

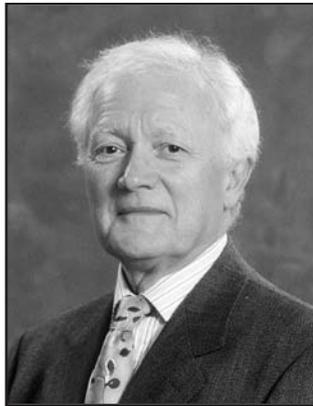


NEWSLETTER

No. 171 February 2009

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Museum of St Albans in Hatfield Road was built on land donated by Earl Spencer at the end of the 19th century. The museum would not have come into existence without the initiative of this Society and in particular of its Secretary, the antiquarian William Page. From the start, the museum was under-funded: money raised by the trustees was sufficient to build only half of what was planned. In 1955 St Albans City Council took responsibility for the museum, but it is now widely recognised that the building is unfit to house the exhibitions and modern facilities that would be necessary to present the long history of St Albans to citizens and visitors.

Members of the Society in the last few months have put forward many ideas to the Museums Director for what a Museum of St Albans should contain. Verulamium Museum is very successful, but the history of St Albans is much more than the history of the Roman period. Detailed plans are being prepared to extend Verulamium Museum to improve exhibition spaces and provide more educational and other facilities for visitors. It is very difficult to see how Verulamium Museum could be extended even further to meet the requirements of a Museum of St Albans.

Our attention will be focussed first on what the new museum should contain. We shall then be in a good position to say where it could be built. At our latest Council meeting in December, the Museums Director welcomed our input to the new museum and confirmed that the Society is a major stakeholder.

Your President, together with the President and Chairman of St Albans Civic Society and the Chairman of the Hertfordshire Association of Architects had a meeting on 7th January with the Chief Executive of St Albans City and District Council (SACDC) and with the Interim Head of Planning and Building Control. Our purpose was to put forward our misgivings, expressed in open letters to the local press in December 2008, about the effects of proposed staff changes in the conservation and design teams on the development of St Albans. Such changes must be handled carefully, particularly at a time when SACDC is faced with making critical decisions about what St Albans should be like two to three decades from now. We were assured that our misgivings will be taken into account when the final decision about staff changes is taken – the very least we could have expected.

To rectify the prolonged absence of a strategic development plan, SACDC has commissioned Urban Practitioners (UP) to publish 'City Vision: an overarching vision and a spatial strategy' by August 2009, after conducting polls and consulting with various groups of citizens and other stakeholders. We shall then expect a quick response and effective action from SACDC towards creating the St Albans that most citizens want.

UP are half-way through their task. On 24th January they presented a preliminary report proposing the general direction of development. A useful three-hour discussion then took place between UP and about 45 citizens representing many local groups, including this Society. David Tuckett on p.2 gives a brief account of the direction of development and aspects of it that are of particular importance to this Society. UP's recent report can be found on the SACDC website www.stalbans.gov.uk (look for the panel headed 'In focus' and click on <City Vision> where the report can be read and/or downloaded as 5 PDF files). You'll need broadband (lots of nice pictures) but the paper version can be read at the SACDC offices. Or contact Louise Mansfield at Urban Practitioners, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ, louise.mansfield@urbanpractitioners.co.uk.

Michael Cooper

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ST ALBANS CITY VISION

Commissioned by St Albans District Council, Urban Practitioners are preparing a 'St Albans City Vision' for residents, businesses and others to express their vision for the City over the next 20- 30 years. From fact-finding surveys and meetings with local representatives, UP's present draft Vision Statement will be further refined, then published for public consultation in late March/April 2009. Afterwards, with any changes arising from that consultation, the final Vision should be complete in August 2009, including proposals for a number of specific sites. Appropriate parts of it will be included in the local Sustainable Community Strategy and the Core Statement of the Local Development Framework, which will supersede the 1994 District Local Plan.

Of general interest to SAHAAS, the draft Vision sees St Albans as the cultural centre of a North London arc of towns and it seeks to enhance its heritage status,

including for tourism. In particular, it proposes to examine:

1. Possible uses of the City Centre South (land and buildings at the corner of Victoria Street and Bricket Road)
2. A possible museum, visual arts, etc., centre at the Hertfordshire University site (Hatfield Road near the City Museum)
3. Improvements in the vicinity of Verulamium Museum.

