



Founded 1845

ST ALBANS AND HERTFORDSHIRE
ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
www.stalbanshistory.org



NEWSLETTER

No. 161

May 2006

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2005

It is hard to believe that the new Council elected last May has almost completed its first year in office!

With so many new officers in one year, and no less than three new Librarians to replace Joyce Wells, it is perhaps inevitable that it has taken us a while to settle, but we have received much willing help from many longstanding members; our thanks in particular to David Dean, Kate Morris and Gerard McSweeney.

This has certainly been an eventful year. The Symposium in November on *Transport before the Railway Age* was generally agreed to have been a huge success, attended by over 200 members of HALH from all over Hertfordshire. Our grateful thanks go to the organisers, David Dean and Pat Howe, and to everyone who helped with catering, shifting chairs, setting up and manning the stalls and, of course to the speakers.

The New Members' Party in October was well attended, and excellent displays gave newcomers a real feel for our various activities. Some new members expressed the view that, without trying to replicate the Civic Society, we might consider playing a more active role in local conservation issues.

The other major event of the year was the closure of Kyngston House, and the resultant move of our Library to the Town Hall and the Archaeology Group's finds to Sandridge Gate. At its last meeting Council agreed to the purchase of computer software to

enable a full catalogue of the Library to be produced and made available on our website. Once the Town Hall has been redecorated, and we reopen, the library should be much more accessible to members than in the past. We have already received offers from several members to leave their local history collections to the library!

As you will read in Bryan and John's reports, your officers are considering proposing some possible changes to the Constitution, for the first time in fifteen years. However, no resolutions will be submitted until the 2007 AGM, so there will be plenty of opportunities for members to express their views before any decisions are taken.

We have been saddened by the deaths of Anne Kaloczi, whose involvement in the creation of the Sopwell Priory Open Space is well known; Adrian Gibson (see David Dean's appreciation on page 6); long-standing member Campbell Innes (see page 6); and Gene's husband, John Peyton Jones, whose absence was felt on Remembrance Day after so many years leading the St Albans parade.

We shall also miss Ros Niblett (pictured right at her retirement presentation), who has just retired as District Archaeologist. Her splendid book *Alban's Buried Towns* is no substitute for the real Ros!

Our warm thanks go to Barry Walkington, retiring as Lecture Secretary of A&LH.

Finally, please, please do heed Jill Bennett's urging and discover for yourself that manning the Clock Tower for a couple of hours on a few summer weekends is very rewarding, as well as bringing the Society some

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welcome extra funds. It would be sad for a Society devoted to the history of St Albans and Hertfordshire to cease making it possible for local people and visitors to enjoy this part of our heritage.

With my thanks to you all for your support, and to Bryan for his attempts to control me!

Clare Ellis



Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 16th May 2006
Verulamium Museum, 8.00 p.m.**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. To adopt the minutes of the previous AGM held on 10th May 2005
3. To adopt reports, as circulated in the last newsletter, from the following Officers, and the accounts for the year to 30th September 2005:

President	Secretary
Treasurer	Lecture Secretary
Membership Secretary	Group Chairmen and Project Leaders
4. To elect Officers as below:

The President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Lecture Secretary, Publicity Officer, Website Manager and Minutes Secretary are all proposed for re-election.
5. To confirm the appointment, as agreed by Council, of a new Library Committee consisting of Tony Cooper, Gill Harvey, and Ann Wares chaired by Kate Morris.
6. To confirm the nomination of Group representatives, viz.

Archaeology	Roger Miles
Architecture and Local History	Gerard McSweeney
Clock Tower	Jill Bennett
Property Research + Library	Kate Morris
17th C Population Research	Pat Howe
7. To confirm the existing positions on Council of Jill Bennett, Gordon Brown and Bill Martin
8. To accept the Council's recommendation that it is not necessary at the present time to elect any further members to Council
9. Subscription rates
10. To confirm the re-appointment of Mr. J. R. West as Independent Accounts Auditor
11. To transact any other competent business - please advise the Hon Sec by 2nd May 2006 of any other business that should be raised.

