

Hatfield Local History Society

Formerly Hatfield This Century

NEWSLETTER

No. 33

June 1999

SECRETARY: Mrs. C. Martindale.
EDITOR: F.J.Cox, 23 Home Meadow.

Annual General Meeting

The ninth AGM of Hatfield This Century was held on the 10th May at Oxlease House, Hatfield.

27 members were in attendance.

From the chair Brian Lawrence reported that the monthly meetings had been reasonably successful and would continue. Feedback from members on future speakers and/or subjects is required. The Group has close association with the Mill Green Museum and the Council's financial cuts and the loss of qualified staff is greatly regretted. Brian thanked members of the committee for their work.

Isobel Cox presented the financial report and stated that although the funds were healthy, with the increased costs of monthly meetings care must be taken to maintain a reasonable balance. We currently have 74 members.

A proposition that the name of the Group be changed to the Hatfield Local History Group was amended to the Hatfield Local History Society. This was agreed by a clear majority of members.

A further proposition regarding the disposal of funds following the winding up of the Society was passed unanimously.

An amendment to the draft constitution, which was circulated with the notice of the AGM is printed overleaf.

Maurice Richardson was thanked for auditing the accounts and agreed to his appointment as auditor for next year.

Ron White, having completed his three years on the committee did not seek re-election. Brian thanked him for his hard work, particularly on the railway project.

There were no further nominations for committee so your members for this coming year will be Frank Clayton, Stan Clayton, Frank Cox, Isobel Cox, Brian Lawrence, Chris Martindale, John Pennington and Pat Sherrard.

The meeting closed at 8.11 pm and was followed by a talk from Philip Birtles on the de Havilland Heritage Trust and their hopes for their future expansion on the B. Ae. Site

Tingey Tales

For those of us who were unable to attend last year's AGM and missed the fascinating talk by Janet Robinson about her family and the family business in Hatfield, we have, with her permission, deposited a recording of the talk at Hatfield library in the Local Studies Section. It is available on loan.

Goodbye Sue

In April Sue Kirby left the Museum at Mill Green. As the Curator, a position which she has held since 1986, Sue was instrumental in organising many exhibitions both at Mill Green and at the Roman Baths at Welwyn.

She was a founder member of Hatfield This Century and supported the Group in all that it did.

She studied History, English and Latin at the University of Exeter and took the postgraduate course in Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. In 1980 she became the Assistant for Social History at Tullie House Museum in Carlisle. Awarded an M.A. in Museum and Gallery Management by City University, Sue is the author of numerous articles and several booklets on local history and museum topics.

Married recently at the Old Palace Sue now lives in Hampstead.

We wish her well in her new life and extend our grateful thanks for her help and support to the association.

Help....

The minutes of your last committee meeting contained a paragraph headed "Group Projects". This highlighted the efforts of some of your committee members in respect of specific projects. Brian Lawrence is busy collecting information about the Box Factory and has so far completed four panels of photographs.

Reg Coleman is proceeding with the history of Birchwood assisted by information supplied by Joan Street and the booklet on the Lone Star factory, while Brian is scouring Council minutes for any relevant reports. Frank Cox is hoping to use the transcript of Tingey Tales as the basis for a publication on the Tingey family. With the help of Janet Robinson this could establish some history of Hatfield that seems to be fading. Interviews with the manager of the Roe Green shop and oral interviews with Norman Tingey and Fred Reeves

Guided Tour of

St. ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH

led by
BARRY SMITH

**Monday 12th July
6pm**

Members only!

hold encouraging information..

Brian is collating information on the life and works of Beresford Johnson the renowned local artist. Publication of his works could be restricted to his black and white drawings due to cost of

colour printing. Panels of some of these have been prepared by Brian and were displayed at the Old Town Festivities on 6th June. Oral history interviews have been collected and stored at the museum, Frank has edited 80 of these most of which are available from the library. But we still need interviewers to talk to the many local people who have offered to tell their stories and memories. And your newsletter, subject matter is drying up! Please help us with your stories and memories on any of these subjects. The history of Hatfield is a continuing saga. Present day children do not know of things like the Development Corporation or the New Towns Commission. Let's put this right. Your subscriptions help to keep the Society going but your contributions are even more necessary to encourage research and recording of our local history.

Ed.

Hatfield Local History Society

Following decisions taken at the 1999 AGM, revised paragraphs 1 and 12 of the Organisation's constitution are printed below. Please substitute these two paragraphs for those in the draft constitution sent to you with notification of the AGM.

All other paragraphs of the constitution are as set out in the draft except that all references to "Group" should be amended to "Society". It would be most helpful and reduce costs if members would amend their draft constitution manually.

NAME

1. The name of the organisation shall be Hatfield Local History Society (hereafter called "The Society")

WINDING UP

12. The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting held in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

The committee shall, on the winding up of Hatfield Local History Society, pay the surplus funds of the Society towards such other bodies in accord with the aims and objectives of the Society as the members present shall in their discretion decide.