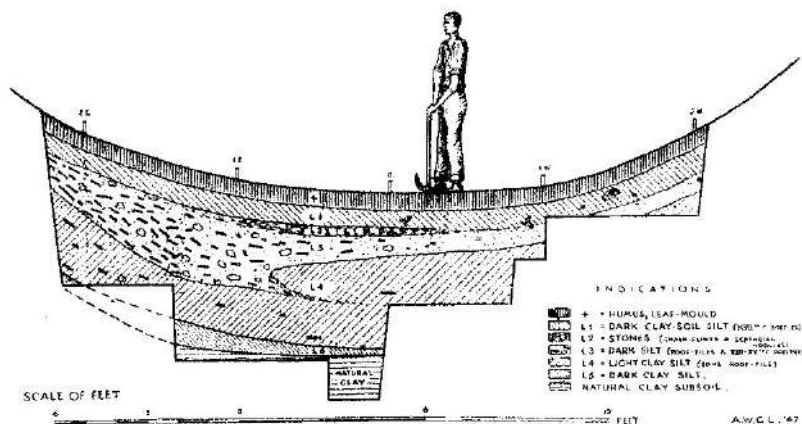




*Leatherhead & District Local History Society  
covering Ashted, the Bookhams, Fetcham, Headley,  
Mickleham and Leatherhead*

## *Newsletter*      *March 2021*

'THE MOUNTS', PACHESHAM NEAR LEATHERHEAD, SURREY  
THE LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S EXCAVATIONS - SEPTEMBER 1947  
SOUTH FACE OF TRENCH 'A' - THROUGH THE MOAT



This year marks the 75th anniversary of the L&DLHS. The very first *Proceedings* for 1947 reported excavations at The Mounts, Pachesham, that September to discover the origins of an earthwork in woodland near Leatherhead Station.

A scheduled ancient monument, it was assumed at the time to date from the Roman period or slightly earlier. However, the L&DLHS archaeologists confirmed early Iron Age occupation and despite finding some Roman tiles, concluded these had probably been brought there from buildings demolished on Ashted Common. The Mounts was surmounted by a large ditch enclosing a third of an acre. This was said to date from early mediaeval times, probably for a 13th century moated homestead, farm or manor-house.

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## L&DLHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS (1 Jan-31 Dec 2021)

As agreed at the latest AGM on 15 December, Ordinary membership is reduced for this year only to £10 while Associate & Student memberships remain at £6. The reduction was justified by the lower benefits available to members during the pandemic. A renewal form is enclosed for Society members who are yet to renew.

This form can also be downloaded from the website at [www.leatherheadhistory.org](http://www.leatherheadhistory.org). Go to Society > Miscellany > Paperwork.

The fee for Friend of the Museum remains unchanged at £3 or £5 for a couple. Please contact Frank Haslam, Membership Secretary, for bank details if paying by cheque. A fully completed renewal form is still required by post or email. The AGM also confirmed Frank as interim Secretary until the post is filled full time.

The changes to the CIO constitution were agreed by the members present. The date and details of the next AGM are to be decided.

**EDITORIAL**

So it continues. Few could have imagined a year ago that the Coronavirus pandemic would have had the extraordinary effects on every aspect of life that it has done, while still showing only limited signs of disappearing completely in the foreseeable future. However, as our Chairman suggests on Page 4, we all hope that vaccinations and lockdown restrictions together will eventually bring light at the end of the tunnel.

For a Society like the L&DLHS the effects have been especially dramatic at a time when we have lost longstanding participants both among the leadership and membership for various reasons. Nevertheless we continue regardless and remain a vital resource for anyone keen to learn what life was like for residents of this part of Surrey in both the recent and more distant past.

As usual, this edition of the *Newsletter* contains a varied range of articles, including lecture reports from our first ever online Christmas Miscellany; a tribute to Leatherhead's historic Non-conformist church, now closed; and yet another of Edwina Vardey's fascinating oral history interviews, this one conducted exactly 40 years ago.

The Society continues to evolve. As we await the reopening of the Museum, whenever that becomes possible, we see this year marking our 75th anniversary. This edition's front page is in honour of that landmark, reporting the first major archaeological project undertaken by the newly founded Society in the aftermath of World War 2 at Padeshams.

Page 7 also shows the first story ever to appear in the *Proceedings*, back in 1947. In those days the *Newsletter* was a very pale shadow of what it is today but the *Proceedings* represented the extremely high professional standards that applied as the Society found its place within the local culture.

Plans are currently being formulated to mark this year's anniversary and details of these will appear in later editions.

**TONY MATTHEWS**



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This issue of the *Newsletter* normally coincides with the AGM for the previous year but of course everything has been governed by the 'Great Pandemic Crisis', as history may retrospectively call it.

I had my first Covid-19 vaccination in late January with a second one booked for early April. Most younger people are still waiting for their initial jabs. But if hospital bed occupancy drops dramatically as we all fervently hope, we can expect restrictions to be reduced in due course.

Despite all, we are preparing to operate normally, although it may well be a 'new normal' with social distancing still in place. Our Museum has been closed because of the lockdown restrictions but the exhibits remained in place and are ready for eventual re-opening.

Archaeology has taken a pasting, even though mainly an outdoor activity, but new potential sites of interest are on the horizon. Our talks on Zoom have been increasingly well attended with a recent one hitting the 100 maximum audience. We owe much to member Simon Ritchie for establishing a complex set of Internet applications, procedures and protocols to deliver such talks online alongside those of Dorking Local History Group among others.

Work on developing our documentary archives has been patchy without volunteers in two of our parishes. We have been looking at switching our records process to a centralised facility but it seems that viewing property for charitable purposes is not currently possible so this is on hold. Of book sales and publications, only the *Newsletter* continues to gather strength.

However, the public remain keen to take advantage of our records and indeed, to provide additional new material. I received an enquiry about a Sara Jeanette Duncan who died in July 1922 and is buried in St Giles Churchyard. She turned out to be a Canadian-born and based author but died of pneumonia while living in Ashted where her husband had bought a house in Barnett Wood Lane. The new houses there were originally named and theirs had been demolished but I was able to locate it using local maps and records. It is truly gratifying to help researchers in this way.

**JOHN ROWLEY**

## PROGRAMME OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

**Our programme of free online lectures using Zoom technology has continued since last year. See lecture reports on Pages 8, 12 and 18.**

These talks are organised jointly with Dorking Local History Group. They are held at variable times and dates rather than our own traditional third Friday of each month. For precise timings or help with Zoom, contact [talksonline@leatherheadhistory.org](mailto:talksonline@leatherheadhistory.org)

Much effort has gone into the preparation and arrangement of these talks and they can be enjoyed even by those people who would find attending live presentations at the Letherhead Institute challenging for health or distance reasons. One L&DLHS member has often joined us from Canada.

Zoom has allowed so many people to meet family and friends during lockdown that it is now familiar even to those who normally avoid digital technology. Why not give it a go? If you need help just get in touch. We have a step-by-step guide to registration for each talk by clicking [Zoom talks Help](#).

