



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

Newsletter September 2021



Above: This photo (1885) shows three generations of contrasting women's clothing. See the lecture report on Page 12 on how changing fashions were captured on camera in the early days of photography.

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2021 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS (Reduced for this year only) Ordinary: £10. Friends of Museum: £3.

Your membership subscription supports the Museum and funds this quarterly *Newsletter*. At the 2021 Annual General Meeting in July it was agreed that the subscription for the calendar year 2022, due from 1 January, should return to its pre-pandemic level of £20. A renewal form will be provided with the December *Newsletter*.

**EDITORIAL**

It has been quite a summer after the past extraordinary year. The Museum has finally reopened, cautiously at first after a couple of Covid training sessions but hopefully back to normal from this month with some great new attractions to enjoy. Our lectures too have continued on Zoom in conjunction with Dorking Local History Group and Simon Ritchie's Meetup website. An especially fascinating

one by James Crouch under our own aegis proved a great success in June and this will be reported in our December *Newsletter*.

This edition contains the usual rich mix of lecture reports and features covering the district, as well as another welcome book review from former Executive Committee member Anne Fraser (Page 35), this time with an interview with the author as well. Hoping for more of these in future.

In June, Eloise Appleby, chief executive officer of The Grange, Great Bookham, completed her sponsored walk of the West Highland Way over five days to raise funds for the disabled people's charity. For details and to make further donations go to <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/EloiseAppleby/1>

Also of interest was the death aged 84 of Tonia Bern-Campbell, the third and last wife of one of Leatherhead's best known former residents, the world record-breaking racing driver Donald Campbell. The Campbells lived at what is now Priors Ford on Gimcrack Hill until he was killed in 1967 trying to break the water speed record of 300 mph. Full details of the story are available in the oral history interview with Campbell's daughter Gina, recorded in 1981 and now on the Society website.

Sadly we lost another key figure in the Society itself with the passing of Gwen Hoad, former treasurer of the Museum Friends and a very long-standing activist in the local community too. Read more in the Chairman's Report on Page 4. **TONY MATTHEWS**



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The pandemic has continued apace with variants causing concern even in some vaccinated persons. As the country opens up for economic and social reasons we need to avoid being gung-ho about our activities. Museum openings, though under way, will continue to depend on factors outside our control.

We held our 2020 AGM in July on Zoom and agreed to restore the annual £20 subscription for next year. We also accepted with thanks Tony Matthews' withdrawal from the panel of Trustees to concentrate on *Newsletters* and voted in Simon Ritchie as a Trustee.

Together with Dorking Local History Group we have delivered more talks than usual using Zoom and discussions are ongoing about when we should resume use of the Abraham Dixon Hall. Please send Frank Haslam your views on meeting physically this autumn.

The records service has continued mostly unabated, though severely impacted by the lack of archivists. We have received new archival material for both Leatherhead and Ashted, the latter being papers concerning the now closed Royal British Legion branch. Various projects have been serviced by remote access to the archive.



Sadly I have to mark the passing of Gwen Hoad (left), a much-loved and unassuming lady who was a very active member of the Society for at least 30 years. She lived in Ashted where she was a keen researcher and presenter of talks to various groups using 35mm slides. She was also treasurer of the Friends of the Museum as well as being a committee member and reported in the *Newsletter*.

Gwen is sorely missed too by many other local organisations to which she contributed over many years. A full obituary will appear in the December *Newsletter* for which contributions are welcome.

I end with my usual exhortation to stay safe and hopefully free of the Covid-19 virus.

JOHN ROWLEY

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Up-to-date news on forthcoming events is available via our website at www.leatherheadhistory.org via the *Society* drop-down menu. Throughout the summer the position has continued to be complicated. We want to return to traditional meetings in the Abraham Dixon Hall at the Letherhead Institute on the third Friday of the month but also need a plan B to continue via Zoom as long as the pandemic continues. However, our successful cooperation with Dorking Local History Group is based on the Lockdown Lectures on Mondays. So look out for our email updates with the latest information.

Friday, 17 September, 7.30pm:

Leatherhead Food Research Association - Chips with everything

Bill Whitman was once a consultant with the LFRA. His talk is our contribution to the Mole Valley Heritage Open Week events which have the theme *Edible England*. This may be given at the Abraham Dixon Hall but could be via Zoom instead. Either way, book via talksonline@leatherheadhistory.org

October (date and venue to be confirmed):

Octavia Hill and Robert Hunter - What they did for Surrey

Society member Anne Milton-Worssell has studied their correspondence and was amazed at what they preserved in Surrey even before founding the National Trust early in the 20th century.

November (date and venue to be confirmed):

Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Society

This may combine a social event and short talks on some of the people who have been significant in the development of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society.

December (date and venue to be confirmed):

Christmas Miscellany

Two or three short talks from members that may be combined with our usual seasonal refreshments.

In 2022 (dates and venues to be confirmed):

Dame Sibyl Thorndike (Speaker: Richard Hughes)

Merton Priory (Speaker: John Hawks of the Merton Priory Trust)

Saving Wimbledon Common (Speaker: Anne Milton-Worssell)

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM



Two training days for stewards were held in July with briefings on changes to the Museum since lockdown and guidance through the Covid methodology and Museum risk assessments (see above).

The Museum garden was largely replanted during lockdown and the

stewards saw it in partial sunshine (see below).

Museum manager Peter Humphreys demonstrated the new Museum sailboard for use only during opening hours (above left). In July and August the Museum was open just on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm



but it is hoped that starting on Thursday, 2 September, this will be extended to include Thursday and Friday afternoons from 2 pm to 4 pm.

LECTURE REPORT

'I SHALL NOT BE AWAY LONG'

Military history researcher ANDREW TATHAM (right) gave a truly moving Zoom talk on 19 April based on the letters of Lt Col Charles Bartlett, second in command to Andrew's great grandfather, Brig Gen William Walton, on the Western Front from August 1915 to March 1917.



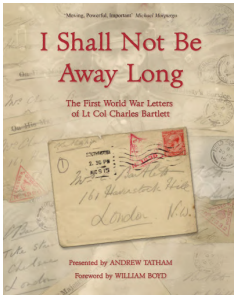
The letters home to Bartlett's wife were largely uncensored and full of incident, described with directness and bluff humour. He mentioned a fascinating spectrum of people, from his actress wife and their friends on the West End stage,

to soldiers noted for their heroism, eccentricity, insubordination or complicated love lives, to men avoiding conscription, spies, royalty and a newspaper magnate.

