



# Wheathampstead History Society

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## News and events

- The Society's project 'Wheathampstead during the Great War 1914-1920', led by Sandra Wood, was voted winner of the WDPs Preservation Award 2019 at their AGM last week. Thanks and congratulations to everyone involved.
- **Next meeting:** Our next meeting is on 20 March when Julie Moore will give a talk 'Golf and the Common: the Hertfordshire experience 1890 to 1912'.

## Notes and queries



How our countryside around the village has changed over a hundred years! These photographs, taken in 1910, show the view from the top of the hill on Nomansland looking north towards the crossroads; the Park Hotel (Wicked Lady) is just visible in the distance. The road appears to have an unmade surface – white because of the chalk base.

The photos show the lack of trees, even in the distance; the Common at that time was traditional heathland, very different from today, the growth of scrub and trees being the result of the ending of animal grazing in the 20th century.

The road is lined with traditional telegraph poles but the telephone did not arrive in the village until the 1930s; perhaps they were Morse code telegraph wires? Who in the village had a telegraph? The post office? The police station? Maybe some of the big houses? Another area for research.

The two photos appear to record a motor-cycle run around the local area. In the second photo, the intrepid motor cyclists have stopped at the top

of the hill to speak to friends. A mother and baby pass by. For a 1910 motorcycle, climbing the hill was quite a challenge; we drive up the same hill today hardly noticing that it is a hill.

Terry Pankhurst



**Notable buildings** The Wheathampstead Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group hopes to start consultation with the local community this spring. The Steering Group wants to hear from local residents about notable buildings that should be considered as being special to the parish, its setting and its history when planning applications are received. Listed buildings, of which we have many, are already protected but many of our unlisted buildings are significant in relation to our local history and traditions. The Swedish houses in Marford Road that Stuart Lawson told us about in November are a good example, as are the houses in Caesars Road (nos. 1-24) which are designed on 'Garden Suburb' principles with wide grass verges and trees. Please send your suggestions to the Chair of the Steering Group, David Johnston. [david.johnston@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:david.johnston@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk) tel: 07774 211933