

*LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY*

NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2011

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, LEATHERHEAD, Surrey, KT22 8DP

Telephone: 01372 386348

staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com

Web site: www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk

PRESIDENT : Gordon Knowles 01372 458396

CHAIRMAN

David Hartley

01372 377839

SECRETARY

VACANT

TREASURER

David Lokkerbol

01372 375756

The Society meets on the third Friday of the month at the Letherhead Institute between September and May.

For details - see programme in the Newsletter

2011 Membership Subscriptions

Ordinary.....£18.00 Associate.....£6.00 Junior (under 18).....£1.00

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY David Wall

01372 374773

THE MUSEUM is open at the following times

Thursdays and Fridays .. 1.00pm to 4.00pm Saturdays ..10.00am to 4.00pm

CURATOR

(Vacant)

01372 386348

THE FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM support the Society's work on behalf of the Museum

CHAIRMAN

Fred Meynen

01372 372930

THE LIBRARY at The Letherhead Institute is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.00am to 12.30pm. It is no longer open on Saturdays. Exceptionally, arrangements may be made to use it at other times by applying to the Librarian.

LIBRARIAN

Peter Wells

01372 272367

LECTURES Co-ordination of the Society's lecture and visits programme and L&DLHS speakers for local societies.

PROGRAMME SECRETARY

Fred Meynen

01372 372930

Further details are given on the inside back cover

Editorial

I hope all our readers will find a good deal of interest in the articles in this quarter's Newsletter. In my time as editor the Newsletter has grown significantly from the 16 pages of my first edition to the 32 (not including the covers) of this issue. The other major difference is the photographs illustrating the articles. It is pleasing to see far more members submitting articles. Hopefully we can continue to build on what we have achieved and I would like to encourage ever more members of the society to send in articles or reports with a photo or illustration if possible. Some members may feel reluctant to submit a report but there is no reason to be. If a topic interests you it is sure to be also of interest to us all. Naturally it makes my job easier if entries arrive as emails but more traditional media such as paper and ink still makes a good article and are equally acceptable. We will also assist in finding suitable photographs if you have any difficulty.



One constant question is whether articles should be submitted for the Newsletter or the Proceedings. The difference is that the Proceedings is a more formal document with lasting value to a far wider audience and the articles would be expected to have been researched in depth. However in most cases the topic of an article would also appear or have appeared in the Newsletter in a précised or reduced form to lead the reader to use the Proceedings for the full information.

Martin Warwick

Next Edition Deadline - 7th October

Index to Articles

Archaeology	3	Lovelace Bridges Walk	13
Arris Hill Cottage	11	Museum Bay	26
Autumn Lecture Programme	32	News of Friends of Museum	9
Chairman	2	Plumbing in Fetcham	10
Editorial	1	RecordsSecretary	4
Edmund Tylney	20	Rose Cottage & Akehurst Murders	6
Fetcham Parish Boundaries	16	Quickset Barn	8
Geary	17	Surrey Churches	30
Heritage Weekend	31	Train Incident	24
Home Farm	27	Viscountess Dawnay	5
Loseley Visit	3	Village Day Ashtead	7
Lovelace	11	Village Day Bookham	9

Chairman's Report

I don't know how many of you are actively interested in visiting museums and galleries either national or international whilst on your summer holidays or whilst visiting friends and family in other parts of the UK or Europe? Also do you support and subscribe to the National Trust or English Heritage or any other historical body or organisation? How many do you visit in any one year and what if anything attracts you to history, historical sites, museums and galleries?



I would be interested to hear from you, with your thoughts and comments on these subjects which with your permission we could publish in future Newsletters.

The other day I picked up a small leaflet from our museum, the first I had seen of its type with the title 'Surrey Museums Month April 2011'. It is an A5 size leaflet that folds out to display a map of Surrey marking the location of all museums in Surrey together with a full listing of current and forthcoming events at the museums and galleries.

It lists a staggering 44 museums in Surrey - the leaflet is in full colour with easily readable text and pictures and is the result of work by the 'Surrey Museums Consultative Committee' (SMCC), a partnership organisation supported by Surrey's District & Borough Councils and the Surrey County Council. They deserve to be commended for their effort which hopefully will be continued to be supported by this partnership and the various councils, subject of course to funding.

I would encourage you all to get yourself a copy while they are still available because you, your children and your grandchildren and friends could find it of great interest. If you cannot find a copy contact the SMCC by telephone 01483 518052 or visit their website www.surreymuseums.org.uk

David Hartley

Archaeology and Forthcoming Events

St Giles Ashtead – 400 years in Church and Community

St Giles in Ashtead is celebrating the above event on Heritage Days Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th September and would like to use this event to look back to 1611 to try to reconstruct what life was like in the church and the community at that period. The church would like your support and also to involve local heritage organisations. If you can help please contact John Watts the assistant curator on 01372 275134 or j.m.watts@btinternet.com or Anne Milton Worsell on 01372 812831 or a.miltonworsell@ntlworld.com.

Heritage Open Days 8th-11th September

Heritage Open Days are fast approaching and the programme of events is available from the museum or the Help Shop in Leatherhead. This year's launch will be held on Friday 9th September at St Barnabas Church, Ranmore Common with a talk to be given by Adrian

White of Denbies and a glass of wine afterwards.

The L&DLHS contribute to the event at the museum at Hampton Cottage and displays in the Dixon Hall at the Leatherhead Institute. Peter Tarplee our Vice President will be giving a talk at Fetcham Village Hall on Sunday 11th September at 2.00pm and there will also be an event at Fetcham Park House (details not immediately available).

Summer Barbeque at Leatherhead Museum Saturday 17th September

History Society members with the Friends of Leatherhead Museum invite readers to a summer barbeque in the garden of the museum at Hampton Cottage. The success of the event depends on the support of volunteers. Musical accompaniment is needed for the evening and help with the organisation and setting up of the venue and clearing up afterwards - if you can help with any of these tasks please contact me (David Hartley) on 07947471165 or Hartley1949@msn.com.

New Ideas on some Major Roman Villas Conference Saturday 22nd October

The Council for Kentish Archaeology (CKA) and the Association for Roman Archaeology are presenting a joint conference with the title of 'New Ideas on some Major Roman Villas' including Chedworth, Lullingstone and Great Witcombe on Saturday 22nd October to be held at the Old Sessions Lecture Theatre in Christchurch University, Canterbury, North Holmes Campus. The conference will start at 2.00pm and end at 5.30pm and speakers will include Dr Martin Henig, Bryn Walters and Graham Soffe.

Tickets are £5.00 available from CKA and cheques should be sent payable to CKA together with a stamped self-addressed envelope to 7, Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP. Also check website at www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk

Visit to Loseley Park

There are not many houses in England (or anywhere?) inhabited by the same family for over 500 years with the same family still living there - this in one reason why our visit to Loseley Park early in July was so interesting. The More-Molyneux family has lived there since 1508. There were vases of fresh flowers in some of the rooms and the



whole place had such a 'lived in' atmosphere that one felt any of the occupants of the house might wander through a room at any minute.

We were lucky in having an extremely good guide, who was very knowledgeable, but with a nice light touch and sense of humour. As well as showing us all the furnishings and priceless treasures, she took us right through the history of the house and all the

people who had lived there and visited it, not forgetting Queen Elizabeth 1!

After we had toured the house we went out to the grounds to have tea and to walk through the lovely walled gardens. The roses were past their best, but still looked good and the other three gardens had colourful displays – particularly the hollyhocks.

We shall be having a talk about the archives of Loseley in September, which should help to bring history to life in describing various events there, and which will be of particular interest to those of us who visited there in July.

Linda Heath

Records Secretary

Most of you will by now have heard that I have taken up the role of Records Secretary as well as becoming the Archivist for Great and Little Bookham. It is taking a while getting to meet everyone and to find out how things tick within the Society and I am pleased to find you are a friendly and helpful bunch of people!

