



Wheathampstead History Society

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News and events

- It is no surprise that the **Arc and Arc** (the St Albans and Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society) had to abandon a 'live' exhibition to celebrate their 175th anniversary. However, they have created a splendid online version of the exhibition which can be found at www.stalbanshistory.org/category/175th-anniversary. The exhibition will be 'open' until at least October.
- **Next meeting**: All our meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Notes and queries

Heritage

The Parish Council recently asked the Society to contribute a section about our local heritage to the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Doing this reminded us of how rich we are in historic areas, sites and buildings and the many ways in which they are documented and protected.

- We have five designated Conservation Areas: the Village Centre, Gustard Wood, Amwell, Mackerye End and Waterend. There are extra planning controls in these areas, designed to protect the historic and architectural elements that make the place special. The controls mostly affect owners who want to work on the outside of their building or on a tree on their property. For more about conservation areas in general, see www.historicengland.org.uk For information about the Conservation Areas in Wheathampstead, see www.stalbans.gov.uk/conservation-areas
- The Neighbourhood Plan also identifies five Character Areas: Conquerors Hill/Caesars Road, The Folly, Leasey Bridge, New Marford (Necton Road), and Old Marford (Sheepcote Lane). These are not designated but the draft Neighbourhood Plan describes them as making 'a significant contribution to the heritage of the parish' and says that, as in Conservation Areas, 'design of new development should take account of the local context and reflect the character and vernacular of the area'.
- The National Heritage List for England at www.historicengland.org.uk lists 119 buildings in Wheathampstead. Nearly 40 are in the centre of the village, pride of place being taken by St Helen's Church, one of only two Grade I listed buildings in the parish, the other being Mackerye End. The general

principles of listing are that all pre-1700 buildings in anything like their original condition are listed, as are most buildings built between 1700 and 1850. The listings for Wheathampstead contain many minor errors; you can report these on the website.

- In addition to our two Grade I listed buildings, the parish has four Grade II* buildings (eg Waterend House, Bride Hall) while the rest are Grade II.



Bride Hall

Grade I are buildings of exceptional interest, Grade II* are particularly important buildings of more than special interest and Grade II buildings are of special interest and warrant every effort to preserve them. 92% of all listed buildings are Grade II.

- The draft Neighbourhood Plan identifies more than 50 locally listed buildings. These are historic assets that have heritage significance but do not meet the criteria for national designation. Their historic and architectural importance should be taken into account during the planning process.
- The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) lists 225 records in Wheathampstead, ranging from crop marks through letterboxes to Devil's Dyke, Bridge Mill and the Old Rectory. To see this list go to www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/ and search 'Wheathampstead'.

