

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



November, 2001

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

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CHAIRMAN

Peter A. Tarplee
01372 452301

SECRETARY

01372 386348

TREASURER

Judith Mills
01372 372146

The Society meets on the third Friday of the month at the Letherhead Institute from September to May. For details see programme in this issue.

2002 Membership Subscriptions

Ordinary.....£12.00
Associate.....£5.00
Junior (under 18)..... £1.00

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Jack Barker

01372 458469

The Museum will be open until 15th December 2001 at the following times :

Thursdays and Fridays 1.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Saturdays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

It will reopen at the same times from 4th April to 14th December, 2002

CURATOR

Graham Evans

01372 386348

The Library at The Letherhead Institute is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. **but not on the first Saturday in the month.** Exceptionally, arrangements may be made to use it at other times by applying to the Librarian.

LIBRARIAN

Gwen Hoad

01372 273934

The Records are available for study by arrangement.

RECORDS SECRETARY

Brian Godfrey

01372 454654

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

PROGRAMME & LECTURE SECRETARY

Gordon Knowles

01372 458396

The Newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November.

Copy for the February 2002 issue should reach the Society's Office by 18th January, 2002.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

John Wettern

01372 459277

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

SECRETARY

Thelma Lucas

01372 844345

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

September 7th-9th was Heritage Weekend throughout the land and I hope that you will agree with me that Mole Valley had a very good selection of properties open to the public as well as many talks and displays. I was only able to visit a few of the attractions in the District but the public reaction to the event seemed to be positive. I am always intrigued to find a very large number of visitors at our museum who live in the area. Why do people choose to visit their local museum with scores of others when it is open on every Saturday from April to December (and some Sundays) and when it is far less crowded?

However, a number of our members were involved in many ways over the weekend and, on behalf of the organising committee, I would like to thank all who talked, guided, led and displayed : without this help we would not be able to mount such a wide-ranging event. We must not forget, however, the considerable support that this event receives each year from Mole Valley District Council and that without this it would not happen.

An important part of the Society's activities is the publication of books and articles on the history of our area. This month sees the publication of two new books and elsewhere there is a report from the acting Sales Secretary giving full details.

Friday, 21st September was an important day for the Letherhead Institute and the Leatherhead Community Association. This was when the new lift was officially opened, and I was pleased to be among those invited to the ceremony. The ribbon was cut by Nigel Childs as he emerged from the lift in his wheelchair. A short speech was made by Councillor Maurice Homewood, Chairman of MVDC followed by Mr H. Riddlestone, Chairman of the Institute Trustees and Joan Kirby, Chairman of the LCA. The ceremony demonstrated the need for the lift and it was the first time that some of the guests had seen the Abraham Dixon Hall. I hope that this addition to the Institute will help some of our members who come to the Friday talks and it may enable some to

come who have hitherto been unable to. We congratulate all concerned in this achievement. During the afternoon the Society, together with other regular users of the building, had a stall in the Institute, demonstrating to members of the public who came to the Open Day what we did. This display was organised by our museum curator, Graham Evans and created considerable interest in our activities.

I had the pleasure of meeting Maurice Homewood again on 6th October when I welcomed him to the 21st Birthday celebrations at our museum. He cut the cake, which we all enjoyed, and then visited the Victorian school before returning to the museum to present the prizes for the photographic competition. We are grateful to the Friends of Leatherhead Museum for arranging all the various activities on that day and for providing the publicity for the museum.

Finally, although it is only just October as I write this, I must thank everyone for their help during a busy 2001 and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Peter Tarplee

JOHN WALL - An Appreciation and Tribute.

John was a quiet and resourceful man, who was liked and respected by all who knew him. He had become a member of our Society several decades ago before he came into prominence, during his long service with the dedicated team of enthusiasts who were, during the latter part of the Seventies, rebuilding and renovating our newly-acquired **Hampton Cottage**. By recalling those days he later proved invaluable in assessing the current soundness of this building — now our Museum.

During the earlier part of the Nineties, when two of our Trustees unfortunately moved from the district, John was asked and agreed to become a Trustee and so participate in the joint task of caring for this building—for him, with putty and paint. In the last year or so unfortunately, John's health was deteriorating so that he had to restrict his activities to just attending our Trustee Meetings.

