



ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE Architectural & Archaeological Society

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After a long and gloomy winter it is good to see the sun and flowers again, albeit up to a month late. The grey was lightened in early March by the Clockateers' Party, a very sociable affair graced by the presence of Dennis Owen in his ninetieth year. The invitations this year carried a collage of the splendidly witty and artistic pictorial invitations that Dennis designed many years ago. It is pleasing too to have welcomed a very fit and re-invigorated Bryan Hanlon back from his admirably adventurous trip to Africa. As a relief from the cold here, Beryl and I had a very interesting holiday in Seville and Cordoba. The latter was particularly enjoyable with an excellent, modern archaeological museum built over a Roman theatre under which ran a major rainwater drainage system. Particularly memorable was standing on the great Roman Bridge of Cordoba with the river Guadalquivir in spate surging over the weir below, with all the small islands awash. It does rain in Spain.

Our Society

Much has been happening recently and is reported on elsewhere in the Newsletter. There is a real buzz in a number of areas with several of the Society's current activities progressing considerably faster than expected; whilst seasonal and circumstantial factors have hindered progress in others. One very welcome sign this past six months is that, after several years of decline, membership of the Society has begun to rise again and now stands at c.425. We intend to hold an event for new members (from the past two years or so) in the early autumn.

The Society has unfortunately lost a number of valuable and active members in the past year, and the age profile of your Council is let's say quite mature! To ensure that the Society continues in a

vigorous manner we have been turning our minds to ways of identifying and encouraging members who might wish to play a more active part in the Society's activities, whether as a Council member or in other ways.

Membership Survey. Flagged in the previous Newsletter, as a first step we will be conducting a survey in the next month or so in order get an up to date picture of a membership now considerably different from what it was five years ago. The Questionnaire will be mailed to members, asking about your interests and skills, and your views on a number of SAHAAS matters. The survey should be completed online by those who can do so. Those without internet access should fill the form manually. Whichever you preferred, please do complete the questionnaire when it reaches you. The higher the responses rate the better chance we have of having a clearer picture of our membership, which in turn helps us plan Society activities better.



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May 2013

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President's Report continued from Page 1

Nominations for Council. The AGM this year will be on Tuesday 10 September. Lest any should think that Council is a self-perpetuating body, I would like to encourage Nominations for Council from members. Could you please give serious thought to whether you or someone you know would be interested in actively participat

Newsletter. As those of you with email will know from our recent appeal, we have been seeking a volunteer to take control of the editorial design function in the future. May I thank everyone who has responded with helpful suggestions.

We are most grateful to John Humphreys, a SAHAAS member, who has come forward for this vital role and beginning with this edition of the Newsletter.

Donald Munro, President

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mrs Romaine & Mr David Byers, Abbey View Road, St Albans

Chris Earnshaw, West Common Way, Harpenden

Mr Chris Harris, Kingsbury Avenue, St Albans

Andrea Hill, Childwick Green, Childwickbury, St Albans

Mrs Sue Howard, Roland Street, St Albans,

EARLIEST KNOWN PHOTO OF St ALBANS (1855) BOUGHT BY THE SOCIETY



Early this April Jon Mein spotted a Victorian stereoview of Market Place, St Albans, for sale on the internet auction site, eBay. As it was clear the photograph could be no later than 1858 the Society prepared to make a substantial bid to keep it in the public domain, but the 'hammer price' was fortunately no more than a half-tank of petrol.

The chief local historical significance is that this is the only known photograph of the Clock Tower before the heavy-handed restoration of 1865. The surrounding shop (c.1550) was in use as a saddler's. It looks very prim and had probably received recent work, including a previously unknown extension which must have half-blocked French Row. (The shop was demolished in 1858, so dating the photograph at first glance.)

However the middle distance also shows the roof of the old Market House and as this stood until 1856 we believe the scene was photographed in 1855, and in midsummer, as the sun is still high at 5.20 pm and the windows are open.

