



NEWSLETTER

No. 176
May 2010

Founded 1845

Registered Charity No. 226912



PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD (AGAIN!)

A volcanic eruption has influenced the content of this Newsletter. A short holiday in a remote part of West Cork was extended indefinitely when flights were cancelled and ferries were full. Without a laptop (I had been persuaded to 'give it a rest') I was in danger of missing the Editor's deadline for copy.¹ But

reflection comes readily in

Ireland, especially on a calm and sunny afternoon, sitting above one of the bays, looking out to the horizon. Musing on what to write for the Newsletter led to thinking about such disparate topics as exile, travel, time and astronomy. The latter came to mind after seeing once more the cosmic number and beauty of northern stars in a clear moon-less night sky, free from artificial light and noise – rare conditions now for those of us who live in St Albans.

People go into exile for different reasons; some have no choice, others seek their fortune, and a few go from a sense of duty. One of the latter was the Jesuit Matteo Ricci (1552-1610) who lived in China from 1583 until his death. His education in Rome had included not only the classics, but also mathematics, astronomy and clock-making. He spent time at various places on the long voyage out to China in order to familiarise himself with the country's main languages and customs. He taught the Chinese how mathematical knowledge in renaissance Europe was being used for practical purposes, such as making maps and keeping time. He was also eager to learn about Chinese culture and history. Generally accepted as a moral scholarly man, he was able to present his Christian faith in a way that was not offensive. When he wrote a letter home he made two versions; one was sent westwards via Goa, the other eastwards via Manilla and Mexico. He expected a reply within six years.

About 20 years ago when attending a conference in Beijing, I decided to use a free half-day to try to find Matteo Ricci's tomb. I acquired two different maps of central Beijing. One map had only English names, but it showed the location of the tomb. The other map was Chinese, but I found the street where the tomb was located and indicated to a taxi driver that I would like him to take me there. After many false stops and arguments among the crowds who quickly appeared and gathered around the map, I eventually found what might have been the tomb in a

densely overgrown garden behind iron railings and a gate with a decrepit lock. More gesticulations and arguments over the map came to an end as a man in a dark blue Mao tunic arrived from nowhere and pulled from his pocket a rusty and bent key. After hitting it a few times with a stone to straighten it, he unlocked the gate. It was a thrill to go inside and find the tomb of a man I had for long admired. Now, 20 years later, it is pleasing to see on the internet how the area around the tomb has been cleared and paved to make a setting for what is now a tourist attraction.

Matteo Ricci's education in Rome would have included knowledge of Sir John Mandeville's fanciful account of Cathay c.1350. More relevant to Ricci's education and interests was the clock mechanism designed and made in St Albans by Richard of Wallingford (c.1292-1336). He was known throughout Europe in the middle ages for his ingenuity in designing and building a mechanical device which represented the motions of the moon, sun and stars. Sir John Mandeville and Richard of Wallingford are commemorated in our Abbey.

St Albans has another building which commemorates the importance of keeping time. The clock tower was built in the first decade of the 15th century with a bell to mark civic events. Members of this Society have the privilege of becoming temporary custodians² of the clock tower by selling tickets to visitors for a couple of hours during summer weekends. We are all grateful to Helen Bishop for taking on the role of Clock Tower Organiser. She will welcome offers of help or enquiries about what is involved (see page 3). If any member would like to know more about the Clock Tower, Chris Green, Director of Museums, is willing to give a talk on its history. Anyone interested in such a talk is invited to contact me. You too can take part in the centuries-old association of St Albans and the reckoning of time.

You will also see (page 7) that our Membership Secretary Peter Jeffreys is resigning and we thank him for his hard work in refining and rationalising the list. We would welcome new volunteers to join Council and take over this important role; contact me or Bryan Hanlon to discuss.

Michael Cooper

1. As you are reading this, the deadline was met
2. Colloquially 'clockateers', a term invented, I believe, by Denis Owen

SCRUTINY OF THE LATEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AT WESTMINSTER LODGE

Councillors on the Scrutiny Committee heard about interesting discoveries recorded in the archaeological survey, which is taking place on the site of Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre, and how they will be sensitively preserved in situ as part of the development scheme.

