

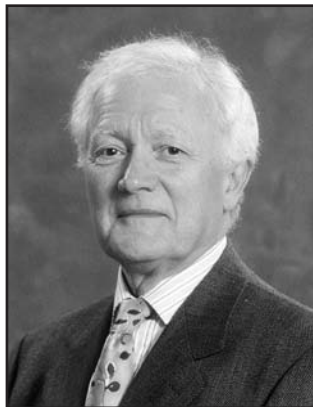


NEWSLETTER

No. 170 November 2008

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

'Don't mess with me, I'm an archaeologist' is one of the memorable pieces of dialogue from the recent BBC series Bonekickers, which was clearly intended to appeal to the large community of Indiana Jones fans. A team of loud archaeologists based in south-western England swoop into trenches and emerge a few seconds later with a find which they then subject to the most rapid radio-carbon dating ever devised. The team is always shocked by what their exertions reveal. They do not discuss hypotheses so much as quarrel about them. All is settled when a professor delivers

judgment by a pithy statement such as 'That is nuts'. Archaeology is shown to be an enthusiastic attack by stereotypical characters on history as well as on one another's prejudices. It's all jolly good fun, especially for the cast, but it does not take itself seriously and neither should we.

I have discovered that there are many members of the Arc & Arc who are as enthusiastic as the Bonekickers, but much more rational. As I write this, I can see that I already have 377 messages in my recently created Arc & Arc email box. Most of the messages deal with matters that were raised by members, not by me. This is a sure indication of the healthy state of the Society. I look forward to reporting on members' activities in future newsletters.

For now, I am delighted to report that a Mayor's Prize has been established. At the end of her Mayoralty, Kate Morris had an excellent and original idea for a gift to the Corporation: a fund for an annual prize competition to be administered by the Arc & Arc for the best contribution to the history of St Albans and Hertfordshire. The presentation of the prize each year by the Mayor will be a public event. At a short ceremony in the Society's library on 26th September the Mayor, Councillor Bert Pawle, handed to the Society a cheque for providing an annual prize of £100. Some of the fund's donors were present and received the thanks of the President on behalf of the Society. Rules for the prize and an application form will soon appear on the Society's website. They can also be obtained either by writing to me at 85 Lancaster Road, St Albans AL1 4ER, or by sending an email to <prize@stalbanhistory.org>. The fund is still open and further contributions to it are welcome. Donations can be sent to St Albans District Council, c/o the Mayor's Office, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3JE.

I am sad to report the death of Betty Masters OBE, former Archivist to the City of London and a member of the Society. Betty's scholarship was exemplary, not only in its thoroughness, but also for the engaging way in which she wrote about her research for publication. Her professional custodianship of one of the oldest civic archives in the world will benefit members of the public and officers and employees of the City of London in the years to come. An obituary appears on page 6 of this newsletter.

Michael Cooper

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

By the time you receive this newsletter, the collection of subscriptions for the financial year starting on 1st June will have been substantially completed, some five months after the start of the year. You will recall that at the EGM of the Society in October 2006 the year end of the Society was changed to 31st May and the level of subscriptions increased. In April the following year, I wrote to all members remind everyone of both changes and inviting members to use direct debits to pay subscriptions. Fewer than 50% of members have taken up this opportunity; this is a disappointingly low level, as payment by cheque – or even worse, non-payment – causes your volunteer officers considerable extra work.

Quite a number of members have not changed the date of payment or the amount of their payment of subscription; others have simply paid twice. All of this places an unnecessary burden on those who manage the affairs of the Society. There are three types of 'miscreant' (if I can call them that):

1. Those who pay by cheque around the correct time but also have direct debits in place, so in fact pay twice.
2. Those who pay by standing order on 1st October, the old date, and at the old level, but who have already paid by direct debit or cheque at the correct rate and time, so again paying twice.
3. Those who pay by standing order on 1st October, the old date, and at the old level with no other payment, so in fact receive the benefits of membership of the Society without paying the agreed level of subscription.

Each year there will, of course, be a few who do not pay at all and after a reasonable time their membership is deemed to have lapsed. The dilemma is how the officers of your Council responsible for such matters should deal with the above three categories; at the time of writing there are 72 people in total, so individual treatment is not possible. Our premise is that individual members must take responsibility for their own bank and cash affairs; we believe there is sufficient information in the newsletters to advise members how much subscriptions are, when they are due and the methods that are available for payment. Our conclusion, therefore, is that 'double' payments will be treated as donations unless the member questions it, and that those who pay the old rate at the wrong time will be given one more financial year to correct their payments, failing which their membership is deemed to have lapsed.

