

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



February, 2005

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

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CHAIRMAN

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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.

2005 Membership Subscriptions

Ordinary.....£15.00

Associate.....£6.00

Junior (under 18)..... £1.00

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Jenny Morris

01372 362524

The Museum

is open at the following times

(closed for the winter; reopens on Friday 1st April): -

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

Saturdays 10.0 a.m. to 4.00 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 SECRETARY

Fred Meynen

01372 372930

Archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGY SECRETARY

Pauline Hulse

01483 282917

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

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

CHAIRMAN

John Wettern

01372 459277

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Another New Year issue of the *Proceedings* and another set of papers for another Annual General Meeting. The timing of our *Newsletters* means that the information for our AGM in April is distributed in February. This gives me the opportunity to thank all the committee members and others who help the Society throughout the year. Each year the number of members who undertake tasks for us seems to grow, but we could still find work for anyone who wishes to become more active in the Society.

I would particularly, in this issue, like to thank Peter Wall who has edited our *Newsletter* for the last few years. I have said before that I consider this to be a very important part of the Society's life as it is the only link that many of our members have with the rest of the membership and their activities. I am, therefore, very grateful to Brian Bouchard who has agreed to take on the post of Newsletter Editor. I ask all members to make Brian's task as easy as possible by ensuring that all copy is sent to him at the address inside the front cover and that he does not have to chase members for details of essential items.

With the details of the AGM you will see that there are still opportunities for members to join the Committee. Please think about this before the closing date and let Judith Mills or me know if you would like to be involved in running the Society.

The Society is intending to publish another book with Tempus Publications which will require old photographs of Leatherhead, Fetcham, Ashted and Bookham. We have already employed many of the Society's images in earlier publications and so if any member has old photographs of anywhere in the district which they would be willing for us to use we would be delighted. If you have any material which may be suitable please contact Linda Heath or me.

This year, 2005, is the 25th year of operation of our museum and we are very pleased that the Friends of Leatherhead Museum are arranging a number of special activities throughout the year to celebrate the anniversary. Full details

will be available elsewhere but I would urge all members to support the Friends' events and especially to keep 8th October free when the main celebrations will take place.

We have just held our second Society Dinner, again organised by Fred Meynen. This was a very pleasant event and I think that all of us who attended thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. After an excellent meal we had a very entertaining talk by our President, Linda Heath. Having held two successful dinners should we now consider the *Annual Dinner* as a regular item in the Society's calendar?

Finally, many of you will have learned the sad news of the death of Jack Stuttard on 23rd January. Jack has edited our *Proceedings* since 1990 and was responsible for editing our histories of Ashted, Fetcham and Headley. We owe him a great debt for all he did for the Society.

Peter Tarplee

J C Stuttard - In Memoriam

Jack Stuttard, Editor of our annual Proceedings since 1990, died at his home on 23rd January, aged 88 years. He was born and grew up in Yorkshire, and after two years at Hull University reading history and geography, he went to Cambridge University. When war broke out in 1939 he was recruited to a Naval Intelligence Division in Cambridge where he remained until 1944.

After the war he joined the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in London, and from 1949 onwards held a very senior post as one of three Resident Clerks of the Ministry, responsible for defence questions "out of office hours", for which they were required to live on the premises while on duty.

In 1952 he became Head of the MOD Office in Egypt, travelling extensively throughout the Middle East. On returning to London in 1954 he found his work there rather dull by comparison! He and his wife and family moved to Leatherhead in 1965 when he was put in charge of overseeing the export of advanced strategic materials to the Soviet Bloc and China, which entailed a good deal of travelling, mainly in Europe and the Far East.

In 1981 Jack retired from the MOD and soon after this he was invited by St John's School to become their Librarian and also their Archivist. He joined our Society and became Editor of our annual Proceedings in 1990 - a post which he carried out with his customary enthusiasm and dedication. In addition to this, he did an immense amount of work indexing the Proceedings, and published his booklet on 'A Short History of Leatherhead' in 1986, republished in 1996 and again in 2000. He also published 'St John's School Leatherhead - a Short History' in 1998.

He will be greatly missed.

Linda Heath

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

The Society has recently been presented with a copy of the magnificently produced book entitled "... their moment to shine: reflections on the history of the City of London Freeman's School 1854-2004" by Patricia Jenkins. Here is an extract from it which opens the section on the move to Ashtead. "The Christmas term of 1925 was probably an unsettling time for the children, as they were all keenly aware of the impending move away from London. It was a significant change, especially for those children who had only ever lived in the city. Aware of their anxieties, the Chairman of the Governors, Percy Vincent, sent each of them a Christmas card with a picture of their new home at Ashtead Park, which many of the children kept and framed. It was also an opportunity for the remaining parents or guardians to see where the children were going to live. Miss Hutton, the Senior Mistress at Brixton, spent a great deal of time and energy telling the children all about the new school prior to the move. Daisy Ward, a former pupil, recalls 'Her enthusiasm fired one and all with excitement, long before the final move. Her vivid descriptions of our new home and surrounding grounds seemed to be too beautiful to be believed'. The pupils and staff started the unenviable task of labelling everything and packing it away carefully. A special trip was arranged for everyone to visit the new School. According to Daisy: 'Thanks to Miss Hutton's superb description of every nook and cranny of the mansion and grounds, we soon felt the beauty and serenity rub off on us. We could not wait to move'"

