



ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE
ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 201 August 2016



Photo courtesy of Yale Center for British Art

‘Village Street in St. Albans’ - but where?

See Page 24

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Annual General Meeting
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St Albans Historic Walls
Talking Buildings
SAHAAS Home Front Book Launch
Lecture Programme

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Changes are happening so fast in St Albans at the moment that it is difficult to keep up with it all – and much of it affects the heritage which is so important to us.

Our library has moved successfully to Sandridge Gate and provides a spacious base, near our colleagues in the Museum Service. We hope to open it up to more visitors and use it for seminars and meetings. We have not yet got our base in Town Hall Chambers in the city centre operational, mainly because of delays in providing cables for internet etc. but hopefully this will follow.

Work is due to begin on the Old Town Hall, and the memorial to the 635 men who gave their lives has been moved to a new home in the City Council Chamber. A service of rededication was held on the 22nd July at which the Society was represented.



Photo: John Humphreys

Civic Roll of Honour 1914-1919

Our second quiz night at Kingsbury Barn in aid of the Museum and Galleries Trust was a very enjoyable



event which raised over another £2,000 for the funds. Half a million has now been raised by the Trust but more is needed and I encourage members to think of more money-spinning ideas.

On July 11th, after a packed Planning Committee at the Council offices, Councillors passed the Cathedral plans for a new visitor centre. English Heritage regard the development of the Cathedral and the Old Town Hall together as a flagship project, which will raise the profile and visitor economy of the City.

Development of part of the City Civic Centre is on the horizon too, and it is heartening to know that the work of Look! St Albans and its campaign for community involvement in the designing of our city has been recognised. Look! St Albans has been asked by SADC to organise a community workshop (charrette) in September to plan the future of the area between Hatfield Road and Victoria Street, includ-

ing the Arena, the Council car park and the redundant police station. This will take place over the Heritage Weekend (9th to 11th September). Details can be obtained from Look! St Albans website.

The Clock Tower will be open for Heritage Weekend, as usual, and John Cox has researched and organised an exhibition at the Cathedral Library on Lord Grimthorpe. It will be interesting – love him or hate him, he had a great impact on St Albans and far beyond.

The lecture programme for the new season, the last to be planned by Roy and Doreen Bratby, has been published. The Society has benefited hugely from Roy and Doreen's dedication and expertise over many years. As you will remember from the February Newsletter, Roy and Doreen had advised Council of their intention to relinquish their responsibility for arranging the Tuesday and Friday lectures as from 31 May 2017.

I am pleased to be able to announce that David and Gill Girdziusz have volunteered to take over that responsibility and they are already preparing the lecture programme for the period commencing September 2017. I trust that you will give Gill and David the same support as that afforded to Roy and Doreen.

David and Gill met whilst studying for their BA (Hons) Degrees in History from Reading University. David later completed a Masters Degree in Education at Durham University and Gill qualified as a Social Worker(CQSW) at Northumbria University.

In 2008 David retired from his post as Head of St Peter's Sixth Form College in Sunderland, and Gill retired from her position as a Family Therapist with Sunderland Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in 2011. They moved from the North East to St Albans in 2013 to be nearer to their family and soon became members of the Society.

On a sad note, members of SAHAAS and the Civic Society went to photograph the old Victorian Pemberton school buildings in the grounds of the present Alban City School on Hatfield Road before they are demolished at the end of this term. It is regrettable, I think, that a more imaginative solution to this problem could not have been found. Part of the old school, with its light and lofty rooms, might have made wonderful art and activity rooms, but it is not to be. Many people in St Albans went to this school or know someone who did and in response to a request from a member, the Head has said that anyone who wishes can have a brick from the old

building as a memento. Please let me know urgently if you are interested.

We still have much to look forward to this year – an outing to Chiswick in September, as well as the publication of the Home Front and the Old Town Hall books.

Good wishes

Helen Bishop



Photo: Herts Ad

Goodbye to the Pemberton Building

Editor's Note:

Kate Morris has published a history of the Pemberton building on our web site.

THANK YOU SAHAAS MEMBERS

Extract from a note from Cllr Annie Brewster, Trustee St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust, to our President dated 22 June 2016 following the Quiz Night.

'Wow! How fantastic Helen, Val and all supporters in SAHAAS.....well done and the most enormous thank you.

Thank you for all your hard work and support not just at the quiz, but throughout this exciting project and challenging fundraising campaign. We really do have the most wonderful community in St Albans.

The roll call on your thank you note to the organisers and helpers reflects the rich tapestry of skills of those involved in creating a successful event and is a wonderful example of the positive action so many are taking to make our new Museum and Art Galleries a reality."

Annie Brewster

SAHAAS 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 13th September 2016 at **7.30** pm for the following purposes

Agenda

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) President's comments
- 3) To adopt the minutes of the AGM held on 15th September 2015 (enclosed with the November 2015 Newsletter)
- 4) To receive the accounts for the year ended 31st May 2016 (enclosed with this Newsletter)
- 5) To receive reports from our various Groups (enclosed with this Newsletter)
- 6) To adopt the revised constitution (enclosed with this newsletter)
- 7) To elect the following members to serve on Council (with their responsibilities) until the next AGM:

Helen Bishop	President
Bryan Hanlon	Secretary
David Moore	Treasurer
Doreen Bratby *	Lecture Secretary
Roy Bratby *	Chairman, Programme Development Committee
Pat Broad	Publications
Mike Carey	Clock Tower (jointly)
John Cox	Publicity
Maggy Douglas	Minutes Secretary
Roderick Douglas	Webmaster

Pat Howe	17 th Century Research Group
Caroline Howkins	Clock Tower (jointly)
John Humphreys	Newsletter Editor
Frank Iddiols	Technical
Christine McDermott	Hertfordshire Archaeology and History
Jon Mein	First World War Home Front Project Group
Roger Miles	Archaeology
Donald Munro	Library
David Smith	Membership Secretary
David Girdziusz) To assume responsibilities for Programme
Gill Girdziusz) Development and Lecture Programme from May 2017

* Retiring in May 2017

8) To confirm the election of Chris Hall as Independent Examiner of the accounts

The AGM will be followed by a 'wine and cheese' buffet
to introduce the Society's latest publication:-

St Albans – Life on the Home Front, 1914-1918'

A REVISED CONSTITUTION

As you will have seen in the May edition of our newsletter, your Council has been reviewing our Constitution (which dates from 2006), and a revised draft document is enclosed – for discussion, and hopefully approval / adoption, at our AGM on 13th September.

We do not think that you will find anything of 'life changing' significance. However, as the Constitution runs to some 2000 words a summary of the changes has been included.

If you have any queries about this, in any way, please do feel free to contact me in advance – by phone or email.

Tel: 01727 – 851734 Email: admin@stalbanhistory.org

Bryan Hanlon
Hon Secretary

ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2016

Enclosed with this newsletter are the accounts for the financial year ended 31st May 2016 which were signed by the independent examiner on 26th July 2016 and were approved by Council on 3rd August 2016. As in previous years the accounts are presented in the format required by the Charity Commission's Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP2005). They also contain a report from an 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 subject to independent examination.

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

Unrestricted Funds:

Income

Subscription income is up by £1,246 as a result of the increase in membership fees from 1st June 2015 and new members continuing to join.

The Clock Tower donation doubled from £2,000 to £4,000.

Gift Aid for 2014-2015 financial year of £1,159 was received. A claim is being submitted for 2015-2016 financial year and will reflect in next year's figures.

Fund Raising Activities were centred around raising funds for the Museum & Galleries Trust. A quiz night and a book sale were held resulting in donations totalling £3606 being made. A second quiz night, held on 12th June, 2016 generated a further £2000+/- towards this project.

Expenditure

The main impact on the Society's funds in the last year has been in this area.

Notably:

The publication of the revised edition of the *Street Memorials of St Albans Abbey Parish* book at a cost of £6,180 of which at the end of this financial year £970 has been recouped from sales.

