



NEWSLETTER

No. 175 February 2010

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

'Communicating' is the theme of my report in this Newsletter. The recent heavy snowfalls and low temperatures have highlighted the importance of good communications. Although I am separated from St Albans by more than 10,000 miles in distance, +11 hours in time and up to +49.5°C in

temperature, I am able to keep in touch with the Arc & Arc through the internet. The decision to cancel the Society's New Year Party scheduled for the 8th January was taken by the Society's Executive Committee on the morning of the 7th January after consultation with staff at Verulamium Museum. They reported that the car park was in an extremely bad – indeed treacherous – condition ('like a skating rink') and likely to remain so. The forecast was for more heavy falls of snow.

By 12.15 p.m. on Thursday 7th January a notice announcing the cancellation was posted on the Society's website. All members who had given their email addresses to the Society received messages asking them to pass on news of the cancellation to members who had no email address or access to the internet. Staff at Verulamium Museum placed a cancellation notice on the museum door. Bryan Hanlon and Doreen Bratby also telephoned a variety of people who they thought might not receive the email message, and asked them to 'pass the word on'.

Knowing that some members would have received no news of the cancellation, our webmaster Brian Bending kindly went to Verulamium Museum at 7.15 p.m. on 8th January in case anyone turned up for the party. One intrepid member arrived at about 7.55. That person had internet access, but had not passed on an email address to the Society and had not checked the website before leaving. Communicating is a two-way process.

Brian Bending stayed on until 8.20 p.m., by which time he had also met one dog-walker, two joggers and three rabbits, none of whom was a member. We should all be grateful that our webmaster takes such a broad view of how to communicate with members. Most people in his position do not look beyond the internet as a means of communication.

During the cold weather Roy Bratby communicated with invited speakers and the Webmaster by email and mobile phone so that as many people as possible knew which lectures were cancelled or altered. Another speaker has now fallen ill and withdrawn at short notice, John Cox has kindly stepped into the breach.

I have recently come across some highly successful examples of how to communicate history. The Museum of Sydney stands on the site of the first Government House, built in 1788 for the first Governor of the colony Arthur Phillip. It fulfils its main purpose to communicate to the visitor aspects of the history of the locality by many ingenious and varied techniques.

Events from more than 200 years ago are communicated by modern recordings of conversations that would have taken place between the first settlers and aboriginal people as they exchanged names of things all around them and began to understand one another's language. The voice recordings, accompanied by bird cries, come from small loudspeakers hidden in the trunks of trees outside the building. The experience of hearing words spoken more than 200 years ago at that place is vivid and memorable. The building is well designed and built by skilled craftsmen using high-quality materials. Even computer technology, which dates quickly, is up-to-date and, more importantly, is easy for the elderly to use, as I noted.

It is another indication of the advancing age of some of our members that we have three obituaries in this issue, all of whom played an important role in the work of our Society and in unearthing the history of our City. On behalf of the Society, I have written to Martin Biddle with our condolences on the loss of his wife Birthe.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Jill Bennett for the work she has done for five years as the Society's Clock Tower Organiser. 'Clockateering' not only contributes to the Society's income, but it is an opportunity for members to meet the public and communicate their pride in St Albans and its history. I hope Jill enjoys her retirement and that a volunteer comes forward to continue her work as organizer of the Clockateers, a role which is so important to the finances of our Society.

Michael Cooper

CITY VISION

'City Vision', describing aims for the future of St Albans over the next 20 or more years, was last year the subject of consultations with the public and 'stakeholders' such as this Society (who suggested a landmark building for a museum and other cultural resources). It is now reaching a more completed state for this stage of the planning process. Although aspects of the Vision may alter with changing circumstances in the future, many of its shorter term and achievable proposals are likely to be included in the Core Strategy leading to formal development plan documents which will eventually succeed the district local plan of 1994.

The City Vision is a 196 page document divided into 7 Chapters. In Chapter 3 there are seven Objectives including St Albans as a cultural centre and visitor destination and with a cultural hub and/or circuit. Chapter 4 outlines consultations. Chapter 5 contains six 'themed strategies', one of which deals with Culture and Leisure. It suggests that a central cultural hub might be created, and encourages cultural activities such as the visual and performing arts, signed

pedestrian/heritage routes, etc

Chapter 6 describes a Master Plan and Urban Design Strategy based on seven principles, including 'creating a civic and cultural hub including an enlarged Arena, cinema, relocated City Museum, gallery, and, possibly, a relocated library'. Two possible scenarios are described:

- a) The complete scenario. This involves some 17,000 sq m of retail etc floor space including a department store at Drovers Way, removal of the Civic Offices elsewhere and a new cultural hub with an enlarged Arena, boutique cinema, museum and gallery, with a food store at the rear.
- b) A scenario with flexible phasing. This involves 14,000 sq m of retail etc floor space and department store as before, but with the Civic Offices and Museum of St Albans (MoSTA) remaining on their existing sites, an enlarged Arena and boutique cinema, with a food store at the rear.

