



St Albans and Hertfordshire

ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Inside this issue:

President's Report	1-2
St Julian's Barn	2-4
Archaeology Report	3
Clock Tower Report	4
Mayor's Prize Winner	5
Library Notes & Queries	5-6
Newsletter Editor	6
New Members	6
Lecture Programme	7-9
Council Members	10
New Year Party	11

Newsletter No. 182
November 2011

Founded 1845
Registered Charity
No. 226912
www.stalbanshistory.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Let me take the opportunity of my first President's Report in the Newsletter to say 'Hello' to all our members. A good number I know already and I hope to meet many more of you over the next three years. My thanks to all those present for my warm reception at the AGM. Aware of the numerous distinguished scholars amongst SAHAAS' past officers (Boutell, William Page, Henry Loyn, etc), I do feel very privileged and honoured on being elected President.

Professor Michael Cooper

I must warmly thank our immediate Past-President Professor Mike Cooper for his sterling leadership of the Society over the past three years. Mike has very ably and firmly encouraged the Society forward into the modern environment of digital technology. He has also sought to develop the Society's role in influencing the future of St. Albans, making our views known to local and national governing bodies, and by seeking to cooperate with other local groups where our interests and aims coincide in the areas of heritage, conservation and development. The Society is very fortunate that Mike will continue for the next year the planning-watch brief he has so ably developed.

For my own part, I will be for a time a relative novice - on a very steep learning curve in Council. I hope to continue along the same lines, particularly in improving access to historical and archaeological information and materials through the SAHAAS website and Library. I look broadly to encouraging greater member participa-

tion in "heritage" activities - their own research, helping sort and catalogue the Library materials, or through attendance at SAHAAS and kindred society events.

Local Historical Activity

I come to the Presidency at a time of great industry and change in the study of local history. There is a profusion of projects out there, academic, societal and individually driven, all adding substantially to the sum of local historical heritage and record. Only last month a *St Albans and District Local History Symposium*, held at Verulamium Museum brought together speakers from several projects and societies. Four days later Marlborough School hosted a second run of the Herts Network of U3As Study Day *Celebrating Hertfordshire's Millennium in 2011*. Both sessions were fully subscribed. Members of SAHAAS gave papers at both events, a nice reflection of the vitality of our Society.

Such events are important vehicles for keeping local heritage enthusiasts and researchers in touch with new developments and with each other. SAHAAS can help this process by looking to organise similar future events. More immediately, we can pool as much information as we can on the SAHAAS website with links to the various projects and groups active in the St Albans District and neighbouring areas in Hertfordshire.

Impact of digitisation of records

More widely, massive progress is being made in archives up



**New President:
Donald Munro**

and down the country in digitising records. Caroline Kimbell of The National Archives said recently "we are swimming in data". There is no doubt, however, that digitisation of records is transforming the way history can be done, enabling much more detailed macro and micro studies, reading trends over time, that the individual "analogue" historian working with the physical record could not achieve in many areas. One very interesting outreach project through The National Archive is the indexing of ships logs from c.1690, largely by volunteer indexers working online. This is providing access to a hitherto unmanageable amount of data about e.g. daily weather conditions worldwide over three centuries. More parochially, the *Victoria County History* is developing an interactive website, and our Society will be looking to cooperate with them in revising, extending and improving their Hertfordshire materials.

Society Lectures

Meanwhile the Society's excellent lecture series continues. There have been packed houses at several recently, with Jane Kelsall keeping some members close to their cocoa-time, and Gill Harvey illuminat-

PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued

ing Matthew Paris. Gillian Tindall's talk about *The Fields Beneath* Kentish Town over the centuries was very skilfully constructed. She virtually "showed" as much as told the story of the area—without visual aids, though a map would have helped Albanians.

New Year Party

The turn of the year approaches and it would be nice to meet as many of you as possible at the **New Year Party on Friday, 13 January at Verulamium Museum**. Traditionally this is a very pleasant social event and a good opportunity to meet and talk with other members.

