



ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE Architectural & Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER 189 - AUGUST 2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Progressive Year

It is pleasing to report on a period of energetic progress and growing enthusiasm. In the past months many members of the Society have been very active in raising our public profile. Through mounting successful exhibitions on Heritage and open weekends, the monthly series of articles in the *Herts Advertiser*, our involvement in local issues such as the New Museum project, and our part in extending the opening of the Clock Tower – all these have contributed to a greater awareness of a Society actively contributing to the life and heritage of the city. Due to this and the new publicity materials produced last year we have an increasing membership.

Major advances have also been made in making more available the holdings of the SAHAAS Library. The publishing of the digitised *Transactions* is nearing completion, and the listing of "miscellanea" files is well advanced, together with improved access to the map collection. The recent acquisition of a more powerful computer will facilitate faster completion of the book cataloguing, and, by giving us room to store them, gives impetus to programmes for digitising other holdings e.g. glass photographic slides (already in process), collections of photographs and of newspaper cuttings.

The main success story of recent months has been the establishment and progress of the First World War Project Group

numbering nearly twenty members. Led by Jon Mein and Anne Wares, this project has proceeded much further in six months than might have been expected, moving rapidly towards a detailed and ambitious programme in co-operation with St. Albans and Hertfordshire bodies. Congratulations to all involved.



Heritage Sensibility

This project and our other activities feed into an encouraging and growing sense of heritage awareness in St Albans. Many local groups are active and their range demonstrated in the St Albans History Network events. Through the WWI Project we have had very positive and constructive meetings with the Heritage Hub at the University of Hertfordshire, and Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies. This heritage sensibility has also been encouraged by the *Look! St Albans* exercise. The SADC (not before time say some) is actively developing a heritage based Visitor Strategy, and the Town Hall Museum and Gallery project, for all our (diminishing) caveats, is a determined attempt to resolve and develop the St Albans Museums in extremely difficult economic circumstances. Its Advisory Group taps into and is developing a wide ranging heritage sensibility that is positive and forward-looking, and bodes well for the future.

Continued on Page 2

Annual Thanks

On your behalf I thank our Council Members for all the hard work, mostly unseen, that goes into running our society. Particular thanks are due to our Secretary Bryan Hanlon, to Doreen and Roy Bratby (Lecture programme, etc.), Helen Bishop (Clock Tower Buzz), and a special tribute to Jon Mein whose drive, and organisational skills have been major factors in driving the WWI Project, exhibitions, library and website developments. Many thanks again to John Humphreys for picking up the editorship of the Newsletter. With all else happening, family and otherwise, the planned Membership Survey has regretfully been postponed until the autumn.

Trusting you are all having an enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Donald Munro, President

NEW MUSEUM AND GALLERY

As a result of my report in our May Newsletter, much of the following Advisory Group meeting, also in May, was spent addressing SAHAAS misgivings and ensuring that we would continue to support the project. Lesli Good and representatives of the Project Board kindly offered to meet with SAHAAS Council to allay fears and explain the New Town Hall Museum rationale and the SADC vision for the future of St Albans heritage elements. This meeting took place on 28 June with present the Council Leader Julian Daly, Chris McIntyre of the University of Hertfordshire, Mike Gray, Chair of the Museum and Gallery Trustees, and Kate Warren deputising for Lesli Good. Cllr. Mike Wakely, who was unable to attend, circulated a helpful letter which addressed many of our flagged concerns, several of which are in fact not germane at this stage of the process. We are grateful to the Project Board members who took the time to explain the project and its processes to SAHAAS Council, most of whom were present.

The salient points regarding the Museum project are:

1. That we are still only at the beginning of the process, and the current re-application is for funding to design a full blown project, for which a separate application will have to be made in due course.
2. That the SADC is so increasingly financially constrained (as is the case with Councils country-wide) that unless funding can be achieved via the

Heritage Lottery Fund, the future for MoSTA is uncertain, and it might well have to close before very long.

It is therefore necessary in the absence of any currently viable alternative to support the development of the Town Hall Museum.

A very constructive Advisory Group meeting on 24th July (a good example of the Heritage sensibility referred to in my message) considered the reapplication in August to HLF. We learned that SADC has decided, sensibly, not to interfere with the Assembly Hall and the Court Room, but will look for further extension underground. Conversations with English Heritage have been constructive, and encouraging.

For all our caveats, given the limitations of the building and finance, the proposals mooted are really quite imaginative and SAHAAS will be sending a letter of support for the re-application.

As a footnote, On the 22nd July I had a constructive conversation with Lesli Good about the SAHAAS Library. Whilst how it will all work out in the wash is at present uncertain, SADC is aware of its obligation to rehouse SAHAAS if necessary.

On this subject see Dennis Owen's letter on Page 14.

Donald Munro, President

New Editor - John Humphreys

After time spent in the Regular Army, Commerce and Industry, John is retired. He and his wife, Beryl, have lived in St Albans since 1990.

Working, as a "volunteer", firstly with CVS (The Council for Voluntary Service) and then as a founder member and Director of Marketing of the St Albans and District Credit Union. Although no longer on the Board he still maintains the web site (www.stadcu.org).

In 2007, persuaded by Dennis Owen and Mike Cooper of the need for a new museum for St Albans dedicated to the post Roman heritage of the City and District, he became a member and then Secretary of the Campaign Group for a New Museum. He is Secretary of the SADC New Museum Project Advisory Group and Administrator and Secretary of the St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust.

John's interests include creative writing, family history and St Albans past and present. He was appointed MBE in 1987 for services to the Armed Forces. He has been a member of SAHAAS since October 2010.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that

The Annual General Meeting of

St Albans and Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society

will be held at

Verulamium Museum on

Tuesday 10th September 2013 at 7.30pm

for the following purposes

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) President's comments
- 3) To adopt the minutes of the previous AGM held on 4th September 2012
- 4) To receive the accounts for the year ended 31 May 2013 (enc. with Newsletter)
- 5) To receive reports from our various groups, circulated in the latest Newsletter
- 6) To elect the following members to serve on Council (with their responsibilities) until the next AGM:

Bryan Hanlon	Secretary
John Thomson	Treasurer
Helen Bishop	Clock Tower
Doreen Bratby	Lecture Secretary
Roy Bratby	Chairman, Programme Development Committee
John Cox	Publicity Officer
Roderick Douglas	Website
Gill Harvey	Library
Pat Howe	Minutes Secretary / 17 th Century Research Group
John Humphreys	Newsletter Editor
Frank Iddiols	Member without portfolio
Christine McDermott	Representative, Herts Archaeology and History
Jon Mein	Representative, First World War Project Group.
Roger Miles	Representative, Archaeology Group
David Smith	Membership Secretary

- 8) To confirm the re-election of Mr J R West as Independent Examiner of the accounts

Following the AGM, we shall mark with appreciation the gift of photographs that Richard Darnell has kindly given to the Society.

