

Chairman's Report

This year I look back over a busy year for the Society. May 2006 saw the publication of Volume XXI, *The Records of the Hellard Almshouses and other Stevenage Charities*, edited by Margaret Ashby. As you will read below, work has also been progressing on Volumes XX, XXII and XXIII, and on our next map project. Last year's AGM was held at Reveley Lodge, an interesting nineteenth-century house with extensive gardens, owned by Bushey Museum. This year, in contrast, we will be visiting Place House, Ware, owned and restored by the Hertfordshire Buildings Preservation Trust.

Volume XXII, *A Victorian Teenager's Diary: the Diary of Lady Adela Capel of Cassiobury, 1841-1842*, edited by Marian Strachan, is currently in the final stages before publication. It should be available in June. For this particular volume, the Society is producing two versions of the book: one in hardback, with our traditional dark red cover, that will be sent to members; the other in paperback which will hopefully appeal to the general public, and encourage sales to non-members, particularly in the Watford area. The volume will be publicised at a special lecture given at Watford Museum by Mrs Strachan. (The date of this has yet to be finalised.) The coloured drawing of a young girl with her pet fawns, which has been reproduced on the dust-jacket of the paperback and inside the hardback edition, is probably a picture of Adela and has obviously been drawn by a young person. I believe that members will find it most attractive.

Not long after that it is expected that the delayed volume, *The Letters of Julian Grenfell*, will be published and sent to members. Additional research has been required to include explanatory footnotes to the letters. Kate Thompson, together with Heather Falvey and Susan Flood, has been working hard on this. This book is a large undertaking and will be a notable addition to the numerous volumes we have already published. Alan Thompson is continuing work on his collection of *Hertfordshire Civil War Papers*, which will be the next volume to appear, probably early in 2008. Several other future volumes are currently in progress.

In my report last year I described the maps contained in the 1818 Barnet Enclosure Award volume held at HALS. These have now been scanned in colour by the London Metropolitan Archives and transcripts of an edited version of the accompanying text have been prepared. The maps and lists of landowners will be put together in a folder of a similar style to those maps previously produced by the Society. Members will receive a free copy and copies will also be on sale to the public. The reprints of the county maps by *Dury and Andrews* (1766) and *Bryant* (1822) continue to sell well and have proved to be our most successful publishing ventures.

As ever, a great deal of work has been put in by Susan Flood and Heather Falvey, to whom I wish to extend the thanks of the Society. My main role is to try to push things along, although I do also occasionally produce indexes for volumes and compile material for the maps. Our treasurer, Gwynneth Grimwood, deals efficiently with book sales and even takes volumes out to various meetings in an attempt to sell our volumes to as many people as possible. We are grateful to her for what she has achieved in this area. May I also take this opportunity to remind you that, unfortunately, we have had to raise subscriptions this year from £15.00 to £17.50. However, considering that the last increase was made as long ago as 1995, I trust that members will continue to support the Society.

Alan Ruston

Forthcoming Volume 23

***The Impact of the First Civil War on Hertfordshire 1642-7*, edited with an introduction by Alan Thomson.**

This volume has been commissioned by the Hertfordshire Record Society as Volume 23 in its successful series of publications of local historical records, which in the past have mainly been drawn from local archives. Other local record societies, such as Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire have produced volumes of sources, which relate to the First Civil War, and

other volumes such as Pennington & Roots' *The committee at Stafford 1643-5* have dealt with the work of one of the wartime parliamentary committees, but none have attempted to provide a comprehensive analysis, via the original sources, of the impact on one county. The last history of Hertfordshire in the Civil War period was that of Alfred Kingston over 100 years ago, and that dealing with East Anglia by Holmes over 30 years ago. This book is designed to fill the gap both locally and nationally in providing a range of sources that should appeal to local and national historians, military and family historians, and even those interested in the history of gentry fashion, revealed in the inventories of sequestered royalists.

Following a preface and an introduction, which put the sources in the national, local and historiographical context, the documents are divided into three sections: fighting the war, paying for the war and the impact of the war on communities and individuals. The first section is then divided into sources relating to: the men involved, including officers, volunteers, the militia & impressed soldiers; the provision of uniforms weapons ammunition & supplies; the purchase commandeering and use of horses; the committees and wartime administration; the secretariat and communications; and the fortification of Newport Pagnell, St Albans and Hertford. The second section is divided into sources relating to: the propositions, loans & contributions; assessment and local rating; the collection or rates, loans taxes & contributions; allocation of, opposition to and repayment of monies raised; and payments to troops. The third section is divided into sources relating to: the effects on communities of free quarter; the effect on central-local relations; the effects on parishes; the effects on individuals; the victims of war; royalists and sequestration; the organization of sequestration; the effects of sequestration; the sale of sequestered and concealed goods; and the effect on sequestered clerics. Also included are a number of appendices related to the local situation, some brief biographies of key people involved and indices of person, place and subject. The book will also be illustrated with maps, portraits and appropriate contemporary prints.

