



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Our New Year Party at Verulamium Museum brought out the usual throng of members keen to sample the mulled wine and food (coordinated by Bryan Hanlon and Doreen Bratby respectively), and to test their mettle with the quizzes provided by Bryan Hanlon and Chris Green.*

*Our President, Professor Michael Cooper, said a few words to the audience, reproduced below, and the Mayor also spoke of the value she attaches to the heritage of St Albans.*

*Empty bottles and clean plates testified to the level of pleasure we enjoy at this annual get-together. Thanks on behalf of all on Council go to those who helped set up beforehand, clear away afterwards, man the bar, and provide food for the event. Behind the scenes, a huge amount of work goes into this event each year and volunteers to assist are always welcome.*

I would like to welcome our guests here this evening. For more than 160 years The Earls of Verulam have been either Patrons or Presidents of this Society, so I am particularly pleased tonight to welcome two of our Patrons: The Earl and Countess of Verulam.

Throughout the second half of the 19th century, Anglican clerics were the most active group among the membership. Another Patron, The Bishop of St Albans, has sent his apologies for absence tonight, but I am delighted that the Dean of St Albans, The Right Reverend Dr Jeffrey John and his civil partner The Reverend Grant Holmes have accepted our invitation to join us this evening.

The Society has had a long association with the civic authority in St Albans. The Museum of St Albans in Hatfield Road was established through the mutual interests of the Society and the civic authority more than a century ago. St Albans City and District Council holds discussions with us and other local organizations about a new cultural hub for the City; our members and

members of the Civic Society volunteer to supervise the Clock Tower when it is open to visitors on summer weekends (please talk to Helen Bishop if you are thinking of becoming a volunteer); the Mayor's Prize is awarded annually for the best contribution to the history of St Albans; and the Society's library is housed in the Judge's' Robing Room. I am therefore pleased to welcome the Mayor, Councillor Maxine Crawley, and her husband Warwick. I have invited the Mayor to say a few words before we disperse.

***Clockwise from right: Lord Verulam with Helen Bishoop; John Cox with Lady Verulam; welcoming guests at the door***

The Society's associations with individuals from local aristocratic, religious and civic institutions can be traced throughout the volumes of the Society's Transactions, first published in 1849. Last year the Company of Mercers' Charitable Trust awarded the Society a grant towards the cost of digitizing all 4000 pages of the Transactions. A few members have already started the long and demanding task of transforming those 4000 images into searchable facsimiles of the original pages for our website. Among the cyberspace cacophony of tweets, blogs, facebook, podcasts and Wikileaks,





*Right, Her Worship the Major, Councillor Maxine Crawley, admires the food table.*

*Below, a dramatic centrepiece of pineapple*



Unfortunately, owing to a family emergency, Jill and Adam are not able to be here tonight, and the presentation will be made to them at the next suitable opportunity.

Finally, on behalf of everyone here I would like to thank the Society's Council and other members who have helped with the preparations for the party, and the museum staff, particularly Mark Boyd for his work tonight.

Chris Green has, as usual, devised a quiz for us, with prizes, but I am sorry to say that it will be his last. I am sure he has the best wishes of all of us for an active and happy early retirement.

I now invite the Mayor to lead the guests into the next room where a buffet of delights has been provided by members.

*Michael Cooper*



*Manning the bar ...*

our Transactions will be a small, quiet centre for evidence of the remarkable social and intellectual lives of our predecessors.

I also welcome Nigel Goose, Professor of Social and Economic History at the University of Hertfordshire, and the historian Margaret Ward.

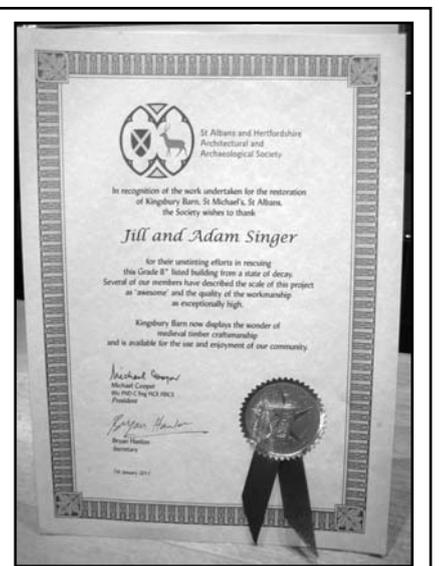
I now have an even more pleasant duty to perform on behalf of the Society. Dr Jill Singer, one of our members, and her husband Adam have been invited here tonight to receive the Society's formal appreciation of their incredible achievement in taking full responsibility for the restoration of Kingsbury Barn and in bringing the work to a successful conclusion. The citation reads as follows:

