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HARPENDEN AND DISTRICT
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Council for the Preservation of Rural England

The Annual General Meeting

will be held on

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1934

at 8.15 p.m., in the

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

SOUTHDOWN ROAD

and will be made also the occasion for an

EXHIBITION

of Photographs and Sketches illustrating

Bygone Harpenden

Members are invited to bring friends. Coffee 8.15 p.m.

For the benefit of those who are unable to be present
at the Meeting it has been arranged that the Exhibition
will remain on view on Tuesday, March 6th
from 10.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bygone Harpenden
Harpenden

Report

THE General Committee has met on ten occasions in the past year and has continued to watch local development and, where deemed desirable, to make representations in its endeavours to preserve and enhance the amenities of the district. In the latter connection it is reported later that a programme of tree planting has been commenced. Although Harpenden owes much of its charm to its many trees, little planting has been done in recent years. There are casualties to replace and new sites to be improved. Enterprise in this direction well becomes this Society.

TOWN PLANNING

In the Society's Annual Report for 1932 reference was made to the passing of the Town and Country Planning Act. Since its inception this Society has urged that the centre of Harpenden required the protection that can only be provided by Town Planning powers. This was not found possible under the previous Act, but the passing of the new Act changed the position by making provision for the planning of areas already built upon. It was with great pleasure that the Society learned in November last that a resolution to adopt a scheme embracing those parts of Harpenden excluded from the first Town Planning Scheme was passed by the Urban District Council. A few days after the passing of the resolution a public meeting was held by the Society at which Alderman A. T. Pike, of the Finchley Borough Council and Secretary of the Town Planning and Garden Cities Association, explained the significance and scope of town planning in built upon areas. The meeting recorded its satisfaction with the action taken by the Urban District Council. The resolution now awaits the approval of the Minister of Health and when this is received it is hoped that the Council will secure the power that then becomes available to it to exercise control over the elevations of buildings altered and erected within the area affected by its resolution.

TREE PLANTING

In 1933 it was resolved by the Committee that the Society

should undertake the planting of trees as an annual feature of its work. Permission was obtained for this to be done on Harpenden Common and on the roadside wastes along the Luton Road. Mr. W. J. Fleet, of the Luton Hoo Estates, a well known arboriculturist, kindly advised the Society in its choice of trees and sites. As a commencement four trees were planted in the Baa Lamb Trees group and five near the Railway Hotel, on February 16th. The planting was made the occasion of a small ceremony in which the local school children took part, it being hoped that their interest in trees as things of beauty could be stimulated thereby and the trees thus safeguarded from damage at their hands. The work of preparing the ground and the actual planting of the trees was carried out by Harpenden unemployed men, by arrangement with the Unemployed Centre. The extent to which further planting can be undertaken is dependent on available funds. Donations for this specific purpose will be greatly valued and will enable the Society to do much more than would be possible if it were only able to devote sums from the general fund accruing from members' annual subscriptions.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. F. H. Knight, stood as a candidate at the by-election in November last. That he was unsuccessful is greatly to be regretted, but his candidature will have been the means of introducing him to a wider circle of residents of Harpenden. It is hoped that he will offer himself again for election and that by the support he will receive from members and the greater time available at the regular election to make himself known he will secure a seat.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

The Committee feels that there may be other members of the Society who would find interest in attending its meetings. The rules of the Society allow for a large Committee so that its work may be as widely shared as possible, and offers to serve upon it would be greatly appreciated.

K. H. BOND,

HARPENDEN,

Honorary Secretary.

February, 1934.