



Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Lower Street, Gt. Bookham.

Newsletter
February 2017



Index to Articles

Title	Page
Editorial	3
Chairman's Report	4
Forthcoming Programme of Activities	5
70th Anniversary Celebration	6
Toasting 70 Years of the Society	10
Dating Lowther's Excavation of the Ashted Roman Villa	12
Agenda of the Annual General Meeting, 8pm, 17 March.	15
Nominations and Election of Executive Committee 2017-18	16
Dedicated Planting at Langley Vale Forest	17
St John's School During World War One	19
How Titbits Produced a Landmark for Ashted Common	23
From Slavery to Prosperity	26
Stars with Local Connections - Alma Cogan	30
Oral History: 'Smiler' Marshall	32
Contacts for all Society officers and post holders	38
Advert: Dorking Concertgoers at Dorking Halls	40

Friends of Leatherhead Museum AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Leatherhead Museum will be held at 7.30 for 8pm on Monday, 24 April in the Letherhead Institute. We hope all Friends will try to attend and those who do will be most welcome. If there are any matters you would like to raise at this meeting, please contact Judy Wilson, Honorary Secretary, in advance on 01372 275371 or email her at rjawilson6roe@aol.com

Cover: Dated c1904-5, the photo shows Sidney Madge and his staff standing in front of his butcher's shop at Aberdeen House in Church Road, Great Bookham, then apparently known as Lower Street. The same building now houses Donner Optometrist and the Post Office. Across the road is the site of today's John Wadsworth Estate Agents. Part of a wider picture from Images of England, Bookham & Fetcham, compiled by Linda Heath and first published in 1999 by Tempus Publishing Ltd.



EDITORIAL

This special edition of the *Newsletter* celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Society. Our birthday party at the Letherhead Institute in November welcomed members, their guests and a number of VIPs, with Stephen Fortescue, the last surviving founder, travelling up from Devon especially as our guest of honour with his wife.

You can read all about the event itself, the speech that Stephen gave no less than 70 years after becoming the Society's first treasurer, and also about a lasting mystery concerning work by the first chairman some 20 years earlier than that.

The last *Newsletter* announced a new approach to publicity for the Society, both internally for members in the way we provide you with this publication, and for the wider public in opening our archive of historic publications online to anyone interested in the local history of our part of Surrey. This is now under way and is intended to help secure our future as the source of choice for researchers.

Our new oral history service is also progressing well and we hope to make a brand new sound archive available in the near future. There you will be able to hear the voices of those describing their own lives in our area up to a century ago when Leatherhead district reflected a very different world. This *Newsletter* contains part of another fascinating interview, this time with Britain's last surviving cavalryman from World War One who happened to live in Ashted.

1917 was another crucial year during that war and the continuing centenary is marked by other articles in this *Newsletter* on the planting of a new memorial wood and the story of St John's School.

This edition also marks the forthcoming AGM of the Society in March. See Pages 15 and 16 for the Agenda and nominations.

Don't forget too, of course, that the Museum reopens on 6 April. The 70th anniversary will be a special theme.

TONY MATTHEWS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By JOHN ROWLEY

In our last *Newsletter*, I wrote about the future of our much-loved Hampton Cottage. I have to admit some disappointment at having received only one written view about it. That can be summarised as 'keep it going as long as possible'!

Our first step in 2017 must be to obtain a detailed statement on the state of the structure which, if you look closely, is in a state of disrepair.

As it is a Grade 2 Listed Building we simply cannot ignore such wear and tear. If we are to repair the building, we will also need a realistic cost estimate linked to a method statement. The latter is needed because we do not want to close the Museum any longer than absolutely necessary. My last article in the November 2016 *Newsletter* gave us a clear idea of our options.

Meanwhile, I took great pleasure in attending the Museum stewards' social put on by the Friends on 10 December. It was a jolly affair which included a slide show and video on heritage activities elsewhere in the county organised by Robin Christian.

These reminded me of the high value the people of Surrey place on our heritage and recognition of the need to support societies such as our own. During 2017 we will be looking at and implementing ways of galvanising this kind of support, while improving direct benefits where we can. At the same party I was delighted to see Alan Pooley, our Museum Manager and Society President, back on his feet following his recent accident.

Any member who is keen to assist with the running of the Society should look at the call for nominations for officer posts on Page 16 of this *Newsletter*. I am happy to discuss the opportunities with anyone who would like to consider furthering the Society's purpose in this way. Our most pressing need is for a replacement Editor for the *Proceedings* who will be able to begin work on Volume 8 when Bill Whitman stands down at the next AGM.



PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2017

17 February: Professor Richard Selley will speak on the birth and life of the River Mole.

17 March: Annual General Meeting. Short talk by Nigel Bond on his work as Archaeology Secretary.

21 April: Pat Jenkins, archivist of the City of London Freeman's School, will talk on Ashted Park.

19 May: Professor Peter Edwards on the History of Eastwick.

7 June: Summer talk and tour by Vivien White at Fetcham Park House.

15 September: Tony Matthews will give a presentation on the Society's oral history service, employing historic interviews by Edwina Vardey and his own contemporary ones of those with memories of the district long ago.

20 October: Chris Stagg will talk about local popular musicians and recording in the 1950s.

17 November: Bamber Gascoigne, best known as the original presenter of TV's *University Challenge* quiz programme, will be talking about his family estate West Horsley Place, a historic building newly converted into an opera house.

15 December: A Christmas Miscellany of short talks by members.

Details of activities will be posted on the Society's website and announced at meetings, all of which take place in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute (top end of the High Street), starting at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors are always welcome.

If a membership form is enclosed with your February *Newsletter* it means we have not yet had your renewal for 2017.

NEWS

70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Report by DEREK RENN



Society founder Stephen Fortescue with writer and oral history interviewer Edwina Vardey (left) and Mrs Henrietta Fortescue.

Not many people have remained members of a society for 70 years, so our Chairman, John Rowley, gave a very special welcome to Stephen Fortescue, one of the small group who founded the Local History Society in 1946, and his wife Henrietta, at our anniversary celebration on 18 November.

Among other invited guests were Lucy Quinnell, representing our original parent, the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society, and David and Gill Hanson of the Leatherhead Community Association in whose Abraham Dixon Hall we have met for many years. Equally welcome were Dr David Bird, President of the Surrey Archaeological Society, and Mrs Joanna Bird, as well as Surrey County Councillor and Friend of the Museum Tim Hall. Completing the VIP list were the media's Mark Davison of the *Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser*, and Zen George of the *Ashted & Leatherhead Local* magazine. Refreshments were provided by Dr Fred Meynen and his team.

Frank Haslam, our Membership Secretary and webmaster, was

not even born when the Society was founded, so he delved into the archives for 1946 to introduce its origins. Back then, two bars of *Sunlight* soap cost sixpence, the hard winter meant potato rationing, and Alfred Hitchcock got around the film censor's limit of a three-second on-screen kiss in *Notorious* by splicing together 50 takes of Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman in action!

