



NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At our AGM in September I was delighted to review 2006/7, another very successful year, with some outstanding lectures and activities. We have come through constitutional changes, thanks to the work of Gordon Brown, Bryan Hanlon, Peter Jefferies and John Thomson, and our September AGM is now close to the start of the new season.

I was delighted that John Cox has agreed to represent the Arc & Arc on the Committee of the Hertfordshire Association for Local History, so that

we continue to play a part in County activities.

As usual, the new Year Party was a very enjoyable evening, thanks to Doreen Bratby and many helpers. The visit to Windsor Castle, arranged by Gill Charles, was an enormous success, and the walk round Spitalfields was extremely interesting; I hope to go back and do it again with more time.

Another big step forward has been in the Society's Library, now installed in the Old Town Hall and open to members on Wednesday and Friday mornings. The team of librarians is working very hard to sort all the books and produce a computerised catalogue.

As you know, we have recently circulated all members with a questionnaire to obtain your thoughts about how we should move forward. I am delighted that so many of you took the time and trouble to reply (Bryan's post lady wondered what on earth was happening!) and we are now examining the results. Needless to say we shall keep you fully informed. Roger Miles has already run an introductory course on archaeology (held in my house even though I only managed to attend one meeting!). Pat Howe's 17th century group has also widened its scope and the Tuesday evening talk resulting from their work was extremely interesting. Perhaps the recent joint meeting of the Society and the Hertfordshire Geological Society, followed by a walk round St Albans, points another way forward for us.

At the AGM on 25th September, members approved the accounts for the year ended September 2006 and for the eight-month period to 31st May 2007, and received reports from the secretary and representatives of various activity groups. Our existing Council was re-elected, with the exception of our Publicity Officer Ann Dean, who has decided not to stand again. We thank her for her efforts in the past and invite members to consider taking up this key post; details on page 9. The members of Council introduce themselves on subsequent pages.

Finally, as I start my last year as President, I would urge members to think about whether they would like to stand as my successor: it has been a very rewarding experience!

Clare Ellis

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**Don't miss our
New Year
Party**
11th January 2008
**Details on the last
page**

INTRODUCING THE SAHAAS COUNCIL



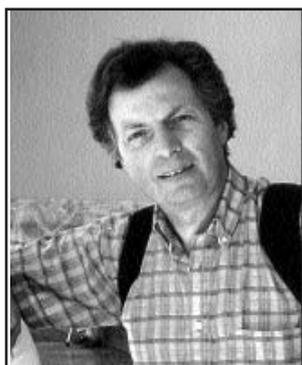
Clare Ellis
PRESIDENT

It seems strange to be writing this at the start of my third year as President, but here goes! I read French at UCL – not the right choice – and then trained as a Librarian at Birkbeck. Ted and I married in 1960 and moved to St Albans in 1963 in 3ft of snow with a six-month-old baby. The St Albans branch of the British Federation of University Women provided mental stimulation and friendships which have lasted 44 years.

I stood for election as District Councillor in 1969 and was successfully elected, perhaps as a result of some fortuitous boundary changes. I have since been on the Council several times, representing different wards,

My involvement with A&A and local history was the result of an invitation to attend a summer garden party and soon I succeeded Val Hryniewicz as Newsletter editor, until 2003. I represented the A&A on the Hertfordshire Association for Local History and served as its secretary.

Having failed O-level history as a result of the lengthy Drobny/Patty match at Wimbledon the night before, I am pleased to have been able to take up local history. I enjoyed working with Pat Howe on 17th C St Albans and our book on the Pemberton almshouses. I obtained a Master of Studies external degree at Cambridge in 2003 with a thesis based on the Abbey Poor Law records.



Bryan Hanlon
SECRETARY

For as long as I can remember, I have always loved history – any period, any 'culture', anywhere in the world – it does not seem to matter. The shelves of any library seem to be full of books with fascinating titles – if only I had the time to read them all! One day, when I am really fully retired, then I shall start at A and just work my way as far as I can towards Z, but something tells me that I shall never get there!



Jill Bennett
CLOCK TOWER

Once a professional librarian, I am now Editor for a national garden society, and the International Organ Festival Society. In three years as Clock Tower Co-ordinator, I've acted as its treasurer, organised publications and postcards and ensured sufficient volunteers. It's a varied role, with occasional, desperate phone calls. The interior renovation of the Clock Tower brought new queries and complaints from 'clockateers', mainly about the seating, which have been noted. Despite this, our helpers say they enjoy it.



John Thomson
TREASURER

I joined the society in May 2004 to take up the post of Treasurer. I am a member, and have been for many years, of the world's oldest Institute of Chartered Accountants, that of Scotland. However all my working life has been in the City of London holding a variety of senior finance positions in financial institutions.



Doreen Bratby
LECTURE SECRETARY

I was privileged, in the early 1980s, to move to St Albans with its wealth of history. In order to get to know it better I joined the Society 22 years ago. During that time its lectures, writings and shared research have given me great insight into the town's history, architecture and archaeology. In order to put something back into the Society I have used my administrative background by furthering the lecture programme into the future. I urge other members to seek to use their abilities to the benefit of the Society.



