

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER



February, 2000

**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 third Friday of the month at the Letherhead Institute from September to May. For details see programme in this issue.

**Membership**

**2000 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.

Days and Times of Opening will be announced during the month of March

---

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

**Alan V. Pooley**

**01372 374093**

---

**The Library** is open from 10.30 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday and from 10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 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 May 2000 issue should reach the Society's Office by 15 April 2000*

---

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**John Wettren**

**01372 459277**

---

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

---

**SECRETARY**

**Thelma Lucas**

**01372 844345**

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

In Newsletter 4/99 I referred to the successful launch of *Bookham and Fetcham* compiled by Linda Heath. Our Sales Secretary reports that the Society itself has so far sold about 700 copies of this book, so that with the royalties from all sales this will have been very profitable for us. The book is proving to be very popular and one wonders how many people have had more than one copy for Christmas.

Also in the last Newsletter I mentioned Heritage Open Days. This year they will take place on 16th and 17th September and our area will again be taking part. Not all the places to visit last year will be taking part this year and if any member has any suggestions of suitable alternative venues, walks or exhibitions I shall be pleased to raise these at the organising committee. Also there is a need for more stewards to help over the weekend at some of the properties; will anyone willing to help with this (you won't need to talk about the places, just help with the organisation) please let me know.

It is very pleasing to note that one of the major deficiencies in our organisation is being tackled. There are now a number of members involved in documenting and cataloguing the museum collection. That this should be done, in accordance with an approved system, is essential for a properly run museum and for it to receive full Registration status. If others would be willing to help with this task, please contact Alan Pooley who is organising the operation.

With this Newsletter you will find the various papers for the AGM which will be held on 14 April. It will be seen that there are vacancies on our Executive Committee and I appeal to all our members to consider whether you can help us in any way. We are a very active society having considerable archives and library, running Leatherhead Museum and producing local history publications as well as arranging the monthly talks. For all this to be organised properly we do need adequate personnel and we are getting very close to the minimum to maintain our services. If you feel that you may like to join the committee and would like to discuss what may be involved please talk to me.

Finally, on a personal note, Margaret and I would like to thank everyone who sent us messages of sympathy following the sudden death of our daughter Clare. I would also express thanks to all those who undertook a number of tasks which I would have carried out at the time.

*Peter Tarplee*

## GETTING TO GRIPS WITH LOCAL HISTORY

### THE KINGSTON STORY

When a census enumerator called at a small Kingston lodging house in the last century, 76 lodgers went away at once, refusing all information. This was just one of the facts quoted by Peter Tilley at our January meeting. Children under the age of ten were often already at work, even climbing chimneys to sweep them, a practice already forbidden by law. At the other end of the social scale, an *aide-de-camp* of Louis Napoleon had thirty servants. Girls were often hired from far away, to prevent their running off home. William and Mary remained the most popular baptismal names in Kingston, often reflecting that of a grandparent: Victoria only occurred once between 1841 and 1891.

Using a wide variety of sources. (birth, marriage and death records, censuses, baptisms, burials, newspapers and directories, ratebooks, school logbooks) Peter and his team at Kingston University have been building up a picture of family life cycles there. His serious purpose was to encourage us to create a similar database for Leatherhead (as is already being done elsewhere in Surrey, notably at Bletchingley) In this way local birth and death rates might be compared and contrasted.

*Derek Renn*

#### *Our Chairman adds :*

For Kingston he has about 30 volunteers but smaller areas could be handled with less people. He pointed out that his volunteers were very like the members of his audience at Leatherhead and he suggested that our Society may like to consider taking part in a scheme for our district. He explained that previous computer knowledge is not necessary and he gave examples of people in other towns who are doing this without earlier experience. Schemes are starting throughout the county and it seems that Leatherhead would be a good place for this as it is adjacent to Kingston and a town of a size between Kingston and Bletchingley

Peter Tilley lives in Bookham and would be able to give guidance to any group wishing to embark on this. In order to assess the interest in this within the Society it would be helpful if those interested wrote to the Secretary stating whether they have a computer, whether they are interested in family history or how they envisage they could help.

