

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY
(Founded 1930)

President, Capt. K.H. Bond, M.C.

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1965

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. W.H. Coventry, the Committee met seven times in the past year. The average attendance was fifteen.

Autumn Meeting. On 9th November, Mr. Ian Abbott, A.R.I.B.A. of the Civic Trust gave a stimulating address on Preservation and Change in the Urban Scene. He augmented his verbal humour and illustrated his points with cartoons sketched as he talked, and demonstrated that he had, at our instigation, taken a long, cool look at Harpenden. His address was given prominence in the local papers. The substitution of wine and cheese for more homely refreshments was warmly appreciated but, surprisingly, did not entice as many members and friends as we had catered for.

Street Signs. Although we are aware that the Council has very limited control over shop signs, a lurid illuminated sign which was fixed to one of the few old buildings in the High Street in March, prompted us to protest against its vulgar appearance. In view of the great proliferation of street signs of all kinds in recent years, we expressed the hope that the Council would do its utmost to maintain the good appearance of the central area. In this case, Destiny stepped in; the business folded and the sign disappeared in a few months.

Footpath at St. George's School. The Society has informed the Council that its representatives will attend the Public Enquiry to oppose the proposed closure of the public footpath across the St. George's School playing field.

Harpenden Maps. The ordnance map which the Society put up at the Station ten or more years ago having lost its clarity, we have recently replaced it by a street plan, coloured and framed by our artistic ex-secretary, Mr. R.A. Finch. At present this seems to be the only visitors' guide permanently on public view. Mr. R.W. Roseveare, one of our members who is an experienced walker, has presented to the Society a 2½-inch scale ordnance map, on which he has marked all the footpaths and bridlepaths which are known to be public rights of way. In order that the community may benefit from Mr. Roseveare's research and industry, this valuable and unique map will be lodged at the Public Library on permanent loan when it has been framed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for 1966 were due on 1st January. They may be paid direct to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G.H. Morris, 10 Douglas Road, or they may be left in the Society's box which Kingston House Stores kindly allow us to keep at their cash desk. The use of the Society's special envelope should help you and will help us. (Please write your name and address clearly on it). A considerable number of subscriptions for 1965 and even earlier remained unpaid when the accounts were closed. ~~The Hon. Treasurer has indicated with a cross in the boxes below if your subscription is in arrears.~~ It would be of great assistance to the Society if you will kindly remedy this.

The minimum annual subscription is 5/-d.

Maurice Johnstone
Hon Sec.

No newsletter
found

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

President, Captain K.H. Bond, M.C.

AUTUMN MEETING, 1965.

The Autumn Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th November at 8 o'clock in the Small Public Hall.

"Preservation and Change in the Urban Scene"

will be the very topical subject of an address by Mr. Ian Abbott, Dip. Arch. (Birm), R.I.B.A., who has recently joined the Civic Trust team after being head of the Cheltenham School of Architecture and Landscape for ten years. Mr. Abbott will illustrate his address with slides and sketches made on the spot. He will be happy to answer questions.

Members, and their friends who might be interested in the doings of the Society, will be welcomed with Wine and Cheese (and alternative refreshments).

Extracts from the Log. After serving the statutory two years as Chairman of Committee, Mr. Colin Curl has been succeeded by Mr. W.H. Coventry. In June Mr. G.H. Morris, 10 Douglas Road, took over the Hon. Treasurership from Mr. D. Clack. Mr. Morris's appointment is subject to confirmation at the next A.G.M.

11 The Society is contributing £10 towards the cost of a bench in Breadcroft Lane. 11

The felling of all the conifers in Thompson's Close prompted the Society to remind the Council of its special concern for the preservation and substitute planting of trees in the locality. We urged the Council to exercise its powers and influence where trees are threatened by development, and we offered suggestions for making good their own planting failures on the Common.

A lively and informative A.G.M. on 24th March was missed by far too many members. Only fifty attended. In addition to the advertised film, "Traffic in Towns", Inspector Gillett of Harpenden and Inspector Coxon of the Traffic Dept. at Hatfield attended the meeting to describe the new traffic regulations and the role of the Traffic Wardens. In his presidential address, Captain Bond declared the determination of the Society to use all its influence to prevent the spread of residential Harpenden into the surrounding countryside. His address and the proceedings of the meeting were given lead-story prominence in the Herts. Advertiser.

170!

The Annual Outing on 12th June was so well supported that an extra coach had to be engaged. 58 members and friends (more than twice the muster of 1964) visited North Myms Park and Gorhambury House as the guests of Sir George Burns and the Earl of Verulam respectively. The enjoyment of the party was quite undamped by the very wet day.

From:- Maurice Johnstone,
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