Brian Bending
WEBSITE MANAGER

I spent most of my working life programming computers embedded in industrial equipment. Personal computers were only just coming so I learnt to build a website by trial and error. The Arc & Arc seems to me to be a set of groups which have little contact with each other or the members at large, and I should like to see much more communication. I have lived in St Albans since 1969 and belong to several societies dealing with history, industrial archaeology, and historic buildings and gardens.



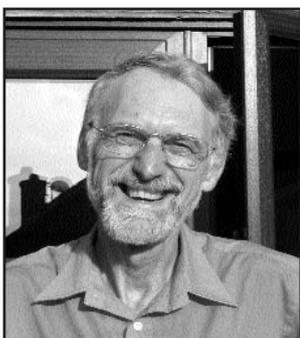
Dee Drinkwater
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I have always been interested in history since my imagination was fired by castle visits as a teenager. I have worked in communication, print and design for over 30 years. I would like to see the Society promoting its interests among younger members to secure it an active future.



Pat Howe
17TH C POPULATION
RESEARCH / MINUTES SEC

After a dissertation on 17th C St Albans for a degree in Modern History, I joined the 17th Century Group, entering information onto the database and reconstructing families. I contributed to *St Albans 1650-1700*. Since then the I have coordinated the work of the 17th Century Population Research Group. There is plenty of scope to extend our work, but I would like to see SAHAAS promote new areas of research and to forge links with the award winning History Department at the University of Hertfordshire.



Roger Miles
ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

I had a passing encounter with archaeology in my teens when my family moved to St. Albans, but, rather inexplicably, was not aware of the A&A. Had I been, I might have begun a career in archaeology. I joined in 1983 and became Chairman of the Archaeology and Local History Group in 1985. As well as taking part in excavations in the area, I was involved for 10 years in excavations in North Wales. Combining my profession (engineering) and hobby I have established a small business designing and manufacturing specialist equipment for use in field and post-excavation archaeology.



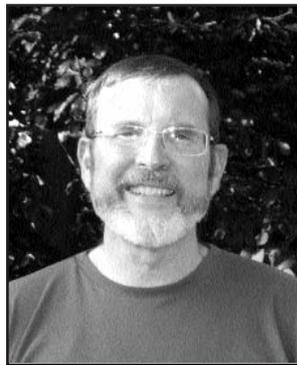
Peter Jeffreys
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Formerly Secretary and Registrar of the University of Hertfordshire, I am now involved in a project to produce its official history. I am a history graduate with a background in teaching and in educational administration. I would like to see the Society expanding its research activities and building on its previous successes.



Kate Morris
PROPERTY RESEARCH /
LIBRARY

A long standing member, I was President from 1999-2002 and coordinated work on properties in St Peters Street over the years. I currently have responsibility for the Library. I have produced several local history books and am primarily interested in social and cultural history. This year's Mayor of the City and District, I still find time for historical interests. I am organising a range of events to raise funds for my chosen charity (St Albans Fund for the Future) each of which gives an insight to aspects of the history of the St Albans area (see page 6).



Bill Martin
HERTS ARCHAEOLOGY AND
HISTORY

I retired from the aerospace industry several years ago, hoping to find more time for geophysics and archaeology. Roger Miles and I have developed surveying instruments for the Society and hope to do more work this year. My current commitment to the Society is as Coordinator for *Hertfordshire Archaeology* – a real challenge for a physicist! The coming year presents a number of challenges in achieving change in our publications and initiating innovative ways to support archaeology and history research in the county.



Gerard McSweeney
HERTS ARCHAEOLOGY AND
HISTORY

I retired after 40 years as an analytical chemist at the British (later Malaysian) Rubber Producers' Research Association. My interest in local history was inspired by an early WEA course on Wheathampstead run by Lionel Munby, leading to joint publications. This type of activity is an essential part of a local history society.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following, who have joined since our last newsletter, and hope they will enjoy the Society's activities.

Anthony Hull, The Park, St Albans
Mrs P Hurford, St Bernard's Road, St Albans
Paul Lanham, Starlight Way, St Albans
Mrs SC McDermott, Carlisle Avenue, St Albans
Mr & Mrs SJ Pegum, Barnet
Mr & Ms R Sansom, Fishpool Street, St Albans
Allan Wainwright, St Bernard's Road, St Albans
Mr & Mrs G Willis, Folly Avenue, St Albans

PRESIDENT'S NEW ADDRESS

Clare Ellis has recently moved house. If you need to contact her she is now at

Shandy Cottage, 91 Sandpit Lane, St Albans, Herts
AL1 4BJ

Tel 01727 856250
clare.a.ellis@btinternet.com

ALH GROUP LECTURES

On Tuesday 4th September the season opened with a talk by Robert Lancaster of the Heritage Museum, Letchworth, on the early years of the world's first garden city. The founder, Ebenezer Howard, published his book on garden cities in 1898, a movement which offered an escape from the dirt and fumes of industrial towns to a pleasant community in the countryside. In 1902 a site of over 3000 acres was identified between the railway and the Great North Road, on poor agricultural land which was purchased in 1903: Letchworth Garden City was on its way.

