

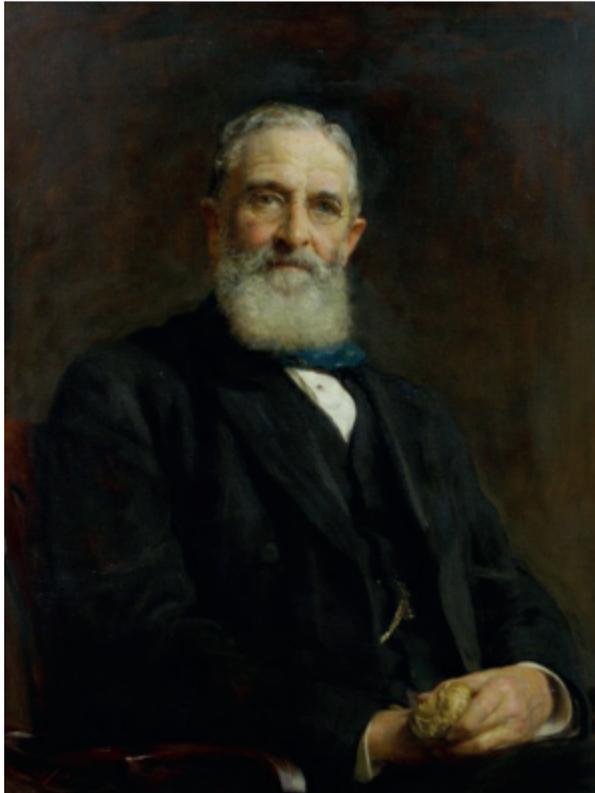


ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE  
Architectural & Archaeological Society

ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE  
ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER 205

August 2017



Portrait of Sir John Evans by Arthur Cope, 1900

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*See Page 39*

### Some items included in this edition

President's Message  
Prospective President  
Annual General Meeting

Group Reports  
Society Visits  
Lecture Programme

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The heavy losses of the Hertfordshire Regiment at Passchendaele in 1917 were remembered at the Abbey in a beautiful evensong service on June 17<sup>th</sup>, a fitting tribute to the local men who gave their lives in that terrible war. I am grateful to all who contributed to this – to the Dean and the Precentor for their sensitive shaping of the service and their hospitality; to Lady Verulam, our Patron and retiring Lord Lieutenant, who attended the service and who went to St Julien, Belgium on July 31<sup>st</sup> to unveil a monument to the Hertfordshire Regiment; to John Cox, who researched and produced an excellent leaflet for the occasion; and to Jon Mein who advised on the making of the 'Hertfordshire, County at War' DVD, which was shown after the service.

June also saw the third Quiz and Supper night we have held with the Civic Society at Kingsbury Barn, in aid of the new Museum and Gallery. This is always an enjoyable evening in a lovely setting and I am pleased to say that we raised another £2000 for the project. Congratulations and thanks to all who worked so hard to make this possible.



This summer we have had the first of the garden visits organised by Kate Harwood. This was to Bushey Rose Garden, led by very knowledgeable guide Ami. The garden proved to be a little gem and a revelation to the members gathered. There are two more walks to follow, the first on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 to Panshanger Park and the second on Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm at Jellicoe Water Gardens, Hemel Hempstead. If you are interested, please contact Kate Harwood at [hertstalks@gmail.com](mailto:hertstalks@gmail.com). (See also details of the talks Kate is giving in the autumn on page 31).

Behind the extra events, the routine work of the Society continues, at the SAHAAS library and the Clock

Tower. Our researchers beaver away individually and in specialist groups. Amazingly, when you consider how important the history of St Albans is, there is still a great deal to be researched and written.

There will be changes in the autumn and we welcome Gill and David Girdziusz as our new programme developers. They have been working hard behind the scenes assembling their first season of lectures, and we thank them for being willing to take on this responsibility. We will also have a new President and, with the support of Council, I am delighted to propose that we adopt Sandy Walkington as President of the Society from 2017 to 2020 when we will be celebrating our 175<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sandy is admirably qualified to fulfil this role and will bring his own strengths to the task. I wish him every success. He is inheriting a society bursting with energy and talents.

As outgoing President, I would like to thank the SAHAAS Council members for all the enthusiasm and hard work they contribute to the running of SAHAAS and to the many members not on Council who give so much to the Society and, not forgetting, our friends in the City Council and particularly the Museum Service, the Abbey, the Civic Society and the wider history networks with whom we have worked.

It has been enormously enjoyable and a great privilege to serve as your President for the last three years. I think as a team we have achieved much and in a time of rapid change and development in our beautiful city, I believe we are playing an important role in developing and safeguarding our heritage.

**Helen Bishop**  
**President**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Mrs Sarah Cowper	St Albans
Mr Patrick Jennings	Harpenden

**David Smith**  
**Membership Secretary**

## AGM AND TUESDAY LECTURES – NEW LOCATION

The agenda for our forthcoming AGM is shown on page 6. Please note that there is a new location for this, and all future Tuesday lectures:

### **Marlborough Road Methodist Church, AL1 3XG**

The church has recently been refurbished, with considerably more seating than the lecture theatre at St



Albans School, and a step free entrance. Although the church does not have its own reserved car parking arrangements, there are many spaces nearby, as follows:

a) On the single yellow line directly outside the church and also next door in New Kent Road (free after 6.30 pm). NB We would suggest that these spaces are used by those of us who are, shall we say, not so nimble on our feet as others.

b) In the SADC car park off Bricket Road (free after 6.30 pm). We suggest you approach via Civic Close,

rather than Charter Close, so as to enter and park at ground level.

c) Keyfield Terrace, AL1 1PB, (free after 6.30 pm – but charges apply in the road until 8 pm). There is a pedestrian way through (past the Beehive pub) opposite Marlborough Road.

d) London Road car park, AL1 1NG (entrance between A Plan Insurance and Keystone at no 60). Again, free after 6.30 pm, with pedestrian exit past The Beehive.

e) The Maltings – but charged at £2.60 for two hours. You may wish to enter via New Kent Road and park at Level -3, but will need to pay at ground level.

Members of Council would appreciate receiving your views on the new location (for Tuesday lectures only – Friday lectures will continue to be held at St Albans School).

After the AGM, there will be a lecture by Louise Fowler entitled: *Doctors, Dissection and Resurrection Men; Excavations at the Royal London Hospital*

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

## 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 **Marlborough Road Methodist Church** on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at **7.30 pm** for the following purposes

### **Agenda**

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) To elect the President for the period 2017-2020
- 3) President's comments
- 4) To adopt the minutes of the AGM held on 13 September 2016  
*(enc. with the November 2016 Newsletter)*
- 5) To receive the accounts for the year ended 31 May 2017  
*(enc. with the August 2017 Newsletter)*
- 6) To approve the raising of subscription levels, as proposed by Council in the August newsletter
- 7) To receive reports from our various Groups (enc. with the August Newsletter)
- 8) To elect Doreen and Roy Bratby as Honorary Members of the Society
- 9) To elect the following members to serve on Council (with their responsibilities) until the next AGM:

*Bryan Hanlon*

*Secretary*

*David Moore*

*Treasurer*

*Pat Broad*

*Publications Officer*

<i>Mike Carey</i>	<i>Clock Tower (jointly)</i>
<i>John Cox</i>	<i>Publicity Officer</i>
<i>Maggy Douglas</i>	<i>Minutes Secretary</i>
<i>Roderick Douglas</i>	<i>Website</i>
<i>David Girdziusz</i>	<i>Chairman, Programme Development Committee</i>
<i>Gill Girdziusz</i>	<i>Lecture Secretary</i>
<i>Pat Howe</i>	<i>17<sup>th</sup> Century Research Group</i>
<i>Caroline Howkins</i>	<i>Clock Tower (jointly)</i>
<i>John Humphreys</i>	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>
<i>Frank Iddiols</i>	<i>Technical</i>
<i>Christine McDermott</i>	<i>Herts Archaeology and History</i>
<i>Jon Mein</i>	<i>First World War Project Group</i>
<i>Roger Miles</i>	<i>Archaeology Group</i>
<i>Donald Munro</i>	<i>Library</i>
<i>David Smith</i>	<i>Membership Secretary</i>

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

**The AGM will be followed by a lecture given by Louise Fowler:**

*Doctors, Dissection and Resurrection Men; excavations at the Royal London Hospital (See Page 32)*

**BOOK SALE AT AGM**

As well as our new publication, *The Old Town Hall* (see pages 18-19, 40), there will be a selection of other publications on sale.

