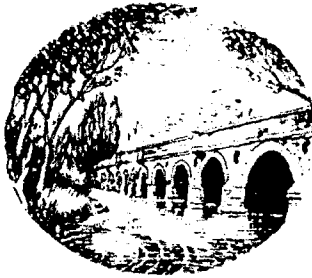


LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



May, 2004

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, LEATHERHEAD  
Surrey, KT22 8DP  
Tel: 01372 386348

Email : leatherheadmuseum@localhistory.free-online.co.uk

Web site : www.leatherheadweb.org.uk

CHAIRMAN  
Peter 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.

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**2004 Membership Subscriptions**

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

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Jenny Morris

01372 362524

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**The Museum** is open at the following times: -

Thursdays and Fridays . . . . . 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.  
Saturdays . . . . . 10.0 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

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CURATOR

Graham Evans

01372 386348

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**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.

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LIBRARIAN

Gwen Hoad

01372 273934

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The Records are available for study by arrangement.

RECORDS SECRETARY

Brian Godfrey

01372 454654

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

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PROGRAMME SECRETARY

Fred Meynen

01372 372930

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**Archaeology**

ARCHAEOLOGY SECRETARY

Pauline Hulse

01483 282917

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

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR Peter Wall, 8 The Renmans, Ashtead, KT21 1PH. Tel. 01372 277690

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

SECRETARY

Thelma Lucas

01372 844345

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

First of all I must correct an error which crept into my notes in the last *Newsletter*. The grant from Mole Valley District Council should have been shown as £935. This money, as I said in February, has been used towards the cost of enabling the Society to keep its document collection in a clean, safe and proper manner. We fear that these grants may not be available in future and so we are particularly pleased that we have had this opportunity to provide our archivists with suitable equipment to enable them to keep the material properly.

I would like to express the thanks of the Society to Alan Pooley and others for organising the training sessions for all our museum stewards before the museum re-opened in April. We are also very grateful to Bairstow Eves for allowing us to use their conference room for these sessions. In view of the size of the rooms in the museum, being allowed to use these facilities is particularly appreciated. They already are helpful to us in looking after our keys and this extra favour was welcomed.

Whilst on the subject of the museum, many of you will already have seen our latest temporary exhibition *Are you sitting comfortably?* This is a large (for us) display of vintage radio and television sets and associated ephemera. We are grateful to a local collector of radios, televisions and relevant material who has lent the artifacts and helped Graham Evans to mount the display. I would urge as many of you as can to visit the museum whilst the display is still in place.

On 16th April we held our Annual General Meeting when it was agreed that the annual subscription to the Society will be increased from 2005. We are finding, once again, that our subscriptions do not cover the running costs of the Society. We have had various grants and bequests over the last few years which have

enabled us to buy computers, display cabinets, paving and other major items but the committee are quite clear that the regular subscription income should cover the day-to-day costs such as postage, stationery, Newsletters, Proceedings, museum expendable items etc. In order to achieve this, regrettably we had to recommend the subscription increase. We are determined that the standard of what we do shall be maintained, if at all possible, including the publication of an annual Proceedings and the running of a Registered museum.

Also at the AGM a new member was elected to the committee. Goff Powell has been a very active member of the Society for many years and we are pleased that he is now able to join our Executive Committee. At this meeting Fred Meynen took on the position of Programme Secretary.

*Peter Tarplee*

### **EVENTS AT SURREY HISTORY CENTRE 2004 (SCC)**

130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND, Telephone, 01483 518737, Email:  
[shs@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:shs@surreycc.gov.uk) [www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistoryservice](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistoryservice)

#### ***Exhibitions (all are free)***

**3rd September - 27th November;** Surrey Archaeological Society 150th Anniversary exhibition.

**1st - 30th October;** Black History Month display.

**Surrey History Service will also have displays at the following events:**

**10th - 12th September;** *Finchcock's Living Museum of Music Festival, Kent, Broadwood Weekend;* a display and talk (Saturday 11th September) about Surrey History Centre's Broadwood archive.

**23rd October;** *Surrey Local History Committee Symposium on 'Surrey Newspapers'.* This display will be shown at Surrey History Centre after the event.

