



The Newsletter

LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

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18th & 19th Century
Leatherhead, Surrey
Surrey Museums, Galleries & Archives

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*The Quarterly Magazine of the
Leatherhead & District Local History Society*

Editorial

With the first Newsletter of 2016 the best possible news would be that all the offices left vacant had been filled. Unfortunately that is not the case and it will not be until the AGM in April that any resolution can be expected. We can however welcome Tony Matthews who has recently moved into the area.



After a long incubation period following the publication of the LDLHS book 'The Bookhams in World War II' a film has been made by Farooq and Huma Beg entitled 'We Also Served'. It contrasts with the many war films telling the story of how the villagers supported the war effort, made sacrifices on many fronts and coped with the challenges of the war and aftermath. It received an amazing reception at its first showing in the Leatherhead Theatre with all its 550 seats packed. Almost certainly further showings will be arranged and it is also available on a DVD.

Renewing your Membership for 2016

If there is a yellow form enclosed with this newsletter that means that we think you have NOT YET renewed your membership for 2016. We look forward to receiving your renewal.

To all those who have already renewed, thank you. Those who have renewed who have an email address should have had an email from me giving them the new username and password needed to see the digitised items in our on-line archive. This change is done for two reasons - only paid up members are given such access and it is a prudent security measure.

Frank Haslam, Membership Secretary

***Make sure you visit the History Society Website
www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk***

Next Edition Deadline - 2 April 2016

Index to Articles

Baron Bookham	5	Report from the Friends	24
Chairman	2	JaneAusten	2
Clovelly House	9	Ronnie Greville2015	15
Correction to August Newsletter	5	Renewing your Membership for 2016	1
Editorial	1	Ruth Ellis Lecture	6
Hawthorn Leslie 3837	12	The KESWICK family of Eastwick Park	13
Meetings and Visits	Backpage	Time Flies	17
Mrs Greville's Folly	7	Young Street Construction	19

From the Acting Chairman

Dear Friends

Welcome to our Newsletter for 2016 and all good wishes for the coming year hoping it will be peaceful and a successful one for our Society

Since our last Newsletter in November we had our December Quiz Night run by Frank and Jane Haslam which proved both enjoyable and challenging. Frank as Quiz Master is an expert at his craft and runs these events with humour with a touch of authority which keeps us on our toes. The event raised a significant £ which is a tribute to everyone who attended in making this evening such a success.

When David Hartley resigned as Chairman in November I agreed to fill the gap until the AGM in March and with this in mind we all need to turn our minds to the election of our committee members.

Our Society has a long tradition of preserving, recording and researching the history of our district which we need to continue but also looking to the future and introducing new ideas. Increasing our membership and involving our members in our activities are areas already suggested. Our Executive Committee would welcome new faces and we have a number of vacant posts to fill. Currently we need a Chairman and I would be pleased to tell anyone interested what is involved. Sales and Publication Secretary which Roy Mellick has been filling is an important role which publicises the Society and provides an income and Publicity Officer which we have been unable to fill for a number of years but currently undertaken by John Wettren and Frank Haslam would provide much impetus in recruitment and increasing our activities. With this Newsletter are the notice and agenda and nominations and elections for the Executive Committee 2016/17 for the AGM 18th March.

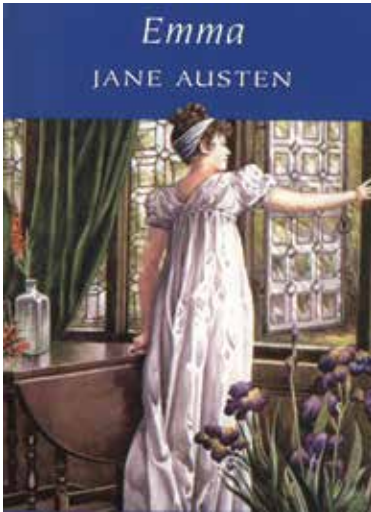
Please give it your attention and support.

Fred Meynen

‘Emma’ by Jane Austen - Leatherhead Location?

Record numbers including many guests attended our most recent lecture given by Nicholas Ennos. His subject was the writer Jane Austen and in particular some interesting features concerning her novel ‘Emma’. Our speaker has researched this subject for many years and has in fact written a book entitled ‘Jane Austen – a new Revelation’. Much of its contents supports his theory that Austen was not the author of these novels but this talk dwelt largely with an aspect of considerable interest to those living in or near Leatherhead. It concerned the places mentioned in the story (which are given fictitious





names) but which he claimed with proof were in fact real places existing within our district.

It appears that he is not the originator of the theory because in fact a letter published in The Times Literary Supplement of 13th June, 1918 makes this very claim. Members of the audience were intrigued to find copies of that page distributed for them to study. In the novel Emma and her father had a home called 'Hartfield' on the outskirts of a town named Highbury, a place located on high ground that is suggested as being in fact Leatherhead. Nearby a neighbour lived in a house given as Randalls approached via 'the common field'. Randalls does of course exist although no longer a dwelling place and along the banks of the River Mole we can still approach it along a path bordering The Common Field. The theory concerning the identity of Hartfield was unfolded and the speaker supported the contention that as proposed in the newspaper the

house was none other than Thorncroft quite close to Leatherhead church. The church and its vicar feature prominently in the story and the latter is stated to live in 'Vicarage Lane'. This again is a place that still exists although now a rather shabby cul-de-sac terminating on the banks of the Mole.

Notable events described in the book include a grand ball held at the town's principal inn called The Crown. An early 20th century photograph shown to the audience depicted



Thornycroft Manor



The Swan Hotel

Leatherhead's main cross roads and in the foreground, The Swan Inn well known in its former days as the place of all kinds of celebrations.

One of the events related in the book 'Emma' was a picnic which was said to have taken place at Box Hill. An apparent anomaly however was that the distance travelled to reach the scene was said to be seven miles, a great deal more than the present distance as any local resident would affirm. However it turns out that the hill could not have been scaled by ladies from those times and the present day paths did not exist. A route from Leatherhead to Box Hill would then have taken then by way of Headley which is in fact a distance of seven miles. Another so called anomaly accounted for.

