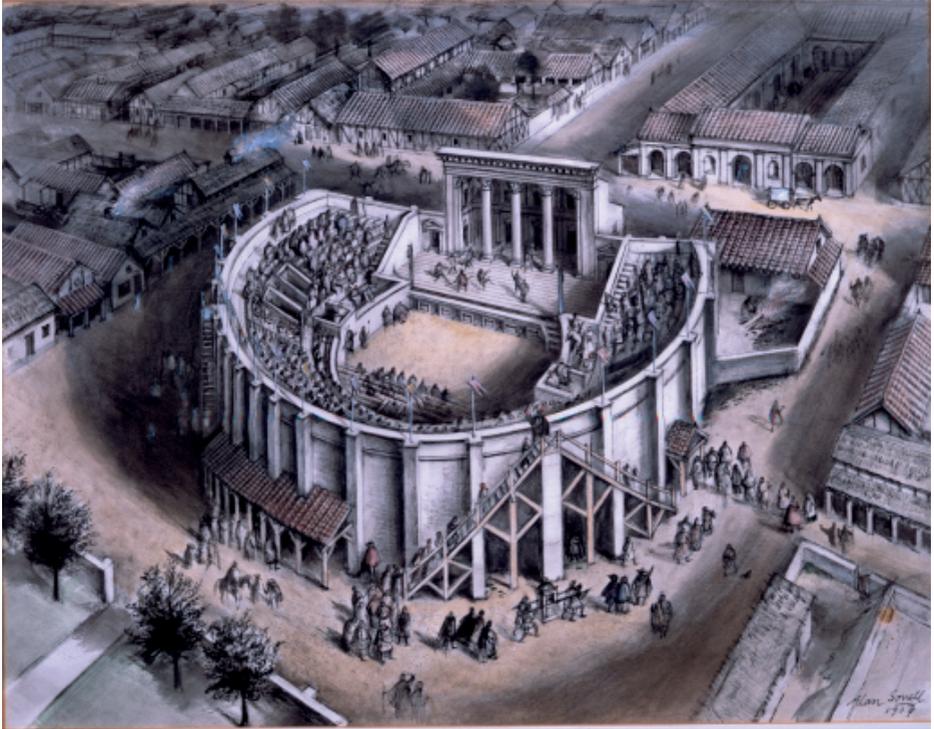




ST ALBANS & HERTFORDSHIRE  
ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER 204 May 2017



*Alan Sorrell representation of Verulamium Roman Theatre  
(drawn 1967)*

*Reproduction courtesy of St Albans Museums*

Some items included in this issue:

President's Message  
Annual General Meeting  
SAHAAS Publications

Visit to the Samuel Pepys Library  
SAHAAS Library  
Verulamium - New Discovery

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## BILLY MINTER

Billy Minter played football for St Albans City. In 362 games he scored 356 goals. His most famous goal scoring feat did not result in a win. In a 1922 FA Cup replay against Dulwich Hamlet, Billy scored 7 (seven) goals but the Saints still succumbed to a 8-7 loss. Billy's seven goal tally in that game remains as the highest recorded score by an individual on the losing side of an FA Cup tie.

Billy was born and died in St Albans, working and then taking over his father's shop.

He died at the age of 86 in 1984 and is buried at London Road cemetery but in an unmarked grave. SAFC historian David Tavener has now launched a campaign to give Billy a headstone. You can read more and contribute at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/billyminter>



Photo Herts Advertiser

**Sandy Walkington**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I do not know of another heritage society such as ours, which puts on a programme of more than 29 historical lectures and, in addition, organises outings, runs an ever-more important local history library, produces four news-letters annually, shares responsibility for the Clock Tower and organises social events. Thanks are due to all who contribute so enthusiastically to all these activities. In particular we give the Society's grateful thanks to Doreen and Roy Bratby who have, over the last sixteen years, put together a lecture programme of excellence for us. The results of their dedication and hard work have been fascinating and informative. Many people who are interested in local history come first to lectures to listen, and have then gone on to further involvement with the Society. We wish Doreen and Roy an enjoyable next stage of life – I will not say 'retirement' – but may be life without so much pressure.

Kate Harwood has just delivered for us a programme of six workshops on historic gardens, the first time our library at Sandridge Gate has been used for such a purpose. She is a nationally recognised expert in her field and we thank her for this



extension of the Society's activities which we hope to develop further. We also thank Liz Rolfe for managing the programme.

Two important occasions occur in June. The first on Friday 9 June is another quiz and supper night in the beautiful setting of Kingsbury Barn to raise funds towards the completion of the new museum and gallery for St Albans. If you haven't already contacted Val Argue for tickets, either to bring a team of eight or to come as an individual or as a smaller group, please do this before tickets run out (*See page 29 for details*). Thanks to our excellent quiz master, Alan Hobson, we shall have an enjoyable and challenging evening. While on the subject of fund-raising, I congratulate Ann Dean, Jane Kelsall, Peter Burley

and Jon Mein for giving the recent Big Events lectures which have raised over £1,600 for the museum project.

The second event in June is our commemoration, jointly with the Abbey, of the losses of the Hertfordshire Regiment at Passchendaele in 1917. This is to be at Evensong at 4pm on Saturday 17 June in the Lady Chapel at the Abbey. I thank John Cox for the research he has done to make this possible and for his excellent article in the spring edition of *Herts Past & Present*. We hope to show the Lord Lieutenant's short DVD about life in Hertfordshire in the First World

War. I encourage as many of you who are able, to come to acknowledge the sacrifice of the local men and their families.

Congratulations to Kris Lockyear for the recent award from University College London (*see page 6*).

Enjoy the summer months.

Best wishes

**Helen Bishop**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Mr Steve & Mrs Helen Wyler, St Albans  
Dr Christopher Knowles, St Albans  
Mr Ken Barker, London Colney  
Mrs Julia Grace Low, St Albans  
Mrs Judy Jowett, St Albans  
Mrs Dominica & Miss Ella Proudlock, St Albans  
Mr Douglas Parkin, St Albans  
Dr Maria Musto, Wheathampstead  
Miss Emma Jeffery, St Albans

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

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place on Tuesday 12 September, with the main objectives of:-

- a) Electing a new Council.
- b) Receiving reports from the President and Group Leaders of the Society's activities over the past year, and our plans for the future.
- c) Receiving a report from the Treasurer and presentation of the accounts for financial year 2016/17.

Our current President's term of office comes to an end at this AGM, although all other members of Council are willing to stand for re-election. A list of current members of Council is published overleaf. However, if you wish to nominate any member for a position on Council, please do advise me accordingly. All such nominations must be with the agreement of the nominee, in writing, and seconded by another member, and must be received by me by the end of July.