John was also a long-standing member of the committee of The Friends of Leatherhead Museum.

At his Funeral Service, on 3rd September, in St. Mary's Church, Fetcham, attended by about 100 mourners, including Roddy Clube and myself, an impressive oration on his life was given by his son. He spoke of his work as a schoolmaster, then as headmaster of a local school where he developed special skills of educating backward children, with great success, showing his gift of great patience. His service with the Royal Navy, during the World War II was also mentioned.

We send our condolences to his wife, son and daughter.

John Bull, Chairman of the Trustees

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Among several recent publications about the history of Bookham, is one from which I quote this month. It is called "*Turville: the Life and Times of Turville Kille*" as told to and written by Wendy Young, and was published in 1998.

"In 1914 I went to work as a gardener at Polesden Lacey, the home of the society hostess, the Honourable Mrs Ronald Greville, who often entertained King Edward VII and other crowned heads of Europe, politicians and members of the Diplomatic Corps. I was told a story about a dinner party which she gave for some distinguished guests. Boles, the butler, who was in charge of the drinks, was half-cut and Mrs Greville, noticing that he had a problem, passed him a note on which she'd written, "Please leave the room, you're drunk". Instead of reading it, he passed it unopened to a guest, who read it and then put it into his pocket. I often wonder what she said to Boles the next morning, but Mrs Greville would never have given him the sack because, when she died, she left him a substantial amount of money in appreciation of his services to her.

I lived in the bothy with nine other gardeners. The first journeyman was in charge of us and we had to pay him fourteen shillings (70p) a week for our keep. During my first week there, I decided to have a

bath. It was the first time I'd seen a real bath with taps and running water because, if you remember, at home we used a galvanised bathtub. I locked the door and got into the bath and stretched out to enjoy the luxury of it — then I fell asleep. I awoke to hear someone hammer on the door and shouting "*Is anyone there?*". "Yes!", I shouted, "*It's Turville and you've woken me up*". I looked at my watch and it was well past midnight and the water was cold. I wasn't allowed to lock the door again"

This book and other books in the Society's Library are housed within the Leatherhead Institute's room, and is open to our members only when the L.C.A. Library is open to its members. (See details on inside cover of this Newsletter).

Do not forget your current L&DLHS card when you use the library.

Recent additions to the library include:

SURREY — Individual Towns & Villages

LEATHERHEAD

RICE-OXLEY, Mary — *The Swan, Leatherhead and its Brewery: 300 years of History*. L&DLHS, 2001

SURREY - Archaeology

VINCENT, Alex — *Roman Roads of Surrey*. Middleton Press, 2001

SURREY - Literary & Other Associations

CHISHOLM, Kate — *Fanny Burney: her Life, 1752-1840*. Vintage, 1999

Gwen Hoad

THE DALLAWAY LECTURE

How the Railways came to Leatherhead

Why Leatherhead came to have three stations was explained by Gordon Knowles in his lecture to a full hall at our October meeting. Numerous railway companies were set up in the nineteenth century, but most of them were forced into bankruptcy

or taken over by rivals: a few contracted out their operations. Shades of Railtrack's woes today !

The first main line railway in Surrey was that of the London and Southampton Railway Company, which ran from Nine Elms to Woking Common by 1838 (the station there faced towards the *first class* estates to the South which was the only habitation there at the time). A branch to Guildford was opened in 1845, and the direct route to Portsmouth through Godalming in 1859.

By 1848 the London Brighton and South Coast Railway had a line from London Bridge through *Reigate Junction* (which became Redhill) where it was joined by the South Eastern Railway's Dover line. The Reading, Dorking and Reigate railway which was quickly absorbed by the S.E.R. was intended as a link between the Channel ports and the Midlands and Wales, but the broad-gauge Great Western Railway refused to co-operate.

