

SECRETARY: Mrs. C. Martindale  
EDITOR: Mr. F.J.Cox*Editorial.....*

33 members attended the AGM on Monday 12 May and heard our chairman, Brian Lawrence, report on the activities of the Society over the past 12 months. It was accepted that in spite of the high cost the present venue for meetings at the Swim Centre was probably the best option, being central with convenient parking. Thanks were extended to Chris Martindale for her successful efforts to provide interesting speakers for the meetings and for arranging the visit to Much Hadham last year.

An appreciation of Brian's leadership was unanimously endorsed.

With the unfortunate death of Stan Clayton there was a vacancy on the committee. David Willson was nominated to fill this post and was duly elected.

We have been invited to join the Welwyn and District Local History Society in their annual exhibition with a stand depicting Hatfield with particular emphasis on de Havillands.

Preparations are well under way for the local Heritage weekend in September.

Our treasurer, Isobel Cox, reported 105 current members, a small increase over last year. With a full year's increase in the subscription we have managed to meet the extra costs of the meeting room and speakers together with the larger Newsletter. The balance at the bank of

*Continued on page 2 column 3*

**TO CHURCH IN LAPLAND  
CHRISTMAS 2002**

I spent the six shortest days in Gallivare in Sweden's Lapland, to see a Grandson marry his beautiful Welsh Sara; Lapland because her doctor parents live there. Landing in the dark at 10pm we (I and some family) were met and taken to various hotels or chalets in the forest. For 6 days we only had one hour of daylight, and temperatures between -23c and -29c, but with layers of the right clothing we never felt the cold. An unforgettable white world wrapped in deep, dry, crisp snow. But every window in Gallivare was lit with seven electric candles, and every tree or bush near a building was festooned with coloured lights.

My first thrill was a bumpy ride in my wheelchair, pushed by my son, to explore shop windows before being taken some kilometres to the parents' wooden house in the forest. The welcome was wonderful. So was the food, a dinner with barbecued reindeer steaks. I can say that we saw no reindeer at all - maybe gone to Russia's own Lap-land - or west to Norway's. 70kms away we visited the famous ice palace, an immense, dome-shaped creation covering 4,000 square metres, and as tall as a cathedral. Numerous rooms, life size, include bedrooms to hire (ice beds with lots of reindeer skins), a bar with tables the same size as our own pubs. Even the glasses were made of ice. After the thaw, work

begins immediately on a replacement palace.

A small church in Gallivare was built 200 years ago for Lapps who were of small stature. On entering, each person paid the equivalent of one penny. A small hut nearby was a sleeping place for long distance travellers.

The wedding church was a beautiful building as white as the snow around it. Inside was modern, very polished, with a gallery. The supreme moment was seeing lovely Sara walk down the aisle with her father - a vision in long, white silk (a matching coat stayed in the porch). The service was in Swedish, Welsh and English, and very lovely. Then back into the forest home for a wonderful meal including moose steaks carved by the hunter who had shot the animal.

One day left - what a day! Thanks to our hosts' friend I had a solo ride in the forest in a sleigh pulled by 12 husky dogs. I was smothered in warm wraps. Then, out to tea in the hunter's house; while the rest went by road I rode pillion behind my host on his snowmobile, in and out among the trees. I was, at 92½, his oldest passenger ever. Then, "Everybody out, we have the Northern Lights". True - my first ever sight of the spectacle. It all made the journey to my grandson's wedding to Sara an unforgettable and wonderful experience.

*Mary Padget.*

## HAPPY MEMORIES

Michael K. Clark

The extract from the Hertfordshire Countryside written by E W Waller bought back many happy memories. Ernie as he was affectionately known by all at Gray's Garage was a customer from the early thirties until he gave up motoring. When we, Gray's I mean, purchased his beloved 1938 Morris 8 regd. No DRO 528 in 1970, we also received a mass of documentation relating to all the cars he purchased from the 30's, as well as the full service history of his last car.

