



Hatfield Regis Local History Society

President: William Gosling Lord of the Manor

PROGRAMME SYNOPSIS 2016

Tuesday 15 March 2016

Easton Lodge Gardens - Clare Matthews

Following the Annual General Meeting of HRLHS Clare gave details of the 23 acre extent of Eden Lodge Gardens. Grade II listed it is included in the English Heritage of Historic Gardens dating back to Tudor times. In 1847 a disastrous fire demolished the main Elizabethan part of the property rebuilt in Victorian Gothic style to the designs of Thomas Hopper at a cost of £12,000. Clare described periods of history particularly noting the Countess of Warwick who led a varied lifestyle. Strong educational believer, set up a soup kitchen in Great Dunmow, a Horticultural College for Women and her involvement with H. G. Wells and others. From 1971 the derelict remaining West Wing was bought by Brian and Diana Creasy and for the next 22 years restored the old and created new gardens. From 1985 they opened the gardens under the National Gardens Scheme today are looked after by volunteers recruited by the Gardens of Easton Lodge Preservation Trust.

19 April 2016

Harlow Museum – Rylan Karolak

Ryan introduced the history and development of the town and its present Museum of Harlow, illustrated with many interesting views of early years and related documents. Beginning in 1073, he traced the early history of the area of Harlow to the development of the New Town. The need to record and preserve the area's history originated on three separate sites each with its own special interest. These were Passmores House, Mark Hall and St Andrews Church/ Nettleswell Farm. Ryan's presentation included illustrations of many old maps showing the former manors of the area and some of its historical excavations. Today the Museum has more than 80,000 items in its archives including long defunct local newspapers and many artefacts representing the wide and varied history of the area.

17 May 2106

Hurdle Farms – Liz Wright

The Farms of Hurdle End was presented by Liz Wright whose interests in the history of our area goes back many years. The former Village Historian described the five farms in the area then known as Hurdle End – now Ardley End. They were Gibsons, Friars, Parvilles, Pooles and the manor of Matching Barns which is now extinct. Gibsons is exceptional, owned freehold by one family for at least 500 years. Both Gibsons and Friars can be traced back to medieval times. Matching Barns, mentioned in the Domesday Book, another timber framed house was eventually merged with Parvilles. Very little is known about the history of Pooles. Part of the Hatfield Manor the tenancy was eventually sold to Bart's Hospital. An interesting point appearing in documents is the field names many of these are still identifiable today and appear on the Parish Council website.

21 June 2016

Summer Outing

A visit to Harlow Museum and Walled Gardens where 14 members enjoyed a leisurely and unhurried tour. This outing was as a result of the talk given in April by Rylan Karolak. A large collection of objects found locally included a mammoth's tooth, coins, pottery and a range of documents and newspaper files. The walled gardens were also much admired on a bright sunny day and knot garden could be viewed from a Victorian viewing platform and much admired was an old mulberry tree with a promising crop of fruit.

School Project – 'World War II' - Year 6 Hatfield Heath Community Primary School

Hatfield Regis Local History Society has continued their involvement with the School and each of the last 5 years a project has been set which enables Year 6 the opportunity to produce an essay. Six pupils were awarded certificates, three prizes and three commendations on the topic of WW II. Judges Frank Walsh and Ivan Cooper commented on *'the imaginative*



response from all entries demonstrated remarkable understanding to a sensitive topic'. This project enabled the school to play an integral part in a 4 day Exhibition commemorating the Centenary of WW I. The School is already planning to take part in a project for 2017 which hopefully this year will include pupils from St Mary's C of E Primary School at Hatfield Broad Oak.

4 to 8 July World War I Four Day Exhibition

(Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund)

The four day exhibition on World War I sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund was the culmination of a year's preparation by the Society. Coinciding with the 100 year memorial of the Somme it was a mid-point for 1914-1918 remembrance. The exhibition featured a



time line which included a focus on individual Soldiers who are remembered on the War Memorials of Hatfield Regis and those Mis-Remembered who gave their lives but do not appear on any local memorial. Contributions from the Royal British Legion, Herts at War contribution was extremely important to the exhibition as was a WW I Dugout, a telling factor constructed by Friends of HRLHS. A feature which created a visual and audible impact with the sound of continuous gunfire. Following the Exhibition an evaluation consisting of a 20 page diary, 20 page booklet and supporting DVD slide presentation was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund. This contained a daily quantitative data summary totaling 240 visitors over the four days. A project which has been offered to other history groups in the Recorders of Uttlesford.