It describes proposed changes in the provision of car parking in the City Centre, decreasing the west side, Drovers Way, by 622 spaces and

increasing the Civic Centre side by 413 spaces. It suggests other future uses for the Hatfield Road University site as Civic Offices, hotel or education but makes no such suggestions for the MoSTA site.

As a matter of comment, the City Vision's scenario (a) corresponds closely with this Society's vision of a landmark building as a cultural hub for the City but it would seem to depend on replacing the present Civic Offices. While such an aspiration should continue to be a guide to the future, it seems unlikely to be achieved in the near future. However, there are many initiatives, some of them suggested in the Vision, which can be taken, now and in the future, to promote the City as a cultural centre and visitor destination without the need for new buildings, and which would help to promote and realise the longer-term vision.

Perhaps a page in our Newsletters could become a forum for your suggestions? If you agree, please write to the Editor with your ideas.

David Tuckett

MAKING MEMORIES

REMEMBER WHEN? COMMUNITY

ARCHIVES WEBSITES FOR

HERTFORDSHIRE

How often do you look around you and remember the way things used to be? Our towns and villages are constantly changing, but these changes are often not recorded, neither are the personal memories that go with them.

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies has recently been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to develop a suite of community archives websites. The first of these, Herts Memories, is already live. The website is a place where the living memories of anybody who has lived or worked in Hertfordshire can be preserved. Everyone can add their stories and pictures to the site and add comments about articles already on the site.

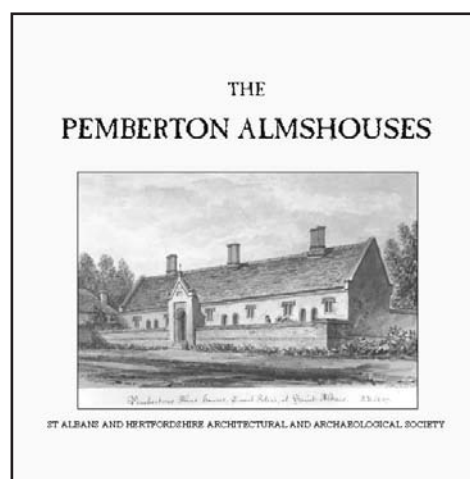
Free training is available for anybody who would like to be involved in editing and developing the websites, and new volunteers are always welcome.

The official launch of Herts Memories took place on 13th January and you can view it at www.hertsmemories.org.uk

PEMBERTON ALMSHOUSES

REPRINTED

Those who failed to get a copy of this book back in 2005 now have a chance to fill the gap on their bookshelves as we have recently reprinted. The book tells the story of the Pemberton family and, in particular, of Roger, whose will of 1624 details how the almshouses, which still remain opposite St Peter's Church, were to be set up and managed. It is the result of original research by our 17th Century Population Research Group. Copies cost £4.00; for availability see page 9.



RESIDENTS FIRST WEEKEND

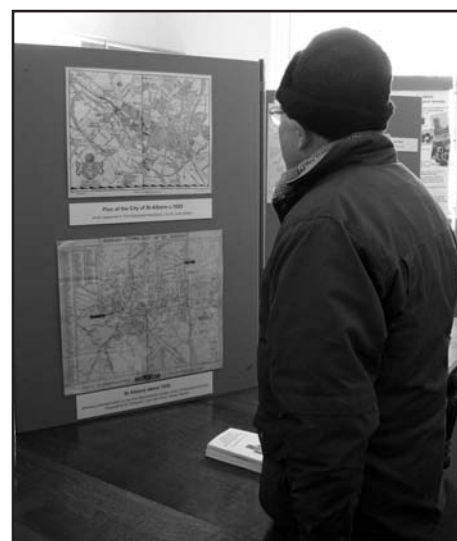
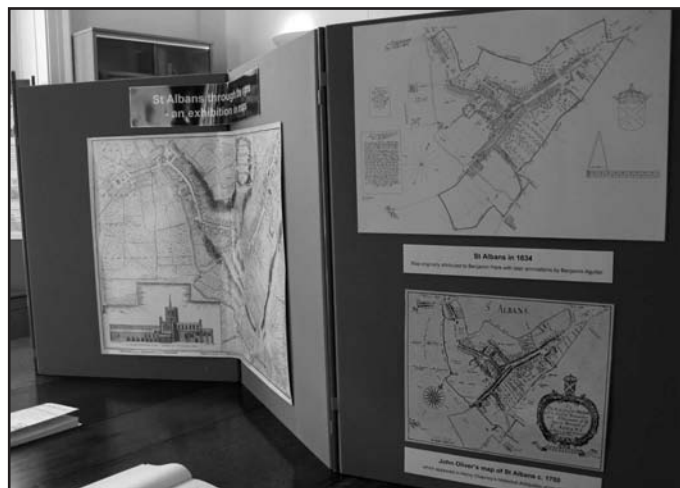
The Library Team mounted an exhibition St Albans through the Ages in Maps in the Judges' Robing Room on 30th/31st January for Residents First Weekend. We had a fair number of very interested people, following the growth of St Albans as they walked around the exhibition, from the Hare Map of 1634, to 2004, courtesy of Frosts Estate Agents! Some very interesting points were thrown up: for example in the eighteenth century, the river Ver is given the alternative name of the river Muse! It all sounds very poetic, but can anyone suggest why this should be so?