Bryan Hanlon

Hon Secretary

After the AGM there will be a lecture on

2000 Years of Coinage

A brief outline of the different coinage used in this country over the past 2000 years, from the Late Iron Age tribe of the Catuvellauni, through Roman coins, the Saxon period, the Norman kings and beyond.

by David Thorold, Keeper of Archaeology at Verulamium Museum

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Well, here I am in my new position - that of trying to keep our illustrious new President under control during our Council meetings. However, as she has to do the same to the assembled throng around the table (with or without her new gavel), she perhaps has the more difficult rôle.

Having been on the Council for a couple of years before my 'elevation to high office' (there being no other 'volunteers'), I did have an idea of what to expect but, as they say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and I now see something of a different side to what happens.

The past year has, I am pleased to think, progressed relatively smoothly (with just the occasional hiccup behind the scenes) which I would suggest is pretty good, bearing in mind that we have a new President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Minutes Secretary, and a nearly new Hon Treasurer, as well as Gordon Brown, Gill Charles and Paul Harding joining us this year. Fortunately, the die-hards on Council have steered us in the right direction when they thought we were going too far off course.

And that brings me to what I believe to be a really important point. For

many years now, the Society has steered a steady course, progressing very nicely thank you, having a lot of excellent lectures, and doing a bit here and there but, shall I say, doing rather what we were doing 20, 30, even 40 years ago. I think it is now time to look ahead. The first, and really important item, is our new Library. With Joyce Wells deciding, after 17 years of service, to take well earned retirement, and St. Albans District Council deciding to 'relocate' us, this was rather forced on us. However, with this and a new computer, we are really moving forward - and not even John, our Treasurer, voted against the cash expenditure!

The Library is one thing but what else are we going to do in the 21st century? I believe that one thing is to go somewhat back to basics and look at our constitution - what are we here for and how should we be doing it? What was right over a dozen years ago may not be the case in 2006 - and there is at least one rather glaring anomaly when you interpret it in the light of the present day. (For those of you who can find your copy - and I wonder how many (few?) that will be - take a look and let us know what you think; after all it

is your Society. We shall be putting forward an amended version for comments and/or approval at next year's AGM so if you have any thoughts, I would be delighted to hear from you by the end of June.

And on that subject, I shall finish - except to say that yes, it is **your** Society and - dare I suggest - that means not just being a willing participant in the events that are laid on for you, but also sharing in some of the "duties". How about answering Jill's perennial pleas for helpers to be on Clock Tower duty (see p. 4). But what else? In the middle of the nineteenth century, it was this Society that was largely instrumental in preventing the destruction of the said Clock Tower (yes, really); at the start of this century it was this Society who provided the impetus for the restoration of the street memorials in the Abbey parish. But what now? Well, Kingsbury Barn is seemingly under continual threat - how about a concerted campaign to bring it back to its former glory? No, your Council cannot do everything - please do contact me if you would like to be involved.

Bryan Hanlon

17TH CENTURY POPULATION RESEARCH GROUP REPORT

The team working on this research has expanded during the year as a result of two events: one was the new members evening, when two people offered help and the other was the advertisement in the newsletter for volunteers to help with the typing of transcriptions of wills to which there was a good response. Many of the wills have now been professionally typed and this work is ongoing. Janice Smith has begun work on searching the index at HALS for inventories, which have been missed on previous occasions. So far 20 inventories have been located relating to people already on our database.

We were very pleased to give a talk on Roger Pemberton and Francis Combe to the St Albans Probus

Group in November. An article written by Sylvia Beare and Pat Howe about Francis Combe was published in *Herts Past and Present* in the autumn. Jane Harris is continuing her work on an article concerned with probate inventories, which should be ready for publication later this year. Jane and Pat attended a course at Oxford University on interpreting probate documents.

Transcription of the St Peter's records on poor relief has now been completed. Van Hryniewicz has entered ratepayers on the computer and the process of identifying them using our database is in hand. Pat Nellist has entered reimbursements to the poor on computer and we shall soon be identifying the recipients and analysing the relief process with a

view to publication, but this is a long way off.

