



ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE  
ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER 193 AUGUST 2014



GEORGE STREET  
ST ALBAN PARADE  
JUNE 2014

GEORGE STREET  
PAGEANT  
JULY 1907



*Post card reproduced by permission St Albans Museums*

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**AGM**  
**Proposed New President**  
**New Treasurer**  
**Group Reports**

**Lecture Programme**  
**SAHAAS Conference**  
**Annual Accounts**  
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**NEW MEMBERS**

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the Society

Mr Edward Bristow, St Albans  
 Mrs Elaine Bristow, St Albans  
 Mrs Cynthia Fletcher, St Albans  
 Mrs Sophia & Mr Christopher Cotton, St Albans  
 Mr David Moore, St Albans  
 Mrs Sally Pearson, St Albans  
 Mr Malcolm Waterton, Hemel Hempstead  
 Dr Anthony and Mrs Yvonne Dix, St Albans  
 Dr Sue Davies, St Albans

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My term of office draws to a close at a time when our Society is engaged across a range of significant activities. Manning the Clock Tower through the summer months is of course a very valuable exercise in making accessible a unique feature of historic St Albans, and a major contribution by SAHAAS to the life and heritage awareness of the city. It is a vital example of our prime charitable objectives –

*“ i. To promote public interest in, and improve public knowledge of, the architecture, archaeology, and history of St Albans and Hertfordshire; and*

*ii. To work to secure the protection of monuments, structures or other features of architectural, historical, or archaeological interest in the area.”*

### SAHAAS First World War Home Front Conference

Our up-coming conference *“St Albans at War 1914/15”* on Saturday 20th September is another fine example of this type of activity. It is some years since the Society organised a prestigious event of this kind. Jon Mein, Anne Wares and the team are to be congratulated on putting together a strong and international programme of speakers. This interesting and topical SAHAAS venture certainly deserves our members' support. **I do urge you to attend if you can.**

*See pp 11-13 and 28 for details (ed)*



### Membership Survey

Both the foregoing are indicators of the current vitality of the Society. The SAHAAS Membership Survey, which is now with you, is intended to help ensure that the vigour and energy of the Society are continued. Those who elected to complete the survey on line have been notified by email, and the rest of you will have received copies of the questionnaire by post. I do urge you all again to fill it in and return the completed form to Bryan Hanlon or to the SAHAAS Library by 31st August. Please be assured that any personal information that you provide to us will be held by us in confidence and not released to any third party. The more of you that fill in a return, the better we will be able to plan future activities and developments

### End of Term Remarks

These past three years have gone past incredibly quickly. I would like to sign off as President with a fine reflective piece as did Michael Cooper in 2011. Immediate societal and extended domestic pressures, alas, have left me scant time for reflection. I would be hard put anyway to better Mike's remarks as a statement of how we should perceive our Society in a changing world and I happily endorse and refer you to them (<http://www.stalbanshistory.org/documents/news1108.pdf>).

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Arriving inexperienced in Society administration, it has not always been an easy three years given the several losses in leading personnel we have experienced, and the complexity and intensity of local issues that have arisen in that time. I have sought throughout to continue in the directions which Mike Cooper pointed, with SAHAAS becoming involved in local heritage issues such as the New Museum proposals, "Look! St Albans", etc. We are involved in co-operative activity with other local bodies, including SADC and the Civic Society when appropriate. Besides the Clock Tower, successful exhibitions in, for example, the Abbey's north transept have raised our public profile. Meanwhile the Library is a hub of activity; our website is an increasingly valuable information resource; we are developing an active publications programme; and research proceeds apace with the First World War Home Project Group in particular helping invigorate the Society. Adding all this to our very extensive and successful lecture programme, it is a matter of great pleasure that the Society's membership has been steadily rising over the past couple of years.

The Society could not have done what it has without the hard work and support of our Council and other dedicated members past and present. This Society

is active in many different ways and it is quite remarkable how much is achieved by this group, many of whose contemporaries have been vigorously putting their feet up for years. I am most grateful to all of them, but two particular thanks should be made. First to Bryan Hanlon our excellent Hon. Secretary who gets through an enormous amount of **unseen** work in keeping the Society going and furthering its interests in the City. My second particular thanks is to the Bratbys, Doreen and Roy, for their continuing efforts producing lecture programmes which seem to get better year on year. I do hope that the Membership Survey will help us identify similarly enthusiastic and vigorous potential members of Council and dedicated helpers who will be willing to join in taking the Society forward.

I have been honoured to serve the Society as President and I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to do so at a time when St Albans' authorities seem to be waking up at last to the significance of its heritage.

It will give me great pleasure at the AGM in September to propose, on behalf of Council, Helen Bishop as President for sessions 2014-2017.

**Donald Munro**  
**President**

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.30 pm  
for the following purposes

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) To elect the President for the period 2014-2017
- 3) President's comments
- 4) To adopt the minutes of the AGM held on 10/9/13  
*(enclosed with November 2013 Newsletter)*
- 5)
  - i. To receive the accounts for the year ended 31/5/14  
*(enclosed with August Newsletter)*
  - ii. To consider a proposal to raise the Subscription to £15
- 6) To receive reports from our various Groups *(circulated in the August Newsletter)*
- 7) To elect the following members to serve on Council (with their responsibilities) until the next AGM:

Bryan Hanlon	Secretary
David Moore	Treasurer
Doreen Bratby	Lecture Secretary
Roy Bratby	Chairman, Programme Development Committee
Mike Carey	Clock Tower (jointly)
John Cox	Publicity Officer
Roderick Douglas	Website
Pat Howe	Minutes Secretary / 17 <sup>th</sup> Century Research Group
Caroline Howkins	Clock Tower (jointly)
John Humphreys	Newsletter Editor
Frank Iddiols	Member without portfolio
Christine McDermott	Herts Archaeology and History
Jon Mein	First World War Home Front Project
Roger Miles	Archaeology
Donald Munro	Library / Immediate Past President
David Smith	Membership Secretary

- 8) To authorise Council to appoint an independent examiner of the accounts.

