



# NEWSLETTER

## *Autumn 2013*

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter.

Winter may be approaching, but this makes looking back on our Summer events all the more pleasurable! We had a fascinating day at Bletchley Park and the feedback showed what a wide variety of things there are to enjoy. The development of computing and its importance to the outcome of World War II is obviously the prime focus but this is not just a museum for computer geeks - the displays cover many aspects of wartime information-gathering and communication from conventional spying to capturing enemy submarines and even the pigeons have their moment of glory. Then there is the mansion itself and the grounds, and even a toy museum, so there is something for everyone. The volunteer guides were also much appreciated, not just for their technical knowledge, but also for the way in which they could bring the daily work of this secret base to life. If you have any suggestions for next year's visit, please contact Malcolm Ramsay. Our destination should be within an easy coach-ride and it would be useful if it has an active Civic Society to host our visit.

We are also grateful to Simon Garratt and Philip Stancliffe for their hospitality in allowing us to use their beautiful house and garden for our party - their grounds are inspirational for both formal and wild gardening.

Planning for the celebrations for the centenary of the death of Alfred Russel Wallace is well under way. There will be something for everyone to enjoy, whether in science, the arts or local history, whatever your age and level of knowledge, so come along and join in.



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**PROGRAMME FOR 2014**

The programme for 2014 is under development and will be available in the next edition.

**PLANNING MATTERS**

***Site between Hertford East Station and Mead Lane:***

Over 130 flats were proposed for the vacant land between the station and Mead Lane. Some welcome changes were made to the scheme before it was considered by the Council’s Development Management Committee, for example by reducing the number of flats and the height of some blocks, but the very low provision of parking spaces remained unchanged. We had commented that the most likely result of not providing any parking for some of the flats would be cars parked illegally or inconsiderately on nearby streets and pavements, to the detriment of other local residents. Councillors agreed that the lack of parking would ‘lead to additional pressure on limited parking availability in the area’, and refused permission for that reason and on grounds of overdevelopment. They were also not satisfied that the developers had fully explored the possibility of retaining the site for employment use.

***79-83 Railway Street:***

The infill block (shop with flats above) for the gap beside the Funeral Directors’ on the corner of St John’s Street has been approved. However the officers shared our concerns about the confusion between the areas to be used for parking by the residents of the flats, the undertakers and the adjacent car repair workshop, and a condition was imposed requiring a new parking plan.

***Beesons Yard, Railway Street:***

Still in Railway Street, we were pleased that the nine flats proposed for this disused site were approved. As the location is on the very edge of the town centre we had questioned the wisdom of including three commercial units at ground-floor level: let us hope our doubts prove unfounded.

***Tudor Way and Hutton Close:***

The block of flats in Tudor Way closest to the Golden Griffin apparently has subsidence problems and is to be replaced by a terrace of three-storey houses. That is to be welcomed, but at the same time, Riversmead are proposing to build 3 three-storey blocks of flats in the space between the Welwyn Road (opposite Sele School)

and the existing flats in Hutton Close.

Whilst there is a great need for more social housing, this application is clearly driven by the fact that the site is in the ownership of Riversmead, who have very little land which they could develop. The area of green space between Hutton Close and Welwyn Road has a parkland appearance and appears to be well-used by residents. It is large enough and open enough to be an attractive place to use and to withstand wear; seen from the Welwyn Road, the tree belt is strong enough to filter views of the buildings, giving a pleasing, sylvan approach to the town. We have urged the Council to reject the proposal, which would erode the parkland appearance of the area, creating a series of fragmented amenity strips, hemmed in by buildings and parking spaces. The trees on the Welwyn Road frontage, left on a narrow strip between a wall and a new service road, could well be affected too.

### ***Rush Green Roundabout:***

We have been in touch with County Highways and the ward councillor (Andrew Stevenson) about the dangerous conditions which arise at this roundabout when cars queuing for McDonalds block the carriageway. Cllr Stevenson has asked officers

for a report and we await the results.