**Surrey History Service Spring Programme of lunchtime talks  
(12 noon - 1 pm)**

**23rd June; Tudor/Elizabethan Surrey. Speaker; Mike Page.**

Talks cost £4.00, and are held at the Centre. Pre-booking is necessary. Details and booking forms from the Centre as above. Cheques to be made payable to Surrey County Council.

**NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN**

In his "description of Epsom" written in the form of a letter to a lady (Eudoxa), in 1711, John Toland recommends her *"to purchase a summer retreat, cost what it will, somewhere in this neighbourhood. But whether you gently step over my favourite Meadows, planted on all sides quite to Woodcot-seat, in whose long grove I oftenest converse with my self: or that you walk further on to Ashted-house and Park, the sweetest spot of ground in our British world or ride still further to the enchanted prospect of Box-hill, that temple of Nature, no where else to be equall'd for affording so surprizing and magnificent an idea both of heaven and earth: whether you lose your self in the aged yew-groves of Mickleham, as the river Mole dos hide it self in the Swallows beneath, or that you had rather try your patience in angling for trouts about Leatherhead: whether you go to some Cricket-match and other prize of contending villagers, or chuse to breath your horse at a Race, and to follow a pack of hounds in the proper season: whether, I say, you delight in any or every one of these, EPSOM is the place you must like before all others"*. Reprinted in facsimile by Derek W James, Sutton, Surrey in 1978, this small book has recently been donated to the Society's library by Jack Stuttard.

Other recent additions to the library are :—

**SURREY - History**

UNIVERSITY & PUBLIC SCHOOLS BRIGADE, THE ROYAL FUSILIERS -  
The history of the Royal Fusiliers "U.P.S." University and Public Schools

Brigade (formation and training). The Times, 1917 [Epsom, Ashtead & Leatherhead].

## **SURREY - Individual Towns and Villages**

### BOOKHAM

MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE: THE CLARK LABORATORY - St Nicholas Parish Church, Great Bookham, Fetcham, Surrey: geophysical survey, final report. Author: Dr W A McCann, Museum of London, 2000.

### EPSOM

EPSOM & EWELL CORPORATION - Incorporation of Epsom & Ewell. Corporation of Epsom & Ewell, 1937.

### LEATHERHEAD

LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL - Building byelaws made under the Public Health Act, 1936; Shaw & Sons Ltd, 1953

WINCH, Alfred W - *The Bells of St Mary and St Nicholas, Leatherhead, Surrey*. Privately published 1958.

All the above are housed (along with other books in the Society's Library) within the Letherhead Institute Library room.

The library is accessible to our members only when the L.C.A. 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&DLHS membership card to the librarian on duty when you use the library. Any queries should be addressed by telephone to the Librarian and not to whoever is on duty in the library, unless of course, you know them to be L&DLHS members and can help. *Gwen Hoad*

## **FOUND AT A BOOKFAIR**

Our past president, Derek Renn, received recently from Mary Day (the chairperson, Dorking Local History Group) some correspondence found in an old copy of our Proceedings at a bookfair.

The correspondence (13 items dated between June 1969 and February 1970) between F B Benger, J H Harvey and H L Meed relates to Meed's preparation of maps for Harvey's article entitled "A Cartological Survey of the Area: The Map of Great Bookham in 1797 - 1798" (1).

This correspondence, found by chance 34 years later, reminds us of the great debt our Society owes to three former members who contributed to the value of its Proceedings, namely F B Benger, Hon Editor (1956 - 1984), J H Harvey, a contributor of many articles and H L Meed, who prepared many maps for publication. Ref: (1) Proc. L&DLHS Vol 3 No. 3 (1969).

## **A TRIBUTE TO JACK BARKER**

Jack Barker died recently in Northampton Hospital following an accident just before Christmas. He had planned to spend the holiday with his family in a cottage in south Derbyshire. After an operation he was in intensive care for several weeks, but by early April he was hopeful of eventual return to Bookham. This was not to be; shortly after, he succumbed to a chest infection.

Jack enjoyed a full and active life but spoke seldom of himself, making it difficult to do justice to all his accomplishments. In World War Two he was a radio operator with a RAF unit on the Burmese border, recovering crashed aircraft. The robust health he always enjoyed kept him free of the malaria and other tropical diseases that struck down most of his companions.