## **HENRY III'S PALACE AT GUILDFORD**

Being interviewed at the bottom of a medieval cesspit 'live' on local radio was one of Rob Poulton's experiences while excavating King Henry III's palace at Guildford. As he explained at our November meeting, there was much public interest in his discoveries - the deep ditches cut into the chalk, the walls of named thirteenth-century royal buildings and the exotic or everyday objects found, including a glass urinal, used by medieval doctors to decide the cause of illness. Rob is manager of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit: the excavation was jointly funded by the county council and the Surrey Archaeological Society, but much of the work was carried out by training volunteers who peeled back the topsoil during five hot summers.

Just like Leatherhead, Guildford's pagan Saxon inhabitants were buried on top of the ridge across the river from the town. The first settlement, around what became St Mary's church, had expanded eastward by the middle of the tenth century AD to become a town defended by a bank and ditch, one of the fortified 'burhs' of the kings of Wessex. It remained a royal town after the Norman Conquest, with about 750 inhabitants in 1086. Guildford was an important medieval staging-post between London, Canterbury, Winchester and Portsmouth (for Normandy).

As in other county towns, the Normans consolidated their conquest by building a castle here as a symbol of their power and as a centre of administration. The castle was of earth and timber at first, with a large mound carrying a watch-tower surrounded by a wide V-shaped ditch, emphasizing by its height the power of the new rulers. The present stone tower was built about 1150, and had three storeys of rooms with an entrance at first-floor level. In later times the sheriff of Surrey and Sussex had his offices and gaol here. Another large ditch ran south through Castle Cliff Gardens to form one side of a bailey enclosing the hall, chapel, kitchen, stables and workshops of the small garrison.

About 1180 the bailey ditch was backfilled and the land to the west as far as Quarry Street taken over for the building of a new palace, beginning with the King's Chambers which survive behind the museum. A complete tile kiln, could be dated (by the magnetism 'fossilized' when it was last fired) to between 1235 and 1250 AD. A vaulted wine cellar was seen at one point, but it was too dangerous to excavate it. Both these latter structures were abandoned when the whole area was cleared and levelled off. A limekiln was then made to provide mortar for a series of palace buildings erected for King Henry III between 1245 and 1268. Their building accounts survive, and individual parts could be identified, for example the gateway to Quarry Street as well as Lord Edward's chamber, and the entrance for his pages-in-waiting below it, immediately above Rack's Close. The Lord Edward was to become King Edward I.

The irregular layout of the buildings, their reconstruction and adaptation, could be traced in a series of sealed levels which provided evidence for a sequence of development to be drawn up. The rising standard of living, with painted plaster and glass, Purbeck marble columns and high-quality masonry, were obvious at Guildford just as at King Henry's palace at Clarendon near Salisbury, which closely resembled Guildford. By the middle of the fourteenth century, the palace was disused and in 1379 it was demolished, the kings thereafter using Guildford Friary or their hunting lodge in Guildford Park.

*Derek Renn*

## **SHEILA BURROUGH**

In January the Society lost a long-standing and loyal member when Sheila Burrough died at the age of 84 years. She was a graduate of University College, London and worked on the staff of the Mathematics Department. As well as her interest in local history and genealogy, she was an active member of the Royal Horticultural Society, exhibiting and winning awards at their shows in London.

Sheila was a genuine 'eccentric' in the best sense, and many people will remember her generosity and kindness to friends, particularly to anyone in any kind of trouble. She bore her final illness with her usual courage, humour and cheerfulness and was always pleased to have a chat on the phone. She will be much missed by all who knew her.

*Linda Heath*

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Ashtead and Chessington were more closely connected physically in former times than they are now when (unless you are a walker) transport between the two villages has to be via Leatherhead. The following extract from "Chessington Remembered" by Mark Davison proves the point.

Research carried out in the 1970s by Mr D.J.Field of Mount Road, Chessington, provides many clues to how this inhospitable forest came to be inhabited. During the Bronze Ages, settlements were established at Kingston, and about this time at Ashtead Woods, close to Malden Rushett, and at Malden. Mr Field presumes that a track would have linked the Ashtead and Malden settlements.

