



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

## *Newsletter September 2020*



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**Cover pictures: Leatherhead Station and environs in 1963.  
These are among a collection of photos provided by former  
railways employee Richard Burningham.  
See Page 9 for the full story.**

<p><b>2020 L&amp;DLHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS</b> Ordinary £20 Associate /Student £6 Small Corporate £125</p>
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**EDITORIAL**

Sadly we have to report the death last month of Stephen Fortescue, the last surviving founder of our Society and an undisputed giant of local history in the Leatherhead district. A leading local solicitor, not only did he establish the L&DLHS along with colleagues in 1946, he also personally arranged the purchase of what is now Leatherhead Museum; served

successively as Treasurer, Chairman and President; and wrote a string of formal history books about the district. A full obituary is on Page 34 of this Newsletter.

Meanwhile, the Society has never before experienced a situation where not only are all of its normal activities curtailed but many members face restricted movement outside their own homes. However it has also brought some unexpected innovations, in particular digital online meetings in place of traditional gatherings. This offers a chance to enjoy talks without leaving your sofa. See Page 6. But for those unhappy to use such technology, this *Newsletter* provides a link with normality, containing the usual range of features and other content for your interest.

We are repeating our June call for contributed pandemic ephemera (Page 5) so do please consider this as your own contribution to recording our local history. The edition also includes some items which were formerly intended for the *Proceedings* rather than the *Newsletter* but for various reasons have now found their way here to ensure speedier publication.

You may notice a strong contribution by U3A members this time, an example of how other local organisations are making their own contributions to recording our local history. Similar involvement by other bodies can help support the L&DLHS in future as principal recorder for the district.

**TONY MATTHEWS**



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I know I represent everyone in the Society in mourning the passing of Stephen Fortescue and giving thanks for his long membership and support. We offer our sincere condolences to his family.

In our June *Newsletter* I reported precautions for keeping everyone safe while maintaining the Society. Unfortunately the Museum, field archaeology and talks are all affected but although the Museum is now closed until next year, our Archaeology Secretary hopes to recommence the dig at Rowhurst, albeit without public participation.

We have joined Dorking Local History Group to share a business account for online Zoom meetings. Zoom is easily downloaded to PC, laptop, or iPad and enables up to 100 participants to hear a speaker and watch a slide show virtually, instead of in a public hall.

DLHG provided most talks so far with our Executive Committee members acting as guinea pigs. From September we hope to have two talks a month, one from each Society, right up to Christmas. We have been working with our scheduled speakers to encourage participation. As well as in this *Newsletter* and on our website, the talks programme will be listed on the Surrey History Meetup website.

Our AGM was due in March but new Charity Commission rules allow us to hold it until the end of September, either on Zoom or in a hall. We expect to call one shortly and I will call for written questions from those who cannot attend.

The annual Heritage Week events in September will also be limited to Zoom talks for the general public. We have two talks planned but sadly have had to cancel all outdoor activities.

We still seek volunteers for vacancies (see Page 40). Most crucial is a Leatherhead archivist, closely followed by a books sales secretary who can update our sales channels. This might suit a part-time librarian. An honorary secretary is needed for our board of trustees and a Museum curator too (training can be arranged). All of these roles can be undertaken despite lockdown. Finally, more Museum stewards will be required for Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays when it eventually reopens next year.

**JOHN ROWLEY**

## CORONAVIRUS EPHEMERA APPEAL

by ROY MELLICK

The Covid-19 virus pandemic of 2020 could be compared to the spread of bubonic plague in earlier centuries. While the numbers of dead so far are lower and the effects on population nothing remotely like the Black Death in the medieval period, the social and economic results in our own times could still be far reaching.

In the area covered by the L&DLHS, the Office for National Statistics attributed a total of 49 deaths directly to the pandemic in the three months March to May, with another 17 immediately to the south. The breakdown ranged from 16 in Leatherhead South/Ashted South to zero in Leatherhead North, the only area in Surrey to record no deaths at all. Ashted East and West recorded 15, Bookham North and South 15 and Fetcham three. The other 17 were recorded for Box Hill/Brockham (including Headley) and Dorking North/Westhumble. Figures have, of course, since changed.

Museums and history societies worldwide will want to record how the pandemic has been affecting people's daily lives. Our modern digital age makes gathering this information much easier but it can also be easily lost, fragmented, and buried on hard drives.

The L&DLHS continues to seek relevant ephemera as we plan to establish an *In the Time of the Coronavirus* collection. Suitable items include:

- Public notices, letters.
- Photos of empty shelves in supermarkets, overloaded trolleys, queues, empty streets, residential roads clapping the NHS.
- Offers of help by community volunteers and churches.
- Diaries from the lockdown period.
- Business reactions. Furloughing and hardship stories.
- Examples of kindness and generosity among neighbours as well as social distancing. The list goes on.

So please don't discard such items. Photos and diaries may be either hardcopy or digital. Please send anything and everything to [records@leatherheadhistory.org](mailto:records@leatherheadhistory.org).

Thank you and continue to stay safe.

## PROGRAMME OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Covid-19 lockdown and its aftermath have radically affected this year's programme of talks normally held in the Abraham Dixon Hall at the Letherhead Institute.

We had hoped to resume as normal this month but this has proved impossible because of continuing social distancing and other requirements for live events. Instead we have introduced a programme of online talks using Zoom technology in collaboration with our sister body, the Dorking Local History Society.

Known as the *Lockdown Lectures* during an experimental period over the summer, these have proved very successful to date so it hopefully bodes well for this month's recommencement of the L&DLHS programme.

For each of these talks you will need to register in advance via [talksonline@leatherheadhistory.org](mailto:talksonline@leatherheadhistory.org). Once registered you will be sent User ID and Password details and should then be able to enjoy the talks from the comfort of your home. The new arrangements also involve variable dates for the time being so please do not assume they will always be on the established third Friday of each month.

Please ensure we have your correct email address via [membership@leatherheadhistory.org](mailto:membership@leatherheadhistory.org) or call 01372 379341 if your contact details have changed.

Sadly those of our members who do not use online technology will be unable to enjoy the talks themselves but hopefully they will be reported as usual in future *Newsletters* and those will be posted or delivered to you as normal for the start of the relevant quarter. Talks that should have taken place last April and May will be held over until next year. So here is the programme of Zoom events.

**Friday, 18 September:** Zoom admission from 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. Andy Davies, curator of the Railway Correspondence and Travel Society's library at Leatherhead Station, to speak on *Leatherhead Station, The Stationmaster's House*. This talk is also being promoted as part of Heritage Week. Also see Pages 1 and 9 of this Newsletter.

**Saturday, 19 September:** Zoom admission from 10.45am for start at 11am. Another chance to hear Simon Ritchie's talk on *Industrial*

*Archaeology Hiding in Plain Sight - Ordnance Survey Trig Points.* See June 2020 Newsletter. This talk is also being promoted as part of Heritage Week.

**Monday, 22 November:** Zoom admission from 7.10pm for 7.30pm start. Paul Le Messurier will talk based on his recently published book, *Surrey's Military Heritage*.

**Early December:** Our traditional Christmas Miscellany will have three short Zoom talks. Date and subjects to be confirmed.

Other Zoom talks are also on offer via the Surrey History Meetup website run by Simon Ritchie. Go to <https://www.meetup.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/> and follow the guidance on how to join those talks.

## FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM NEWS

by PETER HUMPHRIES AND  
DUNCAN MACFARLANE

After consulting the Friends Committee, Peter Humphreys and Duncan Macfarlane (shown right), the joint managers of the Museum at Hampton Cottage, reluctantly decided it would have to remain closed to the public until 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.



The Museum was due to open as usual last spring after its normal winter shutdown but the lockdown overtook this. The Friends of the Museum working group has also been suspended with only essential checks and gardening taking place. The garden and the new wellhead will now not be on public view before next year.

Volunteer Dorothy Stapleton has been working on a new 1960s display in the former Hollis Room and the planned John Ainley art exhibition has been postponed. The new plaque commemorating Linda Heath, shown at the bottom, will also be on show from 2021.

There are two main reasons for the continuing closure. First is the small size of the Museum rooms. Social distancing and hand-washing needs would be difficult to apply and there is also a lack of storage space.

Second are the ages of the volunteer stewards, mostly above that recommended for continuing protective isolation against Coronavirus. Dorking Museum has also decided to remain closed until next year.

The new plaque will be installed at the Museum in memory of Linda Heath, former L&DLHS Chairman and later President. It is nine inches in diameter and in cast aluminium.

Linda joined the Executive Committee in 1986. She served as Society Chairman 1989-1996 and President 2002-2007. She was a Museum steward for many years, gave many talks and wrote books on the Society's behalf. She and her husband lived in the Leatherhead district from the 1960s.

As well as the L&DLHS, she was also active in many other local organisations, including the Leatherhead Parish Church and the Leatherhead Community Association. She left the Society a legacy of £40,000 on her death in 2013.





## FEATURE

### LEATHERHEAD STATION, OCTOBER 1963. by RICHARD BURNINGHAM



The three official British Railways (Southern Region) photographs on the front cover of this *Newsletter*, as well as those above, capture scenes of Leatherhead Station on a dry autumn day on Wednesday, 9 October 1963. I have 22 photographs in the series, taking in the whole area covered by the station buildings on both platforms, the booking hall, parcels counter, three shots of the station exterior and one of adverts at the Randalls Road junction with the approach to the main station building.

Each print is 8 by 6 inches, date stamped on the back and with a code and short description. The date stamp includes the name of the department for which they were taken, Public Relations & Publicity (PR & PO). The department was responsible for the upkeep of station poster-boards, both those for railway use and advertising, any other advertising boards on railway property, and station signs. These photos were part of a series that would have covered most, if not all, stations on the BR Southern Region.

What's changed since then? The biggest thing of course is that the exterior of the main buildings has not. A time traveller from 1963 would immediately recognise today's Leatherhead Station and probably be rather reassured that it is in such good nick.

The booking hall and parcels counter were probably first to change after these photos were taken. In 1964-65, new concertina gates were put on each end of the parcels corridor so that parcels traffic could reach the platform that way and did not need to go through

the booking hall. At the same time, the booking hall was modernised, the blocked door to the waiting room was taken out and a new modern frontage was put on the booking office.

The late 1960s also saw the end of the sidings behind the signal-box and the whole area turned over to car parking as it has remained ever since. The station canopies were replaced by rather austere ones in 1968. They were given a heritage look around 30 years later.

What was then the station-master's office and adjacent waiting room on the London-bound platform is today the Puccino's café. The door that was there in 1963, taken out a year or two later, has since been restored. The waiting room served as the booking office while the original booking office was completely rebuilt in 1980.

Privatisation started in the mid-1990s. The booking office was replaced by a shop in the same location which also sold train tickets (a practice successful in the Netherlands). A few years later, a small booking office was built in the old station manager's office and the shop converted into a Pumpkin station buffet. Finally, the booking office was rebuilt in pretty much its original location a few years ago and now includes the former parcels corridor.

The old W H Smith bookstall was left vacant for a few years before being reopened in the mid-1970s and remained for around ten years. The small tobacconist's kiosk, though long closed, still existed until the mid-1980s. The London-bound platform waiting room is now a former room in the station house. On the outbound side, only the old staff room is now in use as a waiting room. The station got its ticket gate lines in 2011.

Thanks to modern technology and the high quality of the original prints, you can now pick out a lot of detail from the posters, even the headline on the copies of the *Evening News* for sale, without a magnifying glass.

*\*Richard Burningham grew up in Kingston Road, Leatherhead and Crabtree Lane, Bookham in the 1960s-70s. In 1974, he started at Dorking Grammar School and commuted from Bookham by train, changing at Leatherhead. He became interested in railways and got to know many of the staff at Leatherhead. In 1979, he joined the railway as a booking clerk at Leatherhead and spent a year there*

*before moving to Charing Cross station. All but three years of his working life since then have been spent on or closely associated with the railways. While he was at Charing Cross, some staff in the Southern Region's Waterloo headquarters started a railway shop in one of the offices, open one lunchtime a week. This was where he found the photos.*

*For the last 22 years, he has lived in Plymouth running a partnership between local authorities and the rail industry which promotes the branch lines of Devon & Cornwall.*

## FEATURE

### THE ROUS FAMILY AT POLESDEN

by BILL WHITMAN

In 1630, Anthony Rous, Clerk of the Pipe of the Exchequer, purchased the manor of Polesden from William Castleton and rebuilt the house. He and his wife Anne had been living for some years in Fetcham where two of their children were baptised in 1626 and 1627. He died in February 1631 and his memorial is in the Church of St Mary, Fetcham.

In 1653 his son and heir, Samuel Rous, married Elizabeth, daughter of Dame Jane Glover, whose memorial is also in St Mary's, Fetcham. However, three of their children were baptised not there but at St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham - their daughter Jane in 1655, son Arthur in 1656 and daughter Elizabeth in 1658.