As usual, a number of membership forms were taken, so we hope this results in at least some of them coming back! The Society's publications were on sale, and this was an opportunity to display a selection of some of the very interesting maps we have in our collection, which seemed to be appreciated by our visitors. Our grateful thanks are due to Tony who masterminded the exhibition, to Elizabeth who provided stalwart help, and to Andrew, whose technical

expertise meant that the exhibition was of the highest quality we have yet produced. Also we would like to thank all those members who came along to meet and greet the visitors.

We would also like to record the donation of a very interesting painting of the Clock tower c.1953, by Charles Morris, a very competent amateur artist, who lived in St. Albans for most of his life, and was joint author of a book on Roman roads. We are particularly delighted to receive this gift, as it comes from Joyce Wells, our former Honorary Librarian, who still, we are happy to say, takes a keen interest in the library, and whose advice and opinion we much value. Thank you Joyce, it looks at home in the Robing Room already!

Gill Harvey



NEVER THROW ANYTHING AWAY!

It's not useless, it's just in the wrong place!

During one of the Society's moves in the past, when there was a pressing need to weed out surplus items from the library, I rescued some discarded books and papers which it seemed 'a shame to throw away'. Over time I found welcoming recipients for them.

At the end of last year I came across one which I had overlooked, a pamphlet, privately published in the 1880s, concerning a postulated 'pre-Roman metropolis' in Dorset, just to the west of Stourhead. Placenames on a map in it rang a bell as I have friends who have moved there in recent years. Mere is the nearest town, so with the aid of the Internet and a search engine I soon found that there is a thriving, small museum. The same communication channel enabled me to ask whether the Curator knew of the publication and, if they did not already possess a copy, whether they would like one. I also mentioned that the owner's name, WW Lloyd, was handwritten on the title page, with the date 1881.

'Yes, indeed', was the reply, 'we would be most pleased to have it, especially as WW Lloyd was a well-known local figure.' I duly despatched the booklet and quote from the Curator's letter of thanks:

"Thank you very much for sending us Caer Pensauelcoit, signed by Rev. Lloyd! We are simply delighted to have it -

our Curator Emeritus certainly knew of the publication, even though I, an incomer still to Mere, did not ... the booklet is an invaluable addition to our collection."

So, any time you are in Mere, drop into the museum, show your Arc & Arc membership card, and you should get a warm welcome. All we have to do now is wait for someone, somewhere in the country, to do us a similar favour!

Roger Miles

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following, and hope they will enjoy becoming involved with A&A activities.

Peter Bourton	Shenley
Ted Coxhead	Kimpton
Mr & Mrs D King	Redbourn
Neville Scott	London Road, St Albans
Philip Silvey	Sandridge
Terry Scanlan	Marconi Way, St Albans

R.I.P.

Birthe Kjølbye Biddle

It is with great sadness that we share the loss of Birthe, who died on 16th January, after a brave struggle against ovarian cancer, well supported by the family.

Birthe was our leader of many excavations inside and around the Abbey precincts from 1978, revealing some of the mysteries of our famous Benedictine Monastery. Professor Martin Biddle and Birthe were invited to St Albans Cathedral by Bishop Robert Runcie, and to plan the emergency excavation of the site chosen for a new Chapter House overlying the demolished remains of the great mediaeval chapter house with its rich coloured entrance.

Birthe was an excellent teacher, strict in her supervision, aware of our lack of experience, patient in teaching us new techniques and meticulous in the daily recording on the huge site plan. She quickly noted special skills for success, e.g. computer skills, drawing, planning, surveying, photography and trowelling skills, and hard labour.

