

SECRETARY: Mrs. C. Martindale,  
EDITOR: Mr. F.J.Cox 23

## Editorial

Apologies are extended to members regarding the confusion of meeting place for the February meeting. Following the double booking of Friendship House due to Valentine's Day the alternative venue of No. 1 Town Centre became unavailable through the absence of the key holder. Fortunately Peter Clark, the town clerk, saved the day by letting us use the Hatfield Town Council Board Room at Kennelwood House where the entertaining and informative talk by John Beckerson on Tea Pots and Tea Making alleviated the earlier frustrations.

The April meeting was an interesting verbal intercourse on memories of WW2 evacuees with Terry Lenihan remembered as a schoolboy by members when they were young.

The museum education officer, through the auspices of the Welwyn Hatfield Heritage Forum, has been funded from the government to run an evacuation project in partnership with Reg Coleman.

The AGM held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May was followed by a talk on the National Trust Industrial Heritage when Ronald Smith expounded his knowledge of windmills, watermills, mining and other industrial property.



Evacuees from Stroud Green School and their Hatfield hosts met to reminisce at Friendship House on 10 April

A disappointing small attendance had heard Terry Pankhurst, our chairman, report on another successful year for the society with a marginally increased membership. He thanked the members of the committee for their support and encouragement.

Heather Richardson, our Treasurer, presented the accounts and balance sheet which included grants of £100 each from Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and Hatfield Town Council towards the cost of the Heritage Open Days Weekend. Brian Lawrence's project to erect display boards illustrating the history of Hatfield resulted in a Community Grant of £2000 by the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council. This has, for convenience, been deposited in the Society's bank account.

Some members have resigned due to ill health and others have commitments that mean they can't come to meetings and have reluctantly resigned, but 13 new members joined during the year - so welcome to them. Members living away write to say how they enjoy reading the Newsletters.

In this respect your editor would like to express thanks to those members who submit articles for inclusion. Without this support the editions may have to revert to a single sheet as originally.

Thanks are expressed to Peter C. Clark for permission to copy extracts from the souvenir commemorating the One Hundredth Anniversary of the establishment of the Town Council.

Thanks also to Col. J D Sainsbury for information on the militia included in the article on page 2.

## THE HERTFORDSHIRE MILITIA IN HATFIELD

The duty of English counties to provide trained men for the defence of the land dates back to before the Norman Conquest. It is generally accepted, however, that militia infantry units trace their descent from the reorganisation of the Militia initiated by Pitt in 1757. Under this Act, Lords Lieutenant of counties were made responsible for raising and commanding their county militia regiments. Men were to be chosen by ballot to serve for three years but those selected were permitted to provide, or pay ten pounds towards the provision of a substitute. The Militia was liable for annual training and could be embodied at the order of the Government in case of invasion or rebellion or danger of either. Frequent use was made of embodied militia battalions for garrison duty in the British Isles between 1759 and the end of the Napoleonic Wars. Annual training took place in 1820, 1821, 1825 and 1831 but thereafter the Militia fell into abeyance, although officers continued to be appointed and the seconded regular permanent staff remained in being.

In 1848, the Government announced that the Militia was to be re-established but it was not until 1852 that the English Militia was re-organised under a system of voluntary enlistment with the ballot in reserve.

In August 1852 the Lord Lieutenant called for some 450 volunteers for the Hertfordshire Militia and the new battalion did its first training in November the same year. The following year Hatfield was recognised as the headquarters of the regiment. Office, store and armoury buildings were erected by the Marquess of Salisbury and rented by him to the county authorities, who were still responsible for providing the necessary accommodation for the Militia out of the county rates. The battalion was organised on a basis of eight companies and the establishment was finally fixed at thirty officers and 825 rank and file.

The Hertfordshire Militia volunteered its services during the Crimean War and the battalion was embodied in December 1854. It did duty in the Aldershot Command, receiving new colours while there, and was disembodied in June 1856. Militia battalions were frequently, even in Napoleonic times, encouraged to provide recruits for the Line from their ranks and during these two years' embodied service the Hertfordshire Militia provided 500 recruits: seven officers were also granted regular commissions. The Hertfordshire Militia was not among the regiments embodied during the Indian Mutiny.

Far reaching reforms of the British Army were passed in 1871, removing control of the Militia from Lords Lieutenant of counties and vesting it wholly in the Crown. The overall organisation of the infantry was adjusted in 1873, when regiments of militia infantry were attached to their local sub-district brigade depots of the regular forces and the brigade depots were made responsible for the initial full time training of militia recruits.

