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ST ALBANS AND HERTFORDSHIRE  
ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
[www.stalbanshistory.org](http://www.stalbanshistory.org)



# NEWSLETTER

No. 177 August 2010

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another successful year is drawing to a close for the Society, a year in which we have faced a number of new challenges and taken some important steps to move our Society into an era of technology. See below and inside for more details. We also remind you that our Annual General Meeting will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 7th September at Verulamium Museum, and we look forward to welcoming you there. A full agenda is on page 2.

### *Our Transactions*

The first series of our Transactions ran from 1853 until 1915, soon after the start of the First World War. The second series began in 1924 and ended in 1938, just before the start of the Second World War. Since then only two volumes have been published: in 1953 and in 1961.

The Transactions are important records of the Society, its members, and their research. More than 3,000 pages of text and about 500 plates, drawings, maps and plans now stand on library shelves. Earlier volumes are slowly deteriorating: brittle pages are no longer secure in their bindings. Earlier this year, the Society applied to the Mercers' Company for a grant towards the cost of releasing the Transactions from their confinement in libraries by making them freely available on the internet to anyone with an interest in the history, architecture and archaeology of St Albans and Hertfordshire. We are delighted to acknowledge our gratitude to the Mercers' Company for awarding us a grant of £2,000.

The Transactions have been taken to the Institute of Historical Research at London University's School of Advanced Studies for digitisation. High-resolution images of every page of text, plate and figure will then be

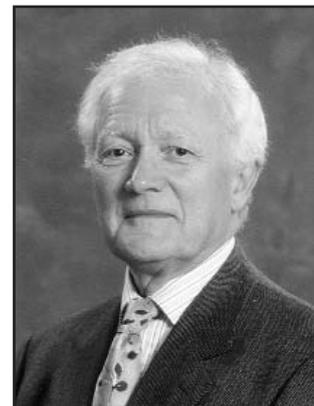
shared among a few members of the Society who have volunteered to create searchable digital facsimiles of the originals using 'optical character recognition' (OCR) software at home on their own PCs. The facsimiles will then be checked for fidelity to the originals before being placed on the Society's website. Anyone with internet access will then be able to search the contents of the Transactions and download items of interest for personal use only.

### *Our Library Catalogue*

Our Librarian Gill Harvey and her group are compiling a digital catalogue of the thousands of items in our library. A complete catalogue is still a long way off, but enough has been done for a trial version to be made available on our website. Only very simple searches can be made now, but users will need a much better facility which allows searching to take place within specific categories such as books, pamphlets, images, authors, places, and named individuals. The Society's web manager Brian Bending and the library group are looking for a better way of hosting the catalogue on the internet. Meanwhile, members are invited to try the temporary search facility and send comments and suggestions to Brian Bending (contact details on page 12).

### *The Character of St Albans Conservation Areas*

A draft statement of the character of St Albans' conservation area will soon be published for public comment. The area is large and complex, so 27 distinct character areas have been defined. Planning applications will be considered in the context of the defined character of the area in which the proposed development is located.



At a recent meeting of the Historic Environment Forum, Jayne West, the District Council's conservation and design team leader, alerted members of the Society to this opportunity for them to take part in the public consultation and to comment on the accuracy of the draft character statements of the areas that are well-known to us.

Although character statements are not meant to be comprehensive histories of areas of St Albans, the conservation and design team are particularly keen for members of this Society to check references to local history for accuracy as well as to make more general comments.

Almost every day I am reminded of the abundance and importance of local knowledge among members of this Society. There are now opportunities for all of us to use that knowledge to help the District Council to avoid inappropriate developments in the St Albans' conservation area.

Please contact Gill Harvey if you would like to comment in general on the draft character statements and/or check them for accurate references to local history (contact details on page 12). This is an opportunity for all of us to influence the future of St Albans through our understanding of its past.

*Michael Cooper*

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

***Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of St Albans and Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society will be held at Verulamium Museum on Tuesday 7th September 2010 at 7.30pm for the following purposes:***

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To elect Professor Michael Cooper as President
3. President's comments.
4. To adopt the minutes of the previous AGM held on 8th September 2009.
5. To receive the accounts for the year ended 31 May 2010 (enclosed).
6. To receive reports from our various groups circulated in the latest newsletter.
7. To elect the following members to serve on Council (with their responsibilities) until the next AGM:

Bryan Hanlon	Secretary
John Thomson	Treasurer
Brian Bending	Website Manager
Helen Bishop	Clock Tower
Doreen Bratby	Lecture Secretary
Roy Bratby	Chairman, Programme Development Committee
John Cox	Publicity Officer
Dee Drinkwater	Newsletter Editor
To be confirmed	Representative 19th Century Research
Chris Green	Museums and Heritage Officer, SADVC
Gill Harvey	Library
Pat Howe	Minutes Secretary/17th Century Population Research
To be confirmed	Membership Secretary
Gerard McSweeney	Co-opted member
To be confirmed	Representative, Herts Archaeology & History
Roger Miles	Representative Archaeology Group

8. To confirm the re-election of Mr J R West as Independent Examiner of the accounts.

*Bryan Hanlon*

*Secretary*

To be followed by

***Pint Pot versus Coffee Pot: Temperance in late-Victorian St Albans***

***A Lecture by Jon Mein***

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2010

Enclosed with this newsletter are the accounts for the financial year ended 31 May 2010 which were approved by Council and signed by the independent examiner on 9 August 2010. As last year, accounts are presented in the format required by the Charity Commission's *Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (2005)*. They also include a report from the Independent Examiner, even though the Charity Commission requirement for such a report is not now necessary for Charities with income below £25,000. I am more comfortable, however, to present to you accounts which have been the subject of independent examination.

The results for the year are split between the unrestricted funds and the restricted funds.

Dealing first with the unrestricted funds, the activities of the year resulted in a deficit of expenditure over income for the year of £2,154 against a surplus last year of £1,235.

