

May 18th 1937

BARNET RECORD SOCIETY.

AGM 7/2/1938

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the members are aware, the cost of housing the valuable collection of records has, for some years, been a heavy charge, which the small subscription of 5s. was entirely unable to meet, and the cost fell largely on the shoulders of a few enthusiasts, supplemented by the results of occasional appeals. This procedure could not be allowed to go on indefinitely, nor was it in keeping with the dignity of the Society, and, with the enthusiastic co-operation of the Barnet Urban District Council, and, in particular, of Mr. County Alderman Fern, the County Council were approached, with the happiest results.

The Hertfordshire County Council have rented from the Local Authority the fine old early Georgian house, No. 33, Wood Street, which will be the future headquarters of the Society, and are providing funds for redecorating and furnishing the premises. In return, the Society are making over the whole of their records to the County Council for preservation in Barnet and to constitute a local museum in perpetuity. Your Society, through the medium of a Liaison Committee of themselves and the County Library Committee, will control the arrangement of the new building and general management of the museum, while the Society itself will be free to carry out its proper function of collecting new records and exhibits, of interesting the locality in its unique history by means of lectures and outings, and of collating, arranging, and making available for students the whole of the vast collection.

In September last, formal notice was given to terminate the tenancy of your present headquarters at 91, Wood Street, and it is hoped to enter into occupation of the new premises towards the end of February. The new museum will be open to the public every weekday evening from six o'clock until nine, and a rota of members of the Society will be formed, from which to draw a custodian to attend during these hours during one evening each fortnight. The heating, lighting, and cleaning of the building are the responsibility of the County Council, and every provision for the comfort of such custodian will be made, and it is hoped that much valuable work will be done during these hours in the cataloguing of the documents and dating and identifying the large collection of photographs and other smaller items, which are of considerable importance in the more recent history of the locality. The thanks of the Society are due to all concerned, and in particular to County Alderman Fern.

During the year our Society was represented at the Congress convened by the British Record Society, to which it is affiliated.

The year opened with the Annual General Meeting, together with the usual popular exhibition of lantern slides of the past year's outings, by Mr. F. W. Peters. This was followed by an extremely interesting and informative lecture on "Some Antiquities in Middlesex," by Sir Montagu Sharpe, K.C. In April, Mr. Edward Yates, F.S.A., gave a paper of unusual nature on "Ecclesiastical Ironwork," with some very beautiful slides. The May lecture was by a former member of this Society and one of its founder-members. Mr. W. Marston Acres returned to Barnet to give us a lecture on the "Story of the Bank of England." In October we were to have had the postponed lecture, by Mr. C. O. Banks, on "Finchley," but owing to Mr. Banks' continued ill health a lecture on "The Wall of London," by your Chairman, was substituted. November saw one of the most popular meetings of the year, when Mr. A. S. Mays gave an important paper on "Some Municipal Worthies of Barnet," recalling many well known figures in the town's more recent history. The year finished with a very interesting account by Mr. W. Watson-Baker of the hundred years' story of the firm of Watsons, Ltd., illustrated by many slides showing the varied branches of the manufacture of scientific instruments, for which the firm have acquired worldwide fame.

The summer outings commenced with a visit to, and perambulation of, Friern Barnet,

- Mr. J. J. Jiffin
- Mr. B. R. Deftwich
- Mr. J. M. Deftwich
- Mr. G. L. Deftwich
- Mr. B. R. Deftwich
- Mr. H. E. Neal
- Mr. W. M. Deftwich
- Mr. G. A. Spragg
- Mr. H. R. Byford
- Mr. G. Galby
- Mr. E. W. Brown
- Mr. W. R. Kea
- Mr. J. Marston Acres
- Mr. J. Marston Acres
- Mr. W. M. Deftwich
- Mr. J. A. Peters
- Mr. S. Kimber
- Mr. W. G. Kimber
- Mr. W. A. Garland
- Mr. J. M. Deftwich
- Mr. J. J. Jiffin
- Mr. present.