



*Leatherhead & District Local History Society  
covering Ashted, the Bookhams, Fetcham, Headley,  
Mickleham and Leatherhead*

*Newsletter*

*June 2020*



### **COTTAGES WITH A HALF MILLENNIUM HERITAGE**

**Two of the district's oldest surviving cottages were studied by the Bookham U3A Social History Group during the isolation period this spring. They drew on original sources and works including *The Story of Two Villages*, written by L&DLHS founder and Bookham resident Stephen Fortescue, published in 1975.**

Shown above in a former guise, since 1992 these cottages have been the premises of England's House, the dental practice at numbers 28 and 30 Bookham High Street, but they date back to 1548.

*Continued on Page 8*

## INDEX TO ARTICLES

<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
Editorial	3
Chairman's Report	4
Coronavirus Ephemera Appeal	5
Programme of Future Activities	6
Treasurer's Annual Report	7
Cottages with a Half Millennium Heritage (continued)	8
Remembering Victory in Europe Day	9
Lecture Report: Surrey Spies and Assassins	10
News: Historic Leatherhead Computer	14
News: The Path to WW2 -Newspaper Cuttings	15
News: Prize at Archaeology Symposium	16
Feature: Ordnance Survey Benchmarks and Trig Points	17
Feature: The Byrons of Leatherhead	21
Feature: A Detective Story - Stephen Thornton	24
Feature: It Wasn't a Coffin They Carried Them Off In	26
Oral History Feature: David Fuller	27
Oral History Feature: Sylvia Lindsay	31
Obituary: Steve Poulter	37
Officers of the Society	38
Vacancies	40
Dorking Concertgoers Advertisement	40

**Please note: Except where written by the Editor, the authors of all contributed articles are shown.**

### **2020 L&DLHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Ordinary £20 Associate /Student £6 Small Corporate £125

Following repeated reminders by the Membership Secretary and a special extension of two months, we regret that those who were still in arrears at the end of May are no longer members of the Society.

**EDITORIAL**

The catastrophic Covid-19 virus outbreak this spring continued its effect as this *Newsletter* edition was being prepared. Its potential impact on our Society's membership had still to become clear and the Executive Committee, like similar organisations throughout the country, had to postpone all face to face activities until government precautions permitted resumption. Leatherhead Museum

at Hampton Cottage was unable to reopen for the summer season.

This year's Annual General Meeting and talk on 20 March were cancelled, as were both monthly meetings on 17 April and 15 May. However, the Treasurer's basic report appears on Page 7 of this edition and as the AGM speaker, Simon Ritchie, had fortunately already provided his talk to the *Newsletter* beforehand you can read this on Page 18.

Fortunately too, a number of other fascinating items had also been provided before the pandemic struck. These included news reports of L&DLHS activity at an archaeology symposium in February; newspaper cuttings covering the period immediately before World War 2; and yet another historical link between Leatherhead and Bletchley Park. Indeed the story of local links with espionage and secret activity is well covered in the edition.

The March *Newsletter* promised part of the oral history of one of the district's best known local businesses, David Fuller, the former men's outfitter in Great Bookham. This appears as well as that of Sylvia Lindsay of Little Bookham, effective founder of today's Music in Hospitals charity. When the present dark days are over this will surely return as a great bringer of joy to those suffering in both hospitals and care homes.

**TONY MATTHEWS**



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In our March Newsletter I wrote about the forthcoming events of the year including archaeological investigations at Rowhurst and the imminent opening of our Museum a year after refurbishment. None of this has proved correct but I hope to do better this time!

The Coronavirus is life-threatening. However, to add perspective, a member of my family has returned to work after having the virus and was able to manage herself at home. One of our trustees has been similarly afflicted but I have noticed little drop off in his enthusiasm! Our instructions are to err on the side of safety, practise social distancing, stay fit, and stay at home as much as possible. We can only be members of one family while others, such as church or history society, must largely be set aside - but not entirely! Churches especially have been quick to offer virtual services to congregations and we are looking to do much the same.

The Executive Committee acted quickly to ensure the Museum remained closed but secure and regularly monitored. All events that would have brought the history 'family' together were postponed indefinitely but we hope to resume the talks programme in September. The timing of the postponed AGM has still to be decided.

Meanwhile, we are observing the use of technology for virtual talks given by other history societies and may go down that road ourselves in due course. This might include YouTube-style videos which can be watched by anyone. A video tour of the Museum is one possibility and maybe parish heritage trails. If you are interested in getting involved do please contact us.

We still have vacancies for specific roles, most of which can be started during the lockdown. See Page 40. Perhaps most crucial is that of Leatherhead Archivist to coordinate capturing records for online access and, with the help of others, respond to enquiries about the history of the town.

I would also like to pay tribute to Jane Summerfield who has stepped down from her position of Honorary Secretary after seven years. Thanks Jane. Everyone, keep safe and well. **JOHN ROWLEY**

## CORONAVIRUS EPHEMERA APPEAL

by ROY MELLICK

The Covid-19 virus pandemic of 2020 will undoubtedly be remembered as being on a par with the spread of bubonic plague in earlier centuries. Museums and history societies around the world will want to record not only what happened at this time, but the way in which the pandemic affected people's daily lives. Our modern digital age makes gathering this information so much easier but it can also be easily lost, fragmented and buried on hard drives, and other storage devices.

Our own Society is now seeking relevant ephemera that becomes available as we plan to establish an *In the Time of the Coronavirus* collection. This will be open for study once the country has gone back to normal. Suggested items to collect are:

- Public notices, letters.
- Photos of empty shelves in supermarkets, overloaded trolleys, queues, empty streets, residential roads clapping the NHS.
- Offers of help by community volunteers and organisations such as churches which let their congregations know that virtual or streamed services can be viewed.
- Diaries of what you did to pass the time in self-isolation and any thoughts you think relevant.
- Business reactions. Furloughing of staff and hardship stories.
- Examples of kindness and generosity among neighbours as well as social distancing. The list goes on.

So please don't discard such items or throw them away. Photos and diaries can be either hardcopy or digital. **We just ask that you wait to send everything until life returns to normal.**

Send to [records@leatherheadhistory.org](mailto:records@leatherheadhistory.org).

Thank you and stay safe and well.

## PROGRAMME OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The 2020 programme of talks has been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. In the hope that by the autumn there will have been a lifting of the current precautions, we intend to resume on 18 September. We will keep you informed via our website and-monthly emails, and in due course the usual pre-talk poster publicity.

Talks that should have taken place in April and May will be held over until next year. The short list below shows what is currently scheduled.

Society meetings are normally held in the Abraham Dixon Hall at the Leatherhead Institute. Coffee/tea from 7.30pm, talk at 8pm. Admission £2. We look forward to recommencement.

**Friday, 18 September:** Andy Davies, curator of the Railway Correspondence and Travel Society's Library at Leatherhead station, to speak on *Leatherhead Station: The Stationmaster's House*. Admission free as part of Heritage Week.

