



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

## *Newsletter*

*June 2018*



*Above: Parade in The Street, Fetcham, for the homecoming of  
Lieutenant George Barnard Hankey, probably on 5 July 1900.  
Led by Bookham Brass Band, seen here in front, the carriage was  
being pulled by villagers rather than horses.*

Corporate Member: MICHAEL  
EVERETT 58 The Street, Ashted

## INDEX TO ARTICLES

<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
Editorial	3
Chairman's Report	4
News from the Friends of the Museum	5
Programme of Activities	6
Museum Exhibitions - The Ashtead Potters	7
Museum Exhibitions - Forgotten Women of Leatherhead	10
Lecture Report: The Quest for Buried Treasure	13
Lecture Report: Biological Approaches to Dating History	16
Lecture Report: A Sense of Place, Medieval Betchworth	20
Oral History Feature: Miss Jean Reed	22
Forgotten Women of Leatherhead (continued)	26
Feature: The Tale of the Boscawens	33
News: The Spicer Family Revisited	37
L&DLHS Officers and Contacts	38
Obituary: Howard Davies	40
Dorking Concertgoers Advert	40

### CORRECTION

*Page 36 of the March 2018 Newsletter showed a photo of a huge crowd at the Leatherhead War Memorial. This was inaccurately said to have been taken in March 1917. In fact the event took place in April 1921 when up to a third of the local population assembled for the memorial's dedication to Leatherhead men who died in the service of their country during World War 1. It was thought to have been the largest religious service ever held in the town.*



## EDITORIAL

In this edition we celebrate the centenary of the first votes for women in Britain with the full story behind the current Museum exhibition on the Suffragettes. Women feature strongly elsewhere in this *Newsletter* too but not to the exclusion of subjects as diverse as pottery, treasure hunting, lichens and naval history.

On Page 6 you can see the current Programme of Activities for the coming months. Programme Committee Chairman John Wettern has had to retire for health reasons but other members are working hard to fill the gap. John, who has held various posts over the years including editing this *Newsletter*, is sorely missed but remains a keen supporter.

Other Society stalwarts who have had to step back include former president Derek Renn and Goff Powell, whose regular writings and books have provided us with an invaluable stock of material on our local history for future researchers. Wishing them all well.

This means of course that we are under ever greater pressure to fill all of our commitments and still require volunteers to sell our publications, attract more corporate members and give talks to other organisations on behalf of the L&DLHS. Please step forward if you can help out with any of these roles.

Our new website at [www.leatherheadhistory.org](http://www.leatherheadhistory.org) has been updated following this year's Museum re-opening and continues to grow with additional features and links. Since last winter it has maintained a regular service of up-to-the-minute news on the main home page and specific news pages for the Society and the Museum, so do look at it often. You can also see every past *Newsletter* and *Proceedings* as well as our growing library of oral histories. Society members can access other archive material too for research purposes.

All Society members and Friends of the Museum should now be receiving printed copies of this *Newsletter* so do let us know if you are missing them for any reason.

**TONY MATTHEWS**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Having put our new charities registration into place we now turn our hands to the General Data Protection Regulation, in force from 25 May 2018. We need to document how we manage personal information for our membership within our groups and collections.

The Museum artefacts and documentary archives, for example, often include personal information. The commercial climate is now towards destroying surplus personal information when keeping it might not be justified. This cuts straight across our ethos of careful historical conservation of information.

Much more encouragingly, I can confirm that Peter Humphreys and Duncan Macfarlane have assumed a joint role as Museum managers. This includes maintaining the Museum fabric and much more besides. We have also managed to strengthen the Programme Committee with two new members. We thank them for filling the gap with John Wettern's resignation as committee chairman. This is also of course an appropriate time to thank him for his many years of service to the Society, his helmsmanship of a very successful Programme Committee, and his boundless enthusiasm on many Society matters. Get well soon, John.

What are the principle benefits of L&DLHS membership? The Executive Committee has some concerns on these, such as priority access to the printed *Newsletter*. For myself, the greater benefit was semi-tangible. When I came to live in Ashted, I discovered the Society did a good job of answering my questions on local history. I felt it well worth supporting and promptly signed up. Privileged access to records was of real benefit to me.

Others may have other reasons. The *Newsletter* is now much more than just a communication with members. It provides a vital window on our subject and helps encourage membership growth. We now print more copies at marginal cost for public consumption as well as ensuring all members receive them in return for their subscriptions. Please feel free to email me your views in confidence.

Finally, we offer sincere condolences to Howard Davies's widow and family on his death. Obituary on Page 40. **JOHN ROWLEY**

## NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

By GWEN HOAD



*Above: Local artist, writer and designer Cathy Brett takes a moment's break during her talk to this year's Friends of the Museum annual general meeting. Photo by ROBIN CHRISTIAN.*

The new season has got off to a good start with a lot of interest in Lorraine's new exhibitions on the Suffragettes, Ashted Pottery and Pearl Kew's family photographic album recalling World War 1.

Sadly we have had to say farewell to steward Janet Jenkins but welcome new steward Eileen Palmer. Everyone is very relieved that we now have new joint Museum managers in Peter Humphreys and Duncan Macfarlane.

Both were present at the Friends' AGM on 30 April. All current members of the committee were re-elected and Duncan acted as chairman. There was a good attendance to hear Cathy Brett talking about her career as local artist and author. We were shown examples of the wide variety of work she has produced over the years with a chance to buy items on display.

Our popular summertime Craft Days will take place once again on 3, 10 and 17 August with the usual group of helpers and actors this time including a Suffragette in place of last year's maid. Robin Christian will be behind it all as he so often is. Thanks, Robin.

## PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

**Monthly meetings are normally held in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute. Coffee at 7.30pm and 8pm talk.**

**13-16 September:** Heritage Open Days. Centenary themes will be the end of World War 1 and the introduction of female suffrage for the first time in Britain. Our area has links with leaders of the Suffragette movement but other extraordinary women will be covered too. Full details from Rod Shaw of Mole Valley District Council.

**21 September, 7.30pm:** Lucy Quinnell will be speaking about *Rowhurst - Leatherhead's 'Blessed Plot'*.

**19 October, 7.30pm:** *A Study of Country House Services at Polesden Lacey.* A team from the Industrial Heritage Group of Fetcham U3A will outline the research they carried out on the house's utility services - water, electricity and communications - in the first half of the 20th century. Together these helped to make 'Polesden Lacey fit for a maharajah', to quote owner Mrs Greville.

**16 November, 7.30pm:** Authoress Alice Graysharp will talk about her mother's youth in *Out of the Frying Pan: The Wartime Experiences of a Leatherhead Evacuee.*

**14 December, 7.30pm:** Christmas Miscellany. Seasonal celebratory wine and nibbles, accompanied by three short talks on local history topics.

**18 January 2019, 7.30pm:** Tony Matthews uses L&DLHS and other sources to tell *The Story of Cherkley Court*, covering Leatherhead's contrasting experiences of the Dixon and Beaverbrook periods and consideration of what has happened since then.

## MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

### ASHTEAD POTTERS LOST BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Ashtead Potters Ltd at Victoria Works, Ashtead, was only in business for 12 years from 1923-35. The factory was set up in order to give employment to disabled ex-servicemen. Its main driving force was the architect, journalist and civil servant Sir Lawrence Weaver, supported by Bertrand Clough Williams-Ellis, creator of the Italianate village of Portmeirion in Wales, and the Labour politician, later government minister, Richard Stafford Cripps.

The company produced a vast array of wares, ranging from figures and commemoratives designed by leading artists of the day, through to everyday crockery in bold bright designs. From just four workers at first, Ashtead Potters eventually employed up to 40 men. Few were local and most were recruited from labour exchanges throughout the south of England. Hardly any had skills relevant to the pottery industry, although some had artistic or modelling experience.

Weaver, architectural editor of *Country Life* from 1910, wrote widely on country houses and gardens, especially those by Edwin Lutyens. In 1913, the magazine was described as ‘the keeper of the architectural conscience of the nation’. Weaver joined government service in 1916 and as commercial secretary of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, founded the National Institute of Agricultural Botany. In 1924-25 he organised the British Empire Exhibition for which he was knighted.

Ashtead Potters made its sales debut at the exhibition. The firm had working stands where the potters showed off their skills and wares. Another exhibitor, Carson’s Chocolates, sold its chocolates in Ashtead boxes. The potters also created a box for Australian honey with a model of a kangaroo on the lid and sundry dishes, bowls and containers bearing Percy Metcalfe’s symbolic Wembley lion.

Customers were invited to visit Victoria Works and offered daily week-day tours from 10 am to 4pm. Among Royal customers were the Queen of Romania, Duke and Duchess of York, Princess Mary and the Infanta Beatrice of Spain. The Prince of Wales had Metcalfe’s lion in his study. Metcalfe (1895-1970), is primarily known for his



*Clockwise from left: Sir Lawrence Weaver; Entrance to the Victoria works c1924; Metcalfe's face jugs of Lloyd George and Stanley Baldwin; Percy Metcalfe; the Wembley Lion from the British Empire Exhibition, covered in a pale brown glaze; Johnnie Walker mug.*







*Above: Harvest Putti with Pigeons, a bookend.*



*Right: On 16 May 1928, the Ashtead factory was visited by Mary, Princess Royal. She is seen here in the decorating room with the artist Stanley Conway. There's a fine selection of wares on the*

*shelves behind, including a Samuel Johnson face jug and Sea Horse lamp.*

work in the field of medals including the George Cross and coinage but he also produced designs for the theatre, sculptures and architectural pieces and at Ashtead in particular, the political character jugs, a Johnnie Walker jug and Harvest Putti bookends.

The Ashtead Potters Housing Society Limited was registered in 1925. This was formed to build 20 sheltered cottages around the village green for married workers without homes. Weaver's wife Kathleen raised a fund of £5310.

However disaster struck in 1927 when she died suddenly of pneumonia and Weaver himself was only 53 when he had a fatal heart attack in 1930. Their two sons were adopted by Stafford Cripps's family. The housing society was dissolved in 1929, the houses and the mortgages being taken over by trustees of the Haig Memorial Homes. Weaver's death led to the eventual closure of the pottery in January 1935. The Victoria Works building remained

until 1985 when it was redeveloped as a sheltered housing project for the elderly. A plaque in the entrance to Lime Tree Court, as it is now known, commemorates Ashted Potters Limited.

## THE FORGOTTEN WOMEN OF LEATHERHEAD

The following text is from *Struggle and Suffrage in Leatherhead* by Museum Curator LORRAINE SPINDLER.



*Above left: Patronising cartoon representing opponents of female suffrage. Above right: The Women's Freedom League Suffrage Caravan which visited Leatherhead in May 1908.*

It is an inconvenient truth that women have always been 50% of the population but occupy a tiny percentage of recorded history. Leatherhead's archives and newspapers are crammed with details of male achievements but women are only mentioned in passing.

Early 19th century Britain was ruled by an elite. A small minority of men were allowed to vote. The situation began to change as a result of public pressure and in 1832 the vote was given to more men through the Representation of the People Act (the Great Reform Act). In theory, some women could already vote in parliamentary elections before 1832 as county and many borough franchises were based on property ownership. However, the Reform Act of 1832 specified for the first time that the right to vote was restricted to 'male persons'. Women were assumed incapable of understanding political matters. The 1832 Reform Act increased the electorate



*The Suffragists and Suffragettes were very different. The Suffragists were the moderate National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, led by Millicent Garrett Fawcett (1847-1925) above right). The Suffragettes supported Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928) (above left), founder of the militant Women's Social and Political Union which initially included Edith How-Martyn (1875-1954) (above centre).*

from some 500,000 to 800,000, enabling a fifth of men to vote.

The franchise was extended in 1867 and 1884, with the secret ballot introduced in 1872. In 1897 Millicent Garrett Fawcett founded the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS). By the turn of the century, women were participating in the paid workforce in increasing numbers, feminist ideas spread among the educated middle classes and some discriminatory laws were repealed. Yet when Queen Victoria (an opponent of female suffrage) died on 22 January 1901, women still could not vote. If married, they couldn't sue or own property either.

The Votes for Women campaign spread widely and Leatherhead was no exception. Daughters argued with parents and wives with their husbands and sons, regarding the role of women in society. Yet little record survives of local residents who backed the cause.

In 1903, Emmeline Pankhurst, frustrated at the lack of progress, established the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) which employed more militant tactics including hunger strikes. It was the reactionary *Daily Mail* which first coined the word 'Suffragettes'.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, no more than 60% of male householders over the age of 21 had the right to vote. Many young men who volunteered their lives still couldn't vote any more

than their womenfolk. But Emmeline Pankhurst ordered a halt to the female suffrage campaign to concentrate on the war effort. The WSPU helped to recruit for the services and the authorities released Suffragettes from prison. The WSPU was disbanded in 1917.

The NUWSS, which had always refused to take part in militant activities, was much larger than the WSPU. It preferred to hold meetings, campaign, parade with banners, write letters and sign petitions to try to persuade Parliament to give women the vote. Just a month before the war began, it had argued for mediation to keep peace but it too then switched to backing the war effort. This was partly to combat arguments that women could not be trusted to vote as they were pacifists.

As men went to war, both Suffragist and Suffragette leaders volunteered their members to take their place. Their offers were met initially with contempt but in 1915, as male recruitment pressures grew, they could no longer be ignored. Hundreds of thousands of women were employed in industries key to the war effort, including munition manufacturing, clerical work, conducting buses, nursing and labouring on farms. Women proved that even during the worst times of the war, through their labour the buses still ran and the mail was still delivered.

In 1918, despite the Representation of the People's Act, women aged under 30 still could not vote. Neither could around 22% of over 30s because they did not meet the £5 property qualification. Equal rights with men had to wait until 1928.