Irene Cowan has painstakingly brought together information to enable her to calculate the exact age of death of ~3000 individuals. She is planning to analyse the data and write on this subject. In February, Irene also gave a presentation of our work at a conference on post medieval St Albans organised by the St Albans Museum Service, which was very well received. Carol Parker and Sylvia Beare have been entering information on the computer from cards compiled by the late Mrs Pauline Christophers and it is hoped a CD can be made of this data and also put on the SAHAAS Website.

Pat Howe

TREASURER'S REPORT

This has been quite a year for a nearly new Treasurer, with a number of new office bearers appointed at the last AGM; sometimes it has felt like the blind leading the blind. The accounts for the year to 30 September 2005 are before you for the forthcoming AGM. They have been independently audited and have been approved by Council; I commend them to you for adoption at the AGM. They show a healthy surplus for the year, mainly due to reduced costs in publicity, lecture costs and depreciation (our old assets have been fully written down).

That, you will be pleased to know is the good news, but I now have to follow this with the bad - I have to advise you that your Council is proposing an increase in the subscription level. Bearing in mind that this is the first increase for many years, it will perhaps therefore come as no surprise to you, but I am sure that you would like some explanation as to why we feel that an increase is necessary, when we have just achieved a sizeable surplus for the last year.

You will have read elsewhere that we have a new library facility in the Old Town Hall and the use to which this is being put, for the

general benefit of members, is being expanded. A new computerised catalogue is being introduced, the cost of which will deplete the Society's reserves and cash, and the income and expenditure account will be hit by the associated reduction in interest income and substantially increased depreciation charge.

Printing costs are also expected to show a considerable increase due to, for example:

- The fact that we are now printing four issues of the newsletter each year, rather than three previously; added to this we are now mailing them, rather than relying on the free of charge services of our volunteers.

- We shall soon be introducing a new membership application form.

- Your Council feel prospective members should receive an information pack, extolling the virtues etc of your Society.

Additionally, we believe that our constitution should be reviewed (see below) and the revision will require to be reprinted for the benefit of all concerned.

The Society's members are undertaking ever more research, which inevitably does cost money.

It is unlikely that we will be able to cope any longer with paying nothing for publicity.

A surplus such as seen in 2005 is insufficient to cover these increased costs, which I believe are necessary to enable the Society to move forward. Before the AGM the Council will decide on a reasonable increase and will bring this proposal for approval at the AGM.

I have mentioned a review of our constitution. It was last reviewed in 1992 (before that in 1962 and 1956). I have been asked by Council to chair a small sub-committee to carry out this review but as it is your Society, I, or our Secretary Bryan Hanlon, would like to hear your views and proposals, preferably by the end of June.

Finally my thanks to John West who has continued the role of Honorary Auditor, and is willing to continue in this role should the AGM approve.

I shall be glad to answer any questions on the accounts, or any other matters.

John Thomson

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Although 23 individuals and 6 couples failed to renew their subs at the beginning of the 2005/6 membership year, their loss has been more than compensated by the recruitment of new members. Currently the Society has just over 600 members of whom eight are honorary, 384 in individual membership and 118 (i.e. 226 persons) couples. Within the overall total there is a small number of student members.

The majority of renewals, whether by standing order or cheque, were made at the beginning of the year although some continued to appear at different times subsequently, in some cases as late as March. While the Council has taken a decision that a failure to renew before the publication of the second newsletter of the season will be regarded as a termination of membership, those who subsequently make a payment have been reinstated.

Interest in the activities of the Society appears to be healthy, if judged by the number of letters and e-mails received and by the demand for application forms at the Society's lectures

Peter Jeffreys

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following, who have joined us since the last newsletter. We hope they enjoy their membership and take an active role in SAHAAS activities.

Mr & Mrs Roger Barnett, Jennings Road, St Albans

Mr Duncan Burgoyne, Meadowcroft, St Albans

Mr RA Finch. Kimpton

Mrs Beryl Jeffreys, Wheathampstead

Mrs Madeline Keyte, Charmouth Court, St Albans

Mrs Ann Montgomery, Hunters Oak, Hemel Hempstead

Mrs A McGuire, Stonecross Close, St Albans

Mr & Mrs J Newman and Rudi Newman, Oxhey

Mr & Mrs A Oliver, Fishpool Street, St Albans

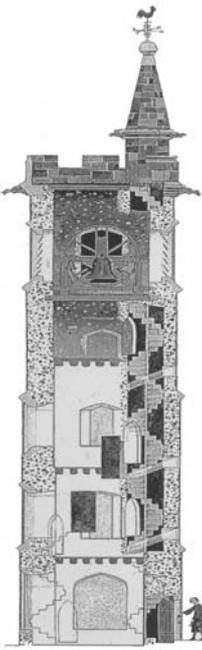
Mrs Caroline Rawle, Flora Grove, St Albans