In 1929 the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society had been set up, saving Thorncroft manor, Sweech House (Gravel Hill) and the cottage on Bull Hill from demolition. Its early advocacy of a local Green Belt around Leatherhead was later recommended more widely in Sir Patrick Abercrombie's national report.

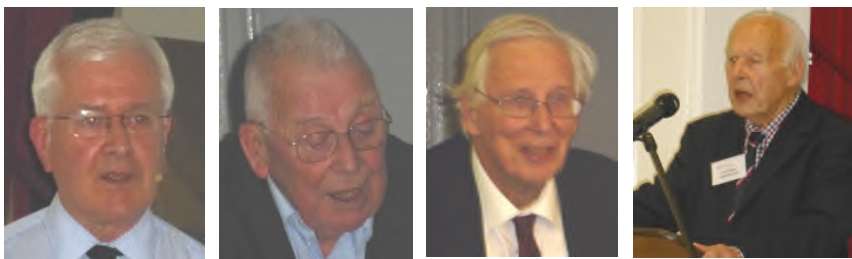
An advertisement in the *Leatherhead Advertiser* invited expressions of interest in forming a local history society, and Anthony Lowther gave the first talk in November 1946. At first the Society was split into five specialist subject groups that resembled today's U3As but these depended on the enthusiasm of the leaders. All five parish churches were visited and lectures given in one particular day.

Speaking on the Society's history, Vice-President Peter Tarplee confessed to only having been a member for 24 years. He reminisced on officers who had undertaken multiple roles, among them Joyce Fuller, Ernest Crossland and David Bruce, who had to become Records Secretary when a wardrobe-full of papers was left at his house in his absence.

On his arrival, the then Chairman, Linda Heath, had immediately found Peter a job based on his previous selling of the publications of the Surrey Industrial History Group. He described the problems of having to sub-edit and prepare fair copy for a non-local printer using a manual typewriter, an editor who refused to accept that cover design mattered in selling to shops, and achieving a target of 500 copies.

One book, Bill Culley's *Bookham in the Twentieth Century*, had had to be reprinted. Edwina Vardey's *History of Leatherhead* had originally been published in full but later had to be drastically reduced to fit the series requirements of a commercial publisher.

A broken hip had put Society President Alan Pooley in hospital and as he was recovering at home on the evening of the celebration gathering, Derek Renn stepped in to deliver his talk on our future.



Speakers above from the left : Frank Haslam, Peter Tarplee, Derek Renn and Stephen Fortescue.

Alan had selected three achievements for special mention. First was the quality of the annual *Proceedings*, particularly the series of maps reproduced by H.L.Meed, for example that of the 1791 Fetcham tithe map (shown right). John Lewarne had copied out the whole of the Fetcham parish registers by hand, identifying land owners and occupiers.



The second achievement was the rescue of the derelict Hampton Cottage in Church Street (seen below at the time) and its rebirth as a museum in 1977-80, made possible by Stephen Fortescue's brave purchase and financing.



The third achievement was the regular *Newsletter*, originally just two pages of widely-spaced type-script but since developed into a high-quality colour magazine by the late Martin Warwick and now in the capable hands of Tony Matthews.

We saw a 1949 issue from the Society's archives, now on our website at www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk. Alan was sent our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery through the Chairman, who then invited us to drink to the health of our invited guests.

Before proposing the health of the Society, Stephen Fortescue, guest of honour, reminded us of the first Chairman, A.W.G. Lowther, an architect who had dug the Roman villa in Ashted Woods in the 1920s. Sent to Persia in World War 2 to supervise its ancient monuments, he contracted poliomyelitis. Despite using leg calipers for the rest of his life, he resumed excavating at Leatherhead and Effingham.



Clockwise: David Hanson, Leatherhead Community Association with Chairman John Rowley; Nigel Bond, Archaeology Secretary and Bill Whitman, Proceedings Editor; other guests included Councillor Tim Hall, Lucy Quinnell of the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society, and Zen George of the Ashted & Leatherhead Local.

TOASTING 70 YEARS OF THE SOCIETY

By STEPHEN FORTESCUE

When one gets into one's 'anecdotalage', it is very easy to forget so please forgive me if I refer to my notes.

I doubt many of you recall life in the Leatherhead locality pre-war. I have lived the greater part of my adult life in Great Bookham. Then there was in the village a blacksmith, a whitesmith, a saddler, a corn merchant, a cobbler and down Church Road, a wheel-right and a corset factory. The bakers in the High Street commenced baking around 4.30 in the morning and the scent permeated the length of the street.

For more sophisticated shopping one went to the town of Leatherhead where there was a Home and Colonial Stores, a Sainsbury, and a traditional country baker who produced coconut scones, jam puffs, apple turnovers and pastries. There was also a straw hat maker and a stays maker.

Pre-war there were few road signs at the entrance to towns. The legend goes that a motorist drove into Leatherhead. Seeing no road sign, he shouted to a pedestrian about to cross the road 'Leatherhead?' He did not appreciate the slur and shouted back 'Fishface!'

By the time the war was over most social organisations had closed down so the time was ripe for new initiatives. The Countryside Protection Society was revived under the guidance of Frank Benger. It was suggested at one of its meetings there should be a local history society. Persons were invited to discuss the formation of a society and I was invited to be treasurer. At a meeting on 5 November 1946 it was agreed there and then that the Leatherhead & District Local History Society should be formed with the object of researching and recording the history of the locality and that it should publish its findings, otherwise it would become a social club.

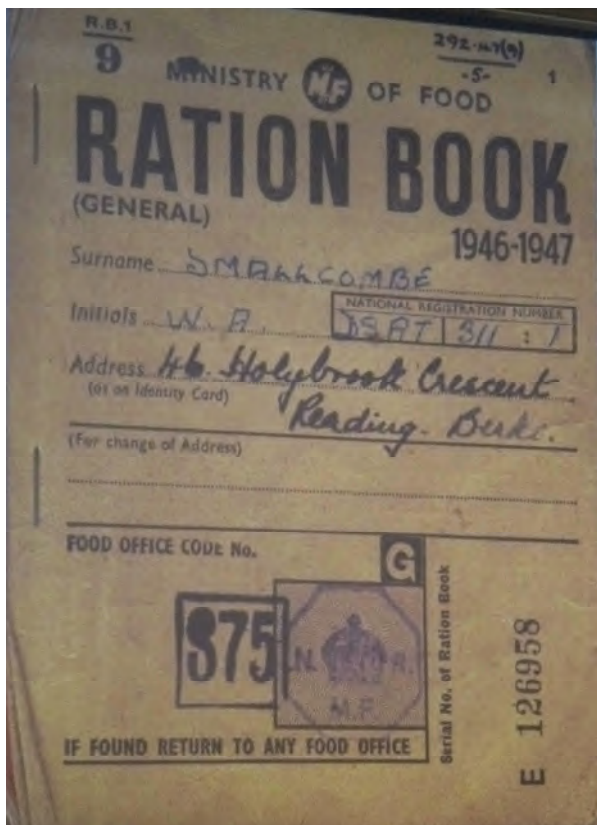
So the printing and issue of the *Proceedings* was agreed and an Editor appointed. The first Editor was Blaxland Stubbs. Since then about 70 issues have been printed. They contain a mass of valuable information.

