

The Society has kept up its membership and interest during the year and the Committee has been kept busy on its many activities.

One of the Society's greatest losses was incurred during the year with the passing of Mr. George Herring who had been so recently elected Chairman of the Committee for 1956. He was a most useful member of the Society and its Committee for many years and his helpful advice was always readily given and much appreciated. His passing was not only a great loss to the Harpenden Society but also to the community as a whole.

Following a meeting of members in the Autumn of 1955 and at the Annual General Meeting 1956, a report was drawn up making suggestions for the layout of that part of the common which has been handed back to the H.U.D.C. following some 10 years of agricultural use. These suggestions were passed to the Council and were considered by a sub-committee of that body. Most of the propositions were adopted by the Council and it is hoped that these together with other Council plans will be put into force before long.

Mr. Shoosmith's plan for the suggested improvement to the entrance of Rothamsted Park was submitted to the Council for consideration and a sub-committee of this Society met members of the Council to discuss this. The meeting resulted in a revised plan being prepared and it is hoped that this will come before the H.U.D.C., in the near future.

The usual outing was not held this year due to lack of support, the date fixed was later than usual and the weather was very poor, so it was decided to cancel it on this occasion. It is hoped that it may be possible to organise a visit to Gorhambury or Aynho, Northamptonshire, in May, 1957.

Mr. and Mrs. Pott, who were very interested members of the Society, have now left the district and before leaving were kind enough to present the Society with a set of 6 inch maps of the district.

During the year final arrangements were made for the lecture to be given by Sir Mortimer Wheeler the well-known archaeologist and broadcaster. It is now some years since the Society has organised a lecture of such importance and it is hoped that this function which will entail a considerable expense will be very well patronised and will result in some profit.

The proposed felling of the trees in the High Street caused great concern to members of this Society who feel that every time such action takes place the day is brought nearer when the High Street will lose its unique character and become just another main street like thousands of others up and down the country. Representations were made to the Council and also to the press urging that the most careful consideration may be given before a decision was made. The final outcome is well-known to everyone.

Other items which were considered during the year included representations being made to the County Council objecting to the erection of the unsightly footbridge at Batford and suggestions being made to the Council for the planting of shrubs to screen the temporary new conveniences on the common. The question was raised with the Hertfordshire Society regarding the deposit of old iron and mattresses in roadside wastes and hedges all over the County. There has been a certain amount of publicity regarding this matter and the County Council are doing what they can to stop this nuisance.

The Society have for many years been concerned with the untidy nature of Hatching Green and have tried on several occasions to get the coarse grass cut and the green tidied up, but these have been unsuccessful. Now we are pleased to learn that the H.U.D.C. are taking over the green and feel certain that this approach to Harpenden will soon be made more presentable.

Membership of the Harpenden Society remains at just over 200, but it is felt that there are many residents here who are interested in the activities of the Society which works for the preservation and improvement of the amenities of Harpenden and it is hoped that members will try to get their friends to join the Society.

C. W. CURL