

Hatfield This Century |

Hatfield people explore their history from 1900

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The Group now has 24 paid up members, but with the cost of cassette tapes and photocopies, we will be starting a recruitment drive in the New Year, particularly as we are beginning to contact former de Havilland employees and their families. It is hoped that institutions will be encouraged to join the Group.

The New Town project is reaching an interesting stage with the brochure nearly ready for printing and a plan being located of the New Town as the Development Corporation found it in 1949.

Ambrose O'Hogan is planning to complete the layout of the brochure this Christmas vacation incorporating Sue Kirby's latest editorial alterations. The Group had been quoted a rate of £60 an hour for this work so very many thanks to Ambrose for his assistance.

We are endeavouring to obtain sponsorship for this brochure to enable the printing to proceed. A total of £1000 is required for this initial attempt to allow the present Hatfield population to understand their heritage.

The Record Office at Hertford has found the map of New Town which gives the numbers of the houses, and used in conjunction with maps submitted for planning applications dealing with alterations to New Town properties, we should be able to locate all houses. These plans do indicate that not only were some properties demolished prior to redevelopment but that certain properties were combined to make larger houses. Kelly's directories from 1900 to 1966 have now been analysed and it is hoped to publish these findings for former New Town inhabitants to explain what the non-residential buildings were used for. The census returns for 1891 will only be available during January 1992 so that a final booklet on New Town is obviously some way away.

Stella Cunningham now has 20 tapes written up as part of the oral history section and is planning to run another training course in the New Year for aspiring recordists. Future recordings will generally be concerned with the DH social history project on the interaction of DH and Hatfield. Reg Coleman is busy completing the list of important dates for this project and the Group will be advertising for interviewees in due course.