The Women's Freedom League, founded in 1907, had campaigned for both women's suffrage and sexual equality. It was established by 70 members of the WSPU, including Teresa Billington-Greig, Charlotte Despard, Alice Schofield, Edith How-Martyn, and Margaret Nevinson. The League favoured non-violent protests such as non-payment of taxes, refusing to complete census forms and organising demonstrations. Membership grew to 4000 members and from 1909-1933, it published a weekly newspaper, *The Vote*.



*Above: Muriel Lilah Matters (1877–1969) faced up to anti-Suffragette protesters in Leatherhead.*

**Continued on Page 26**

# LECTURE REPORT

## The Quest for Buried Treasure



**FRESH** evidence of the extent of the Roman occupation of Surrey was revealed among other findings at the February meeting. **MARK DAVISON**, shown left, the local journalist and author, is also a keen metal detecting enthusiast. He told a packed audience about his experiences over the last decade of searching fields between Dorking and Westcott.

Presenting some of his fascinating finds, Mark showed illustrations and samples of the actual artefacts and coins he had unearthed between 2009 and 2017 on what was originally part of the Denbies estate. The presentation was the result of hundreds of hours of painstaking searching of meadows, pastures, ploughed fields and paddocks.

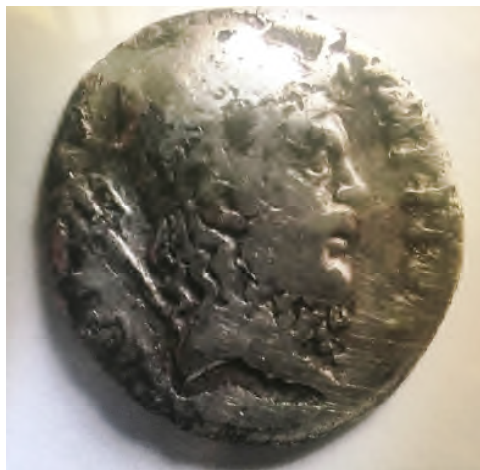
As well as more than 50 medieval coins including pennies from the reigns of Henry II, Henry III, Edward I, Edward II, Edward III and Richard II, he had collected a similar number of Roman coins from land between the Curtis Road industrial estate and the north of Westcott village. The coins included a Celtic stater of King Verica, dating from 10 to 30AD; a Roman denarius of Marc Antony and Octavian; a denarius of Sextus Pompey, a general from the late Republic, dated c42BC and minted in Sicily; and another denarius of Philip the Arab, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Roman Emperor who ruled from 244-249AD.

Mark had also unearthed one of the first coins ever used, a Celtic potin from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. A Roman silver siliqua of Emperor Honorius (393-423AD) had been discovered too. Honorius, one of Rome's weakest emperors, was helpless when the empire finally collapsed in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. Mark said there had been theories that a Roman road had run between Dorking and Guildford, and the



*Clockwise from the top:  
 King Charles II farthing,  
 1674; Roman denarius of  
 Marc Anthony and Octavian,  
 c32BC, found near Westcott.  
 Penny of Henry III found in  
 Dorking. Henry VII silver  
 penny, 1480s.*





*Above: Denarius of Sextus Pompey, c42BC. Found in Dorking but the coin was minted in Sicily.*

coins found near Westcott and Dorking could provide further clues for archaeologists developing any research along these lines.

Yet metal detecting brought disappointments too. He amused the audience by relating some more useless discoveries. These ranged from hundreds of trouser and shirt buttons and buckles from bygone farm labourers to half a tin of sardines still priced at 33p. There were also lost keys and livery buttons from the uniforms of staff from nearby grand

properties such as Bury Hill House, former home of the Barclay family.

The area was rich in history, he said. Milton Court, now the home of Unum insurance company, was built between 1608 and 1610 and owned for many years by the Evelyn family. The Milton estate was owned in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by the nuns of Kilburn Priory in London.

Sondes Place farmhouse was probably the site of an earlier, simpler farm estate with links to the Sondes or de la Sondes family in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Before the sale in 1921 of large swathes of the Denbies estate, its acreage had covered five parishes stretching to Bookham and parts of Ranmore and Westcott.

Thomas W. Broom's family purchased Sondes Place Farm in that year. He had previously rented the property since 1897, having first arrived by train from Devon with a herd of cows on board. They were milked on their arrival.

The talk was originally to have been given by archaeologist David Williams, head of Surrey's Portable Antiquities Scheme, but his sudden death on 9 December came as a shock to his colleagues. He had recorded hundreds of Mark's own finds and having stepped in late as his replacement, Mark paid tribute to him.

## LECTURE REPORT

### **Biological approaches to dating historical features, events, and artefacts**

**On 16 March, PROFESSOR DAVID HAWKSWORTH discussed ways in which living organisms can be used to assist dating history. Here he explains the importance of lichens in particular.**

I decided to focus on lichens as their potential is rarely exploited by archaeologists and historians, yet is a non-cost tool that can be used by non-specialists with just a little training.

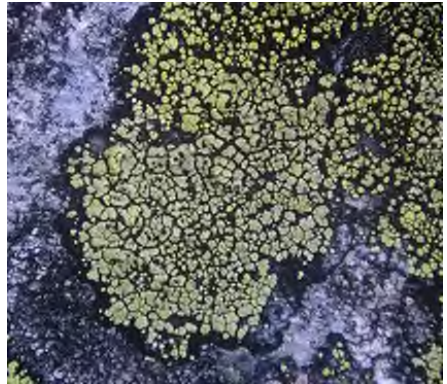
Lichens are fungi living in a mutualistic relationship with an alga or cyanobacterium, and the names used are those of the fungal partner. Like moulds on rotting fruit or damp plaster, many grow in a circular fashion but at a very much slower rate. Their radial growth is measured in millimetres per year rather than centimetres per day or week.

Glaciologists have found them especially valuable in tracking and dating the retreat of glaciers, a technique they call lichenometry. They most commonly use the quickly recognizable bright emerald green ‘map lichen’, *Rhizocarpon geographicum*. The largest independent colonies are measured, avoiding ones that have coalesced or been trapped by other lichens, which can lead to misleading conclusions.

A graph of size against date is constructed using either *in situ* measurements of growth rates, or calibrating them from nearby dated surfaces (important as rates can vary due to local climatic conditions). These give a minimum estimate of age as there can be lags in colonization.

I became involved in applications to use lichen data in archaeology when supervising a DPhil dissertation by Vanessa Winchester of Oxford University. She had worked as an archaeologist for many years and was interested in different dating methods, especially dendrochronology. She wanted to test the validity of lichenometry techniques on, among other things, archaeological features. Structures studied included the Neolithic stone circles at Castlerigg (near Keswick, Cumbria) and Rollright (South Compton, Oxford).





*Above left: David Hawksworth.  
Above: Lichen examples.  
Left: Evidence on a churchyard  
tombstone.*

Several species were used, of which the bright orange *Caloplaca flavescens* (shown top right) was especially informative. The ages of individual colonies were calibrated by a combination of direct measurements over several years and from growths on dated surfaces, particularly churchyard gravestones and memorials.

