

HATFIELD THIS CENTURY

Hatfield people explore their history since 1900

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Secretary Mrs C. Martindale
Editor: Mr F.J. Cox

How the Poor Lived

A most informative and entertaining talk about the Poor Laws and workhouses by Dr. Kate Thompson, the County Archivist was enjoyed by about 30 members and friends at St. Michael's Church Hall on the 8th of October.

Lone Star

Your committee has arranged a talk by Ron Kingdon on British Tin Plate Toys with particular reference to Die Cast Machine tools and Lone Star. This will be held at St. Michael's Church Hall on Wednesday the 11th of March, at 2.30.

On this subject it is hoped to prepare an exhibition relating to Lone Star, its products and work people. Samples of toys, stories of working conditions and interviews with people who worked there or did work at home will be used as a core for another display at the Mill Green Museum. But we need a co-ordinator to collate the stories and artefacts. We should be inundated with volunteers from the Birchwood area - we hope!

Oral Interviews

A further 10 edited interviews have been presented to Hatfield Library to add to the 33 which are available for loan there.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at Oxlease House on Tuesday the 12th of May.

Upon completion of the business Janet Robinson (nee Tingey) will be coming from her home in Herefordshire to talk about the Tingey family and their effect upon Newtown, entitled "Tingey Tales".

More details in our next edition.

**The Chairman and
Committee
send their good
wishes for Christmas
&
every happiness in
the New Year to all
our Members and
their Families**

This Century and Next?

With the approach of the Millennium we should be considering the name of the Group.

Hatfield Last Century seems a little too obvious, so come along and give your committee some names to consider. This is your association and the committee wants to abide by your wishes. A new logo might also be adopted if one is suggested.

Letters

Frome
Somerset

It may be of interest to the members of Hatfield This Century that my father, Norman Tingey, died at the end of July.

After his brother Randall retired, my father ran the last shop of the five which once constituted J. Tingey & Son (Grocers). He was the last Tingey to be in business in Hatfield and sold the last shop, at Roe Green, in 1980.

Although I live too far away to attend your meetings and talks, I enjoy my membership of your project.

*Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth John*

*Cecil Crescent,
Hatfield*

In the Mid 1920s I had a Saturday job delivering bread in the Newtown area, Roe Green and Old Hatfield. I worked for Hulks the bakers in St. Albans Road. They held a contract to supply bread for the workhouse. This meant an early call about 7am to deliver some 20 loaves.

G.W.Bennett

New history and guide for the Mosquito Aircraft Museum

A Review by Sue Kirby

Philip Birtles, Chairman of the de Havilland Museum, has recently published a first class history and guide **de Havilland Heritage : A History of the Mosquito Aircraft Museum**. It's a 32 page full-colour booklet, beautifully designed and illustrated.

The initial chapter deals, briefly, with the history of Salisbury Hall (which is a moated manor house dating back a great deal further than the birth of aviation) and, at greater length, with the aviation links of the site which date back to 1939 when de Havilland's took it over as the design office for the top-secret Mosquito unarmed wooden bomber. The first Mosquito to fly from Salisbury Hall was the Night Flyer prototype W4052 on 15th May 1940. The October 1940 bomb attack on the Hatfield aerodrome destroyed the Airspeed design office (which had been moved from Portsmouth), the Technical School and much work in progress for the Mosquitos. As a result Mosquito production was widely dispersed and the Horsa (a troop-carrying glider) designers moved to Salisbury Hall. After the war the de Havilland design team did some preliminary work on what became the Goblin jet-powered Vampire. The de Havilland Aeronautical Technical School then used the site until 1948.

Salisbury Hall was then abandoned and allowed to deteriorate until rescued by Walter Goldsmith and his family in the 1950s. Goldsmith, Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, John Cunningham, Bill Baird and some others started the Mosquito Appeal Fund to provide a home for the Mosquito prototype. The

Museum at Salisbury Hall opened on 15th May 1959, the first aviation museum in Britain, as a registered charity with proceeds in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund. In 1974 the Museum was able to buy part of the land and set about expanding its collection. It changed its name from the Mosquito Appeal Fund to the Mosquito Aircraft Museum. In 1977 a company was formed to operate the Museum which is now known as the de Havilland Aircraft Museum Trust Ltd. The current site of the Museum is now too small and the Trust is working on a strategy to move the Museum to a larger site on the disused Hatfield aerodrome.

Subsequent sections of the guide describe the historic aircraft on show at Salisbury Hall including

- the Cierva C24 Autogiro G-ABLM
- the Airspeed AS.58 Horsa Glider
- the de Havilland DH.82a Tiger Moth G-ANRX
- the de Havilland DH.826 Queen Bee LF789
- the de Havilland Hornet Moth G-ADOT
- the de Havilland DH.89 Dragon Rapide G-AKDW
- the de Havilland DH.98 Mosquito prototype W4050
- the de Havilland DH.100 Vampire FB.6J-100P
- the de Havilland Comet 1a F-BGNX
- the de Havilland DH. 112 Venom NF.3WX853
- the de Havilland (Hawker Siddeley) DH.121 Trident Two and Three

- the de Havilland DH.125 G-ARYC

There are also displays on piston, jet and rocket engines, propellers and guided missiles.

This is a concise and well-written booklet, a colourful souvenir as well as a useful concise reference aid. It is available for £4.95 from the de Havilland Heritage Museum (formerly the Mosquito Aircraft Museum)
PO Box 107
Salisbury Hall
London Colney
Herts
AL21BU

The Museum is open 1st March - 31st October Tues, Thurs and Sat 14.00 - 17.30 and Sun and Bank Hols 10.30 - 17.30 tel (01727)822051

I.T.

We had not considered getting on the Internet but details of the association are being included on the database InfoCentre run by the Libraries Arts and Information Department of the Herts. County Council.

Computer terminals are located in all Hertfordshire public libraries.

Info Centre is on the Internet at <http://hertslib.hertscc.gov.uk>

War Memorial

The Town Council has completed the major repairs and improvements to the War Memorial by the main entrance to Hatfield House. The roof has been retiled, the walls repaired and cleaned and the steps replaced with a ramp.