18 October 2016

Great Dunmow Memorial – Steve Schorah

Prosperity was no shield from the effects of war, the little town of Great Dunmow was to discover when a total of 84 names were added to its World War I War Memorial. Mr Schorah took members through a selection from hundreds of post cards revealing the life of the town from the harsh days of the late 1800s and its changes. Pre-World War I the town was a prosperous place with many and various trades and industries. An ominous herald of what was to come was the posting of a telegram in the window of the High Street Post Office in 1914 announcing the declaration of war with Germany. In the following months, as its young men left for war, many Army units were stationed in and around or passed through the town. Several took over familiar buildings, like The Close, to use as barracks. Later prisoners of war were held there also. Postcards also revealed that some skylines had hardly changed, with many buildings still recognisable today. The town's War Memorial was dedicated in 1921.

2 November 2017 POW Camp 116 – Ivan Cooper

Interest is still being shown in the Prisoner of War Camp 116 at Mill Lane. It is significant that it follows the WW I four day Exhibition. Noticeably several visitors from Harlow attended the Exhibition leading to a request for a presentation from the Harlow Magazine Group. A historical introduction to the entrance to Mill Lane set a scene for development that has taken place since the Camp was built in 1940. Images of the Prisoners/Guards sections provided an insight into showers, toilet blocks, kitchens and canteen which still contains a mural painted by an Italian prisoner. Research details led to a request from one of the audience asking if the Society could and did provide information on a relative who was a WW I POW.

15 November 2016

Lodges Coaches –Robert Lodge

Started in 1920 by the Grandfather of the present partners who all play an active part in running the business as it is very much a family concern. Historical aspects for High Easter were supported by a slide presentation which included images showing several buildings during the period when the company was in its infancy. Roberts Grandfather had a site behind the Punch Bowl public house before eventually moving to a new site. Initially hiring a shed which had a BP sign on its outside, an original example of which has now been obtained by Lodges, as they hope to recreate that original building. For their 100 year anniversary constructing a replica of their Grandfathers Model T Ford bus is taking place. With a fleet of 40 vehicles with their own workshops and 18 contracts carrying some 850 passengers per day on school runs the buses are still cleaned and washed every day. Recently to support Children in Need, BBC's The One Shows Alex Jones and Radio 2s Chris Evans drove two vintage coaches on the Veterans Run from London to Brighton. The company also offer UK,



European and in partnership with CITO Holidays world-wide air and cruise holidays.

13 December 2016

The Somme – Graeme Cooper

The final meeting for 2016 was jointly held by the Royal British Legion and the History Society. A talk by Graeme Cooper on the Somme was received with great interest by the audience. A map detailing the topography of the Somme battlefield provided the background for an extremely visual and audio presentation by Graeme describing in graphic detail the horrors which took place. It became apparent that decisions made by high ranking English and French generals were responsible for many casualties. By the first day more than 19,240 British soldiers had been killed and nearly twice that number injured. Verdun the largest battle on the Somme lasted for 30 days and became the longest and one of the most costly battles in human history. Reference to the Hawthorn Mine explosion was presented with sound effects that resounded throughout the meeting to a startled audience. The talk also made reference to the change of weapons which were used, gas, introduction of the battlefield debut of tanks and air warfare. Sections of text taken from 'letters from the trenches' of action interspersed the presented imagery and were read by members of the Society. Recognition also was made of the soldiers from Hatfield Heath and Hatfield Broad Oak dedicated on local memorials who are remembered in the publication 'the War Memorials of Hatfield Regis'.

The Society has offered other local interested parties a presentation of the WW I exhibition as a one day exhibition, or they can obtain a copy of the Evaluation Diary and CD. This can either be facilitated by contacting the Society through the contact link from the Website (www.hatfieldregislocalhistorysociety.weebly.com) or by email to ivandjc@aol.com.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Frank Walsh and Ivan Cooper