### ***Green Belt Review:***

In preparation for the new District Plan, Council officers have been reviewing the relative importance of Green Belt areas around Hertford and other towns in East Herts. It seems certain that the new plan, now scheduled for December, will include proposals to roll back the Green Belt in some places to make way for new housing. We intend to keep a close eye on the review as it affects Hertford.

Peter Norman, for the Planning Subcommittee

## **VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK**

Bletchley Park today gives the impression of a rather old fashioned academic institution during its holidays with its Victorian mansion, rectangular brick blocks, 'temporary' huts and spacious, well-managed grounds. It is hard to imagine that towards the end of WWII it employed 10,000 staff working round the clock in eight hour shifts and was giving birth to the modern computer age.

This was not what anyone imagined in 1938 when the Government bought part of the Bletchley Park estate for

£7,500 to be the new home of the Government Code and Cypher School. In anticipation of a war in which London was expected to be heavily bombed, BP, as it came to be known, was ideally sited, being about forty five miles from London but with excellent communications along the A5 and the Euston mainline, with rail links to Oxford and Cambridge and close to high quality GPO telephone cables.

During the First World War code breaking was largely the province of linguists but technology was to change that. The famous Enigma machine was invented for commercial purposes in 1915 to pass coded messages between banks; it enciphered letters by using a system of rotors which could be set in different combinations and could only be unscrambled by having an identical machine set to the same configuration - the odds against guessing the initial settings were so astronomically large that it was believed to be unbreakable. In addition to this, the German High Command, army, air force and navy all used different settings which were changed every day at midnight. During the course of the war, they made improvements to the technology, such as the Lorenz machine, that made messages still more difficult to crack. The Italian and

Japanese forces also had their own systems.

Mathematicians and engineers were drafted in because the need to gather intelligence that was current enough to be useful required not just logic but a machine that could check and eliminate millions of possible rotor settings in hours not months. This led to the development of the 'bombes' and later Colossus, the world's first electronic, semi-programmable computer.

The work was done in the highest level of secrecy and for most people consisted largely of meticulous record keeping and machine tending. Not only did most of the workers know nothing beyond their own particular task, the armed forces receiving the intelligence didn't know how it had been obtained either and were told that it had come from spies, informers or aircraft reconnaissance so its quality was not always appreciated.

Nor were the working conditions good. The mansion was rapidly outgrown and further space had to be provided in huts and later brick and concrete blocks. Historian Asa Briggs, who was posted to BP in 1943, describes the huts as follows in his book *Secret Days*: "In winter they were too cold, in summer too hot, and from the

start the blacked out windows had to be taped and there was too little light. The light bulbs had no shades. The noise that builders made as more huts were built ...could be deeply disturbing to those working inside them. The smells from the fires were totally obnoxious and the fumes possibly dangerous." Almost everyone was billeted off-site and the majority had to be bussed in for round the clock shift work. They knew that thousands of lives depended on their work but they were not allowed to discuss it with anyone so the pressure was intense; not surprisingly, recreation was considered very important and amateur dramatics, concerts and sports were popular.

Despite Bletchley's importance to the Allied victory the level of secrecy, which was maintained after the war, meant that no effort was made to preserve the site and it passed through various uses, stages of neglect and threatened re-development. As information was gradually declassified, interest grew and the Bletchley Park Trust was formed in 1992 to preserve the historic buildings. This is a work in progress and is expected to take another £20 million and ten years to complete.

Our visit included a guided tour, which was extremely

useful in understanding the equipment, the buildings, some of the personalities involved and the nature of the work done during the war. The displays and information boards tell a fascinating story, including that of the spies and servicemen who captured vital equipment and information, often at the cost of their own lives. There is an enormous amount of information to read, so plenty of time is needed to do justice to the exhibitions. The mansion itself with its eclectic mix of styles is of architectural interest and the grounds make a pleasant break from intense intellectual concentration, as do the cafeteria and gift shop.

