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1961

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THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

DEAR HARPENDEN RESIDENT,

If you have just moved to Harpenden you will probably consider that it is a pleasant place to live in, but if you have lived here all your life you may think that it is not quite as pleasant as it used to be. In the next ten years Harpenden will continue to develop and change. Nobody wants to prevent this, but what you can do is to join the Harpenden Society and help us to try to make sure that development is on the right lines and that Harpenden will still be a good place for our children to live in.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We try to do all the things that you would do yourself if you had the time and the energy, the experience and the influence.

1. We have a sub-committee (consisting at present of three surveyors) who study applications which are made to the Urban District Council for new buildings in Harpenden and who report on those which might adversely affect the appearance of the village and the interests of the residents generally. We put forward the Society's view to the authorities where it seems that a development is not likely to be a good one. This is a considerable task and the work of this sub-committee alone would justify your joining us.

2. Our representatives attend public inquiries when threats occur to local amenities and make sure that the interests of the residents generally are supported by evidence independent of the Council. This is something you would want to do yourself, but have you the time?

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

1. Inspired the purchase of Rothamsted Park for the people of Harpenden.

2. Caused candidates for election to the U.D.C. to aver their interest in the preservation of amenities.

3. Testified at tribunals and inquiries in favour of keeping the Green Belt open.

4. Brought about the tidying of the entrance to Rothamsted Park and presented the plan of the new gates.

5. Canvassed refusals of bad developments and acceptance of well-designed work.

6. Submitted to the U.D.C. the plan which was acted upon for the post-war lay-out of the Common.

7. Presented the Harpenden Sign on the Common. Planted trees and provided seats on the Common.

WHAT DO WE DO?—Continued

3. The Committee of the Society meets six times a year and discusses those matters which affect the village: the provision of litter boxes; how strangers are to find the Police Station if there is an accident, and many matters small and large which need action. We press for action to be taken. Our Committee includes two members of the Harpenden Council whose advice enables us to concentrate our attention on those matters

where we can most effectively exert our influence.

4. We visit annually places of architectural interest, in the past Oxford and Waddesdon Manor and many other places.

5. We arrange lectures such as those by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, and the showing of films such as that of the building of the M1 and the Civic Trust's experiment in Colour and Design in Magdalen Street, Norwich.

OUR ORIGIN AND AIMS

The Society was formed in February, 1930, under the name of The Harpenden and District Preservation Society, since altered to "The Harpenden Society." It is affiliated to the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and its aims, as set out in the Constitution, are:

"To safeguard the amenities of Harpenden and its environs and to do everything possible to preserve and enhance its beauty for our own and future generations. With this purpose it will give special attention to zoning and open spaces, to roads, footpaths and rights of way and to the prevention of disfigurement caused by ill-placed advertisements, by the unnecessary destruction of trees, and by smoke and other nuisances.

"The Society will also devote special care to the preservation of buildings of architectural and historic value, to building development, and to the amelioration of such conditions as now tend to detract from the amenities of the locality and to the promotion of the general well-being of the people of Harpenden and its environs.

The Committee of the Society consists of twenty-five elected and ex-officio members, including those nominated for election at the Annual General Meeting by a number of local societies which are in sympathy with its aims.

We have always had the strong support of the older residents and we now have a number of new younger members who want to see the Society taking a still more active part in the life of Harpenden.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The minimum subscription is 2s. 6d. a year. We have at present some 200 members and our subscriptions total about £50 a year, an average of 5s. a member. Even with so small a membership and income we have done quite a lot. If we can increase our membership we believe that we can do a great deal more for Harpenden.

If you will join us, complete the application form and post it without delay or leave it in an envelope in our box at the cash desk at Kingston House Stores.

Yours truly,

R. A. FINCH,

Hon. Secretary.