Robert illustrated his talk with photos which documented the various stages of construction right through to the '30s. The architects, Unwin and Parks, provided pleasing houses mainly in the Arts and Crafts style, with a separate area for industry, and it was ironic (with today's knowledge) that in an area described as healthy, the first factory was Vickers and Fields asbestos works! Printing and book-binding soon followed.

This excellent lecture provided a most interesting account of this great social experiment, which resulted in a charming addition to Hertfordshire's towns and cities.

Our next speaker was John Cox, who

gave a first-rate account of the long life and career of the 10th Earl of Cavan. Born in 1865 in Ayot St Lawrence, Frederick Rudolph Lambart was in the Eton Volunteers, which led to his military career in the 2nd Bt Grenadier Guards, serving in the South African war. He inherited the title in 1900 and was awarded the first of many honours, the Royal Victorian Order, in 1910. Having retired to his Wheathampstead estate, he was recalled to the army in 1914, was in charge of the Guards brigade which fought at Ypres and the Somme and, later in 1918, in Italy. By 1919 he was back in England, progressing through many high-level positions to become Field Marshal. When he was awarded the Freedom of the City of St Albans, his carriage was hauled here from Wheathampstead in style by local men. When WW2 broke out, Cavan was turned down for the Home Guard but later given command of that organisation!

The Earl was of short stature with a kindly personality. He married Inez Crawley in 1983 and, after her death, Lady Joan Mulholland, with whom he had two daughters. He died in 1946 after a life of continuous service.

John allowed us to pass round photos and original documents which

illustrated his lecture, including letters from the 13-year-old Princess Elizabeth, Edward VIII and George VI.

The following week Gill Cordingley gave an illustrated lecture on St Leonard's Church, Bengeo. This early Norman church dates from around 1120, dedicated to St Leonard, thought to be the patron saint of prisons. The little church first served the area but as population increased a larger Victorian Church, Holy Trinity, replaced it and St Leonard's began to fall into disrepair. The proprietor of Bengeo Hall initiated the restoration in 1880. Work had been done there in 1585 when new windows were probably inserted, and during work in the 1930s an original wall painting, the Descent from the Cross, was discovered under a coat of whitewash. Others were in too poor a state to be decipherable. A feature of the church is the mass dial (or scratch dial) which served the people when clocks were so rare.

Gill's excellent talk gave a comprehensive account of the church and the area. It is good to know that services are still held during the summer and occasionally in winter, and that it is possible to arrange visits to the largely unspoiled example of Norman architecture.

REMEMBERING MARGARET WILSON

Margaret, a long-standing member of the Society, died on 5 September after a brave battle against cancer.

In the past she helped to set up the Architecture and Local History Group and then served on the committee. She also gave talks at several of the meetings including one on the street names of St Albans and another on the green man. Her talks were always meticulously researched and prepared with dummy runs to ensure they were interesting and the right length.

She shared her great knowledge of local history and architecture by being both a Blue-Badge City Guide and an Abbey Guide. For the former she helped devise some of the walks and she was secretary of the Abbey Guides for many years.

She was always happy to share her knowledge either in response to individual queries or by writing. For example she contributed many items to the Abbey Guides newsletter ranging from one about Orlando, the Abbey

cat, to one on the disputes between the medieval Abbey and the Bishop of Lincoln.

She was particularly interested in stained glass and, as well as researching the work of the local artist, Christopher Webb, she produced a splendid leaflet on the Abbey's stained glass and another on that at St Peter's. She was also working on a new guide book for St Peter's.

As her brother said at the funeral, she always contributed to the many organisations to which she belonged. As well as those already mentioned these included the Soroptomists, of which she was at one time chairman, NADFAS where she did church recording and she founded the local branch of the Richard III Society. She was also an active member of St Peter's Church.

She will be sadly missed.

Sheila M Green

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP REPORT

Amwell (non) Excavation

In common with the outdoor activities of many this summer, our planned excavations were foiled by the weather. The causation was indirect, in that the bean crop on our site field only became dry and ready to harvest very late on and we were thus denied access. Complaints from those disappointed should be addressed not to myself, but to the Clerk of the Weather.

To plan future excavations that we are eventually able to do, we intend to expand the area already covered by geophysical survey, so anyone new wishing to assist in this please make themselves known to myself. We normally do this work on Sunday mornings. It is not arduous, but on the other hand it cannot truthfully be described as exciting, although there is always the prospect of being present when the first signs of a new discovery are seen. I always think that it adds to the interest of excavation to be able to say 'I was there when we discovered this'.

When and When Not to Dig

Comments and conversations prompted by various archaeological discoveries prompt me to give a short explanation of the present philosophy of rescue excavation. There is often a belief (outside the archaeology world) that if an archaeological discovery is made it will or should, be automatically excavated. This is not the case. Excavation is, in a sense, a last resort. It will take place only if a sequence of criteria are met:

- *Threat*: The site faces certain destruction, either by natural erosion processes or some planned development, civil engineering work or other activity.