If you have any other items that you wish to be raised, could I please ask you to advise me accordingly, again by the end of July.

The official proceedings will be followed by a lecture given by Louise Fowler with the subject *The Anatomy Act 1832 and the Royal London Burial Ground*.

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

## MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Bryan Hanlon	Hon. Secretary
David Moore	Hon. Treasurer
Patricia Broad	Publications
Mike Carey	Clock Tower (jointly)
John Cox	Publicity Officer
Maggy Douglas	Minutes Secretary
Roderick Douglas	Webmaster
David Girdziusz	Chairman, Programme Development Committee
Gill Girdziusz	Lecture Secretary
Pat Howe	17 <sup>th</sup> Century Research Group
Caroline Howkins	Clock Tower (jointly)
John Humphreys	Newsletter Editor
Frank Iddiols	Technical Officer
Christine McDermott	Representative, Herts Archaeology and History
Jonathan Mein	First World War Home Front Project
Roger Miles	Archaeology Group
Donald Munro	Library
David Smith	Membership Secretary

### Retiring May 2017

Doreen Bratby	Lecture Secretary
Roy Bratby	Chairman, Programme Development Committee

## CONGRATULATIONS

Kris Lockyear, leader of the *Community Archaeology Geophysics Group*, which has undertaken surveys on 21 sites in the region including Verulamium, has been awarded the University College London Provost's Award for Public Engagement 2017 in the established researcher category. Kris stated that he saw the award as an acknowledgment of the success of the group as a whole. The work of the group, which has been supported by the Arc and Arc from the outset and includes several of our members, can be seen at [hertsgeosurvey.wordpress.com](http://hertsgeosurvey.wordpress.com).



Photo © Frank Iddiols

## PUBLICATIONS REPORT

We are making steady progress on a publishing strategy, style guides and other guidance for authors. We have also been stocktaking and have updated the Society's publications list; see pages 30-31 for a summary.

We are pleased to report that Chris Green's forthcoming book *The Old Town Hall: St Albans* should be ready for publication this summer, following recent delays due to budgetary constraints. The book tells the fascinating history of the Town Hall over 200 years, describing the changing purpose of the building and how these changes led to new building works. More details will follow shortly.

Later we expect to launch the Society's new pamphlet series. This has been on the back burner for some time and we are looking forward to publishing the first pamphlet as soon as resources permit. We are developing ideas for further publications and plan to involve members in that process.

Our Twitter site now has more than 150 followers. It is proving to be a useful source of information about local history research, publications and events – as well as many First World War Home Front research projects.

**Patricia Broad**  
**Publications Committee**

### LIFE THEN AND NOW

*Herts Express* newspaper, 1 June 1861 page 3

St Albans

Mend our ways: a portion of our public streets, after having been opened for the purpose of supplying larger water and gas pipes, are left in a state which is a discredit to those concerned with it; for instead of the earth being pressed down tight, firm and solid, and made level with the other portion of the road, it is left rough, loose and unsightly, rendering it unsafe to horse and man, and the more so after dark. Surely this job ought not to be so left.



## LIBRARY REPORT

Life in the library continues very busy with further accommodation planning and sorting of the Beardsmore Collection. We are moving towards a resolution of the various computer and Library Management System needs. Kate Harwood's Garden History Seminar was very successfully hosted in the Library space in March and April.

### Library computing and hardware.

*SAHAAS local networking.* After several attempts it is clear that secure local networking (i.e. within the SAHAAS Library) is not possible via the SADC public Wi-Fi, and hardwiring and switching in the age of laptops is impractical. Alternative ways of making SAHAAS text and image files available on more than one machine are being considered. Huge thanks to Malcolm Merrick for his advice and research on this; and also for his very useful work in optimising the capabilities of our existing computers – at minimal cost.

### Library Management System (LMS).

SAHAAS Council agreed in April that we should migrate the Library Catalogue from *Heritage* to a *Soutron Solo Library and Archives Management*

*System.* This will be a major and profile-raising step forward for the Society.

Given the recent qualitative expansion in Library holdings, the single administrator user of *Heritage* has been a major brake on making the library available to the membership and the wider world. An upgrade is essential. To catalogue, publicise and make our holdings widely accessible we require

- an On-line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) with at least two administrator users
- and, ideally, a Cloud-Hosted LMS (hosting removes the worry for us of providing and maintaining OPAC server hardware).

We considered a shortlist of three alternatives. To upgrade *Heritage* to the above capability would be prohibitively expensive. *Soutron* offers a hosted OPAC management system with three administrator users which can be closely tailored to our needs. It allows us 30,000 records, with templates for printed, archival and image materials; and we have considerable input into how our finished pages will

look – all this at a price much less than the minimal upgrade in *Heritage*. Feedback from libraries using the system has been very positive. I believe the *Soutron* combined Library and Archive package will suit us very well, and very much help affirm our role as a significant resource for the historical study of the St Albans area and Hertfordshire generally.

During the catalogue migration period (4-6 weeks, hopefully started by the time you read this) it will be essential to have all our records checked to make sure all the data has come over. Volunteers will help check data and "out of library hours" sessions will be organised to press along with this. System training will also be arranged as group sessions in May/June.

The Library Volunteer group has been contacted already, but if any recently joined member is interested in helping check data transferred, please contact me on [djmunro@hotmail.com](mailto:djmunro@hotmail.com). Thank you.

**Reorganisation of the Library Room Space.** Frank Iddiols has completed construction of the lockable storage area. He also found us extraordinarily cheaply a flat five drawer map

cabinet, which he has fitted under the map table. We are expecting a 9' x 6' x 10" bookcase from the library of JT Smith. This will be placed along the wall of the storage area facing into the room.

**Beardsmore Collection** books have been checked for duplicates, and we are now going through the pamphlets. We are liaising with the City Museums on all this. We are also considering ways of disposing of the unwanted but better quality duplicates, etc. A list of items of local interest will be circulated to SAHAAS members.

**Parking** is a continuing problem. At a Sandridge Gate Tenants' meeting in March some progress was made and steps agreed to help ameliorate this. Currently cones are placed on up to six parking bays in front of the building on Wednesday and Friday mornings. SAHAAS visitors should move a cone back to the pavement and park in the cleared space. Ring the SAHAAS bell push on the entrance door if you need help.