Chris Green



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY

The Society's current use of Information Technology is generally good. Some of it is very good. For example, both our website and the Transactions Digitisation Project put us in advance of many of our peers. IT is constantly moving forward however and, much as we might like to, we cannot stand still. With ageing hardware and software, we are in a risky position. The Society does not have a strategy for managing this.

Our needs are also changing and growing. Two examples illustrate the point. Firstly, it is clear from comments made by members of the 17th Century and First World War research groups that there is an appetite for web-based collaboration tools. Secondly, as our library's digital collection continues to increase, we must consider not only how to store this material but also how to present it to members in the best way. As we have no IT department of our own, any new applications must be both stable and inexpensive to support.

By the end of this year we wish to have in place a strategy to cover these developing needs. As the Arc & Arc is such a 'broad church' we are hopeful that there are members who have useful experience, particularly in the applications field. If this is something that interests you and you have a couple of hours a month to spare for the next six months, then please contact me for a chat on 01727 865514 or via jonmein@aol.com.

Jon Mein, Website

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Following an extended break over the winter we have completed a resistivity survey on The Wick playing field. For those not familiar with the relevant part of St Albans, this is an area of green space on the southern edge of Marshalswick, between Sandpit Lane and Marshal's Drive, consisting of some woodland and a playing field. The wood contains some earthworks of unknown period. Our geophysics was done on the field.

While we have had very marked variations in signal all over the field, there is no real pattern to it, indicating any regular features. The hypothesis at present is that irregularities had to be levelled when preparing the playing field surface and we are 'seeing' deposits of landfill material. A few test pits should enable us to determine ground truth, to use the technical term. Before proceeding we will discuss this with Simon West, the District Archaeologist, who commissioned us to do the survey.

Still on the theme of geophysics, County archaeology societies, in conjunction with the Institute of Archaeology, London, have been successful in obtaining an HLF grant to carry out geophysical surveys on sites across the County. The grant will fund the purchase of a magnetometer and associated overheads to carry out a programme of surveys on known sites, over a year. Verulamium, for instance, is high on the list of Priorities.

The results will be accessible to the public. A significant bonus is that after the grant-funded programme is over the equipment will be available for use by any group within the County capable of operating it.

Roger Miles



Talk - 22 March 2013
Reflections of Empire
Dr Jan Piggott

Photography by Frank Iddiols



13 January 2013
Residents' First Weekend

Photography by Frank Iddiols

LIBRARY NEWS - April 2013.

Life in the library continues to be full of interest! We have had enquiries ranging from "Were the Strongs paid by the Marlboroughs for building work they did on Blenheim?" - Yes, but many were not, to "Was St Peters ever a royal peculiar?" - No, not even a non-royal peculiar!

We continue to publish and update our catalogues and indexes on the website. Do check them out if you have not already done so. Most of the books, maps and many journals are now catalogued and indexed for the first time in the history of the Society.

We have a new (to us) computer, thanks to the generosity of Bill Martin, and Malcolm Meyrick who set it up for us. This will considerably enhance the speed at which we are able to operate.

We have acquired a number of digitised copies of interesting documents and maps. Chief among our non digital new acquisitions must be a photograph of the Clock Tower. Dating from the 1850's, before the renovations, it is probably the earliest known photograph of St Albans. (See Chris Green's note on this on page 2). This is obviously a find of some importance, and we do thank Jon Mein whose eagle eye spotted it on Ebay.

Feeding on our phenomenally successful First World project, we hope to start a new research project in the autumn looking into the lives of nineteenth century members of our society. There are about 300 of them - who were they, what did they contribute to the community and what was their role and that of the society in nineteenth century St Albans? If you are interested in becoming involved in what promises to be a most interesting exercise with a view to eventual publication, do contact me, Gill Harvey Rrichardyo@aol.com in the first instance.



Talk 16 April 2013
The Boxmoor Trust
Peter Ablett

Photography by Frank Iddiols

Some Articles in new Journals which may be of interest.

Hertfordshire People. March 2013.

