

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

NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2007

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

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

For details - see programme in the current Newsletter

2007 Membership Subscriptions

Ordinary.....£15.00 Associate.....£6.00 Junior (under 18).....£1.00

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Jenny Morris 01372 362524

The Museum is open at the following times until 15th December 2007

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

CURATOR (Vacancy) 01372 386348

The Friends of Leatherhead Museum support the Society's work on behalf of the Museum

CHAIRMAN Fred Meynen 01372 372930

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

LIBRARIAN Peter Wells 01372 272367

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

PROGRAMME SECRETARY Fred Meyne 01372 372930

Further details are given on the inside back cover

Chairman's Report

Welcome to this our November Newsletter. We start first with the news that Martin Warwick who may be known to a number of local residents and members of the L&DLHS who live in Bookham, Martin has stepped forward and volunteered his services as our Newsletter Editor, to fill the vacancy left with the retirement of John Wettern with this edition of the Newsletter. (Ref. August Newsletter 3/2007) Martin has a number of interests and already edits the National Trust's 'Polesden People' newsletter and the 'Bookhams Bulletin' of the Bookham Community Association, as well as working with other local groups. Your Executive Committee believe that Martin will prove to be a worthy successor to John Wettern. We all wish Martin well in his new office and offer him our full support.

To John Wettern we offer our grateful thanks and appreciation for his dedication and years of service as Newsletter Editor. John previously held the post of Editor during 1999-2002 and again during 2006-07. John as usual has always used his best endeavours to promote and publicise both the History Society and the Museum over the years with some notable successes - we hope he will continue to do so with great effect where and when the opportunity arises.

Heritage Open Day 6th - 9th September, reported elsewhere in this newsletter, was from all accounts another successful event, for which we should thank the Heritage Day organising committee for all their hard work and all those members and volunteers who made a contribution.

The Soirée at the Leatherhead Museum on Friday 28th September is also reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. However I would like to record my personal thanks to all those Friends and Members of the Museum and History Society who turned up on a very damp and wet evening in support of the event and to all those who worked to make it a success. I would also like to record that Stephen Fortescue the well known local historian and surviving founder member of the Museum and the History Society and former past President attended with his wife having travelled up from Devon - they have kindly written to thank us for our hospitality.

Finally this is the last Newsletter before Christmas and as a timely reminder the Museum will be closed from Saturday 15th December. There are a wide range of Local History Publications available to purchase which could perhaps make a suitable Christmas gift.

David Hartley

Short note from the Editor

Greetings to all readers of the Newsletter. We must thank John Wettern for his good work as editor over quite a considerable period. Perhaps we ought to remind him that he thought he had surrendered the task to a successor some time ago only shortly afterwards to again find himself in the chair. This time I am sure he is hoping it will be more permanent!

As might be expected this issue is a little different - one deviation is the inclusion of a few photos to enliven the text. I am hoping in future that writers of articles will also submit photos. Articles can be submitted as emails and attachments, typed or hand written and photos - digital, printed, colour or black and white. Our task is to make it informative and interesting.

Martin Warwick

Archaeology Report

Ashtead Common Excavation Report - Forthcoming

This year's 2007 report on the reassessment and excavation of the Roman Villa site on Ashtead Common by the Roman Studies - Villas Group, a sub group of the Surrey Archaeological Society, is in preparation. We hope to be able to publish with their permission extracts of this forthcoming report in next year's Newsletter in February.

Public Seminars on the Archaeology and History of the South East

Very recently I have received notice of a series of public seminars on the following subjects which are to be given at the Institute of Archaeology at 33-34 Gordon Square London from October to December 2007. Some of these seminars may be of interest to members of the History Society, four of which cover the period of this Newsletter.

The meetings will be day long meetings held on Saturdays at the Institute of Archaeology. There will be no fee for attending and coffee and tea will be available.