Readers of 'Emma' would have been fascinated with so much detail being explained and so many local places revealed to exist as actual locations – these with convincing explanation. A great deal was also revealed about Jane Austin herself together with her family and close friends. Too much to include in this summary but well set out in the book of Nicholas' authorship. The audience appreciated the special care with which the Leatherhead connections were explained and it was no surprise that a deluge of questions came at the conclusion of his talk.

John Wettren

Baron Bookham

It comes as a surprise to most people to learn that in addition to our Barons Howard of Effingham many of whom are buried in our Church we also had two Barons of Great Bookham.

The first was Arthur Walkden a very successful trade unionist as secretary of the Railway Clerks Union. He became an M.P. and was elevated to the House of Lords by Clement Attlee in 1945 where he served as deputy speaker. He died in 1951 when the Barony became extinct and is buried in the Churchyard at St Nicolas.

Our second Baron was a Law Lord, Frederick Tucker who presided at the trial of William Joyce, Lord 'Haw-haw'. He lived in Bookham High Street. He was made a life peer as Lord Tucker of



Francis Greary



Justice Tucker

Great Bookham in 1950. So for a time we had two Barons of Great Bookham. He died in 1975.

There was also Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Francis Geary. He was a baronet, an inheritable title but with no seat in the House of Lords. He took as his title 'of Polesden and Oxenhoath', the two family properties. He is almost certainly buried in St Nicolas Church.

William Whitman

Correction to August Newsletter

The article 'Ashted's Refugee Rector' (August Newsletter: pages 10 to 13) was wrongly given as John Rowley. The author of the article was John Stansfield.

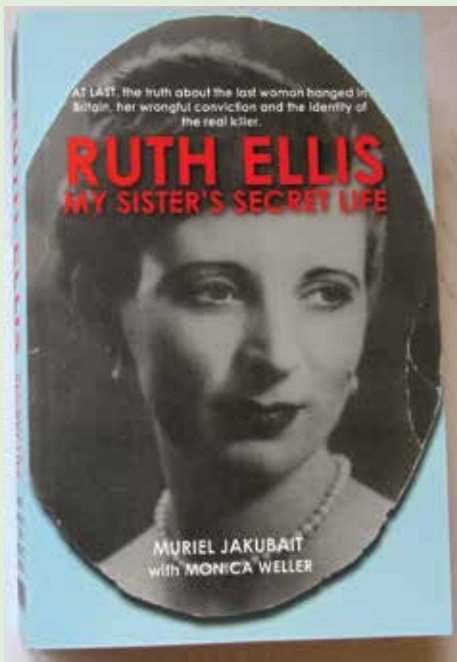
November Lecture – Ruth Ellis



Exactly sixty years ago David Blakely was shot and killed outside a public house in Hampstead. Mrs Ruth Ellis was arrested on the spot and confessed immediately. She was hanged – the last woman to be executed in Britain. The murder made headlines

at the time and inspired lurid books and a film. The day after the execution the Daily Sketch claimed that another man was involved. Was the motive jealousy or was it to divert attention from some other crime?

When our speaker in November, Monica Weller embarked on a writing course, she sought expert advice on her chosen topic from Ron Fowler, the local fishmonger who mentioned that Ruth Ellis' sister Muriel had been a customer at his earlier shop. Monica managed to track her down and wrote an article for a national newspaper about the case. Muriel believed that Ruth was innocent but had been manipulated by the real murderer – Ruth's other lover - to play a part in a deadly plot. A publisher's agent suggested to Ms Weller that a new book on this murder would be more successful than one on Monica's preferred subject [the fish of the Outer Hebrides]. And he was proved right.



Our speaker spent three years researching the double life of Ruth Ellis; the first official document she selected at random contained an important fact about the victim which had never been made public. The chance survival of a microfiche at Companies House gave a lead to the 'other man'. A letter to the Leatherhead Advertiser led to the discovery that he had lived in Garlands Road as a young Home Guard in 1941-2 just when Ruth's father was recovering in Leatherhead Hospital nearby after being injured in the London Blitzkrieg. At the time of the murder over ten years later Ruth was a divorced club hostess on the fringe of the twilight world of the Secret Service. There were indirect links with the Burgess/Maclean and Profumo spying scandals of the 'Fifties.

Ms Weller helped Muriel to write a frank description of appalling family lives, setting out the evidence to support her

claim that Ruth had been ‘framed’. including: a weak defending counsel (who said that he had ‘decided ‘to subject witnesses to minimum cross-examination’ despite Ruth’s ‘not guilty’ plea ‘to make more of a show’), no real witness of the actual shooting, doubts about the source of the gun and whether Ruth would have been able to aim or fire it, a lack of fingerprints or other forensic evidence, discrepancies between sworn statements made by the same person but at different times, missing property, omissions from official records, a last-minute change of solicitor and a statement from Ruth implicating the ‘other man’.

Ms Weller’s new edition of the book of Ruth’s life and death includes newly-released documents which increase suspicions of a ‘cover-up’: the list of Ruth’s property on arrest, prison hospital records and a number of badly-forged letters.

A relative in the audience asked why Ruth Ellis had lied about so much for so long. Ms Weller said the answer might be Ruth’s remark that ‘to do otherwise would be traitorous’.

Derek Renn

Mrs Greville’s Folly



All round the country there are many ‘Follies’, buildings constructed for decoration or on the whim of the owner. English gardens might feature a Roman temple or a Chinese temple, a castle tower very often extensively decorated. Close to us there are several at Painshill with a range of The Ruined Abbey, Turkish Tent, Gothic Temple and Tower and Crystal Grotto. All these follies gave amusement to the owner and perhaps over the years have convinced some of their historical value.

Mrs Greville was an amazing character with a humble childhood yet achieving a unique place in Edwardian society. What is also unique is that with all the wealth she acquired she still always seemed to have the ability to understand society and its actual values, she had a unique insight into the real upper classes.

At Polesden Lacey so often visitors are startled by the fact that the house is really only around 100 years old. They visit it is as one of the ancient grandiose mansions of the eighteenth century. In my memory (2001–5?) introductory talks were given by a member of staff from the stairway saying that the house was built by Cubitt in 1822. In fact the house was almost totally rebuilt in 1904 with a just few older features retained (the columns). At that time it was very plain inside and undecorated.