A kinsman, Francis Rous was Provost of Eton College from 1644-59 and an MP for Cornish constituencies for over 30 years. In 1653 he also became Speaker of the House of Commons. He translated the version of the *Psalms* commonly used in public worship in Scotland.

In 1657 he purchased the advowson, right to appoint the vicar, and tithe of St Nicolas, Great Bookham from Sir Francis Vincent of Stoke d'Abernon. He gave the advowson and half the tithe to Samuel, the other half of the tithe he gave for the vicar, apart from a sum he used to endow two scholarships, each of £20 to Broadgates Hall, Oxford, his old college, now Pembroke College.

Samuel was a Justice of the Peace and in 1654 he enforced the ruling that all marriages in Dorking should be proclaimed in the

marketplace. Over the years in Great Bookham, he presented three priests to the local church: Richard Carter in 1657, John Fleminge in 1663, and John Hyet in 1668.

Samuel and Elizabeth made a conveyance of the manor in 1680 but in 1713 their daughter Elizabeth and her husband Edward Symes recovered it. Ten years later Elizabeth Symes, then a widow, together with her son by a previous marriage, Thomas Harris, sold the manor, the advowson and the half tithe of St Nicolas to Arthur Moore. He sold it in turn to his brother, Colonel Thomas Moore in 1729 whose memorial is at St Nicolas Church.

Various ownerships followed and it was eventually renamed Polesden Lacey in 1784, by Richard Sheridan. The house was re-designed by Thomas Cubit in 1819-21 but later rebuilt by architect Ambrose Poynter for Sir Clinton Edward Dawkins. Margaret and Ronnie Greville arrived in 1907 after Sir Clinton's death.

## TRIBUTE FEATURE

### THE TRIUMPHS AND TRAGEDY OF LIZ MOORE

Had Ashted sculptress Liz Moore survived she would be celebrating her 76th birthday this month (September). Tragically she died in a horrendous road accident aged just 32 in 1976. It robbed us of one of the most talented local artists of her day and the film industry of a brilliant behind-the-scenes innovator.

Her contribution was significant. In 1967 she created bronze sculptures of the actress Dame Sybil Thorndike (85) and husband Sir Lewis Casson (92) as plans progressed for construction of Leatherhead's Thorndike Theatre. On 5 May 1967, she was photographed with them both, showing Dame Sybil her likeness in clay, modelled after only half an hour's work. Opened in 1969, the Thorndike is of



*Liz Moore*  
(1944-1976)



*Above: Liz Moore in 1967 with Dame Sybil Thorndike, Sir Lewis Casson and the clay likeness created in just half an hour.  
Below: The Star Child, the extraordinary cosmic floating fetus.*

course now Leatherhead Theatre.

Born 15 September 1944, Liz began studying sculpture aged 16 at the Kingston Art School. Guitarist Eric Clapton was among her classmates. In 1960 some of her paintings appeared in the Richard Quine film *The World of Suzie Wong*. She went on to obtain a National Diploma of Design, specialising in fine art.



An advertisement appeared in *The Tatler* on 7 May 1966: 'LIZ MOORE - SCULPTRESS. Portraiture in Plaster. Head/bust from photographs with minimum one studio sitting.' She was living at Tanglewood, 42 Links Road, Ashted at the time.

That same year she was filmed by British Pathé sculpting the Beatles. She was just 21. Then she became involved in her first ever film assignment. It was in the art department of director Stanley Kubrick's extraordinary movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Liz and a colleague created the masks of the apes who appeared at the start of the film. She also worked on the model of the lunar base.

But her defining success was creating the Star Child, the symbolic fetus floating across the Universe at the film's conclusion. She made a clay sculpture two and half feet tall with facial features similar to the film's lead role played by Keir Dullea.

From this mould the final fibreglass model was built and filmed. It became the movie's most powerful and recognisable symbol, appearing on the covers of books, CDs, DVDs, posters and billboards ever since. It established her reputation in contributing to the cinematic masterpiece that emerged in 1968 and was arguably Kubrick's greatest screen achievement.

Liz was a well-loved member of the film crew and he hired her for his next production, *A Clockwork Orange* which came out in 1971. She created the erotic furniture used by the repellent main character and his questionable friends.

John Barry, production designer for that highly controversial film, also recruited Liz for another history-making movie, director George Lucas's *Star Wars*. She designed both the android C-3PO, based on a full body cast from actor Anthony Daniels, and the Storm-trooper helmets used in the film. Sadly she never got to see the enormous impact of the *Star Wars* trilogy as the first film came out in 1977 after her death.

On 13 August 1976, she was accompanying her boyfriend John Richardson, a special effects supervisor, in his BMW when they crashed in the Netherlands. They were on location working on production of Richard Attenborough's *A Bridge Too Far*. In a head-on collision, just after midnight she was killed. John survived.

**\* With thanks to Brian Bouchard for suggesting this article.**

## FEATURE

### THE BAZALGETTE LINK

by BILL WHITMAN

An excellent Zoom presentation to Bookham U3A by Roger Mendham in June prompted me to refresh my memory of the Bazalgette connection with our locality. This is described with a family tree in *People & Places* by Stephen Fortescue.

Jean Louis Bazalgette bought Eastwick Park from Laurell in 1809, who had in turn bought it from the long-term owners, the Howard family, in 1801. Bazalgette, from a French Huguenot family, had come to England in 1784, probably from the West Indies,

and established himself as a fashionable tailor in London with a house in Gloucester Place.

Among his customers was the Prince Regent who was slow in paying his bills so that, when he became King George IV an Act of Parliament was needed to settle some of his debts. In 1823 the king still owed Bazalgette £2400.

After Bazalgette's death the estate was sold to David Barclay, son of Robert Barclay of Bury Hill, Westcott. Sir Joseph Bazalgette (shown above), the great Victorian engineer to whom tribute was paid by Roger Mendham, was the grandson of Louis. Sir Joseph's own grandson, Henry Lantour, lived at West Wing, on the bank of the River Mole at Fetcham and at Oaken Hill in Little Bookham. West Wing was roughly where the old tennis courts are near Leatherhead town bridge. There was an open-air swimming pool there in 1972.



## RESEARCH FEATURE

### THE WILL OF RICHARD BELSON by BRIAN BOUCHARD



On 23 February 1791, John Wesley (left), ‘in his 88th year and already in failing in health, journeyed to Leatherhead and died a week later’ on 2 March. His visit was to Richard Belson of Kingston House, Gravel Hill, said to be ‘an entire stranger to Mr Wesley and at the gentleman’s particular desire’. This comes from a study by F. B. Bengier in the *L&DHS Proceedings*, Vol. 2, No. 9, 1965.

