



The Harpenden Society

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1977.

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MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER 7.30 for 8 p.m. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE.

"Operation Neptune - The Next 100 Miles".

A talk and slide show by Alan Squires.

Come to the Small Public Hall on December 12th and wish your friends in the Harpenden Society a Merry Christmas over a glass of hot punch and a mince pie!

Mr. Squires, our speaker on this occasion, who has been a member of the Society for many years and who was a leading member of the Harpenden Urban Design Group, is going to show us how the National Trust is fighting to keep our coastline unspoilt. It's a cause that is dear to the hearts of a lot of us and I'm told the slides are magnificent so it should be a warming and enlightening evening.

Public Enquiry into the Hyde Development:

The Public Enquiry into the Bedfordshire County Structure Plan starts at the end of November. The main part of the Enquiry will be held at Bedford, but matters affecting South Bedfordshire, including our great interest, the proposed overspill development for Luton at Hyde, will be heard before the Inspector at the Strathmore Hotel, Luton, on November 29th and 30th.

Although Bedfordshire County Council have backpedalled and said that they think they will not now need the land at Hyde for housing, the situation is confused and certainly the proposal to consider the Hyde for future development has not yet been dropped from the Structure Plan.

It is our endeavour to see that all mention of the Hyde is deleted from the Structure Plan, for we believe that any future development on this large piece of good agricultural land stretching right over from the A6 to the Lower Luton Road and from the walls of Luton Hoo park to Thrales End Farm would be a planning disaster.

So we are going into the enquiry with all guns firing! We shall be represented by Mr. Roger Evans, who did so much work last year to alert Harpenden to the danger of the Hyde proposal, and by Mr. Iain Glidewell Q.C., who is our Chairman's brother and a barrister who specialises in planning matters.

The Harpenden Society is the only specifically Harpenden body that has been invited to be represented at the Enquiry - even the Parish Council were not invited - so we feel we are carrying the flag for the whole town.

Trees:

At last tree planting time has come round and we can start spending the £100 which our members so generously gave in the Spring for new trees for Harpenden.

We are collaborating with Mr. Paul Arnold, the St. Albans District Council arborist on this project, and through his department we are joining the Queen's Jubilee Tree Planting Scheme, from which we can buy good trees at special rates, although our Tree Group have also ordered some specimen trees from Hilliers.

We are starting our planting during the last weekend in November in the area of the swimming pool and adjacent car park, which lost most of its elms last year. We shall be planting twelve hornbeams around the edges of the car park, two beech trees in the swimming pool enclosure near the ice cream kiosk, and a row of pyracantha at the foot of the swimming pool wall alongside the footpath into the park.

Shortly afterwards we hope to have another planting party at the Bower's Way car park, where we have sites earmarked for a tulip tree and several whitebeam. And provided that the money has not run out, this will not be the end, for several more sites crying out for new trees have been suggested by members, including an Irish yew for Church Green.

Planting, however, is only half the story. After care is just as important for young trees. And we hope that all our members who donated money to the Tree Fund and who signed our Tree Book, will monitor the progress of our new trees and report any signs of vandalism or drought to a member of the Tree Group or the committee.

Wood End School:

Wood End Junior School in Harpenden has been chosen to represent British Schools in an EEC project for children on the environment. The school asked the Harpenden Society if we could help the children with this project in any way, and as a result of this approach our Vice President, Pat Wilson, has kindly agreed to give the children a shortend version of his slide lectures called "Living in Harpenden". Pat will be telling them how Harpenden grew and developed and why it looks as it does today.

Award Scheme:

Don't forget the Harpenden Society Award which we are hoping to give to the architect and developer of the new or reconstructed buildings which we judge have added most to the Harpenden scene in 1977. If you have not nominated a building for this new award yet, fill in the tear off slip below and send it to our Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Jean Elliott, Cherry Hayes, Mackerye End, before January 31st 1978.

The award will be handed over to the winner at our annual social evening in the Spring, which, it now seems likely, will not be a formal dinner but a Wine and Cheese party. But more news of this event anon.

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I would like to nominate the following building/group of buildings

..... for the Harpenden Society 1977 Award.

Member's name Address

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Upper Lea Valley Group

Harpenden



A working group of the Harpenden Society | affiliated to the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

NOVEMBER 1977 NEWS SUPPLEMENT

The U L V G is essentially a WORKING GROUP and work-parties continue on alternate week-ends (19-20 Nov.onwards). Our numbers have diminished lately: more active members would mean more tasks completed.

Over the past months we have concentrated on the pool, made 2 years ago, between Marquis Lane playing field and the river. So far several tons of spoil have been shifted and about 20 yards of bank piled. The piles are elm - excellent below water - and a small benefit from Dutch elm disease. Most of the trees have come from the hedge by the public foot-path from Lower Luton Road to Mackerye End, which the Farmer is glad to let us clear.