I was a member of Birthe's team on all the excavations. The first site was covered in nettles and brambles from a corner of the Deanery garden, to be cleared for a new path around the South Transept Slype which was demolished. Briefing began every Monday morning to the sound of the carillon with its missing notes (now repaired). At mid-morning coffee break, we were trained to tidy up our own section of the trench, bucket, shovel, kneeler, trowel and finds trays, so that the Biddles could examine every inch and together work out the plan, solve the problems and prepare for future excavating. All the finds were carefully scrubbed by volunteers and taken to Helen Paterson in charge of Finds.

Towards the end of that season's dig, onlookers were invited into the railed-off enclosure for a closer look and given a guided tour by Birthe or Martin.

Fragile, exposed stone was protected through the winter ready for next season's dig.

One of Birthe's frequent injunctions was 'Keep your section clean!'

One morning, we were told that 'today the 100th Roman coin will be found', and I found it next to where Birthe's daughter and I were trowelling: it was tiny, no bigger than my smallest finger nail. The prize was to go to the local cake shop and choose a cake large enough for 30 hungry excavators to enjoy. Birthe was asked to slice the oblong cake and we all chanted 'Keep the section clean!'.

I have a very vivid memory, one of many, of Birthe who was invited to address the local Arc & Arc on the site. She had changed from her patched shorts to a long floaty white skirt, standing with a rangeing rod to

point out the features of the cellarium dig, and then the Cathedral bell ringers began their weekly practice, and Martin had to step in with his stronger voice.

An end of season celebration barbeque was held once in my garden, and I was told that there would be a 'shower' for one of the American Earthwatch volunteers who was pregnant. I had to be enlightened that a hosepipe was not needed!

Today there is a display in the Cathedral Treasury near the North Transept and the Museum of St Albans stores and shows many of the finds. The beautiful tiled floor of the Chapter House is replicated before the High Altar, and after their reverential interment, the Abbots' bones lie under a slab with exquisite carved inscription by the Kindersleys. This was a moment of deep, spiritual reverence. The stone store above the South aisle of the nave also is open to visitors by arrangement, on Open Days and Heritage weekend.

So we owe to Birthe and Martin our everlasting thanks for their uplifting gift to the people of St Albans, as we send our sympathy to the family in their loss.

Margaret Taylor

Barry Walkington

We regret to report the death of Barry Walkington on 11th January 2010, after a long illness, courageously borne. He succeeded Norman Oldknow as Secretary of the Local History and Architectural Group of the Arc & Arc and was responsible, over several years, for organising a long list of Tuesday evening talks, as well as visits to places of local interest.

We extend our sympathy to his wife, Anne, and to his family.

Donations, if desired, to the Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted (www.justgiving.com/barry-walkington).

Victor Levitt

Victor Levitt passed away in December 2010 aged 91. He was an active member of the Arc & Arc. Having joined the Society in 1980, he served on the A & LH Group committee and until March 1988. He was a colourful character and was probably best remembered for organising weeklong holidays by bus to Provence. Several of our members will remember seeing the markets and touring the Roman sites.

On behalf of the Society he organised three trips to Provence (in May 1983, May 1984 and June 1985 based in Avignon), to the chateaux of the Loire Valley in May 1989 based in Tours and to the Cote D'Azur and Monaco in March 1992 based in Nice.

Thanks to Graham Norman and Margaret Taylor for supplying some of this information.

Doreen Bratby

Revisiting *New Towns of the Middle Ages*

A Conference and Field-Seminar in the Ancient Town of Winchelsea in Memory of Professor M.W. Beresford

Friday 21 - Sunday 23 May 2010

Convened by Keith D Lilley (*Queen's University Belfast*)
and Richard Comotto (*Winchelsea Archaeological Society*)

This conference focuses on the continuing legacy of Professor Maurice Beresford's '*New Towns of the Middle Ages*' and draws together both academic and general audiences of his book to reflect on the recent advances in research on the topic of medieval new towns and their planning.

Key speakers include:

- Professor Chris Dyer (*University of Leicester*)
- Professor Jean-Loup Abbé (*University of Toulouse*)
- Canon Dr Terry Slater (*University of Birmingham*)
- Dr Patrick Ottaway (*Archaeological Consultant*)

The conference will take place over the weekend of May 21-23 2010 in Winchelsea (East Sussex), one of the most renowned examples of a medieval 'new town'. Specialists will give lectures and lead discussions on how historical, geographical and archaeological research has changed our views about *New towns of the Middle Ages*, building upon Professor Beresford's important work yet at the same time challenging some of his ideas and pointing towards new research directions.