I had always had an eye on Hampton Cottage in Church Street as

an investment as it was an historic building in the centre of Leatherhead. At the time that I was Chairman of the Society it came on the market. I purchased the property and it became the Museum. The full story is contained in my memoirs which I had recently rough drafted and of which the Society has a copy.

With a succession of learned Chairmen, the *Proceedings* and the Museum, the Society achieved great prestige and became respected in the history world.

As I am the oldest member of the Society (perhaps not in age), it is now my pleasure and privilege to wish the Society to continue its success with a succession of enthusiastic Presidents and Chairmen as in the past, and an ever growing membership. With the support of the distinguished persons here this evening it cannot fail. A toast to the prosperity of the Society.



Two reminders of the year when the Society was founded. Left, a ration book, still very much in place after the end of World War 2. Above: Sixpence, the price of various goods at the time.

DATING LOWTHER'S EXCAVATION OF THE ASHTREAD COMMON ROMAN VILLA

**By DAVID BIRD,
President, Surrey Archaeological Society**

The ongoing work of writing up the results of the Ashtread Common excavations of 2006-13 (and the fieldwork by John Hampton in the 1960s) is allied to a reassessment of the first excavation by A W G Lowther (1901-1972) and A R Cotton in 1924-9. Captain Lowther was the first Chairman and later President of the L&DLHS between 1946 and his death in 1972.

The site is unusual and its importance is becoming increasingly clear, so any extra light that can be thrown on the earlier work is potentially significant. It is quite common for Lowther's published reports to give no context for the finds and there are few other records.

The progress of the excavation is, however, reasonably well known so if it is possible to give the year in which a find was made, at least an approximate location can be suggested, such as the area of the separate bath-house or the east end of the villa.

Unfortunately, it has become apparent that the dates written on the back of some of the contemporary photographs or on some of the finds cannot be trusted. The same is true of some of Lowther's later references to the site.

The published reports by Lowther himself (1927, 1929 and 1930) state quite clearly that there were trial excavations in 1924 followed by the main excavation of the separate bath-house in 1925 and the villa 'house' in 1926, 1927, 1928 with a final short season in 1929. The dating is independently confirmed by references in this Society's annual reports and in contemporary press reports.

Yet as early as 1934 Lowther was to write: 'The Roman site on Ashtread Common, excavated 1926-8, yielded the fragments of some three or four ... "chimney-pots".' The reference he gives is to one of these 'chimney pots' (also sometimes called 'lamp chimneys'), which is specifically said to have been found beside the circular laconicum of the separate bath-house.

We should therefore expect this to have been found in the excavations of 1925. A report in *The Times* for 29 September 1925 indeed mentions

the discovery of ‘several pieces of small chimney-pots’, quite certainly from the bath-house.

Thus within six years of the end of his excavation Lowther was wrongly dating it as taking place in 1926-8. It is worth adding that this happened around three years before the deposition of many of the finds in Guildford Museum, raising the possibility of some uncertainties there too.

In 2014 I wrote about the strange tale of the Saxon finds supposed to come from the topsoil over the separate bath-house but not mentioned until 1959. Other problems are also still coming to light.

Lowther was apparently so determined to stand by the re-dating that there are a few surviving finds labels where 1925 has subsequently been altered to 1926. The determination persisted such that in his later reassessment in 1959, the subtitle specifies 1926-28, the first paragraph reinforces those dates (‘in the now far off summers of 1926, 1927 and 1928’, and the fourth paragraph makes it quite explicit. He says: ‘The first of the two buildings to be discovered, during preliminary trial trenching, was the separate bath-building which was the subject of work during 1926; the main dwelling, sited at some distance from it, was found at the end of the season.’ Yet this work all took place in 1925, as contemporary evidence makes clear (and, as we have seen, Lowther’s own site reports).

Arthur Cotton’s notes for a talk in 1927 include this statement, following a description of the bath-house excavation: ‘So in the winter of 1925 when the ground was too wet to permit work on the buildings, we dug trial holes to the north, on the higher ground, for in all probability the house would be at a higher level than the baths. Fortune favoured us, and after several failures we found traces of walls about 128ft to the north of the baths. During the summer [i.e. of 1926] we excavated this building which we found to be 65ft long and 50ft deep.’ (He goes on to note that the full extent of the villa was identified in 1927).

It seems very odd that Lowther could get the dates of his first major excavation wrong. 1925 must have been so exciting. His first proper dig, a fascinating Roman building, visits from the national press, his own photograph in the papers and so on. The dates of the

excavation were a matter of record. I have been unable to find any reason why he wanted to change them and would welcome any information that might throw light on the matter.

I would also be pleased to hear from anyone who can throw light on the clearance of Lowther's house after his death. I saw for myself that the rooms were full of archaeological finds, many placed on anything that might act as a tray. A great deal undoubtedly came from the Ashted villa site but it was mixed with other material. Lowther left it all to the Society of Antiquaries which placed some in the British Museum and elsewhere but gave the rest to Surrey Archaeological Society. The archaeological material was cleared as well as possible and ended up in boxes in Guildford Museum stores. Some went to Leatherhead Museum. Lowther had deposited some finds in Guildford Museum in the early part of 1937, with accession number 1049.

Recent analysis by Joanna Bird of the samian thought to be from Ashted examined this material and that held at Leatherhead. As a side effect it revealed that Lowther had taken back some of the Guildford Museum holdings, perhaps as part of the process of re-assessing the site in 1959. Some of the pots that thus ended up in Leatherhead Museum were marked with old Guildford Museum accession numbers. Quite a lot of other material from the site seems never to have reached any Museum.

Lowther published two lists of samian stamps in the reports for 1927 and 1929. Brenda Dickinson recorded those she could locate in Guildford Museum and at Lowther's house before his death, including one not previously published. This one (Paternus), and some of the others listed by Lowther in the reports, cannot now be located. It is possible that some of the finds were thrown away when Lowther's house was cleared, or maybe they have vanished somehow into stores. Any information that might help to understand their plight, and by extension that of other material from the site, would be of considerable interest.

I am grateful to Joanna Bird, Isabel Ellis and members of the Archives and Artefacts Recording Group of the Surrey Archaeological Society as well as David Hartley and Derek Renn for information and discussion relevant to this note.

