

Hatfield This Century

Hatfield people explore their history from 1900

Newsletter No 4 Easter 1991

The New Town brochure is now ready for printing but we are still without a sponsor for it. We need £1000 to cover the cost and set up the Group for future publications. ASDA, both PLC and local, have turned us down so we will have to approach other possible sources.

All is not gloom however as the Group has been approached by Hatfield Town Council to join with them in a presentation during HatFest '91 on the 1965 Hatfield Festival and New Town. They have a 16mm sound film and we will show how New Town used to be, using both slides and overhead projectors. To enable the Group to put on a static show at the presentation, the Council has given us a grant to purchase the original Ordnance Survey maps of New Town. We have purchased the 1980 version which shows Woolco/ASDA out of Group funds and the subsequent display should be very interesting. HatFest '91 is between the 15th and 22nd of June. It is proposed to have an afternoon and an evening presentation at Roe Hill Hall.

The Oral History group is starting work on the De Havilland project which is assuming greater urgency in view of the planned reduction in work at Hatfield by British Aerospace.

New Town project has been helped by the discovery of the Inland Revenue maps and documents from 1910 at the Hertford Record Office. This survey was carried out to charge property owners something akin to Capital Gains Tax, but the system was dis-continued within about three years. (Shades of the Poll Tax !) We are left however with very detailed information about New Town although the map dealing with the Union Lane (Wellfield Road) houses has been lost.

Mr & Mrs Cox have started a study of the original Puttocks Oak area which is the land between St Albans Road East, the railway line and French Horn Lane. Mrs Cox lived for two years in Belmont Cottages and had relatives in Primrose Cottages. They are busy trying to discover when the level crossing between the Rising Sun and the Red Lion was replaced by the road bridge. Glebe Cottages - now Glebelands - celebrate their centenary in 1992 and Mrs Emmerton on is trying to find people who knew these 30 houses before the Second World War.

The extensions to Mill Green Museum have been halted in District Council's financial problems and the help that we get from Sue Kirby may be further restricted.

If you have not yet renewed your subscription for 1991, this newsletter will be the penultimate that you receive. To renew, please send off the section below:

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