**Friday, 16 October:** Tour guide and author Julian McCarthy to introduce the *Secret History of Kingston upon Thames*.

**Friday, 20 November:** Paul Le Messurier will give a talk based on his recently published book, *Surrey's Military Heritage*.

**In December:** The traditional Christmas Miscellany with three short talks, subjects still to be confirmed.

Held over until 2021 are:

- Bill Whitman on *Mrs Frederica Lock* who created a haven of culture and peace, appreciated by artists, authors, royalists and republicans at Norbury Park in the early 1790s.
- Jane Lewis of the Surrey History Centre to follow last year's talk on Fashion & Folly (see *Newsletter* March 2020) with another on *Corsets & Cameras*, on how to date old photos by using changes in women's fashions from 1860-1920.

If you attend talks given by other organisations that may also be of interest to L&DLHS members please contact Programme Committee chairman Fred Meynen at [programme@leatherheadhistory.org](mailto:programme@leatherheadhistory.org)

# TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

This summary was to have been presented at the AGM in March.



## Leatherhead & District Local History Society 2019 Annual Report



### Membership



% of recurring income ①  
30% from member Subscriptions  
7% Donations from members

Full Members	129
Associate Members	30
Members also Friends	63



8% Gift Aid  
45% of all 2019 income from a Legacy



### Activities

8 % Talks income ①  
£83 Net cost of talks  
Average attendance at Talks  
33 Members  
12 Visitors



Book Sales % of income ①	36%
Book sales value	£3,458
Book Sales quantity	437



### Museum

Museum Visitors  
39 Average per week  
£316 Donations at museum  
£115 Members donations to  
museum



Running Costs	
Utilities	£1,534
Insurance	£1,082
Storage	£ 920
Maintenance	£ 587
Refurbishment	£34,576

① recurring income-excludes legacies

## COTTAGES WITH A HALF MILLENNIUM HERITAGE

*Continued from Page 1*

They were formerly known as Victoria Cottage and England's and were 'modernised' in the 17th century and separately occupied from the 18th. The U3A Group studied their occupants since the first one known, Dame Elizabeth Durden. By 1615 a later occupant was Edward Hilder, brother of the local churchwarden Ralph Hilder.

Originally covering some two acres, the timber-framed cottages once had a hole in the roof for smoke release. What is thought to be an original wood staircase survives inside as well as first floor windows originally constructed for leaded lights in diamond shaped panes.

In 1760, the cottages belonged to the Grove Estate, covering what is now the top end of Bookham High Street including the Lower Shott car park and shopping parade. The estate was bought in 1775 by John Dawnay, 4<sup>th</sup> Viscount Downe. When Laura, Dowager Viscountess Downe died in 1812 the cottages were known as England's 'Hame' and had a malthouse, barn, stables and out-houses, plus an orchard. In 1839 William Henry Dawnay, 6<sup>th</sup> Viscount Downe was still the owner.

The former Victoria Hotel (now Fine Fettle) was built next door in 1897 by temperance campaigner Mrs Chrystie and the 1911 census showed Victoria Cottage, Number 30, occupied by the family of Alfred Atkins, a gardener on the Eastwick Park estate. His wife Emily made and sold boiled sweets to the local community.

Number 28, England's, was home to the Amey family from the early 1900s but owned by Stephen Fortescue in the 1950s. Widow Emily Amey was cleaner and caretaker at St Nicolas Church and the Barn Hall until her death in 1959. Her daughter Ethel continued much of her work until her own death in 1992.

Alfred Scott, Bookham's voluntary fire chief and parish clerk, lived at Number 30 from 1917 until 1939. It was occupied privately until 1965, used for commercial offices and taken over by the dental practice in 1992.

*(Second source: Bookham in the Twentieth Century, Bill Culley, published 2000.)*



## REMEMBERING VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

**Three-quarters of a century ago on Saturday, 12 May 1945 the *Surrey Advertiser* ran the headline ‘Leatherhead Goes Gay’. In a different era the language contrasted with that of today. FRANK HASLAM writes as follows:**

The newspaper read as follows: ‘Leatherhead residents began to prepare for V-E Day the previous evening [7 May], and bunting and flags began to put in an appearance, so that when the day dawned the town was gaily decorated. There was scarcely a house or a cottage in the district from which a flag was not fluttering, while elaborate decorations were carried out at business premises and offices. Children carried small flags, and residents sported the national colours in rosettes and paper hats.

‘After the announcement the church bells crashed out victory peals, and open-air services were held. At Leatherhead, clergy and ministers, with the combined choirs of Leatherhead Parish Church and All Saints’ Church, walked in procession to the terrace of Elm Gardens, where a large crowd waited to take part in the service. This was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev F A Page), and others taking part were the Rev A Maby (priest-in-charge of All Saints’), the Rev Norman G Cope (Methodist minister), the Rev P H Cooke, and the Rev H T G Forster (chaplain of Leatherhead Emergency Hospital).

‘Mr J S Carter (headmaster St John’s College [sic] was present with a number of the boys. When dusk fell, numbers of young people took part in open-air dancing, and revelry was kept up to a late hour. Impromptu bonfires blazed in many parts of the district, and could be seen on the heights around, Epsom, Dorking, and Leith Hill. The explosion of fireworks was heard until a late hour.’

Recalling that day 75 years later in March 2020, Leatherhead resident Rosalind Corteen, then aged nine, said: ‘There was to be a torch-light procession through Leatherhead and I said to my parents that I would like to join in this. They said no but I pleaded and in the end they said I could, provided my father went with me. We all had a torch made of a round piece of wood with a metal tube fixed to it, filled with something inflammable. We processed through the town with torches blazing and I enjoyed it immensely.’

The September *Newsletter* will contain a fuller report from that time.

## LECTURE REPORT

### SURREY SPIES & ASSASSINS

Surrey folk are probably no more suspicious of espionage than anyone else but the past century has seen various times of heightened awareness here. As the actor Michael Caine is one of Leatherhead's best known current residents, it made sense for LORRAINE SPINDLER to begin her February talk to a packed house on spies and assassins in our midst with a picture of him starring as the fictional spy Harry Palmer in the film of Len Deighton's book, *The Ipcress File* (see right).



But, as she said, truth is stranger than fiction.

In November 2012 a Russian immigrant named Alexander Perepilichnyy suddenly collapsed and died while out jogging with his dog at St George's Hill near his £3 million home in Weybridge. Aged just 44 he was previously healthy but had taken out a £3.5 million life insurance policy.

A heart attack was blamed but it emerged that he had been on a Kremlin hit list and had refused to return to Russia. At the time of his death he had been helping investment firm Hermitage Capital



*Alexander Perepilichnyy*

Management uncover a £150 million Russian money-laundering operation. Among various lawsuits in which he had been involved

was one brought by a company of which former KGB member Dmitry Kovtun was a director. Kovtun, who met ex-spy Alexander Litvinenko only hours before he was poisoned in London, was later himself hospitalised with radiation poisoning in Moscow.