One of the things that struck me as I take on the new role is that the records are not easily accessible, most being stored in people's attics and garages, the exception being the Leatherhead Archives which are mainly kept at the Letherhead Institute library. Whilst I cannot do anything in the short term to help solve the problem of where to store the Archives I can work towards making it clearer as to what we hold. It will come as no surprise, therefore, if I say we need to get as much as possible on the internet. How successful this will be will depend on budgets and the help from people willing to digitise the numerous records.

However, my first stated aim as Records Secretary is to draw together all existing Archive lists from Leatherhead and districts and produce a user-friendly and searchable database. The next step will be to get the 'Catalogue' onto our website so everybody out there in cyberspace can see what we hold. Of course, this may lead to a flood of enquiries and we will need to be ready for this.

I am happy to report that the involvement of the U3A groups in helping with these tasks has already begun with both Fetcham and Ashted groups already involved. Bookham U3A will also be contacted to see whether they too are keen to help.

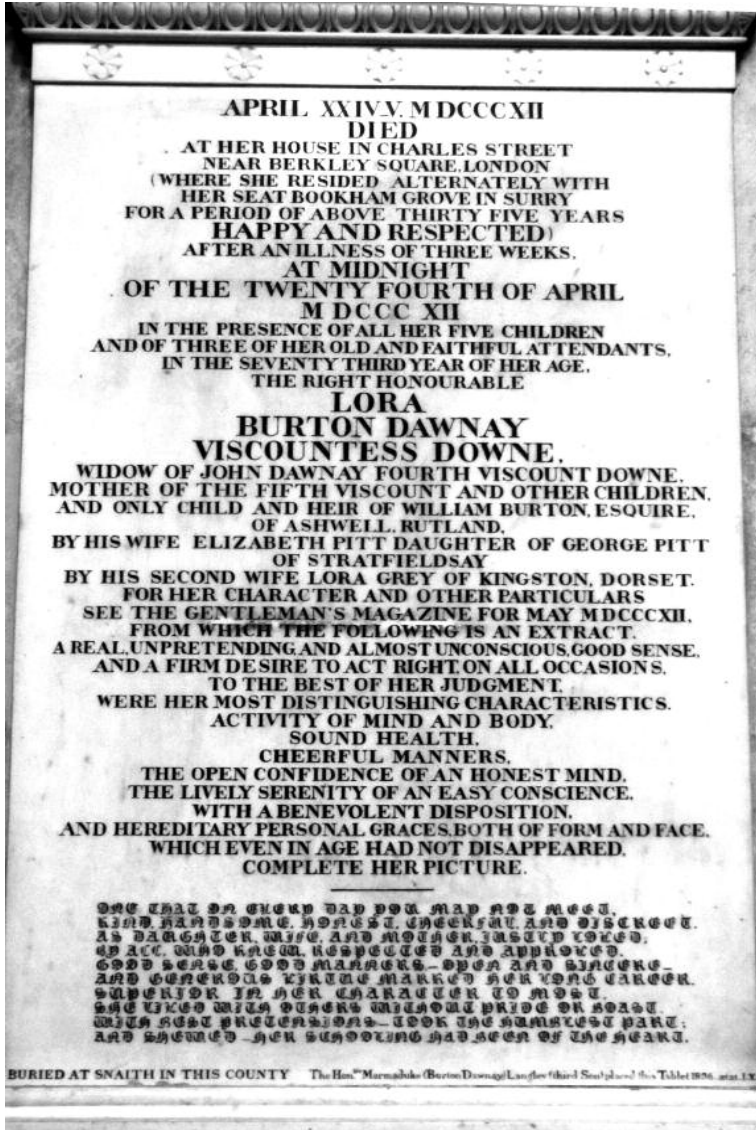
One of the perks of being the Archivist is that you get to pour over the records and learn interesting things about the people and places in the district. It was during one of these sessions that I came across a slip of paper with reference to a memorial in St. Nicolas Church which records the death of one Cornet Francis Geary, a dragoon, who was ambushed and killed in the American Civil War. On digging further I found the story of his death and that his father was a famous Admiral and former owner of Polesden Lacey. This is a story that I had not heard before and I suspect many of you also. A full account of the Geary family can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Roy Mellick

Dowager Viscountess Dawnay

Brian Cox took this photograph in York Minster. One Dowager Viscountess Dawnay is buried at St Nicolas, a table top tomb just outside the West Door. I don't know anything about this lady or what she was doing in York at the time of her death. Perhaps some of your Newsletter readers can help further?

Bill Whitman



More on Rose Cottage and the Akehurst Murders



Fetcham Manor Court records and the Parish Registers throw some more light on the fascinating Akehurst murders at Rose Cottage (Alan Pooley's article in May 2011). Whilst there is no record of the baptism of the murdered man, John Akehurst, in the parish records, there were Akehursts living in the parish as early as 1707 when Alexander Akehurst was listed as a freeholder of a messuage and three acres called Millcroft in the Manor Court records. In 1723 Catherine Akehurst (possibly his widow) was listed as a freeholder of Cannon Court. Freeholders were unusual in Fetcham. The first mention of John is the baptism of his daughter, Jane on 12th December 1761, when his wife's name is given as Jane. She is recorded as being buried in 1770.

In 1785 John (whose occupation is given as a labourer) is recorded as being admitted to a messuage and orchard adjoining Fetcham Common to the west with a field of about an acre, which he bought from a previous tenant and which appears first in the manor court records in 1766. The small piece of waste land he was given leave to enclose in 1792 was adjacent to this. The land he received under the Enclosure Act would have been in relation to the size of his total holding.

In 1788 there is a record of a John Akehurst marrying Elisabeth Rumsey. Elisabeth had been a widow since 1780, having been born in the parish in 1729. There is no record of her death. In 1805 at the age of 85, John surrendered to his will at the manor court. This was a way of recording the land owned and to whom it was left after death. John left his cottage and land to his only daughter Jane and her husband James Ayres, a labourer of Stoke (probably Stoke D'Abernon rather than Stoke, Guildford).

Jane would have been 64 at the time of her father's murder. Mary Ayres, who was suspected of the murder, was in fact Jane's daughter. Rector Bolland of Fetcham at the time commented that local people believed John's granddaughter, Mary had murdered him. Whilst no-one was charged with the crime, suspicions obviously continued. The normal practice after a tenant's death was for their heir to be admitted to their land at the manor court. The manor court records state however, that neither Jane nor James Ayres were ever admitted to his land, which was very unusual. The Land Tax Records record John Akehurst as the owner of the land for five years after his death, with Squire Hankey as the tenant. From 1832 Jane Ayres is recorded as the owner with Squire Hankey continuing as tenant. In 1838 following the deaths of Jane and her husband the situation about the cottage was finally resolved. Their three children, James, John and Elizabeth were admitted to the property and immediately sold it to Squire Hankey. There was no mention of the wayward Mary and there is no record of what happened to her. Not surprisingly, in view of the continuing suspicions, none of John Akehurst's grandchildren lived in Fetcham as adults. Elizabeth had married and was living in Middlesex as was her brother, James, who was a labourer. The other brother, John, (also a labourer) stayed closest at Great Bookham.

Vivien White

Ashtead Village Day – Saturday 11th June

We had reasonable weather conditions on the day, slightly windy but the rain just managed to hold off till the end of the day's events. A good day for a Village Fair but perhaps in hindsight not the best venue to raise local public interest in the work of the History Society. Nevertheless we made the effort with the support of two of our Ashtead members Gwen Hoad and Susan Gilchrist both kindly volunteering to support me on the stand. We also received good moral support from Mr



and Mrs Jack Willis our Ashtead Archivist but it would have been even better had we seen a few more of our Ashtead members on the day. The display was based on Peter Tarplee's talk on the 'Industries of Ashtead' given at the SAS symposium at the Peace Memorial Hall in Ashtead in February. Thanks also to Alan Pooley our Museum Manager for the loan of the Goblin teasmaids as part of the display which provided some novel interest.

