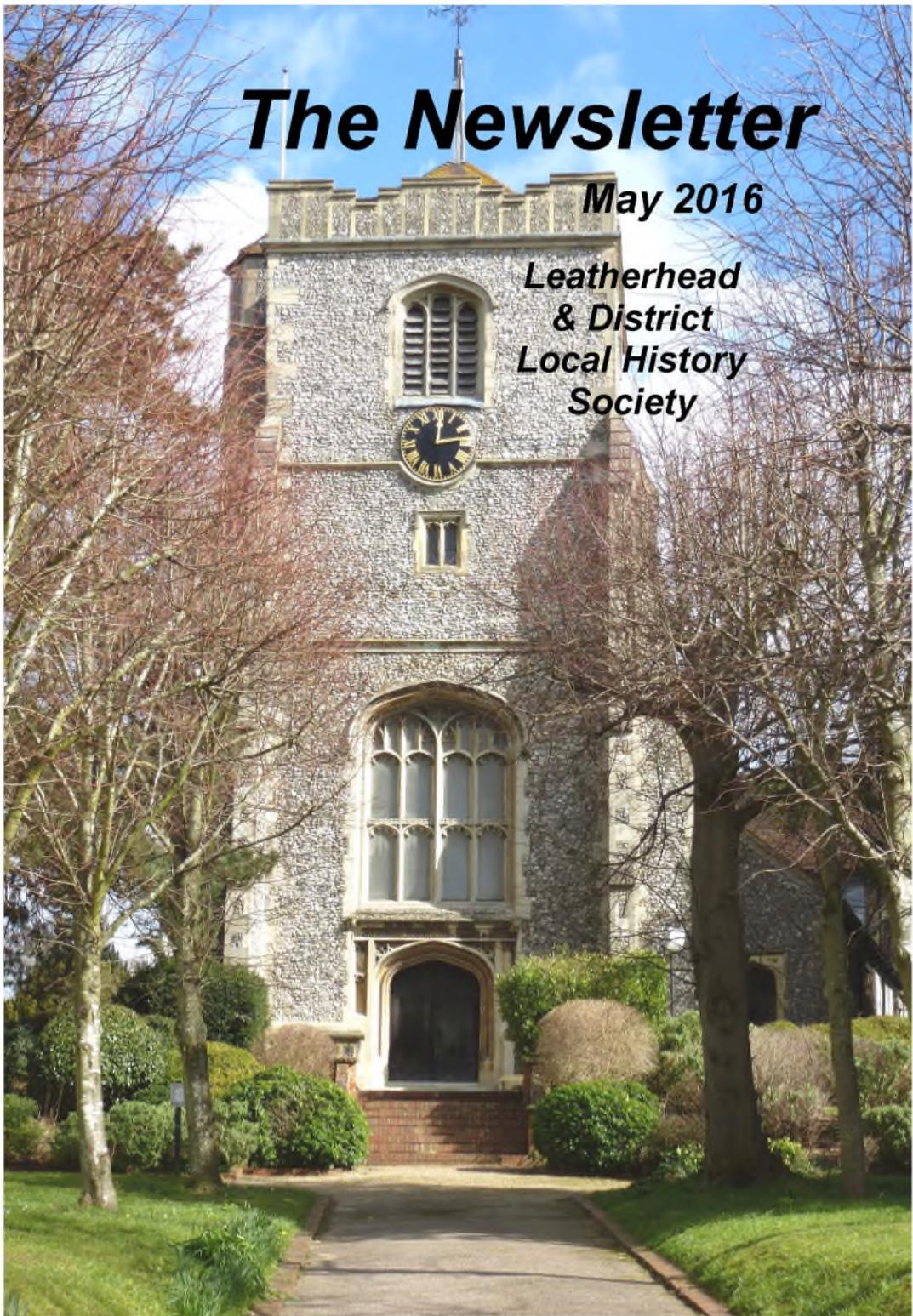


# ***The Newsletter***

***May 2016***

***Leatherhead  
& District  
Local History  
Society***



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*Cover: St Mary's, Leatherhead. Next edition cover will show  
Ashtead. Please supply your favourite imagery for possible use.*

# NEWSLETTER MAY 2016



## Editorial

This is my first edition as new Editor of the Newsletter following Martin Warwick's well earned retirement after eight years in post. I am sure all readers will join me in sending him the warmest possible wishes in his continuing role as Editor of *The Bookhams Bulletin*, wearing one hat rather than two as a comfortable change.

Meanwhile I hope you will bear with me as I come to know the Leatherhead area much better. After a lifetime living and working in London it is a joy to relax in the glorious Surrey scenery and learn about the wonderful people and places that make it the best of English counties.

I am looking forward to receiving all of your articles and contributions in the months and years ahead. Let us all work together to maintain Martin's very high standards and ensure your Newsletter continues to be a fascinating read every quarter.

Please join us for the third annual Leatherhead & District Local History Society coffee morning from 10am until noon on Saturday, 25 June in the Kirby (LCA) Library, Leatherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8AH.

Members and non-members are equally welcome and coffee tea and biscuits are available for a small contribution. If anyone would like to contribute resources, including maps, photographs, projects, books etc, please contact Anne Fraser at [anne.o.fraser@ntlworld.com](mailto:anne.o.fraser@ntlworld.com). All contributions are gratefully received. We look forward to seeing you there.

**TONY MATTHEWS**

*Newsletter contributions to  
tony.matthews@blueyonder.co.uk  
Next edition deadline - 2 July 2016*

## NEWS

### **Leatherhead Museum reopens with new theme**

#### **Hampton Cottage recalls life with the Hollis family.**

Our museum reopened officially on Saturday, 3 April, welcomed by local historian and re-enactor Tim Richardson in the uniform of a World War One commissioned officer.

‘Major’ Richardson’s performance matched the strong theme of both world wars now reflected at the museum after its winter overhaul. It now features a new VE Day room chronicling the ‘factional’ life of Frank and Hilda Hollis, former residents of Hampton Cottage.