Mr Robert Venour, Forresters Drive, WGC

Mrs Marion Wright, Warwick Road, St Albans

Peter Jeffreys

CLOCK TOWER NEWS



I am enormously grateful to those members who have offered to help in the Clock Tower. This is greatly encouraging, thank you. To date (late March) we have two new pairs of helpers and seven new 'singles'. But don't let that dissuade anyone else from volunteering – the more the merrier!

The 'Clockateers' Party on 17th March was attended by some new recruits, and it's a sociable way to meet others over a glass of wine and some delicious food – and, of course, to start filling in the Clock Tower rota. The party was attended by the Deputy Mayor Cllr Eileen Harris, and Museums Director Chris Green told

us about some Clock Tower improvements. It made a pleasant way to start the opening season.

This might be a good time to answer some FAQs.

1. New volunteers do not have to unlock the Clock Tower when doing the first shift; nor lock up on the last shift. We have a system! Within the Arc&Arc, we have 'Weekend Organisers' for each weekend we're opening the Tower. They are responsible for unlocking each morning, and closing up at 5pm, checking the cash and visitor numbers etc.
2. 'Clockateers' are on duty in pairs, from 10.30–noon; noon–1.30; 1.30–3pm; or 3–5pm. No-one does a whole day (there are no facilities!). Prior to each weekend, our Weekend Organisers ring round the volunteers on our list, until they have enough helpers to cover each time slot, and fill in the rota. Information is provided about the Tower, and what is required of helpers.

3. The 'Clockateers' party in March is intended as a 'thank you' to our helpers; but it also starts filling-in the rota, as volunteers can put their names down for dates and times of their choice.
4. After the party, the best way to put your name down on the rota is to go into the Clock Tower on an Arc & Arc weekend* – when the rota-sheets will be there – and you can fill in your name for a convenient date/time.
5. Anyone on our list of volunteers may be 'phoned' by a Weekend Organiser, asking if they can help in the Clock Tower on a specific weekend, and time. That is chiefly how we fill the rota.

Jill Bennett

Clock Tower Co-ordinator

Tel/Fax: 01727 867685. 29 Cornwall Rd, St Albans.

E-mail: jill.bennett@waitrose.com

SAHAAS DUTY WEEKENDS

Saturday 6th May and Sunday 7th May

Saturday 20th May and Sunday 21st May

Saturday 3rd June and Sunday 4th June

Saturday 17th June and Sunday 18th June

Saturday 1st July and Sunday 2nd July

Saturday 15th July and Sunday 16th July

Saturday 29th July and Sunday 30th July

Saturday 12th August and Sunday 13th August

Saturday 26th August, Sunday 27th August and Bank Holiday Monday 28th August

Saturday 2nd September and Sunday 3rd September

ARCHITECTURE AND LOCAL HISTORY GROUP AGM

At the Architecture and Local History Group's AGM on 28th March 2006, the chairman reported that the group was enjoying a successful 2005/6 season, with 22 lectures making up a very varied programme.

Tribute was again paid to our retiring secretary for his sterling work over the past four years.

Our Tuesday lectures attracted an average audience of 64 over the season. We are delighted to welcome a steady number of new members and hope to receive input

and suggestions from everyone.

Barry Walkington and Margaret Wilson have both retired, and were thanked for their valuable work and support. Three new members were proposed, seconded and elected:

Paul Harding, Val Payne and Jean Taylor. Gerard McSweeney has agreed to act as Secretary pro tem.

In the absence of further nominations the existing committee, having expressed their willingness to stand for a further year, was duly re-elected. They were all thanked for

their unfailing service which allows the Group to provide the Tuesday lecture programme.