An invitation to the 2012 New Year's Party on 13th January and an application

form for tickets is enclosed with this Newsletter. Tickets will also be on sale after lectures through later November to January.

The Society is very indebted to its Officers and Council members for the way they initiate and keep our activities going. I have been very impressed in my first couple of meetings by the range of activities and the enthusiasm of the Council members. I am very grateful to them, particularly Bryan Hanlon and Mike Cooper, for their help in steering me through the novice stage of my Presidency.

Donald Munro



Martin Bridge prepares to get to work in restricted headroom



Paul Eland of the Archaeology Group doing 'housework' on the arcade posts

ST JULIAN'S BARN : Timber Dating Exercise

I referred in the last Newsletter to a project to date the St Julian's Barn timbers (see page 3 for the recent history of this building).

Kingsbury Barn and its standing 'sister' at Croxley, have both been reliably tree-ring dated. Kingsbury, when considered against the written records, is earlier than expected by 20 years or so. With the hope of obtaining a date for a third barn of the group, I proposed that the Society fund the first stage of dating St Julian's Barn. SAHAAS Council agreed to this and an approach was made to Dr Martin Bridge of Oxford Dendrochronology Lab, who did the dating of Croxley.

Archaeology Group members made some initial reconnaissances at the Chiltern Open Air Museum (COAM) to assess the accessibility of the stored timbers and prepare for Martin Bridges' visit, which he duly made. Our plans were frustrated when it became apparent that St Julian's was constructed of timber from fast-grown trees yielding cores with an insufficient number of rings for reliable dating. As an indication, Kingsbury cores were in the range of 70-100 rings, St Julian's were around 30. Some cores were taken, but with little prospect of a result. It is just possible that in future, if or when the timbers are brought out of the storage

stack, some might be found that would give a higher ring count. However, the elements of the building yielding the longest cores, the arcade posts, are all accessible and presently visible. Inspection of their ends indicated low ring numbers, despite their size.

A disappointing end to what might have been enlightening. The cost to the Society was not great; we were charged less than the quote for the fieldwork, in recognition of the outcome. Had overall success seemed certain, the plan was to approach other bodies for grants towards the next, more expensive, lab-work part of the investigation. One egg only had to be broken to start the omelette.

The outcome begs a question; since Kingsbury and St Julian's were erected only a mile or so apart, how is it that the trees used in their construction (oaks) grew so differently? It could be, for instance, that those from which St Julian's were made grew in a lush valley bottom and Kingsbury's came from higher, drier ground. Someone in forestry might have some suggestions.

Roger Miles

ST JULIAN'S BARN: 1962 to Present and Future

St Julian's Barn was dismantled in 1962, ahead of the development of the housing estate west of Watling Street. Tithe Barn Close is commemorative, but the barn was actually a *monastic* barn, not a tithe barn.

St Albans District Council stored the timbers adjacent to the Verulamium Museum, then moved them to their depot in the old prison at the bottom of Victoria Street. When the Chiltern Open Air Museum opened in 1981 it was seen as an appropriate place for the barn to be re-erected and become the star exhibit. The Museum's logo is a section drawing through the barn, on one of the principal frames. The timbers were transferred there and are now housed in a purpose-built store.

The likelihood of St Julian's rising again is a case of funds/resources, not lack of interest,

either on the part of the people of St Albans who are aware of it, or COAM.

My estimate of the cost of re-building St Julian's Barn wholly by professionals would be well in excess of £1m. COAM has many volunteers - it would not be viable without them, but professional involvement is essential for some operations - heavy lifting for one. An enclosed, scaffold structure would be needed for the duration of the project and using a preponderance of volunteer labour this could be upwards of ten years. There is decay and loss in the timbers and a substantial amount of replacement with seasoned oak would have to be made. The cost of this alone will be eye-watering and one could not rely on donations in kind from philanthropic suppliers. The dwarf walls upon which



Stacks of timbers from
St Julian's Barn



[continued page 4]

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP REPORT

In September we undertook a small excavation at Kingsbury Barn. A single trench extended 16 metres away from the South West elevation (i.e. porch side) and was a 'rescue' dig, ahead of hedge planting which will complete landscaping on that side of the building.