Curator Lorraine Spindler said: ‘The room set has enabled us to recreate a typical 1940s working and living space, while providing a backdrop to our artefacts from 1900 to 1944 like the Union Jack purchased for VE Day in Leatherhead.’ The centenary of the Battle of the Somme is also covered.



*Above: Museum volunteers Diana Rogers and Val Hammond present the new look theme to visitors.*



The temporary exhibition space reflects local life in the 1960s, ranging from Marc Bolan's pop art to the Thorndike Theatre. The Hampton Cottage model has been relocated to the Medieval Room where a new information board explains its early architectural background. 'Two rooms tell the story of living and working here from the Victorian period to the present day,' added Lorraine.



*Above: 'Major' Tim Richardson in an appropriately historical setting.  
Left: Memories of World War 2.*

# **Friends of Leatherhead Museum**

by **JULIA LACK**

As I wrote this, the Friends were preparing for the opening of the museum for the 2016 season. Already the stewards had had the opportunity to attend a briefing session held at the LCA where procedures, changes in layout and exhibits and safety issues were explored.

Debby Humphreys and Alan Pooley had been sorting out the stewards' rota for the new season and so on Thursday, 31 March the first stewards took their places to welcome the public, answer queries and generally make everyone feel welcome.

The Friends have traditionally organised an annual outing just before the season opens and this year, on 21 March, 20 friends and LDLHS members went to Nonsuch Mansion and Museum at Cheam.

We were made to feel most welcome by Sheila Ayliffe and her helpers from the Friends of Nonsuch. We started with coffee in a very interesting little cafe/courtyard which is open to the public who come to explore the marvellous park and gardens surrounding the mansion. On that day we were very fortunate to be able to see the splendid rooms of the ground floor of this 19th century mansion. It is often closed for use as a conference/wedding venue.

Following this, we were shown the Victorian service areas of the mansion. Here they had a fascinating selection of artefacts, really well displayed, and our guides were full of additional information. The last area was the Loose Box Gallery with its collection of stained glass from the mansion and the 3D model of Nonsuch Palace built by Henry VIII.

It is well worth a visit. There was so much to take in that I will certainly go again. The museum is open every Sunday and all Bank Holidays from 2-5pm, entrance free.

The Friends of Leatherhead Museum are also looking ahead



*Above: Model of Nonsuch Palace, Cheam, in the days of King Henry VIII. Below: Friends of Leatherhead Museum gather outside the mansion during the visit in March.*



to the school holidays. We are planning three craft afternoons for children and their families on 5, 12 and 19 August.

Anyone who would like to come along and help please ring Julia Lack on 01372 386050.

## **Forthcoming Programme of Activities**

We meet in the main hall of the Letherhead Institute (top end of the High Street) at 7.30pm for coffee/tea. Talks start 8pm. Events held elsewhere as shown below. Admission £2.

### **Friday, 20 May**

Peter Mills: **Protecting Our Built Local Heritage.**

Peter is Historic Buildings Officer for Mole Valley District Council.

### **Tuesday, 24 May - Saturday, 28 May**

Montgomery Exhibition at St John's School.

See Page 9.

### **Wednesday, 25 May**

Gary Sheffield: **Montgomery Lecture at St John's School.**

See Page 10.

### **Saturday, 25 June**

10am-noon: **LDLHS Coffee Morning.**

Kirby (LCA) Library, Letherhead Institute.

### **Friday, 16 September**

David Graham: **Farnham and its unique castle.**

David has been involved in many surveys and excavations in West Surrey, particularly in and around Farnham. He is a past President of the Surrey Archaeological Society.

### **Friday, 21 October**

Sally Todd: **St John's School, World War 1.**

### **Friday, 15 November**

Professor Richard Selley: **Birth, Life and Death of the River Mole.**

The local geologist will bring us stories about our local river.

### **Friday, 2 December**

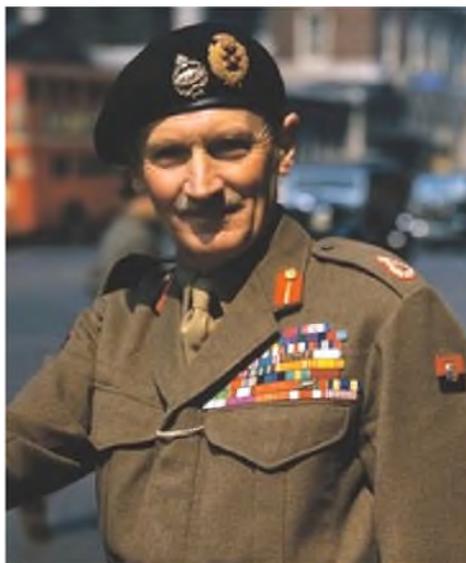
**Christmas Quiz Supper with Frank Haslam**

## **Montgomery Exhibition**

**Tuesday, 24 – Saturday, 28 May 2016**

Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery was chairman of the governing council of St John's School in Epsom Road, Leatherhead, for 16 years from 1950-1966 and then president of the council from 1966 until his death in 1976.

He made an immense contribution to the school and showed great generosity in giving his own time and money and managing major funding raising projects.



To recognise Monty's significant involvement with St John's and to commemorate the 40th anniversary of his death in 1976 and the 50th anniversary of his stepping down as chairman in 1966, the school is mounting an exhibition in the Old Chapel this month.

Items on display include artefacts and photographs of Monty laying foundation stones, opening buildings, with Speech Day guests and prefects, and welcoming royal visitors. His handwritten letters and notes, signed copies of his memoirs, and books presented to him and signed by war leaders and politicians are also on show, together with assorted memorabilia.

The exhibition is open daily without entrance fee.



## **Montgomery Lecture**

**Wednesday, 25 May 2016**

Military historian Gary Sheffield, Professor of War Studies at the University of Wolverhampton, will be giving a lecture on Field Marshal the Viscount Montgomery of Alamein on Wednesday, 25 May at St John's School.