Berry Ewens

OBITUARIES

ADRIAN GIBSON

Members will be both saddened and shocked to hear of the death of Adrian Gibson on 16th March. He will most recently be remembered in St Albans for applying his expertise on timber frame buildings to our Kingsbury manor barn. The barn was dated to 1374 and Adrian gave us an on-site talk explaining its unusual features and the manner of its construction and erection. Earlier this year he made a prominent contribution to a TV programme on Hampton Court Palace. He was well known, much liked and unfailingly charming.

Adrian was born in April 1931 into a musical family and went to school in London where he later became a teacher. He became involved in practical archaeology, a subject in which he qualified and subsequently taught. He retired in 1988 and collaborated with the late Cecil Hewett in the identification, study and publication of early timber frame buildings. Adrian worked closely with English Heritage, was Chairman of East Herts Archaeological Society and Chairman of the Editorial Committee of *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History*. He died unexpectedly, in harness.

David Dean

CAMPBELL INNES

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Campbell Innes in February, aged 82. Campbell joined the Arc&Arc in 1984 and until recently was a regular attender at our meetings. Educated at Marr College, Troon, and Glasgow University where he graduated in chemistry, he came to England for his work. He was so unfortunate as to lose his sight when 46; however, he soon took up a new profession, teaching at the Metropolitan Police Cadet School. During this period, around 1975, his wife died, but he carried on with fortitude and firmness until retirement. He was particularly interested in, and had a very good knowledge of, history and was proud that his own house contributed to local history, as it was built as the first and only Station Master's House around 1856 when the railway line opened. Campbell never complained or grumbled about his disability and showed great strength of character in overcoming it and having so many different interests. He will be much missed by his friends in St Albans.

Phoebé Killey

NOT A GRAND OPENING, BUT...

..the library is open again for members to use. It is now installed in the Old Judge's Robing Room at the Town Hall, a fine room with a view on to Chequer Street. The opening is not grand because we still face a number of constraints, which we understand, and devoutly hope, are temporary. We do not have full use of the room at present, and library space is limited. Access is not easy; we are awaiting the re-opening of a door from the old courtroom, which was bricked up some years ago. Until that happens, the way in is via the back door in the alleyway behind the Town Hall. This door is usually locked, and has no working doorbell. However, we would be very pleased to see any members who are keen enough to overcome these difficulties on a Wednesday morning between 10 and 12. They can arrive without notice and hammer on the door in the hope that we shall hear them (we probably will), or they can phone in advance any of the library team to let us know of their wish to visit (numbers appear below). We hope in due course to be able to open the library for more than one morning a week.

The library team has been re-organising

the books and journals to make them easier to use, and to make best use of the space. Good progress has been made in identifying and evaluating library computer systems, and selecting the right one for our situation. By the time this item appears it is hoped that both the software and hardware will be on order if not yet delivered, and we shall be able to start cataloguing the library's stock, not just of books, but of pamphlets, journal articles, reports and other sources. Once we have made progress with that phase it is planned to make the catalogue accessible to members via the Society's website. We will keep members posted on progress.

Council agreed at its last meeting to establish a Library Committee to be chaired by Kate Morris, which will provide a formal link between the library and Council, and help establish policies for the library's operation.

The library team consists of Gill Harvey (01727 853415), Anne Wares (01727 860705), and Tony Cooper (01727 865032) and Donald Munro. We continue to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of Joyce Wells.

Kate Morris

PROPERTY HISTORY GROUP

2005 saw the first fruits of the Property History Group's labours, in that a presentation was made to the Architecture and Local History Group of some of its findings. Kate Morris, Gerard McSweeney and Wendy Klein outlined the project's development and then presented two case studies. The identification of two, hitherto unknown, inns on Bowgate was the result of jigsaw like research by Gerard McSweeney with abutments in the deeds he has been able to find for the properties, and Wendy Klein recreated an image of now vanished Adelaide Street with its Victorian history.

The Group continues to look systematically at St Peter's parish in the Borough, and has begun to extend its work to the Abbey parish. Other detailed studies of sites in the target areas, based on the background research, will be forthcoming in due course.

Kate Morris

THE 2005/6 LECTURE PROGRAMME

Nelson: Death and Transfiguration.