November 24th - Defence & Maritime Themes

December 1st - Post Medieval, Modern and Industrial

December 8th - The Neolithic and early Bronze Age

December 15th - Environment and Environmental Archaeology

Any member who is interested to attend should log onto the website www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology or contact Dr Jake Weeks Project Co-ordinator (01622) 221267 or by email serf@kent.gov.uk

David Hartley

WIMBLEDON WINDMILL MUSEUM

On a very warm day in August, 12 members of the Society assembled at the cafe next to the windmill on Wimbledon Common, having parked their cars in the very large car-park adjoining it. Our aim was to visit the museum housed in the windmill. We did not know quite what to expect but were agreeably surprised. Norman Plastow, curator, and to a very large extent, creator of the museum, greeted us. He guided us round the museum which proved to be a first rate collection of working models of windmills and associated artefacts from windmills throughout the British Isles. An architect by profession, he had spent



30 years making the models, and was very involved in the restoration of the building which eventually was fit to house the Museum of Windmills. Very little of the mechanism from the windmill survives, but Norman's detailed model of the original interior showed what an intricate structure it was. A collection of carpenter's tools, a small display about Lord Baden Powell and the Boy Scout movement (he had written "Scouting for Boys" in his nearby house) and a small room left to show how one of 6 families originally lived in the base of the mill, added to the interest.

After a picnic lunch on the Common or refreshments at the cafe, we were ready to move on to our second venue. This was the Museum of Local History administered by the Wimbledon Society. Located in the Ridgway above a social club, we were met there by Alan Eliot, the curator, who gave us a short history of Wimbledon. Beginning with a prehistoric settlement on the Common he said

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The History of Pub Signs and Names

David Roe, who is a member of the Inn Society and of the Merton Historical Society, gave an informative talk on Friday 21st September on the origin of pub names and their signs, illustrated by examples which included some local pubs and inns.

David Roe began his lecture by showing a picture of the anchor in Bookham, a traditional English pub, house shaped with a traditional name with the anchor



being a symbol of Christianity. Over the years pubs have been centres of social and commercial activities and are part of our heritage. In recent times many pubs have disappeared together with their names and signs. In other cases name and signs have changed, perhaps reflecting changes in local structures. Pub signs can tell us something about our history and customs or simply entertain and delight us with their pictures.

Early pub signs in Egyptian and Roman times depict a chequer board sometimes surmounted by a phallic symbol to ward off evil spirits. Later ale houses appeared run by women who sold the brew at local markets and had a sign outside the house consisting of a wooden stake with a bush or bunch of leaves which was later replaced by a bundle of twigs. Other symbols used were sheaves of wheat (The Wheatsheaf), two pieces of crossed wood (The Crooked Billet) and a garland denoting that a new ale was on sale. Signs became larger in the 17th century., some even crossing the road as in the 'gallows' sign. In 1762 large hanging signs were prohibited for safety reasons and pictorial signs replaced by just the name of the pub as literacy was improving in



the population. David illustrated these changes with reference to the Leg of Mutton and Cauliflower pub in Ashted, which recently changed its pictorial sign with the word LOMAC to convey a more modern image and which now has been thankfully restored to its original design possibly derived from the

practice of hanging joints of meat outside to attract passing coaches.

In the early days the names of inns and pubs were used to describe the sign or picture such as 'At the Sign of the Wheatshaff' which later became 'The Wheatshaff'. Travellers in the 12th century were mainly pilgrims who were given free hospitality at monasteries and lodges of the Lords of the Manor. These buildings often displayed the monastic seals and badges or the manor's coats of arms which later were simplified to religious and heraldic symbols such as angels, stars and lions. During the reformation signs showing the Pope and the Virgin Mary had to be taken down or painted over. It is said that some signs showing the Angel Gabriel giving the good news to Mary were painted over just leaving the vase of lilies, 'The Flower Pot'. In some paintings Mary or Gabriel is seen holding a lily becoming 'The Hand and Flower'.