The First World War Group project to produce a book on the Home Front has been completed and is, at the time of writing this report, with the publishers University of Hertfordshire Press (UHP). The figure of £4,345 in the accounts includes £1,000 legal costs for advice in respect of the publishing contract with UHP and £1,000 up front payment to UHP towards production costs. Overall the project has come in within budget.

As well as raising funds for the New Museum & Galleries Trust a donation of £5,000 was made from the Society's funds.

Library expenses are up reflecting the move to the new location at Sandridge Gate.

Overall expenses have remained within their expected range, although bank charges are up, + £116, being the cost of increasing members' Direct Debits following the subscription increase.

Restricted Funds:

There has been little activity here with only a donation of £74 being received. The Mayor's Prize was not awarded this year.

Balance Sheet:

The cash resources of the Society are down £11,100 to £19,880 reflecting the increased expenditure outlined above and the smaller income increase.

Overall the finances of the Society remain healthy and in a position to support its activities and commitments.

David Moore
Hon Treasurer

LIBRARY REPORT

A very busy Library year has been dominated by the need for us to find and move to alternative accommodation as a result of the prospective refurbishment of the Town Hall as a state of the art museum and galleries. No satisfactory city centre location was available, and we have been provided with a large and well-lit north-facing room at Sandridge Gate. Although the location is not convenient compared with the Town Hall, the larger room will enable us to hold seminars. Adjacent to our library, a room houses the MoSTA collections and staff research library. A further room away, the SADC Archaeology Unit and its materials. Together, the rooms allow a significant concentration of resources that hopefully, over time, can be developed into a strong local studies centre for the St Albans area.

As fully reported in the May *Newsletter*, the preparation for and the move itself went remarkably well. Very many thanks again to our small army of regular and volunteer library helpers, and especial thanks to Kate Warren and Rob Orchard of SADC in facilitating the move, and to Andy 'The Van' Lawrence in crucially moving and having the book cabinets in place

before the books themselves were moved to Sandridge Gate.

Settling in Sandridge Gate has generally gone very well. The additional space and surplus SADC cabinets, recently acquired, has allowed us to rationalise elements of the collection. It has also brought to light swathes of materials that had become buried and unprocessed in the cramped Town Hall location.

An extensive list of Library and 'resource discovery' tasks was circulated to volunteers and people indicating a willingness to help in the Membership Survey. A very positive meeting of volunteers was held early in June. Many of the tasks are long term but it is very encouraging that there is so much readiness to help amongst Society members, and the Library team are most grateful for that. A start has been made on two or three of the identified tasks, and more will become active when we have had time to fit in cataloguing and other 'training'. Progress has been somewhat slowed by delay in establishing the full wi-fi facility in Sandridge Gate.

Meanwhile, Library team member, Di Dunn, is making great strides on the 'painting the Forth Bridge' project

re-listing the contents of the filing cabinets. It will come as no surprise to assiduous *Newsletter* readers that the Society Library aims to make our collection of maps of St Albans and District the most significant in the county (copies of three 17th Century maps were acquired this year).

We are pleased that visitor numbers are holding steady despite the move 'out of town' and the Library continues to be a lively hub for creative SAHAAS activity. Do come and see the new premises. The intended formal 'opening' will now be held in the autumn when the networking is in place.

Donald Munro

LIBRARY NOTES

Recent Acquisitions

Dury and Andrews' Map of Hertfordshire: society and landscape in the eighteenth century, by Andrew Macnair, Anne Rowe, and Tom Williamson. Oxford: Windgather Press, 2016. 238pp, illus, maps, bibliography.

The authors discuss the context of the map's production and its place in history, and which describes the creation of a new digital version of the map, a DVD of which is included. Using this and GIS technology reveals much

new information on Hertfordshire's landscape and history.

The peaceful path: building Garden Cities and New Towns, by Stephen V Ward. Hatfield: Hertfordshire Publications 2016. 391pp, illus, photographs, plans, bibliog., Index.

Hertfordshire is unique in the number of Garden Cities and New Towns within its boundaries. This book traces the history of the Garden City movement, inspired by social reform, and the New Towns initiative which addressed the post-WW2 housing problems of London. It goes on to examine the contemporary relevance of the pioneers' vision in the context of the severe housing shortages in our own time.

Researching and writing history: a guide for local historians, by David Dymond. 4th edition. Lancaster: Carnegie Publishing, 2016. 216pp, illus.

The author discusses the discipline needed to research and write better, searching for sources, transcribing texts, finding and interpreting evidence, and the tasks of writing and publishing. A list of further reading is provided, and Appendix 1 lists published sources valuable to local historians. Other appendices deal with aspects of writing.

Wind, water and steam: the story of Hertfordshire's mills, by Hugh Howes. Hatfield: Hertfordshire Publications, 2016. 255pp, illus, maps, diagrams, appendices, glossary and gazetteer.

This is a social and economic history of all the varieties of milling in the county, not only of corn but in the production of paper, silk, cotton, and gunpowder. Despite adapting to changes in technology, recent centuries have brought milling in the county to near extinction. A generous number of illustrations assist the story.

Recent Journal Articles

In *The Alban Link* no.26, Spring 2016, Pp 4-6. 'St George goes to the Tower', by Stephen de Silva.

St Albans Cathedral's 14th century statue of St George was recently exhibited in the Royal Armouries at the Tower of London. The exhibition catalogue entry reproduced here, relates the history of the statue and describes the details of the armour depicted on it.

In *The Hendon and District Archaeological Society Newsletter*, July 2016. Pp 3-5. 'St Andrew's, Totteridge', by Elizabeth Burling.

Totteridge, now in the London Borough of Barnet, formerly lay for

centuries in Hertfordshire, and the church belonged to St Etheldreda's, Hatfield, in 1250. It stands on an ancient site in which a yew tree grows, which might be between 1,000 and 2,000 years old. The history of the church is recounted, with notes on the parish records.

Tony Cooper

PUBLICITY REPORT

Being 'Publicity Officer' involves promoting SAHAAS as well as researching and answering inquiries received.

In the past year an exhibition has been created from F.G. Kitton's drawings for Residents' Enjoy weekend in St. Albans Cathedral which was subsequently displayed in St. Albans Central Library.

Now, following my research into the life of a brilliant yet flawed individual, Edmund Beckett Denison – who was born 200 years ago in 1816, and who in 1874 became Sir Edmund Beckett, 5th Baronet and in 1885 Baron Grimthorpe – will feature in an exhibition as part of SAHAAS contribution to Heritage Open Days (9th – 13th September).

Despite local animosity towards his restoration of our Cathedral and

Abbey Church there is much more than the Abbey in this reappraisal of a genius!

More information can be found on Page 23 of this Newsletter.

John G E Cox

CLOCK TOWER REPORT

Throughout the many centuries that the Clock Tower has been at the centre of St Albans life, it has witnessed and been part of a variety of interesting and fascinating events. Even today many of the festivals and events that happen in St Albans stop or pass by the Clock Tower. On the 23rd of April, the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, the OVO theatre company took to the streets of St Albans, stopping outside the Clock Tower, to perform some of the Bard's most famous scenes and speeches and on the 18th June, the annual Alban Pilgrimage procession passed by the Clock Tower and various folk dancers stopped to perform by its side. The episode of the "Hairy Bikers" that featured The Boot pub and the Clock Tower was finally broadcast on BBC 2 on the 27th April. If you missed it, there are some still shots from the programme on the Clock Tower Facebook page.



*Folk Dancers beside the Clock Tower
(Photo courtesy of Andy Lawrence)*

Visitor numbers continue to increase and we had a good start to the season with over 1,800 visitors from Good Friday 25th March to the end of April. In just seven weeks the Clock Tower welcomed nine packs of girls from the St Albans and Harpenden Rainbows, Brownies and Senior Section of the Guides Association. More than 180 girls aged from 5 to 18, along with their 40 helpers and leaders climbed the 93 steps to the roof to enjoy the magnificent views and to help achieve their St Albans' Challenge Badge. Thanks to the Clockateers from both

the Civic Society and SAHAAS the packs were escorted during their evening visits and shown the Victorian clock mechanism, the large medieval bell, Gabriel, and all the girls were given the chance to ring the Market Bell – which they did very enthusiastically.

