



New Chairman Steve Takes Over The Helm

Steering the Club through 2019 will be our new Chairman Steve Gildersleve. Steve took charge of the April meeting, which followed immediately after our Annual General meeting.



Born in Hampstead, Steve began his working life as a building draughtsman before qualifying as a structural engineer. He worked on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and Sellafield nuclear processing facility before moving to work in St Albans, first with Glanville & Associates and then the Austin Company UK Ltd. He eventually moved into project management and finally onto business development. This last role involved travel at home and overseas drumming up new business for the company.

Steve and Susanne married in 1973, have two children and three granddaughters. He and Susanne have recently taken on a new challenge. After 41 years in Bushey, they decided to downsize. In March, they moved to Penn in Buckinghamshire. This means a longer journey to attend Probus meetings, but Steve accepts this and looks forward to working successfully with the Committee and Club members over the coming year.

Remember

Absence from lunch. If you are unable to attend a lunch, you must notify Peter Fletcher not later than midday on the Monday preceding the lunch (tel no 854848).

Payment for lunch. If you do not pay by direct debit, please pay by cheque and send your cheque to Mike Western **three days before the lunch.**

Next lunch meetings. The next lunches will be on May 30th and June 27th, meeting from 12-00 for lunch at 1-00pm. Our annual summer lunch is on Thursday 25th July.

Coffee mornings. In addition, we have our popular coffee mornings.

These will be on Thursdays 13th June, 11th July and 8th August; from 10.30 until 12.00 noon.

Next publication date will be mid-August 2019.

The Annual General Meeting 2019

The 35th Annual General Meeting was held at Verulam Golf Club on Thursday 25th April 2019. Presenting his report Chairman John Hart expressed his thanks to all members for their support over the past year and to the members of the Committee for their help. Monthly lunches continue to form the mainstay of our calendar with some thought-provoking speakers.

In our own referendum, members voted to continue with our existing practices at lunch. “I think this shows your desire to keep the Club what it is,” said John, “providing an opportunity for us to meet formally for lunch and informally on other occasions, but above all enjoying each other’s company”.

An error had been identified in the draft accounts that had been circulated. Mike Western is on holiday and an amended version will be presented to the members at a later date. However, the accounts show an overall deficit and the recent, popular decision to upgrade the lunch-time menus, will push the lunch account into deficit in the coming year. Nevertheless, Mike proposes to continue with the existing lunch price.

Peter Fletcher, the Events Chairman, reported on the events organised by his Committee. Starting with a visit to see the immaculate grass courts at Wimbledon plus a tour behind the scenes and ending with a visit in April to Saffron Walden (*see report on page 3*) the energy and enthusiasm of the members of the Committee resulted in a varied programme. A visit to Canons Ashby was followed by a ride on the Leighton Buzzard Light Railway; a trip to RHS Wisley preceded a conducted tour of the revamped St Albans Town Hall (thanks to the good offices of Colin Smart). And we still managed to fit in our annual spring holiday – this year to Suffolk – opera visits organised by Peter Fells and the traditional Summer and Christmas lunches with our ladies. Peter finished with an appeal for ideas for new ventures.

The Chairman’s, Secretary’s and Events Committee’s reports were all accepted. The President then took the chair for the appointment of the Club’s Officers and Committee. Steve Gildersleve was installed as Chairman and John Hart assumed to role of Club President.

Membership

There is good news on the membership front with three new applications at various stages in the pipeline bringing our membership up to 61. First we have Mike Waller, then Len Page and more recently Ken Bromley.

We shall be seeing more of them in the next few weeks.

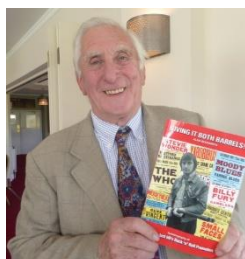
From Royal Burials to Rock and Roll

We enjoyed two very varied speakers in February and March, when we were entertained first by Peter Burley and then by Alan Goldsmith.