They all appear in Andrew's second book entitled *I Shall Not Be Away Long* - a quotation from one letter - which followed his first book, *A Group Photograph - Before, Now and In Between*. The Zoom lecture explained how both books came about, beginning in 1994 with a single photo from the Imperial War Museum showing Gen Walton's company, the 8th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, during training on Salisbury Plain in May 1915 before heading for the front in France.

Andrew set about researching the fates and lives of every man in the photo - 46 in all. Of these, over half were either killed or injured in battles. His purpose was to explore what it is like to be human in any period, how our beliefs and hopes compare to reality, and what remains of us after we are gone.

He contacted relatives of all 46 men and researched their family trees going back a century before World War I and through the next 100 years to today. The research material he collected was displayed at



Above: The photo from May 1915 showing officers of the 8th Royal Berkshires during training on Salisbury Plain.

Left: Andrew's second book.

Below left: His great grandfather, Brig Gen William Walton.

Below right: Lt Col Charles Bartlett.

an exhibition accompanying the first book. This was held in Norwich and also at Ypres in Flanders on the centenary in 2015.

He aimed to give voice to a variety of war experiences



while showing how families dealt with their losses and what the survivors did with the rest of their lives.

Of all of those in the 1915 photograph, only Brig Gen Walton was a regular soldier at the outbreak of war. Others included businessmen, students, and lawyers, as well as a vicar, a teacher, an artist, and a

poet and critic. Among them were the sons of an explorer, a tobacconist's traveller, the first Bishop in Persia, a biscuit factory machinist, an egg merchant, a gardener's labourer, and a physics professor. Some had travelled from as far afield as Malaya, Belgium, South Africa, Canada, Ceylon, and Argentina to fight for Britain.

Only 21 survived the war and some had their lives shortened as a result of injuries. Others went on to have full lives with their families and occupations including a doctor in Wimbledon, a forester, and a gold mining engineer in India. Some also served in World War 2.

The battalion was formed in Reading in September 1914. In August 1915, they embarked for France, and went into action for the first time on 25 September 1915 at Loos. As a result of this, and a second attack on 13 October, 15 men from the photograph were killed and eight injured. After rebuilding, they fought on the Somme from July to September 1916 where others were lost. In November 1917 the battalion also fought at Ypres. In all, 46 officers and 889 other ranks died in the war.

The May 1915 photo showed some men who did not go to France with the battalion but were held in reserve and joined later, and others who were posted to other units. By the end of the war, none of the men in the photo were serving in the field. They had either been killed, relinquished their commissions, or been posted to other units.

In his April talk, Andrew focused first on Bartlett's letters and then on several other individuals from the picture. Bartlett was no exemplary hero but his flaws showed he was all the more human as he struggled through leading his battalion at Loos and the Somme and the frights and labours of life on the Western Front. The letters, mentioning around 300 people, show a man, a marriage, and a time of traumatic uncertainty,

Andrew presented the letters as if audience members had opened them themselves. Insights and atmosphere came through pictures and details of the events, objects, people and places Bartlett encountered along the way. He had been a soldier from 1900-06, had left to work in the theatrical business and returned after the start of the war.

Andrew went as far as South Africa to trace Bartlett's family and eventually located a relative who provided no fewer than 341 wartime



Above: Selection of photos and letters from Andrew's research on Charles Bartlett.

letters that Bartlett sent to his wife Peggy. The book title indicated that he may have been trying to protect her from the true horrors he faced. He received several decorations and campaign medals and was among those who survived the war.

Two of those who did not make it, were mentioned in the letters, and



Above left: William George Hobbs.



Above right: William Howe Bissley.

appear on memorials were William Hobbs and William Bissley, killed respectively at Loos and the Somme in September 1915 and August 1916.

Hobbs, a young solicitor who had won two medals, was lost on the battlefield and was never recovered. His parents commissioned a stained

glass window in his memory which was unveiled in 1917 in Richmond Presbyterian Church but has since been lost.

Bissley's story was especially poignant. Now mentioned on more war memorials than virtually anyone else, he had recently married after working to improve his social standing with his bride's family. After a two-day honeymoon and a second brief leave, he had returned to the front and his death as his wife was going into labour.

Andrew would later meet Bissley's daughter and overcome her reluctance to discuss the father she had never known by saying he wanted to honour him as a human being. Her own daughters would later visit him with a letter about their lost grandfather.

The story of Donald Stileman was very different. He was mentioned too



Above: Donald Fenwick Stileman

by Bartlett as injured at Loos but recovered, only to lose his right arm on the Somme.

However unlike the others he survived the war and went on to have a long and very successful life. A graduate of both Oxford and Cambridge, he lived in India, had four children, and dedicated his life to trees, working for the Forestry Commission after returning to Britain and died aged 94 in 1989, working nearly to the end. His gravestone in Hampshire reads: 'Greatly Loved, Man of the Trees.'

The last photo Andrew showed was one of Stileman aged 90 up a ten-foot ladder attending to a tree with his one arm. It was, he said, his favourite picture. The last of the Royal Berks heroes from that photo taken in May 1915.

LECTURE REPORT

CORSETS AND CAMERAS

In May, JANE LEWIS of Surrey History Centre, Woking, gave the second of her two excellent lectures on 19th century fashion. Her earlier one (see *Newsletter* March 2020) covered fashionable folly while this time she used imagery from the 1860s to the 1920s to illustrate how clothing fashions developed for both sexes.

Until the advent of cheap photography in the 1920s, having pictures taken was a special event for which people would wear their best clothes. However these might last for 20 years or more, trimmed with new collars and cuffs, and were often not up to date. Older people were also less fashion conscious than younger ones.

The cover photo of this *Newsletter* shows an older lady seated before three other women, the younger two wearing fashionable clothes and hats. The fourth lady wore clothes from the 1870s while the one seated wore clothing fashionable in the 1850s and 60s.

A second photo depicted a wedding in 1903 (see Page 15). White was uncommon before Victorian times and then was largely reserved for aristocracy. Other women would wear a good costume repeatedly.

A photograph from the late 1860s showed a woman wearing a crinolette, a smaller version of a crinoline. Both were designed to

be worn beneath a petticoat but this woman had none. She was a housemaid who had probably borrowed the outfit. Photographers kept clothing in their studios for subjects to wear.

