



Wheathampstead History Society

Bulletin no. 87, January 2026

News and events

- The **British Association for Local History** (BALH) has a growing list of online 10-minute talks about many different aspects of local history, including one about how the new railways disrupted local communications in the mid-19th century. See <https://www.balh.org.uk/ten-minute-talks>
- Our **next meeting** will be on **Wednesday 18 February** when **Jon Mein** will tell us **The surprising story of the many inns of London Colney, c.1750-1850.**

Internationals

Wheathampstead is not known for hosting international events but that's what happened in 1935. The game of Quoits is almost extinct as a sport today but a century ago it was played internationally and involved throwing heavy rings (quoits) at pins or spikes in the ground. In 1935, the 25th International Quoit Match was held in the grounds of The Swan Hotel (now The Swan car park) in Wheathampstead.

ENGLISH QUOITING ASSOCIATION
The 25th
INTERNATIONAL QUOIT MATCH:
ENGLAND v. WALES
The Swan Hotel Grounds, Wheathampstead,
Herts. Monday, August 5th, 1935
COMMENCED AT 2.30 P.M.

ENGLISH TEAM	Score	WALES TEAM	Score
G. E. WOODMINGAY (Chairman)	1	D. ENGLAND (Chairman)	2
J. MOSS	1	T. POWELL	2
W. STOCKS	17	S. TOVEY	2
W. STOKES (Officer London)	19	F. BISHOP	2
J. COOPER	3	J. PRICE	2
P. ADAMS	2	P. LLOYD	15
W. S. BISHOP	2	D. SMITH	16
J. HUNT	10	L. BAKER	2
A. HOCKLEY	9	G. JAMES	2
E. WOODLINGS	13	W. THOMAS	2
Total	153	Total	184

REFRESHES
G. White, West Kent.
R. Sevin, West London.

REFRESHES
W. Rose Davies, British
A. Jenkins, British

Why Wheathampstead? Answer: a member of the team, J. Hunt, came from the village.

The two teams, England and Wales, each had 10 members but exactly how the game was played, how long the match lasted and how much beer was drunk is not known. Sadly, the England team lost by 153 to 184.

Who was our international celebrity, J.Hunt? The surname Hunt is recorded in the village in the 1939 Register but no one listed has the initial J. Perhaps he was on active service. Can you tell us more about him?

Mr Hunt is not our only international sports person. John Wackett (1930-2024), who lived in King Edward Place, was an English international rugby union player. He played as hooker for Welwyn RFC, Rosslyn Park, Hertfordshire (37 times), and twice for England in 1959, once against Wales and once against Ireland.



And then there is Dave Chisholm, four times World Champion stock car driver, who lived in Butterfield Road. Stock car racing was a major spectator sport in the 1970s. Dave Chisholm and

his brother Ted both raced in stock car Formula 2. After Dave became World Champion in Formula 2 in 1970, he moved up to stock car Formula 1 where he won the World Championship in 1973, 1974 and 1975,



the first driver to win three World titles in succession. Driving car number 252, he won 138 races before retiring after an accident at the Brafield track in Northamptonshire. After retirement, he continued to drive lorries for his haulage business. He also built F2 cars for his son Gary and kept steam tractors for show purposes.

There is more about Dave Chisholm at
<https://tinyurl.com/4mpayrh>

Annie Brewster is best known locally for her rise from Wheathampstead Parish Councillor via



District and County councils to High Sheriff of Hertfordshire. What is less well known is that, aged 17, Annie won silver in the 1500 metres at the UK Championships and at 35 she became a British Race-Walking Champion,

going on to win 5k bronze medals at both the European Indoor Championships in Birmingham and in the World Championships held in Durban, South Africa.

Thanks to Terry Pankhurst for the leaflet about the Quoits match and for a draft of this bulletin.