Please check to see that you are paying the correct subscription (individual member £12, joint members £18) at the correct time (1st June). Any member who believes that they may fall into one of the three above categories, please contact me on 07711 696 417; I shall do my best to answer any questions.

John Thomson

Treasurer

ST ALBANS AND DISTRICT HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

This Forum was founded just over a year ago by Kate Morris, as an informal meeting point for the exchange of information between people and organisations concerned with local historic features.

Chaired by Kate, with administrative and other assistance from the Council's Archaeological and Conservation officers, the Forum includes representatives of this Society, the Civic Society and many other local organisations concerned with history. It meets about every three months and notes of its discussions are sent to a wider membership. Recent matters discussed included the renovation of St Peters churchyard, the proposed celebration of the 1600th anniversary of the Roman withdrawal from Britain and the adverse effect of rubbish bins etc in the streets and alleys of the city centre.

Although the Forum has no formal powers, its members can use information gained there for other organisations to take action on matters of concern. Thus, through suggestions from its members, this Society could propose steps that might be taken to conserve or improve local places of historic interest. If you have any such ideas, please write to the Secretary, Bryan Hanlon, with details.

David Tuckett

ERRATUM

In Pat Howe's report from the 17th Century Population Research Group, which appeared in our August newsletter, we inadvertently referred to Access to Architecture. This should, of course, have been Access to Archives. Pat would like to reassure readers that this was the editor's error, not hers!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A copy of the minutes of this meeting, held in September 2008, is enclosed with this newsletter, together with a full list of members of Council and their contact details.

RESIDENTS FIRST

Our Library will be open on Residents First weekend, 24th/25th January, from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., with a new display of 19th century items from our stock. If you are a Council Member, or simply a member with some experience of local history, and could spare an hour during this time to meet and greet visitors, alongside a member of the Library Team, Gill Harvey would be delighted to hear from you on 01727 853415.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

Subscription year now runs from June, so if you have not renewed this will be the last newsletter you receive. We do hope this is just an oversight and that you will wish to remain a member. To minimise administration both for you and our Membership Secretary, we encourage you to complete a Direct Debit mandate. If you no longer have the details, you can get the relevant form by contacting Peter Jeffreys on 01582 832971.

REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

The last two months have seen a number of outings and visits.

On 16th September, following a lecture by Roy Craske the previous week, almost twenty members assembled outside the Cricketers on Redbourn Common and enjoyed a two-hour walk around Redbourn. One of our members was able to relive her childhood as she had been evacuated to Redbourn during the war.

Later in September Gill Charles led a full day visit to Flag Fen and Peterborough Cathedral and Museum (see page 4).

Early in October Maggie Davison guided us round Cell Barnes and Hill End Hospital sites, pointing out items of historic interest before we made tracks for the Plough at Tyttenhanger for refreshment.

Finally on 29th October, despite the snow which fell the previous evening and the treacherous conditions to which we awoke in the morning, Gill Harvey, our librarian, took us to the Geffrye Museum and the Museum of Childhood in the east end of London. This proved to be an extremely interesting visit and on this occasion we were all able to relive our younger days.

Thank you to all those who participated and to those who arranged the outings for our enjoyment.

Following the success of the New Members Evening held last year, a further opportunity is being arranged for the 50+ new members who have joined the Society during the



Top left, On Redbourn Common with guide Roy Craske

Bottom left, Maggie Davidson (second from right) guides our group round Cell Barnes and Hill End

Above, The Geffrye Museum

past year to meet members of Council and learn more about our activities. This will take place at the Museum of St Albans in Hatfield Road in the evening on Tuesday 2nd December.

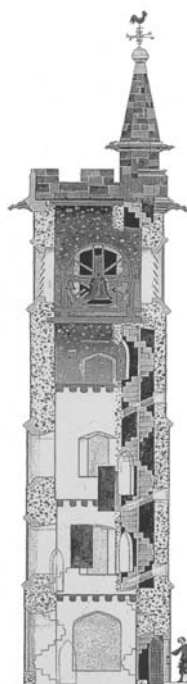
The Programme Committee continues to meet and a further programme of events is being arranged for 2009.

Roy Bratby
Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following, and hope they will enjoy becoming involved with A&A activities

Patricia Dennis	Mount Pleasant, St Albans
Sally McNeill	Mount Pleasant, St Albans
Mark & Tara Morgan	Dunstable
Mary Newbery	Abbey View Road, St Albans
Carole Pusey	Longacres, St Albans
Mr & Mrs A Gardner	Monks Horton Way, St Albans
Mrs Samantha Target	Pondwicks Close, St Albans



CLOCK TOWER REPORT

The Clock Tower closed for the season after Heritage Open Weekend (13/14th September) when free entrance led to record-breaking visitor numbers. On a 'normal' Saturday or Sunday we might see approx. 130 adults and 20-30 children. On Saturday 13th September we had 371 adults, and 99 children, while on the Sunday there were 587 adults and 200 children -- a total of 1287 in two days!