Men's clothes took much longer to evolve than women's which changed all the time. Dandies of the earlier 19th century gave way to men who simply looked smart and respectable. There were various trends in tying cravats through the century.

There were often visual clues to the status of subjects. Strict rules governed dress worn in mourning, depending on the relationship with the deceased. Some people would have a mourning handkerchief trimmed with black or men might wear a black armband.

Young children of both sexes wore dresses until four or five years old, but boys tended to have less frilly clothes while girls were shown holding a doll or bunch of flowers. Boys might have books. In the 1920s, fashion changed with the advent of romper suits.

There were many women's fashion magazines. Some of Jane's photos came from the Surrey History Centre, others from a collector of historical photographs, Roger Vaughan. Others still came from personal collections, Wikipedia and so on. Images were available for non-commercial and educational purposes but with permission.

The 1860s were the age of crinoline. Earlier, women bulked out their skirts with stiff petticoats which were heavy, uncomfortable and limited the skirt's fullness by sheer weight. The crinoline was egalitarian and could be widely afforded, so many women were photographed wearing one over full sleeves. Hair was tied back into a smooth bun at the base of the neck and covering ears. Occasionally, the sides were looped and tucked into the back. The style then changed. Instead of the bell shape the fullness switched to the back, often unclear in face-on photos.

Children were not exempt from fashion regimes. A seven-year-old girl was shown dressed as a tiny adult while her younger brother was in skirts. An older boy had progressed to long trousers. Although they all had to sit immobile for the photo, the older boy had a dog on his lap and all three children were trying not to giggle.

After the crinoline, fullness was still considered necessary to make the waist look smaller so it was replaced by the bustle which had two incarnations, the first in the later 1860s and 70s.

Men's fashions changed little from the 1840s to the 60s. They still wore high outstanding turnover collars but neckties grew wider, often tucked into a bow or in a loose knot fastened with a pin. Heavily padded and fitted frock-coats were by now usually single breasted, one for business occasions over waistcoats which were generally cut straight across the front with lapels.

The slightly cut away morning-coat was worn on formal occasions while evening dress was a dark tail and trousers, forerunner of white tie and tails. Full length trousers were worn of contrasting fabric. Matching three-piece suits were not yet worn but when introduced were considered avant garde. Overcoats often had wide lapels and deep cuffs, and featured contrasting velvet colours. Top hats became very popular, including very tall stovepipe hats but many subjects actually borrowed them from the photographer as a status symbol of gentility.

In the 1870s the bustle became less severe for women and a lot more hair was shown. A photo showed rolls of luxurious hair with very large plaits coiled about the head. The skirt swept towards the back, forming a cascade of fabric, often with a sort of apron effect in the front, with ruffles, pleats and fringes wherever possible. Many women wore wigs, giving them a slightly more upright poise. Many photos depicted women leaning on something, maybe to relieve the weight of hair on their heads.

At the start of the 1880s skirts became very narrow. The fullness was shown at the ankles and rose just above the waist. The emphasis shifted towards the highest part of the back of the skirt with a slightly fuller bosom and a far more rigid corset, just before the advent of S-shaped curves. Sleeves were so tight that women could hardly move their arms.

Then bustles returned briefly in the late 1880s. They were now more restrained but the desire was to keep the front flat with more at the back. Contraptions worn underneath must have made it hard to sit down. But this lasted only from c1886-89.

Bonnets resembled hats except for the ribbons tied under the chin. They had a flowerpot design with elaborate feathers and trimmings. A photo showed women playing tennis in such hats and also wearing very tight corsets. One also had a very high collar. Such collars



*Top: Wedding in 1903.
Above: Children's fashions were also strictly followed.
Left: Formal photography and best clothing for church.*

came in during the 1880s, influenced by Alexandra, Princess of Wales, who wore them to disguise a scar on her neck.

Men's bowler and soft felt hats from America became popular and quite cheap to produce. Also flat straw-boaters worn for yachting and more nautical pastimes. As well as lounge suits in the 1880s, the Norfolk jacket became popular for shooting and rugged outdoor pursuits. It was usually made of sturdy tweed and often featured box pleats over the chest and the back. Full length trousers were worn for nearly all occasions but occasionally breeches with a Norfolk jacket or even plus fours. Being photographed in sporting clothing suggested a class that could afford to participate in such activities.

In the 1890s, women's skirts became plainer with more decoration on the upper part of the bodices, particularly the sleeves. Dresses consisted of a very tight bodice with a skirt gathered at the waist and falling naturally over the hips and the undergarments. Huge leg of mutton sleeves began to re-appear, growing in size each year until around 1896.

At this period women began taking up occupations as teachers and clerks. Long skirts all had dust ruffles underneath and when they got dirty you unpicked the bottom and stitched on another layer. The basic dress could be ten or 15 years old.

Men's blazers were often navy blue or brightly coloured of striped flannel. They had patch pockets and brass buttons and were worn for sports, sailing and other casual activities. Collared shirts made an appearance with discreet pinks and blues. With sporting footwear you often saw men wearing gaiters. Wing collars became taller through the decade, often up to three inches high. While the usual necktie was a four-in-hand or Ascot tie, the 1890s also saw the return of the bow-tie.

Women often had to battle prejudice about what they were wearing. The Rational Dress Movement went back to the 1880s where women left off their corsets and wore practical clothes without all the frills but there were very few photographs of these. A minority, they were considered slightly cranky and not respectable.

She showed a photo of a brother and sister who went to work as Christian missionaries in China. The woman was wearing a man's upper outfit with a skirt, indicating she was a working woman.

Walking suits for women included ankle-length skirts with matching jackets. This was into the Edwardian period of the 1900s, a time of great excess and sumptuous clothes, very expensive and often worn with huge hats trimmed with bird feathers.

Hair was often the crowning glory with great rolls and puffs. It was also the age of the mature woman with a low bust and curvy hips. The S-Bendun corset emphasised the 'pouter pigeon' look. Lots of lace was used and often transferred from one dress to another. It was also mass produced. Good lace was still very expensive but chemical lace was produced, so many more women could afford to trim their clothing with lace. Artificial flowers were worn, sometimes in hair too. Skirts were very long and trailed across the floor.