Conference speakers will explore the societies, landscapes and material cultures of medieval 'new towns', placing them in an international comparative context, as well as their own local settings. To this end, Winchelsea itself provides an important case-study, as Professor Beresford had recognized, so the second day of the programme includes lectures on the town's medieval archaeology, history and planning, as well as a field-visit around the impressive remains of 'New Winchelsea'.

Further information at: www.winchelsea.net/conference or e-mail: was@winchelsea.net

The conference registration fee is £25 (cheque payable to 'Winchelsea Archaeological Society').

Please complete the following details and send this form by **April 30 2010** with your cheque to:

Winchelsea Archaeological Society, c/o Firebrand House, Winchelsea, East Sussex, TN36 4EA, UK



Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address or Telephone Number: _____

LIBRARY NOTES AND QUERIES

First, some website-related developments. We mentioned in a previous Notes and Queries we had completed an index to the collection of 600 or so 35mm slides given to the Society by the late Frank Kilvington. This index is now accessible on the website. To find it when logged on to www.stalbanshistory.org, click on Our Society, then on Library, and successively on Frank Kilvington's Slides, and Index.

Another of our resources is a collection of papers on a wide range of topics, including people, buildings (such as pubs, churches and schools) and events. These are stored in folders and filed alphabetically by subject. The amount of information on each topic varies a good deal. There might be just one item in a folder, or several, and the quality is variable – from the ephemeral such as a news clipping, or quite substantial, such as a scholarly journal article. Whatever the contents, which include illustrations and maps, these files are very useful, perhaps answering an enquiry in full, or providing a pointer to further sources of information. We now have an index to the subjects covered in these files, and are on the point of adding this to the website too. As new material is acquired, new subject terms will be added to the index.

The ongoing work of cataloguing the library's book collection proceeds, and will continue to do so, but we are now at the stage of investigating ways of putting the catalogue as it stands so far, up on the website. Fingers crossed, it might be accomplished in the next few months.

In addition to these 'back office' activities, we have been kept busy with enquiries from far and wide. From Canada came a request for information on Ashwell House and the Ashwell family, and on Isaac Newton Edwards; and from Australia came the third enquiry in the last six months about St Stephens School. In dealing with the latter we discovered that the school records are held at HALS, but access is restricted because of concerns about confidentiality. We have also helped with information on 19th century

coffee houses and the temperance movement in St Albans, and on the development in the late 19th century of the St Peter's Park area. At the time of writing, we are putting together the Society's exhibition for the Residents First Weekend, trying to make up for time lost during the recent wintry weather.

Books recently added to stock

Chronicles of Matthew Paris: monastic life in the thirteenth century, edited with an introduction by Richard Vaughan. Gloucester, Alan Sutton, 1986, 286pp

Caldecott: the development and desertion of a Hertfordshire village, by Guy Beresford and others. Society for Medieval Archaeology, Monograph no. 28, 2009. 267pp, figs, photos, plans. This the final publication of a rescue excavation of a site occupied since the tenth century.

The History of Berkhamsted Common, by George H Whybrow. The Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Society, 1934. 159pp, figs, photos. Contains an entertaining account of a midnight assault on the fence erected round the Common in the 1860s.

The printed maps of Hertfordshire 1577-1900, by D Hodson. Dawson, 1974. 251pp. First published by the Map Collectors' Circle, 1969-72. A bibliography of county-wide Hertfordshire maps.

Fleetville: a community in St Albans, by Brian Adams, Elizabeth Gardner and Rosalyn Goulding. St Albans Museum Service, 2009. 56pp, illus, plans. A community-based study, making use of Fleetville residents' recollections in oral history recordings made in 1995, and during reminiscence sessions in 2009.

The old inns of St Albans, with an illustrated account of the Peahen Hotel past and present, by F G Kitton. Walter Price, 1899. 53pp, photos, drawing. The publisher was the proprietor of the Peahen, the history of which is described, together with its 1899 amenities, and short notes on some of the other city centre inns.

Hertfordshire windmills and windmillers, by Cyril Moore.

Sawbridgeworth, Windsup Publications, 1999. 174 pp, illus, maps. A descriptive gazetteer.

Recent journal articles

In *Current Archaeology*, December 2009, pp29-35. The end of Roman Verulamium, by Neil Faulkner and David Neal. A re-examination of the evidence from Sheppard Frere's excavation suggests that Roman Verulamium was more short-lived as a thriving centre than currently thought.

In *British Archaeology*, January/February 2010, pp14-21. Newhenge, by Mike Parker-Pearson, Joshua Pollard, Julian Thomas and Kate Welham. Reports on an excavation of a previously unknown stone circle, dubbed 'Bluestonehenge', near Stonehenge.