Income from unrestricted sources decreased by £2,700, the main contributory factors of which were:

- Slightly lower subscriptions, mainly due to a reduction of those who paid twice.
- A significant decrease in the donation from the Clock Tower, as funds have been retained to enable the exploration of other fundraising schemes.
- The expected virtual disappearance of interest income under the current constrained financial conditions.
- More income from excursions, but offset by less income due to the enforced cancellation of the New Year party.

Expenses are slightly up on last year, by just less than £700, the main changes being:

- More excursions costs, offset by minimal cost of the cancelled New Year party.
- Higher total costs of lectures due to more lectures and higher room

charge costs; these were £1,250 in total for the year.

- Higher spending on the new website, with a full year's cost for hosting and maintenance.

On the restricted funds, more donations to the Mayor's Prize were made in the year which more than covered the prize itself and administration expenses. In addition, virtually on the last day of the year, we received a grant of £2,000 from the Mercers' Charitable Foundation to assist in the expenses of digitising the Society's Transactions, and is restricted to that purpose.

In the balance sheet there is very little to comment on. The unrestricted cash resources of the Society have decreased in the year by £2,687 to £25,752. The unrestricted reserves of the Society now stand at £23,412. Both of these figures show the finances of the Society remaining in a robust position.

John Thomson  
Treasurer

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

### Archaeology

In August last year we returned for two weeks to our Roman site in Amwell for the fourth, and probably last, time. Through the autumn and winter we worked in the Archaeology Unit at Sandridge Gate, processing finds from the excavation. Wet sieving of fills from the three cremation burials and reconstruction of their pots occupied the majority of time. Forensic dissection of fragile bone in the cremation urns has still to be done and is likely to go on through the coming winter (2010-11).

In summer 2009 two small trenches were opened in the environs of Kingsbury Barn, ahead of landscaping work and excavation was carried out in a utility trench for the barn.

Roger Miles

### Lecture programme

On 8th September, at the 2009 AGM, Brian Adams talked on *Fleetville: the History of a Community in St Albans*, the subject of a new publication.

Our first lecture in September was given by Dr Catherine Hills on *Revisiting Spong Hill: an Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Norfolk*. It was in commemoration of the 800th anniversary of Cambridge University.

Frances Bacon featured in our October lecture by our President, Professor Michael Cooper. In *'For my name and memory', or why St Albans should make more of Francis Bacon* we learned of Bacon's profound influence on science, technology and industry.

#### What happened to Henry VIII?

Suzannah Lipscomb, Research Curator at Hampton Court Palace gave a captivating lecture on how, when and why Henry VIII was transformed from a sunny young hedonist into the fat, ruthless tyrant of popular legend.

Historian Dr Peter Burley had made a study of the two battles in St Albans. Highlighting *The Second Battle of St Albans, 1461* he described how many of the people, or their sons, who had fought at the First Battle in

1455 came back to the town six years later for a 'return match'. Fighting reached its climax on Bernard's Heath with very heavy casualties.

Hugh Davies was deeply involved and confidently explained the working of *Enigma - How breaking the German ciphers in WW2 led to the world's first computer*. Now retired he is a guide at the Bletchley Park Museum. His intriguing talk of what went on behind closed doors then so that we can have our freedom to enjoy now, closed with an illustration of the war graves and accompanying music, a poignant moment and a subdued reminder of the high price paid for such a privilege.

'It's Bedlam' or so the saying goes to illustrate a noisy, confused situation. Catharine Arnold, in her talk on *Bedlam: London and its Mad*, spoke of just that, Bethlehem Hospital the oldest psychiatric hospital founded in 1247. Thankfully in more recent times such institutions have given way to new thinking.

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Dr Mark Freeman's lecture was on the home front about **Pageantry, history and identity: St Albans in the twentieth century**. St Albans was one of many towns and cities in England that staged an historical pageant in the Edwardian period. Performed by amateurs to mark some historical event, they continued to be held until the 1950's. Though born and bred in St Albans, Mark is now senior lecturer in the Department of Economic and Social History at the University of Glasgow.

Our final lecture of the season by Andrew Rudolf, retired schoolmaster of Stowe School who ran the History Department, described **The fair majestic Paradise of Stowe (Pope): Stowe House and landscape Gardens** the English Country House, as it once was, as a symbol and centre of family power in the locality from 1678. Its formal landscape gardens of the 17th century becoming increasingly more natural in the 18th century and picturesque in the early 19th century was evidence enough of the ever changing lineage who have put their stamp on the house throughout the ages. Most importantly, the house, being taken over as a school in 1923 has given it a new lease of life and furthermore has saved it for our heritage.

Doreen Bratby

### Library

The library has had a busy year with a wide range of queries both from this country and abroad, Many of them have already been mentioned in the newsletter, and it is pleasing to be able to report that even when we cannot answer them from items in stock, we are normally able to suggest where else people might go for the information.

We have put more information about the library onto the website, namely a list of illustrations and a list of subject headings for the cuttings/miscellanea files. This has certainly resulted in increased use, and our next two major projects are to digitize and put onto our website some of the rarer illustrations from our collection, and to put our catalogue online. The latter is a big project, and we are very indebted to Brian Bending for the work he has put into this, and for all his work maintaining the library's IT

on our behalf. We have a Wordfile of the catalogue currently on the website, thanks to Brian, but this will clearly not provide the search facility and ease of use we are after in the long term. We are investigating the cheapest options for providing the quality of presentation we want. When the catalogue is fully available it will provide a valuable resource, particularly as we are fielding an increasing number of enquiries from outside St Albans.

We had our usual successful opening of the library with an exhibition of some of our maps for Resident's First Weekend in January. This event certainly results in a number of membership forms being taken, and hopefully provides the Society with at least some new members.

It is pleasing to be able to report that the library does seem to be getting known in the town, we had a visit from Age Concern only last week, and we are able to offer assistance on local history queries to an increasingly wide range of people.