Cllr Beric Read, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny commented: "We heard that the Roman, quasi-industrial site was probably a mill. It's a reminder of our very extensive and often hidden heritage and increases the importance of Verulamium as a site that still has much to teach us. Further investigations will take place on site in the next few months."

The main features found in the trenches include a Roman building, tentatively thought to be a mill, which appears to have been partially demolished in Roman or medieval

periods, with the building materials quite possibly being reused in buildings such as the Abbey. In addition, a ditch has been found close by which could be interpreted as a 'leat', or artificial aqueduct dug into the ground, which could have fed the mill. Preliminary dating of these features is 2nd and 3rd century AD. Evidence suggests that the building may have had painted walls and a solid concrete floor. Other finds include prehistoric flints possibly dating from the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic periods, circa 4,000 BC, and late medieval pottery.

These finds will be preserved in situ as they are in an area of the new development that will be soft landscaped, so there is no threat to them.

Also two pits and various layers of archaeological deposits from the

Roman period have been found in the area where the new Leisure Centre Development will be located. The District Archaeologist has therefore requested additional investigative work be carried out and all findings be recorded.

A photographic survey and assessment will also be made of a hut, which is on the site designated for development, and may have belonged to a temporary POW transit camp.

Most of the known archaeology is located towards the Holywell Hill entrance into Verulamium Park and will not be affected by the leisure centre development.

The full report of Wessex Archaeology who conducted the archaeological evaluation of the site is available on our website www.stalbanshistory.org

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY [HALH]

John Cox, the Arc & Arc's representative on the Executive Committee writes:

Dr. Jill Barber, Hertfordshire's Heritage Manager, informed the HALH Executive Committee at its April meeting that the first mention of the county appeared in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle in 1011. Jill envisages a county wide programme of activity to commemorate our Millennium.

66 members attended the first Lionel Munby lecture held at Welwyn Civic Centre on Saturday 24th April by Professor Chris Dyer, Head of the Regional and Local History department at Leicester University. It is hoped that that his paper will be published in a future issue of *Herts Past and Present*.

2010 is the 200th anniversary of the founding of this British School Museum, Hitchin. Events can be found at www.hitchinbritishschools.co.uk.

On Sunday, 4th July the HALH 'Garden Party' will be held at Ashwell and will involve a gentle walk around the village visiting the United Reformed Church, the

Ashwell Museum and a working sheepdog demonstration.

St. James's Church Parish Centre, Thorley, Bishops Stortford is the venue for this year's 31st local history symposium on the subject of Brewing and Maltings. Details of this event will be on the HALH website www.halh.co.uk very soon. The Symposium will include displays by local societies; the University of Hertfordshire Press's Hertfordshire Publications series and Hertfordshire Record Society.

Dates for 2011

July	Summer event: Welwyn village walk with Tony Rook
November	32nd Local History Symposium organised by Hertfordshire Gardens Trust

Supported by the Herts Museums Officer, Harpenden Local History Society has begun putting its accumulated records onto a Community Archive website. This will

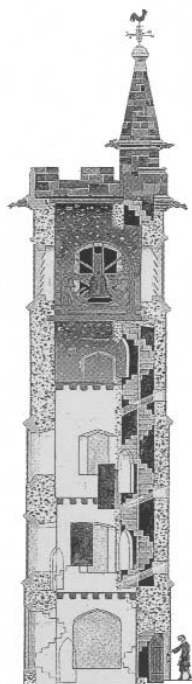
not be live for some considerable time.

www.hertsmemories.co.uk was launched in January amid snow and ice and is attracting material from around the county, though it would like to encourage people who have come to live/work in Hertfordshire from abroad whether they are Asian, African, European or from the Americas or Australia etc. www.ourwelwyn.co.uk and www.ourbroxbourne.co.uk are accessible via the Herts memories website or independently.

Community Archive sites for South Oxhey, Watford and Thee Rivers Districts are under way, as is the site for Letchworth Garden City. During 2010-2011 additional sites are being developed for Hemel Hempstead, Stevenage and Borehamwood. Work has begun on sustaining these community sites from 2011 (when the HLF Fund project finishes).

