



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



NEWSLETTER

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May 2007

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The change in the financial year of the A&A seems to be working smoothly, for which our particular thanks must go to Bryan Hanlon, John Thomson and Peter Jeffreys. New members now receive a comprehensive Welcome Pack of information about the Society, which we hope will ensure that they take full advantage of all our activities.

Please do remember that the AGM this year will be held on Tuesday 25th September at Verulamium Museum. Afterwards Chris Green

will talk to us about *Useful and beautiful - understanding trade tools from 1500 to the present*. Relevant papers will be mailed at the beginning of the month.

The visit to Windsor Castle was a great success, and all those who came were extremely grateful to Gill Charles for ensuring that everything ran smoothly. A visit to Spitalfields in June follows the fascinating recent talk by Gareth Harris. Since the last two Friday meetings described the Chiltern Open Air Museum and Flag Fen at Peterborough, perhaps these venues will also feature in future outings.

Also apparently successful, judging from the comments of those who attended, was the series of talks which Roger Miles recently gave on 'How Archaeology is Done'. Although it was held in my house, unfortunately I only managed to attend one meeting, but I look forward to participating in future digging.

As many of you will know, I have for some time been trying to find a member to replace me on the Committee of the Hertfordshire Association for Local History. as I feel strongly that the A&A, one of the largest local history societies in the county, ought to be represented. I am delighted to be able to tell members that John Cox has just agreed to serve, and I hope that many of our members will continue to support County activities, many of which are very interesting. I am looking forward to the Open Day on Homes and Gardens History at County Hall on 20th May.

And finally, it is my very great pleasure to congratulate Kate Morris, who currently chairs our Property History Group and takes responsibility for developments at the Library, a former Vice-President of the Society, on her election earlier this month as the next Mayor of St Albans.

With best wishes to all our members for the summer holidays, and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Clare Ellis

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CLOCK TOWER ... REFURBISHED

It was a fine evening as Her Worship the Mayor, other St Albans 'worthies' and guests from the A&A and the Civic Society, notably the 'clockateers' from both societies who work so hard to keep the Clock Tower open to visitors at weekends, gathered at Market Cross – no room inside the Clock Tower itself for such a large party.

Chris Green, Director of the St Albans Museums Service, said a few words, in competition with traffic noise, as did Her Worship, before inviting everyone inside for a celebratory glass of wine and a preview of the refurbishments and new display panels.

Amazing what a good clean and a coat of white paint can do for the overall appearance of a building! It now looks pristine. There has also been a general refurbishment of the tower interior and the view into the bell chamber has been improved. Work on the new counter is ongoing. Throughout, there are new display boards picturing the tower in times gone by and it's possible to see the bells more easily. Once the narrow stairs have been negotiated as far as the roof, the fantastic view is enhanced by a new toposcope pointing out places of interest within sight.



*Top, one of the attractive explanatory panels
Left, Chris Green and the Mayor
Above, some of the 'clockateers'*

... AND ON THE RADIO!

Before the May Day holiday, Three Counties Radio asked Chris Green if they could place a 'clue' for their Sunday Treasure Hunt in the Clock Tower. This was just an envelope, as the Treasure Hunt took place 'on air'.

A reporter came to collect the envelope while David Aubrey was on duty and did an interview with David about the Clock Tower. (It's lucky he was there, as David's been involved with the Clock Tower for so long). Later,

someone else from Three Counties Radio rang the Clock Tower and spoke to Jean Gourvenec. They asked her for some item of information to use in the Treasure Hunt – so she told them about Gabriel, the original bell, which dates from the same period as the building.

Possibly some members might have heard the item on the radio?

EMAIL NEWS BROADCASTS www.stalbanshistory.org

At a recent Council meeting it was felt that we needed a way to communicate with members rapidly – especially to publicise an event when the next printed Newsletter would be too late. I have therefore started a series of eMail News Broadcasts, to be co-ordinated with fuller notices on the website.

- The notes are ordinary emails with a serial number, and a Subject: field of the form "Arc & Arc eNews No.xx: Title."