This will be followed by a lecture given by Nigel Saul - Professor of Medieval History at Royal Holloway, University of London, and a member of the Magna Carta 800 Committee, entitled :

“Magna Carta – History and Politics”

GROUP REPORTS

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

The Programme Development Committee consists of Roy Bratby, Chairman, Doreen Bratby, Pat Howe and Roger Miles.

The Committee met a number of times during the year and was responsible for seventeen Tuesday lectures, four of which were presented by our own members; Ann Dean, Chris Green and Jon Mein and Frank Iddiols. We are extremely grateful to them for their contribution to the life of the Society.

Two outings were arranged by Pat Howe: a morning visit to Copped Hall in May to see the progress being made to its restoration and a morning visit to Ware to see the Great Bed of Ware which was on temporary loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Thanks are due to those who undertook to be responsible for the various events and for looking after the associated administration and to our members who supported these activities so well.

We continue to be indebted to those members, namely Roderick Douglas and Frank Iddiols, who again have given of their time to assist with the IT/AV in connection with the lectures and our thanks go to them. Once again I make a plea for additional help in this important area and would welcome volunteers to come forward to spread the load.

Your suggestions for future outings, lecture topics and possible speakers are always welcome.

Roy Bratby
Chairman
Programme Development Committee

SAHAAS WEB SITE

This has been a strange year, at once both sad and successful. Sad in that the year commenced with the late Brian Bending tending the website he had so carefully nurtured from its inception. Successful because usage of this site continues to grow at a healthy rate. The amount and variety of new material explains this. It ranges from digitised versions of older society publications to newer research by

members such as Brian Moody, David Lasky and Gerard McSweeney.

In the May newsletter, I questioned whether our systems are suitable to meet our future needs and my successor will need to address this.

Jon Mein
Webmaster

FRIDAY LECTURES



Talks - 14 May 2013
Earliest Photo - Chris Green (centre)
St Albans Canal - Frank Iddiols (left) and Jon Mein (right)

Picture: Roderick Douglas

Reflecting on the past year, the Friday Society lectures have been varied. To quote a few –Pugin, the Gothic Revolutionary; Gaudi's distinctive style, and Wren's masterpiece; Pepys, a best-loved literary character, and Lancelot Brown's magnificent landscapes. Though all very different, these individuals possess the same qualities, hardworking, endurance and a will to achieve.

Perhaps to highlight Richard Griffiths' talk on his refurbishment of St Pancras Hotel, now stripped of years of decay and transformed into its former glory of grandeur, it stands beside the splendour of the recently refurbished St Pancras Station.

To those who have lectured this year and to all members who have tirelessly turned out in support, I give my grateful thanks.

Doreen Bratby
Lecture Secretary

LIBRARY REPORT

The library has had an interesting and busy year, with our usual wide range of enquiries from home and abroad – where would we be without the internet! We continue to attract visitors – sometimes beyond the capacity of our small room – on the two mornings we are open each week, and certainly providing a local history research service for St Albans.

We are also progressing with our indexing programme. The most recent success has been that a complete catalogue of all our maps is now available online. The maps are now very much easier to use, and our thanks are due to Frank Iddiols for all his hard work in this area. David Lasky also deserves our thanks for his Herculean efforts. He has nearly completed the indexing of our files of miscellanea, and when this is on the website it will be a giant step forward in making our least accessible material known to the outside world for the first time.

Jon Mein has been our lynch pin as ever. Not only does he update the book and journals catalogue on the website, he also, with the help of HALS and our scanning friends, has been responsible for digital copies of a number of local maps and documents being made available on the website for researchers. Jane Harris, Sheila Green, Anne Wares and our President, Donald Munro complete our enthusiastic and hardworking team - our thanks to them all – we couldn't do it without you! Our member, Malcolm Merrick, is also giving us valuable advice as we seek to upgrade the library computer system, and plan the future development of the Society's IT systems.

We are fostering links with the public library staff and they will be visiting us shortly to gain an insight into the nature of our collection.

We mounted a very successful exhibition at the Abbey for Residents First Weekend in January, which showcased the stunning photographs of St Albans taken by our member Richard Darnell. Thanks to Richard's generosity the library now has copies of many of his photographs, and we do thank him for that. We also had a display at the Hertfordshire Family History Society's Open Day in March. This was less well attended, due to heavy snow, but still felt to be worth doing. We have another exhibition at the

Abbey on Travel and Transport in St Albans for Heritage Weekend September 14th and 15th. It will be worth a visit so do put the date in your diary now. For details see page 8.

Gill Harvey
Librarian

CLOCK TOWER REPORT

St Albans Clock Tower is at the heart of the medieval town, close to both the Old Town Halls and the Abbey and it seems that it is being increasingly recognised for what it is - a unique gem of St Albans history, with an increasing role to play.

The Clock Tower is now opened by the two societies each weekend for six months of the year, which requires an increased commitment by all the volunteers who keep it open. There have been more evening openings this year and there will be more events on weekday evenings, organised and staffed by the Museum service and publicised by them. These will include special events for children, including story telling sessions and pumpkin making at Halloween. We hope to see a continued increase in visitor numbers.

There is a new feather flag to show that we are open, paid for out of Clock Tower funds and a splendid new flag holder made by Frank Iddiols, to keep the flag out of reach. We continue to have visitors from all over the world, whose names can be recorded in the new visitors' book, donated by a member of the Civic Society. Last year a young local couple had their wedding pictures taken at the top of the tower and more recently, a young couple from Germany got engaged in it. What will be next, I wonder?

The season has gone well and as usual, I am grateful for all who give their time and energy to make it happen. I particularly thank the weekend organisers who have taken more responsibility this year and made my job less onerous.

Enjoy the rest of the summer,

Helen Bishop
SAHAAS Clock Tower Coordinator

17TH CENTURY RESEARCH GROUP

"My family, descendants of Roger Williams, Founder of Rhode Island and the son of Alice Pemberton, daughter, I believe, of James Pemberton, leaves me speechless reading this history. Is there someone there to receive me on a trip to see these places?"