Estimates were made of dates of colonization of species on different sides of all the individual stones in the circles. The oldest dated back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the results were compared with

engravings, paintings, and photographs from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards. There was a good match with the recorded history over the last several centuries, especially where stones had been dug up and fallen and then re-erected.

I went on to carry out practical exercises with students establishing growth curves from gravestones and memorials in churchyards and then using those data to determine the minimum ages of walls and wall coverings in the vicinity. In the case of churchyards, lichens can also indicate at what dates gravestones have been erected, re-erected, or cleaned – and when extensions to church buildings were made or parts of their roofs replaced.

*Caloplaca flavescens* is an especially informative species to use in churchyards with calcareous gravestones, particularly limestones. It is also easily identified by eye. When sulphur dioxide levels were high, this species lost the ability to colonize newly erected memorials in London churchyards.

At St Peter and St Paul's Church in Mitcham in 1967, all colonization was found to have stopped after 1900. A re-survey with another student a few years ago revealed that it had resumed by the early 1980s.

I have been interested in the effects of air pollution on lichens since the late 1960s and was struck by a remarkable re-colonization of lichens on trees in north-west London in the early 1980s. Several species were moving into not only the leafy suburbs but central London parks, where they had not been detected in earlier surveys I had made of the same sites a few years earlier.

Local growth rate data were available for some of these species, and from the sizes of the specimens it was estimated that the colonization event, which correlated with a rapid fall in sulphur dioxide levels, had started in about 1983.

I later ascertained that that was the last year the Battersea and Bankside power stations on the Thames ceased emissions. Today, the worst trees in London have more lichen species on them than the best trees had in 1970, although this is partly due to a later explosion of populations of nitrogen-loving lichens. In some cases, molecular studies I have been involved in have revealed that particular genotypes of a species had been more effective colonisers than others of the same species.

Lichens can also reveal something of the history of woodlands, particularly where this is long-term continuity of mature trees. Studies in the 1970s pioneered by a colleague, Francis Rose MBE, found that an assemblage of species was associated with the most ancient woodlands by comparing what was there with their management histories. Species found to be informative are ones that seem unable to spread more than a few metres and do not re-colonize once eliminated.

Indices were developed to give a numerical value, an Index of Ecological Continuity, from which several regionally applicable variants have since been devised to add local sensitivity. Many of the species used in the indices are rather striking, easy to recognize in the field with minimal training, and so can be used by ecologists undertaking site assessments.

As lichens are not seasonal, surveys can be conducted any time of the year and have come to be used to indicate which woodlands are the most scientifically important. The indices are now incorporated into the guidelines used in selecting Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Woodlands with these lichen assemblages are generally also important for beetles, spiders, and flowering plants in particular, which are less easy to detect all-year round.

This application cannot be used where the indicator species have been eliminated either as a result of clear-felling, where standard trees have not been left during coppicing, or by sulphur dioxide air pollution. In the case of Epping Forest, indicator species present in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century have never returned. At Bookham and Ashted Commons, old forest indicator species are also absent although there have been dramatic improvements in the lichen communities in both areas compared with surveys in the 1950s and 1960s.

Lichens should not be regarded as trouble or only of aesthetic appeal in the course of fieldwork. We should reflect on what they might reveal of the history of the surfaces where they are growing. We can determine local growth rates of species by measuring the diameter of individuals year-by-year, for example on stonework in gardens. Data produced could be used to estimate the minimum ages of walls and other structures. This might be an interesting project for Society members to collaborate on, with a view to producing an article for the *Proceedings* so the results could be available to all.

## LECTURE REPORT

### A Sense of Place - Medieval Betchworth



*Left and opposite: Scenes from the Luttrell Psalter, c 1320-40, depicting aspects of medieval life. Left: Victims of the Black Death. Opposite centre: A device used in local cheese-making from sheep milk. Other images of rural life up to 1000 years ago.*

**Jane Le Cluse, Archivist at Dorking Museum, gave the April talk on life in medieval Surrey, covering the catastrophic effects of the Black Death and other subjects. She used outline maps of the area, Latin charters with their imposing seals, and images of everyday work activities. BILL WHITMAN reports.**

The manorial system of land holdings was Saxon in origin, pre-dating Domesday and even the institution of parish boundaries. Manors were not the same in different parts of England. This lecture concerned in particular the manors of Betchworth in Surrey.

There are two references to Betchworth in the Domesday Book. The second refers to Betchworth as a sub-holding of Thorncroft, 'held of the King by De Warenne'. There were actually several original manors but they were gathered together as one, occupying most of the land between Dorking and Reigate. A charter of 1225 confirms the manor boundaries to tenants. These relate to streams, hedgerows and other markers that had prevailed since the times of Saxon rule more than 150 years earlier, preserved in local memory.

In 1216 Louis, son of King Louis VIII of France, came to England at the request of certain barons to drive out King John who was ignoring Magna Carta although he had signed it the previous year. Prince Louis landed at Dover, occupied Reigate, and set out for Guildford using the older road through Betchworth. The name of the Dolphin pub there is said to recall his visit, although Louis did not actually hold the title of Dauphin, traditional heir to the French throne. Despite this the pub sign shows a coronet on a dolphin's head.



The period 1066-1300 endured bad weather with poor harvests, 28 years of local famine and many other disasters. A ‘little ice-age’ followed, lasting centuries more. In 1200, England’s population is estimated to have been between three and 4.5 million, rising by 1300 to perhaps 6 million. However, the Black Death of 1348 wiped out about half and no account rolls were prepared for Betchworth manor after this time. At least seven local tenancies were unclaimed, others went to questionable claimants. Property inheritances didn’t follow conventional primogeniture and there may have been other anomalies.

We were shown details of the costs of procuring and fitting a new millstone. This was a better quality stone, purchased in London for milling wheat for 60 shillings. It was transported to Kingston by water and then taken by bullock cart to Betchworth where it had to be fettled and fitted. The total costs of the expedition to select, purchase, bring it home and fit it were greater than the cost of the new stone itself. Such costs were recorded on tally sticks.

After the Black Death catastrophe, labour was more limited and sheep rearing became more important. There was evidence that sheep were milked as well as yielding wool and meat. Some of the milk would have been made into cheese.

## ORAL HISTORY FEATURE

### Jean Reed (1906-1992)

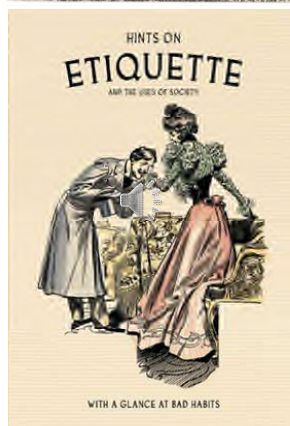
The September 2017 *Newsletter* featured part of a 1991 interview of Miss Kathleen Keswick (1903-1997), last surviving daughter of William Keswick, MP and Lord of the Manor of Great Bookham. She recalled her childhood at Eastwick Park. Nine years earlier in 1982, Edwina Vardey had also interviewed Miss Jean Reed and her younger sister Patricia who lived for nearly 20 years in Flushing House, Church Road, Bookham, then part of the Keswicks' estate. Friends of Kathleen at the time, they recalled the social mores of the wealthy middle classes in those days.