Journals received

Conservation Bulletin (English Heritage) Autumn 2009

Hendon and District Archaeological Society Newsletter December 2009

Bricket Wood Society Newsletter December 2009

Current Archaeology January 2010

London Archaeologist Winter 2009/2010

Hendon and District Archaeological Society Newsletter January 2010

Current Archaeology February 2010

History Today December 2009

History Today January 2010

THE LIBRARY TEAM

Gill Harvey, 01727 853415

Anne Wares, 01727 860705

Donald Munro 01727 760808

Elizabeth Gardner 01727 861101

Tony Cooper 01727 865032

Or email via the Society's website, www.stalbanshistory.org

The library is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the former Judges' Robing Room at the Old Town Hall. Access is currently through the Tourist Information Office.

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2010

NOTE NEW SPEAKER!

Tuesday 16th February 2010

St Albans and the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography John Cox

John is well known to Arc & Arc members and is currently our Publicity officer. He continues to research material for the 19th century research group and serves on the HALS Steering Committee for the Hertfordshire Community Archives project.

Friday 26th February 2010

Enigma - How Breaking the German Ciphers in WW2 led to the World's First Computer Hugh Davies

'All the experts have stated unanimously that there is no possibility that Enigma messages have been deciphered and read by the enemy'. This German message was deciphered and read by us – the enemy! So how did we do it, what advantage did it give us, and how did we exploit that advantage?

The background of Hugh Davies is primarily in management in multinational IT companies, from large mainframes to the personal computer. He also spent some years as a head-hunter recruiting senior executives. He founded a computer security company to exploit his invention of the Passfaces authentication system that dispensed with passwords. Awarded the British Computer Society innovation award in 1996. The company, now Washington based, is specified as the authentication system to be used by the US Senate.

Now retired, Hugh is a guide at the Bletchley Park Museum, lecturer and researcher in the human aspects of WW2 Intelligence. He conducts many outside lectures and also lectures on WW2 intelligence on cruise ships.

Tuesday 9th March 2010

The Villages of East London Peter Lawrence

This illustrated talk aims to highlight the surviving village centres that exist in East London after the incredible increase in populations in the late 19th century. The talk highlights the evidence of a more wealthy past in the 18th century.

Peter Lawrence is a retired member of Royalty and Diplomatic Protection at Scotland Yard. He is Chairman of Woodford Historical Society, Chairman of Woodford Green National Trust Centre, an adult Education Tutor in local history, residential architecture and environmental studies with several colleges, local education centres and NADFAS and a Freeman of the City of London.

Tuesday 16th March 2010

Bogislaus Rosen (1572-1658) - a 17th Century Estonian Merchant Irene Cowan

Irene's ancestor was an important figure in the grain trade throughout the Baltic area. His most important customer was King Gustav Adolph of Sweden (1611-32). One of his rewards for helping the king to finance his many wars was ennoblement in 1617 when he became Bogislaus von Rosen. The talk will first set the scene with a brief account of the history of the Baltic area prior to the 17th century and then continue with a description of Bogislaus's life as a successful merchant.

After taking early retirement, prior to joining the Arc & Arc, Irene became involved with the 17th century population research group. The group's interest in constructing family trees prompted her to investigate further what she already knew of her own family background. As a result of these investigations, it was very exciting to discover that an aunt of her grandmother had published a book on her ancestor. Her talk is based on this book, the result of approximately 60 years of research which took her aunt all over Europe.

Friday 26th March 2010

Bedlam: London and its Mad Catharine Arnold

Bethlehem Hospital or 'Bedlam' as it became known in cockney slang is the world's oldest psychiatric hospital. Founded in 1247 it developed from a ramshackle hovel to the magnificent Palace Beautiful in Moorfields designed by Robert Hooke, through to the great Victorian hospital in Lambeth, now the Imperial War Museum. Catharine Arnold will take us on a tour of Bedlam and its famous residents, from jilted Margaret Nicholson, who tried to assassinate George III with a dessert knife - to the artist Richard Dadd, who murdered his own father, while providing an overview of psychiatric treatment through the ages, from electric shock treatment with live eels to the Elizabethan remedy for madness, a roasted mouse eaten whole!

Catharine Arnold read English at Cambridge and holds a further degree in psychology. Previous books include *Necropolis, London and its Dead*.

Tuesday 13th April 2010

Luton Hoo Past, Present and Future Zena Dickinson

The word 'hoo' is a Saxon word meaning 'spur of a hill'. This accurately reflects the estate's elevated position. There is also proof of Roman occupation with artefacts discovered in the area. It was not until 1763 that the Mansion House began to evolve into the Grade 1 listed building that we see today, with its awe-inspiring classical facade and lavishly decorated interiors. This talk will unfold the history of the life and times of one of England's grandest and most romantic country houses.