These are the words of an email received during the year. The writer had read the article about the Pemberton Almshouses on the Society website. Alice Pemberton was the sister of Roger who founded the Almshouses; she married James Williams and their son, Roger, became a prominent figure in the development of Providence, Rhode Island. Roger left England in 1631 because his Puritan leanings precluded him from working in the Anglican church. He founded the first Baptist church in America.

Another enquiry related to the Bullwer family. We knew very little about them. A Mary Bullwer was referred to in the will of Robert Skelton (1632) as his niece and burials for Thomas and his wife, Mary, (1649 and 1638 respectively) were recorded in the Abbey registers. Skelton bequeathed three properties in St Albans to Mary Bullwer which later appeared in the will of her son John in 1656 together with the names of the tenants occupying the dwellings. These inhabitants we knew quite well. For example, one was Charles Tyrell. When his wife died in 1662 he requested non-conformist preacher to take the funeral service in the Abbey church. A well-documented story of a shooting took place at the funeral. One of the points of information we have learnt during the exchange of information over the Bulwer family is that Tyrell

was an apothecary. Only by researching the Bullwer family and reading John Bullwer's will would we have acquired this information.

Our enquirer is a historian practising in Texas and New York with a particular interest in the history of language sciences and as such has been doing research on John Bulwer and his family.

Bullwer (1606-1656) was an English physician and early Baconian natural philosopher who wrote five works exploring the body and human communication, particularly by gesture. He was the first person in England to propose educating deaf people.

We have also heard from a descendant living in Australia of the Kentish family. We were able to provide a copy of our interpretation of the family tree.

All these enquiries come as a result of the Society website. It is a pleasure to provide and exchange information, especially if it is possible to meet with these dedicated researchers.

The work of transcribing probate documents dating from 1600 to 1649 is proceeding with a view to publication in a year or two. The team consists of seven enthusiastic Society members. We are asked to give talks from time to time. Jane Harris outlined our work at the St Albans and District Local History Network Day Conference in November and I gave a talk to the Abbey Guides in July entitled "Getting to know the townspeople of 17th century St Albans through probate and other surviving documents".

Pat Howe

July 2013

TRANSACTIONS PROJECT

Good progress has been made with this project during the year. At this point last year, we had published 12% of pages, now the figure is 64%; 2818 pages out of a total of 4381. This total includes some additional SAHAAS early publications which were not included in the scope of the original project: *The Two Langleys* (1853); *The Hare Map of St Albans* (1900) - a booklet about that map which did not include a copy of it and which we have published separately, with permission of the St Albans Museums) and, *A Description of the Roman Theatre of Verulamium* (1848).

In addition, this year we have been seeking permission from the copyright-holders of images contained in the *Transactions* to reproduce the images on our website. We have been successful in all cases; copyright holders include Lord Verulam, the British Library, St Albans Museums and the National Monuments Records of Wales. You will notice when you look at the *Transactions* containing these images that we have added a cover sheet crediting the relevant individual or organisation.

Christine McDermott

HERTS ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

Good progress is now being made towards the publication of volume 17, although a publication date is not yet confirmed. We are seeking a more cost-effective way of producing the journal, and to this end we are in touch with three printers to obtain quotations for the work, and a member of the East Hertfordshire Society has been providing us with layouts for the articles on a voluntary basis. We still have back numbers of all previous volumes, which are selling on a steady basis; this includes one academic who this year bought a complete set of all 16 volumes.

Christine McDermott

ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT NETWORK AUTUMN CONFERENCE

This is the time to announce further details of our third exciting autumn conference at Verulamium Museum, and to invite you to join us. The date is Saturday 26th October, from 10:30 to 16:30.

You will find a copy of the programme on our web site (www.stalbanshistory.org); we have a wide range of topics to engage your attention, and, of course, some wonderfully enthusiastic people to network with during the day! Refreshments and a light lunch will also be provided.

If you or your group or organisation have leaflets or a display you would like to show on the day, the recently-cleared adjacent room will be available for this as well as lunch. Some display panels will be available if you wish to attach material to them.

So, now is the time to book your place, or places. We don't have hundreds of seats; just enough to make up a select and merry band of keen St Albans' (district) people intrigued by our local history and its landscape.

There is a single reservation point and that is sanetwork@me.com, or 01992 468259 (Mike Neighbour). You will be emailed back to confirm that your name has definitely been added to the delegate list. May we suggest that you book before you go away on holiday. Then that's one more job ticked off!

We look forward to seeing you at our conference.

Best wishes

**Catherine Newley, Elizabeth Gardner,
Brian Adams, Mike Neighbour
For St Albans and District Local History Network**

STOP PRESS (27 July 13). This event is already heavily subscribed and late applicants may be placed on a "waiting list".

FIRST WORLD WAR RESEARCH GROUP

The Society's First World War Project has been active since January 2013 with eighteen members researching the effects of the war on the social and economic development of the city. Even though we are still finding our feet, progress is good and we have to thank three of the members in particular for their support: Julie Moore, Mark Freeman and Alan Wakefield, all historians in their day job yet willing to provide guidance to us and do their share of research and chores.

We have split into five focus groups, three of which are researching the problems caused to large local businesses by the introduction of conscription early in 1916. This covers the printing trade, boot and shoe manufacturers and lastly straw hat manufacturers. Our initial results have surprised us, particularly the large numbers of people still working in the straw hat companies. Some businesses struggled, particularly as the effects of conscription took hold, others

appear to have had a 'good' war. The other focus groups are considering the 25 conscientious objectors in the city and also the role of the tribunal that heard appeals against conscription.

One of our next topics will be to consider is the effect on the city of having soldiers billeted in and around St Albans. How many soldiers were in the area at any one time is not yet clear. Estimates range between 7,000 and 20,000 men. If the latter figure is correct, it was almost double the population of the city!

We aim to update the Society with our progress at our lecture in January 2014. In the meantime may we draw your attention to our Heritage Weekend exhibition in the Abbey. We hope to see you there. *(see below)*

Jon Mein and Anne Wares

The Society and Heritage Weekend

Members of the Society will be busy over the weekend mounting three exhibitions, two in the North Transept of the Abbey and one in the Clock Tower. Please do come along.