- There are no attachments; larger material will be put onto the website and a brief advice note broadcast.
- There is no fixed schedule; notes are sent when there is something to say.
- eMail addresses are not stored on any website and are not vulnerable to spam generators.
- The recipient's address is in the 'blind copy' or Bcc: field of the

email and cannot be seen by anyone else.

- The distribution list includes only those who wish to be on it.

If you would like to receive these broadcasts please go to our website www.stalbanshistory.org, click on the link eMail News Broadcasts, and follow the instructions.

Brian Bending



CLOCK TOWER REPORT

Renovation work in the Clock Tower continued right up to the Easter opening on Friday 6th April. The day before, Thursday 5th April, a small party was held to celebrate the tower's 600th birthday and re-opening. In view of the dimensions of the Clock Tower, the number of invitations to each Society's helpers had to be limited! I was away and couldn't be there, but the event is reported on the previous page.

Renovation is not yet finished, and I am not in a position to know when further work will be done. Comments left by clockateers have been noted, and passed on: e.g. the absence to date of the 'digital display' which is referred to on a display board on the ground floor; I hope this will be installed soon ...

Also the counter height in relation to the chairs; the counter is obviously not finished yet and we hope to have some shelving put in for storage, and to display publications. I have left a pad for comments and suggestions, and do my best to follow them up.

Some visitors apparently felt that 80p was too much 'to climb some stairs' (but that's about the price of a cup of tea) in return for superb views of St Albans and beyond!

But other visitors are giving £1 and saying 'keep the change' as a donation.

Our usual 'Clockateers' Party, held each year to thank our volunteers, was on Friday March 16th and seemed much appreciated. Many of you may not know, but each year, we give Marks & Spencer tokens to the two clockateers who did the most sessions in the Clock Tower. For the 2006 season the recipients were Betty Ewens (not for the first time: thank you, Betty) and David Aubrey (who has done much for the Clock Tower over many years). So you see it is worth while doing more sessions on the rota . . .

Our remaining weekends for 2007 are shown below. Why not consult your diaries to see which dates you could help out? Ideally, pop into the Clock Tower during one of 'our' weekends to add your names to the rota – as some of you have done already – thank you. Since the rota is always circulating between Weekend Organisers, I don't have it to hand for making changes; but if you ring me, I can always tell you who currently holds the rota and their telephone number.

Jill Bennett

Clock Tower Co-ordinator
Tel/Fax: 01727 867685 29 Cornwall Rd, St Albans
E-mail: jill.bennett@waitrose.com

SAHAAS CLOCK TOWER WEEKENDS

2nd/3rd June
16th/17th June
30th June/1st July
14th/15th July
28th/29th July
11th/12th August
25th/26th/27th August
8th/9th September

LIBRARY LATEST

The Society's library is now re-installed in the Judges' Robing Room at the Old Town Hall and is up and running. Opening days will change to Wednesday and Fridays mornings, 10.00 to 12.00 noon from now on.

We are now on target for providing a first class service with this important St Albans collection and a formal opening so members can learn more about it will take place once the rest of the Town Hall refurbishment is complete later in the year.

For more information contact Gill Harvey. 01727 853415.

A VERY SHORT HISTORY OF MORRIS DANCING

Brian Bending, the A&A's webmaster, dances regularly with the St Albans Morris Men and in this article he outlines the history of this classic English pastime. To see the Morris Men in action, catch up with them at one of their many summer outings.

The modern history of Morris dancing began on Boxing Day 1899 when Cecil Sharp, who was a collector of folk songs, saw the Headington Quarrymen near Oxford. He started to collect and publish Morris dances and it is very probable that without him Morris would have died out.

Sharp shared the late Victorian view that folk customs were the remains of

A lively style of dancing called Morisco was popular in the courts of western Europe and is thought to have been named after the Moors of Spain. The word Morris might come from Morisco but that does not necessarily mean that the dance itself was Moorish. The modern theory is that elements from dances done by members of the Court percolated

18th century. It was mainly done by agricultural workers to raise money at seasons when there was not much work, and seems to have been in decline during the 19th century as agricultural workers moved into the industrial towns. Again we know much more about the costs and costumes than about the actual steps.

There are a number of distinct styles of Morris dance: The best known is Cotswold Morris, characterised by six-man sets (called 'sides'), light footwear, and bells on the shins. From

mediaeval times music was provided by the three-hole pipe and tabor (a small drum) played by one man, although melodeons and accordions are now common. North-West Morris is done in Lancashire clogs



Above left, St Albans Morris Men dancing *The Vandals of Hammerwich* from Lichfield

Above right, SAMM dancing Cotswold style morris

Right. Brian Bending with Jenny Howard of Beds Lace Morris



a prehistoric culture based upon pagan magic and fertility rituals. There is no longer any academic support for this theory but it is still widely repeated and causes real trouble in parts of the USA where fundamentalist Christians ban Morris dancing because of its supposed pagan origins.

In fact Morris dancing was first reported in the 15th century, and was performed at the Court of Henry VII. Most of the evidence is from books of accounts so we know how much the dancers were paid, and what their clothes cost; there are also a few pictures so we know what they looked like – but no one recorded the steps and figures performed, so we have little idea of what they actually did.

down into a folk culture, rather than developing 'bottom up'. One should be cautious because documentary evidence will always emphasise the contribution of the literate classes.

Shakespeare mentions Morris dancing and there are records of it at church ales held to raise money for repairs. It was banned under the Commonwealth but returned in the

with eight dancers and a band of musicians including brass and a bass drum. There is also the Lichfield style with eight dancers, and Border Morris (from the Welsh Borders) whose dancers paint their faces and emit loud shrieks as they charge across the set. There are historical mentions of Hertfordshire dances but nothing to indicate whether they represented a branch of the Cotswold style or something distinct.

In the Cotswolds each village evolved its own tradition with distinctive movements: in some the hands circle above the head, in others they crack the handkerchiefs like whips – there are many combinations – and there are many technical terms for the figures, steps, capers and hook-legs. Men used to visit other villages and pinch their ideas so a dance would be copied but adapted to the local tradition, and perhaps the tune modified to fit. Modern dancers have hundreds of permutations which they refer to by name and tradition, as in: 'Constant Billy, Headington', 'Constant Billy, Sherborne', etc.

St Albans Morris Men is a Cotswold club but we do some Lichfield and Border (without the face paint). We

also do a Yorkshire longsword dance in which six men hold swords in a ring and turn and twist it into knots but never, never, never (well hardly ever!) let go.

In the early 20th century there was a general revival following the work of Sharp and others, encouraged by The English Folk Dance and Song Society. St Albans Morris Men was founded in 1930 and used woven braid from the Abbey's stock for the baldrick, or cross sashes. In 1935 some clubs thought that folk dancing in general was becoming too academic and restricted to the dance studio, and that Morris in particular ought to return to its roots as a public entertainment, so they founded The Morris Ring as an association of men's clubs – with SAMM as inaugural members.

In the 1970s there was another great revival in folk dancing and many women started Morris dancing. Women had not been part of the 19th century public entertainment scene but they did participate in the early 20th century revival, and especially helped to preserve the Morris during the World Wars. The Morris Ring refused to admit women so they formed their own organisations; fortunately we have moved on and the separate organisations now readily co-operate on many issues. SAMM is a men's club but we regularly exchange visits with