Professor Sheffield's academic career started in the department of war studies at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in 1985. While there, he studied part-time for his doctorate, and moved on to King's College London in 1999 as senior lecturer in defence studies. Based at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, he was also land warfare historian on the higher command and staff course, the Army's senior operational course.

In 2005 Professor Sheffield was awarded a personal chair by KCL, and moved to the University of Birmingham to take up the inaugural chair of war studies in 2006. In 2013 he joined the University of Wolverhampton.

Tickets for the lecture are £10 and include a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink on arrival. Booking is available through the events page on the school website at <http://www.stjohnsleatherhead.co.uk/events-summer-series.aspx>

For more information contact Sally Todd, the school archivist at St John's School Epsom Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8SP. Telephone: 01372 231536 or email [stodd@stjohns.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:stodd@stjohns.surrey.sch.uk).

## JANUARY LECTURE

### Anglo-Saxon Minster Churches

Report by DEREK RENN

**In January, our new Archaeology Secretary Nigel Bond told us about Anglo-Saxon minster churches. After retirement Nigel studied at the Institute of Archaeology (UCL). He paid tribute to the work of John Blair who had been born and brought up locally, and was now a professor at the University of Oxford.**

John's statement in the Society's *History of Leatherhead* that 'somewhere in the Pachenesham area an Anglo-Saxon church may still await the archaeologist' had prompted Nigel to consider where it might have stood. The archaeological evidence for the period (the old Dark Ages) from the withdrawal of the Roman legions about 410AD up to the Norman conquest of 1066 extended from still-standing buildings by way of field-walking, aerial and geophysical surveys, to excavation.

Nigel showed us reconstructions of the timber-built villages of West Stow and Cowdery's Down. Roman buildings and large Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been excavated in both Ashted and Fetcham.

The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* and *Domesday Book* of 1086 were the most useful of hundreds of documents. Place-name elements like -ham, -leah or -tun could show early occupation.

Although there is evidence of Christian worship in Roman Britain, it was only after St Augustine's arrival in 597AD that conversion from paganism began on a large scale, with groups of priests working from central minsters. This meant a community under a leader, with a regular lifestyle and giving pastoral care. John Blair suggested minster sites were likely to be found on hillsides, with water within a fenced enclosure, axially-aligned buildings, rich material and evidence of literacy.

They were likely to be on royal or episcopal manors, listed

In Copedbourne hō.

Rex tenet in dno ~~Leatherhead~~. T. R. E. se defit p. xvi. hō  
una v. min. Modo p. xiii. hid' 7 dim ad firmā. 7 pa. e  
In dno. e. i. car. 7 xl viii. uilli 7 iiii. bord' cū  
xv. car. lbi. ii. molini de. x. sol. 7 xiiii. ac. pra. Silu.  
de. c. porc'. De herbagio. xi. porc'.  
T. R. E. ualeb. xx. lib. 7 post. 7 in xvi. lib. 7 zam reddat  
xxv. lib. Testant hoef de hund qd de hoc an subraax  
sunt. ii. hids 7 una v. que ibi fuer' T. R. E. sed p'pstra  
accomodaueq' eas suis amicis. 7 unā denā siluē 7 unā crosta.  
Ad hoc an adiacet ecclā de Leret. cū xl. acris terrae.  
Val. xx. sol. Osber' de ow tenet.

*Leatherhead was one of five royal villis in King Alfred's will. Its minster is known only from Domesday, attached to the royal manor of Ewell.*

*The last two lines of the above say: 'Ad hoc manerium adiacet aecclesia de Leret cum 40 acris terrae. Valet 20 solidos. Osbermus de Ow tenet. (To this manor is attached the church of Leret with forty acres of land. Worth 20s (yearly). Held by Osbern de Ow.)*

separately in *Domesday Book*, with a tax value, tenants and rental. Each of Surrey's hundreds (the subdivisions of the 'south region' between broad groups of settlers) may have had a minster. Copthorne hundred (including Leatherhead) had Kingston to the north and Wotton (including Dorking) hundred to the south.

King Alfred left his estate at Leatherhead (Letorito, 'grey ford') to his son and it was long regarded as an important place in county administration. It used to be thought that the

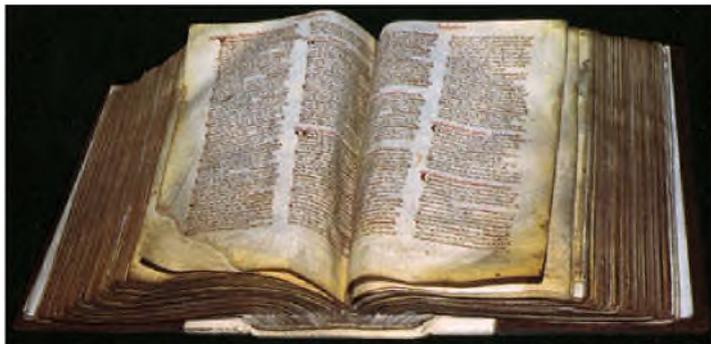
present parish church was that mentioned in the *Domesday Book* but John Blair demonstrated that that church was originally the private estate church of Thomcroft manor. The reference was to a residual 40 acres of the manor of Pachenesham, to the north-west of the present town.

I had suggested, from tithe map evidence, Stoney Croft, a small patch of land off Randalls Road on the site of the later hamlet, as the site of the minster. Nigel preferred a larger patch adjoining Rowhurst Farm and Teazle Wood further north. He demonstrated its similarity to the site of the 'old minster' of Tuesley near Godalming. The new aerial photographic technique of LIDAR stripped away the tree cover to reveal the ground contours of several intriguing features. Field-walking could produce good results.

Many questions were asked and suggestions made at the end of Nigel's talk. Were there wayside crosses at the boundary of a minster's territory?