Sue Jones

### *Colossus*

Walk up behind the tennis court and hut 11,11a, where Alan Turing and teams of Wrens used the Bombes to decipher Enigma, and beside a rose garden in another pair of huts you find Colossus. This is the world's first digital, and programmable, electronic computer. Two large frames support 2500 radio valves and complex wiring. The cipher text, gleaned from around Europe, was input by ¼ mile long paper tape and the valves would find the encryption, or 'chi-wheel', settings of the Lorenz



machines used by Hitler and Nazi high command.

Decryption teams then read the message, in German, off the Lorenz.

Built during 1943 by Tommy Flowers at the Post Office Research Station in Dollis Hill, NW2, the remarkable machine was assembled, on site, over Christmas 1943 and started work in January 1944, and was replicated in nine more Colossus machines by the end of the war.

Just as all the work of Bletchley Park remained classified the computer machines were lost to view and in 1992 Tony Sale and team set out to rebuild a Mark 1 from scratch, i.e. without any records. This task took ten years and was followed by the rebuild of a more powerful Mark 2. We were amongst a group of school teenagers and were impressed by their interest and understanding of the work to build and run the pieces of history.

These two working machines are the corner stone of the National Museum of Computing which needs a whole day to enjoy the development history of calculations from unique slide rules, through mainframes and pcs to the challenge of flying four aircraft simulators.

Richard Threlfall

## SUMMER PARTY

Once more we were lucky with the weather and were able to hold our garden party on a very pleasant evening in lovely surroundings not far from the town centre.

North Road House is a splendid Grade 2\* villa in the Greek Revival style, built by Thomas Smith in 1827-8 for his own use. Smith was a well-known local architect, being the County Surveyor for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and the designer of the County hospital. The front presents two stories with a basement and a low hipped slate roof concealed by a parapet with stucco-covered brickwork painted yellow and a main entrance set up four steps and flanked by fluted Doric columns.

Thus far, it is a pleasing and elegant house of its type, but it is from the back that the real interest and beauty is revealed. Here the yellow stock brickwork is exposed and French windows open onto a wide terrace on two levels, with seating and planters, almost concealing the entrance to the service area in the basement. The terrace overlooks a formal lawn, edged with flower beds and neatly trimmed trees. At the bottom, formality gives way to a strip of floral meadow, shaded by large

trees and accessed by winding mown paths.

Here the garden takes advantage of the old mill stream and the River Beane to become a wild area of woodland and grass which is a haven for wildlife. This part of the garden is reached by a cast iron bridge with bamboo pattern handrail, which was installed by Thomas Smith in 1848 and is now listed Grade 2.

From the display of copies of auctioneers' documents inside the house we learned that Smith acquired more land to enhance his property and that this had once reached further along North Road and across the river as far as Port Vale. Some of it was given over to fruit and vegetable production but much was landscaped garden, including a Gothick-style timber gazebo (Grade 2) and a folly in the form of a Norman-style tower, which is said to have been made from stone from a demolished local medieval church. Sadly, neither of these buildings was accessible since later sales of parcels of land have left the gazebo in a neighbouring garden and the folly in the grounds of the Beane River View retirement home, although this structure can be glimpsed from the footpath along the river.

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Both the drawing room and the dining room have elaborate plaster cornices and impressive fireplaces. Interestingly, the red granite fireplace in the dining room may have come from Panshanger House when it was demolished in the 1950s.

The house was once larger than it is now. The west wing still exists but has become a separate residence while the east wing was totally destroyed, apart from the basement, during the Zeppelin raid in 1915. The writer and social activist Annie Swan, who lived in the house at the time, describes in her autobiography *My Life* how the front door was also badly damaged and the dining room reduced to lath and plaster.

During our visit we were able to enjoy live music by *Carry the Can*, who played a mixture of jazz, blues, bluegrass and similar styles while we ate the food supplied by *Serendipity* and sipped our wine. We are very grateful to Simon Garratt and Philip Stancliffe for their hospitality in hosting the event and for the time they spent in explaining so many details of the house and garden to us.