Natural landscape processes can simultaneously reveal and threaten sites. The option of stopping Nature will usually not be practicable, so that rescue excavation or abandonment is the simple choice in this situation.

If Man, rather than Nature, is responsible for the threat more options are available. It may be possible to change the location or extent of the projected works or leave the site surrounded, but undisturbed, in a 'reservation' within. A variant of this last approach is foundations which raft over or protect the archaeological features, while still doing their job. Controlled cultivation methods can limit the adverse effects of agriculture. Thus the threat is diverted or modified. Only if none of these mitigation approaches is feasible does excavation become more certain. The compromise of part-excavation plus part-preservation is always a possibility, of course.

- *Gain*. It is likely that significant new knowledge will be gained.

There is little point in excavating a site which is similar to others already investigated and well-understood. Excavation should increase the amount of accumulated knowledge, not just the quantity of facts. Hence there must be a real prospect of learning something new to justify the effort involved. Admittedly, by its very nature, excavation is a journey into the unknown, but well-executed trial trenching and prospecting should give a good indication of what might be found. There is certainly a presumption that limited, exploratory excavation may be appropriate, but not necessarily more than that.

- *Cost*: The cost of excavation and consequent work can be met from some source.

Like so many things in life, excavation costs money - it certainly will if it is done thoroughly and properly. And it is often not appreciated by the layman that a great deal of work takes place off-site, after the basic business of digging is finished. This may cost as much as the excavation - quite possibly more.

- *The Posterity Factor*: Are we being greedy?

A fourth consideration is more difficult to quantify. It concerns our readiness to leave a part of what we are aware of for investigation in the future, in all probability by improved methods, notwithstanding the sophistication of those developed up to now. And equally importantly we do not want to bequeath a bare cupboard to future generations.

- *The Emotional Factor*: Are people getting too worked up?

What may be an exciting and seemingly important discovery on a local level may be less so in the wider scale of things. Similarly, commonly-held, but incorrect beliefs about the past may attach an unwarranted significance to a discovery in the public mind. Suffice to say that this can be 'a tricky one' to take account of in the decision process.

Present planning law and guidance places responsibility for ascertaining the presence of archaeology and making provision for either its preservation or controlled destruction (excavation) on those responsible for the threat. Note the order of choices in 'either/or'.

Unexpected archaeology encountered in the course of a development could have significant financial and delaying implications for the project. Larger organisations may well be able to bear the costs thrown upon them, but those at the lower end of the scale may have difficulty meeting their obligations. And note that lawful development cannot simply be barred, whatever popular feeling may be. Archaeological discovery ranges from the trivial to the nationally significant and fortunately public funding can ultimately be called upon where judged appropriate. But still a cost/benefit analysis will form the basis of that judgement - and could well be contentious!

Roger Miles

THE NEW LIBRARY UNVEILED

The Library is now open for business at the old Town Hall on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon. We are to be found behind the Tourist & Information Office. Currently you need to walk straight past the desk, and through the door ahead of you.

The books are now almost all classified, which makes location of items slightly easier. Work on pamphlets, newspaper cuttings, prints and other miscellaneous items will follow. Production of the catalogue has been much slower than we would have wished, but we hope to make real progress in the autumn.

We can now tell you, the members, about all the various good things the library has to offer. We will be giving a talk on the library and displaying some of the choice items on 18th March next year at the Tuesday lecture series. There may also be other opportunities to mount library displays. Do take these opportunities to find out about one of the Society's hidden treasures. Why not just drop in to see us on one of our open mornings? Access is easy, and we are very friendly!!

We have identified a number of items

which have been given to the Society in the past which are really not relevant to the majority of our members' interests. Some of these have considerable monetary value, others less. The Society's Council has agreed that we should sell these items and use the money for the benefit of the library. There will be two sales, both accessible to members, one for more valuable items, where items not sold to members will go to booksellers or auction, and one, for members only, for items of lesser value. A list of items for disposal in the first sale is on page 7, with suggested reasonable prices. Members interested in looking at any item should contact one of the library team.



At work in the Library preparing displays for the New Members Evening

THE LIBRARY TEAM

Gill	01727 853415
Anne	01727 860705
Tony	01727 865032
Scott	01727 844336

AN ALTERNATIVE HISTORY OF ST ALBANS

As this year's Mayor of the City and District member Kate Morris is hosting a series of events to raise funds for her chosen charity, the St Albans Fund for the Future. Each one is a ticketed event and provides a novel insight to aspects of our local heritage and a different period of our history.