Since the start of 2021 successful talks have included the following. On 11 January, Bill Whitman introduced *Mrs Frederica Lock of Norbury Park*. On 18 January Julia Hickey showed how *Silhouettes* developed from an aristocratic 18th century pastime to an end-of-seaside-pier entertainment as late as the 1950s. 1 February brought Charles O'Brien's talk on *Pevsner's Surrey*, explaining how a German refugee became the 'grand old man' of English architectural history. Then on 15 February came Part 2 of Julian McCarthy's *Secret History of Kingston on Thames*.

March sees Chris Bruce-Jones on *A Disappearing Heritage - Four centuries of Nonconformist buildings in England*. Then Vivien White on *The School of Stitchery, The Grange, Great Bookham*. These will be followed in April by Andrew Tatham, whose great grandfather, Bill Walton, was Colonel of the Royal Berkshires in World War 1, and in May by Jane Lewis on *Cameras & Corsets*, following on from her popular talk on *Fashion and Folly* in 2019.

More online talks from Dorking Local History group and other sources are available via the *Surrey History MeetUp* website: [www.meetup.com/en-AU/Surrey-History-Meetup/](http://www.meetup.com/en-AU/Surrey-History-Meetup/)

## MUSEUM NEWS

Covid-19 restrictions have affected the Museum for the past year with re-opening dates for 2021 not foreseen before late spring at the earliest.

Managers Peter Humphreys and Duncan MacFarlane (shown right)



expect to trial certain Saturdays only for a pilot run to discover whether visitors and stewards alike prove too wary of the narrow corridors and enclosure at Hampton Cottage.

Nevertheless it is all systems go for a Mole Valley Council planning application and advertising approval being sought to cover new eye-catching notice-boards outside the building. Work on the well-head and canopy in the garden is complete and the new plaque commemorating former L&DLHS President and Society sponsor Linda Heath should be fitted this month (March).

Particular thanks are offered to former Records Secretary Roy Mellick for his enormous help in recent years and regret at his departure from the district. Naturally everyone at the Museum wishes him well for the future.

The Managers are also sad to report the recent death of steward Eileen Palmer after a short illness. She worked with the team for three years after moving to Leatherhead to be closer to her family following the death of her husband.

Always active and energetic, Eileen helped at Leatherhead Community Association coffee mornings and the library, and her life-long love of history also brought her to the Museum. When her neighbour Pearl showed her her father's diaries and letters from World War 1, Eileen realised they would be of interest and the result was the wonderful recent exhibition at Hampton Cottage.

Eileen was a warm and friendly person. Born in Carshalton, she spent her early years in the Lake District with an aunt and uncle, a German prisoner of war. Age ten she came south again to live with her recently remarried mother in Dartford, Mitcham and Cheam. She had three sons, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORY

The following article was the first ever produced for the *L&DLHS Proceedings*. It appeared on Page 1, Volume 1, No 1 1947.



In view of the projected development by the Urban District Council of Bookham Grove, built by Admiral Broderick in 1750, the Society has endeavoured to secure photographic records of its most interesting features.

Among these are the horse water wheel and the dovecote (shown left). As regards the latter, Mr Hanscomb said, in the course of a lecture to members at Polesden Lacey in May, 1947: 'In the midst of the stables and

outbuildings [of Bookham Grove] is a hexagonal building, a well-designed brick and tile dove or pigeon house, a feature of houses of this period and indeed throughout the Manorial system; and with a social significance out of all proportion to its size.

'Somehow the soft cooing of pigeons in country scenes and mingled with other rural sounds may make us think of the peasant as happy and contented in the long sunny days with time nearly standing still. But the sight of the Lord of the Manor's pigeon house stirred the peasant in a very different way and must have almost aroused hatred in his heart.

'For no one but the Lord was privileged to keep pigeons. The tenants were under severe penalties not to touch the birds and, powerless to prevent it, had to watch them feed off the corn in the common fields. This was no light matter as such pigeon houses frequently housed hundreds of birds, and there were few, if any, Manors without one at least. And so the Lords of the Manors supplied their tables at the expense of their serfs and tenants.'

The Society has approached the District Council with a view to the preservation of this interesting reminder of earlier social conditions.

# LECTURE REPORT

## SURREY'S MILITARY HERITAGE

**PAUL LE MESSURIER first moved to Surrey in 2006 and since then has thoroughly enjoyed the surrounding countryside and rolling hills. Having long held an interest in local and military history, he also found that the county has a fascinating and eventful military heritage, as he told the monthly L&DLHS Zoom meeting in November.**

The legacy of the Norman conquest is evident in the number of castles that were built, some of which still exist. Guildford Castle was built shortly after the conquest in 1066, probably by William himself. By then Guildford had become the predominant town in the county with approximately 400 inhabitants.

Richard FitzGilbert, a cousin of William, received extensive lands in Surrey and built castles at Bletchingley and Betchworth. Another of the Norman lords who had fought at Hastings, William de Warenne, became the Earl of Surrey. His son, the 2nd Earl of Surrey, built Reigate Castle in the 1080s.

Farnham Castle was built in the 1130s by Henry de Blois, a grandson of William the Conqueror. Farnham castle was at the centre of the action during the English Civil War in the 17th century. Surrey, like many counties in south east England, was Parliamentary. Farnham Castle became a Parliamentary garrison but facing the threat of an attack, it was abandoned to the Royalists. However, it was not long before Sir William Waller, an experienced Parliamentary soldier, approached the castle and blew up the gates. The Royalists surrendered.

The proximity to the south coast and the abundant heathland in Surrey meant that several military camps were established in the county during the First World War. Three camps were built on Witley common, between Godalming and Hindhead, home to some 20,000 British and Canadian troops. Woodcote Park estate, near Epsom, was owned by the Royal Automobile Club as a country club at the time but was commandeered by the War Office. A camp was constructed initially for British troops, but it eventually became





*Above: Guildford Castle. Below: RAF memorial at Kenley airfield.*



a convalescent home for Commonwealth soldiers.

As 2020 marked the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, it would be amiss not to recall the role the RAF airfields in the county played during that epic struggle. Kenley, near Caterham, was part of 11 Group of Fighter Command responsible for defending London and the South East. It was home to 615 (County of Surrey) Squadron, also known as 'Churchill's Own'.

Redhill airfield was used for RAF pilot training from 1937 and then became a centre for testing and grading wartime Polish pilots. It subsequently became a satellite to RAF Kenley.

Before the Second World War, Croydon airport - then in Surrey - was the busiest international airport in Europe. All civilian flights were suspended in August 1939 when the airfield was taken over by the RAF. On the 15 August 1940, the airfield was attacked by up to 30 German aircraft. The control tower, hangars and armoury were all damaged. Nearby factories, some of which manufactured aircraft parts for the RAF, were also hit with the loss of 60 lives. The airport returned to civilian use in 1946.

Two Army regiments have been associated with the county over the years. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and the East Surrey Regiment were inaugurated in 1881 following reforms that reorganised the Army along county boundaries. The Queen's West Surrey can lay claim to being England's oldest regiment dating back to 1661.

