

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

AGENDA OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SMALL PUBLIC HALL, HARPENDEN, TUESDAY 11TH
MARCH AT 8.00 P.M.

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday March 13th 1979.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Election of Committee.
8. Report on the Concourse Tree in celebration of Society's Golden Jubilee.
9. The Harpenden Society Award for 1979.
10. Any Other Business.
11. Date of Next Meeting.

March 9th 1981, Small Public Hall, Harpenden.

HARPENDEN SOCIETY - UPPER LEA VALLEY GROUP
ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1979

1978	£	1979
396.09	Balance in hand (less outstanding cheques)	712.66
(204.90)	Less opening balance 1.1.79	(396.09)
191.19	Excess of income over expenditure	316.57 316.57
<u>Income</u>		
540.60	Subscriptions	652.29
-	Transfer from Upper Lea Valley Group	90.12
16.70	Interest	44.61
-	Sundry Income and donations	29.02
42.87	Functions Account	147.16
600.11		963.20
<u>Expenditure</u>		
(15.50)	Subscriptions to other Societies	(18.70)
(71.19)	Officers' expenses	(95.01)
(64.30)	Hire of rooms	(73.16)
-	Purchase of Stand (net cost)	(50.12)
(44.58)	Printing	(82.06)
-	Leaflet campaign	(122.20)
(28.23)	Purchase of plaque	(31.33)
(71.23)	Purchase of trees	(101.57)
	U.L.V.Group Income	243.44
(58.39)	Expenses	(208.12) 35.32
-	Schools' Group Income	30.00
	Expenses	(48.39) (18.39)
(55.00)	Sundry expenses	(89.41) 646.63
	Excess of Income over Expenditure	316.57
<u>Functions Account</u>		
31.98	Wine and Cheese Evening	133.02
10.83	Sundry Receipts	14.14
42.81		147.16

I have examined the books of account and vouchers presented to me and found the above income and expenditure account to be in accordance with the records.

(signed) C. P. Smith
13.2.80

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
Tuesday, 13th March, 1979 at 8 p.m. in the
Small Public Hall

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

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th March, 1978, were read, confirmed and signed by the President.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman began his report with a brief explanation of the way in which the Executive Committee operated. There were 14 members, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Committee met each month and received reports from the various sub-committees on specialist subjects. During 1978 there had been five sub-committees in addition to the Upper Lea Valley Group, which worked in a semi-autonomous way with its own Committee. The Group shared membership, finance and the Newsletter with the Harpenden Society, and Mr. J. Haggard acted as Liaison Officer between the two Committees. An annual grant was made to the Group by St. Albans District Council which was administered separately from the finances of the Society.

The other five sub-committees covered Planning, Trees, Commons, Transport and Schools Liaison.

The Planning Group inspected the planning lists published by St. Albans District Council and scrutinised any plans they considered contentious. The Society then passed its comments to the Council's Planning Department for consideration when decisions were made. Two major projects during the year had been the proposals for a new Railway Station and the Southdown Supermarket. The Society's main criticism of the Station had been the proposal to combine short and long-stay parking on the east side of the line, which would have caused a serious traffic problem in Station Road. This has now been modified and separate parking arrangements would be retained. The Station-master's house would be left and there would be no development on the west side of the Station.

The Committee made only minor comments on the plans for the Southdown Supermarket, but had urged that the whole of the South Harpenden area needed careful consideration. The Society had made proposals for its development two years ago, and would like to see them implemented.

Another proposal which the Society had successfully opposed, with active support from the Lea Valley Group, was the erection of two blocks of flats on the corner of Manland Avenue and Station Road, which had threatened several fine trees. Early in the year the Society had played its part in the District Council's participation procedures by completing the questionnaire on Stage II of the St. Albans City and District Plan.

The main activity of the Trees Group was to protect existing trees by pressing for Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate

and to suggest and implement new planting. Two important sites - land being developed on the corner of Milton and Station Roads and the Somerled site in Townsend Lane had been covered by Tree Preservations Orders at the Society's request.

