

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



VOL. 4

No. 3

1979

55-82

## SECRETARIAL NOTES

THE FOLLOWING Lectures and Visits were arranged during 1979:—

January 19th	Illustrated Lecture: "The History of Beer and Brewing", by R. J. Webber.
February 23rd	Illustrated Lecture: "Smaller Stuart and Georgian Houses", by K. W. E. Gravett, F.S.A.
April 20th	Lecture: "New Methods of Scientific Dating of Ancient Historic Events and Periods", by T. R. Moore.
May 19th	Visit to Kenilworth and Warwick castles. Leader: Derek Renn, F.S.A.
June 16th	Visit to Peterborough Cathedral, Fotheringay and Stamford. Leader: M. A. Snellgrove.
July 21st	Visit to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, Sussex. Leader: E. S. Barnwell.
August 2nd	Visit to Thorncroft Manor, by kind permission of Howard Humphreys & Partners.
September 22nd	Walk round Ewell village under the guidance of I. J. West.
October 6th	Walk round Ashted under the guidance of R. A. Lever.
October 10th	The Dallaway Public Lecture: "Historic Treasure Wrecks", by Peter Marsden, F.S.A., at the City of London Freeman's School, Ashted.
November 16th	Lecture on John Hassell's "Picturesque Ride Round Surrey. 1818", by James Batley.
December 7th	Leatherhead Historical Miscellany. Contributions by members.

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Number 2 of Volume 4 of the *Proceedings* was issued during the year.

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## THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Held at the Council Offices on 16th March 1979*

THE REPORT of the Executive Committee and the Accounts for the year 1978 were adopted and approved. Officers of the Society were elected. The Accounts for the year 1978 are printed on page iii of the cover.

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## OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1979

*President:* J. G. W. LEWARNE

*Vice-Presidents:* F. B. BENDER, F.S.A.,; D. F. RENN, F.S.A.

*Chairman:* S. E. D. FORTESCUE

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*Hon. Treasurer:* H. J. MEARS  
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*Asst. Hon. Treasurer:* J. R. BULL  
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*Hon. Editor:* F. B. BENDER, F.S.A.  
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*Committee Members:* R. A. LEVER, S. R. C. POULTER, MRS M. RICE-OXLEY  
(Co-opted) L. A. SMITH, M. A. SNELLGROVE

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## OCCASIONAL NOTES

### THE EARLY CHURCH AT ASHTEAD



My recent contribution on the parish church in *Ashtead: a village transformed*, ed. Alan A. Jackson (Leatherhead and District Local History Society, 1977, 116–30) includes a reconstructed plan showing early features on the north side destroyed during Victorian alterations. Apart from written descriptions and the block-plan published with Cracklow's etching of the church, the main source for these is a sketch of c. 1820 by W. Porden (Minet Library SP77/713) which is reproduced here by permission of the London Borough of Lambeth.

Though poor artistically, the drawing distinctly shows a small narrow window high up in the north wall of the nave towards the east end, and two rather longer ones in the north wall of the chancel with space for a third between. These clearly correspond with "an arch of a small window . . . turned with Roman tiles", and three lancets in the north wall of the Early English chancel, which are mentioned in Victorian accounts. It seems likely that the nave window was Norman and a relic of the original church dedicated in 1107–29, while the lancets presumably belonged to a chancel, added or rebuilt in the thirteenth century, whose south-east buttress still remains embedded in the east wall.

W. J. BLAIR

#### THE ORDNANCE SURVEY REGISTER OF ASHTEAD'S FIELDS FOR 1868

This note deals with a detailed list of every field, wood or parcel of land in Ashtead as compiled by the Ordnance Survey in 1868. Each item has a number, its acreage given to three places of decimals and the type of cultivation—no place names are given.

The title page of this booklet, available in the Map Room of the British Library, is as follows:—

ORDNANCE SURVEY OF ENGLAND. Book of Reference to the plan of the parish of Ashtead (Hundred of Copthorne) in the county of Surrey containing 2650·850 acres by Col. Sir Henry James, R.E., F.R.S., etc., Superintendent of the Survey.

As is made clear from the frontispiece, the register has to be used in conjunction with six sheets of the 25·344 inches to the mile map published in May 1868, the first edition at this scale.

The following selection from the total of the 313 items has been extracted so as to indicate the kind of information provided. In order to denote the localities, the names have been taken from the catalogue printed for the sale of Ashtead lands (formerly owned by Mrs. Mary Howard) in 1879. It will be noted that the latter gives the area in acres, roods and perches in contrast to the decimalised returns of the Ordnance Survey. (For easy comparison three roods equal 0·75 acres.)

1868			1879	
<i>No. on Plan</i>	<i>Area in acres</i>	<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Area in acres</i>	<i>Names of fields, etc.</i>
4	517·533	Rough pasture, etc.	—	Ashtead Common
20	6·129	Arable, etc.	6 0 24	Upper Tomletts } Marsh
22	4·812	Arable, etc.	4 3 10	Lower Tomletts }
40	17·573	Arable	17 2 12	Long Shaw Fld., Green Lane
108	25·292	Arable	25 1 7	North Field, Woodfield Lane
118	8·305	Arable	8 1 9	Front Fields
127	7·810	Pasture, etc.	7 3 10	Big Bridge Meadow, near railway station
129	13·877	Arable, etc.	13 3 20	Adjacent to 127
167	8·331	Arable	8 1 13	Lower Bury Field } Dene Road
170	11·787	Arable	11 3 6	Upper Bury Field }
202	137·243	Ornamental ground	137 0 39	Ashtead Park
299	18·043	Arable, etc.	18 0 7	Shepherds Walk, north of
304	56·781	Arable, etc.	56 3 5	Hundred Acres
306	31·676	Arable, etc.	31 2 28	West of 304
308	16·622	Wood	16 2 20	Addlestead Wood

Most wisely, the compilers of the 1879 sale catalogue used the same numbers for the plots as used eleven years earlier. Local historians will no doubt welcome this opportunity for rapid reference to the acreages of every parcel of land in the parish one hundred and ten years ago. The fields marked as arable have long since either been put down to grass or transformed into dwellings and gardens.

R. A. LEVER.

## MEDIAEVAL DEEDS OF THE LEATHERHEAD DISTRICT

By W. J. BLAIR

### PART II

[Properties of the d'Abernon family *continued*]

29 Richard atte Churt' of Dorkyng' parish to Henry le Fode of Ledred and Alice his wife. Grant (for a sum of money) of 1 ac. in the common field of Ledred in a place called la Greneden', between land of John Payn to the E. and land of the said Henry to the W.; the S. head extends on the fee of Torncrofte, and the N. head on land of John Lenedyman. To hold of the chief lords of that fee for due service. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses*: John Randolph', John Payn, Thomas Faukes, Gilbert le Hore, Geoffrey Pynchun, William Pistor, Elias de Cruce, and others. Ledred, Friday after Epiphany 34 Edward [I, 7 January 1306]. *Seal*: *Crescent moon and star*: +S' RICARDI ATE CH[UR]T. *Green wax*. [Add. Ch. 5582.]

30 Agreement by indenture, sealed interchangeably, between John de Abbernoun knight on one part, and Alice who was wife of Richard ate Chert on the other. John has granted and sold to Alice the custody of the lands and tenements which the said Richard held of John in Fecham and Leddrede, until the full age of William once son and heir of the said Richard. To hold at rent of 5 qr. barley at Michaelmas for all service. Gilbert le Hore and Adam Godale have pledged payment if Alice defaults. Warranty until the full age of William, with reversion to John if William dies under age. Alice, Gilbert and Adam have sealed John's part. *Witnesses*: John Randolph, John Payn, Thomas Faukes, John de Aperdele, William Pistor, William le Frek', Henry Monacus, and others. Sunday after Circumcision I Edward [II, 7 January 1308]. *Seals*: (i) (*vesica-shaped*) *Star*: [S'] ALICIE AT CH'T. *White wax*. (ii) *Lost*. [Add. Ch. 5570.]

31 Agreement by indenture, sealed interchangeably, between Sir John Dabernoun the elder on one part and William de Weston' on the other. John has demised to William the custody of John son and heir of Margaret daughter and heiress of John de Leddride, with his marriage; for which William will pay to Sir John 40 marks at Stoke Dabernoun, that is, 20 marks on Sunday on the quindene of Trinity next, 10 marks on Wednesday on the morrow of Martinmas after that, and 10 marks on the fifth anniversary of Trinity next or sooner if William realises the heir's marriage. If the heir rejects a suitable marriage offered him by William, or marries without William's licence, William will have custody of the lands and tenements until he has regained from them the value of the marriage, unless Sir John or his heirs return the 40 marks. If the heir dies under age, William will have custody of the heir's sister Beatrice with her marriage; for which William will pay to Sir John 10 marks at Stoke Dabernoun within fifteen days thence; for which payments William pledges himself and his executors in all his goods and chattels in Surrey. Warranty. Stoke Dabernoun, 11 May (Sunday in Pentecost) 19 Edward II [1326]. *Seal (oval)*: *Running horse (?)*: . . . DE .O.NICU . . . *Red wax*. [Add. Ch. 5590.]

32 John le Heyward of Leddrede to Agnes his daughter. Grant (indented) of a messuage with adjoining curtilage and the crop growing in it, in the vill of Leddred between a tenement which was John le Fuller's to the W. and a tenement of Richard Sweyn to the E., which I acquired from John atte Lote of Hethleghe; and 2 ac. with the crop growing in them in the common field of Leddrede at Rutherecruch, between demesne once Robert Darcy's to the W. and land of the clerks of Oxford to the E. To hold of the chief lords of that fee for due service, and at rent to me and Joan my wife of 6s at the four main terms in equal portions and 1 qr. 2 bus. barley at Michaelmas during our lives. Warranty. Sealing. Leddrede, Saturday before SS Philip and James 20 Edward III [29 April 1346]. *Witnesses*: John Randolph', Walter le Hore, Richard Merkwyk', Thomas Faukes, William atte Burge, Simon Payn, John de Wyppelegh, and many others. *Seal lost*. [Add. Ch. 5601.]

33 John son of Sir John de Albernu' knight to Sir William de Albernu'. Demise of the custody of the lands and tenements which Richard de Hameldon' once held of my said father Sir John in the vill and parish of Ledred, which custody my said father granted to me. To hold freely until the full age of Henry son and heir of the said Richard, without hindrance by me or any in my name. Sealing. Stoke Albernu', Sunday in quindene of Easter 21 Edward III [15 April 1347]. *Seal: Hare: +[A]LAS ROWELES. Red wax.* [Add. Ch. 5602.]

34 Agreement by indenture, sealed interchangeably, between John Seintlowe and Thomas Bodulgate on one part and Thomas Lederede esq. on the other. John and Thomas have demised to Thomas all the lands, tenements etc. which they had jointly by grant of the said Thomas Lederede in Lederede and Effyngham, and all their other lands and tenements in Surrey. To hold for life of the chief lords of that fee for due service. Remainder after Thomas Lederede's death to John Trevilyan, to hold of the chief lords of that fee for due service. Sealing. *Witnesses:* Ralph Wymbildon', John Repynden', Thomas Grafham, Thomas George, Lawrence Doune, Henry atte Feld', and many others. 8 December 24 Henry VI [1445]. *Seals (both red wax): (i) A shield charged with billety (or ermine?) a crossbow, (ii) (octagonal) A five-petalled flower.* [Add. Ch. 5619.]

