

This project originated at a W.E.A. local history course held at Hatfield Library in Spring 1990 and continues the work carried out by the W.E.A. between 1955 & 1965, culminating in the publication of the 12 volume series entitled 'Hatfield and Its People'<sup>1</sup>.

Thirty people attended the first meeting on Thursday, 24th of May at the Mill Green Museum to discuss the recent history of Hatfield. Since it was estimated that about 20 members could be expected, some latecomers had no chairs, but increased seating will be arranged for the next meeting to be held in the second half of August.

A small working party of eight people under the guidance of Sue Kirby, Curator of Welwyn Hatfield Museum Service, volunteered to work on setting up the project so that more people could be involved during September & October with clear guidelines as to each phase of the project. At their first meeting on 6th June, Sue suggested that following the interest shown in the original Newtown at the public meeting, the first project should be based on the area of Newtown bounded by the St Albans Road, Union Lane/Wellfield Road, and Commons Lane, that is, the area demolished in building the new Town Centre.

Members of the working party decided to divide the sources of information within the county between themselves so that each member had a good knowledge of what data their particular source could provide. It was agreed to invite Dr P Kingsford and Mr V Mills to assist the working party in its work since they have great experience in local history in this area. At the same time, two members are concentrating on oral history pro-formas since the trainee recorders would need them for the workshops planned for August.

Sue Kirby said that the highly successful photo-history project in W.G.C. had benefited greatly from having a full-time paid co-ordinator. She considered that the Group would likewise benefit. A brochure showing the aims of the Project should be prepared for early September, and a constitution be drawn up so the Group can attract finance to employ a full-time worker for a minimum of six months. The working party meets again on the 26th of June.

A publicity campaign will be launched at the end of July to discover photos of Newtown and people who had lived or worked there. Any plans and other information would be equally welcome. Facilities do exist to copy these items so that owners will not lose them.

If you can help us compile the brochure on Newtown by photos, plans, etc. or are willing to share your recollections with us, please complete this slip and return it to Hatfield Library or Mill Green Museum.

Name: please tick as appropriate  
(capitals please)

Address:  I have photos of Newtown  
 I have plans, etc. of Newtown

Tel:  I am willing to talk about Newtown  
 I am willing to be trained as a oral history recordist