“In recognition and appreciation of the work undertaken for the

restoration of Kingsbury Barn, St. Michael's, St Albans, the Society wishes to thank Jill and Adam Singer for their unstinting efforts in rescuing this Grade II\* listed building from a state of decay. Several of our members have described the scale of this project as awesome and the quality of the workmanship as exceptionally high. Kingsbury Barn now displays the wonder of mediaeval timber craftsmanship and is available for the use and enjoyment of our community.”



*Michael Cooper presents the Certificate of Appreciation to Jill and Adam Singer at our lecture on Friday 28th January*



## RESIDENTS FIRST WEEKEND

The Library was open as usual for Residents First Weekend January 29th-30th. We mounted an exhibition of some of the pictures of Edward Stanley Kent. Kent was a brewer by trade who took some magnificent black and white images of St Albans, between 1895 and 1920 approximately.

Not only does he show buildings such as Hall Place, and many of the inns, which have since been lost, but the wide empty streets, with perhaps the odd horse and cart, remind us of a world very different from the one we know today. There is a particularly potent image of an alleyway, long since gone, which looks positively Dickensian! Some of the views, of course, have not changed quite so much, and there was much comment and speculation, as people tried to identify particular sites!

The Library is very fortunate to have a collection of over 70 of his images, and they will shortly be appearing on the website. We also hope to move the exhibition, in due course, to the



public library, so there may be a further opportunity to see it.

A reasonable number of people came, and there was considerable interest shown. It would have been nice to see a few more Arc & Arc members - your library has a number of local 'treasures', of which you might be quite unaware! Sincere thanks are due to all who helped

steward the exhibition: Tony, Christine, Elizabeth, Andrew, Anne, John, Donald, Brian, Gill and Richard. Special thanks should be recorded to Tony, Elizabeth and Andrew, who supplied both the technical expertise and the planning and display skills necessary for an enterprise of this kind.

*Gill Harvey*

## WHAT'S ON?

### Forensic Aspects of Ancient Egypt

Saturday 5th March from 11.00 a.m. at the University of London

A study day presented by Joyce Filer BA DipArch MSc, formerly Curator of Human Remains, Dept of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, British Museum, London.

### Mummies of Ancient Egypt

Saturday 19th March from 11.00 a.m. at the University of London

A study day presented by Joyce Filer BA DipArch MSc, formerly Curator of Human Remains, Dept of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, British Museum, London.

For details of both these events visit [www.ees.ac.uk/userfiles/file/FilerStudyDays2011.pdf](http://www.ees.ac.uk/userfiles/file/FilerStudyDays2011.pdf)

### Guided Walk around Hitchin

Thursday 26 May 10.30am - 12.00 noon. Meet at the main entrance to St Mary's Church, cost £4 per person.

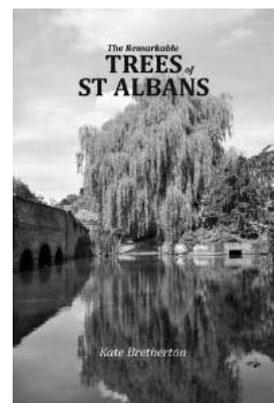
To reserve your place please contact Pat Howe by email [pathowe@talk21.com](mailto:pathowe@talk21.com) or by telephone on 01727 857274.

### Commemoration of the 550th Anniversary of 2nd Battle of St Albans, 17th February 1461, Wars of the Roses

26th and 27th February 2011. Hosted by St Saviour's Church, Sandpit Lane, and organized by the Battlefields Trust ([www.battlefieldstrust.com](http://www.battlefieldstrust.com)). Over the weekend there will be a series of talks and events culminating on Sunday evening with a 15th century requiem mass for the fallen at St Saviour's Church.. The service will be open to all denominations and will also feature 15th century music. As a curtain-raiser, the City Museum in Hatfield Road will be hosting events relating to the battle and medieval St Albans at the end of January.