**SAHAAS Library Research Bulletin.** The Library staff intend to provide an e-news current awareness service covering recent publications and

archival news for the benefit of interested local researchers. Jon Mein will organise. *See highlighted box on p.13.*

### **SAHAAS Journals Database update.**

The July edition of the database will be posted on the website towards the end of June. Along with the usual details of articles published in the last six months, we have several other updates to report. Thanks to John Ridge, the new edition will include more detailed descriptions of county archaeology bulletins published in the 1970s. Also, due to recent acquisitions, we show our more extensive collections of *Hertfordshire Countryside* magazine and the *Transactions of the East Herts Archaeological Society*.

The Society's thanks again go to an enthusiastic hard-working library team and associates.

**Donald Munro**  
**Librarian**

### **LIBRARY NOTES**

Preoccupation with housing and assimilating the books and pamphlets from the Cathedral's Beardsmore collection, and planning for a new computer system has meant that few books have been catalogued recently, and only one is noted for this issue. As we catalogue the Beardsmore mate-

rial in the next few months the most interesting and curious items will be noted here.

### **New acquisitions**

*Women's work in industrial England: regional and local perspectives*, edited by Nigel Goose. Hatfield: Local Population Studies, 2007. 402p, maps, tables, bibliog, and index.

The editor contributes Chapter 5, 'The straw plait and hat trades in 19<sup>th</sup> century Hertfordshire', pp 97-137. The industry was concentrated in the south-west of the county, and provided a significant contribution to household income. Statistics of the trade are examined.

### **Recent journal articles**

In *Herts Past and Present* Spring 2017 Pp 2-7 'Hertfordshire men at Passchendaele, 1917', by John Cox. The first battalion of the Hertfordshires, a Territorial regiment, served in France from 1914 to 1918. It sustained dreadful casualties, particularly at the third battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele. Centenary events take place in July and in the autumn of this year.

Pp 8-10 'In search of "My Lord" Salisbury: the story behind a self-publishing venture in local history', by Nicky Webster. The author researched her book on the life of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquess

of Salisbury (1791-1868). She describes tackling the Hatfield House archives, writing the book and publishing it herself.

Pp 11-17 'William Cecil, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Salisbury: the education of a nobleman', by Alan Thomson. William (1591-1668) was the son of Queen Elizabeth's First Minister, Robert Cecil, but did not rise to high office like his father. His education is examined in an attempt to find out why this was so. Despite his education, he was known as a "hunting" earl, too dominated by his father and not given to independent thought.

Pp 18-20 "'Plenty of punch and good company": bringing local history to life'. An account of a production in 2016 of this dramatisation of the life of Bramfield farmer, John Carrington, based on his diary.

Pp 21-26 'The enclosure of the Manor of Barnet, 1818: a new publication of the Hertfordshire Record Society', by Susan Flood. The author shows how the enclosure award provides a valuable snapshot of the Barnet locality in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and how the decisions made at that time changed the landscape for ever, paving the way for urban development later in the century. (Author abstract, amended).

Pp 27-29 'Local history essay competition', by Julie Moore. Hertfordshire Association for Local History and Hertfordshire University ran an essay competition in 2016 on the theme of railways in Hertfordshire and their effect on the county. Three essays were received; on Knebworth, by Ann Judge, the winner; on Lemsford, by Andy Chapman; and on Croxley Green, by Margaret Pomfret.

In *The Alban Link*, Spring 2017 p 4 -7 'Brother Thomas Roccliffe and the Alban Bun', by Stephen da Silva. The Alban bun is said to be the ancestor of today's hot cross bun. It is reputed to have been first served to the poor of St Albans by Brother Roccliffe, a monk attached to the Abbey refectory in 1361.

Pp 8-11 'The war shrine movement in St Albans 1914-22', by Jonathan Mein. All churches faced the problem of recognising the contribution of men from their parishes who served in the First World War. Some published simple lists of names, others Rolls of Honour. Some of these in St Albans evolved, from 1916, into more elaborate shrines in public places. Those of the Abbey parish are well-known and most have survived; those of other parishes have not.

## RECORDS OF THE 1924 ST ALBANS HOUSING SURVEY

The promise of 'homes fit for heroes' was just what many soldiers wanted to hear as they returned to civilian life at the end of the First World War. However, various problems curbed any immediate wholesale improvement to the nation's housing stock. In 1924, concerned by the lack of local progress, the Bishop of St Albans initiated a survey of workers' housing in the city to shine a light on the problem.

The extensive records of the survey are in the St Albans City archive at HALS under references SBR/3580/1-32. They consist of the report itself together with a completed form for each of the properties surveyed. The forms typically record details of ownership, sanitation and state of repair. They are bundled together in 24 surviving files each covering the street(s) in which the properties were located. While the surveyors mostly concentrated on the city's medieval core, they also assessed more recent developments, on Bernards Heath for

example. This was for comparative purposes.

There is an opportunity here for anyone with an interest in social history to review the importance of the survey. The archive will also attract researchers looking at the development of their own house or street.

Thanks to the labours of John Cox, the Society's Publicity Officer, we have photocopies in our library of the report and over 250 of the survey forms from about ten of the street files. John also copied several articles from the *Herts Advertiser*. These record the publication of the report by the survey team, the response of the City Council and the fractious exchange of views between the two parties. Val Argue's notes about housing in the city, originally prepared for the Home Front project, are also available.

To find out more about the survey, do pop into the Society's Library or e-mail: [library@stalbanhistory.org](mailto:library@stalbanhistory.org)

**Jonathan Mein**

## SAHAAS LIBRARY RESEARCH BULLETIN

We have been musing about how best to disseminate the many snippets of information we receive in the library. For example, updates of recent acquisitions at HALS, new sources of primary material relating to the county's history, notices of important events, etc. These tend not to suit our existing ways of transmitting material, e.g. the Newsletter or the website.

Instead we are launching a new e-mail-based system for members which will work along the same lines as the Society's existing e-news system. We anticipate sending no more than two messages a month.

So, if you are a researcher or are thinking of doing some research, do e-mail Tony Cooper at [library@stalbanhistory.org](mailto:library@stalbanhistory.org) and we will add you to the list. You can always 'unsubscribe' from the system as and when you want.