ST ALBANS MORRIS MEN 2007		
Monday 4 June	8:15pm 9:30pm	Red Cow, Harpenden Carpenters Arms, Southdown
Monday 11 June	8:15pm 9:30pm	Cat & Fiddle, Radlett Round Bush, Aldenham
Monday 18 June	8:15pm 9:30pm	Steamer, Welwyn White Horse, Welwyn
Saturday 23 June	all day	St Albans Folk Festival: Morris & other clubs dance around the town
Monday 25 June	8:15pm 9:30pm	Cock, Sarratt Artichoke, Croxley Green
Wednesday 4 July	8:00pm	St Michael's Street Festival: Morris and many other styles of folk dance
Monday 9 July	8:15pm 9:30pm	George IV, Great Amwell Old Barge, Hertford
Monday 16 July	8:15pm 9:30pm	Three Blackbirds, Flamstead Crown & Sceptre, Bridens Camp
Monday 23 July	8:15pm 9:30pm	Candlestick, Essendon Woodman, Wildhill
Monday 30 July	8:15pm 9:30pm	Steam Coach, Boxmoor Rising Sun, Berkhamsted
Monday 6 Aug	8:15pm 9:30pm	Brocket Arms, Ayot St Lawrence Cross Keys, Gustard Wood
Monday 13 Aug	8:15pm 9:30pm	Hollybush, Redbourn Alford Arms, Frithsden
Monday 20 Aug	8:15pm 9:30pm	The Horns, Bulls Green White Horse, Burnham Green
Monday 3 Sept	8:15pm	Land of Liberty, Heronsgate
Monday 10 Sept	8:15pm	Plough, Tyttenhanger Green
Saturday 29 Sept	all day	St Albans Morris Men Day of Dance: Clubs from around the country join St Albans Morris Men to mark the end of our summer of dance

women's sides.

The new season started at 6.00am on May Day and SAMM will be dancing outside pubs on Monday nights, and at various fetes and carnivals. Our Monday programme is

included here but for more details ask for one of our handbills or visit www.stalbansmorrismen.org.uk.

Brian Bending

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP REPORT

Geo-physics

At the invitation of a resident of Hill Street, St. Albans we carried out a survey of his back garden one Sunday morning. Many members will be aware that the Kingsbury district of the City is of interest as a proposed location for the centre of occupation in the post-Roman period. Some excavation had been carried in the 70's in part of the garden now built on. The features found then were not of a character to show up readily with ground resistivity and what we were able to see was most likely evidence of past garden features. However, using our normal metre grid on a fairly small area gave a coarse image i.e. the pixels were relatively large,

possibly obscuring finer detail (think of the suspect's face pixelated out on a TV real crime replay. You know there is a face there, but cannot see whose).

We could well return at some time and repeat the exercise at a finer resolution with the hope of seeing any detail better, but this will depend on our other research priorities.

Excavation

We hope to be working on our Amwell site again, in late summer, with a target around the Bank Holiday. Access is governed by the harvest, however, so until that has happened a precise start date cannot be given. Anyone who would like to take part

should contact me not earlier than the first full week in August when the timetable should be crystallising. Sorry not to be able to give firmer dates for people to plan forwards.

A piece of small print.

Participants in Society digs must be paid-up members in order that they and the Society are protected by the latter's insurance. For the same reason we have, regrettably, to impose a minimum age limit of 14. Another reason is that, even with volunteers, it does cost money to run excavations and this comes from subscriptions.

Roger Miles

ARCHITECTURE AND LOCAL HISTORY GROUP LECTURES

On Tuesday 18th February **Brian and Kathleen Moody** talked about the **History of Holywell House** grounds. Kathleen described the development of the gardens from plans which still exist. The formal gardens laid out in straight lines with a rectangular 'canal' were eventually changed to the more informal style of the 18th century, with natural curves, designed by a pupil of 'Capability' Brown. The history of the house and estate was traced from 1543 when Ralph Rowlatt bought them after the Dissolution. 'Holywell Meads' in 'Hollowwell Street' was acquired by the Jennings family and, through Sarah Jennings, later first Duchess of Marlborough, became one of the homes of the Marlboroughs. They designed the garden and moved Holywell Hill road back from the house, making the road bulge into a curve. After the Duke's death, Sarah maintained the house and gardens, keeping four gardeners and four women assistants. Brian covered the later part of estate history, redevelopment and owners: the Spensers, the Ormerods at Torrington House and Henry Woollam, who established the silk mills. Over the years the original farm and grounds were built over. Apart from Torrington House, a network of small residential roads was created, and now nothing remains of the Marlboroughs' favourite property except the original holy well after which the area was named.