David Roe showed examples of inn signs and names with explanations in some cases. The name of the Running Horse in Leatherhead is thought to have derived from 'Rumming's House' after the ale-wife Elinour Rumming, although perhaps there is a simpler explanation relating to horses. The sign also shows that the sign artists had problems painting animal legs! The Sir Douglas Haig in Effingham is named after the famous field marshall of World War I, founder of the British Legion, and demonstrates that pub signs can commemorate famous people as well as local industries, events and places. The sign of the Lord Nelson shows a patch over the left eye, although history relates that the right eye was affected and that the eye was not disfigured. The sign of 'The Quiet Woman' shows a headless woman and 'The Jolly Bodger' showed a woodman turning crude stakes which later became chair legs, hence the expression of bodging. 'The White Hart' is a reference to an albino deer commissioned as a symbol of loyalty to Richard II, a popular king of the 14th century. 'The Elephant and Castle' is probably a reference to an ancient war elephant of the 15th century and the elephant depicted in the coat of arms granted in 1416 to the Worshipful Company of Cutlers relates to the ivory in the handles.

In conclusion, David Roe felt that although some stories should be taken with a pinch of salt, more historical research is needed and in these changing times with pubs becoming restaurants or being sold for redevelopment, preservation orders could be used to protect important pubs together with their signs.

The next time you pass a pub sign spare a moment to give a second look at the name and the picture.

Dr F G C Meynen

October Lecture – Riot at Epsom

The tragic events of a June night in 1919 at Epsom were vividly described by Tim Richardson, a retired Metropolitan policeman who had later served there and was now a freelance historian and events organiser, at our October meeting.

The district had not been untouched by the first World War. Shortly after its outbreak, the Universities and Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers had been billeted in the area, before going to France and being almost wiped out at the battle of Deville Wood. The heavy loss of local men is marked by Leatherhead's unusual war memorial cloister, now a scheduled Ancient Monument.

When the war ended, there was delay in getting the Commonwealth troops home. Causes included a general strike in New York, disturbances at British ports and a fatal riot at Rhyl, made worse by indecision about priority groups. Many troops from the Empire had not had home leave for several years. Overseas soldiers were concentrated into large camps in the countryside. Frustration and boredom led to indiscipline - a camp at Witley was half burnt down, and its occupants were moved to join others already living in corrugated iron huts on Epsom Downs.

On this particular night, the landlord of 'The Rifleman' (a small public house in East Street near the railway bridge) asked two patrolling police constables to eject two Canadian soldiers who were creating a disturbance. Neither soldier would go quietly, so both were arrested. The officers went up Epsom High Street, followed by a growing crowd, to the police station, a Victorian double-fronted villa with a prize-winning garden in front. The soldiers were placed in separate cells at the front of the building. The officer in charge, Inspector Pauley who lived on the top floor of the building with his family sent a message to the camp asking for transport to take the accused back to camp, the police having no vehicle. All off-duty police were sent for urgently, as well as reinforcements



from elsewhere. The crowd outside the police station was soon joined by many soldiers from the camp, aroused by a bugle or by others rattling sticks against the walls of their huts.

The camp transport was unable to get through, and when the camp commander arrived and was taken inside the police station, the rumour spread that he too had been arrested. Missiles were thrown from the back of the crowd, railings were torn up, windows broken and the front door rammed. Station Sgt Thomas Green, an ex-regular soldier, led a sally party with drawn truncheons which took the rioters from the flank and forced them to withdraw temporarily. Fighting resumed, but suddenly ended when another bugle call ordered 'Recall - march off', which was obeyed. One prisoner had escaped through the torn-out window of his cell, and the other was released without charge. Sgt Green was found in a nearby shop with a fractured skull and was taken to Epsom hospital where he died.

Sgt Green's death was front-page news. His funeral cortege, headed by massed bands in front of two hearses, followed by a thousand policemen and other mourners, stopped for a short service at the Wesleyan church (where Sgt Green had been a sidesman). He had been a four-stripe (senior) police sergeant with only a few months left to serve before retirement and had been off-duty when the riot began, looking after his dying wife. A substantial amount of money was collected for his family and a granite Celtic cross carrying his helmet badge was erected over his grave in Epsom cemetery.