The Tower was also opened up one evening by the Museum to celebrate the “Summer Solstice” on the 20th June. The public was invited to visit the Tower on the longest day to take photos of the spectacular views from 6pm until 10pm.

The Clock Tower will be open on each of the four days of Heritage Open Days, Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th September, from 10.30am until 5pm, with late opening until 8pm on the Thursday. Visitors will also be able to access the Dial Room during that evening (6-8pm) and ring the Market Bell (6-7pm) as part of the HOD Challenge 500. The Challenge is to get 500 bells across the country to ring at 6pm on Thursday, 8th September for a collective bell ringing moment. The Mayor will start our bell ringing at 6pm and then the public will be invited to pull on the sally to toll the Market Bell until 7pm.

The display, ‘The 150th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Clock Tower’ will continue to run during Heritage Open Days, along with a special one-off interactive display for children, entitled, ‘What I like about the Clock Tower’.

Christmas may seem a long way off but St Albans Council is already making preparations for the City Centre’s Christmas lights. Whatever the Council decides, the Clock Tower will be open for the afternoon of the 27th November for the turning on of the Tower’s Christmas Lights.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join the roster of Clockateers. Manning the Clock Tower for one of the sessions over Saturday or Sunday with another Clockateer is a fun and interesting way to help keep our iconic Clock Tower open to the public. If you would like to volunteer, please do contact Mike Carey or Caroline Howkins via the email: clocktower@stalbanhistory.org.

As always, Mike and I would like to thank all the Clockateers for giving their time to keep the Clock Tower open for the public to enjoy.

Caroline Howkins & Mike Carey

17TH CENTURY RESEARCH GROUP REPORT

The team continues to work on the transcription of wills and inventories covering the whole of the 17th century with a view to publication by the Hertfordshire Record Society. We are a team of nine but members are by no means full-time on this project. Some have other roles in local historical research which often overlaps with, and therefore adds another dimension to, our work. To date 481 inventories and 899 wills have been transcribed, typed, analysed and filed. The numbers are so great that the editors of The Herts Record Society have decided to divide them into three or four volumes. At present we are working on the first 25 years. All the wills we have found both at HALS and at Kew for this period are ready to hand over to the editors. They amount to 149; to date 108 inventories are ready but there are still more to be done.

With a view to expanding our team Jane Harris ran a workshop for SAHAAS members in February on Reading Tudor and Stuart Handwriting. As a result we have three new recruits. Experienced members of our team also attended and volunteered as mentors.

A new source of information to add to our directory of names has been located by Kate Morris and Jon Mein. These are Sun Insurance policies dating from 1710, in many cases giving occupations and addresses. Although the information goes beyond our period, it is being added to the database where the insured already appears on the database. We are always interested to find an individual's occupation as it is important in studying the economy of the town.

Pat Howe

PUBLICATIONS REPORT

Easily the most demanding and resource intensive activity this year has been the writing and production of our forthcoming book '*St Albans: Life on the Home Front 1914-1918*'. This is covered in more detail in Sue Mann's report on Pages 19-20.

Another forthcoming SAHAAS publication, *The Old Town Hall, St Albans*, by Chris Green, has also placed demands on our resources. This book was delayed from 2015 due to unforeseen circumstances. Production is now well advanced, with various people kindly helping with fact checking and proof reading. It is hoped that the book will now be published at the end of this year.

Another activity has been my 'induction' into the Society's publishing activities, having taken over from John Cox in January. As a relative newcomer to the Society, there has been much to learn and I am grateful to John and numerous other people for time spent explaining the background to SAHAAS's publications. These conversations have helped to inform ongoing work in the committee to improve our publishing standards and develop our publishing strategy.

No new publications were issued during the year. Sales of the relatively few titles in stock have generally been small, although the new edition of *The Street Memorials of St Albans Abbey Parish* (published in June 2015) achieved around 370 sales by the end of the reporting year. Total revenue from all publication sales was £1000.

The committee met three times during the year.

Patricia Broad

HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY REPORT

I have good news – volume 17 of our Journal, *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History* (HA&H) is in production and will be available later this year. A firm publication date is not yet available.

For newer members of SAHAAS who may not know much about HA&H, it is the journal of record of archaeology in Hertfordshire and is published by SAHAAS in partnership with East Herts Archaeological Society. Our SAHAAS website has more information on the Journal, including the contents of each volume.

Most of the previous volumes are still available for purchase as well as available in the SAHAAS and St Albans central libraries for reference.

The contents of this new volume will, I am sure, prove very interesting to our members. As well as a group of archaeology reports in the area, and descriptions of some particular finds, there are reports on the recording of a number of local buildings.

The price of the Journal for non-members is £20; for members there is a nominal charge of just £5. Once it becomes available for sale, members in the St Albans area will be able to buy a copy at lectures, in the SAHAAS library at Sandridge Gate, and there will be other opportunities. For those readers of this Newsletter who live further away, a copy can be mailed for the same price plus a charge for p+p, payment to be sent in advance with the order. If you would like to buy a copy to be posted, please let me know either by email to: hertsarc@stalbanhistory.org.

or, if you do not have email, please write to me at: 64, St Peters Street, St Albans AL1 3HG. I will then be able to let you know as soon as volume 17 is available and give payment details. Postage will be in the region of £5 although I will not know the exact cost until we have the finished article to hand.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact via the email or postal addresses given above.

Christine McDermott

MEMBERSHIP

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Mrs Sue Howes	St Albans
Dr Robert John & Mrs Angela Pankhurst	St Albans
Mr John Scott	St Albans
Mr David Squire	St Albans
Mrs Helen & Mr John Quick	St Albans

David Smith
Membership Secretary

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 fourteen Tuesday lectures during the year. The lectures on *Horace Warner and his Spitalfield Nippers* by The Gentle Author, *The 'Boffins' of World War 1* by Taylor Downing, *The Gresham Ship – An Armed Elizabethan Merchantman wrecked in the Thames* by Gustav Milne and *The Rev Small and the missing £20,000* by our own Jon Mein were the most popular, the latter achieving the highest attendance during the year.

Pat Howe arranged three very successful day outings to Wrotham Park, Saffron Walden / Audley End and Highgate Cemetery / Kenwood House. Plans have been made for a day outing to visit Chiswick House in September.

Roderick Douglas and Frank Iddiols continue to give of their time to assist with the IT/AV in connection with the lectures and our thanks go to them. Additional help in this important area would help to spread the load. Volunteers should contact me.

Yet again, I have been encouraged by the attendances at the lectures and, as always, your suggestions for lecture topics, possible speakers and future visits are always welcome.

Roy Bratby
Chairman

LECTURE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The end of the 2015/16 Friday lectures was marked with the excellent delivery of Dr Paul Roberts on *Pompeii and Herculaneum: Their Life and Death*. The eruption of which has left its mark for ever, but the artefacts it left behind are our archaeological legacy of today.

Casting our minds to the beginning of this session we heard from David Thorold of another legacy, *The Sandridge Hoard*, a find of gold coins which now grace the showcases of Verulamium Museum.

All of our Friday lectures have been special to us and this has been borne out by the good attendances of our members. For this I am truly grateful.

Doreen Bratby
Lecture Secretary

HOME FRONT REPORT

A SAHAAS project commenced at the beginning of 2013 reaches a significant milestone in September with the publication of *St Albans: Life on the Home Front, 1914-1918*.

Members may recall from our more recent reports that preparing the book for publication has been the main focus of activities over the last ten months. So, this seemed the right time to briefly review the project as whole and provide details of how readers, as members of SAHAAS, may purchase copies of the new book.