Sue Jones

## PREVIOUS TALKS TO MEMBERS

### *Balls Park*

Intriguing detective work by the renowned architectural historian and lecturer Madeline Edmead gave us a fascinating insight into the design origins of Balls Park house, which is set in 63 acres neighbouring Hertford and one of the significant 'great houses' of the area.

The best clues to the architectural origins of the home, built around 1640 for sugar merchant, Royalist MP and Customs official John Harrison, arise from its proximity to London, the influence of leading builders of the day and the changing desires of Harrison, his family and subsequent owners.

There are so many uncertainties because no documentation of its origins survives. Judging by the style, was the architect Nicholas Stone, the mason and architect of Goldsmith's Hall (1635-38), or William Newton, a speculator builder who developed Great Queen Street and Lincoln's Inn Field in 1629? What of Peter Mills who built Thorpe Hall at Longthorpe in Peterborough? And what influence did Inigo Jones bring to bear?

"There is a lot we don't know about Balls Park but it's dated around 1640," said Edmead,

lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London. “We know the likely period from everything artistic and architectural about it. I have never seen a plan; in any case it was altered again and again. The modern manifestation is just the latest in a series of alterations.”

The house was still being built when Harrison’s property was confiscated in 1647 during the Civil War. He regained it at the Restoration but died in 1669, leaving his sons to complete and then add to the interior. Following these C18th changes, the internal courtyard was converted into a saloon in Victorian times in the baronial style of Sir Walter Scott, while further Edwardian alterations have left some interesting firebacks and remodelled ceilings. Some apparently early features turn out to be Edwardian, while one of the splendid ceilings could be C17th, C18th, or possibly Edwardian, but is so loaded with paint that it is impossible to tell. Since being owned by various landed families who constantly made changes, Balls Park has been a teacher training college, a campus of Hertfordshire University and is now luxury apartments.

But despite significant alterations at every stage, original design elements

remain. Sir Henry Chauncy (1632-1719), in *The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire*, gives the first detailed illustration of Balls Park, on which Edmead drew in her talk. The house shows that the mullioned transom windows were sashed during the C18<sup>th</sup>, while still keeping the original proportions. Other changes do not vary significantly from Chauncy’s view; the roof is Welsh slate, which was not widely adopted until late C18<sup>th</sup>; “Possibly it was originally tiled,” she said, and added that “The balcony too has extremely fine C18<sup>th</sup> ironwork.”

To offer greater insight into the origins of Balls Park, Madeline Edmead made detailed comparisons with houses from the same period, a time of great experimentation in English building styles and before the emergence of architecture as a distinct profession. The strict Classical proportions and sense of restraint advocated by Palladio were being introduced under the influence of Inigo Jones, but many less academic bricklayers and masons were simply copying Classical motifs to suit their own fancy, or that of their employers, with much less consideration for proportion in an often exuberant style known as ‘artisan Mannerism’.

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Like Hatfield House, completed in 1611, Balls Park is situated on high ground to give it dominance in the landscape “so everyone can see your house”. Both houses also have Classical motifs. “If you look at the wings of Hatfield you can see they are very plain; where there is show, it is in very good brickwork and that’s also true of Balls Park”.

Charlton House at Greenwich (1607-12), with quite interesting decorative features, uses elaborate carving as does Balls Park, in a Classical way. “An oddity about Charlton House is that brackets (decorative features below sills and ledges) are not evenly distributed across the facade - similar again to Balls Park.” As a result of such features architectural historians often suggest there may be a connection to Inigo Jones but Edmead does not agree. “I challenge that view; Jones is a court architect working for a sophisticated and select audience and Harrison is not part of that.”

But even if there is not a direct connection, there was nevertheless a strong influence, as seen in drawings of the Prince’s Lodgings at Newmarket, the most Palladian of Jones’s designs, with capped chimneys similar to those of Balls Park. “It shows how Jonesian design becomes relatively adaptable

in the period we are talking about (1638), the house very much contemporary with Balls Park. The classical influence filtering down from Jones builds on the continental text books available by the first half of the C17<sup>th</sup>.”