Gill Harvey

### Programme Development

The Programme Development Committee met regularly throughout the year and was responsible for 16 Tuesday lectures, although the January one was cancelled due to inclement weather. Six were given by our own members; Gillian Harvey, Michael Cooper, Peter Burley, Pat Howe and Pat Nellist, Irene Cowan and Ann Dean. We are extremely grateful to them all for their contribution to the life of the Society.

In addition, nine visits were arranged:

- An evening walk around Tring
- A church crawl
- A morning walk around old Amersham
- An evening visit to Rothamsted Manor House
- A day visit to Oxford
- A Day Visit to Bow (Pat Howe)
- An evening walk around Berkhamsted
- A morning visit to Luton Hoo
- A morning visit to Waltham Abbey

Thanks are due to those who undertook to be responsible for the

various events and for looking after the associated administration, not forgetting our members who supported these activities.

We are also indebted to those members who have given of their time to the IT/AV part of the lectures and our thanks go to them. I would emphasise that we continue to be in need of additional help in this area and would welcome volunteers to come forward.

We welcome at any time your suggestions for future visits, lecture topics and possible speakers.

Roy Bratby

### 17th C Population Research

Joyce Wells' and Pat Nellist's tireless work came to fruition when the article on the records of the Overseers of the Poor of St Peter's parish was recently published in *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History*. We concluded that the deserving poor, sick and elderly were well looked after and that the Poor Laws were efficiently administered and recorded.

Margaret Amsdon, Irene Cowan, Pat Nellist and I are now entering on to the computer the Abbey poor records 1655-1671. One of the ratepayers was listed as 'Mrs Goldsmith's gift'. We did not know what this meant and had not seen a similar entry before either in the Abbey or St Peter's records. I found a reference to Mrs Goldsmith's charity in the Corporation Minutes published by Gibbs (Gibbs A E. *The Corporation Records of St Albans* 1890) which states that 'The original deed of gift of the Ann Goldsmith Charity is in the safe, and is dated June 18th 1641'. Each time a rate was levied in the Overseer's record, Mrs Goldsmith's legacy was listed as a receipt of 6s.0d. I obtained Mrs Goldsmith's will and find she was related to the Ferrers family of Flamstead of Wicked Lady fame.

Jane Harris and I submitted an article to *Local Population Studies* on John Carter, carpenter. The two main strands of the article were related to his inventory. Firstly, the document showed that this was a man of some substance and secondly the layout and detail enabled us to speculate on the structure of his house and Jane commissioned a graphic artist to draw

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the parlour and its contents. The joys of the Internet for the local historian were demonstrated when I searched Access to Archives (A2A) and found the conveyance of a house in St Albans to John Carter in 1666, describing its location which today is 15a and b George Street. Gerard McSweeney and JT Smith inspected the property and found that it has undergone extensive alterations over successive generations. The Editorial Board of LPS liked the article but asked for extensive further work which we have been doing and hope to resubmit in a few weeks.

Janice Smith completed her trawl through the Wills Index at HALS.

Sylvia Beare, Gill Harvey and Carol Parker continue to transcribe wills entering the information on to our database and amending the family trees accordingly.

Our entries on the website have produced various enquires, the latest of which is a descendent of Alice Pemberton, sister of Roger, founder of the almshouses. We knew that Alice married James Williams but we did not know that they migrated to America, fleeing religious persecution. Their son, Roger was instrumental in founding the town of Providence in Rhode Island (see page 7).

*Pat Howe*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have paid your subscription for 2011/12, either by direct debit or by sending a cheque, you will find your new membership card with this newsletter. If you have not done so – approx 20% of our members – please take steps to renew immediately, both to facilitate the smooth running of the Society and to minimise the administrative burden on our Officers.

## A VISIT TO LUTON HOO

Zena Dickinson had been associated with Luton Hoo for some 25 years, linking family ownership right through the lengthy conversion period to its present-day re-incarnation as a luxury hotel. This visit had been arranged in conjunction with the excellent lecture she gave to members earlier in the year.

We entered via the vast portico of the Robert Adam mansion and awaited Zena Dickinson. We were struck by the magnificent entrance hall and later learned that the interior of the house had



been altered to reflect the Ritz Hotel when the Wernhers became owners in the late 19th century. The standard of luxury achieved then has been reflected by the present owners, Elite Hotels. At great expense, replicas of paintings, tapestries, drapes and other artefacts have been returned to their original positions as in former days. The wall to ceiling reflective mirrors enhance the magnificent luxury of the reception rooms and reveal the still fine views of the extensive gardens and distant countryside as envisaged by Capability Brown.

After the tour a welcome cup of coffee was provided, served in gilded bone china. We were then invited to the first floor to view some luxury bedroom suites named after previous family links with royalty and where the present Queen and Prince Philip spent part of their honeymoon. We finally descended the wonderful marble staircase.

It was indeed a 'right royal' glimpse of utter luxury!

*Rita & John Cadisch*

## HERTS ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY

Vol. 16 has been published and copies for members at the discounted price of £5 are available from Gerard McSweeney (01727 857958) or the Arc & Arc Library. They will also be available at meetings next season.

If you would like a copy but are unable to collect from any of the above sources, please send a cheque for £7 to the treasurer, John Thomson (contact details on page 12), and a copy will be posted to you.

## SAMUEL RYDER

It could well be argued that Samuel Ryder, former St Albans businessman, entrepreneur, philanthropist, mayor and magistrate – as well as the original donor of golf's Ryder Cup – has been airbrushed from the history of St Albans, so a new self-guided trail has been designed by the Tourist Office and other interested parties, in order to help bring him back into the civic memory. Along with the Civic Society, the Arc & Arc helped to fund this leaflet (copy enclosed). If you think you have any memories or information about the great man, please do contact Bryan Hanlon (contact details on page 12), who would love to hear from you.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following have joined since our last newsletter and we welcome them to the Society:

Eugene Baxter	Welwyn Garden City
David & Maggie Brine	Kingshill Avenue, St Albans
Stephen Brown	Welwyn Garden City
Valerie Coast	Hillside Road, St Albans
Hilary Fergusson	Meadowcroft, St Albans

## LIBRARY NOTES AND QUERIES

### **William Faden's map: The country twenty-five miles round London, 1790**

A new digitally re-drawn version of this map has recently been produced by Andrew MacNair. It is on six sheets, on a scale of 1" to 1 mile. The Library has bought the two sheets which cover those parts of Hertfordshire within the 25 mile radius.

