



From the newsletter editor – David Dingwall

We hope this newsletter finds you well after the Christmas and New Year festivities.

I am sorry to report some very sad news with the passing of our Secretary, Leslie Mustoe, on December 19th 2017. Whilst time has prevented us from including a full obituary of Leslie for this newsletter, I am pleased to say that our Chairman, Terry Knight, has compiled a tribute to Leslie in his New Year message.

Our Society meetings and visits have once again continued to be well attended during 2017 and there is a lot more to look forward to in 2018 as you will see on the back page of the newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and visits in 2018.

From the Chairman – Terry Knight

It is with a profound sense of sorrow that I have to inform you that our dedicated Secretary, Dr. Leslie Mustoe, died on December 19th 2017. His funeral will be held at St. Mary's Church on January 11th 2017 at 12:30 followed by burial at St. John's Cemetery at 13:30 and a reception at Hitchin Priory at 14:00.

Leslie had indicated to the committee at its last meeting that he intended to stand down from his post at the 2018 Annual General Meeting in March in order, so he said, to devote more time to his other activities. If any member would like to put forward their name for election they should contact me. They can be assured that should they be chosen they will receive full support from all their colleagues.

Leslie was born in Hitchin in 1941 and attended St. Saviour's School and Hitchin Boys' Grammar School. He held degrees from Birmingham, Essex and Loughborough Universities and lectured on mathematics at the latter seat of learning from 1969 – 2009 when he retired to his home town. He taught pupils at his former school on an occasional one-to-one basis and held various voluntary positions at St. Mary's Church where he worshipped, carried out committee work for the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA), acted as a mathematics advisor to the OCR examination board and was a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Educators. In addition, Leslie was for six years Chairman of the Mathematics group of the European Society for the Education of Engineers and for a similar length of time was Honorary Secretary of the IMA. Furthermore, he served on the Steering Group of Hitchin Forum and was on the Executive Committee of Hitchin Society.

Leslie, who was not married, lived on Symonds Road and often visited me at my home on Swinburne Avenue to discuss committee matters. He was always smartly dressed, extremely polite, very efficient and excellent raconteur, frequently witty and always good company. I, in common with so many other people, will miss him greatly.



A lookback at Society visits, summer and autumn 2017. From left to right: 1. *Town Centre Study Day*, June 2017, 2. *Walk around Codicote* with Nicholas Maddex, Sept. 2017, 3. *Hitchin: A Medieval Walk* with Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, Sept. 2017, 4. Society stand at *'On Track'* exhibition at Holy Saviour Church prepared by David Howlett. (Photos: 1. Bobby Harwood, 2 and 4, Bridget Howlett, 3. David Dingwall)

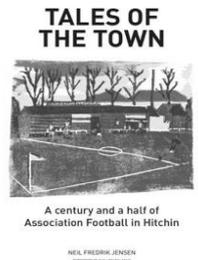
Tales of the Town – a new history of Hitchin Town Football Club

Hitchin Town Football Club is pleased to announce the publication and launch of the first ever book to chronicle the complete history of the club.

Tales of the Town covers the entire history of the current club which was formed in 1928 and its predecessor, Hitchin FC, which dates back to 1865. The book has been written by Neil Jensen, a local writer and journalist and former media officer of the club. Guillem Balague, renowned Hitchin-based Spanish football journalist, has written the foreword.

It is available at Waterstones in Hitchin, David's Bookshop in Letchworth Garden City, online through E T Moore books (www.ericmoore.co.uk) and also through Hitchin Town Football Club website (www.hitchintownfc.club). Alternatively, you can purchase a copy of the book through Mick Docking (mickdocking@gmail.com) who can also arrange postage.

Tales of the Town, Over a century and a half of Association Football in Hitchin by Neil Fredrik Jensen is published by HTFC 150. ISBN 978-1-5272-1693-8 **priced £14.95**



Hertfordshire Association for Local History's Annual Symposium – November 2017 (Pauline Humphries)

Bonfire Night always heralds the proximity of Hertfordshire Association for Local History's Annual Symposium, the gathering celebrating the year's activity and achievement on the local "front". Usually Hitchin Historical Society (HHS) participants are called upon to make an early trek to a distant part of the county, but this year things were far more civilised because we were being co-hosted by our British Schools Museum in Hitchin. The theme was to be "**Women of Hertfordshire**".

