

Hatfield This Century

Hatfield People Explore their history from 1900

No. 14

Newsletter

September 1994

Editor: F. Cox

Following upon the AGM in May your committee met on the 19th July and the following appointments were proposed and agreed:

Brian Lawrence will be your chairman for the next year with Dennis Jenner as secretary. Isobel Cox will be treasurer and membership secretary. Pat Sherrard will continue as minute secretary and the vacant place on the committee will be filled by your Newsletter editor, Frank Cox.

Mrs. Livermore's Anagrams

Considerable interest was shown at the Museum exhibition but no submissions had been received following the last Newsletter. The answers were as follows:

SWAIL MILL	WILLIAMS	GROCERS
TO ASH	TASHO	HAIRDRESSER
SATINU	AUSTIN	HAIRDRESSER
SHIN KAN	HANKINS	MENS' OUTFITTER
STEIN YG	TINGEYS	GROCER
ROLL ME IDO	DOLLIMORE	GREENGROCER
SABLE SUE	BLUE SEAS	FISHMONGER
SANE BRAIN S	NINA BARNES	CHEMIST
ILLCEE	ELLICE	?
BREW SET	WEBSTER	BUTCHER
MISS M NO	SIMMONS	BAKER
RUBLET	BUTLER	BUTCHER
GRONMA	MORGAN	RADIO & TV
LEVOLL	LOVELL	ELECTRICAL/BLACKSMITH
RETSAW	WATERS	GARAGE
LOLSHIRE	HOLLIERS	DAIRY
SCRAVER	CARVERS	GROCERY & PROVISIONS
RELMAP	PALMER	GENERAL STORE
BLUE ROW M	RUMBELOW	ELECTRICAL
PHAST ROTS	SPARSHOTT	GREENGROCER
X TIN BOTH SUM	BUXTON-SMITH	PHOTOGRAPHER
REST SNORE OR GEE	ROE GREEN STORES	GENERAL STORES
RATH	HART	GENERAL PROVISIONS
CLLU	CULL	CONFECTIONER

Congratulations if you got them all right. Can somebody fill in the missing trade for Ellice? And where was it located?

Thanks to those people who wrote in to confirm the mounting of anti-personnel bombs on Tiger Moths during the invasion threat of 1940. Some 1500 sets of racks were produced to carry up to eight bombs. Release was manually operated by steel cable! The racks were made from light section steel angle in the Plant workshop.

Hatfield Music Festival. Shirley Knapp is seeking help with preparing a history of the festival from its origins in 1980 to the present day. The work would include co-ordinating information and photographs held by the Festival organisers, following up the progress of previous winners and preparing articles for the local press. If you would like to help please contact Shirley.

Whilst researching old copies of the Herts Advertiser, Brian Lawrence came across the following item dated 5 March 1919:

"Lord Salisbury presided at a Public Meeting to consider the provision of a memorial to commemorate heroes of the parish. The Committee had rejected suggestions that it should take the form of a hospital, an institute and baths and felt that it should be a 'pure memorial'.

The Committee had considered sites and had reduced the options to two:- the first the Ryde Field near the junction of the St. Albans Road and the Great North Road and the second to the left of the main entrance to Hatfield Park.

The architect, Mr. R. Baker, one of the most eminent architects in England who had been responsible for government buildings in Pretoria and Delhi had visited Hatfield and was overwhelmingly in favour of the second site. The estimated cost was £1,500.

Dr. Lovell Drage spoke in favour of the memorial being erected at the cemetery and put forward a resolution to that **effect.**

Mr. Crawford proposed an amendment that the meeting should accept the architect's recommendation and this was passed 'almost unanimously'.

The Committee hoped that some contribution, however small, would be made by every inhabitant of the parish."

Apropos the above report Ron White writes:

"On 10th October 1944 during the hours of darkness, a German VI flying bomb flew across Old Hatfield, the staccato sounding motor cut out and the missile dived, exploding in the St. Audrey's School/Primrose Cottages area. Among the victims of this incident was my mother's elderly aunt, Mrs. Jane Skeggs, nee Kemp of 24 Primrose Cottages, daughter of Hatfield's centenarian William Kemp (1822 -1927), war widow of World War 1 and an employee of Hatfield Estate.

On Hatfield's war memorial Jane Skeggs' name is inscribed on a panel flanking the panels of World War 1. She is commemorated cheek by jowl with her fallen husband, Private Albert Edward Skeggs of the Beds. Regt. (France, August 1916). Epitaphs of a soldier and his widow both killed by the same enemy in two different wars 28 years apart."

Do you have any interesting stories, amusing anecdotes or reminiscences of Hatfield past? Those memories recalled over a cup of tea or at the family party. "Do you remember when.....?" Share them with other members. I will be pleased to include them in future issues of the Newsletter, and they could be included in the museum archives.