Edwardian excess began to change around 1908 when slightly thicker waist, flatter bust and narrower hips could be seen but women still wore corsets. By the First World War, photos showed nurses and volunteers in very different types of clothing. More women went to work, to university, and demanded the vote. They were catching trains and buses on their own and their clothing became more practical. Women also began buying off-the-peg clothing which also became far more varied.

Men's clothing had changed little but trousers began to have turn-ups. Top hats remained a requirement for the upper class and for formal wear but there were far more bowlers, boaters, deer stakers and other hats. Flat straw boaters emerged for summer wear by the seaside or for boating. Women wore them too. Seaside outings became cheaper and there was more leisure time with changing factory hours. Seaside photography also emerged on a big scale.

By 1914, turndown collars began to grow in popularity for men, particularly in the younger generation. Photographs also became less formal. She showed one of her great uncles Harold and Percy with their hands in pockets. Still suited but a lot more relaxed.

As late as the 1930s, winged collars were still worn by men in the City with frock coats for those in the stock exchange and the banks. High upstanding shirt collars were worn with the wings tipped over. The Ascot tie would be fastened with a jewel pin or tie pin. Ties knotted in a bow were very conservative and a white bow-tie might indicate a photograph from as far back as the 1880s.

FEATURE

THE PRIORY, LEATHERHEAD

by BEN GALE

The Priory stands on Gimcrack Hill opposite St Mary and St Nicholas Church and overlooking the River Mole. The present building has stood for nearly 200 years but the site was lived on long before that.

The Priory itself has seen a wide range of occupants, from art collector and stockbroker to government organisation and charity. As it exists today, the plot is home to several buildings and The Priory has been split into a number of flats. The fate of this estate offers a unique insight into the history of Leatherhead and some of the characters involved in its development.

Edward Hudson, a local yeoman, is the first documented owner of a farmhouse on the land. He lived there until his death in 1692 after which there was a dispute about the ownership of the property and his son and widow went to court four years later.

The house remained in the Hudson family until 1750, when it was purchased by Henry Gore, owner of The Mansion nearby. Gore died in 1777 and along with The Mansion, the farmhouse went to his daughter Catherine and her husband William Wade. After Wade's death in 1809, the estate went to his children and the eldest daughter, Emilia, and her husband, Philip Champion De Crespigny, lived at The Mansion. The farmhouse was later sold to William Brydon of London in 1818, who remained there until 1823.

That was a transformative year as it saw the farmhouse converted into the large building that became known as The Priory. It was purchased by a wealthy art collector, William Cotton III, and his new wife Mary. Cotton had inherited his wealth from his father, who died in 1816, and his marriage meant his London home was no longer suitable for his new position and family.

He hired the architect Edward Creasy to make major alterations to the house, including adding a new library which features in a portrait of him and his wife in the L&DLHS collection. Cotton was now able to host large parties and house his increased staff. The new house required a new name to better reflect its status in the community.



Above: Overlooking the River Mole, The Priory has a prime location in Leatherhead - appropriately to house the L&DLHS records and collections.

‘The Priory’ was picked after a supposed discovery that the house stood on the grounds of the old Priory of Ripa Mola. The story was filled with inaccuracies and was most likely a case of Cotton seeking status and history for his new house. The Cottons remained as occupants but spent most of their time attending social events around the country.

William Cotton had also inherited the role of family patriarch. He was expected to look after his two unmarried sisters who lived in an adjacent cottage built for them. They both moved out eventually after marrying and the now vacant Priory Cottage was taken over by William Cotton’s gardener in 1827. In 1839, William and Mary moved down to Devon to be closer to friends and rented out The Priory as a source of income to fund their lifestyle.

The Priory was subsequently occupied by various people although the Cottons' furniture remained there. Eventually William endowed the house to the Ivybridge church in 1852 and it was uninhabited until being purchased by Arthur Henry Tritton in the 1880s.

His arrival marked the last significant change to the size of the estate as he also purchased the neighbouring properties of Wood and Dove Villa in 1912, bringing the landholding to its current extent. Dove Villa was knocked down and three new buildings erected in its place. Tritton lived in The Priory with his wife, five children and six servants while the other buildings on the estate were sub-let.

In 1918, The Priory was owned by William Herbert Dunnett, director of Carters Tested Seeds Limited. It was later advertised for sale on 30 April 1935 as follows: 'The house, perfectly appointed and equipped throughout, contains hall, four reception rooms, billiards room, 14 bedrooms, three bathrooms, good ground floor offices, garages, stabling, cottages etc and seven acres of land.'

In 1936 The Priory was sold to Lawrence Purcell Weaver, who changed its name to Lawrence Weaver House in memory of his father. Purcell Weaver wanted to turn the estate into an educational and social settlement providing accommodation for young people from London at weekends while being used for study groups and evening classes during the week. The Lawrence Weaver Memorial Library would be open to the public. Unfortunately, the business failed and closed down in 1939 because of financial difficulties.

During the Second World War, The Priory was requisitioned by the Aeronautical Inspection Department (AID) which trained personnel in inspection of plants producing fighter and bomber aircraft for the war effort, ensuring the correct quality and safety standards as well as overseeing maintenance. Leatherhead provided an ideal location that was close to both London and the frontline airfields but away from the worst of the enemy bombing.

To protect this vital institution, Leatherhead was given its own Home Guard unit whose job was to defend the AID from German attack and sabotage. Fortunately, although the district suffered its share of bombings the AID site itself escaped attack.

After the war, The Priory was purchased by the Young Women's Christian Association and became a hostel for worthy women. It was

officially opened by Lady Dunbar Naismith in a service led by the local vicar. It accommodated 34 women and was also a perfect location for the YWCA's London division to hold conferences.

It continued to operate until 1956, when it was sold to Bull, May & Company which made several unsuccessful planning applications to redevelop the site over the next few decades. During this period The Priory was used as an office building with individual rooms rented out for commercial use. Michael May used one of the rooms to base his housing company, Stonecot Contractors Ltd.

In the 1990s the renting of individual rooms was no longer deemed tenable so the decision was taken to convert the building into residential accommodation. The Priory became eight separate apartments. The residents eventually came together to purchase the freehold in 1995, which remains the case today.

In due course the L&DLHS was in need of space to house its records and collections because of the limited size of the Museum at Hampton Cottage. A decision was taken to rent The Priory's cellar and so it continues today.



Above: The Cottons enjoy the splendour of their newly created library at The Priory in the early 19th century.