Now we are well into our Autumn programme of tree planting, maintenance and re-placement which will continue until next March.

If you, or anyone you know, feel able to help we would be delighted: it need not be on a regular basis; every little helps. Please contact our Secretary, Heather Catterfield at Harpenden 60061 for further details.

We plan to plant most of the trees from our TREE NURSERY at the Group's HQ so our stocks will be depleted. Can we appeal to anyone who has any suitable native seedlings in their garden which they would like to donate to phone Pat Leishman at Harpenden 3494? It must be emphasised that cultivated varieties such as Buddleia, Laburnum etc. cannot be accepted - we need 'wild' or indigenous species which will be at home in the valley, and preferably not less than 12 inches high. If you can volunteer to plant and/or tend a tree or shrub in situ, so much the better: adopt a tree - after-care is vital.

Those who know BERT DERRETT will be glad to hear he has made a fine recovery after a heart attack and is returning to supervise (no more heave-ho, Bert) the week-day working group at the Lea Valley HQ. With George Tilley, Alan Scott, Tony Pattison and others they have made concrete fence posts, public benches (and erected them) and we hope will continue the good work for many a day. They could do with another male with time on his hands for a couple of mornings a week. The work isn't heavy and, under Bert's direction, even the most unskilled 'labourer' supprises himself. (Phone Bert Derrett at Harpenden 61935)

FOOTPATHS

have long been neglected by local authorities as a recreation source say the COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION in their Policy Statement FOOTPATHS FOR RECREATION. Management of many footpaths should now be accepted as a recreation rather than a Highway function, they continue. More emphasis should be given to routes designed to meet the needs of the casual walker or visitor. For example, networks of linked footpaths providing walks of varying lengths, or circular walks; paths accessible from urban areas; paths from points served by car parks or public transport, etc. In promoting footpath schemes the Commission will encourage local authorities to give greater priority to the planning and management of paths as part of the total recreation strategy for their area. (continue over)

FOOTPATHS (contin.) Among many suggestions in the Harpenden Society's 1971 LEA VALLEY IN HARPENDEN report was one that the Upper Lea Valley Through Walk should provide a route along the valley which would take full advantage of its natural surroundings but that there should also be access to it from existing footpaths. This could be achieved by creating supplementary paths designed to provide a series of linked routes over a wide area. "This would benefit and encourage the social life of the district as a whole and, with proper landscaping, would provide very pleasant paths for walking."

The District Council are promoting the QUEEN'S TREES scheme (in conjunction with Notcutts Nurseries). You subscribe £10 which buys a tree, a stake, a picture of a tree and your name on a map of the district showing where your tree is planted.



Ash



Alder



Birch



Beech



Field
Maple



Oak

WATCH - the Sunday Times children's environment group - also offer (in conjunction with Hilliers Nurseries) a choice of trees & shrubs (5 for £9.50 or 10 for £13.50) with a tree game, an hour's cassette of tree songs, jokes and poems by WATCH Club members, and a briefing Wallet. The aim is to help children to "restore their local view" and adults are invited to sponsor a local school or youth team. The Wallet contains a "lively collection of booklets and leaflets telling the history of our tree scene" also how to look for sites in your neighbourhood, how to get permission, what to plant, how to plant it and how to discourage vandalism. Prizes are offered for imaginative planting and (vital) after-care. The ULVG think this WATCH TOMORROW'S TREES offer is on good lines and are approaching several local schools, discussing it with Heads and Staff and, if they want to take part, offering help, advice and one of the WATCH/HILLIER Kits.



You may be asking how a working group of the Harpenden Society comes to be dispensing tree kits to local schools at £9.50 & £13.50 a time. Happily our UPPER LEA VALLEY GUIDE has paid off and this is one way of passing it on.

As you know, the District Council provides the Group with a rent-free HQ by the river at 91 Lower Luton Road. It also buys the materials used in Lea Valley conservation work. So, as a Group, we spend little actual cash.

Nevertheless, our supporters (are you one of them?) pay us an annual sub. and with these and the occasional donation and now the profit on the GUIDE, we are able to pay for a few special projects out of our own funds. Examples: play equipment erected in Marquis Lane playing field (helped by a grant from the Herts. Playing Fields Association); special tree stock can be bought to replenish our nursery when required; public seats can be erected here and there etc. (Original suggestions welcome)

TO Mr. Alan Stacey, Hon. Treasurer ULVG, 28 Wroxham Way, Harpenden, Herts.

I wish to support the Group's work and enclose a year's subscription:
(Individual member- 75P: Family membership- £1: OAP or under-16- 50P)

MR/RS/MISS

(BLOCK LETTERS)

ADDRESS