The first car he purchased was in 1931 from W Waters & Sons, it was a Morris Minor with a Side Valve engine, cost on the road £140.5.6 less allowance for a Motor Cycle £20.0.0, leaving a balance outstanding of £120.5.6, the receipt shows he paid £110.5.6 so even in those days you could obtain a discount for cash.

Included in this purchase was a Motor House also supplied by Morris Motors, the cost of this was £12.15.0 There were obviously some problems in erecting this Motor House, I have a copy of a letter from Mr Waller to Dunham the local builder dated May 30th 1931 and I quote:

"I think I am quite justified in complaining of the slowness of the erection of my Motor Home here. This morning all that can be seen for four hours work for the two men is the fixing of five sheets of asbestos to the roof and alterations of the roof ties which I had found had been fixed all at one end, contrary to the plan which is very simple to follow. The total hours spent by the two men up to now is 32 and at the same rate of progress there will be another 32, against Morris Motors estimate of 4 hours for two qualified erectors, however they do state it would

take longer by men unfamiliar with this product."

Mr Waller's letter goes on and on, but finally he says "I understand now why you would not let me have a fixed estimate for the erection of this Motor House, but I am paying no fancy price for hours spent by inefficient workman over and above a reasonable time."

Mr Waller's name brought back many happy memories and was an opportunity to reminisce.

### AUTUMN MEETINGS

8 Sept. 7.30 Last Flight of Lancaster  
LL919

13 Oct. 2.30 Commonswood Nature Reserve

10 Nov 7.30 The Home Guard

8 Dec 2.30 Open Meeting

See enclosure for details

### SMALLPOX IN HATFIELD

In response to an enquiry from the Edward Jenner Museum in Gloucestershire we were able to identify a reference to smallpox in Hatfield in 1850, published in 'Hatfield and its people' book 5 page 13.

We also found a reference on a local oral history tape by Tom Bamford (born 1894) that smallpox was identified at Essendon in his lifetime. The affected family of mother, father and four sons were isolated in a cottage outside the village at West End. Only one family member contracted the disease. Unfortunately there is no record of the family name or details or the outcome.

A reference to Dr. Dimsdale of Hertford (who went to Russia to vaccinate the royal family in 1784) vaccinating a patient in Little Berkhamstead in 1754 is held by Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies.

## HATFIELD AND ITS PEOPLE

This year the WEA is celebrating its centenary and the Hatfield Branch Committee is proposing to update the series of booklets published between 1958 and 1964. It is hoped to be able to produce a twelve chapter booklet within the next couple of years. Each chapter will carry the same title as in the original series:

- 1 A Thousand Years of History
- 2 The Story of Roe Green and South Hatfield
- 3 Pubs and Publicans
- 4 Newgate Street
- 5 Roads and Railways
- 6 Law and Disorder
- 7 Churches
- 8 Schools
- 9 Farming Yesterday and Today
- 10 Houses
- 11 Families and Trades (2 parts)
- 12 The Twentieth Century

Assistance in carrying out the research to update the subjects is being sought. Should you be able to give some of your time to help accomplish this project please contact Peter Massingham for further information.

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*Continued from page 1*

£2805 is an increase of a little over £200 compared with 2002. Thanks were extended to Maurice and Heather Richardson for auditing the books.

The business was followed by an interesting talk on the history of local roads by Eric Sherrard.

Our excursion this year will consist of a guided walk in Hatfield Park led by Robin Harcourt Williams on Tuesday 12 August, meet at Fore Street Lodge at 2.30 pm. Unfortunately numbers must be limited to 20 so it is agreed that tickets must be on a first come first served basis. Bookings by phone only please.