Leatherhead and District Local History Society
Registered Charity No. 802409

The 70th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute at 8pm on Friday, 17 March 2017, chaired by Honorary President Alan Pooley.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters arising from the minutes of the 69th AGM.
4. President's address.
5. Chairman's Executive Committee report for 2016.
6. Treasurer's presentation of the Society's accounts for 2016.
7. Amendments to the Rules of the Society.
8. Election of officers/members of the Executive Committee 2017-18.
9. Proposal to change the status of the Society to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
10. Appointment of the independent examiner.
11. Any other business (notified to the Chairman before 24 February)
12. President declares proceedings closed.

Nominations and Election of the Executive Committee 2017-2018

Members/Trustees and Offices Held

1. John Rowley, Chairman
2. Jane Summerfield, Hon Secretary
3. Carl Leyshon, Hon Treasurer
4. Frank Haslam, Membership Secretary
5. Roy Mellick, Records Secretary
6. Anne Fraser, Librarian
7. Bill Whitman (retiring) Proceedings Editor
8. Tony Matthews, Newsletter Editor
9. Roy Mellick,(acting) Sales Secretary and Publications Editor
10. Frank Haslam, Website Editor
11. Tony Matthews, Publicity Secretary
12. Alan Pooley (retiring), Museum Manager
13. Lorraine Spindler, Museum Curator
14. Nigel Bond, Archaeological Secretary
15. Fred Meynen, Programme Secretary
16. David Lokkerbol (retiring), Committee Member
17. Doug Hollingsworth (retiring), Committee Member
18. Vacancy, Committee Member

Nominations For Office

Nominations for office of Office holders and Committee Members (vacant or not) must be notified to the Chairman by Friday, 10 March 2017 in writing or by email, delivered or sent to the registered office of the L&DLHS at Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead KT22 8DP. Email: staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com

Retiring Members

The following members have ably fulfilled their roles as office holders on the Executive Committee.

1. Bill Whitman, Proceedings Editor
2. Alan Pooley, Museum Manager
3. Doug Hollingsworth, Committee Member
4. David Lokkerbol, Committee Member

We regret to record that Martin Warwick who served as *Newsletter* Editor and Publications Editor, died on the 30 June 2016.

WOODLAND REGROWTH TO MARK THE MEN LOST A CENTURY AGO

The L&DLHS is considering having its own dedicated section of the World War One Memorial Woodland at Langley Vale Forest. Some 200,000 broadleaf trees are currently being planted by volunteers for the Woodland Trust on this 640-acre stretch of countryside between the M25 and Epsom Downs, part of which lies within our own Mole Valley borough. The project, launched in 2014, will provide a permanent tribute to those killed in the war a century ago.

Some 700 local volunteers took part in major tree planting days on 16 and 17 December, placing up to 8000 trees and reaching the bottom of the field. Schools and youth groups made a major contribution. More plantings took place on 21 January and are scheduled this month for 25 February.

Epsom was a major recruiting centre in 1914 with four battalions of the Royal Fusiliers formed. Many were billeted in local homes and within six months over 20,000 men were heading for the battlefields of France and Belgium.

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the Great Storm of 1987 which destroyed some 15 million trees throughout the south of England. The Society's contribution at Langley Vale Forest aims to mark that tragedy as well and to help maintain Surrey as England's most densely wooded county.



Above: This area will eventually provide new habitat for bird and mammal species as well as carpets of wild flowers such as bluebells and yellow archangel in season.



Above: Young volunteers gather to help plant the new Langley Vale Forest, marking the fallen of World War One.



Left: Map from Woodland Trust website.

OCTOBER LECTURE

St John's School during World War One

Report by DEREK RENN



*An etching of St John's School by artist J R Hutchinson from 1925.
(From St John's School Archive)*

At our October meeting, Sally Todd, archivist and former librarian of St John's School, Leatherhead, told us its story during the First World War. The school had been founded in 1851 by the Rev Ashby Haselwood to give a free education to the sons of poor clergy and also to provide his church in St John's Wood, London, with a choir!

After a series of relocations, first to Walthamstow and then to Clapton, 12 acres of land were bought in Leatherhead for £2500 and the H-plan school was built and opened in 1872. In 1887 a system was introduced with some supplementary foundation pupils being charged partial fees of £30 a year for tuition and board. A chapel was added in 1877 - whose spire lasted until the 1970s - an infirmary in

1881 and a large dining hall in 1898, which is still adequate today although pupil numbers have since increased dramatically to some 750.

Much is known about life at the school from a large number of lantern slides made by Mr Coddington the chemistry master from 1902 to 1935. The subjects taught were largely classical Greek and Latin, English, mathematics, French and German but also included science. In 1911 there were 14 teachers, five matrons, 27 maids, and eight male porters and gardeners on the staff.

The 240 boys were excused all household tasks. However, in 1912 both boys and masters were required to help extend the playing field by filling railway trucks with soil and then pushing and pulling heavy rollers to level some uneven land bought for the purpose.

Hot baths were available once a week in the school's basement. The bath tubs were filled by hand in those days, although later photographs from the 1970s showed a single cold tap by then fitted to each tub. Sally's detective work had revealed that the bathroom had later been sub-divided and was now partly her archive store.

A disastrous fire in 1913 gutted the main buildings but the masters and boys escaped down canvas chutes as shown in one of the historic photos from the archive where an original chute fragment was still held. The picture Sally showed us looked posed as a rather apprehensive boy is seen emerging from the chute.

Also salvaged from the fire were a number of trophies and a set of the school magazine, *The Johnian*. The buildings (but not personal property) had been adequately insured and were rebuilt in a similar style but with subtle improvements.

During the First World War, pupil numbers at St John's fell from 285 to 236 and only older teachers or those unfit to serve were available. Nearly all clubs were disbanded but football was played against army units billeted or camped near Leatherhead.

Most prizes of large leather-bound books were replaced by War Certificates. Conkers were collected for 7s 6d [38p] per hundred-weight by schoolboys across the country for industrial use. However they provided such a poor source of acetone (for cordite) that piles lay abandoned at railway stations.

The headmaster toured the school every Monday morning, giving



Above left: 2nd Lt Victor Bedwell (1894-1916) attended St John's 1904-1913. At Oxford, he signed up for the University OTC on the outbreak of war but was killed on the Somme in August 1916. Above centre: Joseph Gedge (1878-1914), the first British officer killed in the war, went to St John's from 1888-1895. The school's science laboratory was named after him.



detentions to those of bad report. Sally showed us a 1915 school report on pupil Douglas Rose. Despite some ambiguous comments from various teachers on his achievements, it was signed off as 'Excellent'.

A measles epidemic killed six pupils in 1917 and illnesses were common, with boys often visiting the school's infirmary. For many years the food served to the boys at mealtimes was considered to be horrible. It consisted of porridge, bread and margarine for breakfast, meat for dinner, bread and margarine again for tea and a biscuit for supper. Boys were not allowed to leave the school grounds (except for route marches over a nine-mile radius),

Old Johnians with the VC

Top: Lt Cdr Eric Robinson, later a rear admiral, won the Victoria Cross for his services in the Dardanelles in 1915. He also served on the convoys in World War 2. Above: 2nd Lt Geoffrey Woolley was the first Territorial Army officer to win the Victoria Cross. He survived the war to become both a vicar and a teacher at two public schools, Rugby and Harrow.

but could spend their weekly pocket money of 3d in the tuck shop on buns and other treats to supplement their diets. For extra money they might get a smoked kipper for breakfast. The inescapable tuck shop proved an invaluable source of additional funding for school sports equipment.