### General

35 Henry III to John de Abernun and his heirs. Grant of free warren in his demesne lands in Stokes de Abernun, Fecchenham, Aldebiri and Hethleg, Surrey [and others elsewhere], provided that the lands are not within the King's forest. Westminster, 15 May 37 Henry III [1253]. [Charter roll, P.R.O. C53/45 m.3; Cf. *Cal. Charter R.* i, 434.]

36 Final concord, Westminster, morrow of Purification 14 Edward III [3 February 1340], between John Dabernoun plaintiff and Thomas de Pernecote and Thomas atte Doune defendants, concerning the manor of Dokesworth, Kent; the manors of Fecham, Aldebury and Stoke Dabernoun; 2 messuages, a carucate and 40s rent in Estwyk' and Lamhuth; the advowsons of the churches of the said manors in Surrey; and the advowson of the church of Teynton', Devon. John acknowledged the property as the right of Thomas atte Doune, who together with Thomas de Pernecote had it of John's gift. For this Thomas and Thomas conceded and delivered the property to John, to hold for life of the chief lords of that fee for due service. After John's death Aldebury is to remain to William son of John son of the said John, Margery daughter of John de Hampton' knight, and the heirs of the bodies of William and Margery, to hold as above; remainder in default of such heirs to the right heirs of William, to hold as above. The rest of the property is to remain to William and the heirs of his body, to hold as above; remainder in default of such heirs to his right heirs, to hold as above. [Foot; P.R.O. CP25(i)/287/40(268).]

37 Agreement by indenture, sealed interchangeably, between Thomas earl of Arundel and Surrey on one part, and William Croyser esq. of Surrey on the other. William is bound to Thomas in £500, as a bond testifies. The bond will be void if William obeys Thomas for seven years hence touching all lands and tenements formerly Sir Andrew Peverell's, and touching the matter now at issue between the said William and John Hende citizen and draper of London. 7 December 14 Henry IV [1412]. [*In French.*] *Seal (oval, fine but fragmentary): Shield charged with quarterly 1 and 4 a lion rampant, 2 and 3 chequy, crest a demi-eagle displayed with coronet, helmet and mantling. Red wax.* [Add. Ch. 5615.]

38 Henry V to the escheator of Surrey. Order to remove the King's hand and to meddle no further with the manors and advowsons of Stoke Daberoun, Aldebery and Feccham, delivering to Edith wife of William Croser esq. any issues taken therefrom; as the King has learnt by inquisition, taken by the escheator, that at his death William Croser held the same as jointly enfeoffed with her, the first by gift of William Norton and William Amondyscham clerks, the second by gift of John Melton clerk and others, and the third by gift of

John Bremmesgrave clerk and others to them and the heirs of their bodies, and that none are held of the King. Westminster, 20 May 4 Henry V [1416]. [Close roll, P.R.O. C54/266 m.20; Cf. *Cal. Close R. 1413-19*, 309.]

**39** Henry V to Richard Beauchamp of Bergevenny, knight, and Isabel his wife. Commitment (by mainprise of Richard Whityngton of London and Thomas Gower of Warwickshire) of the keeping of the manors of Stoke Daberon, Feccham and Aldebury (except  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the manor of Feccham), which have been taken into the King's hand by the death of Edith (late wife of William Croyser esq.) who held of the King in chief, and because of the minority of Anne daughter and heiress of the said William and Edith. To hold from Edith's death to the quindene of Easter next; they shall answer in the exchequer for the issues therefrom in the meantime and forthcoming, if they shall be adjudged to the King. Westminster, 24 February 6 Henry V [1419]. [Fine roll, P.R.O. C60/225 m.3; Cf. *Cal. Fine R. xiv*, 270-1.]

**40** Final concord, Westminster, quindene of Easter 14 Henry VI [22 April 1436], between Nicholas Dixson' clerk and William Hattecluf chaplain plaintiffs, and Henry Norbury knight and Anne his wife defendants, concerning the manors of Stoke Dauburn', Feccham, Aldebury, Wyldewod and Estwyk, Surrey, and Kexsworth, Kent. Henry and Anne acknowledged the property as Nicholas's right, because Nicholas and William had it of their gift, and quitclaimed. Warranty. For this Nicholas and William gave Henry and Anne 300 marks. [Foot; P.R.O. CP25(i)/292/68(184).]

**41** Nicholas Dixson' clerk and William Hattecluf chaplain to Henry Norbury knight and Ann his wife. Demise of our manors of Stoke Dauburn', Feccham, Aldebury, Wyldewode and Estwyk, Surrey. To hold to them and the legitimate heirs of their bodies of the chief lords of those fees for due service, with remainder to the right heirs of Anne. Sealing. *Witnesses*: John Feryby esq., William Otteworth, Richard Combe, Thomas Stoghton', Ralph Amondesham, and others. 15 July 17 Henry VI [1439]. *Signed* Froddesham. *Seals (both red wax)*: (i) *Fish and clover-leaf*. (ii) *Pelican in her piety*. [Add. Ch. 5618.]

#### Unknown

**42** John de Abernun to Gilbert Pistor. Grant, for service, of  $\frac{1}{4}$  virgate with a message which he had by grant of Walter de Abernun. To hold of me and my heirs for the rent and service specified in Walter's charter of the said grant. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses*: Peter parson of Fecham, Adam Dryw, Richard Aufray, William Monachus, Henry Monachus, Robert Cissor, Henry de Ponte, John the chaplain, and others. *Seal (fragmentary)*: *Animal or bird*. *White wax*. [c. 1250-60?] [Add. Ch. 5542.]

### PROPERTIES OF THE MONK FAMILY IN FETCHAM

#### INTRODUCTION

This small group of deeds, now deposited in the County Record Office, was found among papers relating to the Shortrudge Charities formerly kept in Leatherhead parish church. They follow appropriately the first part of this series in so far as they concern the Fetcham freeholding family of Monk ('Monachus' or 'le Moyne'), whose transactions with the d'Abernun family in Leatherhead parish have already been noted (Nos. 16-18).

The abstracts are printed by permission of the vicar and churchwardens of Leatherhead and the County Archivist.

#### TEXTS

**43** Walter de Abernu' to Henry Monacus. Grant (for homage and service) of that message with a croft which was William Stonyung's in the vill of Feccham; and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ac. in the W. part of my land called Uest longe londe; and that assart (*illud assartum*) which lies between the pasture and the croft of the parson of Feccham called Clerekescroft, with that croft called



Sepecroft. To hold at rent of 2s at Michaelmas, Christmas, the Annunciation and the Feast of St John Baptist in equal portions, for all service saving the King's pertaining to such free land of that fee and vill. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses*: Peter parson of Feccham, Adam Dryu, John de Apeldorle, William Monacus, Walter Warner, Gilbert Pistor, Henry de Ponte, William de Bures, Walter de la Frelonde, and many others. *Seal: Fragmentary and effaced. White wax.* [c. 1230–50.] [S.R.O. 65/1/1.]

44 Adam le Glos to Henry Monacus. Grant (for 11s 6d, homage and service) of 1 ac. in Feccham parish at Braddune, adjoining to the W. land which I sold to Geoffrey Cocus. To hold at rent of 2d on the vigil of St Andrew, for all service saving the King's pertaining to such land of that fee and vill. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses*: Sir Walter de Abern', Adam Dryu, John de Apelderele, William de Losle, William de Slifeld', Walter Warner, Walter de la Frielonde, Asketil de la Suire, Henry de Ponte, Gilbert Pistor, Geoffrey Cocus, William de Bures, and others. *Seal: Fleur-de-lis: +SIGIL' ADE LE GLOVS. Green wax.* [c. 1230–50.] [S.R.O. 65/1/2.]

45 Adam le Glos to Henry Monachus. [*Duplicate of 44; seal from same matrix.*] [S.R.O. 65/1/3.]

46 Walter son of Adam le Glos to Henry Monachus. Grant (for 10s) of 1 ac. on Braddun' between my land and an acre which my father Adam sold to the said Henry; that is, of that land which William le Hukiere held of my father at farm. To hold at rent of 2d on the vigil of St Andrew, for all service saving the King's pertaining to such land of that fee and vill. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses*: Sir Walter de Abern', Peter parson of Feccham, Adam Driu, William de Bures, Walter Warner, Walter de la Frielonde, Gilbert Pistor, Henry de Ponte, William the chaplain, and others. *Seal: Fleur-de-lis: +SIGIL' WALTERI LI GLOS. Green wax.* [c. 1230–50.] [S.R.O. 65/1/4.]

47 Walter son of Adam le Glos to Henry Monachus. Grant (for 11s, homage and service) of 1½ ac. of my land in Feccham parish on Braddun', that is, that which lies in the E. part of all his land. To hold at rent of 10½d (3d at Michaelmas, 2½d at Christmas, 2½d at Easter and 2½d at the Feast of St John Baptist), for all service saving the King's pertaining to such free land of that fee and vill. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses*: Sir Walter de Abernun, Peter parson of Feccham, Adam Dryu, Walter Varner, Walter de la Frilond', Gilbert Pistor, Henry de Ponte, Geoffrey Cocus, Robert Cissor, Hugh Bacun, Henry the clerk, and many others. *Seal lost.* [c. 1230–50.] [S.R.O. 65/1/5.]

48 Adam le Yunge of Ewelle, son of Philip le Yunge of the same, to Henry le Moyne of Feccham and Alice his wife. Release of 12d rent which they owed me for a parcel of land on Braddone in the vill of Feccham. Sealing. *Witnesses*: William de Sliffelde, Thomas de la Hale, Walter le Hore, Thomas Fauceys, Gilbert le Hore, and William le Bakere. Feccham, Monday after the Annunciation 29 Edward [1, 27 March 1301]. *Seal: Eight-pointed device; legend illegible. White wax.* [S.R.O. 65/1/6.]

49 Henry le Mounck' of Feccham to Stephen Kole of Bocham Magna. Release of 1½d rent which he owed me for his land called Fraunkemersh', lying lengthwise adjoining my land at la Penne. Sealing. Leddrede, Friday after Hilary 20 Edward II [17 January 1327]. *Witnesses*: John de Aperdele, William de la Knolle, John Faukes, Richard Golyf, Gilbert le Glover of Leddrede, Thomas le Wite, Peter atte Felde, Richard Haket', and many others. *Seal lost.* [S.R.O. 65/1/8.]

50 Henry Monacus of Feccham parish to John ate Lynde of Parva Bocham. Grant of my curtilage called Beneyteshagh', between my curtilage and a tenement once John le Leche's as hedges enclose it on all sides. To hold at rent of ½d at Michaelmas for all service. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses*: John Faukes, Gilbert le Hore, Richard Jolif, Robert le Freke, John ate Hale, William le Frye, Richard Everard, and others. *Seal lost.* [c. 1310–30.] [S.R.O. 65/1/7.]