The Canadian soldiers were paraded and those unable to account for their injuries were arrested. Five were transferred to Bow Street magistrates' court and tried at Guildford but only charged with riot and affray. Each was sentenced to a year's imprisonment and dishonourable discharge from the Canadian Army. Ten years later, one of the five, who had become a tramp back in Canada, was arrested for drunkenness and confessed to the murder of Sgt Green. Anglo-Canadian relations were then at a delicate stage, and it was decided not to seek his extradition and further prosecution.

In answer to questions, Mr Richardson said that he had found no record of any inquiry into police conduct at the riot. A member of the audience said that he had been told that another police sergeant who had been seen with the original prisoners was notorious for reporting Canadians for petty offences so that they were fined and confined to camp, so exacerbating their belief that they were being treated as second-class citizens.

Derek Renn

Leatherhead And Lullingstone

Following the recent television series 'Save Lullingstone Castle' my wife and I decided to visit Lullingstone Castle to see both the house occupied by Guy and Sarah Hart Dyke and the World Garden of Plants which has been constructed by their son Tom.

Most people think of Lullingstone as the home of the Lullingstone Silk Farm which, as many of you will know, was started by Zöe, Lady Hart Dyke when they lived in Leatherhead. Zöe was the mother of Guy Hart Dyke who told me of his upbringing in the house called Wildernesse in Tyrrells Wood when he went to school at Downsend School and his sister attended Parson's Mead.

It was while Lady Zöe was living at Leatherhead that she seriously started her silkworm operation although she had been dabbling with silkworms since her school days. Whilst at Leatherhead Lady Zöe travelled up to the Natural History Museum daily for a month, long before the days of photocopiers in order to copy out in longhand the only textbook the museum had on the science of sericulture (the study of silkworms) She kept her first worms in the attic of Wildernesse and when she needed to stifle the cocoons she did them in her kitchen oven. However, this was not approved of by her cook, especially in view of the smell. As Zöe enlarged her silk operation in 1933 she moved the worms to Lullingstone (her husband's family home) while still living at Leatherhead and carrying out the reeling in the garage of Wildernesse. There was still the problem of stifling the cocoons and Zöe spent a morning wearing down her baker in Leatherhead, persuading him to let her put the cocoons in his oven after he had baked Leatherhead's bread. She then borrowed a lorry from Eynsford in which she drove the cocoons to the Leatherhead bakery from Kent.

The operation took about six hours after which the baker was afraid that his customers would find out what had been in his bread oven. Apparently the secret remained until Lady Zöe published her book 'So Spins the Silkworm' in 1949.





Silkworms

Guy Hart Dyke told me that when his mother moved the silkworms to Lullingstone she took over a large part of the house in which to keep them and he remembers that the noise was tremendous when they were all eating their mulberry leaves.

The silkworms left Lullingstone in 1956 after the marriage between Lady Zöe Hart Dyke and her husband had been dissolved. She took them to Ayot

St Lawrence where she settled. When she died in 1975 the worms were taken to Sherborne in Dorset where they were bought by Robert Gooden who operated them with his butterfly farm at Over Compton as the Worldlife and Lullingstone Silk Farm. After the Gooden family had lived at Compton House for 270 years Robert moved to Lower Penquite House near Liskeard in Cornwall three or four years ago taking his butterflies and silkworms with him.

Last year they moved to southern France with the butterflies but I have not been able to confirm the whereabouts of the Lullingstone silkworms.

The gowns for the coronation of George VI for Queen Elizabeth and the Duchesses of Gloucester and Kent were made from Lullingstone silk. During World War II the silk was used for making parachutes and later for the wedding dresses for Princess Elizabeth and Princess Diana.

I thought that those of you who may have seen the television series, or indeed may have visited Lullingstone, would like to know the connection between Leatherhead and Lullingstone. I have been unable to find which baker Lady Zöe persuaded to help her and if anyone does know I should be interested. The house in Tyrrells Wood is still there more or less as it was when lived in by the Hart Dykes; after they left it was re-named Marlborough and is now known as Beeches.

