



# NEWSLETTER

No. 174 November 2009

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### **AGM rejects proposed change of name**

At a crowded and lively AGM on 8th September, members rejected Council's proposal to change the name of the Society to 'St Albans and Hertfordshire History Society' by 84 votes to 57. There was a significant difference

between the voting patterns of members present (60 against, 14 for) and the postal vote (24 against and 43 for). In the debate preceding the vote, the loss of 'archaeology' from the title was cited by several members as the reason for rejecting Council's proposal.

A few different names were suggested, but the constitution would not allow them to be formally proposed and voted on at the AGM. It seems as if members are not opposed to a change of name. After the meeting, some members independently told me that it was the most enjoyable AGM they had had for many years. Perhaps they were suggesting that the Society's name should be a regular AGM item.

Minutes of the AGM are enclosed.

### **Honorary members**

The AGM approved Council's recommendation that three people should be awarded Honorary Membership of the Society: Brian Adams, for his excellent work for the Museums Education Service; Brian Moody, formerly Society secretary for some 20 years; and Margaret Taylor, a past president of the Society.

### **John Cox is the Society's publicity officer**

Following an appeal in the last newsletter, I was delighted when John Cox offered his services as publicity officer for one year. Members will probably already have seen some results of John's efforts. He sent statements to the local press about our opinion on the Local Development Framework and our argument for a new museum for St Albans. The *Herts Advertiser* made features of those statements and supports the campaign for a new museum. John introduces himself on page 7.

### **New web site launched**

The Society's new website has just been launched and you can read all about it on pages 5 and 6. It will become an important site for communications between members and the public.

### **An invitation to all members with IT skills**

The Society's Transactions, going back about 150 years, are a valuable asset of interest to many historians and antiquarians who are unable to visit our library, but who can visit our website. The process of transforming hundreds of pages of text, photographs and drawings into images on the internet that can be found, searched and read has become almost entirely automated. But the process requires someone who has basic computer skills to compare what the automated system has produced with the original pages and make the few corrections that might be necessary. We need a small team who can make our Transactions available to the world. Anyone interested in contributing to this important activity is invited to contact me.

### **A Publications Committee**

The results of our work will be published in a variety of forms and at a range of costs, from zero upwards. The Society's Publications Committee will be re-formed to advise Council on a publishing policy and give advice in particular cases. Any member who has experience of paper or digital publishing, or who would like to contribute towards the Society's publications policy, is invited to contact me.

### **Frank Kilvington**

It is with much sadness that I record the death on 11th October of Frank Kilvington. He gave exceptional service to the Society as member, President and Secretary. Those of us who now serve the Society can only aspire to his high levels of scholarship, intellect and judgement and recall with affection his gentlemanly manner. An obituary appears on page 4.

*Michael Cooper*

**Don't  
miss our  
New Year  
Party!**

## SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY + CITY VISION

***Our submission to St Albans District Council on their consultation exercise was mailed to them on 24th September 2009 by our President Professor Michael Cooper. Here is the text.***

### **Shaping our Community**

The Society - as the premier 'heritage' association within the county - strongly supports the Strategic Objective 5. SO 5 seeks to establish St Albans as a regional cultural hub, while SO 8 promotes St Albans city centre for commercial, civic and cultural activities.

We are delighted that, for example:

- There will be a focus on our mediaeval history
- The Clock Tower space will be redesigned
- Our environment should reflect our city's heritage
- We shall have a new 'cultural hub'
- There will be new ways to show, explain and understand our Roman past

Our rich Roman and mediaeval heritage gives us a unique place among towns in the region and supports a strong related cultural life. St Albans' heritage is its 'trump card' when playing the market against surrounding towns. We therefore believe that St Albans' heritage should be at the very forefront of its vision and its planning for the future. These factors, and the consequent tourism, will bring cultural and economic benefits at least equal to, say, shopping development in another town. Therefore the Society strongly supports the case for improved cultural facilities in the city centre (para 16.4), with a cultural hub, preferably in the Civic Centre area (para 16.5) and a relocated City Museum. This Society in the 1890s was the progenitor of the present museum and its members are willing and able to become actively involved in the design of a new museum building, its contents and exhibitions. We have much to offer.

Para 12.4 describes St Albans as a major town centre, and para 12.11 estimates the need to nearly double the existing city centre non-food floor

space. The Society will therefore be very interested to see how the heritage/cultural and shopping uses are planned to co-exist successfully.

### **City Vision**

The City Vision gives two options for the development of part of the central area, and lists ten Master Plan Objectives. However, it is disappointing that only one, 'celebrating the historic environment', mentions that subject and none mentions culture. Both Options state 'a new cultural hub' but this appears to be the Arena plus a small Arts Centre, and nowhere appears to include the 'relocated City Museum and gallery' unless they are above ground level. Instead, a great many new shops are proposed. Furthermore:

- In our opinion, a hotel in the St Michael's area would be likely to cause considerable damage to the underlying Roman and mediaeval remains, and therefore would be vetoed by English Heritage. A new hotel would be a wholly inappropriate building in a small-scale historic area.
- There is little reference to the need for attractive street furniture in our city and we would strongly suggest that one of the best ways of bringing our heritage into full view is to have statues of suitable people in appropriate places throughout our City. We are delighted that it is proposed to remove unnecessary street clutter. We as a society will suggest who should be honoured, and where.

Other places in Hertfordshire have statues - why are they missing from St Albans? There seems to be no place in this document for public art which enhances the quality of public spaces. A fountain in a prominent position should be considered, possibly in association with a memorial.

- The Society believes that the given options fail to demonstrate a reasonable balance between commercial and civic/cultural uses to reflect the unique character of St Albans (and we point out that civic/cultural uses can often bring commercial benefits). A landmark building for a relocated and enlarged Museum of St Albans and related cultural uses - such as the Society has previously detailed (see attachment) - would meet the cultural values to which we aspire as well as economic benefits. This 'hub' should include not only the new museum but also a cinema, lecture theatre, meeting rooms etc. Although there is indeed reference in the LDF of the need for good quality architecture in our City, there seems to be no mention of this new 'vision' having at its centre a truly iconic building, which will show the best of 21st century architecture by resonating with its surroundings. An iconic building will appeal to residents and visitors alike. We do not want an iconic building like the Sydney Opera House, but we aspire to one that becomes over the years symbolic of a new kind of architecture: frugal rather than extravagant, imaginative, functional and at ease in its context.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

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

|                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Peter Allport    | King Harry Lane, St Albans |
| Elinor Hale      | Blackmore End              |
| Emma Buckley     | Harpenden                  |
| Hilary Humphries | London Colney              |
| Daniel Johnston  | Queens Crescent, St Albans |

## FIRST MAYOR'S PRIZE AWARDED

During her tenure as Mayor in 2008, Kate Morris raised a capital sum to fund The Mayor's Prize for an outstanding piece of research on a topic relating to the history of St Albans. The Prize essay competition is administered by the Arc & Arc. The winner of the first prize was Miss Rosemary Hearle of St Albans, for her work on The Very reverend Walter John Lawrence, Dean of St Albans 1900-14.