19th and 20th century maps indicated a yard on this side of the Barn which the porch gave on to. After penetrating very recent levels, two yard surfaces were encountered, the first of re-laid chalk with gravel metaling and below that an earth surface with flint cobbling. An early, inconvenient find was the side of a brick and concrete ramp which had served grain silos at the back of the barn in the last century. This narrowed more than a half of the trench length and a mass of concrete totally blocked a section. (These have been left for the Singer's garden contractor to deal with!).

The maps predicted that the trench should cross an end-wall of what appeared to be a cart shed and obligingly the base of a wall was found in the right place, cut by the ramp wall. In addition, a post hole, complete with substantial below-ground remains of the post, was found on what was shown as an open side of the shed.

Progressing down below the lower yard

surface, there was much build-up by depositions of soils and rubble. We encountered a cut which corresponded with what is shown on the St Michael's parish map of 1840 as a precursor to the cart shed. Discussion with Steve Russell, of Gorhambury Estate, suggested that the preceding group of buildings was probably a cow yard. After yet another surface of very large flints, close-set and packed with chalk, we reached undisturbed natural, consisting of almost pure sand. This was at a depth of 1.2m (4ft).

It was clear from this dig and earlier test-pits that the whole yard is made ground to a considerable depth. For what reason is not apparent yet. Both inside and immediately outside, the ground level is some half a metre above that on which the Barn was built. Further away, as described, it is more than twice that.

Considering the location, the number of residual Roman finds was very small. The only find of note otherwise consisted of fragments of a glass bottle with parts of the makers name on. After some detective work this was found to be Henry Ricketts of Bristol, an important figure in 19th century advances in bottle-making. We have Brian Moody, a past SAHAAS secretary, to thank for locating this information.

There were a few fragments of almost certainly Roman mortar and wall plaster in the lowest levels, but these were just parts of the mass of levelling-up material and not *in situ*.

Our team had some tough digging, compensated for by a Listed site hut of unparalleled grandeur and mod cons not normally expected on excavations, provided by the Singer's. And the weather was good to us.

Roger Miles

TRANSACTIONS

If any member would like to join a small team preparing the 4000+ pages of the Society's Transactions for the website, please contact me.

You can examine what has already been done by going to the Society's website and following the link "Transactions".

We have one spare copy of the software bought for the purpose which can be installed on your PC (subject as usual to certain limitations of memory, operating system etc.).

Michael Cooper
01727 850834
07761 977287

m.a.r.cooper@ntlworld.com

CLOCK TOWER REPORT

After the extensive repairs undertaken by the City Council last winter, the Clock Tower opened as usual on Good Friday 2011. Visitors from our area and all over the world have enjoyed the history of the Tower and the wonderful views from the top. It has been a pleasure to work with Simon West, Archaeologist, who now includes the Tower among his many other responsibilities and also to work with the weekend organisers and volunteers. May I thank all of them for the work they have done this year.

There have been few problems apart from the perennial difficulty of recording anything like accurate visitor numbers. Whether we record the first tickets of the weekend or keep a running tally, it is difficult with so many volunteers from two societies to be sure of accurate records, but the estimated numbers for the year are a total of 3693 adults and 1062 children. By far the largest number of visitors (515 adults and 201 children) came on 10th-11th September, Heritage Weekend, when the Clock Tower received Council publicity, along with the other City attractions, in the Heritage Weekend brochure. Entry was free.