William Faden (1749-1836) was a London engraver and cartographer, and Geographer in Ordinary to the King. He produced high-quality maps, including the first published Ordnance Survey map, of the county of Kent, in 1801.

The map of the environs of London was not based on a new survey. Faden acquired the engraved copper plates of county maps produced by others, and combined them to produce the London map. Andrew MacNair believes it is probable that for the Hertfordshire sections he used the Dury and Andrews map of Hertfordshire of 1766. This seems highly likely, since it is known that he was selling copies of the Dury and Andrews map from 1782. The Faden map makes a feature of the country estates of the landed gentry. Mr MacNair advises that there seems to have been fairly extensive revisions of gentry houses and parks shown on the Dury map in making the London map. These estates are shown in red, and include the owners' names; forests and woods are green, and commons are yellow. Mile-posts are marked and numbered on the major roads, but no relief is shown. The presentation is very clear and fresh. The two Hertfordshire sheets are on AO size paper, 841 x 1189mm (roughly 33 x 47 inches), and the area covered extends from a little north of Hertford to a little below Paddington in the south, and all of the county from the west to a small section of Essex in the east.

### **Recent queries**

Our enquiries in recent weeks have included more from the wider world, the furthest being from Nipissing University, Ontario. The enquirer was seeking information on the changing gender role of Catholic clergy as they adopted Protestant practice following

the Reformation. Nearer home, an organisation from Canterbury sought information on Sumpter Yard and the Deanery Garden. We were able to provide some information on both these enquiries, but suggested they might also find it useful to approach the Abbey authorities.

A London enquirer asked about the history of No 3 High Street, St Albans. We were able to fulfil this enquiry from our own documentary sources, with help from one of our members who advised that it was highly unlikely, as it had been believed, that timbers used in the building's construction were re-used ship timbers.

### **Books recently added to stock**

*The story of the River Ver*, by Elizabeth Delaney and others. St Albans, Ver Valley Society, n.d. [1990?] 14pp, map, photos, line drawings.

*The fairgrounds of Bricket Wood 1889-1929*, by the Bricket Wood Society, 1985. 44pp, map, photos, bibliog..

*Wesleyan Methodism in the city of the proto-martyr and the St Albans circuit, with reminiscences of folk-lore, and twenty-six illustrations*, by the Rev. J George Greaves. St Albans, Gibbs and Bamforth, 1907. 152 pp, 16 un-numbered pages, photos.

*The diary of Benjamin Woodcock, Master of the Barnet Union Workhouse, 1836-1838*, edited with an introduction by Gillian Gear. Hertfordshire Record Society, 2008. Hertfordshire Record Publications, vol 24. xlii, 277pp, illus. The Barnet Union Workhouse was one of the first to be established under the 1834 Poor Law. The diary, produced for the Board of Governors, recorded the Master's experience of managing the new method of dealing with the poor.

*Portrait of St Albans*, by June and Michael Massey. Wellington, Halsgrove, 2010. 144pp, photos. A collection of photographs of features in St Albans and surrounding villages.

*Historic landscape analysis: deciphering the countryside*, by Stephen Rippon. York, Council for British Archaeology, 2004. 166pp, maps, plans, photos. Introduces some of the techniques which can be used to unravel the complex history of the countryside. Case studies illustrate their practical application.

*Datchworth tithe accounts, 1711-1747*, edited by Jane Walker. Hertfordshire Record Society, 2010. 129pp, illus, maps. The edited accounts kept by the rector, the Rev. William Hawtayne. The editor's

introduction includes biographical notes on the Rev. Hawtayne, and on the history and operation of the tithe system.

### **Recent journal articles**

In *Harpenden and District Local History Society Newsletter*, April 2010.

Pp 6-13. No 5 Prisoner of War Camp, Batford, Harpenden, by Eric Brandreth. An account of the camp and life in it, from its opening in 1943 to its closure in 1948, when the last prisoners were repatriated. With two photographs.

Pp 22-25. St Albans Poor Law Institution in 1724, by the then Clerk to the Board of Guardians. A contemporary account of the institution, opened in 1720.

In *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History*, vol. 16, 2009

P 1. Palaeolithic handaxe from St Albans, by Simon West. A large worked flint found in St Albans, now identified as a handaxe, was handed in at Verulamium Museum.

Pp 3-4. Neolithic chert axe from St Albans, with a brief note on the Neolithic of St Albans city and district, by Simon West. Describes a stone axe found in Townsend Drive.

Pp5-26. Excavations on a first-century enclosure at Stanborough School, Welwyn Garden City, by J R Hunn. Excavations took place between 1997 and 1999.

Pp 27-56. An iron-age and Roman site at Leavesden Aerodrome, Abbots Langley, by Adam Brossler, Granville Laws and Ken Welsh. Excavation in 1998 revealed ditched features and pottery. Data obtained indicated a farming settlement which must have been nearby in the late Iron Age.

Pp 57-65. The Boudican Revolt: countdown to defeat, by Grahame A Appleby. Shows how the chronology of

### **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 Judges' Robing Room at the Old Town Hall. Access is currently through the Tourist Information Office.

the Boudican rebellion can be used to gauge the probable location of the battlefield. The author believes it took place on or near the Icknield Way.

Pp 67-70. Three sixteenth-century pottery groups from St Albans, by A Turner-Rugg. Arc and Arc members and museum staff carried out small excavations in the town centre in the 1960s and 1970s, now reported for the first time. The finds include some of the best examples of forms common in the town at the period, some not found elsewhere in the town, and some imported forms.