**Library Team**

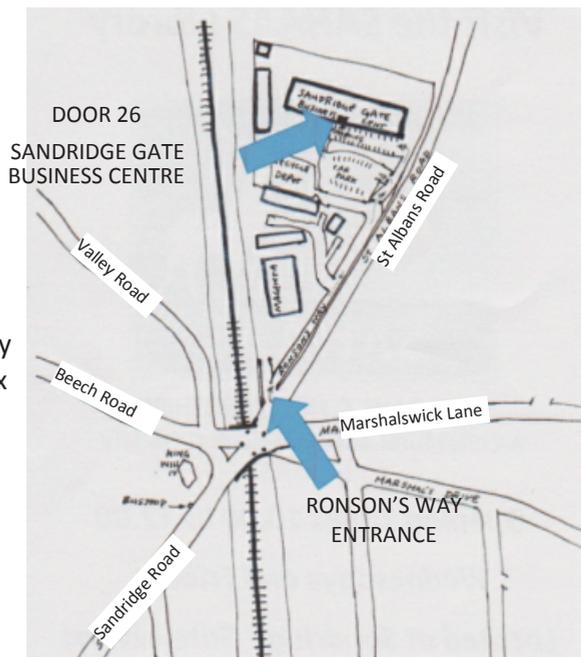
## LIBRARY DIRECTIONS

The SAHAAS library is located at:  
Sandridge Gate Business Centre  
Ronsons Way  
St Albans  
AL4 9XR

Enter through the door 26 midway  
along the Sandridge Gate complex

Opening Times 10.00 to 12.00  
Wednesdays and Fridays

*Map drawn by Frank Iddiols*



## CLOCK TOWER REPORT

The Clockateers' Party on the 31<sup>st</sup> March was held again at the Verulamium Museum which always has a special, warm and welcoming ambiance to it in the evening. The party was well attended and gave us a chance to thank our cleaners, Russell and David, for their 20 years of service by presenting them with a certificate, voucher and large box of chocolates. The lucky winners of this year's prize draw were Barbara Beal and Alan Parker both of whom were presented with a £25 M&S voucher by The Right Worshipful, Mayor of St Albans City and District, Councillor Frances Leonard. The Mayor gave a brief speech in which she thanked the Civic Society and SAHAAS for providing Clockateers for the past 40 years.

The Clock Tower opened up for the first time for the county organised, Big Weekend on 1 and 2 April. Our new, double-sided flag made its first appearance at this opening and, along with the lovely sunny weather, helped to make it the very busy weekend it turned out to be; although the private guided tour that we offered for the ballot was not particularly well attended. We had offered a total of 20 tickets over the two days in the online ballot. But although the tickets were oversubscribed by people wanting



*Caroline Howkins, Mayor Leonard, Mike Carey, Helen Bishop with our new double-sided flag.*

to go on the tours, the Big Weekend organisers only allocated 17. Each ticket was for two people and a total of 34 people could have turned up. As it was, only 12 winners claimed their tour. It may be that people do not value tickets if they are given to them for free?

The Mayor officially opened the St Albans Clock Tower on Good Friday, with the 6½lb, iron, ceremonial, replica key – which is becoming a bit of a tradition! Only a matter of hours later, the former Mayor (2014/15), Geoff Harrison was on duty at



*Mayor Leonard officially opens the Clock Tower on Good Friday.*

the Clock Tower to welcome visitors, followed the next day by fellow Clockateer, the former Mayor (2007/08), Kate Morris who handed over to the former Mayor (2003/04), Jenny Stroud.

Mayor Leonard was the first visitor of the season to climb the 93 stone steps to the top of the Tower to enjoy the magnificent views. On her way back down she stopped off to study the exhibition about the home front in St Albans during the First World War, currently on display on the first floor. The exhibition is based on the book "St Albans: Life on the Home

Front, 1914-1918" researched and written by members of SAHAAS. Mayor Leonard was particularly interested in a photo of a former Mayor (1915/17), James Flint wearing the Mayoral chain. The current chain was presented to the city around 1885 by the then Mayor Mr. Monkton White and the names of all Mayors since that date, including that of James Flint, are inscribed on the small shields attached to the chain,

We are always looking for new volunteers to join the roster of Clockateers. Manning the Clock Tower for one of the sessions over Saturday or Sunday with another Clockateer is a fun and interesting way to meet new people and talk to the diverse range of tourists who visit our city. If you would like to volunteer, please do contact Mike Carey or Caroline Howkins (via the e-mail: [clocktower@stalbanhistory.org](mailto:clocktower@stalbanhistory.org)).

The Tower is now open for every weekend and bank holiday until the end of September. As always, Mike and I would like to thank all the Clockateers for giving their time to keep the Clock Tower open for the public to enjoy.

**Caroline Howkins & Mike Carey**

Photos ©Andy Lawrence

## IN AND AROUND THE CLOCK TOWER

Visitors to St Albans Clock Tower this year will be able to view an exhibition by the Society about St Albans during the First World War.

The exhibition will be in the room on the first floor of the Tower and is, in fact, the display that some of you may have seen when it was exhibited in St Albans Cathedral in late last year.

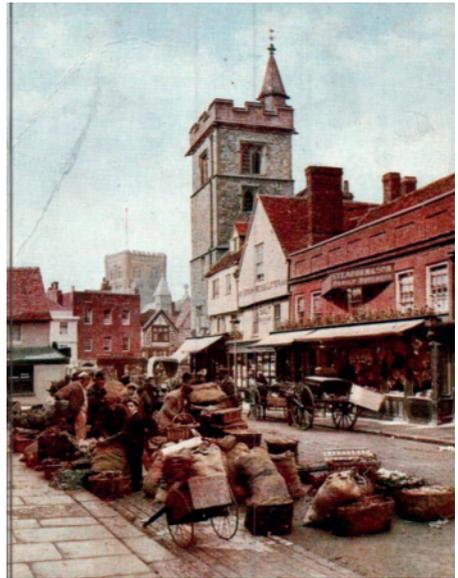
There is a new panel introducing the exhibition, which will be on the ground floor. It includes two lovely images of the Clock Tower from the war and post-war period.

As part of the exhibition, new information sheets have been compiled providing insights into the lives and livelihoods of some of those who worked around the Clock Tower and events that took place in the vicinity during the war years. Visitors are invited to take this information with them as they climb the tower and, from the vantage point of the roof, see how many shops and pubs they can recognise now and then.

