

Hatfield Local History Society

No. 39

NEWSLETTER

Dec. 2000

SECRETARY: Mrs. C. Martindale.

Editor: F.J.Cox.

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Finances

Over since the organisation was formed over 10 years ago we have been able to hold our members' subscriptions down to a very low level of £2.50 p.a. I am sure that you will agree that we now provide members with much more than we could in those early days with regular quarterly Newsletters and more recently with a programme of monthly meetings for 8 months of the year. So far we have had sufficient reserves to finance our activities but currently our costs, mainly the room hire and speakers' fees, are running at double our annual income and this is a situation which cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely.

The committee would be reluctant to cut back on our activities which do seem to be appreciated but steps must be taken to balance our budget. Administratively we cannot now amend our subscriptions level for 2001 but it seems inevitable that an increase will be recommended at the next AGM for implementation in 2002.

Meanwhile we shall have to introduce a charge of £1 for members attending meetings from the beginning of 2001 and we hope that members will find this charge acceptable and continue to support our meetings as they have in the past. Visitors will continue to be welcome but will, of course, be required to pay the higher entrance fee of £2.

Brian G. Lawrence Chairman

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Chris Martindale has been busy preparing more interesting meetings for 2001.

With the change of venue to the Swim Centre the attendances at the meetings have grown, indicating a preference for the location and the improved facilities.

The availability of wheel chair access is also a great bonus.

Meetings 2001

No January Meeting

February 12	Eric Sherrard - 20th Century Hatfield Part 2	2.30
March 12	John Higgs - The Cuffley Airship	7.30
April 9	<i>To Be Announced</i>	
May 14	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	7.30

followed by

Clive Harris - The Hertfordshire Regiment and the Great War

June 11 Richard Busby will conduct a Guided Walk in Brocket Park 6.30

Meetings held at Hatfield Swim Centre

HATFIELD WORKHOUSE

Chris. Liston has completed her final report for the Open University course. It is an Analysis of Inmates and Admissions from 1851 to 1901 and for this she has relied mainly on the registers deposited at County Hall and the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Guardians.

From this report we learn that in 1851 there were 109 inmates, with the numbers decreasing until in 1901 there were only 35. The highest percentage were men over 60 and agricultural labourers. The number of tramps admitted greatly increased. In 1872 572 were admitted to the casual ward - an average of 1.5 per night - whereas in 1881 the number had increased to 3405 - an average of 9.3 per night! A full copy of the report is available at the Mill Green Museum or the Hatfield Library. Chris has expressed her thanks to members for their help in her project.

FAMILY SEARCH

Mrs. Joy Sims from Much Wenlock in Shropshire is researching her family history. In 1881 her great grandmother Anne Barker nee Ashby, probably from North Mymms. was farming at Hatfield Hyde. If any member could assist in this search we will be pleased to pass on any information or arrange a contact.

Letter

We are all pleased that your members enjoyed their visit to North Mymms Park. It is a great pleasure to take people around who are genuinely interested, and this was certainly the case.
David Hinks
Glaxo Wellcome

PUBLICATIONS

This year has seen an interest in the publications emanating from the Society.

The Growing Up in Hatfield before 1945 books, launched at the May meeting have proven very successful with some 150 sold to date.

Brian's book, An Artist's Impression consisting of Beresford Johnson's Sketches of Old Hatfield has been another winner, being on sale not only at the Museum and Library but also at book shops throughout the county.

Janet Robinson's family story - The Tingey's of Hatfield - based on her 1998 talk, Tingey Tales, produced and published by Frank Cox with a limited edition of 50 copies was soon a sell out. A reprint was necessary and a second reprint is in hand.

It is with regret that we report the death of Muriel Laurence only weeks after approving the draft of her Growing Up story and, more recently, of Mary Howe another writer in that series.

Copies of these publications are still available as listed below,

GROWING UP IN HATFIELD BEFORE 1945

Book 1 by Mary Howe
Book 2 by George Bennett
Book 3 by Muriel Laurence
Book 4 by Elizabeth Hook
all at £1 each including postage

THE TINGEYS OF HATFIELD £4 plus 50p postage

Send cheque made payable to Hatfield Local History Society to Frank Cox, 23 Home Meadow, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.
AL7 3BA

AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION
£4.50 plus 50p postage
Cheques made payable to Bel Publications.

MUSEUM RESOURCE ROOM

The Mill Green Museum has a comprehensive store of information and photographs on a huge range of topics from stately homes to sewage. They also have a wide collection of books on local history and general social history. Anyone is welcome to come and browse through them in the Resource Room.

Please make an appointment first. The room is open on Thursday mornings when staff are on hand to help you find what you need to know. For more details or to make an appointment call

Should you be able to help with the manning of this room on Thursday mornings please phone Caroline Rawle on the same number.

ORAL HISTORY TAPES

It is hoped that copies of the 90 edited tapes held at the Hatfield Library will be available at the Mill Green Museum shortly. To assist with research with these interviews Frank has now provided an index capable of using the 'FIND' menu of Microsoft Word plus a hard copy for those not happy to use the computer.

A suggestion that copies of the tapes be made available for sale would be dependent on demand.