Old Johnians who achieved fame in 1914-18 included Joseph Gedge, the first British officer killed during the war when his ship *HMS Amphion* was sunk by a mine in the Thames estuary just two days after Britain declared war on Germany following the invasion of Belgium.

Two other old boys won the Victoria Cross: 2nd Lt Geoffrey Woolley for the defence of Hill 60 during the night of 20–21 April 1915, and Lt Cdr Eric Robinson for services in the Dardanelles in February 1915 during preparation for the landings at Gallipoli.

2nd Lt Victor Bedwell and five other Old Johnians died on the first day of the battle of the Somme, and the early death of Lancelot Townshend Driffield, a double Cambridge blue and county cricketer was also mourned. In his case it was caused by a heart murmur for which he had been excused army service.

Of those Old Johnians who did serve, 20% died in the war. Sally explained that the old boards recording everyone who had served had become bowed and a new digital copy had been made. This was part of an ongoing project online to compile biographies of all those on the Roll of Honour: <http://stjohnsleatherheadatwar.co.uk/>

Other memorials at the school were a brass cross in the floor of the chancel, a standing cross in the inner quadrangle, and a swimming bath, opened in 1925 after a long delay earlier for cost reasons.

Answering questions, Sally said the boy who had raised the alarm at the time of the fire in 1913 enjoyed only a very brief period as hero of the day. He was soon accused of causing the conflagration himself and expelled. Investigating his subsequent fate, she discovered that he had then emigrated to Sydney, Australia, where he worked as a stockman. He had enlisted in the Imperial Camel Corps in 1917, survived the war and returned to Australia in 1919.

As with so many public schools, many of St John's pupils gained commissioned ranks in the armed forces. This was due to the compulsory Officer Training Corps instruction introduced in 1912.



Woodfield House was a thriving business for decades, thanks to a lucky break.

HOW *TITBITS* SECURED A LANDMARK FOR THE FOLKS OF ASHTEAD COMMON

Based on research by SHARON O’CONNOR for the Local History Group of the Dulwich Society.

Woodfield House on Ashted Common once served as the village bakery but also a tea house and caterers. It was a popular destination for Londoners who came to play and picnic on the Common and 2500 people could be seated in its marquees and refreshment rooms. There was a children's playground with swings, a helter-skelter, coconut shies, a roundabout, a sweet stall and a toyshop.

Frederick and Eliza Felton started the bakery, Frederick Felton’s Bakery and Tea Rooms, in 1860. When her husband and son died, Eliza continued running the business with one of the staff, James Weller, later marrying him. In July 1884 her niece Emma Mellish and her husband William bought into the firm, joining Eliza, James and John Weller in the business of ‘baker and confectioner, provider of refreshments and provisions’. With them too were the Mellishes’ first child, his parents and his sisters.

By the turn of the century William and Emma Mellish had nine children, some also working there, as well as a baker’s assistant and a general servant. The business expanded, won prizes in competitions, and continued to the end of William Mellish's life in August 1924 when he died of heart disease. Probate was granted to his daughter Violet Winifred Perry and he left what was then a small fortune of £10,151.

A pretty conventional story you might think but you would be

wrong. Private William Robert Mellish, 27, of the 8th Hussars, son of a baker in Chertsey, was a young soldier based at Aldershot with minimal education and little to his name until he entered a remarkable competition run by the magazine *Tit-Bits*. The most popular penny paper of its day, selling about 450,000 copies a week, this coupled human interest stories culled from other publications with works of fiction either supplied by its own readers or popular writers. Established by publisher George Newnes in 1881, the magazine was one of the first to address its readers familiarly, rather than formally.

In November 1883 *Tit-Bits* offered a seven-roomed house worth £500 as a prize for the Christmas competition. As prizes were more typically just a guinea (£1, 1s), this offered readers a rare opportunity of home ownership at a time when this was unthinkable to most people. The competition was for the best Christmas story in 3000 words of prose or verse and was open to all readers 'irrespective of age, sex, nationality or colour'. The story did not need a Christmas theme and did not even have to be original. Some 22,000 competition entries were received, some containing up to 20 stories.

Bizarrely, the magazine did not buy a house beforehand for the prize. Instead the winner was allowed to choose his or her own from anywhere in the country. The only stipulations were that the house had to be in a town of more than 200,000 inhabitants, was to be called *Tit-Bits Villa* and should be detached or semi-detached. Cellars and bathroom were not included in the definition of seven rooms, these were to be purely living rooms plus kitchen.

The week before the winner was announced readers were urged to buy two copies of the magazine, one to read and one to put away for posterity, 'as copies will be at a premium in the future'.

Private Mellish simply submitted a story called *Miss Wilmer's Adventure* by Max Adeler, a popular American writer, music critic and humourist. Already published five years earlier, it won Mellish the competition and appeared in the *Tit-Bits* Christmas edition on 22 December 1883. He wrote to the magazine thanking correspondents for the large number of congratulatory letters and books, which 'I shall value as long as I live'. The letter also assured all 'doubting friends' that the prize was genuine. He would happily answer their letters himself but there were so many that he had not time and any-



Above left: Private William Mellish outside the house he won in Dulwich by sending in another person's written work. Above right: Details on the reverse of the photo (Dulwich Society). The lucky break brought him commercial success for decades in Ashted.

way, they had mostly forgotten to enclose stamps for a reply.

He was given a week to say where he wanted the house to be. He chose London. Then on 12 January 1884, the magazine announced the prize, a new house in Dulwich. He was guaranteed a rent of £40 a year for five years. By May 1884 he had been discharged into the army reserves after eight years of service, just missing a dangerous posting to Afghanistan in December. He was assessed as having a 'regular very good temperament' on discharge.

The Mellishes never lived in Dulwich and had no other connection with that area. William either sold or rented the house and this alone enabled him to buy into the business at Woodfield House, Ashted, becoming a prosperous baker and caterer for the rest of his days.

FROM SLAVERY TO PROSPERITY - THE BACKGROUND TO ONE MAN'S FATE IN 18TH CENTURY SURREY

This article by JUDITH WITTER is based on a talk she gave to Bookham U3A Social History Group in November 2016.

The Georgian period was the peak of British involvement in the slave trade. Between 1715 and 1830 there were 10,000 slave voyages. At its peak the British were transporting 40,000 slaves from Africa across the Atlantic per year.

The movement across the Atlantic was in both directions with families returning to Britain bringing a number of their slaves with them. Abolition of British involvement in the slave trade did not come until 1807 and that of slavery itself not until 1833. Outside the British Empire, slavery continued in the United States for another 30 years and much later still elsewhere.