The house as we know it is almost entirely due to Mrs Greville. She might well have wanted a palace to entertain her guests but Polesden Lacey was not like that. What should Mrs Greville do? She decided to make it look like a palace with a few extra features thrown in. Using the designers of the Ritz she set out to suit her purpose.

One aging feature is to fit oak panelling on all the walls to take away the modern painted walls. The entrance hall needs the same oaken face and there is an old London church with a Wren reredos that could be used. The ceilings are all square so these need fitting with extensive plasterwork all nicely curved. The square dining room in the front needs work to make its ends look curved. There are no money concerns so every possible work of art can be acquired in terms of pictures, urns, objet d'art and so on.

For the ultimate addition - how about an all gold room which would make a maharajah feel comfortable? A magnificent candelabra to hang at the centre. The walls are covered with plasterwork bought from an Italian palace.



So is Polesden Lacey really nothing more than Mrs Greville's Folly? As a building it has no historical value. It was constructed to give pleasure to Mrs Greville. However it did play its part in history in being one of the great houses for social entertainment in the 1900-1930 period. Also because of the sheer quality of her possessions its contents form a museum.

If it was Mrs Greville's Folly should we be concerned? She deserves a sneaking admiration for setting it all up. It is all imitation but why should that stop us getting pleasure from it. I like to think of her planning to 'get one over' on all those pompous upper classes by setting up her own grand country mansion.

Martin Warwick

Clovelly House on a Hilltop

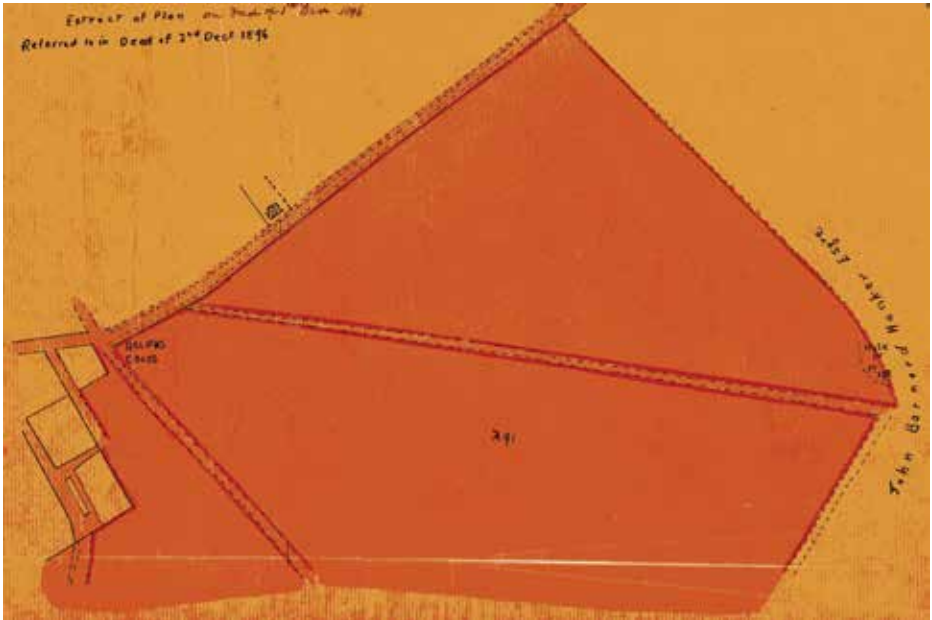
After the welcome sign for Great Bookham on the Leatherhead Road and just before you reach the Eastwick Road junction, two left turnings rise up to the Downs with a scenic view more than 20 miles northwards to London. Norbury Way overlooks a cattle field before petering out into a narrow track to the hilltop. Some yards further along the main road, Downs Way has housing on both sides until becoming a public bridleway at the summit where it meets the same narrow track. From there it continues on beside Norbury Park through pasture land grazed by sheep, with Polesden Lacy to the southwest and Boxhill further on to the southeast.

A century ago the views would have been even more spectacular without either residential or road traffic interruption. Hale Chalk Pit lay at the top of the hill surrounded by grassland. The only other significant landmark - Ralph's Cross at the bottom of the hill, a few yards further towards Great Bookham village - was known as the point where a thief was once hanged for sheep stealing in the early 18th century.

On 1 December 1896, an indenture of conveyance covering 139 acres of this hilltop land was drawn up between William Keswick, Lord of the Manor, and three other local figures, Eustace Henry Dawnay, Lewis Payne Dawnay, and Hugh Richard Viscount Downe. The next day, Keswick mortgaged it for £2600 to his creditors, Rev John Robert Keble of York, Francis Gawayne Champernowne of Lincoln's Inn, and Rev Thomas Charles Keble of Wolverhampton.



The tall Ralph's Cottages on the Leatherhead Road in 1903 at Ralph's Cross. This is the corner with what would later become Crabtree Lane and the line of Downs Way lies behind on the horizon.



Plan showing the full 139 acres of land conveyed by William Keswick in 1896 with the path later to become Downs Way cutting through the middle.

Over the following quarter century ownership of the land changed as Keswick's son and heir, Henry, paid off the mortgage on the 139 acres and later sold his entire estate of 661 acres towards the end of World War One.

It was not until 1921 that the land was earmarked for development with several new roads being laid out. They had no names as yet, just numbers and of these Numbers 3 to 6 would later become respectively Crabtree Lane, Blackthorne Road, Hale Pit Road and Downs Way. Norbury Way was simply a cart track.

On 7 October 1921, Allan Ansell, a gentleman of Chessington Road, Ewell, bought part of the original 139 acres from the Keswicks' successor at Eastwick Park manor house, Hippolyte Louis Viche du Coudray Souchon. Ansell paid him £3750. The purchased land lay at the top of Number 6 Road. Ansell then moved to Kent and on 26 April 1923 sold a 410-foot wide plot close to the old chalk pit to builder John William Stubbs of 160 Mantilla Road, Tooting Bec Common. It cost £95 and he built a three-bedroom bungalow there, calling it Clovelly. It proved quite an investment.

On 25 March 1924, Stubbs sold the property to another gentleman, Allan Barry Wise of The Glen, 23 Church Road, Leatherhead for £1050. By then Number 6 Road had become Downs Way and Wise raised half of the purchase through a mortgage with Alfred Cronin Fleuret of Bloomsbury Square. That was inherited by Fleuret's sons, an auctioneer and a solicitor, just two years later. Clovelly remained alone on a large plot for some years, limited by a covenant that forbade the parking of a caravan outside - presumably to discourage any gypsy settlement. As the last property in the road, it would have dominated the top of Downs Way.

The first significant change came on 13 October 1931 when Wise and the Fleurets sold Clovelly to Leslie John Mattison of 12 Norbury Avenue, Thornton Heath for £850. Wise got just £200 of this, the remainder going to the Fleurets. But Mattison became the first long-term owner, retaining the property for the next 38 years. Very early in World War 2 on 27 October 1939 he reduced the land area by selling off two adjacent plots to Henry George Goddard and Frederick John Mitchell. Then, presumably serving in the forces, Mattison was away from Clovelly from 1941 until 1947 but he lived there for the following 22 years.



The original site of Clovelly, Downs Way, covering nearly two acres in 1923

The post-war years saw a building boom and by the 1950s, Downs Way had clearly become primarily a residential rather than an agricultural location. On 24 May 1957 the then Leatherhead Urban District Council issued Mattison a notice requiring him “within one week... to cause the number 35 to be marked or renewed on the above named house occupied by you.” He faced a 40 shilling penalty if he didn't comply.

Clovelly was now officially 35 Downs Way and on 22 February 1965, Mattison made a statutory declaration on rights of way to the property. Soon afterwards on 1 April 1965 he sold off another plot of 216 feet frontage to Mid-Surrey Developments Ltd for £6000. There was an orchard on the plot at the time but the builders soon moved in. Clovelly surrendered its sole position at the top of the hill when three more modern houses were built with the numbers 37, 39 and 41 Downs Way, leading to the bridlepath.

On 12 March 1969 Mattison finally sold Clovelly itself to Donald George and Margaret Rose Hughes of 14 Oswald Road, Fetcham for £7050. Four years later they were already planning to add two additional two bedrooms and a bathroom in the loft space. This was carried out and in 1979 a carport was added at the side of the house. The Hughes family remained for 33 years until selling the enlarged chalet bungalow to Michael and Kay Whittaker on 6 August 2002 for £375,000. They in turn enlarged it further while living there for 13 years and then sold what is now just 35 Downs Way to Tony and Jane Matthews 8 September 2015 for £825,000.

Tony Matthews

Hawthorn Leslie 3837:

This -6-0ST has been rescued by the Hawthorn and Leslie Preservation society as a long term project to bring her back to steam after standing for 25 years at the Leatherhead Leisure Centre. A working member at the Lavender Line enquired about the Loco last August as a static display exhibit at Isfield and the eventual overhaul of the loco, by September a small society had formed and the Hawthorn Leslie Preservation Society was born.



Built in 1934 at Tyneside she was purposely build as a workhorse for the Corby Steel works where she was renumbered from 3837 to number 16. After working all her life at the Steel works she finally retired in 1969 where she was privately brought and taken to the Nene Valley railway, by 1985 the loco was kindly donated by the Biwater Group Limited of Dorking to the Leatherhead Leisure Centre where the loco has stayed ever since.

3837 seems to be in overall average condition considering the amount of time she has been

exposed to the elements but with donations and fund raising the society is very confident that with a major overhaul she could well be in steam once again.

For more information on this Loco please visit the Society's website: www.3837.pvsonline.com.

Derek Renn



The Keswick Family of Eastwick Park, Bookham

William and Henry Keswick were successively Members of Parliament for Epsom, a constituency which included Leatherhead. William was the great-nephew of Dr William Jardine, the 'iron-headed old rat' who founded Jardine Matheson. William Jardine's sister Jean married David Johnstone. Their daughter Margaret married Thomas Keswick. William Keswick was their son and he 'became the patriarch of a formidable business dynasty which is still going strong today.' (quote from Epsom & Ewell History Explorer)

()

William Jardine studied medicine and qualified as a doctor. He became a ship's surgeon on an East Indiaman. This post allowed him to trade on his own account. He later left medicine and concentrated on his newly discovered talent for trade and rose to head large companies in India and Hong Kong. Jardine Matheson was one of the biggest players in the opium trade and The Jardine Matheson Building,



The Jardine Matheson Building, Shanghai

Shanghai was based in Hong Kong. Jardine Sinner and Co (a Freudian slip this should read Jardine Skinner & Co) of Calcutta bought opium in India for sale in China. The business was immensely profitable. William was often referred to as 'the iron-headed old rat'. He



William Keswick

had suffered a heavy blow to the head and had simply ignored it. This explains the ‘iron-headed’, I leave the ‘old rat’ to your imagination.

(William Keswick the Taipan of Jardine Matheson)

William Keswick was a taipan, that is to say a boss. The word comes from Cantonese and is used to indicate the man in charge. William Keswick, the Taipan of Jardine Matheson was in fact the Managing Partner. William had been working in the East since 1855. Jardine Matheson was an enormous company. There is another taipan, it is the name of a large and highly venomous brown snake which is found in northern Australia. Don't call anyone a taipan – you might be misunderstood. Before I found the word in the Oxford Dictionary I googled it. I found that Taipan is a popular name for Chinese restaurants.

The two meanings have been used together. When the Jardine Empire was poised for a takeover bid a headline read ‘Taipan coiled and ready to strike’

I think William Keswick may have been very influential when the firm decided to leave the opium trade. William was in China and Hong Kong from 1855 and in 1859 he set up a branch of Jardine Matheson in Japan where he remained until 1862. This took him away from the opium trade. In 1862 he returned and became a partner. The firm left the opium trade in 1870 and William became the managing partner in 1874. By 1870 he may have been seen as the next Taipan. If so, his voice would have carried a good deal of influence when the decision to leave the opium trade was taken. Some more research may confirm this idea or it might kick it into touch.

When William Keswick returned to England in 1882 he bought the Eastwick Park Estate in Bookham. His name was suggested as the Conservative candidate for the Epsom constituency at the next vacancy. The constituency chairman declined the suggestion as William had been in ‘business’ and they usually chose a country gentleman for the seat. Curiously they chose George Cubitt as the candidate - that is to say they chose a leading member of the building trade. Eventually the party changed their minds about William and he sat for Epsom from 1899 until his death 9th March 1912. He left an estate of £500,000.

