

# Hertford and Ware Local History Society

Please join us at St Mary's Church Hall, Ware

**Thursday 10th September 2026 - STARTS 8 PM**

## LOCAL HISTORY TALK GIVEN BY GUY THOMAS

### **THE ROYAL FLYING CORPS at LONDON COLNEY**



#### **London Colney Airfield (little known) in WW1 – RFC and US Army Corps**

In late 1915, 212 acres of farmland was requisitioned by the Government to establish a training site. The site was located between 3 parishes – St Stephens, Shenley and London Colney. The airfield became operational in 1916 and in July, 56 Squadron subsequently became the first squadron to receive the new SE5A fighter aircraft, together with one of its selected pilots, Captain Albert Ball, the RFC's then leading ace with 36 victories.

In September 1917, 74 Squadron, nicknamed the 'Tiger Squadron' arrived with a certain 'Mick Mannock', another Air Ace who later was to become the top scoring pilot of WW1.

Additionally, the USA had joined Great Britain and the 24th US Army Aero Squadron arrived and their pilots trained up before they too departed for France. Later in 1918, as the war came to an end, the airfield started to wind down its training and after the Armistice was signed in November 1918, No 41 Training Depot was disbanded. London Colney was retained by the newly formed RAF and used in 1919 by nos 1 and 24 Squadrons, before finally closing in November that year.

**Venue : St Mary's Church Hall, Ware**  
**Non-members welcome Admission £3.00**

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Membership Fees : Annual Membership £15 Visitors fee £3.00