Richard Belson’s daughter Ann was recorded as having died on 14 January 1791 about the age of 25 and her mother Hannah survived only until 28 August 1791 before also expiring aged 41. Contrary to Mr Bengier’s presumption, Richard’s subsequent Will provided for him ‘to be interred in the vault in Leatherhead Church yard in which my late wife and daughter lie’.

Richard Belson is reported to have been a merchant possibly in 1756 at Queenhithe, London. He may have been a race-horse owner. The horse Don Dun had been sold to one R. Belson in 1774 and when Gnawpost was to be sold in 1777, applications were directed to ‘Mr Belson, No 216, Oxford-street’.

Belson’s Will discloses that, other than Ann, he had three natural (illegitimate) children. Ann Edmonds had borne him Susannah Belson in around 1770 and Robert Belson around 1773, both after his marriage to Hannah. He also mentions a third child, Elizabeth James, aged three. When he signed his Will on 21 December 1800, Susannah was living with her mother in Leatherhead, probably in a separate establishment. Other arrangements had been made for her brother Robert. Both were provided with annuities until Susannah



died in October 1805 and, according to documents held in Surrey History Centre [SHC 4408/4/1-5], Robert was buried at Leatherhead on 9 April 1812, aged 39. He not married or left any children. Elizabeth James was also elsewhere at Leatherhead in the James household.

The proceeds of sale of Richard Belson's real estate in Leatherhead and freehold estates elsewhere had been invested in a trust of which the beneficiaries were Ann Edmonds and Elizabeth James, mother of three-year-old Elizabeth.

The younger Elizabeth James reached the age of 21 in 1818, thereafter marrying William Crispe of St Mary Newington by licence at Leatherhead on 9 May 1820. A trust was established using money inherited from Richard Belson's estate. She was to receive income from this for life and it was then to pass to her husband William should he survive her. Under the terms of the trust, a house in South Street, Leatherhead, was bought from Mary Bailey in 1821 and this became known as [old] Montague House, Church Street.

Elizabeth Crispe died in 1852. The parish register says: 'Elizabeth, daughter of Elizabeth James, a single woman was born 24 Aug 1797, baptised 29 Sep 1797.' She was buried in plot 29 of Leatherhead churchyard before her husband William Crispe. He appears in the Surrey Electoral Rolls from 1832 to 1856, occupying a freehold house and garden in Church Street, Leatherhead.

Elizabeth Crispe followed her mother, Elizabeth James (1758-1826), who died aged 68, to the same grave. They rest next to John James (1726-1781), who died aged 55, and Margaret James (1730-1794) who died aged 64. These appear to have been her maternal grandparents.

John James, glazier, painter and plumber of Leatherhead, left a Will dated 12 September 1780. His daughters Elizabeth, Mary and Sarah were each given £5 'for mourning' while Margaret James, his relict, was named executrix.

Mentioned too in the parish registers were John and Elizabeth Belson and their son John Louis Gask, recorded at the baptism of the latter in 1796. The baby's arrival was also recorded in the *Gentleman's Magazine*: 'At the cottage in Leatherhead, Surrey, the Lady of John Belson esq, a son.'

John Belson the father had been in the 2nd Staffordshire militia but entered the Royal Marines as a lieutenant on 4 November 1780 before being placed on half-pay on 22 March 1791. By 1801 it was reported that 'John Belson, heretofore of Leatherhead in the county of Surrey, and since of South Row, Queen's Elm in the parish of Chelsea in the county of Middlesex, Lieutenant in the Marines' had been incarcerated in the Fleet Prison for debt.

In 1831 John Louis Gask Belson, late of Ilford, Essex, general shop-keeper and conductor of stores in His Majesty's Ordnance, on half pay, became involved in bankruptcy proceedings. No family connection has been confirmed to Richard Belson, the last host of John Wesley 40 years previously in Leatherhead.

## RESEARCH FEATURE

### THE TALE OF VICTORIA COTTAGES

**The June Newsletter introduced two of Bookham's oldest surviving cottages which provided a great research topic for the local U3A Social History Group during the 2020 lockdown. In June the names and street numbers of these cottages were incorrectly matched. Since then the group has discovered far more about the cottages and their residents. Here now is the full story following that research.**

Familiar today as the premises of England's House Dental Practice, the semi-detached cottages at numbers 28 and 30 High Street, Great Bookham, date back at least to 1548 when sources show they were occupied by a Dame Elizabeth Durden.

The building itself was occupied in 1615 by Edward Hilder, brother of the local churchwarden, Ralph Hilder. It was modified in the 17th century and separately occupied as two cottages from the 18th onwards to the present day.

Originally covering some two acres, the timber-framed building once had a hole in the roof for smoke release. What is thought to be an original wood staircase survives inside as well as first floor windows that were originally constructed for leaded lights in diamond shaped panes. A well located in front of the cottages provided water

for hundreds of years and was still used by the last private occupant of No 28 until she died in 1990. More of that later.

In 1750 the owner is known to have been Thomas Howard, nephew of Francis the 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Howard of Effingham and it was recorded in 1760 as part of the Grove Estate, covering what is now the top end of the High Street and Lower Shott. The land was bought in 1775 by John Dawnay, 4<sup>th</sup> Viscount Downe, and when Laura, dowager Viscountess Downe, died in 1812 the cottages were known as England's 'Home'. They had a separate malthouse, barn, stables and outhouses as well as an orchard.

In 1839 William Henry Dawnay, 6<sup>th</sup> Viscount Downe was still the owner. At some point they were renamed numbers 1 and 2 Victoria Cottages and also known individually as England's (today's No 30 High Street) and Victoria Cottage (No 28) respectively.

Of course, property ownership is one thing but who actually lived in the cottages? It is hard to place family names at precise locations using the 6 April 1841 census or that of 30 March 1851. However it is known that in 1841, Daniel Crockford and his family were among residents of cottages located between the Saracen and Ring inn (now No 1 Grove Cottages across the Guildford Road but then un-separated from the village street) and Fairfield House. Today's High Street was then known as Bookham Street although it would become Upper Street during the next decade.

In 1841 the Crockfords had the Elliotts as neighbours on the Fairfield House side and Daniel Bexley on the other, with a John Amey as a lodger. This is the first known reference to the Amey family at what may have been one of the Victoria Cottages but Ameys had actually been evident in Bookham at least since 1737. (Later church records show that a labourer called James Amey and his wife Rachel had five children baptised at St Nicolas: Thomas in 1806, Emma in 1809, Francis in 1812, John in 1814 and Stephen in 1818. The last two were fathered while they were living in an almshouse. At the time Bookham's almshouses were in Church Road, near Sole Farm Road.)