Among other ideas it recognises the local ethnic diversity and seeks to draw on it as an asset.

Each of us can contribute to the Vision after visiting the exhibition (from late March, exact dates to be published) and respond with their suggestions or comments, as indicated by the Chairman on page 1 of this newsletter.

David Tuckett

TUESDAY LECTURE REPORTS

Back in November our lecturer was David Short, who talked on the *History of Ashwell*, describing the geology of the surrounding country and the raised area which contains several barrows and a large Iron Age fort. Remnants of gold votive plaques decorated with goddesses, probably associated with a shrine, have also been found. It is hoped to do more excavations of this interesting site.

C. 930 Ashwell was established as a settlement, later mentioned in Domesday Book. The area, held by Westminster Abbey, became a borough and an important town in 1086. Its population was probably about 350 and, by the 14th century, it was the fifth largest town in Hertfordshire. The present church was built in the 14th century and contains famous graffiti about the Black Death when half the population died.

In the 18th century straw plaiting was an important employment and the 19th century saw the establishment of Fordham's Brewery. However, over the centuries Ashwell slowly declined in status and population and became the charming village of today - a thriving community with a population of some 1700. When David ended his interesting talk he had covered over 200 years of the history of Ashwell.

In December, Ken Peak, chairman of the London Colney Local History Society, gave a talk on *London Colney*. Situated on the road from London, a steady stream of coaches passed en route for St Albans and the North. The village was greatly changed by the advent of the railways. Two inns have survived: the Green Dragon and the Bull, and the church dates from the 1820s. Ken described the surrounding countryside and nearby Salisbury Hall, where forces gathered in 1471 prior to the battle of Barnet during the Wars of the Roses. The Hall later became home to the design team of de Havilland's, where the DH98 Mosquito was designed. Although surrounded by modern development, the village nucleus is very picturesque, with some lovely half-timbered houses.

On 13th January Professor Vivian Nutton gave a lecture on various aspects of the history surrounding the *Black*

Death, apparently only named thus in 1821: previous names included the Great Pestilence and the Plague. The disease crossed the world from the Far East and reached Europe in about 1346. By 1349 it was known in St Albans Abbey and Abbot Michael of Mentmore and 47 monks died; 80-90 monks in the associated houses of the Abbey also perished and deaths numbering 31 in Tyttenhanger and 84 in Codicote were recorded. The last outbreak in Hertfordshire was recorded in the late 17th century in Wheathampstead.

Professor Nutton's talk described the various outbreaks over the centuries right across the world; it seems that the cause and distribution of the disease have still not been definitively identified. Research continues and scientists are turning again to the evidence and descriptions recorded in medieval times. Professor Nutton's talk was most absorbing and of great interest to his large and appreciative audience.

Betty Ewens

NEW MEMBERS

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

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mrs Maureen Cummings | Spicer Street, St Albans |
| Mr & Mrs Robert Scruton | Boundary Road, St Albans |
| Ms Lynn Berry | Runcie Close, St Albans |
| Mr Richard Harris | Seymour Road, St Albans |
| Mrs Janice Grimsey | Radlett |
| Mrs Cathy Webster and family | Watling Street, St Albans |
| Mrs Lexi Barbakoff | Harpenden |
| Mr & Mrs DM Lasky | Upper Heath Road, St Albans |
| Mrs Ann Voisey | Brampton Road, St Albans |

REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

A New Members Evening was held at the Museum of St Albans in Hatfield Road on Tuesday 2nd December for those who had joined the Society within the last year. Whilst fewer new members accepted our invitation than expected, those who did attend were enthusiastic.

The President welcomed those present and exhibitions illustrating the work of the various groups within the Society were put on and a number of those attending expressed interest in being more involved. The evening concluded with refreshments which provided another opportunity for those present to get to know each other better in an informal setting.

Questionnaires were also issued to new members and the response was encouraging, with a number willing to use their computer skills for the benefit of the Society, to give lectures, to lead outings and be involved in committee work.

I would welcome suggestions for future lectures (and lecturers) and visits together with offers of help from those members who would be willing to assist with the IT and AV at our Tuesday and Friday Lectures.

