



# NEWSLETTER

No. 167 February 2008

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It was lovely to see so many members at this year's New Year Party. Very many thanks must go to Doreen Bratby, and all those who contributed to the delicious food, and also to Ann Dean and Chris Green, who once again provided challenging questions. Having our former President, Kate Morris, present this year as the Mayor of St Albans, saved me having to explain to

her what the Society does, and many members commented with pleasure on her speech.

Very many thanks, too, to Roy Bratby for devising the recent questionnaire on what members want from the A&A. The responses have produced a great deal of valuable information, which will naturally take some time to analyse. We have made a start by meeting some of those who offered to speak at a Tuesday or Friday meeting. I am sure members will enjoy the wide range of ideas which have been put forward, and we will then look at the replies to other questions.

Residents First weekend resulted in tremendous interest in the Library, as many visitors were keen to view the newly refurbished Old town Hall. Many thanks to all those who produced the excellent display, as well as those on duty during the weekend.

*Clare Ellis*

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## NEW YEAR PARTY

Once again we were delighted to see so many members at our New Year Party, held in the Verulamium Museum – a great opportunity to meet like-minded friends and to browse the exhibits with a glass of wine.

Doreen Bratby masterminded the food as usual, marshalling her volunteers and providing a grand spread, as you can see from the photos. Bryan Hanlon sported a bow tie behind the bar, providing mulled wine and soft drinks with flair.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Chris Green, who had extracted a number of puzzling artefacts from the museum's collection for us to try and identify. Ann Dean challenged us with the 'museum wildlife' quiz normally provided to children visiting the museum, prompting many of us to look more carefully at the exhibits on display, along with some more general questions about the St Albans Museum Service.



Above, Chris Green's artefacts attract some puzzled glances

Top right, Fantastic spread of food

Below right, Mayor Kate Morris with our president Clare Ellis



## NEWS FROM HALH

### 2007 Symposium

The 28th Symposium was held in Tewin, and attended by more than 100 members. Thanks to Linda Adams, the Tewin Society, and all those involved with the event.

### 2008 Symposium

This will be on the subject of *Care and the Community*, and will be held at the Ewen Hall, Wood Street, Barnet on 1st November – so an advance date for your diary.

### 2008 Spring Meeting and AGM

Hour and place yet to be decided, but date is set in stone for Saturday 10th May. Following the business part of the meeting, Jill Barber will give a talk on the subject of *Slavery in Hertfordshire*.

The HALH secretary, John Donovan, is standing down at the AGM so, if you would like to become more involved in the work of HALH in promoting local history in our county, this is your opportunity! (Call or e-mail our secretary, Bryan Hanlon, if you would like to pursue this.) The secretary's main duties are taking minutes of meetings, dealing with correspondence, and preparing the papers for the AGM.

### HALH Garden Party

This will be held at Bushey on Sunday 13th July, and will include a visit to the museum and to the beautiful Reveley Lodge.

*John Cox*

## LIBRARY PROVES A HIT WITH RESIDENTS

The Society's Library in the Old Town Hall was open for both days of Residents First Weekend, January 26th and 27th, with displays on St Albans, featuring maps, photographs, prints and books from our collections.

We had an extremely good response – the library was rarely empty over the two days, and visitors frequently had to push their way through the bodies! Anne Wares and Bryan Hanlon were left rather puzzled and amused, though, by one of our earliest visitors, who thought he was in the muniments room at the abbey! Fortunately they were able to point him in the right direction.



A considerable number of membership forms were handed out and an encouraging number of questions received, and fruitful contacts made. The whole two days provided proof, if proof is needed, of the enormous interest in local history 'out there' for the Society to tap into, and raised the profile hopefully of the library and of the Society in St Albans.

The maps and old photographs of the town probably excited the most interest: many people want to know about where they live and what was there before their house was built. We certainly feel there may be scope for copying some of our material for sale.

The library team would like to thank those members of Council who volunteered to help with 'meeting and greeting' the large numbers of visitors, and would ask any members if they feel the library can help in any way to please get in touch.

We are open, as hopefully most people now know, on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10 a.m. until 12 noon

*Gill Harvey*



## 17TH CENTURY POPULATION RESEARCH GROUP

We thought we had exhausted sources of information on the inhabitants of 17th century St Albans, but ... the local branch of the U3A recently invited an economic historian, Patrick Wallis from the LSE, to give a talk on 17th century medicine. After the talk I took the opportunity to tell him about our research. He was very interested and a date was made for him to come and see our work. We were able to supply him with names of apothecaries and physicians from our database and also mentions of medicines and remedies taken from inventories and accounts as well as the disbursements to the poor of St Peter's.

He then informed me that he and a colleague were creating a database of London apprentices for this period.