Venue: North Transept in the Abbey

Times: Saturday 14th September 10.00 – 15.30 and Sunday 15th September 13.00 – 17.00

A View of St Albans during the First World War

There are two parts to our display. At the heart of the exhibition is the display of photographs from our collection of around 700 images of city life during the war years. Secondly, through the local press, we will be encouraging people with letters, photos and ephemera relating to family who lived in the city and surrounding areas at the time to bring these along to the Abbey for evaluation by expert members of our group. We also expect to launch a new publication at the exhibition but more of this anon.

Traffic and Transport in the 1700s and 1800s.

Using a rolling slide show on a large computer screen, we will be charting the story of transport in St Albans. We will explore three themes, namely the introduction and later decline of the local turnpike trusts, the promised St Albans Canal and finally the tardy development of railways in the town. Of particular interest are copies of plans showing extensions of the 'Abbey Flyer' line through what is now Verulamium Park with stations at St Michaels and Fishpool Street.

Venue: Clock Tower

At the Clock Tower there will be an exhibition of images of the tower including a recently acquired set showing views of the city from the top in 1914. This will be available during normal Clock Tower opening hours, 10.30 to 17.00.

VISIT TO BISHOP'S STORTFORD



Photographs by Frank Idiols

Society Outing - 19th June 2013

Considering the recent weather, a group of SAHAAS members were remarkably lucky with the warm and sunny day chosen for a day out in Bishop's Stortford. Some drivers experienced a little difficulty with parking, but eventually we all met at St Michael's church from where we set off in two groups for our guided tour around the centre of this pretty and well-preserved little market town.

The church sits on the top of Windyhill, a broad, tree-lined thoroughfare, which over the centuries was used for fairs and similar gatherings. From the 16th and 17th centuries, wealthy citizens began to build their homes here, away from the noisome, swampy area lower down along the river. Next door to the church is a fine Georgian mansion, originally a private house, now occupied by the town council. From 1900 to the 1970s, this building became a monastery to a Catholic order which built an adjacent small church, St Joseph's, much of which is constructed with beautiful imported Italian marble. For a small town, Bishop's Stortford has quite a number of churches of various denominations, all of which, we were told, have a number of unique or unusual features.

The town appears to have fewer empty shops than many these days. One notable exception was a large timbered framed building, almost opposite St Michael's church, which dated from 1450 and until very recently home to Tissiman's tailoring business, established there in 1601. Bishop's Stortford was another town on a coaching route, between London, Cambridge and Colchester. As the name suggests, it

grew up around the ford on the River Stort. Quite a number of these inns remain, but many have been converted to shops or office buildings.

Back to St Michael's church, for a welcome cup of coffee, we were then given a talk about the church. The first church was built on this site in the 7th century, and would have been a Saxon timber construction. This current building largely dates from the 14th century, during the turbulent times of the Wars of the Roses; it is not known where the money to build the church came from. Bishop's Stortford was not a wealthy wool town, as was, for example, Lavenham. Most of its industry was based on the tanneries which lined the river bank. Memorials in the church show that the main family of influence was the Denny family, originating from Waltham Abbey in the 17th century.

After lunch, we made our way to the Rhodes museum, where one of the assistants gave us a guided walk around. The star exhibit was a beautiful hand axe and which dates from between a quarter and a half a million years BC. Another key feature of the museum that day was that a team were cleaning and cataloguing the exhibits. It was fascinating to watch this happening!

Altogether, this was a very good and interesting day. Many thanks to Pat Howe for organising yet another very much appreciated trip.

Christine McDermott

HERTS GEOPHYSICS PROJECT

In the last Newsletter we announced a project to carry out a programme of geophysics surveys around the County. This is led by Kris Lockyear, a lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL. He is also a Director of the Welwyn Archaeology Society. The funding is a grant which he obtained from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (not the HLF, as stated previously). The project was conceived with the intention of using the human resources of local archaeological societies.

Attention is to be given to a number of known Iron Age and Roman sites which have had no, or very little, investigation to date. Geophysical surveys should provide plans in quite fine detail, without having to excavate. This will enable much more precise, targeted digging.

To start things off, Kris and his wife, Ellen, organised a week-long symposium on geophysical methods, at Verulamium Museum. Experts in all aspects of geophysical survey were present, several from the US.

Representatives from County archaeology societies were given presentations in the morning sessions and then there were practical demonstrations in the Park in the afternoons. Prior to this a start had been made on

A Volunteer's Experience

Imagine if you could roll back the turf and uncover the remains of Verulamium lying underneath the undulating green sward of the park. That is the exciting work that is happening now – but do not worry not a blade of grass is being disturbed. People still stroll and dogs and children play over these slopes. It is not magic but “geophys”.

Volunteers were being given the wonderful and rare opportunity of attending a training course on the methods of geophysical survey; magnetometry, resistivity, radar, arial photography and so on. More than forty squeezed into a room at the museum for lectures and then were let out to practice the methods in the park.

I joined the volunteers and helped on a few days before the course. It was fifty years since I did my first magnetometer survey, long before results were automatically collected on computer. However the principles had not changed and I was made to feel welcome. Gremlins sometimes visit even the best machines however Kris Lockyear and Ellen Shlasko (also from UCL) have them

a comprehensive magnetometry survey of Verulamium, with the instrument which was acquired with some of the grant money.

Members of the public visiting the park were able to see some half-dozen pieces of equipment in use and including a drone making an aerial photo topographic survey of the Park. The Verulamium survey is a big one and is likely to go on until the end of the year (work will not be every day of the week and weather will be a factor). It should be said that Verulamium is not entirely terra incognita archaeologically, but only a small fraction has been excavated and elsewhere only the basic layout of the city is known from parchmarks. Smaller sites can be interleaved with the big ones like Verulamium.

A blog website has been set up to display the results of the Verulamium survey as they accumulate: hertsgeosurvey.wordpress.com and selecting the Calendar heading on the website gets a running calendar, showing the days on which surveying is to take place. This will be updated when the organisers know their other commitments and the equipment availability.

Roger Miles Archaeology Group



**Julia guides the magnometer while
Rick plots the location**

Picture: Craig Shepheard YouHaveBeenPhotographed.com

under control. Kris recorded the precise locations of the survey with GPS and then related the figures to fit the ordnance survey so that if archaeologists come one day to excavate in the park they can go straight to rectangles, dots and lines that show there is something of interest.

Julia Merrick

FRANCIS FRITH IN ST ALBANS?