Further information may be obtained from:

So Spins the Silkworm by Zöe Lady Hart Dyke (1949)

An Englishman's Home by Tom Hart Dyke (2007)

Peter Tarplee

News from the Friends of Leatherhead Museum

Activities

One of the aims of the Friends is to publicise the museum and the History Society and to this end we used the barrow in the Swan Centre which is provided free by the management. We chose 30th August as it was market day and hoping to attract the lunch time shoppers. We handed out leaflets and a membership form and although the town was rather quiet we had an increased number of visitors to the museum on that day - well worth the effort.

The Friends helped with the History Society's evening soir e held on 28th September at the museum, a social event to encourage members to come and see the changes in the museum and also to introduce a friend. Despite a damp start the evening was judged a success with mulled wine and a fine spread of canap s, cheese and biscuits to enhance the evening. A full report follows.

We have been providing hanging baskets and plantings for the museum garden and Lindsay Trim and Judith Wilson have provided the feminine touch with fresh flowers.

Stewards

We welcomed two new stewards Stephen Turner and Richard Marshall and hope that they will find their work rewarding and enjoyable with us. Museum stewards are crucial to the museum and they have the reputation of providing a friendly and welcoming reception for the visitors. The Committee are holding a Christmas party for stewards and volunteers as a 'thank you' for all their hard work and effort for the museum which will be held on Monday 17th December at The Institute 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Future Events

15th December - Museum closes till 3rd April 2008

17th December - Stewards' and Volunteers' party

Fred Meynen

Wine and Cheese Soirée

The History Society held a wine and cheese soirée at the museum on Friday evening 28th September, this being a social event and to encourage members to see changes that have been occurring at the museum. We were encouraged to bring a friend who perhaps had never been to the museum and therefore it was rewarding to see some new faces. We were especially pleased to see Stephen and Henrietta Fortescue, Stephen being a founder member of the museum. Tim Hall, leader of the Mole Valley Council was an invited guest and they were all welcomed by the Trustees and David Hartley who masterminded the event. Alan Pooley laid on additional lighting effects in the garden and Lindsay Trim provided a fine spread of canapés, cheese and biscuits.



It had rained all day but fortunately this had eased by the evening and guests were warmed by mulled wine dispensed under the gazebo.

The evening was a success and the Trustees' Appeal will have benefited from the event. Unfortunately David Hartley had a short spell in hospital the next day but we are glad to see him fully restored and in good spirits. The mulled wine was not to blame!

Fred Meynen

...continued from Wimbledon Windmill Museum on page 3

that very little happened in Wimbledon until the 18th Century when members of the gentry found the surroundings of the Common an ideal site for their mansions. This was largely due to the fresh air and abundant fresh water which provided a rural setting within a coach drive of London. Many politicians, including some of those involved in the abolition of slavery, such as William Wilberforce, lived in the area and a special display had been mounted to illustrate this. With large areas of wall space was mounted a very good series of display boards illustrating many aspects of the history of Wimbledon, not forgetting tennis of course. Transport, education, natural history, archaeology etc all supplemented with artefacts displayed in show-cases, made it an interesting museum. A separate room housing the library and archives, and the collection of photographs on a database, made us green with envy. A most interesting and enjoyable day. Wish you were there!

Gwen Hoad

Local History Symposium held at Chertsey

Surrey Bridges and Tunnels - a Review

Surrey Bridges and Tunnels was this year's title and the theme for the Local History Symposium held at Chertsey on Saturday 27th October. It was well supported with a good turn out by local history groups all of whom had made a great effort to present some very interesting displays of what could have been a dry diet of industrial history. However this proved not to be the case, although the afternoon session was a little too long with two lectures after lunch and before afternoon tea, followed by a further two lectures before summing up and the closing address. Better in my opinion to have had two lectures in the afternoon with a closing address at 4.00pm. I for one noticed many others members flagging or drifting off home before the last lecture.