We always welcome more members to become 'clockateers' and help keep this unique building open. If you are interested in learning the ropes please do contact me.

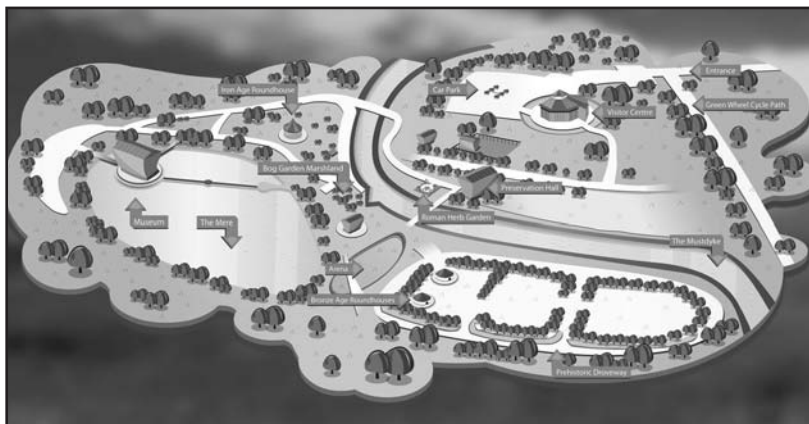
Jill Bennett

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

VISIT TO FLAG FEN AND PETERBOROUGH

In September 32 members and friends went on a coach to Cambridgeshire. Flag Fen Archaeology Park is home to a unique ancient wooden monument: a kilometre-long wooden causeway and platform are perfectly preserved in the wetland.

3500 years ago this was built and used by the Celtic fen people as a place of worship and ritual. 60,000 upright timbers and 250,000 horizontal planks are buried under the ground along with many swords and personal items given as offerings to the watery fen. There is an uncovered section of the ritual causeway and the treasure it held. We went in the reconstructed village homes from the Bronze Age, where a very well curated museum displayed more artefacts from the digs.



It was a very wet day which added to the atmosphere! We had a young and enthusiastic guide and the staff in the cafe were delightful. We had all brought a packed lunch but it was too damp to eat outside so they cleared tables for us.

The coach then took us into Peterborough where we had two hours of free time. The cathedral, of course, is superb. The west front has been described as 'the most magnificent portico in Europe'. A good museum is nearby and some people even strayed in the fabled Lakeland Shop.

We had an easy trip home and we all felt that the day had been a success.

Gill Charles

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP REPORT

For the second year running, the weather, acting upon essential farming activities, prevented us excavating at the end of the summer. We can take consolation from the thought that the site has been there for nearly 2000 years and a few more should not see significant deterioration. Trouble is, our lives are of a scale an order of magnitude smaller!

So, the bad news dealt with, on to the good. By way of a change we have embarked on some above-ground archaeology which could also fall under the heading of industrial archaeology. Many members will be aware that things have been happening at what was most recently the Express Dairy depot at the bottom of Branch Road, in St Michaels. This occupied a large part of what was Kingsbury Farm. Express having left some years ago, Gorhambury Estates put the site up for sale. The newer buildings, including the listed Art Deco dairy office, have been converted for residential use, along with some new build. This left the older timber framed buildings, including Kingsbury Barn, a late 15th century structure, again listed. These have been acquired by Adam and Jill Singer of Kingsbury Manor which is immediately adjacent. A substantial amount of repair and maintenance work is scheduled for the barn to get it into good order, the major item being re-

roofing. Those familiar with the size of the barn will know how major! A full record of the main and original structure has been made already, but there are a number of later additions, up to quite recent time, which need to be recorded as well. This is where we come in. So far we have done measured drawings of what is left of the (probably 1920s) structures associated with a grain silo which stood outside the north end. Next there are additions on the west side, although access to these may be impeded while scaffolding for the roof work is in place.

It was apt that on one of our sessions at the barn David Harding from Croxley Green took part. He has been instrumental in reviving interest in Croxley Barn, a 'sister' in the group of barns built by St Albans Abbey around the same time (www.croxleygreatbarn.co.uk).

A little further into the future, contact has been made with the Woodland Trust with a view to doing some form of prospecting across those parts of the new Sandridge Wood which are to be planted, before that happens. Planting is to be staged over five years so this could provide us with fieldwork for some time to come.

