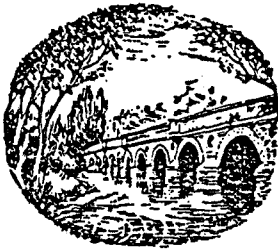


AUGUST 1996.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity No 802409

Chairman
Peter Tarplee
Donard
East Street
Gt Bookham KT23 4XQ
01372-452301

Treasurer
CVM Latham
1 The Knoll
Lea'd KT22 8XH
01372-373055

Secretary
Miss Joyce Fuller
15 Kingston Hse Gdns
Leatherhead KT22 7HL
01372-386348

NEWSLETTER 3/96

AUGUST 1996

MEMBERS

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Joan Blair, wife of Claud Blair, both of whom have been members for many years. Our condolences to her family.

THE RUNNING HORSE

Many of you will know that Allied Domecq are hoping to turn the famous 15th century pub which is a great part of Leatherhead history, into a "theme" pub. But there is worse - they want to change the name. This Society is completely opposed to these changes in such an ancient building. A group of people who care about our history, have been moving mountains to get the proposals stopped. An interim preservation order, effective for six months, has been applied for to protect the building until the question of preservation can be considered fully.

A petition is being made to the brewers, and forms to sign are in the Museum and with the Secretary. Please come and add your name so that we can do our bit towards keeping our famous pub as we know it. Elinour Rummig would turn in her grave at the whole idea of changes to the Running Horse!!!

MORRIS SNELGROVE

One of the Society's earliest members was Morris Snelgrove, who kept meticulous diaries of his life from the age of 9 until his death aged 85. His family have allowed Mary Rice-Oxley to extract from the diaries all entries about the Society. These have now been put together and they make a good commentary on the Society's activities seen through the eyes of an ordinary members. A copy is enclosed with this Newsletter. Some of the names he mentions are worth noting: for instance, on page 4, December 1, the "nice St John's boy, John Blair" is better known to the Society as Dr W John Blair, author of many articles for the Proceedings, and of two Occasional Papers.

Our thanks to Mr Snelgrove's family for loaning us the diaries, and to Mary Rice-Oxley for spending many hours going through them.

PROGRAMME

Our series of lectures will start in September and continue until May 1997. They are held on the third Friday of each month in the Dixon Hall of Letherhead Institute at 7.30pm for 8pm. Entry is 50p for members and £1 for non-members and coffee will usually be served from 7.30pm to 8pm.

Friday, 20 September - "What, Where, When?" - Derek Renn
The Society has been given a number of slides which have no labels. We need your help in identifying them, and perhaps telling us more about the people and places shown. Derek Renn has made a selection - some easy, some less easy - of those that seem to be local. Come along and bring any 'old inhabitants' who may remember scenes of their youth.

Friday, 18 October - The Dallaway Lecture: "Under the Cedar Tree" - by Stephen Fortescue
To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of this Society, Stephen Fortescue, President and founder member, will give a talk he has entitled "Under the Cedar Tree". This is an informal review of historical research in this area over the last fifty years.

The talk will start at 8pm, and there will be an interval halfway through.

ON THIS EVENING NO PARKING SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE INSTITUTE CAR PARK.

Friday, 15 November - "The Story of Headley" - by Peter Denyer, a resident there for many years.
A history of one of our neighbouring Parishes, where over the years we have had several members. Headley Heath belongs to the National Trust and their management of it has recently been the subject of many local meetings.

Friday, 20 December - Christmas Miscellany - presented by Gordon Knowles.
Our annual evening of short talks by members will have a variation this year. There will also be a photographic quiz and hopefully some artefacts for you to identify during an extended coffee and mince pie break, with prizes for the winners. Volunteers for talks (5-10 minutes, serious or not-so-serious) are still needed. Please contact Gordon Knowles on 01372-458396 by the end of November - earlier if you can.

VISIT TO LOSELY HOUSE - Saturday, 17 August

There are vacancies on the coach for this visit to the Elizabethan mansion built in 1561 by William More, cousin of Sir Thomas More, and still the home of their descendants.

Contact Dick Whittington, 01372-277180 for information if you would like to come.

Pick up times are:

- Ashtead - 1.45pm The Street, bus stop by Travel Centre
- Leatherhead - 1.50pm LERET WAY bus stop just past multi-storey car-park entrance
- Fetcham - 1.55pm Cobham Road Post Office
- Bookham - 2.00pm Lower Road, St Nicolas Church

Return journey to same points, reaching Bookham about 6pm.