Over the past three and a half years the home front project team met regularly – the Cross Street Centre and the Six Bells becoming favourite haunts. A ‘Shake the Tree’ exhibition was held in the cathedral in 2013 in a bid to uncover ‘long lost’ family stories about the period. This was followed by a very ambitious and extremely successful sell-out conference held in September 2014. At the same time members of the team gave talks, wrote articles for the *Herts Advertiser* and other publications and delved ever deeper into local and national archives to answer the question: What was life like in St Albans during the First World

War? The book is the result of many, many hours of diligent research. It has been a real team effort and one we would like to acknowledge here, listing the names of all those who have made it possible:

Home Front Project Team

Val Argue	Gareth Hughes
Barry Bateman	Philippa Hurst
Susan Bellamy	Sue Mann
Helen Bishop	Jon Mein*
Patricia Broad	Julie Moore*
Romaine Byers*	Mike North*
Linda Clarke	Anne Petrie
Ann Dean*	Elizabeth Rolfe
Maggy Douglas*	Alan Wakefield
Mark Freeman	Anne Wares
Sheila Green*	

1911 Census Transcribers

Barbara Croom	Rosemary Knight
Dave Girdziusz	Richard Mein
Gill Girdziusz	Gill Tarrant

** Members who were involved in both parts of the project. Mike North also devised the occupational classification on which his subsequent statistical analysis of the census was based.*

We are also indebted to the publishers, Hertfordshire Publications, an imprint of the University of Hertfordshire. Jane Housham and Sarah Elvins have been incredibly supportive, providing expert advice and guidance in the process of publishing *St Albans: Life on the Home Front, 1914-1918*.

The book will be available for members to purchase at the forthcoming SAHAAS AGM on Tuesday 13 September at Verulamium Museum. The price will be £14.00 each (cash, cheque or credit card). This represents a substantial discount against the RRP of £18.99. Copies may subsequently be purchased at this discounted price at our Library (cash or cheque only). Alternatively, you may order from Hertfordshire Publications at £14.24 plus post and packing by phoning 01707 284654.

The book is also available from Waterstones in St Albans, the Cathedral Book Shop and Amazon, so please let your friends and family know about it.

Digital versions of the book will be available in due course.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Home Front research project, attended our conference and shown enthusiasm and interest in our research. We do hope you will enjoy the book.

Our work is not done yet. Following the launch to members and invited guests at the AGM, there will be a public book launch at Waterstones in St Albans on 15 September – tickets available direct from Waterstones. We will also have a pop-up stall at St Albans Central Library on 19 October and will be staging an exhibition at the Cathedral from 7 to 16 November. Look out too for a series of ‘Home Front’ articles being published this autumn in the *Herts Advertiser*, *Herts Past & Present* and local church newsletters.

Sue Mann, Jon Mein and Anne Wares



January 2013
Home Front Group formed

September 2014
Lady Verulam opens the SAHAAS First World War Home Front Conference

August 2016
St Albans: Life on the Home Front, 1914-1918 published

OBITUARY

DR GERARD McSWEENEY

Gerard joined the Arc and Arc on retirement from his career as a research chemist with the Malaysian Rubber Producers' Research Association. He became involved in the 17th century research group led by architectural historian J T Smith and he also threw himself into the organisation of the Society's Architecture and Local History Group (ALH) – which then organised the Tuesday lectures.

His energy and dedication supported the planning and delivery of the ALH Group's series of about 22 lectures per year for many years – this also meant setting up the audio visual equipment which he completed with his usual high speed efficiency. He also led the occasional Society outing.

Gerard applied himself to historical research in the same thorough, meticulous and painstaking way in which he had clearly conducted his professional career.

On completion of the 17th century research and publication of the book, *St Albans 1650 - 1700*, Gerard joined the Property History Group, which aimed to continue the research momentum by creating a database



Photograph courtesy of Mrs Barbara McSweeney

recording all the properties in St Peter's parish in the Borough over time, that is, those in St Peter's Street and its offshoots. It would record the architectural changes over time, the occupants and their occupations. An ambitious project, it was also flawed, in that it became much more interesting to devote attention to single properties for which records could be found and trace their history in isolation, without reference to the database! This Gerard did with vigour, sleuthing for ancient deeds and visiting endless archives to supplement the research on a property that fascinated him. He also honed skills in architectural recording by 'apprenticing' himself to J T Smith and surveying innumerable interesting buildings in the town. But all this work was to be

shared and Gerard wrote up his findings tirelessly, publishing in *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History* and in *Herts Past and Present*, and summarising his work on the SAHAAS website to encourage use of his work. We are privileged to have this reminder of the huge contribution Gerard made to our knowledge of the heritage of our city. One would otherwise little guess at the extent of his work.

A modest and slight figure who, to my knowledge, only ever made one presentation to the Society – that on his findings on two inns on Bowgate, the northern end of St Peter's Street. Yet, he was ever willing to pass on any of his work to other researchers, or discuss his findings with them.

One could perhaps expect such activity from someone who found himself with time on his hands in retirement, but this was not Gerard's position. He had a family of five children and two grandchildren, was an active member of the church at St Alban and St Stephen in Beaconsfield Road, and much besides with which to concern himself. He hardly missed a lecture and responded faithfully to email correspondence right up to the time

of his sudden yet peaceful death on 27th May at the age of 89.

It is typical of the man, that his family knew very little of the enormous amount of work he did for our history or the satisfaction that it gave him, though one son, John, a structural engineer, reaped the benefit when, working on the site of BHS in St Peter's Street, Gerard regaled him with the detailed history of that ancient burgrave plot.

Gerard was born in York and retained considerable affection for that city. He even found time to research and publish a book on its Snickelways.

In addition to his children, Gerard leaves behind his wife, Barbara, whom he met when a student in Birmingham. Barbara has also supported his historical endeavours in the city. A keen member of the Society's Archaeology Group for many years, she is a classicist, and as a volunteer at the Museum, she, amongst other things, provided tuition in Latin to the staff.

Kate Morris

HERITAGE WEEKEND GRIMTHORPE EXHIBITION

For Heritage Weekend in September 2016 SAHAAS is creating an exhibition which will celebrate, yes celebrate, the life of the 1st Baron Grimthorpe! He was an exceptional individual who used his accumulated wealth (derived from both inheritance and hard work) for the benefit of others. An expert on many technical areas he designed the clock which was incorporated into the tower above the London terminus of the Great Northern Railway, which we now know as Kings Cross, and the Westminster clocks. Later he outwitted both the impoverished ecclesiastical, noble and civic establishment of St Albans and saving the newly designated Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban from imminent collapse, by securing the legal permission to repair the extremities of the building.

By chance 2016 is the 200th anniversary of his birth. He was born into a landed family, who were awarded a baronetcy in the 18th century. His father, the 4th baronet, was chairman of the Leeds Bank and became chairman of the project to create the Great Northern Railway. His third child, named originally Edmund Beckett Denison was educated in Doncaster, Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge

where he gained a B.A. and M.A. He then trained as a barrister at Lincoln's Inn, London, and later became a Doctor of Law and a Queen's Counsel.

He had a brilliant mind and his expertise in legal matters, building clocks, locks, bells and buildings was the saviour of so many places in England and Scotland. At times overbearing, and a bully, he had a quick wit and intellect.

This exhibition will provide information about his ancestry; involvement in building the Great Northern Railway; his expertise in horological matters (clocks, bells and locks); building construction; and his legacy (which still survives) through the Charity Fund he created to benefit others after his death in 1905. In his will he gave legacies to individuals and other groups with genuine need, including two school mistresses of St. Michael's Infants School!

The exhibition will be arranged in the Cathedral and the opening hours are:
Friday 9th and Sat 10th September:
10.00 - 14.30
Sun 11th September: 13.00 - 16.00
Mon 12th and Tue 13th September:
10.00 - 14.30

John G E Cox
Publicity Officer

A VILLAGE STREET IN ST ALBANS

The picture on the front cover of this newsletter is by William Henry Hunt, a leading watercolourist active for much of the first sixty years of the 1800s. It is dated in the catalogue of the Yale Center for British Art to c.1820 and is called 'Village Street in St Albans'. The title is a tease: which street is it? Suggestions received so far range from Holywell Hill to Abbey Mill Lane and, the one we favour, to Lower Dagnall Street (or Dagnall Lane as it was then known). Whichever it is, the picture reminds us that the St Albans Paving & Lighting Commission still had plenty of work to do sixteen or so years on from its establishment.