He returned to the GLC after the war, rising to a senior position in County Hall. Memorable here was his rescue of Margaret Thatcher, lost in the corridors after being delivered to the wrong entrance for a reception. More notably, Jack wrote the Loyal Address to the Queen on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee and accompanied the Chairman of the Council when he presented it. Subsequently Jack and his wife, Maureen, were invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

Jack was a long-term member of the L&DLHS, sitting on the Committee and Programme Sub-Committee. He was perhaps best known as Membership Secretary, where his expertise with the computer allowed him to set up the Society's database of members. He also supported the local Guide and Scout movements for many years. His most high-profile role was in running the Scout Fetes where he was immaculate, unflappable and efficient under mounds of tables and iron posts and furlongs of bunting.

After retirement he was active in U3A and Probus. Gardening was another of his many interests. He researched the former Auricula nursery in Bookham and published a successful booklet on it. Jack became an enthusiastic bird watcher in his final years. My last memory of him is in early December last year, carrying his telescope beside Pagham Harbour, looking as ever, ten years younger than his 80 plus years.

Maureen died almost exactly a year before Jack. They leave David, Kathryn, Rachel (their daughter-in-law) and four grandchildren. This is a sad loss to us all.

*Trevor Marchington*

## **REPORT OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY**

Nigel Barker attracted a very large audience to our first meeting of the year for his talk on the Arts and Crafts houses of the Surrey Hills. The first stirrings of change began after The Great Exhibition and Ruskin's polemic writing on craftsmanship versus mass production. William Morris added romantic undertones to what was an Europe-wide movement, but (apart from a book by

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Herman Multhesius) there was no contemporary literature on new architectural theory, unlike that on other forms of art.

Dr Barker explained that architecture expressed national characteristics. The English 'love of home' showed as the retention of the large open fireplace (and tall chimneys) unlike elsewhere, where the closed stove and central heating were more usual by the middle of the nineteenth century. The railway expansion caused Surrey to become the leading area where the husband lived in London during the week. Wives had a social life of their own (the 'At Home'); weekend guests were both frequent and numerous, and the house had to be big enough for this, but guests received no special treatment. Today these Surrey houses were often difficult to see - up private tracks and behind tall hedges.

Some early moves from Victorian Gothic could be seen in Kerr's Ford Place near Lingfield, with a mixture of national styles and the dining room a long way from the kitchen, and also in Pugin's alterations to Albury Park and Peto's Woolpit at Ewhurst with its terracotta decoration (it was built for a Doulton). The change to a more informal, asymmetric style in local materials (brick, tilehanging and weatherboarding) with long, low rooms like a medieval yeoman's house and reflecting in many ways Margery Allingham's watercolours, began at the Red House, Bexleyheath by Philip Webb who, the next year, built Benfleet Hall on the Fairmile and then Upwood Gorse at Caterham. On the slope of the Hurtwood, Webb built Coneyhurst, with open 'sleeping galleries' (the Victorians took fresh air seriously) and expanded the medieval Great Tangle Manor with a 'hidden' bridge across its moat. The house has been repaired recently, using Webb's original drawings. G E Street's own house Holmdale at Holmbury St Mary had a stone tower between slanting wings, while Norman Shaw built Hopedene, Pierrepont, the lodges to Merrist Wood, Banstead Wood, Burrows Cross (Shere) and the Hallams (Wonersh).

Norman Shaw provided the inspiration for Edwin Lutyens, who was privately educated at Thursley and began by designing very modest farm buildings like pigsties and chicken houses (some survive at Littleworth Cross near Seale). He

worked on many domestic buildings in south-west Surrey. Lutyens was the architect of many Arts and Crafts houses, using Reigate stone, brick, tile-hanging and Horsham 'slate' roofs. He designed lodges for the Bray estate at Shere and Hascombe Park, with its open arcades, then The Hut at Munstead Wood for Gertrude Jekyll and Chinthurst Hill at Ewhurst, with its 'Elizabethan' wings and oak 'Jacobean' staircase the whole height of the house.

At Goddards (Abinger Common), Lutyens designed a communal house for gentlewomen of small means, with large common room and offset terrace entrance, plus service and dormitory wings, with a fifteenth-century barn brought from Sussex. He later successfully converted Goddards into a new family home. In the 1890's Lutyens built three magnificent houses near Godalming: Munstead Wood, with its hidden classic porch and vernacular stone chip galletting; Orchards in 'medieval' style with a wing at right angles for entertaining, with a dormer window over the door to draw the eye; and Tigborne Court.