HELLO AND GOODBYE AT THE CLOCK TOWER

With regret we say goodbye to organiser Jill Bennett, who makes her final report below, and are delighted to welcome Helen Bichop who has volunteered to take her place.



After five years, I have decided to stand down from organising the Clock Tower for SAHAAS. Whilst it has been good meeting members, and the public, the role has expanded and absorbed more and more of my time, to the detriment of my other voluntary jobs and I wish to spend more time working on the archives of the International Organ Festival at St Albans.

It was impossible to produce precise ticket sales for last year: used tickets were not noted by the Museum, ticket supplies ran out, or were not used in sequence. So in July I re-instated the old system, asking clockateers to note the first ticket sold each day, which works fairly well. After some 'creative accounting' visitor numbers for 2009 were 4106, 3269 adults and 837 children.

Previous years' figures were:

Year	Adults	Children	Total
2000	4501	1259	5760
2001	4986	1222	6288
2002	5365	1527	6892
2003	4466	1162	5682
2004	4305	1174	5479
2005	5041	1144	6185
2006	4278	935	5213
2007	4480	1130	5610
2008	figures not available as ticket numbers not noted by the museum		
2009	3269	837	4106

Jill Bennett

Current Season Dates

The Clock Tower re-opened on Easter Friday, and we are responsible for opening on the following dates:

Saturday, Sunday and Monday 29th to 31st May

Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th June

Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th June

Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th July

Saturday and Sunday 24th and 25th July

Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th August

Saturday and Sunday 21st and 22nd August

Saturday and Sunday 4th and 5th September

Saturday 11th September: Free entrance on Heritage Open Day

NB: If local residents try to claim free entrance, on production of proof of address, this does NOT apply to Clock Tower admission. All visitors must pay the nominal charge (approx. the price of a cup of tea!).

When I returned to Hertfordshire in 2006, after 40 years in South Yorkshire, the first Society I joined was the Arc&Arc. As I was originally a history and politics teacher, and local history has been a lifetime fascination, I was drawn to the very rich heritage of St Albans, and have appreciated all that the Arc&Arc does through its excellent lectures, projects and publications.



Life has become busy since I came back nearly four years ago. My two daughters have produced three little grandsons during that time and I was fortunate enough to be offered a part-time job teaching at the Rudolf Steiner school in Kings Langley, supporting children in need of special literacy help. I worship at the Abbey, where I enjoy wonderful music and have made good friends. I am thoroughly enjoying my life in St Albans and hope that I will be able to contribute a little to my new home city by helping to co-ordinate the Clock Tower volunteers. It seems to me that both the Arc&Arc and the Civic Society do excellent work in their different ways.

I would like to thank Jill Bennett both for the good order in which she left matters for me to take on and for her continuing support and help; and the Officers and members of the Society for their encouragement in my new responsibility. I have already met many of the Clockateers and hope to meet others soon.

Please contact me if you need to, please go on volunteering and encourage others to volunteer too, so that we can all continue to enjoy this icon of St Albans.

Helen Bichop

I do not use email but can be contacted on 01727 730825. My answerphone is always on and I will return your call.

Believe it or not!

We should congratulate the *Herts Advertiser* for being the first with the 'news', published on Thursday 1st April, that the Clock Tower is soon to be dismantled and re-erected on the London Colney roundabout.

Perhaps this explains partly why we had over 260 visitors to the Tower on the first two days of Easter, in spite of the Good Friday weather.

A WALK ROUND BROMLEY-BY-BOW

The sky was cloudless as we set off for London, streaked by the vapour trails of the planes bringing home the volcanic ash exiles. We met our Blue Badge guide at Bromley-by-Bow tube station.

Our first pause was at Three Mills. One mill is a tide mill on the river Lee run by a charitable trust, another forms part of the Three Mills film



The Three Mills Film Studios

studios. These mills are a remnant of the Georgian industry banished to the East End. From there we could see the ornate Victorian Sewage Pumping Station and Beckton gas holders. Our guide then pointed out the modern pumping station and a canal lock built to serve the Olympic Stadium that is in sight on the horizon. There is almost no manufacturing industry left in the East End now.

