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ST ALBANS AND HERTFORDSHIRE
ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
www.stalbanshistory.org



NEWSLETTER

No. 178 November 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Communications

We receive many notices of coming events which are of interest to our members. Nearly all arrive via the internet, but the cost and effort of printing and posting the notices to more than 400 members are too great. By the time the quarterly Newsletters are sent out, many of the events have taken place. The best we can do is display Society news and notices of other events and send emails to members inviting them to log on to the website to read the news. Brian Bending, our website manager, is compiling a list of the email addresses of members who are willing to receive news of forthcoming events by email. If you would like to be included in the list, please send your email address to the new Membership Secretary David Smith at brian@bending.force9.co.uk (addresses on page 10).

If you are not yet on line, but would like to be, see page 7.

Co-options on to Council

Peter Jeffreys has resigned as Membership Secretary. He has given loyal and efficient service through the last five years, but has taken on other voluntary work which will take all his spare time. In response to the Secretary's idea to use Lord Kitchener's compelling image in the last Newsletter, David Smith volunteered to become the new Membership Secretary. His offer was warmly accepted at the Council meeting in September and he was unanimously co-opted as a member of Council.

The journal *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History (HAH)* is owned jointly by this Society and East Hertfordshire Archaeological Society. It is edited, produced and distributed by a voluntary Editorial Committee drawn from the two Societies and local professional archaeologists. Bill Martin represented the Society on the Editorial Committee, but resigned after introducing the new IT procedures that were necessary. Two of our members, Christine McDermott and Gill Tarrant, volunteered to take over from Bill and so ensured a smooth continuation of the Committee's work. At the Society's Council meeting in September, Christine McDermott was unanimously co-opted as our representative on the Editorial Board of *HAH*.

We welcome both Christine and David, express our gratitude for the work of Bill and Peter.

Mayor's Prize

Our constitution expects members to 'engage in historical research of all kinds' and 'improve public knowledge of the architecture, archaeology and history' of St Albans and Hertfordshire. The Mayor's Prize, established by Kate

Morris (a member of the Society) at the end of her Mayoralty, is an incentive to do something to meet our obligations. Details of the annual Mayor's Prize (£100 at present) and an application form are enclosed with this Newsletter. Any member who has done some research is invited to apply. If you have not, but you know someone who has, please pass on the details of the Prize. It is not necessary to be a member of the Society to win.



New Year Party

An invitation to the 2011 New Year's Party on 7th January 2011 and an application form for tickets is enclosed with this Newsletter. Tickets will also be on sale after lectures on 16th and 26th November, and 7th December (as well as by post from the Secretary, see page 11 for details) and at the door on the day, but the latter will cost more. We hope the weather will be more congenial than it was last year, but if ice and snow come again, do please look at the website to see if the party has been cancelled at the last moment. If you have no internet access, phone a friend who has.

Storage space needed

The Society has a few possessions, which have been stored in various members' private buildings. It is now necessary to move them from their present location. Despite a plea by the Secretary at the AGM, nobody has come forward with an offer. We are now faced with hiring commercial premises for around £1,000 annually, a commitment which would mean an increase in subscriptions. Members who think they might be able to help can find further details on page 7.

Envelope-stuffers required

Nobody living in Hertfordshire offered to take on the role of Membership Secretary. It is unfair to expect a Membership Secretary living in deepest Bedfordshire to travel to St Albans to collect material for mailing, fill hundreds of envelopes, stick address labels and stamps on them and then post them all. Volunteers willing to meet together and undertake these tasks are invited to contact our secretary, Bryan Hanlon (address on page 10).

Michael Cooper

**Don't
miss
our New
Year Party!**

NEW FACES ON COUNCIL

Meet our new Membership Secretary ...

David Smith writes:

I'm a retired nurse, I took voluntary retirement several years ago, my full title was something like: Community Charge Nurse for People with Learning Disabilities etc., and my patch was North Hertfordshire. It was an ideal job for looking round villages, old churches etc. and meeting people. I'm married to a lady who was the equivalent for Huntingdon, also retired. I kept bees for many years & am still the Show Secretary, for the Bedfordshire Beekeepers, i.e. I organise the annual honey show in Bedfordshire. I'm a volunteer room guide at Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire and am actively involved with the Wimpole Volunteers Club. I'm their membership secretary as well. I've been interested in architecture, archaeology and local history, for as long as I can remember, but have not been actively

involved with the Arc & Arc since the 1990s, having moved to our current residence (in Bedfordshire) to be within a reasonable distance of both our old nursing patches.

... and our new Co-ordinator for Herts Archaeology and History

Christine McDermott writes:

I have lived in St Albans for 32 years, for most of that time in a family home in Carlisle Avenue and for the last year very happily settled in St Peter's Street.

History is my first love - my degrees are in History - but I spent my post-children career as a civil servant in Whitehall. It is only since I took early retirement four years ago that I have felt able to commit much time to local interests. I started attending Arc and Arc lectures as a visitor and became a member about three years ago. By the time Bill Martin had to give up the editorship of *Herts Archaeology and*

History, I felt able to add the role as editorial coordinator to my activities, and it seemed logical to become the co-opted member of Council with responsibility for HA&H.