Lucy Quinnell, owner of Rowhurst (better known for the Fire & Iron Gallery), said tree-ring ageing there had come up with a date of 1348. Durham University scientists hoped to carry out a thermoluminescence test to determine the age range of the mortar in the cellar walls. These were not originally below ground and their dimensions were close to those recorded at Tuesley.

Pollen and other tests on Ashted Pond had shown it was there before the time of the Romans. It was hoped to carry out similar work at Rowhurst.



## FEBRUARY LECTURES

### A fascinating foursome

Four very different local personalities were the subjects of talks by members at our February meeting - two from the distant past, two within living memory. DEREK RENN reports.



**Edmund Tylney (1536-1610) was Frank Haslam's subject.** Although related to the great Howard family, Tylney's mother and cousin were involved in plots against Tudor royalty and he was never knighted.

He became Master of the [Court] Revels and Masques (a sort of combined impresario, wardrobe and property master), a post which he extended into censoring plays, including those of Shakespeare.

Tylney lived in a house on the site of The Mansion in Church Street where he once entertained Elizabeth I. The actor Simon Callow (who played Edmund Tylney in the film *Shakespeare in Love*)

was born near St Leonard's church, Streatham, which contains a memorial to Tylney and his father.

Tylney left £100 for the repair of Leatherhead bridge, his books and a silver bowl were to be divided between the vicars of Streatham and Ashted. An earlier Leatherhead vicar had been a notorious 'frequenter of ale houses, a tipler and gusler' but why his (very godly) successor was overlooked in Tylney's will was unknown.

**Going back another 500 years, I introduced Gunfrið of Great Bookham**, named in the Domesday Book separately from the 36 families (plus three slaves) who were tenants of Chertsey Abbey.

I argued that Gunfrið was a free tenant who lived in the moated site at Eastwick, then a separate settlement from Bookham. I also concluded by suggesting that Gunfrið may actually have been a lady!

**Edwina Vardey brought us back to recent times with tales of Maxwell Aitken, first Lord Beaverbrook (1879-1964)**. Born in Canada, Aitken was a self-made millionaire aged 30 when he moved to England.

He quickly became an MP with the help of Arthur Bonar Law and was also a friend of David Lloyd George. He also became a newspaper magnate, buying the *Daily Express*.

His 'blacklist' included Lord Mountbatten and Noel Coward. A small gnome-like man, he was an energetic 'fixer' and held several ministerial posts under Winston Churchill during WW2.

He lived at Cherkley Court for over 50 years, entertaining the great and the good (although it was reported that chorus girls disported themselves in the lily-pond!) After the death of his widow, the house was sold, and Beaverbrook's name only survives locally as that of a roundabout.

**Brian Hennegan comes from a musical family and he reminisced about his teacher, Miss Mabel Fuller**, who ran



*Above left: Cherkley Court. Above right: Lord Beaverbrook.*

Leatherhead School of Music in Devon House, Church Road for many years, shown below with the early fire brigade.

She (like Dame Myra Hess) had been a pupil of Tobias Mathe, whose teaching methods included tying hedgehogs and a poker to pupils' wrists to ensure their maintaining the right posture!

Miss Fuller was a large lady with very precise diction and a short snorting laugh, who encouraged her pupils to perform concerts so as to improve their confidence. She conducted a number of local choral societies and was involved in the Leith Hill Festival.



## Historic pubs of Leatherhead district

by CLIVE WHICHELOW

In the 17th century the 'Water Poet', John Taylor, conducted a survey of English inns, taverns, and alehouses. In 1636 he visited *The Swan* at Leatherhead. Exactly 300 years later this historic inn was being demolished by developers. All that remained was the model of a swan which once adorned the inn. It is now displayed at Leatherhead Museum.

Happily, Leatherhead has retained some of its other historic inns and even a few modern ones contain local historical associations within their names.

The oldest is the *Running Horse* in Bridge Street which dates back to the 15th century. It is believed the landlady here in the early 16th century was Eleanor Rummyn. She had a famous poem written about her by John Skelton (1460-1529). He was tutor to the future King Henry VIII and later became known for his satirical verse. The *Tummyng of Elynor Rummyng* was a less than complimentary poem comparing the landlady's face to a 'pygges eare' and describing her skin as 'lose and slacke'.

She was said to have scraped up all sorts of filth into her mash tub and mixed it with her 'mangy fists' to make her beer. Despite this, it is said that when Henry VIII was living at Nonsuch Palace his courtiers would come here to drink after a day's fishing in the River Mole. There is also the claim that Henry's daughter, Queen Elizabeth I, slept here when the Mole was impossible to cross due to flooding.

The *Duke's Head* in the High Street may resemble a Victorian pub but it dates back to the 17th century and was known in the 1700s as the *Duke of Cumberland*. Although the facade was rebuilt, the 17th century timber frame remains. The low beams inside give a better idea of the age of the pub. It was clearly more than a simple ale house too as stagecoaches would



*Top: The long lost Swan Hotel. Above: The Running Horse.*

**As well as its pubs Leatherhead also had two breweries. The owner of the Swan Hotel established the Swan Brewery in 1874 and it continued until 1921. The Lion Brewery was started in North Street in the late 18th century by Thomas Cooper but had finished brewing by 1892. It was then used as a malting house only.**

stop there, and vestry meetings, at which important local issues were discussed, were held in the upper rooms.

The *Edmund Tylney*, also in the High Street, is now a Wetherspoon's pub built on the site of the old Woolworth's store, there until the 1980s. Although Wetherspoon's pubs tend to look alike and are not usually very old, they often have names drawn from the history of the area in which they have opened.

Edmund Tylney was Master of the Revels to Elizabeth I and lived at The Mansion in Church Street (see Page 9). It is said she visited him there in 1591. Tylney was also the Official Censor and it is likely that he would have had to approve works by writers such as William Shakespeare and Ben Jonson.

The importance of pub names in reminding us of local history can be seen in this instance but another is the *Penny Black* in North Street. It is also a modern pub, only opened in the early 1990s by Whitbread but the name reminds us that it is housed in the building that was once the 19th century Post Office. When the pub was taken over by another company some years ago, the name was changed to *The Hogshead*. However it has since been taken over again, this time by Young's brewery, which has restored its name and a little bit of local history at the same time.

