

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

Editorial

For the open meeting in December when we generally look at and talk about general Hatfield memorabilia, would members like to bring along items relating to the Second World War. We need to assess what there is around and what would be of interest for an exhibition on the 70th Anniversary of the start of the Second World War in 2009. This is likely to be the last big commemoration of this event as veterans will be few and far between by the 80th Anniversary. We, as a History Society, are expected to stage an exhibition or, at least, contribute to a borough wide display. This will require a big effort on the part of all members if we are not to be embarrassingly up staged by Welwyn Garden City who are already well advanced with their planning for this commemoration event.

Terry will be around to discuss any points or for those not able to attend let us know what you have, artefacts, memories, etc., and we will arrange a convenient alternative meeting.

Brian Lawrence tells us that his project to erect display boards illustrating the history of Hatfield for the benefit of visitors to the town has met with considerable success. He has been awarded a Community Grant by the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council which will cover the majority of

the costs of manufacture. He hopes to raise a little more for the design and associated work then, subject to planning approval, the boards could be erected in 2008.

A stained glass panel, 46mm x 30mm, designed and made by the late Ron White has generously been donated to the Museum by his wife Mrs. Stella White. The panel, depicting the history of Hatfield from the time of the monks of Ely to the building of the Mosquito will be displayed at suitable exhibitions in the future.

Reg, and Sarah Adamson (Education Officer at the Museum) with 24 children & teachers from Countess Anne School have visited Stroud Green School. They spoke to evacuees and asked questions. Reg is trying to organise a reunion as part of the WW2 exhibition project in 2009.

NEW LOCAL WEBSITE

for surfers visit
www/lemsfordvillage.net

For news of
Lemsford Local History Group
[The History of Lemsford Springs](#)
[Lemsford and the Great North Road](#)

Photo galleries
of Lemsford, Stanborough, and Cromer
Hyde

TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES OF HATFIELD

PAPER MAKING

The site of the paper mill (i.e. a water driven mill making paper) lies upstream from Mill Green, down Bush Hall Lane, and is now called Turbine Cottage. The cottage on the site is modern but attached to it is the small brick building which housed the wooden wheel of the paper mill and it is still possible to see this and the mill stream. The wooden housing for the machines which made the paper is seen from a picture on an early 20th Century hand painted calendar to be very rickety and this was demolished and Turbine Cottage built.

The mill by Bush Hall turned to making paper in 1672 when the cloth industry which had used the same building failed. Early paper was made by a very simple method; old rags were collected, soaked in water to soften them and then beaten to a pulp using large hammers which were driven by the power of the river turning a water wheel. The broken up rag fibres were then pressed to produce sheets of paper which were then dried out. The entire process took about two weeks. After 1802, a machine had been made which produced the paper in a continuous roll and helped to speed up the process of making

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PRIMROSE COTTAGES RESEARCH INTO PUTTOCKS OAK AND ADJACENT AREAS

By Frank and Isobel Cox

Before the railway came to Hatfield in 1850 we find that in this area, bounded by the Great North Road, French Horn Lane and St. Albans Road, the only habitation was Goldings - later to become the Police Headquarters - and six cottages adjacent to the Rising Sun public house in the area known as Puttocks Oak with adjoining Whitewash Alley.

At this time the St. Albans Road followed what is now School Lane to form a cross road with the London to Welwyn Great North Road and the Hertford Road - now the Old Hertford Road, just south of the Red Lion public house.

When the railway was constructed the St. Albans to Hertford route continued with a level crossing between the Rising Sun and the Red Lion.

In 1864 the St. Albans Road diversion with the Red Lion bridge was built forming a T junction with the Great North Road.

With the closing of the level crossing the Rising Sun and the cottages became virtually cut off in a cul-de-sac at the end of the Old St. Albans Road.

By 1898 Beaconsfield Terrace with Lothair Villas had been built. Primrose Cottages were built between 1887 and 1889. These were 37 concrete block houses built by the Third Marquis of Salisbury at a cost of £3245.15.1d. and numbered 1 to 19 facing east over the railway with numbers 20 to 37 at the rear facing west on to Endymion Road. Each cottage had three bedrooms, a parlour and a kitchen with a lean-to wash house. Initially they were rented at three shillings a week.

In 1883 with the formation of the County Police Force and relocation from Hertford to Hatfield, the Police Headquarters were built on the area known as Puttocks Oak.

Quite a lot of development took place between 1898 and 1924. The police headquarters were enlarged with living accommodation at Station Cottages and Police Quarters. The Surveyors Office was built along with the mortuary. The National School for Boys was built in Old St. Albans Road in 1906.