In 1851, Daniel Crockford was listed at 21 Upper Street, while Fairfield House was number 22. The numbering system had changed with the Saracen and Ring now number 19. No 20 housed



*Above: Victoria Cottages early in the 20th century.*

Mr McNaughton, a groom, and his family. Grove House was listed between them.

The 7 April 1861 census shows the Amey family living at Mercers Row, Great Bookham. Among them was baby William, just a year old then but who would be registered as an adult living with his wife and children in Victoria Cottage 30 years later. That year the Crockfords were listed at 4 Upper Street with the Lee and Huggins families their neighbours in numbers 3 and 5. Fairfield House had become No 9.

In 1861 too William Grantham, a baker, and his family were registered at 28 Upper Street, as were dressmaker Caroline Arrow and her niece. However No 30 is shown as The Crown inn, so it seems that Upper Street may then have been numbered downhill from the Grove end rather than uphill from the church crossroads as applies to today's High Street.

Ten years later in 1871, Daniel Crockford was now widowed but living with his sister and son. Thomas Huggins, a 'proprietor of houses', lived nearby while the Steadman family lived in Fairfield House. If Daniel was actually living in Victoria Cottage, Benjamin



*Above: The cottages appear as number 252 in this OS map.*

Lee, a gardener, and his wife may have been resident in England's.

The 2 April 1871 census shows the Amey family still living nearby at Southend Cottages, Guildford Road, with William then aged 11. In 1871, Grove House, its stables, Fairfield Cottage and the High Street were listed with their occupants but with no clear indication of who lived where.

Another ten years on and in the census of 3 April 1881, bricklayer John Atkins, age 44, and his wife Amelia with their family were the tenants at England's. Hugh Hamilton, a gardener, appears to have been living next door but it is not clear in which building.

Daniel Crockford, then aged 75 and also working as a gardener, still lived with his sister in Victoria Cottage but he died in June that same year and by 1891 his sister had moved into the almshouses at Frere Cottages, now in Flint Close off Leatherhead Road. (Opened in 1889, these are named after Sir Bartle Frere, Governor of Bombay, India.) The Crockfords had lived in the Victoria Cottages for at least 40 years.

In 1891 John Atkins and his family were still in England's while Victoria Cottage was now home to William Amey and his new wife Emily. They had married the previous year and now had their first child, George William. Sadly, aged two, he died of tuberculosis in 1893 when their second child, their daughter Florence, was a few months old. They had two further girls, Alice, born 1895, and Ethel Kate, born May in 1899 but tragically William himself succumbed to tuberculosis aged only 39 in September that year.

The landlord had changed two years earlier in 1897 when the cottages were purchased by Mrs Mary Chrystie, the local property owner and temperance campaigner who bought several local inns, including the Saracen and Ring, in order to shut them down. She paid £3100 for the cottages and adjacent land and built the Victoria Coffee Tavern next door, a strictly non-alcohol establishment. Known today as Rayleigh House, it is now occupied by Fine Fettle, Henshaws and a number of flats.

The 31 March 1901 census shows the widowed Emily Amey, aged 37 and earning her living as a laundress, in Victoria Cottage, No 28 High Street with Florence, aged eight, Alice six and Ethel Kate, not yet turned two. John Atkins and his family were still living next door at England's but he died in 1906 and Amelia in 1910.

In 1906 Emily Amey started working at the Barn Hall in Church Road as caretaker and cleaner. She was paid 4s/6d (22½ p). It became a lifelong commitment as she remained in the job for the next 43 years, retiring aged 85 in 1949 on a final wage of 7s/- (35p). To the very end she would scrub the floors on her hands and knees and trudge backwards and forwards between Victoria Cottage and the Barn Hall to ensure the place was always locked securely.

As well as her job at the Barn Hall she also worked as caretaker at St Nicolas Church cleaning the church, changing the altar frontal, and taking the choir robes back to the cottage for washing. This she did by hand, using cold water from the well and then ironing them at home.

A U3A group member discovered a historic postcard on eBay dating from 1907 and addressed to Mrs W. Amey, Victoria Cottage. Postmarked Guildford, it reads: 'Went to Whites and found hat there and paid for it to go by post. Cheer up as well as you can.' Kelly's Directory shows William Edward White and Sons as an outfitters in Guildford 62-64 High Street and 45-46 North Street at that time.

Further research showed that Emily Amey's mother, Jane Elizabeth Godwin, had died 3 April 1907 and the postcard been sent only a couple of days later. The hat may have been for the funeral. Mrs Godwin was a widow who had lived all her life in Upham, Hampshire. However, she was buried at St Nicolas Church in Bookham and her death was registered there. She may have come to stay with her

daughter and grand-daughters when she was too old or ill to work.

The next census on 2 April 1911 showed Emily Amey, widow and charwoman, then 47, at Victoria Cottage along with Alice, 16, and Ethel Kate, 11. Florence had gone. (She was now working in service at Walton-on-Hill with a Dr Richards and his family, one of two servants. In 1920 she married Henry Griffiths, the blind organist at St Nicolas Church. They lived at Beckley Cottages, Leatherhead Road.)

Victoria Cottage was said to have four rooms. England's next door, had six and both sons of the late John and Amelia Atkins remained there. Alfred Atkins, aged 43, was now married to Isabella, 37, and they had their four children with them as well as Alfred's brother Thomas and a boarder. Alfred was a gardener at Eastwick Park estate and his wife made and sold boiled sweets to the local community.

Mrs Mary Chrystie died in 1911 but both Victoria Cottages were purchased from the estate for £1175 by her sister Selina Chrystie. She would keep them until 1924 before selling them on. However the tenants would change little in subsequent decades and the Ameys in particular would retain a constant presence for nearly the whole of the century.

The Atkins family occupied England's for well over 30 years but in 1917 it became home to Albert Scott, Bookham's voluntary fire chief and parish clerk. Six years earlier he and his wife Caroline had been resident at the Rectory, Great Bookham, listed as gardener and caretaker respectively so they were not newcomers. They were still in England's at the start of World War 2, according to the National Register of 29 September 1939, Next door then were Emily



*Above: Emily Amey  
(1864-1959)*



*Above: Kate Amey  
(1899-1990)*

and Kate Amey (who never actually used the name Ethel), together with a six-year-old schoolchild called Sylvia Ingold who may have been a wartime evacuee.