If he supplied me with the details of apprentices who came from St Albans would I be interested to give him any background information I could to their age and position in the family, status of the father and anything we knew about the apprentice in adult life. I jumped at this opportunity to share our information and at the same time add to our knowledge of the inhabitants of 17th century St Albans. We have been able to identify nearly 200 young people who left St Albans for London, mostly boys. Whereas we only knew of them either from a baptism or from being mentioned in wills, we now know that they went to London, as well as the trade in which they trained. We shall enjoy analysing the new data at a later date.

*Pat Howe*

## INTERESTED IN HOUSE HISTORY?

### HERTS AND ESSEX ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH SOCIETY (HEARS)

The society began life as The Essex Architectural Research Society, formed in 1967 to further the study of vernacular architecture. In 2001 it adopted its present name and extended its scope to Hertfordshire, especially the east of the county. Both Hertfordshire and Essex have a wealth of traditional buildings in timber and brick, including some of the best and earliest examples. The study of 'ordinary' buildings from earlier centuries, almost ignored until the 1960s, has advanced enormously in recent years, and Herts and Essex have been in the forefront of research.

The Society meets once a month from September to May, usually on a Friday, in Loughton, South-West Essex. Occasional meetings are held in East Herts or North-West Essex. Meetings cover any topic related to traditional buildings, their design and construction, and their relationship to the social and economic history of their time. Speakers are either invited guests or members themselves, and talks are usually illustrated.

During the summer months, visits are organised to places of interest, usually buildings not generally open to the public. Buildings of particular interest have been measured and recorded and, in some instances, the work has been published.

HEARS has strong links with the Essex Historic Buildings Group (based in Chelmsford) and with members of the WEA. It is affiliated to Essex Congress, and the national organisation, the Vernacular Architecture Group.

While visitors are always very welcome at our meetings, to comply with insurance requirements visitors do have to register, giving their name and address. There is a small charge for non-members.

Autumn and winter meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday of each month in the Wesley Hall, Loughton Methodist Church, 260 Loughton High Road, Loughton IG10 1RB, starting at 8pm.

Hon Secretary: David Stevenson, 18 Wellfields, Loughton, Essex, IG10 1NX. Tel: 020 8508 2512. Email: D.Stevenson@lse.ac.uk.

Hon Chairman: Alan Bayford, 12 Westfield Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SF. Tel: 01245 256102

### WINTER PROGRAMME 2008

Meetings free to members: visitors £1.50

2 February

#### The Medieval Wall Paintings of Essex

David Park

14 March

#### Following in Pevsner's Footsteps: Essex and Beyond

James Bettley

25 April

#### Apethorpe Hall: a Northamptonshire Mansion

Nick Hill

23 May

#### Annual General Meeting

followed by an illustrated review of HEARS summer visits, 2007

Most meetings take place on Friday evenings at 8.00pm in the Wesley Hall, Loughton Methodist Church, 260 High Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1RB (ten minutes' walk from Loughton tube station, Central Line: or by bus 20, 167, or 397). The Methodist Church faces onto Loughton High Road (left-hand side approaching from London, right-hand side approaching from Epping), almost opposite the bottom of Traps Hill. The Wesley Hall is in the car park at the rear of the Church: access through the Church or via side alley.

Free parking also available after 6pm in Traps Hill car park, adjoining Loughton library and swimming pool.

#### ADVANCE NOTICE (DETAILS TO FOLLOW)

**Understanding Timber-Framed Houses**  
HEARS Day School with Alan Bayford and Anne Padfield

Saturday 19 April 2008: 10am to 4.30pm  
The Village Hall, Hatfield Broad Oak  
Tickets £10 per head

## RESTORATION OF THOMAS CLARKSON MONUMENT

Tom Clarkson, a descendant of Thomas Clarkson, cut the ribbon at the unveiling of the restored monument at Wadesmill on 14th November 2007, and an exhibition showing Hertfordshire's involvement with the slave trade was held in Thundridge Village Hall, following the rededication.

Visitors to the monument can now learn about its significance from a interpretation board erected at the site.

## HALS INDEXES ONLINE

If you remember the Great Card Index in the Local Studies Library, you will be delighted to hear that the project to convert the cards to an electronic catalogue has now been completed, and is available to search.

HALSPIN (Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies Periodicals Index) contains 86,951 entries to information about Hertfordshire in local newspapers and periodicals. Launched in all Hertfordshire Libraries in October last year, it can be searched through the Online Reference Library by Name, Place and Subject. Plans for online access to all HALS indexes via HertsDirect are now at an advanced stage, and it is hoped to launch the first indexes by March of this year.