Hertfordshire Tithe Maps by Alan Ruston. pp 8-9
A Hertfordshire Heraldic Miscellany by John Tunesi of Liongam. pp 39-41

Guidelines. Feb 2013.

The Minton and Hollins Tiles in the Abbey, by Jane Kelsall pp 2-3. A brief history of the firm of Minton, later Minton and Hollins.

Fourteenth Century Grand Designs the Historical Context and Timeline by Stephen Potter pp 3-6. A historical insight into the argument on the royal heads in the nave.
Vaulting in the Cathedral by Richard Ridlington. The first of a two part article.

Alban Link Spring 2013.

Lets Look at the Ledgers, by Laurie Gibson pp 9-12. An examination of some of the Abbey ledgers, flat stones covering a grave.

The Royal Crests by Stephen Potter. pp 4-8. A look at the stone shields on the south nave arcade which are often missed.

Hertfordshire Past and Present. Spring 2013

This issue is an Arc and Arc bonanza! Three of the main articles are all by our members.

The Role of St Albans City Military Service Tribunal in the First World War, by Jon Mein and Anne Wares. pp 19-24. The light shown by the records on the social and economic history of the community during the war.

Golf in Hertfordshire 1890-1912 by Julie Moore. pp 25-29

King Aethelred's Land Grant of 1 Hide at Flamstead to St Albans Monastery AD 1005. Bounds centred upon Lybury Lane, Redbourn, by Victor S White pp 3-10

Gill Harvey

CLOCK TOWER REPORT

The first meeting of the newly reconstituted joint Clock Tower committee met on January 30th and consists of Donald Munro, Helen Bishop and Anthony Oliver for SAHAAS and Jill Singer, Peter Trevelyan and Dawn Wheeler for the Civic Society. John Thomson, now Treasurer for the Clock Tower account for both societies was also present and Simon West, Archaeologist and Museum Service Officer, who is responsible for the care the Clock Tower for the city council, is also ex-officio a member of the committee. It was a friendly, informal meeting at which we agreed a quorum of four, to meet twice a year, and to facilitate planning and communication between the two societies.

The Clockateers' party on March 1st was a very enjoyable evening attended by sixty six members and guests. We were very happy that St. Albans Mayor, Eileen Harris found time to come, as did Nicole Deufel, Audience Development Manager in the Museum service and Simon West. Dennis Owen, artist and architect, now in his ninetieth year, who was for so many years such a good friend and protector of the Clock Tower, also came to celebrate.

The Clock Tower played its part in the first St. Albans Film Festival in March, providing a rather ghoulish, surreal experience of the film-maker's art at the Clock Tower. This was linked to an excellent film being shown at the Boot across the way. On one of the coldest days of a cold winter, a steady stream of visitors came and enjoyed the experience. The Festival was directed by Leoni Kibbey and over three hundred and fifty films were submitted from thirty countries. The University of Hertfordshire provided many of the nearly a hundred volunteers and the Abbey is booked for bigger and better things next year.

Last of all, a very exciting piece of news! Jon Mein has discovered a very early photograph of the Clock Tower. Dated 1856, it may be the earliest photograph of the tower in existence, unless you know otherwise? We have bought it and hope to have a presentation about it in the Clock Tower on the Bank holiday weekend of May 4th to 6th. Thanks are due to Jon for this clever piece of work. (See also page 2)

As usual, I thank everyone who helps the Clock Tower in so many ways. The season has begun without problems.

Helen Bishop, SAHAAS Clock Tower Co-ordinator

SAHAAS ARTICLES IN THE HERTS ADVERTISER

Contributors wanted

Please consider whether YOU could write an article of, say, 700 words for the monthly SAHAAS feature that is appearing in the *Herts. Advertiser*.

Ann Wares' article, the last of the first six, will be published in June 2013. The next six pieces will take us through to the end of the year. Occasionally pieces have to be shunted back a week where there are pressures on editorial space.

Please send contribution etc. to me – Publicity Officer for onward submission to the HA.