Sorting the Beardsmore Collection of books and pamphlets donated to the SAHAAS library has identified a number of duplicates of local interest, and other surplus volumes unrelated to the Society's work and these will be offered for sale. Half of all proceeds relating to the Beardsmore collection will be donated to the New Museum and Galleries Trust for their appeal fund.

A list of items for sale will be emailed to members in late August.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2**

### **OUR PROSPECTIVE NEW PRESIDENT**

Your Council is pleased to propose **Sandy Walkington** as our next President – to be elected at our AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

Sandy was born in Scotland and brought up in Gloucestershire where, as a schoolboy, he took part in the excavation of Crickley Hill Iron Age hill fort. He was taught history ‘rather well’ at school, and studied Economic History as part of his degree at Cambridge. Sandy’s aunt in Scotland founded the first folk museum north of the Great Glen, and Sandy spent many days scouring abandoned crofts for artefacts and meeting old highlanders with founts of stories.

Sandy’s working life ranged from lorry loading in Cold War Berlin to managing corporate affairs and government relations in various well known telecommunications, oil and public transport undertakings in both London and New York. His most striking place of work was the Palace of Westminster where he was Head of Research and chief speech writer for the Parliamentary Liberal Party, and it is of course

in the sphere of politics that he will be best known to us all.

He first moved to St Albans in 1981. A former governor of St Albans

School, he is currently county councillor for the division encompassing St Albans Abbey and most of the St Albans conservation area including Roman Verulamium. He follows other local councillors who have been asked to preside over the Society in recent years, notably Kate Morris and Clare Ellis. Fortunately, the electoral cycle means that he does not have to stand for re-election during his prospective term as President.

Sandy is married to award-winning conservation architect Francesca Weal. They live in a listed former rectory in Welwyn. He is a member of the Hertfordshire Building and Preservation Trust as well as St Albans Civic Society and the Ver Valley Society.



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

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**

### **ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2017**

Enclosed with this newsletter are the accounts for the financial year ended 31 May 2017 which were signed by the independent examiner on 21 July 2017 and were approved by Council on 28 July 2017. 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 our restricted and unrestricted funds.

#### **Unrestricted Funds:**

Income:

- Subscriptions remain static at £6,766.00 and represent the main source of income for the Society.
- The Clock Tower donation was again £4,000 (same as 2016). Gift Aid for the financial year 2015 – 2016 was received, £1,451.00, an increase of £292.00 reflecting the subscription increase introduced that year. A claim is being submitted for 2016 – 2017 and will be reflected in next year's accounts.
- Other smaller amounts were received notably £350.00 from talks given by the Home Front Group and £281.00 surplus from The Garden History Course held at Sandridge Gate.
- Fund raising activity again centred on raising funds for the New Museum and Gallery. £2,152.00 was raised and a donation of this amount made. No donations were made from the Society's own funds.

Expenditure:

Whilst the accounts show increases in some areas over all expenditure has been controlled and remained within expected parameters.

- Lecture expenses have doubled; this reflects an increase in Speaker fees, an increase in venue hire charges and late billing by venues of the hire charges from the previous financial year.
- Website expenditure has increased due to payment of two annual hosting charges of £360.00, one for 2015–2016 and one for 2016–2017. This should be a ‘one off’ occurrence.
- External storage charges are down by £334.00 as the contract was cancelled following the setting up of a storage area in the library at Sandridge Gate. This should reflect as a saving of £1,100.00 in future years.

There was no expenditure on projects or publications in the year but commitments were made.

### **Restricted Funds:**

There was no activity here and the Mayors Prize was not awarded this year.

### **Balance Sheet:**

The cash resources of the Society stand at £17,666.00 of which £6,000.00 is committed to two projects both of which should be completed in the first half of the 2017 – 2018 financial year. These are as follows:

Upgrade of the library software	£2,000.00
A publication on the Old Town Hall	£4,000.00

This leaves net cash resources of £11,666.00 as a reserve which covers +/- one year's expenditure and is being held as such as well as providing cash flow pending receipt of expected income streams.

Effectively the Society is not in a position in the next financial year to fund any new projects and/or publications until such time as reserves/surplus funds are built up again. Consideration will need to be given to raising funds for the Society to enable it to carry out/ achieve its aims and objectives.

**David Moore**  
**Hon. Treasurer**

## **AGENDA ITEM 6**

### **PROPOSED INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS**

At a recent Council meeting, the decision was taken to recommend that at the September 2017 AGM the annual Subscriptions be increased to £20.00 for a single membership, with £30.00 for joint or family membership and £10.00 for students, to take effect from 1 June 2018.

The accounts for the financial year ending 30 May 2017 are enclosed with this Newsletter, from which you will see the Society's current financial position shows surplus funds of some £18,000. However as mentioned in the notes accompanying the Accounts, £6,000 of this has already been allocated to two projects, namely a Library computer software upgrade costing £2,000, and £4,000 for a publication on The Old Town Hall. This will reduce the available funds to +/- £12,000. This figure is regarded as the minimum reserve the Society should hold, based on current expenditure, in order to cover the day-to-day expenses including the cost of the lecture programme and the regular newsletter. Reserves have been depleted in recent years, being spent on publications and projects as well as a donation of £5,000 to the Museums and Galleries Trust for the New Museum and Gallery project.

The prime source of income is undoubtedly members' subscriptions (boosted by

Gift Aid), together with an annual donation from the Clock Tower which varies and is based on the number of visitor entrance fees. Whilst the last two years have been good, with each resulting in donations of £4,000, this level cannot be guaranteed. At its current level, income covers outgoings with little margin.

Council has been assiduous in cutting costs where thought reasonably possible, such as dispensing with our external storage unit and now using our new Library at Sandridge Gate, as well as holding Council meetings there rather than hiring a room at the Verulamium Museum. Nevertheless, it is expected that expenses will continue to rise and, whilst every effort will continue to be made to reduce costs, it is only prudent to address the issue now particularly as we believe the activities of the research groups within the Society will need funds to progress, as will any future projects and new publications.

Your Council believes that membership of the Society continues to provide extremely good value, and asks that you approve this proposed increase to improve reserves/available funds both for the day-to-day running of the Society and to build a reserve to provide funds to continue the important work of the Society.

**David Moore**  
**Hon. Treasurer**

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

## LIBRARY REPORT

Settling in Sandridge Gate, adapting the room for storage, accommodating substantial donations, and preparing and migrating the digital catalogue have made it another very busy year for the Library.

Much of this has been fully reported in previous newsletters. The recent arrival of a three-bay bookshelf cabinet from the library of J T Smith, and four Edwardian chairs via Roger Miles, virtually completes the furnishing of the library, apart from a fixed drop-down projector screen.

As a result we have recently begun the physical reorganisation of the library book stock. Periodicals have been put on the J T Smith shelving, freeing up space in the glass-fronted cabinets to ease up the main book sequence in order to shelve books from the Beardsmore collection; and also create a separate pamphlet sequence at the end.

At the time of writing, the library migration to *Soutron Solo* is going well and we expect to have it up and publicly running in the third week of August. Many thanks to the team of six library volunteers who have been checking the migration of data. This

proved to be a little more complicated than expected, but there have been no major problems.