One of those 'now and then' businesses was Steabben & Son butchers in Market Place (pictured) where the Trailfinders travel agency is today. We have not been able to identify all the 'then' occupants of

this historic part of the town so if you have time to visit the exhibition and have information to add, do please let us know: e-mail: [homefront@stalbanhistory.org](mailto:homefront@stalbanhistory.org) - or visit the website where the information sheet can be found in the 'Home Front' section – [www.stalbanshistory.org](http://www.stalbanshistory.org)

**Sue Mann**



This postcard may be older but was sent on 6 March 1916 by Marjorie J. Danberry of 34 London Road to a friend in Dorset writing: 'I have been to London for the weekend and have brought back my cakes and biscuits – thank you so much for making them, they are delicious. We are having snow again today, when we thought it was well over; I hope it's better at Parkstone'. Image: © Sue Mann

## THOMAS KINDER'S CHEQUER STREET BREWERY

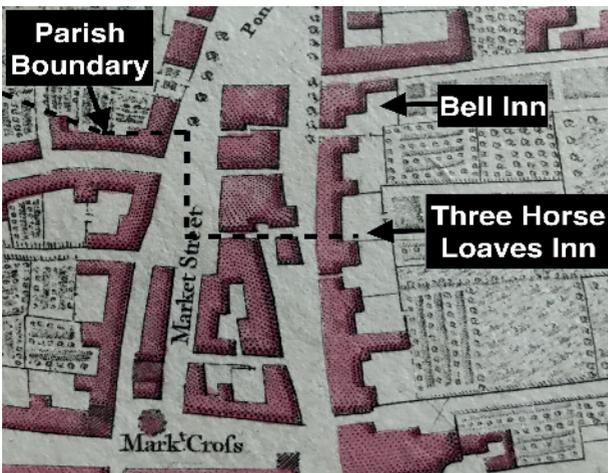
In 1822 Thomas Kinder mortgaged, amongst other properties, a brewery in the middle of St Albans. The properties which stood on the site of the brewery prior to its being built can be identified.

The brewery stretched along today's Chequer Street from Sweetbriar Lane (Victoria Street) down to the boundary between the St Peter and Abbey parishes, the area now occupied by the Malting Shopping Centre. It was opened by Kinder's father and the first beer brewed in January 1777.

In 1747, the site of the future brewery was occupied by six contiguous properties, five of which were, or became, inns or alehouses. At either end of the

line of six properties stood an inn. At the northern end was the Bell Inn, formerly called the Blew Bell Inn. At the southern end was the Three Horse Loaves Inn, which spanned the parish boundary (see map). The parish boundary runs through the gateway, on the south side of what is currently Jamie's Italian Restaurant, which leads from Chequer Street through to the Maltings. On the southern side of the Bell Inn was a house, occupied by William Marston, baker. Next to this two alehouses, the Three Gloves and the Sun, formerly called the Pye, afterwards the Cock and Pye.

The Bell Inn was closed between 1750 and 1752. After its closure Mary Canfield, who had been the landlady, opened an alehouse further down the street, which she named the Bell. This alehouse stood between the Sun



*Andrews and Wren's map of St. Albans, 1766*

alehouse and the Three Horse Loaves Inn.

By 1822 the Bell Inn had become a private house and was occupied by Thomas Kinder. The Bell alehouse was now larger, having been extended into the northern half of the Three Horse Loaves Inn. Everything else was now part of the brewery.

Today Kinder's house no longer exists, but the Bell alehouse remains on Chequer Street. It is the building currently occupied by Jamie's Italian Restaurant.

**Alan Smith**

### **A USEFUL RESOURCE FOR EARLY MODERN LOCAL HISTORY**

H. C. F. Lansberry's PhD thesis, 'Politics and Government in St Albans 1685-1835', which is available free of charge in electronic format via the British Library EThOS service ([www.ethos.bl.uk](http://www.ethos.bl.uk)), is an important and often overlooked study. It is a University of London thesis, completed in 1964. It provides unrivalled detail on the workings of the unreformed corporation, the nature of political influence within the borough of St Albans, and the growth of statutory authorities as acts of parliament encroached on the powers of local government in the century after 1750.



*Jamie's Italian Restaurant*

#### **References:**

HALS - 37963, 73081, SBR 742, D/P93/11/2-6, D/P90/11/4, D/P93/8/2, PRO - PROB 11/669/94, PROB 11/793/359, TNA W.O. 30/49, SAHAAS Deeds - Bundle 20/2 and Bundle 28

The last development, which was widespread across England in this period, was particularly important in St Albans, whose corporation, in Lansberry's words (p. 60), 'never learned to live within their income [and] drifted from crisis to crisis'. For example, Paving and Lighting Commissioners were appointed for St Albans by act of parliament in 1804, and the new town hall was built under parliamentary authority. Lansberry's thesis describes developments such as these in great detail, and offers many insights into the wider history of English local government and political culture.

It is, of course, well known that St Albans's parliamentary politics were

riddled with corruption in this period. Lansberry's study ends with the reform of the municipal corporations in 1835, and therefore does not consider the notorious events of 1850-1, when the borough was disfranchised. However, he provides the best account of local politics during the eighteenth century, when the Grimston, Churchill and Spencer families dominated the borough's elections. With a restricted electoral franchise, the creation of honorary freemen to vote in elections could easily swing the result, and caused resentment within the town. By the late eighteenth century, a new group known as 'The Party' had emerged to challenge vested interests, led by the Paineite Samuel Ferrand Waddington; like other places in England, St Albans saw bread riots in the 1790s.

Lansberry's thesis should be the first port of call for any historian interested in the political history of St Albans in this period, and also offers many insights into its economic, social and cultural history. It is unfortunate that the thesis – along with many others – was never published as a book. (Lansberry did publish four articles based on his research, and later wrote a book on Kent: details are appended.) The growing availability of retro-digitalised doctoral theses is a boon to local

history of all kinds, and Lansberry's valuable study is an excellent example.

**Mark Freeman**

Appendix

H. C. F. Lansberry, 'James McAdam and the St Albans Turnpike Trust', *Journal of Transport History*, vol. 7 (1965), pp. 120-7. This article considers one of the most important statutory authorities established in and around St Albans in this period.

H. C. F. Lansberry, 'St Albans Canal', *Herts Past & Present*, series 1, issue 7 (1967), pp. 3-8. He assesses the abortive attempts to build a canal linking the town to the developing national network in the 1790s.

H. C. F. Lansberry, 'A Whig Inheritance', *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research*, vol. 41 (1968), pp. 47-57. This describes the Spencer family's struggle to control the parliamentary seats of St Albans and Northampton.

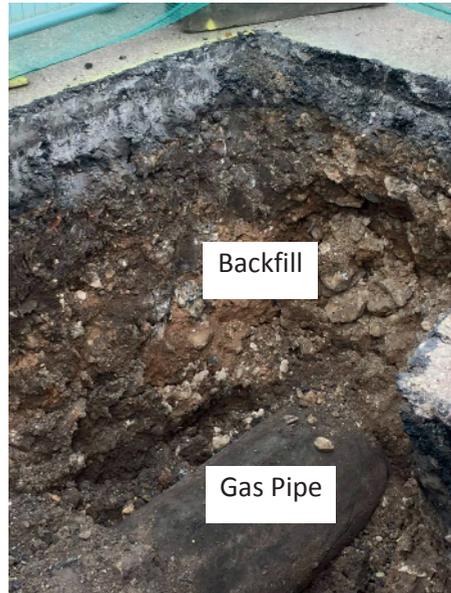
H. C. F. Lansberry, 'The Building of St Albans Town Hall', *Herts Archaeology*, vol. 1 (1968), pp. 92-97. Lansberry evaluates the many difficulties surrounding the development of the landmark Town Hall in St Peter's Street.

