



News and events

- **Our next meeting** will be on **Wednesday 21 February 2024**. In a talk titled **The Great Women of St Albans** Tony Berk will describe 2,000 years of local history through the lives and fascinating stories of the important women who have had an effect on the history of St Albans and district.
- The Welwyn Archaeological Society's talk on **Friday 19 January** will be given by David Thorold from the St Albans Museum on the subject of **The Roman villa at Turners Hall Farm**. Admission is free for members of our Society. See <http://tinyurl.com/3vytxvfe>

Wheathampstead.net

Nearly 25 years ago, Wheathampstead resident Brian Joyce set out to build a Wheathampstead Community website. In those days there was no "off-the-shelf" website design software; Brian taught himself how to code in HTML and, in the following years, created the website known to many of us as the "*Wheathampstead.net website*".

The site became an invaluable source of information about the local community as Brian built it up to include "What's on" pages, information about local businesses, voluntary groups and the churches, and a major repository of material about the history of Wheathampstead, with particular emphasis on families and people.

The History of Wheathampstead

Personal and family history			
Memories of Yvonne de Mornay Peauy	Memories of Hazel Wright	Memories of Fina Spearling	R Cobb - Scout
Memories of Tony Peauy	Bert Cobb and Serranders	1937-46 by Ron Hewson	GJW Titmuss
Memories of Barbara de Mornay Peauy	Michael Ventris (Cryptographer)	Over 100 Early Families	Brockett
Memories of Deborah de Mornay Peauy	Memories in Wartime (Rita Cobb)	Lady Grierson interviews	Earl of Selkirk
Memories of Claire Ashmore	Memories in Wartime (Patrick Bicknell)	Wharf Memories 1941-76	Early autumns
Memories of Joyce Edwards	Evacuation by John Hinkley	Memories by D. McCheson	Ellen Torre (actress)
Before the 1950's by Jack Hyde	Memories by J. McCheson	Malcolm Saville (author)	A Baker's Boy in 1939
	Master Blacksmith (Harry Westwood)	Looking Back to 1953	
Local businesses			
Connington's Walnut Tree	Smart's coming to Wharf	Collins Antiques	Pub Landlords
Helmer's factory - video	The Postman - video	Rebecca Clark	Early shops & photos
Places			
Castle Farm	Lamer Cottages	Map of Businesses etc 1850-1950	
Mid Herts Golf Club History	Mackerve East Gardens	Success home	
The Old Bakery	St. Helen's Church	Houses with history	
Cricket and Publishing houses	Video Sandridge to Wharf	A walk around Nonmanland	
Mackerve End gardens	The Mill	History of Wheathampstead Railway	
High Street (East side & West)	Folly Fields	United Church	
East Lane Orchard			
In the News		Publications	
Wherd in 1876	Plane crashes at Wheathampstead		
Wherd in 1877	1939		
Wherd in 1879	Wherd in 1919-20	Tenagers walk the Pennine Way	Mason's Roll 1405/6
Wherd in 1881	Wherd in 1944	1265	St Peter's church 1910-2010
	Wherd in films	WW1 & WW2 Memorial List	
		Roman find 2002	
Pictures			
(1) - (2) - (3) - (4) - (5) - (6) - (7) - (8) - (9) - (10) - (11) - (12) - (13) - (14) - (15) - (16) - (17) - (18) - (19) - (20) - (21) - (22) - (23) - (24) - (25) - (26) - (27) - (28) - (29) - (30) - (31) - (32) - (33) - (34) - St.Helens school 1928			

By 2017, Brian was finding it increasingly difficult to maintain the site and asked the History Society for help to ensure its continuity. He copied every file onto a CD which we have had in our possession ever since. Brian passed away two years ago and his website went offline in November 2023 when the subscription expired.

It was not possible, for technical reasons, simply to transfer Brian's files to our website so we have converted them all into formats that can be uploaded to our website. The uploading will be carried out in the next few months.

Obviously, it is the personal and family history files that are of most interest to the Society but the information about local businesses etc, last updated in 2016 and therefore out of date, is nevertheless an important snapshot of village life at that time and has also been preserved.

Right from the start in 2001, Brian contacted many residents and former residents (whom he called 'Expatriates') asking them for anything they had written about the history of their family or for their memories of life in the village. Responses came from all over the world and make up an important archive for local historians as well as being just a "good read". We have assembled these "Memories" into a folder of that name which will be added to the dropdown menu on our website. We will add the many memories that members of the Society have recorded in recent years (for example in the High Street Project) and which are being added to all the time. We have also acquired 14 recordings of oral history interviews with elderly residents carried out by the late Amy Coburn in 1977.

Most of the other Brian Joyce files are static in nature, ie they cannot or should not be added to or amended. These will also be uploaded to our website in a folder called "Brian Joyce archive" on the dropdown menu.

Every item from Brian's website that will appear on ours has this at the top of the first page.