Jean and Patricia were two of the four daughters of Walter and Isabelle Reed who moved to Leatherhead in Edwardian days some years before Patricia's birth. Walter was a chartered accountant who commuted into London every day by train from their home in Forty Foot Road, Leatherhead. Their house, Homefield, stood in three acres with a paddock.

Jean recalled her mother choosing their local doctor. 'She stood at the bottom of Forty Foot Road and watched them drive past on the Epsom Road in their dog carts and she chose her doctor who was Dr Von Bergen.\* He was a very young man in those days. He came to dinner and was so nervous that he burned the roof of his mouth with hot potato.'

In 1911 the family moved to Bookham when building development threatened the land beside Homefield. Patricia was born two years later, completing the family of five children although the only son died of pneumonia age just 16. The girls started school aged seven after being taught to read by their nanny. They both remembered going to art and piano classes in Leatherhead.

Jean recalled the Keswicks. 'We were great friends with the daughters because we lived just across the park. Our house was really the dower house of Eastwick Park. I remember the old man dying [in 1912]. He was then married to his second wife and the daughters of that marriage were friends of ours. Kathleen, the younger



*Clockwise from top: Church Road, Bookham when the Reeds lived there. Randalls Park House. William Keswick and his daughter Kathleen. Advice on how to behave in decent society.*

daughter is almost a contemporary of mine.’

Their mother Isabelle was always busy. She was interested in the Suffragettes and although not herself an avid supporter she had ‘a very good friend who was a great Suffragette. Mrs Crutwell threw hammers through plate glass windows in Oxford Street. They lived at what is now Bookham Grange. She was a militant Suffragette.’

A dressmaker would stay at their home, making their clothes with specially purchased material. As well as supervising this and embroidering the girls’ clothes, Isabelle was a district visitor for the church, taking the magazine to poor families and representing the vicar. She was also very musical, travelling twice a week into London to play the violin with an amateur orchestra and participating in Gilbert & Sullivan performances in Leatherhead. The family would go for long walks in the local countryside to Headley and they were all keen tennis players as the girls grew up.

They knew the children of many of the other prosperous local families, among them the Reeves who lived in the Mansion in Church Street, Leatherhead, and the Hendersons of Randalls Park House. Said Jean: ‘Mrs Reeves had an absolutely perfect house and I think she would not have wanted a lot of people in it making it untidy. It was quite alarming lunching there. You had to be careful how you sat on the chair because it had such a beautiful cover on it, you know. Yes, she had lovely things, beautiful taste and was awfully nice. That house was really lovely. We used to go there a lot.’

She remembered the three Henderson daughters - Cecily, Frances and Mabel. ‘They were all very plain. Two of them were called the Elephant and Castle. They were very large. They were like us. Mrs Henderson was a very big woman. A very formidable woman. I remember her coming to call at Bookham after we first moved and she was very alarming. Awfully nice but very stately.’

Another family were the Hue Williams of Barnside. Mr Hue Williams, Master of Foxhounds, had two very musical daughters, Ethel and Dorothy, and two sons, Bertie and Eric.

Isabelle Reed followed the social convention of the day in calling on neighbours to exchange calling cards. She would hire an open carriage for the afternoon to make her social calls. The driver would wait ‘while she did her 20-minute call or if she was lucky and everybody



was out she pushed off, handing in the cards and made off to the next one.’

The calling cards were kept in a little silver box. Jean explained: ‘She had a lovely fat silver card case and a very pretty mother-of-pearl one. You left a large card for yourself and was it two small cards for your husband? I think one for Mr Whoever it was and one for Mrs Whoever it was because your husband wasn’t with you. And one larger card which I think was from yourself. And then when you had grown up daughters, you had their names engraved on your card. They would have to be, so to speak, out. Age 17.’

Isabelle made her calls ‘fairly soon after [a family] moved into the area, depending on which house they moved into. If somebody new came into a house you knew, you went and called. That was only civil and they returned the call. Then if nobody wanted to go any further, nobody went any further. After that you were asked to dinner or something. But then there was this awful calling that went on after that, wasn’t there. I can remember Mum saying "Oh, I must go calling. I’ve got so many calls I owe" in a sort of desperate voice, not wanting to. I can’t think why she did because they couldn’t all have been newcomers.’

Calls had to be returned, as did dinner parties which in turn required another call to say thank you afterwards. ‘They had marvellous musical parties and that kind of thing. Mum used to take her fiddle to dinner parties. It broke my heart when nobody asked me to play. Our father sang. They had an operatic society at Epsom.’

Walter and Isabelle Reed were also both keen gardeners. He died in 1929 age around 72. Isabelle and the girls then moved to a house on Effingham Common in 1930. They remained there for 25 years until her death, aged 86 in 1955. Jean and Patricia, both spinsters in their forties, then moved to Stocks, The Street, Effingham, where they were interviewed in 1982.

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\* Dr Von Bergen was still practising in Leatherhead in the 1940s. Former nurse Joan Burnett, also interviewed in 1982, recalled: ‘He was a real gentleman. Marvellous. But when Dr Everett came the patients wouldn’t go into Dr Von Bergen....I suppose they felt that a younger man was more up to date.’

## MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS



*Above: Mrs Pankhurst leaving Epsom Magistrates' Court, accompanied by James Murray, a former MP.*

### **THE FORGOTTEN WOMEN OF LEATHERHEAD** **Continued from Page 12**

But although many people were increasingly in support of female suffrage in the early years of the 20th century, the same was not true of the misogynistic male population of Leatherhead and elsewhere in Surrey. On 16 May 1908, when the Women's Freedom League Suffrage Caravan rolled into Leatherhead from Oxshott, it was met with a barrage of abuse.

The *Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser* announced the arrival of the caravan campaign and an open-air meeting outside the Bull Inn at 6pm, to be followed by a meeting inside Victoria Hall at 8pm.



*Above left: Charlotte Despard. Right: Teresa Billington-Greig*

From Leatherhead, the caravan was to proceed on to Guildford for meetings on the 18, 19 and 20 May, before moving on to similar rallies at Godalming and Haslemere. A month later the tour would end in Chichester.

The van was sparse with two camp beds, a small stove, guides and maps, plus a writing table. It was painted bright green with signs clearly promoting ‘Votes for Women’ on either side and was to be drawn by two horses, one named ‘Asquith’, after the newly appointed Prime Minister who had refused to meet with female suffrage supporters.

Before the caravan had started out, journalists and well-wishers gathered at Earnshaw Cottage, Oxshott Woods, home of Charlotte Despard, to support the women who were to take their campaign on the road including Lilian Hicks and Muriel Matters. They were in charge of the first three months of the campaign, alongside Teresa Billington-Greig. Following the caravan were support carts, horses and cyclists, adding to the spectacle of its arrival in Leatherhead.