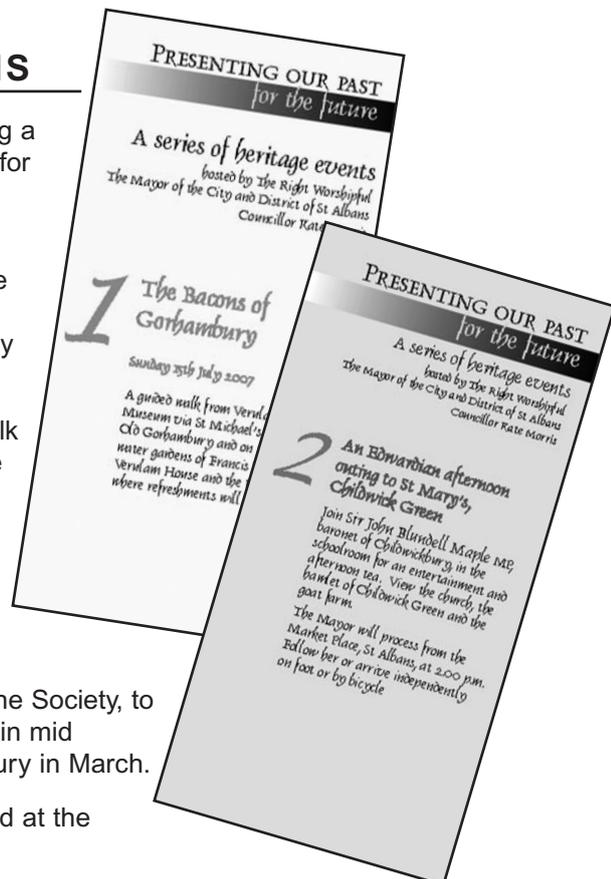
An illustrated leaflet gives the historical background to the event and these are also available from the Museum of St Albans and the TIC afterwards. Together, in a commemorative folder, they will provide an alternative history of St Albans.

The first event focussed on the Bacons of Gorhambury and involved a walk to the ruins of the Tudor mansion and then on to the water gardens of the now demolished house of Francis Bacon at Pondyards.

September's event was an Edwardian outing to John Blundell Maple's Childwickbury. Tea with an entertainment of film and music was taken in the presence of the man himself, alias Andrew Parker of the Museum Service.

Future events will include an evening with John Evans, early member of the Society, to take place in the newly refurbished Assembly Room of the Old Town Hall in mid January and a medieval celebration of Spring in the great barn at Kingsbury in March.

Details of all the events will be posted on the District Council's website and at the Museums and TIC as they become available.



LIBRARY ITEMS FOR SALE

Architectural Notices of the Churches of the Archdeaconry of Northampton Deaneries of Higham Ferrers and Haddon. 1849. £20-£40.

Ayliffe Poole, Geo and Hugall, J.W. An historical and descriptive guide to York Cathedral and its antiquities. 1850. £60-£80.

Bellori, Giovanni Pietro. Veteres Arcus Augustorum Insignes ex Reliquis quae Romae adhuc supersunt cum imaginibus triumphalibus ... restituti antiquis nummis notisque lo. 1690. £150-£200.

Burn, J.H. A descriptive catalogue of the London traders tavern and coffee house tokens current in the seventeenth century. 1853. £15-£20.

Ecton, John. Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum. 1742. £40.

Fausset, Bryan. Inventorium Sepulchrale. 1856. £120

Gibbons, A. Liber Antiquus de ordinationibus vicariarum tempore Hugonis Wells Lincolniensis Episcopi. 1209-1235. 1888. £10-£12.

Halliwell, James Orchard. ed. Rara Mathematica. 1841. £15-20.

Hart, Richard. Medulla Conciliorum Magnae Britanniae et Hiberniae ad an Dom 446 ab an Dom 1548. 1833. £10.

Mills, Charles. History of the Crusades. 2 vols. 1820. £30-£50.

North, Thomas. Church Bells of Leicestershire. 1876. £125.

North, Thomas. Church Bells of Lincolnshire. 1882. £150.

North, Thomas. Church Bells of Northamptonshire. 1878. £125.

North, Thomas. Church Bells of Rutland. 1880. £125.

North, Thomas. Church Bells of Bedfordshire. 1883. £150.

Ogtilby John. A large and accurate map of the city of London. reproduced from the 1677 copy in the British Museum by facsimile. 1895.

Petit, Rev J.L. Remarks on architectural character. 1848. £20-£40.

Petit, Rev J.L. The Abbey Church of Tewkesbury. 1848. £15-£25.

Petit, Rev J.L. Architectural Studies in France. 1854. £10-£20.

Pugin, A Welby. Details of ancient timber houses of the 15th and 16th centuries. 1836. £30-£60.

Pugin, A Welby. The True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture. 1841. £50.

Redding, Cyrus. An illustrated itinerary of the county of Lancaster. 1842. £15-25.

Rickman, Thomas. An attempt to discriminate the styles of English Architecture from the Conquest to the Reformation. 1819. £50-£70.

Rokewood, John Gage. An account of the Painted Chamber in the Palace of Westminster. Vetusta Monumenta vol.V! plates XXVI- XXXIX. 1842. £250-£300.

Triggs, H. Inigo. Some Architectural Works of Inigo Jones. 1901. £50-£75.

Vetusta Monumenta Vol. V11 parts 1-4. 1894-1906. £50-£80.

Weale, John. Divers works of early masters in Christian Decoration. (not complete) 1844-46. £50-£75

Winkles, B. French Cathedrals from drawings taken on the spot. 1837. £25-£40

Wyatt, Matthew Digby. Metalwork and its artistic design. 1852. £100.