Perepilichnyy was clearly no friend of Russia's President Vladimir Putin but was he also working for MI5 and MI6?

All very murky but Surrey residents are still normally little affected by the dubious activities of emigré Russians fleeing the current regime in Moscow. That was not the case for much of the first half of the 20th century when Germany posed a more direct threat.

Before World War 1 there was genuine fear of a German invasion. Britain was defended by the Royal Navy but what if the Kaiser's forces managed to break through and take whatever they wanted from comfortable Surrey? Spy mania meant some Surrey residents were convinced the Germans would poison their water. The diplomat, flying buff, wireless pioneer and writer William Le Queux secured a phenomenal bestseller with his anti-German invasion fantasy *The Invasion of 1910*, published in 1906. Erskine Childers' *The Riddle of the Sands* was also hugely popular. The war itself of course blocked any actual invasion but still brought untold suffering and loss for Surrey families along with the rest of the country.

Twenty years later members of the Hitler Youth cycled around



*Above: Czech anti-Nazi rebels Jozef Gabčík (left) and Jan Kubis (right) who were trained in Surrey to resist their homeland's invaders.*

England including Surrey and were taught beforehand how to spy on the terrain, taking river measurements and so on. News of the horrors inflicted on Jewish communities even before World War 2 showed what the Germans were capable of if given an opportunity.

In 1938 following Chamberlain's Munich treaty with Hitler, the Czech government-in-exile settled in Putney and after war broke out organised the Czechoslovak National Liberation Committee, later moving to Buckinghamshire. Two young Czech soldiers in exile, Jozef and Jan, came to Headley in November 1941 wanting to work for the Allies. Locals still recall widespread speaking of Czech in the village but few people knew there was a Special Operations Executive training centre there as well as a prisoner of war camp for German officers.

Villa Bellasis at Headley trained Czech paratroopers. 1st Lt Rudolf Hrubec organised a graduate course for sabotage groups. Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubis were there to improve their skills in motorised vehicles, Morse Code and orientation in unknown territory. They practised shooting with pistols and machine guns and throwing hand grenades. In December 1941 the RAF dropped the two paratroopers inside occupied Czechoslovakia where they contacted the local resistance. Lt Hrubec was later killed when his plane crashed in Italy. His whole family had been executed by the Nazis in 1942. Today Bellasis House survives as home to the Waite family which still has connections to the family of Winston Churchill.

In an interview with Lorraine, Edna Touzel of Banstead said everything had been absolutely 'hush hush'. She remembered walking in the countryside one day near Headley and meeting two unfamiliar middle aged women. They had asked if it had been quiet last night and had she had a good night's sleep. She had refused to answer as the women might have been spies. German radio equipment was later found dumped in a water storage system in Leatherhead. Whether this had anything to do with the mystery women remains unknown.

The war diary of the Royal Canadian Engineers working on Headley Heath in November 1942 quotes the commanding officer: 'Everyone .. will make a definite rule NOT to mention any phase of their work to any person, or to discuss any place of their work with another member of staff when there is any possibility to being overheard.'



*Left: Lorraine Spindler chats with L&DLHS member Derek Summerfield who once worked at Villa Bellasis. (Photo by Robin Christian.)*

So what was being kept secret and why was it so important?

Canadian involvement in the war was extensive and the country's forces were based in Surrey for much of the time (including Leatherhead, of course, where they built Young Street). Two Canadian divisions organised and trained at the start came to be based here, 23,000 Canadians in all, most based at Aldershot. A New Zealand force joined them. In 1940 a new 7th Corps came into existence headquartered at Headley Court (below). Heated flight suits used by Allied airmen were also secretly produced in Banstead.

Espionage in Surrey didn't end with World War 2. During the Cold War too there were clearly some things going on under the radar.



Another interviewee, a onetime police officer, told Lorraine about an event in the 1960s at Guildford Police Station.

He said: ‘There was some excitement when watchers from MI5 moved into the front downstairs office. They were there for many days waiting, playing cards, drinking my tea and no doubt eating the McVities. What they were up to I had no idea.

‘One day I was in the front office when a caller came and asked for something using a box number of which I had become aware but which bemused the station officer. I took the visitor across the yard and he obviously thought I knew something of what was going on. “It will happen today and we will be gone,” he said. Sometime later the phone rang, the office emptied and they never returned. Years later I read that an RAF warrant officer was spying for the Russians and had made a dead letter drop in Guildford at about that time.’

## NEWS

### **HISTORIC LEATHERHEAD COMPUTER SYSTEM DONATED TO BLETCHLEY PARK**

The Leatherhead Food Research Association (LFRA) was one of several research bodies that moved to the former Randalls Farm site with government encouragement after World War 2, opening in 1950. In 1967 Dr Alan Holmes became director and expanded the operation to serve overseas as well as domestic manufacturers.

The LFRA flourished as international demand grew for information and high quality scientific knowledge from across the world.

Central to development was introduction of the Computer Aided Information Retrieval System (CAIRS) (shown right) which was years ahead of its time for storing and efficiently retrieving published information.



This was eventually marketed to bodies outside the food industry, including organisers of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and those cataloguing the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle. However circumstances changed and the research association went into administration in 2015. It continues today elsewhere.

Following Dr Holmes's death, a unique set of Micro-CAIRS documentation has now been donated to the Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park at the suggestion of L&DLHS member Simon Ritchie. For background information on the system see the L&DLHS *Proceedings*, Vol. 7, No. 10, 2016, page 31.

## THE PATH TO WW2 - NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS



An album of newspaper cuttings covering the period up to Britain's declaration of war on Germany at 11am on Sunday, 3 September 1939, was displayed at the Museum last autumn. It provided a fascinating window on those troubled times and for a short period afterwards, with items covering how to fit a gas mask, hair styles to go with your helmet etc. The cuttings above were from the *Daily Mail* on the previous day, Saturday, 2 September.

The album was inherited from a cousin by Jane Haslam. It drew a lot of attention from visitors. Historic cuttings are always of interest so if you have some - particularly if covering life in the Leatherhead locality - please do contact us.

## PRIZE FOR L&DLHS AT ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM



*Above: Photo by Frank Haslam.*

**Society members Nigel Bond, Fred Meynen and Frank Haslam set up a promotional L&DLHS stand at the annual Surrey Archaeological Society (SyAS) Symposium on 29 February in the Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall.**

Nigel brought the display panels from the Museum; Fred, a retired GP, brought medical items from his collection; and Frank brought books for sale. Roy Mellick provided the latter as well as new header display boards. The display also included a rolling presentation of title slides of the last 12 talks and some website screen shots.