My other main interests, apart from my large and wide-spread family, are theatre, cinema, music of many kinds, particularly classical and jazz, and literature, mostly modern.

I am enjoying my membership of the Arc and Arc very much, learning a very great deal, both about this city which is now my home and on more general topics. I hope that I will be able to 'do my bit' to help the Society, and, in particular, to help HA&H proceed on a sound footing.



19TH CENTURY RESEARCH GROUP

New contributors are being sought to take part in looking for information about 19th century St Albans (and the surrounding area).

You do not have to be an 'expert' or have an academic degree. An inquiring mind is far more important and you will be 'mentored' (supported) by another experienced member of the Group.

If you would like to become involved but don't know where or how to find information, you are welcome, as we will help you along in finding out on the topic you would like to follow.

Our webmaster Brian Bending informed Council in May that new material added to the Society's website (www.stalbanshistory.org) had stopped and some of those who indicated a willingness to become involved may have become disheartened.

At the October meeting of Council members recognised the value of the 19th Century Research Group and that any 'research' takes time. Unfortunately, the original convener

and driving force -- Judy Faraday - has had to withdraw, as has Janet Ouston, as they wish to pursue other interests.

There are three valuable and accessible resources here in St. Albans:

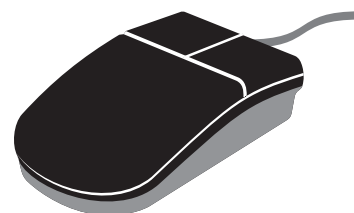
- the Arc & Arc's Library in the Old Robing Room of St. Albans Town Hall (open Wednesday and Friday mornings (10 a.m. -12 noon)
- St. Albans Central Library's pamphlet collection which is found in locked cabinets (ask at the information desk for assistance). The Library also has an extensive collection of books on our local history as well as a microfilm of the *Herts Advertiser* which is available for use (the Library in the Maltings is currently open every day of the week)
- St. Albans Cathedral's Library has a local history section (with a card catalogue) (open mornings Monday-Saturday)

To consider becoming part of this worthwhile project contact John Cox (address on page 10).

NEW ON LINE

www.stalbansowneastend.co.uk

A fascinating site recording the history of the eastern side of St Albans, which is often eclipsed by the historic centre. You can upload your own memories and photos. In due course the information captured here will be published in book form. Watch this space!



A WALK AROUND HERTFORD

The group met Pat Howe and our guide, Jean Riddell, Secretary of the Hertford and Ware Historical Society, at the St Andrew's Street car park at 18.30 on a chilly but dry evening.

We set off over a small bridge into the castle grounds and stopped in front of the original castle motte put up by Duke William after the Conquest (*pictured top*). Of the 12th century castle only a few flint walls and turrets remain. The 15th century castle gate house was converted into a private dwelling in the 18th century by the Earl of Hillsborough (later the Marquis of Downshire) who had married into the Cecil family who still own the Castle. The River Lee runs through the grounds and on to the Thames rising beyond Luton.

Having inspected the front of the gate house we passed out on to St Andrew's Street and viewed the fine array of houses ranging from the early 15th century (*pictured centre*) through to some attractive examples of the 18th then on to a mixture of 19th century including a number of refronted units.

Near the old McMullens Brewery complex stands a window fragment

from the 13th century church of St Mary the Less which was demolished in about 1580. We then crossed over Mill Street into Fore Street and passed the site of an old bell foundry, then on to the Salisbury Arms (*pictured bottom*). This is a large late 16th century coaching inn with a finely decorated pargetted façade and overhanging upper floors.

By then it was getting dark and quite late and the guide asked if we wished to finish the tour or to continue on to the Blue Coat School. On a unanimous vote it was decided to continue in the dark. The Blue Coat School complex, now offices and sheltered accommodation, was beautiful with fine 17th and 18th century buildings. We passed the oldest Friends Meeting House still in use in England, built in 1670

The centre of Hertford has a large number of original buildings of varying dates of construction and alteration which create a very pleasing cityscape.

This was a really wonderful and instructive tour. Thank you Pat.

Michele Lasky



CLOCK TOWER REPORT

This has been another successful year at the Clock Tower and I have enjoyed my first summer of co-ordinating the volunteers on behalf of SAHAAS. We have been visited by at least 4000 adults and over 1000 children, from all over the country and abroad. They all seem to enjoy experiencing the tower with its clock and bells and the wonderful views from the top.

I am grateful to all the volunteers and particularly the weekend organisers who have helped so enthusiastically this summer and look forward to seeing many of you again at the Clockateers' party next spring (date to be announced). I do hope that one or two more people will come forward to be weekend organisers before the new season begins at Easter.

Helen Bishop

TAKING THE PLEDGE

At our AGM on 7th September, Jon Mein regaled us with the history of the temperance movement, both nationally and in St Albans. It was news to most of us that where Millets now stands in French Row was previously The British Working Man's Coffee Shop - and although we all know that there were a large number of pubs in St Albans, the number shown on Jon's map was quite startling (far too many to count for this report). One pub for every 50 adult males sounds like an awful lot of drinking was done!