The effect of the 1873 measures was to attach the Hertfordshire Militia to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sub-District Brigade whose Brigade Depot was Bedford.

(Excerpts from 'The Hertfordshire Regiment - An Illustrated History' by Col J.D.Sainsbury)

Each April the Militia moved to Hertford for a month, and school entries from 1863 to 1873 mention the withdrawal of the Militia children. If they were not officially withdrawn they would not pay their school pence and be liable to a fine on their return.

The Militia quarters were on the triangle of land bounded by Batterdale, French Horn Lane and the Great North Road. Here were the Headquarters and the Officers; the Sergeants lived in Salisbury Square. The 2nd Marquess was very keen on the Militia. The 3rd Marquess who came into the title in 1868 was much keener on politics and for that reason probably the Militia ceased to have its headquarters here.

((Hatfield and its people Part Eight p 17)

The Colonel's House had originally been Searancke property and was settled on Samuel Hare and Mary Searancke at the time of their marriage, about 1690.

Hare's house, which adjoined his malting, was known as "Batterdale House" a pleasant looking, late 17th century structure, which stood as a mellow memorial to one of Hatfield's old families until demolished by the Development Corporation in 1972. Hare's malting business was carried on by two more generations of his family. With the death of the last descendant, Mrs. Mary Ross, in 1806, the property came to her cousin, Thomas Smith.

Thomas Smith himself died the year after his cousin, and in November 1807 the property was bought by the Marquess of Salisbury. The last maltster to work here appears to have been George Mardall. In the middle of the century the malting was pulled down, the materials being re-used in the building of the London Road School while the site, with the dwelling house, became part of the Hertfordshire Militia headquarters.

(Hatfield and its people Part 11A pp 36-38)

Built on the site of the Old Workhouse Yard between 1850 and c.1853, the double terrace of cottages in Salisbury Square housed the Sergeants of the Permanent Staff of the Hertfordshire Militia. A Band Room was added in 1854, together with an armoury nearby. Hatfield became the headquarters of the Herts Militia from 1853-73. By 1861 the cottages housed a Quartermaster and his wife and 16 Sergeants and their families (68 persons in total), plus 8 Drummer Boys, ten years later there were only 7 Sergeants in residence, but 37 family members (of which 28 were children), plus 10 Drummer Boys, and within two years they too had gone. For their last 100 years, until demolished in 1972, the cottages were rented out by the Salisbury Estate.

(WHMS)

## LORD SALISBURY'S SECRETARY

Richard Thompson Gunton was born in 1846. When five years old he was sent to a boarding school in the north of England. Following this he attended the University College School which had been founded in London in 1830. It was one of the first schools to teach modern languages and sciences. Boys learnt Latin and French, and many learnt German (a highly unusual subject to teach at that time). Mathematics, Chemistry, Classical Greek and English were also taught.

At about 16 he went into Mr. Frederick Pitman's phonographic business where he learnt the use of symbols to represent verbal sounds. (Eventually to become the well known Pitman's Shorthand.)

In 1866 he became secretary to Lord Cranborne and two years later moved to Hatfield when Lord Cranborne succeeded to the title of 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquess of Salisbury. Gunton's father had rented Bell Bar Farm so he walked into Hatfield each day.

Lord Salisbury had taken over the library at Hatfield House and the historian, Dr. Brewer, was researching the manuscripts and medieval documents. It was decided to index and date the valuable state papers and this became part of Gunton's job. As well as the curiously spelled documents there were others of more complexity which he was able to interpret.

After Lord Salisbury's resignation from office his secretary was able to give more time to the manuscripts and from the great store of papers at Hatfield House he collected and transcribed papers relating to the history of the Cecil family. These

extend to several volumes under the headings of Estate and Private MSS., Family Papers, Manor Papers, Accounts and Diaries and form the catalogue of Lord Salisbury's private archives. There are 67 folio volumes in MS or type averaging from 200 to 250 pages each and 40 volumes of indexes.

On the death of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquess he gave up the secretarial side of his work and was retained by the 4<sup>th</sup> Marquess for work solely on the library and manuscripts.

To the historian who wishes to investigate the records of everyday life much valuable material may be found in the Manuscript Room at Hatfield House which he made so readily available.

He was a great writer and had articles accepted by magazines and papers from the age of 15. He wrote the libretto of a light opera which was produced in Manchester. In 1888 he produced in Hatfield a play, the music of which was composed by Mr. Williams the organist of the parish church.