We are very much looking forward to having the greater flexibility that *Soutron* will allow us - SAHAAS members will be able to see much more readily than before, from their own desktops, the intriguing golden nuggets of local and Hertfordshire history now available in the library. The ability to catalogue online with a greater number of cataloguers means that we will soon, after training, be able to make serious progress in tackling a massive backlog consequent on our receiving so many major bequests, with more to come. We will also soon be able to involve other volunteers in the other library tasks and projects listed for consideration last year.

The progress over the past year is very much down to the enthusiasm and hard work of our considerable band of Library volunteers. Particular thanks are due to Jon Mein and Tony Cooper for being such Library stalwarts and for organising the Beardsmore move; to Frank Iddiols for his efforts in creating the store within the room, and the excellent acquisition of a map cabinet; to Andy "the van" Lawrence for transport and

heavy shifting; to Malcolm Merrick for his help and advice with computer hardware and equipment; to Di Dunn and Susan Smith for their work on the paper files; to Sue Bellamy for her work on deeds; to Sally Pearson for her efforts in organising disposals of surplus stock (of which you will be hearing more); and to Sheila Green and all others who have helped from time to time. It is down to the efforts of all these folks that we have settled so successfully at Sandridge Gate, where we have a visitor rate very little different from what it was in the Old Town Hall. We do hope to have Anne Wares back in the team before too long.

**Donald Munro**

## **LIBRARY NOTES**

As noted in the May Newsletter, concentration on housing recent bequests, and our work on migrating the catalogue from *Heritage* to *Soutron Solo* has resulted in very little cataloguing of new acquisitions being done recently. Other than tidying records already on file as a result of cataloguing quirks revealed by the migration, there has been no significant new cataloguing. There will be

much to report once the new system is in place and we push ahead with adding the materials from the Beardsmore, J.T. Smith et alia.

**Donald Munro**

## **HERTS ADVERTISER PHOTOGRAPHS**

In 2013 we reported that Mike Neighbour, known to many of us for his work on the history of the city's 'East End', had donated to the Society's Library digitised copies of photos appearing in the *Herts Advertiser* in the 1910s and 1920s. All were fully indexed. Our own Home Front group as well as other organisations such as the Abbey made great use of these for events marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Mike has subsequently sent us further CDs, this time covering the 1930s and 1940s. We are currently working our way through the entire collection embedding copyright details and some keywords in the metadata. This significant addition of many thousands of images is a boon for members with interests in the 20<sup>th</sup> century history of the city and surrounding districts. Thanks, Mike.

**Jon Mein**

**RECENT JOURNAL ARTICLES**

In *The Local Historian*, vol.47 no. 2, April 2017 pp 149-152. 'Dury and Andrews' map of Hertfordshire (1766): a review essay', by Heather Falvey. The 1766 map has been digitally re-worked by Andrew MacNair, Anne Rowe and Tom Williamson, throwing new light on the county's landscape and society in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, but also in more remote periods. The digital version allows close analysis of various aspects of Hertfordshire's landscape, settlements and agricultural history. The book and accompanying DVD are held in the library and available for members to borrow.

In *British Archaeology*, May/June 2017 pp 52-55. 'From Thunderbird Park to Berkhamsted', by Mike Pitts.

The article discusses Canadian totem poles in the UK, but focuses on one in Berkhamsted, standing on the Grand Union Canal. It dates from 1968, but the carver's skill and family trace back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and reflect north-west coast Pacific art and tradition.

In *Bricket Wood Society Newsletter*, June 2016 pp 4-5, and March 2017 p2. 'Bricket Wood (1851/2016)'. A brief comparison, drawing on census

information, of pre-railway Bricket Wood in 1851 and 2016.

**Tony Cooper**

**HOME FRONT GROUP REPORT**

What a busy year this has been. At last September's AGM we launched the new Home Front book to Society members and then to the public at Waterstones a few days later. The extensive launch programme worked well with various events in and around St Albans.

Thanks to the hard work of Maggy Douglas in particular, we have given thirteen talks about our work to nigh on 500 people. The group's display boards are currently a fixture in the Clock Tower. As a result of this work book sales have been good, so good that the publishers ordered a reprint in November.

Rather than resting on our laurels, we continue our hard work: seven talks are already booked for 2017/18 and presentations for two conferences are being readied for later this year. And there's more to come.

Copies of our book at the SAHAAS members' price of £14 will be on sale at the AGM.

**Jon Mein, Anne Wares & Sue Mann**

## PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

At the beginning of the year the Programme Development Committee consisted of Roy Bratby, Chairman, Doreen Bratby, Pat Howe and Roger Miles. During the year Roger resigned and David and Gill Girdziusz and Tony Berk joined the Committee.

The Committee was responsible for fifteen Tuesday lectures during the year.

The lectures on *The Iron Curtain – The Cold War and After* by Neil Taylor, *The Making of the Epic 1916 Propaganda Film – The Battle of the Somme* by Taylor Downing and *The Age of Decadence* by Simon Heffer, were three of the most popular lectures.

Pat Howe arranged two extremely successful day outings. The first to Chiswick House and Hogarth's House, the second to Portsmouth to visit the Mary Rose Museum. Tony Berk arranged a visit to Olney, famous for its Pancake Race, where we visited the Cowper and Newton Museum and had a guided tour of the village.

Plans have been made for a day outing to Cambridge in October to visit the Samuel Pepys Library in Magdalene College. We are grateful to Roderick Douglas and Frank Iddiols who continue to give of their time week by week to assist with the IT/AV. This is such an important service to ensure the success of the lectures. If you feel you could help to spread the load please contact David or Gill Girdziusz.

Yet again, I have been encouraged by the attendances at the lectures. During the last six years, attendances at the lectures have averaged just over sixty and on eleven occasions in excess of eighty members were present.

As always, your suggestions for lecture topics, possible speakers and future visits are always welcome.

As from the end of May 2017 I relinquished the Chairmanship of the Committee, and David Girdziusz has taken on that responsibility. David and Gill, his wife, have prepared the 2017/2018 programme of lectures and I trust you will encourage them with the same support I have enjoyed since I took on the role ten years ago.

**Roy Bratby**

## CLOCK TOWER REPORT

The Clock Tower joined in with the razzmatazz of the 4<sup>th</sup> St Albans Film Festival over the weekend of 8-9 July by giving visitors the opportunity to watch a 360-degree film on a virtual reality headset. (*See Note below*)

A Gear VR headset was supplied by the local creative and digital production agency, *Rewind*, who also filmed and edited the 360-degree, stereoscopic, time lapse panoramic film of the sunset taken from the roof of the Tower. Back in May the *Rewind* camera team lugged their equipment up the 93 steps in order to leave their Go-Pro Omni and Go-Pro Odyssey cameras filming the sunset for two hours.



*The film crew from Rewind with their cameras*

Over the following weeks, the film was edited down to three minutes, an audio track added and still shots of

some of the graffiti inserted, along with captions identifying well known landmarks. The filming was then converted in to a YouTube friendly video and uploaded. It can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/m7i3UGxU64c>.

The Clock Tower Experience film was available for visitors to watch over the Film Festival Weekend in the Tower using a VR headset with a smart phone slotted into it. As the user lowered or raised their head they were able to choose to view the people and cars rushing along High Street, or up at the Cathedral's flag waving in the wind, or turn their head to view St Albans from each side of the Clock Tower, or simply look towards Verulamium Park and watch the time lapse film of the setting sun.

The film is best viewed on a smart phone in a VR headset but can also be watched on a PC, laptop or mobile. By simply playing the video on You Tube (same link as above) on your PC or laptop and using the navigation wheel in the corner of the screen, you can choose which views to look at. By using the You Tube app on your smart phone to play the video, you can move your phone to choose your view. You don't have to have an expensive VR headset to watch the film. You can buy cardboard VR goggles for a matter of a couple of pounds, set the video playing on your smart phone and pop it in.

The Clock Tower welcomed over 500 visitors over the weekend with Sunday having the highest visitor numbers for a single day so far, this season.

The annual Alban Pilgrimage Procession passed by the Tower on the 24 June providing the opportunity for some lovely, colourful shots of the fabulous giant puppets. Various folk dancing groups also stopped by the Tower to perform their routines.