Both regiments have served around the world through countless campaigns, including the Boer War and both world wars. A particular incident during World War 1 involving the 8th (Service) Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment, would go down in military folklore.

It was to this battalion that Captain Wilfred ('Billie') Nevill, a recently commissioned officer, was assigned in 1914 at the age of 20. Concerned about the morale of his troops, Captain Nevill had bought footballs while on home leave to take the minds of his men off the battle that lay ahead. As he led his troops over the top at 7.30 am on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, Nevill blew his whistle then launched the footballs into no-man's-land. He was killed before reaching the enemy trenches. The advance that he led was one of the few successful attacks of that fateful day.



This football was kicked 'over the top' by  
Private AA Fursey of 6 Platoon,  
B Company of the 8th (Service) Battalion,  
the East Surrey Regiment,  
on 1 July 1916.

Although his company's attack on Montauban was one of the few successes on that day at the Somme, Private Fursey's commanding officer Captain Nevill and 19,000 others were killed.

Widely reported in the national newspapers of the day, this act of bravery and courage became known as the 'Football Charge'.

Although the two Surrey Regiments no longer exist as such, both still have memorial chapels in the county. That of the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) is in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, and the memorial chapel of the East Surrey Regiment is in All Saints Church, Kingston. Both are worth a visit.

The two regiments were amalgamated into the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in 1959 and then combined with regiments from Kent, Sussex and Middlesex to form the Queen's Regiment in 1966. This in turn was combined with the Hampshire regiment to become the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in 1992.

## LECTURE REPORT

### FETCHAM'S GUY BYAM A LOST GIANT OF BROADCASTING?

**At the Society's Christmas Miscellany by Zoom in December. FRANK HASLAM told the story of BBC war reporter Guy Byam (1918-1945) and asked if this young Fetcham resident might have become one of the great names in broadcasting.**

Guy Frederick Byam-Corstiaens was born in Buckinghamshire in 1918, the son of a Belgian army officer, and educated in Brighton, at the Sorbonne in Paris and Jesus College, Cambridge. He was fluent in French and proficient in both German and Spanish. When World War 2 arrived he became a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve engineering branch.

He was posted to *HMS Jervis Bay*, a pre-war liner converted into an armed merchant cruiser for convoy protection. On 28 October 1940 the ship left Halifax, Nova Scotia, with a convoy of 38 vessels bound for Britain. Captain Edward Fegen had already told his crew that if the convoy was attacked by a German surface raider they should get as close as possible to the attacker to allow the convoy time to scatter.

On 5 November 1940 the German battleship *Admiral Scheer*, more heavily armed than the *Jervis Bay*, sank it before attacking the



*Above: Guy Byam reporting for the BBC in June 1944.*

convoy and destroying six of the 38 ships. One convoy captain said of the *Jervis Bay* 'She did not have a chance and we all knew it, but she rode like a hero and stayed to the last.' At great risk that captain later turned back to rescue 68 survivors of the *Jervis Bay's* 266 crew. Captain Fegen was later awarded the war's only Victoria Cross given for convoy duty.

Among those rescued was Guy Byam. Nine days later his mother received two telegrams at the small hotel in Hanger Lane, West London, where she was staying. The official Post Office one said: 'Happy to inform you that your son is safe.' The other from Western Union was from Guy: 'Got a ducking but safe and well. Home soon.'

It is thought he joined Combined Operations and took part in a raid on Norway. Either a battle injury or the effects of oil when he

was in the sea after the sinking of the *Jervis Bay* resulted in the loss of sight in one eye. He was invalided out of the service and took up well paid work as an aeronautics research engineer in Letchworth with Kryn & Lahy. They had a large and fully equipped department manufacturing machined parts for aircraft.

However in late 1942 he took a pay cut and joined the BBC French Service, broadcasting to audiences in occupied Europe. The War Reporting Unit was formed and plans were made regarding censorship, getting reports back to the UK, accreditation and so on.

Successful war reporters had to have the right kind of voice and turn of phrase. They had to be equally adept at interviewing military personnel at every level and Guy's language skills were invaluable. Above all there was upholding of the BBC's reputation for honest wartime reporting. One of many Germans who illicitly listened to the BBC throughout the war said: 'If you told us about your defeats we could trust you when you said you had won victories.'

The war reporters were unarmed but had to learn basic fieldwork and survival skills. Guy was to work with the paratroops so underwent parachute training as well as learning the paratrooper's basic skills. He also had to learn how to use the recording equipment and how to get his recordings back to London.

Nancie Alice Lockhart, a BBC studio manager, became Guy's wife in 1944 and their daughter Michele was born that year. The family lived in Fetcham at an early 18th century house called The Salt Box. Now No 54 Lower Road at the corner with The Street, the house was enlarged in 1924. It is built of handmade red brick in Flemish bond and has a red tile roof. The coping of the right-hand gable has a flat top running into the chimney stack, giving a profile like a salt-box, hence the name.

On 6 July 1944 a report by Guy appeared in *The Manchester Guardian*. 'The whole sky is a fantastic chimera of lights and flak, and one plane gets hit and disintegrates wholesale in the sky, sprinkling a myriad of burning pieces all over the sky. The job of the unit with which I jumped was to occupy the area and prepare the way for gliders—we were to rendezvous near a copse, but I can't find it, so I go to a farm-house and ask the way of a farmer and his wife standing on the porch of their house. It's a tricky business this moving about



*Above: The Grade 2 listed Salt Box was the Byam family home in Fetcham. Dating from around 1700, it is gabled at both ends. The sash boxes of the window frames are exposed but set back from the facade in a manner specified by the London Building Act of 1709. The western gable is of the usual triangular shape but at the east end facing The Street, the space between the apex of the gable and the chimney is filled in. It is this shape that gives the house its name.*

the enemy countryside at night. But we are well in hand and at the most I shall only meet my own patrols. I find the unit after having been sniped at once and challenged a number of times. They are assembling under a hedge. The people are pleased to see us. We apologise for bringing the war to their homes but in little ways they show they are glad to see us. A dead paratrooper is laid out on the bed in the best bedroom, covered from head to foot with flowers.'

A few weeks later he was at an American air base at Thurleigh in Essex reporting the naming of a B17 Flying Fortress bomber, *Rose of York*, by Princess Elizabeth. The aircraft had already done eight missions and representative members of those crews met the princess.

Guy reported on one of the RAF's attacks on the *Tirpitz*, the German battleship viewed as the curse of the convoys. Operation Paravane in

*Right: Guy Byam  
photographed at  
BBC Broadcasting  
House on  
27 September 1944  
after returning  
from Arnhem.*



September 1944 was by Nos 617 and 9 Squadrons flying from a Russian airfield and dropping Barnes Wallis's Tallboy bombs. A Dam Busters pilot, Tony Iveson, passed some time playing bridge with Guy whom he found to be a 'very impressive, tall good-looking man', an intellectual forced by war into the life of a man of action.

Then on 19 September he was dropped with forces involved in Operation Market Garden, the airborne attack to secure the bridges over the Rhine at Arnhem and Nijmegen. He was one of the last to escape across the Rhine at the end of the battle.

The *Surrey Advertiser* reported on Saturday, 7 October: 'Mr Guy Byam, who accompanied the paratroops of the Airborne Army as a BBC war reporter, is a resident of Fetcham, and it was a great satisfaction to his friends in Fetcham when they learned through his recent broadcast that he had returned safely from Arnhem. At Arnhem Mr Byam spent six days within the continuously shrinking perimeter of the defence.....

'Mr Byam, as a non-combatant, had the job of escorting, under the Red Cross flag, our wounded to the hospital held by the Germans, and had to escape from an SS lieutenant who tried to capture him on his return. By swimming the Rhine on the night of the withdrawal through the German lines, he made room in the few boats for one more man unable to swim. It is good news that he was none the worse for the strangest and perhaps most dangerous experience





*Above: Representatives of the crews which had already flown in the B17 before it was named Rose of York by Princess Elizabeth. It was in this same aircraft that Guy lost his life on 3 February 1945.*

known to a war correspondent.’

Undaunted, Guy asked to go on a raid with the American 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. He returned to the base at Thurleigh and joined a raid on Berlin by the now familiar *Rose of York* on Saturday, 3 February 1945. It was the aircraft’s 63<sup>rd</sup> mission and tragically the last. It was hit by concentrated flak over the target.

Crippled, it began to lag behind the formation and headed home alone. In the last radio contact, the pilot reported that one engine had been shot out and another was losing fuel. They were headed for the English coast. Later returning aircraft reported hearing radio distress signals in the North Sea off the Frisian Islands.

Nothing further was heard from Guy’s plane. Early on the Sunday morning air-sea rescue planes, Flying Fortresses and 8th Air Force fighters began an all-day patrol over the North Sea from England to

the Dutch coast but no trace of the missing men was found.

The loss was widely reported. One BBC listener wrote after Guy's death: 'All looked forward to hearing his enthusiastic and youthful voice in the 9 o'clock news.' The BBC book *War Report* said his 'reports had all the marks of a great future in broadcasting'.

Nancie Byam seems to have moved back to Hampstead in about 1946. Just two months after meeting another BBC figure, the announcer Robert Dougall, she married him in 1947. The marriage lasted more than 50 years. Robert later became well known as a TV newsreader.

He was born in Surrey and went to the Whitgift School. He and Nancie had a son, lived in Hampstead for many years and then moved to Southwold in Suffolk. Both were great birdwatchers and Robert was President of the RSPB. He died in 1999 and Nancie died a few years later.

## LECTURE REPORT

### WINES FROM THE MOLE VALLEY

**Wine has been made for centuries from grapes grown in the Mole Valley. In the Christmas Miscellany, BILL WHITMAN talked about local vineyards including one heroic failure.**

The Romans produced wines at Cobham and Painshill Park where there is still a vineyard on the north side of the lake. Traces of the original were found on sloping ground leading down from the gatehouse off the Portsmouth Road. The other site is Cock's Farm at Abinger where excavations have uncovered ordered post-holes, spaced to support vines.

In medieval times vines were grown to provide wine mainly for church use. However the market reduced after King Henry II inherited Anjou and imports became easier, while later the monasteries were closed by Henry VIII.

In Bookham, on Bagden Lane near Polesden Lacey, we have Phoenix Farm. The name means 'vineyard'. The fields slope sharply down and face south. Writer Fanny Burney



***Photo with thanks to LOOK LOCAL magazine.***

lodged there shortly after her wedding in 1793 to become Fanny D'Arblay.

In 1964 R. Barrington-Brock published *Starting a Vineyard*, summarising his experiments growing vines at Oxted to the east along the A25. Some years later the Royal Horticultural Society planted rows of vine varieties experimentally at Wisley.

I am aware of four local commercial vineyards as well as Painshill. They are dominated of course by Denbies, possibly the largest in England and aiming commercially for productivity.

At High Clandon is a very different vineyard, quite small. It is planted with Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier vines in the classic Champagne proportions. Their grapes are made into a very pleasant sparkling English wine. The site is lovely with landscaping and sculpture to admire and for sale. It is just south of the A246, near Cherry Trees Children's Home. I think I am right in saying that they have followed the current fashion in also producing a fancy gin.

Just south of there on the other side of the Down is the well-known Silent Pool beauty spot where another vineyard also produces a sparkling wine and fancy gin.

The fourth vineyard is at Thorncroft Farm, Leatherhead. The vines are not immediately obvious as they are tucked away in a coomb above the railway line, just below the path from Bocketts Farm to the water treatment works. I used to be able to buy their white wine in the 1970s from the delicatessen in the High Street that existed before they built the Swan Centre.

Now anyone who has walked along the riverbank to Thorncroft and on past the rifle range towards Young Street will be aware of the plantations of elder trees in the field. Elder flowers are used for elderflower champagne and those trees were planted to produce this on a commercial scale.

Unfortunately it is illegal to describe any fizzy drink as 'champagne' because the Champagne cartel has defended the name since well before Britain joined the European single market and 'Brexit' is unlikely to change that. The brave folk at Thorncroft Farm fought for the right to call their product 'Elder-Flower Champagne' right up to the House of Lords but lost every time. Nevertheless wine-making facilities remain at Thorncroft Farm and if you want to make a fizzy elderflower drink for your own private consumption you may do as long as you don't try to sell it.

## FEATURE

### **FETCHAM POST OFFICE**

**Fetcham Residents Association's Autumn Newsletter was its biggest ever at 20 pages with 19 local traders and businesses taking advertisements. The front page featured a shortened version of an article by L&DLHS President ALAN POOLEY on the history of Fetcham Post Office. The original is among the Society's papers but here is the amended version.**

A Rev Mann in his recollections states: 'The post office counter was situated on the left-hand wall inside Miller's Stores. I can remember purchasing there my first postage stamp - a red one (1d) with King George V's head on a solid red background in about 1932. Miller's Stores is where the current Fetcham Post Office now operates.'

The first local post office was in Leatherhead. An 1839 directory lists James Friday as the person who collected any mail from London which arrived at 7.30 am and took any back for the 7 pm collection.

James lived in one of the original Rectory cottages in the old part



*Above: Fetcham Post Office on the corner of Sandy Lane, now the Ridgeway, and Marden Hill, now Lower Road, in around 1890. It had to move in 1928.*

of The Street. When he and his family moved in about 1861 the schoolmaster, Richard Caernarton, took over initially as 'receiver' through to about 1890 when what was now a fully operating post office business moved to the Old Lodge at the bottom of Sandy Lane, now known as the Ridgeway, at Lower Road.

Samuel Friston was postmaster but he was also estate carpenter so it was his wife who ran the business. Mrs Friston wore an Edwardian style of (long black) dress with a lace Alexandra choker reaching almost up to the ears, threaded around with black velvet ribbon. Her hair was long and piled up with a bun on centre top.

The front parlour served as the post office. There was a heavily worn stone step and another at the inner room which also had a stone floor and stuffed ducks and birds in glass cases all round. There were dark green bobble-fringed mantle shelf hangings and an all-pervading frowsty damp smell.

Lower Road was widened on the south side in 1928, the cottage demolished and the post office relocated to a garage in School Lane, close to the school. A 1936 map marks PO and TC, the latter being a



*Above: Fetcham Post Office was located at the far end of Orchard Parade at R J Abbott in the 1950s. The post box can be seen in the left side window.*

telephone box. But by then it had transferred to Miller's Stores which later became a newsagents and tobacconist.

In late 1934 it moved again to the newly built Orchard Parade in Bayley & Follett Newsagents. By the 1950s this had become R J Abbott. The post office remained there until 2017 when it moved finally to Sky News, the northern corner shop of St Clements in The Street.

The original L&DLHS article also included a letter written in 1950 from a Miss Tickner whose father had been gamekeeper to the local squire. The family lived in Bookham. She wrote the following: 'I stayed at school till I was 14, then Mr Constable took me into the post office..... also a boy named Charlie Friston, whose mother later took over the post office at her cottage near Squire Hankey's garden.'

## FEATURE

### THE STORY OF CHRIST CHURCH, LEATHERHEAD

By ANTHONY CAIRNS

In 1829 several Non-conformist friends, who had been meeting for worship in a barn somewhere in Leatherhead, invited the Revd John Harris of Epsom to 'come over and join them into a church'. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was first administered on Sunday 27 December 1829. The first Minister was Revd Thomas Barker who served from 1832.

In 1844 a new Congregational chapel seating 250 was opened in the centre of the town. The envelope system of giving was adopted in 1891. In 1898 the church joined the Reigate and District Federation of Free Churches, later transferring to the Epsom and District Federation.

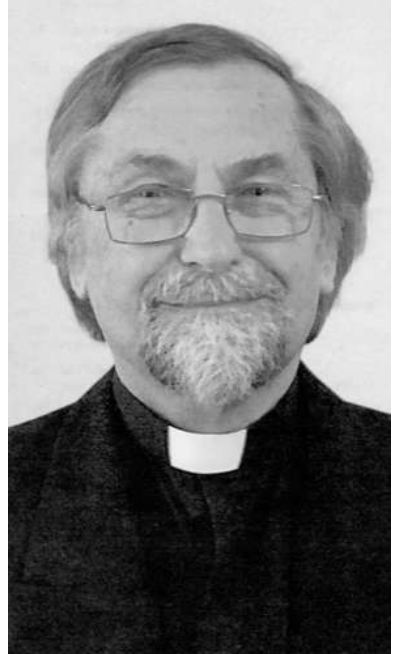
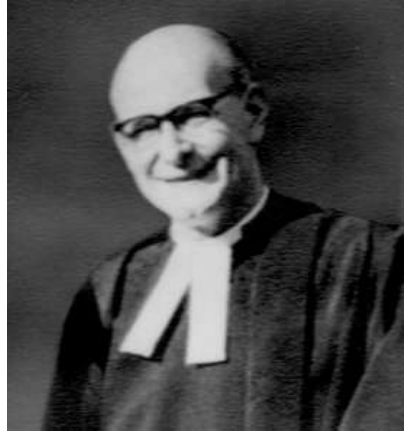
In 1915 during World War 1, the chapel was insured against damage from air attack for £1000, at a premium of £1. In 1916 it was agreed to provide refreshments for soldiers attending the evening service.

R. D. Pearson, a deacon for 52 years from 1922, wrote of his early days: 'Leatherhead in those days was a small country town. I can remember herds of cows coming down the High Street to go into the Swan yard to be milked. The stagecoach from London to the coast used to pass through twice a week, changing horses at the Swan. The Town Clock came from the old Congregational Church, who gave it to the town because they could not afford to pay the tax that was imposed on public clocks in those days.'

In 1919 the congregation purchased Claremont House in Reigate Road as a manse for the Minister, the Revd H. E. Sumner. Lord Beaverbrook opened a church bazaar which raised £178 towards the cost of the manse (about £800), and he and his daughter promised £350 if the congregation could raise their contribution to £300.

About 1930 there was an influx of City people who settled in Leatherhead and it was decided to build a new church. The old buildings were dilapidated. Rats used to run about in the back pews during the evening service. It was lit by gas and there was a slaughter house next door.

In 1933, during the ministry of Revd A. E. Snashall, a church member purchased a house in Epsom Road called Newlands, now



*Top left: Revd Thomas Baker, Leatherhead Congregational Church's first Minister from 1832, with his grandson. Above left: Revd A. E. Snashall, first Minister of Christ Church in 1935. Top right: Revd James Moody Todd, first United Reformed Church Minister in 1972. Above right: The last Minister before closure, Revd Jan Hofmeyr.*



Downsend Lodge School, and sold the grounds to the church. The old chapel in the town became a shop, now Chimes Coffee Bar, which bears a commemorative plaque.

Leatherhead Methodist Church offered to share their building with the Congregational Church while they were without premises. Christ Church (Congregational), Epsom Road, was designed by Percy Meredith FRIBA, deacon and church secretary. The font was purchased in his memory. The church was built by W. H. Gaze and Sons of Kingston, who also specialised in tennis courts and added the two courts still used. The new church was dedicated in May 1935.

In December 1935 the church installed a small house organ from Deepdene House, Dorking. The choir stalls in the chancel held 30 singers and the organist was Dr Edith Bathurst, widow of the first headmaster of Downsend School, and among the first women with a doctorate of music. Her renderings of Stanford's *Te Deum in B flat* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* are still remembered. The choir wore black gowns and Dr Bathurst a doctoral hood. In 1970, then in her nineties, she attended the dedicatory service for the new organ.

Revd Robert Paul was appointed in 1945. He represented the Congregational Union and the English Presbyterian Church at the World Council of Churches in 1948 and gained his Oxford PhD in 1949. The manse was completed in 1952.

The Young People's Fellowship and the Children's Church were restarted, and the membership grew from 90 to 260. Dr Paul went on to direct the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey in Switzerland, and later followed an academic career in Austin, Texas, USA.

Revd David Geddes became Minister in 1955. During a visitation campaign in Fetcham, 400 houses were visited by 30 people. Revd John Bates transferred from Epsom and in 1962 became minister of a new Congregational church set up in Cobham. Three Christ Church members, W.M. Lewis, Duncan Kelly and Anthony Tomlinson, entered the ministry. The membership exceeded 300.

In 1961, the Leatherhead Council of Churches was formed and the Anglican vicar of Leatherhead, Revd Kenneth Ball, preached in Christ Church. Revd Geddes's preaching was widely admired, and services were broadcast on ITV in 1959 and BBC radio in 1961.

Revd James Todd was minister from 1962 until his death in 1977.

## MINISTERS OF LEATHERHEAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1829	1832	Pulpit mostly supplied by Students
1832	1835	Revd. T. BARKER .
1835	APRIL - SEPT.	Revd. J. FREEMAN .
1839	1842	Revd. J. BARKER .
1842	1846	Revd. J. PERKINS .
1846	1851	Revd. J. MORRIS .
1852	1865	Revd. E. WAITE .
1865	1871	Revd. W. O'NEILL . *
1872	1879	Revd. J. D. ROSOMAN .
1880	1883	Revd. W. B. McWILLIAM .
1883	1886	Revd. L. T. MACLAINE .
1887	1899	Revd. W. J. LOXTON . *
1899	1902	Revd. R. H. NOBLE .
1902	1909	Revd. W. B. TUCKER .
1911	1914	Revd. J. C. EASTERBROOK .
1915	1918	Revd. W. E. MORGAN .
1919	1925	Revd. H. E. SUMNER .
1926	1929	Revd. S. E. MOWFORTH .
1931	1937	Revd. A. E. SNASHALL . A.T.S.
1938	1942	Revd. G. O. BAINTON .
1942	1944	Revd. A. A. SMITH . *
1945	1954	Revd. R. S. PAUL . M.A., D. PHIL .
1955	1961	Revd. D. P. C. GEDDES . M.A.
1962	1977	Revd. J. M. TODD . M.A. *
1977	2002	Revd. B. D. TREHARNE . M.A.
2004	09	Revd. D. E. TAPLEY . BA, DD, MDN.
2010	2013	Revd. I. HOWARTH . M.A.
2013	2018	Revd. LYNDA RUSSELL MAREE
2018		Revd. J. HOFMEYR

1934 CHRIST CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL)  
1972 UNITED REFORMED CHURCH. \* 1978-1984 IN BRITAIN'S ARMY

A new 19-40 youth group was formed. Its regular activities included the leading of worship in the village of Charlwood. In 1965 the new junior church building was paid for, helped by a Christmas market which raised a sum of £1700. Membership reached 330.

I was appointed organist and choir-master in 1965 and held the post for 54 years. A junior choir was formed and grew in number to 13.

A Hill Norman & Beard organ acquired in 1970, enriched the music, and choral services were held on Palm Sunday and Christmas every year until 1985.

In 1969, a deacon, Dr G. N. Box, became

chairman of the Leatherhead Council of Churches. Christ Church was active in discussions leading to the formation of the United Reformed Church in 1972.

Revd Brian Treharne was appointed in 1977, and stayed for the next 25 years during a time of stability and spiritual growth. Three choir members were ordained. In 1987 a choir member donated new

blue gowns and in 1991 the hymn book *Rejoice & Sing!* was welcomed. The organ was extended into the nave in 1995 to lead hymn-singing and making it excellent for organ recitals. Evening anthems were sung until 1998 and evening worship continued regularly until 2002. All Brian's family served in the choir.

Revd Dean Tapley arrived in 2004 and church life included an annual sponsored charity walk organised by John and José Henderson. The pews were replaced with red chairs for greater informality and this also provided Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra and local choirs including Leatherhead Choral Society with rehearsal space and a concert venue, including 18 concerts by my chamber choir *Antiphonia*.

The pastorate of five churches in Leatherhead, Cobham and Effingham was formed in 2009 and Revd Ian Howarth of Leatherhead Methodist Church became Minister of Christ Church. In 2013, Revd Lynda Russell was appointed jointly to both churches but despite unity discussions the two churches remained separate.

Revd Jan Hofmeyr was welcomed to both in 2018 and Margaret Dodds-Ely's house group started in 2019. Membership now stood at just 33 and the ages of the congregation and falling numbers indicated that Christ Church could not long continue as an active fellowship in Epsom Road. Until last year there were still lettings to 30 community groups but Christ Church closed in January 2021.

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## **REVD WILLIAM LOXTON (1852-1899)**

**by JOHN HENDERSON**

A leading Leatherhead churchman, the Revd William James Loxton (1852-1899) was the son of a Congregational Minister in London, the Revd Robert Loxton and his wife Ann. They also had a younger daughter called Mary Jane.

William was born in Dorset Square, Paddington. On the death of his father the family moved to Taunton, Somerset, where he was brought up by his widowed mother Ann, a refined and devout woman, who remarried one Thomas Randle.

William was educated at the British School, founded by the Congregational church in Taunton and in 1871 he became a highly



*Above: This bronze plaque from Christ Church has been given to the L&DLHS archive.*

admired evangelical preacher and Sunday school teacher at Paul's Meeting in the town, later to become Taunton United Reformed Church in Paul Street. In 1875 he moved north and joined Airedale College, then situated in Undercliffe, West Yorkshire.

Early in the 19th century, Dissenters or Non-conformists, also known as Independents, were not accepted into the universities so they established their own colleges, known as 'Dissenting Academies'. Idle College was formed by the Congregationalists in 1800, changing its name to Airedale Independent College in 1826 as that was where it was then based.

In 1834 it moved to Undercliffe and in 1877 to Bradford. (In 1888 it united with Rotherham College to become the Yorkshire United Independent College based at Emm Lane, Bradford, and later became part of Bradford University.)

William Loxton moved with the college to Bradford in 1877. Three years later he went to his first pastorate at Brigg Church in

Lincolnshire. In the same year, 1880, he married Mary Hannah Bentley of Dewsbury. They had three children: Ada born in 1881, Florence in 1883, and William Arnold, born 28 February 1887.

In 1887 the family moved south from Brigg to Leatherhead, Surrey, where William lived a busy, active and consecrated life for the next 12 years. He conducted the Band of Hope, a temperance group, renovated the chapel and trained the choir, 'greatly improving the service of praise' according to one record. He visited the sick, the dying, the bereaved and congregation members, and the local church grew significantly under his care.

At a time when relations were minimal between the established Church of England and the Non-conformist churches, he gained the respect of many local townfolk beyond his own congregation. Sadly he suddenly became critically ill at the young age of 46 and sympathies were expressed throughout the whole town and by all classes. The Anglican parish vicar, Revd Canon Utterton, constantly asked the family about his condition.

After much acute suffering, borne with cheerful resignation, William Loxton died on 18 January 1899. Canon Utterton and the Minister of Dorking Congregational Church both conducted the funeral service, which was held first at the chapel in North Street and then at the parish graveyard. It was only recently that the Burial Laws Amendment Act had permitted Non-conformists to be buried in Anglican churchyards.

The *Dorking Advertiser* extolling William's gifts, described him as 'one of those gentle minded men, against whom none could cherish an unkind thought'. His gravestone calls him: 'A beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord.' A memorial tablet, originally in the chapel but moved to Christ Church in 1935, records: 'In loving memory of the Rev W.J. Loxton, for 12 years the faithful pastor of this church who died January 18th 1899 aged 46 years. With Christ which is far better.'

William's family moved to Guildford after his death and joined Guildford Congregational Church. They dispersed eventually and Mary Hannah died back in Bradford in 1927. William Arnold married Daisy Rosetta and died in Parkstone, Dorset, in 1935.

## FEATURE

### THINK WE'VE HAD WET WEATHER?

**FRANK HASLAM** lives in Windfield, Leatherhead, off the Epsom Road. The estate was built on the site and grounds of Windfield House. He came across the following report in the *Surrey Mirror*, Friday, 14 August 1936.

### CLOUDBURST AT LEATHERHEAD - SCENES IN THE DISTRICT

Monday's cloudburst in the Leatherhead district was the worst within living memory, streets, shops and houses were flooded by the rain, 2.69 inches falling in less than an hour.

