

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY.
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1960.

*Subsequent Annual Reports
had been discovered &
commented on in the main
21/12/10 Commentary.*

Changes.

The year has seen slow but inevitable changes overtaking the appearance of Harpenden: new shops and flats in Church Green, the demolition of property in High Street adjacent to the "Foresters' Arms", bringing about the disappearance of what was the site of the ancient village Smithy - all alike significant of the times.

Whilst older residents are, perhaps, saddened by the removal of old land-marks, they still can rejoice with the younger folk in added amenities, such as the popular open-air swimming bath.

Aims.

In continuance of its main aim, formulated at its first meeting in 1930, to seek the reasonable preservation of all urban and rural amenities, the Society has maintained the closest contact with the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, the Hertfordshire Society and the Civic Trust.

Constant vigilance is the price we must pay if our inheritance is to be maintained aright.

For their unfailing attention to all matters affecting Town Planning and Maintenance in Harpenden, the Society is specially grateful to Messrs. Eccleston, Raw, and Dixon, and, until he left Harpenden, to Dr. C. Barlow, members of the Sub-Committee appointed for that purpose.

Mr. M.L.Hine has been assiduous in representing the Society at Public Enquiries regarding threats to local amenities.

Social Events.

- 2 A visit to Waddesdon Manor, the former home of the late Mr. James de Rothschild, was made by nearly forty members, when the treasures of the interior and the beauty of the grounds were greatly appreciated, as was also the Tea afterwards.

Autumn Meeting. A lecture by J.J.G.Michie Esq., describing the construction of the M.1.Motorway was enjoyed by an audience which probably would have been doubled had not the night been one of almost incessant rain.

The Speaker's address was followed by a most colourful film which depicted the tremendous physical difficulties overcome in the years immediately preceding its completion.

- 3 The projection of both sight and sound was in the very capable hands of Mr. W.A.Alderton.
Annual Outing for 1961.

A visit will be paid to Oxford on Saturday, May 27th.

Membership.

The Society regrets the loss by removal of two valued members, Dr. C. Barlow, and Mr. J. Wyborn, who have with them in their new spheres, our best wishes.

During the Society's thirty years' existence, members have naturally shown considerable fluctuation, but it is felt that the present membership roll could very easily be increased if each member became a zealous missionary.