

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday,  
13th March, 1978 at 8 p.m. in the Small Public Hall

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The President, His Honour Judge Dow, took the Chair  
with about ninety members present.

### 1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on  
7 March, 1977 were read, confirmed and signed by the President.

### 2. Chairman's Report

Another very successful year was reported on by the  
Chairman. Membership had increased by over 25% during the year  
to over 1,000 and it continued to rise. Two factors had  
contributed to this rise - the great public interest shown in  
the inclusion of land at the Hyde in the Bedfordshire Structure  
Plan as a site for Luton overspill, and the excellent exhibit  
at the 1977 Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition.

The Society's stand for the 1978 Exhibition was on show at  
the meeting and the Chairman complimented Mr. Ward, Mrs. Marr and  
Mr. Meadows on another excellent exhibit. The subjects included  
The Hyde, the Society's Award Scheme, the Lea Valley, Tree Planting  
and the St. Albans Road Options. The Librarian had kindly agreed  
that the stand should be displayed in the library during the week  
following the exhibition.

Another matter affecting the Society's membership was the  
enthusiastic response by the children of Wood End Junior School  
to a talk by Mr. Pat Wilson on Harpenden and the work of the Society.  
This had raised the question of a Junior Membership Scheme to  
encourage the younger generation to take an interest in their  
surroundings.

The Society had had three open meetings during the year and  
had organised a summer outing to Anglesey Abbey, near Cambridge,  
which was much enjoyed by about 45 members. The open meetings had  
been well attended - the Civic Trust film in May, the Public Forum  
in September, when the Society's own panel of experts talked about  
such matters of local interest as the St. Albans Road Option Scheme  
and the future of Harpenden Hall, and Mr. Alan Squire's talk on  
the National Trust's Operation Neptune in December.

The Chairman appealed to members for suggestions for subjects  
and speakers for talks, preferably on environmental subjects, for  
future meetings.

In its role as watchdog on local planning developments, by  
far the most important matter had been Luton's threat to use land  
at Hyde for overspill housing. As reported last year, over 100  
letters had been sent by Roger and Anthony Evans to local organ-  
isations and individuals alerting them to the danger of this plan.

The opposition from this area had been so overwhelming that Bedfordshire had agreed that the Hyde site would not be developed. However, it was still included in the County Structure Plan for possible future housing, and the Society felt it necessary to attend the Public Enquiry on the Plan held at Luton in November, 1977. Represented by Mr. Roger Evans and Mr. Iain Glidewell, Q.C., the Society's case was put with great forcefulness and expertise. The result was now awaited but would probably not be known for a year.

Weekly planning applications lists sent out by the District Council continued to be examined by the Plans Group and objections made when considered necessary. The Group had been fortunate in enlisting the help of Mr. Bernard Rees, who had had a great deal of experience in local planning matters.

Three members of the Committee had met Dr. Fowden, the Director of Rothamsted and Mr. Reynolds, their architect, to discuss plans for proposed new buildings, and the Committee had been in close touch with Harpenden Town Council about the design of the changing rooms and car park on the Common for Harpenden Rovers Football Club.

A very pleasant achievement during the year had been the success of the Tree Planting Scheme. Many trees in Harpenden had been lost through Dutch elm disease, drought and winter storms. A scheme to replace some of these had been initiated at last year's Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition and members had contributed more than £100. Fifteen hornbeams and a Norway maple had been planted around the Amenbury Lane car park, two beech trees and four pyracantha bushes near the swimming pool in Rothamsted Park, four whitebeams and a tulip tree alongside the car park at Bowers Way, and an Irish yew on Church Green. It was hoped to plant still more trees in the autumn.

The Society had been able to buy the trees at advantageous rates through the Queen's Jubilee Tree Scheme. They had been supplied with stout guards to protect them from vandals, and the Chairman asked members to keep a watchful eye on the trees, and to report any signs of drought or damage to the Committee.

The Commons Group had continued to be vigilant on the problems of car parking and litter on the Common. Earth banks had been made to prevent cars parking near the Park entrance and on West Common. The Group was fortunate in having Mr. D. Weston, the Common Warden, among its members and his prompt action on suggestions from the Committee was greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Russell then appealed for volunteers to man the Society's stand at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition on 16, 17 and 18 March, and reminded members about the Cheese and Wine Party to be held on 5 April, tickets for which would be available at the end of the meeting.