We crossed under the busy A12 and passed the Memorial Gate of a church demolished for the building of the A12. The original Bow Bridge (as in bow and arrow) has long been replaced by a mass of concrete. We passed the boarded-up pubs unused now by the largely Muslim population, who have replaced the 'seething masses' driven there by poverty and the hope of work during the Industrial Revolution. They came from the countryside and their homes in Wapping were destroyed by the building of the docks. They were joined later by Jewish refugees

fleeing Eastern European pogroms.

There is little left of the landscape that was there before the last war, bombing and slum clearance has left only a few Georgian terraces and the solid buildings that had served defunct local government organisations. However, blue plaques abound, reflecting the history of the area.



Our party under the gateway



Kingsley Hall is where Ghandi stayed in 1931 after declining the use of a smart hotel

Our guide had tales of the many philanthropists and their celebrity friends who tried to alleviate the lot of the poor, often through education and organising protests against the 'white slavery' that existed in the many factories. However, the task was such

that they only scratched the surface of the problem, a task taken up by Socialist and Communist politicians.

We passed the Phoenix School, where many firemen died during the last war, and the Community Centre with its health, arts and other facilities entered via its massive gate salvaged from Cumberland House.

Kingsley Hall is at the back of the same site. Set up in 1912 by Doris and Muriel Lester as a nursery school for the poor in memory of their brother Kingsley, it was rebuilt in 1928 as a community centre. Kingsley Hall is where Ghandi stayed during the Round Table Conference in 1931 having declined the use of a smart hotel and was later used in the film Gandhi which provided funds for it to be refurbished.

It was used from 1965 to 1970 by R.D. Laing, psychiatrist, for his Philadelphia Association experiment but the bizarre behaviour of his patients caused it to be very unpopular and it had to close and so deteriorated.

We passed the Childrens' House Nursery school built with money made by Kingsley Hall and opened by HG Wells later to be rebuilt between the wars with a flat roof for 'recreation', no longer used for safety reasons!

We walked through the Strudley Walk shopping area and onto the Bow Road to be greeted by a statue of Gladstone with hands that have been painted red as a protest against the donors, Messrs Bryant and May, and their notorious match factory with its oppressed matchgirls. They famously went on strike in 1888 after some of them were sacked for talking to Annie Besant who wrote a book about their appalling and toxic conditions. They eventually won better conditions, one of the first such actions.

We admired some of the older buildings on the Bow Road: a reused Co-op Store with its beehive logo, a nurses' home built on Sylvia Pankhurst's advice (she was very active in the area) and an Art Deco building that had been Poplar Town

continued on the next page



Gladstone with red hands



Memorial to the suffragette Minnie Lansbury

Hall. We also glimpsed the water tower of the match factory and admired the Memorial Clock to the Suffragette, Minnie Lansbury. The local labour MP, George Lansbury, was grandfather to the actress Angela and father-in-law to Minnie.

We passed the garishly painted Bow Bells pub which, of course, is nowhere near the City church of St Mary-le-Bow of Oranges and Lemons fame, and finished our walk at Bow Road tube station, glancing at two police horses as they passed by, successors to those that broke up Sylvie Pankhurst's demonstrations.

We thanked our guide for all her interesting explanations and set off in search of lunch feeling we had glimpsed some of the history of this turbulent area.

Peter Cullens

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Harlow Pottery Industries

Wally Davey and Helen Walker with contributions by Richard Bartlett, Mike Hughes and Alan Vince. Medieval Pottery Research Group occasional Paper 3.

The Medieval Pottery Research Group's (MPRG) most recent publication looks at a detailed study of the medieval and early post-medieval pottery industry of Harlow, Essex. The industry is better known for the widely traded, highly decorated 17th-century Metropolitan slipware and this publication provides a scrupulous typology of the forms and decoration as found in the four groups of material studied. Other chapters consider the development of the industries from the medieval, transitional (15th-16th century) periods through to the later, predominantly 17th-century: developed redwares and black-glazed wares. This monograph is a remedy to the previous rather slim publication material on the Harlow pottery industries.