The following week **Janet Miles**, from our Archaeology Group, talked on **Archaeology: A Digger's View** - whether from the bottom of a 4-foot trench or, on hands and knees, scraping the surface of a field. She described the work of the group, under the leadership of Roger Miles, at Mr Dickinson's Cross Farm and the finds made in Cutts Green Wood, Thames Wood and Braiche Wood. The group is greatly helped by a 'geophys' machine constructed by Bill Martin. They work closely with the museum; e.g. the excavation of the area of Verulamium Museum before its extension and of the hypocaust site. Janet illustrated her talk with slides showing examples of the artefacts uncovered, including a baby's skeleton, and concluded by hoping

that members would volunteer during the next digging season. Her very interesting lecture drew well earned attention to the important work carried out by this dedicated group.

On 6th March **Sam Mullins** of the London Transport Museum, paid us a return visit to speak about **Transport in Victorian and Edwardian London**. Sam is well remembered as a past director of St Albans Museum, whose refurbishment of Verulamium Museum has made it the City's leading attraction and an important national research centre. He is now in charge of a £20 million redevelopment of the London Transport Museum, opening in the autumn. Before the early 19th century, travel was confined to stagecoach and river, until the first horse-drawn omnibus carrying 18 passengers in 1829. The average fare was 6d, too high for the working classes. Omnibuses touted for business, stopping on demand, under control of a conductor nicknamed 'the cad'. Gradually, with lighter construction, double-deckers were possible, carrying more passengers. As the population of London expanded from 1 million to 7 million, it was decided that an underground railway was needed, and the Metropolitan Line was built in the early 1860s. Underground travel was unpleasant owing to smoke and steam, despite the authorities' claim that it was immensely healthy. Things improved when electric trains became possible, while above ground horse trams, also later electrified, enabled more passengers to be carried. Developments during the latter quarter of the 19th century were built and financed by Americans, the USA

being in the forefront of transport systems. Sam's presentation, superbly illustrated, was excellent, tracing the wonderful development of travel in the capital over 70 years.

Our next March speakers was **Margaret Wilson**, who spoke about **Monumental Brasses**. Covering the 14th to 17th centuries. Earlier brasses were made from thicker metal sheet and more deeply incised, whereas later examples, being thinner, were lightly etched and make brass rubbing more difficult. A number of brasses were destroyed at the Dissolution and later brasses were re-used with the earlier design still visible on the reverse. Brasses provide an interesting record of the various unions between the county's gentry. For example, Hugo Bostick and his wife Margaret Mackrye (d. 1450) are recorded by their brass in Wheathampstead church; their son was Abbot John of Wheathampstead. Another well known figure was Ralph Rowlatt who profited from the Dissolution, acquiring numerous properties and estates in an around St Albans. These brasses, while not being portraits of the deceased, record a fascinating picture of the fashions in clothing and armour over the ages. Margaret's research revealed a wealth of information on the leading figures of Hertfordshire throughout the medieval age and was very much appreciated.

On 3rd April our speaker was Michael Rose, who delivered a very informative talk on the painted ceilings of St Albans Abbey, illustrated by some excellent slides.

WINDSOR CASTLE VISIT

Way back in February, on a cool but dry day, 37 members and friends went to Windsor Castle, a follow-up to the exciting lecture we had last year on the refurbishment of the Castle following the fire. It was described as a 'super-tour' and it certainly lived up to expectations! We had two personal guides for the day and were extremely well looked after. On arrival there was an introduction with coffee; then, as we were a large group, we were split into two parties. There was a behind-the-scenes tour of the medieval undercroft and the Great Kitchen, parts of the castle not normally open to the public. Our ticket included access to the rest of the Castle and we enjoyed making full use of this.