St Albans' two Royal Burials. Peter is a local historian and author, and his talk was titled St Albans' two Royal burials. St Albans is unique in having been the site of two pivotal battles during the Wars of the Roses. The first was in 1455, and one of the early casualties in that battle was Edmund Beaufort 2nd Duke of Somerset. Edmund was the first of four illegitimate children of John of Gaunt, who was the third surviving son of King Edward III. Although he achieved great things in battle and received many appointments – including being made a Knight of the Garter – he went largely unrecognised.

On the other hand, most people know that Duke Humphrey of Gloucester (Henry V's younger brother) is buried in St Albans Cathedral: billed as St Albans' Royal tomb. He was a hot-head, short tempered and had a high profile. He died in Bury St Edmunds in 1447 but asked to be buried in St Albans.

The Rock and Roll Revolution. Our speaker in March was Alan Goldsmith a legendary Rock and Roll promoter who started producing shows in 1958 and is still actively involved in the business.



Alan was in at the start with his own 'skiffle group'. He soon realised that promoting concerts was likely to be more rewarding and started booking up-and-coming youngsters for concerts in towns around east Hertfordshire. As a result he was instrumental in creating and promoting this social music revolution. People like Tom Jones (£25 per

Future Meetingss

Our speaker at lunch time on the 30th May will be Ken Satterthwaite who will be telling us about *The Story of Rope*. And then on 27th June, we shall hear from Colin Smith, the Managing Director of Smith Coffee Co, about the story of our favourite drink; *Coffee from Tree to Cup*. In June we have our Summer Lunch.

Invitation letters are being issued this month for the summer lunch. If you do not receive your invitation by the coffee morning in June, please contact Tony Woodhouse.

night) Elton John (£50) and Stevie Wonder (£150) soon had the halls rocking; he thought the Rolling Stones were too expensive at £650. The list of people who were to go on and become stars is seemingly endless: all household names in the music world. He promoted Stevie Wonder, The Who, Dione Warwick, Gladys Knight, Brian Ferry, Eric Clapton, Elton John, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Billy Fury to name a few.

Excursions

In April, a group of four dozen visited the historic town of Saffron Walden. The town had prospered from the wool trade and the saffron from which the town takes its name. reflected in the large number of impressive the largest parish church in Essex. After lunch, Bumpstead to the 'Chocolate Lady', whose sherry. It was appropriate, therefore, to start of sherry! After a demonstration of chocolate enjoyed a cream tea.



production of
The prosperity is
buildings, including
it was on to Steeple
surname was
her talk with a glass
making skills, we all

Details have recently been issued about our cruise on the River Blackwater aboard the Thames barge 'Hydrogen'. This was to have been a repeat of the popular trip we enjoyed in 2017, but on this occasion the trip had to be cancelled due to a lack of support.

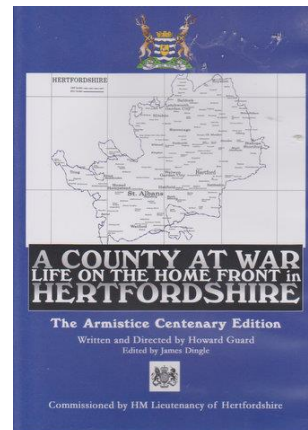
However, despite some misgivings about the future of the opera trips, Peter Fells organised another successful visit to see The Welsh National Opera at Milton Keynes. This time to see Verdi's *Un Ball in Maschera* or the Masked Ball.

Hertfordshire at war

After the AGM we were privileged to be able to watch a video entitled *A county at War*. This film had been commissioned by Lady Verulam after a visit to Ypres.

The programme gave an emotional and often vivid account of the lives of ordinary people of Hertfordshire, and the impact on their lives arising from the conflict that engulfed not only Europe but most of the rest of the world.

The video is available on the internet; Hertfordshire: a county at war.



Newsletter

The newsletter *The Record* e will be distributed by email and available on our website but a hard copy will published for those who do not have access to the internet. We are aiming to have four issues each year; in May, August, November and February.

If you have any comments, articles or photographs please send them to Mike Foers by post or by email to mikefoers@yahoo.co.uk