Another much ignored example for comparison is Cromwell House, Highgate Hill (1640). If going out to Hertford on the Great North Road, Harrison would pass this house. “The window surrounds are very close to those of Balls Park. There is a scrolling on the brickwork, such as the split Ionic scrolling on each side. The window headings sag because they did not know how to solve the problem of the weight of the walls above. You see eccentric scrolls on Balls Park similar to Cromwell House but the windows don’t sag. This is simply explained - sometime in the C18<sup>th</sup> the windows were remodelled to take sashes so the weight of the brickwork above was transferred into moulded piers.”

One of the last houses in this group for comparison is the house at Forty Hall near the Cambridge Road, built in 1632 for the merchant Sir Nicholas Rainton. “It has a restrained sense of harmony and order similar to Balls Park. These very tall houses have a certain fashion in the mid C17<sup>th</sup> and are described as

tower houses. Another is Hall Barn in Beaconsfield - turn on any historical film and it’s in there - it’s the house Maggie Smith departs from in ‘Gosford Park’.”

Edmead says some attribute Balls Park to Nicholas Stone, a mason who worked briefly with Inigo Jones and trained for a time in Amsterdam, which would reflect the Dutch influence on Balls Park. Unevenly arranged brackets in the design of Goldsmiths Hall have also led to this attribution. Others cite Peter Mills, whose best known building, Thorpe Park, has motifs reminiscent of Balls Park and Forty Hall. But she cautioned against a rush to judgment, describing them as “wastepaper basket architects”. In other words, “if you have a building of the right date and do not know who the architect is, it’s Nicolas Stone (or Peter Mills). The problem I have with Stone is that I think Balls Park is a bricklayer’s house not a mason’s.”

Similarly, she questions any central role for Inigo Jones. While Balls Park has a central staircase similar to courtyard houses and a splendid ceiling of circles and rectangles in his style, these, Edmead reckons, were added later in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. “It is built of fine brickwork and has some of the Classical forms of



Jones but without his restraint and sense of order.”

The design of Balls Park therefore follows a pattern rather than a single architect. “It represents a type of house found particularly in and around London and tends to arrive quickly along the Great North Road. Perhaps the designers or builders were Londoners. While Balls Park remains as enjoyable as ever, it fits a large group of houses more or less contemporary and reflects styles and compositions of the mid C17<sup>th</sup> that perhaps [modern] architects and designers haven’t come to terms with.”

Pictures are available on the City and Country website at [www.cityandcountry.co.uk/new\\_homes/balls\\_park\\_hertford](http://www.cityandcountry.co.uk/new_homes/balls_park_hertford)

Ian Nash

### FRIENDS OF PANSHANGER PARK

Developers Lafarge Tarmac sponsored, during July, two days of discussion on the requirements for establishing the Country Park. This was a conference in the form of a Mini-Charrette facilitated by Susan Parham of the University of Hertfordshire. After the introduction, groups of ten discussed chosen subjects. All groups reported summaries in a plenary session and the whole is

further summarised in a 96 page report.

To aid discussions, coloured plans of the park at various dates were provided and commented on. These proposals have been compared with the requirements of the planning approval and Section 106 issued in 1982 by the Government Inspector. Kate Harwood, of the Garden History Society, later reprised the history of the estate to the Friends committee and assisted with preparation of two maps for the Friends. These set out the *Vision of Public Access and Landscape, Views and Facilities* which the Friends have developed through discussion and knowledge of the land, buildings, flora and fauna in the park. The *Vision* asks for open access throughout with ten entrance points and defines the need for restoration of views and landscape areas. This *Vision* was presented by the working group to a compact group of County Councillors to inform their study of the new programme of reinstatement and realisation of the Country Park that Lafarge Tarmac are required to provide by the end of October. The requirement for this programme of work is at the core of the improved action by HCC to establish the Park for public use.

Some funding for the work of the Friends was donated by your Society and the Welwyn Garden City Society to establish publicity materials and a website. This work will lead on to information for residents around the area and invite their interest in the opening of the new public open space.