## REPORT ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE TO MEMBERS, SEPTEMBER 2007

In September last year a Questionnaire was mailed to all members of the Society, the purpose of which was to gain information to facilitate the possibility of widening the Society's programme of lectures and events and exploit members' talents.

Questionnaires were sent to 268 single members and 119 couples making a total of 506 questionnaires in total. 180 Questionnaires were returned giving a 36% response indicating that a very large portion of the membership is dedicated to the Society.

Members appear to be very satisfied with the Society's programme and at the same time made a number of constructive suggestions. As one member said: 'the success of the past should provide the main guide for the future'.

The main conclusions are:

- The suggestions received for Lectures, Seminars, and Courses and Practical Workshops will provide an extremely useful resource for those responsible for these areas of the Society's activities. The possibility of some of these events being held in the daytime rather than evening would meet the needs of some members.
- The responses received in connection with Visits to Buildings and Sites of Archaeological, Architectural or Historic Interest, Visits to Record Offices and Museums and Walks indicate that these areas should be developed, preferably using coach travel to foster the social side of the Society.
- A heartening aspect of the responses received was the number of members who are prepared to consider assisting with A/V Equipment, Tutoring a Course, Giving a Single Presentation, Organising a Group Visit and Participating in Committee Work.
- Both Website and Library are currently under-utilised.
- The need for more social contact was made by some members.

- Contacts with other similar organisations within the area should be strengthened and the possibility of joint activities explored.
- The needs of younger members should be given attention.

A flavour of the other comments received is given below:

- My intention to go out at night alone always seems to disappear at the moment of departure.
- Maintain the breadth of interest in Friday lectures.
- Your existing choices of subjects are excellent.
- Excellent idea this questionnaire.
- I work full-time and have very little time to help the Society - roll on retirement.
- The Committee do an excellent job already.
- We now play little part in the Society's activities including even the weekly meetings largely due to indifferent health . . . . We are always pleased and interested to read the Newsletters - and we are impressed with the progress which the Society is obviously making. So please accept our good wishes for its continued progress and our warmest thanks to you and others who are no doubt responsible for it.
- Thank you - I enjoy the Society.

The President has written to those members who offered their services, informing them that once the responses had been evaluated would be contacted again to see how best their skills and offer of assistance could be used for the benefit of the Society.

During the coming months, the sub-committee responsible for evaluating the response to the Questionnaire will be developing a future programme of events.

*Roy Bratby*

### VISIT TO APSLEY PAPER TRAIL AT FROGMORE MILL

SAHAAS members will be visiting the Mill on Wednesday 5th March. The visit starts at 10.30 and costs £5 (send cheque payable to Gill at the address below). You will need to arrange your own transport.

Limited number of places still available.

If you are interested contact Gill Charles, at 9 Tilsforth Walk, St Albans AL4 9TJ, tel 01727 840860 or e-mail gillcharles\_1@hotmail.com.

### WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP FIELD SCHOOL

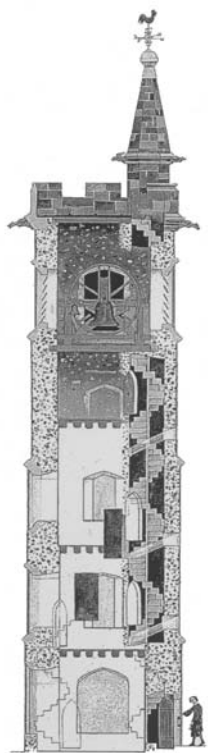
This two-week field school will take place in August 2008 at Copped Hall, New Epping, a medieval/Tudor manor site the group has been investigating since 2002.

If you are interested, Bryan Hanlon has more details and application forms.

### MUSEUM OF ST. ALBANS

*Crime and Punishment Stories from Hertfordshire* runs until 22nd June, 2008. Don't miss it!

## CLOCK TOWER REPORT



Some people attending the New Members' Party last autumn expressed interest in helping in the Clock Tower: if they like to contact me, I will be happy to provide more details. Helpers will be invited to the 'Clockateers' Party, which we organise before the season opens, as a way of thanking those who help to keep the Clock Tower open each summer. It also serves to start the season off – there will be rota sheets giving the dates and times of opening, so you can sign-up for times convenient to you. Personal invitations are sent out in February. At the party each year we give two Marks & Spencer tokens to 'clockateers' who did the most sessions in the Clock Tower as a little thank you.

The 'Clockateers' Party is on Friday, February 29th this year, and the Clock Tower will open, as usual, on Easter

Friday, March 21st. Weekend openings are divided between SAHAAS and the Civic Society, and we have yet to discuss arrangements, but SAHAAS usually 'opens the batting' by running the Clock Tower on Easter Friday and Saturday, with the Civic Society covering Easter Sunday and Monday. Thereafter we do alternate weekends.