The President thanked Mrs. Russell for her excellent report.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Mr. J. Borthwick, who had continued to act as Treasurer during the year, presented the Accounts. These showed a balance in hand of £204.90, a satisfactory state of affairs.

The report was seconded and received by the meeting.

### 4. Election of Officers

The President announced with great regret the resignations of the Chairman, Mrs. Anne Russell, and the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Jean Elliott, and extended to them a very hearty vote of thanks for the energy and enthusiasm they had brought to their work for the Society. This was warmly supported by members. Mr. John Borthwick, who had acted as Honorary Treasurer, also wished to relinquish his duties.

The following Officers had been nominated and seconded, and their election was confirmed by the meeting:-

Chairman	Mr. P. Usher
Vice-Chairman	Mr. A. Evans
Honorary Secretary	Mr. E. Ward
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. N. J. Powlesland

### 5. Elections to the Executive Committee

Mr. D. Booth, Mr. R. Dixon, Mr. J. Savage and Mr. L. Scowen had retired under Rule 7 and the resignations of Mrs. Heather Catterfeld and Mr. I. Noble were regretfully accepted. The following members had been nominated and seconded:-

Miss M. E. Ashford, Mr. W. Barnes, Mrs. S. Comer,  
Miss I. Haberer, Mr. J. Haggard, Mr. A. Pattison,  
Mr. P. Rogers, Mr. Maurice Smith and Mrs. B. Suitters

There being no other nominations, the above were elected.

### 6. Cheese and Wine Party

The members having shown their preference for a Cheese and Wine Party, it had been decided that this should replace the Annual Dinner this year. The Honorary Secretary gave details of the Party to be held on 5 April. Miss Margaret Pratt would be in charge of arrangements and tickets would cost £1.25. During the evening a presentation of a commemorative plaque would be made to the winner of the Society's Award Scheme.

### 7. Any other business

Mr. M. Harrison, who was a member of the Hertfordshire Crime Prevention Panel, appealed to members to assist the Police by reporting to them any damage they noticed to trees or property in Harpenden.

Mrs. J. Elliott proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Ashford for her help in acting as Minutes Secretary for the past two years.

The meeting was then concluded.

### Award Scheme

Mr. C. Curl then reported on the Society's newly-instituted Award Scheme for the new or renovated building or buildings which had contributed most to the Harpenden scene in 1977. Members had had an opportunity to see the plaque to be awarded and photographs of some of the buildings nominated for the award. A panel consisting of Mr. Curl, Mr. P. Wilson, Mr. P. Usher, Mr. B. Rees and Mr. T. Ward had inspected four buildings nominated by members and had decided unanimously to make the award to Messrs. C. P. Roberts Ltd., builders and Mr. Richard Marsh, architect, for the development of 64-72, High Street. Other sites inspected were Gorselands, which the Panel felt should be highly commended, Ketts, 9, High Street and cottages at 6-10, St. John's Road.

Short talks followed by the other members of the Panel, summarising their appraisal of the buildings nominated.

The President thanked the Judges for the work they had put in and for their interesting comments.

Mrs. M. Johnstone proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his excellent chairmanship of the meeting.

*R. Graham Daw  
13 March 1979*



HARPENDEN SOCIETY

ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 1977

<u>1976</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1977</u>
129	Balance brought forward	274 92½
274	Subscriptions	246 98
22	Meetings	69 51½
383	Annual Dinner	309 99
-	Deposit a/c & interest	45 83

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£947 24

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EXPENDITURE

27	Subscriptions to other Societies	19 60
67	Meetings	92 92
344	Annual Dinner	336 64
-	The Hyde Campaign	157 29
-	Trees	7 70
21	Secretarial expenses	40 81
32	Sundry expenses	87 38
275	Balance in hand	204 90

current a/c	85 96
deposit a/c	196 42
cash	22 06
	<hr/> 304 44
less o/s cheques	99 54
	<hr/> 204 90

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£947 24

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I certify that the above statement is in accordance with books and vouchers which I have examined.

HON AUDITOR

HON TREASURER