Easter weekend 2012 is April 6th – 9th and the Tower will open as usual on Good Friday. Traditionally, the annual Clockateers' party is on a Friday two or three weeks before the opening and I can give advanced notice that the date for 2012 will be Friday, 9th March.

The suggestion has been made that we could extend the opening season of the Clock Tower for 2012 to the end of September as the weather is often fine and warm. This depends on the willingness of volunteers to go the extra mile and I would be glad to hear your views about this. No decision has to be made until after Christmas.

Greetings for autumn and Christmas,

Helen Bishop

Arc and Arc Clock Tower Co-ordinator

ST JULIAN'S BARN: 1962 to Present & Future (continued from page 3)



More timbers!

the timber structure stands would have to be re-created. Tens of thousands of clay tiles would be required for the roof, along with total re-cladding in elm weather-board. And this list is not exhaustive.

A major fund-raising drive would have to be organised, particularly to achieve a reasonable time-scale. There will, no doubt, be approachable grant-giving bodies, but the Heritage Lottery Fund would not be one, I believe, as their grants are given for a specific purpose and conditional on completion within a stated time.

Anyone with either the necessary, underemployed fund-raising abilities or, for that matter, the necessary, unwanted savings, please step forward into a waiting pair of shoes. I believe this to be as much, if not more, the responsibility of St Albans as COAM.

Finally, a voice within tells me that there would be a greater chance of galvanising St Albans on this project if it were to

happen in or near St Albans, not 15 miles away, but, metaphorically, we are where we are.

See Herts Archaeology Vol 2, p110, for a short, illustrated account of St Julian's Barn, prompted by its dismantling.

Roger Miles

Childwickbury

Further to the review of Christine Aitken's book *Childwickbury* in our August Newsletter we are happy to clarify that the selling price is £35.00.

This publication can be obtained only via

Christine at:

2 New Cottages, Harpendenbury, Redbourn,
Herts AL3 7QA

Tel: 01582 792316

E.mail: christine_aitken2@btinternet.com

THE MAYOR OF ST. ALBANS PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION 2011

John Mein, a Society member, was the **winner of the 2011 Mayor's Prize**. His certificate and £100 cheque were presented to him by Cllr. Aslenn Lee, the Mayor of St. Albans (2011-2012). No award was made in 2010. Unfortunately neither the St. Albans or Herts Advertiser chose to report the award, which was attended by the President, Professor Michael Cooper, the President-elect Donald Munro, members of Council, Hon. Members and representatives of local societies.

Publicity for the 4th year of The Mayor's Prize is now available for any member who is willing to enter an outstanding essay of approx



3,500 words on some aspect of St. Albans or Hertfordshire Local History. Information is available on our website at

www.stalbanshistory.org. Details will also be available as 'hard copy' at lectures or from the Museums, Libraries etc. from mid-November 2011.

Volunteers are needed for our web-based "Living Memories" to talk to older people who do not use the Internet. As co-ordinator I now have names of over 20 people who are willing to share their memories with us for inclusion on our website. Please contact me – John Cox 01727 857827 and I will provide all the information you need.

John G.E. Cox

Publicity Officer

Left to Right: Donald Munro (President Elect); Professor Michael Cooper (President); John Mein (with the certificate he was awarded); The Mayor of St. Albans (Cllr. Aslenn Lee); Hon. Alderman Kate Morris – the originator of the Prize Essay Competition

LIBRARY NOTES AND QUERIES

There are several developments to report. We are finally in the process of putting the Kent photographs onto our website. We have received a fine collection of slides of St Albans buildings from member Roger Darnell. We hope to feature at least some of them in our Residents First Exhibition in January. We are also thinking about digitisation of these for future preservation. Grateful thanks are due to Roger for his generosity.

Gill Harvey's study on Walter Lawrance, first Dean of St Albans, will be appearing in the next few months. It is hoped that this will be the first of a number of such publications, but we need people to help make it happen! We have a very kind offer of help with the layout, so it really needs one or two people who are prepared to devote a little time to identify suitable publications, liaise with authors and our layout artist, get quotes from printers and market the finished results. We are not thinking of huge numbers of publications all at once, so it should be a fairly gentle occupation! If you think this might be you, do please get in touch with Gill Harvey.

We continue to field a wide range of enquiries. We have had visitors to the library from Sheffield and New Zealand, among other places, both with family history enquiries. Other enquiries have included the history of the Lower Red Lion; the last remnants of Adey and White's Brewery in St Albans (sign in Chequer Street); a St Albans Printing company in the 1950's; the 1832 Abbey Restoration Committee; and Kingsbury Dairy.

Recent Journal Articles

The Archdeacon, the Rector and a New Society in St Albans, by John Cox, in Alban Link, Autumn 2011.

When a new rector, the Rev. Henry B Nicholson, arrived in 1835, the Abbey was in a very sorry state. He was instrumental in founding this Society in the town in 1845.

Thomas de la Mare, by Sheila Green in Alban Link, Autumn 2011. Thomas de la Mare Abbot of St Albans, 1349-1396 is familiar to visitors because of

LIBRARY NOTES AND QUERIES continued

his huge monumental brass which shows him wearing a mitre and gloves which could only be worn by Abbots granted special privileges by the Pope.

Guidelines for Setting Up a Volunteer Group to Transcribe Local Documents, by Heather Horner in *Local Historian* August 2011. The article aims to outline the stages that need to be addressed when embarking on transcription of documents, in a logical sequence.

Journals Received

Archaeology Nov-Dec 2011

Current Archaeology Sept 2011

Hertfordshire People No.118. Sept.2011

Hendon and District Archaeological Society Newsletter Oct.2011

London Archaeologist Summer 2011

Research News. Summer 2011

Books Recently Added to Stock

Wessex Archaeology. Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre. St Albans. Excavation Report Sept.2010.

Lead Sling Shot from Windridge Farm St Albans, and the use of sling by the Roman Army in Britain, by S.J. Greep reprinted from *Britannia*, vol.xviii 1987.

LIBRARY CLOSURE 16TH & 18TH NOVEMBER

The Library will be closed on the above dates due to University of Hertfordshire Graduation ceremonies. Any inconvenience is regretted.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Alison Baugh

Farewell to Dee Drinkwater who, after several years with the Society, has relinquished her role as Newsletter Editor. We wish her well and thank her warmly for all her hard work and support.

I have now taken over as the new Editor and look forward to continuing to bring you reports and updates in the SAHAAS Newsletter. Please send any comments, ideas

or contributions you may have (which may be edited) to 68 Woodstock Road South, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 4QH or to: vatimesmart@virgin.net / 01727 850747.

I look forward to hearing from you.

If you would prefer to receive a PDF copy of this newsletter by email, please let me know.

Alison Baugh

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the Society:

Mrs V & Mr C R Argue	Waverly Road, St Albans
Mrs Mary Baack	Alma Road, St Albans
Ms Christine Bain	St Peters Close, St Albans
Peter & Valerie Brown	Redbourne
Maggy Caldwell	Meadowcroft, St Albans
Mr Michael Carey	Harpenden
Miss Sophie Clark	Gombards, St Albans
Mr Raffaele Cirillo,	St Albans
Dr Mark Freeman	Sutton Road, St Albans

Mr Chris Green	Blanford Road, St Albans
Ruth Halliwell	Welwyn Garden City,
Mr John Humphreys	Church Crescent, St Albans
Dr & Mrs I Jamieson	Sandridge
Mr Michael Large	Old Harpenden Road, St Albans
Mrs Maria Larmer	Foxcroft, St Albans
Nicholas & Christine Martin	Bricket Wood
Mr John Pollington	Kimpton
Mr Peter Howard Scott	Tytenhanger Green, St Albans
Mr Bryan C Sewell	Potters Bar
Mr Steven Taylor	Fishpool Street, St Albans
Mr Andy Webb	Hatfield Road, St Albans
Genevieve Wilson	Hatfield Road, St Albans

THE LIBRARY TEAM

Gill Harvey 01727-853415

Anne Wares 01727-860705.

Donald Munro 01727-760808

Jon Mein 01727-865514

We also have a number of volunteers, who are equally part of the team, but would perhaps not yet feel very confident about fielding enquiries.

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

You can email us via the Society's website www.stalbanshistory.org

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2011-12

Tuesday, 15th November 2011

St Albans' European Links and Its Twin Towns

Kate Morris

This lecture will provide an overview of St Albans' five formal twinning arrangements. Town twinning is now quite an old idea - some might say an outmoded one since travel is now so easy. But close relationships formed in this way, between towns which have something in common, still survive and promote cooperative working in many areas. Whilst local government does not have an international remit, the Government does positively encourage international links at local level to further education, international relations, the establishment of 'best practice' and in some cases trade. It supports through the Local Government International Bureau, and such links are also encouraged by the European Union. St Albans has five twin towns with a multitude of cultural, sporting and practical links, which have furthered peaceful cooperation since 1957.

Kate Morris, one of our members, is a trained linguist and university librarian. Living in St Albans since 1972, she now runs an English language service, offering tuition and cultural induction for foreign speaking professional people. Kate has served 12 years on the St Albans District Council, with roles in planning and heritage and one year as Mayor. She joined the committee which supported the twinning with Worms, our German twin town, chairing it for five years. She also got to know the other St Albans twins, both on family exchanges and officially, on Council delegations. She has written on the history of St Albans European connections for Herts Past and Present, and put together an exhibition illustrating those links.

Friday, 25th November 2011

Queen Victoria : An Affectionate Portrait

Barbara Askew

Queen Victoria was the longest reigning monarch in Britain's history and gave her name to its greatest age. She ruled over the largest empire the world has ever known and became a legend in her own lifetime. She was a prolific letter-writer and left her many children and grandchildren in no doubt as to her strong opinions. This affectionate portrait will bring to life the character, likes and dislikes of our most remarkable queen.

Barbara Askew has a degree in History and a Diploma in Education. She has been the Windsor Castle Site Liaison Representative for the Guild of Registered Tourist Guides since 1990 and is the acknowledged expert among Blue Badge Guides on Windsor and Royalty.

Tuesday, 6th December

Pictures in the Parlour : the Story of the Magic Lantern

Kevin Varty

Magic lanterns were invented in the 1650s, some two hundred years before photography. The presentation covers the developments and use of Magic Lanterns from the Phantasmagoria Shows of the 1750s, their heydays in Victorian times up to their demise in the 1950s. Over the years, many variations of lanterns were produced, from cheap tinplate items up to expensive works of art in mahogany and brass. The early slides were hand painted and some had mechanisms that gave the illusion of movement many years before the "movies".

"Pictures in the Parlour" recreates a Magic Lantern Show, giving an insight to family life in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. A wide selection of slides show how the lantern was used for both education and entertainment before being overtaken by cinema. All of the lanterns, glass slides, jokes (and groans) are original items.

Kevin Varty who was born in Derby, went to school in Ashby de la Zouch, to college in Loughborough and spent his working life in the Motor Industry in Yorkshire. He is now enjoying early retirement and lives in Milton Keynes with Amanda and their dog Daks. Kevin has an interest in Victorian undertaking and was a catacomb guide at Kensal Green Cemetery for 10 years. During that time, he built up a collection of mourning items and as a result, he has given presentations and displays at Cemetery Open Days in London and is normally asked to bring the bier! His hobbies now include looking after a burial ground in Oxfordshire for the Historic Chapels Trust, a mild obsession with the First World War and giving Magic Lantern Shows.