First to speak was Teresa Billington-Greig but she was drowned

out by cries and jeers from a crowd of around 500 people who had brought along whistles, trumpets, drums, rattles and other toys. The police, led by Inspector Faulkner, intervened when it looked like the crowd was going to become violent, especially younger mob members who had pushed their way to the front.

Despite the crowd's response, Teresa persistently tried to be heard. Reporters called the disturbance 'one of the most remarkable scenes that have ever been witnessed in a town for many years.' Members of the Women's Freedom League mingled with the crowd to appeal for quiet but without success. Within a quarter of an hour of the start of the meeting Charles Weller, leader of campaigners against the cause, arrived with a bell and began ringing it to disrupt the meeting further. The mob cheered him on.

The meeting outside the Bull Inn was abandoned but it was hoped the gathering at the Victoria Hall would be less problematical. To stop any further disturbances only women and men with tickets were allowed into the hall. Police guarded the main entrance but this did not prevent a large crowd from forming outside. By 8pm the numbers had swelled, blocking the High Street. The mob rushed the door of the hall and pelted the police with eggs.

Those inside the hall must have been petrified as a stone was thrown and broke the glass over the entrance doors. By 8.45pm the crowd had rushed the doors repeatedly, one man had made his way on to the roof, and the chair of the meeting, Edith How-Martyn, warned to wind it up before the police were overrun. It ended abruptly at 9pm by which time police reinforcements from Dorking had been sent for.

Edith How-Martyn told the meeting that events had demonstrated their cause was very much alive. The Women's Freedom League simply wanted the franchise laws extended to both sexes. When Charlotte Despard addressed the audience, she was interrupted by the demonstration outside. Women had campaigned hard for the Liberal Party, she said, and been promised their full citizen's rights in return. Yet in power the Liberal government had forgotten their pledge. The mob outside represented just an ignorant minority.

Allan Fullex, a neighbour and ally of Charles Weller, stood up

and shouted: 'On your wedding day you promised to love honour and obey.' Edith How-Martyn threatened to throw him out and Muriel Matters then addressed the meeting. Born in Adelaide, she spoke of how the recent enfranchisement of Australian women had improved life for the whole nation. Britain should follow their example and improve their own economic and social conditions.

With the meeting over, the women swiftly made their way to Leatherhead station under police escort with the sneering mob in tow. They caught the 9.25pm train to London, carrying with them the stone that had been thrown through the hall entrance. The police reinforcements from Dorking arrived at 9.30pm and Muriel Matters and Lilian Hicks were left in the town to go back to the caravan and Asquith. The next morning, they made their way to Guildford via Great Bookham.

The issue of female suffrage divided the Liberal Party. Most members supported some form of women's suffrage since the vote had traditionally embodied the symbol of full citizenship. Women were said to have a distinct point of view. National life could only be enriched by their contribution to public affairs, especially on matters relating to children and home life, social problems and civilization. Women had proved their responsibility and worth in raising families and managing the home and it was a matter of sound justice that they should be given the vote.

Yet this view was not shared by all Liberals. The mob leader Charles Weller, a printer compositor, was an active member of the local Liberal Association and one of the committee members who opened the new Leatherhead Liberal and Social Club at Surrey House, Church Street, in 1904. He was also a dynamic member of the Leatherhead Congregational Church.

He represented those who thought that female suffrage would mean women becoming a majority of the electorate. If the franchise was extended to unmarried and widowed female property owners, it could sway elections in favour of the Conservatives. David Lloyd George, the up and coming Liberal government minister, originally supported votes for women but then reached the same conclusion. The argument was not without justification as later events proved.

Charles Weller's use of a bell was also a reference to an incident relating to the recent Dundee by-election on 6 May 1908. When Winston Churchill, switching to the Liberals for a period, stood for election there he was followed by a group of Suffragists and forced to hold his meeting in a shed. Mary Maloney, a member of the Women's Freedom League, rang a bell to drown him out whenever he tried to speak.

In October 1907, Emmeline Pankhurst took over the WSPU completely with her daughter Christabel. Prominent members who left to join the Women's Freedom League instead included Teresa Billington-Greig, Edith How-Martyn and Charlotte Despard who had been arrested in 1906 for attempting to make a speech in the House of Commons, one of the first acts of Suffragette militancy. However, Edith How-Martyn favoured non-violent illegal acts rather than Emmeline Pankhurst's more extreme approach.

The Suffragettes' protests slowly became more violent with heckling, banging on doors, smashing shop windows, and arson. In the early stages of the campaign, militants had confined their attacks to government property but from 1911 onwards they began to attack private property. In her memoirs Emmeline Pankhurst later described their tactics as guerrilla warfare through which an enormous amount of property was damaged and destroyed.

On 31 January 1913, a number of putting greens were burned with acids. On 7 and 8 February telegraph and telephone wires were cut in several places and for some hours all communications between London and Glasgow were suspended. A few days later windows in various of London's smartest clubs were broken, and the orchid houses at Kew were wrecked with valuable blooms destroyed by cold. The jewel room at the Tower of London was invaded and a showcase broken.

Most shocking of all, at 6.10am on 19 February 1913, a bomb exploded at Pinfold Manor, Lloyd George's new Walton-on-the-Hill home. Detectives discovered that a car with the number plate P8487, later correctly identified as LF4587, had passed through Banstead at 2.50am and returned at about 5am.

With Walton Heath golf course in close proximity, Lloyd George

could enjoy both the country air and the manor's conveniences but Emmeline Pankhurst had other ideas. Just before the house was finished, the Suffragettes planted a five-pound tin of gunpowder in a bedroom on the first floor. Walton Heath Golf Club's all-male membership was a goad to militant Suffragettes but although police suspected two WSPU members, Olive Hockin and Norah Smyth, the perpetrators were never caught. Emmeline Pankhurst claimed personal responsibility, saying: 'We have blown up the Chancellor of the Exchequer's house, to wake him up.'

After this and other outrages, the Director of Public Prosecutions decided to take proceedings against her under the Malicious Damages Act 1861. She was taken to Leatherhead police station, questioned and charged with having 'counselled and procured' the persons who did the damage. Despite her crime, as a member of the upper class, she spent the night in a police inspector's house rather than a cell.

She told a reporter she was receiving every reasonable consideration from the police, being allowed to select her own food and have writing materials. The superintendent had given his authority for her to sleep in one of the inspector's bedrooms. The next day she was taken to Epsom Magistrates' Court by car, the first person in Surrey to be conveyed to court in a motor vehicle.

She was sentenced to three years in prison. She wrote in her memoirs of her defence in court: 'I pled "not guilty", not because I wished to evade responsibility for the explosion but because the indictment accused me of having wickedly and maliciously incited women to crime.' She went on a hunger strike.

Over a century later in 2015, the name Emmeline Lodge was chosen in Mrs Pankhurst's honour for a new development of luxury retirement apartments to be built in Leatherhead.