Please note that the prices given are for guidance only and are subject to confirmation at the time of purchase. If you are interested in any of the items please contact any member of the Library Team

LOCAL HEROES OF GEOLOGY

JOINT MEETING WITH HERTFORDSHIRE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The lecture room at Verulamium Museum was well populated for our joint HGS / SAHAAS lecture, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding the London Geological Society (the oldest in the world).

Chaired by our Roger Miles and Bryan Hanlon, four speakers spoke about **Heroes of Hertfordshire Geology**: William Smith, Thomas Telford, William Whitaker, George Lamplugh and John Hopkinson. This allowed our lecturers to range their topics far and wide - from the Norwegian fjords to the excavations for the St. Albans to Hatfield railway line, from the Great Submergence to Beaconsfield Road in St. Albans.

William Smith's geological map of Great Britain in 1815 was an eye-opener - quite stunning, with an incredible amount of information obtained without the use of all our modern technological wonders. And how many of us knew that the Great Lisbon Earthquake of 1755 caused ripples (wavelets?) running south to north across the pond at Aldbury? This disaster that killed upwards of 50,000 people on All Saints Day ended for ever the philosophy of "all for the best in this best of all possible worlds".

The following day, with the addition of a few 'extras', we assembled under bright, sunny and blue skies for an

architectural, archaeological, geological and historical walk, expertly led by our Ann Ledger, and supported by John Catt. Starting at Verulamium Museum, and then to St. Michael's Church, we progressed (via Liz and Malcolm Holliday's back



garden to view their very own 'puddingstone'), up Fishpool Street and via the Abbey Orchard to the Clock Tower (Chris Green had kindly given us the key for special access).

The expected two-hour walk in fact lasted for nearly four hours, such was the interest shown, and ended with views from the Clock Tower roof, from where John explained, for example, how the proto-Thames flowed through the Vale of St. Albans, on its way out to the sea.

You always learn something new - for example, for those who think they know St. Michael's Street like the back of their hand, how many have looked at the three rows of stones that make up the side gutters of the road and realised that they are 'sarsens', the same type of stone as at Stonehenge? And next time you



Left, John Catt at the Holliday's garden sarsen. Right, Viewing the puddingstone in front of Kingsbury Mill

visit the Museum of St. Albans in Hatfield Road, there is a sarsen there too, standing in front of the main door.

An excellent two days - with thanks indeed to all our learned speakers and leaders.

Bryan Hanlon

SIGNING IN

For reasons that seem long lost in history, we have always "signed in" when attending Tuesday night lectures at St. Albans School, but have never done so on Friday evenings at the Law School. This is not good: apart from anything else, if there were a fire and we were asked "how many of you were in the building, and who were they?", we would have no idea.

From now onward, therefore, a system similar to Tuesday's signings will also operate on Friday evenings.

We are sure you will understand and appreciate the reasons.

ST ALBANS HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Members may be interested to know that the District's Historic Environment Champions (Clare Ellis and Kate Morris being two of them) have established a discussion forum for stakeholders for matters concerning the historic environment. Members include representatives from the Civic Society, the Abbey, the University, and local architects, as well as this Society.

The intention is to provide an opportunity for joint input into plans such as the new Local Development Framework, or the new District Plan as one would better understand that. It is a way of ensuring that heritage is at the centre of the planning regime, as well as promoting heritage in a variety of ways.

Recent discussion has centred around the proposed new legislation for heritage which will bring together in one list or schedule, all the nation's historic assets - listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered gardens etc.

ARCHAEOLOGY

HOW IT'S REALLY DONE!

As our President said at the AGM, we are keen to widen the Society's activities. In furtherance of this aim, if there is sufficient interest, I am willing to repeat the series of illustrated talks which I gave at the beginning of this year. The overall title is **How Archaeology is Done** and the intention is a concise description of the practical methods of archaeology, including all the necessary activities which precede and follow the actual business of excavation. There will not be detailed accounts of sites - these are the material of Society lectures - but reference will be made to sites, usually by slides, where a particular point can be illustrated.

The format is six evenings of two hours, with a break. No prior knowledge is required, there is plenty of opportunity to ask questions, there is no exam at the end!

Clare Ellis kindly allowed the use of her house last winter, but as the Society library is now formally installed in its room at the Town Hall it would be nice to use this as the next venue. I will research the feasibility.

The course could start at any time from mid-January onwards and there are two days available in my/the Society's week; Monday or Thursday. As previously, a small charge will be made for each attendance, to cover incidental expenses.

Would anyone interested in attending please contact me in the first instance. I would like a name, contact telephone number and an indication of any preference in the choice of day. If I am not in my answering machine always is: 01727 865735.

Roger Miles

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

Having agreed to represent the Society on the Committee of HALH I attended the AGM at County Hall on 2 May and listened to an interesting talk, "Is there a Hertfordshire style of architecture?" The conclusion of the discussion suggested that there are two: (1) the Hertfordshire spike or spire, and (2) the Hertfordshire building system for school buildings built since World War II.

In June the Committee met in the Reading Room at the Record Office to review progress on (1) the forthcoming programme which includes the autumn seminar and (b) progress on the publishing front in the series of publications with Hertfordshire University, which some thought was slipping because of

changes in staffing at Hatfield.