John Cox,
johnge.cox@btinternet.com



Talk 5 February 2013
*Everyday Life of a London Shopkeeper
In the 18th Century*
Mike Rendell

Photography by Frank Iddiols

THE GREAT BED OF WARE AT WARE

Society Outing - 14th March 2013



Big! I expected it to be big but seeing the Great Bed of Ware in reality cannot but get the imagination going. The Bed was on loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum which was the result of a five-year campaign by the volunteers of Ware Museum. The campaign included a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Museum is to be congratulated on their assiduity and determination to return the Bed to Ware, albeit for a limited time.

Why on earth did someone build such an enormous bed? A Grand Tourer from the continent wrote that four couples could lie comfortably side by side without touching each other. We were told that people used to sleep semi-sitting, backed by the bolster and pillows we saw at the head of the bed. Sometimes, some people had their heads to the headboard and others their heads at the foot of the bed - all in the bed at the same time. Groups of couples used to come from London to Ware for 'jollification', planning to test the reputation of the size of the bed. No wonder that, over the centuries, the bed went from inn to inn up and down Ware High Street. It was obviously of great renown and drew the customers from far and wide and even mentioned in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

Research has shown that the bed was probably made in the 1590s. Flemish carvers came to this country at that time bringing with them, and making fashionable, the pattern of carving on the Bed.

The Great Bed hangings and coverings were impressive. The V & A had rigorously researched the weaving and dying techniques of the 1590s and reproduced gold and red drapes, linen sheets and beautifully embroidered pillow cases. On the side of the Bed was a display showing its structure.

In its heyday the Bed moved around between five inns: The White Hart, The George, The Crown, The Bull and the Saracen's Head. The final part of our outing was a walk up Ware High Street to see the site of each of the inns. It was of particular interest to see another town on a main Roman road about a day's journey by horse from London. As in St Albans, there were many inns competing for passing trade. Another similarity with St Albans was the way in which, in front of the original line of houses, market stalls had gradually been converted into proper shops so that there was a peninsular of shops between the houses and the street.

After seeing the Bed, we stepped through to a World War II bunker where we were shown artefacts from the Tudor period. We were shown how a jar with holes in its broad-based bottom would fill with water as it was dunked in a bucket, how the water would stay in the jar if a thumb covered the narrow opening at the top of the jar and then be released in a sprinkle from the bottom as the thumb was removed. The device reminded us that water was not on tap and needed to be used frugally. We were able to handle replica mugs made of horn and of leather, hear how they were made and feel how smooth they were. We could see close up a metal and horn lantern (originally lant-horn) the horn being so finely cut that the light shone through it and the metalwork intricately crafted. I had not realised how complicated it was to make a rush light that would last a decent length of time. The reed was dried so that a strip could be peeled back to reveal the pith. Then the reed was soaked so that when it was laid in hot fat the steam would escape and draw in the fat. It was interesting to see how cosy and becoming were the thick dark-green woollen jackets. It was laughable to feel the puffy padding in the short brocade silk trousers made for a rich boy and amazing to see the delicate and even stitching in the brocade dress made for a rich girl.

We can, of course, see the Great Bed of Ware at the V&A in due course but it was illuminating to see it in its context of popular inns in a bustling town. Thank you, Pat Howe, for organising such an interesting and memorable outing for us.

Kate Bretherton

FIRST WORLD WAR PROJECT - UPDATE

We are three months into the project and progressing well. There are now 18 of us and so we are definitely working on a larger study of the Home Front in St Albans. The Military Tribunal itself, its structure, duties and members, is still a major focus, but at present we are also studying the Conscientious Objectors, and the three most important trades in the City, straw hats, printing and boots and clothing. Four second year students from the Public History Department at the University of Hertfordshire took part in the project for six weeks this term as part of their course.

A description of the Tribunals has appeared in the latest issue of *Herts Past & Present*, and we have been making presentations about the project at several local and family history events. We will be mapping the Abbey street memorials on History Pin (www.historypin.com) an interacting global history web site.