The majority of the documents in this volume are taken from papers deposited by a local sub-committee of the Committee for Taking the Accounts of the Kingdom, which had been set up to audit income and expenditure by local wartime committees in each county controlled by parliament. They include a mass of material, which

has remained largely un-calendared, in a range of volumes and boxes, and are located in the National Archives in the State Papers 28 Series. Some of the records are in booklet form while others are either bills, held together by pins or thongs, or loose individual documents and, in one case, a roll of inventories sewn together. What this volume is aimed at providing, both for the local historian and the general reader, is a transcription of a selection of the original primary source manuscripts from a range of volumes and boxes in this series. In addition one document from SP23 series, relating to the charges against Sir John Boteler, has been included, as it shows the dividing line between the active and quiescent royalists. A number of relevant manuscripts from various collections held by Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) have also been added. These include deposited official and family papers (HALS D/ELW/03) relating to Sir John Wittewronge, as a commander of a local volunteer regiment, & extracts from his diary and accounts (D/ELW.F18 f 17). Also from HALS are extracts from the Little Munden Account Book (HALS D/P71.52), which indicate how a local parish rated itself to pay for the costs of war, and the sequestration papers of Lord Capel and the minister of Hunsdon, Edward Jude. Also relevant letters from the Coxe Papers indicate the relationship between Colonel Alban Coxe of the St Albans Standing Committee and Silius Titus, a local militia captain, who later was to defect to the royalists. Individual documents from Quarter Sessions papers (QSR) show a number of effects of the war as do extracts from the St Albans Muniments (OFF Accession 1162).

One of the principles of selection is to provide a range of different historical voices. These involve voices from the self-important new gentleman, Sir John Wittewronge, dressing himself up in his finest to go into battle, to the wealthy merchant, former mayor of Hertford and property developer, Gabriel Barbor, chairman of the local Hertford Committees. Then there are the lesser gentry, either trying to avoid making commitments about their horses, or complaining about the range of exactions imposed upon them. There are also over-worked local officers, trying to get recompense and the alehouse-keeper solemnly listing the expenses of the committeemen's dinners. In contrast to this are the semi-literate collectors struggling with various taxes and contributions, and the High Collector Toby Combes Esq. so concerned to get his sums right that he repeats the phrase "I say", as if to emphasize that his arithmetic must be correct, whereas the Treasurer William Hickman, when

questioned, would say no more than he had to. Also local constables reveal themselves reluctant to confirm evidence that would convict the local cleric, while the local landowner, Sir John Boteler, finds himself faced with evidence from villagers and tenants providing damning evidence against him. The volume therefore is designed to make a distinctive contribution to research by bringing together sources, which have never before been published, from a number of deposited archives, around distinctive themes related to the impact of the war on Hertfordshire.

Alan Thomson

AGM venue Place House Hall, Ware

The choice of venue for our AGM is always a delight and for this we owe thanks to our energetic Hon Sec, Heather Falvey. Whatever the weather, the event provides an opportunity for meeting old friends over a cup of tea, in comfortable and civilised surroundings. A short business meeting is usually followed by a talk, or tour of the house, gardens or whatever. Yet again, this year promises to be a real treat.

Place House is situated in Bluecoat Yard and was originally one of Ware's two medieval manor houses. In 1674 when the building was said to be in a ruinous condition, it was acquired by Christ's Hospital Foundation, for the purpose of housing children away from London and in the healthy country air. To this end the building was encased in brick and a floor inserted. The walls were raised to provide more light to the upper floor. A residence was constructed for the schoolmaster and school rooms for some 150 boys were located in the hall. The boys lived in adjoining cottages or wards, erected in 1698, and put in the charge of nurses.

The premises were closed in 1761 and let out, the boys being transferred to Hertford. The property was acquired by the Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust in the 1970s and extensively restored, including the removal of floors. It was reopened in 1978 by the Queen Mother.

Place House can be dated by mouldings to the late 13th or early 14th centuries. The manor passed to Richard III and from thence to Henry VII, and in 1487 to his mother Margaret Beaufort. During her tenure a movable screen was provided which remains in its original position.

Alan Thomson will conclude our visit by conducting a tour of the premises.

An informative article on the house, together with diagrams of its stages of development and plans, including those of the children's wards, can be found in *Hertfordshire Houses selective inventory*, J T Smith, RCHME, 1993.