In 1907 Lady Gwendoline Cecil had Malting Mead built. She was a pioneer of the open air treatment of tuberculosis and these houses were built on high ground above French Horn Lane, had large windows and open terraces for sleeping.

The cottages known as Puttocks Oak Cottages were built at the turn of the century.

In 1923 the Co-operative Store and hall were erected next to the National Omnibus Transport Company garage.

The Corner House — otherwise Tingey's furniture shop, before it was taken over by White's of Cheltenham and now the Pizza Hut - was also built in 1923.

Bury Road was also built at this time. The road was named after Mr. Oliver Bury of Roe Hill House, a director of the Great Northern Railway.

The Old St. Albans Road was renamed School Lane in 1932. In 1933 Cranborne Road was developed.

By 1937 Beaconsfield Terrace, part of Primrose Cottages and Puttocks Oak were amalgamated into Beaconsfield Road. The remainder of Primrose Cottages were incorporated into Endymion Road. Number 1 Primrose Cottages became 43 Beaconsfield Road and number 19 became 79 Beaconsfield Road. Likewise behind them 20 Primrose Cottages became 1 Endymion Road and 30 Primrose Cottages became 21 Endymion Road.

Christ Church Congregational was built in 1933.

The 10th of October 1944 was a tragic day for the area when a flying bomb hit St. Audreys School and demolished most of the adja-

cent Primrose Cottages in Endymion Road, killing 9 people.

The next major change came with the New Towns Commission in 1948 when the whole of Newtown was disrupted. With the diversion of St. Albans Road - renamed Queensway - our area was truncated and Tingey's Corner was separated by the new road.

The 1962 map shows the further development of the area with houses having been built along the St. Albans Road and Cranborne Road. The school had been rebuilt and was then called the Onslow School.

By 1970 the whole of Beaconsfield Road was demolished and the route changed to its present location..

With the same development, French Horn Lane was diverted through the allotments, leaving Old French Horn Lane, the original road, as a cul-de-sac.

School Lane was again foreshortened with the eastern end becoming a car park.

The Onslow School had transferred to new buildings in Old Rectory Drive and the old premises were now the Countess Anne Primary School.

The Co-op and the bus garage had also been demolished. All Primrose Cottages and the Rising Sun have also gone.

At the western end of the area the Lord William Cecil Memorial Hall had been pulled down and replaced with a new building.

Further development east of Beaconsfield Road has brought us up to date with the modern glass edifices backing on to the railway.

One compensating factor is that some of the old names have been preserved. Malting Mead is now flats in Endymion Road and Lothair has been retained albeit a court off Common Road in Newtown. Goldings has become a Crescent and Hollier's is also preserved as a Court.

MEMORIES OF HATFIELD

by Joan E Young – née Webb

I lived in Cecil Crescent, number 33 with my Mum, Dad and 3 brothers, Harold, Eric and Ken, all sadly deceased. Harold was born in Pond Hill (Batterdale) and myself Eric and Ken were all born in No. 33. Our neighbours were the Nicholas, Claxton, Cross, Fell and Wallace families. Mrs Luff lived in the first house, a very old lady who would give me a penny when I did her shopping. Eric was lucky, he got a silver 3d piece when he did Mrs. Webster's shopping, they lived next door to the Bells who had a son named John. I can remember nearly all the names of the people who lived in the Crescent. We moved to Stonecross Road in 1936 when I was 10 years old. I worked at Hulks the bakers in Newtown and then Tingey's 'big' shop and then the little shop next to Austin's the hairdressers.

I went to Countess Ann's School and I was chosen to stand on the steps to ring the bell to hurry the children up the hill. I later went to St. Audrey's and left at 14 to start work. Working in Tingey's small shop I remember sweeping the glass up when the windows blew out when the bomb was dropped in Endymion Road. I later worked at the Food Office on the Parade and then the National Insurance Office on the corner of Ground Lane.

My brother, Eric was a butcher's errand boy for the Cop butchers and my husband, Cyril, who lived in Crawford Road, worked in Dewhurst (next to International Stores and Steabbins) The shop which faced the International Stores was Butler's the butchers and then on to Water's Garage. When we got married in 1948 we moved to Lincoln.

My Dad worked as a guard on the railway and Cyril's Dad (Thomas Young) was a platelayer. He was killed in 1957 by a train at 20th mile bridge while walking back to Hatfield depot.

