

S.A.L.H.S

website: www.salhs.org.uk

Stanstead Abbotts Local History Society

Issue 27

Editor—Terry Collins

The Baesh Charity

July 2018

Former Lord Lieutenant of the county, Jonathan Trower was the guest speaker at our May meeting following the SALHS AGM. His talk was about the Baesh charity and the buildings they endowed in the village.

The first Edward Baesh was the son of a Worcester tradesman, Richard. He was born in 1507 and made his career in the service of the Crown and held the post of 'general surveyor of victuals' for the Navy, and was High Sheriff of Hertfordshire twice. He was a rich and successful civil servant having learnt his statecraft under Thomas Cromwell. He was granted the Manor of Stanstead by Queen Elizabeth 1 in 1559. He married Jane Sadler some time after 1567 and they had two sons, one of whom was named Ralph.

Ralph inherited the Manor in 1587 on his father's death, he married Frances Cary. They had two sons, William and Edward, who was born in 1594.

The Edward Baesh we are concerned with had a different upbringing to his grandfather, his brother William died at the age of two drowned under London Bridge and his father Ralph died when Edward was only four and his mother remarried. He was educated at Peterhouse College, Cambridge and succeeded to his father's estates in 1598. He was made MP for Lincoln in 1614 and was knighted two years later, aged only 22 years. He was not involved in any of the great issues of the time but he did hold a

number of government posts during his career. He married Sara La Marie who died in 1633. He then remarried Mary Montagu. He devoted time to his estates in Stanstead Abbotts and created a second park at Stansteadbury. As he had no children he created a charity in 1635 so they have been going for 378 years.

The first building the charity provided was a free grammar school at the end of the High Street in 1653, it is still there but we all know it as 'the clock house', now a private residence 1. (See below)



In the same year 6 almshouses were founded at the bottom of Cats Hill. In addition a cottage in 0.5 acre, a meadow estimated at 15 acres called Pitansay Meadow, an orchard and pasture estimated at 2 acres, a cottage possibly in Cappel Lane. In order to receive the incomes from these the following needed to be done; To give the income from the cottage and meadow to the almswomen 12d per week,

use the vicars income from the orchard to give the poorest person in the parish 12d on Christmas day, pay for the parish clerk and the salary of the schoolmaster.

In 1678 the Baesh family sold up to the Fielde family, and not much is known about the charity between then and 1833 when a government appointed report was produced, which showed that there was only one surviving Trustee member of the charity, few meetings had been held and the finances were in a poor state with much of the rents unpaid for years and the almshouses were in need of repairs. The school however, was still flourishing with 64 pupils attending.

As a consequence new trustees were appointed who met annually and it continued in their care until 1911 when it was first regulated by the Charity Commission. At the time the Charity's properties consisted of the 6 almshouses, land known as the Railway Tavern, (Jolly Fisherman) a Maltings, a strip of land adjoining the maltings, and a rent charge over the bed of the Lea Navigation. Since then the Trust Deed has been varied 4 times, the last in 1996. The almshouses have been extended, doubling their size and reducing the number to three.

Today the Charity is in good hands and is financially sound with sufficient resources to contribute more to what goes on in Stanstead Abbotts.

I was unable to attend the meeting Jonathan kindly gave me a copy of his notes which enabled me to write this edited article. Terry Collins

Stanstead Abbotts Maltings

The June SALHS meeting saw a family presentation, by Guy And Jennie Horlock and their daughter Victoria, plus their colleague Andy Chalkely on a subject they have a great many years experience with, French and Jupps Stanstead Abbotts Maltings.

In the 18th Century the three Jupp brothers founded a malting business in Chichester, Sussex in a road called Little London, so called because people had moved there from London to avoid the plague in the 17th Century. In addition to being maltsters the Jupp brothers also supplied both corn and seed to local farmers. They purchased Dell Quay on the Chichester Harbour from where they could load sailing barges with the finished malt as far as Ireland. At this time George Jupp was chairman of the company accompanied by his brother William.