He was succeeded as Member for Epsom by his son Henry who had also served Jardine Matheson. Henry retired from Parliament in



1918, died in 1928 and left £466,409. Not a patch on his father, then.

The family owned Eastwick Park in Great Bookham which is pictured here. (Eastwick Park, Bookham Source L&DLHS)

The above article comes from John Morris's forthcoming study of Leatherhead, India and the East.

Ronald Greville

'Mrs Ronnie' as Mrs Grevile of Polesden Lacey liked to be called. But who was Ronnie? With the help of The Times newspaper archive available to members of Surrey County libraries it is possible to answer this.

Ronald Greville is an interesting character. He was born in 1864, the eldest son and heir of the second Baron Greville. He never inherited the title as he died before his father. He was educated at Rugby and joined the Militia. In 1884 he took the entrance exam to join the army and the published results show he was 12th. It is worth mentioning that the purchase of commissions was abolished in 1870. Between 1888 and 1898 he was in the 1st Life Guards and became a Captain. He was part of the Marlborough House set and therefore acquainted with the then Prince of Wales.



LIEUTENANTS OF MILITIA FOR COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.

The following is a list in the order of merit and with the total number of marks obtained, of the Lieutenants of Militia recommended for Commissions in the Regular Army who are reported as having passed the qualifying examination held by the Civil Service Commissioners in October, 1884—

Name	Total	Name	Total
Bower, Denis Mahoney ...	3647	Boake, Hon. Ronald ...	2980
Murray, Alexander ...	3192	Boake, Benjamin ...	2972
Smyth, Randal Chas Edward Skelington ...	3068	Proctor Simpson ...	2972
Moore, Herbert Acheson ...	2977	Louis Hamilton ...	2179
Herbert, Douglas ...	3167	Poore, Robert Montagu ...	2988
Trefusis, Hon Henry Walker ...	2983	Parker, John George ...	2919
Lavett, Berkeley John Talbot ...	2920	Sullivan, Edwd Langford ...	1942
Owen, William ...	2787	Gower, Chas Cameron ...	1932
Oliver, Henry Ward ...	2903	Lewson ...	1932
Doran, Cecil George ...	2922	Peterson, Frederick ...	1922
Nunn, Mervyn Henry ...	2447	Hopewell ...	1922
		Kirkwood, Thomas ...	1658
		Moore ...	1658

In 1891 the marriage was arranged between Helen Margaret Anderson, daughter of Mrs McEwan, wife of Mr W McEwan MP. 'The lucky bridegroom – for the bride is not only wealthy but amiable and pretty is Mr Ronald Greville. At the wedding she wore the newest dress material of corduroy or cotele cloth (or ribbed). It was pearl grey. The shirt opened slightly down the front over a panel of old pink velvet. Her wedding presents included from her father a diamond tiara – perhaps the finest in England and said to have cost not a farthing less than £50,000.'



Her name, Anderson is her mother's married name from her first marriage. She was married to a Mr Anderson who was a day porter in William McEwan's Edinburgh brewery. Before 1885 Mr Anderson died and McEwan and Mrs Anderson decided to live together and the suggestion is that they came south to London to avoid the very moral Edinburgh society. William was from 1886 to 1900 Liberal MP for Edinburgh Central and was described a 'a plain, blunt man.' His daughter, Maggie is said to have been proud of her roots by claiming 'I'd rather be a beeress than an heiress'. He died on the 12 May 1913 and is buried at St Nicolas. His estate was £1,503,940.

EAST BRADFORD ELECTION.

The polling for East Bradford took place yesterday in fine weather, and the anticipations as to the severity of the fight were fully realised. The result was declared as follows:—

Greville (C)	4,921
Billson (L)	4,528
Hardie (L.L.P.)	1,953
Majority	395

There have been four elections in the constituency since its creation in 1885. They have resulted as follows:—

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A scene of tremendous enthusiasm followed the publication of the figures. The successful candidate afterwards addressed his supporters at the County Conservative Club, and thanked East Bradford for returning him as a supporter of one of the finest and strongest Governments of modern times. The victory would be greatly appreciated by Lord Salisbury.

Captain the Hon. **Ronald Folke Greville** is the eldest son of Lord Greville, and is 32 years of age. He holds a captaincy in the 1st Life Guards. He married, in 1891, Margaret Helen Anderson, step-daughter of Mr. McEwan, who has represented Central Edinburgh since 1886 as a Liberal. At the last general election he contested the Barnsley Division of Yorkshire as a Unionist against Earl Compton, when he was defeated by 6,820 votes against 4,653.

Now back to Ronald. He did not have good health and in 1892 he was ill with typhoid and it was reported in The Times to be running its normal course. He recovered and decided to pursue a political career and resigned his commission. His first attempt was in 1895 when he lost at Barnsley but in November 1896 he was successful at Bradford East which he won as a Unionist. It is interesting to note the candidate who was third –Keir Hardie a leading light in the development of the Labour party. The announcement of the results states that he married Helen Margaret Anderson, step-daughter of W McEwan.

Maggie and Ronald were unable to have children although it was a good marriage – a mixture of money and status. They had an active social life and the Court Circular of 22 June 1906 states 'That the King intends to leave Windsor Castle early this afternoon by motor car to Reigate where he will honour Captain the Honourable and Mrs R Greville with a visit for the week-end. The party was named as including the Hon George and Mrs Keppel. A

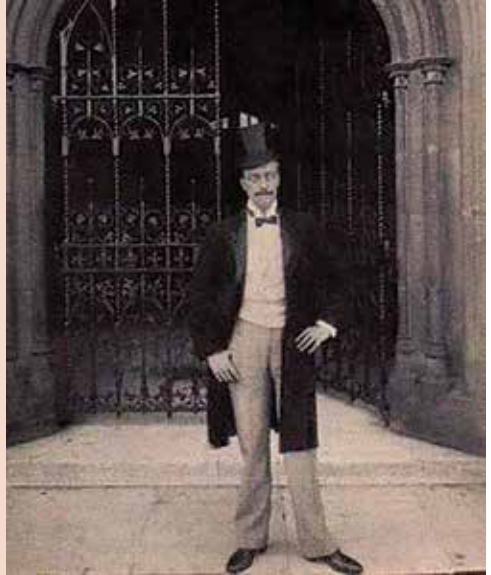
picture in The Times shows the King but not the Queen but with Mrs Keppel but no Mr Keppel although he was stated in the Court Circular as being part of the party. The Grevilles were leasing Reigate Priory but the party visited Polesden Lacey which they were in the process of buying at a cost of £80,000.