A copy of the winning essay and of the two runners-up is available at the Arc & Arc Library.

Entries are now being accepted for the 2010 Prize. Each should consist of an essay of between 5000 and 10,000 words. Submissions close on 30th April 2010.

For more information or an application form contact [admin@stalbanshistory.org](mailto:admin@stalbanshistory.org).

*Pictured from left, the Mayor Councillor Chris Oxley; former mayor Kate Morris who set up the Prize; winner Rosemary Hearle; Lady Verulam, a Patron of the Society; and President Michael Cooper.*



## ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP EXCAVATION REPORT

With less than a week to go before our scheduled start the site field was harvested and we were certain of access. 2009 was the fourth campaign on the Amwell site and for the first time we resorted to having a machine to strip off topsoil as the three selected areas of interest were much larger than previously.

Our objectives were to gain further knowledge about the two known structures and look for firm evidence of a third that was indicated by surface finds (but not shown by geophysical survey).

As far as the last of the three is concerned we perhaps scored five out of ten. While there were no substantial wall footings, there were the remnants of a linear flint structure, much disturbed, probably by ploughing. In addition there was a large deposit containing domestic rubbish (pot, bone) which is almost certain to have originated close by from an occupied building. Our most precisely dateable find this year was from this trench; a mid-third century coin of Gallienus.

Trench two was located on the southeast corner of the villa, with a southward arm to investigate a deep feature seen in a test pit in 2004. The substantial flint footings were readily exposed and confirmation obtained of the simple, rectangular plan of the building indicated by the geophysics. A plan having a long,

east-west range with southward projecting wings at each end was a possibility that needed to be tested.

The deep feature mentioned turned out to be deep indeed. It would seem that just in front of the southeast corner of the building was a substantial pit which had been filled with soil containing, again, domestic rubbish, plus brick, mortar, chalk and large flints. Although use was made of the JCB initially, deeper investigation was by hand and time and human resources were insufficient in the end to reach the bottom of the feature. At 1.8 metres below ground level it was still going down. The best interpretation that can be offered on the evidence so far is that the pit was for quarrying clay, chalk and flints for use in the construction of the villa. Afterwards it would have been convenient for disposal of rubbish.

The third trench was made with the object of learning more about the

apparently very large building which lay upslope from the villa. At 20 metres the roof span would have had to have had internal posts to support the trusses. No post holes were found, only some curvilinear flint footings, inside the 'building'. Close to these were three cremation burials. This all indicated that we had, in fact, a rectangular walled enclosure and not a roofed building. Its function is most likely to have been ceremonial/religious, but not a temple. That interpretation is unlikely, because of the presence of the burials, unless they were not contemporary with it. The cremation pots will date the burials, but wall footings are tricky on their own. Further excavation alone will tell.

We are currently doing post-excavation processing on the finds from the dig. There should be more to report by the time the next newsletter appears.

*Roger Miles*

## A REMINDER ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society's membership year began on 1st June and all subscriptions should have been paid as soon as possible after that date. For those who have not yet paid, this newsletter will be the last you will receive. A small number of members have continued to pay by standing order on 1st October – some of them at the old rate of subscription – and it would be extremely helpful to both the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary if fresh instructions to banks could be given immediately in order to remove this anomaly.

*Peter Jeffries*



## FRANK KILVINGTON 1924-2009

Frank Kilvington, born in West Hartlepool, was a scholar of Repton School, from where he won a classics scholarship to Corpus Christi College, Oxford. His education was interrupted by war service in the Royal Navy, which ended in 1946 in Germany, where he was working, with the rank of Lieutenant, in Naval Intelligence. He graduated in 1948, by which time he had met Jane Clarke, daughter of Repton's headmaster. They were married in 1949, and Frank was appointed as a master, and later housemaster, at Westminster School. While at Westminster their children Sally and John were born.

From 1964 to 1984 he was Headmaster of St Albans School, succeeding another ex-naval officer, W T Marsh. This was a school which needed to broaden its curriculum and greatly increase its facilities, a difficult task in the face of unpredictable financial and political pressures. The extent of his great success in this can be seen in all the new buildings around the School today. As inscribed on Christopher Wren's tomb: *'Si monumentum requiris, circumspice'*.

As well as modernising the School, Frank found time – goodness knows when – to study the School's historical background. In 1970 he published the first edition of his *Short History of St Albans School*, which remains the definitive account today. Naturally he joined our Society; in 1973 he was elected to Council, and the following year he became the Society's 11th President. Our members were always made very welcome in the School, and some

will remember our New Year Parties which were then held in part of the new Assembly Hall, with the Headmaster/President always helping to clear up afterwards. We were also able to make good use of the School for meetings, ranging from small ones in the Abbey Gateway to those which filled every seat in the Big Lecture Room.

In 1975 the Kilvington family moved out of the old School House into a private house in Marshalswick. This was to prove fortunate for our 17th Century Research Group, because the house later became also their headquarters and home for their new computer. Jane Kilvington became the leading operator (as well as becoming the Society's President from 1993 to 1996), and when the Group's work was to be published in 1993, Frank wrote the opening chapter.

In 1982 the Society needed a new Hon Secretary, and it was Frank who filled this gap, doing the job with his usual tact and skill for the next seven years. There is not space here to list all the things which he did for the Society, nor all his lectures and publications. After he 'retired' in 1984 he also fitted in a period as Abbey Archivist.

When in 1989 he was encouraging me to become the next Hon Secretary, he simply said 'Just use your discretion'. This was something he did so brilliantly all his life, and we will remember him with great admiration and affection.

*Brian Moody*



*Frank in typical pose, photographed during his Headmastership at St Albans School.*

*Photo by courtesy of Shelagh Collingwood*

## A NEW MOSTA? - UPDATE NOVEMBER 2009

It is now two years since Mike Cooper and Bryan Hanlon visited Chris Green to plead the case for a new Museum of St. Albans.

Chris subsequently spoke to the Civic Society, detailing some of the (many) problems associated with the present building in the 21st century – seemingly everything from lack of disabled access to the possibly unique example of the large scale use of horizontal roofing felt being used vertically.

Since then, of course, we have had the City Vision project and your Society has given its proposals for a new museum (site as yet unspecified). It was, after all, this Society that was instrumental in bringing the museum into existence well over a century ago, and we feel that it is our duty – and our right – to be actively involved in any possible replacement.

It is hoped that the new museum will be at the heart of a "cultural centre"

in the heart of St Albans.

Roger Miles has kindly volunteered to have a watching brief on the progress of this exercise. If you think that you can help him – in any way at all – please do contact him (01727 865735 or rog miles@compuserve.com).

