

The membership remains at a faithful 300 or thereabouts. During the year the Committee, which numbers 24 including officers, met eight times, average attendance 14 members. At the next meeting after the 1964 annual general meeting it was unanimously agreed that at future annual meetings elections to the Committee shall be by formal ballot, both of members retiring by rotation and eligible for re-election and of newly nominated candidates.

In July the Committee were privileged to have a pre-view of the Traffic Scheme for Harpenden, lucidly explained by Councillor Eric Hill, Chairman of the Highways Committee of the Urban District Council. The Committee expressed general approval of the scheme, subject to care being taken that alterations to the road lay-out at the foot of the Common should cause the least possible damage to amenities.

Having successfully drawn the attention of the Post Office to the need for a letter-box in the Breadcroft Lane area, the Society, at the suggestion of the Old People's Welfare Committee, has now offered to provide a bench at the corner of Station Road and Breadcroft Lane. These amenities will be welcome in a district where our older residents are numerous.

Recently, the Committee has asked the Council to consider the possibility of maintaining the "tree population" by planting trees in suitable places in numerical proportion to those doomed by development. It has been suggested that the urban should not be allowed to submerge the rural. This issue arose from the felling of all the conifers in Thompsons Close.

The Committee has also addressed a long letter to the Council on the subject of redevelopment in the central shopping area, urging the Council to use its statutory and influential powers to ensure that new buildings are appropriate to their surroundings and in keeping with the established character of the village. We have, of course, offered our full support in this matter. Our letter has been cordially acknowledged by the Clerk, who informs us that the Council is awaiting an advisory plan from the County Planning Authority.

The President, retrospectively supported by the Committee, made a direct and vigorous protest to the local branch manager against the glaringly incongruous sign boards which disfigure both walls of Darclays Bank. It is understood that the Bank authorities have admitted their unsuitability, and that their replacement is being considered. (The Council had already demanded a modification of the original design).

An appreciative audience of members and friends almost filled to capacity Mr. G. H. T. William's concert hall at The Bourne for the Autumn Meeting on 28th October, when Dr. (now Sir) Dudley Stamp, President of the Royal Geographical Society, gave a lively address on the work of the Nature Conservancy. Our distinguished visitor simply ignored the Hon. Secretary's offer of fee or expenses.

Subscriptions for 1965 were due on 1st January and may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer at 5, The Uplands, Harpenden, or left in the enclosed envelope in the box which Kingston House Stores kindly allow us to keep at their cash desk. The minimum subscription is now 5/-, but larger amounts will not embarrass the Hon. Treasurer.

From: Maurice Johnstone, Hon. Sec.
18, Holly Bush Lane,
Tel. 3504

T H E H A R P E N D E N S O C I E T Y

President, Captain K.H. Bond, M.C.

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AUTUMN MEETING, 1964

The Autumn Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 28th October at 8 o'clock in the concert room at The Bourne, Salisbury Avenue (entrance in Townsend Lane), by courtesy of G.H.T. Williams Esq., The public halls being engaged, Mr. Williams has kindly lent his beautiful hall to the Society. 'It's an ill wind'

The Guest Speaker will be:-

Dr. L. DUDLEY STAMP, C.B.E.

President of the Royal Geographical Society, and

Professor Emeritus of London University.

He will address the meeting on The Work of the Nature Conservancy, and will be happy to answer questions.

It is hoped that members will attend in force to welcome our very distinguished visitor, and bring with them friends who might be interested in the aims and objects of the Society.

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NEWS FLASH. The annual outing this year, on 23rd May, was to Claydon House, the home of the Verneys of Buckingham. The party was regrettably smaller than usual; 25 members and friends enjoyed the privilege of being shown round the House by the lively octogenarian, Sir Harry Verney himself.

Due in the first place to representations made by the Society, a letter box is to be installed in the Brendcroft Lane area, for the special benefit of the elderly residents thereabout.

Hatching Green is again to be congratulated on winning second place in the very small villages section (eight entries) of the Best Kept Village Competition organized by the Hertfordshire Society.

At the request of the County Council and the M.P. for Hitchin, the Hertfordshire Society is co-ordinating the diverse and widespread opposition to the proposal of the Minister of Town and Country Planning to double the size of Stevenage New Town in a westerly direction across the A.1. The united opposition will be represented by Council at the public enquiry.

Maurice Johnstone,
Hon. Secretary,
18 Holly Bush Lane,
Tel. Harpenden 3504.

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

President, K.H. Bond, M.C.

Telephone:
3449.

8, Vaughan Road,
Harpenden,

Dear Member,

Annual Outing, 1964

A visit to Claydon House and grounds, 13 miles N.W. of Aylesbury. has been arranged for members and friends of the Society on Saturday, 23rd May.

The House was built in 1752-68 for the Verneys of Buckingham. There are magnificent rococo staterooms, a Chinese Room, a Florence Nightingale room and a Museum. In 1956 the House and grounds were accepted by the National Trust. Considerable repairs and decorations have been carried out. The House is a fine memorial to the wealth, culture and style of its period.

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The coach will leave Harpenden (opposite Mary Ellen Café) at 1 o'clock, arriving at Claydon about 2.30. After a guided tour of the House, tea will be served at a café in the nearby village of Steeple Claydon at about 4.30.

The inclusive charge (coach, admission, tea) will be 16/6d per person. The charge to members of the National Trust will be 14/6d, if they produce their membership cards to obtain free admission.

Applications for seats, with remittance, must be sent to me not later than Tuesday, 19th May. Receipts will be deemed unnecessary.

Yours sincerely,

COLIN W. CURL.
Chairman.

.....TEAR OFF.....

To: - Mr. C.W. Curl, 8, Vaughan Road, Harpenden.

I will require _____ seats on the coach to Claydon House on Saturday, 23rd May, 1964. I enclose £ _____.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____