It began to rain about 5.15 pm and continued without ceasing for an hour. Hailstones as large as marbles covered the ground and soon the water began to accumulate. Kingston Road was flooded to a depth of over a foot and Randalls Road was impassable.

Fed by water from Park Rise, Bull Hill and Kingston Avenue, Kingston Road soon became a lake. Cars were held up and at the circus three were stranded. One of the occupants whose car had been stopped by the water appeared in a pair of bathing slippers and attempted to effect repairs.

The water rushed down the High Street and mats put in front of doors to keep the water out were swept away with contents boards and bicycles. Part of this flood water swept into North Street and the remainder rushed down Bridge Street where flagstones were torn up and manhole covers forced up.

The Post Office was among the flooded buildings and soon a foot of water was covering the public office and the sorting office behind. The fire brigade were sent for, to pump out the water, but the members were busy at the council offices where 18 inches of water stood in the basement and was entering the strong room.

The rain was accompanied by thunder and lightning and a house in Copthorne Road was struck. Mrs R.P. Sangar, wife of a solicitor, said she heard a noise like a pistol shot and on going upstairs saw a hole in the wall of one of the rooms about the size of a half-



*Above: Aerial view of flooding in 1936. This shows the River Thames.*

crown. Plaster and brickwork was found on the floor. Many gardens and lawns in Copthorne and Kingscroft Roads were inundated and for over half an hour after the rain had ceased, occupiers were busy cutting holes in their fences trying to get the water away to the overloaded drains.

The ditch in the lane at the back of All Saints' Church, which despite the abnormal rain of the past two months, was empty, overflowed and the lane resembled a river.

City men returning home between half-past-five and six o'clock were unable to leave the railway station where there was over three feet of water in the subway. This had poured down from the track above and rushed into Randalls Road. Passengers arriving at the station were forced to spend an hour at the station until the water had subsided.

Water on the track nearly reached the top of the conductor rails but the service was not interrupted. The signalling instruments at both the Leatherhead and Bookham Stations were struck by lightning and were rendered ineffective for about two hours. Emergency arrangements were put into operation and no serious delay was

experienced, the full train service being maintained.

Nearly two hours after the rain had stopped, men were still clearing the gullies in Randalls Road in their endeavour to get the water away. Over 400 telephone lines were put out of action and engineers were working all night to restore the service.

In the Swan yard, water reached a height of over two feet and a greengrocer's store in the yard was flooded. Apples and vegetables floated on the top of the water and turned into the High Street.

For over 27 years rainfall statistics have been taken at Windfield, Leatherhead, the residence of Mrs E. R. Still, and her head gardener, Mr E. J. Curtis, informed a representative of this journal that in less than an hour 2.69 inches of rain had fallen, the heaviest fall recorded since statistics had been taken.

The rain seemed to be localised to a certain extent for practically none fell at Dorking and Chessington. Bookham caught the full effect of the storm and the main Guildford Road was blocked for a time by debris which had been washed from Downs Way. As soon as the rain ceased, the Deputy Surveyor, Mr A. H. Eydmann, accompanied



*Above: More recent flooding at Thorncroft Manor, Leatherhead.*



by the Road Foreman, Mr T. Roberts, toured the district and made arrangements for workmen to clear the gullies. Water covered the crossroads near Bookham Church and at the bottom of Marden Hill at Fetcham the road resembled a lake. It poured down The Ridgeway and Marden Hill and was unable to get away.

The road near the station at Ashted was inundated and many people were held up. Some children playing in the recreation ground sought shelter in the pavilion, but when the rain stopped they found they were stranded, water covering all the ground. They were later rescued by the grounds-man who carried them to dry land.

In River Lane, Randalls Road and at the bottom of Gimcrack Hill, cars were running through water axle deep two hours after the rain had stopped. The traffic lights at the Swan corner were put out of action and traffic from Dorking was diverted to the by-pass in order to avoid the floods at Gimcrack Hill.

Barnett Wood Lane was also flooded and so great was the force of the water that large stones and bricks were being carried along by the flood water. Many people returning from work were soaked to the skin, so rapid was the downpour.



*Above: River Mole at Leatherhead before flooding. Heavy rainfall has transformed this section in recent wet seasons.*

## ORAL HISTORY

**ELIZABETH and MARY GRANGER**  
**(1920-2014) (1920-2008)**

**Elizabeth and Mary Granger were the twin daughters of a doctor who practised in Leatherhead from the 1920s until the 1960s. They lived at a house called The Grange in the Crescent. Among the local personalities they particularly remembered from their childhood was Lady Zoe Hart-Dyke (1896-1975), the silkworm producer who started up in Leatherhead and later served the Royal Family. They were living in East Horsley when EDWINA VARDEY interviewed them on 31 March 1981.**

Elizabeth Boothby Granger used her Australian mother's maiden name as her middle name. Mary did not. Their parents met during World War 1 and had an elder daughter before the twins. They lived in Ealing before moving to Leatherhead in 1922.

The Grange was on the corner of the Crescent and had a high wall that stretched back to Elm Road. It was the dower house to the Manor House and had a garden full of trees. Among them were a massive mulberry, a 60-foot conifer, a walnut, a Blenheim orange and a Quince tree.

Their father was in general practice. He dispensed bottles wrapped up in crisp white paper with sealing wax on the end. A boy would come with a basket to be filled with bottles at 5pm every night and he would deliver them to local houses. He was one of four servants, the others being the cook, parlour maid and gardener.

The girls would walk four miles to Mickleham Hall school every morning, learning poetry or practising lacrosse by throwing a ball between them. They would return home for lunch in the school bus and then return by ordinary bus in the afternoon, coming back again later in the school bus. They were there until the age of 13 and then left to attend a boarding school in Salisbury.

Their mother made tapestries, played tennis at a ladies club and was treasurer of the parish magazine. She and the girls would deliver parish magazines locally every month. They remembered a

particularly aggressive dog at one house.

Elizabeth recalled Dr Granger's clinic at The Grange which had six doctors. As children they had to be quiet as the surgery was downstairs behind a green baize door. Their father was a GP who practised minor surgery. She remembered him visiting Bagden College, St John's School and the Blind School. He was extremely punctilious, always returning on time as the clock struck. But like many doctors of the time he was a chain smoker and also smoked a pipe. That eventually killed him. But it was a strict household and the girls all held him in awe.

The twins would often go to parties in local houses as children. They recalled posh ones at Vale Lodge, Downs Lane, then home to the Leach family. They had to be on their best behaviour. There was an aviary and they would be invited to tea with their mother and see the exotic birds brought back from overseas travels. They also recalled garden fetes at Thorncroft Manor and Norbury House, then the home of Marie Stopes.

They also had great parties at The Grange itself. It had a terrific cellar with an enormous billiard room. Their father installed a four-poster bed down there and created a cinema with closing curtains. They would have dances and shows down there. The walls had World War 1 aircraft roundels their father had brought back.