After Jon's talk, we were plied with 'temperance' drinks, that rather brought back memories of our

childhood - sarsaparilla, cream soda, lemon and ginger, blood tonic, ginger cordial - and of course dandelion and burdock.

These all came from Fitzpatrick's Temperance Bar in Rawtenstall, where they have been making soft drinks for the people of Rossendale and

Lancashire for 118 years.

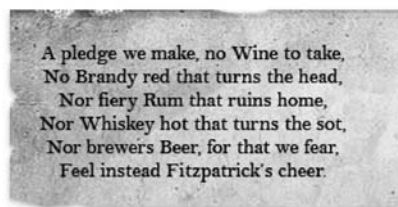
Several members asked how to obtain these delicacies, so contact:

Fitzpatrick's, 5 Bank Street,
Rawtenstall, Rossendale,
Lancashire, BB4 6QS

Tel: 01706 231836

<http://www.mrfitzpatrick.com>

Bryan Hanlon



The Original Temperance Pledge

A pledge we make, no Wine to take,
No Brandy red that turns the head,
Nor fiery Rum that ruins home,
Nor Whiskey hot that turns the sot,
Nor brewers Beer, for that we fear,
Feel instead Fitzpatrick's cheer.

THE FUTURE OF MUSEUMS IN ST ALBANS

Michael Cooper reports on a meeting held at St Albans District Council Offices

A meeting on this topic was called by Richard Shwe, Head of Culture and Community Development at St Albans City and District Council (SADC). Its purpose was to seek the opinions of 'stakeholders' on the practicalities of putting into effect the development plans approved by SADC which relate to the future of the City's museums.

Representatives were invited from The Civic Society, SAHAAS, The Verulamium Trust, the Abbey, the University of Hertfordshire and the New Museum for St Albans Group. Archaeologists, Museum Staff and other staff members from SADC & Hertfordshire County Council were also present.

Richard Shwe began by saying that the City's new Cultural Hub, approved by SADC Cabinet in July, is important

for tourism, economic development and community engagement. He also announced an intention to enlarge Verulamium Museum to show our history up to the middle ages.

The Salaman Collection has been removed from the Museum of St Albans in Hatfield Road. For the next few years, the building will continue as a museum with alternating exhibitions mounted by the University of Hertfordshire and the SADC Museums Service. Looking 5-10 years ahead, a new Museum of St Albans covering the period from the middle ages to the present day will be part of the Cultural Hub.

Everyone was invited in turn to make an important statement (or ask a question) about the proposals before breaking up into small groups to

decide on what the Museums Service does well, what more should be done in the next few years and how it should be done.

The collective opinions turned out to be very closely in line with the proposals put forward by this Society in an open letter to the press in March 2009. Although the meeting was another exercise in talking, it is now clear that SADC has made some important decisions in line with what this Society asked for. More detailed plans are now needed for implementation 5-10 years ahead, by which time we hope they will be affordable. In the meantime, we should liaise closely from time to time with other 'stakeholders' and local government staff to keep in mind the main objectives for the Museums Service and what has to be done to achieve them.

CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER STATEMENT FOR ST ALBANS

Bryan Hanlon has written to St Albans District Council on behalf of the Arc & Arc about their conservation initiative

The introduction of this detailed statement is applauded by the Society. We welcome the designation of 25 conservation areas in St Albans as "an opportunity to formulate positive policies to improve and enhance its environmental quality and to ensure the successful integration of any development or redevelopment necessary for its continual success as a living and working community".

For an area with a history of occupation stretching back more than two millennia, it is vital that examples of all the various epochs of our historic environment are retained to conserve this multi-faceted aspect of St Albans. Few people are against "development" per se, but we as a Society are convinced that the Council must ensure that any development is very definitely not at the further expense of the character of our city. It is a truism that 'what is lost can never be

regained', but St Albans has already lost much of its character - often by slow, but relentless, piecemeal development. A building, or open space, may not necessarily be worthy of retention in its own right, but may be vital as an integral piece of a greater whole.

We welcome innovative developments which complement the existing diversity of St Albans, but which do not conflict with the appearance and functions of buildings in the conservation areas. Our aim should be to introduce imaginative high quality developments which will become worthy of conservation in the future.

In short, we welcome this document as a major step in the commitment of SADC to retain and improve the environmental heritage of our city for the benefit of citizens and visitors now and in the future.

ARCHAEOLOGY BASICS

Roger Miles once again offers to run, during the winter, a short course of six talks on the fundamentals of the archaeological excavation process. It will start with the reasons for excavating (or not) and describe in general terms all the activities and methods which finish with the publication of a report. The title is How Archaeology is Done, the subtitle is The Antidote to Time Team. The talks are illustrated by slides and hand-outs. Particular sites will only be referred to where they illustrate a point, there will be no detailed descriptions.

In the past the series has run in the evening, but it could take place during the day. It will depend on the consensus of participants. Duration will be an hour and a half per meeting, with a break. Once we have expressions of interest from Members a day, time and venue can be settled on. A very modest charge will be made to cover expenses.

