



News and events

- Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 17 April**. Mike Smith will give a talk about the puzzling **Wheathampstead watercourses** upstream of The Mill. What insights do they give us about the history of medieval Wheathampstead?
- The **Arc and Arc** (St Albans History Society) has a full programme of talks in the coming months. Go to www.stalbanshistory.org/events/category/events for details.

Chairmen

Wheathampstead Parish Council was established in 1895 when the duties of the centuries-old Vestry were divided between the secular Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council.

A new list of past chairmen of the Parish Council is in the hallway of the refurbished Marford Memorial Hall. They are an interestingly mixed bunch.

Several chairmen, especially in the first part of the 20th century, were self-employed or owned their own business. George Clark, for example, chairman from 1895 to 1901, was a builder and decorator. George Titmuss (1902-1903) owned the mill, which he had bought from Viscount Kilcoursie of Wheathampstead House in the early 1870s. Twenty-five years later (1928-1929) his son James, also a miller, was chairman.

Thomas Sparrow (1927-1928) was a house painter. His services to the community are commemorated in the naming of Sparrow Court, formerly Thomas Sparrow House. Fred Cobb, owner of the bakery in Station Road, was chairman in 1929-1930 and again in 1934-1935.

Frank Chennells, a member of a prominent Wheathampstead family, was chairman in 1933-1934. He is described as 'Sub-postmaster' in the 1911 census. His ancestor, John Chennells, had taken over this role from the Hoopers at The Bull in 1856 when he was running his "druggist and grocery shop".

Dr Robert Leiper was chairman in 1936-1937 and then for the duration of World War Two (1939-1945). A Scottish physician, he owned

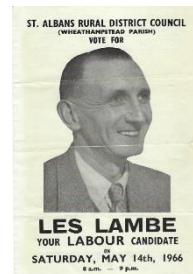
WHEATHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMEN	
Mr G Clark	1895-1901
Mr A Burtch	1902-1903
Mr G Titmuss	1904-1905
Mr J Titmuss	1906-1907
Mr J Titmuss	1908-1909
Mr J Titmuss	1910-1911
Mr J Titmuss	1912-1913
Mr J Titmuss	1914-1915
Mr J Titmuss	1916-1917
Mr J Titmuss	1918-1919
Mr J Titmuss	1920-1921
Mr J Titmuss	1922-1923
Mr J Titmuss	1924-1925
Mr J Titmuss	1926-1927
Mr J Titmuss	1928-1929
Mr J Titmuss	1930-1931
Mr J Titmuss	1932-1933
Mr J Titmuss	1934-1935
Mr J Titmuss	1936-1937
Mr J Titmuss	1938-1939
Mr J Titmuss	1940-1941
Mr J Titmuss	1942-1943
Mr J Titmuss	1944-1945
Mr J Titmuss	1946-1947
Mr J Titmuss	1948-1949
Mr J Titmuss	1950-1951
Mr J Titmuss	1952-1953
Mr J Titmuss	1954-1955
Mr J Titmuss	1956-1957
Mr J Titmuss	1958-1959
Mr J Titmuss	1960-1961
Mr J Titmuss	1962-1963
Mr J Titmuss	1964-1965
Mr J Titmuss	1966-1967
Mr J Titmuss	1968-1969
Mr J Titmuss	1970-1971
Mr J Titmuss	1972-1973
Mr J Titmuss	1974-1975

Leasey Bridge Farm. An internationally distinguished scientist, he was known as the "Father of modern helminthology" (the study of parasitic worms).

Peggy Cory Wright (1950-1953 and 1966-1967), until 2018 the only woman to take the chair, served for 41 years as a parish, district and county councillor. She was an organiser for the WVS, president of the local branches of the Red Cross and the British Legion, and Lord High Sheriff of Hertfordshire in 1963. She and her husband Douglas (also a parish councillor) lived at Four Limes on The Hill and at Mackerye End.



At the other end of the political spectrum was Leslie (Les) Lamb (1974-1975), a lorry driver for the LNER at Wheathampstead Station and later a shop steward at Vauxhall. His son Len described him as "a traditional socialist". He served on the Parish and St Albans Rural District Councils for many years but later fell out with the Labour Party and was elected as an independent. In retirement, he worked as a general handyman for the Cory Wrights at Mackerye End.



Sam Collins, who was elected chairman on no fewer than nine occasions spread over five terms between 1969 and 2004, was known to some as "Mr Wheathampstead". He took over the Collins Antiques business from his father, Charlie Collins, and ran it for nearly 30 years at the end of the 20th century. He was awarded an MBE for his services to the community.



It is interesting to speculate on how historians of the future will explain why the list of chairmen stopped using their formal titles in 2009 and started to use their first names.