Gill Charles

SATURDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER & SUNDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2007**LOCAL HEROES OF GEOLOGY****JOINT MEETING WITH HERTFORDSHIRE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

As part of a countrywide celebration of the Geological Society of London's Bicentenary year, the Hertfordshire Geological Society has invited members of SAHAAS to a joint meeting giving credit to early geologists living and working in the county. The meeting starts with coffee at 10:30 am on 22nd September in Verulamium Museum. In the morning Dr Peter Banham (Chairman of HGS) will speak about collaboration between Thomas Telford (1757-1834) and William Smith (1769-1839) on the Grand Junction Canal and other engineering works north of London. Smith later became known as the 'Father of English Geology'. Jack Doyle will then describe the

stratigraphic and glaciological work of the Yorkshireman George Lamplugh, who lived in St. Albans from 1892 to 1928 and became President of the London Geological Society, a Fellow of the Royal Society and Assistant Director of the British Geological Survey.

After lunch and perhaps time for a drink at one of the pubs in St. Michaels, Professor Peter Worsley will describe the career of William Whitaker (1836-1925), who also worked for the British Geological Survey and was famous as a pioneer of hydrogeological and landscape development studies in Hertfordshire. Finally, Professor John Catt,

Secretary of HGS, will recount the wide-ranging scientific contributions of the amateur John Hopkinson, who also came to live in St. Albans after inheriting his father's piano factory in Leeds. The Saturday programme should close at 4:30 pm.

On Sunday 23rd September, a walk to examine the geology of St. Albans and architectural use of the numerous types of interesting building stones in the city will be led by representatives of both Societies. It will start outside Verulamium Museum at 10:30 am and finish in the city centre around lunchtime.

For more details or to register contact Bryan Hanlon 01727 851734.

NEW MEMBERS

The following have joined since the last newsletter. We welcome them and hope they will take an active role in Society activities.

JE Cope	London Colney
Peter Cullens	Battlefield Road, St Albans
ME Dixon	Ware
Robert Greenhill	Wheathampstead
Angela Maxwell	Hemel Hempstead
Mr & Mrs S Oxley	Wheathampstead
Lourdes Pons	Campfield Road, St Albans
Heidi Walker	Holywell Hill, St Albans

PROPERTY HISTORY GROUP

Work continues on aspects of this project. The architectural survey work which was begun by Bill Dodds before he left for Scotland has, however, halted for lack of appropriate expertise to continue it. If any interested member has architectural skills which could be applied to the project, please get in touch with Kate Morris on 01727 868434.

FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES

If you know of any particularly interesting speakers who would be appropriate for our Friday Lecture Series, Doreen Bratby would be delighted to hear from you.

01727 858050

VICTORIANA REVISITED

I get frequent letters about my local histories and thought that purchasers of Victoriana, A St Albans Streetscape, might be interested to see two such letters recently received.

Mr Malcolm Holliday of Kingsbury Lodge writes to say that my arbitrary date for "Victorian" Branch Road (1831) can be bettered. There is a date stone, he says, now very worn but still discernible in a good light, in the brick and flint wall opposite Camlet Way, marked '1827'; he adds that his house and the adjacent residence, originally the home of the brewery owner, were probably constructed at this time. Look for this date stone while you still can.

Another letter comes from Mr Laurie Gibson who says that my illustration (p.37) of the 105 Verulam Road door does not reflect an original commercial travellers' lodging house here as it started life in Halifax and was bought and brought to St Albans by a previous owner. Its Victorian origin, however, is not in doubt nor is its elegance and we should be pleased to preserve this Yorkshire door.

It seems that as soon as the turnpike road was open in 1827 scattered development began along Verulam Road and existing side lanes. This is in apparent contrast to the New (London) Road turnpike where evidence of development (apart from the Toll House, there by 1797) so far suggests a delay of some 25 years. Both Verulam and New Road developments, however, preceded the new boundaries to be drawn up for 1835, enacted by the Reform Act of 1832. It was to provide essential housing for newly arrived artisans and the many straw worker families living in squalor in the noisome yards behind French Row. A steady increase in the pre-Victorian St Albans population prompted the first boundary changes for exactly 500 years.

More info on this period would be welcomed.