- 51** John son and heir of John le Freke of Coveham parish to John son of Richard ate Lynde of Parva Bocham. Grant of all my curtilage which I inherited from my father in Feccham parish, between a curtilage of Henry Monachus to the E. and a tenement once John le Leche's to the W. To hold of the chief lord of that fee for due service. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses:* John de Aperdele, Gilbert le Hore, John Faukes, Richard Jolif, Henry le Monk', John ate Hale, and others. Feccham, Sunday after St Lucy 3 Edward [III?], 16 December 1330?. *Seal lost.* [S.R.O. 65/1/9.]
- 52** John ate Halvehede of Feccham to John ate Lynde of Parva Bocham. Release of a messuage with a curtilage in Feccham which the said John acquired from Henry le Mounk', between my tenement and a curtilage once John le Freke's. Reserving to myself  $\frac{1}{2}$ d rent at Michaelmas for all service. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses:* John Randolff, Roger de Aperdele, John Borgeys, Robert le Freke, Henry Waleys, Richard Jolyff, John de Toune clerk, and others. Feccham, Monday after Purification 14 Edward III [7 February 1340]. *Seal lost.* [S.R.O. 65/1/10.]
- 53** John atte Roughbarne chaplain and Henry atte le Freke to Thomas le Frye and Joan his wife. Grant of all lands, tenements etc. which we have by grant of the said Thomas in the villis of Magna Bocham and Leddrede, as appears in a charter. To hold to them and the legitimate heirs of their bodies of the chief lords of that fee for due service, with reversion to the right heirs of Thomas in default of legitimate issue. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses:* Nicholas Slyfeld, Gilbert Cartere, John Freke, John de Hoo, Henry atte Hale, and others. Bocham Magna, Sunday on the Beheading of St John Baptist 35 Edward III [29 August 1361]. *Two seals lost.* [S.R.O. 65/1/15.]
- 54** Richard Munke of Feccham to George Munke his brother and George Taylour of Feccham. Grant of all my lands, tenements etc. in the villis and parishes of Feccham and Leddrede. To hold of the chief lords of that fee for due service. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses:* John Bowett esq., John Hayward the elder, Thomas Barde, Henry Freke, Henry Bonet, and many others. Feccham, 9 December 8 Henry VI [1429]. *Seal: Crowned letter I between ears of corn. Red wax.* [S.R.O. 65/1/12.]
- 55** George Monke to Henry Monke son of Richard Monke. Demise of all lands, tenements etc. in the villis and parishes of Feccham and Lederede which I once held jointly with George Taylour deceased by grant of the said Richard. To hold of the chief lords of that fee for due service. Sealing. *Witnesses:* Thomas Slyfeld' esq., Gilbert Kyckeley, Henry Freke, Richard Depull', and many others. Feccham, 3 November 28 Henry VI [1449]. *Seal: Profile head of a man flanked by flowers above a small crouched animal: legend fragmentary and unintelligible. Red wax.* [S.R.O. 65/1/13.]
- 56** George Monke to his beloved in Christ Henry Rinnir. Power of attorney to put Henry Monke in seisin of the lands, tenements etc. which I once held jointly with George Taylour deceased, by grant of Richard Monke, in the parishes of Feccham and Leddrede, according to a charter made for the said Henry Monke. Sealing. 3 November 28 Henry VI [1449]. *Seal: From same matrix as 55. Red wax.* [S.R.O. 65/1/14.]
- 57** Richard Monke of Coveham the elder to Ralph Norbery, John Prowd clerk, John Stokys gent., William Ford' of Kyngeston' super Thams', John Groffham, Thomas a Dene, William Puzy, John a More of Bokeham, and Henry Monke the grantor's son. Grant of a messuage and 40 ac. arable, meadow and pasture in Feccham, which I inherited from Henry Monke my father. To hold to them, and to the heirs of my said son Henry, of the chief lords of that fee for due service. Warranty. Sealing. *Witnesses:* Robert Croftys, John Lysteney, Henry Blunden', William Gryffyn, Henry Felder of Canon', and many others. Feccham, 14 June 3 Henry VII [1488]. *Seal lost.* [S.R.O. 65/1/11.]

# THE SMITHS OF ASHTEAD

Capt. John Smith  
of Peckham d.1714

Capt. Nathaniel Smith = Anne Gould  
of St.Giles Cripplegate d. of James Gould  
d.1730 of Hackney

Capt. Nathaniel Smith, MP. = Hester Dance  
1730 - 1794 1764 1742 - 1813

1765 1768 1769 1772 Ann Elizabeth Frances Diana  
Nathaniel Caroline George = Sara Hardman Hester 1774 - 1838 1776 - 1838 1780 - 1866  
d. infans. Chief Justice d. 1859 d. infans  
Mauritius  
d.1823

Nathaniel = Eliza Auchmuty George, R.N. Felix Vaughan = Charlotte Eliza Hester = Edmond Lomax Sarah = Robert Campbell Scarlett  
1796 - 1851 1793 - 1883 1798 d.1879 1830 d. of Sir Hugh Massey 1803 - 1878 2nd Lord Abinger  
d. of John Auchmuty  
Judge in Bengal

Elizabeth Mary Ann m. (1) 1841 Major Charles J. F. Denshire Nathaniel Maud Anna Fanny George Hester Mary Anne Henrietta William Fanny James  
1818 - 1900 (2) 1859 Rev. William Denshire 1820 - 1842 1822 - 1868 the children of his first marriage with Emma De Chair  
1846 - 1939 b.1847 m. Bailey b.1850 m. Wilde b.1852 b.1853 William B. Henrietta Charles H.

## HISTORY OF ASHTEAD HOUSE, ASHTEAD, SURREY

By G. J. GOLLIN and H. W. WOLLASTON



ASHTEAD HOUSE

AS you cross from the east lodge of Ashtead Park to Pleasure Pit Road there is on your left a roughly oblong plot of land, part of which is Marsden's Garden Centre and part of which is the house and grounds of Ashtead House. Until the changes made following World War II 1939-1945 the plot remained unchanged for 300 years.

On John Lawrence's map of Ashtead 1638 the plot was the same as it now is, namely, to the north of Pleasure Pit Road and to the east of Farm Lane (to give these roads their modern names). However, the plot was then shown as sub-divided into two, the eastern sub-division being shown as belonging to Michael Richbell and consisting of approximately 5 acres and the western sub-division being shown as belonging to Elizabeth Matthews and consisting of approximately 3 acres. A house is shown in each sub-division, that in the western sub-division being on or near Ashtead House.

Although there is no evidence as to the history of Ashtead House in the seventeenth century, it is likely that these sub-divisions were combined in that century. It is interesting that down to the end of the last century most of the eastern sub-division continued to be used as a field.

It would seem from the architectural evidence of Ashtead House, as it now exists, that there might be incorporated in the largely Georgian house an earlier house. This earlier house could have been built at the end of the 17th century, at about the time when the second Ashtead manor house (that of Sir Robert Howard), Newstead house on the opposite side of Farm Lane to Ashtead House, since destroyed, and (presumably) Park Farm house were all built. The original design of Ashtead House and Park Farm house seem to have been similar. In each case the plan of the building may be described as half H. The

original front door of Ashtead House seems to have been where the inner front door of No. 2 Ashtead House now is. Access to this door was presumably from Farm Lane between the S bend and the west end of Pleasure Pit Road.

Ashtead House does not figure in the Ashtead Hearth Tax records of 1664 which confirms its construction after that date. It is not known if the western of the two houses shown on the Lawrence map was incorporated in the later Ashtead House.

The hypothesis that there was a small timber framed house incorporated in a larger house may be supported by the appearance of the ceiling beams in the main bedroom of No. 2 Ashtead House which is to the north of the staircase. The central beam meets a cross beam at about two-thirds of the length of the room. It is possible that the cross beam represents the original position of the north-west wall. However, as the entire room is panelled in early eighteenth century style, this suggests that the length of the room must have been extended before the panelling was installed. Since it is improbable that the beam would have been placed in its present site had the room been originally built to its present dimensions, the architectural evidence may suggest that the original room finished at the cross beam, that the room was enlarged in the late 17th century and that the enlarged room was panelled at the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Assuming that the core of Ashtead House was built in the late 17th century, there were many alterations to the exterior and interior during the next century. It is easier to define the alterations than to estimate when they were done or by whom. The rooms facing south-westwards were extended in that direction. Later, towards the end of the eighteenth century, a bay front was added to the south-western facade and, possibly, at the same time, a parapet added to the roof. The height of the house and of the main rooms was raised and evidence of this can be seen in No. 2 Ashtead House.

A splendid Georgian main staircase was installed in No. 1 Ashtead House and the front door was situated on the north-east or south-east side of the house with access to Pleasure Pit Road.

Although there is no evidence as to when these alterations were made, a date about 1740 seems probable. This would fit with the Royal Exchange fire mark near the present front door of No. 1 Ashtead House, which has a policy number from which it can be established that Ashtead House was considered sufficiently important to be insured in 1746.

From this account, there would seem to have been three main periods of activity in connection with the building of Ashtead House up to the end of the 18th century. The period (perhaps *circa* 1680) when the house was first extended, the period *circa* 1740 when the Georgian extensions were first made, and the period *circa* 1780 when the bay front was added to the south-west of the house.

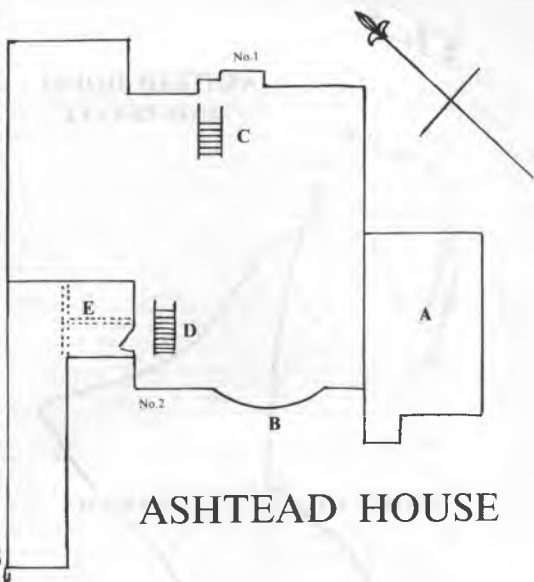
In considering the history of Ashtead House during the eighteenth century a distinction has to be drawn between the ownership and occupation of it. The ownership seems to have passed from hand to hand. Property was a form of investment; indeed at that time the safest and most common investment. On the other hand, Ashtead House was occupied from about 1765 to World War II by Captain Nathaniel Smith, M.P., and his descendants.

The ownership of Ashtead House has to be gleaned from stray references. Francis Beckford, who inherited Newstead House, Ashtead, opposite Ashtead House but on the other side of Farm Lane (where Brockhurst Gardens are now), on the death in 1763 of Dorothy, widow of his cousin Thomas Beckford (who died in 1757), stated in a codicil to his will dated 1767 that he had "lately let the mansion house at Ashtead to Mr. Smyth and also good furniture there at a rent of £80 p.a." This statement fits the fact that Captain Nathaniel Smith married Hester Dance in 1764 and may have wanted a country residence. Certainly the codicil seems to make it clear that Francis Beckford owned Ashtead House in 1767. Since Thomas Beckford, 1685-1757, was installed at Newstead House in 1708,<sup>1</sup>

# ASHTEAD HOUSE AND ESTATE



Farm Lane



## ASHTEAD HOUSE

- A 19th c. Ballroom.
- B 18th c Bow Front.
- C Main Stair.
- D Secondary Stair
- E ? 17th c. Frame.

it is possible that he, rather than Francis Beckford, bought Ashtead House, in which case he may have modernised it.

Francis Beckford was succeeded by his two sons, Thomas who died in 1781 and Francis who died in 1788. When Francis Beckford died in 1788 it would seem that his properties in Ashtead were sold. Those on the west side of Farm Lane, in particular Newstead House, were bought by Richard Howard (né Bagot) of Ashtead Park. He demolished Newstead House which had been built about 1680, and he lived in what is now the Headmaster's House of the City of London Freeman's School, which was then allegedly the laundry of Newstead House, while his own house, the second manor house of Ashtead Park, was being demolished and the present third Ashtead Park House was being built on the same site.

There may have been some friction between the Beckfords and the Howards since in 1731 Mr. Beckford built a wall 133 yards and 1 foot long between his house and Ashtead Manor.<sup>2</sup>



ASHTEAD HOUSE

Interior view, showing timbering in ceiling possibly from an earlier structure

*Photograph by His Hon. Judge G. F. Leslie*

In the latter part of the 18th century Ashtead House was the property of General Richard Burton Phillipson, M.P. for Eye in Suffolk, who lived in Spring Gardens, Whitehall, Westminster. He was born c. 1723 Richard Burton, son of William Burton and Grace Phillipson of Herringwell, Suffolk. In 1766 he added his mother's maiden name. General Phillipson was also Colonel of the 3rd Dragoon Guards and A.D.C. to George III. In the Land Tax of 1780 he is quoted as the proprietor of Ashtead House and Capt. Nathaniel Smith as the occupier.<sup>3</sup> In the Land Tax Assessment for 1798 Col. Phillipson is again given as the proprietor and Mrs. Smith as the occupier of Ashtead House assessed at £5.<sup>4</sup>



General Phillipson died in London in 1792, leaving all his property to his niece Susannah, daughter of his brother Rev. Burton Phillipson.<sup>5</sup> In 1796 she married the Rev. Charles Wright of Peterborough. In 1812 or 1813 Mr. Hake, Susannah's second husband, sold Ashtead House to Hester Smith, the occupant, who had been a widow since Captain Nathaniel Smith's death in 1794. Thereafter, the ownership and occupation of Ashtead House were merged. This account of the ownership of Ashtead House confirms that it was freehold and at no time the property of Ashtead Manor or the Howards.

Both the traditions of the Smith family and Rev. F. E. Paget in "Ashtead Park and its Howard Possessors" maintain that Frederick Lord North (later the second Earl of Guildford) lived at Ashtead House. When, and in what capacity, is not clear. Paget refers to "the mansion occupied by General Phillipson (afterwards inhabited by Lord North)." However, Lord North died in 1792, the same year as General Phillipson. It is unlikely that Lord North lived at Ashtead House after 1767, when it was let by Francis Beckford to Captain Nathaniel Smith or before 1754 when Lord North, at the age of 22 was elected M.P. for Banbury on the completion of his continental grand tour. He might have rented Ashtead House for a period in 1755 after his father's house, the Durdans at Epsom was burnt down. The Smith family tradition suggests that "Captain Nathaniel Smith bought [the lease of] Ashtead House, which had been the residence of Lord North, the Minister". Some support for this tradition may lie in the entry in the Ashtead Parish Registers which records the burial in 1766 of "Sarah Godwin, servant to the Hon. The Lord North".

Captain Nathaniel Smith was the posthumous son of Captain Nathaniel Smith and his wife Ann née Gould. He was baptised on 14th June 1731 at St. Giles, Cripplegate. His grandfather was Capt. John Smith of Peckham who died in 1714 and was buried in St Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey. The family claimed descent from the Smiths of Exeter.<sup>6</sup> Nathaniel Smith entered the service of the East India Company and at the age of 29 was appointed Captain of the East Indiaman *Clinton*. Later he was captain of the *Lord Camden*. These vessels were armed merchantmen. After making six voyages to India he retired in 1771. He was director of the East India Company for periods between 1766 and 1794, becoming Deputy Chairman and then Chairman for three terms. In the interests of the East India Company he became in 1783 M.P. for Pontefract and from 1789 to his death M.P. for Rochester.

Nathaniel Smith's town house was in Bloomsbury Square. He married Hester Dance<sup>7</sup> in St. George's, Bloomsbury and all his seven children were baptised there.<sup>8</sup> No doubt his work for the East India Company and his parliamentary duties compelled him to spend much of his time in London. However, he and the Dance family had many gifted artistic and literary friends who frequented Ashtead House. Among these was the poet Samuel Rogers, the friend of Byron and Shelley.

Captain Nathaniel Smith died in London in 1794. Some five years previously, he had purchased from John Durand some 10 acres of land adjacent to the estate of Ashtead House, situated over the parish boundary in Epsom. On his death these fields became the property of his son George. Mrs. Nathaniel Smith, his widow, continued to live in Ashtead House until her death in 1813. She acquired the ownership of Ashtead House in 1812 or 1813.<sup>9</sup> After she died, her three daughters Ann, Elizabeth and Frances Diana, all spinsters, continued to live there until Ann and Elizabeth died in 1838 when Frances Diana went to live in London in Chester Square.<sup>10</sup>

These three unmarried ladies seem to have lived together at Ashtead House happily and in amity. They were known to their family and friends as Nancy (Ann), Betsy (Elizabeth) and Fanny (Frances Diana). Perhaps this amity was due to the fact that they had enough money to afford to live comfortably in the large house with servants and that two of the sisters (Nancy and Fanny) willingly deferred to the decisions made by the third sister (Betsy). This consensus was made easier by the fact that Nancy was weak intellectually and not a determined character.



MRS. HESTER SMITH, AGE 27  
by her brother, Nathaniel Dance

*Reproduced by permission of the owner and the Iveagh Bequest*

The fact that they did not marry was not due to lack of suitors but to the opposition of their mother. She must have been a determined and dictatorial character. Nancy had a romance with a naval officer. Betsy was loved by an Anglo-Indian ward of Captain Nathaniel Smith called George Mostyn. He lived with the family at Ashtead House which shows that they did not practice racial discrimination. But marriage was presumably a different matter and the opposition of Hester Smith insurmountable. When George Mostyn died, he left £30,000 to Betsy and legacies to Nancy and Fanny. He was buried in St. Giles, Ashtead, so that in death as in life he could be near his guardian to whom he owed so much. Fanny had a romance with a Dance cousin, but this too ended without marriage. Not even the name Dance was sufficient to overcome Hester's opposition.

Nathaniel Smith, Capt. Nathaniel Smith's grandson, was born in 1796 and went to India as a Writer in the Indian Civil Service at the age of 18. He served in India for 28 years as Asst. magistrate, magistrate and judge. In 1816 he married Eliza Auchmuty, daughter of John Auchmuty, Judge in Bengal. They had two children in Bengal, Elizabeth Mary Ann in 1818 and Nathaniel in 1820. During his service in India, Nathaniel had only one spell of leave in 1834–1837. He retired in January 1842 and lived at Ashtead House until his death in 1851. In the census of 1841 there is no mention of Ashtead House which may have been empty between the departure in 1838 of Miss Fanny Smith to live in London and the return of her nephew Nathaniel from India. After his death, his widow Eliza lived in Ashtead House until her death in 1883 when the house became the property of her daughter Mrs. Denshire.

George Smith, 1769–1823, the son of Captain Nathaniel Smith and Hester, adopted the law as a profession. He went to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1791 and M.A. in 1794. He was called to the Bar in November 1794. In 1795 he contracted a most romantic but disastrous marriage. As he was driving along the Cambridge road he met a postchaise in which sat a very beautiful girl. He followed the chaise and when it stopped met the beautiful girl, Sarah Hardman of Manchester, and shortly afterwards married her.<sup>11</sup> Unfortunately Sarah's family did not come from the same stratum of society and the marriage was not acceptable to Hester, George's mother. George and Sarah had five children—the youngest child Sarah, who became the second Lady Abinger, was born in Dublin in 1803. Shortly after this, Sarah eloped with Roger O'Connor. George took his children to Ashtead House where they were brought up by his mother and sisters.

After the British took Mauritius from the French in 1810, George Smith was sent there in 1813 to report on the judicial situation. In 1813 he became Chief Justice. Soon the government of the island got into financial difficulties. The Accountant General was sent home under arrest. George Smith, who was heavily in debt, may have been implicated. However, he died in 1823, having never returned to his family in England.<sup>12</sup>

At some time in the first half of the nineteenth century a ball room was added to the south-east side of the house. Tradition says that the ballroom was added to hold a dance to celebrate the visit of George IV to Ashtead. However there is no evidence to corroborate this tradition and, on the face of it, the story appears unlikely. The ballroom must have been built in connection with an event of some importance. One such event could have been the wedding of Sarah Smith (subsequently the second Lady Abinger) in 1824. Other events could have been the coming of age of Nathaniel or the wedding of his sister Elizabeth in 1841 (but both these events seem later than the architecture of the ballroom warrants).

A year before her brother died in the West Indies, Elizabeth Mary Ann Smith married in 1841 Major Charles James Frederick Denshire. He died in 1856, leaving no children. On June 30th 1859 the widow married again, this time the cousin of her first husband, the Rev. William Charles Denshire of Boston, Lincolnshire. By his first wife he had eight children. It would seem that he was a gentleman of means since on the certificate of his first marriage in 1845 to Emma de Chair, he describes his "rank or profession" as "idler".

After the death of her step mother in 1883, Miss Emma Denshire inherited Ashtead House. She died there, aged 92, in 1939. She left the house to her companion Mrs. Mabel Florence Gertrude Wingfield. Shortly after, for the duration of the war, Ashtead House was occupied by Canadian Troops.

After the war the house was bought by a property developer, Cedric May, who installed gas and electricity, and divided the house into three separate freeholds, one of them being made out of the former kitchen. Since then various changes have taken place and the present owners are Lord and Lady Hayter and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wollaston.

### Acknowledgements

1. To the Leatherhead & District Local History Society for permission to use the late A. W. G. Lowther's notes on the Beckford and Smith families.
2. To Hazel Fraser-Mackenzie, Hester Smith, and Ruth Bray for permission to use accounts of the Smith family.
3. To Lord Hayter for the photograph of Ashtead House.
4. To the owner of the portrait of Mrs. Hester Smith (private collection) and the Trustees of the Iveagh bequest for permission to reproduce it.
5. To Mr. Michael May for the plan of the Ashtead House estate.
6. To His Hon. Judge G. F. Leslie for the photograph of the interior of Ashtead House.
7. To Miss J. M. Harding, F.S.A., Mr. R. W. McDowall, F.S.A., and Mr. F. B. Bengier, F.S.A., for examining Ashtead House and advising on its architectural features.

### NOTES

1. *Proceedings of Leatherhead & District Local History Society*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (1977), page 25, From Ashtead Manor Account Book August 1708: "5/- paid for gathering black cherries against Mr. Beckford's house". R. A. Lever.
2. S.R.O. 203/16/1-8.
3. S.R.O.—QS 6/7.
4. P.R.O.—I.R.23 Vol. 87, p. 832.
5. *Gentleman's Magazine* Vol. LXVI, Pt. 2 (1792), Obituary Lt.-Gen. Phillipson. His Will was proved in 1798.
6. "The Smiths of Exeter and their Descendants", Arthur M. Smith, 1896.
7. Portrait of Mrs. Hester Smith, age 27, by her brother Nathaniel Dance.
8. G.L.C.—P.82/Geo/t5.
9. Nathaniel Dance left his sister Hester Smith £10,000 in his Will 1811. (Catalogue of paintings by Nathaniel Dance—Iveagh Bequest 1977.)
10. See Pedigree of the Smith Family.
11. Boyd's Marriage Index, Soc. Genealogists.
12. *History of Mauritius—August Toussaint*, trans. W. E. F. Ward.

