

## Dates for Your Diary

**Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2.15 for a 2.30 start.**

Our Christmas Open Meeting.

There will be mince pies and a cup of tea, and Onslow School will be bringing along their:

### **Hatfield's Magnificent Aviation Heritage Exhibition**

There will also be a short film

**Not to be missed!!!**

**Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2014, 2.15 for a 2.30 start.**

Derek Wheeler, "Sweet Steam" the Story of Victorian Fire Engines.

Derek is a collector of steam engines and has exhibited at Hatfield House.

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## A Successful Heritage Fair

On Saturday 14th September 2013 (Heritage Open Days weekend) the second Welwyn Hatfield Heritage Fair was held at the Howard Centre Welwyn Garden City. Organisations from all around the Welwyn Hatfield area were present to promote the unique history of the Borough. Throughout the day shoppers stopped to have a look at the displays and often to reminisce about times gone by. All who took part agreed that the day was very successful and hoped there would be similar events in the future.



Our WW1 display

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## Farewell to a Founder Member



de Havilland's main headquarters c.1950

With regret we have to say goodbye to Dr. Eric Sherrard, a founder member of our Society, who after a short illness has moved to be nearer his son in Somerset.

Eric became our first Chairman in August 1990 when the Society was called "Hatfield This Century". He was involved in the Newtown Project which culminated in the book "Hatfield's First New Town" and during his chairmanship the exhibition "Engine of Change", Hatfield and the de Havillands aircraft company was put on. His efforts to protect the BAe buildings from

being demolished bore fruit when a preservation order was granted by the Department of National Heritage because of their historic interest and special architectural importance. Eric resigned as Chairman in May 1993 but has always supported and encouraged the Society. Our best wishes go with him.

## WW1 Research Update

Brian Lawrence, Derek Martindale and I have nearly completed our research and are now planning to publish two books next year.

The first is an updated, high quality, limited edition “In Memoriam Album” of the soldiers from the Parish of Hatfield that were killed or died as a result of going to war. . We have had a quote for a print run of 6 which comes out to approximately £35 per Album. They will be distributed to such places as Hatfield Library and Mill Green Museum for reference purposes. However if any member would like to order an Album please get in touch with us. The more copies that are printed the more the cost will come down. We would require a deposit depending on the numbers ordered. However we hope, if possible, to produce a CD of the Album which will be sold with our second book.

The second book will be about life in Hatfield during the war years. There will be chapters such as ‘Family Stories’ ‘the Local Scene’, ‘Supplies and Shortages’ ‘Tank Trials’ etc. all accompanied by lots of photos. It will make a very interesting read and as there will be a bigger print run will be much more affordable.

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Christine Martindale

## Two Names Added to War Memorial

During our researches we discovered that two names had been missed off the Hatfield War Memorial although they were listed in the “In Memoriam and Roll of Honour Album”.

The first was Private Percy Frederick Bean of the North Lancashire Regt. who died of wounds on the 11/3/1918 at 51 Clearing Station, France. His last known address in Hatfield was Kentish Lane, but by the time the War Memorial was built his relatives had moved away.

The second was Private Henry W. Bishop of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Henry died at home on the last day of the War. He had been wounded and gassed on the Somme Front on the 16/9/1916, as a result of which had been invalided out of the army no longer fit. His wife had died and at least two of his five children were being looked after by his sister-in-law who lived in Church Street.

The Hatfield Town Council commissioned and paid for the names to be put on to the War Memorial. The contract for the work was given to J.J. Burgess & Son's Funeral Directors. Stonemason, Simon Langsdale of Bishops Stortford, carried out the work. Simon had been a student at the University of Hertfordshire where he obtained a degree in History.



Simon Langsdale, Stone Mason.