**Agenda Item 5 (i)****ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2014**

Enclosed with this newsletter are the accounts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014 which were approved by Council on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and signed by the independent examiner on that date. As last year the accounts are presented in the format required by the Charity Commission's Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005)". They also contain a report from the independent examiner, even though the Charity Commission does not require such a report for Charities with income below £25,000. I am more comfortable, however, to present to you accounts which have been the subject of independent examination.

The results for the year are split as usual between the restricted and unrestricted funds.

Dealing first with the unrestricted funds, the activities of the year resulted in a surplus of expenditure over income for the year of £952 against a deficit last year of £623.

Income from unrestricted sources increased in the period by £2,750, the main contributory factors of which were:

- An increase in subscriptions and associated gift aid as there was a net increase of members in the year.
- A significant increase in the donation from the Clock Tower.
- A donation from the family of the late Brian Bending.
- An increase in the amount of excursions income with a rise in the related costs.
- An increase in the income with an increase in the associated cost from the New Year party as attendance picked up this year.

Expenses of unrestricted funds are down on last year, by around £1,200, the main changes being:

- A donation was made during the year to help fund the ER Hughes exhibition held in the Abbey.
- The total costs of the research groups, particularly the WW1 group was greater.
- Reduced library costs.
- Administration costs are significantly lower this year.
- Lower printing costs with a new application form etc being produced last year.

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- The newsletter costs include the full annual effect of the increase in postage costs, which is partly offset by a reduction in printing costs.

On the restricted funds, no donations were received for the Mayor's Prize, and the prize was not awarded this year.

In the balance sheet there is very little to comment on. The unrestricted cash resources of the Society were £24,731 a decrease from last year of £325, although the Gift Aid claim of £1,125 had not been received. The unrestricted reserves of the Society now stand at £22,246. Both of these figures show the finances of the Society remaining in a robust position.

**John Thomson**  
**Hon. Treasurer**

## **Agenda Item 5 (ii)**

### **PROPOSAL TO RAISE SUBSCRIPTION**

Council propose that the SAHAAS Annual Subscription (currently £12 ) be raised to £15 for the Financial Year 2015-2016, effective from June 2015. Other rates to be increased in proportion.

The reasons for proposing the rise are

- Society funds are gradually being eroded looked at long term. Despite this year's surplus (bumper Clock Tower receipts and Bending Bequest), we were in deficit in three of the previous four years, twice by more than £2000
- Increasing demands on Society resources due to
  - i. Rising costs of equipment.
  - ii. More society activity in research and publishing.
- The Current subscription is **very low** and extraordinarily good value given the extensive range of lectures and other activities and facilities provided
- There has been no rise in Subscription for at least 7 years

**Proposed by Donald Munro**

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The AGM will be followed by a presentation given by Chris McIntyre, and supporting team, entitled:

**“A new regional cultural heritage centre of excellence in St Albans”**

Chris McIntyre is a Trustee of St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust, Dean of Cultural Affairs University of Hertfordshire and, a family member of SAHAAS.  
*See page 24 for more details (ed)*

## OUR PROSPECTIVE NEW PRESIDENT



After promulgation of the vacancy, your Council is pleased to propose **Helen Bishop** as our next President – to be elected at our AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Helen is, of course, well known to us all as our Clock Tower co-coordinator, who has considerably raised the profile of this building for both citizens and visitors alike. Here, Helen has used her experience as a team player in the judiciary to strengthen our links with both SADC and our partner the Civic Society in order to develop its tourist potential (and, of course, our income). At a time when the Society's assistance and involvement is requested (even encouraged?) within the City, she strongly believes that the public face of the Society is important, although this in no way diminishes her respect for the considerable academic achievements over our long history.

Helen took her own academic degree in History and Politics at the University of Wales in 1963, and has taught both subjects at secondary level over many years. However, she would be the first to say that she is not an "academic", but loves learning and scholarship in others! She would wish to encourage the research and publications activities of the Society, and ensure opportunities for members to publish work of a high standard. Although she will be relinquishing her Clock Tower responsibilities, she will remain a weekend organiser as well as an active member of the First World War research project.

**Bryan Hanlon**  
**Hon. Secretary**

**INTRODUCING OUR NEW TREASURER**

(subject of course to approval at our AGM!)

We are sorry to lose John Thomson, our Honorary Treasurer, who has served us so well over the past ten years and is reducing the number of his voluntary commitments. We thank him most sincerely and wish him well for the future.

After several appeals to the membership at large for someone to take on the role of Treasurer, it was Tony Cooper who came up trumps. Tony has kindly persuaded his next-door neighbour, David Moore, to take on this responsibility – and David is so keen that he is even joining the Society!



*President welcomes David Moore to SAHAAS*

David has recently retired after a 44 year plus career in finance and management, having lived in St Albans for 40 years. He is married with two grown up daughters and now two grandchildren.

His interests include all sports - football, golf, cricket and rugby in particular, is a regular gym goer and enjoys walking (particularly when followed by a pint of real ale).

You will of course all have an opportunity to meet him at our AGM.