A large proportion of the admission money collected each season is divided between the two Societies which keep the Clock Tower open! This provides considerable income and helps to keep subscription costs down.

Last season, in the two weeks between August Bank Holiday weekend and the final open weekend (25th to 27th

August and 8th and 9th September), the keys to the cash-box and the front door key disappeared! They are always left on the hook underneath the counter, on the same key-ring. This leaves us with only one key to the cash-box, which I bought only last summer. We have other door keys but it is important to have a spare key to hand if needed. If anyone has picked these up by mistake, or has any ideas as to their whereabouts, please contact me.

Visitor numbers last year were higher than in 2006, but still lower than a few years ago. The two free days of Heritage Open Weekend saw a total of 451 adults, and 137 children. These are roughly double the average paying visitors, with 100 or so adults and 30 plus children per day.

*Jill Bennett*

Clock Tower Co-ordinator  
Tel/Fax: 01727 867685. 29 Cornwall Rd, St Albans.  
E-mail: [jill.bennett@waitrose.com](mailto:jill.bennett@waitrose.com)

### Ticket Sales

Year	Adults	Children	Total
1997	5089	1182	6203
1998	5089	1263	6352
1999	4870	1292	6162
2000	4501	1259	5760
2001	4986	1222	6288
2002	5365	1527	6892
2003	4466	1162	5682
2004	4305	1174	5479
2005	5041	1144	6185
2006	4278	935	5213
2007	4480	1130	5610

## E-MAIL NEWS BROADCASTS

### FROM WWW.STALBANSISTORY.ORG

Council would like to make more use of e-mail to communicate with members rapidly - especially to publicise news when the next printed Newsletter would be too late - but has not sent unsolicited messages because some members might regard them as spam. e-Mail News Broadcasts were started in March 2007 to a list of people who have chosen to subscribe and Council would now like to encourage as many members as possible to join this list. There have been 24 messages since March and I do not expect there to be a great increase in traffic.

- The notes are ordinary emails with a serial number, and a Subject: field of the form "Arc & Arc eNews No.xx: Title."
- There are no attachments; larger material will be put onto the website and a brief advice note broadcast.

- There is no fixed schedule; notes are sent when there is something to say.
- eMail addresses are not stored on any website and are not vulnerable to spam generators.
- The recipient's address is in the "blind copy" or Bcc: field of the email and cannot be seen by anyone else.
- The distribution list includes only those who wish to be on it.

If you would like to receive these broadcasts please go to our website [www.stalbanshistory.org](http://www.stalbanshistory.org), click on the link eMail News Broadcasts, and follow the instructions.

*Brian Bending*

## ALH GROUP LECTURES

On Tuesday 2nd October, Jenny Stroud gave us a talk on her **13 months as Mayor of St Albans**. She described the Mayor's role, the mayoral staff of secretary, chaplain and driver, and the historic mace (dating from the 1660s) carried by the mace-bearer to protect the Mayor. Her duties were immensely varied, ranging from attending local events to interchange visits to and from the City's European twinned towns, and included descending a long rope ladder over the side of *HMS St Albans* whilst at sea.

Jenny brought some half a dozen heavy files, documenting her term of office, which she felt would be of interest to future historians as an archive of present-day St Albans. Her account provided a very informative and enjoyable evening.

The following week our speaker was Jill Singer, who described the **History, development and restoration of Kingsbury Manor**. The house itself is thought to have been a medieval hall house, built over the Roman road to Colchester. One of its beams has been dated to 1419 and the roof has a crown post. The barn dates from 1374 and traces of a Roman villa were found behind it.

Over the centuries the house passed through many developments and it was extended in the 17th century, a centre floor being added in the latter half of that century. Evidence is still visible of the pargetting (now within a cupboard!) which was added to one of the extensions of the house. It is likely that the house was once divided into two, and the two buildings joined where the entrance is now situated. Cement render has been removed from the outside walls, which have been restored with lime putty and then whitewashed.

Jill's account of the care and of this ancient house and of its history provided a most interesting lecture.

On 16th October our speaker was Barbara Chapman, who talked about the **History of Leverstock Green**. She described the village as Saxon in origin, with evidence of earlier settlements. It stands on the route from St Albans to Berkhamstead,

which, in turn, rested on a Roman road. The village was mentioned in Domesday Book under the entry for St Albans Abbey and was in the manor of Westwick. Brick-making from the heavy local clay was the main activity. Medieval field patterns are still visible. When the area came into the hand of Gorhambury, careful records were kept, with a Bacon survey in 1569 and a Grimston survey in 1696 of Westwick.