When was the 200th anniversary of The Battle of Trafalgar? To find out you needed to come to our first lecture of this season which was in commemoration of this event.

Andrew Lambert, author, and Professor of Naval History in the Department of War Studies, King's College, London, so ably portrayed Nelson's colourful character. With illustrations of works of art in oil, stone and ink and via biographers, poets and politicians he highlighted the good and not so good surrounding Nelson's life and death and beyond. Nevertheless, in his call of duty for his country he made his mark and we are reminded of this when we walk by Nelson's Column.

The Bridges of Medieval England.

David Harrison, writer and House of Commons Clerk, gave us an insight into how the construction of a network of bridges transformed English river crossings between the sixth and twelfth centuries.

From the 11th century bridges were rebuilt in stone and some survive today. David has roamed the river banks of England in search of these ancient bridges. From his illustrations they were impressive examples of engineering and were proof of the great importance of road transport in the middle ages. It must surely be more rewarding to pass under these bridges than to drive over them!

London and the Gunpowder Plot.

Think back to the November lecture last year. Can you remember which anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot we celebrated? – yes, the 400th. Yet the story remains fresh and intriguing. What then drove young Fawkes and his friends to plot to cause such devastation as to blow up James 1 and his parliament at Westminster?

Archaeologist turned architectural historian, Dr John Schofield, Curator of Architecture at the Museum of London believed it was appropriate to try to understand the plotters and why they did what they did. One aspect we were reminded of, which is not often studied, is the background in

London and how catholic London had been destroyed in the previous 70 years through the dissolution of the monasteries and the Reformation which affected parish churches. This, he said, would have greatly unsettled catholics and contributed to their radical plans. Guy Fawkes and the other plotters, he felt, should be seen in their London context.

Prisoners of War in Britain

1793–1815. This piece of history was told by Paul Chamberlain, who has written several publications and whose research has resulted in TV and film work. Scientist by profession, but historian by nature he told us that during the Revolution and Napoleonic Wars this country was home to over 200,000 prisoners of war, of many different nationalities. Captives were held in the Land Prisons such as Porchester Castle, Norman Cross and Dartmoor, or incarcerated on the infamous hulks.

Many prisoners remained in captivity for up to 11 years, occupying their time by using their civilian skills as carpenters, cobblers, and cooks. Some were able to make bone models using the bones from their rations, or straw work, pulling apart their palliasses. Some were lucky enough to sell their work to supplement their rations while others gambled obsessively. A memorial was raised to their memory in 1914.

New Light on the Lady with the Lamp.

Susan-Mary Grant, Reader of American History, said Florence Nightingale holds a secure, but restricted, position in British history as the 'lady with the lamp' who nursed troops in the Crimea.

She went on to say, that the subject of many popular histories as well as some serious academic research, Florence Nightingale remains both elusive and exclusive rather than part of a process that drew more women into the traditionally 'male' business of warfare, onto the very battlefields, or close to them, that men fought on and, to a degree, into the political world that they controlled.

She continued that when Florence

Nightingale is placed in the broader context of nineteenth-century warfare, on both sides of the Atlantic, her activities and the public response to them highlights a clear shift in attitudes toward warfare generally, to civilian involvement in war and, most importantly, toward the function of war as an expression of national will, national power, and national sacrifice.

Restoration of Windsor Castle.

In November 1992 a disastrous fire destroyed large parts of Windsor Castle. The next five years were spent restoring damaged parts to their former glory. It was one of the largest historic building projects this century said Mr Alan Frost, architectural specialist in the care of historic buildings. His illustrative slides showed how, both 'above stairs' and below, this immensely complex project was tackled.

Inexhaustible fancy and solid judgement: The Life and Works of Nicholas Hawksmoor (1661–1736).

William Palin, Assistant Curator at Sir John Soane's Museum in London, will expound on the life and work of Nicholas Hawksmoor, an architect of rare genius and originality. The talk will follow him from his early years in the office of Sir Christopher Wren to his time working for the 50 New Churches' Commission and architect of All Soul's College and the Clarendon building in Oxford.