**Bryan Hanlon**

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As part of the promotion of St Albans as a visitor destination, a new logo designed to draw attention to our many areas of interest has been agreed by St Albans District Council:

**ST ALBANS**  
CHOOSE YOUR STORY

## ARC & ARC VISIT TO NORTHAMPTON

How delightful to be conveyed by coach on our jaunt to Northampton on 15<sup>th</sup> May. Effortlessly, and without the need of sat-nav, money for parking or an intimate knowledge of the back streets. Then to be met by a knowledgeable guide, with a loud voice, who could introduce us to Holy Sepulchre church. We were very much impressed by this round church, one of only three medieval round churches still in use, founded by the Crusaders returning from Jerusalem.

We were then led across town to another gem. St Peters is said to be one of the finest Norman churches in its county. We were much taken by the decorative little Norman arches on the outside upper levels, and the chunky tower. By way of contrast, our final church was at All Saints, a seventeenth century Wren-type church, but quite ornate inside. Finally, we admired the Guild Hall, a nineteenth century town hall, very similar to the medieval one in Brussels, and very fine.

Several of us were now yearning for the chance to put our feet up and have a bite to eat, and our organiser, Pat Howe, had thought of this. She had arranged lunch for us at 78 Dergate, the house designed by Rennie Mackintosh and the main purpose of our visit to Northampton. Once fortified, we could tackle the many stairs in the house and take in the sometimes shocking décor - a black, yellow and orange sitting room and a blue and black stripey bedroom. The rest of the property, the only house that Mackintosh designed outside Scotland, had some lovely sunny rooms, but was quite small being part of a Georgian terrace.

Northampton is only an hour away. I have been before, but following our visit with the Arc and Arc, I felt it deserved a further look, both on the Internet and in person.

Thank you to Pat for organising the trip and the lovely weather.

**Maggie Douglas**



*Photo: Allan Parker*

## SAHAAS FIRST WORLD WAR CONFERENCE - SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014

Shortly after war was declared on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 a lady in St Albans answered a knock at the door to find the Requisitioning Officer standing on her doorstep. When asked how many soldiers the house could accommodate the lady replied that the only space available was the doormat. "Very well," said the Officer, "we'll book two for that."

So began St Albans' gradual awakening to the realities of war, which didn't just involve battles fought far away in foreign fields but actually invaded hearth and home.

The many and varied ways in which the war impinged on the lives and livelihoods of the people of St Albans will be just one of the highlights of the forthcoming SAHAAS First World War Conference being held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at the Dagnall Street Baptist Church in St Albans.

As mentioned in previous issues of the newsletter, an excellent line-up of professional historians with expert knowledge of the period, including three from our own First World War Home Front Research Group, will be giving presentations at the conference.

The day opens with an introduction by our Patron, The Countess of Verulam.

The first keynote address will be given by Dr John Bourne, former Director of the Centre for First World War Studies at the University of Birmingham. Dr Bourne is currently the Vice President of the Western Front Association and is the author of *Britain and the Great War, 1914-18*.

In his presentation he will discuss why the Government took the decision to intervene in a continental war and how prepared the country was, militarily, politically and, for want of a better word, psychologically.

SAHAAS member Dr Mark Freeman will be throwing light on St Albans at this pivotal time, its population, key industries, municipal boundaries and bustling, small city life. Mark Freeman is Senior Lecturer in Education at the Institute of Education, University of London, and is the author of *St Albans: A History*.

Fellow SAHAAS member Alan Wakefield will be focusing on the development of the St Albans Territorials from 1908 to 1915, the force of part-time civilian soldiers who were among the first to go to war. Alan is Section Head, Photographs, at the Imperial War Museum, and the author of a number of books including *Under the Devil's Eye: Britain's Forgotten Army at Salonika, 1915-1918*, co-written with Simon Moody.

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Other members are also involved in the conference, including Dr Julie Moore, Deputy Director of the University of Hertfordshire's Heritage Hub. Food supply and distribution is a major focus of current research and Dr Moore will be sharing some of the findings in her presentation, entitled *Feeding the City*.

It wasn't just adults who were caught up in the struggles to obtain food as the war progressed. In March 1916 the Herts Advertiser reported that releasing children at rural schools to work on the land was discussed at a meeting of St Albans Rural Sub-Education Committee, with "a view to meeting the exceptional demands for labour at the present time".

It was ultimately decided by the committee to adhere to the practice, which had been adopted since the war began, i.e. to grant exemption only in the cases of children over 13 years of age. It was resolved by the meeting to ask managers of the different schools to effect a re-arrangement of the holidays so as to allow longer holidays being granted at harvest time and shorter holidays at other periods of the year.

Last but not least, the conference organisers are delighted that Dr Daniel Nagel of the University of Mannheim will be travelling to St Albans to give a presentation about the German city of Worms during the First World War. His research shows that the citizens of Worms – twinned with St Albans for over 50 years

– believed, in common with most other people in Germany, that their country was engaged in a defensive war. Understanding their perceptions at the outbreak of the war in July 1914 will be the starting point for his presentation at the conference on the 20<sup>th</sup> September.

A good number of tickets have been sold but there are still plenty of places available and it is hoped that as many members as possible will support this major SAHAAS event to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

The booking form is opposite. If you would like any further information, please contact the Conference Chairman, Bryan Hanlon, on 01727 851734 or email [admin@stalbanhistory.org](mailto:admin@stalbanhistory.org).

When sending in your booking form and cheque, please remember to enclose a **stamped, addressed envelope**. Thank you!

**Sue Mann**

### **St Albans Flag flown at half mast**

You may have noticed that on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August the flag flown on the old Town Hall was lowered to half mast as a commemoration of the day of the outbreak of the First World War. This action followed a suggestion by our Society.

**Bryan Hanlon**

**ST ALBANS AT WAR 1914/15**  
**HOME FRONT CONFERENCE**  
**BOOKING FORM**

Tickets for the Conference on Saturday 20th September 2014 at the Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St Albans, cost £18 per person. The following concession applies:  
Students in full time education £12 per person.