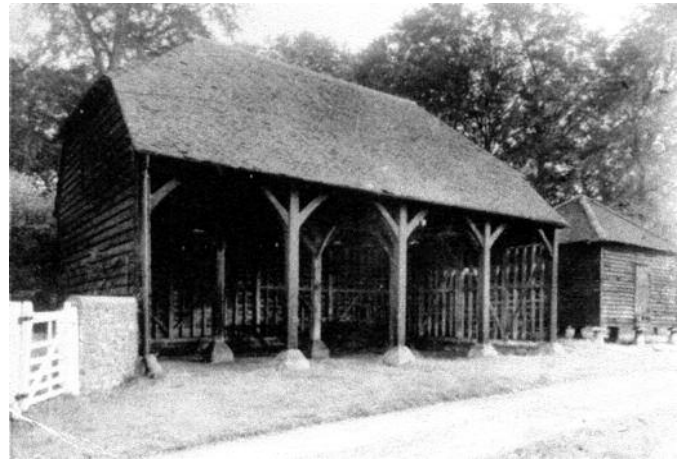
David Hartley

The Quickset Barn

In a private lane, leading off The Ridgeway, is a collection of farm buildings that have been carefully preserved in recent generations although the old farm house has been built over. This collection of buildings includes a four-bay barn that was erected around the time that the farm was established to serve Fetcham Park House and could be older than 1788 when first mention was made of the farm in a sale catalogue of that year.

Subsequent owners of the farm found use for these buildings and, today, they are in very good repair. The barn was tastefully converted in 1954 by Richard McFall as a bungalow for his elderly mother. The

brick pillars on which the main oak pillars rest were retained and the remaining structure including the tiled roof and cross-beam timbers were blended into an attractive property which now comprises a large living room, two bedrooms (one at second floor level), a dining room and kitchen. The grain store that is immediately adjacent still retains the large wooden grain bins and is a workshop for the present owner, John Lawrence who has continued to add improvements to the property and garden



A E Tims (for more details see The Proceedings Vol 6 No 10 2006)

Bookham Village Day - Saturday 18th June

Our pitch in the Old Barn Hall was manned by a number of History Society members. The title for this year's theme was 'A Day at The Races' which we illustrated with copies of photographs sourced from the Internet on the subjects of horse racing, dog racing, motor sports and cycling images from the past, not an easy subject to interpret successfully. This type of event is not the best venue to promote the History Society and museum but we did manage to



sell a small number of our local history publications. Due to the weather there were obvious advantages in being indoors and having a captive audience between bouts of rain and sunshine, more rain than sun.

Thanks are due to Peter Tarplee, Goff Powell, Roy Mellick, Mr & Mrs Gordon and Pam Knowles for their help and support on the day. We also received visits from members Doug and Vivien Hollingsworth, Martin Warwick and John Wettern.

David Hartley

News from the Friends of Leatherhead Museum

At our AGM in April we welcomed Brian Hennegan and Robin Christian to our committee, both 'seasoned' and experienced museum stewards and bringing with them many additional skills which will greatly enhance our work.

The three craft days in June brought in 160 visitors of whom 65 were children. Thursday 2nd June was exceptionally busy with 80 visitors in the 3 hours, a record! These included a history group from Kent and people from Unilever on a team building exercise. Robin Christian weaved his magic with crafts and finds from the woodland, Sylvia Oliver and Margaret Meynen had children making exquisite King and Queen peg dolls and Richard Trim demonstrated the art of making paper airplanes and flying them. Sadly Lindsay Trim suffered a stroke the next day but we are glad she is making good progress and we send her and the family our best wishes. Justine Munson came with her potters wheel on Friday and on Saturday we had the Epsom Spinners and Weavers and a new innovation Rosie O'Neil demonstrating beading.

An important aspect of the work of the Friends is education, in particular our work with schools. Julia lack has amended the children's trail in the museum and introduced a simpler version for younger children. She visited Trinity School (Woodville) Leatherhead where she talked to two classes about Victorian schools, cooking and washing . Brian Hennegan entertained 60 children at Trinity with stories about WW2

and demonstrating vocally at full volume the sound of the air raid siren ‘moaning minnie’. We also visited Trinity again during a community involvement event where we brought a typewriter, Victorian school slates and the school bell from the All Saints School which created again a noisy diversion !

Future Events of The Friends On Thursday 1st September we shall have our Display Barrow in the Swan Centre advertising the museum and our coffee morning. This year The Friends Coffee Morning will be held at the museum on Heritage Sunday 11th September 10am to 12.30. This is a fund raising event for the museum and apart from coffee and cakes there will be a bric-a-brac stall, raffle and other attractions ! Come and visit us and take another look round the museum and see what’s new.

Dr Fred Meynen

18th Century Plumbing in Fetcham

In 1996 the owner of Park Farm decided to build a new house, close to existing old buildings. During the excavation for foundations an old brick water storage tank was uncovered. This tank was part of the water supply to the farm and to the Fetcham Park House in 1788 according to an entry in a sale catalogue of that year. The water was pumped from the Mill by the River Mole and served to provide a head of water for the house and gardens. (The capacity of the tank was approximately 500 cubic feet).



Some early pipes were found whilst foundations were prepared for the 1930’s developments that lay in a direct line to the Park. These were wooden pipes but it is not clear if they extended as far as the farm. What is known is that iron pipes were used to connect to the main header tank that lies in property adjacent to the farm.

Mr Ray Penfold, the owner is pictured holding a length of the iron piping which has a two inch external diameter and 3/8” thick walls. The collar joint is packed with lead that must have made an efficient, if health threatening, union.



A E Tims

More on Arris Hill Cottage Fetcham

Further to Alan Pooley's article in May 2011, the name of this cottage seems to have come from its one-time occupants. There are records of the Arris family in Fetcham between 1763 and 1842. The name was often spelt in different ways (sometimes in the same record) as Arris, Aris, Aries and intriguingly as Ayres. Thus the James Ayres who the daughter



of the murdered John Akehurst of Rose Cottage married, may well have been a close neighbour as the two cottages were close by. The last Fetcham Arris, Thomas Arris, died in 1842, the same year as the 1842 terrier list the cottage as Arris Hill Cottage.

Lovelace in Surrey – A Project

The May lecture was given by Peter Hattersley and Andrew Norris on a project started in 2002 to identify and restore the Lovelace bridges at East Horsley, restoring them close to their original condition to ensure their survival for posterity. The aim was also to examine the rest of the Lovelace estate including properties outside its boundaries. The project is a partnership between the Horsley Countryside Preservation Society and the Forestry Commission with Peter as the project coordinator and Andrew the project surveyor.

Peter Hattersley described the background to William King, later Lord Lovelace, born in 1805 and son of Peter, 7th Lord King, Baron of Ockham. He was educated at Eton and went on to Trinity College, Cambridge before entering the diplomatic service acting as secretary to Lord Nugent, Commissioner to the Greek Ionian Islands. He was recalled to his family home in Ockham on the death of his father inheriting the title of 8th Lord King in 1833. He married Ada Byron, daughter of Lord Byron, bringing with her a vast fortune in money and estates which enabled him to build up the Horsley estate. Ada's family connection with Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne resulted in William King being created Viscount Ockham, 1st Earl of Lovelace at the time of the coronation of Queen Victoria. He remarried after Ada's death, his second wife bringing further wealth which enabled him to develop the twenty Lovelace bridges. Together with the buildings the bridges all bear the hallmark of his unique architectural design

with name and date plaque. The bricks were manufactured in his brickworks at Ockham and he used a steam process to bend the wooden beams for the Great Hall. The bridges made of flint and brick were ostensibly built to cross gullies to enhance the transport of timber from the forests used for the construction of his buildings. He was very proud of his bridges and liked to show them off to his friends.



Andrew Norris continued the narrative illustrating his talk with beautiful slides showing details of the bridges and their reconstruction. Twenty horseshoe shaped bridges ranging from 6ft to 18ft wide were built over the years, some later becoming unsafe and pulled down leaving fifteen to this day, part in private ownership or owned by Forest Enterprises. Stony Dene bridge restoration was started in 2003, the bridge plaque showing it was built in 1871. Over the years water erosion has undermined the banks, there being no foundations, and the parapets have disappeared together with numerous bricks and mortar. A detailed survey was done, funding obtained, the principle donor being the Horsley Countryside Preservation Society. The total cost for restoring the bridge was £30,000. Ridge tiles were used as coping stone with drain pipes running through to save mortar. Volunteers provided some of the labour and are now needed to maintain the brides after restoration. Andrew went on to describe the

Troye bridge built in 1880 with its original plaque and Dorking Arch which necessitated temporary closure of Crocknorth Road. Restoring the bridges using traditional materials and following closely the original design has won the Project several awards including the Gravitt Annual Award, a Guildford Borough Award for Heritage and the Surrey Archaeological Industrial History Award.



Peter Hattersley ended the lecture by

mentioning the establishment of the Lovelace Bridges Trail to raise public awareness and photographing all the Lovelace properties in East Horsley. Photos and recordings of Lovelace properties making up the estate including Hook and the Lovelace coat of arms on County Hall are now on a CD. All maps, photos and recordings are also lodged with the History Centre at Woking and information about them can be found on their website. The next project will be the restoration of Troye Bridge at an estimated cost of £60,000 emphasising the importance of the ongoing project of the Lovelace Bridge restoration being a local initiative and of significant historical importance.

As a sequel to the lecture Peter Hattersley offered to lead a guided walk on 8th June along the Lovelace Bridges Trail ending with a visit to the Lovelace Mausoleum and the Great Hall at Horsley Towers.

Dr Fred Meynen

Lovelace Bridges Walk

Following on from his lecture, Peter Hattersley of the Horsley Countryside Preservation Society waited in the Green Dene car park for a group of 11 intrepid walkers from the Leatherhead History Society and Friends of Leatherhead Museum. It was a grey and overcast Wednesday in June, Heavy rain was forecast but had yet to arrive. We assembled, thought about our lunch, and then set off across the Green Dene Road striking uphill. First was the Falcon Bridge but all there was to see were the original brick walls lining the banks. As in the lecture, we were left wondering why Lovelace had built these structures in the middle of woods. Was it to show off to visiting ladies his large estate or was it really to facilitate the extraction of timber avoiding otherwise steep routes such as Crocknorth Hill?

The way is well marked, using Arrows and white 'Lovelace trail' symbols. Next up was Raven Arch. A largely intact bridge where the detailing of flint and brick structure can be first appreciated. We passed through Coles Copse to Dorking Arch, the only bridge crossing a road (Crocknorth Road). This bridge had been restored in 1945 before the current Lovelace Bridges Project. Workers contracted by the Forestry Commission were working on retaining walls of the banks. We appreciated the Gothicised arrow slits in the parapet but not the earlier and unsympathetic job of matching mortar colour.

At Oakhanger there was nothing visible of the original bridge but at Stony Dene we saw a beautifully restored structure (2003), Originally built in 1871, it bears the hall mark of Lovelace, first through a horseshoe design which is apparently of Moorish inspiration, and secondly through the use of flint and brick in a unique design which appears to celebrate the craftsman detail ethos of the Arts and Crafts movement just getting underway whilst being happy to use machine made industrial products such as clay pipe work in the parapet. These parapets are currently being restored by volunteers. The original plaque has now been incorporated in the bridge. It seemed



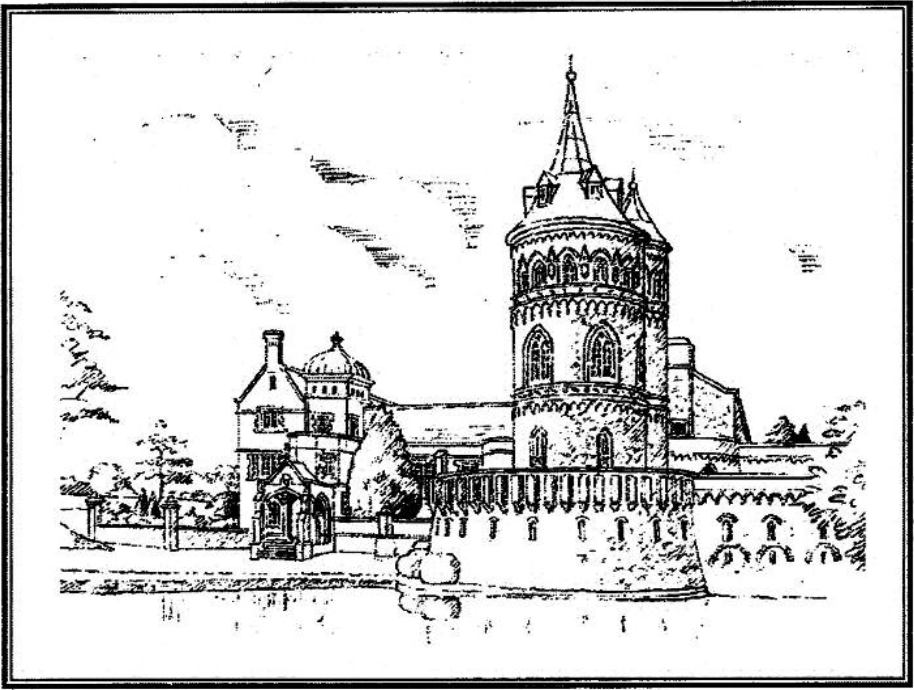
Some of the Walkers approach Stony Dene Bridge

strange that such a well crafted structure had been so poorly engineered that no consideration had been made by the original builders of the effects of water and rain runoff.

On to Horse Close bridge site. Not only is there very little to see, it would appear that our organiser- one Dr Meynen and one walker had disappeared into the forest ne'er to be seen again. Two down, we continued onto Briary Hill East , then West. These bridges are a good deal narrower than other bridges and are characterised by the use of un-napped flint. These too are less decorated than other bridges and appear abruptly in the woodland setting. It is here that one really does wonder about the original functional intent. And on finally to pass under the Raven arch we had earlier crossed, but again noted the extra-ordinary detailing and workmanship.

Rejoined by our missing organiser, the Lunch in the Duke of Wellington Arms was followed, between heavy showers, by first a visit into the Lovelace Mausoleum and then by a visit to the Towers house. The Mausoleum was built in the second half of the Nineteenth century after Lovelace's first wife Ada Byron had died. It is gloriously Gothic and octagonal. The polychromic and honest use of flint and red, white and black moulded terracotta brickwork seem true to the high ideals set by Ruskin and Butterfield even if the use of 'found' material such as fired clay pipe work for columns is a little quirky.

Horsley Towers is certainly quirky. And yet, as we had noted at the Duke of Wellington, Lovelace was clearly influenced, if not guided by Charles Barry. Barry is normally



*Copyright: De Vere Venues, Horsley Park
I Curl, J S Victorian Architecture p 93, London 1990*

noted for his classicism, but at Dunrobin Castle (1844-50) he had engaged with the romantic notions of the Scottish Baronial style and built similar circular towers with conical roofs. We saw the wonderful Great Hall with its huge, steam bent beams supporting a cantilevered roof. Decoration comes from 150 Coats of Arms in the panelling and a further 38 in the windows. Then we were guided by the very helpful sales manager around what is now a conference centre, seeing Ada's bathroom - unfortunately the original bath is long lost - a very odd bedroom in a tower with the bathroom down a spiral staircase and the chapel and 'cloister'. The chapel is in a polychromatic style clearly referencing the Spanish south and the cloister, reportedly built for Ada to exercise when too ill to venture outside, has similar influences. The present owners – De Vere Venues- have made good efforts in maintaining these historic references to our Victorian past.

Our grateful thanks to Dr Fred Meynen for organising such an enjoyable day. Thanks also to Peter Hattersley for his guidance and knowledge and to De Vere Venues for hosting us so well.

David Lokkerbol

‘Beating the Bounds’

On Friday 15th April after the annual general meeting we had a most interesting talk by Alan Pooley on ‘Beating the Bounds’ which described the boundaries of Fetcham parish. He explained first why the custom of beating the bounds took place, which was partly so that people were aware of where they were, and partly to ensure that nobody had shifted any boundary markers surreptitiously!