Emily's second daughter, Alice, had married and moved on but Kate a spinster had returned to live with her at Victoria Cottage after several years in service with different families.

Her time away from Bookham began in 1931. The passenger list for the P&O ship *Ranchi* that left London 20 November 1931 bound for Bombay, India, lists Kate Amey, a nurse of Victoria Cottage, Great Book-

ham, as a 32-year-old passenger. India was given as her 'country of intended future permanent residence' and she lived there for three years, looking after the children of a British family, the Scotts.

In 1934 she returned to Britain with them and worked for them at

Forbes Road, Edinburgh. By 1937 she was listed as a voter at Grantham's in Chiddingfold, Surrey, and in



*Left: Cast of  
Bookham  
Scenes at St  
Nicolas  
Church.*



1938 at Orchard House, Green Lane, Guildford, in each case apparently as a servant. However shortly after the outbreak of World War 2, she was back living with her mother at Victoria Cottage. She never moved again.

Together she and her mother helped provide school meals at the Barn Hall both in wartime and later.

Ten years later in 1949 Emily and Kate were still in place at No 28 High Street but Albert Scott - no known relation to the family in India and Scotland - was now alone following Caroline's death in 1945. He too was gone by 1951 after some three decades living at England's and Ernest and Edith Tanner had moved in, staying for two more years before the building became empty in 1953.

Both Victoria Cottages were then bought by the local solicitor and L&DLHS founder Stephen Fortescue who had moved to Bookham with his parents in the 1930s and married in 1952.

He refurbished England's and installed a modern water system for the first time after finding a dead cat in the well. He and his wife Mary lived at No 30 from 1954 until 1957 with the Ameys as their tenants next door.

In the absence of a garage or driveway, Stephen housed his car in a nearby shed rented from the owner of a corner shop. During this



*Above: The England's House Dental Practice team today.  
(Picture courtesy of the website.)*

time he also transformed the front and back gardens, re-turfing and planting two apple trees in the front. They were later removed after the fruit was stolen by what he described as 'local louts'.

The Fortescues eventually moved to Lower Road with an office a few doors down the High Street. England's was let for a few months to a series of tenants including a doctor and an accountant. A commercial firm owned by Stephen Fortescue retained the freehold. In 1959 Quentin and Josephine Gapper moved in as tenants before moving to Farnham.

Emily Amey died aged 95 in April 1959. She had lived in the Victoria Cottages for some 70 years, sole tenant of No 28 since the beginning of the 20th century. In her last years she was rewarded for her service to the community by becoming the first honorary vice-president of the Bookham Community Association. Amey Drive, off the Lower Road, was named after her family, Bookham residents in one location or another for well over two centuries in all.

Kate - or Miss Amey, as she was now known locally - continued to work at the church after her mother's death and was a keen member of the Bible study group. Having taken over the tenancy of Victoria Cottage from Emily, she lived on to the age of 91 and remained there right until her own death in 1990. So this was at least 150 years since the first known Amey resident, lodger John, had been registered in one of the two cottages.

Because she was just the second tenant since 1900 the rent was fixed and could only be put up if there were improvements to the premises. She rejected any such rent increases so the cottage was never properly modernised. A St Nicolas Church member who knew her told a U3A researcher that his wife had gone there a number of times and it had been like stepping back 100 years. The cottage had been very dark inside with only cold water and minimal other utilities.

Miss Amey participated in the church's *Bookham Scenes* traditional plays over several years. One of the characters, played by a young boy, was an ancestor of hers and she took great amusement in calling him her great, great and possibly more, grandfather. She is buried in St Nicolas churchyard.

Not long before she died she gave Stephen Fortescue a miniature

wooden coffin, about six inches long, which she had used to save cash for her own burial. It was presented to Leatherhead Museum. Victoria Cottage was finally refurbished after her death and the well filled in. Its location is still visible outside the two cottages.

Miss Amey had had John and Jillian Thomson as neighbours next door in England's from 1960 until at least 1963 and Edwin and June West until 1965. A firm called Profile Publications was there 1966-67. Vacant for long periods, it was used on and off for commercial offices. In 1990 solicitors Parry Kirkby were there. Eventually the dental practice arrived in 1992 and this too changed hands some years later when dentist James McCormick was succeeded by the present team.

Victoria Cottage, No 28, increased in value dramatically after Miss Amey's death. With the freehold now shared, the property was sold in October 1999 for £162,000. Two subsequent sales followed in 2013 and November 2016 when it fetched £350,000.

*Sources:*

- *The Story of Two Villages, (Fortescue, 1975).*
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- *Ancestry*
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- *The Census 1841-1949*
- *Electoral registers 1949-62*
- *Conveyancing documents 1912-1952*
- *Kemps Directories*
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- *Stephen Fortescue*
- *Zoopla*
- *eBay*
- *St Nicolas Church records*
- *England's House Dental Practice*

## ARCHAEOLOGY FEATURE

### PREHISTORY ON THE SURREY DOWNLAND - EXCAVATIONS AT CHERKELY COURT

by IAN HOGG

The former Cherkley Court outside Leatherhead, now Beaverbrook (see *Newsletter* March 2019), lies within a rolling downland environment interspersed with deciduous woodland. This landscape includes known historic monuments such as Stane Street, the Roman road, and three round barrows. As part of the recent redevelopment, the estate underwent several phases of archaeological work including geophysical survey, evaluation and excavation.

The initial geophysical survey and evaluation revealed sporadic activity across the site, primarily on areas of higher topography. The valleys contained thick colluvial deposits, material which has accumulated at the base of slopes through soil movement. The lower colluvium seems to have formed in the earlier prehistoric period, possibly within periglacial environments where a lack of vegetation would have led to increased soil mobility. The later colluviation was Iron Age and Roman in date, suggesting the site was largely open and at least partly devoid of trees by this time.

The evaluation trenches and subsequent excavations showed that the majority of the recorded archaeology was of Late Bronze Age date (1150-800 BC), consisting of small areas of intense activity within a wider landscape probably given over to pasture.

Two large ditches were encountered to the west of Stane Street; the westernmost of these was roughly C shaped and appeared to partially enclose the area to the east, however this space was (perhaps surprisingly) almost devoid of archaeological features. The second ditch ran on a slightly meandering course, perhaps due to topographic features which have long since disappeared. It ran roughly perpendicular to Stane Street, possibly showing that a precursor to the Roman road existed during the Bronze Age.