Contact Roger Miles (address on page 10) to signify your interest and preferences, or with any queries.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY (HALH)

HALH entered new ground in 2010. For us spending cuts came early, as Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies [HALS] had to stop funding the summer and winter issues of Hertfordshire Local History News and Events. As a result all notices, details of events etc. have to be included in with the Spring and Autumn issues of Herts Past and Present.

I have been informed that Hertfordshire County Council has to reduce its expenditure by £150m in the spending cuts to follow: these will affect both Hertfordshire Libraries and the Hertfordshire Record Office. The County Council meets on 30 November, after which we will all know what is to happen.

During 2009-2010, HALH has seen its individual membership decline as local historians grow older and have to reduce expenditure themselves. The Association has now an uphill task in recruiting younger people interested in the sustainability of Hertfordshire's local history.

Our programme for 2011 is already planned: the AGM and 2nd Lionel Munby Lecture will be held on Saturday, 21st May 2011 at North Mymms Memorial Hall, Station Road, Welham Green from 12.00 - 16.00. We hope that Dr. Mark Bailey, who is now at the University of East Anglia, will be the lecturer. The summer event will be in Welwyn village and the Autumn Local History Symposium is being organised by the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust.

Looking ahead to 2012, the Autumn Symposium is to be on the Hertfordshire Local History of Sport!

HALS has been making great strides in the fields of digitisation and use of online material. The Hertfordshire collection of tithe maps has been digitised and the originals are about to be returned to the Record Office. The Indexing of each map is being undertaken by volunteers who are supervised by Records and Local Studies staff. In addition Parish Registers are being copied in association with the Mormons and "Find my Past" and School Admissions Registers 1870-1914. At our September meeting, the County Archivist (Mrs Sue Flood) reported that the online catalogue is being constantly updated with new information. In June 2010 Dr. Jill Barber (Heritage Manager) reported that it is possible to purchase publications, request information, photocopies and online copies and make research requests via www.hertsdirect.org. List of parishes show records held, Guardians' reports etc.

2011 will see the Millennium of the County of Hertfordshire – first recorded in 1011. Because of cuts the plans have to be modified but this event will be celebrated in some appropriate way.

Finally, I have just had an e-mail from my contact at English Heritage to tell me that the Heritage Lottery Fund is grant-aiding the conservation of the former Borehamwood based company, Aerofilms Ltd. which EH purchased from its later owners (a Swedish company). When this process is complete they will want help in identifying material relevant to Hertfordshire. Watch this space.

John G.E. Cox

Hon. Secretary and SAHAAS Representative

THE MAYOR OF ST. ALBANS PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION 2011

The 2011 Prize Essay Competition invitation for entries together with conditions for entry and entry form are enclosed with this Newsletter. As Members of the 'Arc and Arc' you are the best people who would consider entering this competition or persuading someone else outside to do so.

This year's competition, launched in 2009, attracted three entries but the Competition's Adjudicators did not make an award. The publicity strategy for the 2011 competition includes submitting information to local newspapers, Hertfordshire Countryside, Hertfordshire and St. Albans Life as well as local history and archaeological societies throughout Hertfordshire. Details can also be found on the Society's website at www.stalbanshistory.org

John G.E. Cox

17TH CENTURY POPULATION RESEARCH GROUP

Sylvia Beare's article on Lydia Hope's pictures has been published in the latest edition of Herts Past and Present. Sylvia was inspired to put pen to paper when she was working on Lydia's probate documents. Lydia was a rich widow, living in St Albans, and her inventory listed thirty-four works of art. Sylvia has traced some of the pictures to the collection of Charles I. To discover more I recommend that you read this fascinating article.

An article on John Carter, carpenter of St Albans, compiled jointly by Jane Harris and myself, has been accepted by the editorial board of the journal *Local Population Studies*. When working on the probate inventories we were struck by the affluence of this tradesman. He owned two houses, furnishings equal to those of a well-to-do gentleman and he was literate. His inventory was detailed in such a way that, with the help of J.T. Smith and a professional artist, a drawing has been constructed of Carter's parlour complete with the furniture listed. We hope the work will be published in the spring edition of the journal.

Pat Howe

LIBRARY NOTES AND QUERIES

The short interval since the last Library Notes and Queries, summer holidays leading to absence at different times of members of the library team, and fewer enquiries from both members and non-members, means that the last couple of months have been quiet, with nothing of note to report here. The regular maintenance and development work undertaken by the library team has continued as ever.

Books recently added to stock

The making of the British landscape: how we have transformed the land, from prehistory to today, by Francis Pryor. London, Allen Lane, 2010. 811pp, maps, plans, illus. bibliog. A personal view of the subject, drawing on research conducted in the years since W G Hoskins *The making of the British landscape* was published in 1955.

Hertfordshire secrets and spies, by Pamela Shields. Stroud, Amberley, 2009. 128pp. A collection of 42 biographical essays on Hertfordshire residents who were involved in espionage and intelligence work.

Redbourn, by May Walker. Privately published, St Albans, 1960. 77pp, photos, illus. In writing her account, the author draws on published and manuscript sources, and recollections of old inhabitants of Redbourn.

Nicholas Breakspear: the Pope from England, by Simon Webb. Durham, The Langley Press, 2009. 56pp, illus, bibliog.

