

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday, **December 6th**, 2.15 for a 2.30 start.

Our Christmas Open meeting. A chance to chat and socialise with mince pies and cups of tea.

HLHS Meeting for 2013

Sadly, our program of meetings for next year will have to be reduced. Miriam Gaskin our Program Secretary will be moving to Manchester where her husband has a new job. This has left the committee with fewer members who are able to help with HLHS activities. The Committee has decided to hold only four meetings next year with a possible outing.

The dates for the meetings are:-

Thursday **14th March** 2.15 for a 2.30 start

Thursday **13th June** 7.15 for a 7.30 start - AGM

Thursday **12th September** 7.15 for a 7.30 start

A Thursday afternoon in December is yet to be arranged

We will of course keep you up to date about the speakers and about the possible outing through the newsletter.

Our thanks go to Miriam for all the help she has given to the Society over the past few years and we wish her and her husband the best of luck for their new life in Manchester.

Finally anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the Society's activities please get in touch:

Tudor House

The official opening of Tudor house by Grant Shapps, the Rt. Hon. MP for Welwyn Hatfield, took place on Friday 9th November. This building on St Albans Road East was originally council offices for the Hatfield Rural District Council and then the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council. It has now been converted into seven flats.



**Grant Shapps & Mike Attridge a
Director of Lioncrest Homes**



Hat. Rural Dist. Council Offices

The building was originally opened by the Marquess of Salisbury on 18th March 1930. The architect was Mr G. Percival Blow of St Albans, and the Hatfield Rural District Council borrowed the sum of £8000 from the Public Works and Loans Commission for the building works, furniture and fittings. An article in the Herts Mercury 21st March 1930 describes the building: -

“The new building is in St. Albans Road at the corner of Stonecross, and occupies a commanding position. The building has been designed in the Georgian style

and carried out in red brick with rubbed brick and stone facings. The accommodation provides rooms for the Clerk's Department, Surveyor's Department, Rating Officer and other officials”.

It is good to see a distinctive Hatfield building being renovated and used again. All credit to the builders, Lioncrest Homes for a job well done.

WW1 Souvenirs

While researching for the History Society's WW1 project, to commemorate the Centenary of the start of the War in 2014, we wanted to know how the "In Memoriam and Roll of Honour Album" came to be produced. The book must have taken up a large amount of time to collect and collate the 867 names contained within it, and what were the criteria for a soldier to be included?

We asked members of the Society, the Museum, and families whose relatives were in the book, and drew a blank. As in most cases when carrying out this type of research we had a piece of luck. While I was looking through H.A.L.S online archive catalogue, I came across a reference to papers of a Mr A. Whitby, Secretary to the Hatfield Parish Council through the war period, these papers turned out to be a gold mine of information into the soldiers in the book.

The papers showed that in 1919 in a directive from the Government, (due to ground swell of public opinion), peace celebrations should be organized by Local Authorities across the land. From the papers, a public meeting was held at the Public Hall on Thursday 3rd July 1919. One of the outcome's at the meeting was that a souvenir should be given to every man who left Hatfield to go to war (the Criteria). A souvenir committee was set up, and a decision was taken to offer a choice of one of two souvenirs, an "In Memoriam and Roll of Honour Album", or a "Silver Match Box" engraved Hatfield 1914-1919. While there are many copies of the Album only 121 matchboxes were produced. Luck was on our side and we have managed to track down a Match Box, which is shown below together with the recipient Mr **George Leonard Pollard of Wildhill**. (Curtsey of Mrs Mavis Stoker). We would love to know if anyone else has a souvenir matchbox, please get in touch.



Bringing the History of Smallford Station to Life

Smallford Residents' Association is celebrating! They have been awarded a substantial 'All our Stories' Grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to support an exciting local community project that will run throughout 2013. The news will be formally announced in the next few weeks when HLF issues a Press Release.

If you would like to know more, share your memories of the line or would like to become a team member on this community history project, please contact Jeff Lewis, Chair: Smallford Residents' Assoc: [_____](#)