Barbara described some of the listed houses, in particular Westwick Cottage, one of the earliest known houses, with a 12th century wooden carved capital and, probably, an aisled hall. She has spent 14 years researching Leverstock Green's history and has raised awareness of its importance. Among other positions she serves on the board of the Dacorum Heritage Trust. Her excellent lecture was well illustrated with maps and pictures of the various properties.

At the end of the month Jane Kelsall lectured on the **Dissolution of the Monasteries: What happened in St Albans**. The history of this far-reaching event was thoroughly covered and, in the space of an hour, we had a wonderfully detailed account of the sacking of the Abbey, the loss of St Andrews in 1552 and the way a few monks hung on and tried to continue the Catholic revival under Queen Mary. The sufferings of ordinary people were movingly described.

The last abbot, Richard Boorman, has been reappraised in the light of later knowledge, and shown to have been more dynamic than hitherto believed. He was reinstated in Mary's reign and was active in the service of the church right to the end of his life.

Jane's enthralling lecture was, as always, ably supported by David's excellent illustrations and we enjoyed what must be one of the highlights of this season's lectures.

In November, the Society's President Clare Ellis spoke about the **Pharmaceutical Industry in Hertfordshire**. The early beginnings of medicine were first based on herbs, followed by vegetable

substances; by the 1880s patent medicines had appeared. Allen & Hanbury's, founded by Quakers in 1715, was established in Ware. Family businesses were set up too, among them Ransome's of Hitchin, only recently closed.

But pharmaceuticals really took off in the 20th century and famous names such as Glaxo, Roche, Smith Kline & French, Wellcome, Beecham, Dupont and Merck produced patent medicines, as well as researching and producing advanced drugs for hitherto incurable conditions. These firms have since merged many times, and are now part of huge international organisations.

But Herts is remembered as the home of the pharmaceutical industry and retains a place in today's empires, and it was good to be reminded of it.

On 13th November, our lecturer was Dr Jill Barber, who traced **Herts Connections with the Slave Trade**. She named a number of 18th century magnates whose stately homes grace the county and whose wealth was based on trading in slaves from Africa. Such figures included Sir Lionel Lyde, who built the 'new' church at Ayot St Lawrence and Thomas Wisser of Hitchin, whose ship *Charming Molly* was a trading vessel. John Mills of Hitchin, Daniel Giles of Youngbury, near Ware, and David Barclay of the banking family were all plantation owners.

Our speaker described the trading route, called The Triangle, whereby ships carried goods from England to Africa, then took slaves to the West Indies (two out of every ten died at sea before reaching the West Indies), picked up goods there and carried these back to England, the pattern then being repeated. Slaves who survived these terrible voyages then enjoyed harsh conditions on the plantations: 40% died in the first year. One of the trader's descendants, Arthur Giles Puller, erected a memorial obelisk at Wadesmill to Thomas Clarkson, the great abolition campaigner, in 1879; in its bicentennial year this was restored and rededicated on 4th November.

Jill traced the story of the development of trade and its creation of enormous wealth, all at the price of dreadful human suffering. Her talk revealed the amount of research she had carried out, and was delivered with great clarity and with excellent illustrations, making an outstanding evening.

The following week we welcomed Robert Short to talk to us about the ongoing project of the **Historic Atlas of Herts**, on which a group of historians are working. Work started 4½ years ago and will hopefully appear in the autumn next year. It will be an extremely comprehensive publication, recording the industrial and horticultural activities, population, buildings, roads, waterways, rail, military history, churches and geology of the county. Almost all of life over two to three centuries will be documented and the book appears to be a 'must-have' for local historians. Initially the project was inspired by the appearance of a historic atlas of Suffolk.

Robert and all concerned are to be congratulated on their painstaking work on this valuable record, and we shall look forward to its appearance.

At the beginning of December our speaker was Dr Desmond Howlett, whose lecture was entitled **From Coal Mine to Comet**, and described his early career in aviation. Coming from a mining area in Nottinghamshire, Desmond first used his physics training working on mine ventilation. He joined De Havilland in 1953, specialising in icing problems, and spoke about the ice potential of various cloud formations and the many experiments carried out both airborne and on the ground. His expertise was later directed at acoustics, aircraft noise becoming a big issue with the general public, and he explained how noise was created by various shock waves and the work done on engine baffles by the engine manufacturers.

Desmond traced the history of the Comet, the world's first jet airliner, from its brilliant beginnings, through the mysterious crashes whose causes were finally uncovered and rectified, to the phoenix-like rise of the later Comet versions. His talk, well

illustrated and with technicalities clearly explained, was greatly enjoyed by an appreciative audience.

Just before Christmas we enjoyed a members evening with contributions for Betty Ewens and Gerard McSweeney.