The **autumn seminar** will be held at Tewin on November 10th with four speakers, lunch and, for those with energy a walk around a farm (bring Wellingtons/sturdy shoes) with Tony Rook. Ring John Cox for details on 01727 857827.

Gillian Gear informed everyone of the planned programme for the 2008 Seminar, to be held in Barnet, which will be on "Welfare in Hertfordshire".

With so many new faces I found my first meeting somewhat daunting though I did agree to co-ordinate the updating of lists of individual societies' publications which can be placed on the HALH website or with a link to those societies with their own website. Now I have a committee list

with e-mail addresses and have begun to find out who is who and who they represent so that I may be able to contribute more fully. HALH is considering moving the AGM from County Hall to somewhere else in Hertfordshire. A venue has been put forward for Ware in 2008, so it is possible that at some future date it may come to St. Albans!

The autumn edition of **Hertfordshire Past and Present** is now available and contains an article by A&A member Paul Barton on Lamb as money-lender and agent to the aristocracy. Price £2 to non-HALH members, from me on 01727 857827.

John Cox

PUBLICITY OFFICER WANTED

Ann Dean, who has acted as our Publicity Officer for many years, decided not to stand for re-election at the September AGM, and we are therefore seeking a volunteer to replace her and be formally coopted to Council in that role.

The role of the Publicity Officer is bring the activities of the Society to the knowledge of the wider community, and to participate in the running of the Society and develop its future strategy. It offers a great opportunity to be at the heart of the Society's activities and to influence future direction.

Responsibilities will include:

- Maintain close contact with all members of Council, but particularly the lecture secretaries and group co-ordinators, and thus be aware of all the Society's activities.
- Although not necessary to attend all of the Society's "events", it will be hoped that the Publicity Officer will be present at most of the "important" functions. Ownership of a digital camera would be an asset, but not essential.
- Provide the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster with all material that should be circulated to the membership at large.
- Issue press releases and editorials to all potentially interested parties, such as local press and radio, giving notice of forthcoming events, and write reports on those that have taken place.
- Maintain regular contact with all potential publicity outlets, such as libraries, Tourist Offices, St Albans District Council, and provide posters, leaflets etc. promoting the Society for public view.
- Organise displays and arrange a rota of volunteer helpers for public "events" such as the Festival of Life"

If you are interested, please contact Bryan Hanlon on 01727 851734 to discuss further.

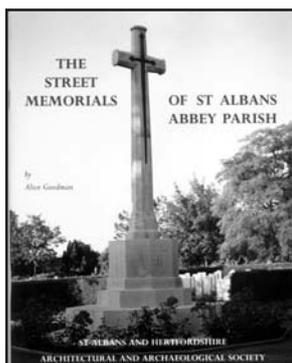
CURRENT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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

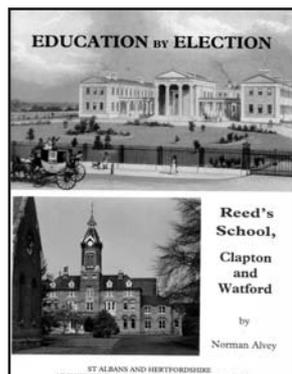
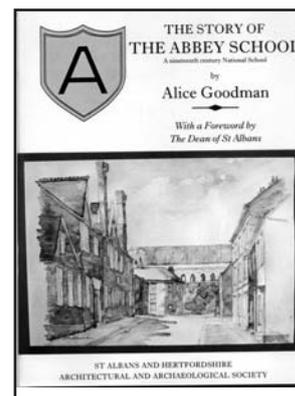


The Story of the Abbey School

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

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.

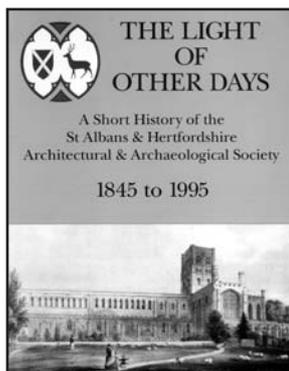


The Light of Other Days

Brian Moody, 1995

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

£1



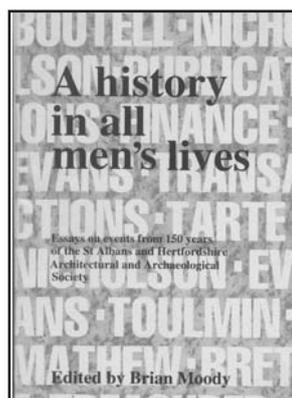
£4

AVAILABLE AT WATERSTONE'S, ST ALBANS

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.



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

2007-2008 LECTURES

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

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

His 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.

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 of 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.

Dr 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, is currently Fellow of the European Humanities Research Centre at the University of Oxford. She is the author of many books.

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

Friday 25th January 2008

Votes for Sovereigns: St Albans Shamed

Parliamentary elections were once very robust affairs and St Albans was well to the fore in strong arm tactics, bribery and treating. The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries will be examined, culminating in gross skulduggery, the Bribery Commission and disfranchisement of St Albans. The talk will additionally draw upon work undertaken in the 1980s.