The day was divided into seven sessions, recounting the lives of a very varied group of residents. These stretched from Christina of Markyate (a 12th century religious visionary), who freed herself from an arranged and violent marriage and founded a community for women like herself, all the way to Elizabeth "Dolly" Shepherd, pioneering Edwardian "Balloon Queen" and parachutist, who went on to serve as a mechanic on the Front in the First World War. In between, we met two fascinating women from the 17th century, Lady Eleanor Davies and Lady Ann Fanshawe, and two more from a later era, Mary Augusta ("Mrs Humphrey") Ward, the novelist, and Lady Constance Bulwer-Lytton, who worked to advance the cause of women in very different ways.

Hitchin's own "Pioneering Women"* were introduced by Val Campion, students at Benslow House with a curriculum as demanding as that of their male counterparts in Cambridge, who were being carefully shielded from male distraction by the intervening distance. Not for long however, as the College moved to Girton in 1873! We also met three women from St. Albans's "home front" who stepped in when need arose during the First World War.

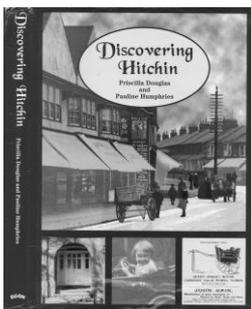
Just before lunch we were entertained by the marvellous Chiltern West Gallery Quire, who played (and sang) Militia marches and dance tunes from the Jane Austen era. A Symposium "first"!

All in all, it was an excellent day. It provided a "see and be seen" opportunity for the HHS, and a very entertaining way to explore the nooks and crannies of Hertfordshire's history. Why not join us next year? We will announce the details nearer the time.

*Why not pick up a copy of Val's book of the same title from our bookstall at the next meeting? Thoroughly recommended!

Discovering More About Hitchin – Publication update (Bridget Howlett and Pauline Humphries)

"Discovering more about Hitchin" (or DMAH to those involved) is on track for publication on Saturday October 20th 2018 as planned. The Editors are busy working a three-day week, based at Bridget and David Howlett's dining room table. What began (in equestrian terms) as a walk, swiftly became a trot, and is now a canter. A gallop is predicted from January onwards. The book is taking shape nicely, comprised of individually written chapters. Some are by Society stalwarts who have published before, but we have been delighted to welcome some new contributors on-board, making their first foray into print. The team has been reinforced by a Business Manager (Mike Clarke) and a Photographic Consultant (Simon Walker). John Lucas continues to send maps from Aberystwyth, and Terry Knight is magically retrieving ephemera from his extensive archive. By the time you read this the Editors should (hopefully) have all the copy to hand, ready for checking and fine-tuning. The next deadline will be at the end of March, when the assembled contents are due to be sent to the Designer for lay-out. We will keep you posted!



Above: the cover for the Society publication "Discovering Hitchin" published in 1995.

2018 Membership Renewal

Dear Member, Subscription renewal is here again. For the first time we are offering Life Membership which you might wish to consider thus saving you renewing every year. The details are below.

For the first time in something like 15 years there is a modest increase in the **Annual Membership** fee. It is hoped you will consider it still excellent value!

- single membership £6.00 or £6-60 if paying by Direct Credit
- joint membership £9.00 or £9-60 if paying by Direct Credit
- juniors (under 18) £1.00

Life membership can be taken out at the following rates:

- Single life member (Under 60 years old) £130
- Two life members same Household (both under 60) £230
- Single life member (over 60) £80
- Two life members in the same household (at least 1 over 60) £140

It would help the Society greatly if you were to renew by Direct Credit. This saves us bank charges when processing a volume of cheques. It also ensures you receive confirmation and the annual visits programme quickly. The details are on the back of the renewal form.

If you renew by bank transfer, please let the Membership Secretary know by emailing - membership@hitchinhistoricals.org.uk.

Please also ensure that any changes of email, phone or home address are notified to the Membership Secretary.

If you choose to renew by post please return the enclosed membership renewal form (*) to:

HHS Membership Secretary

Cheques should be made payable to "**Hitchin Historical Society**". (*) If you joined the society late in 2017 you will not receive a membership renewal form.

Please ensure you enclose a STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE, at least 6" x 4½" for the prompt return of your membership/programme card.

On behalf of the committee, thank you for your support in the past, and we look forward to your continued membership of the Society.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the society who joined in 2017.