The history of St Peter's church, London Colney, by Kenneth Barker. London Colney, The Author, 2010. 127pp, illus, plans, references.

In search of Bede, by Simon Webb. Durham, The Langley Press, 2010. 48pp, illus, bibliog.

The story of the English towns: St Albans, by William Page. London, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1920. 114 pp, illus, plans, maps. The author was a distinguished antiquarian and a former secretary of the Arc & Arc.

Codicote hedgerows, by Heather Bardner. Codicote, The Author. 16pp, 36pp (unnumbered), illus, maps,

tables. An entry for the Mayor of St Albans Prize Competition, 2010. The 36 page appendix provides a detailed description of the hedges surveyed.

Roman spade-irons from Verulamium, with some examples from elsewhere, by Philip Corder. 8pp Offprint from *The Archaeological Journal*, vol.C, 1943, published 1945.

Samuel Ryder, the man behind the Ryder Cup: the biography of Samuel Ryder, by Peter Fry. Weymouth, Wright Press, 2010. 159pp, illus. Although the primary focus is on Ryder's golfing activities, there is substantial information on his life as a businessman, philanthropist and councillor.

Royston Cave: used by saints or sinners?: local historical influences of the Templar and Hospitaller movements, by Sylvia P Beamon. Watchet, Somerset, The Temple Publications, 2009. 314pp, illus, bibliog. Sets Royston Cave in its historical context, and explores similarities in carvings and graffiti found in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire, and elsewhere in Britain and Europe.

Recent journal articles

In: *Independent Archaeology*, June 2010, pp.12-16. The chieftain's Iron Age burial at Baldock, Herts - a fresh appraisal. The author discusses some of the finds resulting from the excavation in 1968: firedogs, which may have been used in the cremation, and the use of ice for refrigeration.

In *Rickmansworth Historical Society [Newsletter]*, No 87, pp. 3-4. The poor and the parish, part II, by Sheila Jennings. A well-referenced article focussing on the Poor Law in Rickmansworth and Watford.

In: *The Local Historian*. February 2010, pp3-19 The English almshouses and the mixed economy of welfare: medieval to modern, by Nigel Goose. The British Association for Local History's Annual Lecture, 2009.

In: *Landscape History*, Vol. 31 No1, 2010, pp.53-72. Land use and landownership: a recent history of

parts of Hertfordshire, by Hugh Prince. Raises questions about the use of land for parks, and conflicts between private and public interests over ownership and access to parkland.

Journals received

Bricket Wood Society Newsletter, September 2010

British Archaeology, Sept/October 2010

Conservation Bulletin (English Heritage), Summer 2010

Current Archaeology, August 2010

Hendon and District Archaeological Society Newsletter, August, and September 2010

Hertfordshire People, September 2010

History Today, August 2010

Independent Archaeology, nos. 66 and 67

The Local Historian, May, and August 2010

Local History News, Spring, Summer and Winter issues, 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.

2011 AWARDS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF HERITAGE RESEARCH

Application deadline: 3 December, 2010

Current Archaeology is very pleased to announce that applications are now open for these awards. They are designed as a showcase for all aspects of research on our heritage. Sponsored by the principal heritage services for the British Isles and Ireland, along with the Royal Archaeological Institute, these awards aim to encourage researchers from all walks of life to present their research on British and Irish archaeology, historic buildings and heritage conservation to a wider audience.

Three awards are offered: a first prize of £1,500, a second prize of £500 and an under-30s prize of £500. Entrants are asked to submit a 750-word written summary of their presentation by 3 December 2010. Short-listed finalists will be invited to speak on 25 February, 2011, as part of the Archaeology 2011 conference at the British Museum in London. Previous winners have gone on to further success, with their work appearing in newspapers, on television, in *Current Archaeology*, and even as nominees for the British Archaeological Awards.

For further details and an entry form, visit: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/training-and-skills/improving-practice/awards-for-presentation-of-heritage-research>

or contact Sebastian Payne, at sebastian.payne@english-heritage.org.uk, tel. 07889 808 183 or English Heritage, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST.

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

For many years one of our members has generously allowed us to make use of her home, in which we have been able to store a whole variety of Society items, including books and display panels. Unfortunately, this arrangement must soon come to an end. Unless one or more of our members are able to offer us a similar facility (not everything needs to be stored in one place), we shall need to hire a commercial storage facility, which will cost the Society over £1000 per year.

Please do consider volunteering any spare accommodation you may have: it needs to be clean, dry and secure, as well as in or near St Albans to ensure easy access. Contact Bryan Hanlon (address on page 10).

RACING AT HIGHFIELD

A recent enquiry about John Parsons, who in 1862 became the youngest-ever Derby-winning jockey, has led us into a little known piece of local history. His family name was actually James Parsons, born in Cranbourne in 1846, and at the age of 16 he rode Caractacus to victory. The horse's owner lived in Watford. Soon afterwards, Parsons moved to St Albans and married a St Albans girl, Elizabeth Gazeley, in 1868. They lived in Tyttenhanger Green, and raised a family.