Christabel Pankhurst, interviewed by the *Daily Chronicle* in Paris while her mother was in custody, denied that the Suffragettes were anarchists but said they were fighting a revolution. Lloyd George was a prime target because of his betrayal of the cause of female suffrage, she said.

On 8 June 1913 came an even more devastating incident than the explosion at Pinfold Manor. At the Epsom Derby, Suffragette

Emily Wilding Davison ran on to the race-course in front of the King's horse and suffered fatal injuries. Such tactics produced mixed results of sympathy and alienation. As many protesters were imprisoned and went on hunger strike, the Liberal government was embarrassed. Suffragettes systematically disrupted Liberal meetings as well as damaging public buildings and arson. Such tactics even led to accusations of aiding the anti-suffrage movement.

Not all women were in favour of gaining the vote and some were actively against it. Both sides agreed women were essentially different in nature from men but offered alternative future ideals in terms of the female political destiny. Over time, many anti-suffragists would change their minds and encourage women to involve themselves with political affairs.

Anti-suffragists tended to be upper or middle class and promoted what they called 'forward policy'. Women, they suggested, would be suitable for local politics as advisors regarding matters of education and maternity care, but should certainly not be able to vote.

In 1908, the Women's National Anti-Suffrage League was formed and was later joined by the men's league to become the National League for Opposing Women Suffrage. Their support in 1910 extended to over 100 branches and 16,000 members. Their petitions were signed by 400,000 followers. To them, suffrage campaigners were sexually rebellious and far too egocentric.

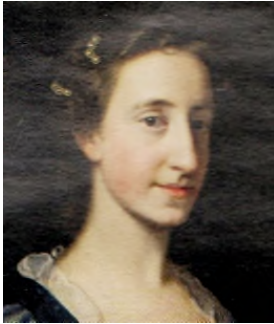
This point of view mainly appealed to men, of course. They claimed that women were less intelligent, lacked common sense and logic. Why give the vote to people who were politically incapacitated by menstruation, pregnancy, childbirth and breast-feeding? Would women vote and send men off to war, even if they themselves were not prepared to fight?

Leatherhead had its fair share of people who thought like this. At the beginning of July 1912, a garden party was held at Norbury Park, home of Leopold Salomons, on behalf of the Dorking, Bookham and Fetcham branches of the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage. Alfred Tate of Downside, Leatherhead, son of the sugar refiner and supporter of Leatherhead's Liberal Club, was among the guests.



## FEATURE

### The Tale of the Boscawens



*Left: Fanny Boscawen and her husband, Admiral Edward Boscawen.*

**Fanny Boscawen (1719-1805) of Hatchlands Park, East Clandon, became a founder member of the Bluestocking Society which challenged 18th century assumptions about women's intellectual abilities. They held salons in each other's houses and discussed cultural and educational issues. Her role in the history of women's emancipation is celebrated this summer with special displays at the National Trust house. But here we look at the context of her life in Surrey as BOB KELLEY of Bookham U3A describes the career of Fanny's husband, Edward.**

The Hon Edward Boscawen was born in Tregothnan, Cornwall, on 19 August 1711, third son of Hugh Boscawen, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Falmouth from a long-established Cornish copper mining family. His eldest brother Hugh was the heir, so Edward had to make his own way in the world and was sent to join the Royal Navy in 1723 aged 12.

He married Frances Evelyn Glanville (Fanny) in 1742. They would have three sons and two daughters. Edward had reached the rank of Rear-Admiral of the Blue by 1747 and been appointed to command a joint operation to India. He returned to England in 1750 and bought Hatchlands Park that year.

Until the dissolution of the monasteries the area had belonged to Chertsey Abbey, as did much other land in Horsley, Effingham and Bookham. Edward had the grounds landscaped and employed the architect Stiff Leadbetter (surveyor to St Paul's Cathedral) to build the house which became the family home. Under his direction in



***Above: Hatchlands Park, East Clandon.***

letters from the fleet, the ‘Admirable Fanny’ supervised the construction and internal decoration of the house, one of the first designs by Robert Adam. But how had Edward reached such dizzy heights by 1750? He went on to still greater things in his remaining 11 years.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the value of an enemy ship captured by the Royal Navy, after adjudication court costs, was divided among those involved in its capture. Enemy naval ships were reassigned to the RN while merchant ships and their cargoes were sold, often by auction.

All ships in sight of a vessel at the time of its capture were entitled to a share, so the individual portions sailors received were often very small. Lord Nelson himself received far less prize money than you might expect because his ruthless attitude to his country’s enemies resulted in more ships being sunk or destroyed than captured.

Edward Boscawen was sent to the West Indies where he served for three years during the Anglo-Spanish War. After nine years of service, in May 1732 he was promoted lieutenant. In 1736 he was given temporary command of the 50-gun *HMS Leopard*. His elevation was confirmed by the Board of Admiralty, so from then he was entitled to the largest individual share of any prizes taken by his command.

In June 1738 he was given command of *HMS Shoreham* and ordered to accompany Admiral Edward Vernon to the West Indies in preparation for the resumption of war with Spain. Vernon was known as ‘Old Grog’ because he habitually wore a cloak made of grogram - a coarse fabric of silk, mohair and wool. To reduce drunkenness, he introduced the practice of compulsorily diluting rum in the proportion of half a pint to one quart of water in 1740 on the West Indian station.

The established term 'grog' for the rum ration comes from him. Grog-rum. He also split it into two servings, one between 10am and noon and the other from 4pm to 6pm.

The War of Jenkins' Ear (1739-48) was Edward's first opportunity for shore action. He volunteered to accompany Vernon and the fleet sent to attack Porto Bello in November 1739. Vernon's success was hailed in Britain as an outstanding feat of arms and the patriotic song *Rule, Britannia* was played for the first time. Roads were named after Porto Bello nationwide.

In the year 1742 when Edward married Fanny, he also joined the fleet commanded by Admiral Norris as Captain of the newly built 60-gun *HMS Dreadnought* and was returned as MP for the family pocket constituency of Truro, retaining it for the rest of his life.

In 1744 he was serving under Admiral Norris when the French fleet was sighted. He captured the frigate *Médée*, the first capture of an enemy ship during the War of the Austrian Succession. It was sold and became a successful privateer renamed the *Boscawen*.

At the end of the year he was given *HMS Royal Sovereign* at anchorage in the Thames estuary but left in 1745 to command a squadron in the Channel. On 3 May 1747 he took an active part in the first Battle of Cape Finisterre. The French fleet was spotted convoying merchant ships and Edward's fleet attacked. They almost annihilated the enemy with all but two of the escorts taken, and six merchantmen. He was promoted Rear-Admiral afterwards.

In 1751 he was asked to serve on the Admiralty Board and remained one of the Lord Commissioners until his death. On 4 February 1755 he was promoted Vice-Admiral and given command of a squadron on the North American station.

