



News and events

- The posters from our Great War exhibition have been widely admired, with requests for another exhibition and perhaps a bound volume. They are now on our website.
- Peter Jeffreys and Patrick McNeill will give a talk 'The Rise and Fall of the Pubs of Wheathampstead 1830 to 1914' at the Arc and Arc meeting in St Albans on 12 February. Details at <http://stalbanhistory.org/>
- **Next meeting:** Our next meeting is on 20 February when Justin Burgess will give a talk 'A fine and private place – graves and funerals'.

Notes and queries

The rural economy in the 19th century

The management and sale of timber was an important source of income for the larger local estates in the 19th century. Advertisements such as these, dated 14 November 1891, appeared frequently in the Herts Advertiser.

Sales by Auction.

LAMBE ESTATE, WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTS.

Mr. A. RUMBALL

Will sell by auction, at the Peaben Hotel, St. Albans, on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24th, 1891**, at One for Two o'clock, by direction of Mrs. Drake Garrard, about

100 OAK, ASH, and ELM TIMBER TREES, felled, and lying on the above estate, and near to Wheathampstead and Harpenden Stations on the Great Northern

May be viewed on application to G. Pikealey, Gustard Wood; and catalogues had of Mr. A. Rumball, land agent and surveyor, St. Albans.

TITTENHANGER ESTATE, between ST. ALBANS and BARNET.

Mr. A. RUMBALL

Will sell by auction, at the Peaben Hotel, St. Albans, on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24th, 1891**, at One for Two o'clock, by direction of the Earl of Caledon.

140 CLEAN OAK TREES, felled and lying in the Coppice near the mansion, and Redwell-wood, Ridge-hill.

May be viewed and catalogues had at the Waggon and Horses Inn, Ridge-hill, and of Mr. A. Rumball, land agent, St. Albans.

Most of these auctions were of mature trees though auctions of underwood were also held. Mature trees were sometimes sold 'pre-felled' with the standing trees marked with white paint, sometimes felled and 'lying' in the woods, and sometimes ready sawn in a timber yard. Auctions could be held in the woods, in a timber yard, or in one of the larger pubs such as the Bull.

Elm trees, now rare in the countryside, were particularly important in the 19th century village economy. Cartwheel hubs were made of elm, as were mill wheels, tool handles, dough troughs, cheese moulds, wheelbarrows, stall divisions for stables, and chair seats.

This annotated copy of an auction catalogue shows some of the prices achieved at a sale held near Wheathampstead (*sic*) in 1854. The most expensive lot – three ash trees – went for £5 2s 6d; the lowest price paid was for two oak trees which sold for 10s. Two large elms were sold to Mr Lattimore for £2. Five larch fir, an unusual lot, fetched £3 17s 6d. Buyers included Mr Kilby, carpenter and builder in Gustard Wood, and a Mr Trustram, probably James, also a carpenter, and landlord of the Cock Inn in Harpenden.

CATALOGUE OF ABOUT
200 TREES
COMPRISING,
34 OAK, 34 ASH, 90 ELM, 20 LARCH FIR,
And 40 Chestnut and other Trees,
(Some of the Elm being of Large Dimensions, and the others useful.)

LYING PARTLY AT
LAMBE TIMBER YARD,
NEAR
WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTS.
AND PARTLY IN
Holoroff's Field, Opposite Sauncey Wood, near Bower Heath,
Between Wheathampstead and Luton.

WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
MR. RUMBALL,
On the Premises,
On Thursday, October the 5th, 1854;
At ONE o'clock,
BY ORDER OF C. R. DRAKE GARRARD, ESQ.

Lot.	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Two Elm Trees	10s	
2	Two Ash ditto	5s	
3	Three ditto	15s	
4	Three ditto	15s	
5	Four ditto	20s	
6	Three ditto	15s	
7	Three ditto	15s	
8	Five ditto	25s	
9	Six Oak ditto	30s	
10	Five Horse Chestnut Trees, and 1 Spanish ditto	40s	
11	Six Elm Trees	30s	
12	Two Horse Chestnut ditto	20s	
13	Three Oak Trees, and 8 Spanish Chestnut ditto	50s	
14	Eight Horse Chestnut Trees	40s	
15	Four Birch ditto	20s	
16	One Spanish Chestnut Tree, and 1 Spanish ditto	30s	
17	Two Elm Trees, 1 Birch, 1 Ash, and 1 Chestnut	40s	
18	Three Fir Trees	30s	
19	One Spanish Chestnut Tree, and 1 Horse Chestnut	30s	
20	Two Elm Trees	20s	
21	Five Apple ditto	15s	
22	Three Elm ditto	15s	
23	Two Ash ditto, and 1 Cherry Tree	20s	
24	Five Six Larch Fir Trees	30s	
25	Ditto	10s	
26	Ditto	10s	
27	Ditto	10s	
28	Ditto	10s	
29	Ditto	10s	
30	Ditto	10s	
31	Seven Elm Trees	20s	
32	Three Oak Trees, and 1 Ash	40s	
33	One Ash Tree	10s	
34	Two Oak Trees	10s	
35	Two Ash ditto	15s	
36	Two Oak ditto, and 1 Top	20s	
37	One Elm Tree	10s	
38	Nine Elm Trees	30s	
39	Twelve ditto	30s	
40	One Ash Tree	10s	
41	Seven Elm Trees	20s	
42	Six ditto	20s	
43	Six ditto	20s	