According to his entry in the Dictionary of National Biography, Hunt was born in London in 1790. Aged 16 he was apprenticed to John Varley, the landscape painter, and lived with him for a time. Coincidentally, Varley's artist brother, Cornelius, visited St Albans in 1804 leaving us with at least three views of the town, one of which looks down Spicer Street towards the Abbey.

So, which street do you think it is? Please let us know what you think by emailing library@stalbanhistory.org.

Jonathan Mein

MY FAMILY AND LOWER DAGNALL STREET

The watercolour of Dagnall Lane (I am convinced it is) is of particular interest to me. Firstly, my 3x great-grandfather, William White lived in the house depicted at the bottom of the lane. This was for a time the *Robin Hood* public house and he was the tenant when it was first licensed in 1836. The house was demolished in 1851/2 to make way for the extension of the lane into New England Field.

It is the story of William's son, Joseph, which captures the imagination though. In April 1828 he was found guilty at the Borough Quarter Sessions of stealing a copper from a house in Albion Terrace in Dagnall Lane. The evidence was incontrovertible: witnesses saw him emerging from the premises carrying the copper on his shoulder. Moreover, the local watchman discovered the item under a blanket in the house Joseph rented with his wife next door to the (former) Unitarian chapel in Dagnall Lane. This is the house you can see on the far left of the watercolour. He was sentenced to seven years transportation to New South Wales.

What happened next makes this story something of general interest to local historians. The distress this sentence

caused was felt by all the family, so much so that William, with the help of Rev. Henry Small, rector of the Abbey, wrote to the Earl of Verulam to plead with him to make an appeal to the Secretary of State on the grounds that 'I have been told that the convicts for seven years are not always sent out of their country [but] are sometimes sent on board the hulks. '[I] implore your kind and merciful exertions to prevent his being sent out of this country, and that he may be sent on board the hulks'. William's letter included three testimonials, one of them from the victim of the theft, Alderman Brown, who owned the premises in Albion Terrace. It was to no avail. For the earl, to serve time on the hulks was a case of jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. He replied in a sensitive tone to Small (William could not read or write) insisting amongst other things that 'It would be better for White to be sent abroad rather than be nurtured amongst the abandoned inmates of the hulks.'*

Joseph White, my ancestor, died in NSW in 1835. From Hunt's watercolour I now have at least some idea what the road on which the family lived looked like at the time.

*(Eds Note: * White's letter together with the earl's draft reply is now in the Gorhambury archive at HALS (ref. DE/V F579).)*

Another candidate for Transportation?

Northampton Mercury, 29 January 1770, pg 3

St Albans, 25 January 1770

Whereas Edward Seales, a journeyman to John Bradshaw, carpenter and joyner, of St Albans aforesaid, did elope and at the same time did steal and carry away a considerable quantity of working tools; he had on when he eloped dark brown hair, with false curls behind, two frocks, both fustian, one a Thicket, an old blue waistcoat, old leather breeches, light-coloured stockings, and an old hat; he is about 21 years of age, five feet six inches high, a little round-shouldered, and his finger-knuckles much bruised, Any persons detaining him and giving notice to John Bradshaw aforesaid, that he may be prosecuted as the law permits, shall receive a reward of one half a guinea from me, John Bradshaw.

'TALKING BUILDINGS'

I don't know about you, but I dislike hearing my recorded voice. It just doesn't sound like me, or perhaps it just doesn't sound how I hoped I sounded. Nevertheless, I volunteered for the Museum's intriguingly titled, 'Talking Buildings', the brief for which included researching the history of local buildings, writing a one-minute script and then recording it.

Back in March a couple of dozen volunteers started the project by going on a guided walk around the city centre to show us some of the local buildings that would be included in the project: the Corn Exchange; Clock Tower; White Hart Hotel; Samuel Ryder Office and Seed Hall; Boot; Snug; Cock; Alban Arena; Waterend Barn; former Carnegie Library; and Forrester House, to name but a few. A selection that covered medieval, Victorian and contemporary architecture, pubs, shops, hotels and businesses but all within walking distance of the Old Town Hall.

But where is the Abbey, MoSTA, the Odyssey and the Town Hall? It was felt that all these buildings had already been fully researched and didn't have any hidden secrets to uncover unlike

the lesser known buildings of St Albans.

A list of the 32 buildings was sent out to the volunteers so that we could choose a couple of buildings that we would like to research over the next couple of months. Our purpose wasn't to find out everything there was to know about our buildings, but more to identify an interesting story connected to it, some fascinating facts or hopefully to uncover a hidden secret.

I was allocated one building to research independently, the Christopher Inn, and also one building with a partner, The Clock Tower. Both of which needed five-minute/two-page research papers and a one-minute script.

We spent a most enjoyable morning listening to each other's five minute talks, learning all sorts of interesting stories and facts about buildings that we had passed time and time again, but seldom stopped to think about their individual histories and how they had contributed to our city's heritage. Everyone will be able to read all this research as it will soon appear on the Museum's website as part of the 'Talking Buildings' project.

It was remarkably difficult to whittle down two pages of research to just one minute and to write it in the first person singular, as if you were the building. What voice does the Clock Tower speak in? Is it male or female? A grumpy, old codger complaining about all these young whippersnappers and harking back to the good old days? Or, sanguine, wise and measured looking back philosophically over the passing time? Perhaps even one of the market stall holders having overseen the market for centuries?

After writing my script, I arranged to go to the Verulamium Museum to record my voice and began it with a recording I had made of the grand old bell, Gabriel. That went well, but unlike the previous volunteer who had

recorded their two talks in one take, I had to redo one paragraph of my Christopher Inn talk having stumbled over a couple of words.

The Museum then had to choose which 16 recordings should be put on to the two audio devices first. Each 'U-Turn Round' device has a handle on it which when wound by hand, powers the audio, enabling it to play one of the 8 audio tracks, selected using a dial. Two of these devices will be embedded into a panel on the hoardings of the Town Hall sometime at the end of summer, when tourists and visitors can select a building, wind up the device and listen to the buildings talking...

Caroline Howkins



The audio device that will shortly appear on the hoardings of the Town Hall as part of the Museum's 'Talking Buildings' project.

ROMAN WALL

Although sometimes ascribed to the early Third Century AD, the archaeological evidence indicates that St Albans' Roman Wall, was built some time between AD 265-270. The Third Century was a period of crisis for the Roman Empire. A series of military coups, resulting in 26 different emperors within less than fifty years, undermined the Empire's security and economy. In particular the year AD 260 was an *annus horribilis*: the emperor Valerian, who had ruled since AD 253, undertook a disastrous campaign to repel an invasion of the eastern provinces by the Sassanian dynasty of the Persian Empire. After a serious defeat and while attempting to negotiate a truce, Valerian was carried off captive by King Shapur I.

With Valerian's capture, the Empire began to fragment: not only were there a series of rebellions by usurpers contesting the imperial throne, but also a disastrous invasion of the western provinces by Germanic tribes. Although Valerian's son, the Emperor Gallienus, was eventually able to defeat the tribes and suppress most of the revolts, the military commander in Gaul, Postumus, proclaimed himself emperor, and split off

the provinces of Germania, Gaul, Hispania and Britannia, establishing the so-called Gallic Empire, AD 260 - 269.

It was during this period and its aftermath that the archaeological evidence has revealed a massive building programme of urban defences. Both on the Continent and in Britain, many of these defences were of a new and uniform style. This is likely to have been a response to the invasions of the Germanic tribes and, although Britain had not been subject to a full-scale land invasion, there is evidence that German raiders, in particular the Saxons, were sailing to Britain.