Despite this, one of England's most successful black Africans of his time was a Surrey man, Cesar Picton (1755-1836), who became wealthy after being baptised, educated and inheriting funds that allowed him to succeed as a coal merchant. More about him later.

The American War of Independence brought about a big influx of Africans into Britain, particularly after 1783, but many found themselves on the street and very poor. As Britain fought in the colonies, John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore told enslaved Africans that they would be granted their freedom if they fought alongside British forces. The slaves formed the Royal Ethiopian Regiment.

The Gentleman's Magazine in October 1764 reported 20,000 Africans in London but today that figure is considered an overestimate. It is more likely there were 10,000 for the whole of England and Wales in the Georgian period and probably 5000 in London.

Official documents reveal the presence of black people in the population. Parish registers show that some slaves were baptised and there is evidence of Africans in wills, letters and criminal records such as those of the Old Bailey. The fact that someone on record was black was frequently not mentioned, which makes estimating numbers difficult.

Right: Cesar Picton's house in Kingston High Street. It is now a Grade 2 listed building.



Today black people of the period are most visible in paintings as servants to the aristocracy. Service was the biggest area of employment but many of these workers were probably unpaid and unable to leave voluntarily. Black servants appeared in art but were rarely in the centre of the picture. They were shown on ceramics such as tea bowls, saucers and other domestic wares used in many wealthy households.

Confusion about the legal status of slaves began when Englishmen started bringing African slaves that they had bought legally in the colonies back to England. The country had no statutes that codified the status of slaves, unlike in France, the American colonies, Portugal and elsewhere. The only forced labour recognized in English law was feudal villeinage which had died out in the 17th century. The colonies did have laws that defined slaves but such laws did not exist in England itself.

In the late 17th century the King's Bench had ruled that as slaves were bought and sold they were merchandise and as they were not baptised they were 'non-men'. It became an important belief that baptism defined whether a person could be described as free or not. This was not actually true.

The most important case in the 18th century was brought before Lord Mansfield, the Lord Chief Justice. This was the Somerset case of 1772. Somerset, a black slave, came to London in 1769, brought by his owner, Stewart. In 1771 Somerset was baptised at St Andrew, Holborn, and had three godparents - Thomas Walklin,



There are no known portraits of Cesar Picton but ex-slave and abolitionist campaigner Olaudah Equiano (1745-1797) (left) helped influence the ending of the slave trade in 1807. After settling in England, he worked as a seafarer and merchant. His autobiography appeared in 1789.

Elizabeth Cade and John Marlow. Later in 1771, Somerset left Stewart's service but Stewart hunted him, seized him and confined him in arms in a ship bound for Jamaica.

Somerset's godparents applied for a writ of *habeas corpus* in order to prevent his removal and paid for his bail.

Somerset visited Granville Sharp who could not tolerate slavery and had been involved in other cases. Somerset persuaded him to become involved and Sharp organised counsel to argue the case, getting Somerset to deliver a copy of Sharp's *The Injustice of Tolerating Slavery* to Lord Mansfield. This became a test case, with West Indian planters supporting Stewart and saying negro slaves were chattel goods. They argued that Somerset was a slave under the laws of Virginia and Africa and Stewart, his master, had rightly detained him to send him to Jamaica for sale.

West Indian planters paid Stewart's costs while anti-slavery campaigners donated money to pay counsel for Somerset. The case came to court in February 1772 before Lord Mansfield. The press and public viewed the case with great interest. Arguments were made on both sides but the case centred on whether slavery was legal in England and whether an English court should uphold colonial laws that lacked equivalence here.

Lord Mansfield was well aware of the wider issues involved. Colonial slavery provided huge revenues to the aristocracy and many other investors. He tried to persuade Elizabeth Cade to buy Somerset and Stewart to free him. Neither side would agree to this since they both

wanted the law made clear. Mansfield repeatedly adjourned the case to delay proceedings but this allowed Sharp's legal team to expand the scope of the case. Regular press reports increased public interest. In addition, Sharp employed a shorthand writer to record the speeches in court and then had them printed and distributed around the country.

Lord Mansfield delivered his judgement in June 1772. He focused on the legality of forcible deportation. Although laws in Virginia supported slavery, there was no law in England that did. 'In a case so odious as the condition of slaves' there had to be a positive law. As Mansfield could not say that the case was allowed or approved by English law, he ruled that Somerset should be discharged.

The press reported the case in two ways. Some said Mansfield had ruled that slaves in England should be freed. Others more accurately reported that black slaves could not be forcibly removed from the country. This did not end slavery in England. Adverts for finding and returning runaway slaves could still be seen in newspapers. However, the widespread interest in the case meant that public opinion had changed. The idea of black people as mere chattels was no longer tolerated, particularly in London where a free but poor black community developed in the late 18th century.

Black Georgians who were servants in aristocratic households and were educated there gained some independence, particularly if they were left money in a will, which allowed them to set up a business. Among those who gained independence were Ignatius Sancho, the first African to have an obituary in the British press; Francis Barber, Dr Samuel Johnson's servant; and Olaudah Equiano, who bought his own freedom and wrote an abolitionist autobiography *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano*.

So to Surrey's own Cesar Picton (1755-1836). Captain Parr, who may have bought him in a slave market, brought him to England from Senegal. In 1761 Parr gave him to Sir John Phillips of Kingston-upon-Thames along with a parakeet and a duck. The Phillips family had him baptised on 6 December 1761. He became their servant and was sent to Picton Castle to learn household tasks. However the family were very interested in missionary work and had him educated.

When Lady Phillips died in 1788 she left him £100. Later when

her daughters died, they too left him money.

Cesar Picton used his inheritance to set up in business as a coal merchant, perhaps because Sir John Phillips had had interests and connections in the coal industry. Aged 33, he began by renting a coach house and stables in Kingston High Street.

By 1795 he had enough money to buy this house, which survives today as Picton House. The premises by then had become a wharf for coal barges and a malt house. Picton himself was at this point living the life of a gentleman. In 1807 he moved to Tolworth and let his Kingston properties. In 1816 he bought a large house in Thames Ditton for £400.

He died in 1836 aged 81. He had had gout and was very overweight so a four-wheeled trolley had to be used for his funeral. In his will he left money to his goddaughter, Sarah Lock Pinner, who married William Pamphillon, Mayor of Kingston during the 1850s. Cesar Picton's will records a tortoiseshell tea caddy, two watches, jewellery and a horse and chaise. It is believed his estate was worth between £5000 and £10,000.

STARS WITH LOCAL CONNECTIONS - ALMA COGAN

GOFF POWELL recalls a household name of yesteryear

In the mid to late 1950s singer Alma Cogan lived in the Mount, Fetcham, and was a vice-president of Leatherhead Football Club.

I remember her opening the 1st Leatherhead Scout Annual Fete in the grounds of Windfield, Epsom Road. My friend Brian Hennegan and I formed the guard of honour with other Senior Scouts.