Lost Gardens of Hertfordshire

will be our final lecture of this season. Anne Rowe describes herself as a freelance landscape historian. She will be speaking about two of her favourite 'lost' Hertfordshire Gardens, Roxford near Hertingfordbury and Sacombe near Ware, both of which flourished in the 18th century.

Although very different in style, they were both magnificent gardens but neither survived into the 19th century. She will describe the documentary and cartographic evidence which enables her to 'reconstruct' these gardens, if only in the imagination. It will show what survives on the ground today.

Doreen Bratby

THIS SEASON'S LECTURES

Tuesday 9th May 2006

Romans in the Bulbourne Valley

Alex Thompson
Local historian

Tuesday 16th May 2006

SAHAAS AGM

followed by

2000 Years of Coinage

At Verulamium Museum

Mr David Thorold

The talk will give a brief outline of the different coinage used in this country over the past 2000 years, from the Late Iron Age tribe of the Catuvellauni, through Roman coins, the Saxon period, the Norman kings and beyond.

David Thorold is Keeper of Archaeology at Verulamium Museum and carries out all the coin identities at the museum, and also provides coin identities to the Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities scheme. He studied archaeology at Newcastle University in the early 90's and then dug around the Country, including Flag Fen in Peterborough as well as digs in the St Albans Region. In 1994 he became Assistant Keeper at St Albans, and became Keeper around 2000.

Friday 26th May 2006

Lost Gardens of Hertfordshire

Mrs Anne Rowe

Anne Rowe describes herself as a freelance landscape historian. She teaches courses on landscape and garden history and has co-ordinated the work of the Research Group of the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust for the last eight years.

She will be speaking about two of her favourite 'lost' Hertfordshire Gardens - Roxford near Hertingfordbury and Sacombe near Ware, both of which flourished in the 18th century. Although very different in style, they were both magnificent gardens but neither survived into the 19th century. She will describe the documentary and cartographic evidence which enables us to 'reconstruct' these gardens - if only in our imaginations - and show what survives on the ground today.

A&LH TUESDAY LECTURES

On 6th March, John Wooley's interesting talk was on the **Great Train Robbery** in 1963, when John was a young village constable in Brill, Bucks.

He vividly described how the robbers fixed the signals at red, stopped the Glasgow-to-London mail train and forced the driver to take the train to Cheddington. After attacking the crew, they made off in waiting cars with more than £2.5 million, made up of 2.5 tons in 120 mail bags. The money was stowed in the cellar of an empty farmhouse in Leatherside and, after sightings of activity at this farm were reported, John and his sargeant were sent to investigate, and found the mailbags. The gang, all known criminals, had carelessly left their fingerprints everywhere and most were soon arrested. The ring-leaders eventually received 30-year sentences, but only £350,000 of the stolen money was ever recovered!

On 28th March, after the Group AGM, we enjoyed an excellent lecture by the Rev Peter Wadsworth, minister of

St Saviour's, on **Rule and Reality: Life in a Great Medieval Abbey**. He traced the history of the Benedictine Order, founded by St Benedict who was born in Nursia in 480 AD, at the end of the Roman Empire.

Monasteries started in the Middle East, where hermits and later small groups led an isolated life in the desert. They later developed into sizable communities with a church and quarters for monks - St Albans Abbey being cited as a typical example.

He described the monastic life and the many responsibilities of the great churches: administering their large estates, tending the sick and the poor, providing seats of learning, and governing the towns which grew up around the churches. The Rule of St Benedict is still followed today and remains a sound system for community life.

On 4th April our lecturer was David Dean, who spoke about **St Albans' Historic Landscape Post 1250 AD**.

He described the early layout of the town, commenced by Ulsinus, who diverted Watling Street from Verulamium and up the new Holywell Hill. However, it is possible that another diversion crossed the Abbey orchard and joined the bend in Fishpool Street.

Old records seem to indicate that the great Market Place had its beginnings in the 12th century and that the Saxon element was in the Kingsbury area. The 13th century layout of the town changed little until the 1800s. He described the changes made to the course of the river Ver, to facilitate the operation of the mills, and how parish boundaries altered the course of the ancient roads. David's detailed lecture revealed the extent of his studies of the subject, which provided an absorbing and interesting evening, backed by very clear old maps and illustrations.