Roger Miles

HOW ARCHAEOLOGY IS DONE

Subject to reasonable interest I am offering again this winter a short course of talks describing the practical stages in and around excavation, starting with site location and finishing with producing a report. Reference will be made to specific sites to illustrate points, but without extended descriptions of them. There will be six talks, slide illustrated, approximately 1 1/2 hours in length, with a break. A weekday evening (not coinciding with Society lectures) is the probable choice of time. I will endeavour to reach a consensus of participants on this. The venue is to be decided. A very modest charge is made.

Anybody who is interested or who would like further information, please contact me by phone 01727 865735 (day/eve) or email rogmiles@compuserve.com.

Roger Miles

Leader, Archaeology Group

LIBRARY NOTES AND QUERIES

Notes

First, an advance warning if you read this in time, or an apology if you do not. We are sorry to say that, for reasons beyond our control, the library will not be available during the week beginning 17th November. The Judges' Robing Room is required for use during Hertfordshire University's graduation week, so the usual Wednesday and Friday morning library sessions cannot take place.

Following our invitation in the August newsletter, we have had several offers from members of help in sorting inherited collections of papers. We are very grateful for these offers and some volunteers have already started work.

We are planning a sale of books surplus to the library's needs, to take place at the New Year Party at Verulamium Museum on 9th January. The sale will release some much-needed space on the shelves in the Judges' Robing Room. The books are either duplicates or not relevant to the necessarily narrow focus of the library's collection. Some show signs of age and use, but others are in good condition, with original dust jackets. Topics covered include our own local history, but also world-wide history and archaeology. Prices are likely to be modest, so will not put too much strain on post-Christmas pockets. We hope members will join enthusiastically in the Society's own January Sale.

THE LIBRARY TEAM

Gill Harvey, 01727 853415

Anne Wares, 01727 860705

Donald Munro 01727 760808

Tony Cooper 01727 865032

They can also be contacted by email via the Society's website.

The library is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the former Judge's Robing Room at the Old Town Hall. Access is currently through the Tourist Information Office.

Queries

An enquirer asked if we knew the reason why Smith's printing works vacated its site in the 1920s. Smiths Printing Agency came to St Albans from Fleet Street in 1902, occupying the site of what is now Morrisons supermarket, and providing the name Fleetville to its neighbourhood. The firm apparently specialised in horticultural printing. We would be very interested to hear from any member who can throw light on this question.

Please send replies via the Arc & Arc website, www.stalbanshistory.org (go to the "How to contact us" link on the left of the screen, and then click on "Enquiries"), or by snail mail to Gill Harvey at 18A Gainsborough Avenue, St Albans AL1 4NL.

Books added recently to Library stock include:

England's landscape: the South-East, by Brian Short. English Heritage, 2006

England's landscape: East Anglia, by Tom Williamson. English Heritage, 2006 (The author spoke very interestingly at one of our Friday lectures in April)

An atlas of Roman rural settlement in England, by Jeremy Taylor. Council for British Archaeology, 2007

Prehistoric and Roman landscape, edited by Andrew Fleming and Richard Hingley. (Landscape history after Hoskins, volume 1) Windgather Press, 2007

Medieval landscapes, edited by Mark Gardiner Stephen Rippon (Landscape history after Hoskins, volume 2) Windgather Press, 2007

Post-medieval landscapes, edited by P S Barnwell and Marylyn Palmer (Landscape history after Hoskins, volume 3) Windgather Press, 2007

Sir Francis Bacon's water-garden, by Paula Henderson. Offprint from Garden History, Autumn, 1992, vol 20, no 2pp116-131

Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Hertford and Ware, 1973-2004, by Hugh Borrill. Supplement to Hertfordshire Archaeology and History, vol 15, 2008

St Albans: a history and celebration of the city, by Tom Doig. Frith Book Company, 2004

Crime in Hertfordshire, by Simon Walker. Volume 1: Law and disorder from Anglo-Saxon England to the present. Dunstable, Book Castle, 2002

Crime in Hertfordshire, by Simon Walker. Volume 2: Murder and misdemeanours. Dunstable, Book Castle, 2003

It started with a Green Line bus: boyhood in Harpenden before and during the Second World War, by Ralph Webster. Dunstable, Book Castle, 2003

St Albans Heritage Tree Trail, by Kate Bretherton. Published by the Author, St Albans. no date.

Parks in Hertfordshire since 1500, by Hugh Prince. Hertfordshire Publications, 2008

Hertfordshire children in war and peace, 1914-1939, by David Parker, 2008

St Albans Cathedral and Abbey, edited by Ailsa Herbert, Pam Martin and Gail Thomas. Scala Publishing, 2008. "A celebration, in words and pictures, of the unique St Albans story", produced on behalf of the Fraternity of the Friends of St Albans Abbey.