*The Plough* in Kingston Road is relatively modern, dating from the Edwardian era, but the original had been there since the 1840s and was once owned by the Swan Brewery. Similarly, the present *Royal Oak*, also in Kingston Road, dates from the early 20th century, replacing an earlier coaching inn that was there from at least the 1820s.

*The Plough* is reputed to be haunted. One owner said things moved around upstairs without anyone touching them, the cellar lights mysteriously turned themselves off, and strange sounds, including the clatter of horses hooves, had been heard.

There are also some interesting pubs and inns in the villages



*Top: The original Duke's Head in Leatherhead High Street.  
Above: The Railway Arms in Kingston Road, Leatherhead,  
was finally demolished in 2001.*

surrounding Leatherhead. The *Leg of Mutton and Cauliflower* is doubly deceptive. Its name sounds like one dreamed up by a modern pub chain but it dates back to at least 1707. The name probably celebrates the fact that in its early days it was a farmhouse as well as an inn. The exterior also belies its age. Like the *Duke's Head* in Leatherhead it has a more modern fascia (1890s) masking the original timber frame.

It was a substantial inn too, being used as a venue for the Manor Courts. By the 1870s it had seven bedrooms and three attics. This may have been from necessity though as landlord, Thomas Skilton had 12 children!

*The Bell* in Fetcham was there by the 18th century and was a meeting place for the Surrey Union Hunt. The present building was constructed soon after the original one was demolished in the 1930s. There was talk of the pub closing but Young's took it over and may ensure its future.

*The Star* in Kingston Road is said to have the county line running through its centre. Our member Goff Powell says that although the postal address is Leatherhead, the pub itself is in Malden Rushett. He even remembers 'beating the bounds' as a youngster and the boundary line was where the pub car park now is.

So it looks as though the 'county line' tradition is not quite right. But *The Star* does have one interesting tale to tell. In Victorian times one of its rooms was used as a school. Whether it led any of the children to the evils of drink we shall probably never know but it certainly gave them something to tell their grandchildren.

Many Leatherhead pubs have disappeared over the centuries. The original *Royal Oak* was in what is now Oak Road, the *Railway Arms* in Kingston Road, the *Bull Inn* in Bull Hill and the *King's Head* in the High Street, to name but a few.

*Pictures reproduced with kind permission of Goff Powell.*



*William Keswick, Lord of the Manor of Great Bookham  
(1835-1912)*

## **The truth about William Keswick**

**The last Newsletter carried an article about William Keswick, Great Bookham's last Lord of the Manor. Here CHRIS PULLAN gives more details about him.**

Keswick Road, Great Bookham, is an important residential road that runs east-west between Leatherhead Road (A246) and the Lower Road. It follows the line of an old rural track but why is it so called?

Actually it is named after William Keswick (1835-1912), the last Lord of the Manor of Great Bookham and owner of Eastwick Park.

William was born in Dumfries. His father, Thomas, had married William Jardine's niece Margaret and joined the family business of Jardine Matheson. They were immensely important traders and shippers in the Far East.

William joined his father in the firm in 1855 and worked in the Far East until 1886 in Hong Kong where he was a 'Taipan' or foreign businessman. At about this time, their most profitable business was the importing of opium from India to China.

The second Opium war from 1856 to 1860 was early in his career. The company allegedly stopped trading in opium from 1870 but William must still have been involved as a list of online files under his name as originator includes one from 1884. This refers to the emigration of coolies to Hawaii and opium imported to Hawaii from Macao via Sydney. At the time, opium was widely used as a painkiller in the form of Laudanum.

One source suggests that William Keswick was in the Far East until 1886 while another states that he bought Eastwick Park on 26 July 1882. The house stood to the north of Lower Road and was described in a sale advertisement as an 'Italian style mansion' with a 70ft drawing room, nine best bedrooms,

walled kitchen garden of two acres with peach, nectarine, pineapple and melon houses, and 520 acres of park and farmland.

William's first wife, Amelia Hippolyte Dubeux, died in 1883 aged 36. In 1899 he was remarried to Alice Henrietta Barrington who was over 30 years his junior. They had a family with their last child born in 1904 when William was almost 70.

An article in *The Guardian* in 2000 starts: 'Passing the Keswick family's grand home in rural Surrey, one night in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a villager might have seen an unusual sight through a window – a yellow light flashing on, or a brightly lit room turning black with equal suddenness.'

This was not the fading and brightening of paraffin lamps, or the softer, yellower gaslight the family had used since 1897. If you wanted electricity you had to be wealthy and adventurous enough to put in your own generator. William Keswick did so.

The article also says the family's first car was a Cadillac. It was pictured at the election of 1906.

William Keswick took control of Matheson and Company in London. In 1898, he became High Sheriff of Surrey and in 1899, MP for Epsom for the Conservative and Unionist Party. In the 1910 election he had a majority of 5687 with 10,919 votes. He must have been a back-bencher as the Liberals were dominant at this time.

Three times he was returned unopposed and held the seat until 1912 when he resigned due to ill-health. He died on 9 March aged 78.

He was described in his *Times* obituary as 'a generous landlord and liberal supporter of many philanthropic and other institutions in the district.' For his funeral at St Nicolas Church, the 2.11pm train was extended to Bookham Station and there was a return train at 5.23pm.

He was succeeded by his son, Henry, also MP for Epsom from 1912 to 1918. Henry had the military rank of major. He bought Tyrell's Wood in 1923 which was then turned into a



*Drawing Room at Eastwick Park from the west end c1890.*

golf course. It is said he never really acclimatised to the south and went to live in Scotland.

Henry too worked in Jardine Matheson as did the next three generations up to the present day. The *Times Rich List* of 2011 had Simon Keswick, 68, as the 35<sup>th</sup> richest person with a fortune of £1.775 billion.

