

JOY EMERTON

It was with much sadness that we were informed of the death of one of the founder members of Hatfield This Century on the 18th of January 2010. Joy was born in 1927 to Leslie and Vera Hickson whose family has been closely associated with Hatfield since about 1800 and has been recorded back to 1650.

She was born and lived in Providence Place - one of two cottages between Park Villas and the Great Northern Hotel (first named the Douro Arms until 1859), now renamed The Hatfield Arms.

Joy was educated at Countess Anne School and also at St. Audrey's. Due to wartime restrictions she left school at 14 years of age and started work in the office at Waters Garage on the Great North Road. After various other employments she eventually worked for the Conservative Party for 25 years.

When she was eight years old the family moved to North Lodge in the park where she lived until her marriage in 1951 to Robin Emerton, a lifetime resident of No. 13 Glebeland. This move resulted in her interest in the history of Glebe Cottages and eventually to the production of the story 'Glebe Cottages, Hatfield' published by this Society.

Sadly Robin died in 2002. As mentioned in the first part of the history he was born in No. 13 and lived there until he died at the age of 78, having, with his father and grandfather, achieved a continuous tenancy of 108 years. Joy later moved to No. 7 so the Emerton association with Glebeland continued. The funeral and service of remembrance was conducted at Garston Crematorium on the 2nd of February.

About 10 years ago Joy wrote 'Memories of Old Hatfield' where she describes the streets, shops, pubs and tradespeople she observed there. We expect to start publishing extracts in forthcoming Newsletters.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

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| Monday 8 th March 7pm | Terry Cox - "The Bravest Man You've Never Heard Of" |
| Thursday 8 th April 2pm | Tony Rook - "Strange Mansion" |
| Monday 10 th May 7pm | AGM. Followed by Kate Thompson - "Housing the Deserving Poor" |
| Thursday 10 th June 2pm | Sarah Adamson from the museum will be coming to our Open Meeting. |

Please note that April's speaker has been changed from our previous listing.

All meetings are at Friendship House, Wellfield Close, Hatfield. Doors open at 2pm or 7pm and the talks begin approximately 30mins later.

Herts Memories

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies are inviting local people to share their memories on a new community archive at www.hertsmemories.org.uk. Anybody, wherever they live, can explore this website and add their own memories and photographs if they wish. As the website grows photographs, stories, audio and video clips will be preserved for the future.

There will also be similar websites for other towns in Hertfordshire. The one for Welwyn Garden City www.hertsmemories.org.uk/ourwelwvngardencity has just gone live. HALS is now working on one for Hatfield. It is hoped that items from the University of Hertfordshire's deHavilland Project will be put onto the Hatfield website.

If you are interested in adding to these websites, especially the Hatfield one, get in touch with Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8EJ, telephone 03001234049 or hals@hertsc.gov.uk

Welwyn Hatfield Heritage Fair March 20th 2010

The Welwyn Hatfield Heritage Forum have invited heritage organisations throughout the Borough to take a stand at a Heritage Fair which is due to take place in the Howard Centre, WGC on March 20th (from 11.00 - 4.00pm) and again in Hatfield probably in June or July on a Farmers Market day.

Heritage groups will be able to promote their work, to meet and find out what others are doing and maybe to swap expertise and ideas. Our Society will be having a stand and I have it on good authority that quite a few other local groups will be attending as well. It should be an interesting day.

This is a good opportunity to further the work of our Society and to show people some of Hatfield's rich history. Volunteers, to help on the day, would be welcome. It would only be for an hour or two and could be combined with a shopping trip. Please contact me, Chris Martindale,.

De Havilland Project —Display Boards and Heritage Trail

On Friday 5th February Reg Coleman, Terry Pankhurst and Jim Parker attended a meeting at the University of Hertfordshire to discuss the positioning of display boards and where the heritage trail would be. It was thought that there would be 8 boards showing the history of the de Havilland's site similar to those that have recently been put up in Old Hatfield. This is a work in progress and there will be another meeting later on in the year which our stalwart members will be attending. We cannot let the history of our aircraft industry be forgotten.