In the south-east of the site, a ditch and hedge line formed a rectangular enclosure, the north-western corner of which was recorded in one of the excavation areas. The enclosure's interior



was almost barren of features, however a number of quarry and storage pits lay straddling the north-western corner.

In the centre of the site, just to the west of Stane Street, lay an area containing the most intensive Bronze Age activity. A number of post built structures were recorded in this area. They included two possible granaries as well as rectangular six post structures associated with cereal crop storage. Two further clusters of post-holes most likely represent roundhouses.

This type of domestic activity is fairly typical of the period. However the easternmost of the structures was far more unusual, comprising 42 postholes in four concentric semicircles surrounding two central pits. Taken as a whole these features would have screened the two pits on the northern and western sides. The eastern side was kept deliberately open and seems to face the line of Stane Street. The feature could have had some form of ritual purpose. One of the pits contained burnt material suggesting a possible hearth with the second pit of being of uncertain function.

The Iron Age saw partial continuation of the type of activity found during the Bronze Age. Further pitting was recorded around the hedged enclosure in the south-east of the site. These pits mirrored the earlier quarrying and storage pits in the north-western corner of the enclosure. The post built structures to the west of Stane Street had been disused by the Iron Age, 19 large, square post holes forming a fence line cut through the earlier structures.

Despite this, the fence line mirrors earlier features by running on a perpendicular axis to Stane Street. Surprisingly, given the presence of the Roman road which bisects the site, very little Roman evidence was encountered. Finds were restricted to some stray pottery found within colluvial deposits. The area remained largely undisturbed throughout the next 1500 years, probably being partially utilised as pasture, although historic mapping shows that much of the site was wooded until the formation of the estate.

The activity found at Cherkley Court shows a diverse range of prehistoric features including land division, quarrying, crop processing and potential ritual activity. Arguably the most notable aspect of the findings is the possibility that Stane Street runs along the line of a pre-existing route, possibly dating back to the Bronze Age or earlier.

## ORAL HISTORY FEATURE

### HALF A CENTURY IN A SURREY VILLAGE



#### JANET DICKER

**Janet Dicker has been part of the Bookham community for 50 years and remains one of its most active senior citizens, along with her husband John. Both lead busy U3A groups and inspire others with their boundless commitment to enjoying life.**

I am Janet Barbara Morgan Dicker, born 9 February 1942 in Worcester Park. I haven't gone very far. I lived in Worcester Park all my life before I was married and then lived there another seven years before we moved to Bookham in 1970.

John and I married in 1963. When we moved to Bookham, John was working in town as a bank manager. He used to cycle from Dawnay Road where we lived near the Downs to the station every day and commuted up to town. He did that until 1993 when he was very lucky and had early retirement. It happened to coincide with our 30th wedding anniversary. Once he had retired we had an allotment and he spent quite a lot of time there.

When we moved to Bookham we had two young children who obviously needed to go to school. At the time, what is now Polesden School was being built. It was known as South Bookham Infants School and opened in 1970, the year we arrived. We switched to Bookham Middle School (now called Dawnay School) in a new building in 1972-73. The old Bookham Middle School was in what is today's Bookham Library while that was up on Lower Shott. The headmaster of Bookham Middle School was Mr Browning.

At the top of the junction of Dawnay Road and Dorking Road, where there is now a dog grooming shop was a grocer's shop run by Mr Absolam when we moved here. After that it became a clock shop selling grandfather clocks and antique clocks. [*She and John*

*bought a pair of large antique clocks and have them to this day.]*

Going down into the village, I worked at the post office in Church Road for a time. It now has a side entrance with a ramp but the door used to open out straight on to the road. As that was quite dangerous it was moved. During the 1980s Mr Camp was the postmaster. He was a real character, an ex-squadron leader from the RAF with his handle-bar moustache. In 1994 in February one morning I went to work and it was absolute chaos. The whole safe had been removed overnight. How they got it out we will never know. It was rather a setback for poor Mr Camp but he stayed in that post office and retired at the age of 81 when Mr Patel took over.

The doctors in Bookham have really changed over the years. We went to see Dr Bennett who lives down Church Road in a private house. I think part of his garage was the surgery. The doctor would come out to you if needed. I burned my arm one day and he came out to me. I didn't have to go to the surgery. You wouldn't get that today.

In the Lower Road, opposite what is today Fairfield Medical Centre and was then the site of a scout hut, there is now White's Garage with all its posh cars. That was owned by Ken Barrington. *[Kenneth Barrington (1930-1981) was an international cricketer who played for both England and Surrey County in the 1950s and 60s. His 6806 Test runs were the highest by any post-World War 2 England batsman. His Test career ended following a heart attack in 1968. From 1975-81 he was a regular tour manager.]* We went to the opening when Ken Barrington opened it up and he had Harry Secombe and Coco the Clown as celebrities. In those days when you bought petrol they served you and Ken Barrington would come and serve on the pumps.

There have been so many shop changes. At the top of the High Street was VG supermarket which then became a Coop but has since closed. Going down the street on the left there is a nail/beauty salon which was then a very good DIY shop. Next to the post office was Reeves the greengrocer and a couple of shops further down was Liptons, a small supermarket. At one time between these two there was a furniture shop.

On the other side of Church Road, where Cavendish French the estate agent is now, was a pet shop. Bookham Tandoori on the other side was The Curry Queen. That opened when we lived in Dawnay



Road and the owner lived next door to us.

On The Grove estate there was an electrical shop owned by Mr Chitty. The Chittys were quite a big family in Bookham. On the top road - the Leatherhead-Guildford road - where Chandlers is now was Clacks. Len Clack was the boss. There is a picnic table at the viewpoint in Norbury Park commemorating him.

Where there are now the pedestrian lights on the Guildford Road by Bookham School, there was originally a bridge. It had been built after a fatal accident there but was superseded by the traffic lights.

On the Lower Road near The Anchor pub where there are more traffic lights now, was Julie the big fat round lollipop lady who helped the children going to school.

When we moved here there was a lady who grazed her two donkeys on the grassy part of the Common between the village and the station. It had always been used as common land. That part is now purely the footpath to the station but of course further along the Common is very large and used by lots of dog walkers and groups interested in the flora and fauna. The National Trust people work very hard maintaining it.

We moved to [*the newly built*] Pine Walk from Dawnay Road in 1982. We had two teenage children and the house was bigger and had a double garage. By then our son David had his own car. It also made life a lot easier for John as he was able to walk to the station and it was very handy for me and the post office.

When Pine Walk was built, they removed a bungalow from the Lower Road. The approach of Pine Walk went down where that bungalow was and they bought all the gardens from the adjoining bungalows to make the road in the shape of a T.

