

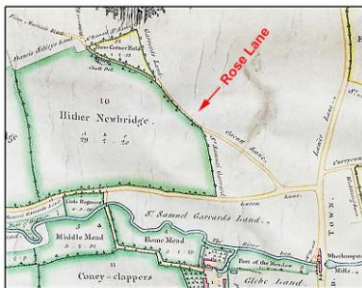


News and events

- Friday 8 June. Opening of the new **St Albans Museum + Gallery**.
- Thursday 28 June. Professor James Clark will give a talk about **Abbot John of Wheathampstead** at St Albans Abbey. Go to www.stalbanscathedral.org and click on 'Learning' 'Study Centre' and 'Talks'.
- **Next meeting:** 7.30 Wednesday 20 June. Andy Gibbs will give a talk about *The Poor Child's Friend: Joseph Lancaster's Educational Revolution*.
- Remedial work will have to be done to the exterior of Wheathampstead Place in the next few months as a result of infestation by death watch beetle.

Notes and queries

What's in a name?



Taken from the 1758 Thomas Yeoman map of Wheathampsteadbury

Rose Lane

The name 'Rose Lane' dates back only to the Edwardian or late Victorian period. In 1872, according to a conveyance document for Sunny Cottage, the lane had a less fragrant name – 'Occupation Road'.

The medieval name is likely to have been Oxcutt Lane. This is how it was labelled on the 1758 Yeoman estate map and it may have been so named because it led directly to a large field called Oxcroft Field. This field was mentioned in the 1315 'Extent of the Manor of Watamstede', a summary of the assets of the manor.

Intriguingly, the 1758 estate map also suggests that Oxcutt Lane was not a cul-de-sac but divided into two just beyond the house now known as The Dell. One route, which no longer exists, ran diagonally north-west to Marshalls Heath and Mackerye End. This road predated the Lower Luton Road and was probably post-medieval because it cut across the earlier field system. The other branch of Oxcutt Lane ran north to Gustard Wood and still exists as a footpath and farm track. Archaeologists in the 1950s cut a section across the lane at Herons Farm and found what resembled the surface of a minor Roman road.

Waddling Lane

Until the beginning of the 21st century, Waddling Lane was the turning off Codicote Road, next to the old station, that today leads to Abbot John Mews. In the late 19th century, it led directly from Codicote Road to Place Farm. That is now Old Waddling Lane and the original name has been transferred to the next turning which leads into the new estate.

The name itself is much older. The 1315 'Extent of the Manor of Watamstede' includes a small area of pasture in this part of the village called 'Wadelslane'. Local historian Victor White suggests that 'Wadelslane could imply the origin of the present day Waddling Lane'.

The Yeoman map (1758) shows both 'Waddling Close' and 'Waddling Lane'. The 1841 Tithe Map calls it 'Waddling Close'.



The only other Waddling Lane in England is in Somerleyton, Suffolk. The Parish Clerk has been unable to trace the origins of the name.

Do you know why King Edward Place was so named? Please let us know.