Earlier Than You Think

Jane Kelsall

Local historian and church enthusiast

Tuesday 17th January 2006

Victorian Garden History

Isobel Leek

Garden enthusiast

Friday 27th January 2006

Prisoners of War in Britain 1793-1815

Mr Paul Chamberlain

During the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, this country was home to over 200,000 prisoners of war held in the Land Prisons or incarcerated on the infamous hulks. Paul Chamberlain is a scientist by profession, but an historian by nature. He writes for many specialised publications and his research has resulted in TV and film work.

Tuesday 31st January 2006

A Silk Purse from a Pigs Nose

Robin Webb

Aviation engineer who recounts the many years spent coping with a medieval cottage

Tuesday 7th February 2006

2000 Years of St. Michaels Street

Ann Dean

Local historian

Tuesday 14th February 2006

The Carillon at the Abbey

Deryck Hannaford

The engineer who has re-built the carillon

Friday 24th February 2006

New Light on the Lady with the Lamp

Dr Susan Mary Grant

Florence Nightingale holds a secure but restricted position in British history as the 'lady with the lamp' who nursed troops in the Crimea, but remains both elusive and exclusive (rather than part of a process that drew women into the traditionally 'male' business of warfare). In the broader context of nineteenth-century warfare, her activities and the public response to them highlights a clear shift in attitudes toward warfare, to civilian involvement in war and toward the function of war as an expression of national will, power, and sacrifice.

Susan-Mary Grant is Reader in American History at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and author of numerous titles

on American topics. the Civil War, and the American South. Her current research project explores changing attitudes toward death in warfare in the nineteenth century.

Tuesday 28th February 2006

In Search of the Druids: The Realities of Religion in Iron Age Britain

Dr J.D. Hill

British Museum Archaeologist

Tuesday 7th March 2006

The Great Train Robbery

John Wooley

The policeman who was first on the scene

Friday 24th March 2006

Restoration of Windsor Castle ... After the Fire

Mr Alan Frost

Tuesday 28th March 2006

The A&LH Group AGM, followed by Rule and Reality - Life in a Great Medieval Abbey

Rev. Peter Wadsworth

Vicar of St Saviour Church, Sandpit Lane

Tuesday 4th April 2006

St Albans Historic Landscape: Post 1250 AD

David Dean

St Albans City Guide and local historian

Tuesday 11th April 2006

St Pancras Station, Midland Link-Thames Link-Euro Link

George Atkinson

Well known local architect

Friday 28th April 2006

Inexhaustible Fancy and Solid Judgement: The Life and Works of Nicholas Hawksmoor (1661-1736)

Mr William Palin

Tuesday 9th May 2006

Romans in the Bulbourne Valley

Alex Thompson

Local historian

Tuesday 16th May 2006

SAHAAS AGM

followed by

2000 Years of Coinage At Verulamium Museum

Mr David Thorold

Friday 26th May 2006

Lost Gardens of Hertfordshire

Mrs Anne Rowe

Tuesday meetings are held at St Albans School and start at 8.00 p.m.

Friday meetings are at the College of Law, Hatfield Road, and start at 7.45 p.m.

They are open to all members of the Society. Non-members may attend two meetings as guests.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined since our last newsletter and hope they will enjoy taking an active role in Society activities.

Stuart Crawley	Goldsmith Way, St Albans
Emma Cotton	Lower Paxton Road, St Albans
Maggie Davidson	Sutton Road, St Albans
Jean Eaton	Crouch Hall Lane, Redbourn
Mrs J Evans	Fishpool Street, St Albans
Gillian Harvey	Bellamy Close, Watford
Ms Sally Hickman	Claudian Place, St Albans
Jenny Lee	The Avenue, Potters Bar
Mr & Mrs J Little	Prospect Road, St Albans
Martin Mylott	Tilsworth Walk, St Albans
Cliff Norris & Mrs KA Boak	Newmarket Court, St Albans
Rilla Patterson	Rousebarn Lane, Croxley Green
Jessica Pountney	Ellis Fields, St Albans
Tom Steenvoorden	Lullington Garth, Borehamwood
Michael Western	The Dell, Sandpit Lane, St Albans
Valerie Wills	Goldsmith Way, St Albans
Judith Young	Orchard Avenue, Berkhamsted