Having explained the origins of the custom, Alan then took us on an imaginary walk with lots of illustrations round the parish

boundaries. Some of them, such as the river Mole, are fairly obvious, but others are not only less obvious, but in several cases, quite unexpected.

Leaving from the middle of the river bridge, we proceeded towards the two railway bridges stopping by ‘Watersmeet’ the house now gone, built by Edward Mizen when he had the watercress beds alongside the mill pond and continued on to ‘Fetcham Splash’. Only about one third of the island there belongs to Fetcham, and the remainder is in Leatherhead parish.

We continued up the river to the island by Brook Willow farm created by the flooding of an ancient trackway before turning down by Slyfield back towards the south. Arriving at Mark Oak Gate on the Cobham Road, Alan showed us an old photo of the place with the old gate posts visible where the houses on the right are in Fetcham and one house on the left in Bookham. Coming down Mark Oak Lane we crossed the railway where once there was a level crossing and skirting the east side of Eastwick Drive past the ponds, zig zagged up across Lower Road by Kennel Close to the Guildford Road and then followed it up on the east side of Norbury Way onto the Downs.

One odd anomaly is that as one proceeds, Bookham Wood is in fact in Fetcham. After our excursion past Roaring House Farm we circled round to come up to Bocketts Farm where there is another anomaly in that the farm yard is in Leatherhead but the car park is in Fetcham. We followed Bocketts Lane down to Dead Womans Lane and then traced the boundary across the Leisure Centre approach road back to the centre of the river bridge.

Altogether it was a most interesting ‘tour’ – our thanks to Alan for guiding us round so well. In 1805 at the age of 85, John surrendered his will at the manor court. This was a way of recording the land owned and to whom it was left after death. John left his cottage and land to his only daughter Jane and her husband James Ayres, a labourer of Stoke (probably Stoke D’Abernon rather than Stoke, Guildford).



Fetcham Splash

The Geary Family of Polesden Lacey

Sir Francis Geary (1709 – 1796) was an officer of the Royal Navy. He served during the War of the Austrian Succession, the Seven Years' War, and the American War of Independence, eventually rising to the rank of Admiral. Geary was born in 1709 to a family that resided at Aberystwyth but moved to England shortly after his birth. Before joining the navy he was a noted bell ringer, a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths participating in several early record-breaking peals at St Bride's Church, London. He entered the navy in 1727, serving as



a volunteer aboard HMS *Revenge*. He sailed with *Revenge* into the Baltic, as part of a squadron under Admiral Sir John Norris.

Geary spent the next fifteen years with the navy gradually progressing to midshipman, and then lieutenant. He was promoted to command HMS *Squirrel* in June 1742 and cruised off Madeira, capturing a Spanish privateer, and capturing and burning a Spanish armed ship. In February 1743 he came across the Spanish chartered French merchant *Pierre Joseph*. The *Pierre Joseph* was carrying a valuable cargo of silver, cochineal, indigo, hides and other goods. Geary boarded the vessel and took her as a prize. Geary had by now secured a powerful patron, John Russell, 4th Duke of Bedford, who was then the First Lord of the Admiralty, and through Russell's actions, Geary was appointed to command the 74-gun HMS *Culloden*. He was sent to reinforce Rear-Admiral Edward Hawke in the Bay of Biscay in 1747, and spent the rest of the war there, returning in 1748. He was then promoted to Commodore and appointed Commander-in-Chief of the squadron in the Medway, but relinquished the command in September that year.

The increase of tensions prior to the outbreak of the Seven Years' War led to Geary's return to service in 1755. He was assigned to the 70-gun HMS *Somerset*, and sailed to North America with Admiral Edward Boscawen's fleet, returning in November. At the

end of 1755 Geary received orders to join the Channel Squadron under Sir Edward Hawke. During the winter of 1756 and into early 1757 Geary was part of the court-martial of Admiral John Byng. In February 1758 Geary was given command of HMS Lenox, moving the following year to HMS Resolution. He sailed Resolution as part of the fleet under Hawke, quickly being assigned to command a squadron of ten ships of the line, two frigates and a fire-ship. He was promoted to Rear-Admiral of the Blue and later moved his flag to the 90-gun HMS Sandwich.

Geary remained with Hawke, patrolling off the French coast, before returning with the fleet in November. On his return to Britain he became Port Admiral at Spithead, flying his flag aboard HMS Royal Sovereign.

Geary spent various periods as Vice-Admiral of the Blue, White and Red but in 1780 he was taken ill and returned to Polesden Lacey and being unable to retain command he received permission to resign and in 1782 was created a baronet. He died at the age of 86 in 1796.

Geary had married Mary Bartholomew in 1747 the same year he had purchased the Polesden Lacey estate. The marriage produced two sons and three daughters. His eldest son, also named Francis, joined the army, his second son, William, inherited the baronetcy on his death. His wife died in 1778.

Francis Geary (son)

Born in 1752 he was christened at Bookham and raised in Surrey and educated at Balliol College, Oxford. Purchasing a cornetcy (commissioned officer in a British cavalry troop, after captain and lieutenant) in the 16th Light Dragoons in 1773 and was sent to North America in 1776. In October and November, Geary's unit was mainly occupied with forays in northern New Jersey where they met little organised resistance, but early in December his company was ordered to camp at Pennington and later Cornet Geary and seven other members of the 16th were sent north on a reconnaissance mission.

According to accounts Geary's party rode to verify that a supply of salt beef and pork was ready for the army to pick up. Intelligence had been learnt of this movement and the next morning an ambush in a wooded area had been set up. When Geary's company rode by the militia fired a volley of musket fire killing Geary. A report of the event indicated that Geary had been alerted to this was unable to escape the volley of the fire.

The militiamen appropriated portions of Geary's uniform, including his sword and the silver plate on his cap that had his name inscribed on it. British troops that had been sent out to meet them and take the supplies questioned the local inhabitants and searched the area, but could not find his body. The militiamen had concealed it buried in a shallow grave the next day. Traditions claimed that Geary's belongings were hidden to prevent their discovery by British troops. His coat is said to have been hidden under a pile of wheat on the floor of a garret, while his boots were hidden in an oven.

It is also said that Geary's red sash was unravelled and the thread was used for various ornamental purposes, his sword was melted to make teaspoons and his stiff leather hat was used by a farmer to dip oats from his feed bin for his horses.

Many local residents of Hunterdon County were unaware that Geary had been buried there, and accounts persisted that the British had recovered his body. In 1891 the Hunterdon County Historical Society exhumed a body from a site suspected to contain his body. Found in the grave were a skeleton and silver buttons labeled "Q. L. D.", signifying the Queen's Light Dragoons. His family placed a grave marker on the site in 1907. St Nicolas Church contains a bas-relief depicting Cornet Francis Geary and the incident. The inscription reads:



Bas-relief in St Nicolas, Bookham

To the memory of CORNET FRANCIS GEARY (Eldest Son of Admiral GEARY) who fell in America December 13th 1776. By his affability and benevolence he gained the love of the soldiers and by his constant attention to his duty, the esteem of his superior officers. At the age of 24 he was entrusted with a Command which he executed with singular spirit, but on his return from that duty he was attacked by a large body of rebels who lay in wait for him in a wood and was killed at the head of his little troop bravely fighting in support of the rights and authority of his country. In testimony of their sincere affection for a dutiful and much lamented son this monument was erected by his most afflicted parents.

Roy Mellick (for sources see Wikipedia)

Sir Edmund Tylney - 1536 - 1610



Just how many people who drink in the Edmund Tylney - Wetherspoons Public House in Leatherhead High Street know the story behind the man? His connection with Leatherhead is that he came to live at the Mansion House in Church Street about 1588 and that on the 3rd August 1591 Queen Elizabeth I dined with him there. (The current building dates from 1739). However, history shows him not to be a popular man. According to his contemporaries, he was an arrogant and unpopular name-dropper,

Edmund Tylney was a courtier best known now as Master of the Revels to Queen Elizabeth and King James I. He was responsible for the censorship of drama in England. He was also instrumental in the development of English drama of the Elizabethan period. He made the office of Master of the Revels into an institution.