Articles which might interest members in journals recently received:

In *Herts Past and Present*, Autumn 2008, no 12:

- P 2. Brief guide to sources: probate inventories, by David Short
- Pp 3-9 Traditional woodland management; the timber trees of Panshanger in 1719, by Peter Austin
- Pp 10-13 The Hitchin map mystery, part 2, by Bridget Howlett. The 1818 map of Hitchin attributed to Henry Merrett is now shown to have been surveyed by Zachariah Neale and W P Atfield in 1816.
- Pp 14-19 The origins of Samuel Wells, brewer, of Biggleswade, and the Baldock and Biggleswade Bank, by Jane Havercraft and Ken Page.
- Pp 20-24 The history of a barn at Norton, by Deborah Giles. As background to an archaeological dig, documents were examined to trace the history of the site from 1757.
- Pp 25-30 A century of county council rural land ownership, by J E Hunt. An account of Herts County Council's rural land purchases since 1908.

In *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History*, 2006 -2008, vol 15

- Pp 5-20 A multipurpose landscape at Aldwickbury golf course near Harpenden, by Simon West. Evidence was found of occupation from the Late Upper Palaeolithic to the Roman period
- Pp 21-22 A Bronze Age bucket urn from Harpenden, by Roger Miles. An interim report on finding a section of a Middle Bronze Age urn in a burnt mound.
- Pp An excavation at Station Road, Ashwell, by Helen Ashworth, Alison Turner-Rugg and John Carrott. Excavation revealed the ends of two Romano-British parallel ditches, four undated pits and a substantial post-medieval quarry.
- Pp 28-62 Excavations in Insula XIX of Roman Verulamium, by Rosalind Niblett. The area was important in the very early years of Verulamium, and in the final decades of Roman rule. Part 1 discusses the conclusions drawn from the discoveries of the 1980s; Part 2 consists of detailed excavation reports.
- Pp 63-70 Roman features at 17-19 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, by Alexandra Grassam, Kate Nicholson, and others. Archaeological investigation of a site south of the Roman road from Verulamium to Braughing revealed activity in the first part of the second century AD.
- Pp 71-77 A Roman trackway: excavations on the site of The Spinney, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, by Portia Askew and others
- Pp 79-87 Excavations at Football

Close, Baldock, Herts, by Kate Nicholson and others. Archaeological investigation showed evidence of rubbish disposal in the Roman period, between the late second and fourth centuries, and in medieval times.

- Pp 89-96 The Cross and The Falcon: two sites in Waltham Cross, by M J Daniels and others. Reports on an architectural survey and archaeological excavation of the Eleanor Cross, and an archaeological evaluation of the adjoining site, that of the former Falcon inn.
- Pp 97-115 Excavations at Dolphin Yard, Hertford, by Lee Prosser, Melissa Wotherspoon and others. Late Saxon and medieval pits, ditches and post-holes were found in an investigation which helps to define the extent, character and date of occupation of the area.
- Pp 117-134 Archaeological investigations on land the rear of 84-104 Bancroft, Hitchin, Hertfordshire: the medieval evidence, by Helen Ashworth and others. Finds suggest occupation in the Roman and Saxon periods.
- Pp 135-144 Medieval rubbish and a 19th century garden on land to the rear of 71-77 High Street, Berkhamsted, by Kate Nicholson and others. Report of an excavation.
- Pp 145-154 Parks in Hertfordshire, c.1750-1850, by Ben Cowell. Argues that study of landscape parks can throw light on the nature of rural society. Includes a list of the principal Hertfordshire parks of the period.
- Pp 155-160 Russell's Tannery,

Hitchin, Hertfordshire, by Helen Ashworth. Considers documentary evidence relating to the tannery's operations. Together with an archaeological investigation, it forms an outline of the history of the site and the tannery.

- Pp 161-172 Review of archaeological projects in Hertfordshire, 1998 -2005, by Isobel Thompson.. Provides statistics, summarises the more interesting investigations, and lists historic buildings recorded.

In *The Alban Link* no.69 Autumn 2008:

- Pp 4-9 Abbey wars: Abbey and town in fourteenth century St Albans, by Peter Wadsworth..
- Pp 10-16 Tynemouth Priory, by Sheila Green. Tynemouth was the Abbey's largest and most distant priory.
- Pp 17-21 Images of Alban in St Albans Cathedral, by Julie Low.

Journals

We have also received copies of these journals:

Conservation Bulletin (English Heritage) Summer 2008

Current Archaeology, issues for July and August 2008

English Heritage Research News, Summer 2008

Hertfordshire People, September 2008

Independent Archaeology, July 2008

The Local Historian, May 2008

Local History News, Spring 2008

London Archaeologist, Autumn 2008

BETTY ROWENA MASTERS OBE

Betty was born in Halesowen, Worcestershire on 7th February 1924. As a schoolgirl she moved about a lot and was educated chiefly at a grammar school in Birmingham and a high school for girls in Swansea. She went to Bedford College for Women, evacuated to Cambridge, where she read for an honours degree in history. She was drafted into the Admiralty and became a close friend of Barbara Day and her twin sister Margaret who attended her funeral at St Stephen's Church.