L&DLHS had two large tables in the Marshall Room. Society Archaeology Secretary Nigel was also manning the adjacent SyAS table recruiting local secretaries and he gave a well received talk on the test pitting at Rowhurst. Another member, Lynn Spencer, had an independent display of the finds.

On behalf of the L&DLHS team, Nigel collected the SyAS Margary Award for runner-up exhibit and a cheque for £100. It was felt that the Society had certainly made its mark on the day. Some years ago Fred Meynen and Gwen Hoad won best exhibit.



## FEATURE

### ORDNANCE SURVEY BENCHMARKS AND TRIG POINTS

**Around the 16th century, maps were slowly adopted in Europe. Cartographers produced them to help plan sea voyages and military campaigns but few people understood what a map actually was or how to read one, says SIMON RITCHIE.**

In the 18th century, owners of large estates commissioned maps of their land and the first county maps were produced. Surveying equipment was primitive and the maps were inaccurate and expensive. The first large-scale mapping by the British Government was William Roy's survey of the newly-absorbed Scotland. Originally the interest was from the army for the purposes of control, which is why the Board of Ordnance ran the project, but it gradually became more than that. It was about getting to know our own country.

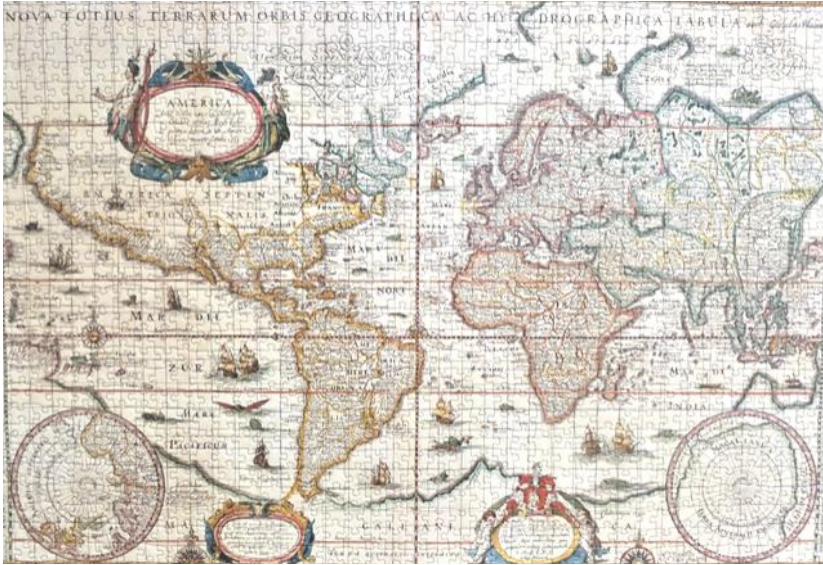
At this time, the idea that government should do useful things for the public good was new, the postal service and mapping being two of the first such projects. By the late 18th century three generations of the Casini family had surveyed and mapped the whole of France on behalf of the French Crown and proposed extending the survey into the south of England with British cooperation. Among other benefits, this would allow a better estimate of the size of Earth, then only approximately known.

The technique used was trigonometry, used by the ancient

Greeks. You measure a baseline as accurately as possible, then sight a distant object, measure the angle from each end of the baseline to get the position.



*Left: Trig point at Box Hill.*



*Above: A map of the world as known in Europe in 1650, long before the age of technological surveys.*

Once the position of some primary points are known, measure from them to points in between and so on.

In 1784, William Roy's team measured a five-mile baseline on Hounslow Heath using ten-foot long glass rods, then used one of the first theodolites (weighing 200 lb) to sight on distant objects. The top of Leith Hill Tower was one of the first. They then headed for the south coast, measuring as they went, building cairns of stones to mark the positions that they measured.

This was one of Britain's great projects of the Enlightenment and it generated widespread public interest. By around 1790 the Ordnance Survey was established as the UK's mapping authority. The precise date is a matter of definition. By then there was a perceived danger of a French invasion via the south coast, so that was the first focus of the mapping. The threat receded but the mapping continued.

Initially the maps were expensive – 20 days of a skilled worker's pay - but ordinary people could get access to them via the new lending libraries. The first survey took 80 years to map England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

As well as measuring the landscape, the team had to get to grips with place names in dialect English and the Celtic languages.

Through the 19th century, towns and cities were expanded, roads and railways were built, all of which meant constant resurveying and republishing. But measurement technology improved. The first spotlight - 'limelight' - was used by the OS before it was used in theatres. The theodolite became smaller and more portable.

As OS maps became cheaper, the general public started using them to explore the countryside and in 1935 the OS started a new national survey, using state-of-the-art equipment. Interrupted by World War 2, it was completed in 1962.

Stone cairns which were prone to collapse or suffer deliberate damage were replaced by four-foot high concrete trig pillars. This could involve surveyors climbing mountains, carrying building materials and survey equipment. The result was a network of markers with positions known to an accuracy of about one metre.

There are less well-known position markers. These are benchmarks, which give the height at a given point and are scattered over every town. There is one on the wall of Leatherhead Parish Church.

Other sorts of trig points are less visible than the pillars. Leith Hill Tower has a bolt in the middle of the floor at the top, marking a primary trig point. Thousands of concrete surface blocks about 18 inches wide can also be seen, often by the sides of roads.

This network of physical markers is a monument to a huge project run over two centuries to map the country and which we now take for granted.



*Above: Benchmark on the west wall of Leatherhead Parish Church.*



*Left: Trig point bolt in the floor at the top of Leith Hill Tower.*

However, in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, aerial photography, Lidar and GPS have made the network of physical markers redundant. The OS now uses a

smaller network of active (GPS) stations, accurate to 2cm and has no further interest in the physical markers. Nevertheless, they can be found through the websites <https://www.bench-marks.org.uk> and <http://trigpointing.uk>. This has produced a new hobby known as trig-pointing which involves visiting trig points and logging reports about their condition.

The OS facility at Newlyn for measuring average sea level is now a listed structure but nobody takes responsibility for the trigs and benchmarks. The trig pillars are fairly hefty and may last for centuries, although even now the one on Box Hill is cracked, letting in the frost each winter. Another is used as a garden ornament.

The surface blocks are in the most immediate danger, prone to being gradually buried. Bookham had three of them but they have all now disappeared. The bolts and benchmarks on the walls of buildings are also in danger, vulnerable to construction projects. So industrial archaeology is made.

## FEATURE

### THE BYRONS OF LEATHERHEAD



**This painting by Anton Otto Fischer shows the pursuit of the US warship *Constitution* by a squadron of the Royal Navy shortly after the outbreak of war between Britain and the United States in 1812, writes JOHN MORRIS.**

In fact there was very little wind at the start of the chase and later none at all so the *Constitution* lowered her boats and the crews towed their ships. However, the painting depicts some wind in the ships' sails, making them look better.