Eastwick Park House was an imposing property set in magnificent grounds. William's widow sold the house in 1913 and in 1924 it became a school under the name of Southey Hall for 60 to 70 boarders. This continued until the Second World War when the school was evacuated.

The building was occupied by Canadian soldiers and allowed to deteriorate so much that there were insufficient funds for its restoration after the school returned. It finally closed in 1954 after the headmaster disappeared in suspicious circumstances.

The building was finally pulled down by 1960. Part of the site is now Eastwick first and middle schools.

## **Norbury Park in a year of landscape celebration**

by **TONY MATTHEWS**

This year marks the tercentenary of Lancelot Capability Brown's birth with nationwide celebrations of his landscape heritage. Leatherhead district's own 1300-acre Norbury Park was not among Brown's creations but its landscape planning by owner William Locke in the 1790s, guided by William Gilpin, exemplified further development of the move towards greater expression of the natural environment that had started with Brown and William Kent decades earlier.

By Locke's time, Brown and Kent 'were perceived by some as not having moved far enough and a new movement generally known as The Picturesque subsequently advocated a much more extreme expression of the wilder side of nature.'<sup>1</sup>

This quotation comes from one of the essays in *Arcadia Revisited - The Place of Landscape*, compiled by Vicki Berger and Isabel Vasseur to mark a conference on the aesthetics of land management which took place 20 years ago next month at the Royal Geographical Society.

The 1996 conference was specifically about Norbury Park and the idea was to 'bring theoretical and academic study into a visual arts programme and consider the contribution of the artist to the management of landscape.' Although owned and protected by Surrey County Council since 1931, it was felt that there was a lack of convergent thinking about the future of Norbury Park and it needed a contemporary landscape aesthetic to guide it.

In planning a Picturesque landscape, it was said that Gilpin had faced a different challenge from Brown with his usual emphasis on grass sward, lakes and clumps of trees surrounded by a belt of woodland. Norbury Park's residual chalk plateau



*Above: Norbury House, owned by the Grissell family before 1890.*



**Apart from Clandon, Claremont at Esher is Leatherhead's nearest surviving garden landscaped by Capability Brown. Also among the earliest, it was begun by Vanbrugh and Bridgeman before 1720 and was extended and naturalised by William Kent and Brown. His tercentenary will be celebrated on Sundays, 5 June and 9 October with free guided walks at 2pm under the National Gardens Scheme.**

*Above and right: The rolling woodland landscape of Norbury Park.*



had offered an exceptional opportunity within the Home Counties for creating a dramatic landscape in the approved Picturesque style despite the absence of 'beetling cliffs and roaring cataracts'.

Today's park has two contrasting landscape types: the plateau, with its steep slopes, woodland, scrubland and patches of open land with fantastic views (which epitomises the Picturesque), while the gentle farmland beside it is essentially productive, whether used as livestock pasture or ploughed.

The issue raised by the conference in 1996 was that having sold Norbury House to a private buyer many years earlier, Surrey had broken the original interdependency of the building - also specially designed for William Locke - and the parkland. Locke's architect, Thomas Sandby, had designed the mansion to express the cultural values of the time, symbolising wealth and status, and the parkland had done the same.

In 1791, William Gilpin himself wrote in his *Remarks on Forest Scenery*: 'As the park is an appendage of the house it follows that it should participate of its neatness and elegance. Nature, in all her great walks of landscape, observes this accommodating rule. She seldom passes abruptly from one mode of scenery to another, but generally connects different species of landscape by some third species which participates of both. A mountainous country rarely sinks immediately into a level one; the swellings and heavings of the earth grow gradually less. Thus, as the house is connected with the country through the medium of the park, the park should partake of the neatness of the one and of the wildness of the other.'

Of course, that requirement has no longer applied since the house was sold off. However, Norbury Park is Green Belt, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. In 1996 Surrey was also seeking formal recognition as a Special Area for Conservation under the European Habitats Directive and had included Norbury Park

as an Area of Historic Landscape Value within its own Countryside Strategy. Today it is maintained by Surrey Wildlife Trust which has reintroduced coppicing as a means towards increased biodiversity.

It is also used by a great many dog walkers, some responsible, some less so, to the extent that worrying of sheep last winter became a serious problem, dog waste is a nuisance, and some predation of wildlife may also be a consideration.

Other essay contributors to the 1996 conference assessed how the landscape of Norbury Park might be used for greater interaction with society through tourism and outdoor activities, whether fallen trees should be left or cleared away and so on.

But perhaps the most thoughtful summary was the following: 'Unspoiled places such as Norbury Park can enable us to experience a deep and respectful appreciation of nature as something other than an instrument for our use...

'The artwork aspires to produce experiences of awe, wonder, tranquillity most properly occasioned by nature itself. The natural world, because it is our natural home, is too easily taken for granted... no art or artefact can replace nature because artefacts have human makers with human purposes. Nature in contrast is essentially not of our making, it is other and its otherness is precisely what we wonder at and would feel a profound and distinct sense of loss if it went....

'Norbury Park could be violated by insensitive use. It cannot accommodate vast hordes of tourists who would destroy what is of value there. But if those who go there are brought to be able to recognise what is there and to respect it accordingly, that would enhance its value.'<sup>2</sup>

The same is true of course for every one of the surviving landscape masterpieces of Lancelot Capability Brown.

<sup>1</sup> *Towards an Aesthetic for Norbury Park* - Joy Appleton

<sup>2</sup> *A Railway Runs Through It* - Jane Howarth

## **Comparisons of occupations between 1861 and 1901 in Leatherhead**

by **DAVID WALL**

The Local History Group of Leatherhead U3A has researched the occupations of Leatherhead residents as shown in the 1861 and 1901 census records. It involved detailed study of each census and logging the results on spreadsheets, fine tuning the occupational headings into a manageable number of categories so as to be able to analyse the results.