Betty achieved a Diploma in Archive Administration, leading to research into the archives of Exeter, Bristol, Portsmouth and the City of London. Her records stretch back over 900 years and are considered some of the finest city records in Europe.

In 1984 she was awarded the OBE and continued

researching in St Albans for our publication in 2003: *St Albans 1650-1700* (see pages 44-71) on the Borough, edited by J.T. Smith and M. A. North. She was meticulous in her research and an erudite lecturer, to the edification of our members of the Arc & Arc and others. She also learnt extreme care for other people (her mother was blind). She joined the Baconian Society and the Soroptomists, was busy at the Abbey Bookstall, and researched St Michael's Church for NADFAS publication, taking great care for every tiny detail. She will be sadly missed by her dear friends.

We are privileged to have known and worked with Betty who died after a short and intense illness, bravely born, and when she prepared for her funeral service and disposal of her books and pictures.

Margaret Taylor

SOCIETY LECTURES 2008/9

Friday 28th November 2008
Contrary Mary: Mary Tudor
 Dr Linda Porter

Mary Tudor (Mary I) was the first queen regnant of England, and one of the most maligned and misunderstood of all our monarchs. The popular conception of a cruel and inept ruler whose short reign was an aberration best forgotten has survived largely unchallenged for more than four hundred years.

Mary's premature death at the age of 42 meant that much of what she had tried to achieve died with her, but her fiscal and municipal reforms endured and she bequeathed her sister, Elizabeth, a revived navy which was crucial to English survival in the latter part of the sixteenth century. But her most important legacy to her sister was that she had shown that a woman could rule in her own right. Her troubled relationship with her sister and her touching and unrequited love for her husband will also be explored in the talk.

In a varied career, Dr Linda Porter has been a university lecturer, worked as a journalist and fund-raiser and been a senior adviser on international public and government relations to British Telecommunications plc (BT). *Mary Tudor* is her first book. She is currently working on her second, a new life of Katherine Parr, to be published by Macmillan in 2010. Linda has made a number of radio broadcasts and undertakes regular speaking engagements. A member of The Biographers Club and winner of its 2004 prize, awarded in association with the Daily Mail, Linda hails from Devon. She has lived in New York and Paris and now resides in Kent.

Tuesday 9th December 2008
Listed Buildings of London Colney
 Ken Peak

Friday 9th January 2009
Society New Year Party at Verulamium Museum

Tuesday 13th January 2009
The Black Death revisited: New Problems and Old Solutions
 Professor Vivian Nutton

Tuesday 20th January 2009
The Gorhambury Landscape
 Dr Jonathan Hunn

This talk concerns the evolution of the landscape associated with the Gorhambury estate. This area has varied through time and forms only a relatively small portion of the wider geographical setting of St Albans and its hinterland. For the purposes of this talk attention will be focused on an area defined by the M1 to the west, Hogg End lane to the north, the A5 to the east and the A4147/M10 to the south. In the past the estate extended beyond these limits and this will be referred to where appropriate. With one minor exception, the area falls almost entirely within the ancient parish of St Michaels. Today the quality of the landscape is a result of a combination of seigniorial stewardship and later planning restrictions. With the expansion of Hemel Hempstead to the west and St Albans to the east this landscape acts as a buffer between the two urban areas. Its historic, scenic and symbolic interest makes its continuing survival a matter of regional importance and one that requires it to be cherished as an asset in its own right.

Dr Jonathan Hunn is an established archaeologist with extensive

experience in managing archaeological projects in England. Jonathan has held various managerial posts and has acted as archaeological consultant for Hertfordshire County Council and English Heritage. He is currently a company chairman of Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd based in Milton Keynes.

Friday 30th January 2009
The Work of the Historic Environment Record/ Archaeology of St Albans
 Dr Isobel Thompson

This talk will be about the work of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Unit, with an outline of its facilities and the range of information and advice it can provide, using the database itself, GIS and historic mapping, Historic Landscape Characterisation and the Extensive Urban Survey reports on historic towns; as well as new developments such as online access to Historic Environment Records via the Heritage Gateway. By next January our monuments database should be on line.

Dr Isobel Thompson has worked for Ros Niblett at St Albans on the Urban Archaeological Database from 1995 to 1998, and subsequently moved to County Hall. In 2005 they published *St Alban's Buried Towns*, the academic assessment of the results of the UAD. Her interests are the late Iron Age/early Roman period, Church Archaeology and the archaeology of Hertfordshire in general.

