

SECRETARY: Mrs. C. Martindale.
EDITOR: F.J.Cox.

Members' Meetings

Our December meeting consisted of a talk and demonstration by the bellringers of St. Etheldreda's. The history of this ancient art was well described with technical information on the manufacture and mounting of the bells, which evoked interested queries and answers. The handbells were then displayed before a short demonstration and explanation of change ringing, after which members were invited to join in and try to ring Christmas carols.

The possibility of a visit to the belfry is being considered.

In February a pleasant afternoon was enjoyed when members brought along photographs and other interesting items for discussion. It was nice to meet other members and to reminisce over a cup of tea.

A talk on the history of our water supply was presented on March 8th by Mr.D. Reddington from the Three Valleys Water PLC

On April 12th at 2.30 pm at the Bill Salmon Centre we have a talk by Jessie Axford author of "I Lived in a Castle" and "From Castle to Garret" about her life as an evacuee and afterwards.

Our May meeting will, as usual be the AGM, followed by a talk by Phillip Birtles of the de Havilland Museum.

No. 80 St. Albans Road

by Marianne Moore

*Years ago, before the war
Charlie and I were wed,
We had a little general store,
Sweets, tobacco, magazines,
Gramophone records, razor blades,
And a busy barbers shop.*

*We opened up at five fifteen,
Newspapers to deliver.
Children called in on their way to school
For sweets and lollipops.*

*Gentlemen's haircuts five pence a time,
And tuppence for a shave,
Customers were coming all day long
Till eight o'clock at night.*

*Sundays we closed at one o'clock,
If the papers were all sold,
But as soon as that door was shut
They'd come knocking at the back.*

*'Twas then that Charlie got real tough
And put notices on the door
"It's no use knocking she won't hear,
She's got cotton wool stuffed in her ear!"*

*Then on Good Friday a holiday we would have.
The same thing happened
So this is what they got:-
"It's no good knocking at the door,
You won't wake poor Mrs. Moore,
For today there are no papers,
So please stop your silly capers."
This caused a lot of giggling,
When through the keyhole the culprit we could see.*

*We made ice cream, rich and creamy,
Especially for the kids,
Great big wafers, outsize cornets,
All for just two pence.
Bottles of pop, left over comics,
Free for all to read.
Free advice on cats and dogs,
Rabbits and canaries too.*

*Our shop was just a meeting place,
Discussions on this and that,
Then came the war, sweets and chocolates
rationed
Cigarettes in short supply.*

Continued overleaf

Victims of War

By Brian Lawrence

Many members will have seen, and some may have, a copy of the bound book produced at the end of the First World War which has the title "Hatfield, Herts - In Memoriam and Roll of Honour".

I believe a copy of the book inscribed with the individual's name, was given to every returning serviceman and probably to the family of each of those lost in the conflict.

I recently had reason to examine my copy of the book and to compare the names of those shown in the In Memoriam section with the names of those commemorated on the War Memorial.

I was surprised to find that there are 21 names recorded in the book which do not appear on the War Memorial and 19 of the 139 names on the War Memorial are not in the book.

I suspect that the reason for these discrepancies is the fact that the book was produced very soon after the end of the War when the information available was still incomplete whereas by 1921 the facts had become much clearer.

You may wonder if I undertook this rather laborious task simply to combat a dose of post Christmas boredom. It was, in fact, done on behalf of the Imperial War Museum who are undertaking a National Inventory of all War Memorials. In addition to providing them with details of Hatfield's two external War Memorials I was also able to pass on to them information on four other War Memorials located in the Parish Church. Full descriptions of these which cover the past hundred years are given below.

If any members are aware of any other war memorials in Hatfield I shall be pleased to hear from them.

Memorials in Hatfield Church

Stained glass window located on the north wall of the nave near the porch. It was designed by Christopher Whall (1850-1924) who was influenced by the pre-Raphaelite painters. It was presented by James, fourth Marquess of Salisbury in 1920 in memory of his three nephews who were all killed in the 1914-1918 war. Their father, Lord William Cecil, was then Bishop of Exeter having previously been Rector at Hatfield. The main decoration in the window is made up of three full length angel figures representing: i. Trial and Sacrifice, with the crown of thorns, ii. Victory and Triumph in the resurrection, with the torch, iii. Christian Duty, with the baptism of an infant into the Christian life.

The figures are set against the briars of life and the sun of righteousness, above are seraphim and cherubim and below inscribed in the glass are the

No. 80 St. Albans Road

*Charlie joined the RAF, Dawn went on the buses
Joan was allowed to stay with me
To keep the business going.
Our barbers shop just had to close.
But when the news got around,
That Charlie Moore was home on leave,
The children queued for their special treat
Of Mariana ice cream.*

*Such little things but they kept us going,
In those war-time days*

One of a collection of poems by May Moore

words: -

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN
MEMORY OF RUPERT EDWARD
GASCOYNE CECIL BORN JANy 20th
1895 KILLED IN ACTION JULY 11
1915

AND OF RANDALL WILLIAM
GASCOYNE CECIL BORN NOVr 28th
1889 KILLED IN ACTION DECr 1st
1917 AND OF JOHN ARTHUR GAS-
COYNE CECIL BORN MARCH 28th
1893 KILLED IN ACTION AUGUST
27th 1918

I LOOK FOR THE RESURRECTION
OF THE DEAD AND THE LIFE
OF THE WORLD TO COME.

Stained glass window on the east wall of the Broomfield Chapel commemorates the eight men of Hatfield killed in the Boer War. It dates from 1903, was designed by Temple Moore and made by Burlison & Grylls. The figures across the centre of the five main panels are Fortitude, St. George, Christ carrying the cross, St. Alban and the Queen. Below are eight soldiers in the four outer panels and an angel in the centre.

Wall Plaque located on the east wall of the north transept approximately 100cm by 60cm with a semi-circular top containing a stag (or hart) with the word BEDFORDSHIRE below the illustration.

The main inscription is as follows:-

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN PROUD REMEM-
BRANCE OF

Lieut Col J S COLLINS WELLS VC DSO

AND THE OFFICERS
AND MEN OF THE
4TH BATTALION
BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT
(HARTS MILITIA) WHO
GAVE THEIR LIVES
FOR THIER KING AND
COUNTRY IN
BELGIUM FRANCE
EGYPT AND PALESTINE
1914 1918

The Pulpit designed by Sir Albert Richardson was erected in 1947 and is dedicated to the dead of two world wars and other parishioners whose names are inscribed in a Roll of Honour and kept in the old "Bible Box".

With regret we learn of the death of Fred Adams, one of the original members of the Group.

Born in St. Pancras in 1906, he joined Jack Oldings in 1939 and moved to Hatfield in 1942. He was clerk to the Parish Council from 1949 until 1960. A member of Hatfield Art Society and the local Retirement Association of which he was treasurer from 1982 until 1995, Fred had also served in the Home Guard during the war. His funeral took place on 5th February.

We also regret to report the sudden death in December of Roy Elkins, another long time member who was secretary of Oxlease House. Our condolences are extended to his wife Ann.