In 1847 a single malt house was leased at Strand on the Green opposite Kew gardens on the Thames. This was at the entrance to the Grand Union Canal, giving them easy access to the canal system and along the Thames into London where Brewers such as Whitbred and Truman were being supplied. Shortly after the company became French and Jupps with the addition of Margaret French, a barge owner and farmer, to their organization

with barges travelling as far downstream as Tower Bridge. At the time the company banked with John Taylor and Sampson Lloyd and today they are Lloyds bank's oldest customer.

Henry Jupp moved to London and opened a roasting plant in Bell Lane near Liverpool Street but there was a problem with the amount of smoke produced and in September 1867 they received a notice of proceedings to be taken against them under the 'Nuisance Removal Act'. After solving the problem the business prospered in the heyday of the brewing industry and in 1889 they purchased additional malting capacity when they bought the premises of H.A. Taylor in Stanstead Abbotts. Other premises were taken over in the village and the whole business moved there in 1896. When moving they also built 5 cottages to house some of the workers who had moved from London. This brought French and Jupps closer to some of their growers and with the added transport facilities offered by the railways they were nearer their markets as well. In those days the barley was malted in one part of the village and roasted in another near St Margaret's station. This facility was used until 1963 when it was destroyed by fire.

Within the Stanstead Abbotts site the work was very labour intensive, but seasonal. Many of the men em-

ployed worked at the malting's during the winter and on the local farms in summer and at harvest time. When World War 1 broke out many of the men went off to war so woman were employed to do the same jobs, but in order for this to happen special orders were needed. Over the past few decades there have been many changes with the introduction of new and more modern machinery including new malting drums, which some of you may remember being delivered on low loaders along the High Street at 4am on Sunday mornings. French and Jupps have trebled output since 1980 and are now at capacity. Much of the production process is now computerised.

One thing that Guy said was the attachment that some of the workers felt for the handles on their malt shovels, they changed the blade from time to time but never the handles. As for the smell that pervades the air from time to time, well we all get used to it.

Terry Collins



Malt shovel

SALHS AGM 2018

The first part of the May meeting was the required Annual General Meeting. Acting Chairman Bob Hunt introduced all the members of the committee and thanked them for their input over the year. He spoke of the increased membership and that the monthly meetings had audiences averaging 50 plus, and on occasions reached over 70, and when you consider that other similar groups nearby struggle to get 30 members attending meetings, we must be doing something right. In addition to our monthly meetings our members only events, Summer barbecue and Christmas Party also fetch a goodly number of members.

Bob stood down for the election of Chairman but he was re-elected again immediately. The other members who stood again were Lynne Heraud, Secretary, Glenis Collins, Treasurer and the remaining members of the committee were all re-elected en masse. The evening was then left in the hands of Jonathon Trower talking about 'The Baesh Charity', (see Page 1)

Good Morning Lords and Ladies

What do you know about old English customs like May Day or Jack in the Green? If you had been at our July meeting you may have learnt a lot more.

Our speakers Barry and Jill Goodman spoke and sung to us about the traditional and sometimes quaint customs throughout the calendar year. This duo have been on the folk scene since 1971 and have performed at most of the large folk festivals up and down the country.

They began with May Day celebrations which hark back to Celtic times when only two seasons, summer and winter were recognised. By the 16th century the now famous maypole was in use, originally just a tree with all the branches cut off. It was opposed by the church, banned by puritans and recognised again by Charles II. The modern maypole with ribbons was of 19th century origin. The other symbol of the coming of summer is the appearance of Jack In the Green. He is usually a wooden or wicker frame covered with foliage, with a man inside used in a procession normally accompanied with music and dancers. This was developed in the 18th century but the tradition died out in the 19th only to be revived later in the early 20th century. It is often associated with chimney sweeps as it was at the end of the

sweeping season. Today one of the biggest festivals of this type is held in Hastings, in the old town. The festival today sees up to 1000 dancers parading through the streets.

Moving on to Whitsun, this has been a time of celebration for hundreds of years. In Kirtlington Oxfordshire the Lady of the Lamb festival takes place and Lamb Ale is brewed and drunk when the lady of the Lamb is elected. In Tudor times the local Church brewed the ale. The procession in the village takes place of Trinity Sunday.

