

<b>St Albans Museums: 'Talking Buildings' project, 2016</b>	
<b>Building:</b>	<b>The Cock, 48 St Peters Street</b>
<b>Researched by:</b>	<b>Lin Keen</b>
<p>This research was undertaken by volunteers and is not an exhaustive history of the building but captures what intrigued them during the project.</p> <p>If you have any memories you'd like to share, or any queries about the research, please do let us know: <a href="mailto:museum@stalbans.gov.uk">museum@stalbans.gov.uk</a></p>	

Chris Saunders' (former Archaeologist at St Albans Museums) website describes The Cock as a C15th building but Historic England has it as late C16th or early C17th. Chris Saunders description "The Cock still retains the two storey wing on the corner of St. Peters Street and Newlane (Hatfield Road). This was originally jettied along both streets fronts and the "dragon beam" essential in such a construction is visible.

Also visible are the joists for the upper floor on which a fine series of carpenters marks are visible and the position of the original stair well can be determined from the pattern of empty mortises. (So it's possible to enjoy a drink and study this detail at the same time!)

'St Albans 1650-1700' states that the hall range which once stretched along Newlane was rebuilt in the Seventeenth century. It states that it is likely that George Barnes, plumber kept The Cock Inn, owned by Robothams. He occupied a tenement near the Cock in 1680 and his name appears as an innkeeper in the 1663 Court Leet list. His hearth tax rating of 4 hearths in 1663 was probably for The Cock.

There is reference to the possibility that an earlier building on the site was used as a hospital or dressing station in the Second Battle of St Albans.

It was acquired by Kinder in 1834 and extended and acquired by Adey and White 1918.

### Stories

There are various references to various landlords at different times...

There are references to stories that bones were found there relating to the second battle of St Albans but this that turned out to be animal bones (*sources needed for this*).

'General Tom Thumb' (Charles Sherwood Stratton 1838-83) stayed in 1865.

Sudden death of a longstanding landlord – 'Another Awfully Sudden Death at St Albans' Herts Ad 21/07/1860. Mr Samuel Carridge, aged 68, landlord for 24 years, died at The Cock. The inquest decided the death was from natural causes.

On 28th July 50 or more people 'a great noise riot & disturbance' at The Cock, where they had carried 'two effigies with a large pair of horns' representing the wife of the complainant & another [Hertfordshire record Publications Quarter Session Rolls 1784-1820, 473/6]

1828 William Wood labourer died from drink after going on a beaver starting at the Swan public House & continuing at The Cock, whose landlord Wood knew [HG – Hertfordshire mercury].

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## Sources

1. 'St Albans 1650 – 1700 A Thoroughfare Town and its people', St Albans and Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society, 2003.
2. Chris Saunders website [http://www.salbani.co.uk/Med%20Web/st.\\_peters\\_street.htm](http://www.salbani.co.uk/Med%20Web/st._peters_street.htm)
3. Historic England – Listed buildings <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/>
4. Hertfordshire Inns – A Handbook of Old Hertfordshire Inns and Beerhouses, part two, West Herts by W Branch Johnson
5. Hertfordshire Inns and Public Houses – Graham Jolliffe and Arthur Jones
6. Hertfordshire Genealogy website <http://www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk/data/places/places-s/st-albans/!-st-albans-frame.htm>