The late Wally Davey, the authority on Harlow pottery, brings together the many years of work he spent collecting, recording and researching the products and kilns of this important pottery production centre. Wally was ably assisted in the writing of this monograph by Helen Walker of the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit. Together they also discuss the origins, technology and organisation of the industries and make a comparison with other redwares made in Essex and the surrounding counties. Other sections of the publication are provided by Richard Bartlett on the documentary evidence, while Michael Hughes and Alan Vince contributed appendices detailing the petrological and scientific analysis of the clays and glazes.

The publication was funded by English Heritage and supported and encouraged by Harlow Museum.

MPRG are very proud of this publication and highly recommend it to anyone who works in the field of pottery studies, collects ceramics, or has a general interest in the subject and particularly the post-medieval period. Further information may be obtained from the MPRG website: www.medievalpottery.org.uk

Chris Jarrett

From 1881 Pubs to Your Maps Online via Anglo-Saxon Prosopography, Church Plans Online and Hidden Lives Revealed

A new Directory of Local History Internet Sites has been published by the British Association for Local History.

This is an up-to-date guide to 353 websites, some national and some local. It points you to sources for local history such as documents, maps, photos, artefacts and archives, museums and memorial inscriptions.

You can move from 1881 Pubs to Your Maps Online via Anglo-Saxon Prosopography, Churchplans Online and Hidden Lives Revealed, where you can encounter the young people in the care of The Children's Society in Victorian Britain. The guide covers the major websites for historical material such as A2A as well as less well-known ones like the Seeley History Library, Cambridge, which includes a monthly online list of all articles in the journals it receives. Some of the websites enable you to trace individuals, some to find recent background information, and others point you to research material. The Directory is indexed by subjects, people and places.

The 2010 Directory is a bargain at £2 plus £1 P. and P. You can obtain a copy from Gill Draper on development.balh@btinternet.com or 01732 45 25 75.

It will also be available at Local History Day on 5 June in London at the Imperial War Museum. Bamber Gascoigne and Jacqueline Fillmore, the author of the Directory, will lead the morning discussion session on Local History and the Internet. Details of these occasions on www.balh.co.uk

LIBRARY NOTES AND QUERIES

It is pleasing to record that the society's new website, and the more prominent presence on it of the library, has resulted in more email enquiries, some from the wider world. We have recently provided information on Verulamium excavations to someone in Germany, and on Vice-Admiral Henry Killigrew and the 1705 election to a student at University College Dublin. Other more local people have sought information on Pimlico Place, Harpenden, the St Albans Benefit and Annuity Society, and the Fisk family. We have also helped several people who had noted something on the website and visited in person to follow up their interest. Other visitors had seen the exhibition of maps we mounted for the Residents First weekend in January, and wanted to look more closely at maps or to find out more about the library and its resources. Preparation of the exhibition involved a good deal of work, so it is gratifying to have some positive feedback from the community. If any members of the Society would like to make an exploratory visit, we would be very pleased to welcome them.

Books recently added to stock

Cathedral shrines of medieval England, by Ben Nilson. Woodbridge, Boydell Press, 1998. 276pp, illus, tables, bibliog. Aims to illustrate the nature and importance of shrines in the greater churches of medieval England, and in particular the major shrines in English cathedrals.

Hertfordshire churches and other places of worship, by Jeffery W. Whitelaw. Harpenden, Oldcastle Books, 1990. 143pp, b/w photos. A historical, architectural and religious guide. Pp.79-133 consists of a gazetteer.

Bernard's Heath and The Great War, extracts from the diary of H R Wilton Hall. Compiled by David Laphorn. Privately published, 2009. 40pp. The extracts are from Wilton Hall's "Notes and Memoranda relating to St Saviour's Church, St Albans, 1909-1922". News stories from the Herts Advertiser are reproduced on pages 25-40.