The London and Croydon Railway Company amalgamated with the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway and extended its line as far as Epsom by 1847. In 1856 the Epsom and Leatherhead Railway Company was formed, one of the promoters being Thomas Grissell of Norbury Park. The single track ran from near the old Epsom Town station in Upper High Street, to Leatherhead gasworks adjoining the Kingston Road. A single platform was reluctantly provided at Ashted. By 1860 the London and South Western Railway Company had built a new Epsom station to serve Waterloo; there was joint working of trains by the two companies between Epsom and Leatherhead, but using separate, but linked stations in Epsom .

The London, Brighton and South Coast Railway set up the Horsham, Dorking and Leatherhead Railway Company to preempt that route, building a new station at Leatherhead in 1867 and also Waterway Road to attract passengers. The station is a listed building which has changed little over the years, apart from the platform canopies, the lighting and the recent loss of the signal box.

The London and South Western planned a connection to Guildford, or at least a spur as far as East Street, Bookham, while the London District Railway proposed a line to Guildford with a spur to Leatherhead. The New Guildford Line was opened by the L.S.W.R. in 1885, using that company's station in Leatherhead which was later demolished in order to build the industrial estate. The station at Effingham Junction was delayed for another three years by a change of plan from a site inside a triangle of tracks.

All local railway companies became part of the Southern Railway system in 1923, when the separate London and South Western station was closed and the lines from Dorking linked to those from Guildford. A station was planned for Fetcham in 1935, but the developer refused to contribute to the cost. A loop line through Chessington was begun from Motspur Park but remained incomplete at the outbreak of WW2. A proposal has recently been made to extend the line to serve the new housing developments on the site of the Epsom mental hospitals.

Derek Renn

JUNIPER HALL : Visit to the Field Studies Centre on 11th August.

From its origins as a 17th century inn on the Fredley Park Estate the hall was developed into, firstly, a Georgian house and to what is today a Field Studies Centre. Ann and John Bebbington, who have run the centre since the late 1970s, are obviously fascinated by the extraordinary group of buildings over which they preside today.

We were shown the exterior remnants of the old inn, brewery and stables together with tantalising evidence of vanished former structures, including a view from the road, where the only passing traffic that we saw was a carriage and pair, complete with bridal couple. From the back of the buildings we could trace vestiges of the past, but there is obviously more to discover as a handyman found last year when the ground beneath his feet collapsed into a previously undiscovered well.

The Georgian entrance aspect to the house was changed by Victorian successors together with the roof line, but there are still remnants of the old garden with its beautiful cedars and walls, and the restored ice house was extraordinary. In the house the group were fascinated by the Templeton room with its gold leaf and Wedgwood plaques and its link with Fanny Burney and the French '*aristo*' refugees.

Our thanks to Ann and John for their enthusiasm and dedication which made our afternoon so interesting.

Cherry Pepler

MUSEUM UPDATE

Where do I begin? It seems a long time ago since March when I first volunteered to take on the job of curator at the Museum. Since that time, many things have happened (all for the best according to reports) at the Museum and are still continuing to happen. For a start, new displays have been introduced and are changing frequently. All displays are now clearly marked and labelled. Full use is being made of the new cabinets and also the wall cabinet which was kindly donated to us, and, maybe it's things like this and of course publicity from the Friends which have increased our number of visitors. Talking of visitors, Heritage Weekend proved very popular as did of course our Museum's 21st birthday celebration. We have also had numerous organised visits from schools and other clubs and societies over the last few months. A couple of 'outside' exhibitions were met with good results as well.

I am pleased also to announce that all the archaeological artefacts have now been completely documented. Well done to all involved. On the subject of documentation, the collection of artefacts held in the Museum store, is still progressing but I think we are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel! These and the archaeological records will hopefully soon be going on to computer—the next major task. Another task which will take

place sometime in the not-to-distant future, is the erection of a low humidity 'bubble' down at the store: this will help to preserve clothing, metal objects and many other items.

I could continue for ages on what's been going on and what's going to happen, but all I can say is that if you haven't visited the Museum lately, please come and do so, things are always changing.

To end with, I would like to thank all of those who have helped in some way, however small, to making this a much improved Museum. Merry Christmas to you all.

Graham Evans.

P.S. We now have a light down the well !

TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Anyone seeking the unfamiliar in the streets of Leatherhead would have been gratified on visiting the town on 6th October last, the date when the Museum celebrated the 21st anniversary of its first opening.