## THE 1785 LAND TAX SCHEDULE FOR ASHTEAD

(Abstracted from the records of the Clerk of the Peace for Surrey held in Surrey Record Office,  
S.R.O. QS 6/7, by permission of the County Archivist)

**A**N ASSESSMENT made in pursuance of an Act of Parliament passed in the 25th year of the Reign of his present Majesty, for granting an Aid to his Majesty by a Land Tax to be raised in Great Britain for the service of the Year 1785.

County of Surrey

Page 1 Parish of Ashtead

<i>Names of Proprietors</i>	<i>Houses, Lands, etc.</i>	<i>Name of Occupier</i>	<i>Rent</i>	<i>Tax</i>
Sir Michael				
Le Fleming, Bart.	House & land	Himself	220	44
	Dukes Hall	empty	—	—
	House & land	Wm. Craddock	40	18
	House & land	Jno. Johnson Senr.	60	12
	House & land	Wm. Weston	55	11
	House & land	Wm. Thornton senr.	34	6 - 16
	House & land	Robert Waters	47	9 - 8
	land	Nat. Smith Esq.	14	2 - 16
	House	Ann Scriven	5	1
	land	Alex. Popham Esq.	10	2
	**	Mr. Drinkwater	30	6
	House	Cooper Hanson	4	- 16
	House	Do. late Crouchs	3	- 12
	land	Mrs. Stoke	3	- 12
				£105

Page 2

Wm. Stone	House etc.	George Dore	2	- 8
	House etc.	George Hogtrough	1	- 4
	House etc.	Geo. Thornton	1	- 4
	House etc.	Mrs. Brown	1	- 4
Frances Mellersh	House	James Bloss	2	- 8
Mrs. Constable	House	Francis Mellersh	3	- 12
	House	Charles Booker	1	- 4
	House	James Edmunds	4	- 16
	House	Mrs. Syms	2	- 8
	House	Thos. Ockenden	1	- 4
	House	Thos. Page	1	- 4
	House	Thos. Cook	1	- 4
	House	Wm. Pinnion	4	- 16
Mrs. Constable	House	Widow Chilman	2	- 8
Henry Saker	House	himself	10	1 - 12
Col. Phillipson	House etc.	Nath. Smith Esq	24	4 - 16
				11 - 12

## Page 3.

<i>Names of Proprietors</i>	<i>Houses, Lands, etc.</i>	<i>Name of Occupier</i>	<i>Rent</i>	<i>Tax</i>
Charles Whaley	House etc.	Alex Popham Esq.	12	2 - 8
	land	Pierce	3	- 12
	land	Wm. Craddock	1	- 4
Wm. Finch	House	Himself	6	1 - 4
	land	John Chitty	4	- 16
	House	Robt. Cook	2	- 8
	House	Richard Pollard	2	- 8
Rbt. Jermyn	House	Himself	1	- 4
Wm. Pitt	House	Himself	2	- 8
Levi Legg	House & land	Wm. Weston	15	3 - 0
Wm. Pinnion	land	himself	3	- 12
	House	Jno. Reason	1	- 4
	House	Rich. Thornton	1	- 4
Mrs. Harvey	House etc.	Wm. Pinnion	4	- 16
James Reynold	House	Himself	7	1 - 8
Rich. Puttock	House	Jno. Craddock	2	- 8
				13 - 4

## Page 4

Jas. Keeling	House & land	Henry Cain	13	2 - 12
Tho. Denton	land	Henry Cain	2	- 8
Rev. Wm. Carter	land	Henry Cain	6	1 - 4
Jas. Reynolds	land	Henry Cain	2	- 8
Rob. Waters	land	Henry Cain	2	- 8
Mrs. Syms	land	Henry Cain	6	1 - 4
Robert Waters	land	himself	6	1 - 4
Mrs. Syms	House & land	"himself"	9	1 - 16
Rob. Waters	House	Rich. Puttock	3	- 12
	House	Chas. Longhurst	1	- 4
	House	Wm. Chitty	2	- 8
Mrs. Chitty	land	Herself	3	- 12
Francis Beckford Esq.	House	Thos. Mainwaring	20	4 - 8
	House & land	Wm. King	25	5
	land	Henry Saker	15	3
	House	Thos. Davey	3	- 12
				Total £24

## Page 5

Thos. Tyers	House	Himself	10	2 - 0 - 0
John Bulcock	House	himself	15	3 - 0 - 0
Do.	Land	Wm. King	5	1 - 0 - 0
Mrs. Lucas	House & land	Jno. Otway	12	2 - 8
Charles Edwin	Land	Wm. Thornton snr.	2	- 8
Do.	land	Mrs. Charrington	1	- 4
Mrs. Brown	House & land	Simpson Jeffreys	60	12 - 0 - 0
Do.	land	Rev. Wm. Carter	12	2 - 8 - 0

<i>Names of Proprietors</i>	<i>Houses, Lands, etc.</i>	<i>Name of Occupier</i>	<i>Rent</i>	<i>Tax</i>
Rev. William Carter	Glibe & Tithes	Himself	110	22 - 0 - 0
Mrs. Fawcett	House	Herself	3	12 - 0
Mrs. Jones	House	Jno. Chitty	2	8
Mrs. Arthur	House	Herself	2-5-0	9
Mrs. Scott	House etc.	Wm. Thornton jnr.	4	18
Mrs. Castledene	House etc.	Wm. Thornton jnr.	3	12
Richard Geale	House	Himself	3	12
				£48 - 17 - 0

Page 6

George Rutter	House & land	himself	8	1 - 12 - 0
George Rutter	House & land	Himself	26	5 - 4 - 0
Mrs. Onslow	House & land	George Rutter	13	2 - 12 - 0
Mrs. Robards	House etc.	Jno. Puffet	3	12
Mrs. Edwin	land	Mrs. Charrington	2	8
Woodward Esq	land	himself	3	12
Robert Wrench	House	Joseph Wrench	2	8
Do.	House	Jno. Dell	1	4
Wm. Palmer	House	Himself	1	4
				£11 - 16 - 0

Total £214 - 9 - 0

(Transcribed September 1979 by G. J. Gollin)

## THE DIXON FAMILY OF CHERKLEY COURT, LEATHERHEAD

By G. HAYWARD (assisted by Research Group)

### PART III

(Continued and concluded from Volume 3, No. 10)

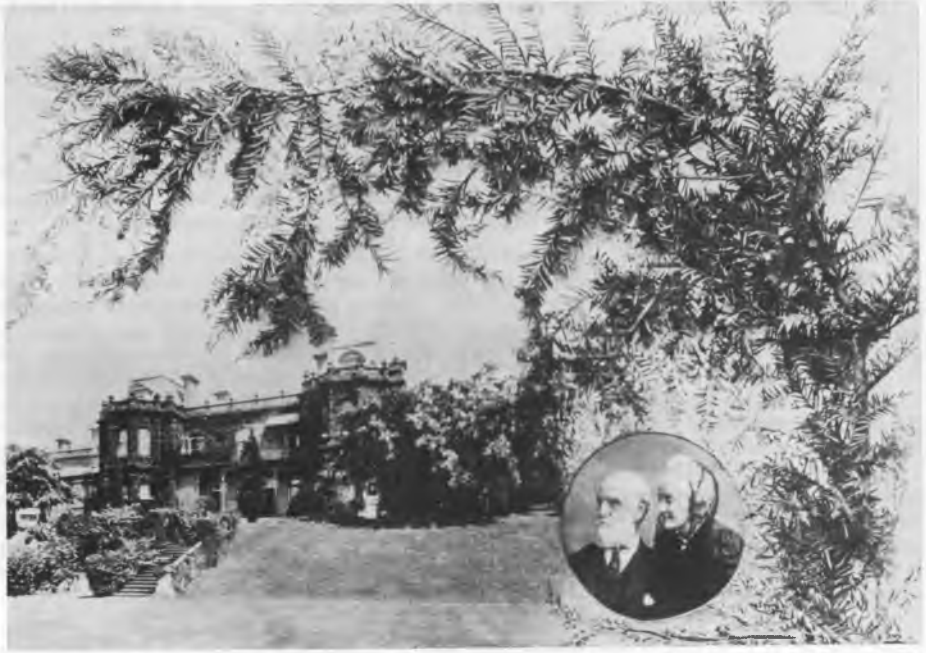
IT IS NOT APPARENT why Abraham Dixon chose to move to Leatherhead in 1871,<sup>40</sup> unless it was becoming a fashionable place for the wealthier classes, being close to Epsom and also within easy reach of London following the opening of the railway.

From a report in the *Birmingham Daily Post* of 2nd May 1907 it is known that Abraham had not enjoyed good health during his last years of business life in Birmingham. Perhaps at that time Birmingham was covered by a thick blanket of smoke formed by its industrial activity and the thousands of coal burning domestic fires. Leatherhead and its surrounding hills, downs, woods and riverside meadows must have attracted his attention, possibly by some chance visit or did he perhaps already have relatives living in the area? In the Leatherhead Parish Church Registers for 1820 there is recorded the birth of James Lewis Wilmot Dixon, son of James Thomas Taylor Dixon, a naval officer. Abraham's father married a member of the Taylor family and a certain Mr. Wilmot was present at George Dixon's<sup>41</sup> funeral in Birmingham. Is it also just a coincidence that these two Dixon families had spent some time in the Stepney area of London and that Abraham's father died in Brighton (1850)—the same town in which James T. T. Dixon died in 1861? The fifty-year gap between 1820 and Abraham Dixon's arrival in Leatherhead is somewhat daunting but it does illustrate that we have much to learn about Leatherhead's former residents and their homes.

The copies of the Leatherhead census of 1871 in our records reveal that Cherkley Court (then known as Cherkley Yews) was at that date a newly built uninhabited mansion and thus Abraham and his family must have arrived in Leatherhead later that year. Birmingham reference library kindly inspected census records for 1871 and located the complete Dixon family still at Birches Green House. Directories inspected by the librarian show that in 1878 this house was occupied by William Edward Wiley and again in 1879, but in the latter year the house name appears as Rookery, Birches Green. One hundred years later the house is still known as the Rookery and it is now owned by the Birmingham City Council and let to Consulting Engineers.