Tony Billings

CURRENT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Please contact me if you would like copies from our list at special prices for members of SAHAAS. When I attend Tuesday meetings I have two copies of each publication with me; however, I do not attend every Tuesday so a telephone call in advance will be useful. Otherwise 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 copies.

Paul Harding

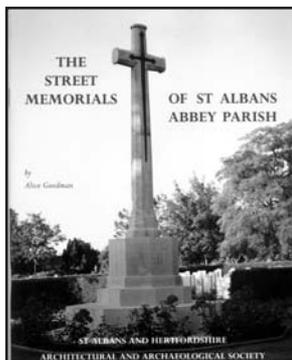
57 Camlet Way, St.Albans, Herts. AL3 4TL Tel. (01727) 839577

The Street Memorials of St Albans Abbey Parish

Alice Goodman, 1987

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

£4

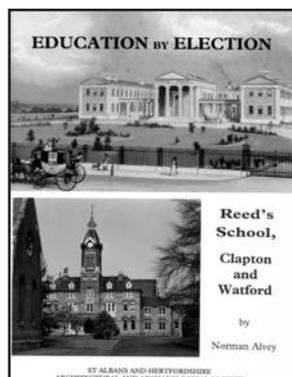
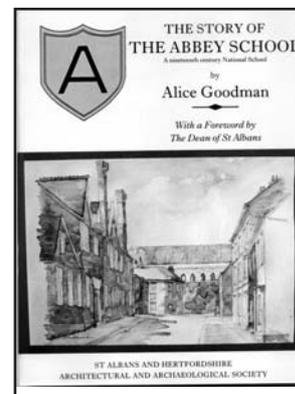


The Story of the Abbey School

Alice Goodman, 1991

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

£4



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

Norman Alvey, 1990

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

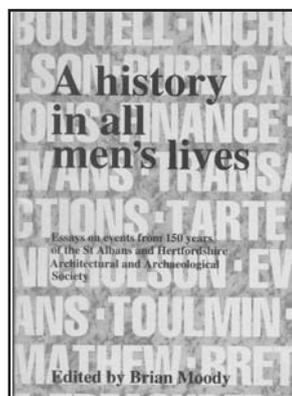
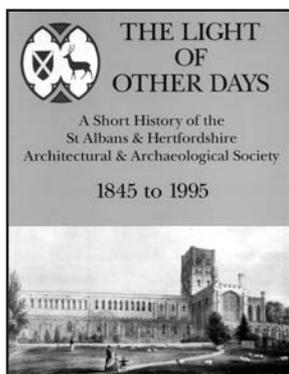
£4

The Light of Other Days

Brian Moody, 1995

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

£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.

£2



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.

£4

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.

2007-2008 LECTURES

PLEASE NOTE THAT DETAILS OF FRIDAY LECTURES FOR 2008 WILL APPEAR IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Tuesday 4th September 2007

***The Pioneer Years: Origins & Early Years of
Letchworth Garden City***

Robert Lancaster

Tuesday 11th September 2007

'Fatty' Cavan: a Hertfordshire Field-Marshal

John Cox

Tuesday 18th September 2007

***The Story of St Leonard's Church, Hertford's
Oldest Building***

Gill Cordingley

Tuesday 25th September 2007

SAHAAS AGM

At Verulamium Museum

***Useful and beautiful - understanding trade
tools from 1500 to the present***

Chris Green

It is often imagined – wrongly – that in the past tools were used in the sorry state we find them in today: blunt, rusty, chipped, bent, and therefore inefficient. Their design and sheer variety is rarely appreciated, and nor is the place of hand tools in the industrial revolution. This illustrated talk will offer another view.

Chris Green is Director of St Albans Museums. Trades and their tools have been a particular interest for many years, and as well as looking after the Salaman Collection of tools at the Museum of St Albans, he is a trustee of the Ken Hawley Trust in Sheffield, the premier collection of tools and associated literature in the UK.