On the far left of the picture is the nearest British vessel to the *Constitution*. The distance between the two ships was actually upwards of four miles while the next nearest was ten miles behind. The nearest ship must be the *Belvidera*, commanded by Richard Byron, sometime of Linden House, Leatherhead, opposite the site of what is now the Letherhead Institute.

Richard Byron was the first son of the Hon and Rev Richard Byron, Rector of Houghton, County Durham (1724-1811). He was

born in 1769 and joined the Royal Navy in 1782, serving until 1814. During his service he overcame, sometimes with others, ten enemy ships. Shortly after he retired he was made a Companion of the Bath.

In 1801 at Stoke Damerel, Devonport, Richard married Sarah Sykes of Leatherhead, daughter of James Sykes, a naval agent. In 1802 he earned a place on the promotion ladder, becoming a post-captain. In those days, once someone in the Royal Navy became a post-captain, he continued to be promoted as long as he lived. He retired in 1814 but as a post-captain was promoted to rear-admiral in 1837, the year of his death. The address on his will was given as Leatherhead but he actually died at the Bush Hotel, Southsea, on the way to the Isle of Wight for his health. He was buried in the grounds of the Portsmouth Garrison Chapel.

In 1802 Richard and Sarah's first son had been born, also named Richard. Three more followed: James of the 8th Foot, an army officer; John, an Anglican priest, and William, auditor for the East India Company.

The younger Richard Byron is commemorated in Leatherhead Parish Church. It reads: *This tablet is erected as a token of sincere affection to the memory of Richard Byron Esq, eldest son of Rear-Admiral Richard Byron CB, who died 23rd February 1843 off Mazatlan, off the coast of Mexico, while in command of Her Majesty's sloop of war, 'Champion'.*

Tensions were rising at the time between Mexico and the United States. The *Champion* may have been on hand to report any hostilities to the British Government.

Another tablet commemorates Mary Byron, née Richardson. This reads: *In a vault near this tablet is laid the body of (as the living soul left it for the world of spirits) Mary, the beloved wife of Revd John Byron, vicar of Elmstone Hardwicke, and eldest child of William Richardson Esq of Leatherhead, in which were really seen the amiable virtues of a kind and attached wife and the warmest feelings of a most affectionate child. Tho it pleased the Almighty to visit her with lengthened sickness, yet did her faith remain firm and steadfast and her love to her lord and saviour unchilled and fervent. Died at Hastings of pulmonary consumption in patient resignation to the divine will on 30th December 1842 aged 37.*

Richard Byron of the *Champion* was a witness at Mary and John's wedding. The other brothers, James of the 8<sup>th</sup> Foot and William, the auditor, also need to be considered. The electoral roll for 1841 shows Richard Byron of the *Champion* living near the turnpike and owning a freehold house and land. He owned land in Barnet Wood Lane and in the common fields.

As Leatherhead is on the route from London to Portsmouth, the Byrons could often have broken their journeys here. Weather permitting, the coach journey from London would have taken 2½ to 3 hours.

The Byron family had also lived in Leatherhead in the previous century. Isabella Byron (1721-1795), daughter of the fourth Lord Byron, had already borne five daughters by her first husband, the fourth Earl of Carlisle, when she married Sir William, Musgrave, Bt (1735-1800) in 1759. He leased Randalls Park in Leatherhead as their country seat.

Sir William, called to the bar in 1758, had successfully defended the fifth Baron Byron on a murder charge so that he walked away a free man. He and Isabella made an unlikely pair as she was 14 years older and outgoing while he was somewhat academic and private in his tastes. However, he became a Commissioner of Customs, a Fellow and Vice-President of both the Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries, a Trustee of the British Museum and its Commissioner of Accounts. He was also the author of an index to obituaries.

Ten years after their marriage the couple agreed a legal separation and Isabella was formally to retain the lease on Randalls Park but left England soon afterwards so she may not have seen Leatherhead again. Today's Byron Place, off Church Road, recalls the family.

*Sources include The Fall of the House of Byron by Emily Brand. Editor adds: Our area also has another link with the family. Augusta Byron (1815-1852), the only legitimate child of the poet Lord Byron, who became Countess of Lovelace in 1838 through her marriage, is known as the world's first computer scientist. Renowned for writing a description of Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine, she and her husband lived at Horsley Towers, East Horsley. She also named her two sons Byron and Gordon after her father and was buried next to him in the family vault at Newstead Abbey, near Nottingham.*

## FEATURE

### A DETECTIVE STORY - STEPHEN THORNTON by BRIAN BOUCHARD

The *In Memoriam* card shown right introduces the subject of this article.

He had been born in Epsom on 6 February 1803 to Richard Thornton and his wife Mary, and was taken to St Martin of Tours Parish Church for baptism, 30 June 1803. His father

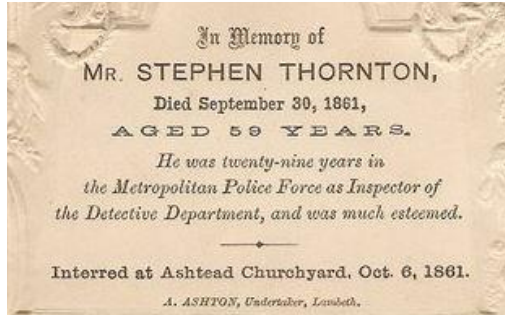
appears to have been a son of William Thornton, whose family had been tenants at West Farm, Ashtead.

Stephen is reported to have died at his home in Lambeth (where he was enumerated in 1851 and 1861) of 'apoplexy'. He was brought back to Ashtead for burial close to his ancestors in St Giles' churchyard. The plot C65 headstone and footstone read: *Stephen Thornton, late Inspector of the Detective Force of the Metropolitan Police died 30th September 1861 aged 59 years. Erected to his memory by his brother officers of the Detective Force and a few private friends, also Elizabeth* [his wife who died in 1868].

Having entered the Metropolitan Police about 1832, he rose to the rank of sergeant, E Division Holborn, becoming part of the teams investigating Robert Westwood's murder, 1839, and Daniel Good's escape from the police in April 1842. He was assigned to tail Mary Good and her associates and was also involved in searching her house [Roehampton Murder, *The Times*, 19 April 1842].

In June 1842 a new investigative force was formed as the Detective Branch, taking over a function formerly the responsibility of the Bow Street Runners. Stephen was selected to be among its first six sergeants. He and Sergeant Jonathan Whicher were sent to investigate Chartist agitation in West Yorkshire in June 1848.

By the 1850s, Stephen was a detective inspector. He coordinated and oversaw detective work among uniformed policemen, notably





the periodic use of plain-clothes patrols at fairs, races and other public events.

Charles Dickens produced a number of stories about the Detective Branch in the journal *Household Words*. Dick Datchery, a character in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, is suggested to have been modelled on Sergeant Stephen Thornton, with his 'ruddy face and high sun-burnt forehead'. [*Household Words*, 13 July 1850].