On 8 June his fleet sighted French ships off Newfoundland. In the ensuing engagement he captured the *Alcide* and *Lys*. Seaman's pay amounting to £80,000 was captured aboard the *Lys*. As admiral of the fleet, Edward would have been entitled to an eighth of the prize money at a time when an ordinary seaman earned 17 shillings per lunar month after deductions. However, he had to return home early when fever spread throughout the crew.

He was made commander-in-chief Portsmouth and is remembered as the officer who signed the warrant authorising the execution of

Admiral John Byng on board *HMS Monarch* in 1757 for failing to engage the enemy at the Battle of Minorca the previous year. Byng's execution was satirised by Voltaire in his novel *Candide*. While in Portsmouth, *Candide* witnesses the execution of an officer by firing squad and is told that 'in this country, it is good to kill an admiral from time to time *pour encourager les autres*'.

In November 1756 Edward became Senior Naval Lord on the Admiralty Board. On 7 February 1758 he was promoted to Admiral of the Blue squadron and ordered to take a fleet to North America. He took naval command at the siege of Louisburg in June-July 1758. The siege was a key factor in winning the French possessions in Canada as capturing the town took the only effective French naval base there. Edward received unanimous thanks of both Houses of Parliament for his service and King George II made him a Privy Counsellor.

In April 1759 Edward took command of a fleet bound for the Mediterranean. On 17 August a frigate watching the Straits of Gibraltar signalled the French were in sight. Edward's ships chased them but five French ships escaped during the night. The others were driven into a bay near Lagos, Portugal. On 19 August he captured the *Modeste* and the *Téméraire*.

Edward Boscawen was made General of Marines in recognition of his service and given the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh. He returned to sea but after a violent attack of typhoid fever came ashore and died at Hatchlands on 10 January 1761, aged 49. He was buried in Cornwall.

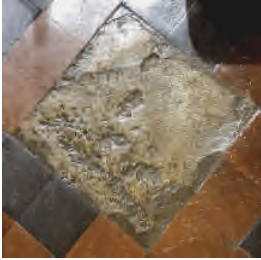
Always a 'can do man', he was once told by Prime Minister William Pitt, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Chatham: 'When I apply to other officers respecting any expedition I may chance to project, they always raise difficulties, you always find expedients.'

The town of Boscawen, New Hampshire, is named after him and two Royal Navy ships and a stone frigate (training base for naval cadets) have borne the name *HMS Boscawen*.

Fanny's fame really took off after Edward's death. She left Hatchlands Park in 1770 to live at 14 South Audley Street and hosted prominent literary visitors at meetings of the Bluestocking Society. Said to have been prized for her wit, elegance, and warm heart, she died 26 February 1805.

## NEWS

### THE SPICER FAMILY REVISITED



*Left:  
Spicer  
family  
vault and  
the US  
visitors.*

The Mansion in Church Street, among Leatherhead's treasured historic buildings, was once a private home and now used for municipal business. Until 1867 the owners possessed the North Transept of the nearby Leatherhead Parish Church. In April 2018 the link was briefly re-established for a visiting couple from Colorado, USA.

A fire broke out in the North Transept in 1989 endangering the entire church. When the debris had been cleared away, a family vault containing the remains of Colonel William Henry Spicer (1771-1844), his wife and daughter was discovered. They owned the Mansion from 1820-45. After researching his family history using the *L&DLHS Proceedings* for 1990 and 1995, Bruce Mounsey of Boulder, Colorado, great great great grandson of Colonel Spicer, was shown around both buildings with his wife, Sherry Kenyon.

Susan Curran, the Mansion's superintendent registrar, gave them a guided tour including the basement, loft and public rooms, followed by a quick tour of the garden. In the Spicers' day this swept right down to the Mole riverbank but it now ends at the park boundary.

At the parish church, John Andrews, project co-ordinator for the *Making History Project*, a major restoration programme, described both the building's existing features and proposed improvements. He revealed the Spicer family plaque on the wall by the organ and the square in the floor marking the entrance to the family vault. This was followed by a walk around the graveyard.

Bruce and Sherry called in at the Museum and made a generous donation before returning to London. They were very grateful to Susan Curran and John Andrews and especially to the Society's own Roy and Sue Mellick who had acted as their hosts.

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

Registered Charity No 1175119

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

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

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

Monthly meetings at the Letherhead Institute every third Friday of the month between September and May, 7.30pm for 8pm.  
Museum (Hampton Cottage): Open Thursdays and Fridays 1pm - 4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm + Sunday 16 September 10am-4pm

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## **Archival Material**

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

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bookhamarchive@leatherheadhistory.org

Roy Mellick

fetchamarchive@leatherheadhistory.org

Alan Pooley

leatherheadarchive@leatherheadhistory.org

Nigel Thompson

## **Historical Enquiry Service**

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

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

The Library is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10am-12.30pm. Exceptionally, arrangements may be made to use it at other times by applying to the Librarian.

## **2018 L&DLHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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



## OBITUARY: Howard Davies (1930-2018)

Howard Davies, L&DLHS Sales Secretary 1997-8 and major contributor on Ashtead's local history, died 10 March aged 88.

Howard and Kathleen Davies were very active Society members, Museum stewards, and ran the bookstall at the monthly meetings. When *A History of Ashtead* was published in 1994, Howard was among its main contributors.

He organized a visit to the Public Record Office at Kew in 1997 and gave a talk at the AGM about the 1802 *Wyburd Survey Map* of Ashtead, which came to light after the death of Lord Barnby. The map was copied and sold in an A4 version at the Museum.

Following building works at St Giles' Church, Ashtead, in 1994, Howard led an archaeological investigation team. His display was mounted in the Museum. In August 2000, he led a guided walk around Ashtead and continued to assist researchers in following years.



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## DORKING CONCERTGOERS AT THE DORKING HALLS

**Saturday 6 October 2018** 7.30pm Martineau Hall  
**Oliver Wass** Harp & **Henry Roberts** Flute  
*Sponsored by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust*

**Saturday 10 November 2018** 7.30pm Martineau Hall  
**Clare Hammond** Piano  
Haydn, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Debussy,  
Rimsky-Korsakov & Rachmaninov

**Dante String Quartet Series** Martineau Hall

**Saturday 12 January 2019** 7.30pm  
Haydn, Smetana & Beethoven

**Sunday 3 February 2019** 3.00pm  
Glazunov, Shostakovich & Beethoven

**Sunday 24 February 2019** 3.00pm  
Haydn, Schumann & Beethoven

Join the Dorking Concertgoers and receive a discount on your tickets  
Membership costs £12.00 per year (£20.00 for 2 people at the same address) and entitles members to discounted tickets, saving up to 20%, and priority booking to all our concerts.  
Tickets from Dorking Concertgoers' Box Office 01306 740619 or Dorking Halls 01306 881717  
Details of membership from Dorking Concertgoers on 01306 740619  
[www.dorkingconcertgoers.org.uk](http://www.dorkingconcertgoers.org.uk) [www.dorkinghalls.co.uk](http://www.dorkinghalls.co.uk)



Clare Hammond