Dr Barker concluded by discussing the local works of other contemporary architects, like Charles Voysey's Greyfriars on the Hog's Back, roughcast with slate roofs on a narrow site with extensive views, and Norney Grange (Shackleford) with small gables to a service wing, adapted for guests in the Arts and Crafts style, Guy Dawber's Solon's Court at Banstead and Alfred Port's Longcopse at Ewhurst.

*Derek Renn*

## **REPORT OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY**

Recent newspaper reports of cemeteries running out of space and the re-use of graves echoes a problem since Victorian times, as Rosemary Hunter explained to a packed audience at our February meeting.

One hundred and fifty years ago, poor sanitation and hygiene led to outbreaks of fatal epidemic diseases like cholera and scandals like the "Great Stink", to human bones from crypts being ground up and recycled as fertiliser and to sextons beating the ground of churchyards to compress corpses in order to allow fresh burials within a year. Public cremation only became legal in 1885. So the

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London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company was formed in 1852 to buy up land for burials whilst London churchyards were closed. The company bought over two thousand acres of Brookwood Common from Lord Onslow and the other commoners.

The new cemetery was laid out in a mixture of grand tree-lined avenues and smaller quiet areas. It was opened by the bishop of Winchester but only one notable was buried there in the early years; it was mainly paupers at first, whose names were recorded but no stone erected to mark the exact site. Much of the land was resold for the development of Woking, for a mental hospital and for a crematorium.

A separate London railway station was erected for the cemetery traffic on the south-east side of the present one at Waterloo. One train a day (with first, second and third class accommodation both for the mourners and the coffins), calling at intermediate stations, ran to Brookwood, where a turntable and branch line gave access to two stations (one for the supporters of the Church of England and the other for Dissenters). The cheap fares on the Cemetery trains led to golfers disguising their purpose with heavy overcoats. Two railway accidents occurred, one of which forced the lady owner of a Daimler limousine to return home by public train. Each cemetery station had a lowered platform for the coffin car, a chapel, a waiting room and a refreshment room. Several of the wooden buildings later succumbed to fire or dry rot. From the station, the coffin was carried on a handcart to the graveside.

The oldest reburial at Brookwood are the reputed bones of King Edward the Martyr, once in Shaftesbury Abbey, which were brought in 1970 by an American millionaire and eventually (by way of a bank vault) came here under the protection of a group of Orthodox monks who have converted two other chapels into their home and church. Four murderesses were disinterred from Holloway Prison and reburied here, the best known being Edith Jessie Thompson, hung for complicity in the stabbing of her husband by Frederick Bywaters. Dodi Fayed was buried here temporarily in accordance with Muslim law.

Mrs Hunter described some of the many artists and actors buried at Brookwood, and the architects and sculptors of the memorials. As well as plots for national groups, the victims of major air disasters, Chelsea Pensioners and prisoners of war, there was a War Graves Commission cemetery and the only one in England for Americans killed in the First World War. Rosemary described the memorial meetings, some of which broke up in disorder.

The station at Waterloo was bombed in 1940 and the branch railway track taken up. There are still vacancies in the cemetery: anyone can be buried there and those from within a 15-mile radius get a discount! Mrs Hunter will be leading a walk for members of the Society around the cemetery on 17th April. Today the cemetery contains much of interest to the naturalist, including many rare butterflies, 150 year-old giant redwoods and Monkey Puzzle trees, but volunteer groups are having to fight invasive Rhododendrons and bracken. The presence of the monks has reduced vandalism!

*Derek Renn*

## **REPORT OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE SOCIETY**

Peter Harp described the work of the Plateau Group at our March meeting. The Group arose from his studies for 'A' level archaeology at NESOT, when he was given limited permission to excavate Tumble Beacon at Banstead. This is a large mound in a private garden, believed to have been originally a Bronze Age tumulus, which got its present name from being the site of a post-medieval beacon, intended to be set alight if foreign invasion occurred. Peter's digging required him to rebuild a stone wall, but had overlooked the fact that the mound also had concrete steps built up one side and a WW2 air raid shelter buried near its centre!