Zena Dickinson has been associated with Luton Hoo for almost 25 years in various capacities. Now, in retirement, she is deeply involved in keeping its history alive in its current life as a five-star hotel.

Tuesday 20th April 2010

Law and Disorder in St Albans 1750-1900 Ann Dean

This talk will introduce the people and crimes committed in St Albans 1750-1900. We will see how the law was administered in the Parish and Borough and punishments awarded - from flogging to transportation.

Prison life will be explored, both from the prisoners view and their gaolers. Just how harsh was life for the offender? - come and find out!

Ann Dean has been a member of the Arc & Arc since the 1970s and has been a committee member of ALHG and the Society Council, serving as Publicity Officer. She transcribed the St Michael's Parish Registers and Church Warden's Accounts as part of the research for *St Albans 1650-1700*, was a member of the team which produced *St Albans Quarter Sessions Rolls 1784-1820* (ed. David Dean, Herts Record Society, 1991). She has contributed to *Community Life in Hertfordshire 2000* (Ed. Dr Gillian Gear, HALH Recorders Group); *St Albans Today - A Personal View* (ed. Donald Pelletier, 2004). She is the Hon. Archivist for St Michael's Church and a St Albans Blue Badge Guide

Friday 30th April 2010

Pageantry, History and Identity: St Albans in the Twentieth Century Dr Mark Freeman

St Albans was one of many towns and cities in England that staged a historical pageant in the Edwardian period. The 1907 event involved groups from across the spectrum of civic life, and presented a series of historical episodes from St Albans's past. Other pageants, held in 1909, 1948 and 1953, reflected the ongoing popularity of both amateur dramatics and local history. This paper will place these events in a wider historical context, exploring how civic identity was shaped and promoted through the public presentation of the past.

Mark Freeman was born in St Albans, educated at St Albans School and the Universities of Oxford and Glasgow, and is now a senior lecturer in the Department of Economic and Social History at the University of Glasgow. He is the author of: *St Albans: A History* (2008); *The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust* (2004); and *Social Investigation and Rural England 1870-1914* (2003), as well as a number of articles on modern British social, cultural and business history. He is editor of *The English Rural Poor* (2005) and co-editor of *Vicarious Vagrants* (2008).

Tuesday 11th May 2010

Berkhamsted: Trades and Industries through the Ages

Jenny Sherwood

This talk traces the development of Berkhamsted from early times to the present day, mentioning the importance of its geographical setting on an important trade route and the use of natural resources together with the influence of the royal castle. It also traces the growth in Victorian times occasioned by the advent of the canal and the railway. 20th century changes in trade and industry bring us to the present.

Jenny Sherwood read History at London University in the 1950s, has been member of the Berkhamsted History Society since 1970 and Chairman of the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society (its present title) for the last 10 years. She has written a number of local history articles, the text for Ottakar's book of local photos by Francis Frith, *Berkhamsted - a History & Celebration*, the text for the panels at Berkhamsted Castle and the chapter, 'Influences on the growth and development of medieval and early modern Berkhamsted' for the book *A County of Small Towns*.

Tuesday 18th May 2010

The Five Churches at Waltham Abbey and the Development of the Town

Peter Huggins

The first parish church of St. Lawrence dates from the early 7th century and it served a huge minster parish. Such parishes were probably based on ancient iron-age territories. The development of the town depended on the absence of a railway and the presence of a gunpowder factory.

Friday Lectures start at 7.45pm at the College of Law, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield Road Campus St Albans

Tuesday Lectures start at 8.00pm at St Albans Boys' School, Romeland, St Albans

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

YOUR LECTURE CHOICE

If you have a favourite topic which is appropriate for the Society lecture programme and which could possibly be included at some future date, please contact DoreenBratby (doreen.bratby@bratbyonline.com).

THE ARC & ARC NEEDS YOU!

All the Society activities are run on a voluntary basis and our activities are severely restricted if we cannot find individuals willing to help. We urgently need:

Clock Tower Coordinator

Our previous clock tower coordinator, Jill Bennet, has recently resigned and we urgently need a new volunteer to take over this role and to be up and running before the opening season begins at Easter. This is a key role in helping to open the Clock Tower to the public at weekends (between Easter and mid-Sept.) and an important source of income for the Society. This is your chance to help us keep open this Grade I listed building and Scheduled Ancient Monument, unique in this country.