### The Remarkable Trees of St Albans

A new publication by Kate Bretherton. The fascinating story of the wonderful trees of St Albans and its surrounding towns, villages and countryside. There are lovely photographs and 244 pages of text with chapters on trees with historical connections, our favourite trees, parks and churchyards, tree management and how we can help to make sure that future generations have trees as remarkable as the ones we inherited



## INTRODUCING LIVING MEMORIES

### OUR COMMUNITY WEBSITE FOR THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES

On 29th and 30th January 2011, Residents' First Weekend was celebrated by the Library team with a display of some of the photographs of Stanley Kent whose collection of lantern slides have been copied and digitised for greater use by members of the Society as well as the general public outside. Soon we hope they will be added to the website at [www.stalbanshistory.org](http://www.stalbanshistory.org).

Volunteers to undertake Research on 19th century topics have dwindled following the loss of its convenor but the Council hopes to recruit a new dynamic individual to move the group forward, nurturing new people, assisting those who have difficulty in finding information etc.

However, we have decided to invite members and the people of the city and district to contribute their Living Memories of life in the 20th and 21st centuries. One has only to look at Google and the Community Archives website to see just how many of these have been set up over the past ten or eleven years. We have the specialist software and a group of members have been trained to make things happen.

The initial launch took place at Residents First Weekend where there was information and some ideas for people to consider using to thinking/and contributing the memory(ies).

Publicity began on 29th and 30th January and will develop in the coming weeks and months. If anyone would like any help in looking for factual information to back up a memory please contact me or a member of the Library team.

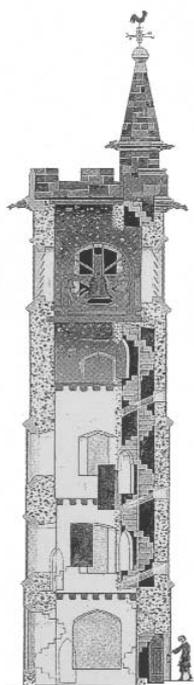
Together let us show the world why St. Albans is such an exciting place to live. -

"Tomorrow is the future" ... "Today is the Present" ... "Yesterday is History!".

*John G.E. Cox*

Publicity Officer

## CLOCK TOWER REPORT



Easter is very late this year (24th April), so the Clock Tower will open on Good Friday (22nd April). Last year was a busy and interesting year, with 4600 adults and 1500 children visiting the Tower. We hope to increase that number in 2011. I would like to record my thanks to Chris Green, Museums Officer at SADC, for the help and support he has given the volunteers at the Tower. His knowledge and experience will be very much missed when he retires.

You may be interested to know how the Arc & Arc and the Civic Society became involved in the running of the Clock Tower, and I am grateful to Brian Moody for the information given here.

People have probably been taken up the Tower for hundreds of years, and after the Second World War it was in the care of the City Council. They paid for a custodian to open it to the public, but this proved too expensive to continue.

So in 1972 the Council approached the President of

the Arc & Arc, Frank Kilvington, for advice and assistance in providing public access to this historic place. The Society organised a public exhibition at the Tower and from 1975 to 1976 arranged a rota of volunteers to open it to visitors in the summer. It was decided that two members should be on duty at a time.

By 1977 it was evident that more help was needed and Frank approached Dennis Owen, Chairman of the Civic Society, who agreed to collaborate. So from that time the Tower has been manned by the two societies on alternate weekends from Easter to September. A Joint Clock Tower Committee was set up and it was agreed that the two societies should share the modest fees collected.

To begin with the two societies were also responsible for cleaning and maintaining the Tower. It has remained open, except for a period in 1985-6 when it had to be closed for structural repairs, supervised by local expert and Arc & Arc member Dr Eileen Roberts. The City Council continues to

own and administer the Tower on behalf of us all.

At first there was one single organiser for the season, who did practically everything except sell tickets, but the load was lightened when the system of weekend organisers began. Each of these passed the Clock Tower kit on to the next weekend organiser during the summer season. In the 35 years which have now passed, organisers have included Colin and Maureen Smart, Rita Cadisch (twice), David Aubrey, Brian Moody, Jill Bennett and, since 2010, Helen Bishop. Many people have given long and faithful service to the Clock Tower over the years.

On summer weekends individual volunteer clock watchers spend one and a half to two hours welcoming visitors and overseeing the Tower. More volunteers are always welcome and I would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to help.

*Helen Bishop*

Clock Tower Co-ordinator  
(contact details page 10)

# A VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE

## 24TH SEPTEMBER 2011

The St Albans Civic Society is organising a day coach trip to give everyone a real flavour of this historic city, and have offered places to members of our Society.

Leaving St Peter's Street at 08.45 a.m., we expect to arrive in Cambridge by 10.00 a.m. where we shall first visit Kings College Chapel (entrance fee payable). At about 10.45, we shall leave the chapel for a coffee/wc stop (of your own choosing) before we have a 1½- 2 hour guided walk around this part of the city, cost expected to be about £7, followed by lunch (again of your own choosing. or bring a picnic if you prefer).

Allowing approx. one hour for lunch, we then offer two options:

- EITHER: stay in Cambridge to 'do your own thing' or, if you wish, join another (different) two-hour tour (cost about £5). Both morning and afternoon tours would be 'gown' rather than 'town'.
- OR: travel on in the coach to Anglesey Abbey, one man's vision of English country living. The Abbey is an early 20th century luxury home, lovingly created from the remnants of 800 years of change. The beautiful gardens are a modern version of the grand 18th century landscape gardens, such as Stourhead and Stowe. (Free to National Trust members.)

The coach will leave Anglesey Abbey at 5.00 p.m. to collect members from Cambridge, and return to St Albans at about 7.30 p.m.

You do not, of course, have to join us on the guided walks: you may prefer to saunter around on your own, take a punt on the Cam etc. It's up to you.

The cost of this coach trip will be £17.50 per person. Guided walks, entrance fees etc will be extra, paid on the day. (We have estimated these extra costs, as 2011 figures have yet to be confirmed.)

### **How to book:-**

- Please fill in the form below for the visit(s) of your choice
- Make cheque payable to SAHAAS
- Date each cheque with the date of the visit - 24/09/2011
- Send your completed form to Bryan Hanlon at: 24 Monks Horton Way, St Albans, AL1 4HA, tel. 01727 851734
- Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for receipt

Seats are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Cancellations may mean no refund although every effort will be made to sell on seats to those on any waiting list. Your friends are welcome: they may even join our Society too!

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### **BOOKING FORM**

Name ..... Tel. no. ....

Address .....

I wish to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) for the visit to Cambridge on 24th September 2011. I would like to join:

- the morning tour
- the afternoon tour
- the visit to Anglesey Abbey

I enclose one cheque, dated 24th September 2011, made payable to SAHAAS, together with a stamped addressed envelope.

**Please send to Bryan Hanlon, 24 Monks Horton Way, St Albans AL1 4HA**

## LIBRARY NOTES AND QUERIES

At the time of writing, the library team is preparing an exhibition to be held in the library during Residents First Weekend (see page 3), showing photographs of St Albans from the 1890s to the 1920s. These were taken by local photographer Stanley Kent, and taken from an album he presented to the Arc & Arc in the 1930s. The images are newly digitised and enlarged from the album photographs. Residents First Weekend will have passed by the time members read this paragraph, and they may have missed the opportunity of seeing the exhibition. Do not despair: the images will be put up on the Arc & Arc website in due course.

The company Drivers Jonas Deloitte has recently given us photocopies of 19th century notices announcing auction sales by one of their ancestor companies, Messrs Driver, of properties in the St Albans area. We are very grateful for this gift. The notices fall into two groups. The first is concerned with land in the areas of Sleapshyde, Smallford Station, Colney Heath, and Welham Green, all to be sold on 1st July 1914. They include several farms, meadow land and woodland, as well as building land, and plans of most of the sites are provided. The second group features properties to be sold in St Albans, Park Street, St Stephens, Napsbury, Abbott's Langley, Ridge, and London Colney, for sale at various dates between 1812 and 1816, in 1837 and 1869. The properties include houses in St Albans, one of which, in the Abbey Orchard, is engagingly described as 'cheerfully situated adjoining the borough town of St Albans'. Among the others are Park Mill, Napsbury Farm, and the Colney House estate. The notice for the latter carries an illustration of the front of the house, floor plans of the ground and first floors, and plans of the estate, indicating ownership of adjoining properties.

A correspondent from Spain, David Payne, who found the Arc & Arc via the website, wrote to tell us of his St Albans ancestors, who lived in Culver Road. His grandfather, Alfred Thomas Hopkins, served in the Machine Gun

Corps in the first World War, and was killed near Ypres in 1917. His death is recorded in the St Albans Roll of Honour, but it carries no further details. Mr Payne has provided those details in his letter, together with a map of the Jam Trench where Alfred died, a transcript of his officer's report of the incident, a copy of the Herts Advertiser report of his death, and a copy of a photograph of Alfred, in uniform, with his wife and young children.

Mr Payne's maternal forebears ran The Angel pub, Sleapshyde, and The Plough in Smallford, and he has provided a photograph of a family wedding group outside The Plough around 1919.