A new group is now campaigning for the museum; keep in touch and make your views known at

[www.newmuseum4stalban.org](http://www.newmuseum4stalban.org).

## OUR NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED AT HALS SYMPOSIUM

After nearly a year in the making the new website was launched on 7th November at the HALH Symposium in Hitchin. Following a fascinating paper given by Janet Ouston on education in St Albans we were given the opportunity to explain the site to the delegates.

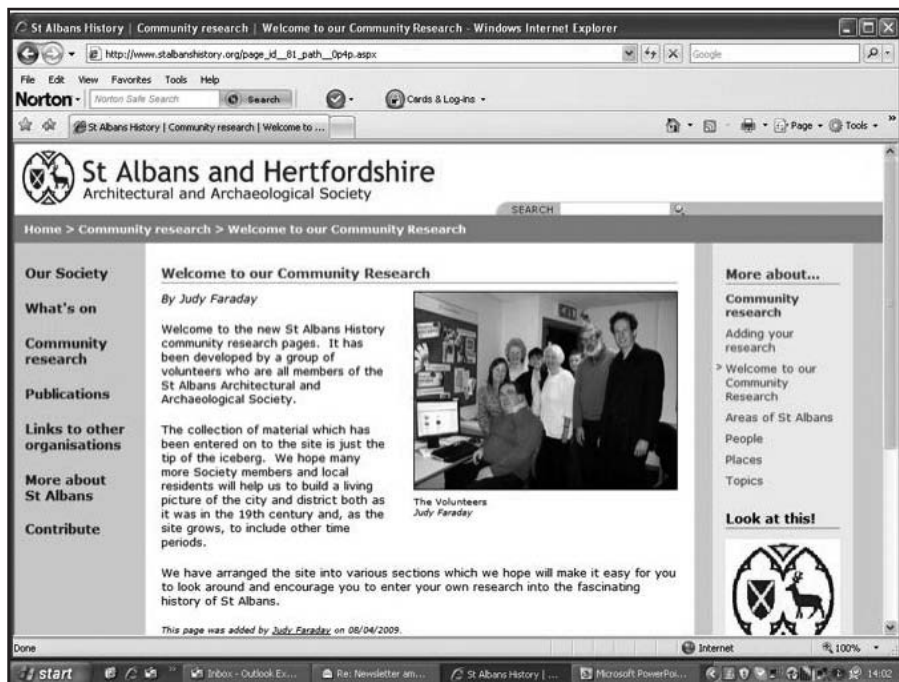
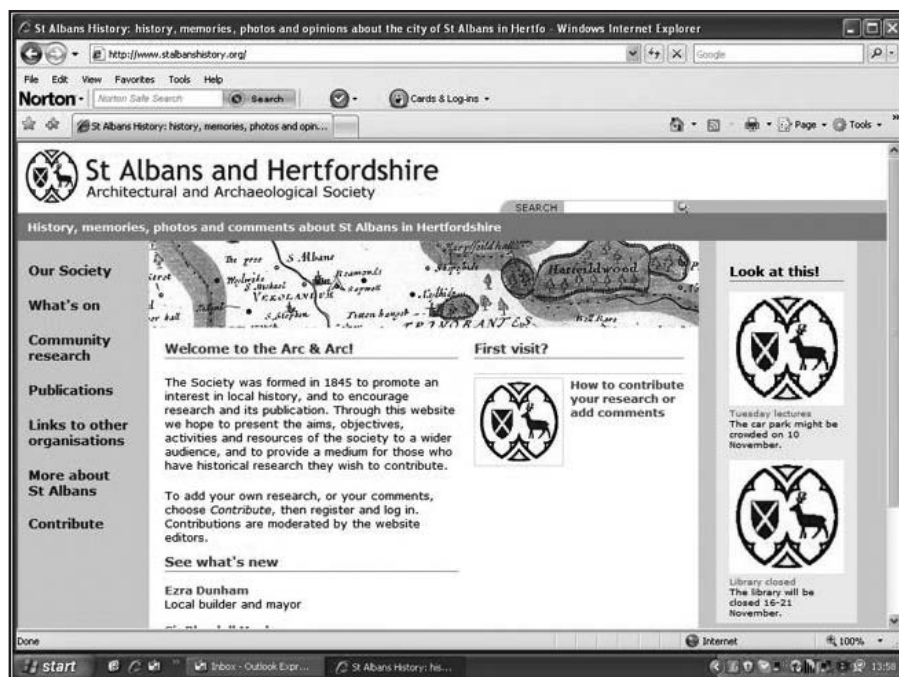
Building on the sterling work of Brian Bending, the Society's web master, we have been able to add to the existing sections on the Society, what's on, our publications and links to other organisations, with a section entitled community research.

This part of the site provides members and the public with the opportunity to enter their own research, whether text or images which will be edited by members of the Society for accuracy, spelling and grammar. Then the piece will appear on the web in the relevant section of the community research area. The sections include people, places, areas and topics providing ample opportunity for a wide range of research to be added.

This section is ideal for all the primary research which both members, and others with an interest in local history, have accumulated over the years. We are looking for contributions which, although accurate and carefully researched, may not be of sufficient length or detail to warrant a traditional form of publication. It is also a great place for those who are new to research enabling them to add their preliminary work which can then be commented upon by those who can contribute positive feedback and add information they have on the same subject in a comments box below the main article.

We have used the 19th century research group as a pilot for the site, but there is no reason why material from any time period could not be added. We hope this area of www.stalbanshistory.org opens the door to those who have a box (or two!) of papers containing research or an album of old photographs which have been gathering dust and who would like them to finally see the light of day, to be used to help others or to develop other work which has already been added to the site.

So have a look today, the site is easy to use and for those with a limited knowledge of the internet the members of the 19th century group would be very happy to help. We are able to take original handwritten or typed notes and images and convert them into electronic form. Simply contact us and we will do the rest!



**Screens from the new website. Top, the welcome screen which greets new visitors. Below, the community research page which explains the objectives of this section and pictures those who have worked on it.**

**Facing page, above, the introduction to the community research section showing some of the topics available. Below, a typical research page, this one about Frederick Kitton who produced this well known picture of the Clock Tower**

Janet's presentation on St Albans education is only one of a growing number of contributions on the site. Others cover subjects from Childwickbury to Kitton, St Albans City Football Club to the Moot Hall. What will your contribution be?

Judy Faraday



## KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW SITE

The new site includes a section for Community research to which anyone can contribute: please sign up and experiment. The existing function of the site as a 'notice board' for Society activities will continue and new projects are envisaged for the Publications section. Some of the features of the site are outlined below.

The domain name is unchanged, [www.stalbanshistory.org](http://www.stalbanshistory.org), so you don't need to change your bookmarks or favourites.

There are links to six main categories on the left.