Meanwhile, a wealthy gentleman built Highfield Hall on the site of the Highfield farmhouse in Hill End Lane, which became the home of several successive

members of the racing fraternity, including a Mr Tattersall. They built a stud farm next to the Hall, where Caractacus spent his retirement from racing. It is assumed that Parsons worked as a groom at the stud farm, which was close to his own home. The rest of the farm land became a race course, where annual point-to-point races were held. By 1891, Parsons had moved to another job of groom at St Pancras.

Nearly all signs of the stud farm and race track have long since disappeared, but Highfield Hall is still there, now greatly expanded into luxury flats.

Brian Moody

GETTING ON LINE

Using the internet is now a commonplace activity, but the BBC states that about 9 million people in the UK do not use a computer. Of those, we estimate that about 100 are members of this Society! If you do not own a computer, but would like to keep up to date with what is happening by visiting the Arc & Arc website, there are various things you can do. A phone call to 'BBC First Click' on 0800 150 950 is probably the best way to start. You can find out where in your area you can go for basic instruction on using a computer. For example, a 'First Click' course in St Albans is run at Oaklands College in St Peter's Road. Other courses in Hertfordshire can be found by calling the BBC number above.

If you have a friend with a computer, ask them to help you visit the BBC site at http://www.bbc.co.uk/connect/campaigns/first_click.shtml, watch the video on basic computer operations and find answers to FAQs (that's 'frequently asked questions': acronyms save space). There are also exercises for practising basic skills such as using a

mouse. It should not take long to learn how to start a computer, log on to the Society's website, read what is there, and log off.

There is no need to have your own computer. If you run out of friends with computers, go to your local library, such as the one in The Maltings, St Albans, where computers are available for public use and staff can help you become familiar with the start-up procedure. Thereafter, it's a good idea to make regular visits to the Society's website, not only to keep up-to-date with what's going on, but more importantly so that you don't forget the procedure you have to follow. I find that when I have found out (usually by trial and error) how to do something I have not done before with a computer, after a week or so I have forgotten the process. How tedious it is to have to re-discover it. Keep in practice, and may you have fruitful care-free clicking.

If you come to the New Year Party, let me know how you have got on.

Michael Cooper

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2010-11

Tuesday 16th November 2010

Domestic Architecture in St Albans, c 1800

John Bethell

Following the successful exhibition of John Bethell's photographs of St Michael's Village, the evening will provide an opportunity to view further photographs of upper Fishpool Street, Romeland, George Street, the streets around the Clock Tower, St Peter's Street and Holywell Hill. This will be preceded by a short film to act as a taster to the photographs sub-titled 'A walk through St Albans, ca. 1800'. Each photograph will be described and there will be an opportunity for audience participation. Following the lecture John will be happy to show his camera equipment which he has used over the years.

John trained at the Munich Photographic School, and started to specialise in architectural and fine arts subjects (on a free-lance basis) soon after his return to England. He worked for the DoE for some time, taking photographs of castles and abbeys throughout England and Wales, and for the National Trust at many of their properties in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. John has published a number of books, making use of photos specially taken for them by himself, and his photo-library has supplied innumerable photos for the publishers of books and magazines over the years. His retirement coincided with the arrival of professional quality digital photography and it is this which has enabled him to undertake the projects in which he is currently engaged.

NOTE NEW SPEAKER AND TOPIC

Owing to the Illness of Dr Linda Porter

St Peter's in the Borough: A Long View of Its Natural, Built and Cultural Environment

Kate Morris

A talk first given to the Friends of St Peters, formed to connect the church with the wider community around St Peters and to undertake projects including the restoration and development of the churchyard. Based on research by the Society's Property History Group, and other personal work, the talk tracks the development of St Peter's Street and shows how we have arrived at the present day traffic configuration.

Kate Morris, linguist, historian and author, with degrees from Edinburgh, London and York Universities, has had a career as a University librarian, including spells at Stanford, California and University of Auckland, NZ. Originally from the Isle of Man, she has lived in St Albans since 1972, where she runs her own English language service, which includes tuition, cultural induction for foreign speaking professional people and tour guiding. Kate is active in her community, having served for 12 years on the District Council, with roles in planning, and as Heritage Champion. She has, in the past, served as Mayor, as a Director of the East of England Tourist Board and President of St Albans and Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society. Her published works include *In and Around Newport and Broomfleet in East Yorkshire*, a pictorial history based on her Master's thesis, and *Snatchup Alley - What's in a name?*

Kate has lectured to the Society before on the history of the Isle of Man, on river transport, and on specific findings about St Peters Street. Now she takes the long view of its development and shows the emergence of the commercial town centre we recognise today. She will also consider implications for the future.

Tuesday 7th December 2010

An Evening of Old Films

Alan Willmott

A Roman episode features Verulamium, was produced in 1949 when Audrey Williams was Curator of the Museum and is narrated by John Snagge.

Open House, produced in 1951 by BTF for London Transport, shows a number of country houses open to the public: Sutton Place, Polesden Lacy, Knowle of the Sackvilles and Penschurst Place, West Wycombe Park and Hatfield House amongst others.