Police reports in London newspapers indicate that the new detectives had become active during their first few months on duty. A jewel thief had been pursued to Dublin and brought back to face justice at Bow Street magistrates' court. [*The Times*, 15 September 1842]. A fortnight later Stephen Thornton reappeared, at Marylebone, along with Inspector Haynes, in a case *The Times* described as 'of a most extraordinary and delicate nature'. The accused, Alice Lowe, had been living clandestinely with Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency as his mistress before absconding with valuable jewellery and other items. Stephen located the missing property at a local pawnbroker. However, Lowe was acquitted at a hearing in the Old Bailey on 24 October 1842.

On 17 August 1860 Mrs Mary Emsley was found murdered at her home in Grove Road, off the Mile End Road, in Stepney. Stephen became deeply involved in the case, convinced by circumstantial evidence that string matching laces in James Mullin's boots was also found on an incriminating parcel of small items taken from the house. Eventually Mullins, a disgraced former police sergeant from K Division, was brought to trial at the Old Bailey.

On 27 October 1860, Stephen filed his report: 'James Mullins was yesterday found guilty at the Central Criminal Court of the Wilful Murder of Mrs Emsley on the 13<sup>th</sup> August last and he was sentenced by the Lord Chief Baron Pollock to be executed.' After an appeal, and protesting his innocence to the end, Mullins was hanged in front of Newgate prison before a crowd of 30,000 people on 19 November 1860.

This case appears to have been Stephen Thornton's swansong. He died before a year was out.

## FEATURE

### **IT WASN'T A COFFIN THEY CARRIED THEM OFF IN** by **BOB KELLEY, BOOKHAM U3A,** **SOCIAL HISTORY GROUP**

Amateur historians looking at parish registers from the late 17th and early 18th centuries may be puzzled to find a particular group of burial entries. Why were almost all the burials recorded as being in 'woollen' and why was each one verified by the affidavits of two witnesses? The exception, 'buried in linen', has the note '*and ye penalty lodged and distributed according to Act of Parliament*'.

These all demonstrate that the parish was adhering to a long forgotten law. The woollen trade had been important to the wealth and prosperity of England but with the introduction of new materials and imports, some people thought this key industry was under threat. Many of them sat in the parliament of King Charles II as members for constituencies in wool-producing areas or relied on wool producers to pay them their rents. They combined to pass a law to try and maintain the demand for domestic wool.

The *Burying in Woollen Acts 1666-80* were passed, requiring the dead (except plague victims and the destitute) to be buried in pure English woollen shrouds to the exclusion of any foreign textiles. It was a requirement that an affidavit be sworn within eight days of the burial in front of a justice of the peace or mayor (usually by a relative of the deceased) confirming burial in wool, with punishment of a £5 fee for noncompliance (equivalent to £1280 today).

Half of this went to the informant and the rest to the poor of the parish where the body was buried. In practice, as it was usually a family member who acted as informant anyway, only the net cost of £2/10s was paid to benefit the local poor.

If the parish did not have a JP or mayor, the parson, vicar or curate could administer the oath. Burial entries in parish registers had to be marked with the word 'affidavit' or its equivalent to confirm that it had been sworn. It would be marked 'naked' for those too poor to afford the woollen shroud.

The legislation was unpopular and generally ignored after 1770 but it was not repealed until the Statute Law Revision Act 1863.

## ORAL HISTORY FEATURE



### HALF A CENTURY OF MEN'S SALES

DAVID FULLER  
(1948-)

David Fuller ran a men's outfitters in Church Road, Great Bookham for more than 52 years until October 2019. An exclusive specialist business, it drew custom from far beyond Surrey. He is seen middle left in 1970 and above in the early 1980s. Bottom left shows his father George taking measurements in the early days of the mid 1960s.



My parents were George Fuller and mother Jean Fuller. Father was a Sutton man, born and bred. My mother's father was a travelling income tax inspector from up north. My mother came down during the war as a physiotherapist at St Helier Hospital where she met my father when he was shipped home with a broken back. They got together, married a year later, and I was born in 1948.

They moved to Fetcham first, around 1949, and then to Childs Hall Road, Bookham. My sister Jane was born in Fetcham in 1951 and my younger sister Kate in this house in 1959.

My father already had a business. He started up an insurance round on bicycles in the Sutton area before I was born but he wasn't very keen on that because the only time anyone got anything was when somebody passed away. So he bought a van and set up a travelling library. He fitted it out with books and used the same customers as the insurance round. He built it up but as television was coming in he had to start something else. So he started selling different items, clothing and all sorts of things to make a living.

He had a well respected business around the St Helier estate and Sutton and as we moved over this way, also customers in Ashted, Fetcham and Bookham. As times changed he moved more into clothing and linens, all from good quality houses up in London, near St Paul's. As people had more credit they asked what else did he sell. He had a contact in Sutton for quality furniture and sold carpets and furniture as well as clothing.

When I left school I just expected to work for him. It was good enough. One of his customers with a shoe repair business in The Green at Claygate was moving to a larger shop. It was only tiny but he fitted it out with electric lights, put some stock in there, and started taking me down there every day to run it. He felt guilty about me being there on my own at only 16 or 17 years old but I eventually learned to drive and went from Bookham to Claygate in my first car.

We were there for about a year until my father got to know of a shop available in Church Road, Bookham, formerly a butcher's shop. Originally Madge's, then Tottman's, it was being renovated by the landlord into two brand new shops. Stephen Fortescue, the local solicitor [*see Page 1*], got to know of this shop becoming

available. Father moved the business here from Claygate in 1966 and it became good experience for me for 18 months.

We sold clothing, a lot of footwear, and some furniture. Eventually it was obvious that clothing and footwear were going to be more popular so we got rid of the furniture, carpets and rugs and ran the credit business down, concentrating on the shop as a family.

My mother was involved and my elder sister when she left school. Then two years later the shop next door, No 7 Church Road, was being built on two alleyways between what was then Gardiners cycle shop and what is now The Grange. The landlord, (father of the present landlord), told my father he could have the new shop as long as he took the upstairs as well. He did so which was quite a godsend as it gave a nice lot of space and we were very busy from 1968 onwards.

Times changed. When people had a single family car and shopped locally we had a tremendous number of customers throughout the week. People then started to shop outside the area but the business was still progressing and the following year we took three rooms above the shop to expand the stock. Through different recessions we went backwards a little bit but just persevered and adapted again to the times. We didn't do quite so much footwear in the end and concentrated on clothing.

My father passed away in 1994. Things were fairly slow then with people shopping more in the stores which were doing everyone else's business so it was spread thinly. We were selling extra large sizes which we felt was a good market to be in but we weren't sure where to publicise it apart from the *Yellow Pages*.

After my father died I had caricatures made up of big men. I discovered free newspaper advertising and developed that over a couple of years. We went in papers over a 20 or 30-mile radius, specifically advertising the extra large sizes. I made sure I had plenty of stock and good quality suppliers. I thought it was no good people coming to a little shop in Bookham if we hadn't got the stock to offer.