The Clock Tower will be undergoing a bit of a sprucing up in July thanks to the generosity of the local decorators' merchant, Brewers, who are supplying the specialist paint needed to decorate the peeling walls of the entrance

room. Hopefully, it will all be completed in three to four days and won't affect our opening times. Let's hope the clock will be fixed by then too – it's been twenty to eight far too long! It is thought that due to the hands becoming bent, they have become stuck together.

The next event that the Clock Tower will be taking part in is Heritage Open Days, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September when the Tower will open each day from 10.30am to 5pm. Along with an early opening on the Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> September from 5.30am to 7am to catch the sunrise.

As always, we would like to thank all the Clockateers for giving their time to keep the Clock Tower open for our visitors to enjoy.

**Mike Carey**  
**Caroline Howkins**

Photos © Andy Lawrence

Note:

*Virtual Reality is a new medium capable of creating presence - a perception of being physically present in a non-physical world. VR can place the user 'inside' an experience, instead of viewing a screen in front of them.*

## PUBLICATIONS REPORT

It's been an up-and-down year for publications. The ups included the release last autumn of our Home Front book and the latest volume of *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History*. (See group reports for fuller details.) The disappointing aspect was a further delay to the publication of *The Old Town Hall, St Albans* – but see below for the latest news.

Work on publishing standards and the publishing strategy has progressed, though less quickly than anticipated. Completing this work will be a priority in 2017-18.

The Society's total revenue from publication sales in 2016-17 was £429.

We joined Twitter last September and as previously reported have found it useful in various ways. There were 160 followers at the end of May 2017. It is hoped to make wider use of this channel this year.

The committee met three times during 2016-17. It has been a useful forum for discussing issues and sharing

ideas. My thanks to John Cox, Ann Dean, Sue Mann, Christine McDermott and Roger Miles for their support.

**Patricia Broad**

## COMING SOON - THE OLD TOWN HALL, ST ALBANS

Good news at last! This book is scheduled for publication on 2 September 2017. The author is Chris Green, a member of the Society and Director of St Albans Museums from 2002 to 2011.

The book will be available at Waterstones St Albans at the full price of £6.99. A book-signing event has been scheduled for Saturday 2 September at Waterstones, when Chris Green will be present from 12pm to 1pm to sign books. Please check our website nearer the date.

The book will also be available for members to purchase at the SAHAAS AGM on Tuesday 12 September at Marlborough Road Methodist Church. The price will be £6.00 each (cash or cheque only) and represents a discount against the RRP of £6.99. Chris Green will be present to talk to members and sign copies.



Follow us on Twitter: SAHAAS@stalbanpast

Members can buy the book from SAHAAS library (personal callers only) or by emailing [publicationsales@stalbanhistory.org](mailto:publicationsales@stalbanhistory.org) (£6.00 plus £1.50 for p&p).

The book is expected soon to be available at other outlets in the city.

For further details about the book, please see page 40.

**Patricia Broad**

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## **PUBLICITY REPORT**

Last September (2016) we were able to mount an extended display commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Edmund Beckett's birth in 1816.; however, because of the University of Hertfordshire graduation ceremonies it was displayed in the Cathedral's Chapter House library for four days and then moved to the North Transept.

It generated a number of positive comments. I am hoping, when time permits, to recreate some of the material on the SAHAAS website.

In April 2017 a single panel display was mounted in the St. Albans Central Library to commemorate the passing of two Honorary Members - John T. Smith and Dr Eileen Roberts.

For Heritage Weekend in September 2017 a display is being mounted at Verulamium Museum on "Why the Bankruptcy of Stephen Smith junior

changed the St Albans' landscape". Until 1869 it was a criminal act to go bankrupt. Two auction sales took place in 1849 and 1851, the result of which enabled the landscape that we know to be retained and preventing the building of desirable 'Victorian villas' on the farmland attached to Verulam Hill and St. Germain's Farm!

**John G E Cox**

## **HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY REPORT**

Volume 17 of our Journal was published in November 2016. It was well-received and is selling well. Work is already underway planning for volume 18. I will bring some copies of Volume 17 to the AGM at the discounted price of £5.00 (£20.00 otherwise) for any SAHAAS members who did not buy a copy and wish to do so.

**Christine McDermott**

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

After many years of transcribing, 270 documents were sent to the editors of the Hertfordshire Record Society (HRS) in May of this year. These documents comprise wills, inventories, accounts and administrations for the period 1600 to 1615.

Originally, we expected that the first volume of the HRS publication would cover 1600 to 1625 but it emerged that we had collected so much material that the date span had to be shortened.

The information gleaned about the inhabitants of St Albans during this period has proved to be very interesting and will be explained in the forthcoming volume which we hope will be published in early 2018.

The information stored on computer has been useful for Jon Mein in his research into inns in St Albans, and Kate Morris in her work on eighteenth century St Albans. We occasionally help with enquiries from family historians. Our data is now being stored on the SAHAAS Library computer for all to browse.

**Pat Howe**

## QUIZ NIGHT

On 9<sup>th</sup> June, 120 members of the Society and their friends gathered at Adam and Jill Singer's Kingsbury Barn for our third "Quiz and Supper" evening in aid of the New Museum and Gallery. As always, the evening's success was due to all the hours of hard work contributed by many too numerous to mention – but praise and gratitude must be given to Val Argue who worked tirelessly to ensure that everything went so smoothly. The bar organised and run by Val and her husband, Chris, was kept busy throughout the evening.

Alan Hobson, aided by wife Anne, was our illustrious quizmaster with questions that intrigued – and sometimes baffled – the assembled throng. The winning team of Di Dunn's "Dinamos" won the bottles of wine kindly donated by Morrisons.

With an excellent range of raffle prizes donated by our members, the final total raised was £2001.23 which has been passed to the Trust. This, when added to our previous donations makes an impressive total of £12,759.58.

**Bryan Hanlon**

## SMALLFORD RAILWAY STATION

The following has been forwarded to the Society and is something that some of our members and readers will find of interest and may wish to become personally involved.

**Bryan Hanlon**

"I don't know if you've heard of our work – originally under the title 'Bringing the History of Smallford Station to Life' – recently morphed into the 'Smallford Station and Alban Way Heritage Society' – see our website [www.smallford.org](http://www.smallford.org)

Smallford Station is a 150-year-old, Grade II Listed Building, currently owned by O'Shea's – a plant hire company based in Smallford behind the station. In October 2015 we organised events at various places along the Alban Way to celebrate the opening of the Hatfield-St Albans Railway and believe that in the region of 1000 people attended.



We are at the early stages of considering the possibility of taking over this building, renovating it and opening it as a local Heritage Centre. We are very aware of how naive we are – none of us have ever been involved in such a project – and wonder if any of your members may have had some experience and would be able to offer us some advice.

I look forward in anticipation to your response and, in the meantime, send you very best wishes; be well, go well."

**Jeff Lewis**



*On the Alban Way today.*

*Platform cleaned up.  
Sign restored.*

*Next the station itself!*

*Photos courtesy Jeff Lewis*

## VISIT TO THE MARY ROSE MUSEUM - 3 MAY 2017

We all know the story. In July 1545, as the French and English fleets lined up against each other for the Battle of the Solent, one of Henry VIII's largest ships, the Mary Rose, unexpectedly heeled to starboard and sank in minutes, drowning almost all on board. Over 430 years later, in an extraordinary demonstration of developing underwater archaeological expertise, the remains of the ship and its contents were lifted from the seabed silt which had protected them from disintegration. All have since been preserved, using the most advanced conservation techniques, and are now displayed in a purpose-built museum on the Portsmouth docks from which the Mary Rose originally set sail.