The ring of horses hoofs and the rumble of wooden wheels was the first surprise. It was the Victorian horse bus with a full load of passengers giving tours of the town throughout the day. Intermittent rain made it a hazard for those riding on the open top, but no one seemed deterred. The bus was decked with advert. boards generously donated by local firms, thus helping to keep the project 'within budget'.

In a dry corner of the Swan Centre school children in Victorian costume were reciting Lewis Carroll's poem "*The Jabberwock*". They sat on a bench with slates in their hands under the stern eye of their 'teacher' brandishing an evil looking cane. Even the onlookers seemed cowed.

Meanwhile at the Museum. before an invited audience, an address by Maurice Homewood, the Chairman of Mole Valley Council produced a surprise beyond our imagination. Having performed

the ceremonial cutting of the Museum's birthday cake, he asked to see the Museum's treasured exhibit, the replica of the Anglo Saxon bucket discovered by archaeologists at a local dig. We wondered why this interest. Then came the revelation. He declaimed in **Anglo Saxon** his poem about the bucket : here it is in translation :

*Was I meant to be in the mead-hall with the young warriors ?
Or among the beer-swillers to hear their boastful words ?
Or, in the morning light, to carry milk ?
Or perhaps in the treasury to hold precious things ?
No man knows what my fate has been.
Now here in this hall I live on high –
A bucket in bliss, in Leatherhead town !*

The best outcome of the day however was the numbers who flocked to visit the museum : many were townspeople who had never been before. It delighted those who had worked to organise the day of celebration because this was the prime reason for their efforts.

John Wettren, Chairman, Friends of the Museum

STOP PRESS — *It has since been confirmed that the number of visitors to the Museum on that day was an all-time record.*

PUBLICATIONS

This month will be a very active one for the Society regarding publications. First of all it is expected that Phillimore's will have available the new book "*Leatherhead, A History*" by Edwina Vardey. This hard back book, price £15.99, will be on sale at all local book shops as well as at our museum and monthly meetings. The Society gains from all sales of the book but it will be especially helpful if as many members as possible could obtain their copies from our meetings, from our museum or from me, as then the Friends of Leatherhead Museum also make some money.

It is a number of years since Edwina wrote "*History of Leatherhead*" which the Society published, and it has been out of print for a considerable time. So we anticipate a great demand for this new book which has been updated in many ways and includes a number of previously unpublished illustrations. I am constantly being asked why there is not a good history of Leatherhead available since the earlier book has been unobtainable: well, from now there will be. There is no excuse for not having a copy or for not knowing what to give your friends and relations for Christmas.

Secondly, we are publishing "*History of Headley*" edited by Jack Stuttard. This book will be similar to our recent volumes on Ashted and Fetcham, where various chapters have been produced by different Society members and the whole edited into a single volume by Jack, who, incidentally, also wrote a number of the chapters. Headley is adjacent to Ashted and Leatherhead and yet perhaps we do not know as much about its history as we might. This new book which gives details of the village's history from pre-Roman times to the present day will readily fill a gap in everyone's local history library. The book will be launched at Headley Village Hall at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday, 29th November with a display of local photographs and documents. We hope that all our members will come to this function to see the book, drink some wine, visit the display and meet our friends from Headley. Copies of the book will be on sale price £7.95.

On behalf of the Society I would like to express our thanks to both Jack and Edwina for producing these books. I know how much work each of them has put in to get the books completed and I hope that we will all repay them, and the Society, by buying as many copies as possible.

Peter Tarplee, Acting Sales Secretary

BOOK REVIEW

***Epsom Past* by Charles Abdy; published by Phillimore;
132pp; ISBN 1 86077 180 7; Price £15.00.**

In our *Newsletter* of November 2000 I reviewed "*Ewell Past*" by Charles Abdy and now just one year later he has produced "*Epsom Past*" in the same series. This book describes the history of Epsom from pre-historic times to the present day, including the Roman activities on Ashted Common.