It is at this time of insecurity that Verulamium, the third largest Roman city in Britain, probably built its formidable urban defences. The Roman Wall enclosed a two mile circuit of the city and is estimated to have been eight feet wide and reaching a height of around 13 feet with a parapet about six feet wide. It was constructed with lime mortar, dressed with flint and horizontal layers of Roman tiles at three-foot intervals. Fronted by a large ditch, the Wall also had towers (there is debate as to their number and effectiveness).

The most intact stretch of the Wall runs along the Causeway, including the foundations (reconstructed) of the 'London Gate'. This part seems to have survived because it became a wooded area where it would have been more difficult to rob the materials for reuse.

There has been a growing concern about the preservation of this section of the Wall, especially since the removal of the metal railings, when the cycle way was constructed. Because of the softness of lime mortar the Wall is always subject to erosion, however, the increased access to the Wall has resulted, not only in it being damaged by being regularly clambered over, but even the removal of materials.

In response to these concerns SAHAAS and St Albans Civic Society initiated a series of meetings, involving SADC, English Heritage – who are the caretakers of the Wall – and Hertfordshire Police. This year English Heritage carried out a programme to restore the lime mortar, Hertfordshire Police signs have warned against Heritage Crime, the Council are preparing some more permanent protection.

It is hoped that these measures will alert everyone to how important it is to preserve the Roman Wall, as our descendants would rightly condemn us, if we allowed major deterioration to continue to their heritage.

Prof Tim Boatswain
Chairman of St Albans Civic Society



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Photos courtesy of Tim Boatswain

HALL PLACE WALL

Following the piece in our February issue, no doubt many of you will be desperate to know what is happening with the above in St Peter's Street. Work has now started (with a temporary footpath) and the SADC contractor has ordered 16,000 (!) bricks – as near a match as possible to the original bricks used.

The excavations began at the end of July to include the removal of any low level tree stumps and to create the foundation base. Care has been taken with regards the unmarked burial chambers nearby. SADC is also planning to move the hoarding, and for new 'information posters' to be installed.

It is expected that the work will take up to ten weeks – so perhaps just in time for a photograph in our November issue!

Bryan Hanlon

LONDON COLNEY HISTORIC SOCIETY AUTUMN EXHIBITION

15th and 16th October

Any member interested in the forthcoming Society publication on St Albans in the First World War will want to see the London Colney History Society's (LCHS) autumn exhibition. This year's theme is the London Colney Airfield as it was in 1916.

The airfield was an 'advanced training' one for qualified pilots and many of the famous names of early British aerial combat were briefly stationed there. Officers practised their skills in the air just beyond the city boundary, walked into St Albans for afternoon tea and, sadly, sometimes died in accidents in the fields around us.

The exhibition will be mounted at the Caledon Community Centre, Caledon Road, London Colney, AL2 1PU on October 15th and 16th. All are welcome. Entry is free, though a contribution to LCHS funds is always welcome.

Liz Rolfe

HALH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM Hertfordshire at War

Saturday 12th November 2016
10.00am to 4.30pm,
Ewen Hall, Wood Street, Barnet,
EN5 4BW

The programme is likely to include:

- The Battle of Barnet project
- The Second Battle of St Albans
- How the Civil War affected Hertfordshire 1642 – 1652
- The Home Front during the First World War
- Salisbury Hall and the de Havilland aircraft company

Tickets £12 for members of HALH;
£15 for non-members.

A simple hot lunch will be available for those who have booked in advance at a cost of £10. A vegetarian option will be available. Or bring a packed lunch.

To order tickets please see our website for further details see the association's website www.halh.org.uk or contact:
Ruth Jeavons, 44 Necton Road,
Wheathampstead, AL4 8AU.
Telephone 01582 629516 email:
Ruth.Jeavons@ntlworld.com.

THE VOICES OF MOREBATH

Saturday 1st October 2016

St Michael's church is very excited to be hosting an informal first reading by professional actors and director of The Voices of Morebath. This is a new play by the famous Cambridge historian of the Reformation, Professor Eamon Duffy, based on his book about life in a mid-sixteenth century Devon village. St Michael's is an ideal setting to re-enact *Voices*: a building with more than a thousand years of history, it still bears the scars of events about which Professor Duffy writes. Yet *Voices* is also startlingly contemporary, analysing the social and political impact of passionate and irreconcilable religious ideas.

Voices will be delivered as a rehearsed reading on Saturday 1st October. Tickets include a Q&A with Professor Duffy between 5pm and 6pm, the rehearsed reading from 7pm and a glass of wine or fruit juice during the interval of the play reading. Tickets are only available online: £10 + booking fee via: www.voicesofmorebath.eventbrite.co.uk.

More details can be found on our SAHAAS Society web site.

VOICES OF THE HOME FRONTS CONFERENCE

Thursday 8th to Saturday 10th
September

Together with The National Archives (TNA), the Everyday Lives in War Centre at the University of Hertfordshire has organised a three-day conference to be held at TNA in Kew from Thursday 8th to Saturday 10th September. The event consists of three days of workshops, talks, and presentations exploring the histories of everyday lives during the First World War and its aftermath, through personal, local, national, and international experiences. Jon Mein, a member of the Society's Home Front Group, will be discussing the St Albans project on the Saturday.

Voices of the Home Fronts is a great opportunity to hear about recent

and ongoing research, inspire you to conduct new research and foster collaborations both nationally and internationally. Topics include military tribunals, conscientious objection, prisoners of war, voluntary organisations, racial and ethnic experiences, life under bombardment, refugees, international home fronts, women's employment, health, food, dissent, newspapers, literature, profiteering, advertising, fashion, family life and more.

Sessions will be interspersed with special performances, exhibitions and screenings, as well as the opportunity to network and discover related museums and organisations.

The full programme together with pricing and joining instructions can be accessed from the SAHAAS website.

Julie Moore

ARCHAEOLOGY IN HERTFORDSHIRE: RECENT RESEARCH

Following the success of the first conference in 2012, the Welwyn Archaeological Society (WAS) have decided to arrange a second meeting. This will be held in Hitchin Town Hall on Saturday 26th November starting at 9.30am.

Papers include:

Surveying Gorhambury: further geophysical explorations of Verulamium (by Kris Lockyear);

Searching for Julius Caesar (by Andrew Fitzpatrick and Colin Haselgrove); *Odd pots and foreigners: forgetting Romanitas, becoming Angelcynn* (Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews);

Coins, Commerce, and Christianity: money in late medieval Hertfordshire (by Murray Andrews);

118+ Tons of History: results from community test pitting and other fieldwork in Pirton (by Gil Burleigh);

The Lower Rivers Field Cremation Cemetery (by Emily Esche, Clare Lewis, Kris Lockyear and Tony Rook); and

New clues to the conquest: how Hertfordshire entered the Roman Empire by Isobel Thompson,

Tickets are £15 (£12 for WAS members) which includes morning and afternoon tea, but not lunch. Please send a cheque payable to the Welwyn Archaeological Society with a stamped addressed envelope to Kris Lockyear, 3 Lamer Park, Lamer Lane, Wheathampstead, AL4 8RJ.

There will be tables available for local archaeological or historical societies to have small displays and/or sell publications. Please email Kris on noviodunum@hotmail.com.

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS AT VERULAMIUM

From 3rd August 2016

This August the *Community Archaeology Geophysics Group*, which includes members from SAHAAS, will be continuing the survey of Verulamium. We will be extending the area surveyed using the Foerster magnetometry cart, and also undertaking surveys with a Ground Penetrating Radar and an Earth Resistance meter. The group will be working from Wednesdays to Sundays.

If you would like to join in, please email Ellen Shlasko on:
hertsgeosurvey@gmail.com.

No experience needed as we provide training on the job. The results of each day's survey will be posted on the project blog at:
hertsgeosurvey.wordpress.com.

Kris Lockyear



Julia Merrick guides the magnetometer cart while Kris Lockyear plots the location (reprinted from August 2013 edition of SAHAAS Newsletter)

Photo: Craig Shephard

YouHaveBeenPhotographed.com.