It gradually snowballed from a very low turnover in 1994. In the following two years we had a 40% increase as I spent about £8000 on advertising just on big sizes. We carried on increasing spending

to about £13,000 and the following year had another 40% rise. It was a market that men weren't being catered for. Stores were not catering for the extra large man to any extent.

The following year I kept the advertising at the same amount and it went up another 15%. Then it levelled off a bit but it had gone up to an incredible turnover by 2001 for a village shop especially. It tapered off a little bit after the 9/11 tragedy in the States and people were starting to experience endowment crisis problems. The public seemed to be taking more notice of their endowments and pensions so it dipped the following year or so but it was still an extremely good turnover. We maintained a very good business and turnover for a number of years.

It was the larger sizes that kept us in business, helping the regular sizes as well because of the advertising. We created a website in the 1990s which eventually developed into online trading just for the big sizes. We had some very good customers. The website acted better than the *Yellow Pages* and took its place.

It was incredible. Even people just around the corner, maybe in Fetcham, who didn't realise we were there, looked online for bigger sizes and there we were. We were also getting people from all over the country. We had quite a few from Scotland, not necessarily travelling but ordering online. People travelled up from the south coast because it was a good day out. We had a good selection so they would come up for the day and buy some sort of outfit. All sorts of places. South London. It was amazing.

The only time I considered expanding into other premises was around 2001 when we were at our height. But I had a very good gentleman working for me who was very experienced and as my father used to say to me, if you are doing one job do it properly. I've been told that two shops are very difficult to run. Three or more are better if you get decent managers but there is the problem. I concluded it would be better sticking to what we knew and not losing contact with the existing business.

There are a lot more coffee shops and eating places in Bookham than when we started in the 1960s. The trade association made a survey of the number of places where you could buy, eat or drink food and I think it was 18. It seemed incredible after the recession

of 2008. In the previous recession sandwich and coffee shops were the first to go because people economised. But this time they seemed to proliferate.

The atmosphere of the High Street and Church Road hasn't really changed because you can't do a lot with it apart from turning shops into residential or residential into shops. Now trading is difficult and there could be a swing back to residential but who knows what time will bring.

Further down Church Road on the corner of The Park there was a newsagents in the 1960s which was run by an old lady and then taken over by Frank Walker and his wife. I remember going to school from Bookham Station and he used to be standing down there in the morning selling newspapers when he first took over the shop. He developed it into a good business but eventually retired and I think it was passed on to one of the chains of newspaper shops and was never the same again. It is now residential and only a couple of years ago was converted into flats.

## ORAL HISTORY FEATURE

### BRINGING MUSICAL JOY TO PATIENTS

**SYLVIA LINDSAY**  
(1925-)

**Sylvia Lindsay (right) has lived in Little Bookham since 1952 where she brought up her family. A former concert pianist, she took control of the charity now called Music for Hospitals in 1972 and ran it for 20 years, turning it into an organisation that now arranges over 4000 performances a year by professional musicians who visit hospitals and care homes nationwide.**



I was born on 29 May 1925 and we came to live in Little Bookham in 1952, two years after getting married. In those days the house was quite a bit smaller than it is now. With a growing family it has grown in various directions. I shall never forget when we first saw it, oh how lovely. It looked out on the fields in front and back and was lovely inside with a cherry red carpet and pictures of Chinese animals running up the stairs.

Our garden had carpets of snowdrops in the front. The snowdrops have now moved to the back, all over the place. It is so lovely here in the spring. We have a lovely community in our little church.

I had degrees in music and had some piano pupils coming in for lessons. That petered out quite quickly when I had my three children but when the third one was back in school I took up my career again as a musician.

My husband David and I had over 60 years of wonderful marriage. He died five years ago. He worked with British Rail in the administration and we had wonderful passes all over the country which I used in my work. I was able to travel and use my railway pass to go all over the place. Our daughter is now a music therapist. Our elder son is a sound recordist and goes all over the world on TV travel programmes. Our younger son is a businessman. They live in Rye, Twickenham and Chiswick. They all look on this as their family home because they spent all their childhood here.

I was born on a farm and spent the first 23 years of my life down in Sussex, just outside Rye. My father had 5000 Cox trees, a wonderful sight in spring. That is where I was until I got married in 1950. We had two years in Oxshott and have been here ever since.

The changes we have seen are tremendous. I've got pictures of this house when it was built in 1910 and it looked exactly the same. Lower Road had no school and was a little narrow road and very quiet. Where there is now the new estate, Martingales, there was this lovely farm owned by dear Mrs Roberts who let us take the children along to see the calves and plough around in the mud.

Little and Great Bookham were quite separate. The little church was very sleepy with the dear old vicar of 90 something, Mr Drinkwater. The congregation was about two and half people!

Dr Thompson, an eye specialist, and his wife lived at Preston





*Left and below: Sylvia in her younger days at the piano.*



Cross house [now Gracewell]. His children were the same age as ours. It was a lovely old house with this beautiful garden. Dr Thompson built the bungalow opposite for his pig man.

Down Water Lane, Dunglass Farm was an old wreck. Since then it has been divided up.

David commuted into Waterloo. He had an ancient bicycle and used to cycle down to Bookham Station. We quite soon got a little tiny Austin and then when we had our third child I remember my father saying David, I think it's time you got a bigger car. Being very tall with long legs it was getting a bit hard. When we first came to this house there was no drive and exit on to the road - there wasn't any traffic on the road.

I remember the little shop, Weales. They carted the coal and delivered my groceries every week. I remember very well Mrs Weales giving me a bouquet of flowers when I had my first child. We had wonderful service and everything was delivered.

When we first came here the very first person to call in upon me

was Elsie Micholls, the doyenne of the manor house up Manor House Lane whose family had lived in what is now the school. We got summoned to some lovely tea parties there. It was really like stepping into the past to go into that house. She looked after all the local things like having the Girl Guides and the fetes in her garden. She was very much the Queen of Little Bookham.

Another early memory is of the old rag and bone man coming along with his horse and cart and carting away some of our leaded pane windows which had completely collapsed. At Preston Cross there was a man [Mr Hampshire] who had a little hut behind that lovely old cottage who would mend one's garden shears and next to Weale's there was Mr Fitzgerald who mended everything to do with leather. He was absolute magic and my family adored him. In those days you never threw away anything. I remember taking my husband's ancient umbrella in because two of the spokes had gone and my daughter's bridles for her pony. His place was full of all kinds of nails, bolts, buttons and shapes and sizes.

A few years ago someone came to the door and said they had lived in this house during the war. We had three bedrooms and one box room, six foot by seven. Apparently in the war a General Richardson lived here with four children and a maid. It must have been quite a squash.