At the end of March members of the Society spotted an interesting historical St Albans item on eBay – a Victorian stereoview of the Market Place. Even the thumbnail photograph showed that it must date back to 1858 and was therefore the earliest known photo of the town. The Society paid what it reckons was a bargain price to acquire the card – in keeping with its mission of preserving knowledge of the past for the public.

Stereoviews may be familiar from antique shops. The camera took two exposures of the same scene from slightly separated viewpoints, giving a 3-D effect when placed in a suitable simple viewer. Queen Victoria was delighted by this gadget at the 1851 Great Exhibition, and a craze began

Most of us are aware that early photography was far from easy, and the stereo view may provide unexpected evidence in this respect – a pleasant surprise revealed only after the purchase. Practical outdoor photography became possible with Archer's invention of the wet collodion process in 1851, just four years beforehand. The technique involved coating a glass plate with volatile and toxic chemicals, placing it, while wet, in the camera using a dark slide, making the exposure, and beginning development all within about 10 minutes before the collodion dried.

Outdoor photographers had to travel with a portable darkroom, normally in a horse-drawn van. The exposures themselves were long, but probably under a minute in the summer sunlight here. Though we can see bystanders, they move during the exposures and appear like ghosts. One comes to stare at the camera, but nothing happens and he goes away half-exposed! But one man, in top hat and dressed to the nines, stands arms akimbo and feet apart outside the saddler's shop during *both* exposures. Surely he can only be the photographer, while perhaps that is his van a little further up the street with the heavy canvas awning, also stock still?

A name scratched in the bottom right-hand glass plate negative "Frith No. 2 (photo No. 2 of the Market place). Francis Frith, one of the most celebrated Victorian photographers gave up a lucrative career as a wholesale grocer in Manchester, selling his business for the large sum of £200,000 so that he could devote himself to photography and travel – and could therefore dress just as he wished, and employ assistants to



Roy Bratby peers into the past

Picture: Frank Iddiols

operate the camera. 1855 was his first year of commercial operations, when stereo views of English scenes were his speciality. In 1856 he travelled to Egypt where he took some of the earliest photographs of the great monuments.

Only one other image of Frith is known, a self-portrait in Turkish costume. In this stereo view the figure is only millimetres tall and details of the face have gone, but the identity seems very probable.

Chris Green

(Editor's Note: The second instalment of this fascinating story where Chris analyses the picture and its surroundings will appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.)

Dr. Ild Elizabeth Anthony - Obituary

We have only recently heard news of the death early last year of Dr. Ild Elizabeth Anthony (1925-2012) M.A., F.S.A., F.M.A., writer on antiquities, and curator of St. Albans museum. She was one of our Society's band of distinguished archaeologist Honorary Members.

Ild began her career as a Roman archaeologist assistant to Mortimer Wheeler at St Albans. By 1956 she was a curator for the Verulamium Roman Museum where from 1963-64 she was deeply engaged in uncovering Verulamium. From 1966-1970 she was head of St Albans Museum. A veteran member of the Archaeology Group remembers that the Museum staff fondly referred to her as "Aunty".

Her most significant Verulamium writings are 'Excavations [of Belgic and Roman sites] in Verulam Hills Field, St Albans, 1963-4' *Hertfordshire Archaeology*, 1, 1968, 9-50; and *The Roman city of Verulamium: Official Guide*, SADC, 1976.

Dr. Anthony was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London on 7 January 1960. She died peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, on 19 January 2012, aged 86.

THE REDRESS OF THE PAST

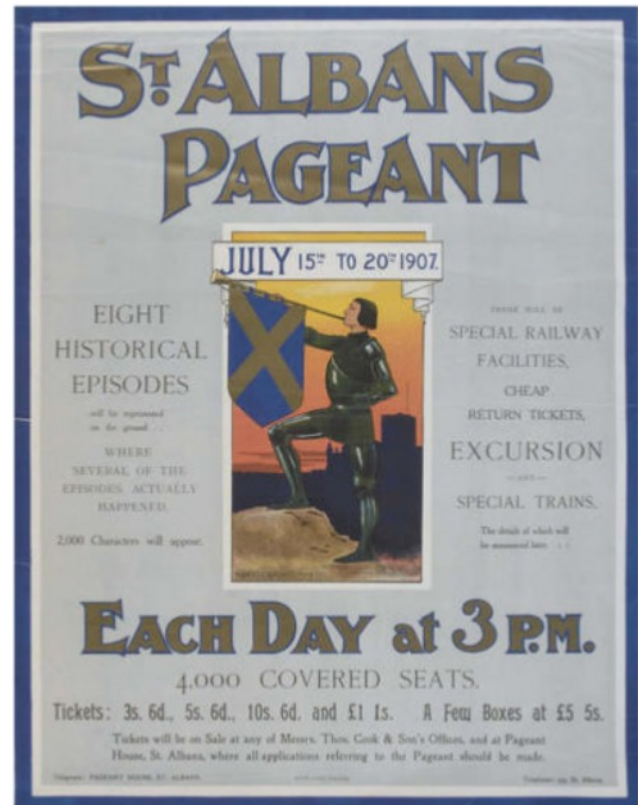
Historical Pageants in Britain 1905-2016

Twentieth-century Britain was subject to regular bouts of 'pageant fever'. Communities across England, Scotland and Wales staged theatrical re-enactments of events from local and national history with thousands of men, women and children involved as performers, organizers and spectators. This was national costume drama on a grand scale. Over the course of the twentieth century many hundreds of events were mounted by communities and institutions, ranging from small churches and village communities to large cities such as Liverpool and Manchester. St Albans played a key part in this story, with outdoor historical pageants in 1907, 1948 and 1953, and an indoor pageant play, 'Time and the City', performed at the new city hall in 1968. I gave a talk on these pageants at the St Albans Local History Network conference in 2011; an audio podcast of this can be found at <http://goo.gl/KuNRK> or via my website at <http://www.markfreeman.org.uk>

In collaboration with Paul Readman and Paul Vetch (King's College London) and Angela Bartie (University of Strathclyde), I have been awarded funding by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for a major research project examining historical pageants in modern Britain. This will commence on 1 November 2013 and run for three years.

Drawing on oral and written evidence, the project will provide an authoritative treatment of the subject. It will offer key insights into the role of 'heritage' in leisure activities, the interaction between local, national and imperial identities, and the character of community life. It will recover the stories that communities and institutions told about themselves. The main outputs will consist of a comprehensive database of historical pageants, a monograph envisaged as the key book on the subject, and an edited volume of essays situating British pageantry in its international context.

