

THE HARPENDEN SOCIETY.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE, 1971/2.

The Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Savage, have met eleven times during the year and a brief report of their main activities is given below.

Summer Outing.

In June we had a very successful outing to Waddesden Manor. Mr. Lorimer Green again made all the arrangements and the Committee are most grateful to him.

Autumn Meeting.

Sir Frederick Bawden died in January, when Harpenden lost one of its most distinguished residents. At our Autumn Meeting, Sir Frederick spoke to us on "The History and Work of Rothamsted Experimental Station". As we listened to a most interesting lecture we began to realise the importance to the whole world of the work being done at the Station and it was obvious how much the progress of recent years had been inspired by Sir Frederick himself.

General Activities.

Most members will know that more sub-committees and working parties have operated during the year and interested members have been invited to participate. These increased activities and others which will be starting soon bring their own problems. The three main ones are, firstly, the difficulty of letting everybody know what is going on, secondly, the increased demands on the time of your officers, and thirdly the increased cost of all our activities. The Committee have considered these problems and have come to some conclusions which offer a partial solution.

Mr. Brandreth, Harpenden's Librarian, has agreed to edit a newsletter. It is intended to publish the first issue early enough to be able to have your views and opinions at the Autumn Meeting.

A number of suggestions intended to improve the efficiency of the day to day workings of the Society have been considered by the Committee. Although there is some measure of agreement it has been decided to allow the new Committee, which will meet after the Annual General Meeting, to further consider the subject. Their proposals will be put to the Autumn Meeting of the Society.

The Honorary Treasurer is carefully watching our financial resources. Our expenses, although modest, keep increasing. The Committee are grateful to those members who pay more than the minimum subscriptions and hope that more will do so. This will defer the time when the minimum subscription must be increased.

Lecture Meetings.

Suggestions have been made from time to time that the members of the Society should meet together more often. Your Committee have considered organising extra meetings but only recently have decided that there appeared sufficient support to make them possible. During the three years I have been Secretary, although there has been no increase in membership, the attendance at the Society's meetings has increased from under forty to over one hundred.

A small sub-committee have arranged the first lecture for Tuesday, 9th May, 1972, at 8 p.m. in the Small Public Hall, Harpenden. Mr. C. C. Barry of the Chiltern Society will speak on "Conservation in the Chilterns".

If the members approve and support this new activity, a regular programme of meetings will be arranged. The Committee hope that you will bring interested friends to these meetings and encourage them to join the Society.

Membership.

While it is obviously wrong to say that the influence of the Society is directly proportionate to the number of its members, it

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is obviously right that a strong Society can do more than a weak one. Any of the officers of the Society will be glad of offers of help and to receive constructive suggestions. One of the first tasks of the new Committee is to consider a recruiting drive. There is no need to wait for them to act - all members should be introducing new members, particularly among those people newly resident in Harpenden.

Subscriptions.

The minimum subscription is 25p. or 37½p. for husband and wife and is now due for 1972. It may be paid at the meeting or sent to the Membership Secretary, Mr. C. M. King, at 27 Milton Road, Harpenden.

The Committee wish to thank its Chairman, Mr. J. Savage, for presiding at its meetings and Miss Finney for allowing it to meet at Mary-Ellen's cafe for many years until she retired from business last autumn. They also wish to place on record their appreciation of the help given to them by the Council's officials, particularly Mr. Best, the Clerk, and Mr. Pettingale, the Engineer. They are grateful to the Council itself for its readiness to listen to the Society's representations and for the thoroughness and courtesy with which it considers any proposal put to it.

For the General Committee

G. W. BOWRAN.

Hon. Secretary.

3 Oakhurst Avenue,
Harpenden,
Herts.

5th March, 1972.