Other enquiries have concerned the origin of the name Smug Oak; St Peter's church; a booklet on families of the Camp, now acquired for the library; and Sir Richard Raynshaw and his house in Spicer Street.

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

*English medieval graffiti*, by Violet Pritchard. Cambridge U.P. 1976. xii, 196 pp, illus. Graffiti in Hertfordshire sites are described and illustrated on pp 91-118.

*Understanding the archaeology of landscapes: a guide to good recording practice*. English Heritage, 2007. 36 pp, plans, photos, illus.

*Pint pot versus coffee pot: temperance in late Victorian St Albans*, by Jonathan Mein. 17pp, photos, diagrams, maps. The text of a presentation to the Arc & Arc in September 2010.

*Poverty, old age and gender in nineteenth-century England: the case of Hertfordshire*. By Nigel Goose. *Continuity and Change*, vol. 20, no 3, 2005, pp. 351-384. Examines the relative incidence of poverty, with special reference to gender, and its treatment under the New Poor Law. (A journal article, but shelved as a book).

*The Oxford Companion to family and local history*, edited by David Hey. 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, 2010. 661 pp.

*The origins of Hertfordshire*, by Tom Williamson. 2nd edition. Hatfield, Hertfordshire Publications, 2010. 271 pp, maps, plans, illus. Expanded and revised from the first edition, taking into account new research and theories as to the history of Hertfordshire from late prehistoric times to the 13th century.

*Children of the labouring poor: the working lives of children in nineteenth-*

*century Hertfordshire*, by Eileen Wallace. Hatfield, Hertfordshire Publications, 2010. 168 pp, illus, plans. The focus is on children working mainly in agriculture, straw-plaiting, paper-making, brick-making and chimney-sweeping. Conditions were comparable to those in Northern industrial towns.

*"We have to deal with the farmers": episodes in the history of North Hertfordshire in the 19th and 20th centuries*, by Margaret Bowyer. Cambridge, EAH Press, 2010. 80pp, illus. Essays illustrating how national legislation was applied in practice by the lower tiers of government, in particular in education and agriculture.

*St Albans historical map and brief guide*. St Albans Council, 1968. Folded map, with a chronology and notes on the more prominent buildings.

*Hertfordshire places: an alphabetical finding aid for historical place-names in Hertfordshire*, compiled by Margaret Ward. H. Hertfordshire Family History Society (Special Publication no 7), 2008. 64pp.

*Herbs: a comprehensive list of herbal remedies, and some brief notes on their adaptability to the treatment of common illnesses*. St Albans, Heath and Heather Ltd, 1925. 102 pp, illus.

*Local history internet sites: a directory*. Compiled by Jacqueline Filmore. Ashbourne, British Association for Local History, 2010. 38pp. Lists 353 sites, with some detailed notes on additional recommended sites.

*In search of St Alban*, by Simon Webb. Langley Press, 2010. 48pp, illus. The story of St Alban, set against the background of Roman Verulamium. Includes Bede's version of the story from his Ecclesiastical History.

### **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.

*Hertfordshire gardens on Ermine Street*, by Hertfordshire Gardens Trust and Richard Bisgrove. The Trust, 1996. 32pp, illus, plans. The gardens lie along the line of the modern A10.

*The remarkable trees of St Albans*, by Kate Bretherton. Redbourn, The Author, 2010. 242pp, illus. A celebration of trees in the St Albans district, with many fine photographs.

*Tominey's City Ices: ice-cream manufacturers of St Albans: an illustrated history*, by Sharon Tominey. The Author, 2010. 40pp, photos.

### Recent journal articles

In *Herts Past and Present* Autumn 2010

Pp 3-12 Lydia Hope's inventory of paintings and Charles I's art collection, by Sylvia Beare. Lydia Hope left 34 paintings on her death in 1691. Investigation shows that many of them came from King Charles I's collection, sold in 1649.

Pp 13-14 Some of Hertfordshire's special trees, by Rachel Sanderson. Discusses Oxhey Woods, and some individual trees in Ashridge.

Pp 15-21 The great Bed of Ware: a literary history, by David Perman.

Pp 22-30 Property ownership in twelve Hertfordshire parishes in the nineteenth century, by Nigel Agar. Analysis of a sanitary inspector's report on the Rural District of Hitchin 1877 shows evidence of social change, the decline of the squirearchy, and rise of property ownership by the middling classes.