Tuesday 10th February 2009
The Church of St Michael; a Hidden Treasure
 Ann Dean

Tuesday 17th February 2009
Women of the Pre: From Leper Hospital to Convent
 Tudy Hill

St Mary de Pre was located near present-day Gorhambury. It was established in the 12th century by the Abbot of St Albans, to house leprous nuns. Each leper, up to number 13, was entitled to a monk's old cloak and frock, which may indicate the original number in the religious community. By mid-14th century, the Pre formalized its relationship with the Abbey, as its identity evolved from leper hospital to a dependent priory of Benedictine nuns, led by an abbess.

Abbot Wolsey was responsible for the dissolution of St Mary de Pre in 1528. Sir Harbottle Grimston purchased the property in the 17th century, and his descendants became the present Earls of Verulam.

Tudy Hill has lived in St Albans for 6 years with her husband and has three adult children. She studied religion and nursing at university. Since moving to this area from the States, she became interested in English history. She enjoys guiding at the Abbey, as well as her involvement with the Friends of St Albans Abbey.

Friday 27th February 2009
Partnership in the Past: John Lewis
 Judy Faraday

This talk covers the development of the John Lewis Partnership, both the department stores and Waitrose supermarkets and the other aspects of the business which are less well known. From the beginnings of the first department store on Oxford Street in 1864, the growth of the company and the influence of key staff will demonstrate how the John Lewis Partnership differs from its

Friday Lectures start at 7.45pm at the College of Law, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield Road Campus St Albans
Tuesday Lectures start at 8.00pm at St Albans Boys' School, Romeland, St Albans
They are open to all members of the Society. Non-members may attend two meetings as guests.

competitors. The talk will cover the geographical spread of the company alongside the development of the democratic "Partnership" ideas instigated by the son of John Lewis. The chronological sequence of key events and the influence of external factors will contribute to the story of the growth of one of the leading retail chains in Britain today. Bringing this development up to the present day the talk will conclude with an insight into the Company's current ethos and plans for the future.

Judy Faraday joined the John Lewis Partnership in 1977 as a management trainee. After working on the shop floor she left for a career break to bring up her children and returned to a role in the Company's archive department. During this time she undertook a first degree with the Open University concentrating her studies on humanities with an emphasis on local and British history. After obtaining an Honours Degree and Diploma in European Humanities she continued her training as an archivist and was promoted to Company Archivist in 1996. She has since undertaken a research degree on the women managers in the John Lewis Partnership in the interwar years with the University of Wolverhampton. Her current major project is the introduction of community archives in established branches across the country including the Trewins memory store based at the Company's store in Watford.

Tuesday 10th March 2009

Childwickbury: A Short Story

Christine Aitken

Tuesday 17th March 2009

Serve and Obey: a History of Haberdashers' Aske's School

Keith Cheyney and Margaret Taylor

Friday 27th March 2009

Inigo Jones and the Hatfield Connection

Michael Leapman

Tuesday 7th April 2009

Hertfordshire You May Have Missed

David Pearce

Friday 24th April 2009

Researching History Using the Old Bailey Online, 1674-1913

Professor Tim Hitchcock

Tuesday 12th May 2009

The Palace at Kings Langley: History and Archaeology

Richard Boustred

Tuesday 19th May 2009

Totterhoe Stone: the Quarries, the Masons and the Buildings

Joan Curran

Friday 29th May 2009

The Restoration of Kew Palace and Queen Charlotte's Cottage

Lee Prosser

YOUR LECTURE CHOICE

If you have a favourite topic which is appropriate for the lecture programme and which could possibly be included at some future date, please contact me.

Doreen Bratby

Lecture Secretary, 01727 858050

TUESDAY LECTURE REPORTS

In September, our season opened with a talk by Roy Craske on Redbourn through the Ages. The earliest known reference is pre-Conquest, and the name probably derives from 'reedy stream'. Its parish church (patron St Amphibalus) was contemporary with the Norman abbey and the Domesday Book entry describes the manor and parish boundaries. The largest holding was controlled by St Albans Abbey, the inhabitants numbering about 130, with the village surrounded by forest. Abbot John of Wheathampstead had a retreat at Redbourn. When the Park Estate was built, the long-sought site of the priory was revealed.

After the dissolution of the monasteries, the manor of Redbourn was taken over by the Grimstone family. In the 18th and early 19th centuries the coaching trade reached its peak, with some 80 coaches passing through daily until the 1860s, when trade began to tail off following the spread of the railways.