FEATURE

MEMORIES OF BOOKHAM IN DAYS GONE BY

SUE RAINER-COPLAND tells of her historical family links with the community of Great Bookham.

My grandparents were William and Evangeline Jones. He had been a soldier from Wales. They married 24 September 1918 when she was 40 and he was 36 and came to Bookham in 1924. He built their own house, then called Mostyn at 26 Crabtree Lane, and several others in the neighbouring Dawnay Road and Hawks Hill.

Completed in 1925, 26 Crabtree Lane remains today exactly as built but the drive has been moved from the right to the left and the back garden is reduced. When the Jones family lived there, the house had tennis courts and an orchard and at the bottom of the garden was a very large timber workshop with open cart sheds. A single drive gave access to Dawnay Road, between numbers 12 and 14, both of which were owned by members of the family.

Evangeline was the daughter of Joseph Richmond who owned a well known engineering business, New Sun Iron Works in Bow, East London, and was one of the nine children of John Richmond.

William Jones was Evangeline's second husband. Her first had been William Martin with whom she had had four children: Gladys, born 1900; Bill, 1901; Reginald, 1908; and Kitty, 1915. After marrying William Jones she had two more children, Allan Richmond in 1921 and Phyllis Evelyn, both of whom went to the village school along with Kitty. Allan and his wife Pearl would later become parents to myself and my sister Elaine.

My grandmother, Evangeline, became active in the local community. A member of the Congregational church, she belonged to the Great Bookham, Little Bookham, Fetcham & Effingham Garden Society as well as the Leatherhead Townswomen Guild. She joined the Bookham over-60s Club soon after its formation.

Her daughter Phyllis, my aunt, married Geoffrey Kleboe, eldest son of Maud Kleboe who lived in The Croft, Church Road, Bookham, and had nine children. The Croft hosted whist drives for the village. When Maud died in 1948 Geoffrey inherited the property. In the



*Far left:
Evangeline Jones
with her youngest son
Allan, Sue's father.*

*Left: Joseph
Richmond,
Sue's great-
grandfather who ran
a successful
engineering business
in East London.*



*Below left:
The former Mostyn
in Crabtree Lane,
Bookham.*

1940s Phyllis and Geoffrey moved from 14 Dawnay Road to 5 New Parade, Beckley, in Leatherhead Road and ran it as a greengrocers. Geoffrey also carried on working in the family advertising business in London. They had three children, Andrew, Sarah and Judy.

In 1951 they sold the greengrocery business to Kitty and her husband John Petherbridge, who expanded the shop and its contents. In the 1950s and 60s the row of shops east of Eastwick Road already included today's off-licensers and Hylands Garage on the corner, then owned by Bob Fryer who lived at No 1 Gilmais. I went to school with his daughter Carol. (Hylands Garage was formerly known as Gau & Lawes and dated from the 1920s. So too did the Beckley Garage, originally known as Brookes Garage.)

At the time the well known local councillor and allotments chief Turville Kille lived at Downs View, one of the two residential houses in the same row. I saw a lot of him as a child because of his pigs and he provided me with pet rabbits. *(He was there from 1925-1994.)*

There too were an ironmongers (Blackmore's) and the village store/post office (Bungalow Stores). At the time the owners of the latter were the Hewletts whose son founded the rock band

John's Children. This played at Leatherhead's Chuck Wagon Club (later the Bluesette) and was later joined by Marc Bolan before he achieved national fame with T Rex in the 1970s.

A little further along the row at Beckley Parade was a chemist's owned by Mr and Mrs Gray Wilson. This became an antique shop after they moved to Folkestone. The next shop was a newsagent, and the last building was Beckley Garage.

In the early 1960s Aunt Kitty and Uncle John bought a shop without living accommodation in Bookham High Street and relocated their business, Petherbridges, there. At the same time they bought one of the new houses in Swans Meadow, Bookham. They had no children. Their shop was new and faced the International Stores and the estate agency Norman and Huggins. Next to Petherbridges was Cameron's sweet and toy shop, owned by a couple who moved to Bookham from Worthing after winning the football pools. They lived in Allen Road. Over the top of this shop was a hairdresser.

Meanwhile in Church Road, my Aunt Phyllis and Uncle Geoffrey now owned the dress shop called Francis of Bookham which was almost adjacent to The Croft. Immediately next door was another hairdresser. The Chinese massage business is now next door.

In the 1950s my father Allan, an electrical engineer, went to work in Africa on Kano airport. In 1958 we returned to England and lived at 12 Dawnay Road at the bottom of Mostyn's garden. I was one of the first pupils in 1958 at Eastwick Primary School when it was still a hut as the new school was being built. My sister Elaine went to Howard of Effingham school. She later moved to East Sussex.

I worked in Leatherhead in my teens and used to help out at a restaurant in Mickleham called La Chandelle, now Frascati. When my father remarried I moved from Great Bookham to Bell Lane in Fetcham and then on respectively to Fulham, Wimbledon, Twickenham and eventually to Woodchurch, near Tenterden in Kent. I had been christened in St Nicolas Church, Bookham, and it was there that I was married in the 1970s. My grandparents William and Evangeline are also buried there. My son Alexander later got an engineering doctorate from the University of Surrey, continuing the family engineering tradition dating back to Joseph Richmond.



Above: From 'Bookham in Edwardian Times' by Peter Tilley.

FEATURE

ASHTEAD'S HISTORICAL BUS SERVICES

Ashtead archivist and L&DLHS chairman John Rowley has been responding to enquiries from researcher Peter Osborn of the London Historical Research Group (peter@burnsfarm.co.uk) about the history of local bus services, specifically the 408 Guildford to Croydon route.

Although Mary Rice-Oxley's book on Leatherhead's Swan Hotel dates the first bus service to Kingston to 1911, the earliest Peter could find was London General's Sunday route 105A to Kingston and Ealing which began 24 May 1914. The route later became the 65, then 71 and eventually today's 465.

The Swan yard was used to garage two buses for the East Surrey Traction Co, route S6B (later S8 then 408), which began operating 16 November 1921. Mary notes that by 1923, six buses could be parked at the Swan. As the brewery was sold on 2 November 1921 and closed at the end of the year, Peter asked if the parking of buses provided an alternative use of the land. The Swan Hotel itself was still there until 1936.