Until the 17th century Epsom was smaller than Ewell but once the curative properties of the waters were known, the spa became established. People were said to drink up to 16 pints of the purgative water on an empty stomach; this must have had an effect! Life at the time of the spa is described, along with the building of the Assembly Rooms and the establishment of the hare warren. After a time the spa declined and the town, like other suburban towns, only began to regenerate with the coming of the railway. As well as the waters, the other things one thinks of about Epsom are horse racing and mental hospitals. Racing on the Downs took place from the 17th century, and the book describes the development of the sport and its effects on the Downs and the town.

Epsom is on clay, and this meant that brick making was important, never more so than from 1899 when the London County Council started to build their group of hospitals on the Horton estate. These were built to house around 10,000 people, just part of the ring of similar institutions around the capital. We are reminded that at the end of the 19th century parish Poor Law Guardians saved 60% of their costs if they referred someone to an asylum rather than keeping them in the workhouse. Doctors were paid a fee for everyone they certified and having an illegitimate child could result in certification. The hospitals provided work for local residents, new housing development and the establishment of St Barnabas church and parish.

Epsom had the first automatic telephone exchange in the United Kingdom and the first lady 'postman'. Charles Abdy portrays an eclectic selection of people from Mrs Mapp the bone-setter to James Chuter Ede, and from Tom Walls to George Woodcock the trades union leader. He also describes a selection of old and interesting buildings.

The book is well illustrated although I did not think that the reproduction of all the photographs was as good as sometimes achieved. However, for anyone wanting a concise but comprehensive history of Epsom this volume can be recommended.

Peter Tarplee

This article, reproduced by permission of the Editor of the parish magazine "Fetcham Herald", seems to have a topical ring, not only because we are close to Remembrance Day but because of our thoughts on things that have happened since 11th September this year.

"OLD CODGERS"

Two years ago I described the old men, shuffling down the aisle during Remembrance Service, as Old Codgers. It isn't a term of abuse, (Chambers says "*A man, a chap, especially old*"). As I was one myself, I was surprised that a couple of people took offence. I used the phrase to try and identify the gap between us and the younger generations. We grew up in a different world. '*Fear God, and honour the King*' and '*Six of the best for slacking*' was our discipline, enforced by our elders steeped in Victorian values. Even so, they thought the country was going to the dogs particularly when the Oxford Union passed a resolution saying "This house will not fight for King and Country." They did, of course when the time came, for over a year alone in the world, and routed one of the most evil regimes in history. Many gave their lives, all of us gave up six years of our youth.

So us old codgers can be excused for thinking that the pendulum has swung too far the other way, a Head Mistress threatened with prison for a slap to an unruly child is ludicrous, discipline is too lax today, but we do not want to return to the world of Wackford Squeers. We worry too about the lack of respect shown to our most cherished institutions, the Church and Marriage especially, the vandalising of the Cenotaph and Churchill's statue shocks us. Worst of all youth violence. We recently read that by the Mill Pond in Fetcham, a seventeen year old boy was savagely attacked, robbed, and beaten on the face with a stick by three young thugs, in broad daylight. But — there is another side to the coin.

The young, who backpack all over the world on sponsored trips, often through dangerous countries for various charities, who risk their lives to aid the Third World, who go out as missionaries or stay here to help the homeless and the vulnerable. They show the courage and sense of adventure for which our country has always been famous.

So we do not parrot our fathers' cry. This country is **not** going to the dogs.

Alec Gunn.

LEATHERHEAD CENSUS PROJECT REPORT

The task of computerising the Victorian census records continues to advance and the group's exhibit at the Heritage Open Day raised a lot of interest. New volunteers have offered their help and the number of questions raised, which the completed survey can readily answer, demonstrates its usefulness. Between two thirds and three quarters of the records have now been entered. It is likely that the winter months will see this stage completed. There is a need for more checkers. The records being copied are sometimes difficult to read. I am told that one set of records shows clearly how the writer progressed from a sober clarity to near illegibility as he progressed from page to page and from glass to glass. Such entries clearly need to be checked with great care.

The exhibit told the story of Leatherhead people resisting the closure of a footpath by a landowner. On show were the newspaper reports of the court hearing in 1849 and the records of the Vestry (the local government authority up to 1894). The newspaper quoted around a dozen Leatherhead witnesses in detail, the vestry minutes reveal the names of those defending the right of way. Altogether there were over 50 participants and the census added to, confirmed or corrected the information from 30 of these sources.

A most useful beginning has been made and I should like to thank everyone who has contributed to the project.

John Morris

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

For our annual outing this year was in August. We visited Amberley Museum. More about this in Graham Evans' report.

Our Stewards *get together* was a very happy occasion where we got to know each other a bit better and caught up with the latest news of the Museum from Alan Pooley. The committee had hoped that we might be able to find some new Stewards, who are still desperately needed, but only one name was forthcoming.

The Friends Committee's time this last year has been fully occupied with planning the festivities for the Museum's 21st birthday celebrations on 6th October. The cake was baked by our Secretary and most beautifully iced by Mrs Margaret Hookey. She very cleverly incorporated aspects of the Museum in her design and we thank her most sincerely for her beautiful work.

On the day of the celebrations the horse bus gave rides around the Town. It was a popular event and demonstrated how much progress has been made in the speed and comfort of modern transport. Our Victorian teacher, Miss Rosalind Crowe was excellent and really captured the imagination of us all. The children from Woodville Road school fully looked the part and I am sure they enjoyed the experience of writing on slates instead of paper. The Chairman of Mole Valley Council even joined in and

thoroughly enjoyed himself. Altogether I think all the hard work was worth the effort and the people of Leatherhead surely can no longer claim that they didn't know there was a Museum in their town.

Thelma Lucas, Secretary of the Friends Committee

DAY TRIP TO AMBERLEY

Back in August, a group of the museum Friends visited Amberley Working Museum. This museum is set in a large disused chalk quarry cut into the South Downs of West Sussex. The weather was good (except for one refreshing downpour) which made the day ideal for visiting this large site. There were over thirty themed exhibits to see, mainly housed in restored or purpose-built buildings ranging from a small turn-of-the-last-century ironmongers, to the large 'Electricity Hall', with a smithy, telephone exchange, bus garage and wheelwrights in between. All types of stationary engines could be seen operating while non-stationary engines, like the Vintage Bus and Narrow Gauge Railway, ran free-of-charge at regular intervals around the site.

Of particular interest were two Duke & Ockenden well pumps. (For those who don't know, Duke & Ockenden had an office in Hampton Cottage where many of the Ockenden family also resided). Another Leatherhead connection was the '*Cleaning Van*' of B.V.C., the company that later was to become Goblin.

Clay pipe making, wood-turning, pottery, broom-making, printing and smithying were some of the crafts cheerfully and informatively demonstrated by the volunteer craftsmen, with some of their wares also for sale. Various walks and nature trails are also on site as is a children's play area.

Although we were there for five hours, it was one of those places you could have stayed all day and still not have seen everything! Unfortunately, the ladies felt it was more of a '*man's museum*'; however a very enjoyable day was had by all.

Graham Evans.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

21st December Christmas Miscellany : '*Leatherhead in Wartime*' arranged by Gordon Knowles. Volunteers for ten minute talks please contact Gordon by the end of November at the latest, earlier if possible. Speakers are still being sought. Ring him on 01372 458396

18th January, 2002 '*The Evolution of the Manorial System*' by Lt.Col. J.W. Molyneux-Child, who will make reference to some local examples. He is an authority on the subject, a lecturer and author of '*The Evolution of the English Manorial System*'.

15th February '*Cobham Houses and Their Occupants*' by David Taylor, local historian and author.

15th March '*The Civil War in England*' by Alan Turton, Curator of Museum of Local History, Basing. Alan Turton has a special interest in the English Civil War Living History re-enactments. He has taken part in many of these for films and TV including the recent '*History of Britain*' series by Simon Schama.

19th April Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by John Morris entitled '*An Update of the Leatherhead and District Census Project*'

17th May '*Mrs. Greville and Polesden Lacey*' by Stephen Tudsbury-Turner, local historian and author who has lectured to us before on the Lovelace family and Horsley Towers.

Local History Course for Leatherhead Community Association and History Society Members

The Autumn course of five lectures on local history at The Letherhead Institute proved very successful and they were well attended. They were given by Gordon Knowles, Derek Renn, Peter Tarplee, Linda Heath, and Edwina Vardey, and covered such diverse subjects as Railways, Manors, Bridges, Industry, Churches, and Compiling a Local History.