We used to have a music club in Bookham in those days and we had concerts here in this room. I loved Baroque. My husband loved music but nothing after Beethoven. He adored Handel so we always went up to the Handel Opera Society in London. He would sit at the piano and say I can remember something I heard when I was up a tree when I was ten and suddenly play it on the piano. I couldn't begin to do that. But he never trained. He couldn't read music. I tried once or twice to teach him but it didn't work.

I loved the piano as a child. I did music at school and later went to the Royal College of Music and then the Royal Academy of Music. All my life there has been a thread of music. I can remember at school how I loathed hockey and I was able to avoid it by practising the piano. So it has always been my passion. Because of the war my music career got interrupted but I started freelancing, accompanying people who were giving concerts and teaching the odd pupil. I used

to get up at seven o'clock in the morning before the children got up. They remember my always practising, practising, practising for six or seven hours a day if I could. I was really a bit obsessional.

We did a lot of concerts at one time for Oxfam which was great fun and we went round all the churches and cathedrals in the country. That's when I started giving the odd concert and going into hospitals. I gave my first concert in a big psychiatric hospital in Brentwood [in Essex] in 1965. In fact I over-practised, my hands went wrong and I could no longer be a concert pianist.

So I took over running the charity Music in Hospitals instead in 1972. It was about to collapse with a £500 overdraft. Someone said why don't you take it on. I said I've never run anything and never even been to a meeting but they persuaded me. I did take it on and Marks & Spencers gave me a cheque for £1000 which paid off the overdraft.

When I took it over we just worked from the dining room table. We had built on an annexe for my mother and when she departed this life we moved in there as the organisation had grown so much. I ran it for 20 years as secretary and then director. It's now got branches all over the country and headquarters in Walton. It gives over 4000 live concerts each year by professional musicians, going up to the Isles of Orkney down to the island of Sark. I am still the President Emerita.

In 1980 I went up to Scotland to start it up there. I had a lovely time going around meeting the musicians, meeting lovely staff in hospitals and getting the organisation on its feet. It ended with a visit to Buckingham Palace [*to collect an MBE*] which I enjoyed. I always feel it was absolute fate.

I visited all the old local hospitals around Epsom - West Park, Horton and some of those that are no longer there. We have been to some of the care homes too, including Gracewell recently with a lovely harpist. I remember going several times to concerts at Southey Court and what a lovely reception we had there. I shall never forget another venue in Bookham because the residents were so sad at that time. Many of them were sitting so bent that their heads were literally resting on their knees. Yet by the end of the concert most were up and dancing with the musicians! The effect was absolutely electrifying and moving to watch.

The musicians must be enormously flexible in their repertoire. I remember one young man coming back and saying he had been asked to play *The Moonlight Sonata* which he did and then he was asked for *Daisy, Daisy* which he also did happily.

Music has the most amazing effects on patients. I have so many lovely stories. One nursing home I remember wrote to me afterwards and said our people are all gone and the families are all asleep but the warmth and the love are still here. It was really heart-warming the effect that these concerts had on the residents.

We had one lady who spoke during a concert after 40 years of silence. This sort of thing happens remarkably often. Now we even go into the hospices and play by individual bedsides and a lot of children's places. So that has been my great joy and work for a great part of my life.

My daughter is a music therapist with the most fantastic collection of singing bowls from Katmandu and gongs from Burma and she has people coming in with problems for her music therapy. She has founded an organisation called the Music Well which takes music to under-privileged people down in Sussex. I also have grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

When I retired I worked as a volunteer at the Princess Alice Hospice for a while. In the last couple of years I have started something which I had always passionately wanted to do because of my association with our lovely Little Bookham Church. I feel very strongly that all the religions are really seeking to the same thing but they are fighting each other and they are calling each other different names.

So I have now made a collection of 40 prayers from many different cultures and put them into a little booklet from around the world. It's called the *Circle of Light*. I'm hoping to do volume two because everybody says they love it. I've got some from the Inuits where instead of saying please God may we have our daily bread, they are saying please may we have our seal meat. They are so similar.

## OBITUARY

### STEVE POULTER (1925-2020)

Longstanding L&DLHS member Steve Poulter, who used to live in Copthorne Road, Leatherhead, died in Dorchester Hospital on 7 February 2020 aged nearly 95. Steve served on the Executive Committee and in many other ways in the 1970s before moving to the Dorchester area in the mid-1980s. Still a member until last year, he had been a scientist working at the Printing, Packaging and Allied Trades Research Association (PATRA) in Randalls Road.



*Steve Poulter*

In the July 1977 *LDLHS Newsletter*, Steve reported that on Saturdays for the past three months Society members had been helping the excavations of a section of Stane Street between Headley and Ashted, directed by Surrey Archaeological Society's Lady Rosamund Hanworth.

The base of the Roman Road and a ditch had been uncovered but it seemed that most of the metalling had been removed before a mediaeval boundary bank was thrown up over them. Plough marks in the natural chalk had been found that apparently pre-dated the road and, just as the work was ending, the remains of a wall, near the edge of the present bridle way, probably built with some of the flint metalling, had been uncovered.

In 1982 Steve's wife Olive gave a talk on *Irons through the Ages*, bringing along some of their extensive collection of flat-irons of all shapes and sizes. Olive died in 2012. In 1986 he was a member of the L&DLHS programme sub-committee. In November 1989 he gave a talk on Dorchester and arranged a Society visit there in July 1990 for the 150th anniversary of the birth of novelist Thomas Hardy. He had become a keen member of the Thomas Hardy Society.

## **LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Registered Charity No 1175119

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Telephone: 01372 386348 Email: [museum@leatherheadhistory.org](mailto:museum@leatherheadhistory.org)

Website: [www.leatherheadhistory.org](http://www.leatherheadhistory.org)

Online Archive: [www.ldlhsarchive.co.uk](http://www.ldlhsarchive.co.uk)

Monthly meetings at the Letherhead Institute every third Friday  
of the month between September and May, 7.30pm for 8pm.

Museum (Hampton Cottage): Open April-December

Thursdays and Fridays 1pm - 4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm

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[museum@leatherheadhistory.org](mailto:museum@leatherheadhistory.org)**Archival Material**

The Society's archival material including documents, illustrations and maps, may be accessed through the following members:

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[bookhamarchive@leatherheadhistory.org](mailto:bookhamarchive@leatherheadhistory.org)

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Vacant

**Historical Enquiry Service**

This tries to answer questions about the histories of Leatherhead, Ashtead, Bookham and Fetcham submitted via the Museum.

**Kirby Library (Letherhead Institute)**

The Library is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10am-12.30pm.

## VACANCIES

The L&DLHS still has vacancies for all of the following posts. Filling these really is crucial for the Society's future, as is attracting more ordinary members. For more information, to volunteer yourself, or to recommend someone suitable, please contact Chairman John Rowley on 01372/723417 or any of the existing office holders on Pages 38/39.

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