Betty outlined the career, spanning 40 years, of **the great horticulturalist Frederick Sander**, who started his business in George Street and later moved his nursery to a new site in Camp Road, St Albans. At the time it was the largest nursery in the world, specialising in orchids, the most popular and expensive flower available. Sander, known as the 'orchid king' became internationally famous, a friend of the monarchs and aristocracy of Europe. He established a second nursery in Belgium and, when he died, such was the esteem in which he was held that the route of the cortege from Bruges to Ostend was lined with people. As the ferry bearing his coffin left the harbour, ships' sirens and the Belgian Navy sounded a salute. Nothing remains of the Camp Road site or the house, but nearby Vanda Crescent and Flora Grove were named to commemorate the enterprise.

Gerard's talk on the **Redoubtable Duchess and her almshouses: Sarah Duchess of Marlborough**, the major figure of the time in St Albans. After covering some of her stormy history and relations with her family and the architects with whom she dealt, he described the beginnings of Marlborough Buildings, sited on the estate of Newland Squillers, part of which was known as Walnut Field, a name still in use in 1826. The Duchess wished to provide shelter for old soldiers from the Duke's

various campaigns, although the Buildings appear not to have been used for these survivors. Peninsula veterans were among those recorded as residents. The Buildings' exterior appears not to have been altered significantly, apart from some additional stonework and the impressive stone coat of arms on the front. Improvements and modernisation have naturally taken place inside, though the original wooden posts and banisters of the staircases are still there.

Gerard's talk was illustrated with excellent old maps and pictures of the Buildings in their early days and provided an interesting background to such a well-known feature of St Albans.

## LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### LECTURE PROGRAMME SPRING 2008

Admission is free and non-members are welcome at any meeting. Pre-booking not required

*Wednesday 20 February 2008, 6.15 pm*

#### **AGM and Presidential Address: Is London's past finished? And does anyone care?**

Dr Simon Thurley  
Chief Executive, English Heritage

*Thursday 13 March*

#### **Channel Tunnel Rail Link. Investigations in the Lea Valley**

Andy Crockett  
Senior Project Manager, Wessex Archaeology

*Thursday 10 April*

#### **The Rise and Fall of England's Medieval Jews** Dr Richard Huscroft, Westminster School

*Thursday 8 May*

#### **The History and Architecture of Clerkenwell: A summary of the Survey of London's findings**

Colin Thom  
Senior Historian, Survey of London, English Heritage

*All evening lectures are held at the Museum of London  
(Terrace Room), London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN, at  
6.30 pm.*

*Refreshments are available from 6.00 pm*

*Enquiries concerning meetings to Jackie Keily at the  
Museum of London, tel: (020 7814 5734; e-mail  
jkeily@museumoflondon.org.uk)*

## NEW BOOKS

### The Story of Welwyn Roman Baths

This booklet, written and illustrated by Tony Rook who led the excavations, is more than an authoritative guide to the site. It tells the reader how the baths worked and how they were used, as well as the inspiring and amazing story from the discovery of the site to its being opened to the public.

ISBN 0-9523580-6-9 / 52pp / A5 paperback / £4.95 + £0.50 postage

### Lockleys Roman Villas

The two archaeologists' reports on "Lockleys" villa and the later discovery of "Dicket Mead" villa nearby are reproduced together here for the first time, with an introduction and additional material by Tony Rook. There is also an appendix of the numerous Belgic Iron Age and Roman sites for which the Welwyn area is now famous.

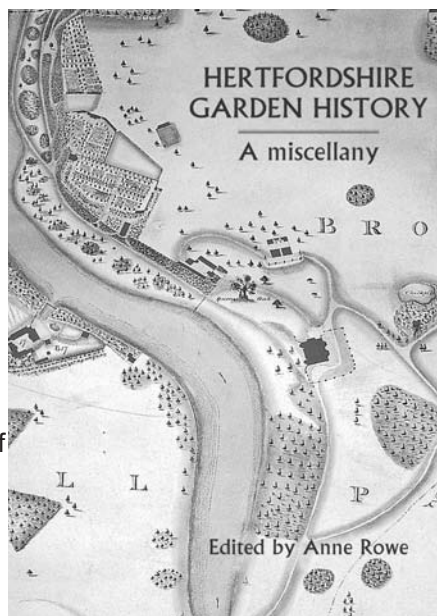
ISBN 978-0-9523580-7-7 / 134pp / A4 paperback / £10.00 + £1.00 postage

Copies are available from Tony Rook, 23 Mill Lane, Welwyn, Herts AL6 9EU. Postage for both books together is £1.00 only.

### Hertfordshire Garden History

This 'miscellany' has been coordinated and edited by Anne Rowe, a freelance landscape historian, on behalf of the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust. A fascinating collection of essays on significant county gardens from the 17th century to the present, with features on Frederick Sander the orchid king and the Pulham family who created royal rock gardens.

