

# THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY

founded 1930

AFFILIATED TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE PRESERVATION OF RURAL ENGLAND, THE COMMONS, OPEN SPACES & FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY, AND THE HERTFORDSHIRE SOCIETY. REGISTERED WITH THE CIVIC TRUST.

## ANNUAL REPORT 1968/9

The Committee met seven times in the past year, and the average attendance was 11.8.

AUTUMN MEETING: This meeting was arranged for November 6th, 1968 with Mr. J. Bonnington, Chairman of the Harpenden Urban Design Group, as the speaker. Unfortunately at the last moment Mr. Bonnington was unable to attend because of illness and Captain Bond, our Vice President, gave an illustrated lecture on Old Harpenden, which was much appreciated.

SUMMER OUTING: A visit to Osterley Park was arranged by Mr. Lorimer Green. Those who took advantage of this opportunity had a very enjoyable time.

PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD: This was one of the items that we asked the Urban Design Group to look at and two of their members, Messrs. Beardsmore and Farawa, undertook this work. They presented a report to this Committee which was endorsed and passed to the Urban District Council in the hope that they would feel that it was essential to have a modern notice board erected in a central position for the benefit of the community. The Librarian has offered to ensure that the notices there displayed will be changed when necessary.

HARPENDEN URBAN DESIGN GROUP: This Group is now firmly established. It is composed of ladies and gentlemen mainly architects, town and country planners, surveyors, etc., who have chosen to live in Harpenden but whose work is away from their base. In addition to their own sub-committees there is also a joint sub-committee with ourselves. They have met on several occasions officials and Chairmen of the Urban District Council, and some of their groups are studying certain areas of the town intensively. The County Planning Officer is meeting them as he is meeting some of our members in discussions on the Harpenden Town Centre Map. They have also arranged in conjunction with the Further Education Sub-Committee a series of lectures on 'The Planned Environment'. These are being well attended and greatly enjoyed.

PRESS: We would like to thank the Press for their co-operation in making public the details on how anyone who possessed rights to common land was compelled to register his claim before a date in May last.

HARPENDEN TOWN CENTRE PLAN: At the invitation of the County Planning Officer your Town Planning sub-committee met his representative to discuss plans for the Town Centre. The Chairman (Mr. Roger Dixon) presented the ideas of the committee which were sympathetically received.

SUBSCRIPTION: May I remind you that subscriptions are due on January 1st for the current year? Minimum subscription is 5/-d for a single person and 7/6d for two. The Hon. Membership Secretary is Mr. C.M. King, 27 Milton Road, who will be pleased to receive your subscription direct or it can be placed in a box in Mary-Ellen's cafe. For this help we are indebted to Miss Finnie.

*Secretary: After 5 years excellent service Maurice Johnstone has had to resign for work reasons*

Ask you to give your support to the new Secretary, Mr. G.W. Bowran of 'Chesters', Oakhurst Road, (Tel: 3980), when the appointment comes up for approval at the Annual Meeting.

### NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - APRIL, 1969

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Small Public Hall on Tuesday, 29th April, 1969 at 8 p.m.

After the business meeting, Mr. J. Bonnington, ARIBA, B.Arch. DipTP, who was prevented through illness from speaking to us in November last, will give his illustrated talk

#### BUILDING, YESTERDAY AND TODAY

(From Greek marble to American steel)

His discourse will summarize the principal changes over the centuries in design, techniques and materials.

Mr. Bonnington is a member of the famous firm of architects, Sir Basil Spence, Bonnington and Collins, which designed Coventry Cathedral, Sussex University and the British Pavilion at Expo 67 among many notable buildings. He came to live in Harpenden in 1963 and his discreetly unconventional house at East Common was chosen as the House of the Year by Homes and Gardens in 1964. Mr. Bonnington is Chairman of the Harpenden Urban Design Group, the professional offspring of the Harpenden Society. The Joint Committee of the two organisations has already established a cordial and consultative relationship with the Urban District Council. Mr. Bonnington is prepared to answer questions after his talk.

The Agenda includes a list of the present Committee. The members whose names are underlined retire by rotation after three years' service. (Mr. Gasser has resigned owing to pressure of work after two years.) These members are not eligible for re-election until after a lapse of at least one year. New nominations should be sent in writing to the Secretary, Mr. G.W. Bowran, 'Chesters', Oakhurst Avenue, not later than 22nd April, the consent of the nominee having first been obtained.

FRED GOACHER  
Chairman