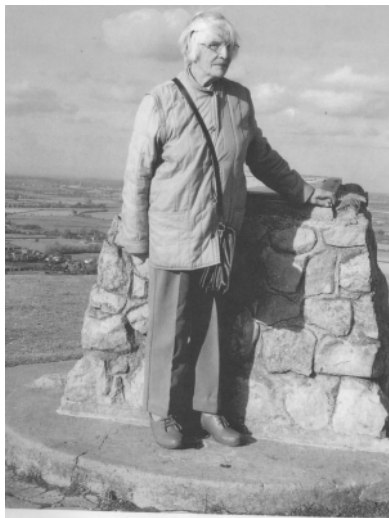
Cyril had two brothers Ken and Colin (sadly all deceased). Ken's wife Dorothy (née Matthews) worked at one time in Daisy Gray's.

The Royal Waiting Room at the station was used by the St. John's Ambulance men. My father was a member for a good few years, they used to meet there to brush up on their first aid skills.

As children we spent many happy hours in the park, black-berrying, watching the men catching rabbits with their ferrets and of course sliding down the Green Hill and wooding in the winter times. Happy days!

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**JOAN STREET
1913 - 2007**



A founder member of Hatfield This Century, Joan will be remembered by elder members for her regular attendance at our meetings.

A recording of her life story, interviewed by her son, has been made available and is being transcribed for inclusion in a future edition of the Newsletter.

TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES OF HATFIELD

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paper.

The Hatfield Paper Mill was owned by Lord Salisbury who leased it out to various people during the 17th and 18th Centuries. It was burned down in the 1780s but rebuilt by Thomas Vallance who had the bad luck to find in 1790, that he was threatened with a strike. Eleven men who worked at the Mill were prosecuted for "Conspiring to compel the said Thomas Vallance to enhance their wages by one shilling weekly, and for threatening that, if he failed to do so, they would quit his service at the expiration of 14 days"

In 1800, the lease of the mill was sold to a man called Thomas Creswick who made a great success of papermaking and introduced into the mill a steam engine and new machinery which helped him to produce cards and drawing boards as well as paper.

The paper mill, as well as providing jobs in Hatfield for 200 years* also had a romantic and a funny side to it's history. In the 1830s young Mark Powell a paper maker, came from Kent to work in Mr. Creswick's mill as a supervisor. Just downstream from him, in the flour mill lived Mary Bigg, the sister of the Com Miller. Mark met Mary and in 1832, he married her. They then left the mills and went to Forestreet, Old Hatfield, where they opened a stationers and then a drapers shop.

Hatfield Industries

Based upon articles written by Susan Harrison for the Hatfield and District Archaeological Society, undated

Another Great Success

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS WEEKEND

Reported by Christine Martindale

This was a successful weekend with over 500 visitors attending the different events.

Both the Museum and the Next Generation Club had well over 100 visitors. Rosemary Lee Bapty and volunteers showed visitors around the stores at the Museum. At the Next Generation Club, Hatfield Local History Society had a display showing what was on the airfield before all the new houses were built. Reg Coleman and Jim Parker were there all day Saturday and Sunday to talk to visitors.

The two walks were well attended, and were very successful and interesting. They complemented each other very well showing the two different sides of Hatfield, the old and the new. Brian Lawrence with his personal memories of the Old Town and David Irving with his professional knowledge of the

Cockaigne Housing had 50 visitors during the 2 hours they were open. Visitors were shown around two of the houses, one had been adapted for disabled living. Visitors were greeted at the club house and while they were waiting to be shown around there was a display and running slide show about these unusual houses.

The Churches, St Lukes, Marychurch, and St Etheldreda were also happy about how the weekend went and all are happy to repeat the experience in future years.

The Eight Bells put up a small display in the bar.

We distributed 1,000 leaflets and many posters. Hatfield Town Council advertised the event in the 'The Community News' magazine. There was a very small mention in the Welwyn Hatfield Times which was disappointing and they managed to get it wrong!!

Promotional material was sent out from the Civic Trust eg Balloons, posters stickers, which we distributed and were used at the different events. All events were listed on their national web site.

There were some problems – e.g. parking at the Next Generation Club & people from outside Hatfield not hearing about the events. We hope to improve on these if we do this event again.

Thank you to everyone who organised, helped and supported this successful event.

Meetings Winter/Spring 2008

Thursday 14th February 2 for 2.30pm

“Teapots & Tea Making”

John Beckerson, from Mill Green Museum

Monday 10th March 7 for 7.30

“History of Potters Bar until 1900”

Brian Warren, President & Archivist of the Potters Bar & District Local History Society

Thursday 10th April 2 for 2.30pm

Speaker to be arranged

Monday 12th May 7 for 7.30pm AGM Speaker to be arranged.

All at Friendship House, Wellfield Close, Hatfield