

## THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on  
Tuesday, 11th March, 1980 at 8 p.m. in the  
Small Public Hall

The President, His Honour Judge Dow, took the chair.

In opening the meeting, the President referred with great pleasure to the election of Mr. Colin Curl, Vice-President of the Society, as Mayor of St. Albans, and offered the congratulations of the members.

### 1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 March, 1979 were read, confirmed and signed by the President, subject to the amendment of the second paragraph on page 2 to read "and the Town Council had now planted trees".

### 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman was pleased to report a growing support for the Society, which now had a membership of 700 Harpenden households, an increase of 200 since last year.

To mark the occasion of its Golden Jubilee this year, the Society had launched an appeal to replace the dead elm outside Woolworths. Mr. Evans would report later on the progress of the project.

The Society had had an interesting and well attended series of meetings during the year. They had been arranged by Mr. MacInnes, who unfortunately had had to leave the Committee due to a company move.

In October, there had been a joint meeting with the Local History Society, when a talk on "The care of historic buildings in London" was given by Mr. Ashley Barker, Conservation Officer of the Greater London Council. An illustrated talk on "The work of the Building Research Establishment on Energy Conservation" was given by Mr. R. Brewer in November. Mr. Colin Curl showed more slides of Old Harpenden at the Society's traditional Pies and Punch evening in December. In February, Mr. G. A. Griffiths of the Herts. County Council gave a talk on "The rural aspects of the Herts. County Structure Plan".

Plans were in hand for a Wine and Cheese Party on 7 May, when the Society's Award would be made. Last year's event had been a great success with an attendance of about 160. Mr. Colin Curl had presented the Award to Dr. Leslie Fowden, Director of Rothamsted Experimental Station, for the restoration of the Manor Clock Tower. Thanks were due to Mrs. Russell and Mr. Evans, who were chiefly responsible for organising the party.

The Society would again be exhibiting at the Spotlight on Leisure Exhibition to be held from 27 to 29 March.

The "Harpenden Society News" continued to be very ably edited by Miss I. Haberer. During the year, the design and layout had been re-styled.

The Chairman then outlined the main activities of the various sub-groups, who reported to the monthly Committee meetings.

A close watch on planning applications was kept by Mr. B. Rees and Mr. M. Smith, and among the more important objections made were those to developments at Castle Farm, Lower Luton Road, at Bamville Wood and the car parking and landscaping for the proposed rear extension at Anscombes. With the help of Mrs. L. Wang, strong representations had been made concerning traffic management proposals for the new railway station. Support had been given to the residents of Ambrose Lane over their criticism of the new access road to Highfield Printers, and the supermarket development at Southdown with its traffic and landscaping plans would continue to be monitored. The Society had wholeheartedly joined the protest over the proposed closure of the Dark Lane Refuse Dump. Close liaison with LADACAN had also continued, and the Committee was very pleased to note that the proposed development at the Hyde, strongly opposed by the Society, had now been abandoned in favour of a site to the North of Luton Airport.

The Tree Group had had an active year under the guidance of Mr. W. Barnes and Miss R. Spurr. Considerable planting had been done, and with the help of Mr. L. Scowen, a screen of trees had been planted round the Rover's Football Club pavilion near Cravells Road.

Matters concerning the Common had been handled by Mr. A. Evans, and close links had been developed with the Commons and Greens Committee of the Town Council. The Committee had been fortunate in having Mr. D. Weston, the Common Keeper, as a member.

Transport matters had been the responsibility of Mr. T. Pattison, who regrettably had now left Harpenden. Mr. P. Rogers had succeeded him. The Group had given active support to SARTA's proposals to exclude heavy through traffic from local roads, efforts had been made to improve the local taxi service and parking facilities in the town centre for motor cycles. Representations had been made to the County Council about the excessive use of signs on new traffic islands, and efforts had been made, so far in vain, to get Carlton Road made the prior route near Sun Lane bridge, instead of Sun Lane, as at present. A major initiative had been launched to have the Nicky Line preserved as a footpath, if it could not be retained as a rail link, the Society's first preference.

The Upper Lea Valley Group, represented on the Committee by Mr. J. Haggard, continued its conservation work in the Lea Valley, and had this year completed the waymarking of the footpath. They had also constructed a sluice gate on the overflow weir and rebuilt a footbridge. With the help of Luton YHA, they had built steps up to the track at Sewer Lane, and negotiations were going on to extend the footpath northwards over farmland owned by the National Children's Home. Efforts were being made to get Hyde Mill added to the Statutory Preservation List and a new guide to the Upper Lea Valley Through Walk, from Harpenden to Ware, had been published in collaboration with the Herts. Council for Voluntary Service.

A new group to look into the possibilities of recycling waste materials had been formed during the year. Its main aims were to set up a bottle bank and to compile a directory. The bottle bank scheme would have to be undertaken by the District Council, who were reluctant to risk making a loss in the present financial situation. The group hoped to publish the directory in the coming year.

The Schools' Liaison Group had completed a major project this year. Working in collaboration with the Local History Society and under the leadership of Mrs. A. Godfrey, they had produced a Resources Box on Local History between 1880 and 1900, which would be available on loan to local schools.