Please complete the booking form and send it together with a cheque and a stamped, addressed envelope to:

SAHAAS Secretary, 24 Monks Horton Way, St Albans AL1 4HA  
Telephone: 01727 851734; email: admin@stalbanhistory.org

(PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS, INCLUDING EMAIL ADDRESS)

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....Telephone.....

Email.....

Please indicate number of tickets required and make cheques payable to SAHAAS (all prices per person).

Please remember to include a stamped, addressed envelope:

..... ticket(s) @ £18

..... ticket(s) @ £12 Students in full-time education.

Please provide name of university, college or school:

Disabled Access is available. Please indicate if you require assistance:  
Yes/No

Cut out this page and post completed form

ABB  
THEATRE  
ST ALBANS

COT  
OUR 80TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
SEASON

# MY BOY JACK

By  
David  
Haig



7-8, 11-15

NOV 2014, 8 PM

Sunday Matinee 9 Nov, 2.30 pm

Abbey Theatre Main Stage

Box Office: 01727 857861  
[www.abbeytheatre.org.uk](http://www.abbeytheatre.org.uk)

Westminster Lodge, Holywell Hill,  
St Albans, AL1 2DL

SAHAAS will be setting up an exhibition stand in the entrance foyer where some of our findings focusing on the effect of the war on St Albans and its population will be displayed

## GROUP REPORTS 2013/2014

### PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

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

The Committee was responsible for nineteen Tuesday lectures, nine of which were presented by our own members; Jane Kelsall, Frank Iddiols, Julie Moore, Jon Mein, Pat Howe, Roger Miles, Mike North, Kate Morris and Rev Peter Wadsworth. We are extremely grateful to them for their contribution to the life of the Society.

Three very successful outings were arranged by Pat Howe: a day visit to Bishops Stortford in June, a morning visit to Much Hadham in September and a day visit in May to Northampton to see the The Charles Rennie Mackintosh House at 78 Deragate.

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. Any other members who may wish to assist in this vitally important role should contact me.

As always your suggestions for future outings, lecture topics and possible speakers are always welcome. A number have been received during this last year but more would be welcomed.

**Roy Bratby**  
**Chairman**

**Programme Development Committee**

### FRIDAY LECTURES REPORT

‘Magna Carta - History and Politics’ by Professor Nigel Saul, in which St Albans featured, saw the start of our 2013 – 2014 lecture programme. The sudden surprise discovery of the remains of Richard III was so timely for our September lecture when Richard Buckley, leader of the team, agreed to come personally to tell us in detail about the events that led to this exciting ‘find’. We have also been privileged to learn about the work of two of our early Architect members who have enriched our town with buildings that we, over the years, have taken so much for granted.

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For this and more we must be mindful of those who have covered our many lectures, our own members included, who tirelessly give of their time throughout the year to further our education.

Additionally, I am most grateful to our members who see fit to support the lecture programme by turning out in all weathers, in good numbers and, most importantly, with lecture topic suggestions.

**Doreen Bratby**  
**Lecture Secretary**

## **ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP REPORT**

### *The Wick*

In late summer, 2013, following an earlier resistivity survey of the grassed area of the Wick, St Albans, we dug two small sondages, in an attempt to explain features of the geophysics results. So far we can say that the ground shows evidence of disturbance and re-deposition. When and for what purpose it is not possible to say yet. More sondages are called for and will be sunk later this summer.

### *When No News Is Good News*

Last year the Society was approached by Aldenham Church for help with a predicament in which it found itself. A few years ago it was foreseen that the churchyard would before long be full and unable to accept more burials. Fortunately a piece of land, contiguous

with the existing churchyard, was acquired, as an extension when needed. The necessary planning application was made for change of use of the land. At this point it was learned that immediately adjacent is the known site of a 16th century house with grounds. A planning condition would be imposed: that the presence of any archaeological features in the extension be determined and, if found, excavated and recorded. Enquiries were made with archaeological contractors and it was realised that the Church would not have the necessary funds to pay for an investigation.

It was suggested that an amateur group might be able to help and thus we were approached. We have carried out a resistivity survey as a first step (but with no guarantee that this would be acceptable to the planning authorities). After Church volunteers had cleared undergrowth and scrub we were able to do our work in a short time. Although parchmarks visible in aerial photographs give reason to believe that garden features of the house would be present in the extension, nothing showed in the geophysics. This is the result that our client wished for - the reverse of what is usual in archaeology!

At the time of writing we are considering whether we can do anything else to assist, maybe with magnetometry.

**Roger Miles**  
**Archaeology Group**

## FIRST WORLD WAR HOME FRONT PROJECT

This has been a very busy and productive year for our project. We have welcomed four new members to the group, bringing us up to 22. Our research has been progressing well and we have moved from finishing Phase One last Autumn, through Phase Two (mainly Food Provision, and the Army in the City), to beginning Phase Three (Daily Life in the City and the Aftermath of the War) this month. Some research from the previous phases is still ongoing, but parts of some chapters are being drafted.

In addition to our research we have produced our War Memorials Tour leaflet and created a Matrix of the names on the St Albans War Memorials, both of which are downloadable from our website. The first printing of the leaflet was published in time for Heritage Weekend 2013, and an updated second edition was published before Remembrance Day. A second Tour leaflet is being drafted by Sue Mann, showing location of sites in the city which were connected with the wartime period.

With the help of several SAHAAS members in addition to our group, we have also transcribed the 1911 census for St Albans, and Mike North has coded it for statistical analysis for the project. We have just completed a transcription of the Absent Voters' List for 1918. Sadly, we have had to abandon our hope to digitise the Herts Advertiser for the war years.