Alma Cogan was the daughter of a haberdasher. Born in 1932 in St John's Wood, she was educated at St Joseph' Convent School. Her mother pushed her toward a career as a singer and on to the stage.



*Alma Angela Cohen (1932-1966)
was better known as Alma Cogan*



In 1948, age 16, she was spotted in the chorus of *High Button Shoes* by an EMI staff producer who signed her to the HMV record label. She also appeared in cabaret at the Cumberland Hotel. Her first hit, the novelty tune *Bell Bottom Blues*, reached number five in the 1954 charts. A year later she topped the charts for the first and only time with *Dreamboat*.

She attracted press attention as a personality beyond her singing for her sense of humour and collection of

luxurious clothes (see above). It was said she never wore the same dress twice and her home was filled with a huge range of styles.

By the 1960s she was also starring in her own TV programme and was at one point cast as Nancy in the show *Oliver*. She became celebrated in the gossip columns for the all-night parties she threw at her Kensington High Street home where the guests included a dazzling array of show business stars. She kept in touch with the cutting edge of the popular music business and befriended Paul McCartney, recording her own versions of Beatles songs. Her own rendering of *Eight Days a Week* transformed it into a gloriously lyrical torch number.

She had just proved capable of making the transition from ballads to rock music when tragedy struck. In 1966, she was diagnosed with cancer. While under treatment, she planned to continue her career, even writing several songs under the pseudonym Al Western that were recorded by other singers.

She continued working and appearing on stage. But during a tour of Sweden, she fainted and was diagnosed as terminally ill. She died 26 October 1966 in a London hospital at the age of 34.

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

‘SMILER’ ALBERT MARSHALL (1897-2005)



When ‘Smiler’ Albert Marshall died on 20 May 2005 he was the last surviving British cavalryman from World War One and at 108 thought to be the second oldest man in England. EDWINA VARDEY had interviewed him five years earlier on 11 April 2000 at his home in Ashted when he was 103.

My name is Albert Eliot Marshall. Why am I called Smiler? On my 18th birthday we were in training just outside Colchester. We were in private billets and the snow was on the ground. It was March 15. I was in the Essex Yeomanry. I was a bit of a devil. We were having physical jerks, trunk forward, bend and that sort of thing before breakfast. The reveille was at half past six in the morning and before breakfast we had physical jerks. As I bent down I rolled a snowball. I was in the second rank. I upped with that snowball and hit the bloke in the front on the behind. He jumped up quick laughing. He looked this way and that. He didn't know where it came from. He didn't know it was me.

The sergeant, Sergeant Beavis from Clacton on Sea, says: ‘This is

very funny. You can break your mother's heart but you won't break mine. I'm talking to you.' I looked this way and that, looking innocent. But he says: 'You, Smiler.' So when I met my pals the next morning they said: 'Morning Smiler' and that's gone on right the way to this very day. That was 1915.

I was born in a little village called Elmstead Market, the other side of Colchester. My father was an agricultural engineer and he had a threshing tackle. There's combines now but the old thresher pulled an oil drum and elevator. Marshalls were on the threshing machines.

My mother died the day after Queen Victoria.

I went to school when I was two and half because my mother was ill and I carried on there right through. I left school at 13 because I was an apprentice and if you were an apprentice or got a job you could leave at 13 but if you hadn't you had to go on until you were 14 and then you could leave.

I was an apprentice shipwright, the shipyard at Wivenhoe, the next village to Elmstead. My brother was two years older than me. When in 1914 war broke out on August 4, Lord Kitchener and the heavyweight boxer at that time, Jack Johnson, were visiting the cavalry barracks at Colchester, a big garrison town like Aldershot. He put out all these display cards: 'Your Country Needs You'. Asked all the young men to join, to form a fighting unit to be called Kitchener's Army and my brother was the first one to join. Arthur, two years older than me.

I only went [to the shipyard] from Easter to Whitsun and I didn't like it - terrible so I ran away. I had to walk two and a half to three miles to be there at half past six in the morning. I didn't have a bicycle and there were no cars of course.

I used to have two ponies and I could ride as a little boy going to school. Those two ponies were owned by the big house, Wivenhoe Park, which is now Essex University. They were private people and the stud coachman, I worked under him [at the stables]. I used to drive milk and eggs and chickens and things from the farm over to the big house in the morning and at night.

When it come Christmas week of 1914 I went up to Colchester to the Essex Yeomanry recruiting office and knocked on the door.

‘Come in!’, the sergeant major said. ‘Morning. What can I do for you?’ I said: ‘I’d like to join the Essex Yeomanry. That’s where all my friends are.’ He says: ‘Oh, I see. What’s your name. How old are you?’ When I said 17 he said: ‘You sure?’ I said yes. ‘What year were you born?’ I told him.

He said: ‘Go outside that door and think it over.’ I went outside the door and as I did a fellow I didn’t know - I haven’t seen him from that day to this so I don’t know who he was - he come in the back door there and said: ‘Hello. Are you going to join up?’ I said I didn’t know. I had been in once but I had to go away as ordered. He said: ‘I’m going to join the Royal Horse Artillery, come with me.’ I said: ‘Well all my pals are in the Essex Yeomanry. They are waiting but the sergeant major sent me out.’ He said: ‘Yes of course you can’t get in until you’re 18.’ So I said: ‘All right. I’ll try once more and if I can’t get in I’ll come with you.’ I knocked on the door and heard ‘Come in! Morning, who are you?’ I told him. He said: ‘What can I do for you?’ So I told him the same thing again - I’d like to join the Essex Yeomanry. He said: ‘How old are you?’ I said 18 so within ten minutes I had gained a year.

My brother went in. He was in Kitchener’s Army and he didn’t live long. He wasn’t killed. He died of scarlet fever. Kitchener’s Army had an epidemic of fever and he was one of them who died.

After my brother died there came a message to the Essex Yeomanry second line. They said they had had rather a setback and they wanted a sergeant and ten men. Ours was a volunteer regiment and as they asked for volunteers I was one of them. One of the ten soldiers. They sent us to the cavalry barracks at Colchester with the 20th Hussars and we passed out with everything there and then were sent to France in September 1915.

There I stopped up and down in France right through the First World War and everything and I know it inside out. I was in every battle front that you can think of. [I got injured] in the hand. The blood was running and you don’t know whether it was a bullet or shrapnel. It doesn’t matter because when that hits you it’s red hot, you know.

I got to Rouen casualty clearance station and I home to England and up to Newcastle war hospital. I got better there and they sent

me to Eastbourne for two months convalescent. They sent me to Aldershot but I couldn't soldier there. In France it was so easy going - everybody's the same and all friends when you were in the trenches.

Did you lose many friends?

Oh crumbs, yes. The first night I went up the line and two from my troop. The troop consisted of 32 soldiers. There were four troops in a squadron which you would call a battalion, three squadrons in a brigade, three brigades in a division, and there were three divisions of cavalry in France.