Redbourn became a busy, thriving

town, with straw plaiting, silk works and 42 ale-houses and inns (now down to five!). The population grew to 5000 and five large chapels with Sunday schools were set up. Organ building still survives, but the village is now largely residential, with council estates from the 1950s and 1960s bringing the population to some 6000. Never the less, the village no longer has its own educational facilities.

Roy's lecture, tracing the long history and development of Redbourn, provided a most interesting evening and a good start to the season.

The following month our lecturer was Dr Kate Thompson, well known as a county archaeologist and for her work at the universities of Cambridge, Dundee and London, who talked to us about the research being carried out on almshouse records. She explained the methods being used and the information being collected.

Almshouses were local initiatives, with donations and land usually provided by private individuals, as illustrated by

the Watford almshouse set up by Watford brewers and that at Broxbourne founded on land given by John Dickinson. Hitchin, with nine houses, has the largest number in the county.

Kate referred to the Marlborough, Pemberton and St Peter's establishments which, according to their records, housed 36 persons (1736), six (1624) and 18 (1548) respectively. All almshouses had strict rules regarding behaviour and regular attendance at church. Pictures of other almshouses in the country showed attractive and well kept buildings, but the almshouse concept has long been overtaken by later ways of housing and caring for the poor.

Kate and all those involved in this research are to be congratulated on their work with what will prove to be a fruitful source of information and her excellent talk provided a very absorbing subject.

Betty Ewens

CURRENT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Please contact me if you would like copies from our list at special prices for members of SAHAAS. Copies of books are usually available at Society events. If you are out of town I can quote you the cost of delivering copies.

Clare Ellis

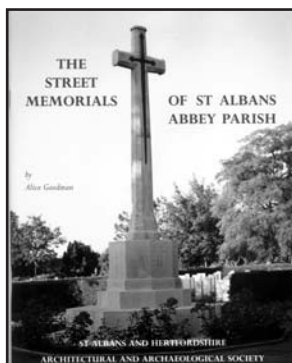
91 Sandpit Lane, St Albans AL1 4BJ. Tel 01727 856250 clare.a.ellis@btinternet.com

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

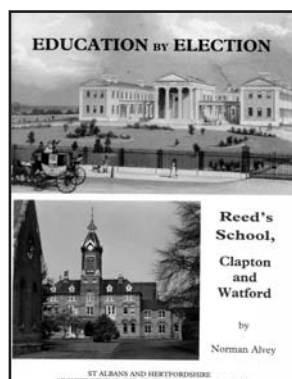
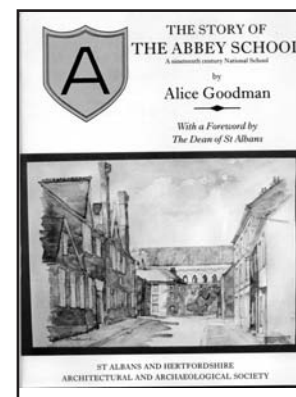


The Story of the Abbey School

Alice Goodman, 1991

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

£4

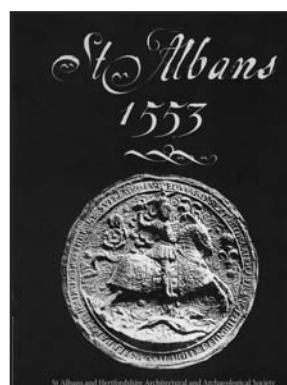


Education by Election, Reed's School, Clapton and Watford

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.

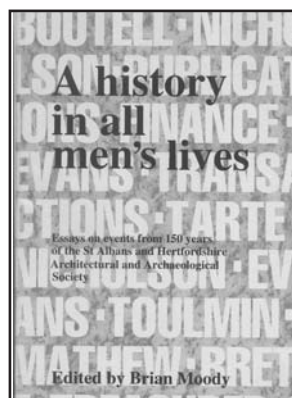
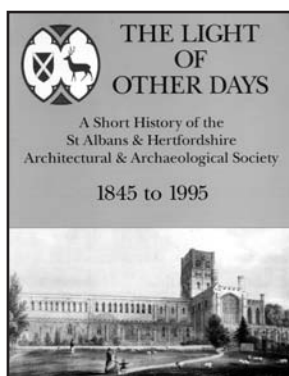
£4

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

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.

Those who contributed to the book may be interested and encouraged to know that a visit to Google Book Search reveals that 49 libraries in the USA, including the most prestigious, have acquired copies (as well as one in Australia). Complete figures for the UK are not available.

Gerard McSweeney



Please join us for our
NEW YEAR PARTY

At Verulamium Museum

On Friday 9th January 2009, at 7.30 p.m.

Mulled wine and festive food

*Bryan's architectural, archaeological and
 historical quiz*

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