Part of the track is thought to have been along Green Lane, Chessington. A 1620 map by Charles Good shows a mile-long hedgerow and path: "This way goes from Rushett to Malden". There is a fork in this road. One goes to Ashtead, the other to Leatherhead. At the north end of the parish, the lane passes close to Castle Hill.

"The camp on Ashtead Common, just a few hundred yards south of the Chessington boundary, consists of a substantial, diamond-shaped earthworks enclosure that probably enclosed a few huts. Flint tools found in the vicinity point to it being occupied in either the Bronze or Iron Age", wrote Mr Field [In "*Notes on the History of Chessington.*"] "The fields attached to this community must at one time have covered a large part of Chessington. A sherd of pottery was also found in the 1970s near Barwell Court.

"In Roman times, on Ashtead Common, a substantial villa was built and close to it, a tile factory. The factory (in woods just yards behind Rushett Farm) which probably produced much of the roofing for the Roman houses at Ewell, had a long and prosperous life. First built about the year 80 AD, it continued in operation well into the middle of the second century. It flourished particularly towards the end of that period, for its products were being traded far and wide in England. Tiles from the kilns have been found as far afield as Staffordshire, Lincolnshire and the Mendip regions.

"Obviously, it must have brought a great amount of wealth to the region as well as providing work for local craftsmen. But primarily, the villa's main interest must have been in farming. South East England was renowned during the Celtic and Roman periods for its grain production".

This and other books are housed within the Institute Library room.

Recent additions include:

## **NATIONAL & GENERAL TOPICS**

### **SOCIAL HISTORY - General**

Evans, George Ewart – "*Ask the Fellows who cut the Hay*", 2nd edition.  
Faber, 1965

## **SURREY**

### **INDUSTRIAL HISTORY**

Crocker, Glensy, Ed. – "*Surrey's Industrial Past*". SIHG, 1999

### **RECORDS**

West Surrey Family History Society - Research Aids 4, 12, 16, 19  
Record Series 2, 6, 12, 19

## **INDIVIDUAL TOWNS & VILLAGES**

### **ASHTEAD**

Jones, Jane E.M. & Rogers, Ken, Comps – "*Ashtead*" [Images of England]  
Tempus, 1999

### **BOOKHAM & FETCHAM**

Heath, Linda, Comp. – "*Bookham & Fetcham*" [Images of England]  
Tempus, 1999.

### **BOX HILL**

Bannister, Nicola R. – "*The Box Hill Book of Archaeology.*" The Friends of Box Hill, 1999

Grundy, Lalage – "*The Box Hill Book of Box*". The Friends of Box Hill, 1998

CHESSINGTON Davison, Mark – "*Chessington Remembered*". Privately pub, 1999

In order to make room for new additions it is necessary to weed out some books or booklets which are out-of-date or do not contribute to our collection about local history, and such a time has come. There will therefore be a

**SALE OF BOOKS AT THE MEETING ON FRIDAY 17 MARCH.**  
However, if you are unable to be there, a list will be available on

application to the Librarian who will arrange to hand over any books after the meeting but first come first served! 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 card when you visit the library.

*Gwen Hoad*

## **LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM : THE 1999 SEASON**

Those who visited the Museum last year will hopefully have found the refurbished Sales room at the front to be better arranged than previously. However although the middle room upstairs has generally been cleared, there has been little other change to the Museum layout and displays. Whilst presentation of special displays to mark events or for other purposes is an aim and would probably encourage more visitors (numbers were slightly down last year) the Museum Committee have been concentrating its efforts on establishing correct procedures for tackling the significant deficiency in the recording and marking of the Museum's Collection. The new procedures comply with the requirements of the Museums & Galleries Commission and form part of our application to that body for full accreditation as a Registered Museum. Currently we have only Provisional status.

A start has now been made by small teams of volunteers in the task of checking all of the artefacts in the collection and ensuring that they are correctly marked and documented. In nearly every case, marking needs to be done in a manner that is durable and indestructible. For each item, a form is being completed with the recorded data. In due course this will be entered into a computer database. The Committee has decided that rather than undertake more redecoration during the winter shut down, the work of recording will be progressed. More teams, each comprising two or three volunteers, are needed to accelerate the work.