Did you lose a lot of horses?

Yes, all up and down the line they did, you see and of course we only knew just where we were. They weren't buried very deep because there were thousands of shell holes. If you could see a better - deeper - shell hole, go in it.

[Everyone] wanted to know about the Somme that wasn't the worst thing I saw. The worst [was] the Metz wood. We were on a working party. We used to move every day, we had to go out with the horses. You stood in readiness, didn't matter where the Germans broke through, whoever was on guard was there, you see. Well you had to go and stop them. They were good fighters, the Germans, but they couldn't stand the lance and the sword. As soon as they saw that lance and sword coming at them they scarpered and back into their trench as quick as they could. Because if they did hang fire they were either killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

The Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, the whole regiment, over 300, come out, all young fellows, and we were in the Metz village mending the trenches and all sorts of things. At four o'clock in the afternoon [they] come into the Metz village and put their packs up. The next morning reveille was at half past six. [For] two days and two nights our artillery done nothing else [but] set on the German lines and communications. The Oxford and Bucks went over at half past six. Their objective was to capture the Metz Wood. By about

ten minutes to nine there was about three or four left. The whole lot were wiped out. After all that bombardment. There were hardly any left.

We buried them. We rolled them into shell holes, the whole lot. There were thousands of shell holes. If there was a big hole we put two in. Just covered a little dirt over them. I've been down since, to Belgium and was shown where it was. All that no man's land, it don't matter where you went down there, I said you would be tramping on dead men.

That was the worst sight I saw. I saw plenty of one, two, three, badly wounded and all that and I escorted quite a lot of ten, 20, 50 German prisoners. The infantry used to follow us up. As for the Scots....if ever the Germans took our front line you wouldn't stop any Scottish regiment. Over the top they'd go immaterial of how many got killed. That didn't worry them. Off they went.

There were two officers of the Essex Yeomanry there, Captain Crossman and Major Hayward who said: 'I can see you're the best rider here. Next Saturday when I go home to Newmarket, Suffolk, I'm going to bring back two of my hunters. I want you to look after them.' So by the time I was [aged] just over 18 in March 1915 I was an officer's groom.

Of course your credentials go with you so wherever I went right through the war, when they saw an officer's groom they were all falling over each to see who could get me. So I was an officer's groom right up to the end of the war.

You married [Flo], your school sweetheart. How many children did you have?

Five. We went on and on. That was all right for four years and then, blow my boots, we had twins. I've got one now. The only one I've got left. I've got 14 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and five great-great- grandchildren.

What about all your wartime medals? You've got the French Croix de Guerre.

The French Ambassador gave it to me up in London.

Did they take you back to France when it was the Normandy landings anniversary?

Yes, I've been twice. There are 14 of us left from the First World War - called the Old Contemptibles. I'm one of them.

How do you account for your long life?

Eat, drink and sleep. Do unto others as you would be done unto. Our padre in the army, every time we went up the line he used to say a little prayer for us cause we lost somebody every night. He said: 'However near you are to death there's somebody nearer. If you can think of that, whatever is wrong with you or if you are depressed or fed up, if you think of somebody, if you have a friend who is very ill - you might have a friend with cancer - if you think of them, that will help you. On May 12 1912 the Titanic went down and our Sunday school teacher went down with it. It always gives me pleasure to think that he was leading the singing 'Nearer my god to thee.' So if I fell down now, which I think of nearly every day, I think 'Nearer my god to thee.'

Will you sing now?

I want to go home, I want to go home
The cannons they roar and they roar and they roar
I just don't want to go up the line any more
Will you take me over the sea?
Those Germans they cannot get me
It's oh my
I don't want to die
I want to go home.
H stands for happiness that you should find there
O stands for old folks in the old armchair
M stands for mother, you'll never find another, no matter
where you roam
E stands for everyone and as everyone knows
HOME spells home.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 802409

Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead KT22 8DP

Telephone: 01372 386348 Email: staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com

Website: 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.

Officers of the Society

President/Museum Manager

Alan Pooley 01372 374093 alan.maryon@btinternet.com

Vice-President

Peter Tarplee 01372 452301 ptarplee@ymail.com

Chairman

John Rowley 01372 723417 ashtead.archive@virginmedia.com

Secretary

Jane Summerfield 01372 811422
derrick.summerfield@btinternet.com

Treasurer

Carl Leyshon 01372 377034 cleyshon@outlook.com

Archaeology Secretary

Nigel Bond 01372 229125 jnigelbond@yahoo.co.uk

Proceedings Editor

William Whitman 01372 375324 williamewhitman@aol.com

Museum Curator

Lorraine Spindler 01737 813963 lorrainespindler@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary, Friends of Leatherhead Museum

Judy Wilson 01372 275 371 rjawilson6roe@aol.com

Programme Secretary

Fred Meynen 01372 372930 fredmeynen@live.co.uk

Librarian (Letherhead Institute)

Anne Fraser 01372 278500 Anne.o.fraser@ntlworld.com

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.

Membership Secretary/Website Editor

Frank Haslam 01372 379341 frank.haslam@gmail.com

Records Secretary/Sales Secretary

Roy Mellick 01372 457839 roy.mellick@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor/Publicity Secretary

Tony Matthews 01372 802443 tony.matthews@blueyonder.co.uk

Committee members

Doug Hollingsworth 01372 801357

doughollingsworth@btinternet.com

David Lokkerbol 01372 375756 david.lokkerbol@gmail.com

Archival Material

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

Ashtead ashtead.archive@virginmedia.com John Rowley

Bookham roy.mellick@btinternet.com Roy Mellick

Leatherhead nigelthompson46@googlemail.com Nigel Thompson

Fetcham alan.maryon@btinternet.com Alan Pooley

Historical Enquiry Service

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



Above: Leatherhead Church choir outing in 1903 on The Countess. The picture shows Rev S N Sedgwick , Curate from 1897 to 1905, at the front of the bow. Canon Frank Utterton (1876-1907) was also there but can you spot another clergyman?

DORKING CONCERTGOERS AT THE DORKING HALLS

Piatti String Quartet Series

Sunday 12 February 2017

Dorking Halls 3.00pm

Haydn, Mozart & Brahms with **Anna Hashimoto** Clarinet

Sunday 5 March 2017

Dorking Halls 3.00pm

Haydn, Britten & Brahms

Saturday 22 April 2017

Dorking Halls 7.30pm

Beethoven & Brahms

**Kammerphilharmonie Europa
(Chamber Philharmonic Europe)**

Saturday 25 March 2017

Dorking Halls 7.30pm

Wolf, Hummel, Mozart, Holst, Borodin & Grieg

Pavel Zuzanski Concertmaster, **Cyrill Gussaroff** Trumpet



Piatti String Quartet



Cyrill Gussaroff

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 or www.dorkinghalls.co.uk



L&DLHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Ordinary £20 Associate £6 Junior £1