Richard Threlfall

### CELEBRATING WALLACE AT HIS CENTENARY

Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913) lived in Hertford from 1828 to 1836 and was recently described by Professor Steve Jones as “The man who pre-empted Darwin”.

Events planned for Hertford around Wallace’s centenary:

1. **Museum Exhibition.**  
Sara Taylor and her staff have organised it for Saturday 26 October to 22 February 2014. It will then go on tour around the County and elsewhere in England. Arts Council funded. Admission Free.
2. **Art Society Members Show.** This will be in the Mill Bridge Rooms opposite the Theatre and will also be free. It will have a Wallace category and be held 8,9,10 November. A prize will be awarded.

3. **Hertford Theatre** will be showing a film and play about Wallace. This is being sponsored by Sue and Keith Marshall and tickets are £5 and being sold now. The play is called 'You should ask Wallace' a quotation from Charles Darwin and will be performed by the Welsh Company 'Theatr na-nog'. It is a non-profit making venture. There is only one performance on Thursday 14 November at 7.30pm so book now at their furniture and carpet shop in the centre of town or reserve seats by phoning 01992 582039.
4. **Dinner at The Masters House.** This will be held upstairs where Wallace slept! It is now full but a reserve list is being kept. Cost £30 including two glasses of wine.
5. **Commemorative Sculpture.** This is being organised by the Civic Society in partnership with East Herts Council, with financial support from East Herts Council (the main funder) and also the Town Council; many, many thanks to both. Sculptors are being invited to tender for the work. Details on the EHC website.
6. **Sainsbury's Sculpture** designed by Karen Murphy and Leiselle Bristow and is being constructed beside Hartham Common near the new Sainsbury's store. It is called 'Evolution' and has a strong Wallace theme
7. **Rotary Club** are organising educational events with Eleanor Payne at the Museum and local schools.
8. **Courtyard Arts** have a mural illustrating Henri Rousseau and Alfred Wallace with a strong jungle theme! It will be positioned beside Waitrose and near the Wallace rondel.
9. **Praesentia**, Veronica Grassi, Caryl Beach and Sally Tyrie, are preparing an Art Trail around the town.
10. **Natural History Museum.** They have a website [www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/science-of-natural-history/wallace/index.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/science-of-natural-history/wallace/index.html) where there is interesting information and events nationally are being advertised. Hertford residents are invited to view this and organisers of events should ask to be advertised there too. No charge.
11. **Town Trail.** This is being prepared by local naturalist Tom Gladwin with Hertford Museum and HCS. (See next page) If you have any useful snippets of information please pass them to Barrie Goldsmith. Eight places around the town will be featured. Some conducted walks will also be offered.
12. **Talk at the Theatre** 'The World of Wallace' by Errol Fuller and Dr Sandra Knapp organised by the Museum, Arts Council funded, 15 January 2014 at 7.30pm. £10
13. **Richard Hale School** boys, especially those in Wallace House, and their families are being encouraged to go to the event in Hertford Theatre
14. **Zoofari at Hertford Museum** Live animals from Brazil and south-east Asia, 26 October, Arts Council funded, free
15. **Wallace House, St Andrews Street.** There is new information in the doctors' waiting room.
16. **Adults Only!** Saturday 9 November, 6pm to 9pm Indonesian food and music plus some Wallace specimens at the Museum, free.