Roy Bratby

Chairman, roy.bratby@bratbyonline.com

2009 Outings programme

Tuesday 28th April (tbc)
Evening visit to Tyttenhanger House

Saturday 16th May
Afternoon visit and walk around Ashwell

Tuesday 9th June
Evening visit and walk around Tring

Tuesday 23rd June
All-day 'Church Crawl' by coach

Thursday 16th July
Morning visit and walk around
Old Amersham

Tuesday 4th August
Evening visit to Rothamsted

Wednesday 23rd September
All-day visit to Oxford by coach

Please ensure you put these dates in your diary now. More detailed information will be available later.

NEW YEAR PARTY

January 9th saw yet another New Year Party held at Verulamium Museum. Many members attended along with invited guests including our Mayor, Councillor Bert Pawle.

Chris Green set us thinking with a table full of artefacts to identify. Bryan Hanlon provided the opening quiz and the usual sustenance of soft drinks and mulled wine. Members had plenty of opportunities to chat amongst friends and they did us proud with the usually varied selection of food they brought along. Collectively the tables looked a delight, so colourfully laid out by a small team of our ladies.

Thanks go to all who contributed to the hugely successful evening.

Doreen Bratby



Items found after the New Year Party

Red scarf

Small blue fabric covered button

Black handled knife

To retrieve any of these items please ring

01727 858050

Clockwise from top: New year spread looks fantastic before the guests are let loose on it; Chris Green reveals the answers to his quiz; guests confer on the answers while enjoying a glass of wine

LIBRARY NOTES AND QUERIES

Notes

The Library team offered members attending the New Year party the chance to buy books, maps and pamphlets surplus to the Library's needs – duplicates and items not relevant to St Albans or Hertfordshire. The sale raised £60 for Society funds. A separate sale, at a book fair, achieved a price of £100 for a book offered to members last year.

The Library in the Town Hall was open to the public during the recent Residents First weekend. We exhibited some of the Library's stock, focussing on 19th century St Albans, with some early 20th century material. Displays illustrated the Abbey restoration, the coming of the railways, maps of the town, and old photographs of Fishpool Street, including plans of a straw hat factory there. We estimate we had about 40 visitors per hour on the Saturday, somewhat fewer on the Sunday, which was very wet. Overall, we had perhaps 450 visitors, most of whom were interested in the exhibition, but one visitor was disappointed not to find judges' robes on display! It will be interesting to see if the membership application forms taken by visitors result in a noticeable rise in applications in the next few weeks.

The library team is very grateful for the help volunteered by members of Council and ordinary members in stewarding the exhibition. Their company made the task not only very much easier, but more enjoyable.

New books, articles and journals

Books added recently to Library stock include:

A county of small towns: the development of Hertfordshire's urban landscape to 1800, edited by Terry Slater and Nigel Goose. Hertfordshire Publications, 2008. Chapter 13, entitled 'Alban to St Albans, AD 800 - 1820' is by David Dean.

Sir John Evans, 1823-1908: antiquity, commerce and natural science in the age of Darwin, edited by Arthur MacGregor. Oxford, Ashmolean, 2008. Sir John Evans, a founder member of the Arc and Arc, married into the Dickinson family, and became head of the paper company.

St Albans: a history, by Mark Freeman. Lancaster, Carnegie Publishing, 2008. Concerned with all aspects of the history, but with an emphasis on the economic and social life of the city. The author was born and educated in St Albans.

The impact of the Civil War in Hertfordshire, 1642-1647, edited by Alan Thomson. Hertfordshire Record Society, 2007. Hertfordshire Record Publications, volume 23.

Redbourn through time, by Geoff Webb. Stroud, Amberley Publications, 2008. A selection of photographs tracing change and development over the last century.

Hitchin's strawplait industry, by N. Agar. Hitchin, Hitchin Historical Society and North Hertfordshire District Council Museum Service, [1980s]. 12pp.

The Abbey Church of St Albans. Photocopy of an article from *The Builder*, 25 February 1871, pp.137-9.