Members of the Project have presented several talks to different groups, as well as our annual SAHAAS lecture last January by Jon Mein and Dr Julie Moore. Jon Mein and Anne Wares have been interviewed by the Talking Newspaper for the Blind and by Radio Verulam. Nine short articles by members have been published on the SAHAAS website, and a series of articles will be starting this month in the Herts Advertiser.

Having got an early start on our research at the beginning of 2013, we have become highly involved in various cooperative efforts as interest in commemorating the war has developed through 2014.

We are taking an active part in the University of Hertfordshire's Heritage Hub's AHRC project, Everyday Lives in War, and commemorative exhibitions at St Albans Abbey and the Museum of St Albans, as well as individual members' projects for Redbourn War Memorial, St Michael's Church, and Hatfield Library.

Sue Mann's article on Billeting, Bills and Brief Goodbyes was used in the programme for the St Albans' Chamber Opera's production of *Così fan Tutte*, in return for their giving us publicity and a similar reciprocal arrangement has been made with the Abbey Theatre for their production of *My Boy Jack*. (*See page 14. Ed.*)

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Much of our effort in the last few months has been put into arrangements for our conference on 20 September: St Albans at War 1914/15.

Tickets at £18 (and £12 for students) are still available and this will be a stimulating event.

Please see pp 11-13 and 28 or the website at [www.stalbanshistory.org](http://www.stalbanshistory.org) for details and a booking form.

**Jon Mein & Anne Wares**



### **'Everyday Lives in War: experience and memory of the First World War'**

The University of Hertfordshire, in collaboration with the Universities of Essex and Northampton, has been selected as one of five First World War Engagement Centres funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The Centre aims to connect and encourage academic and community research on the First World War as part of the Centenary. Each of the five Centres has particular areas of expertise, and the 'Everyday Lives in War' team are interested in the areas of First World War food and farming, theatre and entertainment, military tribunals and conscientious objection, supernatural beliefs, childhood and family relationships. The Centre will run a programme of open events, free workshops and online resources related to our themes. We will be liaising with the Heritage Lottery Fund to support HLF funded projects, but also welcome enquiries and ideas from individuals or groups with no HLF connections. Depending on the topic, we will be able to point people in the right direction to follow their own interest or connect them with experts in one of the other Centres depending on areas of research. In addition we may be able to suggest ways in which we can work with groups on particular themes. We are curious about stories of everyday life and particularly interested in exploring comparative perspectives through which communities across the U.K. can research and share diverse First World War histories and legacies. For more details visit [www.herts.ac.uk/everyday-lives-in-war](http://www.herts.ac.uk/everyday-lives-in-war)

or contact us at

[firstworldwar@herts.ac.uk](mailto:firstworldwar@herts.ac.uk)

**Julie Moore**

## CLOCK TOWER REPORT

Half way through the season at the Clock Tower, I can report that all is well and we are busy. We began with the visit from the Mayor, Cllr Annie Brewster, and a display of winning photographs taken by Petra Koblova, which continue to be much admired and brighten the entrance room. Sadly our plans for a new desk, display cabinet, and decorating have not yet come to anything – the SADC budget for the Tower for this financial year is £90! Need I say more? We will have to think of alternatives, it seems.

The Albans Festival on June 21<sup>st</sup>, the Film Festival and the weekly market brought people to the City centre. The First World War commemorations, the Abbey Flower Festival (September 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>) and the Literature Festival planned for the autumn will doubtless do so too. We benefit from all these events, and the two societies (Civic Society and ourselves) are working well together. Jill Singer (CS) and I recently met Sue Davies, the new Museum Audience Development Manager, who has replaced Nicole Deufal. She is eager to make more use of the Clock Tower during the week, has lots of ideas and is very friendly and cooperative.

St Albans is in the process of developing a new “brand”, a logo printed with a variety of historical letters, as used in various buildings around the city, including the Clock Tower. The variety of letters

symbolises the various “themes of interest” visitors can pursue when they visit us, For example: The Alban story, our Roman history, architecture etc. *See Page 9 (ed)*

The excellent new map for St Albans, developed by Cityscape, is still struggling to come to fruition, and we hope that somehow we manage to get it into circulation. Heritage Weekend will not be advertised locally by St Albans District Council this year to save money, though there will be “national” advertising for it. Local initiatives will have to be independent of the Council.

Having consulted many people among the band of Clockateers about a new person to take over my job as SAHAAS Clock Tower co-ordinator, I am happy to announce that Mike Carey and Caroline Howkins have agreed to do the job together. They have already been involved in clockateering, and I am delighted they have accepted the challenge. I shall remain a weekend organiser.

My thanks, as usual, go to all those of you who contribute so willingly to the Clock Tower, and who have helped and supported me over the last four years. It is enthusiasm that makes the Clock Tower live.

**Helen Bishop**  
**Clock Tower Co-ordinator**

## LIBRARY REPORT

The most significant event affecting the Library in the past year was the passing of Gill Harvey shortly before Christmas. Gill led the Library Team very ably for 8 years, and her knowledge, experience and brave determination are greatly missed. Happily former Library Team member Tony Cooper is coming in on Wednesdays for the time being to cover part of the gap left by Gill. Recent illness of other members point to the need to strengthen the Library Team, and we trust that new volunteers may be identified through the Membership Survey.

The Library is usually busy on morning openings and numerous visitors are assisted on a remarkably varied range of queries.

The Library team mounted two successful exhibitions in the Abbey north transept over Heritage Weekend and Residents First Weekend.

There has been real progress in Library IT with the upgrading of hardware in the new computer (a machine donated to the Society), so that it now has the capacity to hold all the digital images we are likely to create and/or store over the next few years. The Heritage Library Management Software has also been installed on it. Major thanks are due to Malcolm Merrick for all his help in hardware acquisition and installation, and also for the progress he has made on digitising our glass slides and the Darnell collection of photographic slides.