- **Look at this!** Advertisements carrying hot news (like 'tonight's lecture has been cancelled') will appear on the right and link directly to the relevant page.
- **Our Society** includes introductions to the various sections, membership details, the constitution, and contact email addresses for the officers.
- **What's On** includes our lectures, outings and other activities, and the activities of other organisations.
- **Community Research.** A home for all kinds of research about people, places and history of St Albans
- The **Publications** section will include:
  - Formal papers
  - Archives of research
  - Notes on Society lectures
  - The Mayor's Prize
  - The Society's Newsletters
  - Information on *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History*
  - Advertisements for books published by the Society or its members
  - A catalogue of the library (a project for the future)
  - Proceedings of the Society (a project for the future)
- **Links.** Takes you direct to other sites of interest.
- **More about St Albans.** Background information for site visitors.

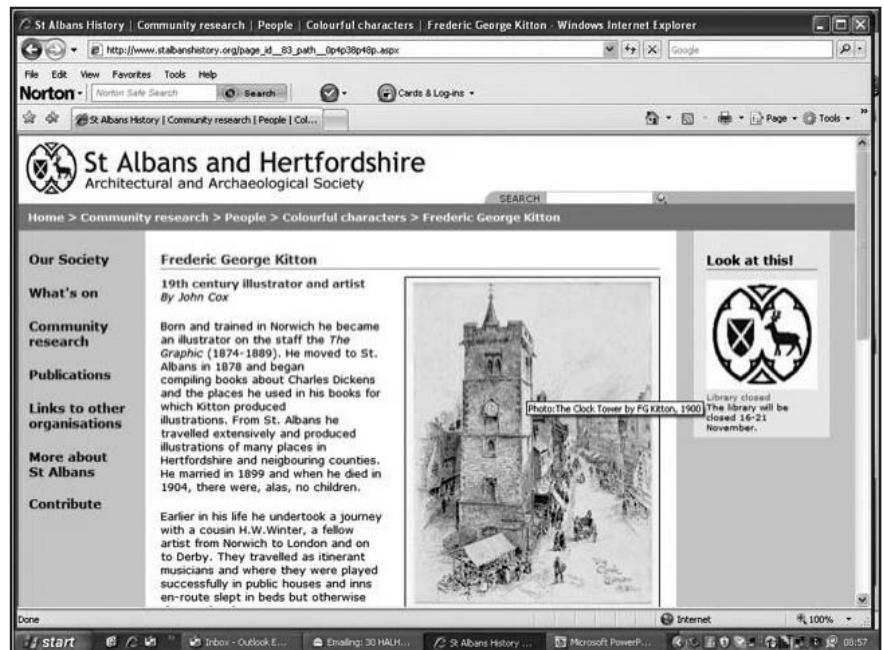
Anyone can register and make contributions and is especially welcome in the Community Research section. A contribution may be a comment on an existing page or your own research, documents, family archives, photographs, memoirs – or whatever you have. All contributions will be moderated and checked for appropriateness and readability before they are published

There is a Search facility, at the top, based on Google software. Google continually scans the entire web to maintain a complete database and searches will receive responses specific to this site. It takes a few days to complete a scan so there might be a delay before any new

addition to the site is noticed.

The present system of eNews broadcasts will continue.

The site will be managed by Judy Faraday, Janet Ouston and myself, and a dozen other members will join in editing the submissions.



Community Websites Ltd are providing the mechanism of the site and you can see other examples of their work at:

- My Brighton and Hove  
<http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/>
- Trewins Memory Store  
<http://trewins.memorystore.org.uk/>
- Community Websites Ltd  
<http://www.communitysites.co.uk/>

Brian Bending

## HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

On Thursday, 29th October, I made my fourth visit to Hitchin in connection with the forthcoming 30th Symposium on Local History being held on Saturday, 7th November at the British Schools Museum, Hitchin. Terry Ransome, the Manager, tells me that there are now 106 people attending together with 15 society stalls advertising their work and activity (including the Arc & Arc). Six speakers include Dr. Janet Ouston, a member of the 19th century Research Group and St. Albans School master Nigel Wood-Smith. The theme for this year is "Education". At the Symposium we are launching the Arc & Arc's new interactive community website which invites individuals to contribute information, research etc.

Our Garden event in Wheathampstead was an outstanding success: David and Ann Godfrey

Evans and their son were delighted to show members both the interior and garden of their 15th century house in Bury Grove, once a possession of Westminster Abbey's monastic estate and Ruth Jeavons welcomed everyone to the historic St. Helen's Church. Tea was provided a short way away in the Mead Hall, which my wife organised at a cost of £171 in total and was assisted by three of my friends. As a result, HALH received an unintended surplus of £110 for its future activities!

The death in April of Lionel Munby, the former Cambridge extra-mural lecturer, was a blow to all local historians both in Hertfordshire and nationally. Here in Hertfordshire he lectured to local groups and helped them understand original documents and how to carry out research. He wrote books and contributed articles to many different publications. His

death is a great loss to present and past Hertfordshire local historians. An appreciation of his life was published in the Autumn [2009] issue of *Herts Past & Present*. In 2010, the HALH Spring Meeting hopes to focus on the 'Munby legacy' and from 2011 the Spring Meeting Address will be entitled the 'Lionel Munby Lecture' which will be given by eminent historians who can enthuse local historians of the present and future to undertake original research into any aspect of local history.

By the time this report is published it is expected that the Delme Ratcliffe Archive Appeal target of £100,000 will have been secured for HALS and for future generations of local historians in Hertfordshire.

*John G.E. Cox*

HALH Secretary (representative of the Arc & Arc)

## OUR NEW PUBLICITY OFFICER

To some members I am known as the 'giant' in the St. Albans Mummers annual performance on Boxing Day of

St. George and the Dragon, though this year I am handing the role on to my son Simon, now fit after his kidney transplant in 2008. I have lived in St. Albans since August 1962 when I came to work in the Library at the former Hatfield Road premises of the College of Further Education and College of Building to whose staff I was

appointed Tutor Librarian in 1964. For much of my life and my long career I have spent time publicising the interests of my employers - such as clubs at school, Worthing Public Library (1958-1961), the Hertfordshire Technical Information Service in the 1960s, St. Albans Symphony Orchestra (1978-1992) and Hertfordshire Philharmonia Orchestra presently. Now my task is to publicise the activities of the Arc & Arc and to draw other members into this



enjoyable and very worthwhile task. It is so much easier now with photocopiers, computers, digital

photography etc. In 1959 'Letraset' was in its infancy and it took many hours to create a notice or, as in 1977, a whole panel of the then new publicity stand for the Friends of St. Albans Abbey.