Tuesday, 10th January 2012

St Albans Down Under

Dr Tony Crilly

Very soon after the arrival of the first fleet in Sydney, Australia, in 1788 the newly appointed Governor Phillip led an expedition of discovery to the north of the colony. The aim was to 'recce' the surroundings and in particular find land suitable for agriculture. They found it in the lands bordering the mighty Hawkesbury River. One of its tributaries is the MacDonal River, on which stands St Albans. Early colonists who settled in the remote valley of the MacDonal prospered and at one time supported seven churches and four schools. Who were these families now buried in the small cemeteries dotted about the 'Forgotten Valley'? Why 'St Albans'? What is this Australian St Albans like today?

Page 8

Tony Crilly was educated at school and university in Australia (Sydney), England, USA (Michigan) and Hong Kong and has taught mathematics and statistics all his life. He has written/edited books (and written research papers) in the history of mathematics, computer graphics, and popular mathematics. Tony is the author of the acclaimed biography of Arthur Cayley, the eminent nineteenth century British mathematician: 'Arthur Cayley: Mathematician Laureate of the Victorian Age', and he has recently written a book entitled '*The Big Questions in Mathematics*'. Tony is Emeritus Reader in Mathematical Sciences at Middlesex University. He has been secretary, treasurer, and membership secretary of a national historical society at various times. He has lived in St Albans since 1982.

Tuesday, 17th January 2012***The Stones of London*****Leo Hollis**

In his talk, historian Leo Hollis will take us on a kaleidoscopic and unexpected history of one of the world's most enigmatic cities from its mythic origins to the glittering towers of the contemporary financial capital. 'The Stones of London' tells the story of twelve London buildings from the Roman forum to the Gherkin, Regent Street to the East End, the Houses of Parliament to Greenwich Palace. London's buildings are testament to the richness of its past.

Leo Hollis is a writer and historian. He was born in London in 1972 and went to school at Stonyhurst College and then went on to study history at the University of East Anglia. After working in publishing as an editor, he started writing with Historic London Walks. He then edited and contributed to Historic Paris Walks. He has always been passionate about London and the history of cities. 'The Phoenix' developed out of his fascination of London in the 17th century and the rebuilding of London after the Great Fire of 1666. '*The Stones of London*' tells the story of the city from its origins to the present day through the lives of twelve buildings. Leo lives in north-west London with his family.

Friday, 27th January 2012***Printing and Publishing in St Albans before 1900 :
an Historical Excursion*****Donald Munro**

St Albans has a notable place in the history of printing in England, with the Schoolmaster Printer of St Albans (fl.1485) amongst the earliest provincial printers. The paper will cover aspects of the early printing, explain the lack of printing between the mid 16th and the late 18th centuries, and seek to identify some of the more significant printers / publishers / booksellers of the 19th century. Illustrations will be drawn from SAHAAS Library.

Donald Munro, a retired academic librarian, has been a member of the SAHAAS Library team for five years. He and his wife Beryl have lived in St Albans for 33 years. Raised and schooled in Montrose, Donald read history at Aberdeen University from 1960-1964. His working life involved cataloguing manuscripts, compiling historical bibliographies and cataloguing and building collections of printed source materials for history. On retirement he was made an Hon. Research Fellow of the Institute of Historical Research, and is currently serving his first year in Office as President of our Society.

Tuesday, 7th February 2012***An Engineer at War – The Falklands 1982*****Roderick Douglas**

At the beginning of April 1982 the Argentinians invaded South Georgia. This lecture will describe Roderick's experiences during the period from the beginning of March 1982 until September 1982.

Roderick Douglas joined the RAF as an Air Radar Fitter in 1973 and went on to serve for 22 Years until retiring in 1995. Between 1981 and 1985, he served on No 1 Fighter Squadron, initially as one of two Air Camera Fitters (by that time a part of the Air Radar trade) and subsequently covering the full range of avionics equipment fitted to the Harrier Jump Jet and looking after the squadron ground communications equipment. Roderick moved to St Albans in 1995 when work brought him to Avionics Mobile Services who were in Frogmore and since that time he has worked both within and outside the aircraft industry. Roderick is currently employed as a Technical Author by Continental DataGraphics, a subsidiary of Boeing, in Welwyn Garden City.

