

# Hatfield this century.

Hatfield people explore their history from 1900

Newsletter No 2 October 1990

This group was formally constituted at our first AGM held on the 29th of August 1990 and the new committee has already held its first meeting. The committee immediately co-opted Sue Kirby, Curator of Welwyn Hatfield Museum Service, and then elected its officers as:

Chair: Eric Sherrard    Secretary: Lynn Smith    Treasurer: Dennis Jenner

The other members of the committee are Audrey Chapman, Reg Coleman, Stella Cunningham, Shirley Knapp, Karen Smith, & Dennis Watson.

The New Town project is proceeding well in spite of important books being away for conservation. Sue Kirby has written a booklet incorporating many interesting photographs and it is hoped to produce the first edition by the New Year. We are grateful that the Herald & Post have featured the Group several times resulting in useful contacts being made with both local & distant New Town inhabitants. The occupants of New Town from 1934 to its demolition have now been recorded from Kelly's Directories and a few editions between 1914 and 1934 have been found but without proper addresses they are difficult to analyse. By going backwards from the 1954 Post Office address list, it is hoped to be able to allocate people to property as far as 1900. It is hoped that Welwyn Hatfield District Council will be able to let the group study the original plans of New Town as used by the Hatfield Development Corporation so that in conjunction with the Post Office address list, all the property in New Town will be able to be clearly defined and documented.

Oral history recordings have started with 10 tapes already completed and 6 of them being written up. Messrs Denton & O'Hogan have been very active and we wish to thank them for their efforts. Stella Cunningham has agreed to co-ordinate the interviews now that Mr O'Hogan has returned to university. Please contact Stella if you know someone willing to talk about New Town or if you wish to be a recordist. Remember training is available and is not very difficult.

Discussions have started on future projects for the group and it has been agreed to start on the social impact of De Havilland moving to Hatfield. To enable this project to be properly planned, Reg Coleman has agreed to compile a chronological list of events in both De Havillands and the local community which could have an impact on this social history. He would be pleased to receive any firm information that can be supported. Please send any lists of dates to him.

Subscriptions to the group are as follows;

£2.50 adults                      £1.00 under 18s                      £5.00 institutions

If you have not yet paid your subscription, please send it to :

Mr D. Jenner

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I / We wish to join the Hatfield This Century group' and enclose a cheque/  
PO for £

Name (s)

CAPITALS PLEASE

Address: