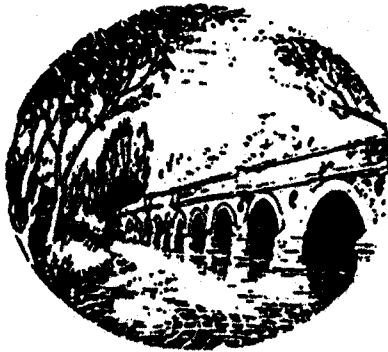


LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



August 1999

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, LEATHERHEAD Surrey KT22 8DP
Tel: 01372 386348

Registered Charity No. 802409

CHAIRMAN Peter A. Tarplee 01372 452301	SECRETARY Thelma Lucas 01372 844345	TREASURER Judith Mills 01372 372146
---	--	--

The Society meets on the 3rd Friday of the month in at the Letherhead Institute from September to May. For details see programme in this issue.

1999 Membership Subscriptions

Ordinary.....	£9.00
Associate.....	£4.00
Junior (under 18).....	£1.00

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Jack Barker	01372 458469
-----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------

The Museum is open from April until December at the following times :

Thursday	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN	Alan V. Pooley	01372 374093
-------------------------------	-----------------------	---------------------

The Library is open from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday and from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on the first Saturday in the month or by arrangement with the Librarian.

LIBRARIAN	Gwen Hoad	01372 273934
------------------	------------------	---------------------

The Records are available for study by arrangement.

RECORDS SECRETARY	Brian Godfrey	01372 454654
--------------------------	----------------------	---------------------

Lectures on the local history of the area may sometimes be given to other local societies by our members.

LECTURE SECRETARY	Gordon Knowles	01372 458396
--------------------------	-----------------------	---------------------

The Newsletter is published quarterly.

Copy for the November 1999 issue should reach the Society's Office by 15 October 1999
FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER contact the MUSEUM Phone no. as above

The Friends of Leatherhead Museum support the Society's work in the Museum

SECRETARY	Thelma Lucas	01372 844345
------------------	---------------------	---------------------

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since I wrote for the May Newsletter the Society has held its AGM. At this meeting Peter Starling stood down as our Treasurer and he was warmly thanked for his services to the Society over the last three years. We were pleased to welcome Judith Mills as our new Treasurer - a task she has been performing since the New Year.

In his Treasurer's report Peter Starling stated that the Executive Committee did not wish to raise the annual subscriptions to the Society, but in order to cover increasing costs the charges for attendance at our lectures will go up; from September the charge for members will be £1.00 and for non-members £2.00.

Our president pointed out that the various activities of the Society could not be maintained without further voluntary effort. The Committee is short of members and, in particular, we are still without a Museum Curator and a Sales Secretary. In the last Newsletter I explained how the Curator's duties were much less than hitherto; and now that the sales at our meetings and in the Museum have been taken over by the Friends of Leatherhead Museum the work of the Sales Secretary is very much reduced. If someone feels that he or she could take on the work of selling our books it would be a great relief to the committee member who has been trying to keep the job going while carrying out the duties of Chairman. Anyone who would like to consider this is invited to get in touch with me and I will be pleased to explain what is involved.

I do not want my contribution to the Newsletter to be a constant complaint about the need for more helpers but we must bear in mind that if the Society is to carry out all the functions it sets out to then a certain minimum number of active members is necessary.

However, many positive things are happening. A number of you are, or have been, involved in producing publications. This is an important part of our activities. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will see details of the launch of Linda Heath's second book of archive photographs. This time she features Bookham and Fetcham. Last year we held a very successful book launch in Fetcham Village Hall. This year, thanks to the generosity of

Parallel Business Systems we have a much more interesting and exciting venue. I hope to see as many as possible of you on October 22nd.

We have the usual range of visits and lectures planned for the autumn and winter. During the summer Linda Heath arranged walks around Leatherhead town on three Saturdays and the Society has been involved in some of the organisation of Heritage Open Days in the area details of which are given elsewhere in this Newsletter. So we are remaining active but we could do so much more with a little help.

Peter Tarplee

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - 19 & 20 SEPTEMBER 1999.

This year there will be over 50 properties , walks and exhibitions forming the programme for Heritage Open Days in Dorking, Leatherhead and the surrounding villages.

Full details, including booking arrangements, will be published in posters and leaflets which will be available nearer the time and national publicity will be provided, as previously, in the Guardian.

Regarding activities in the area, a number of places to visit will have been open on previous years including our Museum which will be open on both days. However, a number of properties will be on view for the first time. Among these are Fetcham Park House, Parsons Mead School, Slyfield Manor, Providence Chapel and Broome Hall Ice house.

Walks are to be provided along the Mole, around Leatherhead town as well as Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham villages. Also there are walks describing the trees of Leatherhead, along the footpaths around Great Bookham and a stroll around Norbury Park. Exhibitions will be provided by Bookham Camera Club, Leatherhead Art Club, The Studio Art Club, and the Surrey Gardens Trust. Also bell ringing will take place at Leatherhead Parish Church.

There will be activities in the area which will be of interest to everyone, each of which will help with understanding our local history and heritage. Look out for the publicity and please support the various events which have been organised. Admission to all events is free.

LAUNCH OF NEW BOOK

On behalf of the Society Linda Heath has compiled another book in the Archive Photograph series. This new book contains old photographs of GREAT and LITTLE BOOKHAM and FETCHAM.

Many of the images are from the Society's collection whilst others have been supplied by members. We thank Linda and everyone who has provided photographs, or material for the captions, enabling the pictures and information to be made generally available.

The book will be launched at FETCHAM PARK HOUSE from 7.30 p.m. on Friday 22nd October. All members, their friends, neighbours, family and everyone else is invited to this meeting for which there will be no admission charge. There will be a short presentation about the book, a chance to meet over a glass or two of wine and, incidentally, an opportunity to see the inside of this imposing Grade II Listed mansion.

We are pleased to acknowledge the generosity of Parallel Business Centres in allowing the Society to use this venue for this function.

Copies of the book will be available and we hope that as many as possible who wish to purchase copies will do so on this occasion. This book will solve so many of your Christmas present problems and its sale will help the finances of the Society.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ENTRANCE TO FETCHAM PARK HOUSE IS FROM BADINGHAM DRIVE.

DORKING RAIL 150

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the railway to the town, Dorking Museum have mounted a special display which was opened by Sir Paul Beresford on 3 July. The line from Redhill to Dorking was opened on 4 July 1849 and the whole line to Reading was open for passenger traffic from 15 October 1849.

The display is open until 13 September and includes photographs, maps, plans, historical documents and models. It was prepared and written by Alan A Jackson who is also a member of this Society.

Dorking Museum is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2.00 to 5.00, and on Saturdays from 10.00 to 5.00

Incidentally, Alan's latest book has just been published. It is '*The Railway in Surrey*' and is published by Atlantic; ISBN 0-906899-90-7. The book describes the development of the railway system in the administrative county and its effect on the social and industrial life of the areas where it was built. The use of railways for military and industrial purposes are described together with a comprehensive account of the applications for freight and industry including internal railway systems on private premises.

This is an extremely book which will be enjoyed both by railway and social historians. It is a valuable addition to the record of the history of our county.

Peter Tarplee

HELP NEEDED

For a number of years the Society has been allowed to store certain items in the basement of the Mansion. As you are probably aware, Surrey County Council is significantly changing the way it uses the Mansion. This will involve moving the existing library function within the building and creating a new Registration Office for births, deaths and marriages for mid-Surrey in the space vacated.

As part of the scheme a secure archive store for the Registration Office will be created in the basement and we will have to remove all the material which is presently stored there. This is mainly new cardboard museum storage boxes and boxes and packets of new books ("A History of Ashtead" and "History of Fetcham")

If any member knows of anywhere where the Society may be able to store this material or has access to a van or motor caravan which could be used for transporting it from the Mansion we should be pleased of any help. We are in serious problems with storage and any help which could be given will be much appreciated. Please contact Thelma Lucas or Peter Tarplee if you have any suggestions how we can overcome these unexpected difficulties.

Peter Tarplee

AVIATION IN THE SOUTH EAST

Gordon Knowles B.Sc., M.Sc., F.I.M. will be holding a series of ten lecture-discussion meetings on behalf of Fetcham and Bookham WEA at the Letherhead Institute on Thursdays from 10.00 to 12.00 commencing 30th September.

The programme will cover the machines and personalities from the early days of balloons, kites, and airships to heavier than air flying at Farnborough, Brooklands, Hendon and the Isle of Sheppey. Then the impact of the first war in the air and the golden years between the wars at Brooklands, Croydon, Gatwick and Hendon.

A Saturday morning visit in November, outside the course, has been arranged to the former Royal Aerospace Establishment at Farnborough and a further visit can be arranged to another important historic site after the end of the course.

Enrolment can be made either at the first meeting or by obtaining a form from the WEA secretary, Joy Tapping, phone 01737 844937. The full fee is £36, concessions £31.

Gordon will also be holding a further series of ten Industrial Archaeology lecture-discussion meetings, plus a visit, in the Spring of 2000. These will again be held at Letherhead Institute ,commencing Thursday, 13th January. The full fee will be £40, concessions £34. Details will be found in a later Newsletter.

Peter Tarplee

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

A recently published book by Margaret Siddall entitled "*From Schoole to School : Changing Scenes 1699-1999*" is a history of St Martins-in-the -Fields High School for girls located in Tulse Hill. What makes it of interest to us, and why a copy is in our Library, is that the school was evacuated to Leatherhead in 1939. It was accommodated in St John's School , though the girls were boarded out in the town or even commuted from Tulse Hill.

"Sharing the facilities meant that while the 250 St John's boys were engaged in sports and other activities in the afternoons, St Martin's girls used the laboratories and the new classroom block, built on three sides of a rectangle. At 1.15 the girls queued up outside the building waiting for the boys to leave by another door...After initial reorganisation the girls were

able to use the school library, gym and playing fields, but always at a time when the boys were elsewhere so there was little chance of meeting. Art and singing were added to the curriculum with the use of Wesley Hall in Church Road; and juniors occasionally used the Old Cottage Hospital building. During the first evacuation year sports matches had been inter-form. Tennis in the summer term, and netball in the autumn and spring, were played on courts hired from the Congregational Church or West Wing, the sports centre in Fetcham Grove. Fifth and sixth forms were also able to use grass courts at the Letherhead Institute".

Chapter 4 from which this is an extract, is worth reading for the glimpse it gives us of wartime Leatherhead.

Other recent additions are:

NATIONAL AND GENERAL TOPICS- Local History

Williams, Michael A. "Researching Local History: the Human Journey". Longman, 1996

SURREY - Records

West Surrey Family History Soc. Record series Nos. 25 and 26
Surrey – "Individual Towns and Villages".

ASHTEAD

CORPORATION OF LONDON- Ashtead Common Management Plan: evaluation and objectives, Consultation Document. Corp. of London, 20 July 1994

CURRIE, Christopher K. – "An Evaluation of the Archaeological and Historical Landscape of Ashtead and Epsom Commons in Surrey".
2 vols. Surrey C.C./Corp. of London, 1999

OXSHOTT

GIDVANI, Dr B.S.- "Oxshott: the Story of a Surrey Village". Baron, 1996.
(Corrections and additions by E.A. Crossland accompany our copy)

The Society receives several newsletters etc. from other Societies. These are displayed on the notice board in the Museum office. "*The Local Historian*" is circulated to those members who have asked to see it, then stored in the library for one year.

All books in the Society's library are housed within the Institute Library room. In case of difficulty in finding what you want please contact the Society's Librarian (details on the front inside cover of this newsletter)

Don't forget your current L&DLHS Membership Card when you visit the Library.

SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP

Dear Editor,

You may remember that a few years ago the Surrey Industrial History Group planned to produce a book describing the industrial history of the county entitled GUNPOWDER TO GRAND PRIX.

Owing to the closure of the publishing company the book was not published when planned. However, SIHG are about to produce a similar book, SURREY'S INDUSTRIAL PAST, which will include much of the information prepared for *Gunpowder to Grand Prix*.

This new book will be available from the latter part of October at £12.95 and will be in soft back containing around 160 pages including 50 illustrations.

We hope that a number of your members will wish to purchase copies of SURREY'S INDUSTRIAL PAST from us.

A book launch will be held at Dorking Christian Centre on Friday 29th October when we invite everyone to come and hear a brief presentation about the book at 8.00 p.m. The hall will be open from 7.30 p.m. when members of the group, including the authors, will meet you and serve you with complimentary wine or soft drinks.

Everyone will be welcome at the meeting for which there is no admission charge, and we should be very pleased if you could publicise the book and meeting in your Society's newsletter.

The book will be on sale (price £12.95) at this event. Alternatively copies may be ordered from John Mills, 35 Trotsworth Avenue, Virginia Water, GU25 4AN, enclosing a cheque for £12.95 payable to SIHG.

Yours sincerely

CHRIS SHEPHEARD

Chairman, SIHG

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

What a joy it was to open ones eyes to a glorious sunny morning on June 22nd, the day of our coffee morning. The Museum garden looked lovely thanks to Pam's hard work and the Museum itself was spotless due to Eileen's efforts. Thank you both very much. This year Ernest had his plant stall outside the front door in an effort to catch some passing trade.

He did very well and raised £20.50 : and having the plants in the front certainly left more room in the garden for people to chat and visit the other stalls.

The *bric-a-brac* stall had a very good selection of things to sell and with help from Margaret Longstreath raised £52.20. Pam Starling made a wonderful dogsbody, helping wherever needed. And what a raffle we had this year. John and Jill Rosser had an amazing number of prizes and raised the wonderful sum of £68.50. And I mustn't forget the coffee!! It isn't easy to keep a supply of coffee 'on the boil' in our little cottage but somehow Gwen managed it and donations amounted to £52. This made a grand total of £153.10 Of course we have to deduct £9.16 for coffee and £2.58 for biscuits so the grand total raised was £141.36. Well done everyone. It was disappointing that there were very few 'visitors' present. If anyone has any ideas as to how we can achieve this please let me know.

After the coffee , cheese and wine were served to all *Friends of the Museum* which gave us all a chance to get to know each other. The whole morning gave me a lovely feeling of the Museum being a living building, and I look forward to next year and hope we have the same sunshine as we did this year.

In the past the Friends have had an outing to some interesting place. This year we are thinking of going to Chatham Dockyard but so far there has been very little response. There is a board in the office of the Museum for people to sign if they would like to go. Perhaps the venue is not a very suitable one so please let me know where and when we should go.

During the year John Clark resigned as vice chairman after many years service. Thank you so much John for all you have done over the years and we are so pleased that you are continuing to be a Steward.

Iris Butler felt she no longer had the time to devote to being our Secretary. She also had done the job for many years and we miss her experience and wisdom greatly. Thank you very much Iris. So there are two vacancies on the committee. Please will someone feel this is a contribution they could make to the Museum. We meet about six times a year so it's not too onerous, in fact it's quite fun. We also need more Stewards which is a fascinating job as such interesting people visit the Museum.