## WHITEWASH ALLEY

We were pleased to be able to provide copies of old maps showing Whitewash Alley located between Puttocks Oak and Beaconsfield Terrace. This was the land on which the third Marquis of Salisbury built Primrose Cottages between 1887 and 1889. We have a record that George Rolph lived in No. 3 Railway Cottages in 1900 until 1923. Earlier information we do not have but the cottage was occupied by a David John Plummer until 1937 when Railway Cottages were included in the development of Beaconsfield Road and No. 3 became 6 Beaconsfield Road. Beaconsfield Terrace, Railway Cottages, Nos. 1 - 19 Primrose Cottages, Puttocks Oak and Police Station Cottages became Beaconsfield Road.

In 1970 all the property in Beaconsfield Road (including the original Railway Cottages) was demolished as part of the New Town Development and the road was re-laid, wider, at a point to the west of its original location.

For clarification Nos. 20 to 37 Primrose Cottages faced onto Endymion Road. These were the ones bombed in 1944.

Whilst researching this area we also located a Mr. Ernest George Rolph living at No.1 Station Cottages in 1909 and 1910 then in No. 2 Station Cottages from 1911 to 1921. These were re-named Police Station Cottages about 1931 then amalgamated with Beaconsfield Road in 1937. They were police houses belonging to the County Constabulary and were only recently demolished, in 1994, with the old police station. Miss Flack confirms that her uncle rose to the rank of Inspector.

A photograph of a railway accident on 24 November 1905 has been located and is probably the one in which George Rolph was involved. Although Private Herbert Rolph of the 7<sup>th</sup> Wiltshire Regiment is listed

on the Roll of Honour, and is remembered in Hatfield, insufficient information is available to locate grandfather stationed in Hatfield Park.

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## NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Shortly before Christmas I received a letter addressed to me c/o the Museum which had been sent from Australia. It was signed by R G Joyner who had found my name and the address in a copy of the book of Beresford Johnson illustrations, *An Artist's Impression*, which had been sent to him by a relation living locally. He explained that he had been born and brought up in Hatfield and was seeking information about a cottage in Cromer Hyde Lane which he recalled visiting as a child when it was the home of his grandparents. With the assistance of Mr Jeremy Summers, a local historian in Lemsford, who lives in Cromer Hyde Lane, I was able to provide him with much of the information he sought and have subsequently corresponded with him.

Bob Joyner spent his early life in Stockbreach Road but in 1962 he and his young wife, a local girl (nee Audrey Jubb) decided to "try their luck" in Australia with the help of a £10 assisted passage. They had been living in a caravan in Tom's Field and were frustrated by the fact that they had little prospect of getting to the top of the housing list. Initially they thought they would probably spend only the minimum period of 2 years in Australia but now, 40 years later, they are firmly based in the Adelaide district not far from their son, daughter and grandchildren. Bob spent his early career as a de Havilland apprentice but as there were no real opportunities in the aeronautical industry in Australia he has

managed to carve out for himself a successful career in other industrial fields.

He told me that he intended to make a trip to England in the Spring of 2003 to stay with his sister in St Albans so I made arrangements to meet him one morning in April to show him some of the old haunts of his youth. Our first stop was Cromer Hyde Lane where we found his grandparents' cottage, originally one of a pair but now modernised and converted into one dwelling. Its proximity to the Crooked Chimney made it an ideal location for us to call in as I had arranged for him to meet there Jeremy Summers who had provided him with much of the local information and two of his former school pals, both still resident in Hatfield, who had been with him at Dellfield (Newtown) and subsequently at St Albans County Grammar School.

After a couple of hours of nostalgia I then took him on a tour of Hatfield, the old town which was totally unrecognisable to him, the town centre which left him speechless and then on to the airfield site where he found the development quite astonishing. He was pleased to see the area and it brought back many memories of his youth but I am sure it did not give him the slightest inclination to return permanently to the land of his birth!

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## THE HARMONICA BLUE BOYS

Thanks to all who helped identify the local musicians who performed in a concert in the old Lord William Cecil Memorial Hall shortly before World War II, dressed in light blue shirts and berets.

They were, reading clockwise from the left, Harry Turner, Donald Offord, Tim Davis, ? Hook, Les Valentine (leader), Bob Claxton, Alan Lawrence, and John Lawson on drums.