Several donations have been made during the year, we are particularly grateful to

Mike Neighbour for his digital copies of photographs from the Herts Advertiser.

The most remarkable book acquisitions came from a serendipitous discovery of a collection of St Albans material at an Antiques Fair at Newmarket which contained several interesting items not in the Society's Library. These include

*The St. Albans Pageant. July 15th to July 20th, 1907* / text and lyrics by Charles H. Ashdown (St. Albans, 1907).

*The St. Alban's Abbey guide: containing a historical account of the decline of Verulam;* [St Albans: Barnet, 1824]. An imperfect copy of an elusive item.

*An account of Saint Alban's Abbey, and the churches of Saint Michael, Saint Peter, and St. Stephen, ....* (St Albans: W. Langley, 1869). With several MS. annotations by John Harris, antiquary of Hemel Hempstead. And

*Herbs : a comprehensive list of herbal remedies (St Albans: Heath and Heather, 1926 and 1927).* Two copies in excellent condition of the seed catalogues, which include interesting workshop photos.

Regarding the long term future of the Library, I recently had a friendly meeting with Mike Gray, Museums and Galleries Trust Chair, and Sue Davies, SADC Museums, regarding the libraries and the Town Hall Museum project. We will almost certainly have to move from the Judge's Robing Room, but it is too early to report anything definite.

**Donald Munro**

## LIBRARY NOTES AND QUERIES

### Recent additions to stock

*St Albans: the way we were.* Heritage Media, for the St Albans and Harpenden Review, 2014. A DVD combining old photographs and cine film, with a commentary, portraying life in St Albans from the 1850's to the 1950's. It includes footage of the market shot by Arthur Melbourne Cooper in 1909; recruitment at the outbreak of WW1, conscription, victory celebrations, and war memorials; WW2 footage shows troops, including those from the USA, and enemy damage in St Albans.

*Directory of Members' Interests, February 2013.* Hertfordshire Family History Society. An annual CD registering the family names in which HFHS members are interested, with contact details.

[See also Library Report Page 20 for notable recent acquisitions.]

### Recent journal articles

In: *Current Archaeology* No. 291, June 2014, pp 12-22. John Blair. "Exploring Anglo-Saxon settlement: in search of the origins of the English village". Examination of unpublished developer-funded excavation reports has thrown new light on settlements from AD 600 – 1100. They were dispersed and less organised than in row-plan nucleated villages from the 12<sup>th</sup> century on. Eastern England provides extensive physical evidence. Stotfold, near Hitchin is one of the villages described.

### Journals received

*British Archaeology*, July/August 2014  
*Hertfordshire People*, March 2014 and June 2014  
*Rickmansworth Historical Society Journal*

**Tony Cooper**



Photo: Frank Iddiols

SAHAAS members at St Leonard's Church Sandridge during the Sandridge 900+ event on 19<sup>th</sup> July . The day featured the: "*Restoration of St Leonard's and its architect - William White*"

SAHAAS provided a display of prints and photographs

**17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY RESEARCH GROUP REPORT**

The team of transcribers have continued to turn wills and inventories into typed readable documents in preparation for publication by the Hertfordshire Record Society (HRS). The period we are working on is 1600 to 1649. The number of documents completed is approaching 280 wills and 80 inventories but there are more than 150 inventories yet to photocopy at HALS and then to transcribe. This may be too many for the first volume and to clarify this we are meeting with Sue Flood, General Editor of the HRS, next month to discuss with her the quantity and the format for the publication. The transcribers meet together regularly under the leadership of Jane Harris in order to attain consistency and to solve problems which occur in the reading of the documents.

We began this work by transcribing only widows' wills. Once completed, we analysed the contents and I produced a talk which was given to the Tuesday meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February and this was very well received. I would say the St Albans widows were a feisty bunch, ahead of their time in their attraction to independence and skills in commercial endeavours.

We have received a number of enquiries from people researching the history of their families, some from the States and others from Australia. It is very satisfying to provide new information to these researchers.

**Pat Howe**

**NEW MUSEUM AND GALLERY UPDATE**

Progress on realising the New Museum project continues. A meeting of the Museum Advisory Group is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> August and as a major stakeholder in the new Museum and Gallery, SAHAAS will be represented.

At the Alban Festival on 22<sup>nd</sup> June the Trust launched the "*renaissance: St Albans*" campaign in the community. This campaign is to realise the once in a lifetime opportunity to develop an exceptional new museum and gallery of national and international significance in the Town Hall. The project will cost £6.75m and over £5m has been pledged by the Heritage Lottery Fund and St Albans City & District Council. The gap of £1.7m needs to be met by July 2015 and the St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust are leading on this fundraising. For further information see the website: <http://www.stalbansmuseumsandgalleriestrust.org.uk/>

**M.C Gray**

Chairman St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust

**NEWSLETTER 194**

The closing date for contributions to November Newsletter (194) is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Please forward copy to:  
 newsed@stalbanhistory.org  
 or post to:  
 12 Church Crescent, St Albans, AL3 5JD

**John Humphreys**

## HERTS ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY REPORT

There is plenty of material ready for the forthcoming Volume 17.

Progress has appeared rather slow this year, mainly due to pressure of work for some editorial committee members. However, a lot of work has been done 'behind the scenes'. We are aiming to cut costs by finding a new publisher, which entails more detailed work by committee members, and this is well underway.

At a meeting to be held in late July, we looked at indicative publishing costs provided by a number of local companies. One of the committee members has been providing page layouts. We are now in a position to move forward quickly once a publisher has been chosen.

## TRANSACTIONS DIGITISATION REPORT

This important piece of work is now close to completion. There is just one post WW2 volume left to convert, with several others already completed ready for loading on to our website

([http://www.stalbanshistory.org/category/transactions\\_early\\_publications\\_of\\_sahaas](http://www.stalbanshistory.org/category/transactions_early_publications_of_sahaas)).

The delay is caused by seeking approval from a variety of relevant authorities for publishing the images within each volume.

This is a time-consuming but very interesting activity, involving some detective work and correspondence with a variety of institutions and authors' heirs. All outcomes have so far been positive.

**Christine McDermott**

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## MAYOR'S PRIZE

Two submissions were received for this year's prize. *James Brown, Esq. (1754-1838) Antiquary of St Albans*, is the more discursive and includes material from some fairly inaccessible sources. *The Tale of Spencer House*, draws together information about and describes the Holywell Hill property.

Although both papers contain interesting material, it is the unanimous view of our three assessors that neither was overall quite of a standard to merit a prize award.

Consequently, no award will be made this year. Both papers will shortly be available in the SAHAAS Library.

**Donald Munro**  
**President**

**All lectures commence at 7.45pm**

**All lectures will be held at St Albans School except those marked (\*) which will be held at Verulamium Museum**

**Late changes of venue will be notified by email and on our website**

## LECTURE INFORMATION

**16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

### **Tuesday 16 September 2014 (\*)**

*A New Regional Cultural Heritage Centre of Excellence in St Albans*

**Chris McIntyre**

A consideration of museum and gallery provision in St Albans in the context of the successful Heritage Lottery bid to create a regional cultural centre in the Town Hall. The presentation will examine the past, present and possible future of museum and gallery activity in the city and consider the national, regional and local circumstances that are likely to affect the design, planning and operation of a new resource and service that is pertinent to the diverse needs of the whole community and its visitors.

*Chris McIntyre is a Trustee of the St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust and Dean of Cultural Affairs at UH, and has worked extensively in Creative Arts education and management. He developed the UH School of Creative Arts out of the St Albans-based Hertfordshire College of Art, and has worked with many arts charities and voluntary organisations including Arts Council England and regional arts groups. He is currently a member of the UK Crafts Council, a governor of St Albans School and a patron of the St Albans Film Festival. He is also active in international educational development and quality assurance. He is a Family Member of the Society.*

### **Friday 26 September 2014**

*Dido Belle growing up at Kenwood House*

**Laura Houlston**

Dido Elizabeth Belle was the mixed-race, great-niece of Lord and Lady Mansfield who grew up at their north London home, Kenwood House. With Dido's life recently depicted in the film 'Belle', the talk will centre on the evidence and documents that survive from the period. Dido's father was a naval officer and nephew of Lord Mansfield, whilst her mother had been an enslaved African. With the recent representation of Kenwood House in November 2013, her story has featured more prominently for visitors. Discoveries about her life before and after her time at Kenwood will also be explored.

*Laura Houlston is Senior Curator of Collections (London & East) at English Heritage. She was Curator at the Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood from 2002 and worked on the major redisplay project in 2013. She previously worked as an assistant curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, on the Victorian Team of the British Galleries Project. Her recent publications include a paintings catalogue of The Suffolk Collection (2012) and she is currently researching and writing a catalogue for the Iveagh Bequest furniture collection.*

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## **Tuesday 7 October 2014 (\*)**

*The Thames Ironworks - Then and Now.*

**Ben Clayton and Gavin Redknap**

The Thames Ironworks first opened for business in 1837 and within a few years had risen to become one of the greatest shipbuilding firms in the United Kingdom, producing warships for the Royal Navy and foreign navies, among many other engineering innovations of the Victorian era. However, growing competition from Northern shipyards meant that the London-based shipbuilding industry went into decline in the early 20th Century which ultimately led to the closure of the Thames Ironworks in 1912. This lecture will include a brief history of the Thames Ironworks and focus more deeply upon the Trust's work in regards to reviving the shipbuilding and wider manufacturing heritage of East London.

*Ben Clayton is a Chartered Accountant working in the private sector and Treasurer and Trustee of the Trust*

*Gavin Redknap is a professional economist working in the private sector and the Chairperson and Trustee of the Trust*

## **Tuesday 14 October 2014**

*St Albans, Hertfordshire & the Civil War*

**Dr Alan Thomson**

The lecture examines three aspects of the period after an initial introduction to the general background: Firstly the way in which Hertfordshire became involved in supporting the Parliamentary side and how men in Hertford & St Albans organ-

ised the war effort; secondly how the First Civil War, which was fought between 1642 & 1647, affected the area in the 1640's; and thirdly some of its longer term effects and consequences on Hertfordshire

*Alan Thomson taught History in Higher Education institutions in Hertfordshire from 1975 to 2008. He has published various essays on local history and two books, *The Ware Mutiny 1647* and *The Impact of the First Civil War on Hertfordshire*. He lives in Ware and is a member of the Hertford & Ware Local History Society, the Hertfordshire Association for Local History and is Chair of the Hertfordshire Record Society.*

## **Tuesday 21 October 2014**

*A Personal Exploration of the City of Westminster – Past and Present*

**Catherine Longworth**

Westminster Abbey has stood on its own island for over 1000 years - the City of Westminster grew up around it and eventually became the centre of royalty and government. This lecture encompasses lesser known anecdotes about the history and architecture of Westminster – from the early days of Caxton to the rampages of Suffragettes, from prisons to pelicans. Catherine touches on how the present Westminster City Council operates, her involvement as a Councillor and her year as Lord Mayor, all from a very personal view.