Linda Heath

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2002

Subscriptions for the calendar year 2002 become due on 1st January next, and enclosed with this Newsletter you will find a subscription renewal form. Please complete the form and send it with your cheque to me at the address shown on the form, at any time from now on.

Please note the new subscription rates :

**Ordinary member £12; Associate Member £5;
Junior Member £1.**

You will see that you can pay a subscription to the Friends of Leatherhead Museum at the same time :

Single Member £3 ; Couples £5

If you are a taxpayer and wish the Society to benefit from tax refund under the *Gift Aid Scheme* please complete the form at the bottom of the renewal form. Last year's declarations will still be effective but , if in doubt, please complete the form.

If you pay by standing order you should also receive with this newsletter a form for submission to your bank. Please ensure that you send it as soon as possible, to ensure that the bank pays the new rate on 2nd January, 2002.

Jack Barker, Membership Secretary

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Archaeological Research Committee Annual Symposium

Next year the Annual Symposium of the Archaeological Research Committee of the Surrey Archaeological Society will, as it was this year, be held at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall. It will take place on Saturday, 16th February, 2002, and our Society plans to have a display at this event.

More details of the programme will be available nearer the day but members may like to keep this day free.

SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

Members wishing to use the Surrey History Centre should note that the centre will be closed for stock checking from Monday, 3rd December to Saturday, 15th December. They will reopen on Tuesday, 18th December.

Please also note that their opening hours over the Christmas and New Year holiday period will be:-

Saturday, 22nd December	CLOSED
Monday, 24th December	CLOSED
Christmas Day, 25th December	CLOSED
Boxing Day, 26th December	CLOSED
Thursday, 27th December	9.30 - 7.30
Friday, 28th December	9.30 - 5.00
Saturday, 29th December	9.30 - 4.00
Monday, 31st December	CLOSED
Tuesday, 1st January	CLOSED

Normal service resumes on Wednesday, 2nd January, 2002 at 9.30

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS, 2002

It has been decided that Heritage Open Days will take place again next year in Mole Valley District with a programme similar to previous years. I have represented the Society on the planning committee for this weekend for the last few years and I feel that it would be good if someone else did this in order to get some new ideas into the event.

It would be particularly useful this year as I shall probably be away during Heritage Weekend and so would not be able to be active during the events. If anyone feels that they might be able to help with this I shall be pleased to discuss with them what is involved. The next meeting of the committee will be held at Letherhead Institute at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 14th January, 2002 and I will be pleased to come as well if that is preferred.

Peter Tarplee

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Gordon Knowles will be giving his usual series of lectures for Fetcham & Bookham WEA in the Letherhead Institute on Thursday mornings between 10.00 and 12.00 from 10th January to 21st March, 2002.

The course consists of ten lectures and a visit. Topics this year include :-

- Vickers— Armaments and more
- SS Great Britain (Part II)
- Railway Air Services
- The Centenary of AC cars
- Sentinel steam
- Haarlemmermeer Cruquis—Drainage in the
Netherlands, etc.

Programme details and booking form can be obtained from the WEA Secretary, Joy Tapping , Tel: 01372 374563.

Fee— £41, Concessions — £34.

It is essential to book in advance as the course is likely to be oversubscribed once again.

OUR WEB SITE

Our Society as well as the Museum, are fortunate to be well represented on the world-wide Internet web. This has come about through the efforts of our member Frank Haslam.

Not only has he designed and established our web site pages but he works constantly to bring the information up-to-date. Visitors to the site will find, for example, details of the History Society's forthcoming lectures and other events - past and future -, an illustrated portrayal of our books and publications available for sale and an indication of how to become a member.

The Museum is well described, with notes on our more important exhibits. Latterly the page has incorporated colour pictures of some of these. Any of our readers with a computer equipped to 'browse the web' might care to visit our site from time to time. The address is : www.leatherheadweb.org.uk.

At the time of going to press the number of visits to the site is reported to be 980 (since July, 1998), which could indicate that interest in our Society has now expanded to a global level.

John Wettern

