

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 9th December, 2.15 for a 2.30 start: Our Christmas open meeting. Daphne Knott from Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies Library will be showing us how we can look at and add items to the "Our Hatfield" part of the "Herts Memories" website. This will be a chance to talk and share memories of Hatfield. No computer knowledge needed.

Thursday 3rd February, 2.15 for a 2.30 start: Dan Allen, "Women in the Victorian Army"

Monday 14th March, 7.15 for a 7.30 start: Mike Stanyon, "Paper Making in Hertfordshire"

Thursday 14th April, 2.15 for a 2.30 start: Bob Redmond, "Britain's Hollywood"

All meetings are held at Friendship House, Wellfield Close, Hatfield.

All welcome. Members £1 non-members £2

Can You Help?

Sydney Rumbelow

I am trying to research the life of Sydney Rumbelow, a local Hatfield boy, who, soon after the end of World War II founded an electrical retail business in the town that grew into a nationwide chain of shops in the next couple of decades.

I believe he was born in Hatfield and I know he had at least two sisters, one of whom was known as Milly. She worked for many years as the cashier in Walby's butchers shop in the Great North Road. It is likely that her sister also worked in a shop in the Old Town and I have a recollection that they were leaders in the local Girl Guides Association. Sydney was well-known as a musician in the district in his early life and I have a photograph of him when he was a violinist in the St Audrey's Evening Orchestra, dated 1930. This suggests to me that he was probably born around the beginning of the century. The only other personal information I have about him is that he was an active member of the Hatfield Rotary Club in the 1950s/60s during the period of rapid growth of his business.

Clearly, I have a great many gaps in my knowledge of Sydney Rumbelow and I would therefore be most grateful for any further information that any members are able to provide, especially about his early life. It would be particularly interesting to hear from anyone whose family may have been neighbours of the Rumbelow family or anyone who may have worked in the Rumbelow business in those days when a television set was next "must have" item for families throughout the country.

If anyone has any snippets of information that may help to build up a picture of this successful local businessman who chose an ideal time to enter the electrical retail market I shall be very pleased to hear from them. Please do not hesitate to contact me either at the above address or by telephone. Alternatively, if you would prefer to make contact via the Editor of the newsletter I am sure the information can be filtered through to me very easily.

Pat Sherrard

It is with regret that we report the death of Pat Sherrard. Pat died at home on Wednesday, 10th November. Along with her husband Eric, Pat was one of the founder members of our Society when we were called Hatfield This Century. At our very first committee meeting on the 13th September 1990 Pat was unanimously co-opted as the Minutes Secretary and it has been in this capacity that she has served our Society for the past 20 years, rarely missing a meeting. Pat also kept us up to date with news from Mill Green Museum and has help and supported the Society in many other ways. She will be a hard act to follow and greatly missed. Our thoughts are with Eric and his family at this sad time.

New Booklets for Sale

Music and Planes
by Dick
Whittingham

This is an account of Dick's years working aide Havillands and his time playing with various bands around Hertfordshire

Price £3.00

Memoirs of My Life in
Hatfield
and My Service
Experience
by Ernest
Jones

Ernest Jones's short autobiography covers his early life in Hatfield and his war service in Britain, Africa and India.

Price £3.50

Postage will be added where appropriate.