SAARRG CONFERENCE

ARCHAEOLOGY IN AND AROUND ST ALBANS, PAST AND PRESENT

1st October, 2016, 10 am to 4.30 pm

Verulamium Museum, St Albans

In 1966 members of the St Albans and Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society and pupils from local schools established the St Albans Archaeological Research and Rescue Group (SAARRG) under the direction of Verulamium Museum's conservator, Vagn Christophers.

This conference, which marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of the group, will look at some of its achievements, 1966-1972, and place that work in the context of recent research. The Conference is being organised by former members of the group with the co-operation of the Society.

Fee: £10 (£7 for concessions) to include refreshments, and sandwiches at lunchtime.

For a ticket application form, please e-mail or write to Michael Freeman, 9 Primrose Hill, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3SE
michael.freeman9@btinternet.com

Subject to availability tickets will also be on sale at the Society's AGM on 13th September and lectures on 20th and 30th September. Cash and cheques payable to 'Michael Freeman' will be accepted.

SAARRG CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

10:00	Arrival	
10:15	Introduction	Geoff Summers
10:30	Excavations in St Albans, 1966-1972	Alison Turner-Rugg BA former Special Projects Officer at Verulamium Museum.
11:15	Refreshments	
11:30	The group organisation, the Brett Centre and relationship with SAHAAS	Michael Rhodes PhD (Direc- tor of Sutherland Rhodes
11:45	Recent research on the monastery Gardens and the Abbey Orchard Excavation: followed by: Film about the Abbey Orchard Excavation, 1968	Sally Pearson
12:30	King Harry Lane excavations:	Michael Freeman MBE, (Honorary Research Fellow, National Museum of Wales)
13:00	Lunch	Sandwiches provided
14:00	The Research Group's excavations in the light of recent work	Dr Isobel Thompson
14:40	Verulamium Museum excavations:	Dr Rosalind Niblett / Simon West
15:20	Prospects for archaeology locally:	Kris Lockyear PhD FSA and Senior Lecturer at the Insti- tute of Archaeology, UCL and current director of Welwyn Archaeological Society
16:00	Questions/discussion	
17:00	End	

LECTURE PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2016

All lectures commence at 7.45pm

All lectures will be held at St Albans School except those marked:

VM – which will be held at Verulamium Museum and

PP - Parking may be limited - Use Gombards Car Park

Late changes of venue will be notified on our web site and via e-news

Tuesday 13 September VM **7.30 pm**
Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20 September 2016
Remember, Remember, The Fifth of November
David Prior

In this talk David Prior will reflect upon the Gunpowder Plot from a personal perspective as well as a parliamentary one. Bonfires and fireworks have long been associated with the 5th of November, but the reasons for this are not always well known. Dig deeper and there is a story that

goes to the heart of British political, religious and parliamentary history. *David Prior has worked in the heritage sector for nearly 30 years. He is Head of Public Services and Outreach at the Parliamentary Archives where he is responsible for the delivery of search room and enquiry services, exhibitions and outreach activities.*

Friday 30 September 2016 **PP**
Capabilities of Hertfordshire's Landscapes
Kate Harwood

Capability Brown, whose tercentenary is this year, is credited with designing 250 landscape parks in England, at least nine of them in Hertfordshire. He employed a number of foremen and associates to carry out the work on the ground, such as: Samuel Lapidge, William Emes, and Nathaniel Richmond, all of whom worked in Hertfordshire. Others such as Richard Woods, who worked at Brocket, were his rivals. This talk will look at the life of Brown and the 'Improvements' of these designers in the context of the Agricultural Revolution, the Enlightenment and the development of Taste, and include examples from Hertfordshire.

Kate Harwood is a former university lecturer in Garden History and is co-ordinating the research input from County Gardens Trust into the Capability Brown Festival during 2016. Kate is Conservation and Planning Officer for Hertfordshire Gardens Trust (HGT) and a member of SAHAAS. She lectures, writes and teaches on garden history and is currently working with the HGT to produce a book on the 18 Humphry Repton sites in Hertfordshire in time for his bicentenary in 2018, as well as on a number of local and national projects.

Tuesday 11 October 2016

Building Georgian Towns

Adam Smith

Georgian towns are admired for their elegance and good planning but how was this achieved? This talk looks at the roles of landowners, architects and builders in creating new suburbs of London, like Bloomsbury, and in improving country market towns. We will see how the ideas developed by great landowners, like the Dukes of Bedford, in new London suburbs in terms of style, building methods and land tenure were spread to provincial towns. We shall also see how these ideas had to be adapted to the

smaller demand and sites of provincial towns.

Adam Smith worked as a museum curator for 15 years, including seven years at Normanby Hall, Lincolnshire, until 2006 when he married and moved to Hertfordshire where he is now a part time lecturer and house husband. Adam has lectured on architectural and social history for many years for groups such as the Workers' Educational Association with a particular interest in 18th and 19th Century landed estates. This interest is expressed in the courses he offers and in his academic interests which have included publication in academic journals.

Tuesday 18 October 2016

Milestones and Turnpike Roads

Michael Knight

Unlike the 'age' of canals and later the railways, little is generally known of highway improvements during the 170-year period called the 'Turnpike Age'. The origin and development of highways often described as 'in ruinous condition, narrow, and incommodious to travellers', will review the parliamentary procedures required to obtain Royal Assent to Acts passed

through the democratic process since the reign of King William III up to the period of 'dis-turnpiking' during the late Victorian era.

Michael Knight has made a commitment to the recording and preservation of England's roadside heritage, since retiring from a wide variety of educational employments in Birmingham, Leicester, Coventry and Bedford. A Leicester University graduate, much influenced by the teachings of W.G.Hoskins, Michael remains a grapher at heart.

In May 2001, he was one of the founders of the Milestone Society. Since then, he has indulged not just in scholastic enquiry but also in hands-on renovation projects along muddy wayside verges.

Friday 28 October 2016

From High Style to Exile: Robert Adam and the reinvention of Antiquity

Charles Hind

The name Adam has been associated with a particular style of classical architecture and ornament for over 250 years, from the grandest Geor-

gian country houses to fibrous plaster ornaments from B&Q. This would not have surprised the egotistical Robert Adam (1728-1792), member of a Scottish dynasty of builders and masons. He claimed that he revolutionised British architecture, ending the domination of Palladianism, by introducing a new and elegant repertoire of architectural ornament, based on a wide variety of classical sources, from antiquity to the Renaissance. For 20 years, Adam was the most fashionable architect in Britain, before his star waned and having overreached himself financially, he retreated to Scotland, where he spent his last years designing castles.

Charles Hind is Chief Curator and H.J. Heinz Curator of Drawings at the Royal Institute of British Architects, where he has worked for 20 years. He has curated numerous architecture exhibitions in Italy, Spain, America and Britain, more recently Palladian Design: the Good, the Bad and the Unexpected at the RIBA's Architecture Gallery in London. Charles is a prolific lecturer and writer, and also leads art and architecture tours, principally in Virginia, St Petersburg and the Veneto.

Tuesday 8 November 2016

Fire and Steam – How the Railways Changed Britain

Christian Wolmar

The railways were the key invention of the 19th century. They enabled the spread of the industrial revolution and as a result stimulated the massive economic development of the Victorian era. And in their wake they brought about a whole host of major changes in the way people lived: from bank holidays to big sporting events, fish and chips to mail order business – all were made possible by the railways. All will be explained in this talk.

Christian Wolmar graduated from Warwick University in 1971. He is an award winning writer and broadcaster specialising in transport and is the author of a series of books on railway history.

Christian is acknowledged as one of the UK's leading commentators on transport matters. He broadcasts frequently on radio and TV and is a regular pundit on the national news bulletins of terrestrial channels and Sky, as well as having appeared on virtually every radio news programme from World at One and The World Tonight to Radio One's NewsBeat and

LBC. Among his TV appearances, he has featured on Coast, Julia Bradbury's Railway Walks and the railway programmes presented by Ian Hislop and Michael Portillo.