Other recent additions include:-

SURREY - Individual towns & villages

COBHAM

GALE, Carole - Douglas Zadek and Cobham Pottery. Esher District Local History Society Monograph no.31, 2004

HORSLEY

BOWLEY, Pam, ed - East Horsley: the Lovelace village, 1846-1900. Notes on the 2 parishes No.3,1984. Horsley Countryside Preservation Society, 1984

CONNELL, John - The end of tradition: country life in central Surrey. [East and West Clandon, East and West Horsley]. Routledge & KP, 1978

SALTER, Carol - East Horsley within living memory. St Martin's Church Extension Appeal, 1982

LEATHERHEAD

HEATH, Linda - All Saints Church, Leatherhead: a brief history. Privately published, 2004

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 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&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

***SURREY AND THE MOTOR* by Gordon Knowles**

This is the latest publication by the Surrey Industrial History Group which was launched earlier this year. It was written by our Vice-President, and will be seen to be a comprehensive book about all aspects of our county and its relation to the motor car.

The book contains chapters on the development of roads in Surrey, from turnpikes, trunk roads and bypasses to motorways. The growth of traffic and the impact of legislation on the motorist and the role of the police, including the notorious Captain Sant and his speed traps, leading to the formation of the Automobile Association, is discussed in detail.

A chapter on the pioneers includes John Henry Knight of Farnham and the debate on who was the first to drive a British car on a public road in this country. Chapters on Brooklands describe the building of the track before World War I, through the glorious years of the twenties and thirties until its closure in 1939 and the subsequent development of the site including the museum.

Chapters give detailed histories of two vehicle manufacturers who have each completed 100 years of activity in the county, Dennis and AC. Historical descriptions are also given of some post-war sports and racing cars including Brabham, Cooper, Connaught and Tyrell as well as Caterham, McLaren and Lister.

There is an outline of two important body builders, Abbott of Farnham and Weymann of Addlestone. A comprehensive list of over 100 car manufacturers who are, or have been, based in Surrey is provided together with a similar list of engine and accessory makers.

The book retails at £10.95 and copies may be obtained from local book shops or ordered, post free, from John Mills, 35 Trotsworth Avenue, Virginia Water, GU25 4AN; cheques payable to 'SIHG.'

Peter Tarplee, Publications Secretary, SIHG

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

2004 was a year of activity and progress. We continued to pursue the task of supporting the museum in its many activities and helped to make it more widely known. There are strong indications that 2005 will see an even greater level of activity, especially in the run up to October when the museum celebrates its 25th anniversary. Members of our committee have been busy with preparations for this. Some of the events taking place shortly are mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Subscriptions and donations for the current year are coming in, and our membership secretary would like to thank all those History Society members who have given their support by adding that small additional amount to their Society contribution.

On the subject of support we are pleased to announce that Mole Valley Council have recently made us a grant. We asked for this in order to fund the printing of the leaflet advertising the museum. Last year we distributed nearly 1000 copies and hope to do the same in 2005. We are extremely grateful for this help. Other publicity initiatives are being planned.

The Friends are dedicated to helping whenever we can in stimulating the interest of youngsters in the subject of history. No need to elaborate here upon the work we carried out in the past year thanks to the efforts of Fred Meynen and others. Fred's account of our education activities will be found on another page of this Newsletter.

Last August the History Society and The Friends joined forces on a successful outing to museums in West Surrey. Although some way ahead it may be of interest to mention that on Saturday, 6th August there will be a similar venture, this time to the *Weald and Downland* Museum at Singleton, West Sussex. More details anon.

In preparation for the opening of the museum on Friday, 1st April the stewards will be undergoing the usual session of training during March. We urge anyone who might be interested in joining our gallant band of stewards to get in touch, either with myself or with the Stewards Organiser, Pat Seymour (01372 843944).

Between now and the arrival of the next Newsletter the annual general meeting of The Friends will take place at The Letherhead Institute. The date: Monday, 25th April at 7.30 for 8.0 p.m. Anyone interested in the Friends' activities is welcome to come along and any suggestions for furthering our present activities will be gladly received.

John Wettern, Chairman (01372 459277)

EDUCATION NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

The Friends have been developing our education policy involving schools and local community groups. During 2004 we had nearly 200 children visit the museum or being visited at their school.