An historical and topographical description of the municipium of

ancient Verulam; the martyrdom of St Alban; foundation of the monastery; other religious houses thereon dependent; and an abridged biography of the several abbots, including information on the early ecclesiastical history of the kingdom, from the records of this primary monastery, by Frederick Lake Williams. St Albans, William Langley, 1822. In two parts, 203pp, and 230pp, plan, illus, index (to Part 2 only). Part two includes notes on civic life in St Albans at about 1822, and on Gorhambury House, with a list of the most noteworthy paintings hung there.

On the parish? The micro-politics of poor relief in rural England c.1550-1750, by Steve Hindle. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 2004. 521pp, bibliog.(pp456-500), index. Includes several references to several Hertfordshire towns and parishes.

St Albans 948 Millenary 1948 Pageant. St Albans, 1948, 68pp. Souvenir programme for the celebrations held 21st - 26th June 1948.

Branch lines around Hertford and Hatfield, by Vic Mitchell and Keith Smith. Midhurst, Middleton Press. Pages unnumbered, photos, maps.

Four county maps of Hertfordshire: Seller 1676; Warburton 1749; Oliver 1695; Bryant 1832. With an introduction by Donald Hodson. Hertfordshire Publications, 1985, 26pp.

A topographical map of Hertfordshire, from an actual survey... by Andrew Dury and John Andrews. Hertfordshire Publications, 1980, 40pp. A reprint of the original, published in 1766.

Domestic architecture in St Michaels village through five centuries, by John Bethell. Privately published, 2010. 25pp, photos. A collection of photographs from John Bethell's exhibition, first shown at Kingsbury Barn over the Heritage Weekend, 11-18 September 2009.

Recent journal articles

In *British Archaeology* March-April 2010

Pp 16-21, 410 2010: Rome and

Britain, by Sam Moorhead. The Goths sacked Rome in 410, but was it also the end of Roman Britain? The issues likely to be debated in 2010 are discussed.

Pp 22-27 Barcombe Roman villa, by David Rudling, Chris Butler and Rob Wallace. Excavations have focussed on a villa and bath-house, but have extended further in 11 seasons of fieldwork.

In *Current Archaeology* April 2010

Pp 37-39, Late Roman Verulamium, by Sheppard Frere. The author responds to the article in the December issue in which Neil Faulkner and David Neal re-dated the end of Verulamium.

In *The Alban Link* Spring 2010

Pp 4-6, St Albans Cathedral copes, by Helen and Bob Francis. Describes the series of copes designed by Jackie Binns.

Pp 7-9, Angels in the Abbey, by Julie Reeves. Angels, in stained glass, embroidery, painted or carved, are described.

Pp10-12, St Albans and Magna Carta, by Julian Rawlins. A brief history of the Great Charter, and explanation of the St Albans connection.

Pp16-17 Birthe Kyolbe-Biddle, 1941-2010: a tribute, by Margaret Taylor. The archaeologist, with her husband Martin Biddle, led excavations of the Chapter House site from 1978.

In *Herts Past and Present*, Spring 2010

Pp 3-14, The Hertfordshire Primrose league in 1901, by Philip Sheail. The

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

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

Primrose League was the most successful of the associations set up in the late 19th century by political parties. This article looks at the Hertford branch of the Conservative Primrose League, and seeks to show its aims were accomplished by examining the social background of its officers and executive council.

Pp 15-22 Merchant Taylors School at Ashwell, 1669-2001; the good, the bad and the absent, by David Short. Relates the struggles of schoolmasters to make a living, against a background of tension between clergy and schoolmaster, neglect, beating and corruption.

Pp 23-31 The Landed Gentry, by Lionel Munby. Lecture notes, left by the late author, on some of the county's landed gentry, who came from backgrounds in brewing, banking, trade and law, newcomers to Hertfordshire, and their acceptance in county society.

In *British Archaeology* May-June 2010

P. 49 A rosy future for grey reports, by Stuart Jeffrey. The Archaeological Data Service hosts OASIS, an online archaeological event recording system, and the Library of Unpublished Field Reports. The latter are normally difficult to find and access. This new free, searchable service makes reports available to all.

Journals received

Current Archaeology March 2010

History Today February 2010.

