

Dates For Your Diary

All our meetings will now be held on a Thursday either afternoon or evening

March 14th 2.15 for a 2.30 start. Philip Marris “The Ryde Remembered” Recollections and History of the Ryde, Hatfield.

June 13th 7.15 for a 7.30 Start. AGM followed by a talk from Brian Dummer, retired headmaster of Countess Anne School.

July 11th 7.15 for a 7.30 start. An Open Meeting, a chance to chat and socialise.

September 12th 7.15 for a 7.30 start. Anne Rowe, “The Lost Gardens of Hertfordshire.

The date for our December Open Meeting is yet to be finalised.

Meetings are held at Friendship House, Wellfield Close, Hatfield

Visit to St Alban’s South Signal Box



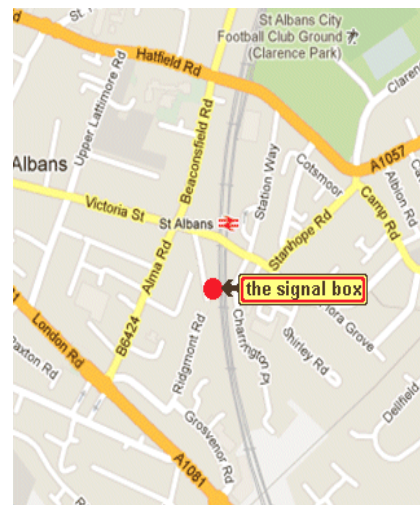
A visit to the St Alban’s South Signal Box has been arranged for **Saturday 18th May at 2pm**. This signal box has been restored by volunteers and is part of our railway and architectural heritage.

A normal visit is about two hours, with a talk in the garden (weather permitting) about the history of the line and the Box, and its restoration. We then go

through the garden and look at, and experience, some of the artefacts, and then go downstairs to see the museum (where tea, coffee and biscuits are provided). Finally we go upstairs (no disabled access) to see a signalling demonstration, and again have a go.

There is parking in the multi-storey car park on the other side of the tracks, on a Saturday the cost is £2 or £3, also there are a number of buses from Hatfield that stop at the station.

Let me know if you wish to go on this visit as I will need to know how many will be attending.



Chocks Away:de HavillandHeritage

A new exhibition at Mill green Museum & Mill.

01707 357850

In 1930 Geoffrey de Havilland aviation pioneer and founder of the de Havilland Aircraft Company, began moving his business from Stag Lane in North London to the small town of Hatfield. This decision had a profound effect on the town. The exhibition will explore the history of the de Havilland Company and how it shaped and developed the town.

Jim Parker

Sadly, Jim Parker, a long time member of our Society and who has been an active committee member has died.

I first met Jim when he was a member of the “Boomtime Group” back in the late 1990’s where he shared his memories of coming to Hatfield to live and work. Jim was transferred from Stag Lane to work at de Havillands in about 1945, but it was not until 1960 that he and his wife finally got a house in Hatfield where he brought up his family.



Jim at an HLHS display

Over the years Jim has been involved in many projects and displays that have helped raise the profile of Hatfield’s history, especially anything to do with de Havillands and the aircraft industry. One of his last collaborations was with the University of Hertfordshire in planning and creating the “Hatfield Aerodrome Heritage Trail” a fitting memorial to his memory.

Jim’s help and knowledge have been invaluable and he will be missed by us all in the Society, we will remember him with great affection.

Christine Martindale

The Hatfield Gun

While reading through the Hatfield Rural District Council 1919 Minute book at HALS, I came across a letter from the Marquis of Salisbury to the Council, with an offer of one of the German guns that were captured by the 4th Bn. Bedfordshire Regiment. (The 4th Bn. was made up of the men from the old Hertfordshire Militia, whose roots can be traced back to the Tudor period). The commander of the battalion up until 1915 was Lieutenant-Colonel James Edward Hubert GASCOYNE-CECIL (The Rt. Honourable Marquis of Salisbury).



Mill Green Museum

The Council accepted the gun, and passed the sighting of it over to the Hatfield Parish Council, who placed it near the old school gardens.

Asking members of the History Society if anyone could remember the gun and its location, Reg Colman and David Willson said they remembered a gun by the Common, on a field opposite where the cinema was. I managed to track down a photo of the gun at Mill Green Museum; the quality is not very good. Has anyone any memories or photos of it?

The gun was taken away during the Second World War and melted down.