Richard Thompson Gunton died on January 20<sup>th</sup> 1921 aged 74.

Extracts from 'An Indefatigable Worker'  
Author/Publisher unknown.

## WELWYN HATFIELD HERITAGE FORUM

Chris Martindale attended the WHHF meeting in February as our representative. Reg Coleman was also present and was welcomed by the chairman. He summarised our project with schoolchildren and evacuees and said that he was looking for local people who were evacuees

.Chris told the meeting that the de Havilland and BAe recorder

*Continued on Page 4*

## OUR FUTURE

Terry Pankhurst

I would like to say a little about the future.

We started this organization as a research group, stemming from the WEA course on Hatfield History. We were called "Hatfield This Century". We set ourselves the task of cataloging all the commercial businesses etc. that changed the shape of our town over the hundred years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

We have lost our way on this subject, and now do very little general research.

Now you can see we have a busy schedule and an active committee, but we can't do it all. We would like to consider a book to commemorate the start of the Second World War. Maybe peoples' memories, interview quotes, pictures etc. We can do no more than we are currently doing. In this coming year we need non committee helpers to get such a project underway. We need a small group to collect or write the text, find original pictures, go through some of our D H research and find comments and memories and generally decide a direction for a book. It does not need to be the responsibility of one person, unless someone really wants to be in charge. It would have to come under the guidance of the committee. But we must have your help if we are to do this book.

We also have a town centre that will very soon disappear. We need to catalogue and photograph that town centre. Collect memorabilia where possible. This small committee cannot do it all. We must have volunteer help from our members. Don't worry about computer literacy - that can be arranged.

Please volunteer to help.

## **JOHN LLOYD**

**First chairman of Hatfield  
Parish Council**

**Peter C. Clark**

Born in London in 1839, John Lloyd was the younger son of John Lloyd, a city tobacco merchant and grandson of John Lloyd of London who purchased the Astwick Manor estate in 1819. Much of Lloyd's life was spent in the brewing business and he was also a director of the Colne Valley Water Company. In the poll for members of the Parish Council John Lloyd was placed twelfth, but receiving a clear majority at its first meeting, was elected the Council's first Chairman, serving in that capacity until 1899 and remaining on the Council until 1901.

Lloyd always took a keen and active interest in his farm, was a frequent exhibitor at the County

Agricultural Show and a keen supporter of the Herts Agricultural Society of which he remained a member until his death. A keen all-round sportsman and an expert skater, it is recorded that at the age of ninety he was to be seen, "teaching by performance, some of his grandchildren how to cut figures on the ice."

In 1871 Lloyd married Fanny Royds of Watford, the sister of Henry John Royds for whom Kennelwood House, the present offices of Hatfield Town Council was built in the 1890s. A Justice of the Peace for Hertfordshire for forty five years and a member of the Hatfield Bench, he was, at his death aged ninety seven, the country's oldest JP. He died at Astwick Manor on 27 February 1937 and is buried at St Luke's Hatfield, where in tribute to his farming interests, it is recorded on his tombstone that "he gathered 75 harvests".

## **WELWYN HATFIELD HERITAGE FORUM**

*Continued from Page 3*

Scheme is ongoing and that Terry Pankhurst has recorded several reminiscences with a view to possibly compiling a book next year.

A proposal from the Mill Green Trust that a history of the Mill should be written had produced no offer of authorship.

Considerable discussion of a local Blue Plaque scheme resulted in an action for a draft paper on the subject to be prepared. Candidates for plaques must be chosen by as wide a range of residents as possible, must have been dead for 20 years and the sign must be legible from the highway

After some discussion of the Heritage Open Day it was agreed that it would be good to cover Welwyn Garden City this year.

## **Meetings for 2008**

**Thursday 10 July 2 pm Open Meeting**  
**Household Bygones, Childhood Games and Toys**  
**Bring your own artefacts for memories and Discussion**

**Monday 8 September 7 pm More Memories of Hatfield**  
**Talk with slides and film by**  
**Philip Porter**

**Thursday 9 October 2 pm Ins and Outs of Pub Names**  
**The History and Derivation of Pub Names by**  
**Mark Andrew Pardoe**

**Monday 10 November 7 pm Mosquitoes Over Hertfordshire**  
**Considering Three Sites**  
**Leavesden Aerodrome, Hatfield Aerodrome**  
**And RAF Hunsdon by**  
**David Hillelson**  
**From the Heritage Network**

**Thursday 11 December 2 pm Open Meeting**

**All at Friendship House Welfield Close Hatfield**