HERITAGE '96 - LEATHERHEAD - Saturday, 14 September

Heritage Day will be celebrated in Leatherhead on Saturday, 14 September and is being organised jointly by this Society and the Leatherhead Society. The idea is to encourage people to be more aware of the historic and cultural heritage of the town.

As we are playing a large part in this, we hope that all our members will take advantage of the facilities offered on the day to visit buildings not usually open to the public, such as Sween House, St John's School and the various churches open to celebrate the occasion. There will be guided town walks to learn more about the buildings in the town, and riverside walks to learn about the natural habitat. We need more guides for the town walks, so if any members would be willing to help with this, please contact Linda Heath on 01372-372603. Full text provided for guides!

THE MUSEUM

Since the Museum opened on 4 April, some 800 visitors have been welcomed, including several classes from local schools.

School visits are one of the primary functions of any Museum, and are usually enjoyed by children and staff alike. The Museum's contribution to local education is a factor taken into account when we make applications for grants. To enable us to continue this essential service, the Curator needs a small group of members to take charge of the organisation and reception of school visits. Help is also required with cleaning, gardening, some correspondence, research on small projects, and the day-to-day running of Hampton Cottage. We have had one valuable offer of help from Alan Pooley, but more support from members will enable Janet to concentrate on the mammoth task of documenting the Museum's entire collection, an essential step towards registration with the Museums and Galleries Commission. The Museum is, after all, the Society's most precious possession and we want to ensure that it remains so. If you can help, please ring Janet Goldsmith on 01372-277611, after 15 August.

QUERY FROM A MUSEUM VISITOR - Does anyone know of a pub that existed in this area, called the Bugle & Horn, landlord believed called Gould? Ring Janet Goldsmith - 01372-277611.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN (Gwen Hoad)

"Leatherhead, a village of Surrey prettily situate on swelling ground, and dwelling in the heart of well clothed forest trees.....is built in the form of a cross and possesses considerable unity of design, while 'the gentle Mole' winds embracingly around it, casting her arms forth as though to gather it to her bosom." Thus is Leatherhead described in C J Swete's "A Handbook of Epsom" published in 1860, one of the Society's more valuable books available for reference only.

Additions to the Library this month include:

SURREY - Geology

SEELEY, H G - Handbook of the London Geological Field Class being lectures on the geology of the London district. Philip, 1891.

SURREY - History

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - Surrey historic landscape studies. Newsletters Nos 4, 5 & 8. SCC, 1993-94, 94 & 95.

SURREY TOPOGRAPHICAL & MAPS

DREWETT, John - Surrey. Shire County Guide, 1996

LEATHERHEAD

GOBLIN (BVC) LTD. The Goblin story: a short history of companies in the Goblin (BVC) Group, 1969.

HUGHES, Richard. St John's Foundation School, 1851-1872: the founding and early history of St John's School, Leatherhead, 1987.

LEATHERHEAD PARISH MAGAZINES

1884-85, 1886-87, 1888-89, 1890-91.

STUTTARD, J C - A history of Leatherhead. LDLHS, 1996.

WESLEY MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH, LEATHERHEAD.

A hundred years in the life of WMMC Leatherhead 1893-1993. 1993.

CATALOGUE - Members who have copies of the Library's catalogue are advised to insert these details themselves to keep their copies up to date.

Recent copies of the following periodicals are available in the Library:

The Local Historian & Local History News
Bulletins/Newsletters from various societies or bodies:
Ashted Common
Dorking Local History Group
Egham-by-Runnymede History Society
Esher District Local History Society
Local Group Green Grapevine
Nonsuch Antiquarian Society
Royal Commission on Historic Monuments
Rural Action Network (Surrey)
Surrey Archaeological Society
Surrey Local History Council
Wonersh History Society

The Library is housed separately in the Institute Library room which is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 10 am to 12.30pm. Access at other times can be arranged with the Librarian, Gwen Hoad, telephone 01372-273934.

Finally, the Society has a number of volumes of the Surrey Archaeological Society Collections for disposal at £1 each. It is not possible to list them all, but as a rough guide vols 41 to 54 and 57 to 79 are available. If anyone is interested would they please contact Gwen Hoad.

THE FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

The "Friends" have been busy holding events to make money for purchasing items needed in the Museum.