Thelma Lucas

HOW THE RECORDS SECRETARY WAS SELECTED IN 1968

Linda Heath recently received a letter from David Bruce in which he described how he became the Records Secretary:

"In January 1968 I moved to Little Bookham and very shortly afterwards joined the LDLHS. At the AGM in March I responded to an appeal to help Mr. Ruby (Chairman) with the Society's records, which Mr. Ruby kept in his bungalow in Fetcham.

"Soon after this, I visited Mr. Ruby and he showed me the records and explained the filing system and we agreed that I would call again to do some filing and recording. He had been ill previously and must have been taken ill again soon afterwards because I heard no more from him and on 5th May he died. The Society did not contact me and I assumed that they had made arrangements for a member of the committee to look after the records.

"However, in Sept. 1968 we had the Floods, particularly in Fetcham where the Rubys lived. Mrs. Ruby asked the Society to remove the records from her bungalow, since some of the material in boxes in her garage had been water-damaged.. I knew nothing about all this.

"Whilst I was out shopping with Mary, Mr. Lewarne arrived at my house with all the records. He managed to persuade my 16 year-old daughter, alone in the house, that it would be alright if he left the stuff there. When I came home, to my surprise, I found a large number of sodden cardboard boxes of Roman tiles, fossils, etc. in my garage, and a wardrobe-like cupboard full of documents, maps and photographs standing in my hall! I was thereby promoted to being the unofficial Records Secretary on the grounds that I was the only one who knew anything about the records!

"In view of my lightning promotion to Records Secretary and complete lack of knowledge about the Society, Leatherhead, or anything, I had to flounder my way for quite a time. Still, I did it for well over ten years, if not longer."

PROGRAMME

LECTURES

All meetings are held in the Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8 p.m. Entrance: £1 for members and £2 for non-members. Coffee is included, served from 7.30 p.m.

Friday, 17th September - "The History of St. John's School"
by Richard Hughes, Head of History Department. He will lead our tour of the school on 2nd October.

Friday, 15th October - "Preserve the Buses, Before and After!"
A talk about the Cobham Bus Museum by Bill Cottrill, a founder member. This will be followed two days later by a visit by cars to the Bus Museum with a guided tour and a ride in a vintage bus.

Friday, 19th November - The Dallaway Lecture:
"Guildford Castle & Royal Palace" by Rob Poulton, SCC
Archaeological Unit Manager.

Friday, 17th December - . Christmas Miscellany on "People and Places"
(Local if possible) Short talks by members, arranged by Gordon Knowles.

VISITS

Saturday, 18th September, 2.0 p.m. - Visit to Reigate led by Gerry Moss to see Cranston Library, churchyard, medieval undercroft and caves. Meet at 2.00 p.m. at Council Office car park, Castlefield Rd. Cost: £3.00 to include donation to Library and entrance to caves.

Saturday, 2nd October. Visit to St. John's School, led by Richard Hughes. Meet at 2 p.m. outside main entrance. Cost £1.00 payable on the day, but please send in application form.

Sunday, 17th October - Visit by cars to the Cobham Bus Museum in Redhill Road on left, approx. halfway between A3 roundabout and Weybridge roundabout. (Buses outside entrance.) Meet at 2 p.m. at entrance.

Cost : £2.50 payable on the day, to include guided tour and ride in a vintage bus. Please send in application form.

VISITS IN OCTOBER

**** PLEASE NOTE****

For visits where entrance fees or donations are payable on the day there is no need to send any money by post, but we DO need application forms to know how many are coming and for offers and requests for lifts, so do please send application forms. (S.A.E. only if acknowledgement required)

VISITS THIS YEAR - AND NEXT YEAR

This year we have had no coach tours because not enough members signed up last year, so all visits have been by cars, but very few members have signed up for these visits. WHY? Where would you like to visit? PLEASE LET US KNOW!

Proposed visits next year include a guided walk round Bookham Commons in April; a visit to Chatley Heath in May and a visit to Painshill in June.

Any other ideas? Your suggestions would be welcomed.

Please send them to Gordon Knowles. (See application forms for his address)

Linda Heath