Although the report in the *Birmingham Daily Post*, mentioned above, suggested that Abraham Dixon left Birmingham in the late 1860's the *Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser* of 4th May 1907 has a little more detail, for this paper states that Abraham Dixon bought the Cherkley Estate in 1866 from Messrs. Overend, Gurney and Co. In a chat with a reporter, recorded in the *Leatherhead Observer* for 27th June 1891, Abraham observed that he had come to Leatherhead twenty-five years ago and bought three to four hundred acres. Thus it seems he did not begin to develop this land until perhaps 1870. From the time of the arrival of the Dixon family in Leatherhead it is obvious from the written records that Cherkley Court, although nearer Mickleham, was intended to lean towards Leatherhead. This does not seem to be the case with the present owners of Cherkley and many people in Leatherhead appear unaware of the fact that Lord Beaverbrook lived here after the Dixons and Lady Beaverbrook lives there still. There can not be many houses of this size which, in the space of one hundred and eight years, have been occupied by only two families. It is suggested in books about Lord Beaverbrook that he was a Presbyterian and, as there was no church of this denomination in Leatherhead, this may explain why he appeared to have had little interest in the town. The *Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser* of March 11th 1922 does refer, however, to a meeting of "The Brotherhood" at which the speaker was to be the Right Honourable Lord Beaverbrook. Perhaps those readers with





CHERKLEY COURT, LEATHERHEAD  
Inset portraits of Abraham and Margaret Dixon

long memories may be able to say whether or not Lord Beaverbrook and family had any particular interest in Leatherhead other than to reside within its boundaries.

To return to the Dixons, the first event that must have caused a stir locally was the marriage of Abraham's youngest daughter, Edith, on the 29th October 1873 at Leatherhead Parish Church, to Grosvenor Caliste de Jacobi du Vallon Esquire, Engineer of Croydon, Surrey. Grosvenor's grandmother was a Grosvenor of the Duke of Westminster's family. The marriage service was conducted by the Rev. William Taylor Dixon, uncle of the bride. He had come from Somerset. The announcement of the wedding appeared in *The Times* for Tuesday, November 4th, *The Illustrated London News* for Saturday, November 8th, and the *Reigate, Redhill, Dorking and Epsom Journal* for Tuesday, November 11th 1873.

We are left to imagine the colourful scenes at the church and Cherkley Court because no description can be found of this wedding of the kind that appears in modern local newspapers. Local papers even into the twentieth century seemed to be very national in their news items and contained much world news (in 1873 the local paper was reporting fighting in Paris), also political and farming to the exclusion of much informal local news. Such newspapers would have appeared very dull to the modern reader of local papers and perhaps this is the reason that when the Letherhead Parish Magazine appeared seven years later it had a large circulation.

Abraham Dixon had four daughters and no sons. Edith was the only daughter who married and she had four sons and no daughters. Her grandson, Henry Grosvenor de Jacobi du Vallon, is a retired gentleman farmer still living in Surrey with his wife, and apart

from having interesting family documents dating well back into the days of French royalty he has passed the special trowel, used for the laying of the foundation stones of the Letherhead Institute, to the Trustees.

The Leatherhead Church Vestry Book gives for August 31st 1874 the Accounts of the Inspectors of the Lighting District. These accounts reveal that £60 was required to repair the Town Clock and A. Dixon Esq. was one of the subscribers who gave one guinea. During the next six years we have no information about the Dixon interests because the most fruitful source, the Letherhead Parish Magazine, did not appear until January 1880.

However, we can imagine that the Dixon family was showing a lively interest in local affairs from the mid-1870's because the family name appeared frequently in the church magazines from their first publication. Furthermore, Canon Utterton, who began the local Parish Magazine, came to Leatherhead in 1876 and from subsequent events reported in the magazines he obviously found favour with the Dixon family from these early days.

Although the following account of the good works of the Dixons pieced together from information given in the Parish Magazines is directed mostly to Church activities there are sufficient references to secular happenings to indicate that the Dixon family were constantly dipping into their pockets. Many of these acts of benevolence would pass unrecorded because of the style of local newspapers of the period and also because Abraham Dixon and his family appear to have been quiet, homely people who would be unlikely to make great show of their good deeds and gifts.

Abraham was a regular contributor (recorded from 1880) of substantial amounts to the Leatherhead Boys' and Girls' National School, and from 1883 of smaller sums to Leatherhead Common Infants' School and Leatherhead Church of England Temperance Society's Festivals.

In 1882 he was evidently approached for a subscription towards the formation of the Letherhead Drum and Fife Band and also the Letherhead Brass Band. No further reference to subscriptions appears but this may not necessarily mean that the Bands did not succeed. The Parish Magazine records that in January 1882 there was a meeting with the object of forming a Church of England Temperance Society. Abraham Dixon, as well as others, wrote expressing sympathy with the cause but regretted not being able to be present.

The building of a new Girls' National School near the church attracted his attention and he promised a total of £55 during the period October 1883 to February 1884. On June 29th 1886 was held the annual gathering of the Girls' Friendly Society. Carriages and breaks were made available to convey the party to Cherkley Court. On arrival "they were received in the kindest manner possible by Mr. and the Misses Dixon and by them conducted through the principal rooms of the mansion which with the splendid collection of pictures, works of art and objects of curiosity gave great pleasure to the young visitors".<sup>42</sup>

For organ repairs and cleaning he gave £22-7-9 in 1886 and £10 in 1893. In October 1887 he promised £100 and later, in January 1890, a further amount of £25 towards the cost of building All Saints Church—total cost £2,274-17-5½. It is remarkable how quickly action was taken from the time of the proposal in October 1887 to build this church. Mrs. Richardson, of Kingston House, donated the site and Mr. Blomfield, of Montagu Place, London, drew up the plans "for a neat and plain church seating 280 people".<sup>43</sup> The foundation stone was laid on May 29th 1888 by H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany who came from Claremont. This church was built by W. H. Batchelar of Leatherhead and evidently finished by the time of the Consecration Service on 23rd February 1889. W. H. Batchelar also built the Letherhead Institute.

Towards the restoration of the Parish Church, Abraham gave in 1891 £250, bought two paintings of the church and allowed a concert at Cherkley Court which raised £98-10-3. In the same year he made a donation to the school museum. The local Horticultural Society

was also invited to hold its show at Cherkley Court and this took place on July 22nd 1891. The report of this show in the August 1891 Parish Magazine mentions that electric light was in use in the tropical house.

Abraham, now aged seventy-six, wrote from Cherkley Court on June 25th 1891 to the Editor of the Letherhead Parish Magazine. He had been assured that it would interest readers if he gave information concerning the building which he was about to erect for the purposes of an Institute on the site of Mr. Feiling's villa, at Leatherhead.

"It's object will mainly be to provide means and opportunities for educational, social and recreative occupation, for the working men, and for all classes in the Town and its immediate neighbourhood, available to subscribers only, combined with a Coffee Bar and Refreshment Room open to the public at large."

"In providing this building I wish it to be distinctly understood that I do not desire to disturb or to interfere in an unwelcome manner with any of the existing Institutions of the Town, and therefore religion and politics will be expressly excluded from its scope."<sup>44</sup>

He wished to assist technical education as well as literary, social and recreational activities by providing accommodation centrally. Alcoholic beverages and playing for money were to be strictly prohibited and bearing in mind the number of Temperance Societies which had come into existence at this period it is not surprising that Abraham Dixon did not wish to encourage the indiscipline in drinking which caused much misery, particularly to the poorer families, at that time.

Many names familiar to Leatherhead churchgoers were on the "Building and Organizing Committee" then formed, including the Rev. Canon Utterton, presiding. In November 1891 it was reported that W. H. Batchelar had been awarded the contract for the new Institute, and clearing of the site had begun.

The memorial stone of the Letherhead Institute was laid on February 10th 1892 in the presence of a large company, by the Misses Letitia and Winifred Dixon. Abraham Dixon had written a letter,<sup>45</sup> which was read by the Vicar, to express regret that the state of his health prevented him from being present. He mentioned his two daughters as suitable representatives as they had for some time past taken an active interest in the Home Arts and Cooking and Laundry Classes in the neighbourhood. A description then followed of the various rooms in the Institute and their use including a large Lecture Hall (upstairs) capable of seating from 250 to 300 people, which will be devoted to scientific and other educational lectures, to concerts and theatrical entertainments and any other analogous use. The ordinary subscription would be twopence weekly to cover the running of the building which he was providing at his own expense, including the site. The building evidently came into use on October 26th 1892<sup>46</sup> and an entertainment took place in the Lecture Hall on the 7th November in aid of the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society. Mrs. Dixon was present. There was also available a time table of Technical Education for the autumn and some of the classes were to be at the Institute. The Vicar recorded thanks to Abraham Dixon, in his January 1893 Parish Magazine, for the chief event of the year 1892—the opening of the magnificent Institute presented to the parish.

The formal opening of the Institute took place on Tuesday, February 14th 1893 and during the ceremony 1893 changes were rung by the ringers of the Parish Church Bells. Mr. Dixon was again prevented by his continued ill-health from being present but his daughter, Miss Letitia Dixon and his brother, George Dixon, M.P., were on the platform, with Canon Utterton in the chair. A portrait of Abraham Dixon, executed by Mr. F. Hurd-Wood, looked down on those gathered to do him honour. The moral of all the speeches delivered by Canon Utterton; Lord Ashcombe; Mr. G. Dixon, M.P.; Mr. Macon, Secretary to the Technical Education Committee of the County Council; Rev. Prebendary Rogers; Sir William Vincent, Bart., County Councillor for the Letherhead Division; and

Mr. F. Hue Williams was "You have received a great gift, if you would show your gratitude to your benefactor, use it!"

This opening of the Institute was reported in the Parish Magazine<sup>47</sup> to "give expression to the feeling of gratitude of all the parishioners of Letherhead towards Mr. Dixon, the noble founder of an institution, which it is to be hoped will remain as a permanent memorial of his beneficence, long after the generation which has witnessed its inception and completion has passed away".

In Leatherhead to-day we have no statues of great people or princes riding on bronze horses. The town in this respect is no different to many a hundred towns or large villages although great people have lived hereabouts or have visited the community. Again, as in many places, few public buildings exist, buildings which depend for their existence on public support. The starting point in any place is always the church and in Leatherhead a long line of wealthy benefactors, including Abraham Dixon, is to be thanked first for the erection and then the preservation of the building and, who knows, perhaps the continuity of worship there.

The building in North Street which had the town clock and served to house the horse-drawn fire engine appears to have been a public building because it is mentioned in the Church Vestry Book for 30th August 1858. This quaint little building was pulled down within recent memory.

Other churches and chapels were built and even one of these, the interesting chapel at Patsom Green,<sup>48</sup> provided by the Hendersons of Randalls Park, has disappeared in the last twenty years. In more recent times the Reeves family springs to mind in connection with beneficence to the local community, such as Sweech House in Gravel Hill and the site for the Thorndike Theatre, whilst the Society's Hampton Cottage project is an example of preservation of a humble dwelling through public subscriptions.

It can now be seen that since Abraham Dixon's arrival in Leatherhead, when he was aged fifty-six, he had taken great interest in local affairs and we know from his obituary report<sup>49</sup> that up to his death he had continued to support many charitable objects in his old area of Birmingham. We cannot but wonder then that, at the age of seventy-seven he should be busily seeing carried into fruition his idea of the Letherhead Institute. From his letters to the Parish Magazine<sup>50</sup> it is apparent that the central thought in his mind was education of the ordinary man, woman and child. His and his brother's strenuous efforts for education in Birmingham and the passing of the great Education Act of 1870 must never have left his thoughts. Like his brother George he believed that education is the basis of better citizenship.

In Abraham Dixon's lifetime the Letherhead Institute was successful financially by voluntary subscriptions, but in those days there were few other attractions locally. The Institute to-day can still be a bright centre on the lines of a village hall, but to launch it into a new lease of life it needs badly the helping hand of a strong Friends organisation in the form of the Community Association which is now looking for its Friends.