What is less evident until you visit, is the sheer scale of the salvage operation. As well as the massive Mary Rose herself, over 19,000 smaller finds bear witness to the complex world of a warship which was not just a fighting machine, but also a workplace and living area for about 500 men. The Museum uses state-of-the-art curatorial methods to bring this world to life. The remains of the ship itself, for example, held in a controlled environ-

ment and beautifully lit, can be viewed at three deck levels from the galleries running lengthwise alongside. But additionally, re-enacted scenes of ship life are intermittently projected onto the timber framework, showing Tudor men on board working, eating, relaxing, preparing for and engaging in the ship's final battle.

The viewing galleries themselves contain a wide selection of the items found inside the wreck. Some might be expected in a large gunship of the time: cannons and ammunition, longbows and arrows, rigging blocks and rope cables, an anchor, storage barrels and a baking oven. But also more movingly a huge variety of personal items, some of which can be identified as belonging to particular members of the crew – the ship's surgeon and ship's carpenter for example, each with the instruments of his trade. And as the bodies of these men were also found, their appearance has been reconstructed from the shape of their skull. Musical instruments, board games, shoes, coins, rosaries, wood and pewter mugs plates and jugs, wooden lanterns, even a large number of combs

for removing nits! In a way reminiscent of Pompeii, the Mary Rose disaster has left us a unique view of one moment in time – the life of Tudor seamen, rich and poor, in 1545.

Well worth the lengthy journey to get there. Thanks Pat for organising!

**Sally Pearson**



Nit combs



A wood flagon

**A puzzle: What links the Mary Rose with a town near New York?**

Answer: sɹəʊkɒn

A diagram in the museum shows an area on one of the lower decks of the Mary Rose occupied by a large group of the crew, among them yonkers. The OED gives several meanings for the word, one being “a boy or junior seaman on board ship”. The word is Dutch in origin, and the town was named after Adrian “Yonker” van der Donck, who was granted the land on which it was built in 1646.

**Tony Cooper**

## BOTTLENECKS IN GEORGE STREET

In his book, *History of Verulam and St Alban's* published in 1815, Solomon Shaw described the lower part of George Street as having 'a most dangerous turning'. Dangerous turning? Really? Here's the story.

George Street, then managed by the local turnpike trust, was part of the main route between London and the north-west. Keeping the road in repair was a constant trial for the trustees as the road was very busy. In the year from June 1808 alone, over 45,000 carts and carriages and 260,000 market bound animals were recorded at the local tollgates. Another challenge was to meet travellers' increasing expectations of faster speeds and improved safety over terrain that was, to say the least, difficult. Recent advances had been made, the most significant being 'new' London Road opened in 1796. This wide, gently rising road eliminated the constricted route along Sopwell Lane and steep ascent of Holywell Hill. Now traffic from London whizzed up to the Peahen crossroads. But then it often slowed to a stop.

Why this happened is obvious. Once a bottleneck is cleared, traffic flows more quickly to the next where the



**Fig. 1** *George Street seen from Romeland Hill*  
(©Frank Iddiols)

problem gets worse. At the time, the next pinch point beyond the Peahen was George Street. In fact there were two of them here. Detailed notes in the trust's minute book (HALS TP5/3) together with results from a site survey conducted earlier this year allow us to map their extent with reasonable certainty on Figure 2. This shows the first bottleneck was half way down the steep hill where the carriageway narrows to just 16ft - or 24ft if we include the pavements. Shaw's dangerous turning was the second. This was the off-set crossroads at the junction with Spicer Street, Romeland and Romeland Hill. Because nos. 14-16 George Street were largely aligned with the general building line on the south side of the street, the approach coming down the hill was much straighter than it is today. The resulting gap between no. 16 and the house at the top of Rome-

land Hill (marked 'RH' on Figure 2) was about 30ft including pavements, 22ft carriageway. The gap was wide enough for two carriages to carefully pass each other as they pivoted around no. 16. However, bad weather, speeding coaches and slow but skittish animals contributed to Shaw's 'danger'.

Lack of funds thwarted plans for a by-pass, the obvious solution to both problems. Instead the trustees focused on remedial work at the crossroads. In 1813 they bought the freehold for no. 16 intending to demolish the house. Agreement was also reached with the owners of nos. 14 & 15 to knock down the front few feet of their buildings. Figures 1 & 2 show the results of the work completed in 1814. Numbers 14-16 were now on a different alignment to the rest of the south side of the street establishing the pronounced curve we see today. Also curving is the frontage to the rebuilt no. 16. This probably owes its origin to the trust's work as the plot was of an irregular shape

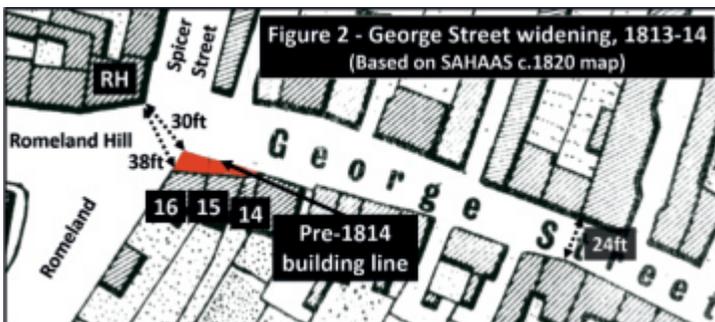
once the widening was completed. More importantly, the gap between no. 16 and the top of Romeland Hill now extended to 38ft or 30ft with pavements, figures more typical of modern turnpike roads.

Commenting in 1815, Shaw thought the work not only 'rendered [the road] much safer ... but added materially to the respectable appearance of the town in this part'. In effect it was little more than tinkering as the route from Fishpool Street to High Street remained steep and typically narrow. The completion of the Verulam Road by-pass in 1826 finally solved that problem.

An interesting question remains unanswered: when, if at all, was the front of the house at the top of Romeland Hill ('RH') realigned?

Many thanks to Gillian and Graham Field for showing us around their house (no. 16).

**Jon Mein and Frank Iddiols**



## INTRODUCTION TO THE HERTFORDSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

Hertfordshire is fortunate in possessing a vast number of historically important documents, many of which are housed at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), others are in the care of The National Archives (TNA), in local institutions of various kinds, or in private ownership.

Dating from the early Middle Ages to the present day, these documents include, amongst other categories, charters, manorial records, wills, letters, estate papers and diaries. Some of the documents are in Latin; others are in English, but written in a difficult script. The Hertfordshire Record Society (HRS) was founded in 1985 with the aim of making Hertfordshire's great written heritage accessible to everyone. Every year the HRS, a registered charity, publishes a volume of transcribed and edited records, bound in hard covers; it also publishes old county maps in an occasional series.

Previous HRS publications include *St Albans Quarter Sessions Rolls 1784-1820*, edited by David Dean (Volume VII, now out of print) and *Two Nineteenth Century Hertfordshire Diaries*,

edited by Judith Knight and Frank Kilvington (Volume XVIII). In 1993 the HRS published *St Albans Wills, 1471-1500*, edited by Sue Flood (Volume IX, now out of print).

More than two decades later, we will return early in 2018 to St Albans to delve once again into its rich probate material. Our next publication (Volume XXXII) will consist of local wills, inventories and probate material from 1600-1615 transcribed and edited by members of the Arc & Arc's 17th Century Research Group.

**Heather Falvey (HRS)**

## THE NEW ST ALBANS BOROUGH ARCHIVE CATALOGUE

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) is delighted to announce that a major new catalogue has been made available online. The St Albans Borough records (ref SBR) span from 1353 to at least 1974, and the catalogue amounts to over 9000 entries. Previously, researchers only had a typescript calendar from 1949 from which to choose documents to consult. The online catalogue has corrections, more detail and newly added material. It describes charters, minutes and court records, as well as

political propaganda, housing improvements and fire brigade scrap-books. There are many title deeds, and a great deal on sewerage schemes and wine licensing. Some workhouse and hospital items from SBR now form part of other St Albans collections, and their catalogues are also online.