In addition the project team will work with a number of local history partners to produce exhibitions and events relating to historical pageantry in specific places. One of these partners is St Albans Museums, and others include St Edmundsbury Heritage Service and Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle. I remain immensely grateful to the late Mike Cooper



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(Society Past President) for the enthusiasm that he showed for the project during the early stages. The project website will include general commentary on the pageant movement, representative images of pageant related ephemera, interactive maps and oral testimonies from witnesses to historical pageants. It will allow interaction between the public and the project, enabling individual users and local history societies – some of whom will be actively involved in the project – to contribute their own memories and memorabilia.

We intend to collect memories of historical pageants from those who organised, participated in and watched them, and I would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembers those in St Albans, or any others.

The project will have a low-volume email list to keep people informed about our progress; please contact me if you would like to be added to it.

Mark Freeman

Mark.Freeman@glasgow.ac.uk

HISTORIC TOWNS FORUM

Community Engagement – It's Real, It's Now and it's Happening. Sharing good practice from within our cities, towns and Neighbourhood Areas.

Report from the Conference at St Albans Town Hall 19/20th May 2013

The Historic Towns Forum (HTF) is a national organisation funded partly by subscription from participating members, both local authorities and private individuals. It aims to "promote the prosperity and heritage of historic towns and cities" by sharing good practice with others who suffer/benefit from similar situations. Back in the early 1990's St Albans was one of the first Councils to join. (In 1992 I co-ordinated a conference on Retailing in Historic Towns, which was the hot potato at the time). With the Locality Bill, the Big Society and all these buzz words around right now, neighbourhood planning (NP) is at the forefront of new legislation and practice, and there were some key speakers at the conference.

NP is a right introduced by the Localism Act 2011. Communities can, for the first time, produce plans that have real statutory weight in the planning system within a specific area. Through NPs, communities can choose where they want new homes, offices and shops to be built, and have their say on what new buildings should look like. A town/parish council or community group must apply to their local planning authority for an area to become a neighbourhood area. More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>

Cllr Beric Read kick-started with SADC's latest initiatives with the Public Realm Strategy, Visitor Economy Strategy (2013-2018) working with the Retail Forum, i.e. a business-led board to encourage vibrancy in the town centre. The role of City Centre Manager may be revived by the retailers, but not by SADC. Note Cllr Read is now Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement and Localism (which includes neighbourhood planning).

John Romanski from 'Planning Aid England' answered the sixty four thousand dollar question – yes there is finance available to help with neighbourhood plans, currently for 2 years from this May

up to £7,000. Two case studies showed different types and social make-up of proposed neighbourhood areas, equally successful. He stressed land use planning policies/site allocations should be included, and that all proposals will go to a public Referendum to ensure community support, and an Examination by a Government Inspector. A recently approved plan in Thame, S. Oxfordshire, for instance, achieved a change in the Council's proposed siting of 750 new homes, by splitting down the single large site into smaller ones. John says "a neighbourhood plan must be open to all those who live, work and carry out business in the neighbourhood area." However, they must comply with national and local planning policy.

Vanessa Gregory outlined where Look! St Albans is at present. The Prince's Foundation who co-wrote and funded the Workshop Report has now pulled out, as theirs is a start-up role for many plans across the country. Look! St Albans' membership is in the process of defining its proposed Neighbourhood Area within the St Albans City centre. It is also preparing a Constitution and an agreement with SADC via a new instrument – a 'Draft Memorandum of Understanding' (MOU) which will hopefully set down the relationship between Look! St Albans and the Council. This MOU is an innovative working method. The aim is to work with developers at the pre-planning application state to discuss ideas and designs of new schemes within St Albans City centre (exact boundary to be determined but to most likely include: the Civic Centre; Drovers Way; Coupers garage site (Catherine Street); the Cathedral quarter and any other significant development sites in the City centre). The preferred method of working with developers is by developing a design 'charette' which is a site-specific design brief incorporating the relevant concepts from the Workshop Report produced in January this year. Some of you may have been at its launch at Dagnall Street Baptist Church. To view the Workshop Report please go to <http://www.scribd.com/LookStAlbans/documents>.

It is now up to the Steering Group to push things forward, and Vanessa is being instrumental in negotiating with SADC to achieve this. One of her aims is for the Look! Report to be an important first port of call for developers considering applying for planning permission within the designated parts of the town centre.

Continued on Page 14

Steve Graham is the CEO of Civic Voice, 3 yrs old, and a spin-off from the Civic Trust. They lobby! E.g. they lobbied 400 MPs about the bonkers idea of allowing 8m extensions to houses. They promote nationwide events such as Civic Day (22 June 2013) Heritage Open Days, Save Our High Streets (a campaign launched in 2011 from which Mary Portas took much for her recent TV series).

Steve also talked of the interesting development of 'asset transfers' where local authority owned land and buildings can be transferred to a community-based organisation. With viable uses, and secure funding, this can be an efficiency saving for the public sector. (Cllr Read pointed to the recent experiment with handing management of the Town Hall to a community arts group that had had its problems). Positively, Steve said 60% of Civic groups surveyed in 2012 were looking to take part in neighbourhood planning by 2015, and 502 communities across England are working towards a neighbourhood plan. In a 'big brother' style move, Civic Voice has been asked by Nick Bowles, the Planning Minister, to report any local authorities being obstructive to the neighbourhood planning process!

Charlotte Dring from the DCLG took us through the plan process and statistics. Three plans have final approval, 300 plan areas are designated, and 100 planning authorities have applications for neighbourhood areas. Interestingly, a minimum of only 21 people need gather together to propose a neighbourhood plan, and with a yes vote of over 50% from these, the plan can pass Referendum. Also, there is no minimum percentage turnout, so a plan can theoretically pass Referendum with just a couple of yes votes! and apparently has done so. I guess this allows for very small communities to engage in the process too. N.B. Neighbourhood Plans cannot be used to block development!

And finally...