Betty Ewens

Tuesday meetings are held at St Albans School and start at 8.00 p.m.

Friday meetings are at the College of Law, Hatfield Road, and start at 7.45 p.m.

They are open to all members of the Society. Non-members may attend two meetings as guests.

CURRENT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

After many valuable years looking after distribution of our publications, Norman Kent has passed that duty on to me. Please contact me if you would like copies from our list at special prices for members of SAHAAS.

In future when I attend Tuesday meetings I will have two copies of each publication with me; however, I do not attend every Tuesday so a telephone call in advance will be useful. If you do not attend Tuesdays please call me with your requests. If you live in St.Albans I will deliver; if you are out of town I can quote you the cost of delivering the copies you would like. I will be pleased to hear from you at 57 Camlet Way, St.Albans, Herts. AL3 4TL Tel. (01727) 839577

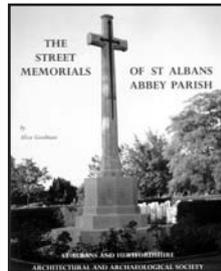
Paul Harding

The Street Memorials of St Albans Abbey Parish

by Alice Goodman, 1987

Describes St Albans during the 1914-18 War, and the unique street memorials erected to the fallen.

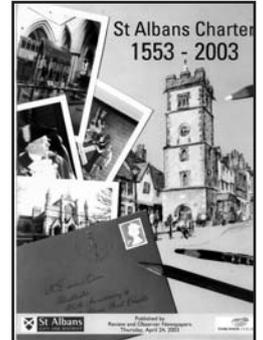
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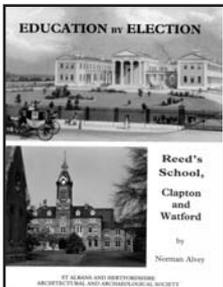
St Albans 1553

by David Dean, Pat Howe, Betty Masters & Kate Morris, 2003

Celebrates the granting of a Charter to St Albans by the boy king Edward VI in 1553, and explains its importance in providing the foundations for our local government, establishing the Mayoralty and authorising the town's markets.



£3



Education by Election, Reed's School, Clapton and Watford

by Norman Alvey, 1990

Orphans were selected for admission by votes from subscribers to a charity between 1813 and 1940.

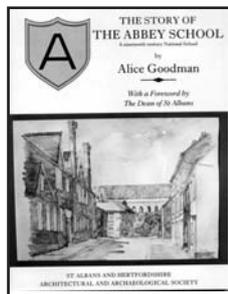
£4

The Story of the Abbey School

by Alice Goodman, 1991

History of the National School founded by the Abbey Parish in 1848.

£4

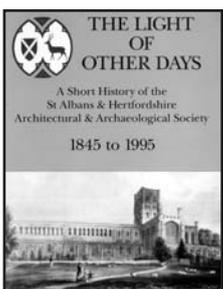


The Pemberton Almshouses

By Clare Ellis and Pat Howe, 2005

A commemorative booklet to celebrate the founding of the Pemberton Almshouses in St Peter's Street, resulting from the ongoing work of the Seventeenth Century Population Research Group.

£3



The Light of Other Days

1995, by Brian Moody

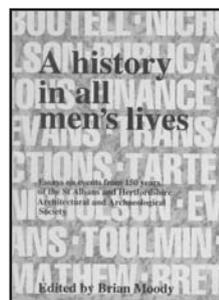
A short history of the Society's first 150 years.

Half-price offer, £1

A History in All Men's Lives

Ed. Brian Moody, 1999

Papers on notable past members of the Society and events from the first 150 years. Authors F Kilvington, R Busby, J Brodrick, B Moody, D Aubrey and J T Smith.



Half-price offer, £2

ALSO AVAILABLE

St Albans 1650-1700, a thoroughfare town and its people

Ed. J T Smith & M A North, 2003

The result of twelve years of work by the Society's Research Group, with ten authors.

Copies may be obtained by Society members from Hertfordshire Publications, an imprint of the University of Hertfordshire Press, for £13 including post and packing. Apply to University of Hertfordshire Press, Learning & Information Services, College Lane, Hatfield AL10 9AD.