"The old town of Hertford, in which I passed the most impressionable years of my life....is one of the most pleasantly situated towns in England....." *Wallace, in his autobiography*

Barrie and Marie Goldsmith

*The Wallace Town Trail is a work in progress but you might like to try out the route that has been developed so far...*

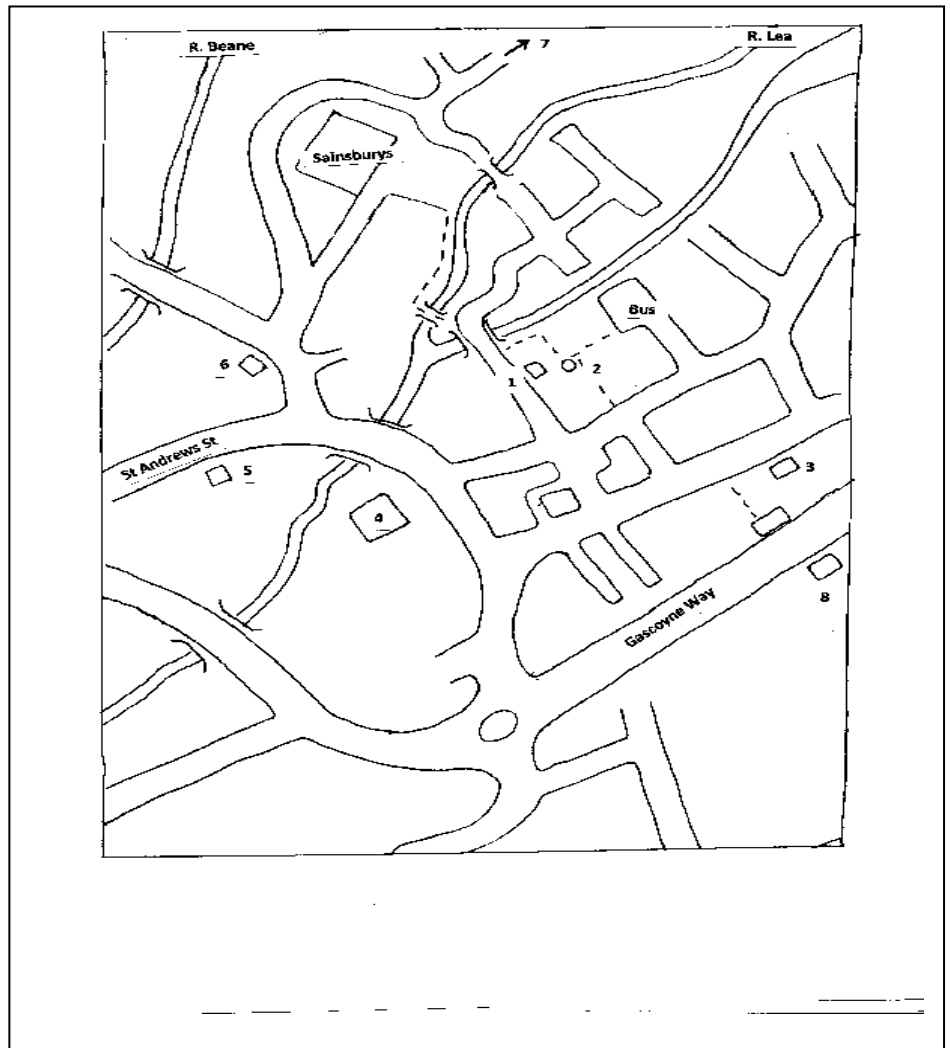
## WALLACE TRAIL

This Town Trail will take you to some of the places in Hertford where Alfred Russel Wallace lived or where he is commemorated.