If you have questions or information please email us at: www1mt@stalbanhistory.org

Jon Mein & Anne Wares

OUTING TO BISHOPS STORTFORD Wednesday 19th June, 2013

A guided tour of the town led by a member of the Local History Society starting at 10.30 am and lasting no more than 2 hours.

Free time for lunch.

Followed by a guided tour of the Museum starting at 2.00 pm led by the Curator lasting about 1 hour.

The charge for this will be £2.00 per person which will be collected on the day.

Details of the route and parking will be sent by email about 1 week before.

Book your place with Pat Howe by email pathowe@talk21.com.

FREDERICK G. KITTON (1856-1904)

Described as a Hertfordshire artist in *Hertfordshire Countryside*, I have resurrected a project that I began more than 40 years ago. My research shows that Mr. Kitton, who was born in Norwich, went to London c.1879 where he was apprenticed to *The Graphic*, a weekly newspaper. He then came to live in St. Albans about 1888 where he published drawings and text which were published in the *Herts Advertiser*, as well as writing and/or editing 13 books on Charles Dickens who died in 1870. He was elected to our Society in 1897, was Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Hertfordshire County Museum as well as illustrating Charles Ashdown's *St. Albans: historical and picturesque*, 1893. If any member has any original illustrations or knows of any in existence please contact me on 01727 857827. Thanks.

John Cox



Talk - 9 April 2013
*Role of Herts Building
Preservation Trust*
Dorothy Able Smith

ARMY REMOUNT DEPOT – A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.



Part of the research I did for my book on the River Ver included trying to find information on the above photo taken at Sopwell House during WWI which became a Remount Depot for Army horses. The War Office, on behalf of the regular artillery, requisitioned horses from their owners – around £30 for a troop horse and £70 for an officer’s charger. These animals played a vital role in the victory of the allied armed forces. A total of eight million horses, mules and donkeys died during the War, around two million from Britain, many as horrifically as the soldiers whose life often depended on them.

Royal Engineer shoeing staff were trained locally by the local Park Street blacksmith Herbert Martin during the war. Upset by the rough way the horses were sometimes treated by the soldiers he chose to join the navy. These soldiers would have been farriers to the horses of the Remount Depot at Sopwell, just down the river as well as using their newly taught skills on the battle field.

During WWI, the stables behind the Red Lion Inn near the river at Park Street were used by the Army to accommodate their horses and mules and would have been connected to the blacksmiths and remount depot at Sopwell. It would have been a short journey along the river for the horses from Sopwell to the blacksmiths in Burydell Lane and the Red Lion.

I am looking for more information and photos of the local Remount Depots, especially Sopwell and St Albans (there may have been more in the area as the requisition of horses was country wide), also any information on the River Ver and its surroundings during the two world wars.

I can be contacted on riverver@btinternet.com or via the Arc & Arc.

Jacqui Banfield-Taylor

Signed copies of *The River Ver a Meander through Time* are available by contacting the above and can be delivered free locally.



Talk - 12 February 2013
An Anatomy of the British House
 Philippa Lewis

Photography by Frank Iddiols

LOOK! ST ALBANS - CITY DESIGN STEERING GROUP

The *Look! St Albans design codes report* document was presented to the public at an open meeting at Dagnall Street Baptist Church on Wednesday 20th March. The meeting was well attended, and, though a somewhat chaotic meeting, in the end there was support for the continuation of the Steering Group in some form.

This is a complex process, the background and rationale for which I reported in some detail in the previous *Newsletter*. A sub-Group has prepared a draft Constitution which is currently under consideration.

What is envisaged is Look! St Albans as a locally representative body being able to engage with developers in the current regulatory planning "black hole", acting in a parallel, separate, yet sympathetic process to that of the Council in workshops with landowners, proposed developers and their architects. Look! St Albans is not a statutory consultee and a *Memorandum of Understanding*, separate from the Constitution, needs to be established with the Council.

It is clear that the Council leaders favour the development of Look! as something that may help avoid uncertainty of planning outcome and unnecessary cost. If developers think engaging with Look! will increase their chance of success they will do it. Engagement with Look! would have 'community weight' and would also give a developer added 'commercial weight' by increasing their chances of success with a formal planning application.