In *The Alban Link* Autumn 2010

Pp 4-5 The Ikon of Christ Pantocrator, by the Very Rev. Jeffrey John

Pp 6-9 Abbots of the Abbey of St Alban: the role of post-Conquest abbots, by Sheila Green. An introduction to the abbot's role, which also explains how they were elected.

Pp 10-12 We're ringing the changes, by Julia Low and Justin Cross. The Abbey bells have undergone a major restoration.

Pp 13-15 A tale of two clocks, by Gail Thomas. There may be a link between a late 14th century clock in the Italian town of Chioggia and St Albans Abbey, where Abbot Richard of Wallingford's clock had been designed 50 years earlier.

Pp 16-19 Celebrating Matthew Paris, by Andrew and Gabriella Shepstone.

Report of the Matthew Paris symposium held in February 2010.

In *Current Archaeology* October 2010

Pp37-41 Boudicca's final battle, by Neil Faulkner. A trailer for a detailed article in the first issue of a new journal, Military Times. The second section discusses the archaeology of the Boudiccan revolt.

In *Harpenden and District Local History Society Newsletter* October 2010

Pp 8-9 WW2 secret radio stations in Harpenden, by John Marlow. Report of a Society talk by Stan Ames, mentioning sites at Sandridge and Smallford.

Pp 10-12 "The Onlooker", by Eric Brandreth. An account of a short-lived local journal.

Pp 15-17 Hidden histories: slavery in Hertfordshire, by Joyce Bunting. Report of a talk by Llinos Thomas, which cites some examples of people of Afro-Caribbean descent present in Hertfordshire, and some of the people involved in the emancipation movement.

Pp 21-23 The lost diaries of Sir John B Lawes, as researched by John Jenkyn and Roger Plumb, by John Jenkyn. The diaries and associated papers, covering the years 1847 to 1879, are concerned with administration of the Rothamsted estate and associated businesses.

In *Current Archaeology* December 2010

Pp 12-19 Un-Roman attitudes: exposing the myth of Britannia, by Miles Russell and Stuart Laycock. Argues that Roman culture had less influence on Britain than is conventionally thought.

### Journals received

*British Archaeology* November/ December 2010

*Conservation Update*

*Hendon and District Archaeology Society Newsletter*, issues for October, November and December 2010.

*London Archaeologist* Autumn 2010

*Independent Archaeology* October 2010

*Hertfordshire People* December 2010

*Current Archaeology* November 2010

*The Local Historian* November 2010

*Local History News* Autumn 2010

*Bricket Wood Society Newsletter* December 2010

## BIDDY HODGE

Those members acquainted with Biddy Hodge, who died on 9th December after 94 energetic years in St Albans, cannot have failed to be impressed by her unquenchable thirst for knowledge of local people and events. She was born at about the time when her father, F M Walker, came to St Albans School from the Isle of Wight to take charge of the School boarding house at Monastery Close, previous a home of Charles Ashdown. (Boarders were of increasing importance to the School, but their purpose-built School House was not nearly big enough.)

She said that one of her earliest memories was of the victory processions going past the house in Abbey Mill Lane after the 1914-18 war. So Biddy grew up in a very scholarly environment, in fact she was almost regarded as a St Albans School pupil. Afterwards she became a teacher, like her father, and was for many years headmistress of the independent Lyndale School in St Albans, where several masters from St Albans School were part-time teachers.

She was also a notable hockey player as well as a mother of four. So it is perhaps not surprising that she did not have time to join the Arc & Arc, but some years ago she presented to the Society a copy of her excellent book on the life of Sir John Blundell Maple and family.

I was lucky to spend many interesting hours with her, exchanging information about local history and many other subjects. There will be a memorial service for her in the spring.

Brian Moody

## CAN YOU HELP VERULAM HOUSE?

**The residents of Verulam House Nursing & Residential Care Home have expressed a wish for members of our Society to visit the Home to give talks from time to time.**

**As members will know, one or two of our members are resident in the Home.**

**Should you be interested in offering your services you are asked to contact Tania Maheer on 01727 860816 or at [info@verulamhouse.co.uk](mailto:info@verulamhouse.co.uk).**

# LECTURE PROGRAMME 2010-11

## LECTURE PROGRAMME CHANGES

Due to unexpected circumstances the lecture due to be given on Tuesday 8 March by Amy Warner, entitled *A Window on Victorian St Albans: The Life and Works of John Henry Buckingham (1800-1881)* has been cancelled. In its place, Steven Davidson, Clockmaker to Windsor Castle, will present a lecture entitled *The Clocks of Windsor Castle*.