RULE BRITANNIA

This famous song, composed in the middle of the 18th century, has become almost a second national anthem. The claim that 'Brittania rules the waves' was literally true then and remained so during the 19th century. This powerful position was not achieved by accident. The development of vast British merchant fleets, carrying a very high proportion of cargoes worldwide, was encouraged by the protection of a well-trained Royal Navy, by the provision of reliable charts and by developments in ship design, navigation and time-keeping. It depended not only on Admiral Lord Nelson but also on Captain Cook and John Harrison.

Probably there is no better place to study these and subsequent developments than the National Maritime Museum, now part of a World Heritage Site at Greenwich.

The British Association For Local History has organised a visit on 26th January 2006, when the Caird Library and Manuscripts Collection will be introduced by Daphne Knott, the Manuscripts Manager.

Further details and application forms are available on www.balh.co.uk or from BALH(V), PO Box 6549, Somersal Herbert, Ashbourne DE6 5WH, tel. 01283 585947; e-mail mail@balh.co.uk

Norman Alvey

ST ALBANS 1650-1700

REVIEWED

A lengthy review of *St Albans 1650-1700* has appeared 'on-line' (www.h-net.org/reviews/) [Michigan State University].

After a detailed and analytical description of the contents of each chapter, the reviewer includes the following:

"This is a welcome and useful addition to the collection of urban studies of the second half of the seventeenth century and much research has gone into its preparation. With the data available the authors achieve some impressive results and there is a quantitative as well as qualitative dimension to the book. One of its chief strengths is that, in documenting the history of this relatively low-ranking town, the routines and rhythms of everyday economic and social life come into view. Team effort among the researchers and authors of this project has clearly paid off. It is a model of its kind, beautifully produced and moderately priced."

Gerard McSweeney

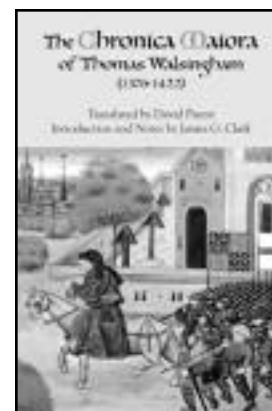
A SPECIAL OFFER FOR MEMBERS

THE CHRONICA MAIORA OF THOMAS WALSINGHAM (1376-1422). TRANSLATED BY DAVID PREEST WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY JAMES G. CLARK

Thomas Walsingham's *Chronica maiora* is one of the most comprehensive and colourful chronicles to survive from medieval England. Walsingham was a monk at St Albans Abbey, a royal monastery and the premier repository of public records, and therefore well placed to observe the political machinations of this period at close hand. Moreover, he knew the monarchs and many of the nobles personally and is able to offer insights into their actions unmatched by any other authority. It is this narrative, transmitted through the popular Tudor histories of Hall, Stow and Holinshed, which provides the principle source for Shakespeare's sequence of history plays.

Covering almost fifty years, the narrative provides the most authoritative account of one of the most turbulent periods in English history, from the last years of Edward III (1376-77) to the premature death of Henry V (1422). Walsingham describes the many dramas of this period in vivid detail, including the Peasants' Revolt (1381), the deposition and murder of Richard II (c.1399-1400), The Welsh revolt of Owain Glyn Dwr [1403] and Henry V's victory at Agincourt (1415); they are brought to life here in this new translation.