Shortly after John retired a friend of ours said you really ought to join U3A. We said what is that? It is the University of the Third Age, a worldwide organisation designed for older people who have retired or semi-retired. Members teach each other with the skills they have. In our Bookham U3A we have 600-odd members and about 80 different groups covering everything from walking to French, to music, to wine tasting, to art appreciation, archaeology. You name it, there's somebody hopefully who will run a group to teach on the subject.

## OBITUARY

### STEPHEN EDMUND DUDLEY FORTESCUE (1921-2020)

Stephen Fortescue, solicitor, historian, author, campaigner, local politician and last surviving founder of our Society, died peacefully on 8 August age 99 in Devon.

Born 17 July 1921 in Streatham, south London, the son of a solicitor, he spent his earliest years there. At six he entered Cheltenham College school but left when the family moved for a while to Cheam in 1930. At school in Sutton he proved keen on sport and had quite a record at cricket, soccer and rugby but a bout of scarlet fever left him with a lifelong weak heart. Nevertheless he got into Charterhouse alongside his brother Hugh.

In 1938 the family home back in Streatham was sold to the local fire brigade and his parents moved to Halfway House, Childs Hall Road, Great Bookham. Opposite was an old orchard which his father bought from local landowner Arthur Bird. Fortescue senior had a house built, Pond Meadow, Preston Cross. They moved in on 20 December 1939. Stephen would remain in the area for decades and his parents remained at Pond Meadow until 1955.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1946 and joined both the Surrey Archaeological Society and the Leatherhead and District Country-side Protection Society. He was invited to join the Committee of the latter and supported the formation of a local history and archaeological society. This was constituted on 16 October 1946 as the Leatherhead & District Local History Society. Stephen became treasurer and remained in that role until 1966.

A.W.G. Lowther, a noted archaeologist, was elected chairman. It was decided to arrange visits to places of historical interest and to have winter lectures and that there should be an annual publication, *The Proceedings*. Stephen gave a lecture on Feudal Tenures on 9 May 1947 and it appeared in the first ever *Proceedings*. He would later become Chairman 1974-1980 and President 1990-1996.

During his chairmanship, the Society reached membership of 350. To encourage further growth he investigated the potential of a historic property in Church Road, Leatherhead - Hampton Cottage.



*Above: Stephen casts an eye over the display of literature on sale at the Museum during its 70th anniversary in 2016.*

In 1978 it came on the market and he immediately decided to buy it as an ideal museum for the L&DHLS. Without telling the Committee he negotiated a purchase price of £7000 and then reported what he had done. A client advanced the full purchase price to be repaid after 20 years and the purchase was completed.

In the meantime donations were being received. Government stock was then giving 15.5% return and Stephen arranged to invest £1000. The stock with the dividends being accumulated and reinvested would produce the money to repay the loan. In fact the Society had sufficient funds to repay the loan after 18 years but the generous donor refused repayment and discharged the loan agreement.

Hampton Cottage was refurbished and Stephen arranged for the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey to open the Museum formally in 1979. This was a typical achievement. He had been a well known figure in the local community for many years before this. In Bookham he was a property owner (see Pages 25-27) as well as running his legal



*Above: Stephen and his wife Henrietta examine the model of Hampton Cottage at the Museum.*

practice and retained interests in local firms for many years.

As a committee member of the Bookham Residents Association, he had been asked to stand for Leatherhead Urban District Council as an independent back in 1959. He was subsequently elected to four council committees covering the Library, Allotment and Recreation, General Purposes, and Finance and Rating, and in 1964 became Vice-Chairman of the Council itself, holding the office for two years before taking over as Chairman in 1966. He spent nine years in all as a councillor, and was so well known in the area that he was occasionally asked to conduct meetings of other local bodies.

During his time there, Hazel Vincent Wallace launched her project to build a brand new theatre on the site of Leatherhead's Crescent Cinema and persuaded Dame Sybil Thorndike to allow it to be named after her. Under Stephen's leadership, in September 1966 Leatherhead Urban District Council agreed a grant of £10,000 for the project and he handed over the first instalment of £3000 on 26 January 1968. The Council appointed him a trustee of the Theatre Trust to represent its interests.

Among fund-raising activities for the new theatre was a sponsored walk on 24 March 1968 on a circular route from Leatherhead to Clandon and back via Ranmore common and Newlands Corner. Stephen lent his name to the project and took part. There were 1603 walkers



of whom 184 finished the distance, including him. It raised £4750, then a huge sum.

Stephen retired in 1986 after 40 years as solicitor and was then able to enjoy holidays in many places he had been unable to visit while practising. He also never gave up many voluntary activities. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, in the 1970s he wrote a string of detailed local history books on Bookham and the vicinity which now provide a crucial source for additional researchers.

He was also a keen supporter of The Children's Society, founded by his grandfather, an earlier Stephen Fortescue, and was given the reward of Honorary Vice President.

His first wife of nearly 40 years, Mary, died in 1991 and was buried at St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham. He subsequently married Henrietta who accompanied him to the 70th anniversary party of the L&DLHS in November 2016 and with whom he lived very happily at their home in Awliscombe in Devon where he remained active until the very end.

He was a much loved father to Ann and Stephen, grandfather to Alex and Vicky, and step-father to Stephen and Adrian.

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

Registered Charity No 1175119

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

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

Monthly meetings at the Letherhead Institute every third Friday  
of the month between September and May, 7.30pm for 8pm.

Museum (Hampton Cottage): Open April-December

Thursdays and Fridays 1pm - 4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm

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

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bookhamarchive@leatherheadhistory.org

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Alan Pooley

leatherheadarchive@leatherheadhistory.org

Vacant

**Historical Enquiry Service**

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

**Kirby Library (Letherhead Institute)**

The Library is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10am-12.30pm.

Exceptionally, arrangements may be made to use it at other times by applying to the Librarian.

## VACANCIES

The L&DLHS still has vacancies for all of the following posts. Filling these really is crucial for the Society's future, as is attracting more ordinary members. For more information, to volunteer yourself, or to recommend someone suitable, please contact Chairman John Rowley on 01372/723417 or any of the existing office holders on Pages 38/39.

Leatherhead Archivist

Book Sales Coordinator

Executive Committee Secretary

Museum Curator

Additional Programme Committee members

Friends of the Museum Chairman

### DORKING CONCERTGOERS AT THE DORKING HALLS

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**Saturday 17 October 2020 7.30pm**

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**Clara Schumann** Variations on a Theme of Robert Schumann Op.20

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Vienna Mozart Trio