Between the two dates the population more than doubled. In 1901 there were over 1800 people in occupations within the town, compared with only 802 in 1861 an increase of 124%. The reasons included the arrival of railways, generally improved health of the nation, and technological advances plus other factors. The 1901 census shows more professional people living in the town, a bustling community with the high street full of shops and businesses.

Because of the large number of different, yet not dissimilar, occupations, we have divided them into 17 main categories, listed below. Within these main headings are a multitude of associated jobs with 'Professional workers' including accountants, architect shipbrokers and barristers.

The general occupation headings were: Legal; Education and Church; Medicine; Banking and Post Office; Armed services and Police; Merchants; Professional workers; Tradesmen; Office workers; Railway workers and Transport; Gas Water and Electric; Hotels, Breweries and Public Houses; Skilled Artisans; Land workers; Domestic workers; General labourers and finally those living on independent means.

With many sub-occupations it is not always possible to find the correct job description for a particular worker although we endeavoured to be as correct as possible. Of course it has

to be recognised that some people do not always want to give their job title while others enhance their job description.

A closer look at the figures shows that in every case except one, the numbers in a particular category increased between 1861 and 1901 - to be expected as the working population had increased by over 100%.

The one exception was Land workers, a sure indication of the effect of mechanisation on the work of the farmer and farm labourer. Apart from some minor jobs within this category the major decrease in numbers is in agricultural labourers whose numbers went down to 28 in 1901 from 87 in 1861. This was probably due to the slump in agriculture in the 1870s in the British Isles as a whole due to the relatively cheap imports from North America (in particular wheat from the USA). This was a percentage decrease of 68%.

There were some very large percentage increases in the individual occupation categories, ranging from 1700% in Gas, Water and Electric workers, 442% for Railway workers, down to 30% for the Legal Profession and 47% for Skilled Artisans.

Of course some of the increase was due to speeding up of technology and the general social changes brought about by such things as better health, ease of travel and education.

The loss of jobs in farming was more than made up for in other, more modern, types of employment such as estate agents and building societies. In Edwina Vardey's history of Leatherhead she states that the large Copthorne estate was put on the market specifically for housing. The number of estate agents increased to nine in 1887 implying the growing need of the housing market.

*The Leatherhead Advertiser* observed in 1889 that the town was pushing ahead as a residential resort. Although the decrease in land workers was inevitable it may not have been as great as the figures suggest. It is highly likely such workers went into

domestic gardening, merely changing their title rather than their occupation.

Another way in which the occupation figures changed, may have been that in the 1861 census workers associated with farming were listed as such. By the 1901 census there was a more discerning population and occupations such as harness maker, saddlers, blacksmiths etc were listed separately.

Interestingly the number of servants went down between 1861 and 1901 but the number of domestic workers rose by over 100%. This is reflected mainly in that the number of domestic cooks, gardeners and housemaids more than doubled in that period.

I think it is fairly safe to say that the arrival of the railways during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the housing boom that followed very clearly affected the general increase in occupations. Brickmakers, bricklayers and carpenters were in high demand and the number of prospering businesses meant a more affluent town.

With greater prosperity came demands for an increase in associated tradesmen such as boot and shoemakers, saddle makers, tanners, coach builders and so on. All of these flourished during this time, while the tannery fell into decline and by 1901 was gone.

It is worth a mention here that during this period St John's School moved to Leatherhead. This happened in 1872 and by 1901 there were 223 students and 53 teaching and non-teaching staff at the school. These figures were excluded as inapplicable to the first census.

To see the full data online, go to the LDLHS website and either select the May 2016 Newsletter and click on [Appendix A](#) or see the website News Page.

*Juniper Hall: An English Refuge  
from the French Revolution*

Linda Kelly (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1991)

Review by ANNE FRASER

Juniper Hall, Mickleham, is a house with many tales to tell. In 1792-93 it was leased by its owner, Jenkinson, to a group of poverty-stricken French constitutionalists.

They had fled the Revolution when their own, more moderate reforms were quickly overtaken by bloody murder and a Jacobin reign of terror. Looked upon with suspicion by many in English society, they were thrown on the good and tender mercies of the Lockes at Norbury House and the Burney sisters of Mickleham. The elder sister, Frances, had written *Evelina*, and was later much admired by Jane Austen.

This book is an account of many things: the unfolding events of the French Revolution, the development of romance between Fanny Burney and General Alexandre D'Arblay, and differences between the social mores of France and England at the time. While we are given a taste of what life was like for the well-to-do families locally, we don't learn a great deal of Juniper Hall itself.

There is no doubting that Kelly knows her stuff and has also written *Women of the French Revolution* and *The Young Romantics*. Fanny and her sister Susanna both look charming in their pictures, and it is easy to see how they captivated their more worldly visitors.

It is fascinating to read of the development of the relationship between Burney and her friend, D'Arblay through their correspondence, although it helps to be able to understand a little French. At first, their writings start off as educational tools for the improvement of her French and his English. Yet her desire to help him in his dire circumstances, and her admiration

for him, soon mean that a romance worthy of Jane Austen starts to flourish.

It is also charming to read of how the main characters walked between Norbury, Mickleham and Juniper Hall – can you imagine doing that nowadays? The picture plates of Juniper Hall show a building surrounded by countryside and woodland, and help us to picture the peace and repose such a place must have offered to these refugees.

Not everything goes smoothly. Well-bred society is shocked by the outspokenness of Madame de Stael in an atmosphere where it is most unladylike to comment on anything more than the preparation of a cup of tea. Sadly too, scandal is soon sniffing around the edges of Burney's friendship group and she has to acknowledge that she has some hard choices to make.

I have enjoyed reading the story of the emigrés and the friendships formed by their exile. The resources and narrative have been skilfully interwoven to make an intriguing history of that short interlude in the life of Juniper Hall. I would have liked more information on the physical location – such as where exactly Susanna's cottage was and more of the wonderful descriptions of the décor of the houses at Juniper Hill and Norbury Park.