Members can save 30% on the published price and order for just £52.50 including P&P from the publisher, Boydell & Brewer, PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF, tel 01394 610600; email trading@boydell.co.uk



MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS

Many of our members regularly publish in other books or journals and we are keen to compile a list of such publications and to draw them to the attention of other members. If you are aware of any other articles we should include please let the editor know at the address on the back page. We will include lists periodically in the newsletter

Alvey, Norman. Estimating Population Growth in St Albans: 17th to 19th Centuries. *The Local Historian*, Vol. 30, No. 3, Aug. 2000, pp. 150-59

Includes a description of the methodology used for the relevant chapter in *St Albans 1650-1700*, SAHAAS (2003)

Burr, Brenda. The Combe Family of Hemel Hempstead. *Herts Past & Present* (3rd Series), No. 5, Spring 2005, pp. 20-25.

The story of a 16th century family, their bequests and what can still be seen of their property.

Howe, Pat. Identifying Non-Conformity in Late-Seventeenth Century St Albans. *Local Population Studies*, 68, Spring 2002, pp.9-25

The number and characteristics of dissenters in St Albans from 1650-1700 have been compiled from a multi-source computer database. It is shown that dissent was much more common than in England as a whole and included most ranks and occupations.

Howe, Pat and Beere, Sylvia. Francis Combe of Hemel Hempstead. New light on a man of learning. *Herts Past & Present* (3rd Series), No 6, Autumn 2005, pp 17-2

Research on his will (1641), especially his preaching charity in St Albans Abbey during the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell.

Kilvington, Frank. A Gentleman's Life in Soho and St Albans 1660-1689. *Herts Past & Present* (3rd Series), No.1, Spring 2003, pp.19-24.

A fascinating glimpse of 17th century domestic life in town and country households, from the account books of Sir Harbottle Grimston and Sir Samuel Grimston.

Kilvington, Frank. The Kent Family. *Herts Past &*

Present (3rd Series), No.3, Spring 2004, pp. 17-21.

The remarkable story of a well-known family who lived in and around St Albans for almost 400 years from c. 1616

Koloczi, Anne. The St Albans Foundling Hospital Babies. *Herts Past & Present* (3rd Series), No. 4, Autumn 2004, pp. 3-7

An account of the wet-nursing of children sent from Thomas Coram's London Foundling Hospital to St Albans and the philanthropically-motivated organisation that dealt with them

McSweeney, Gerard. The St Albans Bread Riot. *Herts Past & Present* (3rd Series), No.3, Spring 2004, pp. 22-3.

A description of one of the 18th Century food riots, the only one so far reported as occurring in St Albans.

McSweeney, Gerard. Admiral Killigrew, c. 1652-1712. *Herts Past & Present*, (3rd Series), No. 5, Spring 2005, pp.20-25

Described as 'the Unlucky Hero', this landowner and MP for St Albans had a distinguished naval career, thwarted by ill-luck and political enemies.

McSweeney, Gerard. Hall Place and the 1st Battle of St Albans. *Herts Past & Present*, (3rd Series), No. 6, Autumn 2005, pp. 12-15

An attempt to dispel some of the myths that have arisen regarding the movements of Henry VI during and after the battle.

Wares, Ann. *A History of Priory Park, St Albans, (Approach, Cornwall, Ramsbury & Riverside Roads)*. Published 2005, 35 Ramsbury Rd.

The building of a Victorian housing estate and its development in the 20th century.

LIBRARY MOVE

At long last we have a date for the closure of Kyngston House. Our library will cease operations in its present location at Christmas.

Volunteers to help the moving process will be needed (first week in January), and could phone Kate Morris (01727 868434).

We shall have a new home in the Town Hall, which will be fitted out to our specifications, and we will advise all members as soon as we are operational once again.

DON'T FORGET YOUR STOCKING STUFFERS!

SAHAAS publications make excellent small Christmas presents for your family or friends who have an interest in St. Albans or history!

The Abbey School (£4) says as much about the problems of education today as it does about education in Victorian times.

