



Newsletter

1/2018



**SMALLFORD STATION
& ALBAN WAY**
Heritage Society

August 2018

BRINGING SMALLFORD STATION BACK TO LIFE

A 'new-look' Newsletter

Welcome to Smallford Station & Alban Way Heritage Society's (SSAWHS) re-launched, 'new-look' periodic Newsletter. Here you will find the latest information about the Society, news, events, featured articles and other activities of interest.

For those who are new members of our organisation, or for those who wish to become re-acquainted with our mission, aims and objectives, we hope the following will provide a helpful nut-shell overview:

Who We Are

The Smallford Station & Alban Way Heritage Society (SSAWHS) was formed in order to take over from, and extend the work of, the 'Bringing the History of Smallford Station to Life' project.

Our objectives are

- To encourage and promote the education of the general public in the study of the heritage of the former Hatfield to St Albans Railway (now the Alban Way foot-and cycle-path) and the impact that this had, and continues to have, on the surrounding communities & environment.

- To research, collect, communicate and exhibit all historical and educational artefacts connected with Alban Way which the Society may be able to acquire together with related items of local interest.
- To raise funds for its work and, if and when possible, for the purchase or lease of property and land to establish a heritage centre for accommodating and displaying the exhibits.
- To develop the knowledge, competences and skills of the members of the Society in conserving, researching and sharing the heritage, wildlife, nature, walking and cycling in the area and anything else that the Society deems appropriate.

Activities

We continue to provide presentations, workshops, exhibitions and guided walks.

Please see more details on our Activities on **Page 4**.

We are also working on Cataloguing and Archiving our Collection – a very challenging project!

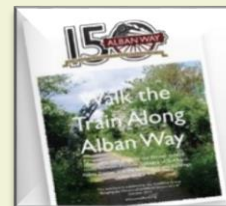
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If you would like to become a **Friend** or a **Member** of the Smallford Station & Alban Way Heritage Society (SSAWHS), please contact us at: info@smallford.org

Latest News & Updates

Bringing Smallford Station to Life

In our tireless efforts to acquire Smallford Station, we have opened a dialogue with the current owners with a view to securing some form of undertaking which will allow us to move forward. Acquisition of the site, in whatever form, will involve a degree of cost not only in the short term but also ongoing. To this end, two feasibility studies are being set up to look into both the costs of acquiring and restoring the building, and the possible uses to which it can be put in order to generate enough income to make it self-sufficient in the long term.

Data Protection

We are pleased to find that we are fully compliant with the EU's new data privacy law, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force on 25 May 2018 and which introduced some significant changes to the way that everyone handles personal data. We will be revising and updating our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use accordingly, and will be publishing these online in due course.

With these updates, SSAWHS reaffirms its commitment to the safeguarding of personal data of our Members, contacts, and anyone who visits our websites. When you joined the SSAWHS as a Member or Friend of the Society, you already gave us your permission to hold your details for contact purposes. Please rest assured that this membership data is exclusively held by us, and we would never share any information with a third party.

We are on Facebook!

We have launched the much anticipated SSAWHS Facebook page! You can find us at [@ouralbanway](https://www.facebook.com/ouralbanway). Please do stop by, and please feel free to 'Like' our page if you would like to follow us via your Facebook newsfeed.



Latest News & Updates

Commemoration of 50th anniversary of last train

2018 signifies 50 years since the last train ran the Hatfield to St Albans line. To this end, SSAWHS is planning some commemorative events this September/October. Please see **Page 4** for further information. As some events are still in their planning stages, don't forget to check our Facebook page for the very latest updates!

Member activity: visit to Rayne Station

On 19 July, several members paid a visit to Rayne Station in Essex. It was a beautiful day and we were treated as guests of the Community Railway Carriage Museum (created by some volunteer members of the 'Friends of the Flich Way' group), which is housed in a restored BR Mk2 carriage alongside the platform. Half the original seats have been removed to make space for their collection, which includes a working model railway and an old map of the original line, cleverly displayed along the ceiling of the carriage. The main part of the station is now a very popular cafe with seating both inside and on the platform - and visiting members thoroughly enjoyed their lunch!

St Albans Steam & Country Show

We all enjoyed a great weekend at the annual St Albans Steam & Country Show, which was held at Oaklands College (Smallford Campus) on 2-3 June. Although not ideally placed by the show organisers, we engaged with lots of visitors - including some potentially fruitful local contacts for relevant 'memories' and future help.

Annual General Meeting

The SSAWHS will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 15 October 2018.



Dates for your diary

We have some exciting events and activities planned for 2018 - as outlined below. All our events are FREE - but donations to support the work of our Society are always welcome!



