

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

## *A.G.M.*

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 14th May with over 30 members in attendance.

It was reported that our total membership has passed the 100 mark.

With the change of venue for meetings the attendance has steadily increased even with the imposition of entrance charges, a fact which confirms your committee's decision to invoke the changes.

Unfortunately the expenses relating to the changes have not been covered by contributions and it was formally proposed that as from 1st January 2002 the annual subscription should be increased to £5. This was unanimously approved by the meeting. Preliminary notice that the charge for the Swim Centre room would be increased in the autumn had been taken into account when the proposal was prepared.

Some discussion on the merits of afternoon or evening meetings resulted in the general acceptance of the fairness of alternate times and dates.

Three retiring committee members, Frank Clayton, Isobel Cox and Chris Martindale had agreed to stand for re-election and were duly confirmed. One further nomination, that our co-opted minute secretary, Pat Sherrard, be appointed full committee member with voting power was also confirmed.

Thanks were extended to Maurice Richardson for auditing the accounts.

Following the business part of the evening a most informative and interesting illustrated talk on the Hertfordshire Regiment in the Great World War was given by Clive Harris, a First World War Battlefield guide, who generously nominated the local British Legion Branch to receive his expenses.

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## **A WALK IN BROCKET PARK**

Despite fears of foot and mouth restrictions a group of members were pleased to be conducted on a tour of the footpaths in Brocket Park on June 11th. Lasting nearly two and a half hours, the party were guided by the ex-Librarian at Hatfield, Richard Busby to whom thanks are extended.

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## **VISIT TO TORILLA**

On Sunday May 20th, by courtesy of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charlton, two groups of members, some thirty in all, had the pleasure of a visit to Torilla, the listed 1930s 'modern' house designed by F.R.S.Yorke, in Wilkins Green Lane.

In the course of our tour we heard an absorbing account of the trials and tribulation of the rescue and sympathetic restoration and furnishing of this noted building. Many thanks to the owners and to our chairman who negotiated the visit.

*Jim Parker*

## *Letters .....*

*French Horn Lane  
Hatfield*

When I was a child my father made me a Juvenile member of the Loyal Excelsior Lodge of Oddfellows.

I used to collect subscriptions, which I think were 1d (one old penny) a week, in Hatfield and deliver them to Mr. Pryke.

I believe Mr. Victor Cull succeeded Mr. Pryke as secretary.

I remain a retired member of the Society, but now of the Albanian Lodge as the Excelsior Lodge no longer exists. No subscription is levied for the over 65s but ophthalmic, dental, sickness and death benefits still apply and I was recently granted a donation towards my stair lift!

*H.J.Gray*

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*Sanderstead  
South Croydon  
Surrey*

When the Barnet by Pass was first built my school friend and I used to roller skate for hours and miles and miles up and down the road, (no dual carriageway) scarcely seeing a vehicle of any sort until we were turned off by an AA man who said we would turn it into a skating rink!

*C.L.Owers*

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## **CENSUS BICENTENARY**

The first census taken in Britain was in 1801 and consisted of just five questions. The one you completed in April this year had forty!

## COUNTESS ANNE'S SCHOOL

We may not all have attended Countess Anne's School but there can be very few local residents who have not heard of it or even visited it either in its original capacity or in its present use as the Parish Hall. Whilst helping out at the Museum creating a data base for the library there I came across the rules of the foundation of the charity school which, although accepted as pioneering education in those days, would probably send shudders through the Ministry and profession today.

"Orders to be observed in this Charity-School As given by The Right Honourable Anne, Countess of Salisbury, the 29 day of September 1735.

(I) That 20 Girls be Taught on the Foundation to Read, Sew, Knit and Mark in order to Fit them for Services: And the School to consist of Forty Girls only.

(II) That an exact List of their Names be kept and called over every day.

(III) That none be admitted under Nine and none continued after Fifteen years of age.

(IV) That if any of the Charity-Children are absent from School three Days in one Month (times of Breaking up and a Month in Harvest and Sicknefs excepted) they are to be Expelled.