Articles from journals recently received, which might interest members:

In *Hertfordshire People* No.107, December 2008:

- Pp 12-15 Hertfordshire occupations: coachmakers, by Margaret Ward
- Pp 42-44 A Hertfordshire heraldic miscellany, by John J. Tunesi of

Liongarn. Concerned with the arms of the Merchant Venturers and the Company of Mercers of the City of London on the front of John Wynn's almshouses in Baldock.

We have also received copies of these journals:

Conservation Bulletin (English Heritage) Autumn 2008

Barnet and District Local History Society Newsletter, Autumn 2008

British Archaeology, January-February 2009

Council for British Archaeology Newsletter, January 2009

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, www.stalbanshistory.org

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.

CLOCK TOWER REPORT

The annual Clockateers' Party, given to thank our volunteers, will be held on Friday 13th March. This is a very sociable event, with a cold buffet, wines and soft drinks, provided from Clock Tower funds. Nothing to bring - except your diaries: it's a useful way of signing up for convenient dates after the Clock Tower re-opens on Good Friday, April 10th.

Invitations to the Party, with full details, will be sent out to all clockateers in a few weeks time. By then, we shall have organised the schedule of weekends with the Civic Society.

If anyone is considering joining the Clockateers next season, they are welcome to attend the party to meet other helpers and find out what is

involved - please contact me, details shown below. Volunteering only requires one and a half hours of your time during a weekend.

Existing clockateers will be pleased to learn that I have managed to acquire two new bar-stools, with backs, for sitting at the counter! These are well-designed and should provide the much-needed back-support and a good seat at the right height. They will be installed before Easter, ready for next season.

Jill Bennett

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

BOOK REVIEWS

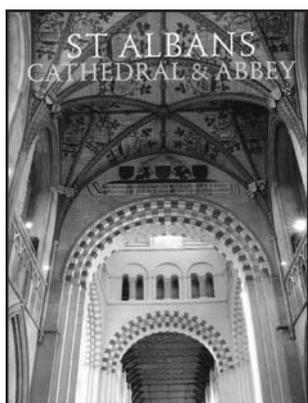
St Albans Cathedral and Abbey

Fraternity of the Friends of St Albans Abbey. ISBN13: 9781857595543; 10:1857595548

This book is a celebration of the Friends' 60 years of work in support of the church and its community, in words and pictures of the unique St Albans story.

This is a timely book, meeting a need for information, clarification and celebration of this wonderful place and history. There are already many works describing its architecture, serving as souvenirs and describing its many aspects in detail, through which interested readers can learn and enjoy the Abbey church and its history. This new book can act as a celebration - a coffee table book - bringing together those aspects in a very readable form, but also as a reference book for the deeper meaning of the institution. Each chapter is enjoyable, yet authoritative. The themes are well chosen and follow on well; the authors are of impeccable standing. Seldom does one find such a range of specialists contributing to a book which is so essentially 'popular'. The illustrations, specially commissioned from Donato Cinicolo, bring a fresh and deeply interested eye to the building and all that goes on in it. The book brings together the religious, the historical and architectural, and archaeological and is a must. Published in November, it was the perfect Christmas present for all those with St Albans connections and those whom one would wish to enthuse. I took that opportunity and commend it to others.

Kate Morris



A County of Small Towns *The development of Hertfordshire's urban landscape to 1800*

ed. Terry Slater and Nigel Goose

ISBN-10 1-905313-44-6

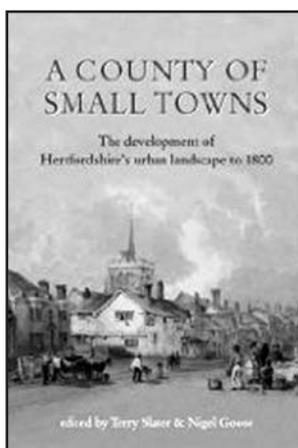
ISBN-13 978-1-905313-44-0

448 pages, 2008, Hertfordshire Publications, £16.99

"In a combination of essays on key towns and chapters with more wide-ranging themes, this book brings together research into the origins, growth and topography of Hertfordshire's towns. Unusual in having no single dominant city, Hertfordshire provides rich evidence of the diverse ways in which towns come into existence and then develop.