Christian is a keen sportsman, has three children and lives in Islington.

Tuesday 15 November 2016

The Iron Curtain – The Cold War and After

Neil Taylor

The downfall of the Iron Curtain came unexpectedly and the border it represented quickly became irrelevant as Germany reunited and the Schengen Agreement allowed freedom of movement across it, from Lübeck to Trieste. Its arrival in the aftermath of WWII was equally quick and equally unexpected. It would intensify across Germany in the 1960s just as it relaxed between Yugoslavia and Italy. Whilst the talk will concentrate on the main Iron Curtain, it will also consider others that cut off Kaliningrad from Poland and Albania from Yugoslavia and Greece.

Neil Taylor studied Chinese and modern European history at Cambridge in the late 1960s. From 1975 to 2001 he ran Regent Holidays, which pioneered travel behind the Iron Cur-

tain, in particular to Albania, East Germany and to China. From the mid 1990s he became particularly interested in the Baltic countries and has written a guidebook to Estonia and to Baltic Cities. He now lectures on Baltic cruises and takes land tours each year for Martin Randall Travel to the Baltics and along the route of the former Iron Curtain.

Friday 25 November 2016

Pistols at Dawn – Two Hundred Years of Political Rivalry from Pitt and Fox to Blair and Brown

John Campbell

The theme of this talk will be that political history is driven as much by personal rivalry as by great causes and ideological divides. While parties have come and gone and issues over the size of the electorate and the technology by which leaders communicate with the voters, have evolved out of all recognition over two hundred years, the essential fact of competition by ambitious individuals for power – more often than not within the same party - has not

changed at all. The talk will illustrate this historic continuity by reference to eight pairs of rivals from Pitt and Fox in the 18th century and Gladstone and Disraeli in the 19th, through Asquith and Lloyd George, Macmillan and Butler and Heath and Thatcher in the 20th, to Tony Blair and Gordon Brown in the 21st. Some contemporary comments on David Cameron and Boris Johnson may be included!

John Campbell is one of our leading political historians. In addition to Pistols at Dawn (2009), his books have included major biographies of F. E. Smith (1983), Aneurin Bevan (1986), Edward Heath (1993, winner of the NCR Prize 1994), Margaret Thatcher (The Grocer's Daughter, 2000, and The Iron Lady, 2003, shortlisted for the Whitbread Biography Prize), and Roy Jenkins (2014), shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize, as well as two books about Lloyd George (The Goat in the Wilderness, 1977 and If Love Were All ... 2005).

Tuesday 6 December 2016

The Girls who went to War

Duncan Barrett and Nuala Calvi

Duncan Barrett and Nuala Calvi share some of the extraordinary stories they heard in the course of researching their Sunday Times bestseller *The Girls Who Went to War*. Over several months in 2014 they interviewed over a hundred former servicewomen from WW2, across all three branches of the women's forces - the ATS, WAAF and WRNS. This illustrated talk offers an illuminating glimpse into the lives of these extraordinary women and the crucial role they played in helping to win the war.

Duncan Barrett and Nuala Calvi are the co-authors of a trio of bestselling narrative non-fiction books. In 2012, their first collaboration The Sugar Girls shot into the Sunday Times top-ten, spending eight weeks in the chart and finishing as the second highest history bestseller of the year. It was followed in 2013 by GI Brides, which was both a Sunday Times and New York Times bestseller. Their most recent book, The Girls Who Went to War, was published in 2015.

Roy and Doreen Bratby

EDITOR'S NOTE

As we have bundled this Newsletter, the Draft Constitution, the Accounts and the Membership card into one envelope we have exceeded the criterion for a small stamp. Although more expensive, the large stamp charge allows us to increase the size of this Newsletter at no further extra postage cost.

As always, I welcome contributions of text or photographs for consideration for inclusion in the Newsletter and they should be emailed to me at: newsed@stalbanhistory.org, or post to: Newsletter Editor, 12 Church Crescent, St Albans, AL3 5JD.

John Humphreys

STOP PRESS

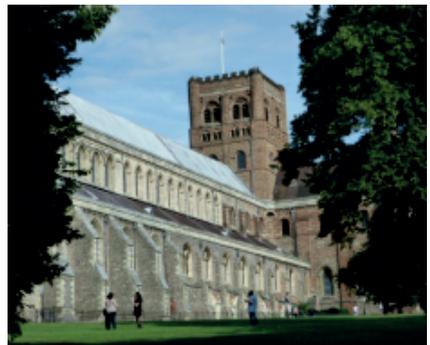
After having written my President's Message it was announced that the Cathedral has received wonderful news from the Heritage Lottery Fund which has approved the Round 2 application for 'Alban, Britain's First Saint: Telling the Whole Story' with a grant of £4m – and in doing so have given the project the green light to go forward and be realised!

The Fund exists to make more people aware of the riches of our national heritage, and St Albans richly deserves to be far better known as the oldest Christian site in Britain, with a uniquely long and rich history to tell.

With this grant, and the match funding that has so generously been given by trusts and by over a thousand individuals, the Cathedral will create a beautiful new welcome centre, a new reception centre for schoolchildren, a new exhibition area, and a new adult study centre and library. The Cathedral will also be able to present its treasures in a much more attractive way, which includes illuminating the medieval wall paintings and rebuilding the ruined medieval shrine of St Amphibalus. Working with the City's own Museum project and visitor strategy, we shall make St Albans a first-choice destination for tourists and pilgrims alike.

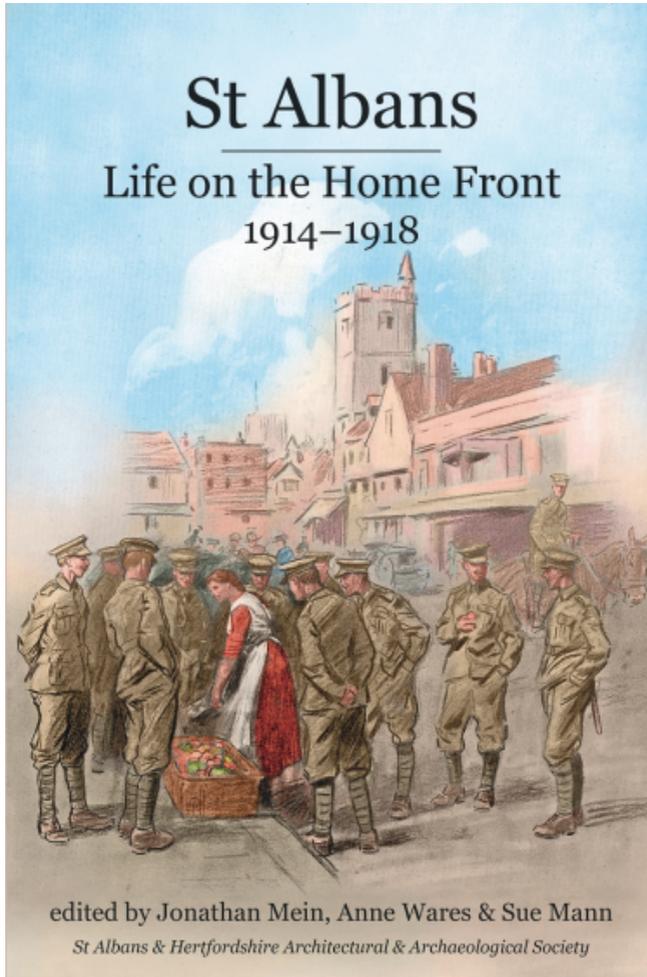
Congratulations from us all in SAHAAS.

Helen Bishop
President



Photos: John Humphreys

SAHAAS BOOK LAUNCH



After three years' intensive research, our book, **St Albans: Life on the Home Front, 1914-1918** is now available to order at Waterstones, Amazon, etc.

The book is published by Hertfordshire Publications, an imprint of the University of Hertfordshire Press. For further details please see pages 19-20.