On Friday, 13 May, Bill Culley gave a second talk on 20th century Bookham. There was a very full house and money-wise this talk was even more successful than his first one. Bill has been persuaded to give a further talk sometime in May 1997.

On Tuesday, 25 June, the annual Coffee Morning and Bring-and-Buy was held. Obviously the more money made the better, but the main object of this morning is to turn the cottage back into a "home" and meet as many Friends as possible, as well as members of the public. That objective was well achieved.

Visit to "The Derby Experience" - 2pm at the Queen's Stand, Epsom Racecourse: Sunday, 8 September 1996.
Bookings for this visit have to be in to Janet Goldsmith by Sunday, 18 August. The booking forms have been around at various meetings, but you still just have time to ring Janet Goldsmith on 01372-277611 if you would like to come. The party rate is £4-50 per person. Meet at 2pm sharp in the reception hall of the Queen's Stand for a guided tour lasting about an hour and a quarter, followed by a cup of tea.

The exhibits show 200 years of history of the Derby race and Epsom racecourse. Until a few years back, the racecourse was a free "heath" one, which brought many colourful characters to it. From the not-too-distant past, who could forget Prince "I Got a Horse" Monolulu in his bright pink and yellow costume with huge feathers on his head. Or the One-Man-Band man who had more bits of instruments around his body than anyone would think possible. The crowds were enormous and it is doubtful whether many people could actually see the horses racing - but they had a wonderful day out.

"HIKE FOR HISTORY"

We have received the following information from Dr D B Robinson, Surrey County Archivist.

"To win support for the *Victoria County History*, Professor Christopher Elrington, former general editor of the History and professor emeritus, is to walk through all the historic shire counties of England (a distance of more than 1100 miles) between 30 July and 21 September 1996. He invites anyone who is interested to sponsor his walk and to join him for as long or short a stretch as they wish.

The *Victoria County History* (called after Queen Victoria) is the essential work of reference for English local history. It aims to provide a framework of authoritative information for every county, town and parish in the country; it also cites its sources and so serves as a starting point for further inquiry and research. More than two hundred volumes have been published. Many more volumes, however, have still to be written. The research and writing are financed largely by grants from public funds in the counties, and recently some of those grants have been withdrawn."

The walk is being done in three stages. The first left Tintagel on 30 July to arrive in Canterbury on 15 August. The second leaves Egham on 17 August to go via Marlow, Hereford, Shrewsbury, Leek, Thetford and Saffron Walden to Enfield by 8 September. The third leaves Filey, Yorkshire, on 12 September, via Harrogate, Leck and Acomb to arrive in Durham on 21 September. Full details of routes and stopping places (arrange your own accommodation if you stay overnight) are in the Museum, or copies are available from Dr D B Robinson, Surrey Record Office, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames KT1 2DN. However, any donations can be made to the County History Trust, 34 Lloyd Baker Street, London WC1X 9AB (marked "Hike for History") if you would rather stay home!



MORRIS SNELGROVE'S DIARIES

by

Mary Rice-Oxley

Many of the older members of the Society will remember Morris Snelgrove, one of the original members. He was also on the Committee for many years. A school master by profession, he started to keep a diary at the age of 9, and continued it until just before his death, aged 81, in June 1985. Morris's family has allowed me to read the volumes which cover the years since the inception of this Society and these give a most graphic description of its early activities, the first entry being

1946

"June 5th - At a meeting of the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society, J F Dalton proposed the inception of a History of Leatherhead & District. This marks the beginning of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society".

"Sept 7th. Sat. Called on Mr Dalton in Bookham Woods. Mark Oak, about a local History Group (later became the Lhd & Dist Hist Soc. Mr Dalton had inserted an advert in the L & D Advertiser asking people interested to call at his house."

"Tues Dec 3rd. First meeting of the Committee of the LDHS in Fortescue's office in L'hd High St over Barclays Bank."

"Fri Dec 20. Intensely cold - caps pushed off milk bottles. Thin attendance at meeting of L & Dist Hist Soc."

The Society at this time consisted of several groups. In its first year they were: Historical Records; Architecture; Buildings & Surveying; Photography & Cartography; Archaeology; Natural History; and Arts Crafts & Folk Lore. Some groups appeared to be more active than others, the lack of private cars affecting the type of activities.

1947

In May surveying started at the site of Pachesham Manor in Randalls Road, not only at weekends but also in the evenings, giving an insight into the keenness for the practical work.