To browse or search the St Albans Borough catalogue, go to the Society's home page and then follow the links and instructions. Please note that you can navigate the whole structure of the catalogue if you choose any SBR record and click on 'View Tree'. Those familiar with the collection will be pleased to know that the old reference numbers are still relevant, for example the reference of the 1553 charter has only changed from Off Acc 1162 item 633 to the new version SBR/633. That is the HALS reference number to use when ordering from the collection.

The archives are stored securely at HALS, County Hall, Hertford, where this original material can be viewed at no charge. When ordering we recommend 48 hrs notice as the collection is stored off-site. Full details of our location, contact details and revised opening hours can be found on the [HALS website](#).

A talk by Gary Moyle, Archivist, about the collection is planned for 7.30pm on 26 September at St Albans Library. Tickets (£5) are available online from the library – link from our website.

**Gary Moyle (HALS)**

## HALH SYMPOSIUM

The annual Hertfordshire Association for Local History (HALH) symposium will be held at the British Schools Museum in Hitchin on Saturday 11 November.

The topic is 'Women of Hertfordshire'. Speakers include: Jane Kelsall discussing Christina, Prioress of Markyate in the 12th century; members of the SAHAAS Home Front Group talking about the contribution of three local women during the Great War, namely Lady Violet Grimston, Silvia Glossop and Edith Garrett; and Elizabeth Eastwood covering the Battle for Female Suffrage with Mary Augusta Ward and Lady Constance Georgina Bulwer Lytton as her subjects.

For further information about the event contact me :  
[johnge.cox@btinternet.com](mailto:johnge.cox@btinternet.com).

**John G.E. Cox**

## VISIT TO OLNEY – 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Olney, of Shrove Tuesday pancake race fame, is situated beside the River Ouse in Buckinghamshire and the name means Olla's Island. The origins of the town go back as far as the Iron Age and there is archaeological evidence for Roman and Saxon occupation. The town gradually developed during medieval times and, much later, the Battle of Olney Bridge featured as a "skirmish" during the Civil War.

Facing the triangular Market Place is an imposing dwelling which houses the Cowper and Newton Museum.

William Cowper (1731 – 1800) and his companion, Mrs Mary Unwin, lived in the house from 1768 – 1786. Highly regarded as a poet in his own day, Cowper's poems, whether humorous or philosophical, were based on close observation of domestic life and of the natural world. From time to time he suffered from episodes of severe depression and his natural love for animals, which included the acquisition of three pet leverets, was considered to be therapeutic.

The house contains many of Cowper's pieces of furniture as well as his per-

sonal possessions which give a homely and intimate feel to the rooms. Naturally there are also many references to his poetic output and framed examples of his work.

His occupation of the house deliberately coincided with John Newton's curacy of the Parish Church since Cowper shared Newton's evangelical fervour.

The John Newton (1725 – 1807) room in the museum charts his tumultuous early life, his religious conversion, his marriage to Mary (Polly) Catlett, his captaincy of slave ships, his call to the church and his eventual commitment to the campaign for the abolition of slavery. This room also contains grim reminders of the inhuman privations suffered by the slaves on board ship.

Whilst in Olney, the two men collaborated in the writing of 348 hymns (words only) which were based on Newton's sermon themes. The most famous of these are 'Amazing Grace' (Newton) and 'God Moves in a Mysterious Way' (Cowper).

A further room in the house displays items connected with two former town trades: lacemaking and shoemaking.

Outside are two lovingly tended walled gardens one of which contains plants which would have been familiar in the 18<sup>th</sup> century whilst the further garden, originally a physic garden, still contains herb and medicinal beds as well as vegetables. At the far end of the garden is a delightful 18<sup>th</sup> century summerhouse which Cowper frequently used and called his “verse manufactory”.

After a lunch break we had a guided walk around the town and saw Newton’s vicarage and the church. Originally buried in St Mary Woolnoth, where he was rector for many



*Photo by Roy Bratby*

years, John and Mary’s bodies had to be re-interred after Bank underground station was under construction and they now lie in peace in Olney.

There are 150 listed buildings in the town but our tired legs and brains were not up to that challenge!

Our thanks go to Tony Berk for organising such an informative and interesting trip.

**Mary Little**

## **ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY NETWORK**

### **AUTUMN CONFERENCE**

Saturday 14 October at the  
Verulamium Museum  
10:30 to 16:30

Keynote presentation by Peter  
Burley: **Two Royal Burials**

Further presentations include:  
**A.J. Nicholson, Coat Maker;**  
**Hertfordshire Scouts in 1917;**  
**The Rise and Fall of Local Pubs;**  
**Ivy House;**  
**Children in Wartime;**  
**Finding the Anonymous Women  
of World War One;**  
**The Journey of a Local Community  
Heritage Group.**

If you have not registered your membership of the Network you may do so at any time by emailing [sanetwork@me.com](mailto:sanetwork@me.com) and giving your research, community or local history interest. You will then receive regular updates and an invitation to book places at conference.

For full programme details see:  
[www.stalbansowneastend.co.uk](http://www.stalbansowneastend.co.uk)  
Conference bookings will open later in August for those on our e-mail list.

**Mike Neighbour**

## THE STRAW HAT QUARTER

During the recent transfer of some material to HALS from St Albans Central Library, five excellent photographs of the centre of the Edwardian city came to light. They were taken by local photographer Cherry & Co and date to around 1910. Two of them are particularly useful for anyone studying the history of the straw hat trade in the city. They show most of what was then the small but densely populated straw hat 'quarter' with five factories clustered around the Victoria Street and Marlborough Road junction (see Fig. 1). Copies of the Cherry & Co photographs are now in the Society's library.

The history of the straw hat trade remains under-researched. Analysis of the 1911 census by the Home Front group showed that the existing ten

factories surprisingly formed the largest industrial sector in St Albans. Moreover the group also identified clear signs of confidence in the run up to the First World War with significant new production capacity being added. But while there was growth there was also decline. The factory in Fig. 2, built for the Kershaw family (see Fig. 3) in 1881, closed due to their company's liquidation in 1905 with no hat manufacturer taking it on. It then had a chequered history. Some members for example will recognise this as 'Pageant House', the base for the 1907 pageant organising committee. The hat factory on the opposite corner of Upper Marlborough Road remained empty in the run-up to the war as well. These conflicting narratives need further thought.

**Jon Mein, Anne Wares  
and Roderick Douglas**



*Fig. 1 Hat factories on Victoria Street, c.1910 (Copyright HALS, Acc 5909)*



*Fig. 2 'Pageant House'  
c.1910 (Copyright HALS, Acc 5909)*



*Fig. 3 JJ Kershaw & Co. advertisement  
(St Albans Museums, ref. PH8457)*

## GARDEN HISTORY LECTURES

Following the success of the course in garden history mounted by the Society in March this year, Kate Harwood has agreed to give a series of three short lectures this autumn. These will explore particular topics which fired the imaginations of the spring group. Each one hour talk will take place at the SAHAAS library, off the Sandridge Road, on Thursday afternoons, 2.30 until 3.30. Individual talks cost just £5; all three will be £12. The topics are:

October 5<sup>th</sup> **GARDEN CITIES.** The radical, green alternative to insanitary and congested 19<sup>th</sup> century urban development.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> **PLANT HUNTERS** (and their grisly fates!) – The courageous men - botanists and frontiersmen – who brought us home our wealth of garden plants.

December 7<sup>th</sup> **THE LANDSCAPES OF JANE AUSTEN AND HUMPHRY REPTON.** In Austen's books the Georgian landscape is as important as its drawing rooms.

Do join us!