Alan Crocker chairman of the Surrey Local History committee opened and chaired the morning session. Alan welcomed all the delegates and informed us that Phillimore the well known Sussex publishers, who have in the past been a great supporter of this event were not with us today with their usual bookstall and this was due in part to their books being currently in store as they have recently been absorbed into Tempus Publishing. There seemed to be some uncertainty and doubt as to Phillimore's future involvement, hopefully all this will be resolved with a positive result in time for the symposium next year.

The morning session started with Peter Cross-Rudkin of the Institution of Civil Engineers Panel of Historical Engineering Works presenting his view of the Bridges of Surrey.

Paul Sowan the chairman of Subterranea Britannica brought wit and humour to his exposition entitled 'Tunnelling through Surrey - a worm's eye view of the county'.

Gerry Moss the chairman of the afternoon session opened the session with a commendation to the local history societies for their efforts in mounting displays on their chosen subjects before announcing this year's Ken Gravett Award. The 'Garvett Prize' for the best local history display was awarded to The Horsley Countryside Protection Society for their display on the restoration of the Lovelace Bridges at East Horsley, a much deserved award for a worthwhile project.

Derek Renn of the Society Antiquaries and a member of our history society spoke on the subject of Medieval Bridges in Surrey and illustrated a number of

existing examples of bridges with medieval foundations or were the sites of former medieval bridge foundations.

Brenda Lewis of the Surrey Gardens Trust treated us to a very lively and interesting illustrated account of both the use of tunnels and bridges in 18th & 19th century landscape garden design.

Following a break for tea Andrew Norris, chairman of the Historic Buildings Committee of the Surrey Archaeological Society, provided an interesting insight into the origin of the Lovelace Bridges and the life of William, Earl Lovelace 1805 -1893. Andrew then informed us of the on going practical works of restoration, conservation and funding of the Lovelace Bridges at East Horsley. (Recommended reading: William, Earl of Lovelace 1805 – 1893 by Stephen Tudsbery-Turner, reprinted from Vol.1974 of the Surrey Archaeological Collections and published by The Horsley Countryside Preservation Society 2003 price £3.00)



John Smith of Walton & Weybridge Local History Society spoke on the subject of the coming of the railway to Walton & Weybridge, the origin and implications of the first railway station at Weybridge and the growth in commuter development.

Alan Crocker drew this years' symposium to a close with a vote of thanks to the speakers and all those who worked behind the scenes to make it a success, thanking also all those local history societies that attended. He announced that the subject for next years Local History Symposium will be Surrey and the First World War.

Leatherhead & District Local History Society display

This year the History Society provided a display of eight boards on the subject 'Tunnels & Bridges Leatherhead & District'. Four illustrated new and archive photographs of existing bridges and tunnels with sections of Ordnance Survey Maps to locate the sites on that section of railway line between Leatherhead & Dorking, the original London Brighton & South Coast Railway (LB&SCR). The society also displayed other archive photographs of road or carriage bridges crossing the River Mole in the vicinity of Leatherhead.

Network Rail provided us with free use of copies of the following archive drawings to illustrate the bridges and tunnels on this line.

....continued next page

.....contd from previous page - Surrey Bridges and Tunnels Review

North and South Norbury Tunnel Portal Elevation Designs

Bridges over the River Mole at two locations South of Norbury Park

Foot Bridge at Box Hill Westhumble Railway Station

Bridge over the carriage driveway to Denbies the home of Thomas Cubitt

Betchworth Tunnel Portal Elevation and Section

My personal thanks on behalf of the History Society go to Linda Heath, Paul Sutherland-Waite and Derek Renn for their assistance and help in setting up and manning the display throughout the day and dismantling it at the end of the day.

Acknowledgements:

Peter Crofts Archives Manager for the South East Area Network Rail for permission to reproduce from the Network Rail Archives.

Paul Sowan of the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society.

Shelia Ashcroft Librarian at the Surrey Archaeological Society.