H. C. F. (Frederick) Lansberry, *Government and Politics in Kent 1640-1914* (Rochester, NY: Boydell, for Kent County Council, 2001).

## ROMAN VERULAMIUM NEW DISCOVERY

Currently, the National Grid is carrying out essential work to re-lay a gas main running through Verulamium Park. This involves running new pipes inside the existing pipeline and so has mostly required only re-excavation of sections of existing trench. However, small extensions were required to two holes, providing a rare opportunity to examine what lies underground in areas of the Roman town normally not accessible to hand digging, as the site is scheduled to protect it from damage.

The reopened trench section close to the Inn on the Park has provided evidence for a wealthy town house. The backfill of the original gas main included evidence for a mosaic. In addition, a series of floors were observed on either side of the gas main. One of these may have been an Opus Signinum floor made up of broken tiles and mortar. The final phase of this masonry building appears to have been some time in the third century AD, based on preliminary dating of the recovered pottery from the floor surface. However, there is evidence from above the floors that that the very last phases were associated with a much cruder form of architecture, the dating of



*Photo courtesy St Albans Museums*

which may have continued for some time afterwards.

A trench close to the London Gate has exposed the corner of the city wall. At this point there was no evidence of a tower as may have been expected. The absence of a corner tower is significant as it probably indicates that the city walls were built as much for show as for defensive purposes.

These discoveries follow on from Kris Lockyear of UCL's magnetometry survey of the park conducted with the aid of members of SAHAAS and other volunteers from 2013 onwards. Those of you who have seen the survey results will remember the large black

and white line running across the Roman town and generated by the magnetic signal of the gas main that is currently being worked upon. Sadly for us, the old main is not being lifted, as the magnetic signal was powerful enough to mask readings immediately around it and its removal would allow for more data on the Roman town to be recorded.

This work continues to add to our knowledge of Roman Verulamium. Much of its roads and city blocks of insulae have long been known from aerial photographs, while excavations have provided details of the forum and basilica complex that lies under

St Michael's Church and vicarage, and the second century theatre (a reconstruction image of which features on the front of this newsletter). Of the major public buildings only the bath complex remains largely unknown, although its location is clear and limited excavations took place on the site in the 1980s. While recent opportunities to excavate have been limited, work on projects such as this allows us to continue to recover information about the town.

**David Thorold**

Curator, Prehistory to Medieval  
Verulamium Museum

## THOUGHTS ON POST-BOUDICCAN VERULAMIUM

Recent excavations in the Walbrook area of London found over 400 remains of Roman writing tablets, of which 87 were able to be read. One of these was of both local and general historic importance. Written on 21 October AD62 it stated that:

*I Marcus Rennius Venustus, have contracted with Gaius Valerius Proculus that he bring from Verulamium by the Ides of November [13 November AD62] 20 loads of provisions at a transport charge of one-quarter of a denarius for each.*

In AD60-61, Tacitus tells us that Colchester, London and Verulamium were laid waste by the troops lead by Boudicca but obviously the contract shows that both Londinium and Verulamium were back in business about a year later. This seems to imply that the damage must have been less than generally imagined.

**Mike North**

Source: *Current Archaeology*, issue 317 (August 2016), pp. 36-40

## COACH OUTING TO THE SAMUEL PEPYS LIBRARY MAGDALENE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

**25 OCTOBER 2017**

The Pepys Library came to the Magdalene College only after the death of his nephew, John Jackson, who made a significant contribution to its final order. The 3,000 volumes are arranged by size, from No. 1 (the smallest) to No. 3,000 (the largest), and housed in twelve stately late seventeenth-century oak bookcases. Their fine bindings, mostly done for Pepys, are of much interest. The library desk, perhaps Pepys's own, is also an integral part of the arrangement. There is a studio-copy of the Kneller portrait of Pepys [here](#).

The Library continues to fascinate tourists, and to attract scholars from all over the world, as it has done ever since Macaulay discovered its importance. Among the Library's treasures are some sixty medieval manuscripts, some important early printed books (including seven *incunabula* by Caxton, eight by Wynkyn de Worde, and seven by Pynson), and a naval collection, notably the 'Anthony Roll', illustrating the ships of the Royal Navy c. 1546, such as *The Mary Rose*, and Drake's autographed nautical pocket almanac. In addition, there are special collections of prints, ballads, music, maps, and calligraphy, all of them now the subject of comprehensive published catalogues.

Pepys's own diary covering the years 1660 to 1669 is preserved in six volumes, written in Shelton's shorthand, which only looks superficially like Pitman's. This too has recently been definitively edited by Robert Latham, C.B.E., F.B.A., Fellow and Pepys Librarian (1972-82).



*Photo courtesy of the Samuel Pepys Library*

The coach will leave Westminster Lodge car park at 9.30. At 11 am we will be given a talk by the Deputy Librarian, Catherine Sutherland, and then have an opportunity to look around. The cost of the visit will be £3.50 for the over 60s. Full price is £7.50. Total cost with coach travel will be £21.00 for seniors, £25.00 full price. Numbers for this visit are limited to 25.

Please note that there are 25 stairs to climb to reach the Library.

When the visit is over you will have free time to enjoy Cambridge until 3.30 when you should rejoin the coach.

Please send your cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to SAHAAS to Pat Howe, 7 Cranmore Court, Avenue Road, St Albans, AL1 3QS.

**Pat Howe**

## EXPLORATIONS IN GARDEN HISTORY

The Society's first classes in garden history took participants on a grand tour of landscape design from the Romans to the Arts and Crafts inspired gardens of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. (*Photo Page 32*)

Kate Harwood, lecturer and writer on garden history, led the course with support from a number of Society members including Liz Rolfe, Liz Rose, Frank Iddiols and Jon Mein.

The inspiration for the course, the first of its kind in the Society's recent history, came from a fascinating talk given to members last September by Kate on the influence of Capability Brown on the landscape of Hertfordshire. She has a deep knowledge of her subject and a lifetime of information at her fingertips, so that every class was enriched with wonderful asides and pithy comments about some less than heroic garden owners and designers, not to mention present-day developers. Kate is a tireless campaigner for the preservation of historic gardens in Hertfordshire.