Friday 28th September 2007

The Life of William Wilberforce

Stephen Tomkins

This lecture will explore the story of his life: his unsettled childhood; his high-powered social life; his friendship with William Pitt and contributions to his ministry; his evangelical conversion; the causes that he, along with the 'Clapham Sect', thereafter devoted his career to: the 'reformation of manners', mission to India and, at home, poor relief, the crushing of revolution, and, of course, the slave trade and his whirlwind marriage and tempestuous family life.

Stephen Tomkins is a full-time writer, one of his books being *The Life of William Wilberforce*. He also writes for the BBC, the Guardian and other papers.

Tuesday 2nd October 2007

Thirteen Months as St Albans Mayor

Jenny Stroud

Tuesday 9th October 2007

Uncovering Kingsbury Manor

Jill Singer

Tuesday 16th October 2007

***The Forgotten Historic Landscape of the
Leverstock Green Area***

Barbara Chapman

Friday 26th October 2007

***Goods and passenger transport by road
before and after the turnpikes***

Dorian Gerhold

This lecture will concentrate on road services before turnpiking had a major impact on them (c.1750/60), and he will talk briefly about the period after turnpiking.

Dorian Gerhold is Clerk of the Trade and Industry Committee at the House of Commons

Tuesday 30th October 2007

***Dissolution of the Monasteries: What
Happened at St Albans***

Jane Kelshall

Tuesday 6th November 2007

***Hertfordshire, Home of the
Pharmaceutical Industry***

Clare Ellis

Tuesday 13th November 2007

***Hertfordshire's Links with the Slave Trade
and its Abolition***

Dr Jill Barber

Tuesday 20th November 2007

***Mapping the Past: the Hertfordshire
Historical Atlas***

Dr. Kate Thompson

Friday 30th November 2007

***The Edge of Empires: The Story
of the Balkans***

Rosamund Bartlett

This lecture will explore the fascinating history of the Slav countries in south-east Europe which make up the Balkans by focusing on their successive relationships with the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, and later with the Great Powers. In exploring the past, it is hoped that some light will be shed on the region's complicated recent history. The aim will be to provide a coherent picture of the forces that have shaped the destinies and cultural make-up in particular of Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Croatia.

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.

Rosamund Bartlett is a well-known writer, lecturer and translator who specialises in the cultural history of Russia and Eastern Europe. She has taught at universities in Great Britain and the United States, and is currently Fellow of the European Humanities Research Centre at the University of Oxford. She is the author of many books, including ones on Wagner and Russia and Chekhov.

Tuesday 4th December 2007

From Coal Mine to Comet: Reminiscences of Hatfield

Dr D.P. Howlett

Tuesday 11th December 2007

Sander, St Albans' Orchid King

Betty Ewens

The Redoubtable Duchess and her Almshouses

Gerard McSweeney

Tuesday 15th January 2008

Elstree, Britain's Hollywood

Robert Bard

Tuesday 29th January 2008

A Butcher's Daybook; Abbots Langley in 1828

Dr Richard Simons

Tuesday 5th February 2008

Geophysical Surveys Around Hertfordshire

Dr Bill Martin

Tuesday 12th February 2008

Apsley Mill & the History of Paper-making

Jacky Bennett

Tuesday 19th February 2008

The Story of Welwyn Garden City

Caroline Rawle

4th March 2008

Roman Medicine

Dr Ralph Jackson

Tuesday 11th March 2008

ALH Group AGM

Ways to Annoy the Enemy: St. Albans and the Napoleonic War

Brian Adams

Tuesday 18th March 2008

The Arc and Arc Library

The Library Staff

Tuesday 1st April 2008

Flags, Feathers and Further Communication Methods

Victor Ludlow

Tuesday 8th April 2008

St Albans & the Peasants' Revolt

Rev P Wadsworth

Tuesday 15th April 2008

St Albans Fire Service

Dr Alan McWhirr

Tuesday 29th April 2008

The £150 Cottage; Letchworth G C & the 1905 Cheap Cottage Exhibition

Vicky Rawlings

Tuesday 6th May 2008

Archaeology of the Mappin & Webb Site

Gene Mitchell

Tuesday 20th May 2008

Beneath City Streets: London's Unseen History

Peter Lawrence

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