David Dean has enjoyed 40 years of collaborative research in the Society. Publications have included the national prize-winning "St Albans circa 1820" and "St Albans Quarter Sessions Rolls". He served four years as our President, four as Chairman of the ALHG and has held posts at both county and national level. He is also a Blue Badge tour guide.

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

Friday 29th February 2008

Joseph Paxton, the Busiest Man in England

Head Gardener to the 6th Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth, designer of the greatest glasshouse the world had ever seen for the Great Exhibition of 1851, Newspaper owner, MP, Horticultural genius, Railway entrepreneur, Parks Designer and Architect, the all but forgotten Joseph Paxton strode through the first two thirds of the Nineteenth Century like a colossus and was a

**** We have been advised that parking at St Albans School may be difficult on these dates, so please make alternative arrangements if you can.**

household name. Kate Colquhoun's biography was shortlisted for the Duff Cooper and the Samuel Johnson Awards and she will take us on a whistlestop, illustrated tour of the great Victorian's life.

Kate Colquhoun lives in London with her husband and two sons. Her second book: "Taste, the History of Britain through its Cooking", will be published by Bloomsbury in October 2007. She writes regularly for the Telegraph and the Financial Times and, from time to time, for The Garden Magazine and other papers and magazines.

4th March 2008

Roman Medicine

Dr Ralph Jackson

Tuesday 11th March 2008

NOTE: Venue to be advised

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

Friday 28th March 2008

***From Family Gold to Family Gout
Plutocrats: A Rothschild Inheritance***

To conjure up the idea of boundless wealth in the nineteenth century one had only to mention the name of Nathan Rothschild, the founder of N. M. Rothschild & Sons, the bank in the City of London. After a life devoted to business, on his death Nathan left the bulk of his vast fortune to his sons.

In this lecture, based on his book, George Ireland explores the events, circumstances, personalities, attitudes, tastes, opinions and prejudices that shaped the course of their extraordinary lives.

George Ireland read history at Oxford University and afterwards was called to the Bar. Over the last fifteen years he has written and edited several thousand short biographies for the obituaries column of the Daily Telegraph. He is a contributor to the new Dictionary of National Biography and has previously written (as ghost) *A Gilt-Edged Life*, the memoirs of Edmund de Rothschild.

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

Friday 25th April 2008

How old is the Landscape? The age of field boundaries in Hertfordshire and surrounding counties

Dr Tom Williamson

The pattern of field boundaries can tell us a great deal about the history of the landscape. This lecture will look at different forms of field boundary; what they can show us about the extent of open fields in medieval Hertfordshire; and whether elements of pre-medieval patterns of land division have survived in the modern landscape.

Dr Tom Williamson comes from Hertfordshire. He read history and archaeology at Cambridge and further studies covered the Roman and Medieval Settlement in North West Essex. For several years he has lectured at the University of East Anglia. He has written many books to include *The Origins of Hertfordshire* and *The Parks and Gardens of West Hertfordshire*.

Tuesday 29th April 2008

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

Vicky Rawlings

Tuesday 6th May 2008

Heart of Empire: The Story of a (London) Street Corner

Elaine Beckett

Tuesday 20th May 2008

***Beneath City Streets:
London's Unseen History***

Peter Lawrence

Friday 30th May 2008

The First Battle of St Albans 1455

On 22nd May 1455 the peaceful streets of St Albans became the site of a violent and bloody conflict. The First Battle of St Albans marked the start of that confused and turbulent period known as The Wars of the Roses. The wars would drag on for 32 years (1455-1487), the longest period of civil strife in English history. The talk will not only cover the dramatic events of the battle, but will also look at the political background that led to the outbreak of hostilities, and finally will briefly cover the layout of 15th Century St Albans and investigate what landmarks associated with the battle can still be seen today.

Harvey Watson is a senior Project Manager with the Ministry of Defence where he has worked for over thirty years. Although usually based in Whitehall, his job often involves extensive travelling abroad. He has had a lifetime interest in military history and in his spare time is a keen supporter of the Battlefields Trust. The Battlefields Trust is a charity dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and presentation of Battlefield sites as an educational and heritage resource. The Trust has also been closely involved in the development of Battlefield Archaeology.

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.



Please join us for our
NEW YEAR PARTY

At Verulamium Museum

On Friday 11th January 2008, at 7.30 p.m.

Mulled wine and festive food

Competitions

New members especially welcome

The food will be organised by Doreen Bratby (01727 858050)
 She would welcome offers of party food, the cost of which will be reimbursed.

Liquid refreshments will be in the capable hands of Bryan Hanlon

Tickets In advance £5.50
 At the door £6.50

Please send me the following tickets for the Society's New Year Party
 on 11th January 2008

..... tickets at £5.50

Total enclosed

Please make your cheques payable to SAHAAS and send with this form and
 a **stamped addressed envelope**, to:

Bryan Hanlon, 24 Monks Horton Way, St Albans AL1 4HA

Name

Address

.....

..... Post Code

Telephone