

Dates For Your Diary

Mon 14th December, 2.15 for a 2.30 start

Our Christmas Open meeting.

A chance to socialise over a cup of tea and mince pies. Bring along items that you think might be of interest to other members.

Mon 14th March 2016, 2.15 for a 2.30 start

Images of North Mymms

Presented by Mike Allen

Monday 13th Jun 7.15 for a 7.30 start AGM

Monday 12th Sept 7.15 for a 7.30 start

Monday 12th Dec 2.15 for a 2.30 start.



A wintery scene at Mill Green Mill & Museum

All meetings are held at Friendship House, Wellfield Close, Hatfield. AL10 0BU
£1 members & £2 non-members

Another Successful Heritage Fair

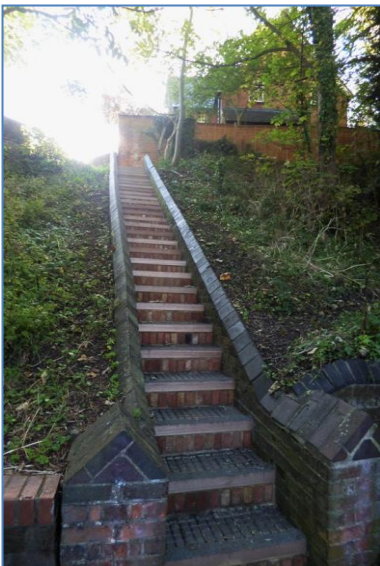
Heritage Organisations from all over the Welwyn Hatfield Borough came together on Saturday 17th October with many interesting and varied displays.

Our Society's display showed photos of Old Hatfield shops. Many busy shoppers stopped to have a look. The photos brought back memories for some who had spent their childhood in Hatfield but had moved away in adult life.



Displays at the Heritage Fair

If a suitable venue can be found in Hatfield we hope that the next Heritage Fair will be held here.



Refurbished Jacobs Ladder

Jacobs Ladder

Thanks to the efforts of the Old Hatfield Residents Association a notable landmark of Old Hatfield, Jacobs Ladder, has now been refurbished and restored.

A short re-opening ceremony was held on 26th September. Chris Goward of the residents association welcomed visitors. There were short speeches from Bernard Sarson, (WelHat. Borough Council) and Lord Salisbury, Maureen Cook, Herts. County Councillor for Hatfield North, cut the ribbon and WGC Male Voice Choir sang the song "Jacobs Ladder". Afterwards visitors were invited to adjourn to the Eight Bells for refreshments.

It is hoped to have an information board erected telling the history of the steps.

Visit www.youtube.com for a short video of the ceremony "The saving of Jacobs Ladder"

A Sad Event on the Christmas Day Truce 1914



Illustrated London News - Christmas Truce 1914 by A. C. Michael.

During the Xmas day truce along the Western Front, two British soldiers were killed; both by German snipers. The soldiers were L. Sgt. Gregory and Private Huggins both of the Hertfordshire Regiment. Another soldier, Hatfield man, Private Henry Reeves was a witness to one of the men's death. Henry was at Rue Du Bois which was about a mile away from where the so called football match between the German and British soldiers took place.

The following is an extract from one of his letters.

January 4th 1915

“ . . . I will now relate my Christmas Day experience, which I shall never forget. I with about 9 others was on outpost duty in an advance trench that is a trench running out about 150 yds. at right angles to our own, used for watching the movement of the enemy. That took us to about 30 yards from a German trench. I had just finished my watch and had gone back to my dug-out to get my dinner, when on the way back, I was told that one of the fellows who was on watch had been killed. I waited until he had been taken away, poor chap, and feeling very hungry I started to make up the fire to hot my dinner when I happened to look up – to the fellow who was on watch when over he fell shot dead. I could eat no dinner after that”.

Henry Reeves was mobilised in Oct 1914 into the 1st Hertfordshire Regiment. He had been living at 9 Glebe Cottages, Hatfield. Henry survived the War.

This letter and many others were published in the Bishops Hatfield Parish Magazines which I have been transcribing. I am hoping to publish them during 2016. Derek Martindale



One of the Hertfordshire Home Guard Living History Group's displays

Battle of Britain Event

Our Society had a WW2 display at the Battle of Britain event at Roe Hill playing fields on 12th September. The event was organised by Hatfield Town Council who invited not only us but the Hertfordshire Home Guard Living History Group with their display of equipment and artefacts from WW2. The W.I. were there as well knitting and selling poppies for “Help the Heroes”

We hope a similar event will be organised next year.