I am very pleased to report that Sue Howard, a Town Planner with several years past experience with the SADC has answered my appeal for planning expertise from amongst the SAHAAS membership. Although recently joined, Sue has already proved an invaluable asset to the Society and to the Steering Group with her highly pertinent comments and observations in picking the way through this detailed and complicated field. Several of these are freely adapted in the previous paragraphs. Thank you Sue.

Donald Munro, President

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM 2013

This year's Symposium which is being hosted by SAHAAS will be held on **Saturday, 2 November** at Abbots Hill School, Hemel Hempstead. The main house was originally known as "Nash Mills" and was the home of Sir John Evans, one of our 19th century members, whose archaeological finds are now displayed in the galleries of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The topic for 2013 is *Traditional Building Materials* and will include Professor Martin Biddle (tile from the Chapter House); Pam Ward, an architect specialising in church and historic buildings who will talk about flint and Totternhoe Stone; Robin Harcourt Williams (Brick building of Hatfield House); Helen Gibson (timber framed buildings).

Application forms for society members will be distributed with the August 2013 Newsletter.

Enquires to John Cox, Publicity Officer SAHAAS, and Hon. Secretary of HALH – web site: <http://www.stalbanshistory.org>

johnge.cox@btinternet.com



Talk 12 March 2013

Spies in the Sky

Taylor Downing (left) with Roy Bratby

Photography by Frank Iddiols

ST ALBANS NEW MUSEUM AND GALLERY PROJECT

You will all likely be aware through the local press that the SADC has not been successful in its Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant towards moving the Museum of St Albans (MoSTA) into the Old Town Hall. SADC have decided very quickly to re-apply in August, and are making noises as if their new application is pretty well bound to succeed. The SADC optimism is apparently based on conversations with Heritage Lottery Fund representatives, and an upbeat letter from their consultant advisors. Advisory Group members have had very little information about the detailed reasons for refusal, nor about what changes may be required. The only information we have seen so far is the letter of refusal, and the letter from Jura Consultants. The former is a seemingly stock response and very similar letters will have gone to many other failed applicants; the latter attributes refusal to lack of funds, and that aspects need to be developed. Competition again will be very fierce.

SAHAAS gave guarded support to the original application. I should say however that many in Council do still have considerable misgivings about the viability of the project and the suitability of the Town Hall building. We wish to see information about the changes required and how these may affect the overall project. One of our caveats was that the scheme seeks to put too much into a limited space, and there is a growing feeling that the Museum elements may be becoming subsidiary to Art Gallery requirements.

There is still some regret in Council that more serious consideration was not given to renovating MoSTA behind the existing façade, where there is space to build a flexible extension with garden untrammelled by the restrictions of a Grade II* listed building. An iconic modern extension imaginatively featuring the prime facets of the St Albans "story" (Francis Bacon, Horticulture, Chronology, etc.) could in itself be a real draw, to the benefit of the top end of St Peter Street where SADC has major concerns over the existing "footfall".

The big problem of course is funding. And the game in town is the proposed move to the Town Hall. Should a second HLF application fail however (and we do not know that success is certain), this might be an

alternative way forward. Oh for an Albanian benefactor with the interest, imagination and pockets deep enough to take on such a plan. St Albans reputedly has many very wealthy financial and business residents. Have we an aspirational Getty wishing to leave their mark for posterity on St Albans?

We have yet to speak in detail to Lesli Good, but SADC are aware that SAHAAS Library will have to be taken into the overall equation for the Town Hall project. Our agreement about the Judge's Robing Room where the Library is housed states that should the SADC require the room for any other purpose Council may give 6 months notice to relocate "to another room/rooms within the premises or to another building in ownership of the Council".

Your Council wishes to be sure that its thoughts and concerns over this major project indeed reflect those of our members. I would be pleased to hear from you with any comments that you may have on these questions.