John referred Peter to the *Proceedings* and the L&DLHS members'



Above left: A restored 408 bus outside the Running Horse pub in 2013 for a Leatherhead garage reunion.

Above right: A bus turns at the New Bull Hotel in Leatherhead, apparently in the 1930s.

online document archive whose Ashted section includes a 16-page report covering bus services in Ashted. This was published by the London Historical Research Group itself for the L&DLHS and covered the years 1914-1992.

Peter said the LHRG was about to reprint its publication on Leatherhead. John mentioned *A History of Leatherhead* (1995) which includes a historical photo of a bus turning round at the New Bull Hotel. The late Alan Gillies, who commissioned the LHRG report, had been responsible for related chapters in the book.

Peter confirmed the bus in the photo was an RT, one of the first batch delivered and distinguished by the roof route number box, the cream upper-deck window surrounds and the restricted destination display. The buses were delivered for route 418 in August and September 1948 and retained this livery until autumn 1952.

FEATURE

UPDATE ON THE GRANGE, BOOKHAM

The last *Newsletter* (June 2021) included a report of Vivien White's March lecture on the history of The Grange, the Bookham house occupied for nearly a century by a charity for disabled people.

Although the property is recorded as far back as the 16th century, the present building was extended by developer Arthur Bird in the 1890s. Vivien made contact with a descendant of Bird who provided photographs of the house for use in her new book on the property.

Vivien's research on The Grange has uncovered facts that contradict earlier information published by the Society, including David Hartley's *Newsletter* articles in February, May and November 2013. The main difference concerns owner Thomas Seawell whose family lived not at The Grange as previously thought but at Pens Hill (later Preston House), Little Bookham. Today this is the site of the Gracewell nursing home.

The Grange was actually used as farm cottages until the 1850s and was only then developed into a gentleman's residence. The misunderstanding appears to have arisen from earlier research using historical records of Great Bookham.

It was assumed that because the Seawells owned The Grange they must have lived there themselves. In fact, the Land Tax Records and the Pollen family papers for Little Bookham prove that the Seawells both leased and lived at Pens Hill. It follows that John Hassell's engraving of Pens Hill, Little Bookham, actually shows Preston House, not The Grange. The only Seawell family member to live at The Grange was Thomas's great grandson who sold it to Arthur Bird.

Vivien's research also shows The Grange was not moved from Little Bookham to Great Bookham in Arthur Bird's time as Stephen Fortescue suggested in his history of the Bookhams. In fact it has been in Great Bookham since written records began as shown on Thomas Clay's map, the Tithe Map and the Great Bookham manor court records.

Vivien's book, with a working title of *The Grange, Great Bookham - The History of an Uncommon House*, should be published by the Society later this year with proceeds going to The Grange.

FEATURE

WHY LORD HOWARD IS NOT BURIED IN EFFINGHAM

by VIVIEN WHITE



*Above: Lord William Howard,
1st Baron Howard of
Effingham (1510-1573)*

People often assume that Lord Howard of Effingham both lived and is buried there. By Lord Howard they usually mean Lord Charles Howard of Effingham, remembered as Lord High Admiral of England at the time of the Spanish Armada.

In fact, Charles was the second Lord Howard of Effingham. It was his father, Lord William Howard, who was first granted the title. Charles inherited it after William's death. Lord William had been Lord High Admiral to Queen Mary I and Charles was given the same position by her sister, Queen Elizabeth I.

But neither of them was actually buried in Effingham's St Lawrence parish church. Nor were any members of their family. Yet no fewer than 39 family members are believed to have been buried at St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham, although this includes neither of the first two barons.

That was because Effingham was never the actual seat of the Howard family. They must have visited it and stayed overnight in their manor house but they never lived there. So why was Effingham used for Lord William's title?

He was the fourth son of Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk, where the family seat and main lands were. However, they also had lands in Surrey and Lord William spent part of his childhood at Reigate Castle. When he came of age his father gave him some lands only for the term of his life and one of these was the Little Bookham manor and its estate. Lord William never lived there but let it out for £21 a year. King Edward VI later gave him the reversion so that he could pass it on to his heirs.

Lord William served Edward's father, Henry VIII, as a courtier, diplomat and soldier and grew to be trusted by the King despite one term of imprisonment. The Dissolution of the Monasteries between 1536 and 1541 gave Henry a huge supply of land to add to his own wealth but also to placate his noble subjects over his religious policies.

Lord William, a junior courtier at the time, was given the modest grant of Reigate Priory and its lands close to his childhood home. He made it his family seat, becoming a Surrey-based nobleman and founding a cadet branch of the Howard family.

He served all the successive Tudor monarchs despite their changes of religious policy - no mean feat. He died serving Elizabeth I having been Lord High Admiral briefly to Mary I and then Lord Chamberlain and Lord Privy Seal to Elizabeth.

Edward VI had awarded him the manors of Effingham and Great Bookham and their associated lands and half of the manor of Reigate. But it was Mary who made him Baron of Effingham after he helped put down the Wyatt Rebellion. The barony of Reigate had been confiscated from his half-brother, the Duke of Norfolk, and it was probably thought politic to choose another possession for his title.

Lord William had manors in Effingham, Little Bookham and Great Bookham. Together they constituted the half-hundred of Effingham, an old administrative unit, which was why awarding him the barony of Effingham was probably thought fitting.

Both he and his more famous son Charles, 1st Earl of Effingham, were buried in a family vault he had had built in the Church of Mary Magdalene at Reigate. At least 12 other family members were also buried there. The 39 others at Great Bookham were buried there because the family seat later moved to Eastwick Park.

To learn more about the Howard family story, a fuller version of this article is on the EFFRA website under the About Effingham/Effingham History tab at <https://effinghamresidents.org.uk/howards-of-effingham>. This is based on research for a piece in *Surrey History*, the Surrey Archaeological Society publication, entitled *Lord William, First Baron Howard of Effingham and His Surrey Lands*.

Vivien will give a talk on the Howard family for the Friends of Effingham & Little Bookham Churches, provisionally on 3 December. Date and venue to be confirmed on the Society's website.

FEATURE

SOME FACTS ABOUT WINDFIELD, LEATHERHEAD

Windfield House (shown opposite in 1946) was one of two large properties which once stood along the Epsom Road beyond the centre of Leatherhead. The other was Linden House across the road and today's local streets are named after them both.