Ronald's health was deteriorating. He suffered from throat cancer and died of pneumonia following an operation for cancer on 5 April 1908 at the age of 44. His condition may not have been unconnected with the fact that he was always with a cigarette in gloved hands.

William McEwan and Ronald are buried next to each other in St Nicolas Churchyard Bookham.

It is therefore not surprising that Polesden Lacy is identified with his widow, Maggie Greville who died in 1942.

Chris Pullan



Ronnie Greville at Bradford July 1888

Time Flies

How often have we heard the remark 'doesn't time fly'. We will have oft times repeated it ourselves especially as another Christmastide and New Year have now passed us by.

Perhaps it is an 'age' thing - I don't expect that we used the phrase much in our younger days although our 18 year old grandson has been heard to use it but it might just be that he wanted to impress us as to how mature he is!

What was it that started me off up this intellectual avenue? Well we are all 'historians' to a greater or lesser degree. If you continue to the end of this offering you will be in no doubt as to where I sit on the degree scale. As historians the one thing that we have as a keystone to all our ponderings is time. Time is the unforgiving master that plods, nay flies across, through, over and under all of our efforts to recall, monitor and document the past.

We are all possibly aware of the conundrum that states, 'If a mighty tree falls in the middle of the forest and there is no one there to hear it does it make a noise?'

Consider this if our forefathers of long ago had not 'invented' some form of measurement to record the passing of natural activities would time exist?

A very few seconds of thought will convince us that there was no alternative. The natural

order is established by Mother Nature herself. Since the dawn of time the event of sunrise and sunset was the prime marker that began to establish the comings and goings of earthly creatures both in the 'human' and animal world. This order of things would have been established way before such sophisticated time pieces as Stonehenge were built.



Stonehenge, Wiltshire

Due to the age of some of the quartz crystals in the ancient rock it can at times run slow!

It is of course impossible to imagine a world where 'clock' time does not exist. How on earth would we catch our plane, train, bus or even more importantly know when to switch on the telly to watch 'Corrie' or 'East Enders'. (I don't do match of the day).

As historians we are well aware of the tricks that time can play. Another well used and hackneyed observation is, 'No, was it that long ago'. This reinforces the need to refer to reliable documentation when we write or pontificate on this or that subject. I don't know about you but I never cease to be amazed by the manner in which dates and years present a different take on events. For example anyone who is of a certain age might be tricked into thinking that 1971 was but yesterday. We all remember the occasion when we 'went decimal' and were 'ripped off' by the conversion game. However when we realise that it was 45 years ago we begin to feel our age.

Indeed the further back in time we travel the more time seems to become compressed. Both World Wars were hell to live through but when in three hundred years from now future members of L&DLHS read about them in their society archives the four and six years will no doubt be observed as 'I see'. Indeed they might have a little difficulty in separating the start and finish dates but I hope not. One thing is certain as we enter a new dawn with regards information creation and retrieval future documentation should be more concise and readily available. Who knows, three hundred years from now history could be a thing of the past!

It is also the case that more recent events might be specified with the date and time of their

happening where as it is usually the case events of long ago are only referred to by the month and year in which they took place. Why is this so? - well it could be for a number of reasons. As the event took place long ago there is not the need to be pedantic or documentation does not exist to substantiate a more finite fix. Or and perish the thought it could be that the 'digging and delving' to find the information was not undertaken. (at this point I feel the presence of SEF 'tut- tutting' over my shoulder).

In my more sombre moments I ponder on matters such as this. All we have for certainty both as historians and lesser mortals is the past. Obviously the future is unknown. The only other part of the equation is this very second that we live NOW. So whatever we are doing we have to endure that unforgiving second which is the instant here and now and like the clouds scurrying across a summer sky never to be repeated in exactly the same format.

On that note may I wish each and everyone of you a belated happy peaceful and healthy New Year . After all that's all I can do - we all know what happened last year, it is now history.

Brian Hennegan

The Construction of Young Street

The following is an extract from 'Over the Other Bridge by Goff Powell and Brian Hennegan regarding the occupation of Canadian soldiers in Leatherhead.

During the Second World War a Canadian soldier fired a bullet at the pub sign of the Running Horse, Bridge Street and the damage was evident for many years until a new sign was erected. Before the D-Day landings the town and the surrounding area was home to very many Canadian soldiers. Cometh the hour they, together with other allies and all their equipment vanished, just like the early morning mist before the summer sunrise.

The Canadians however did leave us a more fitting legacy, the road we now call Young Street was built by Canadian soldiers based here to enable military vehicles to avoid bottlenecks of places like Redhill, Reigate and Leatherhead. The road was finished in the summer of 1941. It was years later the name Young Street was adopted; it was named after Major Young who was in charge of the soldiers who built it.

The following is the official undertaking taken from 'The Canadians in Britain 1939-1944 published by the Government Printing Bureau on Behalf of the Department of National Defence in 1945 and 1946.

"Canadian Military Engineers

WWII The Canadians in Britain – The Road Builders

It was manifestly impossible at this time to find men and guns in sufficient



This picture is taken from a postcard dated 1938 it shows the sign before the damage.

numbers to hold all coastal defence works in strength. The anti-invasion plans depended for their success upon rapid movement and concentration of the mobile reserves. But English roads, while beautiful and picturesque are notoriously narrow and twisty, not least in the towns through which the divisions with their scores of guns and thousands of vehicles, would have to pass in an emergency. Particularly dangerous especially in view of the additional hazards of bomb craters and diversions caused by delayed action bombs were the narrow bottlenecks of Redhill, Reigate, Leatherhead and Lewes.”



In view of the grave danger of congestion at these points and the possibility of bombing and “strafing” by enemy aircraft, Commander General McNaughton suggested to the War Office and Ministry of War Transport that by-pass roads might be constructed around the traffic traps of Redhill and Reigate. He was informed that such a project would require about two-and-half years to complete, using civilian labour. The Canadian G.O.C., however, proposed that the work should be undertaken by the Royal Canadian Engineers. No. 2 Road Construction Company, RCE who had recently arrived in England. Of its 350 sappers many had extensive road-building experience in Canada and it was equipped with the latest American type road building machinery.