1. It starts from the Museum in Bull Plain which was a thriving cattle market in his day. It will feature a major exhibition of his work for four months from the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death on 7 November 2013.
2. Turn right out of the Museum and right down a passageway and right again beside the Waitrose store. In the paving in Bircherley Green, carved in the stone there is a Rondel showing some of the many species Wallace discovered and first described.
3. Use the map to proceed to Fore Street and look for The Saloon, formerly the Master's House. There is a plaque on the wall. Wallace lodged here with the Headmaster during part of his schooling. He helped with the teaching of younger boys in order to fund his education.
4. Hertford Theatre. A bas-relief of Wallace will soon be erected on the only blank wall overlooking the river that he loved. You can get a coffee here and there are often paintings on display.
5. If you continue north for a few yards you will reach St Andrews Street and a little further you will find no. 11, Wallace House. There is a plaque on the wall. Wallace lived here with his family for part of his life in Hertford. It is now a doctors' surgery. You may wish to continue up the road to The Ruby, now an Indian Restaurant, where he is believed to have used the upstairs right-hand room.
6. Return along St Andrews Street to Old Cross, turn left and nearby on the left is where today's no. 23 was another of his homes. He is believed to have picked grapes from a vine on the west wall. Of course in the 1800s these houses did not have numbers so identifying the exact house has been difficult but features mentioned such as mulberry trees and grape vines in gardens have been used.
7. Continue left, cross the road with care please and make your way down Hartham Lane, go to the right of the old McMullen's independent brewery and then across the Sainsbury's car park and past the Leisure Centre to the point where the River Beane and the River Lea join. This is the old swimming hole where children swam in the summer. In those days it was clean and had trout in it as the chalk aquifer had not been depleted as it has now. On one occasion Wallace nearly drowned but his brother John rescued him.
8. Now use the map to cross Folly Island, go back up Bull Plain to Fore Street. Go up the passageway by the Post Office and to the top floor of the multi-storey car park (take care). Look to the south, over Gascoyne way, the dual carriageway, and the old building with a brick wall close to it is the original Hertford Grammar School, where Wallace was a pupil. Of course the busy road was not there in his day and this is very close to the house that we looked at on Fore Street (Point 2).

Wallace discovered the Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection independently of Charles Darwin and pushed Darwin into publishing. The papers of both men were read to the Linnean Society on 1 July 1858. Wallace lived in Hertford from 1828 to 1835. He is equally important for his contribution to our understanding of biogeography. Hertford Grammar School became Richard Hale School and is still in Hertford and continues to have a Wallace House. Hertford is proud to have helped rear such an original thinker and is aware of the diversity of habitats and species which he enjoyed in the rivers, on the Meads and on local farms. It continues today to be proud of its environment, museum, theatre and art groups, all of which are celebrating the life of this great naturalist, scientist, biogeographer and sociologist.

Barrie Goldsmith



To apply for or renew membership of Hertford Civic Society, please complete and send this form to:  
Linda Haysey, Roxford House, St Mary's Lane, Hertingfordbury SG14 2LF  
Existing members need submit the form only if their details have changed, e.g. new address

**Subscriptions**, per annum, are as follows:

Full membership £9.00	Full joint membership at the same address £14.00
Full membership with concessions £5.00	Full joint membership with concessions at the same address £8.00
Joint membership (one full and one concession) at the same address £11.00	
Corporate membership £20.00	Junior membership (under 18 years of age) £5.00

**PART A MEMBERSHIP FORM**

I/We wish to become/remains members of Hertford Civic Society and  
(a) enclose a cheque for the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_ being my/our subscription for 2012  
(b) wish to pay by standing order and enclose my completed standing order form (delete as appropriate)

FULL NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP (please circle)    FULL    CONCESSION    CORPORATE    JUNIOR

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Your personal details will be held on a computer and used to help run the Society as a membership organisation, to include the collection of subscriptions and delivery of a newsletter. Your details will be kept secure, in compliance with data protection principles, and will not be given to third parties. The committee may write to or email you from time to time, with news of interest to members, to find out your views, or to ask for participation in Society activities. If you do not want your details to be held on computer, tell us, but be aware that it may then not be practical to provide you with full membership services.

**PART B GIFT AID DECLARATION**

NAME OF CHARITY - Hertford Civic Society. Registered charity No. 266111. I pay tax at the standard rate and wish the above named charity to treat as a Gift Aid donation all subscriptions I have paid since 6 April 2000 (if applicable) and all subsequent donations until further notice.

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**PART C STANDING ORDER FORM**

NAME OF YOUR BANK \_\_\_\_\_

BANK ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SORT CODE \_\_\_\_\_ ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Pay to the account of:  
Hertford Civic Society at Barclays Bank, 12 Market Street, Hertford SG14 1BA; sort code 20-20-37; account no 40475807 on receipt of this order and on each 1 January thereafter, the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_