"May 31st. Sat. 87 degrees. Surveying at Pachesham, took all the gear in my trailer behind bike.

August 30th, Sat. Lost machete chopper. very fed up

Sept 2nd. Tues. Dug in the moat at the site. no luck. Filthy black malodorous mud."

Sept 27. Sat. A lovely day. They have found tiles and a cooking pot."

There are many references to this excavation, culminating in the entry for

1948

"Dec 11th. 1948 Sat . LDHS meeting at the Bull, Leatherhead on our excavations. very creditable show of things found there."

Earlier in 1947:

"May 30, Fri. Extremely hot. Hist Society visit to Polesden Lacey in eve. a glorious spot and a very successful do for our first. Coffee & biscuits on wonderful lawn. Home in 12 minutes - on a bike in shorts with TEC (Mr T E Conway Walker of Cobham) Mr Hanscomb gave a very fine lecture on Bookham."

"July 4. Fri. Had a meeting of the photographic section of LDHS here. Elsie (Morris's wife) made some nice cakes and coffee. Messrs. Fortescue, Ruby, Grimes and Proud came."

"July 19. Sat. In pm (very hot) a LDHS do. Six private cars - Ashted Ch. Capt Lowther showed us round. What a peculiar ground plan. Leatherhead Ch (Mr Smith) Fetcham Ch (Mr Lewarne) Tea at the Green Domino, quite good. Little Bookham Ch & Gt Bookham Ch (Mr Lanscomb). A very good do. only cost 2s."

These entries are interspersed with some interesting social comments.

"Aug 16. Sat. Very hot. Dutch cheese in shops again and whale meat sausages 1/8 per lb. Couldn't face strong kipper aftertaste."

In 1948 there were many local visits. Juniper Hall, Slyfield, Dorking & Anstiebury, including the chalk caves in Chapel Lane, Gt Bookham, where Morris "was bemused after investigating quite deep". By the AGM in November the attendance had risen to 40. The lecture attendances were about 50. In two years the membership had grown greatly.

In 1950, June 17th Sat. was the first LDLHS coach visit - to Penshurst, but no record of numbers.

1952

" May 17. Sat. Started measuring Manor House site at Lee Wood, 1 3/4 m S of Effingham Junctn. About 15 turned up. We made good progress in a mosquito ridden jungle in great heat. Home about 8."

"June 14. Sat. Delivered machetes (bought in Stockwell that am for 6/6 each) to Austin and Lewarne at Effingham. Both delighted." Records of this excavation and that at Pachesham are in the Society Proceedings.

1956

Nov 21. Wed 10th AGM of the Hist Soc. About 40 present. Financial difficulties. We're getting old - few replacements."

Entries for the next few years are fewer. AGM in 1957 had only small attendance, but by 1964 activities were more numerous. In 1969 a major coach trip took place, the first of many written up by Morris.

1969

"Sept 20 Sat. 10.15 Coach LDHS from Bookham. Haslemere, Devils Punchbowl great, then on to Porchester, greater Portsmouth foul. Castle & village very fine (Beer with John Lewarne) then Fishbourne Roman Palace very interesting, the building over it more so, a gem. The whole cleverly presented, the Roman garden a great triumph. All too short a time in Chichester (tea) then lovely run back via Cocking, Midhurst, Haslemere. Back 8.30. 2 hours from Chi. 17/6 all in. A great & glorious day."

Through all these years the lectures were many, varied and well attended, although there are regular problems with projectors and especially with lecturers who used "antique slides".

"Oct 31st. Sun. David Bruce carried me & Mrs Rice-Oxley to Lhd, a party of us explored the recently abandoned Wakefield (Draper) premises at the crossroads. We got some ancient ledgers, odd bits and I got packs of invoices, notepaper & some 1910 style murderous 12" hatpins. The rabbit warren premises are quite interesting, very overgrown at back. huge elder tree & jungle."