Pp 71-74. Buildings on the margins of society: three St Albans almshouses, by G P McSweeney. The 17th C almshouses built for John Masterman stood in St Peter's Street, on the site now occupied by Marks and Spencer. Investigation threw light on the quality of accommodation, and on ownership of the three sites in the 1500s, the earliest yet obtained.

Pp 75-79. A seventeenth-century butcher's shop: 30-32 Market Place, St Albans, by G P Mc Sweeney and J T Smith. The shop was first identified as a butcher's in the Arc and Arc's 17th-century group's research on the town, but

could not be adequately described in the resulting book (2003). This article remedies the omission.

Pp 81-96. Social welfare in St Peter's parish, St Albans, 1663-1680, by Pat Howe and Pat Nellist. A continuation of the Arc & Arc's 17th-century research group's work, this article describes the working of the Poor Law at the time, based on the surviving record book.

Pp 97-109. The Old Mill, Berkhamsted: archaeological investigations, by Jonathan Hunn and Bob Zeetvat. The study revealed details of the development of the present house and mill, which date from the 18th century, and the dam of an earlier millpond, which might be medieval.

Pp 111-122. George Smith in Hertfordshire, by Laura Levitt. George Smith (born 1783) was a prolific London architect who also worked in Hertfordshire. This illustrated article discusses his most significant building in the county, St Albans Town Hall, along with St Peter's Church London Colney, and residential buildings attributed to him.

Pp 123-137. Review of archaeological projects in Hertfordshire, 2006-2008,

collated by Isobel Thompson.

In *Hertfordshire People* June 2010

Pp 40-42. Hertfordshire firsts... An account of Vincent Lunardi's 1784 journey by balloon, the first in England, from Islington to Standon, near Ware.

Enclosed with this issue is a CD of the Hertfordshire Family History Society's directory of members' interests.

In *Current Archaeology* July 2010

Pp 20-27. The deviant dead: Roman Britain's unusual burials, by Alison Taylor. Suggests that fear of ghosts is the most probable explanation for burials in which bodies were decapitated, mutilated, or laid face own. Reference is made to more detailed academic studies.

### **Journals received**

*Hendon and District Archaeological Society Newsletter* issues for May, June and July 2010

*Bricket Wood Society Newsletter* June 2010-07-08

*Current Archaeology* June 2010

*British Archaeology* July/August 2010

## **LETTER FROM AMERICA**

I am a direct descendant of Alice Pemberton, sister of Roger Pemberton, born 1554. Alice married James Williams, the father of the famous Roger Williams, founder of the American state of Rhode Island and one of the earliest proponents of religious liberty and separation of church and state. I had known of my relationship to Williams since childhood, as my grandmother was inordinately proud of that connection! My knowledge of the Pembertons came later, through genealogical research. Perhaps I should mention that Roger first proposed to a first cousin of Oliver Cromwell but was rejected. It is possible that he was in fact related to Cromwell – and of course all these families were devout Puritans. About ten years ago I had the great pleasure of visiting your wonderful and very interesting city and asked at the Tourist Office if anyone had heard of the Pemberton family. I was immediately answered in the affirmative and sent to see the Pemberton Almshouses. As I stood looking at the buildings a gentleman approached and asked if I knew the history of the Almshouse. I said I had heard a little bit about them, but was eager to know more. At that point this very nice man informed me that he was one of the resident pensioners and told me how the Almshouse came to be, complete with the Founder's guilty conscience. I was of course fascinated!

And so it was with excitement that I found your website this year and made contact. I am delighted to now be in possession of the excellent booklet you have produced about the Pemberton Almshouses. It only took about three centuries for this particular circle to be completed.

With all good wishes

*Michael Haines*

San Francisco

## **2010 MAYOR'S PRIZE**

Three entries were received for this year's competition which are now being judged. We propose to give each member a copy of the conditions of entry etc. with the next Newsletter to encourage existing members to take part or suggest some else does so.

*John G.E. Cox*

## **19THC RESEARCH GROUP**

Since January 2010 there have been no new entries to the 19th century community website which forms part of the Society's site. It has been suggested to the Society's Council that the time frame be extended to include the 20th century?

It is hoped to hold a meeting this autumn of present and new people to add new material.

*John G.E. Cox*

## **HERTS ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY**

Two mailings of news, future events and the journal are distributed because of a reduction in funding. In the past year we have had a very successful 30th annual Symposium which was held at the British Schools Museum, Hitchin, the first Lionel Munby lecture given by Professor Chris Dyer and a perambulation of Ashwell on the 4th July.

*John G.E. Cox*

Hon. Secretary

## A TOWN WALK IN BERKHAMSTED

All my previous trips to Berkhamsted have involved visiting The Rex Cinema, usually in the dark, so it was a pleasure to be guided around the town on a light June evening taking in the many interesting buildings and related history.

Sixteen Arc & Arc members met in the town car park at 6.30 p.m. and were taken on a guided tour by Wendy Austin who began by telling us that the Domesday Book in 1086 describes Berkhamsted as being on the Tring Hundred and includes descriptions of vineyards, twenty-six plough teams and one priest. It was valued at £16.

We started our walk in the High Street, noting the Kings Head public house where the exiled French King Louis XV11 enjoyed spending time with Polly Page, the Innkeeper's daughter, while his horses were changed. The pub was a staging post for the north-west route. The High Street is mainly Victorian, with several houses much older and a few nicely renovated Georgian buildings.

We looked at the Tudor Court House (*pictured*) and then St Peter's Church, one of the largest parish churches in Hertfordshire (*pictured*). Although consecrated in 1222, parts of the church are thought to be much older. It was restored in 1820 and again in 1870, which is when most of the external stone and flint work was applied. The churchyard is an attractive area with mature trees.

Nearby is Berkhamsted Collegiate

School, the coeducational successor to the original 16th century boys school which was founded by a Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, John Incent. The date of the opening of the school, 1541, is on the lych-gate. The school was attended by the famous author Graham Greene, whose father was headmaster. Greene loathed his time at the school and was thought to have attempted suicide whilst a pupil there.