The study of maps was a key element in the classes. It was fascinating to learn that the draughtsmen of yore did not lovingly draw every little tree but



cleverly cut a die and stamped out the necessary foliage, men on horseback and other features to more quickly populate their landscape designs. 'Axi-ality', we learnt, was a key element in understanding the relationship between the grand house and its equally grand landscape and also, when studying Victorian gardens, we learnt a new meaning for the word 'understanding' – under-pinnings.

All those who took part went away with copious notes written by Kate, a lengthy reading list and for my part at least, a desire to visit more gardens armed with a little more knowledge.

**Sue Mann**

Notes: Kate Harwood contributed to *Hertfordshire Garden History Volumes I and II*. She is the Conservation Co-ordinator for the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust.

*Photo © Frank Iddiols*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for the coming year June 2017 - May 2018 become due on 1 June 2017.

There has been no change to subscription rates remain at:

Individual members.	£15.00
The spouse or partner of a member living at the member's address	£7.50
Children of a member and under the age of 16 living at the Member's address.	Free
Students aged 16 or over who provide evidence that they are in full-time further or higher education.	£7.50

Note: A change in the Constitution adopted at the last AGM amended the availability of free or reduced rates of a Member's subscription of children and students from 18 to 16 years of age.

Those already paying by direct debit need take no action as payment will be collected automatically. Anyone wanting to switch to this method of payment please contact the Treasurer by e-mail for a direct debit form at [money@stalbanhistory.org](mailto:money@stalbanhistory.org)

Payment can also be made by standing order to the Society's bank account or cheque to the Membership Secretary by post:

David Smith  
SAHAAS Membership Secretary  
Kestrel Lodge, 12 Sutton Mill Road, Potton, Sandy, Beds, SG19 2QB

**David Smith**

## PASSCHENDAELE

At 4pm on Saturday, 17 June 2017 a Special Service will take place in St. Albans Cathedral to commemorate the St Albans men who died on 31 July 1917, the first day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres (otherwise known as Passchendaele). This special event has been arranged as a result of our President's discussion with the Very Reverend Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans. It is understood that Lady Verulam, one of the SAHAAS Patrons, will attend this service to which all are welcome to attend.

In the War Memorial Chapel in the Cathedral (now situated at the eastern end of the north Nave aisle) there is a three-sided lectern, surmounted by the figure of St Michael. Three illuminated books list the 16,000 individual names of the men of St Albans Diocese (made up of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Barnet) who died in the First World War, 1914-1918.

Of those listed, 850 served in the Hertfordshire Regiment during that war a hundred years ago. They took part in the First Battle of Ypres, 1914, joining regular soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Guards Brigade led by a Hertfordshire General, the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Cavan, who

at that time lived at Wheathampstead. The regiment was later recognised for its service in twenty-six battles during the war, ten of which were recorded on their colour standard, which is now "laid-up" in All Saints' Church, Hertford.

Research led by the Home Front Group has produced a 'matrix' of the names listed on the St Albans City War Memorial at St Peter's Green, near the Blacksmith's Arms public house. Of those, 19 men died on 31 July 1917. They are:-

Pte Percy Buck (Upper Culver Rd);  
 Sgt Gilbert Callow, *Military Medal* (Campfield Press);  
 Pte Frederick Fellows (Fishpool St);  
 Pte Claude Garment (Bernard St);  
 Pte Alfred Hardy (Clifton St);  
 Pte Charles Hester (Prospect Rd)  
 Pte Albert Hyde (Bernard St);  
 Pte Ernest Izzard (Kimberley Rd);  
 Pte Charles Javaleau (Orchard St);  
 Lt Lionel Kent\* (Holywell Hill);  
 Lt Frank Lake (St. Albans School);  
 L/Cpl William Meyer (Albion Rd);  
 Sgt William Payne (Camp View Rd);  
 Pte Sidney Powell (Sandridge Rd);  
 Pte George Rose (Glenferrie Rd);  
 Pte Albert Rust (Camp View Rd);  
 L/Cpl James Skinner (Holywell Hill);  
 Cpl Joseph Taylor, *Military Medal* (Arthur Rd);  
 Cpl Frederick Warren (Folly Ave);  
 Pte Frederick Waters, *Military Medal* (Westbourne Terr).

12 of those listed were serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hertfordshire Regiment.

135 officers and other ranks of the Hertfordshire Regiment who have no known grave are listed on panels 54 and 56 at the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres and on Panel 153 at the Tyne Cot Memorial.

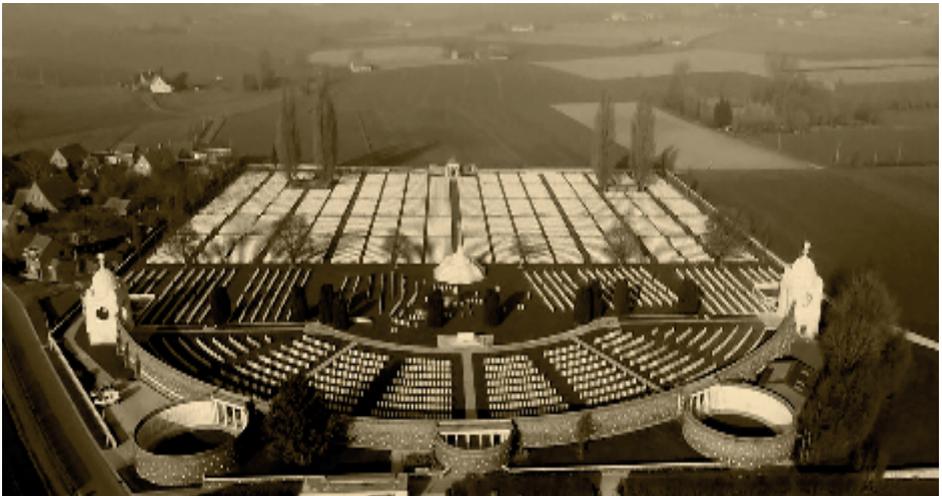
On Monday 31 July 2017 a memorial to the men of the Hertfordshire Regiment will be unveiled at St Julien, Belgium, by the Countess of Verulam, Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. St Julien is the village where the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of The Hertfordshire

Regiment lost its greatest number of men in a single day.

The memorial, funded by donations, has been organised by the 'Herts at War project', based in Letchworth led by Dan Hill. In addition a service will be held at the Hertford War Memorial, Salisbury Square led by the Vicar of All Saints Church, Hertford (the Revd Canon Jo Loveridge).

**John G.E. Cox**

Note: \* His brother, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Harold Kent, died on 4 August 1917 near Ypres.



Tyne Cot Cemetery where many of our fallen soldiers lie or whose names are listed on wall panels.