Apart from the Society I chair the Governors at De Havilland Primary School, South Hatfield, I continue to research material for the 19th century research group, serve on the HALS Steering Committee for the Hertfordshire Community Archives project and in 2010 complete nine years as chair of the Eastern Region of the British & International Federation of Festivals. When I arrived in St. Albans there were eight John Coxes in the telephone book which is why I use the initials of my two middle names and sign myself as

*John G.E. Cox*

## VANISHING HISTORY: A SUBJECT SHUNNED

History has effectively vanished from the classroom in almost 1 in 20 English secondary schools. Official figures show that in 131 state schools, not a single pupil sat GCSE history last year. That is 4.1% of all 3,158 maintained mainstream secondary schools whose results are published by the Department of Children, Schools and Families.

Separate figures suggest that the move away from history has been greatest among poor children.

The figures were published after questions from Mr Michael Gove, the Conservative shadow schools secretary, who described them as "very worrying".

*Bryan Hanlon*



## A VISIT TO ROTHAMSTED

The Society enjoyed a fascinating visit to Rothamsted on 4th August. The rain, which had been threatening all day, held off, and we were able to tour the outside of the manor house, including a look at the attractive gardens, especially enjoyable to those of us who had only ever seen the house in the dark, at evening events.

The house is now used to house visitors and students working in the research laboratories of the Lawes Agricultural Trust, on another part of the very large site. It is not as popular now as it once was, we were told: most modern students prefer their en suite and not the three bathrooms and numerous unconnected staircases and corridors of the old house!

The house was largely rebuilt and extended in the Dutch style in 1650, by Sir John Wittewronge, from a Flemish protestant family that had come to England in 1564. The family had prospered, and bought what must have been a timber-framed house at Rothamsted, from the Bardolphs in 1623.

Sir John's diary from 1684-89 recorded much of interest about the weather conditions and natural history of the estate, but it was not until the nineteenth century that Sir John Bennet Lawes, a distant connection of the Wittewronges, acquired the estate, and began the experiments on soil fertility, which continue to this day, and were to give Rothamsted an international scientific reputation..

Lawes extended the house very sympathetically, building on a fine ballroom, as there was no single room big enough to house the coming of age party of his son, Charles. With its linen fold panelling, it would take more



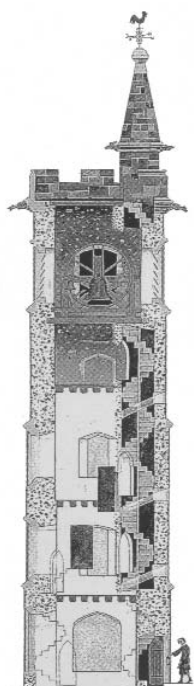
than a cursory glance to realise that this beautiful room is not part of the original house.

There are many treasures in the house: a fine 16th century mural (although I was not convinced that it depicted Edinburgh as we were told!) and a room decorated with 18th century painted leather, to name but two. The last was introduced by Lawes' son, Charles, who spent a lot of money on furniture and improvements to the house, before he died in 1911.

In the 1930s the house was sold by the Lawes family to the Trust, and we are most grateful to our three enthusiastic guides, who showed us round, and provided welcome tea and coffee, and also to Kate for arranging a much-appreciated evening.

*Gill Harvey*

## CLOCK TOWER REPORT



There were plenty of visitors to the Clock Tower during Heritage Open Weekend 11/12th September, when it is free, but (thankfully) not the queues we experienced in 2008. As a comparison, a 'normal day' will see between 80-100 adults and 20-30 children. The figures are as given on the right.

We don't have complete figures for paying-visitors during 2009, as the numbered tickets were not always used in sequence, or supplies ran out, making it impossible to keep account of numbers. So in July I re-instated the old system of asking clockateers to note the tickets sold each weekend, which works fairly well.

The season had more than its share of problems – not least the shortage of helpers! These are now under discussion.

*Jill Bennett*

Clock Tower Co-ordinator

Tel: 01727 867685. 29 Cornwall Rd, St Albans.  
E-mail: [jill.bennett@waitrose.com](mailto:jill.bennett@waitrose.com)

### *Heritage Open Weekends Visitor Numbers*

|             | Adults | Children | Total | Grand total |
|-------------|--------|----------|-------|-------------|
| <b>2005</b> |        |          |       |             |
| Sat         | 304    | 90       | 394   |             |
| Sun         | 356    | 92       | 448   | 842         |
| <b>2006</b> |        |          |       |             |
| Sat.        | 115    | 35       | 150   |             |
| Sun         | 190    | 35       | 375   | 525         |
| <b>2007</b> |        |          |       |             |
| Sat         | 211    | 74       | 285   |             |
| Sun         | 240    | 63       | 303   | 588         |
| <b>2008</b> |        |          |       |             |
| Sat         | 371    | 99       | 470   |             |
| Sun         | 587    | 200      | 787   | 1257        |
| <b>2009</b> |        |          |       |             |
| Sat         | 309    | 114      | 423   |             |
| Sun         | 278    | 71       | 349   | 772         |



## LIBRARY NOTES AND QUERIES

The Old Town Hall will again be open during St Albans Residents' First weekend, 30th-31st January, 2010, and the Arc & Arc library will again be opening its doors to the public. We plan to mount an exhibition of some of our maps and plans, so there will be more for visitors to look at than just books on shelves. The library will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

Members of the library team will be present, but we would appreciate assistance from members who can spare an hour on either day to help us speak to visitors about the Society, and encourage as many as possible to join.

It is one of the few occasions in the year when the Society has visibility to the public, and it might help to reinforce the part it plays in the life of the City. If you can help, please contact Gill Harvey (details at the foot of these notes).

The responsibilities are very light. There is no reward for your help except the warm glow that comes from being helpful, and our gratitude.

The first Mayor's Prize for an essay on local history has been awarded to Rosemary Hearle, for *Walter J Lawrence, first Dean of St Albans*. The text is to be added to the Society's website, but for those who prefer to read it on paper, we have a copy in the library. We also have copies of the two other essays entered for the prize; all are available for members to borrow. Details of each essay are listed below under 'Books recently added to stock.'

The library has a number of books and other publications which are surplus to its needs, usually duplicates, sometimes donations on subjects which are not central to the Society's interests, and for which we do not have space. We plan to offer these for sale to members at the monthly Friday lectures, with the first sale being in November. The frequency of sales will depend on how much surplus material we have, so they may not take place every month. Proceeds from sales will go to Society funds, so please come to the lectures armed with cash. Prices are likely to be very modest.

### Books recently added to stock

*Hertfordshire obituaries 1801-1837 as recorded in The Gentleman's Magazine*. Extracted and annotated by Alan Ruston. Hertfordshire Family History Society Special Publication 8. Hertfordshire Family History Society, 2009, 106pp. A reference to the obituaries of the most important and notable people in Hertfordshire at the time, plus those of some more humble citizens.

*St Albans medieval defences and boundaries: a practical guide*, by Peter Burley, 2009. 29pp. Typescript. Essay submitted for the Mayor's Prize for the best contribution to local history.