The owner of Windfield House in the early 20th century was Mr E R Still who served as Chairman of Leatherhead Urban District Council from 1918 to 1930. His wife was the daughter of Charles Churchill, a philanthropist who had arranged the removal of St John's School from Hamilton Terrace in Marylebone, London, to Leatherhead. The Stills were honorary presidents of the local operatic society.

Among their other services to the local community, the Stills measured the level of rainfall on their property from around 1909. Many years later in 1936 after a freak downpour that flooded the town, Mrs Still, then widowed, and her head gardener, Mr E. J. Curtis, told a local newspaper reporter that 2.69 inches of rain had fallen in less than an hour, the heaviest fall on record.

Mr Still had died in 1931 and presumably his wife also by 1943 when St John's School purchased Windfield for £11,000 from the Still family. The school was planning to use the house for a preparatory school but this never materialised. Instead it was leased to the nearby Leatherhead Cottage Hospital as accommodation for nurses.

Decades later at the L&DLHS annual meeting of 1978, the Society's then President, J.G.W. Lewarne, told members there had been no fewer than four authenticated sightings of ghosts at Windfield House and a nurse at the hospital had reported strange happenings. Mr Lewarne admitted he had not personally had the excitement of seeing one but would have liked to as 'a sure indication of a life hereafter'.

Whether this had a bearing on the hospital's short tenure at Windfield remains unclear but the school next leased the house to a vacuum cleaner manufacturer. An ambitious proposal to place all the day boys in the building was rejected on the grounds of expense. Eventually part of the estate was compulsorily purchased by Leatherhead Council for the building of old people's bungalows which reduced its attraction as a school facility.



By 1953 houses were being built on plots of land in St John's Road with gardens backing on to several acres of orchard. At one point in the mid to late 1950s, the singer Alma Cogan, who lived in the Mount, Fetcham, and was a vice-president of Leatherhead Football Club as well as a national household name, opened the 1st Leatherhead Scout Annual Fete in the grounds of Windfield. Among the guard of honour with other senior scouts were the later L&DLHS stalwarts Goff Powell and Brian Hennegan.

Then too, youngsters from Poplar Road School would squeeze through gaps in the fence to steal apples from the orchard. In 1961 the property was finally sold to New Ideal Homes Ltd for £150,000. Planning permission was granted for demolition of the building to make way for a new housing estate. Half the land of all the gardens in St John's Road backing on to Windfield was bought up for some £1500 per household and the properties of Sherborne Walk created.

Before the demolition, wayward youngsters continued to sneak into an open side entrance of the house and climb into the loft. On one occasion they lit a fire and the wooden loft filled with smoke. They tried to extinguish the embers but by late evening part of the building was ablaze. It took six fire engines to put the fire out. Police questioned some of the youngsters but being under age they were not charged. The building was about to be demolished anyway.

*** We are grateful to former local resident CHRISTOPHER OLNEY for part of this information as well as the *Leatherhead Advertiser* and *The History of St John's School, Leatherhead* by Richard Hughes (Gresham Books, 2001).**

FEATURE

POOR MURDERED WOMAN -THE FACTS

Folk singer Shirley Collins formally opened a display at the Museum in 2013 about a traditional song entitled *The Poor Murdered Woman*. ALUN ROBERTS (right) wrote the article below for the website of *Folk Radio UK* which broadcast a programme about the song and its connections with Leatherhead.



The circumstances of the discovery of the body were very much as described in the song. The inn the body was taken to was the nearby Royal Oak, a coaching inn. (*This was controversially demolished only recently*).

The landlord at the time was indeed John Simms, who later became a brick-maker. There was also a farm attached, where the writer of the song, James Fairs, probably worked.

He was listed as an agricultural labourer in the 1841 census, later also becoming a brick-maker in the adjacent Woodbridge brick-works, which was in existence well into the 20th century. There was a huge demand for bricks, tiles and flower pots at the time, there being no local building stone other than flint. There were two other brickfields.

The clay pits can still be seen in Teazle Wood, an area of ancient woodland recently saved from development and still common land. Leatherhead Common was a large area to the north of the town. The actual Common Field, used for agriculture, was to the south of the town. Leatherhead Common, which gave its name to the whole of the northern part of the town, was poor quality land unsuitable for farming.

George Barnard Hankey of Fetcham Park, who came from a wealthy banking family but preferred to live a life of leisure, was Lord of the Manor of Fetcham and Master of the Surrey Union Hunt.

The dogs mentioned in the song were kept on his land in what is now called Kennel Lane. The other gentleman named in press reports, H. Coombe, was from the brewing family of that name and lived in Cobham. His firm was later taken over by Watneys and became known as Watney, Coombe and Reid.

The doctor who was summoned, Abel Evans, had his surgery in Church Street and was the oldest practitioner in town. He had died by the time of the 1841 census.

A rumour quickly spread that the body was that of the wife of a travelling tinker. The locals must have remembered them camping on the common the previous summer and they would no doubt have visited the local pubs. The police, only formed five years before in 1829, issued handbills with a description of the suspect.

As a result, a young girl from Tunbridge Wells came forward and said she remembered passing the night with some travellers in a barn in Dorking, one of whom, Peter Bullock, alias Williams, confessed while drunk to have killed his sweetheart Nancy with a hammer after a night drinking in Leatherhead. This was probably in The Plough rather than the Royal Oak, it being the pub favoured by working men.

However, the police were under great pressure to find a culprit. There had been a number of well publicised murders and highway robberies in the area around that time and it is on record that innocent men were being arrested and charged for the crimes, only to be found not guilty for lack of evidence.

There is a record of Bullock being arrested and remanded in custody at Union Hall Magistrates Court after a preliminary hearing but I have been unable to trace any record of his trial or conviction. He denied being anywhere near Leatherhead at the time and said he already had a wife (albeit living with another man) and was not in the habit of travelling with any other woman.

The only evidence against him would have been the testimony of the girl alone. The case may never have come to court, although I will keep looking. There is no record of his having been hanged or transported.

It raised my suspicions when I read that the police claimed that his statement on being arrested was: 'I suppose you are taking me



Above: This photograph of bell ringers at Leatherhead parish church shows the blacksmith Lisney in the middle of the bottom row. He recalled details of the case of the poor murdered woman from many years earlier.

for that murder and will hang me.’ Known in the criminal fraternity as ‘verballing’, this has been a technique used by police since time immemorial when they have no other evidence. However, at that time the reputation of the police for honesty was untarnished and it would have been fatal for the accused to say they were lying. Bullock merely said he had no recollection of saying those words.