The Institute, in 1893 (April) was quickly in use for a public entertainment by the "Royal Nubian Minstrels" in aid of Institute funds. The large hall was completely filled. Again in April 1893 the Institute was used for entertainment on behalf of the newly formed Church Lads' Brigade Funds.

At this time Mr. Dixon was not neglectful of other causes for in the same year he gave £10 plus an annual subscription of three guineas to the first Leatherhead Cottage Hospital in Clinton Road, followed by furniture and two guineas in 1896 and a piano in 1898.

In July 1893 the Girls' Friendly Society held a Festival at Cherkley Court and the girls were received there by Miss Letitia M. Dixon.

Later that month, on the 26th, occurred the disastrous fire caused by lightning. A report

in the August Parish Magazine said "so freely has Mr. Dixon opened his house and grounds to us all that we feel truly that we can, and do, share the trial with him and Mrs. Dixon and his daughters". So rapid was the spread of flames that nothing could be saved from the bedrooms occupied by the family. Although the Leatherhead, Epsom and Dorking Fire Brigades were quickly on the spot "all their endeavours were powerless to cope with the force of the fire, and by nightfall the whole of the mansion was gutted, and the shell alone left standing."

The Dixons must have continued to live in the area whilst Cherkley Court was rebuilt, for in the February 1894 Parish Magazine, Miss Letitia Dixon's address as Secretary of the Letherhead Girls' Club is shown as The Long House, Letherhead. In July 1894 the family were able to return to Cherkley Court.

Although Abraham Dixon must have been somewhat distracted first by the need to keep an eye on the development of the Institute and then by the fire which rendered him homeless, our reliable local newspaper, the Parish Magazine,<sup>51</sup> informs us that with 150 children on the books the Infants School on Gravel Hill needed enlargement and in 1894 Abraham stepped in with a donation of £25 towards the £300 required.

There was to be an election on Monday 17th December 1894 to provide nine members of the first Leatherhead Urban District Council.<sup>52</sup> The chairman was to be a Justice of the Peace. If it had not been for the fact that Abraham was then nearly eighty years old perhaps he would have been the first Chairman for we know that he was a J.P. in Warwickshire and we have a photo-copy of a reference supplied by Abraham in 1884 to the Board of Guardians, Epsom Union.

Before the year 1894 slipped away there was a Chrysanthemum Show at the Institute on November 16th and the annual prize-giving of the Technical Classes and other competitions on November 23rd. After Miss W. A. Dixon had presented the prizes, Mr. Halsey, Chairman of the Technical Education Committee of the Surrey County Council mentioned that the people of Leatherhead had the finest Institute in the County.

In December Mr. Dixon provided three Christmas trees for the Schools Christmas treat. A restoration fund was established in 1895 for the church tower and Abraham gave in all £67-19-0 plus £25 towards additions to the Schools.

The December 1895 Parish Magazine contained an invitation from Abraham Dixon to all members of the Institute to come to an Evening Party to be held in his name, at the Institute. This magazine also reported that the coffee room, opened in Church Street in 1877, had closed at the end of 1894 as its use was rendered unnecessary after the opening of the new Institute.

In February 1896 there was another Institute Party and a Horticultural Society Show at Cherkley Court in July. At Christmas 1896 and in the New Year 1897 the Letherhead Brass Band serenaded the Dixons at Cherkley Court and also other local notables. In May 1897 it was reported that the Institute was thriving again after a fall in membership the previous year. An orchestral Society was formed and a cycling club—the latter being invited to Cherkley Court on August 11th by the President, Mr. A. Dixon. About thirty attended and they were shown the conservatories lit by electricity.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Institute in January 1898 a vote of sympathy was passed with Abraham Dixon in the loss he had sustained by the death of his brother Mr. George Dixon, of whose work in the cause of education the Chairman spoke in appreciative terms. The Letherhead Institute balance sheet was in the red but Mr. Dixon made up the deficit by donating £23.

There were promenade concerts in September 1898 at the Priory, Downside, Cherkley Court and the Red House. A special mention was made of electric light in use at the last two houses. The proceeds of these concerts were for the Cottage Hospital and Town Band

Funds. During 1898 and 1899 Mr. Dixon donated £105 towards the building of a new All Saints Infants' School—probable cost £1250. The school had been using an old engine shed (still in use by motor engineers) since 1877 and it was "very cold in winter and not watertight". There were 108 scholars on the books.<sup>53</sup>

The National Schools were to have had a summer treat at Cherkley in August 1900 but a heavy thunderstorm prevented the visit and tea was served in the schools. In November, at the Institute, the first smoking concert took place. At this time Mr. Dixon was also arranging for an extra gas bracket in the Reading Room to give more light.

An advertisement in January 1901 announced the third season of the Letherhead Amateur Orchestra and an afternoon promenade concert in the Winter Garden at Cherkley Court. On April 17th 1901 the Misses Dixon invited all lady members of the Institute to Cherkley to mark the anniversary of the Ladies' Recreation Room. It was reported in July that the lawn at the rear of the Institute had been enlarged for the purpose of lawn tennis and also that the past half year of the Institute had been most successful. The lady members were again invited to Cherkley Court in September.

From 1901 to 1905 Abraham subscribed regularly to the Friendly Society's Parade and in 1902 gave a donation to the Church Lads' Brigade to clear off their debt. The first Cottage Hospital (Clinton Road) was in trouble and closed down April 12th 1902 with a debt of £133. Abraham Dixon's donation of £20 to help clear this debt was the highest. The first aid "ambulance" (on cycle wheels) donated by Mrs. Dixon in 1898 was placed in the Institute for the use of the Parish. Epsom Cottage Hospital was to receive Leatherhead patients. Collections were made on Hospital Sunday, June 29th 1902 for a new Cottage Hospital to be called Queen Victoria Memorial Cottage Hospital. This hospital building still exists in Epsom Road as Victoria House.

The Institute in 1903 was flourishing and many activities and meetings were recorded. Mr. Dixon made a contribution to the All Saints Parish Room in that same year. Although in October 1906 he was only a few months away from his death, Abraham was still donating—this time £5 towards the Churchwardens' Accounts debt and in December a woodwork class prize to the Evening Continuation School. At the prize distribution in the Institute, Miss Letitia Dixon, now aged fifty-seven, said in the address how glad she was to know the School was well attended and of its good work. She would be very pleased to tell her father (approaching age ninety-two), who still took a keen interest in all that concerned Leatherhead.

Abraham Dixon's death was reported in the June 1907 Parish Magazine. Both the May and June magazines were full of the departure of Archdeacon Utterton who had been promoted to Winchester after thirty years in Leatherhead. There was a paragraph headed: IN MEMORIAM—ABRAHAM DIXON. "On Tuesday, April 30th, Mr. Abraham Dixon passed away at his residence Cherkley Court, at the age of ninety-two years. His body was laid to rest in the Churchyard on May 4th in the presence of a large congregation. The service was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Utterton and the Rev. A. F. Ruty. Mr. Dixon came to Leatherhead in 1871, and was a very generous supporter of all local institutions. His name will always be remembered with gratitude in the Town for the handsome Institute which he built for the Town in 1892. He was also ever ready to help on the work of the Church, and was a liberal supporter of the Assistant Clergy Fund and helped largely to restore the Church. His death will leave a gap in Letherhead that it will be very hard to fill."

Two months later the new Vicar was appealing for increased support for the Assistant Clergy Fund owing to the death of two generous subscribers which had inflicted a serious loss on the fund. Presumably these two generous subscribers were Mrs. Rickards of Elm Bank (died 7th April 1907) and Abraham Dixon.

The *Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser* of Saturday, May 4th 1907 did greater justice to the death of this local benefactor in covering the main features of his life. The report

mentioned that Cherkley Court "was erected on the bare land according to his own plans and a most palatial house was built". Hubert Caliste de Jacobi du Vallon, one of Edith's sons was residing at Cherkley Court at the time of Abraham's death. In the words of the newspaper "the town of Leatherhead is the poorer by the death of Mr. Dixon and it is no figure of speech to say that his demise will be deeply mourned. He was always approachable and of the most generous disposition, and during the years he has resided in the town he has always subscribed liberally to every beneficent object which was brought to his notice. The deceased was a philanthropist in the true sense of the word and in Leatherhead especially, his loss will be severely felt in many directions."

The funeral was reported in the same paper a week later and it took place on Saturday May 4th at 1.30 p.m. There was a large gathering, including his four daughters and many relatives from his old area of Birmingham and from Liverpool. In addition to local notables there were his indoor and outdoor servants, representatives from many local organisations and the Minister and members of the Wesleyan Church. His grave and that of his wife are near the churchyard wall and opposite the entrance to the Church car park.

In thinking of Abraham's life, the Biblical text comes to mind: "It is harder for a rich man to enter heaven . . ." but truly here was a man trying hard to overcome the difficulties that wealth can bring, not buying his way into heaven but deserving it.

The Utterton era had come to an end and the end of the Dixon family's sojourn in Leatherhead was in sight.

Mrs. Margaret Dixon was now aged eighty-six and lived on at Cherkley Court with, perhaps, the assistance of Hubert du Vallon, one of her grandsons, in the running of the estate, for it was by his order that the sale of the farmstock of Cherkley took place a few years later.<sup>54</sup>

Mrs. Dixon's time must have been well taken up with managing the mansion and looking after, not only her husband in his days of ill health but also her eldest daughter, Ada Mary, of whom we know so little except that she did not enjoy good health. Nevertheless, from the Leatherhead Parish Magazines Mrs. Dixon's interests come to light—a donation of corn, fruit and flowers to the Harvest Festival of 1880, a record of voluntary contributions annually to the Leatherhead Infants' School and the Leatherhead Common Infants' School from 1881 to 1890. She made contributions from time to time between 1882 and 1906 to the Leatherhead Ladies' Friendly Society and regularly to the Mothers' Union from 1889 to 1906 and the Parish Nurse Fund from 1901 to 1905. The Provident Coal Club received frequent support from Mrs. Dixon between 1893 and 1906. Other occasional interests were the Leatherhead Horticultural Society, the Annual Parents' Tea, the Leatherhead Cottage Hospital, the Evening Continuation School and the Institute Library.

Mrs. Margaret Dixon's death occurred on October 29th, 1909, at Cherkley Court—she was eighty-eight. Unfortunately the Leatherhead Parish Magazine had nothing to say about this lady who had mothered her family for so many years and had without doubt encouraged their interests.

The burial, which took place on November 2nd, was reported by the *Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser* of November 6th 1909. Evidently Margaret had only been confined to bed a few days when she succumbed to heart failure. The paper referred to the long period during which Mr. and Mrs. Dixon had rendered invaluable assistance to all good works in the neighbourhood. Amongst the mourners were her daughters, Miss Letitia and Miss Winifred Dixon, grandchildren, a host of Dixon and Rathbone relatives and many others. The coffin bore a simple inscription—"Margaret Dixon born 30/12/1821 died 29/10/1909". The grave was lined with yew by the gardener. Amongst floral tributes were those of her daughters, Ada, Lily (Letitia), Winny and Edith (and husband Grosvenor) and also from the family of the late Mr. G. Swann (her coachman).