Research News (English Heritage) Winter 2009/2010

Hendon and District Archaeological Society Newsletter March 2010

Hertfordshire People March 2010

Bricket Wood Society Newsletter March 2010

Landscape History Vol 30, no 1, 2009

Conservation Bulletin (English Heritage) Spring 2010

London Archaeologist Spring 2010

Current Archaeology May 2010

NEW MEMBERS

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

Terence Jolley	Iford
Julia & Malcolm Merrick	Watling Street, St Albans
Sandra Norman	Tavistock Avenue, St Albans
Hilary Thompson	Bricket Wood
David and Mayo Walters	Redbourn
Barbara Ward	Kings Langley
Elanor Cowlands & Family	Thornton Road, St Albans

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

It is with regret that we accepted the resignation of our Membership Secretary Peter Jeffreys, owing to increasing commitments elsewhere. We now need someone to take over this important role.

Key tasks are:

- To compile and maintain the database of *bona fide* Society members
- To send out information packs to new members
- To manage subscription renewals in conjunction with the Treasurer
- To send a Membership card annually to all paid-up members
- To manage the distribution of the newsletter four times a year
- To act as a member of Council and to alert Council to any relevant trends or issues

Peter will be available to work with a new volunteer during the hand-over period. If you are interested please contact Bryan Hanlon (01717 851734) in the first instance for a full job description.

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2010

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. 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

The talk will explain the English Country House in its context as a symbol and centre of family power in the locality. It will outline the changes in Stowe Landscape Gardens from the formality of the late 17th century to the increasing naturalism of the 18th and the picturesque of the early 19th century. Lastly, we will consider the development of the house according to the constraints of function and fashion between 1678 and 1840 before seeing its transformation into a school after 1923.

Andrew Rudolf has been associated with Stowe as a pupil and schoolmaster for nearly 60 years, latterly on a part time basis. After National Service and Oxford he taught History at Charterhouse, Repton and Stowe where he ran the History Department and helped in Special Needs. He now acts as a guide at Stowe House and is Churchwarden of Stowe Parish Church.

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.

CURRENT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

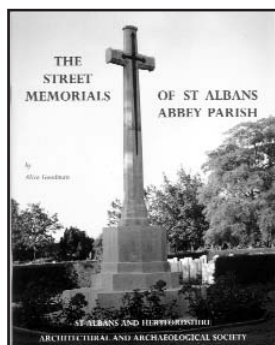
If you would like to purchase any of our titles, please contact the newsletter editor, details on page 10.

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

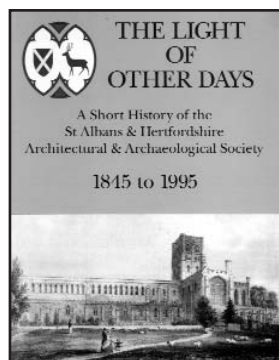
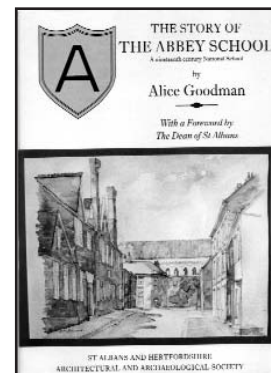


The Story of the Abbey School

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.

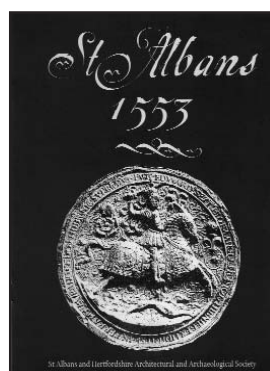
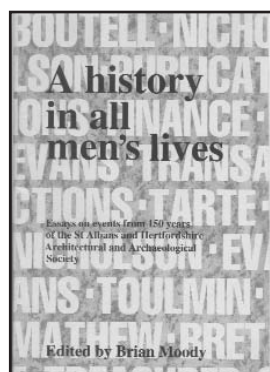
£1

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 Mayoralty 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.

The Pemberton Almshouses (now reprinted)

The story of the Pemberton family and, in particular, of Roger, whose will of 1624 details how the almshouses, which still remain opposite St Peter's Church, were to be set up and managed. It is the result of original research by our 17th Century Population Research Group.

£4