"Domesday Book records, at most, six towns in Hertfordshire but other places with urban and market functions may also have been passed over in the record of 1086. Hertfordshire shared in the demographic and urban expansion that characterised the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, while the Black Death of 1348/9 had ambivalent implications for its towns and their inhabitants. The relative decline of St Albans in the early modern period was accompanied by the emergence of a number of larger centres with more diverse economies.

"With chapters on Hertford and Ware, St Albans, Hitchin, Watford, Ashwell, Barnet and Berkhamsted, plus essays on topography, medieval town economy, commons and boundaries, industry and the influence of the Dissolution, this is a rich source for all with a serious interest in the urban history of Hertfordshire."



St Albans, a history

Mark Freeman. Carnegie Publishing. 2008. £20. ISBN: 978185936 139 9

The first and obvious thing to strike one about this new history of St Albans is that it is beautifully produced, with a collection of interesting illustrations, useful within the covers of one volume. My attention was particularly caught by a photograph of one of the typical houses built by Smith's printing agency, which developed much of Fleetville, and there are numerous other nineteenth and early twentieth century examples in particular.

The main focus of the book is on the economic, social and cultural life of the city, and it is, as the author himself says, based primarily on secondary sources, and so perhaps cannot claim to be a work of original scholarship. With the paucity of histories of St Albans it is a very welcome addition to the group, however. It is particularly valuable for its focus on the more modern period, and an interesting examination of how St Albans saw itself and its relation with London.

I had some reservations. The watching loft at the Abbey probably is unique. There is doubt that the example at Christ Church Oxford is, in fact, a watching loft. There is also doubt that the present W H Smith building is the site of the old Moot Hall. The practice of inserting 'boxes' into the text, covering certain key points, I found confusing and disjointed. However, all in all, a valuable book, and a welcome addition to any St Albans bookshelf.

Gill Harvey



NEW 19TH CENTURY RESEARCH GROUP ESTABLISHED

The 19th Century research group has been up and running for several months now and has continued to attract members of the Society who are interested in developing their knowledge of this dynamic period in the history of St Albans.

The group currently includes both long-standing and new members, some with a long record of academic research and others with no previous experience at all. There is scope for incorporating a wide range of talents and interests and we would be very pleased to explain our plans to any members who might be interested either in joining us or discussing research they have undertaken which is relevant to the 19th century. The 19th century research group meets on a regular basis to discuss the research members have undertaken and this is growing into a fascinating body of work which will compliment the work undertaken by the long standing and highly respected 17th century group.

The group intends to enter its findings on a new website which will provide the Society, and the wider world, with an accessible way of recording and displaying material on a wide range of subjects from education and public health to famous townspeople. The work of the 19th century group is initially providing the foundation for the site. It is intended, at a later stage, that the project will be extended to cover wider chronological and subject specific groupings. We also intend to supplement the site with research which has been undertaken by those who have given permission for their completed work to be added.

Members will recall that, some time ago, the Society sent out a questionnaire regarding their interests and this has been followed up by the group. This was used to identify work relevant to the 19th century and those who responded to the questionnaire and confirmed that they have completed work have been contacted and asked if the authors were prepared to share their work with the group with a view to possibly making this work available on the website.

The results of these enquiries have been very positive, with several members agreeing to deposit their work with us. We are also willing to discuss any research which is not yet complete and are happy to help with turning rough notes into articles or re-writing documents into an electronic format suitable for adding to the site.

The website is currently under construction and we have arranged three days of training for those who have expressed an interest in becoming site editors. This is a key role designed to protect the quality and test the academic rigour of articles submitted for publication. There is no opportunity for articles to be added to the site without passing through the editorial process which will ensure the standards of the Society are not compromised.

We are confident that the site will be available within the next few months and once our training has been completed we will be adding articles to the site before launching it to the public. We intend to contribute regular updates on our progress and would like to welcome any members who would like to join us in the exciting new venture.

Making our research available on the web is in no way deflecting from our core purpose of facilitating and providing high quality research but we do hope that this move towards making the work we undertake more accessible to both Members and the public will enhance the role of the Society and raise our profile in the city, district and beyond.