You will need to:

- Maintain lists of volunteers prepared to do sessions in the Clock Tower.
- Liaise with the Civic Society who cover alternate weekends
- Organise a rota of helpers to cover the Arc & Arc dates.
- Help to organise the annual 'Clockateers' party' to thank those who have contributed.
- Keep the clock tower accounts and be responsible for bank account, details of income and expenditure.
- Maintain a selection of postcards, publications and prints for sale in the tower.
- Monitor general running of open weekends, cash-float, supplies of tickets, leaflets etc.
- Organise the cleaning of the clock tower and pay the cleaner.

Peter Huggins is a mechanical engineer, apprenticed on the LMS railway, who subsequently worked on metal working research at Sheffield, rocket motor development at Coventry, then for the Earl of Verulam at Enfield Rolling Mills, before finally teaching at Enfield Technical College. Even before early retirement he had conducted many excavations locally, the first in 1966. Five churches on the same site have been discovered at Waltham.

Friday 28th May 2010

'The fair majestic paradise of Stowe': Stowe House and Landscape Gardens

Andrew Rudolf

The talk will explain the English Country House in its context as a symbol and centre of family power in the locality. It will outline the changes in Stowe Landscape Gardens from the formality of the late 17th century to the increasing naturalism of the 18th and the picturesque of the early 19th century. Lastly, we will consider the development of the house according to the constraints of function and fashion between 1678 and 1840 before seeing its transformation into a school after 1923.

Andrew Rudolf has been associated with Stowe as a pupil and schoolmaster for nearly 60 years, latterly on a part time basis. After National Service and Oxford he taught History at Charterhouse, Repton and Stowe where he ran the History Department and helped in Special Needs. He now acts as a guide at Stowe House and is Churchwarden of Stowe Parish Church.

- Liaise with the Museum Service

If we are unable to find a volunteer it's likely that the tower will close to the public. If you are interested please contact the President.

Publications Committee members

We would also like to revive this committee, whose brief will be to investigate what and how we should be publishing for members and, perhaps, for visitors to the City.

If this is a topic that interests you, particularly if you have experience in publishing or relevant skills, please contact the President in the first instance

CURRENT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

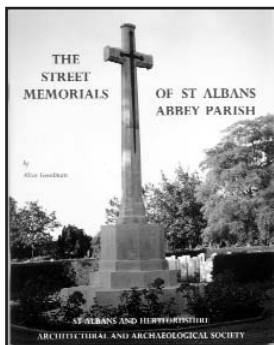
If you would like to purchase any of our titles, please contact the newsletter editor, details on page 10.

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

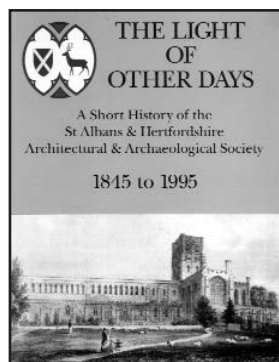
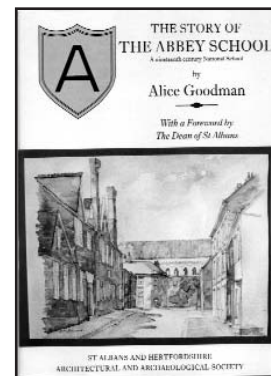


The Story of the Abbey School

Alice Goodman, 1991

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

£4

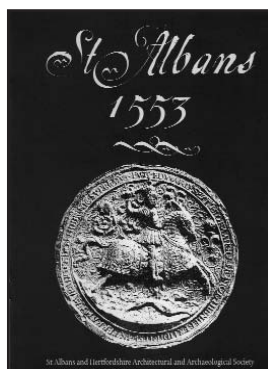


The Light of Other Days

Brian Moody, 1995

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

£1



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 Mayorality and authorising the town's markets.

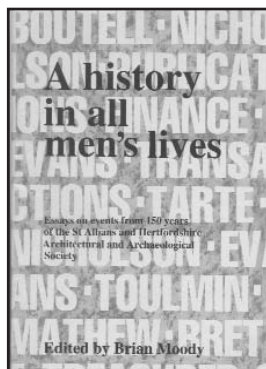
£4

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



AVAILABLE AT WATERSTONE'S, ST ALBANS

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

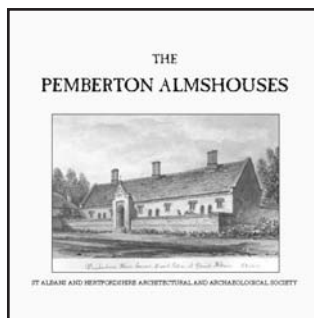
Ed. J T Smith & M A North, 2003

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

The Pemberton Almshouses (now reprinted)

The story of the Pemberton family and, in particular, of Roger, whose will of 1624 details how the almshouses, which still remain opposite St Peter's Church, were to be set up and managed. It is the result of original research by our 17th Century Population Research Group.

£4



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