Mr. Usher thanked Mr. A. Evans, Vice-Chairman, for his helpful co-operation, Mr. E. Ward for his hard work as Secretary and Miss M. Ashford for writing the minutes. He also thanked Mr. N. Powlesland and Mrs. B. Suitters for their valuable work with the Society's finances. Finally, he thanked Judge Dow for chairing the meeting.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of the accounts for 1979 had been distributed to members and showed that the year had ended satisfactorily with a balance in hand of £712. The Treasurer reported that the income from subscriptions had more than doubled in three years, thanks to the excellent work of Mrs. Suitters, Membership Secretary. For the first time, the accounts of the Upper Lea Valley Group had been amalgamated with those of the Society, and Charity status had been granted to the Society during the year.

The Treasurer thanked Mr. C. P. Smith for his continued help in auditing the accounts.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President stated that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer had all offered to serve for another year. Their election was confirmed by the meeting.

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Four nominations had been received to fill four vacancies on the Committee, and Lady Bawden, Mr. J. Bush, Mr. K. Jennings and Mr. R. Raw were duly elected and welcomed to the Committee.

6. REPORT ON CONCOURSE TREE

Mr. Evans reported on the Society's project to mark its Golden Jubilee by planting a mature tree to replace the dead elm outside Woolworth's shop. A very successful street collection on 16 February had raised £450. The Blue Arrow Travel Agency had offered £750, Messrs. Jarvis Ltd. and Beds. and Herts. Forestry Co. had offered practical help, and other offers of money had been received. It seemed that more than enough money would be forthcoming than would be needed for the original project. However, other trees were being felled in the High Street and replacements would be needed, and the meeting agreed to a resolution put to it by Judge Dow that the Society itself should replace the concourse tree and, with the approval of the donors, should use other offers of help to replace such other trees as were needed.

Discussion followed on the kind of tree to plant on the concourse. Acacia, hornbeam and Norway maple were suggested, and the President's proposal that a decision be left until the Wine and Cheese Party on 7 May was accepted by the meeting.

7. THE SOCIETY'S AWARD FOR 1979.

Mr. C. Curl reported that four nominations had been received - the extension to the Glen Eagle Hotel, the rear extension to Taylor, Walker's office at 65, High Street; Davenport House, Bowers Way, and Putterill's DIY Centre at Grove Road. After their inspection, the panel of judges had decided to make the award to the Glen Eagle Hotel for an extension that merged successfully with the existing building and preserved the trees in the garden. Taylor, Walker's extension was highly commended for good design and choice of materials, which

had done much to improve a rather delapidated area. Mr. Wilson took the opportunity to ask members to watch renovations to small cottages. These were often over-embellished, but if their original simplicity was kept, they could form suitable subjects for an award.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The District Council's plan for traffic arrangements at Southdown was exhibited at the meeting and provoked much criticism, mainly at the use of part of the green triangle for car parking. The plan had only just been received and would be carefully considered by the Plans Group and the Committee.

In reply to a complaint from Lady Bawden about the lack of a footpath in Bull Road, Mrs. Curl, Chairman of the Commons and Greens Committee of the Town Council, said that a gravel path would be made along the North side of the road as soon as funds were available.

Mr. Roberts, a member who lived near to the Nicky Line, expressed great concern at the Society's support for the retention of the line as a rail link as it had recently been reported that it might be used for the conveyance of refuse and volatile material if it were re-opened. This, he considered, would cause a noise nuisance. Mr. Usher replied that when the Society declared its support for the re-opening of the line, it was assumed that Hemelite Ltd., would continue to be the sole users, but the situation would continue to be monitored. In the event of the closure of the line, the Society would press strongly for its development as a cross-county walk.

9. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting would be held on Monday, 9th March, 1981 at 8 p.m. in the small Public Hall.

*R. Graham Daw*  
President

*9/3/81*

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

<u>President</u>		<u>Tel.</u>
His Honour Judge R.G.Dow	2, Kirkwick Avenue	2006
<u>Vice-Presidents</u>		
Miss Helen Finnie	43, Milton Road	
Mr. C. W. Curl	34, Haddon Court, Milton Road	3449
Mr. E. P. Wilson	5, Salisbury Road	4474
<u>Chairman</u>		
Mr. P. Usher	55, Crossway	63333
<u>Vice-Chairman</u>		
Mr. A. Evans	21, East Common	3498
<u>Honorary Secretary</u>		
Mr. E. Ward	4, Birch Way	3179
<u>Honorary Treasurer</u>		
Mr. N. J. Powlesland	9, Alders End Lane	2406
<u>Executive Committee</u>		
X Miss M. E. Ashford (Minutes Secretary)	40, West Common	68643
✓ Lady Bawden	1, Crabtree Lane	2264
X Mr. W. Barnes	Flat 4, Rothamsted Manor	68325
✓ Mr. J. Bush (Events Secretary)	9, Hawthorn Close	4693
✓ Mrs. A. Godfrey (Liaison Officer with St.Albans Civic Soc.)	6, Douglas Road	3167
X Miss I. Haberer (Editor: Newsletter)	7, Yardley Court, Milton Road	2925
Mr. J. Haggard	42, Stewart Road	5606
✓ Mr. K. P. Jennings	146, Cravells Road	60357
✓ Mr. R. J. Raw	Halfcourt, Byron Road	4230
X Mr. B. T. Rees	23, Lyndhurst Drive	3004
X Mr. P. Rogers	4, Alders End Lane	4531
X Mr. Maurice Smith	21, Moreton Avenue	4104
X Mrs. B. Suitters (Membership Secretary)	92, Eastmoor Park	63457
✓ Mrs L. Wang Until March, 1981	16, Ox Lane	

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