JUDY FARADAY CO-OPTED TO COUNCIL

Judy Faraday will act as Convenor to this group and as a result has been co-opted to the A&A Council. We asked her to introduce herself for those who have not yet made her acquaintance. She wrote:

I have been employed by the John Lewis Partnership as their Company Archivist since 1996. I obtained my first degree with the Open University and have since gone on to take an MPhil in Humanities at the University of Wolverhampton where my research has concentrated on the development of women managers in retailing in the interwar period. I am also a member of the Executive Council of the Business Archives Council, Chairman of the Business Records Group of the Society of Archivists and a member of CAHG (Community Archive and Heritage Group). I am currently on the monitoring group for the National Strategy for Business Archives which is due to be launched at the House of Lords in July. I also work as a consultant specialising in management within the archive profession. A St Albans Tour Guide since the early 1990s, I gained my Blue Badge in 1996 and was a member of the Guides committee for several years. I have been a member of the Arc and Arc for three years and now lead the new 19th century research group.



SOCIETY LECTURES 2008/9

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 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

This talk is about the school's foundation, the sites that it has occupied, and something of its ethos and members over the years.

Keith Cheyney is a member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals and has been a Chartered Librarian since 1957. Born in 1934, he has been School Librarian at Haberdashers' Aske's School for 33 years. He retired in 1994 and has been Hon. Archivist at the school since then.

Our member Mrs Margaret Taylor will share this lecture. She was the wife of Thomas W Taylor Headmaster of Haberdashers' Aske's School from 1946 for the next 27 years. Upon retirement Margaret joined the Arc and Arc and in 1977 was elected the first lady President. She has a Diploma in Archaeology and has been on several digs. She was an Honorary Cathedral Guide for 27 years and still guides parties up to the stone store.

Friday 27th March 2009

Inigo Jones and the Hatfield Connection Michael Leapman

Inigo Jones (1573-1652), the son of a London clothworker, rose to become one of our most influential architects, introducing Palladian neo-classicism to England. He was also a trusted adviser and confidant of both James I and Charles I. Little is known of his early career; but any aspiring courtier of the time needed patrons, and one of Inigo's was Robert Cecil, the first Earl of Salisbury and the most powerful politician in the land.

This talk will place the Hatfield connection in the context of Inigo's career as a designer of royal masques and of iconic buildings such as the Queen's House at Greenwich, St. Paul's Church in Covent Garden and the Queen's Chapel in St. James's. His royal connections meant that his career came to an end with the Civil War - after which his principal patron, Charles I, was executed outside his greatest building of all, the Banqueting House in Whitehall. Inigo himself died three years later.

In a long career as a journalist, Michael Leapman has written for most national newspapers and many magazines. He has also produced 17 books on subjects that include history, biography, gardening and travel. "Inigo", his biography of Inigo Jones, was published by Headline in 2003.

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

In the last ten years billions of words of text reflecting the experience of British men and women have been posted in a searchable form on the internet. This presentation will discuss the process of creating one of these sources - the

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.

Old Bailey Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org) - and how it can be used to both research local history, and give depth and context to an almost unlimited range of historical topics. With 120 million words of trial reports, from the tragic to the ridiculous, the Old Bailey Online forms a remarkable access point to all kinds of history.

Tim Hitchcock was born in San Francisco and attended the University of California at Berkeley before emigrating to Britain in 1978 and undertaking a doctorate at Oxford University on the development of eighteenth-century workhouses. He has written or edited ten books on the histories of eighteenth-century poverty, sexuality and gender; and is the co-director of the Old Bailey Online. He lives in Muswell Hill.

Tuesday 12th May 2009

The Palace at Kings Langley: History and Archaeology

Richard Boustred

Tuesday 19th May 2009

Totternhoe Stone: the Quarries, the Masons and the Buildings

Joan Curran

The talk covers the history of the ownership and development of the quarries from the Middle Ages up until the present day and looks at some of the buildings in which the stone was used, from the medieval churches and monasteries to the country houses of the 18th century.

Before retirement Joan Curren was a librarian, having worked first in the Kent County Library service, later as

Librarian of the College of Art at Loughborough (now part of the University) and latterly in the Bedfordshire School Library Service. Since retirement one of her main interests has been local history, particularly of Totternhoe, where she now lives. She is currently Secretary of the Dunstable Local History Society.