The England of Elizabeth was produced in 1957 by BTF for general exhibition. A L Rowse, the eminent historian, wrote: 'The Elizabethan Age is not something dead and apart from us... wherever one goes in England there are the visible memorials of what those men and women

were when they were alive, the houses they built and lived in, the things they made and wore, the objects they cherished, the patterns they imposed upon the very landscape'. Some of the visible traces as well as something of the spirit of that England of Elizabeth, of Drake and Raleigh and of Shakespeare, are recorded in this film, for which Dr Ralph Vaughan-Williams composed the music.

Alan Willmott has worked in the documentary film world for over 30 years, mainly with British Transport Films (British Railways Board's own in-house film unit). He was mainly involved with the film distribution and exhibition side, and is now quite an expert on the unit's activities over the years (1949-85). Since retiring in 1990 he now operates free-lance under the name of Windjammer Films, specialising in 16mm film production and presentations. He has produced many films on the steam railway preservation scene, and some have been screened on Channel Four TV. He is also an enthusiast on film music and British composers in particular.

Friday 7th January 2011

Society New Year Party at Verulamium Museum

Tuesday 11th January 2011

Flamstead - A Brief History

Eric Edwards

This lecture will feature the history, buildings, and people of Flamstead with particular reference to St Leonard's Church, The Sebrights, Beechwood, Lordships of the Manor, and the pubs and farms of the parish.

Eric Edwards was born in Hemel Hempstead and during the 40 years he spent in banking he lived in Flamstead. He is or has been a Director of the Dacorum Heritage Trust, Chairman and Treasurer of Flamstead Society, Secretary of the de Toden Club, a member and Chairman of Flamstead Parish Council, Treasurer of Flamstead Village Hall. He has published a number of books including *A New History of Flamstead (1999)*, *Hare & Hounds, the Aldenham Harriers (2002)*, *Flamstead - the Listed Buildings (2006)*, *Friars Wash Point-to-Point Races (1996)*, *Flamstead Footpaths (1992 & 2006)*. Unpublished *Flamstead School Records*.

Tuesday 18th January 2011

The Inns and Outs of Pub Names

Mark Andrew Pardoe

A look at the various pub names seen throughout England with a thought of the derivation of those names and how history, both nationally and locally, has influenced them. Some tales are obvious but other a little more obscure. Also a mention (usually a rant) about how unique and interesting names are being destroyed by unthinking fools and their modern, corporate ideas.

Mark Andrew Pardoe is the former Chief Archivist to the British Railways Board. He was born in Nottingham (the Kingdom's most beautiful industrial city) in 1953 before moving south in 1972 to work in the fabulous St Pancras Chambers. He took early retirement at 49 (young enough to enjoy life) and now works as a freelance archivist, historical researcher, lecturer and beer taster.

Friday 28th January 2011

The Life and Death of St Albans' Inns

Ann Dean

This talk is basically a journey through the town from Sopwell Lane via Fishpool Street and ending in Verulam Road. How was it that St Albans became a centre for the tourist trade?

It tells of inn life and their economic importance to the town. Characters from history (and locals) who stayed or worked in some. Illustrations of inns, many now no longer existing, others having changed their occupation, will be shown. What caused their demise? And what happened next?

Ann Dean has been a member of the Arc & Arc since the 1970's 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*

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 School, Abbey Gateway, St Albans

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

Albans Quarter Sessions Rolls 1784–1820 (ed. David Dean, Herts Record Society, 1991). She has contributed to *Community Life in Hertfordshire 2000* (ed. 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.

Tuesday 8th February 2011
Villages of East London - Part II
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 19thC. The talk highlights the evidence of a wealthier past in the 18thC.

Peter Lawrence is a retired member of Royalty & 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 15th February 2011
Industry in the Market Towns of East Hertfordshire
Tony Crosby

This lecture will trace the development of various manufacturing industries in the market towns of east Hertfordshire. It will consider the impact of each industry on the townscape during its various stages of development (location, scale and construction of specialised sites and buildings) and the relationship and dependence between individual industries. It will concentrate on the Lea and Stort valleys and therefore the market towns of Hertford, Ware, Sawbridgeworth and Bishop's Stortford. Although the full range of industrial activity will be examined, there will be a concentration on the malting industry.

Tony Crosby studied Industrial Archaeology to Masters' level at the Ironbridge Institute in the 1990s. Since graduating he has undertaken research into a number of different industries in Essex, as well as undertaking historic building surveys on industrial sites in Hertfordshire. He has published a number of articles in *Industrial Archaeology* and other history journals. He is the current Chairman of the Association for Industrial Archaeology, and works for the Heritage Lottery Fund, where he is the lead policy advisor on industrial and transport heritage.

Friday 25th February 2011
This Old House: Excavations at Chiswick House
David Fellows

Chiswick House is a magnificent neo-Palladian villa set in beautiful historic gardens in west London. Work has recently been completed on the £12.1 million restoration of the Chiswick Estate, the birthplace of the English Landscape Movement. The restoration project has been informed and accompanied by archaeological and historical research, including targeted archaeological excavations, and this lecture will present some of the discoveries made during this work.

David Fellows is English Heritage Archaeologist. Since graduating from Lancaster University in 1988 he has worked as an archaeologist for a number of archaeological companies on a very broad range of sites, both in the UK and abroad. He has been employed by English Heritage in his current role as a project researcher and archaeologist since 1996, and is currently based at Fort Cumberland in Portsmouth. His archaeological interests lean towards the medieval and post-medieval periods, and he is happiest on site with a trowel in hand.