David Dean

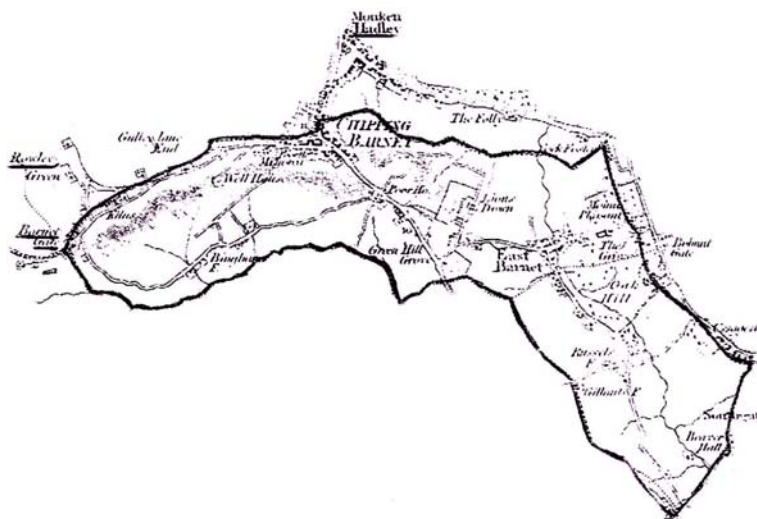
Barnet Inclosure Award 1818

The boundary of the manor of Chipping and East Barnet dates back to at least 1005. It delineates a strangely boomerang shaped area of land which reflects the pattern of the early roads. Barnet Lane, the road from Barnet Gate in the north-west, leads eastwards into Wood Street, runs down the Great North Road for a short distance and then eastwards down Longmore Avenue (formerly Long Street) into East Barnet village. There it divides to continue eastwards towards Enfield and southwards along Church Hill Road and Brunswick Park Road to Betstyle and then on into London. It was not until c1100 that the route through Finchley into London formed what was to become known as the Great North Road.

It was at about this time that the parish church of St Mary the Virgin was built, not as one might have expected, close to the new road, but on the summit of a hill in what was later known as East Barnet.

It was undoubtedly the popularity of the new road that led the Abbot of St Albans, who owned the manor, to establish a market place where the north south route crossed the older east west route at the top of Barnet Hill. The Enclosure Map clearly shows how the Barnet end of Wood Street was included in the area of land used for the market into which, in c1250, a chantry chapel was inserted. The earlier parish church of St Mary the Virgin, in East Barnet, predated the chapel by more than 100 years. The Barnet chapel was enlarged in 1429 but remained a chapel at ease to St Mary's church until 1866, despite Barnet being turned into a bustling town by its successful market and its role as a provider of services for the traveller, leaving East Barnet as a much quieter village.

The Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 was followed by the sale of the manor in 1553 and the subdivision of land holdings into private hands.



The map shows a small market town and a smaller village surrounded by open farmland and country estates, shortly before the dramatic effect of the introduction of the railways in the mid-19th century. The Great Northern Railway cut the district in half, estates were sold off, land subdivided and the coaching traffic on which the town had thrived disappeared.

The map, and schedule that accompanies it, were the result of a private parliamentary Act of 1814-15 for 'inclosing lands in the Manor of Chipping (or High) Barnet and East Barnet, in the parish of Barnet.' It carried an interesting rider; 'no lease of lands, by the Rector of Barnet, without consent of His Majesty, his heirs and successors as patrons of the said rectory.' Notice was affixed on the principal doors of the Parish Church of East Barnet and on that of the Chapel of Chipping Barnet, during divine service. It was further advertised in the County Chronicle. The enclosure award for Barnet is dated 1818.

The Enclosure Acts were to change the face of England and Wales for ever, seeing the final end in many areas of surviving remnants of the medieval open or three field system. A wave of enclosures took place between about 1755 and 1780, mainly in the English midlands and in some of the northern counties. The second tranch took place between the 1790s and the mid-1830s, peaking during the Napoleonic wars.

Enclosure in or near towns was done for different reasons to that in rural areas, being seen in some cases as a prelude towards the sale of land for later development, as well as a means of preserving open spaces (especially in London). By doing so, owners also effectively abolished the right of use of most common land for grazing, etc.

The use of enclosure awards and maps was well developed by the time the Barnet award was made, and their accuracy and authority makes them both of historical and social significance. Then, as today,

they are sometimes used to settle ownership or boundary disputes by the courts. As with the Barnet example, map and schedule were often bound in book form, and after being made available for public inspection, were deposited amongst the parish records. The mapping was done by a competent Surveyor, appointed by the parliamentary commissioners, and a schedule produced in which the new 'allotments' (land awarded by the commissioners) were recorded. The area of the plot was never put on the map, only its reference number, and buildings were not mentioned as they were, for example, on the returns accompanying parish tithe maps a few years later. However, the built up areas, roads, etc. are all carefully plotted on the Barnet map with an accuracy that must have been the envy of the early Ordnance Survey cartographers.

The schedule lists a series of individually numbered plots, with the names of the owner(s) and/or tenant(s), the area of the allotment cited (in acres, roods and perches) and stating who was liable for the maintenance and upkeep of fences, walls, etc. - usually the new proprietors and their heirs or assigns. It will be seen from the Barnet schedule that some of the allotments were to organisations or institutions, including the University of Glasgow (704); Dutch Church, Austin Friars (721); Trustees of the Poor of Chipping Barnet (716); and the Governors of Poor Widows and Children of Clergymen (824).

This Barnet map and schedule are a model of their kind, the like of which is rare in Hertfordshire terms. With additional historical notes and a name index, it will be of interest and value to those working in both local and in wider contexts.

With thanks to Gillian Gear & Richard Busby
for use of their material