We walked along Castle Street admiring its many old buildings and passed the seemingly incongruous Canadian Indian Totem Pole, a gift to the timber works next to the Grand Junction Canal (*pictured*). We crossed the canal, which was opened in 1798 and was the first linking London to the industrial North.

We stopped to look at the ruined Norman Castle, now in the care of English Heritage. This royal castle was once the home of Edward the Black Prince and his wife Joan of Kent. Geoffrey Chaucer was the constable. Work first started on the construction of the castle in 1066. The original Saxon structure of timber and earthworks was replaced by the stone castle in the 1080s. We made our way back to the town centre, passing through the Victorian Railway Station built in 1875.

*Denise Willis*



## MUSEUM OF ST ALBANS

The District Council at a Cabinet meeting on 13th July agreed 'to take steps in line with the District Vision to promote and establish a Cultural Hub in the centre of St Albans and that a report be submitted to Cabinet in November 2010 on the development of this concept and its realisation including any financial implications.'

As a consequence of the cabinet decision, the Society's President and representatives of other organisations whose views contributed to the district plan were invited to a meeting on 4th August with the Head of Culture and Community Development. We will report in a future issue.

*Michael Cooper*

## LIBRARY CATALOGUE ON LINE

The library is being catalogued using the Heritage catalogue program supplied by IS Oxford Ltd; an additional module to that software would provide a comprehensive catalogue search facility which we would like to make available on-line, but unfortunately we have met a technical problem we are still trying to solve.

Meanwhile I have put some files onto the website which permit simple searches of a list of the books catalogued to date. This list will be updated from time to time.

Please go to [www.stalbanshistory.org](http://www.stalbanshistory.org) > **Library** > **Library catalogue** and follow the instructions you find there. I welcome comments and suggestions and will use the page counter statistics on the website to estimate the level of interest with a view developing a better system.

*Brian Bending*

## THE WALTHAM ABBEY HABIT

When Peter Huggings came to give us an illustrated talk on Waltham Abbey he offered a guided tour of this historic site, which is how it came about that 17 of us met Peter in the car park, thanks to Roy Bratby's excellent organisation, including maps and directions, and ensuring we had a lovely sunny day!

Our tour started at the Bloomery Forge, which made all the metalwork for the Abbey from about 1200 AD, as well as shoeing the horses, which were apparently stabled in groups of four that stayed as a team permanently at work, rest and play. There was a continuing need for things metallic after the Abbey was gone, for the forge survived the Dissolution, being last documented as late as 1608. We then went through the beautiful rose garden to open spaces where buildings had once stood. Peter told us of the turf-walled house of Tovi the Viking (he apparently rebuilt the church, before dying in 1045). The course of the main sewer is a testament to medieval engineering that it still flows freely today. The Chapter House is now only a few crop marks in the grass, and other buildings in this area are not evident at all. We did inspect a couple of substantial walls that contained pieces of smashed up Purbeck marble columns, brick and stone, including Hertfordshire and Essex puddingstones, the latter being a fairly dark brown colour – more Christmas pudding, perhaps?

We saw Harold's burial place and then repaired to Philpott's Tea Rooms for refreshments, after which our attention was focused on the Abbey Church of the Holy Cross & St. Laurence. Its east wall is externally rather a random mix of materials, making it look rather sad. The 17 of us were then deployed as outline markers of the church built by King Harold, which made us feel very, very young, but we certainly laughed a lot!

The existing church is not large, and from the outside is quite a mixture of styles and materials. The west end features the only church tower built during the reign of Mary Tudor, but the top section, built in the middle of the 20th century, is of smooth pale stone which looks a little startling in

contrast to the rest of the building. In monastic times this Augustinian Abbey (whose habits were brown), had cloisters on the north side, a very unusual layout and a site now occupied by the Dean's house, so a walk round the immediate building is not possible. But what of the inside?

When we filed through the west door the 'wow factor' was immediate: it is quite stunning, with enormous circular Norman pillars, beautiful stained glass windows and a truly amazing ceiling. We were taken first up a few stairs to the Lady Chapel on the south side, once the Guild Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre. Its wall paintings show Christ dressed in red, heaven like a palace of 1600, St. Nicholas busy weighing souls against sins, and the jaws of hell displaying huge teeth. Most charmingly, in a stained glass window showing the nativity there is a beautiful Old English Sheepdog! We then went down to the crypt, touching some pink mortar from Harold's time on the way. The crypt is now a shop, but houses a treasured, rather battered 1380 statue of a woman in medieval kirtle and cote-hardie; she once had a baby on her right knee, now broken off and lost. This representation of the Virgin and baby Jesus was buried in a ditch in the very early 1540s, presumably to save her from further indignity and damage.

Returning to the main church we saw a splendid Tudor memorial to a husband and wife, both lying on their left sides, staring out, with all their many children below them. A tour of the church itself had to be abandoned as prayers were about to start, so we went outside, where Roy thanked Peter for his informative and interesting tour, whereupon he generously offered to continue throughout the grounds for another half-an-hour or so.

Christine Aitken and I decided we would like to see more of the inside, so we quietly made our way back inside just as the prayers were finishing. We subsequently got

talking to the Verger, Mr. Neville Unwin, who was very willing to answer all our questions. He explained that Edward Poynter's amazing painted ceiling depicted Time, with Past, Future and the four elements at the east end, the seasons and signs of the zodiac down the centre, and the two months associated with each sign on either side. The stained glass windows at the east end of the nave were designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones in 1861: the rose window features the seven days of creation with Christ sitting on a rainbow in the centre. Below it is a triple lancet window, the centre showing a Jesse Tree. (This



artist's windows were also a feature of St. Michael and All Angels in Waterford, the little jewel-box church visited on the 'church crawl' last year.)

This was an enjoyable visit to Waltham Abbey, with its history of five different churches built on the same spot over the centuries; its connection with King Harold makes it particularly special, as his death changed this island for ever.

If you have never been, it is worth the journey (which isn't far) for the ceiling and windows alone!

