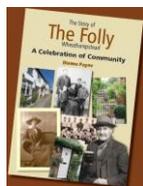




Wheathampstead History Society

Bulletin no. 7, 21 February 2018

Latest news



~~'The Story of The Folly'~~ by Dianne Payne has sold 340 copies but there are still some available, price £15, from 40, Folly Fields, Wheathampstead AL4 8HL.

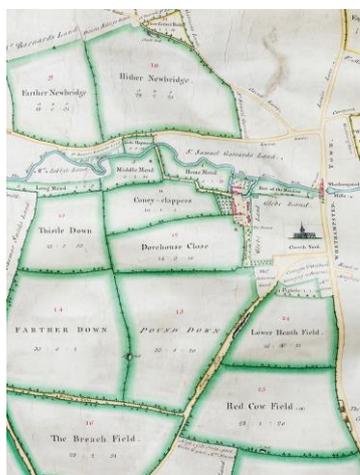
Next meeting: 7.30 Wednesday 21 March. Kate Morris: *'Behind Closed Doors: the Inside Story of some St Albans Buildings'*.

Notes and Queries

Maps of Wheathampstead

The earliest map of Wheathampstead isn't a map at all but a description of the manor boundaries in Edward the Confessor's charter of 1060 when he gifted Wheathampstead to the Abbey of Westminster. While the identity and hence location of some of the boundary markers is obscure the charter still gives a good idea of the size and location of the early manor. There is an interesting commentary on the charter and the boundary in Volume I of the series *'Wheathampstead and Harpenden'* (WEA 1973).

The earliest map is the 1758 Thomas Yeoman map, commissioned by Westminster Abbey to show the fields and buildings that made up *'Bury Farm, the Mill Grounds, Martials Wood and Butlers Close'*. This is a fascinating map but it features only the estate property that was directly managed by Westminster.



©The Dean and Chapter of Westminster

survey, in which is expressed all the roads, lanes, churches, noblemen and gentlemen's seats, and every Thing remarkable in the County.' This is a large-scale county map but the details around Wheathampstead are still intriguing. The map has recently been redrawn and geo-rectified to improve its accuracy. It is included in *'Dury and Andrews' map of Hertfordshire'* by Macnair, Rowe and Williamson (2015).

In the late 18th century Westminster Abbey commissioned Mumford to survey the entire manor that at the time included Harpenden. This map was completed in 1799 and it accurately shows fields, buildings and lanes and roads.

The 1840 tithe map was drawn up to identify landowners and tenants who were liable to pay tithes to the church. This highly detailed map depicts field systems and buildings. The index names the individual landowners and tenants. HALS sells the map in DVD form – price: £35.

The Ordnance Survey began their survey of the United Kingdom in the mid-19th century; their earliest maps of Wheathampstead date to the 1870s. The most detailed OS maps are the 25" to the mile series. Reprints can be purchased from the OS website. Alternatively you can view the maps for free at the National Library of Scotland website. The latest maps on the site date to the 1960s. The oldest are the 1870 to 1914 25" map series. A powerful feature of this website is that the maps can be overlaid with satellite imagery to give an instant 'then and now' comparison.

Mike Smith

In 1766 Dury and Andrews produced a *'topographical map of Hartford-Shire, from Actual*

Gustard: a local name of the great bustard.
Source: *The Imperial Dictionary of the English Language* (published in the 1880s)