

## September 2009 Editorial

We hope that you enjoy the September newsletter and we'd like to thank those folks who have provided anecdotes, responses and those who have asked for information. We would like to include everything that we receive - but it is just not possible.

As you will see from this and the previous newsletter, we have crammed in as much text as it is possible to do, *and* we've included a separate events page!

In order to include all the contributions we receive, it seems, there are two choices - either increase the size of the newsletter or complement the Society's work with a website forum. However, both solutions will cost money!

On this note, it was decided at the AGM in May to increase subscriptions by £1 to £6 starting next year.

We've particularly appreciated members writing in with questions. Molly Draper emailed us with a question about the history of the Hatfield cinema at The Commons.

Our investigations led us to a book 'Cinemas of Hertfordshire' by Allen Eyles and thence to the owner of the cinema / bingo hall who kindly arranged a guided tour for us.

We took many photos including some backstage and other rooms, but how can we show people interested in seeing them?

Our guide said there was once a trap door through which an organist rose. Is that true?

We'd like some recollections of the old cinema - it may well soon be demolished.

And please keep your questions coming.

## Dates for your diary:

**Monday 14th September 7.30** "Any Old News" with Chris Reynolds resident genealogist on web site [hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk](http://hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk)

**Thursday 8th October 2.30** The Redevelopment of Old Hatfield by Nick Moorhouse

**Monday 9th November 7.30** History of the Barn Theatre by Dennis Wells

As is usual the December meeting will be an "open" one.

## Kaleidoscope Festival 2009

We had another busy day at the Kaleidoscope Festival. The rain held off, the sun shone and the crowds came. There was a lot of interest in our WW2 display with people looking at the photographs, handling the objects loaned from Mill Green Museum and eating our cakes made from WW2 recipes. This year we had a competition 'Name the Evacuee Teddy' which was won by a lady from Handside Lane who named the teddy Arthur. She will be giving Arthur to her granddaughter. A big thanks to all who helped on the day.

## Launch of the Hertfordshire Manorial Documents Register Database

Join us on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September to celebrate the launch of the Hertfordshire Manorial Documents Database. Throughout the day an exhibition of manorial records will be available in the archive reading room at HALS and staff will be on hand to demonstrate the database.

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