Going forward into summer, Au-



Jack In the Green

gust sees the celebration of rush bearing held in a number of places, mostly in the North of England. Elaborate rush carts are made and paraded through the village with a man, the jockey, sitting on the top of the cart, the rushes are then strewn

on the floor of the church.. This was a festival that died out in the early 20th century but has now been revived.

When summer has gone traditionally November sees the start of winter and in the village of Ottery St Mary in Devon this means tar barrels rolling. This tradition is hundreds of years old, when blazing tar barrels are rolled through the town just before midnight. A carnival parade follows when rock cannon are fired as the procession proceeds. There are about 30 barrels rolled through the town the largest being called the Hogshead.

In the Fenlands of East Anglia January sees the festival of the Straw Bear held on the first Sunday after 12th night. The straw bear, a man covered in straw, is paraded through the town and made to dance. This event had died out in the 19th Century and had not been seen since 1909 but was revived in the 1980's in the town of Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire.

Also in East Anglia is the tradition of Jack Valentine who arrives on February 14th and leaves presents for children a tradition that goes back to Victorian times, there is also Snatch Valentine who ties string to the present and then snatches it away when the children reach for it.

Thanks were made to Jill and Barry for the presentation for their talk and in Barry's case for the songs and music that accompanied it.

Terry Collins

SALHS Visit to Olive's Farm

On a warm, beautiful summer's evening in July over 20 SALHS members took up the kind invitation of Miles Dymock to visit the site of the proposed quarry at Olives Farm, just off the Hunsdon Rd.

As we made our way around the location Miles outlined its strategic historical importance. This is largely due to the farm sharing some of the grounds of the ancient, Grade 1 listed, Hunsdon House. In its original format as a Tudor Palace it was frequently occupied by Henry VIII who loved hunting in the purpose-built chase and park. His daughter, Mary, and son Edward VI also spent a lot of their childhood there.

A feature of the Palace was its elaborate lakes. It is believed that not only were they valued for the very up-market Tudor passion of pike fishing but also for the enactments of naval strategies and exercises - Little remains of these ancient ponds now but there are certainly water courses and streams which once either fed or drained the lakes. In view of the tremendous publicity and concern raised by the quarrying proposal our visit gave us a critical opportunity to gain a first-hand appraisal of the threatened site. We could foresee the possible obliteration of much of our vital heritage which makes our locality so unique in Tudor history. [A much more detailed and precise account of Olives Farm history can be found on the excellent SALHS website]

Bob Hunt

LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM 1953



Left To Right: -

Mrs Neave,

Eileen Camp nee Wal-
ley,

Pop Harwood,

Mrs Beeston,

June Springham,

Mrs. Smith [June's
Aunty],

Mrs Stone.

Front: - Mavis Perry

The village ladies football team posed for this picture on Coronation Day in 1953. They were taking part in a "Comic Football Match" which was one of the evening festivities that took place at the St Margaretsbury Cricket Field. The team contained some well-known village characters.

Stuart Moye

The SALHS Committee June 2017

Hon. President Ron Dale
Chairman/Public Relations
 Bob Hunt
Secretary Lynne Heraud
Treasurer Glenis Collins
Archivist/Historian Ray Dixon
Archivist/Facebook Andrea Coppen
Newsletter /Vice Chair
 Terry Collins
Parish Council Rep Julia Davies

Committee Members:
Linda Gifford
Gerald Coppen
Rob Gifford
John Lloyd
Rosemary James

Website Manager Brian Johnson
General enquiries email
Admin@salhs.org.uk

Data Protection Act

In accordance with the above act we have to advise that the Society holds information on computer in respect of each member. This information is used for routine membership purposes only and remains confidential.

Forthcoming events

August 12th 2018 Summer Barbecue—Stansteadbury—**Members Only**
September 14th 2018 Hunsdon House by Lee Prosser - Curator of Historic Buildings at Royal Palaces
October 12th 2018 Salisbury Hall and The De Havilland Aircraft Museum by Alistair Hodgson
November 9th 2018 River Lee from Luton to Leyton by Richard Thomas
December 14th 2018 Christmas Party—**Members Only**
January 11th 2019 TBA

Unless stated otherwise all meetings are at the Parish Hall at 7.30pm

Members Free. Non Members £2 Tea, Coffee and biscuits included