*Maureen Butler*

# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2010-11

## Tuesday 7th September 2010 Society Annual General Meeting

Verulamium Museum, 7.30 p.m.

### **Pint Pot versus Coffee Pot: Temperance in late-Victorian St Albans**

Jon Mein

In the late nineteenth century hundreds of coffee taverns were opened throughout the country, mainly as an adjunct to the Temperance movement. Their aim was to establish for the first time refreshment houses where the working class could get meals and non-alcoholic drinks at appropriately low prices. The tavern in French Row was opened in 1879. Its history throws light on changing attitudes to the town's breweries, inns and pubs, for many years important sources of wealth and employment. Moreover, it also suggests that the motivation for establishing the business was not just limited to reducing drunkenness among the working class.

Jon Mein has a degree in History and Law. Having worked in the computer industry advising large organisations how to negotiate with the major software vendors, he is currently taking a career break giving him time to research and write about 19th century St Albans - and the coalmining community of Pembrokeshire!

## Tuesday 14th September 2010 **Commerce and Conflict - the early development of London's docks**

Tom Wareham

This illustrated talk outlines 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 traces 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 author of several books and has contributed to numerous radio and TV programmes, including Peter Ackroyd's *Thames: Sacred River* in 2008. 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.

## Friday 24th September 2010 **The End of Roman Britain: what ended, when and why?**

Dr Andrew Gardner

A crucial event in the formation of the culture and identity of Britain occurred 1600 years ago – or did it? While tradition has it that the Roman occupation of Britain ended in AD 410, events surrounding this year need to be seen in the context of longer processes of change and of the problems that beset archaeological and historical evidence from this period. This lecture will consider the key question of who and what was 'Roman' in 4th century Britain as a prelude to thinking about what exactly changed in the early 5th century, and why.

Dr. Andrew Gardner is Lecturer in the Archaeology of the Roman Empire at UCL. His research deals with the nature of identity in colonial and post-colonial situations, particularly in the Roman Empire and post-Roman Europe. His published work includes *An Archaeology of Identity: soldiers and society in late Roman Britain* (2007). As part of his ongoing research on the Roman military he is co-director of excavations on the site of a major Roman fortress at Caerleon in Wales.

## Tuesday 5th October 2010 **The Old Kent Road**

Stephen Humphrey

The Old Kent Road has been a major route for 2,000 years: the Romans' route from Dubris to Londinium; the mediaeval pilgrimage route to Canterbury; and the modern A2. But urban development took place only after about 1780. The Kent Road became Kent Street at Lock Bridge, and then went towards London Bridge. Pubs were the early obvious landmarks. Then came the Surrey Canal, Bricklayer's Arms' Station and the South Metropolitan Gas Works. During the mid- and late 19th century, the road became a shopping street. In the 20th century, this has changed to supermarkets and 'warehouses'. Street traders or costermongers were once prominent. Public buildings have included churches, libraries, public baths and a museum. Today, the road is notable for West African churches. It remains a major route and a place

for shopping.

Stephen Humphrey is a historian and archivist. He read history at Cambridge and studied archives at University College, London and has a long interest in churches in this country and beyond. He is the author of *Churches and Cathedrals of London* (New Holland, 2000) and editor of the *Blue Guide to English Churches and Chapels* (A. & C. Black, 1991) as well as author of many books on Southwark's history, with a special interest in historic industries. He was Hon. Secretary of the Ecclesiological Society, 1979-1991. In the world of archives he has served as Hon. Treasurer of the Surrey Record Society since 1988. Stephen joined the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society in 1968 and took part in various local excavations after that time.

## Tuesday 12th October 2010 **History of Lemsford**

Andy Chapman

This lecture will consist of a presentation and brief history of Lemsford from around 1000 AD using maps from the Lemsford archive showing roads and names for each period. The maps are credited to David Spence. They show how the area looked from the Bronze Age up to 1850 and will also include maps from 1900, 1925, 1950 and 1975. The main subject will be the Victorian history from around 1859, the year the parish of Lemsford was created.

Andy Chapman lives in the parish of Lemsford in an area called Stanborough. He has been a member of Lemsford Local History Group for over 5 years and looks after and maintains the website [www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk](http://www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk). He has also built a site for a local historian, Herbert John Brown, [www.hjbrownhistorian.co.uk](http://www.hjbrownhistorian.co.uk) and has recently completed a website for the village [www.lemsfordvillage.co.uk](http://www.lemsfordvillage.co.uk)

## Tuesday 19th October 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 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 October 2010 **Lost Voices from the Titanic: Bringing the past to life**

Dr Nick Barratt

The talk will investigate the way the Titanic has been portrayed through history, why it's so iconic, and the myths that have invariably grown up around it. It will then focus on the voices themselves: some brave, some selfish, some heartbreaking, but all giving full expression to their thoughts which have lain dormant in archives for decades.

Dr Nick Barratt is a writer, broadcaster and historian; his PhD is in medieval state finance, and he has run Sticks Research Agency since 2000. Currently, he is Editor in Chief for a new magazine, *Your Family History*. TV roles have included presenting the first series of *Who Do You Think You Are*, and he has subsequently presented *So You Think You're Royal*, *History Mysteries*, *Hidden House History*, *Secrets from the Attic* and *Live the Dream: As Seen on Screen*. He has published several books, including *How to Trace the History of Your House*, the *Who Do You Think You Are Encyclopaedia of Family History*, and *My Guide to Your Ancestors' Lives*.

## Tuesday 9th November 2010 **The Phoenix - The Men who made Modern London**

Leo Hollis

*The Phoenix* tells the story of London from the Civil War to the first years of the eighteenth century – a time of revolution, restoration, plague, fire and the moment that the modern city was born. In his talk, historian Leo Hollis will look at the generation which rebuilt the city out of the ashes of the 1666 fire, in particular Sir Christopher Wren and Robert Hooke who graced the metropolis with its most resplendent monuments, and Nicholas Barbon the leading builder/speculator of his day.