ISBN-10 1-905313-38-1  
£16.99 from University of Hertfordshire Press or local bookshops.



## HEADING FOR THE BRITISH LIBRARY?

If you are heading into London for some research, the St Albans train now arrives at ground level in the new St Pancras International Station, right opposite the Library's door. Couldn't be more convenient, as Kate Morris reminds us!

## PUBLICITY OFFICER WANTED

*We are STILL in urgent need of a Publicity Officer since Anne Dean decided to resign in September last year. Surely we have a member out there who would like to take up this great opportunity to be at the heart of the Society's activities and to influence future direction.*

The role of the Publicity Officer is bring the activities of the Society to the knowledge of the wider community, and generally to participate in the running of the Society and to assist in the development of its future strategy.

Responsibilities will include:

- Maintain close contact with all members of Council, but particularly the lecture secretaries and group co-ordinators, and thus be aware of all the Society's activities.
- Although not necessary to attend all of the Society's "events", it will be hoped that the Publicity Officer will be present at most of the "important" functions. Ownership of a digital camera would be an asset, but not essential.
- Provide the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster with all material that should be circulated to the membership at large.
- Issue press releases and editorials to all potentially interested parties, such as local press and radio, giving notice of forthcoming events, and write reports on those that have taken place.
- Maintain regular contact with all potential publicity outlets, such as libraries, Tourist Offices, St Albans District Council, and provide posters, leaflets etc. promoting the Society for public view.
- Organise displays and arrange a rota of volunteer helpers for public "events" such as the Festival of Life"

If you are interested, please contact Bryan Hanlon on 01727 851734 to discuss further.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following, who have joined since our last newsletter, and hope they will enjoy the Society's activities.

Mr & Mrs J Bennett, Wheathampstead  
Miss Jane Dixon, Temperance Street, St Albans  
Mrs Judith Fingland, Harpenden Road, St Albans  
Mrs Lin Keen, Heath Farm Lane, St Albans  
Mr & Mrs Donald Stafferton, Abbey Mews, St Albans  
Dr PS Williams, Ramsbury Road, St Albans  
Mr Fergal Browne, Cunningham Avenue, Hatfield

## 2008 LECTURES

**Tuesday 19th February 2008**  
***The Story of Welwyn Garden City***  
 Caroline Rawle

**Friday 29th February 2008**  
***Joseph Paxton, the Busiest Man in England***  
 Kate Colhoun

Head Gardener to the 6th Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth, designer of the greatest glasshouse the world had ever seen for the Great Exhibition of 1851, Newspaper owner, MP, Horticultural genius, Railway entrepreneur, Parks Designer and Architect, the all but forgotten Joseph Paxton strode through the first two thirds of the Nineteenth Century like a colossus and was a household name. Kate Colquhoun's biography was shortlisted for the Duff Cooper and the Samuel Johnson Awards and she will take us on a whistlestop, illustrated tour of the great Victorian's life.

Kate's second book: *Taste, the History of Britain through its Cooking*, is published by Bloomsbury. She writes regularly for the Telegraph and the Financial Times and, from time to time, for The Garden Magazine and other papers and magazines.

**4th March 2008**  
***Roman Medicine***  
 Dr Ralph Jackson

**Tuesday 11th March 2008**  
***ALH Group AGM***  
***Ways to Annoy the Enemy: St. Albans and the Napoleonic War***  
 Brian Adams

**Tuesday 18th March 2008**  
***The Arc and Arc Library***  
 The Library Staff

**Friday 28th March 2008**  
***From Family Gold to Family Gout***  
***Plutocrats: A Rothschild Inheritance***  
 George Ireland

**As the College of Law is unavailable this lecture will be at Verulamium Museum at 7.45pm.**

To conjure up the idea of boundless wealth in the nineteenth century one had only to mention the name of Nathan Rothschild, the founder of N. M. Rothschild & Sons, the bank in the City of London. After a life devoted to business, on his death Nathan left the bulk of his vast fortune to his sons.

In this lecture, based on his book, George Ireland explores the events, circumstances, personalities, attitudes, tastes, opinions and prejudices that shaped their extraordinary lives.

George Ireland read history at Oxford University and afterwards was called to the Bar. Over the last fifteen years he has written and edited several thousand short biographies for the obituaries column of the Daily Telegraph. He is a contributor to the new Dictionary of National Biography and has previously written (as ghost) *A Gilt-Edged Life*, the memoirs of Edmund de Rothschild.