*Catherine Longworth BA was brought up in Sheffield, Norfolk and London. She read History at King's College London as a mature student when she was 45 which gave her the*

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*Continued from page 25*

*confidence to stand as a Councillor on Westminster City Council in 1994. In 2004/5 she was appointed Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster. Catherine is currently a Governor of Francis Holland Schools Trust, Trustee of Dolphin Square Charitable Foundation (social housing), Events co-ordinator for The London Ladies Club and Hon.Treasurer of the Westminster History Club.*

### **Friday 31 October 2014**

*Those Wild Wyndhams – Three Sisters at the Heart of Power*

#### **Claudia Renton**

The three Wyndham sisters, Mary, Madeline and Pamela – were beautiful and rich. Their leisured, gilded, existence of the late Victorian aristocracy was to be dealt a deathblow by the First World War. Yet their lives were far more turbulent than their air of calm suggests. Brought up in artistic and liberal circles, their childhood was freedom-loving and filled with medieval fantasies. Their parents were intimate friends with the Pre-Raphaelites. Bowing to convention, all three made excellent marriages, but only one was happy. All found emotional support from others – Mary with Arthur Balfour and the poet Wilfrid Scawen Blunt; Pamela with the Liberal statesman and ornithologist Edward Grey.

*Claudia Renton gained a First at Oxford and was awarded the Gibbs Book Prize for Modern History. Now a practising barrister, she has also enjoyed a career as an actress, appearing*

*with the RSC and at the National Theatre. She is co-author of Heroes with Simon Sebag Montefiore and was identified as one of the Guardian's 'new history girls' and one of Vogue's 'Bright Stars' of the next decade. She lives in London.*

### **Tuesday 11 November 2014**

*London's Forgotten Children: Thomas Coram and the Foundling Hospital*

#### **Dame Gillian Pugh**

Captain Thomas Coram took 17 years to set up the England's first children's charity, the Foundling Hospital, when he retired from a life at sea in the 1720s. Dame Gillian's lecture describes the struggle to set up the Hospital, the role played by two of the artistic giants of the eighteenth century - the artist William Hogarth and the composer George Frederick Handel - who became governors of the Hospital, and its subsequent development. Examining attitudes towards illegitimacy and listening to the voices of past children of the hospital, the lecture brings the work of the charity, now known as Coram, up to the present day.

*Dame Gillian Pugh was Chief Executive of Coram from 1997 - 2005. She has advised governments in this country and overseas on services for children and families and has published widely. She was awarded the DBE in 2005 for services to children and families and has now retired (more or less) and is enjoying spending time with her six grandchildren.*

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*Continued from page 26*

**Tuesday 18 November 2014**

*St Peter's Church and the Commemoration of the Wars of the Roses*

**Dr Peter Burley**

This talk will describe and locate the Wars of the Roses heritage at St Peter's between 1455 and 1799 (and place it in its wider context), its role in the two battles of St Albans (1455 and 1461) and the local lore associated with it. It will explore some of the people buried there in 1455 and their stories and the associations with Henry VI. It will account for why there is nothing left to see today and will conclude with suggestions about reinstating appropriate commemoration of the Wars.

*Dr Peter Burley is a long standing member of the Society and a local resident. He studied history at university and went on to do research (PhD in 1981). He then followed a career in local government and the regulation of health professions, but keeping his hand in as a historian. In 2007 he published (with two colleagues) a book on the battles of St Albans and has continued to research and talk on the battles since. He was married in St Peter's Church and lives on the battlefield of the Second Battle of St Albans (1461).*

**Friday 28 November 2014**

*Claydon House and the Families who lived therein.*

**Mr Frank Preece**

Claydon House is a mixture of designs internally, which is not apparent from its somewhat ordinary Georgian exterior. They range through rococo, classical, gothic revival and ostentatious chinoiserie. The two designers involved were men who had high opinions of themselves and their work. The talk gives only a brief picture of the Verney family, and those influential in the life of the existing House, both before and after its commissioning by Ralph, second Earl Verney. Lives which were also amazingly colourful and beset with difficulties.

*Frank Preece, a retired banker (the old fashioned variety!), has been a Volunteer at Claydon House for eight years. He was a founder member of Rugby Local History Group some years ago and joined with members of that group in research leading to various publications prior to his moving to Buckinghamshire in the 1980s. Although he has no academic background in history, his interest arose in Rugby through a course sponsored by the Workers' Education Association.*

**All lectures commence at 7.45pm**

**All lectures will be held at St Albans School except those marked (\*) which will be held at Verulamium Museum**

**Late changes of venue will be notified by email and on our website**

**ST ALBANS AT WAR 1914/15**

Home Front Conference

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Dagnall Street Baptist Church

Upper Dagnall Street

St Albans

ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE  
Architectural & Archaeological Society

- What was life like in St Albans in the first 18 months of the war?
- How were the 7,000 troops billeted in the city treated?
- How did this compare with the home front in Germany?

These and many other questions will be addressed in this SAHAAS international conference, painting a broad picture of the war, focusing on the St Albans experience and comparing it with that of the German city of Worms (tinned with St Albans in 1950's).

The day's programme includes:

**Introduction**

The Countess of Verulam

**Preparations for war**Military, Political and  
Psychological

Dr John Bourne

Former Director Centre of First World War  
Studies University of Birmingham**St Albans****Small City Life**Population, Industries and  
Municipal Boundaries

Dr Mark Freeman

Senior Lecturer Institute of Education  
University of LondonAuthor: *St Albans - a history***The Territorials 1908 - 1915**

Alan Wakefield

Section Head of Photographs  
Imperial War Museum**Feeding the City**

Food Supply and Distribution

Dr Julie Moore

Deputy Director

University of Hertfordshire Heritage Hub

**The German Perspective**

City of Worms

Dr Daniel Nagel

University of Mannheim