The Society had also suggested sites for trees bought out of the Jeakin's Bequest, and the ~~District~~ ^{Town R.C.W.} Council had now planted trees at Jockey Meadow and several places on the Common. Trees would also be planted in Stewart Road, in the avenue to the swimming pool from Amenbury Lane and opposite Aldwickbury School. In co-operation with the National Council of Women, a specimen tree would be planted on Hatching Green in memory of Mrs. Joan Moffatt and an Irish Yew had been planted on Church Green in memory of Mrs. Edith Hart. Trees would also be planted to screen the Rugby Club buildings in Redbourn Lane.

A sum of £100 had been donated to the Lea Valley Group for tree planting in the Lea Valley area.

The Commons Group had been led by Mrs. Marguerite Johnstone and maintained close co-operation with the Town Council on the management of the Common. The Society had recently requested the Town Council to explore the possibility of obtaining the manorial rights over the areas to the West of the A6 which were in private hands and had become very overgrown because of their exclusion from the management plan for the Common.

The Transport Group led by Mr. Tony Pattison had been mainly concerned with traffic problems on the Lower Luton Road, and had supported the efforts of the Lower Luton Road Action Group to get heavy goods vehicles banned by reducing the road to B status. The Group had also approached Hertfordshire County Council, and it seemed likely that these efforts had been successful. On a wider front, the Society had supported the St. Albans Road Traffic Association's proposals for the restriction of heavy goods vehicles in the whole of the St. Albans area, an ambitious and continuing project.

The Schools' Liaison Group was a new venture, jointly with the Local History Society, to try to involve younger people, particularly local schoolchildren, in the activities of the two Societies. Mr. Pat Wilson and Mr. Colin Curl, both Vice-Presidents of the Society, had been most active in launching the Group, and the Chairman thanked them for their hard work and enthusiasm. Mr. Wilson would speak more fully on the activities of the Group later in the evening.

The Lea Valley Group had continued its excellent conservation work, the major project of the year being the rebuilding of the overflow sluice gate on the river. The Society had helped the Group to buy a dumper truck to assist them in this and other heavy projects. The Chairman drew the attention of members to the Group's Annual Meeting held in September, when the year's work was described, usually illustrated with a specially made movie film.

Looking at the more general activities of the Society, the Chairman mentioned the Newsletter, which had been published four times in 1978 under the very able editorship of Miss Isobel Haberer. The last edition had carried a questionnaire inviting members to say in what way they could offer to help the Society, but it had sadly yielded little response. The Chairman repeated the appeal to the members present.

The Society had again exhibited at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition and would take part again at the end of March. The Chairman asked for volunteers to man the stand.

Last year a Wine and Cheese Party had taken the place of the Annual Dinner. It had been a great success and would be repeated this year on Wednesday, 2nd May. The Chairman thanked all those who had helped last year, particularly Miss Margaret Pratt and Mrs. Jean Elliott. The major event of the evening had been the presentation of the Society's Award to Messrs. C. P. Roberts Ltd., the firm responsible for the re-development of 64-72, High Street. A further award was to be made this year, and Mr. Colin Curl would announce the winner later in the evening.

Special efforts had been made during the year to increase the membership and improve the Society's finances, and the Chairman thanked the Treasurer, Mr. Norman Powlesland and the Membership Secretary, Mrs. Brenda Sutters, for all the hard work they had put in. The Society had been able to buy a set of stands which would be used at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition and similar occasions.

Several very successful public meetings had been held during the year. In May, Miss Joan Thurston had given an illustrated talk on "Plants and People on the Common" to a full audience. In July, members had enjoyed a walk along the Lea Valley and then to Cherry Hayes, where Mrs. Jean Elliott had kindly provided tea in the garden.

A talk on topics of general interest was given in September by Mr. John McKenna, Chief Technical Officer of St. Albans District Council, followed by discussion on such subjects as development in South Harpenden, Childwickbury and the High Street trees.

On 7th October several members helped to give a conducted tour of Harpenden to members of the London Appreciation Society, and on the following day there had been a visit to Cambridge at the invitation of the Cambridge Civic Society.

The Society's links with LADACAN were further strengthened in November, when Mr. D. Samson spoke on "Airport Development". The Christmas meeting was suitably seasonal with punch and mincepies and a wonderfully nostalgic talk by Mr. Colin Curl to the accompaniment of the Bond collection of slides of old Harpenden. At the end of the meeting the slide collection was handed over to the Local History Society.