From this beginning a group, including many academics, had grown up to carry out an archaeological landscape survey of the high heathlands of Banstead and Walton. Work on allotments near the site of Nork Park, a mansion destroyed in the 1930's, had produced evidence of the medieval manor of Great Burgh, including part of a pottery roof finial shaped like a mounted knight, probably

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made by John le Pottere of Cheam about 1372. A similar finial was found at the excavations of Patchesham Manor near Leatherhead some fifty years ago. Much older finds at Nork Park included a siltstone pendant, Neolithic stone axes, Bronze Age flint arrowheads and scrapers, Early Iron Age and Romano-Saxon pottery as well as Mesolithic flint tools. Peter pointed out that when a tree on the Clay-with-flints capping of the plateau was blown down, this conveniently exposed the raw materials for tools and also provided rudimentary shelter, both next to the upturned roots and in the hollow left behind.

Further exploration by the Plateau Group of the Roman villa foundations which form bunkers on Walton Heath golf course had shown that the villa was built over a Neolithic enclosure. But their most important work was in progress at an Upper Paleolithic site at Lower Kingswood, first occupied about 30-40,000 years ago. Building on the work of L W Carpenter and Tom Walls and using Dr Scott-Jackson's methodology, the most promising area was being excavated in 5 centimetre (2 inch) layers, each stone's position and angle being meticulously recorded. Geophysical survey suggested there was several metres to go! There was some discussion on the white patination of black flint, due to the alkaline soil (loess) and not to frost action.

We hope that this talk was the first of a series from neighbouring local history groups.

*Derek Renn*

## **REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY**

John Wettern introduced a progress report on the Leatherhead District Victorian Census Project at the Society's April meeting. He gave the analogy of archaeology, a quest for knowledge about our ancestors, what they valued and how their society was structured. For the past three years over five hundred hand-written census returns for 1841 to 1891 had been photographed, the data then transcribed to a standard format by volunteers working on their own computers, the entries checked and finally collated into a master database. This

recorded every individual named in a census schedule, their place of birth, age, occupation and relationship to the head of the household. Each schedule page contained up to 400 entries and a total of over 150,000 records had been collated. The team was supplementing this with parish records of births, marriages and deaths to add data for events in the ten year intervals between censuses.

Peter Tilley, who had designed the system and pioneered it at Kingston upon Thames and refined it in rural parishes of Surrey, then gave us more details. Much work was needed on the Ashted returns but he paid tribute to Keith Poulton's research records of Bookham. The databases could be presented either in the form of an individual's history, their family tree or their household; he demonstrated this for individuals requested by members of the audience. Peter showed us lists of long-vanished occupations with exotic names and graphs of the changing popularity of certain Christian names, such as William and Mary (in 1841) became less popular. Grandparents often brought up children as if their own; Christian names given to bastards hinted at incest. Families with up to 17 children lived in Leatherhead, as did households with twenty servants (some being those of visitors). Henry Hansard 'printer to the House of Commons, employing over 180 men and boys' lived at Millfield, which (we told Peter) was now the Yehudi Menuhin School. Peter had found that Mrs and Miss Chrystie, the Bookham temperance reformers and benefactors were really sisters, the former having married a Major Chrystie. House numbers were rare before 1891 and the sequence of entries could be misleading. The stated ages and birthplace were often inconsistent at successive censuses.

The Annual General Meeting started with the announcement of the death of Jack Barker, his place as Membership Secretary being taken by Jenny Morris. Fred Meynen had become Programme Secretary and Goff Powell had also joined the executive committee. The other officers and committee members were re-elected. Presenting the Annual Report for 2003, Peter Tarplee (Chairman) thanked all those workers 'behind the scenes', from publicity to cleaning and appealed for volunteer stewards for the museum, only asking for one afternoon a month. Alan Roberts and Geoffrey Crellin were elected Museum Trustees. Norma Robertson (Treasurer) secured a £3 rise in the annual subscription to help meet higher

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expenses and lower interest income. Linda Heath (President) appealed for suggestions for recruiting new members, particularly those at work during the day.

*Derek Renn*

## **THE DINNER AT THE BOOKHAM GRANGE HOTEL**

What we hope will be the first 'Annual' Dinner took place on Friday 23rd January at the Bookham Grange Hotel. It was a very pleasant venue - we were able to spend some time in a very pleasant foyer chatting and having drinks before the meal. We then went through to the dining room which was warm and inviting and we were seated with six members at each table which were all ornamented by very pretty posies arranged by Margaret Meynen.