Tuesday 8th March 2011
A Window on Victorian St Albans: The Life and Works of John Henry Buckingham (1800 - 1881)
Amy Warner

The paintings, sketches, lithographs and cartoons of John Henry Buckingham (1800-1881) offer a unique and personal record of life in the market town of St Albans in the mid-1800s. Often humorous, these images provide a wry commentary on local events and figures of the day. They also offer a record of a St Albans now long past and record how the character of the town has both changed and stayed the same. This talk will look at the life of John Henry Buckingham and the events he bore witness to, including his courtroom sketches drawn during the Bribery Commission of 1851.

Amy Warner works as the Image Librarian and Access Officer at St Albans Museums and has worked for the museum service since 2003. She started working on the museums' image collections in 2005 as Digitisation Assistant working on the St Albans Collections Online project. This project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and aimed

to make the museum collections available online. Since 2009 Amy has combined the role of part-time Museum Image Librarian with the new title of Access Officer, working to make St Albans Museums' Collections accessible to as wide an audience as possible.

Tuesday 15th March 2011
A City at War : The Home Front
Ann Ledger

The talk awakens the nostalgic period of World War II, recreating those familiar memories of land-girls, rationing, make-do-and-mend, and forgetting your troubles at the local cinemas and dance halls. It illustrates the resourcefulness of St Albans people in the hard times and their generosity of spirit in welcoming evacuees into their homes. It reveals some of the secret war operations that took place in St Albans, unbeknown to its local residents. Her lecture will give its audience an opportunity to reminisce the bitter-sweet period of 1939 to 1945 and enjoy the memories it evokes.

Ann Ledger is a St Albans Guide and has lived in St Albans for nearly thirty years. She graduated from Hertfordshire University with a Humanities Degree in History and Literature. Ann has always fostered a keen interest in local history and is a member of organisations which promote and protect the heritage and history of St Albans.

Friday 25th March 2011
The Holocaust: A Child's Experience
Steven Frank

Steven Frank was born on the 27th July 1935 in Amsterdam, Holland. He is the middle child of three sons. His father, born in Holland, was a distinguished lawyer who was a member of the Dutch resistance. He was betrayed and subsequently imprisoned by the Germans and finally murdered in Auschwitz in January 1943. His mother was born in England and came to Holland to study.

After an idyllic childhood prior to the invasion of Holland, Steven was deported to Barneveld in March 1943, then to Westerbork in September 1943 and finally to Theresienstadt in the Czech Republic in September 1944 where he survived along with his two brothers and mother. They were liberated by the Russian Army on the 9th May 1945. The family arrived in England in June 1945 by a devious route through war torn Europe to be reunited with his mother's family, and he has remained there ever since. Steven Frank is married and has three children, three step children and twelve grandchildren.

Education after the war was difficult, not because he had to learn a new language, but having had virtually no primary school education during the war he left school with just two O levels. After working very briefly he did two years National Service in the Royal Signals with active service in Cyprus in the 1950's. He started working in a laboratory producing photographic and fine chemicals in Hendon whilst at the same time studying in the evenings to get O and A levels and then onto University (London) part-time and obtained an honours degree in Chemistry. By this time he had moved to the Colne Valley Water Co. (who supplied you with water) and later to the Rickmansworth Water Company where he was in charge of the laboratory dealing with water quality. On the merging of these companies into Three Valleys Water, he was given early retirement at the age of 55. Since then he has had the most fulfilling part of his life culminating in being 'upfront' in giving 450 talks in schools and other organisations instead of being a 'backroom boy.

Tuesday 5th April 2011
Historical Snippets of Kimpton
Bob Finch

Tuesday 12th April 2011
Cromer: Last of Hertfordshire's Windmills
Robin Webb

Friday 29th April 2011
The Verneys: A True Story of Love, War and Madness in Seventeenth-Century England
Adrian Tinniswood

Tuesday 10th May 2011
The Day Before Their World Ended
Rev Peter Wadsworth

Tuesday 17th May 2011
Christ's Hospital 1552 - 2011
Colin Bell

Friday 27th May 2011
Ten Minutes to Noon: A History of Copped Hall
Peter Dalton

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Please join us for our
NEW YEAR PARTY

Verulamium Museum

Friday 7th January 2011, at 7.30 p.m.

Mulled wine and festive food

New members especially welcome

A *finger buffet* will be organised by Doreen Bratby (01727 858050).
 She would welcome offers of party food, sweet or savoury,
 the cost of which will be reimbursed.

Liquid refreshments will be in the capable hands of Bryan Hanlon,
 with Carole and Norman Oldknow

Tickets In advance £6.00
 At the door £7.00

Please send me the following tickets for the Society's New Year Party
 on 7th January 2011

..... tickets at £6

Total enclosed

Please make your cheques payable to SAHAAS and send with this form
 and a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

to Bryan Hanlon, 24 Monks Horton Way, St Albans AL1 4HA

Name

Address

.....

..... Post Code

Telephone E-mail