Linda Heath, Peter Tarplee, Gordon Knowles and John Wettern of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society

David Hartley

Heritage Open Days 2007

The organising committee for Heritage Open Days in Mole Valley has not yet met since the weekend of 6th - 9th September to assess this year's event but my impression on the whole was that it was a success. Our museum received a good number of extra visitors and tours led by Society members were well attended. We provided speakers for a number of talks which each attracted a good audience, but none could outdo Linda Heath who had about 150 people wanting to hear her lecture on Fanny Burney which unfortunately was held in a room which could comfortably seat less than half that number.

One lesson for the organisers is to ensure that all talks should be pre-booked - there are probably other lessons and I would like any member who can see any way in which we could improve this event to let me know so that I can raise it with the organising committee.

I would like to thank all who supported Heritage Open Days this year and look forward to your suggestions for the future if we continue with it.

Peter Tarplee

Lecture Programme

As usual our monthly lectures will be held in the Abraham Dixon Hall at the Letherhead Institute. Coffee and biscuits are served from 7.30pm and the lecture starts 8.0pm. Admission for members is £1. Non-members are welcome, admission £2.

Although the third Friday of each month is the usual date for the meeting you will see that the December meeting this year is on the second Friday. The meeting will begin at 7.30 with coffee and mince pies being served. The lecture begins at the usual time, 8.00pm.

Friday, 14th December. "Preserving the past for the Future – the Work of the Surrey History Centre" by Matthew Piggott

Our lecturer who is the Archivist and Modern Records Officer will describe the development of the new Surrey History Centre at Woking, and outline the work carried out within the building. This relates to the collection and preservation of Surrey's past. Reference will be made to the geographical development of the county and the different types of records arriving at the Centre. He will describe what happens when the records are received at Woking, the methods used to ensure their long-term preservation, and the uses made of the records by the local community and their wider audience.

Friday, 18th January, 2008. "John Evelyn, (1620-1706) and his Passion for Gardens" by Beryl Saich, Secretary of the Surrey Gardens Trust

The talk is based on papers given at Surrey Gardens Trust's conference to celebrate the tercentenary of Evelyn's death. It describes the three driving forces of his rich, full life, his love of God, his devotion to the king and his passion for gardens. Three gardens in particular: Sayes Court in Deptford, Albury, his most impressive design and Wotton, his family home were totally his own creation. Wotton, through his influence on his heir, his grandson Jack, changed the face of the Surrey countryside.

Friday, 15th February. "The Great British Seaside" by Brian Bloice

Brian Bloice is a lecturer on local history at Morley and Lambeth Colleges; Vice Chairman of Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Societies and Organising Secretary for Streatham Local History Group. He is also a member of the National Pier Society and an entertaining speaker. We should have an interesting evening.

Fred Meynen, Programme Secretary

Annual Buffet Supper 2008

The society is holding a buffet supper on Friday January 25th at 7pm for 7.30pm. This will replace the dinner previously held, the venue now being at The Letherhead Institute which will be more convenient for most members. The event is for members, spouses and partners to meet in an informal atmosphere and we hope that it will provide an opportunity to introduce new friends to the Society.

The supper will offer three courses with a vegetarian choice and coffee and mints, the cost being £12.50 per person to include a welcoming drink. Seating will be at tables for eight and please indicate on the return slip who you would like to sit with.

The evening will conclude with some entertainment and if you would like to come please complete the return slip in this newsletter with your cheque indicating your seating preferences and whether you need transport.

We look forward to seeing you at what should be an enjoyable social occasion.

Fred Meynen

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Archaeology

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Records

RECORDS SECRETARY Brian Godfrey 01372 454654

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

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Ashted | Jack Willis |
| Bookham | Brian Godfrey |
| Fetcham documents | Alan Pooley |
| Fetcham photographs and maps | Ed Tims |
| Leatherhead document | John Derry |
| Leatherhead photographs | Linda Heath |
| Leatherhead maps | Alan Pooley |

The Historical Enquiry Service offers to seek answers to questions about the history of Leatherhead, Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham submitted via the Museum

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