The tree in the garden has now been felled. Over the last six years it had grown considerably. It was causing problems not the least where it overhung adjacent properties. It is proposed to provide a more suitable replacement which will give us the opportunity to consider some modest replanting of that part of the garden. Any ideas or suggestions would be welcome.

We still of course have a vacancy for a Curator. The curatorial duties have never been defined and the previous curators have covered aspects from housekeeping to maintenance. It is however possible to separate out several of the activities and find volunteers to undertake these. The Friends now run the shop and arrange for stewarding; Pam Knowles has regularly kept the garden in good order; Eileen Pearce has undertaken the internal cleaning but has had to stop due to illness. We thus need a replacement. Other works are covered through the medium of the Monday Working Party arrangement. However perhaps most significant is the need for a person or persons to plan and assist with establishing (either or both) the permanent and temporary displays in the Museum. Next year the Museum will have been open for 20 years and we really should celebrate this. Would somebody like to organise this?

Thus this narrows down the duties of the Curator essentially to being responsible for the management of the Museum Collection, spread between Hampton Cottage and the Priory Basement. This would include the maintenance of the records, e.g. logging a change of location if items are brought out of store for display and vice versa; accessioning new items agreed by the Committee to be added to the Collection and matters associated with condition and conservation. The current work of marking etc. will in due course provide the records that will be essential for the Curator.

As mentioned above, the number of visitors was slightly down on 1998. According to the Visitors Book for the year October 1998 to October 1999 the numbers were distributed as follows :

Mole Valley Area	132
South East England	59
Elsewhere in Britain	25
Abroad	22

The Friends Committee is assessing ways by which this decline in numbers can be reversed. There have been a few private visits from local schools, scout troops and a party from East Surrey Museum. The successful Town Walks have also helped to focus interest in the Museum.

The days of opening and the hours have remained unaltered for some time and it may be that some change is called for. This is being studied. Should we perhaps cater for the increasing numbers of office staff during their lunch hour, or change the day of the week, or go for weekday afternoons only? We would welcome comments from Members.

Finally, the Museum Committee is very appreciative of the efforts put in by the Stewards. Even though attendance may be low on some days, it all goes to make the fuller "picture" of the Museum and it is essential to meet our obligations to the public. We notice that sometimes on these quiet days some interesting questions get raised. A future aim could be a centre where visitors' questions can be answered, but more likely they would be fielded to those within the society or outside who can adequately deal with them.

We are looking forward to the year 2000 and the further development of our Museum.

*Alan Pooley, Chairman, Museum Committee*

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

### *FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY*

Thank you to all members who have paid their subscriptions for this year. Your membership card is enclosed with this newsletter.

If you have not yet paid, please do so as soon as possible. If you do not pay, no further newsletters will be sent to you.

If you pay by standing order, have you checked that it was for the correct amount?

Ordinary Member £9

Associate Member £4

Friends of the Museum – minimum of £1

*Jack Barker*

## NOTES FROM THE FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

I am sure we are all pleased to read Alan Pooley's report and to know that work is progressing well with the marking of the Museum's collection. Perhaps we shall get our full accreditation as a registered Museum before too long. Alan also raises the possibility of changing the hours the Museum is open.

We lost five Stewards at the end of the Season last year and unless we can replace them we may not be able to open the Museum at the same times as before. So, please, do your best to find some new Stewards or perhaps some of you could do an extra shift. I know it's a bit boring at times but there is plenty of interesting reading material available and plenty to learn about the contents of the Museum.

The Friends are hoping to run a publicity drive this year. Would any of you be prepared to put handbills through the doors in your road or distribute posters etc? We should be most grateful if you would. Or perhaps you have some particular skill which you would be prepared to utilise for the benefit of the Museum. Please do get in touch with me if you can help in any way. My phone number is 01372 844345.

*Thelma Lucas.*

### **Friends Annual General Meeting**

This will be held on **Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.30 for 8.0 p.m. in Room G6 at the Letherhead Institute. After the meeting Alan Pooley will talk about the Museum.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS - LECTURES**

All meetings are held in the Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8.0 p.m. Entrance: £1 for members and £2 for non-members. Coffee is included, served from 7.30 p.m.