He was the only son of Philip Tylney, Usher of the Privy Chamber to King Henry VIII, and Malyn Chambre. No record of his education survives. He evidently learned Latin, French, Italian and Spanish because his early works indicate his acquaintance not only with the languages but also with subjects such as law, history, economics and genealogy. There is speculation that he must have travelled because travel was regarded as a part of one's education at that time.

Though he had a very informal education, he had a bright future ahead of him because of his royal connections. He was a distant kinsman of Queen Elizabeth by virtue of the family alliance with the Howards. To obtain royal favour he wrote a treatise called 'A brief and pleasant discourse of the duties in Marriage, called the Flower of Friendship' which was published in 1568. The book was dedicated to the Queen. For the next few years he maintained his connections with the Howard family. In 1572, he represented Gattton, Surrey in Parliament. He was related to the Howard family through

his great-aunt Agnes Tylney who married the second Duke of Norfolk. Their son, Lord William Howard, became Lord Howard of Effingham, and his even more famous son, Charles of Armada fame.

The second Lord Howard became the Lord Chamberlain in 1574. The Revels Office has always been under the Lord Chamberlain, and he conferred the position of Master on him. In July 1579, he formally assumed the office of Master of the Revels though he had been the acting Master since February 1577. Following his appointment as the Master, he grew increasingly popular and married Dame Mary Bray in 1583. She was the fourth wife of Sir Edmund Bray. There are no other details about whether they had any children or not. Even in his will written in 1610, there is no mention of either his wife or any issue.

He occupied this position as it underwent a significant change in focus. When he began his work, it consisted principally of planning and conducting royal entertainments, as a unit of the Lord Chamberlain's office. His principal aim was that of pleasing the Queen. Then he started clearing up the various problems associated with the Revels office. It had fallen into major disrepute with creditors. A commission issued on 24th December 1581 solved this financial crisis and enabled him to reduce the maintenance costs of the office to a moderate budget. The second section of the commission was to prohibit the discussion of any controversial issues in theatre. A play would be permitted only if the manuscript had the signature of the Master. Any offender could be imprisoned by his orders. He was given complete authority in matters concerning drama. This responsibility had been previously shared by Revels officers.

He now became the censor of drama all over the country. One important example is *The Book of Sir Thomas More*. It concerned the anti-alien riots on the Evil May Day of 1517. Due to its inflammatory political content it was rigidly censored, and the play was never released. Any political content designed to agitate the court was censored.

His career as Master spanned some



Edward Tylney Memorial

of the most eventful years in the history of English drama. In 1576, The Theatre and The Curtain, the first public playhouses, were built. There were many more being built all over the country at this time. This led to a rapid proliferation of dramatic activity. It began with playwrights such as Christopher Marlowe and Thomas Kyd who were drawing crowds with Tamburlaine and The Spanish Tragedy. The entire career of William Shakespeare, with the exception of a few years, fell within his tenure of Mastership. The latter licensed thirty of Shakespeare's plays.



But if his censorship restricted the writers, his support protected them from generally hostile civic authorities. The polite fiction of aristocratic patronage did not obscure the reality that the troupes were commercial enterprises; however, that fiction brought the theatres under royal protection; in 1592, the Lord Mayor of London named him as one of the obstacles to ending public drama in the city. However, his censorship was not of a generalising nature. While he did omit politically volatile passages and scenes, some, like the deposition scene in Richard II and the murder of Julius Caesar, were allowed to remain. However, there is no way of knowing whether Julius Caesar was allowed to be performed uncensored. Shakespeare's plays seemed to have suffered the severest form of censorship under him.

He is also credited with the creation of the Queen's company of actors. She had received a few players as part of her inheritance. However, Elizabeth never used them, and usually asked him to get either children or other companies to perform. Soon it became difficult to arrange for performances according to the court preferences. Some plays proved to be dull and were often cancelled. Just a few years after assuming office, he chose twelve of the best actors from different companies and created the Queen's Men. Soon after this, the Queen's Men played a major part at all court performances. However, they had all but faded by the 1590s. He brought about another important change in the development of drama by giving priority to the play instead of the masque as part of the entertainment. Masques were very expensive to produce, and he cut down on the Revels expenses by producing plays. In the succeeding reign of James I, masques made a comeback. On 24th March 1603, Elizabeth's reign ended, and James I ascended the throne. There had been major issues regarding his patent, as John Lyly had been vying for that post. George Buck, supported by the Howards, was also a

contender. But he retained his position as the Master even under James I. Also, around 1606, the Master of the Revels was vested with the power of licensing plays for publishing. Some documentary evidence reveals the fact that George Buck had been appointed as acting Master. Censorship took on a more relaxed stance with the onset of the Jacobean era. In the



Simon Callow as Edmund in 'Shakespeare in Love'

following years, Buck licensed many plays, though Edmund controlled and managed the accounts of the office. He stayed in office till his death in 1610.

He lived a life which was spent in balancing one controversy against another. On the one hand he had the Lord Treasurer to contend with and on the other there was the Lord Chamberlain from whom he took direct orders.

He spent the latter part of his life fighting various lawsuits and claims over property and debt. Towards the end, his financial circumstances had become severely strained. He lost a few properties through lawsuits as well. In addition Edmund instructed in his will that all his fine clothes were to be sold and the proceeds divided between the poor inhabitants of the Parishes of Streatham and Leatherhead. He left £100 for the preparation of Leatherhead stone bridge. He also bequeathed money to some servants and to his cousin Thomas. His will also states that he wished to be buried in St. Leonard's Church, Streatham, London where his mother and father were interred, rather than at Leatherhead. He even had his monument made during his lifetime and mention is made in his will that it be set up in the church in the place agreed between himself and the Parson and churchwardens at Streatham. He went to great lengths to design his own memorial complete with the names and arms of all the nobles to whom he was related. On close examination of the monument, it reveals that the date of his death in line 6 is missing. This is said to be because as he had the monument made in his lifetime to ensure that it met his requirements, but failed to leave any money in his will to have the date of his death inserted!

There are even debates about the possibility of him having been knighted. The parish registers show he was buried on 6th October 1610 and is recorded as "Mr Edmund Tylney Esq. Master of the Kings Revels".

Goff Powell - with acknowledgement to various sources

It Could Not Happen Now!

Back in the mid, to late 1950's, I was living in Ashtead, from the time the family moved from the Woodbridge estate, until I got married in 1961. Our house was number 89 Newton Wood Road. It was located at the top end of the road (as approached from the pond) and being on a sharp bend in the road it was blessed with what I believe was the largest of all the gardens in the road. This was just as well because Mum was a compulsive gardener, which was one of the reasons for the purchase of that particular property.

The garden was in the shape of a traditional kite. The 'top ends' were bounded by the railway line and the woodland that runs from the top end of Craddock's Avenue down to the railway line. Now this was good news for me because I was and still am, a bit of a railway enthusiast. I still subscribe to 'The Railway Magazine' for the monthly delivery to my door. "You pay less that way". (My 'Financial Adviser' tells me that I would pay less if I didn't get it. She is so annoyingly sensible).

My bedroom was at the back of the house so in those days, before the foliage had been allowed to grow rampant, I had a grandstand view of the railway.

This particular incident takes place one night during the late autumn of 1957 or thereabouts. Time twists the memory, but the timing is not that important. I had gone to bed at about eleven o'clock. "You are up early for work my boy," father would say. So that explains the comparatively early hour! By now of course it was dark with a gentle wind that swayed the trees and rustled the leaves that were still clinging to the branches.

It was not long before I heard the puff of the engine hauling the 'pick up goods' as it made its way through Ashtead Station. This train was made up of goods wagons that had been picked up from the various goods yards on the journey from Horsham or Guildford depending on the trains 'duty roster'. Well I took up my position, head resting on my arms folded on the window sill. The chuff chuff of the engine grew louder as it approached the back of our garden. I should explain that the railway line runs on an upward gradient from the station to the top of the grade, just past the Wells Estate Bridge. At that time there were signal boxes at both Ashtead Station and Wells Estate Bridge.