*The history of Beaumont's Farm*, by David Broome, 2009. 41pp. Typescript. Essay submitted for the Mayor's Prize for the best contribution to local history.

*Walter J Lawrence: first Dean of St Albans*, by Rosemary Hearle, 2009. Typescript. 18pp. The winning entry for the Mayor's Prize for the best contribution to local history.

*Plutocrats: a Rothschild inheritance*. John Murray, 2007. 432pp. Recounts how Nathan Rothschild's four sons built on their inheritance, and rose to the top of Victorian society.

*Hertfordshire places: an alphabetical finding aid for historical place-names in Hertfordshire*. Compiled by Margaret Ward. Hertfordshire Family History Society, Special Publication 7, 2008.

*St Albans, Hertfordshire: monumental inscriptions in the parish church of St Peter*. Hertfordshire Family History Society, 2008. Reprint of the original edition published by the Hertfordshire Family and Population History Society.

*St Albans, Hertfordshire: monumental inscriptions in the parish church of St Michael, including St Mary's Childwick Green*. Hertfordshire Family and Population History Society, 1998.

*St Albans, Hertfordshire: monumental inscriptions in the parish church of St Stephen*. Hertfordshire Family History Society, 1996.

*Matthew Paris*, by Richard Vaughan. Cambridge University Press, 1958, 288pp, black and white illus. Reissued in 2008 with a supplementary bibliography. A study of the life and works of the St Albans chronicler.

*Lord Grimthorpe and other dragons*, by Gillian Harvey, Typescript, 2009. The text of a talk to the Society, October 13th 2009, concerned with people who had to deal with Lord Grimthorpe in the battle over St Albans Abbey in the 1870s and 1880s, and Walter Lawrence in particular.

### A new CD

*Hertfordshire Quarter Sessions 1588-1619*. Hertfordshire Family History Society, 2009. An index to almost 47,000 records derived from sources at Herts Archives and Local Studies.

### Recent journal articles

In *Current Archaeology* August 2009, pp.36-42. Roman mosaics in Britain: the view from the South-East, by Chris Catling. Reports on what, in terms of mosaics, sets this region apart.

In *Current Archaeology* September 2009, pp.20-25. Making a mint: the archaeology of a late Iron Age industry, by Mark Landon. The author studied two huge hauls of coin-making debris from Braughing and Puckeridge in Hertfordshire.

In *Current Archaeology* October 2009, pp.20-27. Norfolk, land of Boudica. New archaeological discoveries in Norfolk are throwing fresh light on Boudica and her times.

In *Current Archaeology* November 2009, Pp.12-21. Trophies of kings, by Kevin Leahy. The Staffordshire Hoard of Anglo-Saxon treasures, perhaps the trophies of Mercian kings.

Pp.22-29. The archaeology of leprosy and the Black Death, by

*continued on the next page*

### THE LIBRARY TEAM

Gill Harvey, 01727 853415

Anne Wares, 01727 860705

Donald Munro 01727 760808

Elizabeth Gardner 01727 861101

Tony Cooper 01727 865032

Or email via the Society's website, [www.stalbanshistory.org](http://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.

Christopher Catling. Looks at what archaeology tells us about past responses to the global spread of infectious diseases.

In *British Archaeology* November-December 2009, pp.14-21.

Staffordshire gold, by Mike Pitts. A well-illustrated account of the discovery of the hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold artefacts.

In *Herts Past and Present*, Autumn 2009, pp.3-4. Lionel L. Munby 1918-2009. An appreciation, by David Short. A tribute to the doyen of local history in Hertfordshire.

Pp.5-13 Supporting the poor in Little Gaddesden 1780-1834, by Frances Kerner. Examines the transition in Poor Law administration from an 'open' to a 'close' parish, with illustrations from a variety of individual cases.

Pp.14-16 Hertfordshire and the General Strike of 1926, by Nigel Agar. For Hertfordshire, the strike was largely a transport strike, but there was industrial action in other sectors, including the Dickinson paper works at Apsley.

Pp.17-19 Welwyn workhouse, by M.S. Edwards. Describes the care taken in dressing and feeding the inmates.

Pp.20-26 Ebenezer Sadler, Receiver General to the Cecils: a study in seventeenth century estate management, by Paul Barton. Examines the administration of the Cecil's financial and legal affairs during a turbulent time in the family's history.

Pp.27-31 Crouchfield: a history of the Herts Training School 1857-1982, by Dorothy Abel-Smith. Founded as a reformatory school for juvenile offenders,

it underwent many changes. The author's family devoted much time to the school.

In *The Alban Link* Autumn 2009. Pp.18-22 Abbey wars: Abbey and town in fourteenth century St Albans - the Peasants' Revolt, by Peter Wadsworth. The second part of the account, the first having appeared in the Autumn 2008 issue of the journal.

### **Journals recently received**

*British Archaeology* September-October 2009

*Research News (English Heritage)* Summer 2009-10-12

*Hertfordshire People* September 2009

*London Archaeologist* Autumn 2009

## **MATTHEW PARIS SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBITION**

**SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Fraternity of Friends of St Albans Abbey are organising a symposium to mark the 750th anniversary of the death of Matthew Paris, the famous chronicler, cartographer and artist who was a monk at St Albans in the 13th century.

Speakers:

Professor David Carpenter, King's College London

Dr Björn Weiler, Aberystwyth University

Professor Paul Harvey, Durham University (emeritus)

Professor Paul Binski, University of Cambridge

Dr James Clark, University of Bristol

The symposium takes place at The Abbey CE VA Primary School, St Albans, from 10a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, 13th February 2010. Cost: £25 (bona fide full time students are eligible for a reduced fee of £10).

To book or for more details visit [www.christianstudies.org.uk](http://www.christianstudies.org.uk)

An exhibition will be in the North transept of the Abbey from the date of the Symposium for about a month. There will be several panels, lavishly illustrated, showing different aspects of Matthew's life and work and of the monastery and history of the time he lived there. There will also be a single lecture by Professor David Carpenter of Kings College, London on Wednesday 21st April on A Window into 13th Century England? Matthew Paris and the St.Albans Chronicles. Supper will be served at 7pm and the lecture will be at 8pm. Tickets from the Fraternity of the Friends at £18 for members and £20.50 for non-members via the Abbey.

## **YOUR ARC & ARC NEEDS YOU!!**

### **Help with audiovisual support**

Despite repeated appeals to no avail we still need additional volunteers to assist with the IT and AV at the Tuesday and Friday lectures. Volunteers will join a small dedicated group of members who take it in turns on a rota basis to provide this service. Training will be provided. Please contact Roy Bratby on [roy.bratby@bratbyonline.com](mailto:roy.bratby@bratbyonline.com)

### **Residents First Weekend**

We will again be opening the doors of our Library in the old Town Hall as part of Residents First weekend. In addition to our normal Wednesday and Friday opening we shall open from 10.00 till 4.00 on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st January. Our display will feature examples from our collection of maps and plans.