Also in case they are guilty of Swearing, Piffing, or any other disorderly Behaviour, as well out of School as in School; And likewise if they are not kept Neat and Clean.

(V) That Prayers be read every Morning and Afternoon with the Psalms and Lessons appointed for the Day.

(VI) That the Children continue at School in Summer from Seven oClock to Twelve in the Morning, And from Two to Five in the Afternoon: And in Winter from Eight to Twelve in the Morning and One to Four in the Afternoon.

(VII) That two Lefsons be said in the Morning and two in the Afternoon.

(VIII) That all Days be alike except Thursday and Saturday to One oClock in the afternoon: And that on those Days the Explanation of the Church Catechism or Foxes Publick Worship be Taught weekly. And whereas many have abused the Charitable Disposition of the said Countess of Salisbury by taking their Children out of the School before they were qualified as aforesaid For Services contrary to her Ladyships Charity and good intentions, It is therefore most strictly to be observed.

(IX) That whoever take their Child or Children out of the School without the Consent and Approbation of the said Countess of Salisbury, neither Themselves nor their Children shall for the Future partake of her Ladyships Bounty in any kind whatsoever."

Frank Cox

## AMAZING HAMPTON COURT

Once on a visit to Hampton Court.  
Someone suggested that we ought  
To prove our skill in navigation,  
Attempt with careful observation,  
To follow the intricate paths that wind  
In and out and on behind  
Tall hedges made of thorn and yew  
Which everywhere do block the view.

The Maze was planted in William's days  
'A popular feature' the guide book says  
Six feet high and two feet thick  
Of close clipped hedges, strong as brick.  
But was it really William III  
Who thought of such a scheme absurd?  
Or was he feeling just contrary  
And hoping to annoy Queen Mary?

'Turn to the left' we heard them say,  
'You'll reach the centre without delay.'  
Advice, alas, we tried to take  
But as we followed in the wake  
Of lots of people, it was clear  
We'd seen them all before somewhere,  
And so we realised, at last,  
That we were getting nowhere fast

That woman with the auburn hair  
And transatlantic accent there?  
We heard her murmur 'Not again!'  
And hurry down the other lane,  
While laughing, healthy children ran  
Just to and fro without a plan,  
Or hoping, as it seemed to me  
That SOMEHOW they'd be home for tea.

'For tea!' Remote that prospect seemed  
To us who hadn't even dreamed  
The centre would elude us still,  
'Perhaps,' we thought, 'it always will!'

But no, a kindly passerby  
Betrayed the secret and to my  
Relief that all was not in vain,  
We managed still to catch our train!

*Whilst perusing our programme for September, Evelyn Hart was reminded of the above poem which she had found reminding her of a pleasant trip to Hampton Court.*

*Thank you Evelyn, for your memory*

## LOCAL HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Organised and hosted by the North Mymms Local History Society and sponsored by the Hertfordshire Association for Local History, a symposium on Hertfordshire History will be held at the Royal Veterinary College, North Mymms on Saturday 3rd November. Talks will be presented on the Royal Veterinary College, The Architecture and History of Hatfield House, The Furnishings of St. Mary's Church, Surviving Local Timber-framed Buildings and North Mymms House. An optional visit to the church will also be included. Entrance will be by ticket, price £6.50 and lunch may be ordered in advance. Application forms for tickets to Miss Benton, or pick up at our September meeting.

## AUTUMN MEETINGS

Monday 10 September 7.30  
**HAMPTON COURT PALACE**  
by  
**D.MERCER**

A guide lecturer at the Palace for 20 years

Monday 8th October 2.30  
**ASPECTS OF ST. ALBANS**  
by

**ANNE WHEELER**  
Curator of St. Albans City Museum  
Photographs by  
**ALF GENTLE**

Monday 12th November 7.30  
**HATFIELD TOWN CENTRE**  
Its Development from the 1950s  
by

**DAVID IRVING**  
Director of Environmental Services  
Welwyn Hatfield Council

Monday 10th December 2.30  
**OPEN MEETING**  
Bring your own articles to display