Arrangements were finally concluded, and on 3rd September 1940 seven huge bulldozers and Letourneau scrapers began pushing down trees and hedges and grading earth for the new

DORKING CONCERTGOERS AT THE DORKING HALLS

HEATH STRING QUARTET

Sunday 21 February 2016 3.00pm

Mozart Quartet in D minor, K.421; Beethoven Quartet in F major, Op.135 Tchaikovsky Quartet No.1

Sunday 6 March 2016 3.00pm

Haydn Quartet in F minor, Op.20 No.5; Ravel Quartet in F major; Tchaikovsky Quartet No.2

Sunday 20 March 2016 3.00pm

Mozart Adagio & Fugue in C minor, K.546; Bartók Quartet No.5; Tchaikovsky Quartet No.3

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN

Saturday 9 April 2016 7.30pm “Arrivals & Departures”

Handel Overture to *Solomon*; Arrival of the Queen of Sheba; Vivaldi Double Cello Concerto in D

Haydn Cello Concerto in C; Symphony No.45 *Farewell*

David Curtis Conductor; Raphael Wallfisch Cello

FIONA HARRISON GUITAR

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Guitar recital including works by Scarlatti, Villa-Lobos, Piazzolla, Tárrega, Mangoré & Fujii.

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Givons Grove in the late 1930s – the proposed by-pass road to Guildford is on the left hand side.

by-pass. Within five days of grading had been completed, providing a right-of-way from Nutfield on the Kent road to Salfords on the Brighton road, by-passing Redhill and Reigate. Concreting then began, half a strip being poured at a time in order to maintain a through route for use in emergency. On 19th October the last concrete was poured. In just over six weeks a mile of highway, 22 feet in width had been constructed, and a mile-and-a-half more existing roadway widened from 8 to 22 feet.

While the work was in progress the sappers housed in tents along the right-of-way, this road was located in the vicinity of an RAF airfield and was moreover close to the London-Brighton Railway - the result was that enemy bombing attacks were frequent. On several occasions the camp was machine-gunned from the air fortunately without loss to the Canadians. The local anti-aircraft defence armed with light machine-guns had many shots at enemy aircraft and claimed a number of hits but there is no real evidence to show that the road-builders were to emulate the tunnellers in the actual destruction of an enemy plane.

Beyond the annoyance caused by enemy aircraft and the delays consequent upon the rainy weather, the principal difficulties appear to have arisen from shortage of supplies. Building materials were urgently required for other defence projects such as road blocks and pill boxes. The problem of rubble or hard core as it is known in England was finally solved by sending unit convoys to obtain loads from the bombed areas of London. Many a chunk of English history now lies buried beneath the concrete of the Redhill by-pass.

No sooner was the first construction job finished than the next began namely the by-pass at Leatherhead.

This road had already been projected during peacetime but its construction had been postponed owing to the outbreak of war. Since however the need for speeding up the movement of military traffic was a paramount consideration the project was revived and following receipt

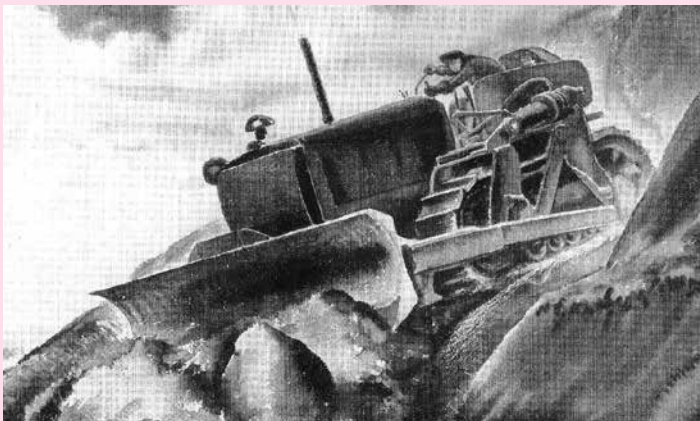


This photograph shows Mr. King the Prime Minister of Canada officially opening the road on the 28th August 1941.

of the necessary authority from the Ministry of War Transport the Canadians began to move their heavy equipment, tractors and scrapers from Redhill to the new sites.

The scheme as finally agreed upon called for the construction of a 22-foot concrete highway about one-and-a quarter miles in length linking the two main roads running south and west from Leatherhead.

The technical problems with which the Canadian engineers had to grapple in building this road were knottier than those encountered on the previous job. Not only did the topography



A Bulldozer at work

present new obstacles (it included a valley with a temperamental river to be bridged and a high railway fill to be under-passed), but the soil in which the work had to be done consisted principally chalk with a top layer of silty clay, dusty in dry weather and stickier than Canadian gumbo when it was wet. To add to the difficulties numerous flints in the chalk damaged the blades of the scrapers and cut the tires of the machines.

Although great efforts were made to move dirt during the wet winter months in order to speed construction they yielded few dividends. More than once work had to be stopped