But they had very special memories of Lady Zoe Hart-Dyke and her silk enterprise at Tyrrells Wood. A pioneer of British sericulture, the silk she created was later used for the coronation robes of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II. She married Oliver Hart-Dyke in 1922 and he inherited Lullingstone Castle in Kent in 1931, becoming the 8th Baronet Hart-Dyke. But that was later.

Elizabeth and Mary Granger remembered Zoe Hart-Dyke's early business run from the Leatherhead house in her garage. She had been a terrific expert on silk worms and the greatest fun. Elizabeth recalled one day suddenly being told to collect mulberry leaves by the sack-full in their garden at The Grange to provide food for Zoe's silkworms. Aware of the trees there she had appealed to the Grangers for help.

Dr Granger, also a keen photographer, became very interested in this project and recorded the life of the silkworm using cones in the

family nursery. He took close up pictures and presented trays for the silkworms to Zoe Hart-Dyke at Tyrrells Wood.

She was said to be grateful for every mulberry leaf from their massive tree which was held up by great iron clamps and was thought to be over 200 years old. It also sourced mulberry pies and jam. The twins recalled having a knitting bag and covering chairs in return for the sack-fulls of leaves from the mulberry tree.



*Above: Lady Zoe Hart-Dyke with her silk..*

But eventually the Hart-Dykes moved to Lullingstone Castle where Zoe bred silk worms in the attic while Oliver built a machine to process the thread. By 1936 they had really established a reputation and Queen Mary visited them. Although Zoe and Oliver broke up, the silk worm business revived after World War 2 when Zoe moved to Ayot St Lawrence in Hertfordshire and later made the train for the Queen's coronation robes. The Grangers never saw her again after she left Leatherhead.

Their father was also an enthusiastic beekeeper. He extended his surgery with a flat roof and decided to put two beehives there, very close to the mulberry tree. He did not realise how much moisture bees liked until the time came to extract the honey. This turned out to be blood red with an awful smell and taste and had to be thrown away. The bees had got their moisture from all the mulberry juice, taken it back into the hive and produced mulberry honey. Their father gave up the hives but not before recording the life cycle of the queen bee in pictures.

The twins remembered seeing Lord Beaverbrook once on horse-back and wearing a black patch like a pirate. They were out with their governess and had a glorious red setter with them. Beaverbrook looked down at their dog and said he would exchange their setter

for his scruffy little dog. Elizabeth remembered being frightened that he would take the dog away to Cherkley Court. The black patch scared her especially.

She later had secretarial training and worked in the Foreign Office before becoming a code-breaker at Bletchley Park for five years during World War 2. Mary and their elder sister worked at the Blind School in Leatherhead which became a hospital for soldiers. Their father was the medical superintendent. Mary recalled nursing men returning from Dunkirk as well as Chelsea Pensioners who had transferred from London to escape the bombing. But eventually she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and her elder sister the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

In the 1950s both of the twins moved to East Africa. Dr Granger had been a doctor there during World War 1 and that inspired the twins to try moving there. Elizabeth worked in Nairobi as a secretary with the Royal Agricultural Society of Kenya. Mary followed her and worked at the High Commission before joining BOAC and flying to Australia to meet their mother's family in Adelaide. Elizabeth never reached Australia.

But they both returned to England to support their father after their mother died in 1959. Dorrie, their former governess, also returned to look after him and became their housekeeper until he died in 1964. He continued taking patients virtually to the end but he also played golf, bridge and loved gardening. Dorrie too became a great gardener through him and after she had cooked the meals for everyone, cleaned the house and done the shopping, she would go around the garden talking to the plants, bending down to see if an extra bud had opened.

The mulberry tree was still there when the house was finally sold to developers after Dr Granger's death. When the twins were interviewed in 1981 it was the site of a bank.

*Mary Hertslet Granger died aged 88 on 31 January 2008, probably at home in White Oak Cottage, Oakwood Drive, East Horsley, Surrey, KT24 6QF. Elizabeth Boothby Granger died aged 94 on 17 March 2014 at St Teresa's Home for the Elderly, 12 Lansdowne Road, Wimbledon, London, SW20 8AN.*

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

Registered Charity No 1175119

Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead KT22 8DP

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

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

Museum (Hampton Cottage): Reopening April-December  
Thursdays and Fridays 1pm - 4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm

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### **Archival Material**

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

<a href="mailto:ashtearchive@leatherheadhistory.org">ashtearchive@leatherheadhistory.org</a>	John Rowley
<a href="mailto:bookhamarchive@leatherheadhistory.org">bookhamarchive@leatherheadhistory.org</a>	Vacant
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<a href="mailto:leatherheadarchive@leatherheadhistory.org">leatherheadarchive@leatherheadhistory.org</a>	Vacant

Email enquiries will be forwarded to one or more recipients until the vacancies are filled.

### **Historical Enquiry Service**

This tries to answer questions about the histories of Leatherhead, Ashtead, Bookham and Fetcham submitted via the Museum or by members. Please use the relevant email address in the Archival Material list above.

### **Kirby Library (Letherhead Institute)**

Apply to the Librarian for opening times.

## CORONAVIRUS EPHEMERA APPEAL/ U3A BOOK

In last year's *Newsletters* we carried an appeal for relevant ephemera linked to the Covid-19 epidemic so that we could create an *In the Time of the Coronavirus* collection. Suitable items should still be sent to [records@leatherheadhistory.org](mailto:records@leatherheadhistory.org) as this initiative continues.

Others had similar ideas and the University of the Third Age's Editor, Jo Livingston, organised a diary project for all Living History groups entitled *U3A in the Time of Corona*. A 120-page book based on this was published in November, using contributions from U3A members countrywide. It chronicled reactions to Coronavirus and isolation, arranging supermarket deliveries, cutting your own hair and other activities. Drawings, photos and poems were included.

All 200 copies sold out immediately but a reprint is possible when the lockdown ends. In January, Jo Livingston appealed to U3A members to 'make a noise about it' with organisation officials 'or anyone who may be able to influence the decision to do a reprint'.

If you are interested in having a copy of the book, which cost £10 including postage, go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/advice/shop/> to make your own voice heard and if possible, order it online.

## DORKING CONCERTGOERS AT THE DORKING HALLS

Dorking Concertgoers bring marvellous music played by hugely talented and acclaimed musicians to Mole Valley at the Dorking Halls.

Artists we have featured before include pianists **Benjamin Grosvenor** and **Angela Hewitt**; string quartets such as the **Brodsky**, the **Endellion** and the **Dante**; and soloists such as **Raphael Wallfisch** and **Alison Balsom**.

We have planned a full season for 2021-22 but, with the current situation, it is difficult to know when our next concert will be. Please look at our website for details. You may want to consider becoming a member or friend where you benefit from discounted tickets.

Join the Dorking Concertgoers and receive a discount on your tickets  
Tickets from Dorking Concertgoers' Box Office **01306 740619** or  
Dorking Halls **01306 881717**  
Details of membership from Dorking Concertgoers on 01306 740619  
[www.dorkingconcertgoers.org.uk](http://www.dorkingconcertgoers.org.uk) [www.dorkinghalls.co.uk](http://www.dorkinghalls.co.uk)