Leo Hollis is an author and an editor. He is the author of *Historic London Walks*, a history of the city in 12 walks; *The Phoenix* was published in 2008. He is currently working on *The Stones of London: How the City was Built and How it Remakes Us*. Leo lives in London.

### **Tuesday 16th November 2010**

#### ***Domestic Architecture in St Albans, c 1800***

*John Bethell*

Following the successful exhibition of John Bethell's photographs of St Michael's Village, the evening will provide an opportunity to view further photographs of upper Fishpool Street, Romeland, George Street, the streets around the Clock Tower, St Peter's Street and Holywell Hill. This will be preceded by a short film to act as a taster to the photographs sub-titled 'A walk through St Albans, ca.1800'. Each photograph will be described and there will be an opportunity for audience participation. Following the lecture John will be happy to show his camera equipment which he has used over the years.

John trained at the Munich Photographic School, and started to specialise in architectural and fine arts subjects (on a free-lance basis) soon after his return to England. He worked for the DoE for some time, taking photographs of castles and abbeys throughout England and Wales, and for the National Trust at many of their properties in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. John has published a number of books, making use of photos specially taken for them by himself, and his photo-library has supplied innumerable photos for the publishers of books and magazines over the years. His retirement coincided with the arrival of professional quality digital photography and it is this which has enabled him to undertake the projects in which he is currently engaged.

### **Friday 26th November 2010**

#### ***Katherine the Queen***

*Dr Linda Porter*

All most people know about Katherine Parr, Henry VIII's sixth wife, is that she 'survived'. She has often been dismissed as a matronly figure who nursed Henry and made little impact on the drama-ridden Tudor court.

The truth, however, is much more interesting. Katherine was only 30 when she married the king. Attractive, intelligent and increasingly radical, she had been widowed twice and went on to marry for love after Henry's death, only to die in childbirth. Her influence on Henry's children was profound and the old king doted on her. The story of a plot to have her executed for her Protestant beliefs is unsubstantiated, though there is evidence of marital problems in 1546. But Katherine did, indeed, survive. She was the first English queen to be published and her religious writings were best-sellers into the 17th century.

Linda Porter has a D. Phil in History from the University of York. In a varied career, she has been a university lecturer, worked as a journalist and fund-raiser and been a senior adviser on international public and government relations to British Telecommunications plc (BT). *Mary Tudor* was her first book. Her second, a new life of *Katherine Parr*, was published by Macmillan in spring 2010. Linda has made a number of radio broadcasts and undertakes regular speaking engagements and appearances at literary festivals. A member of The Biographers Club, and winner of its 2004 prize, Linda hails from Devon. She has lived in New York and Paris and now resides in Kent.

### **Tuesday 7th December 2010**

#### ***An Evening of Old Films***

*Alan Willmott*

*A Roman episode* features Verulamium, was produced in 1949 when Audrey Williams was Curator of the Museum and is narrated by John Snagge.

*Open House*, produced in 1951 by BTF for London Transport, shows a number of country houses open to the public: Sutton Place, Polesden Lacy, Knowle of the Sackvilles and Penshurst Place, West Wycombe Park and Hatfield House amongst others.

*The England of Elizabeth* was produced in 1957 by BTF for general exhibition. A L Rowse, the eminent historian, wrote: 'The Elizabethan Age is not something dead and apart from us... wherever one goes in England there are the visible memorials of what those men and women were when they were alive, the houses they built and lived in, the things they made and wore, the objects they cherished, the patterns they imposed upon the very landscape'. Some of the visible traces as well as something of the spirit of that England of Elizabeth, of Drake and

Raleigh and of Shakespeare, are recorded in this film, for which Dr Ralph Vaughan-Williams composed the music.

Alan Willmott has worked in the documentary film world for over 30 years, mainly with British Transport Films (British Railways Board's own in-house film unit). He was mainly involved with the film distribution and exhibition side, and is now quite an expert on the unit's activities over the years (1949-85). Since retiring in 1990 he now operates free-lance under the name of Windjammer Films, specialising in 16mm film production and presentations. He has produced many films on the steam railway preservation scene, and some have been screened on Channel Four TV. He is also an enthusiast on film music and British composers in particular.

### **Friday 7th January 2011**

#### ***Society New Year Party at Verulamium Museum***

### **Tuesday 11th January 2011**

#### ***Flamstead - A Brief History***

*Eric Edwards*

### **Tuesday 18th January 2011**

#### ***The Inns and Outs of Pub Names***

*Mark Pardoe*

### **Friday 28th January 2011**

#### ***The Life and Death of St Albans' Inns***

*Ann Dean*

### **Tuesday 8th February 2011**

#### ***Villages of East London - Part II***

*Peter Lawrence*

### **Tuesday 15th February 2011**

#### ***Industry in the Market Towns of East Hertfordshire***

*Tony Crosby*

### **Friday 25th February 2011**

#### ***This Old House: Excavations at Chiswick House***

*David Fellows*

### **Tuesday 8th March 2011**

#### ***A Window on Victorian St Albans: The Life and Works of John Henry Buckingham (1800 - 1881)***

*Amy Warner*

### **Tuesday 15th March 2011**

#### ***A City at War : The Home Front***

*Ann Ledger*

### **Friday 25th March 2011**

#### ***The Holocaust: A Child's Experience***

*Steven Frank*

### **Tuesday 5th April 2011**

#### ***Historical Snippets of Kimpton***

*Bob Finch*

### **Tuesday 12th April 2011**

#### ***Cromer: Last of Hertfordshire's Windmills***

*Robin Webb*

### **Friday 29th April 2011**

#### ***The Verneys: A True Story of Love, War and Madness in Seventeenth-Century England***

*Adrian Tinniswood*

### **Tuesday 10th May 2011**

#### ***The Day Before Their World Ended***

*Rev Peter Wadsworth*

### **Tuesday 17th May 2011**

#### ***Christ's Hospital 1552 - 2011***

*Colin Bell*

### **Friday 27th May 2011**

#### ***Ten Minutes to Noon: A History of Copped Hall***

*Peter Dalton*

**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.**

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