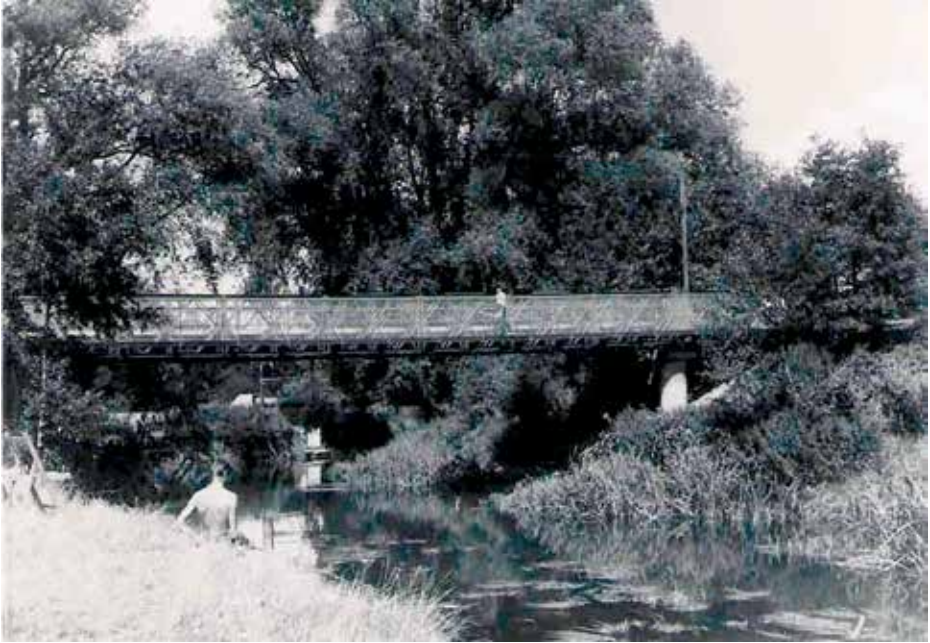


with the tractors bogged down to their bellies in the soil which heavy rain had reduced to a thick milky pudding. And then to make matters worse the River Mole, normally a quiet little English brook developed into a raging flood carrying everything in its path downstream. But the job went on and the road complete with its bridge and under-pass was finished in the summer of 1941. The Leatherhead by-pass was officially opened on 28th August by the Prime Minister of Canada.

A point of special interest in view of the subsequent events, should be mentioned here. The construction of these roads helped in bringing the bulldozer into its own as an essential item of British military engineering equipment. During the grading of the Leatherhead by-pass a number of tank trials were held at the roadside by British and Canadian troops and the bulldozer demonstrated its capabilities by clearing away anti-tank obstacles and assisting tanks at the river crossing. It was from these trials, in part, developed the armoured bulldozer which later was to play an important role in the allied operations in Sicily and Italy and in the Normandy beach-head.

If you have lived in the area for many years you may remember that before the current road was straightened you had to wait at the traffic lights at the tunnel entrance to let you cross over the River Mole by the 'Bailey Bridge'. The original bridge had to be replaced in later years due to flood damage. Below is a press cutting photograph taken on the opening day of the new bridge in 1952. The bridge closed in 1973. Memories of the 'rickety-rackety noise it made had gone forever. This area is now known as 'Salvation Place'

Goff Powell



The Bailey bridge

Report from The Friends

Our stewards' party on 14/12 was thinly but cheerily attended but there is so much on in December . Alan Pooley did us a VE Day quiz and the food provided by the committee was excellent.

We now have to plan ahead for the AGM at which Julia Lack (acting chair, secretary and Education Officer) and John Millard will be retiring. A difficult time ahead with a small committee may entail some pruning of our commitments. The management of a stewards' rota will not be affected. We urgently need more committee members

We have booked an outing to Nonsuch Mansion Museum and Gallery on March 21st at 10.30. This is open to all L&DLHS members and Friends. There will be a £3 guided tour and we will also be able to access the award winning model of the Palace of Nonsuch and the collection of restored Glass from Nonsuch Mansion. The gardens and park should be brimming with Spring flowers. There is a Cafe for coffee and access for people with limited mobility. It will be publicised in the magazine and our Bulletin but any word spreading will be appreciated. I am the telephone contact for enquiries Julia Lack 01372 386050

Dates will be arranged at our next committee meeting for the annual Stewards Briefing session

Julia Lack

Friends of the Leatherhead Museum Secretary (Chairman - Vacant)

Julia Lack (Secretary) 01372 386050 upper.mole@ntlworld.com

Librarian (Letherhead Institute):

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

The Library is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.00am to 12.30pm. Exceptionally, arrangements may be made to use it at other times by applying to the Librarian.

Membership Secretary:

Frank Haslam 01372 379341 frank.haslam@gmail.com

Records Secretary:

Roy Mellick 01372 457839 roy.mellick@btinternet.com

Sales Secretary: (Acting)

Roy Mellick 01372 457839 roy.mellick@btinternet.com)

Programmes & Lectures Secretary:

Vacant (John Wettren - Acting)

Newsletter Editor:

Martin Warwick 01372 453717 martin_warwick@hotmail.com

Website Editor:

Frank Haslam 01372 379341 frank.haslam@gmail.com

Committee Members:

Doug Hollingsworth, David Lokkerbool, John Rowley

Archival Material

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

Ashtead	John Rowley
Bookham	Roy Mellick
Fetcham Documents	Alan Pooley
Fetcham Photographs and Maps	Ed Tims
Leatherhead Documents	Vacant
Leatherhead Photographs	Vacant
Leatherhead Maps	Alan Pooley

Historical Enquiry Service

Coordinator - Vacant

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

Meetings and Visits

All meetings take place in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute (top end of the High Street) starting at 8.00pm, preceded by coffee or tea from 7.30pm

18 March Annual General Meeting

Come and find out what YOU can do to help YOUR Society flourish. The AGM will be followed by a short talk by Bill Whitman, our Proceedings Secretary, on his hopes for the Proceedings.

15 April Lyn Spencer, 'The Archaeology of Bookham'

The talk will focus on recent investigations in Great Bookham including the test pitting programme and the excavations that are looking for evidence of Bookham Courte.

20 May Speaker and subject to be announced

Saturday 14 May 2016 Visit to SLYFIELD HOUSE (starting at 11.00am)

Slyfield is the surviving part of a large early 17th century courtyard house with remarkable brickwork, woodwork and plaster ceilings in the style of Inigo Jones, built around a late medieval core. It is situated next to the Fetcham to Cobham Road, immediately opposite the entrance to the Yehudi Menuhin School and just south of the bridges over the river Mole and the M25 motorway. The postcode (for SatNav purposes) is KT11 3QE.

No smoking or photography indoors. Some of the doorways are narrow, the floors are uneven and the stairs are quite steep. Disabled visitors are welcome to join the outside tour and some downstairs rooms.

Numbers are strictly limited to 20 – there will be no casual admission. To be fair to all, if you would like to come, the 20 places on the visit will be selected BY DRAW just before our AGM on 18th March. So please contact John Wettern, 15 The Green, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 9XE, 01372 459277, johnwettern@ntlworld.com as soon as possible giving your contact details and name(s).

Those selected in the draw will then be contacted for the admission fee which is £5 per person and given details of the arrangements