As the train approached I could see that the loco was a '700' class, 0-6-0, originally on the stock list of the London and South Western Railway. I add this snippet of information just in case this article is read by a fellow 'Anorak', I noticed that the rhythm of the engine was getting slower and slower. Eventually I saw the brief shadow from the light of the firebox as the engine passed under the Wells Estate Bridge. By now the guards van was almost within my view as the engine finally 'gave up the ghost' and came to a halt, with the engine just past the bridge.

It was either a case of too much load, or too little steam, whatever the cause the train

was stuck. Now this was becoming more interesting by the minute, well it was to me! The last 'Waterloo up' was due in about twenty minutes or so. It would normally pass the goods train, which would be held at Epsom, so that it could pass it and proceed to Waterloo.

Shortly voices could be heard in the clear night air. "I've told the box, he will tell the driver". "The bu**er won't get her feet, we will need a bank." Then silence for a little while, until voices ring out again. Isn't it strange how loud voices seem, when the sun has gone to bed and it expects us to do likewise.

"Steady up driver, slow as you go" there is a 'clanking' and 'chonking' sound as the buffers of the electric train and the guards van of the goods train gently engage. The electric train comes to a standstill and gives a single blast in its whistle. "I'll give the driver the green" says the goods train guard, who will use his trusty oil hand lamp that can give either a green, red, or plain light as required. "You give him two and we will ease up". In a moment or two the electric train gives two blasts on the whistle and the whole ensemble begins to ease forward at a steady pace. Shortly the sound of the steam locomotive begins to quicken as the sound of its "puff puff" blast rents the night air and seems to be saying "thank you", "thank you", "thank you", but perhaps that's just my imagination.

In a little while the electric train passes my window and comes to a halt at the signal box by the Wells Estate Bridge. The goods train proceeds to Epsom where it will stand by so the Waterloo electric can go on its way, by now a little late, but in the circumstances not a bad show. In about nine minutes the electric train 'gets the road' and goes on its way.

The whole incident was resolved by skilled and professional railway men, involving the fireman, driver and the guard, of the goods train, the driver of the electric train and the two signal men, at the 'Wells Box' and the 'Ashted Station Box', following 'The Rule Book'.

The guard of the goods train would have to submit a report and the driver would have to explain to the Area Operational Manager and his 'Shedmaster' why he stalled his train.

It would only be then that 'management' first had knowledge of the incident. Both Signal men would have entered the incident, and the action taken, in their log books.

I went back to bed.

Today such an operation would not be allowed. It would endanger the lives of the passengers. Well there you are. Weren't the "good old days" wonderful.

Brian Hennegan

The Museum

If you have passed the museum lately in Church Street you may have noticed that the roof over the bay window at the front overlooking the road has been replaced. When we had the rebuilding carried out following the mishap when a car crashed through the window, everything was replaced as before to the requirements of Mole Valley Conservation Officer with the



exception of this small roof. As a temporary measure it was covered with felt, but long term I agreed that we would replace it with a more suitable material. The Conservation Officer agreed that if we put on either a lead or zinc roof it would most probably be stolen within a short time, although the previous painted zinc roof had survived any thieves. He recommended, and approved, that we had a fibreglass GRP system installed, which is approved by English Heritage.

That was the start of my difficulties, it proved impossible to find a contractor who was willing to take on the work, it was too small a job, or too far to travel, or both, for all but one of those I contacted. I did obtain a quote from one Surrey based firm, but it was outrageously high, they obviously gave it hoping that they would not get the work.

Then in the autumn of last year I had some work done at home by a local firm, replacing gutters and soffits. They did not undertake the specialised work I was seeking for the museum roof but did recommend a company in Beddington, Croydon. They quickly looked at the job and gave me a reasonable quote, in terms of cost and time, and even a discount as we were a charity. So we gave them the contract and I think you will agree that it looks good, and it has a twenty year guarantee.

It is a technology that I am unfamiliar with so I watched with interest as they prepared the surface and the surrounds and fitted a new timber deck as a base. Unfortunately the Conservation Officer would not allow us to cut back into the beam to ensure a complete weatherproof seal, but I think you will agree that they made a sound job of the join.

The low styrene emission fibreglass resin is spread on in a semi liquid form using

prepared trims around the edges. Then just before it sets, which takes place very quickly, a lead coloured isolphthalic topcoat is applied. The whole job took less than half a day and I think you will agree that it looks good and should last at least the twenty years it is guaranteed for.

By the time you read this we should have had completed the only outstanding maintenance on the building. This is to point up the front facia and roofing overlooking the road to complement the work carried out last year at the back of the museum. Our contractor has had to obtain permission from the County Council to erect scaffolding which necessitates closing off the pavement. He is booked to do this work at the end of June along with another major contract that he has, that is to rebuild the long wall which is virtually the last structure on the right out of Leatherhead towards Dorking nearby the entrance to Thorncroft.

Gordon Knowles

Home Farm School Fetcham

Next to the Village Hall in The Street Fetcham, stands Home Farm House, easily recognisable from the attractive sketch done a few years ago by John Baker.

In the 1880s, farmer William Lang moved his whole farm stock, equipment and family from New Monkland which is to the east of Glasgow, to Home



Farm by train - a not unusual occurrence then. William died in 1906 and his sons John and David continued the farming. Their sister, Helen Black Lang who had been born in Scotland, married a William Rivett in 1897 and when her brother David Lang moved to Claygate in 1922s she and her husband returned to Fetcham and their son, also named William, took over the farm. In 1936 William Rivett senior died and the premises ceased to be an actual farm house in 1938, but Helen stayed on until 1952.

Incidentally she celebrated her 100th birthday at Yew Tree Cottage Polesdon Lacy in 1969 and was pictured in the press.

Now whilst history of the present Fetcham schools is well documented, I am not aware that anything has been published about Home Farm School and the best way of correcting this omission is to reproduce the following abstracted from the extensive memoirs of Rev Ralph Mann whose parent bought a house in The Drive in 1932.

“In January 1933 I entered Mrs Rivett’s Home Farm School. Mr William Rivett was the farmer of Home Farm then (not Mr Lang) and must have been there for several years before 1933. Mrs Rivett was a qualified (and excellent) teacher, and her school met in the front room on the right of the main door. The room to the left was their parlour. I still have the class photographs of the school from 1933 and 1934. Among the pupils there were Phyllis, Reggie and Ronnie Tyler (from ‘Meadowcroft’ Marden Hill), June Madge, Sheila Davey from ‘Wewunda’ on the Cobham road, June Riley whose father kept the Bell Inn, Mary Andrews (whose sister later married the rector Mr Maby), Audrey Trethowan, Michael Lockyer, Ena Cooper, Michael Oxborrow (son of the fishmonger from Bridge Street Leatherhead) and my special friend Billy Rivett and his sister Evelyn. We wore little school caps with a monogram [apparently ‘HF’ superimposed over ‘S’] for Home Farm School. I left in December 1935.

Behind the farmhouse was a duck pond, where I saw my first and only swallowtail butterfly in 1934. The Village Hall was being constructed out of an old barn but it was still possible to scramble through a hole in the boarding of the adjacent stable in the rear, which gave access underneath the newly constructed stage in the Village Hall. In the



back: Sheila Davey, Billy Rivett, June Madge
middle: Mary Andrews, Evelyn Rivett, June Riley or Ena Cooper, Daphne Prosser, Audrey Trethowan
front: Michael Lockyer, Ralph Mann.

rear attic on the right Mr Rivett had his wonderful steam railway layout on a permanent construction of shelving that ran around the sizeable attic. The bush on the left of the main door of the Farm was a very splendid fuchsia.

I recall another incident at Home Farm School: the launching of the ‘Queen Mary’. For this memorable event, Mr Rivett, who was versatile in such

matters, rigged up a loudspeaker in the classroom. This was, of course, in the days of crystal sets, and cat's whiskers, and accumulators, and a wireless set was still a great and mighty wonder. The loudspeaker was mounted in the centre of a very large wooden sounding board, and the whole contrivance, together with a splendid array of wires, dominated the classroom from its vantage point in the front corner. I can remember the excitement of seeing a loudspeaker, but I cannot remember anything about the launching which, in any case, would have been a visual rather than an audible occasion. I should have been astonished to know that some twenty years later (in 1957) I should cross the Atlantic on one of the 'Queen Mary's' later voyages."