Simon Rowberry, Interim Head of Planning and Building Control, SADC, rounded off with current initiatives from the Public Realm Delivery Strategy (2011) but regarding neighbourhood plans said whilst he feels there is scope in St Albans, he prefers they steer clear of the two thorny issues of housing allocations and green belt boundaries. Officer time is in too short supply to actively support development of a neighbourhood plan (which is a shame because a lpa can gain substantial payment from central government when they adopt each stage of a neighbourhood plan), but he wants to produce a Supplementary Planning Document for St Albans City and Harpenden Town Centres. He sees the step forward as being when the *Draft Strategic Local Plan (SLP)* becomes a *Detailed SLP*, he expects and will welcome significant input from any neighbourhood plans such as Look! St Albans.

Sue Howard

Members' Correspondence

Dear Mr President,

Nikolaus Pevsner described it simply and directly: "Town Hall 1829-31 by George Smith. The visual urban charter of St Albans."

In your report on the St Albans New Museum (Newsletter 188 page 10) you draw attention to lingering regrets by some in Council that more serious consideration was not given to renovating the Museum of St Albans in Hatfield Road. Any thoughts of such possibility is, I am sure, in vain.

St Albans is a busy, attractive city with several inter-dependent activities. The visual vitality clearly extends from Verulamium at the south to Peter's Church at the north end. The centre of the city is visibly the market and beyond to the Abbey. The Town Hall, when viewed from the north end of the main street, clearly closes the vista. The Museum of St Albans in Hatfield Road is out of sight, out of mind.

Any city is not simply a collection of buildings. It is also the activities, the people, and the spaces. The Museum of St Albans was designed and built for earlier generations. But SAHAAS is many things. It has good, intelligent staff and it has a great number of very well-informed members: its activities include a wonderful programme of lectures and meetings. These qualities are good today. But the Museum of St Albans, the building and its location, is bound to have suffered having grown up over a century ago. Standards and demands have changed and today's Museum like the city around must respond to today's needs.

One good example of a new life for old space is the terrace fronting the National Gallery. Until recently this was one of the roads enclosing Trafalgar Square. Would anybody now argue that it is not a great improvement to get rid of all the traffic between the National Gallery and Trafalgar Square?

It would be a great benefit for St Albans to make the Town Hall a new and comprehensive Museum illustrating its history and incidentally transforming St Peter's Street into a fine City Square.

To derive the full benefits of a new Museum the SADC council must accept a sensible rethinking of the city centre, including its traffic flows, to give the city centre back to people not to cars.

Dennis Owen

18 July 2013

LECTURE PROGRAMME

10th September - 29th November 2013

Synopses and Personal Profiles

Tuesday 10 September 2013

Magna Carta, History and Politics

Professor Nigel Saul

Magna Carta, with the creation and recording of which St Albans is associated, is a document of huge importance in English history for establishing the principle of the rule of law. In its early months, however, the Charter was a failure and, later, its significance was to be more symbolic than actual as other, more effective means, notably parliamentary control, were developed to constrain the executive. So does the Great Charter deserve its fame? What is its place in English – and world - history, and what does it have to say to us today? The lecture will suggest some answers to these questions.

Nigel Saul is Professor of Medieval History at Royal Holloway, University of London, and a member of the Magna Carta 800 Committee. His books include *Richard II* (Yale University Press, 1997) and *For Honour and Fame: Chivalry in England 1066-1500* (Bodley Head, 2011). Earlier this year he was historical consultant to BBC Four's series 'Chivalry and Betrayal: the Hundred Years War'.

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY LECTURES

Commencing on Tuesday 17th

September all lectures, both Tuesday and Friday, will commence at **7.45pm**

Roy and Doreen Bratby

Tuesday 17 September 2013

Brickendonbury and its Place in the History of Hertfordshire

John Loadman

Take some buried treasure, an 11th Century wizard, a famous British pirate, espionage and two of the best-known traitors in Britain's history; stir in some church skulduggery, Knights of the Realm, Members of Parliament and Lord Mayors of London and you will have some idea of what Brickendonbury Manor and its estate has seen over the last 2000 years. More recently we shall look at how the Manor changed through the 19th and 20th centuries, finally

to be rescued from dereliction, restored and reborn as a cutting-edge scientific research centre.

After obtaining an MSc from the University of Durham in 1967, John joined what was later to become the Tun Razak Research Centre which was originally based in Welwyn Garden City but later moved to Brickendonbury, on the outskirts of Hertford. He retired as Head of the Materials Characterization Group in 1999 and since retiring has written two books relating to rubber – "Tears of The Tree" (4000 years of Natural Rubber) and "The Hancocks of Marlborough" (the story of the remarkable Hancock family lead by Thomas, the founder of the UK rubber industry). The history of the Brickendonbury Estate was just an interesting sideline!

Friday 27 September 2013

Greyfriars, Leicester and the search for Richard III

Dr Richard Buckley

In August and September 2012, a team of archaeologists from the University of Leicester set out to search for the final resting place of Richard III in a car park in central Leicester. Against all odds, the project proved to be successful in locating a potential candidate to be the king, and his identity was subsequently confirmed beyond reasonable doubt after an extensive programme of scientific analysis, generating press interest from all around the globe.

Richard Buckley is a graduate in archaeology from the University of Durham and has spent over 30 years working as an archaeologist in Leicester, specialising in complex Roman and medieval urban sites and historic buildings. He was lead archaeologist from the University of Leicester on the Search for Richard project.

Tuesday 8 October 2013

Wireless interception and the Double Cross Operation

Stan Ames

In his previous talk Stan Ames described the way in which secret wireless interception and direction finding stations around Britain located transmissions and intercepted the highest levels of enemy communications. Much of this work was conducted by the three armed services but MI5 and MI6 were also involved. This second talk will concentrate on how enemy agents were identified and used to create a web of strategic deception that provided the allies with huge advantages throughout WW 2. It was begun in 1939 and operated by MI5 but gradually experts from various British intelligence departments became involved. The official records were kept secret for many years and some have only been declassified in the last decade. *Continued on Page 16*

Stan Ames was a research chemist and studied fire for 30 years at The Fire Research Station Borehamwood. In retirement, his hobby of Amateur Radio brought him into contact with World War Two radio operators who were involved in "Y" (wireless interception) work. By coincidence, several secret organisations were involved in this process in and around St Albans. Initially, books and Internet were the main source of information but a detailed study of the subject was only possible by making many visits to The National Archives at Kew to examine declassified "Top Secret" documents. He has given numerous lectures on the subject including several at Bletchley Park.