Finally, I would think that the whole storyline has the makings of an excellent film – now that would be exciting. I can just imagine Emma Thompson or Anne Hathaway as Fanny, strolling through the Norbury Hills to meet the dashing French hero! But, dear reader, would she marry him?

*This book is part of our Society's collection in the Kirby Room at the Letherhead Institute.*

# ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

by NIGEL BOND

First to introduce myself. I am the Society's new Archaeology Secretary and I was appointed in January. I am a retired chemical engineer with a lifelong interest in archaeology.

On retirement I studied for a graduate diploma at University College London's Institute of Archaeology. I am a member of the Surrey Archaeological Society and have enjoyed participating in excavations at Ashted Roman Villa and tile works, Cock's Farm, Abinger villa and Iron Age site, Flexford Romano-British site, Woking Palace and in Lyn Spencer's garden searching for the medieval Bookham Courte.

Excavations are fine weather activity and so in recent months my archaeological activities have been restricted to finding out about my role as Archaeology Secretary, attending Surrey Archaeological Society (SyAS) talks and symposium (all held in our area), and giving the January talk on Leatherhead's Anglo-Saxon Minster (see Page 11).

The talks included two organised by SyAS's Roman Studies Group, the first by Sam Moorhead of the British Museum and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) on Roman Coins, and the second by SyAS's Nikki Cowlard and Emma Corke on Excavations at Ewell Church Meadow and Cock's Farm.

Sam told us that there are now over 220,000 Roman coins in the PAS database, many found and reported by responsible metal detectorists. These finds are distributed over virtually all parts of England and Wales. A notable exception in the South East is the Weald, which was very sparsely populated in Roman times although extensively worked for its iron.

Surrey's contribution is 2,400 coins, with 240 from Mole Valley.

SyAS's Medieval Studies Forum ran an interesting one-day workshop, *Towers in Anglo-Saxon England*. These are thought to have been originally built by lords as a status symbol. More

than 30 survive as church towers including at St Mary's, Guildford, where the Saxon tower is now incorporated within the later medieval church. See picture on Page 37.

The discussion made me wonder whether this might be an explanation for the strange alignment of Leatherhead's parish church tower. Is the current 15th century tower built on the foundations of a 10th or 11th century Saxon tower?

**Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss anything relating to the archaeology of our area and particularly any concerns about the protection of our historic environment. The Society can make an important contribution to conservation through influencing planning decisions, as well as to local history research and education.**

## **Surrey Archaeological Society Annual Symposium**

The Surrey Archaeological Society (SyAS) held its 2016 Annual Symposium at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall on 27 February. The L&DLHS was represented by a display in one of the exhibition rooms with information on the Society, Leatherhead Museum, slides from our January lecture on Leatherhead's Anglo-Saxon Minster, and a selection of books for sale.

Fred Meynen also brought his collection of mystery objects for people to identify. These stimulated considerable interest with visitors puzzling over items such as his World War 2 ARP Warden's fire extinguisher, his periscope from a Russian armoured vehicle (not a local find!), and a device for stretching boots to accommodate a bunion.

The talks covered a wide range of topics and historical periods. Rob Poulton of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit presented *Country Life at Woking Palace* from its earliest development by Alan Bassett (supporter of King John and named on Magna Carta)

to Lady Margaret Beaufort and her son, King Henry VII. It was much used by Henry VIII and invested in by Queen Elizabeth I before being disposed of by James I in favour of nearby Oatlands Palace.



Martyn Allen of the University of Reading gave a quite technical talk on zoo-archaeology in Surrey, showing us what can be learned from animal bones recovered during excavations. This includes insights into diet, farming practices, use of animals for traction, hunting, feasting and long-distance droving.

SyAS's own research work was covered in presentations on the excavations at Abinger and the village test pitting programme. This has been running since 2002 using methodology developed by Carenza Lewis of *Time Team* fame. A notable recent discovery is the boundary ditch enclosing the Saxon minster at Old Woking with a ritual deposit of a pig, radiocarbon dated to the seventh century.

The Margary Award for the best display in the exhibition rooms went to Jan Spencer of the Surrey Industrial History Group for his fascinating collection of working models of Archimedean screw pumps and conveyors (giving plenty of opportunity for getting wet). Jan also gave a presentation on the application of these technologies from the Hanging Gardens of Babylon to modern small-scale hydroelectric schemes, as well as in agriculture and in Dutch windmill-powered flood defence schemes.

All in all it was an extremely interesting and varied day, right on our doorstep.

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

Registered Charity No 802409

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Website: [www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk](http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.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.

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## *In Memory*

*Members of the St John's officer training corps at a peace celebration on 19 July 1919. They were clearly thinking of those lost in the Somme Offensive which began a century ago this July.*

## READERS' QUERIES

The tiny flint building next to the Letherhead Institute may be that described in George Gwilt's survey book as Turnpike Road Tollhouse. However, his map shows the Epsom to Horsham turnpike road following Church Street, passing some 30 yards away from the tollhouse. Why is that?

### **DORKING CONCERTGOERS AT THE DORKING HALLS**

#### **FIONA HARRISON GUITAR**

**Saturday 14 May 2016 7.30pm**

Guitar recital including works by Scarlatti, Villa-Lobos, Piazzolla, Tárrega, Nancorá, Sor, Albéniz, Fujli & Roland Dyens.

**The 2016-17 season begins with two concerts before Christmas**

**Sunday 16 October 2016**

**Vijay Jagtap:** Quartet including sitar and tabla  
An evening of Indian classical music  
Sponsored by Dorking Brasserie

**Saturday 12 November 2016**

**Mishka Rusidie Moman**  
Piano Recital  
Sponsored by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust

Tickets from Dorking Concertgoers' Box Office 01306 740619 or Dorking Halls 01306 801717  
Details of membership from Dorking Concertgoers on 01306 740618  
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Photo: Harlequin Photo, Clay Park



**Are you in arrears on your membership? If so, you will find an application form enclosed or provided as a link via your email.**