Tuesday, 14th February 2012***Sir Christopher Wren*****John and Jo Brewster**

This lecture covers Christopher Wren's entire life from 1632 to 1723; his schooling, early influences, friendships, Oxford University, Astronomy Professorship in London and Oxford and his interest and subsequent life's work in architecture. The presentation will include appropriate pictures from the village where he was born, to the house where he died beside Hampton Court Palace.

John and Jo Brewster have both been retired for some time – John from British Telecom and Jo from teaching. Their own interest in Sir Christopher Wren arose when they both trained to be Guides at St. Paul's Cathedral and they have spent much enjoyable time visiting and photographing many places associated with Wren's life.

Friday, 24th February 2012

St Pancras—Europe's Destination Station

Alastair Lansley CBE

Alastair Lansley, former Chief Architect of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, will outline the objectives of the Link and explain that St Pancras, in one sense represents a collision of ideologies: the shock of the new in engineering genius of William Barlow and Roland Ordish's Great Train Shed and the reprise of the old in all that George Gilbert Scott had garnered from medieval Europe's gothic inheritance.

Alistair will take us back in time and show St Pancras with the many listed buildings that surrounded it before works began. He will also share with us the new vision for St Pancras with the now executed extension and exquisite transformation of the Barlow Shed with its re-ordering of the internal spaces, at its most explicit in connecting the undercroft with the train shed above. Now including some 62 shops which he says is an essay in restraint. St Pancras is now Europe's Destination Station and firmly establishes the Kings Cross St Pancras area onto the "International Map".

Tuesday, 6th March 2012

Banging the Gong for Britain—J Arthur Rank & Wartime Cinema

Stephen Barnard

Tuesday, 13th March 2012

Royston : A 13th Century Planned Town

Douglas Plowman

Tuesday, 20th March 2012

Royal Heraldry in St Albans Abbey

Stuart Whitefoot



Adrian Tinniswood who gave a lecture entitled 'The Verneys – A True Story of love war and madness in Seventeenth Century England'



Peter Dalton's Lecture in May was entitled 'Ten Minutes to Noon – A History of Copped Hall'

Left to Right : Doreen Bratby, Prof Mike Cooper, Peter Dalton and Roy Bratby

Friday, 30th March 2012

The Restoration of Alexandra Palace after the 1980 Fire

Richard Loren

Tuesday, 17th April 2012

Kingsbury Barn

Roger Miles

Friday, 27th April 2012

The Story of Adult Education : Hertfordshire in Context 1918-1939

Dr Mark Freeman

Tuesday, 8th May 2012

Eleanor of Castile—She of the Crosses

Mollie Kennedy

Tuesday, 15th May 2012

Department Stores

Claire Masset

Friday, 25th May 2012

Time in St Albans and St Albans in Time

Prof. Michael Cooper

**NEW YEAR
PARTY!**

**Verulamium
Museum**

**Friday,
13th January
2012**



PLEASE JOIN US!

A finger buffet will be organised by Doreen Bratby (01727 858050). She would welcome offers of party food: sweet or savoury, the cost of which will be reimbursed.

Liquid refreshments will be in the capable hands of Bryan Hanlon, with Carole and Norman Oldknow.

Tickets £7.00

Discounted price **£6.00** when ordered in advance

**Please send me the following tickets for the Society's
New Year Party on Friday, 13th January 2012**

..... Tickets at £6.00

Total enclosed

Please make your cheques payable to SAHAAS and send with this form and a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

To: **Bryan Hanlon, 24 Monks Horton Way, St Albans AL1 4HA**

Name

Address

.....

..... **Post Code**

Telephone

Email