The identification of the woman as his lover Nancy rests only on the hearsay evidence of the girl. Bullock may have been arrested for merely appearing to be the sort of person who might very well have committed the crime. Miscarriages of justice were not easily rectified in those days, the accused usually having been hanged.

The papering of the county with handbills - and indeed the fact that a song was written about the murder - would have created just the sort of atmosphere in which innocent people were arrested and

charged on the basis of little or no evidence.

James Fairs' son was also a labourer but his grandson, George William, became quite wealthy. His greengrocery shop was opened in 1899 in the oldest building in the town and remained in existence, run by his descendants, until the 1970s. Fairs Road was named after James when the Leatherhead Urban District Council was formed at the end of the 19th century. He was then still well remembered.

James's cottage can be seen on maps of the time, adjacent to the workhouse which closed in 1838. It was very close to the scene of the crime and he would have known all the details very well. I imagine it was the talk of the town for many months.

Leatherhead, like all villages, was noted for gossip. Lisney, who verified the facts of the song when it was recorded in Milford in 1908, was the local blacksmith and a bell ringer in the ringing chamber of the parish church. As an old man he clearly remembered the facts of the case.

BOOK REVIEW

KING OAK (The Common Series)

By CATHERINE ARTHUR

June 2021 Self-published ISBN: 9783033083516

ANNE FRASER writes: Imagine. Ashtead Common, the year 1780. Watch. Listen. The inhabitants of the hamlet of Woodfield are going about their business.

Step back in time, when lives were harsh, miserable, poor, but loyalties were strong. The cottages of the woods were cold and damp. Take away the railway, the road and replace them with dirt tracks, rutted and slow; walk them in the dead of night.

Go back and light a candle in the church of St Giles or call in at the pub, the Leg of Mutton and Cauliflower, ever present to give solace of a different kind. Listen at the door of The Running Horse, Leatherhead; a meeting place of skulduggery away from prying eyes. The King Oak is standing proud, a source of superstition and magical powers.

Life is hard; Molly must make money to feed her son and look after her grandmother in the old broken-down cottage they share.

Her husband, George, is keeping bad company at the Leg of Mutton and won't be long, he says. His brother Jesse, respectable and trustworthy, seems suddenly to be a better bet. Molly is worn down by the drudgery, and Madam Geneva is her comforter and friend. Shockingly to modern sensibilities, Molly is also heavy with child.

I like Molly Hogtrough. She is vulnerable, loyal and trusting, and does her best. Sometimes in her struggle she makes poor decisions but is there no-one she can trust? Author Catherine Arthur draws us in with a 'tangled tale of love, betrayal and broken promises'.

I loved the well-rounded, sometimes comical characters, none of them perfect but all very human; in many ways not so far from the troubles of today. The smells and sounds of cottage and farm successfully evoke the realities of life then, despite the pretty roses at the door. The story is full of intrigue and plot twists as George keeps one step ahead of the noose. Like Molly, we aren't always quite sure what to believe.

This is not an academic book with lists of references and facts, but it is well researched and full of history. Sometimes the expressions feel a little American, but it seems such exclamations were well used even then! It is great fun if you know Ashted well, but it is also a romping tale of ordinary people's lives and loves with an unexpected ending. I didn't see THAT coming!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH THE AUTHOR

Q: What appealed to you about Ashted as the setting for your story?

A: I was born in Epsom Hospital and lived near the pond in Ashted for the first five years of my life. While I was doing some family research, I discovered that loads of my direct ancestors lived in Woodfield. I was quite surprised, as I had no idea that the view from our living room in Barnet Wood Lane, across the Oxmoor pond and over towards Ashted Common was of an area where so many of my ancestors lived, worked and played. As I uncovered their stories, I realised the Woodfield community was incredibly close - their names appear in the St Giles registry books for successive generations—until the railway came in 1859 and most of them got on the train and left. Some only went as far as Croydon!

But after that, the old familiar names in the church records disappeared. The industrial revolution had a profound effect on so many people, and the idea for The Common series was planted – to chart the change to this community over the course of 80 years or so. My research threw light on many events for which I only have a glimmer of the details and no idea of the background or what happened in the end. My plan is to build those stories into the series and complete them with my own fictional endings.

Having said that, King Oak bears no relation to any of the stories I uncovered. It just developed into something else entirely! But I will definitely bring in some ‘real’ stories later. I used Woodfield as the setting because I feel such a strong connection to it, but also because that is where the real George and Mary Hogtrough lived - in 1785 they were renting a cottage from Mr Stone.

Q: What fascinates you most about life in the 18th century?

A: Actually, everything and anything about the past fascinates me. I hadn’t really thought much about the 18th century in particular until I started research for King Oak. Now I have spent so much time there, I think what intrigues me is the way that normal people lived. There are so many TV dramas and books about the nobility or upper classes who lived at that time, but we don’t often see the other side, the day-to-day struggles which common people must have gone through just to put food on the table, to keep themselves clean.

Q: Which of your characters would you most like to meet for a drink in the Leg and why?

A: It has to be Molly. I’m planning to write a blog about cooking in the 18th century so she might be able to help. What herbs did she collect from The Common to flavour the stews her husband George likes so much? Did she ever cook puddings? I’ve just bought a piece of muslin and my first adventure will be a plain boiled pudding with wine sauce. She might have used gin though ... not sure that would have been as nice! I think I would learn a lot from her, if she stayed sober...

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Archival Material

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

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* Emails will be dealt with where posts are currently vacant.

Historical Enquiry Service

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

Kirby Library (Letherhead Institute)

Apply to the Librarian for opening times.



PARISH CHURCH 159 YEARS AGO

This photo of Leatherhead Parish Church in 1862 used to hang above the flower arrangers' sink outside the lower vestry, writes ALUN ROBERTS. On the right is the small farmhouse at the junction of Church Road and Highlands Road, today known as the White House. It became a branch of the grocer Titleys and was mentioned in *The Times* when the adjacent builder's yard caught fire in 1927. In the middle was the cottage of the Elm Bank gardener. All the land to the left was later incorporated into the churchyard. The church was 'modernised' in 1873 and the yew walk was probably planted shortly afterwards.

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