Mrs C P Barton	Mrs Game	Mr & Mrs Scully	Mr & Mrs H Evans
Mr H Bicheno	Ms S Grady	Ms C Smith	Ms P Sadler
Mrs A Burnett	Ms J O'Brien	Mr & Mrs Worbey	Mr J Evans
Ms J Cole	Mr S Rataj	Mr H Wright	Mrs M Sanchez

HHS Committee and Contacts

President	Robert Williams	Film Archive	Richard Whitmore
Chairman	Terry Knight	Physic Garden	Dr Gerry Tidy
Secretary	Vacant	Librarian	Debbie Burstow librarian@hitchinhistoricals.org.uk
Treasurer	John Skeeles	Website Editor	Zena Grant **
Programme	David Howlett *	Publications	Phil Rowe * publications@hitchinhistoricals.org.uk
Journal	Simon Walker *	Distribution	Vicki Lockyer
Newsletter	David Dingwall ** newsletter@hitchinhistoricals.org.uk	Without portfolio	Maureen Sellers
Membership	Peter Moss membership@hitchinhistoricals.org.uk		

* Co-opted committee members; ** non-committee contacts



HITCHIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY – PROGRAMME 2018

Meetings – Held at Church House, Churchyard, Hitchin on Thursdays at 8.00 pm

JANUARY 25	The Hertfordshire Regiment in 1918 – an illustrated talk by Dan Hill
FEBRUARY 22	Salisbury Hall and the de Havilland Aircraft Company – an illustrated talk by Alistair Hodgson
MARCH 22	AGM and Members Evening –the AGM will include an update on current projects
APRIL 26	Warden Abbey: history and archaeology - an illustrated talk by Margaret Roberts
MAY 24	Pevsner’s Hertfordshire Revised and Revisited – an illustrated talk by Dr James Bettley
SEPTEMBER 27	Policing in Hertfordshire in the Eighteenth Century – an illustrated talk by Elaine Saunders
OCTOBER 25	Luton’s Medieval Castles – an illustrated talk by Joe Abrams
NOVEMBER 22	Hitchin Films: A Selection – compiled and presented by Richard Whitmore, Sam Hallas and Tim Ray
Visits programme for 2018	
Starting times and venues vary. A Booking Form (supplied on membership renewal) must be returned to the Programme Secretary in advance. Places are normally allocated about a month prior to each visit. A charge applies to visits marked with an asterisk (*).	
Wednesday 7 March 7.30pm	Barclays: our banking history - a visit to the Hitchin archives [Limit 15 members]
Monday 9 April 2.00pm	Luton Museum – A guided visit [Limit 15 members]
Monday 23 April 11.00am	The Apothecaries’ Hall, Black Friars Lane, London [Limit 15 members]*
Sunday 29 April 2.00pm	Walsworth House – a guided visit with Tom McCall [Limit 15 members]
Monday 4 June 7.45pm	St Mary’s Church Hitchin – a guided visit with Andrew Rogers [Limit 15 members]
Sunday 10 June 3.00pm	Maydencroft Manor, Gosmore – visit by kind permission of Robert and Frances Williams [Limit 20 members]
Saturday 23 June 2.00pm	Hitchin Lavender and the Perks and Llewellyn Collection [Limit 20 members]*
Sunday 24 June 2.00pm	Hitchin and the Great War – a guided walk with David Howlett [Limit 15 members]
Saturday 4 August 2.00pm	Cambridge University Botanic Garden – a guided visit [Limit 20 members]*
Saturday 2 September 2.00pm	Historic Potton - a guided walk [Limit 15 members]
Saturday 9 September 2.00pm	Hitchin’s Industrial History – a guided walk with Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews [Limit 20 members]
Saturday 30 September 2.00pm	Walsworth Road Baptist Church – a guided visit [Limit 20 members]
Special Meetings for 2018 (A charge will apply to all events listed below)	
Wednesday 11 July 8.00pm	The Miss Lewis Lecture. “Cambridge Colleges and their Gardens” -an illustrated talk by Rodney Tibbs. Details in the Hitchin Festival Programme
Wednesday 18 July 8.00pm	The Scilla Douglas Lecture. Professor Alison Light, author of <i>Common People</i> , will talk about family history. Details in the Hitchin Festival Programme
Friday 7 December 7.30pm	Christmas Meeting. Details provided nearer the time.

This newsletter is published by Hitchin Historical Society, a registered charity dedicated to informing the public of the history of Hitchin and district, and undertaking research into the origins and development of buildings, organisations, crafts, trades and other aspects of historical interest, and to publish the results of such research.

If you have an item that you would like to submit to the newsletter or information for any contributor please email newsletter@hitchinhistoricals.org.uk, or contact any Committee member.

HHS website: www.hitchinhistoricals.org.uk

Thank you!

Thanks go to Messrs **John Shilcock** in Bancroft for providing us with accommodation for our ‘overflow’ publications stock. Thanks also to our refreshments team, led by **Jenny Alder**, who provide the refreshments at all the member meetings. Thank you to all those who have contributed items to this newsletter.