**Friday 17 March.** *'The History of Bookham Commons'* by Ian Swinney, Warden of the Commons. He will take us on a guided walk round the commons on Saturday 8 April. (See Visits)

**Friday 14 April.** Annual General Meeting, followed by *'What is a Museum?'* by Alan Pooley.

**Friday 19 May.** *'The History of Painshill'* by a member of the Painshill Trust. This will be followed by a visit to Painshill on Saturday 15th July.

## **VISITS**

**Saturday 8 April. 2.0 p.m.** - Walk round **Bookham Commons** led by Ian Swinney, following his talk on 17th March. No matter how often one walks on the common, there is always something new to see and learn, and Ian is a most enthusiastic and informative guide.

Meet at Commonside car park in time to start the walk at 2.0 p.m.

Wear suitable footwear, especially if muddy.

Applications to Gordon Knowles; donations of £2 per head in aid of Bookham Commons, payable on the day.

**Saturday 13 May. 2.0 p.m.** - Visit to **Chatley Heath semaphore tower** with a talk by Paul Taylor on the history of the tower. Car park marked Chatley Heath on road from Effingham Junction station, just before A3.

It is a 10-12 minutes walk uphill from the car park.

Meet at the tower at 2.0 p.m. Applications to Gordon Knowles. £2 per head or £1.50 OAP, payable on the day.

**Saturday 24 June, 11.0 a.m.** - Visit to **Slyfield Manor**. (Notice: This is a *morning* visit and is limited to a maximum of 24 people.) The house is not normally open to the public, so we are very lucky that Derek Renn has been able to arrange this for us. It belongs to Mr. & Mrs. Richards, who are very kindly going to show us round the house which was a late medieval timber-framed building belonging to the Slyfield family. It was rebuilt in mellow red brick c.1625-40 by the Shiers, extended as a courtyard house about 25 years later and partly demolished in 1743. It is notable for its early English Renaissance detail, including the exterior brick details, the interior woodwork and plaster ceilings. Donations have been asked for the Yehudi Menuhin School, so please send applications and SAE to Derek Renn with cheques for £2 per head payable to the Friends of the Yehudi Menuhin School.

N.B. To save members sending cheques for small amounts, all visits (except Slyfield) will be payable on the day, but **PLEASE** send Application Forms (enclosed with this Newsletter) for all visits so that we know how many people to expect.

## **GUIDED WALKS**

There will be guided walks round Leatherhead on **SUNDAYS, 4 June, 2 July and 6 August**, starting from the Museum at 2.30pm. Come along and bring your friends. More guides needed. Volunteers please.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

*(Archaeological Research Committee)*

#### **ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

Saturday, 26th February 2000, at Dorking Christian Centre

A full programme of talks is being arranged and will include updates on the Society's excavation of a circular Romano-British temple site at Wanborough, the second season of a training excavation at Hopeless Moor, Seale, and the question of barrow versus wind-blown sand mounds on Surrey's heathland. Also work in the county by Thames Valley Archaeological Services and a progress report on Landscape Surveys being undertaken as a joint initiative by the Society and the County Council as part of the Community Archaeology programme. There will also be the usual round-up of work in the county which has been carried out by SCAU.

There will be displays by groups and individuals.

The programme runs from 10.0 a.m. to 5.0.p.m. and tickets, price £3.00, may be obtained from Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX; (Please enclose a SAE.) If available, tickets on the door will cost £3.50.

#### **MILLENNIUM SYMPOSIUM**

##### **EPSOM & EWELL THROUGH THE MILLENNIA**

To mark the Millenium, a symposium on 2000 years of history of Epsom and Ewell is being organised on Saturday 13 May 2000 at Bourne Hall, Ewell, from 10.0. a.m. to 5.0. p.m. by Nonsuch Antiquarian Society and Bourne Hall Museum.

The main speaker will be the television personality and Director of the Museum of London, Dr Simon Thurley, talking on Nonsuch Palace and the impact of the monarch on the locality; there will also be talks on prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval periods as well as Epsom Spa and Epsom Races. In association with the symposium there will be displays by local groups in the foyer of Bourne Hall from 8th to 20th May with manned stalls on the final day.