If you can't normally make the weekday opening of the library this is a great chance to see our fascinating collection.

Could you spare an hour to help man the Library during these special opening hours? A member of the Library team will also be in attendance. If you can help contact Gill Harvey.

### **POSSIBLE SHORT COURSE ON MICROSOFT POWERPOINT**

We are considering the possibility of holding a short course on the use of MicroSoft PowerPoint. If this is something you would be interested in learning more about, please contact Roy Bratby for further information ([roy.bratby@bratbyonline.com](mailto:roy.bratby@bratbyonline.com)).

# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2009 - 2010

**Friday 27th November 2009**

**What Happened to Henry VIII?**

*Suzannah Lipscomb*

Suzannah Lipscomb, author of *1536: The Year that Changed Henry VIII*, will discuss how, when and why Henry VIII was transformed from a sunny young hedonist into the fat, ruthless tyrant of popular legend.

Suzannah Lipscomb is Research Curator at Hampton Court Palace.

She was part of the team responsible for the series of exhibitions, events and activities at Hampton Court Palace in 2009 to mark the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's accession, and has featured on a range of TV and radio programmes talking about Henry VIII, including the BBC's *The One Show*, *Time Team* and *Radio 3's The Essay*. Her first book, *1536: The Year that Changed Henry VIII* was published in March 2009, and she is completing her D.Phil. on gender in early modern French history at Balliol College, Oxford.

**Tuesday 8th December 2009**

**Canal Architecture**

*Runnals Davis*

**Friday 8th January 2010**

**Society New Year Party at Verulamium Museum**

**Tuesday 12th January 2010**

**Commerce and Conflict - The Early Development of London's docks**

*Tom Wareham*

This illustrated talk will outline the origin and evolution of London's Docks from the 1780s to the 1880s. Beginning with the crisis of the port in the 1790s, and following the machinations of the early dock entrepreneurs, Tom Wareham will trace the troubled history of the port until the formation of the Port of London Authority in 1909.

Dr Tom Wareham is Curator of Maritime and Community History at the Museum of London Docklands. He is the author of several books and has contributed to numerous radio and television programmes, including Peter Ackroyd's *Thames: Sacred River* in 2008. Apart from curating the Museum of London Docklands, he also curated *Londoners at Work*; *London, Sugar and Slavery*; and is currently working on exhibitions on *London and Piracy*, and the east end in the 20th century.

**Tuesday 19th January 2010**

**The BBC in Wartime**

*Stephen Barnard*

No organisation did more to keep the British people informed, diverted and motivated during World War Two than the BBC - yet Churchill, for one, chose not to acknowledge it at all in his war memoirs. In this talk, we will look at some of the hidden political and social tensions behind the BBC's wartime role.

Stephen Barnard is a Hatfield-based writer, lecturer and radio historian who worked for *Reader's Digest* for 20 years before going freelance in 1999. He runs courses on broadcasting history, popular song and cinema for the WEA and lectures part-time at De Montfort University in Leicester. He is the author of five books including *On the Radio* (Open University Press, 1990) and *Studying Radio* (Arnold, 2000).

**Friday 29th January 2010**

**The Second Battle of St Albans, 17 February 1461**

*Dr Peter Burley*

**Tuesday 9th February 2010**

**Social Welfare in St Peter's Parish, St Albans, 1663-80**

*Pat Howe and Pat Nellist*

We have examined the Overseers of Poor Records for St Peter's parish. The extant records cover the years 1663-1680. From the Group's database we have been able to identify most of the ratepayers and many of those receiving relief. In so doing we have gained an insight into the lot of the poorer families which is a fairly recent aspect in historical research. We can tell you how people were helped in illness, disability and lack of employment or employment which was rewarded

with a wage too low to survive and how families with children were provided with essential items and how many of the children were made pauper apprentices.

After completing a dissertation about 17th century St Albans as part of a degree in Modern History, Pat Howe joined the 17th century research group of the Arc & Arc. She now co-ordinates the group's research and maintains the database which comprises biographical information on people who lived and worked in the town. She contributed to the publication of *St Albans 1650-1700 - A thoroughfare town and its people* and has specialised in tracing the extent of nonconformity, publishing an article in the Spring 2002 edition of *Local Population Studies*.

Pat Nellist's interest in local history started with a WEA course run by Lionel Munby. This was followed by contributions to the books produced by the Bricket Wood Society. She joined the 17th century research group of the Arc & Arc when it was formed and is now a member of the 17th century population research group.

**Tuesday 16th February 2010**

**A Brief Walk through the History of Shenley**

*Bob Dearden*

The talk will centre on the Drovers Way and the Pilgrims Way between 1042 and 1998 and will illustrate the famous and infamous.

Bob Dearden is a native of Oldham and was a Senior Nurse at Shenley Hospital prior to retirement. He is currently Chairman of Shenley Village Hall and Secretary of the Shenley Village Society.

**Friday 26th February 2010**

**Enigma - How Breaking the German Ciphers in WW2 led to the World's First Computer**

*Hugh Davies*

**Tuesday 9th March 2010**

**The Villages of East London**

*Peter Lawrence*

This illustrated talk aims to highlight the surviving village centres that exist in East London after the incredible increase in populations in the late 19thC. The talk highlights the evidence of a more wealthy past in the 18th Century.

Peter Lawrence is a retired member of Royalty and Diplomatic Protection at Scotland Yard. He is Chairman of Woodford Historical Society, Chairman of Woodford Green National Trust Centre, an adult Education Tutor in local history, residential architecture and environmental studies with several colleges, local education centres and NADFAS and a Freeman of the City of London.

**Tuesday 16th March 2010**

**Bogislaus Rosen (1572-1658) - a 17th Century Estonian Merchant**

*Irene Cowan*

Irene's ancestor was an important figure in the grain trade throughout the Baltic area. His most important customer was King Gustav Adolph of Sweden (1611-32). One of his rewards for helping the king to finance his many wars was ennoblement in 1617 when he became Bogislaus von Rosen. The talk will first set the scene with a brief account of the history of the Baltic area prior to the 17th century and then continue with a description of Bogislaus's life as a successful merchant.

After taking early retirement, prior to joining the Arc & Arc, Irene became involved with the 17th century population research group. The group's interest in constructing family trees prompted her to investigate further what she already knew of her own family background. As a result of these investigations, it was very exciting to discover that an aunt of her grandmother had published a book on our ancestor. Her talk is based on this book, the result of approximately 60 years of research which took her aunt all over Europe.