The meal itself and the service were both very good, with plenty of time to enjoy food and conversation, but without undue waits. After the meal Peter Tarplee gave a short speech of welcome to all those present and to Stephen Fortescue as guest of honour. Stephen is now our only founder member and he made a short speech in reply, recalling that when the Society was founded, members were deliberately restricted to a total of twenty five so that all members could pursue research. But, as he said, they soon found that didn't work, because it didn't provide enough revenue! He reminded us what a good reputation our Society enjoys and how highly thought of our Proceedings are amongst other Local History and Archaeological Societies.

Altogether, it was a most enjoyable and friendly occasion, giving us the opportunity to have a social event rather than a lecture. Our thanks are due to Fred Meynen who made all the arrangements and we hope that this can indeed become an annual event.

*Linda Heath*

## HARVESTING THE FRUITS OF THE SOCIETY'S WORK

For those interested in finding out what the Society has published in its *Proceedings* since they were first published in 1946, a new service was added to our website in March this year. The Contents pages of all the *Proceedings* to date and the Indexes of all issues 1946 - 1996 can now be viewed via the Internet. Even better, they can be searched. This should be a boon to those who do not possess a complete set of the *Proceedings*, as now you can find out what is available at the click (or three) of a button. Now you can come to the Library at the Institute ready-prepared with the list of references to look up. Searching our website will also find any references in the reports of recent talks and visits.

Members who do not have their own computer may be able to visit our website [www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk](http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk) at their local library. It is expected that the new facility will further enhance the reputation of the Society in the Surrey and wider Local History community.

*Frank Haslam*

## COME AND SPIN

The Epsom Spinners invite you to have a go at spinning. They are holding a demonstration of spinning, weaving, braiding and other fibre crafts at Leatherhead Museum in June. The spinners are an enthusiastic group of women and men who meet once a month to spin, chat and have lunch together comparing notes and discussing technicalities. They travel to craft shows and enjoy involving the public in the art and craft of spinning and weaving.

Various spinning wheels will be on show and the whole process of fleece to finished garment will be displayed including washing the fleece, preparation, carding and then spinning which you will be invited to try yourself. Plying and skeining using a niddy-noddy follow, then dyeing with natural dyes such as onion skins ending with knitting or weaving the finished garment. What's a niddy-noddy you ask? Well, come and find out on (see over):



Thursday, 3rd June, 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm  
Friday, 4th June, 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm  
Saturday, 5th June, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

all at Leatherhead Museum, 64 Church Street.

We hope to have a display hand cart in the Swan Town Centre on Saturday, 29th May 10.00 am onwards and Thursday, 5th June 10.00 am onwards advertising the event as well as the History Society and the Museum.

So come and support us and tell your friends.

*Fred Meynen, Friends of Leatherhead Museum*

## **NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS**

### **Museum — Getting ready to open**

With the opening of the Museum on 1<sup>st</sup> April much had to be done in preparation for receiving the public. The main activity of The Friends is to ensure that the corps of Stewards is ready to go '*on parade*'. Each year training becomes increasingly important, not because the stewards lack experience (many have served in that capacity for several years): it is primarily because health and safety rules are stricter and the need for vigilance is ever greater. Also although we are all volunteers, there is the wish as always to improve our performance and to become better able to satisfy the curiosity of the visitors. This year for the first time the training sessions which took place in late March were held at the commodious offices of Messrs. Bairstow Eves, the estate agents opposite the museum. We are most indebted to their management for making this possible.

## Education

Our programme of links with local schools continues. Woodville School whose history syllabus encompasses the Victorian period were recently treated to an insight into life in those times. Two members of the Friends team dressed in Victorian costume visited the school to demonstrate how the housewife would have coped with the family laundry in former days. A very far cry from the present day washing machine and tumble dryer.

## Future Events

This summer the Friends will be organising some of their usual activities and one which is unique. The latter takes place at the museum in early June when we shall be encouraging the public to "*come for a spin*". Demonstrations by a local group of spinners are described elsewhere in these pages. This is part of an effort to make 2004 a bumper year for museum attendances.

More traditional will be the **Coffee Morning** on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> June. We hope our readers will put this date in their diaries and come along. It will be open to allcomers and will include several *bring-and-buy* stalls offering garden plants, books and other objects, as well as a raffle.