**SMALLFORD STATION
& ALBAN WAY**
Heritage Society

SSAWHS Events

Upcoming Presentations & Activities:

- 15 Oct:** SSAWHS Annual General Meeting
- 26 Oct:** *The Varying Fortunes of the Hatfield & St Albans Railway* – evening presentation and relevant films (from 1929, 1933 & 1968)
- 19 Nov:** South West Herts U3A Local History Group

Guided Walks

2018 signifies **50 years since the last train ran the Hatfield to St Albans line**. The following two walks are organised as part of our events to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the closure of the Hatfield-St Albans Railway Line :

Sunday 23 September (10:00am-2:00pm):

- Hatfield - Colney Heath Lane
Commemorating the line closure

Tuesday 30 October (7:00-8:30pm):

- Evening Candle or Torch-lit Walk
Smallford - Nast Hyde Halt (FAMILY EVENT!)

For more information or to book your FREE place, please email:
albanwaywalks@smallford.org



SSAWHS Exhibitions

Upcoming Exhibitions:

- 9 Sep-7 Oct** Mill Green Museum

Other Events from our community partners in Herts



- **27 August Bank Holiday:** Nast Hyde Halt.
- **6-9 Sept:** St Albans Heritage Open Days.
- **13-16 Sept:** St Albans Heritage Open Days.

For the latest updates, please check our **website** and **Facebook** page.



info@smallford.org



[@ouralbanway](https://www.facebook.com/ouralbanway)



albanwaywalks@smallford.org



smallford.org/smallford-station/

Meet the Team

Meet our super-friendly, talented and hard-working team of Committee members.



The SSAWHS core team is made up of 12 members from all walks of life, but with one common interest and shared driving force: to research, restore, and preserve the Alban Way and Smallford Station heritage for generations.

Jeff Lewis has lived in Smallford for over 30 years and is passionate about community engagement. He is the leader of this exciting Community Heritage Project and was successful in bidding for the project's Heritage Lottery Funding;

Alastair Cameron grew up in and around Hatfield, and attended schools both in Hatfield and St Albans, with memories of having passed over the bridge by Smallford Station by bus. He has created an amazing model of Smallford Stations as it would have appeared in c 1960.

John Darnton is keenly interested in the development and operation of the former railway. He has visited a number of archives and has collected a considerable archive himself.

Chris Musk's desire is to see the run-down, unloved station building restored. He has been involved in interviewing past users and has met some interesting people, which would never have come about were it not for the project.

Mike Neighbour is a local historian, who has published two substantial books about the east end of St Albans. He has contributed to the project by exploring further the changes and growth of Horseshoes hamlet, now known as Smallford, and its surroundings.

Roger Gray has been a life-long steam railway enthusiast and has lived in St Albans for 48 years. As well as being a member of the Smallford research team, he is a prominent member of a Welsh steam railway society and has spent a number of years restoring an old railway carriage that was formerly a chicken house.

Jonathan Musk is the founder and editor of the UK's only consumer magazine dedicated to electric and hybrid vehicles, named AutoVolt. His contribution to the project has been to build the www.smallford.org website and associated content, as well as offer graphic design.

Hugh Burrell is a Chartered Certified Accountant, who has held a number of senior financial positions in blue-chip companies. He then became Managing Director and CEO of two companies in the Audio Visual industry. For the last 20 years of his working life he ran a conference company, MarCom Presentations Ltd., specialising in the delivery of conferences to major companies and industrial theatre. Hugh has lived in St Albans since 1976, and moved to Smallford in 2012 where he has been involved in the Smallford Residents Association, as well as the Smallford Station project.

Sarah Lloyd, Julie Moore and **Anna Hammerin** are our academic and heritage research partners from the University of Hertfordshire; a partnership forged via the Heritage Lottery Fund. Anna also looks after our Facebook page and our Newsletter.



Jeff Lewis

Chair



Alastair Cameron

Curator of 3D objects, Exhibitions



John Darnton

Archivist, Guided Walks, Web Developer



Chris Musk

Without Portfolio



Mike Neighbour

Publication Design



Roger Gray

Membership



Jonathan Musk

Website Manager



Gary Fisher

Honorary Secretary



Hugh Burrell

Honorary Treasurer



Rob Brook

Deputy Treasurer



Sarah Lloyd

Academic Partner



Julie Moore

Academic Partner



Anna Hammerin

Facebook, Newsletter

Stay in Touch!



Please let us know of any News or Events, Tips or Ideas, that you feel may be of interest to our Subscribers.

Here is where you will find us:



General enquiries **info@smallford.org**



Guided Walks **albanwaywalks@smallford.org**



Membership **info@smallford.org**



Via Facebook **@ouralbanway**



Via our Website **smallford.org/smallford-station/**

We look forward to hearing from you!