1972

"June 24. Sat. First experience of M roads. 8.45 from Old Crown. Large & small coach (LDHS) service run across London as we go to Paddington, then by Lords Cricket Ground to Hendon M1, 65 mph up this. notice 3 motor cycles both ways and lots of cars stopped with breakdowns. An hour of M1 quite enough. Then across to Stoke Bruern, attractive canal village - got Mr Jones, ex boatman, to sign his portrait in the Telegraph supplement. Elsie & Martin (Morris's wife and son) went for 2 hour trip through Blisworth Tunnel (back by coach). They reported many leaks in roof but quite interesting. I walked up tunnel, canal quiet & charming. Then up over hill, saw a

vent shaft. Walked down to Stoke Bruerne church. Interesting, well placed Canal Museum, very worthwhile. Lunch by canal - intrigued by paper serviette of the Gilbert family - in CORNISH! Across to Northampton, interesting red brick industrial town with some good features. Forests of huge TV masts. Up to Brixworth, a church such as I have never seen. Excavation of mediaeval buildings going on to 5. Then across new Pitsford reservoir to Earls Barton, great church & fine display in village hall to commemorate church on stamp. Nice tea, nice people. Then via Olney (Bucks) looks a fine little town, but all these Midland towns have great industrial & residential suburbs. Then a belt down the M.1. We all had a good time, but a grey cold day, no rain. The M.1 is much more monotonous than the M4. WHAT A DAY! The S Midlands have considerable charm, but the villages & towns spread terribly. Small red brick houses with Welsh slate roofs can look very good. Stoke Bruerne an attractive village but it's odd to see the canal well above so many houses. Very little commercial traffic on Grand Junction now but lots of pleasure boating. But I never really want to do a canal trip, too much travel in cuttings."

"Sept. 12. Tues. I've had my Rudge bicycle 1/4 century still a fine bike with the original half-round section aluminium guards I got a week later in Lambeth. Never been able to replace them. Only frame, brakes & handlebars of original bike left & 1925 Bluemel pump off a J D Autocycle (we had 3 of them). The chromium is quite good and the ex BSA 3 speed (off a BSA bicycle 1954) must be one of the few left with tube control. No spare parts available alas for this or for hub control."

This bicycle of Morris's appeared in several photos in the Society's records and was instantly recognisable.

"Dec 1st. Fri. LDHS Miscellany. Derek Renn took me, only about 40 there (rough night) but a good show 3 pleasant things. I had 100 ball points printed Leatherhead Hist Soc for £1-65 and gave them to the Soc as a 1/4 century present. Over £1 worth were sold immediately. Then the first roll of members was consulted, only 4 originals were there, John Lewarne, Stephen Fortescue, Conway Walker and myself. I proposed a special vote of thanks to a nice St John's boy John Blair, who produced some excellent drawings of domestic buildings."

On Dec 8th Fri, he wrote of the death of Captain Lowther, President for a quarter of a century. He was an eminent archaeologist, excavating locally the Roman Villa and tile works on Ashted Common.

During the next few years attendance at AGMs was approximately 50 and there was a good regular programme of lectures and visits, both full and half-days. There was also the start of many varied exhibitions put on at local functions.

1976

"June 28. Sat. At 9am at the Infant School, Fetcham, we put up our European Architectural Heritage Year show. All went well and it was a good day, nearly 90 very interested people. £9 in donations, etc. This is the way to get the Soc known in the district."

"Sept 20 Sat. We left Crown 8.10 for Wells via Shaftesbury. What a delightful town. Went to a Jumble Sale and kept the coach waiting! Next to St Peter's Church (visited) then on to Glastonbury where we lunched by the Abbey Ruins. Then on to that delectable little city of Wells. Alas only 2 hours in Wells but saw chapter House (not Vicars Close, alas) and had a nice tea in the Market Place (£1-20 for 3 with tip) where there was a loud Amsterdam Band Organ. Nice little market and peripatetic book stall. We hated leaving. We had make a side excursion to Cadbury Hill. It was good luck that the coach met nothing in the lanes, it completely filled them. The drive back was more direct and we had a wonderful view of Stonehenge backed by the setting sun and full moon opposite; people among it gave its great scale. Stopped 20 mins at the Service Station on the new M3 (good) and home by 9 with fish & chips. all delighted with the day. This was one of the best Society trips ever, characterised everywhere by vast views, lots of apples and maize (in Wiltshire). The site of Shaftesbury is an astounding one and the view from its wonderful position superb. (Vale of Blackmore)"

"Oct 10 Fri. The Dallaway Lecture given by Derek Renn on 'Castles' had an all time record attendance of nearly 300."

"Dec 16th Th. (The first reference to the Museum) Had a look at Museum. Working party have obviously done a lot."

1977

"Sept 29 Thurs. Saw Museum all gutted - it looks pretty grim, main timbers of gingerbread consistency. Miss Barnard 90, last tenant of Hampton Cottage, is dead."