To register your interest in the talks, please contact me:  
Email: [elizabeth.rolfe3@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.rolfe3@gmail.com) Phone: 01727 867537

**Liz Rolfe**

## LECTURE PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2017

All lectures commence at 7.45pm

Tuesday lectures will be held at

**Marlborough Road  
Methodist Church.**

Friday lectures will be held at  
**St Albans School.**

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

Tuesday 12 September **7.30pm**  
**Annual General Meeting** followed by:-

**Doctors, Dissection and Resurrection Men; excavations at the Royal London Hospital**

Louise Fowler

On the night of the 23rd August 1823 William Millard was apprehended in the burial ground of the London Hospital in Whitechapel by an angry mob of patients and staff. With a sack and a shovel in his possession, his intention was clear: he was there to remove a body from one of the graves in order to deliver it to one of the private medical schools of the capital. The governors of the hospital publicly pursued his prosecution, but Museum of London Archaeology's (MOLA) excavation of the burial ground in 2006 and subsequent historical research revealed that, together

with the staff, they were implicated in a tangled web of deception to enable the hospital's own medical school to flourish.

*Louise Fowler is a co-author of 'Doctors, Dissection and Resurrection Men', the monograph of the archaeological excavations in the London Hospital burial ground, which were also the subject of a major exhibition at the Museum of London in 2012. She grew up in St Albans, and has been excavating and reporting on archaeological excavations in London since 2005. Current projects include the exhibition for the reconstructed London Mithraeum, which will be opening to the public later this year.*

**Tuesday 19 September**

**Plague pits – reconstructing the impact of the Black Death on rural communities**

Professor Carenza Lewis

The Black Death killed millions as it swept across medieval Europe and Asia, but its impact on rural communities has long been unclear due to a lack of contemporary data. Professor Carenza Lewis will talk about her innovative 10-year research programme which has involved thousands of members of the public in new archaeological excavations in their own back gardens, producing finds which reveal exactly where the impact of the Black Death was most and

least severely felt while also developing volunteers' knowledge, skills and aspirations. She will look in detail at a number of places in Hertfordshire, which have produced some particularly interesting data. These outcomes highlight the potential for similar publicly engaged research to be carried out anywhere, in the UK, Europe and beyond.

*Carenza Lewis is Professor for the Public Understanding of Research at the University of Lincoln, having previously been director of archaeological outreach at the University of Cambridge, TV presenter on Channel 4's Time Team, investigator with the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, and Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham.*

*Professor Lewis specialises in medieval rural settlement and landscape, the archaeology of childhood, community archaeology and public heritage, and she is particularly interested in advancing understanding of change in the past while also achieving wider social benefits by actively involving the public in her research. She has directed many heritage-related projects and her current work on rural settlements is developing new ways of characterising changes in settlement and demography.*

Friday 29 September

## **Fire & 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. 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.*

Tuesday 10 October

### **Public Commemoration and the Great War, 1914-1925**

Jon Mein

This talk charts the development of the tradition of public commemoration in St Albans from the Boer War through the Great War itself and finishing in 1925 by which time most of the forty local war memorials had been erected.

Assessing contemporary nomenclature such as 'rolls of honour', 'street shrines' and 'street memorials' we will follow the changing public needs for memorials over the period. These requirements included patriotism, support for the anxious and solace for the bereaved. The talk will also consider the significance of large set-piece commemorative events in the city centre in 1919.

*Jon took a degree in Law and History and spent twenty years in the IT industry advising large organisations how best to buy software from suppliers like Microsoft and IBM. He joined SAHAAS in 2007 and is a member of the Society's Home Front Project Group that produced "St Albans: Life on the Home Front, 1914-1918" in September 2016.*

Tuesday 17 October

### **Searching for Julius Caesar**

Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick

This talk will summarise the latest results of a project that is challenging the assumptions that Julius Caesar's landings in Britain in 55 and in 54 BC had little lasting significance and were soon a distant memory in both Britain and Rome and that few, if any, archaeological traces should be anticipated by exploring the archaeological and numismatic evidence for the invasions. After summarising Julius Caesar's own account, the results of recent work on large defended sites on the Kent coast will be presented; including excavations on what may be the main landing site of 54 BC. The campaigns of Caesar's army in Kent and north of the Thames will then be reviewed.

The leader of the British confederacy against Julius Caesar in 54 BC was Cassivellaunus. It is often said that he was the chief of the Catuvellauni and that his capital was at Wheathampstead but both these suggestions are open to doubt. Archaeological evidence from Hertfordshire that could be associated with the events of 54 BC will be reviewed and conclusions drawn concerning what it reveals about why Caesar invaded Britain.

*Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick is leading 'In the Footsteps of Caesar: the archaeology of the first Roman invasions of Britain' project at Leicester University. The project was inspired by a discovery in Kent when Andrew worked for Wessex Archaeology.*

*Andrew's project teams were awarded the Current Archaeology Award for the Best Rescue Archaeology Project and the British Archaeological Award for Best Project. Andrew led many important projects, including the one in which the Bronze Age 'Amesbury Archer' was found.*

*Andrew is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. He was born in Hertfordshire.*

Friday 27 October

### **The Tomb of Tutankhamun:**

#### **Fact and Fiction**

Dr Jaromir Malek

Although the tomb of Tutankhamun was discovered by Howard Carter nearly a hundred years ago, there is still a great deal which we do not fully appreciate or understand. One of the reasons for this unsatisfactory state of affairs is that only some of the objects found in the tomb have been fully studied and published. Dr Malek will present a history of the tomb's excavation but will con-

centrate on the less-well known aspects of the discovery, such as the reasons for its unique preservation, the question of the robberies, the location and plan of the tomb, how much the discovery really contributes to our knowledge of ancient Egypt, and the reasons for the slow pace of publication.

*Having studied Egyptology and Archaeology at Charles University in Prague Jaromir obtained a doctorate in Egyptology (PhDr) in 1969. He has worked in the Griffith Institute, University of Oxford and became Editor of the Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts and Keeper of the Archive, posts which he held until retirement in 2011.*

*Dr Malek took part in epigraphic surveys and excavations in Nubia, Abusir, Saqqara and Memphis. Between 1996 and 1998 he was President of the International Association of Egyptologists and is currently Honorary President of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East.*

*He has written several books and has also initiated and directed an online publication of Howard Carter's records made during the excavation of the tomb of Tutankhamun ([www.griffith.ox.ac.uk/discoveringTut/](http://www.griffith.ox.ac.uk/discoveringTut/)).*

Tuesday 7 November

### **Childwickbury: A Short History**

Christine Aitken

In medieval times the Manor of Childwick belonged to the Abbot and monks of St Albans and at the Dissolution in 1540 this manor came to the crown. This lecture covers the histories of the various families who owned the estate - and their involvement in the history of St Albans and the Childwickbury community in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; the Church of St Mary (in St Michaels Parish); the Childwick Stud; the Childwick Green School and the 'One Bell' public house and estate 'Club'.

The neighbouring Hawkswick Estate and the renowned artist Sir George Clausen RA, a one-time resident of the estate, also feature. The talk includes the stories of the young men of the estate who lost their lives in both World Wars and the project to have a permanent memorial placed in their memory at St Mary's Church on Childwick Green.

*Christine Aitken, a member of SAHAAS for over 20 years, came to live on the Childwickbury Estate in 1948 when her father, John Swan, became Farm Manager of Cheapside Farm. Having obtained a BA (Hons) degree with the Open University and an Advanced Diploma in English Local*

*History in the 1990's she has researched extensively the estate, the community and its owners. Her research culminated in the publication of her book 'Childwickbury'.*

Tuesday 14 November

### **How Hertfordshire entered the Roman Empire**

Dr Isobel Thompson

Late Iron Age Hertfordshire was an interesting place, with a 'friendly king' at Verulamium whose territory stood aside from the Roman invasion in AD 43 and was still in place when the new city of Londinium was founded in AD 48.

The great amount of excavated data from both places is beginning to make it possible to compare them and explore their relationship, both before and after the Boudican destruction in AD 60. This illustrates how gradual the transition was from being 'late Iron Age' to being 'Roman'; it was not until at least AD 70 that Hertfordshire could be considered to be Romano-British in character.