**Friday 26th March 2010**

**Bedlam: London and its Mad**

*Catharine Arnold*



**Tuesday 13th April 2010****Luton Hoo Past, Present and Future***Zena Dickinson*

The word 'hoo' is a Saxon word meaning 'spur of a hill'. This accurately reflects the estate's elevated position. There is also proof of Roman occupation with artefacts discovered in the area. It was not until 1763 that the Mansion House began to evolve into the Grade 1 listed building that we see today, with its awe inspiring classical facade and lavishly decorated interiors. This talk will unfold the history of the life and times of one of England's grandest and most romantic country houses.

Zena Dickinson has been associated with Luton Hoo for almost 25 years in various capacities. Now, in retirement, she is deeply involved in keeping its history alive in its current life as a five-star hotel.

**Tuesday 20th April 2010****Law and Disorder in St Albans 1750-1900***Ann Dean*

This talk will introduce the people and crimes committed in St Albans 1750-1900. We will see how the law was administered in the Parish and Borough and punishments awarded - from flogging to transportation.

Prison life will be explored, both from the prisoners view and their gaolers. Just how harsh was life for the offender? - come and find out!

Ann Dean has been a member of the Arc & Arc since the 1970s and has been a committee member of ALHG and the Society Council, serving as Publicity Officer. She transcribed the St Michael's Parish Registers and Church Warden's Accounts as part of the research for St Albans 1650-700, was a member of the team which produced St Albans Quarter Sessions Rolls 1784 - 1820 (ed. David Dean, Herts Record Society, 1991). She has contributed to Community Life in Hertfordshire 2000 (Ed. Dr Gillian Gear, HALH Recorders Group); St Albans Today - A Personal View (ed. Donald Pelletier, 2004). She is the Hon. Archivist for St Michael's Church and a St Albans Blue Badge Guide

**Friday 30th April 2010****Pageantry, History and Identity: St Albans in the Twentieth Century***Dr Mark Freeman***Tuesday 11th May 2010****Berkhamsted: Trades and Industries through the Ages***Jenny Sherwood*

This talk traces the development of Berkhamsted from early times to the present day, mentioning the importance of its geographical setting on an important trade route and the use of natural resources together with the influence of the royal castle. It also traces the growth in Victorian times occasioned by the advent of the canal and the railway. 20th century changes in trade and industry bring us to the present.

Jenny Sherwood read History at London University in the 1950s, has been member of the Berkhamsted History Society since 1970 and Chairman of the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society (its present title) for the last 10 years. She has written a number of local history articles, the text for the Ottakar's/Frith's book, Berkhamsted - a History & Celebration, the text for the panels at Berkhamsted Castle and the chapter, 'Influences on the growth and development of medieval and early modern Berkhamsted' for the book A County of Small Towns.

**Tuesday 18th May 2010****The Five Churches at Waltham Abbey and the Development of the Town***Peter Huggins*

The first parish church of St. Lawrence dates from the early 7th century and it served a huge minster parish. Such parishes were probably based on ancient iron-age territories. The development of the town depended on the absence of a railway and the presence of a gunpowder factory.

Peter Huggins is a mechanical engineer, apprenticed on the LMS railway, who subsequently worked on metal working research at Sheffield, rocket motor development at Coventry, then for the earl of Verulam at Enfield Rolling Mills, before finally teaching at Enfield Technical College. Even before early retirement he had conducted many excavations locally, the first in 1966; so the five churches on the same site have been discovered at Waltham.

**Friday 28th May 2010****'The fair majestic paradise of Stowe': Stowe House and Landscape Gardens***Andrew Rudolf*

**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.**

**HERTS MEMORIES [WWW.HERTSMEMORIES.ORG.UK](http://WWW.HERTSMEMORIES.ORG.UK)**

A group of local volunteers has been working with staff from Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies to develop a community archives website for Hertfordshire. The result is Herts Memories, a fully interactive website where anybody can add pictures and memories of living and working in the County.

You can add memories new or old, on any topic whether from last week or many years ago. You can also add comments about a memory contributed by somebody else.

We are also looking for editors to help us continue developing the site. We will provide all the necessary training, and you do not need to be a computer expert to join the editing group. Have a look at our site to see how easy it is to contribute. You can use the computers in your local library if you do not have access to the Internet at home.

For more information or if you would like to arrange a group training session, please contact [daphne.knott@hertscc.org.uk](mailto:daphne.knott@hertscc.org.uk) or telephone 0300 123 4049

Their 2010 calendar based on old photos of St Albans is currently on sale.

**Herts Memories  
Calendar 2010****Price: £3.50**

On sale at:  
Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies  
Register Office Block  
County Hall  
Pegs Lane  
Hertford  
SG13 8EJ  
Tel: 0300 123 4049  
e-mail: [hertsdirect@hertscc.org.uk](mailto:hertsdirect@hertscc.org.uk)  
[www.hertsdirect.org/hals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/hals)



## 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*

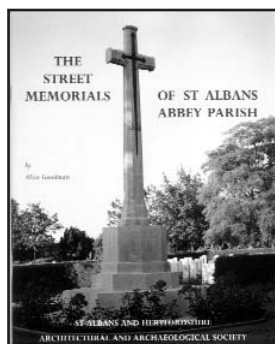
91 Sandpit Lane, St Albans AL1 4BJ. Tel 01727 856250 [clare.a.ellis@btinternet.com](mailto:clare.a.ellis@btinternet.com)

### **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

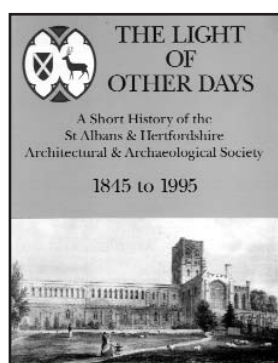
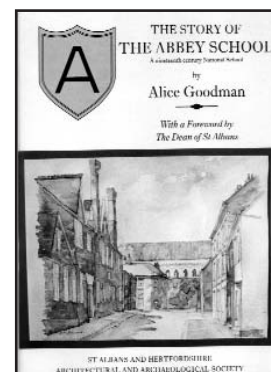


### **The Story of the Abbey School**

Alice Goodman, 1991

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

£4



### **The Light of Other Days**

Brian Moody, 1995

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

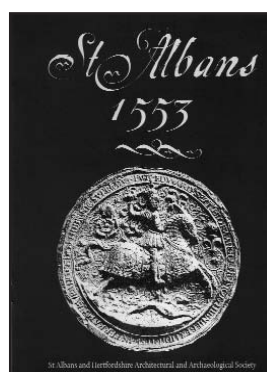
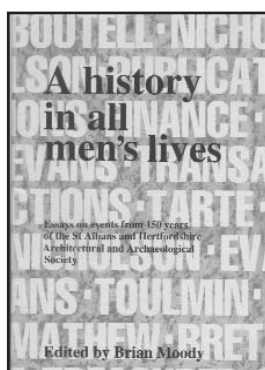
£1

### **A History in All Men's Lives**

Ed. Brian Moody, 1999

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

£2



### **St Albans 1553**

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

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

£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.