"Nov 10. Thurs. Visited Museum - never happy about it."

1978

"Jan 14th. Got very cold at the Museum. Partly owing to lowered floor it is abominably noisy. One has the feeling of being in the middle of the road when a great bus sweeps round the corner into Church St."

Feb 18. Sat. Sale in aid of Museum. Up early and out by 9am on Monark in bitter cold, but roads free of snow - still I was not early enough to open the Red Cross Hall. Lots of people helping but not enough. I collected 10p entrance at door, amassed £8. A fine array of books. we did tea too. Lots of useful and valuable stuff. People stayed after Good as New for Jumble Sale. 2.30-4pm, 5p. Profit of £202. clean-up man gave £9."

"Jul 31st LDHS to Suffolk. Epsom Coaches at Crown off at 7.35am then by the dreadful wasteland of N Wandsworth & Battersea to London Bridge & so on by the horrible A21 to Brentwood 1/2 hour stop here in not unpleasant back street & so on to Clare by pleasant rolling country. Vicar received us here, he had pleasant memories of cycling round Leatherhead when young. Lovely light church. Clare a nice little town, last here 10 years ago. Off on my own, saw the pleasantly retained 1860 railway station, then off up track. Never have I seen such wild roses, fine poppies and marguerites too. Back to Country Park, then via Cavendish (alas no stop) to Long Melford (church) and so to Lavenham, bigger than, not inferior to Thaxted, an unbelievably beautiful timbered town, lots of it everywhere, a dream. Tea here, not dear at 55p + tip, then a lot more exploring, forgetting where coach was. They were concerned about me but Geoff Hayward found me and led me back to the Market Place, which alas I'd missed. Only held them up 5 mins but it was a bad moment, like some dreams you have, God knows how I would have got home. In the church there was a delightful string quartet & harpsichord rehearsing. No recording has the magic of the actual performance. Left Lavenham at 5.55, back via Braintree, 1/2 hour there, quite an interesting little town, and so back and arrived home at 10.10pm. All Ok but 4 1/4 hrs for under 100 m. It was a long and delightful day. Suffolk and Essex border a wonderful part of England Cereal crops looked super and what a lot of broad beans they grow It's unfortunate that nearly half the journey is through such a nasty area."

1979

In May & June of this year two marathon outings took place. The first to Kenilworth & the Cotswolds, starting at 7.40, back at 10.30. The second was to Peterborough & Stamford of the same duration, both costing £3-50. At the end of this Morris told the members of the great part Eric Barnwell & Win (his wife) play in going over the route beforehand and told them it was the last trip he would lead - "great protest but I fear it must be so."

"July 7, Sat. A Garden Party was held in Mr & Mrs Peter Bucknill's fine house at the Warren, Ashted (High Corner) in aid of the Museum. We put on a Society's Exhibition in their

rather nice 1923 house. The great garden is really nice, fine trees. A very charming do about 80 there, nice cakes, delicious Earl Grey tea served in bone china. Lots of aircraft noise. We collected £125 for the Museum. Many people gave £10."

1980

"Sun Oct 4. The official opening of our Museum. A very pleasant affair. The Lord Lieutenant of Surrey & the Chairman of the MV Authority did their stuff well and the big crowd of our people seemed very content and well wined. The little building looks very well. 50 years ago the R101 burned - remembered it very vividly."

During the last years of his diary, entries are not so full, his last entry for an outing being

1984

"Sept 8 Sat. 9.10 "Bell" for Harding coach to Christchurch, Hants. A back seat, alone. Alresford, Winchester by-passed, on to M27, stop at Roundshaw S S. The largest jam I've ever been in S of Lyndhurst going through the New Forest. Some fine beeches. Christchurch lunch (own seat) at pleasant quay, watching swans flying. Proceeded by a visit to Hengistbury Head, last there 60 years ago. Interesting spot, much erosion. Christchurch a fine little town for p c's got some beauties. The ladies at the 18c Priory House provided an absolutely splendid tea all homemade & v cheap. Just made it to the coach as a brief deluge descended. Different route home. Portsmouth Rd, Petersfield, noticed an oil rig!! & Guildford."

1985 - 72nd year of the Diary

"March 27, Wed. AGM of the LDHS. Good attendance. The President John Lewarne gave me a special greeting as I've been to all of them."

This is the last reference to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in these diaries. Morris died on 18 June 1985.