

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

Editorial.....

It was very gratifying that in spite of the imposition of an entrance fee and considering the atrociously inclement weather the attendance at the February meeting was in excess of that expected, 40 people turned up!

The second instalment of Eric Sherrard's talk on Hatfield from 1900 was extremely well received. Unfortunately it had to be curtailed through time limitations. The interest shown in this subject has prompted a suggestion that the information should be preserved in book form. Eric has agreed to provide his researched notes and your editor has offered to compile the information and photographs. To prepare this as a factual history of Hatfield during the period under consideration will require the assistance of researchers to establish and confirm facts and sources, and helpers to prepare typescripts preparatory to drafting. Members are invited to take part in this project and I would be pleased to receive offers of help and/or suggestions. Eric has started it off by suggesting 'A Chronology of Hatfield in the Twentieth Century' as a possible title.

The publication side of the Society has achieved great success this past year. The Growing Up in Hatfield booklets have had to be reprinted to meet the demand whilst the Tingey booklets, after two reprints totalling 110 copies, are sold out. The Beresford Johnson books are on sale in bookshops throughout the county.

Other subjects in line for publication include the story of the Birchwood area, a schoolboy's impression of Mill Green, memoirs of William George Walby from 1909 and possibly a history of Nast Hyde area as it was 70 or 80 years ago. Currently we have ready for printing the poems and memoirs of Marian Moore. As this is a private venture it is necessary to assess the demand so an order form is attached. Marian (May) has kindly agreed that any proceeds from sales will be donated to the Society. Thank you David for another interesting article overleaf. Other member's items would be gratefully received.

Events

Following the interest shown by some members after the visit to Torilla, Brian has made arrangements for two further visits to take place on Sunday 20th May. Numbers will be limited so prompt return of the booking slip attached is advised.

Guided walk in Brocket Park with Richard Busby at 6.30 on Monday June 11th.

Members requiring transport for these or other meetings should contact Pat Sherrard on (01707) 265062. Pat has kindly agreed to co-ordinate requirements where possible.

NATIONAL HEALTH BEFORE NHS

The following advertisement appeared in the Parish Magazine in May 1938

The Loyal Excelsior Lodge Of Oddfellows

The Committee of the above Lodge desire to bring to the notice of parents and young people, the following regulations which come into force from 4th April 1938.

All persons between the ages of 14 and 16 yrs. will be required, as from 4th April 1938, if employed (or you become employed after that date) to be insured under the provisions of the National Health Insurance Acts for the purposes of medical attention and treatment.

The contributions for these purposes will be 4d. per week, of which 2d. will be payable by your employer and 2d. will be deducted from your wages.

It is to your interest to join an Approved Society, chiefly because membership with such a Society as a Juvenile member will give you an earlier title, after reaching the age of 16, to Additional Treatment Benefits, such as Dental, Ophthalmic, &c.

In selecting an Approved Society, obviously one should be chosen which is already providing these Additional Treatment Benefits.

The local Lodge of Oddfellows is the Society you should join to obtain the maximum benefits.

Enquire from the Lodge Secretary for further particulars and application form.

Secretary :

E. W. PRYKE - Church Street Lodge - HATFIELD

We always used to call it Dellfield School, after all it was at the end of Dellfield Road. The school was built in 1934. I started my first day there at the beginning of 1936 so it was still a new building then. It was a fine establishment, juniors entering at one end and seniors at the other. The older children had more steps to climb at the entrance to the "Big End".

Miss Hastings was there to greet us on our first morning. I think we were all a bit scared. I remember one little boy had an "accident" and left a puddle. I expect Miss Hastings was used to such things. Mr. F. Cox was headmaster then (yes another Frank Cox). He would drive from his home in Selwyn to the school. I am not sure what make of car he owned, but it had a very distinctive engine noise. We could always tell when he was driving by. When he bought a new car some years later, it must have been the same make as it had the same engine sound. He was a strict but kindly headmaster. Several times when my sister and I were late, which we usually were, he would stop his car and offer us a lift. We were quite overwhelmed.

I progressed through the school being taught by a different teacher in each class, I remember most of them with great affection. When I reached the seniors word got around that a new man was coming to teach us. Practically all the teachers were women in those 1940s days. The men were either called up or doing essential war work. To have a man teacher was very unusual. The rumours were

that he was young and handsome, sporting a moustache, so the girls were swooning. It was said that he was an ex RAF pilot so the boys were keen to see him, too. We were not disappointed when he arrived. He was Mr. Ponfery and not only did he have a moustache but a sports car as well. He had some rather unusual teaching methods but we all liked him.

We enjoyed free milk then. The one third of a pint bottles were delivered each day by a horse and cart from Hollier's Dairies.

A highlight of the winter terms was seeing the steam driven wagon delivering a load of coal for the school boilers. I can also remember looking out of the class room window and seeing a horse drawn plough.

We had regular practice evacuations to the air raid shelters, They were dark and cold so we were always glad to come out again. The staff were supplied with large torches but most of the time we sat in the dark. Each child had to have a small tin which was taped up. This contained emergency rations including a bar of chocolate and some barley sugar. We would look longingly at our tins and wonder when the emergency would come. Each child had to be provided with a stool so that they had something to sit on if we were in the shelter for a long time. My father made my sister and I a couple of grand stools. Mine was a size bigger than hers. It has survived through the years and I still have it. A wonderful little stool fashioned from some pieces of old scrap wood.

I was attending the school when the bombs were dropped on de Havillands. We heard the thud of the explosions. The teachers shepherded us all in to the corridor where we sat on the floor until we were told it was safe. When I got home I was met by Mum and Dad sweeping up broken glass as most of the front windows of our bungalow had been blown in by the blast from the bombs.

We would make our way home from school down Briars Lane towards the St. Albans Road. It was very much a country lane then with a large area of allotments on the right hand side. After the allotments there was a green with an old first world war field gun in the middle. This gun, like the tank in Hatfield Park, proved a great attraction for the local children. Sometimes we would play on the gun before crossing the St. Albans Road at the belisha crossing and make our way home along the road towards the Stone House. We would pass the "Cedars" and Skipper Day's "Haven" bungalow on the way. There were nice high paths along the top of the banks in those days for children to run along. On the opposite side of the road was a large open field stretching as far as Roe Green. Alas, like so many Hatfield buildings the school was reduced to a heap of rubble last year.

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Your April meeting will consist of a talk by Brian Lawrence entitled

THE HATFIELD BREWERY

And a discourse by Reg. Coleman on

LONE STAR

Swim Centre

April 9th

2.30