**Outing.** The Friends are happy to be combining once more with members of the History Society for their summer outing. The date for this is Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> August and the destination, the museums at Haslemere and Godalming. Full details of this will be found in the section dealing with **VISITS**.

## New Honorary Members

At the Friends' Annual General Meeting which took place on 26<sup>th</sup> April the members gave their approval to a proposal to confer honorary membership on two members of outstanding merit. These were Linda Heath, the History Society's president and John Rosser, who was chairman of The Friends up until 2000.

After the meeting a talk, illustrated with some historic pictures was given by Goff Powell. With the aid of his slides he told us the history of the

property once called Leatherhead Court, better known by its present name The Queen Elizabeth II Foundation.

### **New Stewards**

The task of compiling the roster of stewards duties is currently undertaken by Thelma Lucas although she hopes soon to find a successor. Her worst 'headache' has been filling the gaps created by stewards retiring or no longer being able to serve. Despite some new people having been found there is still a shortage. To fill the gaps a few volunteers have kindly offered to undertake two duties each month instead of the single duty normally required. An appeal has gone out for more recruits, and any Society member interested in joining would receive a warm welcome. Please ring Thelma on 01372 844345.

*John Wettern  
Chairman of The Friends (01372 459277)*

## **SPRING & SUMMER PROGRAMME**

### **WALKS AND VISITS**

**See application form for all walks and visits**

#### **Epsom town centre**

**Wednesday 2nd June.** Evening walk round Epsom town centre led by Ian West. There are still a few vacancies if any members have not signed up for this yet, so send an application + £2 to Linda Heath as soon as possible. We meet at the car park in front of St. Martin's Church at 6.45 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. start.

#### **Guided walks round Leatherhead**

**Sunday; 6th June, 4th July, 1st August.** we shall be taking guided historical walks round the town centre. These are really designed for the general public, of course our members are welcome too. The walk takes an hour and a quarter, but people can drop out at any time if they wish. There will be leaflets about this at the museum, the Library and the Institute. Do tell your friends and encourage

them to come along - it's all good publicity for the Society and the Museum. We shall meet outside the Museum at 2.00 pm on each of the Sundays and finish up at the Museum which we shall open for walkers to have a look round. No charge, but donations to the museum welcomed.

### **Fetcham village**

**Sunday 11th July.** Walk round Fetcham village led by Alan Pooley. This will be a stroll along The Street in Fetcham, trying to build a mental picture of how the village looked about 100 years ago. Alan will give each of us a map of 1870 to help our imaginations! We shall hope to visit the parish church and the outside of Fetcham Park House and finish the walk with tea and biscuits at the village hall. Cost £2 each. Applications to Alan Pooley. Meet at 2.00 pm outside Symphony World Travel in the parade of shops just before Budgens.

### **Haslemere and Godalming Museums**

**Saturday 7th August.** History Society members and The Friends of Leatherhead Museum will be combining for a visit to museums in West Surrey. Transport by own car. Firstly, to Haslemere, assembling outside the museum there at 11.00 am. Good car parking nearby. Plenty of choices of places for lunch. Afterwards we make our way to Godalming (about 15 minutes) to meet at the museum there at 2.30 pm. Haslemere museum, recently completely refurbished, is a fine example of a comprehensive local museum with exceptionally well designed displays. Journey time is about 45 minutes from Leatherhead. Send form with £2 to John Wettern (459277). Enclose S.A.E. for receipt and/or directions.

### **FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

**Details in the August *Newsletter* and in the Heritage Weekend booklet.**

### **Heritage Weekend, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th September**

Make a note in your diaries now for Heritage Weekend. We shall be doing our 'Off the Beaten Track' walk round North Leatherhead on Saturday 11th September and the town centre walk on Sunday 12th September. Full details in our August *Newsletter* and in the Heritage Weekend booklet.

## **AUTUMN PROGRAMME**

Details of the autumn programme will be in the *August Newsletter*, but don't miss our first lecture on Friday 16th September which will be on 'Old London Bridge' by Clive Chambers.

(Lecture meetings are held on Friday evenings in the Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute, High Street, at 8.0 p.m., with coffee beforehand at 7.30.)

**Items for *August Newsletter* to the editor by 31st July please.**

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