Friday 29th May 2009

The Restoration of Kew Palace and Queen Charlotte's Cottage

Lee Prosser

Kew Palace is a jewel set in the Royal Botanic Gardens. It remains Britain's smallest royal residence, and was the place where King George III was sent to be shielded from the public eye, when the world considered him mad. The actual house was built in 1631, and is a rare survivor of a London merchant's residence. For ten years it was closed to the public before being the subject of a multi-million pound conservation project, which restored it to its former glory. This talk charts some of the fascinating discoveries that were made, and the long road back to life.

Lee Prosser is Curator - Historic Buildings at Historic Royal Palaces, the charitable trust which cares for five of our most important royal residences: the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace, Kew Palace and the Banqueting House in Whitehall. He is an archaeologist by training, and was part of the team which led the restoration of Kew.

'MAKING MEMORIES' COMMUNITY ARCHIVES: A SUCCESSFUL BID

When I came home from Jonathan Hunn's presentation on The Gorhambury Landscape on Tuesday, 20th January, I opened an e-mail from Hertfordshire's Heritage Manager, Dr. Jill Barber, telling me that the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded HCC nearly £50,000 to create a pilot Community Archive project across the 10 districts over two years.

A Development Group was formed last September and prepared the necessary documentation in order to make the bid. The intention is involve some of the different groups within the County including children, young and older people, migrants etc. living in the County. The outcome will be in the creation of a Gateway website into which the results of the various "Making Memory" projects will be placed. Each of the selected groups will be given computer training and will then work together to create a virtual archive of their memories. Support for the groups will be given by members of Local Study Librarians

and a member of Hertfordshire archives.

The four main partners are: Hertfordshire Libraries, Museums, Archives and Arts with the University of Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire Association for Local History and advice is being provided by the John Lewis Partnership Archivist among others. Now that the funding has been secured work will begin in February to look at the implementation of this exciting project which will lead eventually to a new virtual resource available to all who wish to become involved in Hertfordshire on-going local history. As the project develops there will be opportunities for local society members to become involved in aiding with the technical detail and editing of material for inclusion.

Two of HALH's 2008 events take place in St. Albans District: the Spring Lecture by Dr. Tom Williamson (author of the Origin of Hertfordshire" and

Annual Meeting will be held at St. Stephen's Church Parish Centre, Watling Street, St. Albans at 2 p.m. on Saturday, 9th May 2009.

Wheatthamsted will be the village visited on Saturday, 18th July, when a trail will begin with a visit to the home of the ancient home of David and Ann Godfrey-Evans in Bury Green and will take in Wheatthamsted Church and the main village street, ending with tea provided by the Women's Institute. Invitations will be distributed to HALH members in March with the spring issue of *Herts Past and Present* and the "Hertfordshire Local History and Events".

Remember, individual membership of HALH costs £10 per annum. See the website www.halh.org.uk for further information.

John G.E. Cox

A&A Representative & Secretary of HALH

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

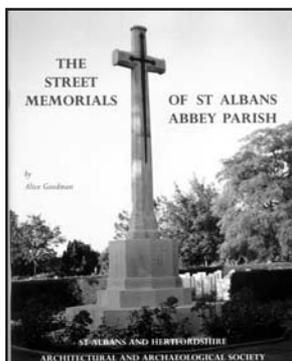
91 Sandpit Lane, St Albans AL1 4BJ. Tel 01727 856250 clare.a.ellis@btinternet.com

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

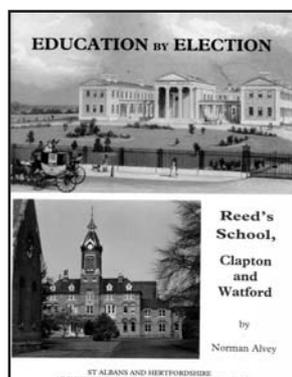
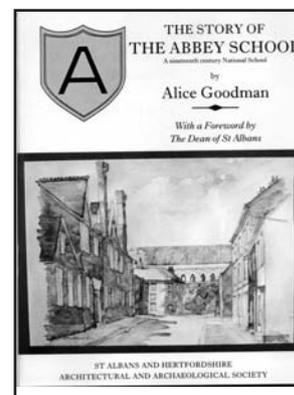


The Story of the Abbey School

Alice Goodman, 1991

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

£4

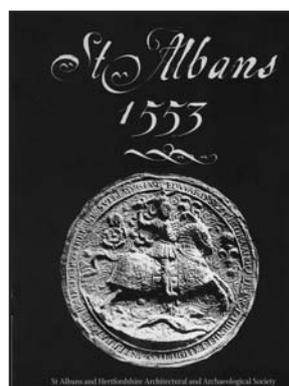


Education by Election, Reed's School, Clapton and Watford

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.