The last meeting in February entitled "Save and Recycle" was addressed by Mr. Derek Grocock of the Department of Industry. This was a new topic for the Society and it was hoped to set up a sub-committee to act as a pressure group on local authorities to get re-cycling schemes going in Harpenden.

The Chairman then thanked the retiring Committee members, Mrs. Marguerite Johnstone, Miss Ruth Spurr, Mr. Malcolm Parsons and Mr. Mike Harrison for their work on the Society's behalf. He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Ted Ward for his excellent work as Secretary, to Mr. Anthony Evans for his help as Vice-Chairman, and to Miss Mildred Ashford for her services as Minutes Secretary.

Finally, he thanked the President for so ably chairing the meeting.

The President thanked Mr. Usher for his excellent report.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported on a satisfactory year with a balance in hand of £191. Membership had increased and, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Brenda Suitters, the Membership Secretary, many members whose subscriptions had lapsed, had renewed them. Members had been asked, if possible to pay their subscriptions by Banker's Order. The result was awaited of an application to the Charity Commission for charity status under which the Society would not have to pay Income Tax on any excess of income over expenditure and interest gained during the year. There was still a need to recruit more members; at present subscribers represented less than 10% of Harpenden households.

The report was accepted.

Miss Hills Young pointed out that under charity status the Society would be prevented from active lobbying, and Mrs. Anne Russell suggested that other amenity societies be consulted on this point.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All the Officers had been willing to accept nomination for a further year and were re-appointed unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Mrs. Marguerite Johnstone, Mr. M. Parsons and Mr. M. Harrison wished to relinquish their membership of the Committee and Miss R. Spurr had retired under Rule 7. Four nominations had been received - Mr. G. Price, Mr. M. MacInnes, Mrs. R. Nuttall and Mrs. A. Godfrey. These were approved.

6. THE SOCIETY'S AWARD FOR 1978

Mr. Curl then reported on the Society's Award for 1978. Four nominations had been received - renovated cottages in Lower Cravells Road, renovated cottages Nos.15-17, West Common, Medhows development and the restoration of Rothamsted Manor clock tower. A panel of judges had inspected the buildings, and although all had merit, it had been decided to make the award to Rothamsted for the clock tower. With the exception of the re-casting of the lead cover, all the work had been done by craftsmen employed in the Rothamsted Engineering and Maintenance Department under the guidance of Mr. R. Wilkes, Superintendent of Buildings. The result was a very fine restoration which it was hoped would last for another 300 years.

The President thanked Mr. Curl for his interesting account and the judges for the work they had put in.

7. SCHOOLS' LIAISON GROUP

Mr. Pat Wilson then gave an account of the Society's new venture - the Schools' Liaison Group. With active help from the Local History Society and others interested in education and conservation, schemes had been formulated to interest young people in the aims and objects of the Society, and all Harpenden schools had been invited to take part. A speakers' panel had been set up

and talks given had met with lively response from the children. So far, two major projects had been started - the collection of material to form a folder on the subject of Harpenden in the second half of the 19th century when it was still an agricultural community, and the planning and publishing of leaflets describing walks in and around Harpenden. These would include four walks round the Common, and a footpath tour of Rothamsted Experimental Farm. The latter would include short and longer walks, and members of Rothamsted staff were kindly making helpful suggestions.

Mr. Wilson invited members interested to attend the Group's meetings, the next of which would be held on 3rd May at 7.30 p.m. in the Local History Room at Harpenden Hall.

In reply to a question from Mrs. J. Jenkins, a school governor, Mr. Wilson said only a minority of Harpenden schools had so far shown an interest. She suggested that school governors should be informed of the scheme.

The President thanked Mr. Wilson for outlining the activities of the new Group and wished them every success,

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Paul Needham, Rothamsted's Public Relations Officer, expressed his appreciation of the Society's Award for the clock tower and thanked Mr. Curl for his interesting account of the restoration.

Councillor G. Jenkins said he hoped members would take an active interest in the Chequer Street development in St. Albans. An exhibition of alternative schemes was at present being staged, and questionnaires had been issued to seek peoples' views.

The meeting then closed.

R. Graham Daw
President
11/3/80