**FOUNDED TO ENCOURAGE  
THE COLLECTING OF  
GENUINE ANTIQUES**

The Gallery, which faces Hatfield Parish Church, was founded, with an authorised capital of £20,000, for the collection and sale of genuine Antique Furniture, China, Glass, Plate, Embroideries, Prints, etc., in order that collectors may be assured of the genuineness of all articles they purchase. The Chairman of the Court of Governors is Mr. F. W. Speaight, the designer of the Marble Arch and other London Improvement Schemes; the other Governors are Mr. R. N. Speaight, the well-known Photographic Artist of New Bond Street, and Mr. Horace Hall, Curator, the latter having been associated for some years with the Antique Department of Harrods' Stores.

Goodrich House, the home of the Hatfield Gallery of Antiques, is named after Thomas Goodrich, Bishop of Ely, Lord Chancellor, the last Bishop of Ely to reside in Old Hatfield Palace previous to it being surrendered to Henry VIII. and has his arms quartered with those of the Diocese of Ely carved on its East wall. The earliest reference to the property is in 1483, and in 1605 the owner was Sir John Leake.

This fine example of English domestic architecture is in itself well worth a visit. It has a floor area of 7,300 square feet, some 25 spacious rooms, many fitted with rare Adam mantel-pieces. Other rooms contain much old oak, and all possess some feature of interest to the antiquarian or artist.

The furniture and other antiques for sale, instead of being huddled together, as is generally the case in a shop, are judiciously placed about the various rooms, as in a private house, and purchasers thereby are best able to judge how

**Stanley Clayton  
1922 - 2003**



It is with regret that we report the death of Stan, vice-chairman of our Society since 2000.

they would look in their own homes. Rooms are furnished as Drawing Rooms, Dining Room, Boudoir and Library. and the Bedrooms are decorated and furnished in the Sheraton, Chippendale, Queen Anne and Jacobean periods.

Every piece guaranteed genuine and marked in low plain figures. Visitors may use the Reference Library of books on Early English Furniture, China, Glass, Silver Plate, Pewter, Prints, Embroideries, etc., and may attend the lectures that are being arranged on these subjects.

Visitors have also the use of Writing Room, Rest Room, Telephone, Bath and Dressing Rooms.

Afternoon Tea is served daily.

The old fashioned Gardens contain fine specimens of Italian Well Heads, Garden Figures in stone and lead, Sundials, Lead Vases, Fine Old Iron Gates, etc.

Visitors are under no circumstances pressed to purchase.

Open Free each weekday from 9 till 6.

From: *HATFIELD - Some Memories of  
Bishop's Hatfield and its Past.*  
*Antrobus 1912*

*Letters .....*

*West Molesey  
Surrey*

I am in the process of researching the family tree of the Moores of Hatfield based upon my father, Frederick Charles Moore, who was born in The Lodge, Church Street on 31/8/1893. I have been able to trace my relatives back to the early 1600s when they lived at the paper mill at Mill Green. If there is any way in which the HLHS could assist with my work I would be very pleased to discuss it.

*R.H.Moore*

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*Measham  
Leicestershire*

I worked for the de Havilland Aircraft Co. for 20 years in the '50s and '60s and in retirement have started painting. I am preparing a collage which depicts places of interest in my lifetime. Could you supply a photograph of the admin. offices as seen from the A1 as I wish to include this view in my completed work.

*T.R.Poynton*

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*Belvedere  
Kent*

I am doing some research into my paternal family history and find that my great grandfather, Thomas Welch, was born to Henry and Maria (Draper) Welch on 6/7/1847 at Old Farm, Hatfield.

I came on a visit to Hatfield but no-one in the library knew where Old Farm could have been. HALS in Hertford suggested it should be in the vicinity of Dognell Green, Brickwall, Stanborough Farm and Woodhall Farm but could find no record. I wondered if your members would have any more information.

*Sylvia Rowan*

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