

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



August, 2002

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

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CHAIRMAN

Peter A. Tarplee
01372 452301

SECRETARY

Judith Mills
01372 372146

TREASURER

Norma Robertson
01372 453795

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 at the following times: -

Thursdays and Fridays	1.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Saturdays	10.0 a.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Sundays in August; also 1st & 15th Sept. .	2.0 to 5.0 p.m.

CURATOR

Graham Evans

01372 386348

The Library at The Letherhead Institute is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. It is no longer open on Saturdays.

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 November 2002 issue should reach the Society's Office by 18th October, 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

The Society had displays and sales stands at two recent local events. First of all we were at the River Mole Discovery Day held on Sunday 26th May by the river near the Leisure Centre. This event was a new venture and was a very enjoyable family occasion except for the low attendance caused, no doubt, by the almost continuous rain. Secondly, with better weather this time, we borrowed some of the display about the Jubilee from our museum and had a stand at Bookham Village Day on 15th June.

Both of these occasions gave the Society some publicity, engendered some interest in our activities and produced some book sales. The Society does get a number of invitations to attend various events but it is difficult to prepare suitable displays for each of these. Graham Evans helpfully made material from the museum's displays available for the two events above but if any member would like to prepare display material please let us know. The Society's '*general*' display boards need upgrading as they are outdated and suffering from the effects of age as well as getting wet. The Society would, of course, provide mounting boards and does have a considerable archive of photographs and other printed matter which could be used.

On 8th June I was among a party of members who visited Slyfield House. This was an extremely interesting morning when we were entertained very well by Mr and Mrs Richards who gave us an excellent tour and description of the property and its history. Some of us also saw the Slyfield Barn which is where the Yehudi Menuhin School gives some of its concerts. The charge for this visit was a donation to the Friends of Yehudi Menuhin School, and some of those present expressed an interest in this organisation. I obtained details of this group from Mrs Richards, and I will be pleased to pass a copy to anyone who might like to have more information.

The programme for Heritage Open Days on 13th - 15th September should be available when this Newsletter is published and I do recommend that members look at this. I am sure that among the talks, visits and walks there will be something of interest to everyone. Many people go to a lot of effort preparing talks and walks and opening their properties, and we should show our appreciation by attending wherever possible.

Following this piece there are details of two forthcoming vacancies among the tasks carried out by our committee members. It is self-evident that both these jobs are essential to the effective running of the Society and I do urge you all to seriously consider whether you could help with either. Please talk to our Secretary or me, or maybe better still to John Wettern or Jack Barker, if there is any way in which you may be able to help us. I know that both John and Jack will give you any help which you may need and will explain what is required for both positions.

Peter Tarplee

POSTS NEEDING SHORTLY TO BE FILLED

1) MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

At the next Annual General Meeting, in April 2003, Jack Barker will cease to be Membership Secretary. As the main part of the membership work begins in the autumn it is desirable that a successor should come forward to shadow Jack during this time, leading to a smooth takeover in April.

The membership records are kept on a *Microsoft Works* database, which is compatible with various other standard programs.

In October the membership renewal form is prepared for photocopying and despatch with the November Newsletter. When subscriptions are received records are updated and cheques and cash are passed to the Treasurer. The Membership Secretary prepares labels for the dispatchers of Newsletters etc., ensuring that membership cards, AGM papers, Proceedings, etc. go to those entitled to them. In March reminders are sent to any who have not paid their subscriptions. As new members arrive during the year welcoming letters and membership cards are sent to them.

Reasonable computer literacy is required but there are no very complicated operations to be carried out. Between November and March a couple of hours or so a week is required, but then until the new cycle starts, there is little to do. As a member of the Executive Committee there is a need to attend six meetings a year.

2) NEWSLETTER EDITOR

John Wettern is giving up the editorship of our Newsletter from the end of this year and so the Society will need someone to undertake this task. The Newsletter is an important part of the Society's activities and is, for many of our members, their only contact with us and what we are doing.

It should be made clear that the editor is not expected to write articles for the Newsletter but just to put together material supplied by members and arrange for the printing of the Newsletters which are then distributed by others. Much of the material about the administration of the Society will be provided by the appropriate officers whilst members, and others, are encouraged to submit articles of interest which would not necessarily be suitable for the *Proceedings*.

Peter Tarplee

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

A very recent addition to the library is "*Hidden Depths: an Archaeological Exploration of Surrey's Past*" by Roger Hunt and others published by the Surrey Archaeological Society. Profusely illustrated in colour, this is a most attractive book. The following is a brief extract from it :—

"At the Ashtead cemetery site [i.e. the Esso site] one of the unusual finds accompanying a male burial was a Panther Cowrie shell of a type found only in the Red Sea area, a remarkable illustration of the distance that an object, valued purely for its protection against evil, might travel. Buried nearby, a six or seven year old child wore a necklace formed of three small beads from a Panther Cowrie as well as two amethysts and two glass beads, one of which, with red polka dots on a blue background, may have been manufactured in the Rhineland."

However for a more detailed account of the finds at the Esso site, the reader is referred to an earlier publication, in the same attractive format, by Rob Poulton, "*Saxon Secrets in Surrey*".

Other additions are : —

SURREY — Records

West Surrey Family History Society — Record Series Nos. 35 and 36

SURREY — Individual Towns & Villages

COBHAM

TAYLOR, David C. — “*Gerrard Winstanley in Elmbridge*”.

Appleton Publications, 2000

LEATHERHEAD

Leatherhead Parish Magazine, 1894-95

SMITH, D. — “*A Short History of Leatherhead Congregational Church*”. Revised edition, 1990

All these books and others in the Society's Library are housed within the Leatherhead Institute's library room. It is accessible to our members only when the LCA Library is open to its members, but not on Saturdays. (See details on the inside cover of this Newsletter). It is most important that you show your current L & D L H S membership card to the librarian on duty when you use the library.

Gwen Hoad

DEVELOPMENTS AT PETWORTH HOUSE

The final lecture in the 2001-2 season was given on 17th May by Judith Mills, speaking on “*Petworth - The Carved Room and the Return of the Turners*”.

Judith began by sketching the history of Petworth House, which was held by the Percy family between the 12th and 17th centuries. It then passed by marriage to the Seymours, who held the Dukedom of Somerset. The duke began rebuilding the mediaeval manor house to create a grander building. In the course of this work Grinling Gibbons was commissioned to create the Carved Room, which was left in the natural colour of the lime wood. After several generations the property passed to the Wyndham family in the shape of the 3rd Earl Egremont, benevolent owner of some 11,000 acres in various parts of the country and breeder of racehorses — he won the Derby and the Oaks on several occasions . He was allegedly the father of many children by various mothers.

Egremont carried out further work, including the doubling of the size of the Carved Room in the 1770's. The room was then used as the earl's grand dining room. Around 1830 the landscape painter, J.M.W. Turner, was commissioned to paint four pictures to go into this room in frames carved by Jonathan Ritson. Using the library as a studio Turner painted eight pictures, of which he retained four which are now in Tate Britain. Egremont was succeeded by his eldest natural son, who later became Lord Leconfield, and Petworth remained in his family until it passed to the National Trust in 1929, having gone to the State in lieu of death duties.

Over the last ten years the Trust has conducted a major programme of refurbishing the house, the final stage being the restoration of the Carved Room to its former glory. Judith showed slides illustrating the magnitude of this task and some of the problems dealt with by the restorers.

The talk will have whetted the appetites of those present to visit Petworth to see the final result and to view the exhibition of Turner's work being mounted there between July and September this year.

Jack Barker

WALK ACROSS MICKLEHAM DOWNS

On Saturday, 11th May, beneath a canopy of bright green newly-unfurled leaves, contrasting with the gentle haze of underplanted bluebells, we walked across the Downs under the leadership of Alan Hall of the Surrey Archaeological Society. This walk had been postponed for 15 months due to foot and mouth disease, but was a natural corollary to a talk given by Judie English.

We made our way alongside Tyrells Wood Golf Club greens until we reached the remains of a barrow, disguised by course contours. Aerial photography on our left would have shown hidden former mounds where three parish boundaries met on sheep pasture fields. When we reached Stane Street Alan showed us how the original construction had been revealed by recent works, enabling us to appreciate the formidable task of the Romans to build straight, regular and well surfaced roads throughout the country for troop movements. He propounded recent

speculation that the Roman occupation predated earlier calculations by more than 100 years. No forts appear to have existed in the South East of England and it may well be therefore that they came here by invitation. It is believed that Roman villa sites were reused, as for example in Ashtead where the church has traces of Roman brick in its construction.

We turned behind Cherkley Court grounds, where the Aitken Trust had fenced off their land. Stane Street plunged off through the woodland, unexcavated, while we walked on up through the now muddy and comparatively badly surfaced lane. Surrey had always been one of the poorest counties and only suitable for sheep grazing on the chalk downland. Landscape archaeology has revealed ancient field margins, the shapes scoured out by iron age men. As recently as 40 years ago this area still held valuable sites but these have all now been destroyed. At that time, also, the shady woodland through which we now walked had been open agricultural grassland. A few iron and bronze age settlements had been excavated in the area but nothing of note found.

We turned up towards the Long Ride, which during wartime had been kept as an emergency aircraft landing strip. The Archaeological Society had excavated a circular hut from clues of broken pottery kicked up by passing horses. Vestiges of field boundaries could be faintly discerned. As we returned to Nower Wood we passed a Saxon parish boundary with a double bank and ditch on the steeply wooded hillside separating Headley and Mickleham.

Our thanks to Alan for a most interesting afternoon and the reminder that the clues are all around us, if only we can read them.

Cherry Pepler

VISIT TO BASINGSTOKE

Saturday, 13th July was a warm and sunny day. We arrived at the purpose-built *Milestones* museum for its 11.0 a.m. opening and enjoyed the excellent audio guide. The museum contains replica buildings representing Basingstoke's past, including shops from Victorian times to the 1940's and the Thornycroft, Tasker and Wallis & Stevens engineering works. The jeweller's shop was particularly attractive with ornate gas lamps on the outside so that the gas did not tarnish the silver

objects on view in the window. The 1930's shopping parade was based on one at Lee-on-Sea epitomising the era, with electrical and other household products then becoming readily available. There was also a saw mill, a pub, a saddlers, etc.

The firm John I.Thornycroft was founded at Chiswick in 1864 producing steam launches and naval vessels. Commercial vehicle production began in 1895 by installing a steam launch engine in a road wagon. Vehicle building moved to a new works in Basingstoke in 1868. By 1905 the emphasis was on the internal combustion engine. The family were artists as well as engineers. John's brother Hamo and his father Thomas were sculptors. Hamo sculpted the statue of King Alfred which stands in Winchester ; Thomas being responsible for Boadicea and her famous horse-drawn chariot on the approach to Westminster bridge.

Thornycroft had a reputation for quality commercial vehicles but sadly after WW2 was unable to compete with larger British manufacturers. It was taken over by AEC (and later still by British Leyland), and became a specialist vehicle manufacturer, most famously producing the Mighty Antar 150 ton capacity tank transporter for the British Army in the nineteen fifties. The works closed in 1972 and the site was re-developed into a supermarket. Boat building was merged with Vosper in 1966 to become Vosper Thornycroft Ltd.

In the afternoon we visited the remains of Basing House and saw the magnificent Tudor barn which was part of the estate. The timbers of this agricultural warehouse had been dated to Autumn 1534 and the Spring of 1535. Timber was shaped whilst still green because, if left to mature, it became too hard to work. The barn showed evidence of Parliamentarian cannon damage during the Civil War sieges. The tally marks scratched on the walls by farm workers date from Tudor to Victorian times. (These ordinary people were our ancestors, not Royalty or titled people. They could neither read nor write, hence the simple counting system.) The barn is very impressive, well preserved and of awesome proportions. Constructed from 3.25 million locally fired Tudor bricks, its simple dignity had great presence and for me was the most interesting part of the visit, its '*arrow slits*' being for ventilation, not defence.

Basingstoke is however just an adjunct to older Basing, as we learnt from our guide, Alan Turton, who gave a very thorough guided tour and history. Basing House was once the largest in England, larger even than Henry VIII's little place by the Thames at Hampton, which he 'acquired' from Cardinal Wolsey, who of course made the mistake of building a palace larger than that of his monarch. It is therefore particularly sad that Basing House had such varied fortunes and misfortunes, from a palace entertaining 1,500 guests, to a Royalist Civil War stronghold. It ended as a quarry to rebuild Basing following the Civil war siege of 1644. Had it survived, the house could now be one of the foremost tourist attractions in the country. It was owned (and extended on a massive scale) by one of the most remarkable Tudor politicians, Sir William Paulet, first Marquis of Winchester, who was Treasurer to Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. Becoming immensely rich, he died in his nineties, remaining a Roman Catholic under a Protestant queen until the end of his days.

It is such a pity that so few members attend these well organised trips as one has the opportunity to see things and learn about places and history not always available to the general public. Thank you to Linda Heath for organising the day on such a tight schedule and on such a pleasant and sunny day.

Peter Wall

MYSTERIOUS WW2 WEAPON ON DISPLAY AT MUSEUM

Stewards on duty at Leatherhead Museum recently received a surprise visit from a former Ashtead resident. She had brought in for acceptance a rusty tubular object which had lain in her garage until now. She said she was about to move to another address, and thought the museum might like to have it. What it was and whence it had come were unknown to her.

This called for expert advice. It seemed like a weapon of some sort — luckily not dangerous because it contained no explosives within its case. Accordingly the Society's advisor on WW2 history, Trevor Marchington, was asked to assist. One mystery needing to be solved were the writings on the outer case : these were about "*Actions*" and included dates, all around 1943-44. What did these denote ?

A letter was sent to the Director of The Imperial War Museum which produced a very full description of the weapon and how it had been used in the war. We are grateful to Trevor for the following report which gives an excellent account of our museum's latest acquisition.

Report on an Artefact from an Ashtead garage

Description: A tube of three-inch internal diameter about four feet long. There is a triangular fin or flight at the rear end and location holes for three others. This end also has a venturi. The tube has split in two places from extreme internal pressure. The front end has split and splayed back for several inches, indicating that this was a rocket that had been fired and had an explosive head that had detonated.

Conclusion (following consultation with the Imperial War Museum): This is a World War 2 three-inch UP rocket motor tube. UP stands for *unrotated projectile* to distinguish it from a shell from a gun. (*Rifling of a gun's barrel causes the shell to rotate and so fly point first*). The shape of the fin indicates that it was an early anti-aircraft rocket; these were fired in pairs by Z Gun Batteries. They were first trialled in 1939 in Jamaica and came into service later that year. The propellant in these rockets was about 12 pounds of cordite and the venturi greatly increased the thrust. The length of the tube was four feet, seven and a half inches. The explosive head extended beyond this and carried a time fuse. In October 1941 an urgent instruction was issued to adapt the rocket for air-launching against enemy tanks in North Africa. After several modifications it proved effective not only there but also against U-boats and other targets, including those offered in the invasion of Europe.

Stencilling on the Tube This is unlikely to have any direct relationship to the rocket and seems to have been added after the tube was collected as a souvenir. The Imperial War Museum was unable to offer any explanation. The most legible data refers to fifteen dates under an "Action" title, but these were not necessarily local as the tube could have been collected elsewhere, and their meaning is likely to remain a mystery. However, it is worth noting that the frequency of the "Actions" increased rapidly in February 1944 when preparations for D-Day were in full swing.

Trevor Marchington

NOEL COWARD IN LEATHERHEAD

Jack Barker writes :—

At last year's Christmas miscellany, Joan Kirby appealed for information on happenings at the Letherhead Institute during World War II. A recent conversation with my brother elicited the following anecdote :—

In 1941 a Command Ordnance Depot had its headquarters in Leatherhead, and for about six months from May my brother was posted to an outpost at The Grange in Rectory Lane, Bookham. This was then the home of the School of Stitchery and Lace. He was billeted in a bungalow on the Guildford Road. Apparently the students of the school were employed on repair of gas masks and possibly other equipment, the work being done in the stable block. Incidentally, also in Bookham, there was a military tent store at the Edenside nursery in Church Road (now the site of the Edenside estate).

However, to return to the Institute. My brother remembers going to a concert there when the main performer was Noel Coward, who sang many of his well-known songs, including "*Don't put your Daughter on the Stage, Mrs Worthington*", "*Mad Dogs and Englishmen*", etc., accompanying himself at the piano.

Who knows what other entertainers, of varying degrees of fame, performed at the Institute during those war years? Has anyone any other memories?

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

Once again we were very fortunate with the weather for our coffee morning and bring-and-buy sale on Saturday, 29th June, and so were able to make full use of the Museum garden. We had a much better selection of goods for sale but, unfortunately, not enough people to buy all the things for sale. When I was up in the office I looked down on the festive scene and wondered what other social occasions had taken place in that garden. Did Mrs Ockenden have sewing bees there and what games did all the children play ?

We are holding our annual Stewards social get-together on Tuesday, 10th September from 7.30 till 9.30 p.m. when biscuits and coffee will be served. I hope as many of you as possible will come and get to know

each other and discuss any points that may have arisen during your Stewarding time. If anyone would like a lift to the Reeves Room please let me know. We are much better off in numbers of Stewards but very lacking in visitors! Are we open on the right days and at the right time and what do you feel about the Sunday opening ? We would welcome any ideas you may have on how to interest people in visiting the Museum.

We are so grateful to all the Stewards for the many hours of work you put in at the Museum. I do hope you have had the opportunity to meet some interesting people.

Thelma Lucas

THE FRIENDS' OUTING TO GUILDFORD ON 22nd JUNE

On a pleasant Saturday morning eight Friends of the Museum met on the Old Bridge at Guildford, the site of the "*Golden Ford*" which gave the town its name. We were introduced to our guide, Mrs Marjorie Williams, who is the senior official tour guide in Guildford.

Setting off on the west bank of the river our guide told us of the Treadmill Crane (unfortunately inaccessible) and the history of St Nicholas Church, one of whose rectors, Dr Mansell, wrote the hymn "*Fight the Good Fight*". There had been many mill sites along the river, and with the canalisation of the Wey, extended to Godalming in 1762, these brought great prosperity to the town. Crossing the river and canal and reaching Millbank we were amazed to be told that the gardens on the steep hill ahead had, until the early 60's, continued to the riverside, where there is now a very busy road.

Next we climbed the hill to St Mary's Church - partly Saxon in origin, with many interesting features. In the grounds was a plaque commemorating the reburial here of a large number of skeletons recovered from the site of the Old Friary.

A short visit to the Museum was so interesting that return visits will undoubtedly be made. Going up the hill we passed the Castle ruins, the impressive keep (closed for repairs), a wonderful floral display, and saw where the Rev. Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) had bought a house for his six sisters. Dodgson is buried nearby in Mount cemetery.

Making our way up the High Street, passing the street music and dancing(!) by the Guildhall and Guildford House, we visited Abbott's Hospital which is not normally open to the public. Built by George Abbott, Archbishop of Canterbury, as an alms house, it was completed in 1622 and still fulfils its original purpose. Beyond the old buildings is a recently-built and attractive complex of flats and gardens .

A surprise highlight was the visit to the Undercroft in the High Street, opposite the Angel Hotel. This had been the basement of a mediaeval merchant's house and has a vaulted ceiling. Many exhibits showed how life in those distant times would have been. We were much entertained by a demonstration of how to do arithmetic using Roman numerals. A board with five horizontal lines on it was used — a bit like a shov-halfpenny board. Counters were placed on each line representing ones, fives, tens, fifties and hundreds. It was from this type of board that the word "*counter*" (as in a shop "counter") originated.

Stuart Edmondston

DAPDUNE WHARF AND CANAL MUSEUM

The second part of the Friends' outing to Guildford took us to Dapdune Wharf which is to the north of the town centre, off Woodbridge Road.

Owned by the National Trust, it is a museum devoted to the River Wey Navigation, on which it stands. It was formerly a working wharf for the barges which used it. Part indoors and part outdoors there is a barge repair shed ; a preserved actual barge which one can enter (being careful not to knock your head on the low beams above you). Close by are capstans used for pulling barges out of the water. There are several of the original buildings such as dwellings and workshops containing interesting exhibits about the life on the barges and the Wey Navigation.

Children can amuse themselves with inter-active displays and members of our party were not averse to trying their hands at raising weights with block and tackle, tying rope knots or operating a model of a lock with a model barge to negotiate it. It was also possible to walk along the towpath from here, but we chose to refresh ourselves in the tea-room before walking back to the station.

A very pleasant surprise in an otherwise not very attractive part of Guildford.

Gwen Hoad

AUTUMN LECTURES

Friday, 20th September. Dr. Derek Renn will be giving a lecture on '*Surrey Castles in the Landscape*'. Why were castles built where they were ? What did they look like when in use ? How did they change their surroundings? Derek will attempt to answer these questions using local examples and evidence from elsewhere.

Friday, 18th October. THE DALLAWAY LECTURE.
Dr Martin Welch will shed '*New Light on the Anglo Saxons*'. Dr Welch is a member of the staff of the Institute of Archaeology, University College, London and will be talking about some recent Anglo-Saxon archaeological discoveries in the county and elsewhere.

Friday 15th November. '*Fanny Burney in Surrey*' by Linda Heath. This year is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Fanny Burney, a forerunner of Jane Austin and the Brontë sisters as a woman novelist, and deserving greater recognition than she currently receives. She lived in Great Bookham and Westhumble for several years. Linda will talk about the time she lived in this area , the happiest period of her life.

Friday, 20th December. The *Christmas Miscellany* with a Jubilee Theme. Please contact Gordon Knowles, 01372 458396, in good time and no later than early December, with details of your ten minute presentation on any aspect of a Jubilee celebration.

No reasonable offers refused.

* * * And Linda Heath adds an urgent note : * * *

COFFEE ROTA AT OUR MEETINGS

I am very willing to organise a rota of members to serve coffee before our meetings, but we do need volunteers BOTH MALE AND FEMALE !
(No sex discrimination !)

With eight volunteers it will only come round twice in a whole season.
Please help with this if you can.

(No volunteers, no coffee !)

Linda Heath (01372 372603)

HERITAGE WEEKEND

The Chairman's report at the beginning of this newsletter mentions the Heritage Weekend which will be Saturday, 14th and Sunday, 15th September. There will be details of all events in the Heritage booklets. The History Society will be doing a guided walk again, and because of all the disruption in the High Street and the Crossroads, we have decided to do our "*Off the Beaten Track*" walk round North Leatherhead again. This was very popular last year — not least because of the tea break and the delightful photographs on view at All Saints Church. The walk will take place on Saturday, 14th, and starts from the Letherhead Institute at 2.0 p.m. No booking is required.

Linda Heath

MORTIMER WHEELER HOUSE

There was insufficient support for the visit to the Museum of London's 'warehouse' as foreshadowed in the February Newsletter. However your editor's curiosity prompted him do go there and see what there was to offer. It turned out to be a most interesting occasion, and hopefully others might be persuaded that a journey would be well worthwhile.

Although situated in a *remote* part of North London, it turned out that transport was no problem. This is because a frequent bus service (No. 76) runs directly there from Waterloo station. An interesting ride through the heart of the City.

At this site in Eagle Wharf Road a large empty warehouse has been converted into a multi storey complex known as Mortimer Wheeler House or the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre. My visit was on an 'open day'. These occur on the first Saturday of each month. Each time they hold 'behind the scenes' tours of the archaeological archive as well as a theme for the day. On Saturday, 7th September the theme will be '*After the Great Fire*' .

Mortimer Wheeler House is more than a collection of artefacts although it does have the records of 5000 archaeological investigations dating back to 1907. It is a place for work and research for the benefit of any organisation or student wishing to pursue their studies — not necessarily centred on London. They have links with many local societies and encourage new contacts.

For further information ring 020 7490 8447 or go to web site www.museumoflondon.org.uk. I have samples of their literature for anyone interested.

John Wettern (01372 459277)

LEATHERHEAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LOCAL HISTORY COURSE

Starting on 20th September our Society is running another local history course for members of the Leatherhead Community Association at the Institute on Friday afternoons from 2.0 to 4.0 p.m.

If there are any vacancies on the course, our members may apply to Joan Kirby at the Institute, but it would only be if the course was not already filled. The cost for the series of five lectures is £25. The lectures are as follows: —

20th September "*Motoring Matters*" by Gordon Knowles

4th October "*Some Former Farms of Ashtead*" by Gwen Hoad
 and "*The Hankey Dynasty of Fetcham*" by Alan Pooley
 (each talk one hour)

18th October "*Life in 19th Century Leatherhead*" by Linda Heath

1st November "*Railways and Mills*" by Peter Tarplee

15th November "*Leatherhead in the Early 20th Century*" by Edwina Vardey

'FROM CODY TO CONCORDE'

Gordon Knowles will be giving a series of illustrated lectures on aviation history for the Fetcham & Bookham W.E.A. in the Letherhead Institute on Thursdays, from 10.0 a.m. to 12.00 noon, for 11 weeks, including a visit. These begin on 26th September.

The topics will include some of the aviation pioneers including Cody, Heston & Croydon aerodromes, Imperial Airways, the Schneider Trophy and the England - Australia air races. Also some significant aircraft designs including the DC-3 and *Concorde*.

Application forms are available from the W.E.A. Secretary, Joy Tapping. Tel. 01372 374563.

Pre-booking is advisable.