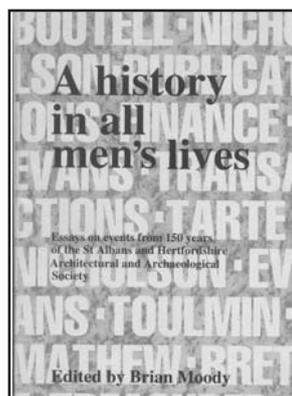
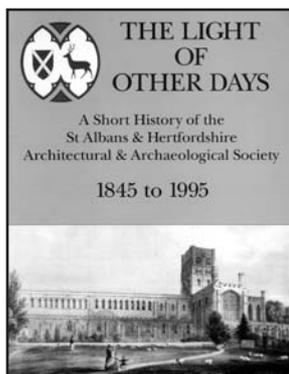
£4

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2008-9

PRESIDENT

Michael Cooper

85 Lancaster Road, St Albans AL1 4ER
01727-850834 m.a.r.cooper@ntlworld.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Clare Ellis

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

SECRETARY

Bryan Hanlon

24 Monks Horton Way, St Albans AL1 4HA
01727-851734 bryan@hanlon.me

TREASURER

John Thomson

9 Upper Lattimore Road, St Albans AL1 3UD
07711-696417 john@jthomson.dsl.interdart.net

WEBSITE MANAGER

Brian Bending

4 Abbey View Road, St Albans AL3 4QL
01727-862689 brian@bending.force9.co.uk

CLOCK TOWER

Jill Bennett

29 Cornwall Road, St Albans AL1 1SQ
01727-867685 jill.bennett@waitrose.com

LECTURE SECRETARY

Doreen Bratby

26 The Park, St Albans AL1 4RY
01727-858050 doreen.bratby@bratbyonline.com

CHAIRMAN, PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Roy Bratby

26 The Park, St Albans AL1 4RY
01727 858050 roy.bratby@bratbyonline.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dee Drinkwater

9 Samian Gate, St Albans AL3 4JW
01727-868765 dee.drinkwater@btinternet.com

MUSEUMS & HERITAGE OFFICER

Chris Green

St Albans District Council, Verulamium Museum, St
Michael's Street, St Albans AL3 4SW
07931 598014 c.green@stalbands.gov.uk

19TH CENTURY RESEARCH

Judy Faraday

48 Midway, St Albans AL3 4BQ 01727 841480
judyfaraday@hotmail.com

LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE

Gill Harvey

18a Gainsborough Avenue, St Albans AL1 4NL
01727 853415 Rrichardyo@aol.com

17TH CENTURY POPULATION RESEARCH

Pat Howe

7 Cranmore Court, Avenue Road, St Albans AL1 3QS
01727-857274 pathowe@talk21.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Peter Jeffreys

29 Bury Green, Wheathampstead, St Albans AL4 8DB
01582-832971 peterj@dircon.co.uk

HERTS ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY

Bill Martin

18 Beechwood Park, Hemel Hempstead, HP4 0DY
01442-242614 william.e.martin@ntlworld.com

ARCHITECTURE AND LOCAL HISTORY REPRESENTATIVE

Gerard McSweeney

52 Jennings Road, St Albans AL1 4NZ
01727-857958 gerard@mcsweeney1.mail1.co.uk

PRESS AND PUBLICITY OFFICER vacant

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

Roger Miles

21 Upper Culver Road, St Albans AL1 4EE
01727-865735 rogmiles@compuserve.com

PROPERTY RESEARCH REPRESENTATIVE

Kate Morris

74 St Peter's Street, St Albans AL1 3HG
01727-868434 kate@englishinfo.biz