

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY
(Founded 1930)

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

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ANNUAL REPORT 1966

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. W.H. Coventry the Committee met eight times in the past year. The average attendance was eleven.

AUTUMN MEETING. Representatives of the Urban District Council, the Schools and civic-minded Organizations in Harpenden were invited to attend the launching of an anti-litter campaign at the Autumn Meeting on 12th October. We had already obtained immediate and copious help and suggestions for this project from the Keep Britain Tidy Group, and one of its Vice-Presidents, Sir Rupert Speir, the well-known champion of amenity bills in Parliament, was the principal speaker at the Meeting. He headed a promotion panel which also included our Chief Police Officer, the Head of Roundwood Secondary Modern School, and the Surveyor. The lively and informative Meeting stimulated us to go ahead with the campaign.

"MAKE HARPENDEN TIDY" CAMPAIGN. A sub-committee was formed to formulate the anti-litter campaign in detail, beginning with the Autumn Meeting. Fourteen Harpenden schools have been invited to organize poster and essay competitions, the subject of the essay being "What I would do about Litter". The Society will present book-token prizes, and the winning posters will be exhibited in the County Library during the week beginning Saturday, 27th May (Monday the 29th is the official Bank Holiday), when it is intended the campaign shall reach its peak. We hope also to arrange a display of appropriate photographs and, in the town, the official Keep Britain Tidy posters; to provide conspicuous litter bins where they are most needed; to ask the petrol stations to stock free litter bags for motorists, and to organize a mobile demonstration during the Bank Holiday week-end.

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL FOOTPATH. The Society announced by letter in the Harpenden Free Press of 13th January that it had informed the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of its objection to the proposed closure of the footpath. Our letter also invited bona fide users of the path to send their names to the Hon. Secretary. Over 20 letters have been received, representing more than 35 users. The Ministry has been informed of the accumulating opposition.

ANNUAL OUTING. 35 members and friends visited Cambridge on 2nd July and were shown, under expert guidance, two outstanding examples of contemporary architecture - Churchill College and the Span residential development. It was a convincing demonstration that the new, when it is inspired, can be successfully merged with the old.

MR. R.A. FINCH. Our enthusiastic and industrious Hon. Secretary from 1959 until 1963, Mr. R.A. Finch died on 30th December at the age of 82. In accordance with the family's wishes, a donation was sent to the Richard Dimbleby Fund.

CLOCK IN THE HIGH STREET. A member voiced a general awareness when she pointed out that, since the removal of 'Pellants' clock, the High Street has been timeless, and suggested we should take some action. An enquiry to the Urban District Council seems to have been effective; we have recently been informed that a firm in Lower High Street plans to provide this useful amenity.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for 1967 were due on 1st January. They may be paid direct to the Hon. Membership Secretary, Mr. C.M. King, 27 Milton Road, or they may be left in the Society's box which Kingston House Stores kindly allow us to keep at their cash desk. The use of the Society's special envelope should help you and will help us. (Please write your name and address clearly on it). The minimum annual subscription is 5/-.

From:
Maurice Johnstone,
Hon. Secretary,
6 East Common. Tel:3504.