*Isobel worked for Ros Niblett at St Albans from 1995 to 1998, compiling the St Albans Urban Archaeological Database, and then went to the Historic Environment team at Hertfordshire County Council. She is now Historic Environment Record*

*Officer but for the past two years has worked part-time, making it possible for her to do some research.*

Friday 24 November

***Transforming Historical Buildings***

***St Albans Old Town Hall***

Katherine Watts

Katherine will talk about John McAslan & Partners' approach to and implementation of plans for the transformation of historical buildings with particular reference to the refurbishment and adaptive reuse of St Albans Old Town Hall. Katherine will explain the process by which the project will showcase the rich history and heritage of St Albans while also helping to transform the building into a major cultural destination for the City.

*Katherine is Project Architect at John McAslan and Partners and is registered with RIBA, ARB, AABC and SCA. She is a specialist conservation architect with authoritative knowledge of conservation practice and extensive experience in the alteration and repair of historic buildings. She was involved in the redevelopment of King's Cross Station for a number of years, taking the project from design development to completion, including working closely with the contractors for three years as their heritage advisor. She has been*

*Project Architect for St Albans New Museum and Galleries since 2015.*

Tuesday 5 December

***Verulamium and Abbey Orchard Excavation***

Kris Lockyear

The Roman city of Verulamium was the third largest in *Britannia*. It is also the largest Roman city in Britain which does not have a modern settlement built over it. Since 2013 the *Community Archaeology Geophysics Group* has been conducting a series of surveys in the town. When Kris last spoke to the Society in March 2015 the group had completed the magnetometry survey of Verulamium Park. Since then, the group has completed the magnetometry survey of the Gorhambury side of the town, as well as undertaking Ground Penetrating Radar and Resistance surveys.

This talk, after a brief lay-persons introduction to the techniques, will review these latest findings including the results of the surveys undertaken in August 2017.

*Kris became interested in archaeology at the age of 10 when he visited Verulamium on a school trip. He joined the Welwyn Archaeological Society when he was 11,*

and excavated with Martin Biddle on the Chapter House site at the age of 13. Having undertaken a BA at Durham, an MSc in Archaeological Computing in Southampton, and then a PhD at UCL, Kris took up a post at UCL where he is now a senior lecturer. He returned to live in Hertfordshire in 2002, and was able to

develop his love of the archaeology of the county. Since 2009 he has been director of the Welwyn Archaeological Society, and in 2013 he founded the Community Archaeology Geophysics Group.

**Gill and David Girdziusz**

## LECTURE SECRETARY'S REPORT

With the 2016/17 lecture programme now behind us I am appreciative that all has gone to plan.

Looking back over last year's Friday lectures, I have been mindful as ever, of the hard work put in by the lecturers. I highlight just two:-

*John Campbell's lecture "Pistols at Dawn – Two Hundred Years of Political Rivalry from Pitt and Fox to Blair and Brown" and*

*Prof James G Clark, "War Among the Ruins - Medieval Heritage and the First World War".*

The wide-range of speakers I have booked over the years has enabled me to personally meet many interesting people. I have also been encouraged to see the numbers in the audiences grow. To you all I give my thanks.

Finally, whilst writing, I have been personally reflecting over the last 15 years when in 2002 I was appointed Lecture Secretary of the Society and have been responsible for booking Friday speakers. Now, having made the decision to relinquish the post, this therefore, is my final report.

I look forward to giving continued support to the Society and wish those who follow in my footsteps every success.

**Doreen Bratby**

## KEEP THE DATE – SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER 2017

The University of Hertfordshire is organising a First World War home front conference in October on the Hatfield campus. The conference title is *Business as usual? Trade, Commerce and Ethics on the Home Front 1914-1919*. It is free of charge.

For more details please see <https://everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk/?p=3363>

**Julie Moore**

## SIR JOHN EVANS 1823 – 1908.

Sir John Evans, sometime owner of the Dickinson's paper mills and father of the celebrated archaeologist, Arthur Evans, was a prominent member of our Society and the force behind the creation of the Museum.

The following is an extract from a comprehensive essay by Brian Moody and included in the Society publication *A history in all men's lives*. (pp 26—34) published in 1999. Copies of this interesting publication are available from our SAHAAS library at £2 and includes essays by other authors on four of our notable members as well as information on the Society and its work.

'Our Society has been fortunate to have many distinguished architects, historians and archaeologists among its local serving members. Most of them had already established their reputations before they applied for or were offered membership, but one to whom this did not apply, and who was perhaps the most outstanding of all, was John Evans. He joined the newly founded Society in December 1845, just after his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday at a time when few people except his father knew of his developing antiquarian interest. By the time he died in May 1908, still an active and revered Society member, his achievements in archaeology and other fields were known worldwide.'

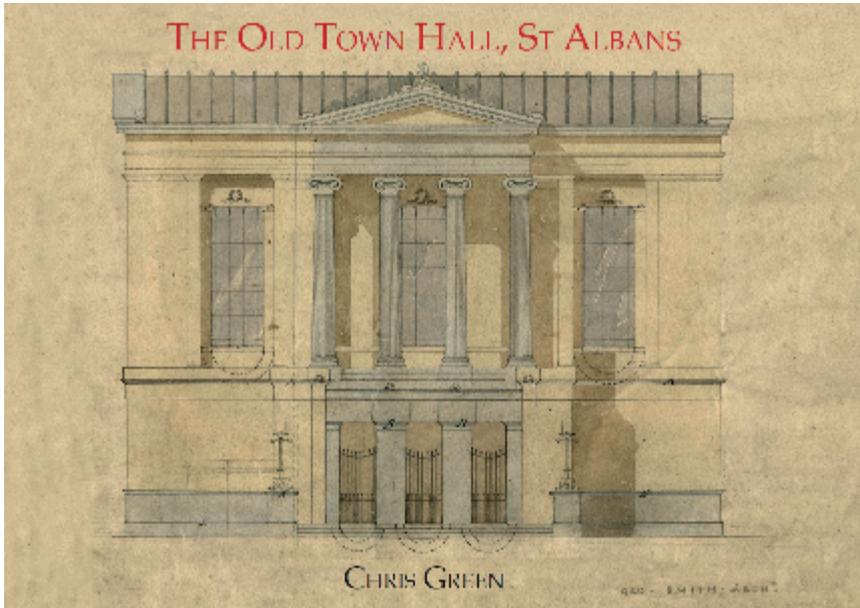
'A long-running strand through Evans's life was the matter of a museum for St Albans. As early as 1850, he was pointing out to our Society the need to have a place where local artefacts could be stored and displayed, but any possibility of raising funds for the purpose, in competition with the financial needs of the Abbey, seemed out of the question until after Lord Grimthorpe had taken over that problem. A modest start was then made in 1895, with a small museum in two rooms over a shop in Market Place.

The following year an appeal for building funds received a good response from individuals, and from the County Council, with a site in Hatfield Road being donated by Earl Spencer. The foundation stone was laid in 1898 by Lady Evans, amid scenes of great public rejoicing, with a procession from the Town Hall comprising every possible dignitary from the Lord Lieutenant to the Inspector of Nuisances. The museum opened its doors in 1899, and was known as the County Museum, as there was no other in Hertfordshire. Its Management committee and Committee of Curators were all Society members, and Sir John was the Museum President for the rest of his life.'

It is noteworthy that the Museum which began its life in the town centre is shortly to return to its base albeit in the old Town Hall and not two rooms.

**John Humphreys**

## NEW SAHAAS PUBLICATION



The 'Old Town Hall' has dominated the centre of St Albans since 1832, yet many Albanians know little about it. This short account is the first, and reveals hitherto unknown details about its design, construction and fabric. It describes how the justices, local government and society used the building and how this changed over the years. The architectural development of the building is described - from its neo-Classical origins to the present day when the role of the building is set to change once again.

This book, is fully illustrated with the plans of the original architect, George Smith, isometric reconstructions of Smith's designs, and drawings of architectural details. There are also illustrations and photographs of the Town Hall and related buildings and drawings/political commentaries by the St Albans artist J. H. Buckingham.

The book, *The Old Town Hall, St Albans*, is now available to order at Waterstones [etc]. For further details please see pages 18-19