Tuesday 15 October 2013

Nineteenth-century Royal monuments at Windsor, and what came afterwards

Jane Kelsall

Unexpected deaths in the royal family provoked lavish monuments in the nineteenth century, when Britain was rich. Queen Victoria's orgy of grief at the death of her beloved husband produced not only two tomb chests for him but two mausolea, which then housed later royal monuments, each with a story to tell. The twentieth-century monuments in St George's chapel exhibit a different attitude to royal deaths, which needs to be examined.

St Albans born, bred and educated, before finishing at Hertfordshire University with a BA in English and History. Jane has been a Guide at the Abbey for 36 years and recently retired from lecturing to NADFAS after 25 years. She is a very keen member of the Church Monuments Society. Jane promises that this will not be a gloomy lecture!

Friday 25 October 2013

F W Kinneir Tarte, Man of Two Worlds

John Brodrick

This lecture, originally delivered in 1996, records the life of Frederick Walter Kinneir Tarte 1858 to 1943. He was an active member of the Society and its Council, a keen member of the Masonic Society and a local architect of standing. He lived in St Albans from 1885 to 1907 when he immigrated to Australia and lived and farmed near Wagga Wagga, NSW for the rest of his life.

John Brodrick qualified in Economics and worked for large firms in both finance and industry. He is a past President of the Society and lived in St Albans for 44 years until 2006 when he moved permanently to Devon. He worked for Marconi Instruments for some years and then set up his own businesses in international trade from which he retired in 1993. His retirement interests have been financial invest-

ment and photography. He has had a life-long interest in archaeology and history.

Tuesday 5 November 2013

Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker – The City Livery Companies

Professor Tim Connell

Trade and craft associations have flourished all over Europe for many centuries, but the City of London companies, now collectively known as the Livery, are unique in their survival, number and diversity. The social and economic conditions which gave birth to the original guilds have long since been overtaken by the development of industry and commerce, but the livery companies still flourish today as living institutions. Their survival has been achieved by doing what they have always done: fostering their trade in a wide context, serving the community, and embracing modern skills and professions.

Professor Tim Connell is Professor Emeritus at City University London where he set up the Languages department and was Director of Language Studies for nineteen years. He is a graduate of Oxford, Liverpool, City and London universities, and has also studied in Spain and Mexico. His particular interest is in the field of professional training for translators and interpreters, where he works closely with the Chartered Institute of Linguists (of which he is a Fellow and Vice-President) as Chair of the Educational Trust Board. International education is another area of key concern.

Tim writes and broadcasts regularly on a wide range of themes relating to London, languages in the modern world and diverse cultural topics. He is a member of the All Party Parliamentary Languages Group and works closely with the Industry and Parliament Trust. During his time at City University he developed close links in the Square Mile as a Freeman of the City of London. He is a Liveryman of the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company, where he sits on the Court of Assistants. He is a Fellow of Gresham College and is Chair of the Gresham Society.

Tuesday 12 November 2013

Tudor Hertfordshire

Daphne Knott

The sixteenth century was a time of rapid change both nationally and locally. The new Tudor dynasty changed the face of England. Using documents from the collection at Hertfordshire Archives, this lecture will illustrate how national events, such as the Reformation and the Armada left their mark on Hertfordshire society and how we can find out about the lives of local people in that period.

Daphne is the Learning and Access Officer of Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies. After completing a history degree

Continued on Page 17

at Southampton University, Daphne took a postgraduate archives diploma at University College London. Her first archive post was at the head office of British Petroleum, where she became Company Archivist. Several years as an adult education lecturer on a variety of historical topics followed while her family grew up. Before taking up her current position, she worked at the National Maritime Museum where she was the senior curator of their extensive manuscripts collection. She has worked at Hertfordshire Archives since 2008.

Tuesday 19 November 2013

Ordnance Survey Bench Marks in and around St Albans

Frank Iddiols

This lecture begins with the brief development of the Ordnance Survey's Benchmark system in England and relating to St Albans through primary, secondary and tertiary marks. We will then look at the method for identifying and locating the positions of existing Bench Marks focussing on the Bench Marks which have been located in and around St Albans. A practical demonstration of how Bench Marks can be used will be included in the lecture.

Frank holds an Honours Degree in Education and has worked in the Construction Industry gaining various professional qualifications. He has lectured on Construction subjects. He has an interest in maps, particularly of London, Hertfordshire and St Albans and volunteers as a Clockateer.

Friday 29 November 2013

The Edwardian Social Network

Guy Atkins

This lecture will guide us through the astonishing culture of writing, sending, and collecting postcards in Edwardian Britain. At half the price of sending a letter and with up to six posts a day, the postcard allowed the Edwardians to master quick, informal messages long before our digital social media. Using cards from his personal collection, he will reveal the forgotten tactics and delights of the 'Golden Age' of postcards. The lecture will draw on Guy's recent article on the Edwardian postcard craze in *History Today* (June 2013).

Guy Atkins is a writer and researcher currently undertaking a PhD at the Museum of London and Goldsmiths, University of London. His research interests include the political potential of historical objects and cultural institutions. He writes extensively on the history of the postcard, and is a columnist for *Picture Postcard Monthly* and *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazines. His blog on postcards can be found at www.postcardese.com or @postcardese on Twitter.

(Editor's Note: Details of lectures from 3 December 2013 to 30th May 2014 will be published in November and February Newsletters)

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome our new members:

Mr Ian Bower: St Albans
 Mr Roy & Mrs Diana Brimblecombe: Harpenden
 Mr Rodger & Mrs Jennifer Bunting: St Albans
 Mr Richard Cushing: Cambridge
 Mrs Debra & Mr Stephen Dance: St Albans
 Mr Gerry Doherty: Luton
 Mr Gary Fisher: Welwyn Garden City
 Mr Michael Grey: St Albans
 Mr J. McIlwraith: Park Street
 Mr Patrick McNeill: Wheathampstead
 Mr Adam Talbot: St Albans

HA&H Symposium

A reminder that SAHAAS will be hosting the 2013 annual symposium which will be held on Saturday 2nd November at Abbot's Hill School, Hemel Hempstead on the subject of Traditional Building Materials.

For further details see page 9 of the last newsletter (no. 188) or email John Cox

(johngcox@btinternet.com)

Newsletter - November 2013 Edition

Contributions for consideration for publication in the November edition should be sent to John Humphreys:

email: editor@stalbanhistory.org
 or post to:
 12 Church Crescent, St Albans, AL3 5JD.

Latest date for submissions is:

Friday 25th October