Two of the Dixon daughters, Letitia Margaret and Winifred Anna were very actively

engaged in the life of the Letherhead Institute. Letitia's interest there seems to have been woodwork and woodcarving, the running of the Evening Continuation School and the Girls' Tennis Club. Winifred taught cookery and laundry work and had also taught these subjects at Mickleham. They both made donations to the Temperance Society's Festivals from 1884 to 1888, to All Saints' New Church 1887, Leatherhead Cottage Hospital 1894 to 1898 and Waifs and Strays Society 1890 to 1896. They also jointly assisted and presided at the Annual Parents' Tea in the National Schools from 1881 to 1887. Miss W. Dixon was also a regular subscriber to the Winchester Diocesan Society 1894 to 1900 and was interested in the Ladies' Friendly Society 1904 to 1906. She also endeavoured to assist blind people and with some success. Miss Letitia Dixon donated a clock case in 1898 for the hall of the Institute and prizes at various times for Institute competitions.

At the time of their father's death they were evidently less actively engaged in local affairs and of course they were then around sixty years of age themselves. After Mrs. M. Dixon's death the daughters moved away from the district but some further research would be necessary to discover whether they remained together or not. An address, "Four Winds House", St. Nicholas Hill, Leatherhead, is given for a Miss Dixon in directories of Epsom and district from 1911 to 1915.

The eldest daughter, Ada Mary, receives no mention in local news and we can only imagine that after her childhood she became almost a permanent invalid. The *Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser* of February 25th 1922 reported her death which occurred on the 17th February 1922 and the burial on the 22nd February at Leatherhead Parish Church. She was aged seventy-four and had "suffered from ill health during a large part of her life. Even before her father's death bad health prevented her from joining with her father and sisters, Miss Winifred and Miss Letitia, in their generous work for Leatherhead and its inhabitants." Mourners included her sister Winifred but there is no mention of Letitia. Edith was still living in 1938 as proved by the account she wrote then of her early life.<sup>54</sup> As well as relatives there is a reference to former servants of Cherkley Court present at the funeral. The burial register shows Ada Mary's address as 90 South Croxted Road, West Dulwich (formerly of Cherkley Court). The inscription on her grave reads: "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us". Ada's resting place is at the foot of her parents' grave and is silent evidence of the affection she bore them.

Over half a century has passed by since the sufferings of Ada ended and yet there are residents who, although elderly, can still speak of the Dixon family with pleasure. Indeed it is not possible to read through thirty years of local church magazines without noticing that the Utterton/Dixon period for Leatherhead was something special and the visible traces of this happy epoch are worth preservation.

The Dixon family of Cherkley were active in Leatherhead for forty years and descendants of this and other branches live not far away. In the course of researches it became clear that many Dixons have been philanthropists and there are strong clues which, if pursued, could link the Leatherhead Dixons with the Dixons of Heaton Royds, Bradford—a family possessing a coat of arms granted before 1448.

#### NOTES

40. *Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser*, 4th May 1907. Letherhead Parish Magazine, June 1907.

41. Abraham's brother, the M.P.—*The Times*, 29th January 1898.

42. Letherhead Parish Magazine, July 1886.

43. Letherhead Parish Magazine, October 1887.

44. Letherhead Parish Magazine, July 1891.

45. Letherhead Parish Magazine, March 1892.

46. Letherhead Parish Magazine, October 1892.

47. Letherhead Parish Magazine, March 1893.

48. Letherhead Parish Magazine, May and July 1905.

49. *Birmingham Daily Post*, 2nd May 1907.



50. Letherhead Parish Magazine, July 1891 and March 1892.
51. Letherhead Parish Magazine, April 1894.
52. Letherhead Parish Magazine, November 1894.
53. Letherhead Parish Magazine, August 1898.
54. *Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser*, 29th April 1911.
55. Article by Mrs. Edith de Jacobie du Vallon (née Dixon). Copy with our records.

#### Erratum

Note 18 at the end of Part I should refer to the baptism of Joshua Dixon.

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# LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

	<i>Previous Year 1977</i>	<i>Year under report 1978</i>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions .. .. .	521.25	746.75
Donations to Society .. .. .	65.75	53.72
Donations to Museum Fund .. .. .	69.39	492.16
Grant from Surrey County Council .. .. .	25.00	Nil
Grant from Mole Valley District Council .. .. .	Nil	50.00
Lecture Fees donated by Members .. .. .	8.00	5.00
Sales of Ashted History Book .. .. .	40.00	1027.88
Sales of other literature .. .. .	147.95	103.09
Profit from Visits, etc. .. .. .	10.90	40.40
Collections .. .. .	20.85	16.50
Profit on Teas, etc. .. .. .	9.65	2.92
Interest on Lloyds Bank Deposit A/c .. .. .	23.80	35.26
	<u>£942.54</u>	<u>£2 573.68</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Printing .. .. .	656.42	1 359.07
Expenses of Administration .. .. .	72.88	97.31
General Disbursements .. .. .	20.95	63.13
Transfer to Museum Fund .. .. .	Nil	426.91
Insurance Premiums for Museum .. .. .	51.00	40.50
Hire of Hall for Lectures .. .. .	11.25	18.75
Subscriptions to:		
Surrey Record Society .. .. .	2.00	5.00
Surrey Archaeological Society .. .. .	5.00	5.00
Surrey Local History Council .. .. .	2.00	2.00
	<u>821.50</u>	<u>£2 017.67</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure (of which £500 has been transferred to our Deposit A/c) .. .. .	121.04	556.01
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Bank Balance brought forward at beginning of year .. .. .	673.88	794.92
Income for year .. .. .	942.54	2 573.68
	<u>£1 616.42</u>	<u>£3 368.60</u>
Expenditure for year .. .. .	821.50	2 017.67
Balance at Bank at end of year carried forward		
Lloyds Bank—Current A/c .. .. .	323.71	344.46
Lloyds Bank—Deposit A/c .. .. .	471.21	1 006.47
	<u>£1 616.42</u>	<u>£3 368.60</u>
<b>Current A/c comprises:</b>		
Money held on behalf of Museum .. .. .	59.59	91.34
Money owing for production of Occ. No. 2 .. .. .	26.65	36.77
Net balance of Society Funds .. .. .	237.47	216.35
	<u>£323.71</u>	<u>£344.46</u>

H. J. MEARS,  
*Honorary Treasurer.*

I certify that the above Statement is in accordance with the Books and Records produced to me and is, in my opinion, correct.

9th February 1979.

A. H. KIRKBY,  
*Honorary Auditor.*

## SECRETARIAL NOTES

THE FOLLOWING Lectures and Visits were arranged during 1979:—

January 19th	Illustrated Lecture: "The History of Beer and Brewing", by R. J. Webber.
February 23rd	Illustrated Lecture: "Smaller Stuart and Georgian Houses", by K. W. E. Gravett, F.S.A.
April 20th	Lecture: "New Methods of Scientific Dating of Ancient Historic Events and Periods", by T. R. Moore.
May 19th	Visit to Kenilworth and Warwick castles. Leader: Derek Renn, F.S.A.
June 16th	Visit to Peterborough Cathedral, Fotheringay and Stamford. Leader: M. A. Snellgrove.
July 21st	Visit to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, Sussex. Leader: E. S. Barnwell.
August 2nd	Visit to Thorncroft Manor, by kind permission of Howard Humphreys & Partners.
September 22nd	Walk round Ewell village under the guidance of I. J. West.
October 6th	Walk round Ashted under the guidance of R. A. Lever.
October 10th	The Dallaway Public Lecture: "Historic Treasure Wrecks", by Peter Marsden, F.S.A., at the City of London Freemen's School, Ashted.
November 16th	Lecture on John Hassell's "Picturesque Ride Round Surrey. 1818", by James Batley.
December 7th	Leatherhead Historical Miscellany. Contributions by members.

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Number 2 of Volume 4 of the *Proceedings* was issued during the year.

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## THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

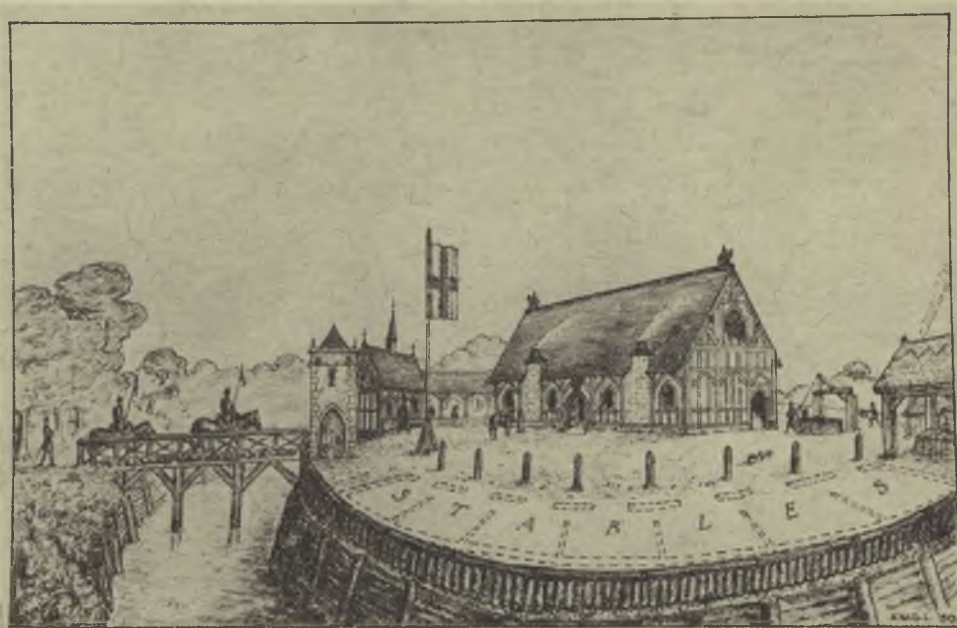
*Held at the Council Offices on 16th March 1979*

THE REPORT of the Executive Committee and the Accounts for the year 1978 were adopted and approved. Officers of the Society were elected. The Accounts for the year 1978 are printed on page iii of the cover.

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## OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1979

- President:* J. G. W. LEWARNE  
*Vice-Presidents:* F. B. BENDER, F.S.A.; D. F. RENN, F.S.A.  
*Chairman:* S. E. D. FORTESCUE  
*Hon. Secretary:* MRS. R. M. VRACAS,  
(Chalkhill, Givons Grove, Leatherhead. Tel: Leatherhead 74808)  
*Hon. Treasurer:* H. J. MEARS  
(Beverly, 43 The Glade, Fetcham. Tel: Bookham 53071)  
*Asst. Hon. Treasurer:* J. R. BULL  
(98 Woodfield Lane, Ashted. Tel: Ashted 72800)  
*Hon. Editor:* F. B. BENDER, F.S.A.  
(Duntisbourne, Reigate Road, Leatherhead. Tel: Leatherhead 72711)  
*Hon. Programme Secretary:* E. S. BARNWELL  
*Hon. Records Secretary:* D. BRUCE  
*Hon. Membership Secretary:* MRS C. BARRETT  
*Hon. Sales Secretary:* MRS M. FULLER  
*Hon. Library Secretary:* J. R. GILBERT  
*Committee Members:* R. A. LEVER, S. R. C. POULTER, MRS M. RICE-OXLEY  
(Co-opted) L. A. SMITH, M. A. SNELGROVE



**RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HALL OF THE MANOR OF PACHENESHAM MAGNA**

As rebuilt by Sir Eustace de Hacche,  
in 1290-91 A.D.

*An impression by the late A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A.*

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