Mrs Rivett was a gifted and versatile teacher. She was a capable artist, so that on one occasion we arrived at school to find a beautiful picture in coloured chalks on the blackboard - a rabbit, needed for an 'object lesson'. She could also play the piano well, and taught us to sing simple songs, such as I have never encountered since then.

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light
In summer it's the other way -
I have to go to bed
By day.

Or

In April, I open my bill;
In May, I sing night and day;
In June, I change my tune;
In July, away I fly;
In August, away I must.
Cuckoo, cuckoo
Goodbye to you.

The school and the farm were closely related: pupils could (if they wished) have a mug of fresh goat's milk in the morning. I didn't like goat's milk, or at least I said I didn't like it, but perhaps that was because I didn't like the goat.

I won't say that I was an untruthful child, but I was certainly capable (and still am — so beware!) of embroidering the truth. Mrs Rivett was talking in school about the silly names that some people give to their houses: not the most tactful topic, when Sheila Davey's father, who was a window-cleaner, had just bought a little bungalow on the other side of Marden Hill, and, having left 'Wewunda', with great originality had given his new house the name 'Dunromin'. So I piped up and said that there was a house on the Lower Road called 'Cheery Blee'. Mrs Rivett looked disbelieving but, like Rhoda, I constantly affirmed that it was so, so Mrs Rivett decided that she would accompany me home after school and see this great sight that had come to pass. Now I knew perfectly well that the name was really spelt, and pronounced, 'Cheeryble' (as, I think, in Dickens), and Mrs Rivett knew that I knew it was not pronounced 'Cheery Blee', and I knew that Mrs Rivett knew that I knew perfectly well that the house was called

‘Cheeryble’, but nevertheless the charade was played out, with Mrs Rivett looking at the name on the gate. She couldn’t actually say that I was a little liar, but she looked very disapproving. My embroidery suffered a setback.

It is curious that my father, who was, after all, an elementary school teacher, did not want me to attend Fetcham Village School, but he did have very odd ideas about education. So far as my mother was concerned, she wished to keep me away from the ‘rough’ boys who went to the village school. The equivalent adjective for girls was ‘common’.

The son, William Rivett, referred to above was for many years the Peoples Warden of the church. He was a noted geologist and author of articles on the Geology of the Southeast and many of the fossil bones that he uncovered found their way to the Natural History Museum as the W H E Rivett Collection. He also found time according to a 1938 advertisement, to give driving lessons.

Bearing in mind the few boys being taught, the fact that they had a monogrammed school cap is perhaps surprising Has anybody else any recollections regarding the school and/or information as to how long it was in operation?

Alan V Pooley

Surrey Churches 1820 to 2011

It began with a book. A hundred and fifty pages of engravings made in the 1820s by an artist named Cracklow, recently republished and named ‘Views of Surrey Churches’. Immediately the writer became curious. How many of these churches still existed, how many could have disappeared, and even more interestingly what did they look like now as compared with Cracklow’s portrayal? Action was needed, and as a result



Leatherhead parish church then and now

a photographic survey was embarked on. The result was the start of a collection which now covers over a hundred Surrey churches with many views showing the church from the precise angle chosen by the artist.

To sum up the result, several of those depicted no longer exist or have been replaced by a more modern structure; a large number – particularly in country areas – have changed hardly at all. Others show signs of enlargement to meet the needs of an expanding population, some with traces of the older building and others where the extension obliterated the original. It became a task of considerable historical interest giving much satisfaction to those who have seen the result.

Heritage Days Display

For the first time the public will have the chance to get a glimpse of Surrey churches as seen (side by side) through the eye of a 19th century artist and a photographer in the 21st century. A selection of pictures from the collection will be on display at the Letherhead Institute on Saturday and Sunday, 9th and 10th September, entrance free. Churches in the Mole Valley area will be given special prominence.

John Wettern

Heritage Weekend

Heritage weekend will be Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September. The theme this year is ‘Work, Rest and Pray’. (Don’t ask me why!) Our Society’s contributions will include two displays at the Institute - one by Linda Heath on ‘Work and Rest’ about schools, places of work and forms of recreation in old Leatherhead. The other one is by John Wettern and covers ‘Pray’. It is called ‘Surrey Churches - 1829-2010’ and is a photographic survey of C T Cracklow’s pictures of Surrey Churches made in the 1820s, inviting comparisons with those surviving to the present day (see separate article about this display).

There will be a guided walk round the town from the Institute at 2pm on Saturday 10th and a talk by Peter Tarplee at 2.30pm on



Mickleham Church

Sunday 11th at Fetcham Village Hall on ‘The Development of Railways in Mole Valley’. No booking required for either.

Mickleham church will be receiving visitors and during the Heritage Days, namely Saturday and Sunday, 10th and 11th September. This was rearranged as the original visit planned for 11th May had to be cancelled

Full details will be in the Heritage booklet and on the website.

Linda Heath

Autumn Lecture Programme

Lectures are held on the third Friday of the month at the Letherhead Institute (top of the High Street) Coffee 7.30pm

Lecture 8.00pm admission £1 All are very welcome

11th/12th September Heritage Weekend. Details are in this Newsletter

16th September ‘The Loseley Manuscripts : A unique insight into Tudor Surrey ‘ by Catherine Ferguson

Following a visit in July to Loseley House by a group of Society members Dr Ferguson’s study of archives enables us to gain fascinating insights into not just the family history but the part they played in the tumultuous events occurring during the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

21st October ‘Emma: wife of Charles Darwin’ by Linda Heath

Although Emma did not have a particularly exciting or adventurous life she was the mainstay and support of Charles Darwin who suffered from ill health throughout his life. Without her devoted care it is unlikely that Charles would have lived to complete his ‘Origin of Species’ which he wrote mainly while they lived at nearby Down House.

18th November ‘Researching the history of the Country House’ by Dr Richard Goodenough

Dr Goodenough has recently retired as Head of Geography and Environmental Science at Christ Church University, Kent and is a guide at the Royal Academy in London. He has published a book on the History of the Country House which has been adopted by English Heritage and is currently researching on habitat and countryside conservation.

16th December Christmas Social Event for members, their friends and guests. Canapes, wine and coffee will be served and the evening hosted by the Master of Ceremonies Mr Brian Hennegan. There will also be a raffle and members are invited to give short presentations on the theme ‘Why I came to this District’. Please let me know if you would like to take part.

Dr Fred Meynen Programme Secretary tel: 372930 fredmeynen@live.co.uk

ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGY SECRETARY David Hartley 01372 377839
07947 471165

NEWSLETTER is published quarterly in February, May, August and November.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Martin Warwick 01372 453717
Email : martin_warwick@hotmail.com

November Edition - Deadline - Friday 7th October

NEWSLETTER WEBSITE www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk

WEBSITE EDITOR Frank Haslam 01372 379341

PROCEEDINGS

PROCEEDINGS EDITOR Barry Cox 01372 273167
barry_cox@btopenworld.com

RECORDS

RECORDS SECRETARY Roy Mellick 01372 457839
roy.mellick@btinternet.com

The Society has some archival material, documents, illustrations and maps which may be accessed through the following members:

Ashtead	Jack Willis
Bookham	Roy Mellick
Fetcham documents	Alan Pooley
Fetcham photographs and maps	Ed Tims
Leatherhead document	John Derry
Leatherhead photographs	Linda Heath
Leatherhead maps	Alan Pooley

HISTORICAL ENQUIRY SERVICE offers to seek answers to questions about the history of Leatherhead, Ashtead, Bookham and Fetcham submitted via the Museum

CO-ORDINATOR Vacant)

SALES OF L&DLHS PUBLICATIONS

SALES SECRETARY Goff Powell 01372 374923