It has been announced that 29th April is to be a public holiday owing to the Royal Wedding, and the School of Law, University of Hertfordshire will therefore be closed. The speaker, Adrian Tinniswood, will give his lecture on *The Verneys: A true Story of Love, War and Madness in Seventeenth Century England* during the 2011 - 2012 lecture programme.

### Friday 25th February 2011

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

*David Fellows*

Chiswick House is a magnificent neo-Palladian villa set in beautiful historic gardens in west London. Work has recently been completed on the £12.1 million restoration of the Chiswick Estate, the birthplace of the English Landscape Movement. The restoration project has been informed and accompanied by archaeological and historical research, including targeted archaeological excavations, and this lecture will present some of the discoveries made during this work.

David Fellows is English Heritage Archaeologist. Since graduating from Lancaster University in 1988 he has worked as an archaeologist for a number of archaeological companies on a very broad range of sites, both in the UK and abroad. He has been employed by English Heritage in his current role as a project researcher and archaeologist since 1996, and is currently based at Fort Cumberland in Portsmouth. His archaeological interests lean towards the medieval and post-medieval periods, and he is happiest on site with a trowel in hand

### Tuesday 8th March 2011

#### ***The Clocks of Windsor Castle***

*Steven Davidson*

This lecture will be about some of the very best clocks in the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle. It will tell the story of their history and their owners and makers. Steven will also talk about his work of maintaining and restoring the clocks of Windsor Castle.

Steven Davidson is a Fellow of The British Horological Institute and is Clockmaker to Windsor Castle. In 1976 he started a seven year apprenticeship being indentured to J. W. Davidson FBHI in Shenley, Hertfordshire and remained in the family business until 1991. From 1991 -1998 Steven worked on his own from Shephed in Leicestershire selling and restoring antique clocks. For the last twelve years he has been Clockmaker to Windsor Castle.

### Tuesday 15th March 2011

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

*Ann Ledger*

The talk awakens the nostalgic period of World War II, recreating those familiar memories of land-girls, rationing, make-do-and-mend, and forgetting your troubles at the local cinemas and dance halls. It illustrates the resourcefulness of St Albans people in the hard times and their generosity of spirit in welcoming evacuees into their homes. It reveals some of the secret war operations that took place in St Albans, unbeknown

to its local residents. Her lecture will give its audience an opportunity to reminisce the bitter-sweet period of 1939 to 1945 and enjoy the memories it evokes.

Ann Ledger is a St Albans Guide and has lived in St Albans for nearly thirty years. She graduated from Hertfordshire University with a Humanities Degree in History and Literature. Ann has always fostered a keen interest in local history and is a member of organisations which promote and protect the heritage and history of St Albans.

### Friday 25th March 2011

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

*Steven Frank*

Steven Frank was born on the 27th July 1935 in Amsterdam, Holland. He is the middle child of three sons. His father, born in Holland, was a distinguished lawyer who was a member of the Dutch resistance. He was betrayed and subsequently imprisoned by the Germans and finally murdered in Auschwitz in January 1943. His mother was born in England and came to Holland to study.

After an idyllic childhood prior to the invasion of Holland, Steven was deported to Barneveld in March 1943, then to Westerbork in September 1943 and finally to Theresienstadt in the Czech Republic in September 1944 where he survived along with his two brothers and mother. They were liberated by the Russian Army on the 9th May 1945. The family arrived in England in June 1945 by a devious route through war torn Europe to be reunited with his mother's family, and he has remained there ever since. Steven Frank is married and has three children, three step children and twelve grandchildren.

Education after the war was difficult, not because he had to learn a new language, but having had virtually no primary school education during the war he left school with just two O levels. After working very briefly he did two years National Service in the Royal Signals with active service in Cyprus in the 1950's. He started working in a laboratory producing photographic and fine chemicals in Hendon whilst at the same time studying in the evenings to get O and A levels and then onto University (London) part-time and obtained an honours degree in Chemistry. By this time he had moved to the Colne Valley Water Co. (who supplied you with water) and later to the Rickmansworth Water Company where he was in charge of the laboratory dealing with water quality. On the merging of these companies into Three Valleys Water, he was given early retirement at the age of 55. Since then he has had the most fulfilling part of his life culminating in being 'upfront' in giving 450 talks in schools and other organisations instead of being a 'backroom boy.