Tickets may be obtained in advance from Bourne Hall Shop or by post from Mrs Rosemary Burleigh, 14 Montrouge Crescent, Epsom Downs, KT17 3PD (with SAE). at £9.00 each or at the door on 13th May at £10.00 each.

FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

THE 16TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD  
MUSEUM WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 10TH IN ROOM G6 AT LEATHERHEAD  
INSTITUTE AT 7.30 FOR 8P.M.

AGENDA

Apologies for absence

Minutes of 15th A.G.M.(enclosed)

Matters arising

Chairman's report

Presentation of Account for 1999-2000

Appointment of Auditor

Election of Officers and Committee members

Future Activities

Any Other Business

The meeting will be followed by a talk by Alan Pooley on  
the Museum.

Minutes of the 15th A.G.M. of the Friends of Leatherhead Museum held on Tuesday April 13th 1999 in the small hall of Leatherhead Institute.

Present     John Rosser     Chairman  
              Thelma Lucas     Secretary  
              Gwen Hoad         Treasurer

And 18 members

Apologies...Were received from J.Wettern, Cynthia Routh, Alan Pooley, David Heath John Wall.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the last A.G.M. of the century. with a special welcome to Ernest Crossland our speaker for the evening.

Minutes of the 14th A.G.M.were read and corrected. Joan Kirby had received the M.B.E. and Sheila Burrough is a life member both of the Friends and the Leatherhead and District Local History Society. Bill Culley proposed and Gina Mckenzie seconded these corrections and all agreed.

Matters arising     There were none.

Chairman's report     The Stewards room had been re decorated and re-arranged by Peter and Alan and this was greatly appreciated by all Stewards. Pam Knowles has volunteered to look after the Museum garden and Eileen Pearce to be housekeeper for the Museum and we are all very grateful to them both, The Stewards training sessions given by Alan Pooley had been well received. Thank you Alan.

Unfortunately both John Clark and Iris Butler felt they could no longer give the time necessary for committee work and so had resigned from the committee. They were thanked most sincerely for all the years of hard work they had given to the Society.

Treasurer's report. Gwen presented the accounts and answered questions. There were fewer donations this year but sales had increased dramatically mainly due to the fact that the Friends had taken over all sales at the Museum and at the Society's meetings. John Bull was thanked for auditing the accounts and photocopying the papers for this meeting. Ernest Crossland proposed and Peter Tarplee seconded the acceptance of the accounts and all agreed.

Future events     Annual coffee morning and bring and buy sale was fixed for June 22nd from 10-12 at the Museum to be followed by a cheese and wine party for all members. Chatham Dockyard was a possible venue for a future visit. Ernest's talk with slides about the excavation of the Museum well was most interesting and gave most of us a new insight into the development of the Museum garden. Thank you very much Ernest.

Election of Officers

Chairman John Rosser  
Secretary Thelma Lucas  
Treasurer Gwen Hoad

Proposed by Gil Rosser seconded by Gina Mackenzie and agreed by all.  
We are one committee member short.

Alterations to Constitution..The Chairman said that over the yars we had not *made changes to the constitution* but he would now like to propose the following

Rule 3 Objects Addition to second object  
To assist the Museum Committee AND THE CURATOR to stage displays od local History  
Line 4 To publish,as appropriate from time to time news items of the Friends activities in the History Society's newsletter.

Rule 6 Officers of the Committee

Addition below line 2

The Chairman shall serve a maximum term of 5 year whereafter he may be eligible for re election if willing.He may thereafter retire before the elapse of 5 years on notification to the Hon.Sec.

Rule 7 Members of the Committee

The Committee shall consist of not less than 4 ordinary members

the Curator will be an ex-officio member.In the absence of the Chairman the committee may appoint an acting vice- chairman from among their number for as long as is deemed necessary to chair Committee or General or Extraordinary meetings

Rule 7 Vacancies on the Committee

In the event of vacancies occurring during the year the Committee are empowered to co-opt as they think fit to the committee until the A.G.M.

Rule 12/15 Rule 15 to cease to exest but to be added as last sentence of rule 12

Rule 16 to be re-numbered Rule 15 Rule 17 to be re-numbered 16

Rule 17 (New) A list of current members shall be maintained.  
These changes were proposed by John Rosser,seconded by Thelma Lucas and agreed by all.