**Tuesday 1st April 2008**  
***Flags, Feathers and Further***  
***Communication Methods***  
 Victor Ludlow

**Tuesday 8th April 2008**  
***St Albans & the Peasants' Revolt***  
 Rev P Wadsworth

**Tuesday 15th April 2008**  
***St Albans Fire Service***  
 Dr Alan McWhirr

**Friday 25th April 2008**  
***How old is the Landscape? The age of field boundaries in Herts and surrounding counties***  
 Dr Tom Williamson

The pattern of field boundaries can tell us a great deal about the history of the landscape. This lecture will look at different forms of field boundary; what they can show us about the extent of open fields in medieval Hertfordshire; and whether elements of pre-medieval patterns of land division have survived in the modern landscape.

Dr Tom Williamson comes from Hertfordshire. He read history and archaeology at Cambridge and further studies covered the Roman and Medieval Settlement in North West Essex. For several years he has lectured at the University of East Anglia. He has written many books to include *The Origins of Hertfordshire* and *The Parks and Gardens of West Hertfordshire*.

**Tuesday 29th April 2008**  
***The £150 Cottage; Letchworth G C & the 1905 Cheap Cottage Exhibition***  
 Vicky Rawlings

**Tuesday 6th May 2008**  
***Heart of Empire: The Story of a (London) Street Corner***  
 Elaine Beckett

**Tuesday 20th May 2008**  
***Beneath City Streets: London's Unseen History***  
 Peter Lawrence

**Friday 30th May 2008**  
***The First Battle of St Albans 1455***  
 Harvey Watson

On 22nd May 1455 the streets of St Albans became the site of a violent and bloody conflict. The First Battle of St Albans marked the start of that confused and turbulent period known as The Wars of the Roses (1455-1487), the longest period of civil strife in English history. The talk will cover the dramatic events of the battle, look at the political background that led to the outbreak of hostilities, briefly cover the layout of 15th Century St Albans and investigate what landmarks associated with the battle can still be seen today.

Harvey Watson is a senior Project Manager with the Ministry of Defence where he has worked for over thirty years. Although usually based in Whitehall, his job often involves extensive travelling abroad. He has had a lifetime interest in military history and in his spare time is a keen supporter of the Battlefields Trust. The Battlefields Trust is a charity dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and presentation of Battlefield sites as an educational and heritage resource. The Trust has also been closely involved in the development of Battlefield archaeology.

**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.**

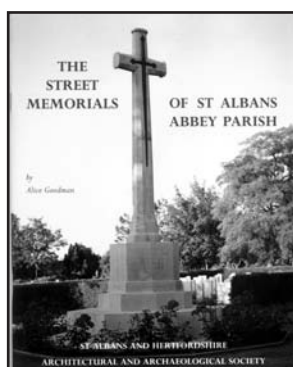
## CURRENT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

### *The Street Memorials of St Albans Abbey Parish*

Alice Goodman, 1987

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

£4

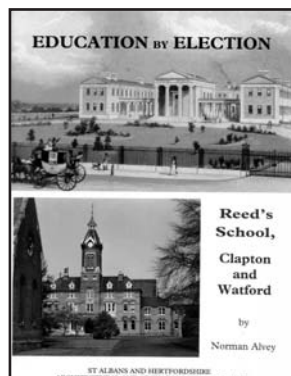
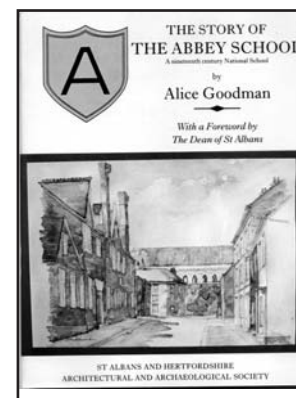


### *The Story of the Abbey School*

Alice Goodman, 1991

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

£4



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

Norman Alvey, 1990

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

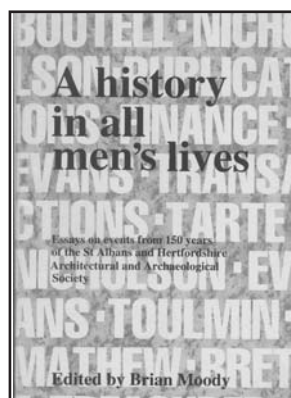
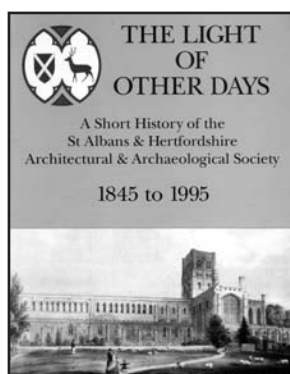
£4

### *The Light of Other Days*

Brian Moody, 1995

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

£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.

£2



### *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.

£4

**AVAILABLE AT WATERSTONE'S, ST ALBANS**

### *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.