

HATFIELD THIS CENTURY

Hatfield People Explore Their History from 1900

Secretary D. Jenner

Editor

F.cox

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NEWSLETTER

December 1994

Your committee has been very active since the last Newsletter. Meetings have been held in September, October and December in addition to the open meeting held at the Red Lion on the 18th October.

Resulting from this it is planned to prepare a programme of events for next year with a continuation of meetings for the general public and limited access meetings for members only.

With 1995 being the 50th anniversary of VE day it is hoped that we will be able to publish Brian Lawrence's excellent compilation of "Hatfield at War".

It is understood that the Hatfield Library is considering a VE exhibition. This could be a project with which we could help. Let us have your memories, photographs etc. and details of any memorabilia you would be prepared to lend.

Eric Sherrard has a cam-corder and is interested in filming activities and locations for record purposes.

Following up on a previous tour of Hatfield park, it is proposed to look into the possibilities of visits to other places of interest such as Nast Hyde, Tyttanhanger, Howe Dell etc.

The Autumn 1944 booklet of the Hertfordshire Association for Local History has been received by Dennis Jenner and is available on loan to members.

Dennis attended a meeting of Hatfest 1995 at Birchwood Centre on 25 October and will keep the committee informed of progress.

Another suggested project is the development of the Birchwood area. Remember Crawford's farm? and when St. Michael's church was a wooden hut at the other end of Birchwood Avenue?

With all these activities in hand please keep in touch. Come to the meetings, send in your reminiscences and suggestions and tell your friends of our aims and achievements.

Located! R.G.Ellice & Sons were greengrocers at 5 Roe Hill Centre, Bishop's Rise.

The Odd-fellows Thanks for the information received about the Loyal Excelsior Lodge and particularly for the photograph from John Gray who was a member. The articles are being preserved at the museum at Mill Green and will be available for researching, Unfortunately no information on the Roll of Honour has been forthcoming.

Members' Meeting The meeting held at the Cecil Room at the Red Lion on the 18th October was a great success with 25 people attending. The subject matter was changed from "Pubs in Hertfordshire" to a talk about brewing in the county mainly recounting the history of McMullens both business and family. A most interesting discourse by Mr. Dennis Rutledge was supplemented by welcome gratuitous samples of the brew.

Air Training Corps A request. has been received concerning a glider that was commandeered by the RAF from 35 Squadron ATC and given to a gliding school at Hatfield in 1943/4 for the use of the ATC there. It was probably based at de Havilland's or at Panshanger. Can anyone help?

Strike at DH's Another request is for information regarding a strike in support of the Republican cause in the Spanish Civil War .

Wellfield Hospital When the sale of the hospital to the Area Health Authority was under consideration there was some doubt as to ownership. The land was given by the Salisbury family and the buildings erected from local resources. Documents were destroyed at the end of the last century. Further material was destroyed by enemy action at the Public Records Office in London. Subsequently it was decided that ownership was vested in the Hatfield Parish Council, but money from the sale could only be used for charitable purposes. Dennis Jenner has written to the Town Council for permission to examine the documents.

Newtown Reading Room & Social Club "This is a working men's club. Games include bagatelle, cards (cribbage and don are most in vogue), draughts, chess and dominoes. The members are mostly working men and youths of New Town and have numbered as many as 130. Mr. Wm. Butterfield is Honorary Secretary, and Mr. Robert Canham is Assistant Secretary. It must be gratifying to Lady Salisbury - through whose benefice the room was built - to know that many working men and youths who formerly spent their evenings loafing the street corners and outside public houses are now provided with healthy amusement and instruction in the new Town Reading Room"

From the Bishop's Hatfield Magazine Oct. 1889.

Old Hatfield Characters Dennis Jenner is compiling brief pen sketches of interesting Hatfield people. Let us have your recollections to help in this collection .

Street Names Help us list some interesting stories of local street names and how they originated. For instance Beaconsfield Road, originally Beaconsfield Terrace, was named after Benjamin Disraeli, (later Lord Beaconsfield) due to his political affinity to Lord Salisbury.

The Railway in Hatfield Ron White is collecting information on the railway and its effect on Hatfield. Do you have any details of the construction, maintenance, management etc. or photos of the station, lines or people who worked for the GNR or LNER. If so please let us have them have them- or contact Ron

Past Aviation The WEA is holding a course on Aviation History in Hertfordshire commencing January 1995. Details from Eric Sherrard (01707) 265062.

Your Committee extends

Best Wishes

CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR