

Hatfield This Century

Hatfield people explore their history from 1900

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 1992

First the good news. With the change of representation on Welwyn Hatfield Council the cut in the Museum Budget has been reduced to £2000 from the proposed £27000. One effect of this is that the archaeologist post can be restored.

The Newtown booklet has been published and is on sale at the museum. An agent is required to arrange for local shops and centres to display and sell the booklet. Do we have any volunteers? In the meantime if you can display or have displayed the enclosed advertising leaflet please do so.

Joy Emerton has completed her researches into Glebeland and will liaise with Sue Kirby regarding publication.

Unfortunately Stella Cunningham has found it necessary to resign from the committee and, although still supportive, wishes to relinquish the post of co-ordinator of oral interviews. If you could undertake this interesting job please contact Sue.

Reg Coleman is hoping to receive photographs from British Aerospace to complete the De Havilland exhibition which will be on display at the museum from 5 September until 28 February 1993.

At the AGM on 19 May three new committee members were appointed, these were Isobel Cox, Frank Clayton and Stan Huokle. A most interesting address on County Records was given by Susan Flood, one of the county archivists.

On the 20th September British Aerospace will be holding a Charity Air Day. We will be present with a display of our activities mainly on the De Havilland Project. Volunteers to man the display for short periods would be welcome.

Following the Hatfest demonstration of straw plaiting it is proposed to hold a teach-in of about 2½ hours duration some time in October or November. Details will be subject to applications which are expected to be numerous and limited, first come first served. Apply initially to Eric Sherrard.

A grant has been received from the Town Council to purchase historical maps of the Roe Green area to support this project.

It is felt that the Hatfield Tapestry commitment is weakening the historical work of the group and it would be best if the Tapestry had a life of its own. To this end a meeting will be held in September to set up a working party as a prelude to founding a Hatfield Tapestry Trust. Meanwhile, although no competition entries were received, various museums have been approached for their support. These include the Tank Museum at Bovington Camp and the National Railway Museum at York. An application for a grant to fund an artist to design and supervise the manufacture of the first panels has been submitted to Eastern Arts.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MILL GREEN by Sid Holton (Part Two)

By the time I was 9, the Second World war was upon us and there was much activity in Mill Green as the main Hertford Road led to many of the Eastern Ports and you can imagine how a young boy was excited by the sight of army vehicles, etc., not knowing the full implications of War.

After the war came the first building, in 1947, of six new houses on agricultural land on the old Hyde Lane to Welwyn Garden City, to accommodate farm workers. This, together with the building of the new Pumping Station, was the only new building work carried out in Mill Green that I can recall.

In about 1966 major road alterations came with the A414 by-passing Mill Green, and the Chequers linking Welwyn Garden City with the main road to Hatfield.

The most recent significant event to take place here, was the restoration of the Mill, which came about largely due to the death in 1973 of the then occupier, Mr.W.J. Davies, a former Surveyor for the Hatfield District Council. For a short period, following his death, the house was the Headquarters of the Hatfield Archaeological Society, following which the Council took control of the property with a view to opening Mill House as a Museum in 1978, and the restoration of the water wheel (1986) as we know it today.

The committee are grateful to those members whose researches and efforts make the exploration of the history of Hatfield so interesting and worthwhile. If you have any contribution or comment to add to the ongoing projects or suggestions for new ones please let us know. Items for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to the editor, Frank Cox at 23 Home Meadow, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3BA.