**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 School, Abbey Gateway, St Albans**

**They are open to all members of the Society. Non-members may attend two meetings as guests.**

**Tuesday 5th April 2011**  
***Historical Snippets of Kimpton***  
*Bob Finch*

A collection of historical snippets about Kimpton from Roman times, through the Norman Conquest and Doomsday, the Middle Ages, Victorian Times up to WW2 and even the Cold War.

Bob Finch has lived in Kimpton for more than 40 years and has had an interest in local and not-so-local history throughout. He is an active member of the Kimpton History Group and other local History Societies.

**Tuesday 12th April 2011**  
***Cromer: Last of Hertfordshire's Windmills***  
*Robin Webb*

The present windmill at Cromer near Stevenage dates from 1681, and the parish in which it stands has contained a windmill since 1222, and possibly even earlier. The Mill worked until the 1920s, became derelict, and was threatened with demolition in 1964. It was saved by the Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust, and has been painstakingly restored to working order over the past 40 years. The lecture touches on the history of windmills in this country and the different types which were developed; outlines the construction and working of a 'postmill' such as Cromer, and gives the history of the present Mill and its predecessors. The successive stages of restoration will be described in some detail.

As an engineer Robin Webb has been interested in mills for some 50 years for their remarkable technology. He is a member of the Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust, which owns Cromer Windmill, and is an Honorary Custodian of the Mill. He is one of the group of guides who are on duty to show visitors round when the mill is open to the public.

**Tuesday 10th May 2011**  
***The Day Before Their World Ended***  
*Rev Peter Wadsworth*

In the 1980s when the former St. Saviour's Parish Hall was demolished the original time capsule was recovered intact. It contained a copy of 'The Times' and 'The Herts Advertiser' dated 25th July 1914, just days before the outbreak of the First World War. From these papers, Peter Wadsworth, Vicar of St Saviour's, has constructed a picture of a world about to vanish in total war. The lecture reveals fascinating details not only about the big picture but the everyday world of that long ago summer both nationally and locally.

Reverend Peter Wadsworth read history at Oxford and has retained a strong interest in the subject. He has varied interests including the history of monasticism and Lord Nelson. As an Anglican parish priest he is ideally placed to delve into the local history of the area where he is serving. He has made a particular study of the early years of St. Saviour's and the Bernards Heath community.

**Tuesday 17th May 2011**  
***Christ's Hospital 1552 - 2011***  
*Colin Bell*

Why Christ's Hospital? This talk will explain its origins, development in and by the City over three and a half centuries and the move to Horsham. Mention will be made of the people; benefactors; directors; managers; shareholders; customers and the bricks and mortar; money; politics and pageantry. The story is of a unique educational charity, playing its part in what is a very different culture from the time of its origins but yet maintaining the ethos of its founding fathers in surroundings which many of its earlier participants would appreciate.

Colin Bell was born in Child's Hill, Barnet and was evacuated to Willingham, Cambridgeshire in 1940. He returned to Child's Hill in 1941 and remained there until 1952. During that time he attended Christ's Hospital from 1944 to 1951 and then having ditched his County Major to Cambridge, went into the City as an Actuarial Trainee. In 1952 he did National Service with the RAF and was bribed to sign on, by a promise of being able to play with aeroplanes. His service in the RAF ended 36 years later in 1988. During this time Colin flew over fifty types of aeroplane as pilot, navigator, test observer, as well as playing other games. He attended the RAF College of Air Warfare from 1962 till 1969 and then was on loan to the United States Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration in Alaska from 1970 to 1973. For his last 15 years he was involved in mainly scientific staff work with some flying still keeping him happy. He now spends his time trying to repay some of his Christ's Hospital and RAF benefits through their charities.

**Friday 27th May 2011**  
***Ten Minutes to Noon: A History of Copped Hall***  
*Peter Dalton*

Peter Dalton will cover the history of Copped Hall starting from the first known record of a building on the site in 1150AD and bringing you right up to date following the disastrous fire in 1917 and the subsequent and current restoration of the gutted mansion.

Peter graduated in 1970 in economics from London University then pursued a successful career in the sales and marketing of laboratory equipment to hospitals and universities. In 1986 he started a recruitment agency finding sales people and service engineers for companies supplying this highly specialised market place. He retired in 2006 since when he has been involved in voluntary work with, amongst other organisations, the CAB, the Poppy Day Appeal, the Royal Gun Powder Mills, Ingatestone Hall and, of course, Copped Hall, the latter for some 14 years.