The Abbey Parish War Memorials (£4) is a good supplement to the articles and television programmes that we have seen recently concerning the First World War. It adds a telling local element to our families experiences at that time.

The 1553 Charter (£2) is a must for those who are proud of our St. Albans heritage.

The Pemberton Alms Houses (£3) is an easy read giving interesting history on the founding of the alms houses and takes us through to the present day.

The Light of Other Days (£1) and *A History in All Men's Lives* (£2) give us the history of our Society since its founding in 1845.

For an alternative book on the subject of Education why not try *Education by Election* (£4). the story of Reed's Schools?

If you want any or all of these in time for Christmas give me, Paul Harding, a call on 01727 839577 or e-mail pandharding@tiscali.co.uk. Happy Christmas!

CURRENT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

After many valuable years looking after distribution of our publications, Norman Kent has passed that duty on to me. Please contact me if you would like copies from our list at special prices for members of SAHAAS.

In future when I attend Tuesday meetings I will have two copies of each publication with me; however, I do not attend every Tuesday so a telephone call in advance will be useful. If you do not attend Tuesdays please call me with your requests. If you live in St.Albans I will deliver; If you are out of town I can quote you the cost of delivering the copies you would like. I will be pleased to hear from you at 57 Camlet Way, St.Albans, Herts. AL3 4TL Tel. (01727) 839577

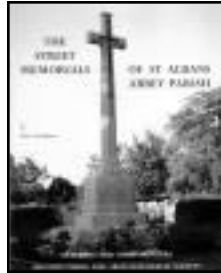
Paul Harding

The Street Memorials of St Albans Abbey Parish

by Alice Goodman, 1987

Describes St Albans during the 1914-18 War, and the unique street memorials erected to the fallen.

£4



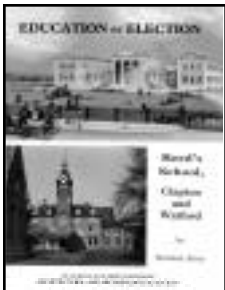
St Albans 1553

by David Dean, Pat Howe, Betty Masters & Kate Morris, 2003

Celebrates the granting of a Charter to St Albans by the boy king Edward VI in 1553, and explains its importance in providing the foundations for our local government, establishing the Mayoralty and authorising the town's markets.



£3



Education by Election, Reed's School, Clapton and Watford

by Norman Alvey, 1990

Orphans were selected for admission by votes from subscribers to a charity between 1813 and 1940.

£4

The Story of the Abbey School

by Alice Goodman, 1991

History of the National School founded by the Abbey Parish in 1848.

£4



The Pemberton Almshouses

By Clare Ellis and Pat Howe, 2005

A commemorative booklet to celebrate the founding of the Pemberton Almshouses in St Peter's Street, resulting from the ongoing work of the Seventeenth Century Population Research Group.

£3

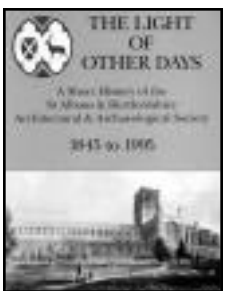
ALSO AVAILABLE

St Albans 1650-1700, a thoroughfare town and its people

Ed. J T Smith & M A North, 2003

The result of twelve years of work by the Society's Research Group, with ten authors.

Copies may be obtained by Society members from Hertfordshire Publications, an imprint of the University of Hertfordshire Press, for £13 including post and packing. Apply to University of Hertfordshire Press, Learning & Information Services, College Lane, Hatfield AL10 9AD.



The Light of Other Days

1995, by Brian Moody

A short history of the Society's first 150 years.

Half-price offer, £1

A History in All Men's Lives

Ed. Brian Moody, 1999

Papers on notable past members of the Society and events from the first 150 years. Authors F Kilvington, R Busby, J Brodrick, B Moody, D Aubrey and J T Smith.

Half-price offer, £2