*Photo: Courtesy of Passchendaele 17*

## LECTURE PROGRAMME

The lecture on 19 May is the last of this season's lectures and also the last of the many lectures over the years selected and facilitated by Doreen and Roy Bratby (see President's Message on page 3).

The new season begins in September and details will be published in the August Newsletter and printed on membership cards.

19 May 2017

### **The Long Weekend: Life in the English Country House Between the Wars**

Adrian Tinniswood OBE

Venue: St Albans School

Adrian Tinniswood uncovers the truth about a world half-forgotten, draped in myth and hidden behind stiff upper lips and film-star smiles. Drawing on hundreds of memoirs, and unpub-

lished letters and diaries, he brings the stately homes of England to life, giving us an insight into the gilt and the gingerbread, and showing how the image of the country house was carefully protected by its occupants above and below stairs, and how the reality was so much more interesting than the dream.

Adrian Tinniswood is the author of fourteen books on social and architectural history, including the *Sunday Times* bestseller, *The Long Weekend*. Born in 1954, his career has combined work with heritage institutions such as the National Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund with lecturing for English and American universities. Adrian lives in Bath and is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Buckingham. In 2013 he was awarded an OBE for services to heritage.

**Doreen and Roy Bratby**



Photo © Frank Iddiols

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

We have found that some of the members' e-mail addresses we have on file for the SAHAAS (Arc & Arc) e-news are bouncing.

If you either change your email address or you think that you are not receiving e-news when you should be, please can you notify the society providing the following information by e-mail to [www@stalbanhistory.org](mailto:www@stalbanhistory.org) so that we can update our records and make sure that you are kept up to date.

Thank you.

**Roderick Douglas**

SAHAAS e-news Update	
Name	
Home Address (For reference)	
Old email address	
New email address	
Please email these details to	<a href="mailto:www@stalbanhistory.org">www@stalbanhistory.org</a>

### QUIZ NIGHT AND SUPPER

In aid of St Albans New Museum and Gallery

**FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**

7pm (prompt) - 10pm  
(Doors open 6.30pm)

Kingsbury Barn, Branch Road  
St Albans. AL3 4SE

A few tickets are still available (as at 1<sup>st</sup> May). A short waiting list for cancellations will be opened. For more information contact Val Argue at: [events@stalbanhistory.org](mailto:events@stalbanhistory.org)

## PUBLICATIONS LIST

A summary of titles published by the Society since its inception in 1845 and availability of publication content in digital format on our website.

### EARLY PUBLICATIONS, 1848 to 1961

Description of the Roman Theatre of Verulam, Lowe, RG, 1848

On some Roman Sepulchral Remains in the Churchyard of St Stephens, Bloxham, MH, 1848

The Two Langleys, Gee, R, n.d.

Bricks and Brick-buildings, Gee, R, 1855

Names of Places in Herts, Hall, Rev. H, 1859

The Story of an Illustrious Neighbour - Lord Bacon, Gee, R, 1863

The Boundary Wall of the Monastery of St Alban, Fowler, Rev. H, 1876

The Paintings on the Choir Ceiling of St Albans Abbey Church, Lloyd, RR, 1876

The Restoration of the Abbey Church of St Alban, Chapple, J, 1876

The Choir of St Albans, Davys, Rev. OW, 1876

Brief review of the restoration work, since 1877, in St Albans Cathedral, Davys, Rev. OW, 1881

A Plan of the town of St Albans drawn by Benjamin Hare in 1634, Wilton, C, 1900

Report on the Muniments of the Gape family, Lyle, JV, 1905

Records of the old Archdeaconry of St Albans, 1575-1637, Wilton Hall, HR, 1908, n.y.d

The above titles are available in digital format on our website.

### Transactions

The *Transactions* journal was published off and on between 1883 and 1961 when the run finished. The full set of over 180 articles is available in digital format on our website.

### PUBLICATIONS, 1966 ONWARDS

The Antiquities of Verulam & St Albans, [manuscript 1631], John Shrimpton, SA1, 1966, o/p

St Albans c. 1820 'The Town', David Dean et al, SA2, 1982, o/p

The Goat Inn, Kathleen Goad (editor et al), SA3, 1984, o/p

Around St Albans with Geoff Dunk, Geoff Dunk, SA4, 1985, o/p

The Street Memorials of St Albans Abbey Parish, Alice Goodman, SA5, 1987, o/p

St Albans Ghost Lore, Muriel Thresher & Beryl Carrington, SA6, 1987, o/p

St Albans c 1820 The People, David Dean et al, SA7, 1990, o/p

Education by Election. Reed's School, Clapton and Watford, Norman Alvey, SA8, 1990, £2

The Story of the Abbey School - a nineteenth century National School, Alice Goodman, SA9, 1991, £2

The Light of Other Days, a short history of the St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society, 1845 to 1995, Brian Moody, SA10, 1995, £1

A History in all Men's Lives, Brian Moody (ed), SA11, 1999, £2

St Albans 1553 [celebrates 450th anniversary of granting of borough charter], SA12, 2003, £2

St Albans 1650-1700, A thoroughfare town and its people, JT Smith & M North (eds), UHP, 2003, £12

The Pemberton Almshouses, Clare Ellis & Pat Howe, SA13, 2005, £2

Lord Grimthorpe and Other Dragons: The career of Walter Lawrance, Gillian Harvey, 2011, £3.75

The Street Memorials of St Albans Abbey Parish: new edition, John Cox & Ann Dean, 2015, £8

St Albans: Life on the Home Front 1914-1918, Jonathan Mein, Anne Wares & Sue Mann (eds), UHP, 2016, £14

### **Hertfordshire Archaeology and History (HAH)**

First published in 1968, this title is published jointly with the East Herts Archaeological Society. It replaced the *Transactions* to become the journal of record for the county's archaeology. Seventeen volumes have been published and two separate supplements to volumes 14 and 15. A full list of articles is on our Journals Database. The articles have not yet been digitised. Volume 17 (published 2016) costs £5 (75% reduction on full price).

### **In Preparation**

The Old Town Hall: St Albans, Chris Green. More details soon.

### **How to purchase copies**

Copies of recent publications can be ordered from

publicationsales@stalbanhistory.org or from Patricia Broad, tel 01727 863340.

Copies of HAH (and subscriptions) can be ordered from Christine McDermott at hertsarch@stalbanhistory.org

Members visiting our library at Sandridge Gate can purchase copies from the library team.

Prices quoted are members' rates. There will be a p&p charge for orders that need posting.

o/p = out of print. n.y.d = not yet digitised.

## MAKING USE OF OUR NEW LIBRARY AT SANDRIDGE GATE



SAHAAS COUNCIL MEETING



SAHAAS COURSE IN  
GARDEN HISTORY