Donald Munro, President



Talk 5 March 2013
Sue Flood with Roy Bratby
The Grenfells of Hertfordshire

Photography by Frank Iddiols

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2013

Tuesday 14 May

'St Albans Canal'

Jon Mein and Frank Iddiols

It comes as a surprise to many that a canal linking St Albans to the wider world came close to being built in the 1790s. With the great and the good mobilized to support the project, extensive - and expensive - work was carried out in support of the necessary Act of Parliament. To great relief '*An Act for making and extending a navigable Cut from the town of Watford...to the town of St. Alban*' received Royal Assent in July 1795.

Then nothing happened. This talk explores the successes and failures of the canal's promoters. It also describes the proposed route and considers the likely effects on the town and its neighbourhood if it had been built.

Friday 31 May

Mr Lancelot Brown and his Hertfordshire Clients

Helen Leiper

This talk introduces Lancelot Brown and looks at his contribution to the creation of a number of Hertfordshire parks and gardens during the eighteenth century, including the speaker's recent research on Cole Green Park for William, second Earl Cowper. It will also look at who his other clients were and at some of the reasons they may have wanted a landscape park as a setting for their Hertfordshire homes.

FOR SALE SOPWELL LANE ST ALBANS

Historic Grade II listed cottage, believed to be one of the oldest surviving houses in St Albans dating back to late 1500s. This small but perfectly formed three storey house retains many period features, including exposed beams, exposed brickwork, open fireplaces and ornamental gas lamps, and benefits from a lovely 100' garden offering scope for extension subject to the relevant permissions. *Refitted kitchen* Lounge *2 first floor bedrooms * First floor bathroom *2nd floor loft bedroom with breathtaking beams!

For more info and to request a viewing please call Sole Agents 'Martin Treasure' on 01727 844330.

www.martintreasure.co.uk



SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

By the time you receive this newsletter it will be nearly the end of the Society's financial year and this note is a reminder that subscriptions are due and payable on 1 June for the financial year 2013/14. The level of subscriptions currently in force is:

Individual member	£12
The spouse or partner of a member, living at the member's address	£6
Children of a member under the age of 18, living at the member's address	£6
Students who provide evidence that they are in full time further or higher education	£6
Family membership	£21

For those of you who have direct debits in place, you do not need to do anything; your subscription will automatically be collected from your bank account on 1 June. For those not signed up to the direct debit system, please reconsider whether you wish to do this. I highly recommend that you do so.

The appropriate form can be obtained from me (phone 07711 696 417) or from our membership secretary David Smith (phone 01767 260 579) and you should return the completed form to me.

For those of you who do not pay by direct debit, please send a cheque for your subscription to our membership secretary, David Smith. If you still pay by standing order, please ensure that your instructions to your bank give the correct level of subscription with payment on the correct date, 1 June. Please also cancel all old standing orders as they will make payments of the wrong amount and at the wrong date and may lead to a double payment. This will lead to administrative problems for us both.

For those of you who pay tax at least at the standard rate can pay your subscription under Gift Aid. Doing so will mean that the Society will receive an additional 25% on top of your subscription at no cost to you. If you have not already signed a Gift Aid declaration please contact me (phone 07711 696 417) for the appropriate form, which again should be returned to me on completion.

If you have any concerns you wish to discuss with me, please call me on 07711 696 417.

John Thomson
Treasurer

MISS ELIZABETH BRETT - ANNOUNCEMENT

On the Eve of going to print we heard of the passing of our member, Miss Elizabeth Brett, who had been currently living at Fosse House Care Home, St Albans. Until then she lived in New England Street, St Albans and became a member in 1983 supporting the Society and being a Clockateer until her frailty in recent years.

Some of the membership will remember her father, Alderman J H (Bertie) Brett one time Mayor of the town and President of our Society from 1962 – 1971. He was instrumental in obtaining the use of an old mews cottage in Victoria Street in 1970 belonging to the Council which became the Society's 'home', and which was named the Brett Centre, until it was demolished in 1986.

The funeral arrangements of Miss Brett are not yet known, but will be posted on the website.