In July we talked to two classes at Fetcham Primary School as part of their 150 year celebrations. We took Victorian washing implements and cooking utensils to demonstrate their use and to compare how it's done today: Plenty of laughter and water everywhere! Other schools and groups visiting the Museum were Woodville Primary, St Peter's (Ashted), Fetcham Brownies and Fetcham Cubs. We have a folder at the Museum with drawings and letters from the children in appreciation of their visits. One comment was "I've had a lovely day, visiting the Museum, going home, eating popcorn and watching England play football". All this and heaven too! My thanks go to a great team of "educationalists" who give up their precious time to make all this possible.

We have produced a self guided River Mole Trail, starting at the Museum and taking about 40 minutes, highlighting places of historic interest. In conjunction with the Education Officer for Surrey Museums we hope to produce trails for use in the Museum.

Fred Meynen

2005 is the MUSEUM'S SILVER JUBILEE

On 4th October 1980 Leatherhead Museum was declared *open*. The ceremony was performed by Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey. Appropriately therefore preparations are in hand to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this occasion. The date chosen is Saturday, 8th October, 2005 and we are pleased to announce that the present Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mrs Sarah Goad has accepted an invitation to officiate.

The Society and The Friends are together preparing a programme not only for the day in question but for a series of events which will unfold as the year progresses. In later editions of The Newsletter fuller details of "Jubilee Day" will be released. Meanwhile The Friends have arranged two important activities for the month of April. Here are the details :

Arts and Crafts Days. These all take place at the Museum. In each case *hands on* participation will be encouraged.

Wednesday, 6th April from 1.0 to 4.0 p.m. **Calligraphy**

Thursday, 7th April from 1.0 to 4.0 p.m. **Embroidery Design**

Friday, 8th April from 1.0 to 4.0 p.m. **Art Master Class** with Stuart Stanley

Saturday, 9th April from 10.0 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. **The Epsom Spinners**
Last year's visit by the Epsom Spinners (Spinning, weaving and dyeing) was pronounced a great success and was well attended. It is hoped that all of these days will bring plenty of interested visitors. Society members, please help to spread the news and swell the numbers.

Identifying your Historical Finds

Many people have found objects around their property but have been puzzled about their origin or purpose. On Saturday, 23rd April the museum will receive a visit by David Williams, the Finds Officer for

Surrey Archaeological Society who will help to identify them. If you or any of your friends have encountered such a dilemma, why not come along ?

Other events to make the Jubilee year more noteworthy will include a competition for amateur photographers and a picture quiz to test people's local knowledge. Leaflets and posters giving details of these will appear during Spring and Summer.

John Wettern

REPORT OF THE NOVEMBER LECTURE

William Cobbett, the campaigning political writer, described the Tillingbourne valley in 1822 as "Created by a bountiful providence....but perverted to two of the most damnable inventions of man - the making of gunpowder and of banknotes".

At our November meeting, Professor Alan Crocker, president of the British Society of Paper Historians, gave us a lively account of how paper was made by hand, a skill now only practised commercially at Wookey Hole caves. This was his third Dallaway lecture [named after the first historian of Leatherhead]; he had previously spoken to us about gunpowder, on which he is also a national authority.

Cobbett, however, conceded the benefit of "converting Rags to Registers" [a reference to his radical *Political Register*], and Alan showed us his 1831 order to a local paper worker. Paper was first made from course rags, cut by hand before being reduced to a watery pulp by trip-hammers in water mills. Large amounts of water were involved, since only one-half of one per cent of the 'stuff' was fibre. Later the trip-hammers were replaced by an 'Hollander' bladed roller which shredded, macerated and pulped the 'stuff' in a vat. The 'vatman' dipped a frame of fine wire mesh into the 'half-stuff', shook off the excess and placed it in a 'deckle' frame. The 'coucher' then turned the frame over on a layer of felt, and a gross of

sheets were placed in a press to expel as much water as possible. Then a 'layer' hung the sheets over ropes to dry. The highest paid workers were the women who finally inspected the paper for flaws and cut it to size. Alan apologized for not sporting the traditional square paper cap, worn to stop hair falling into the pulp. He showed us his own 'deckle' with a 'watermark' wire design attached; from 1794 watermarks usually included the date, since this meant that less excise duty had to be paid.

Apart from a short-lived mill at Hertford, the early paper mills were near London where rags and stationers were plentiful. But the Thames was dirty and the mills were driven by the tides. The first papermill in Surrey was at Stoke by Guildford, dating from the 1630's. By the end of the century, French and Dutch paper makers had immigrated to England, bringing the skill of making fine white paper from linen and cotton rags. The clean water, constant flow and steep gradient of the Tillingbourne were ideal for this, and the decline in the local woollen industry and uncertain demand for gunpowder had left a number of water mills ready for adaptation to paper making. Some of the gunpowder mills at Chilworth were converted in 1704. After the French Revolution, the Comte de'Artois [later Charles X, King of France and Navarre] persuaded the Ball family at Albury Mill to make special paper designed for forged *assignats* to flood the market and so destroy Revolutionary financial credit.

The collapse of many British banks led to a reduction in demand for bank notes and the Balls emigrated to Normandy. Paper makers seemed to have gone bankrupt frequently. Steam power took over from water and from 1826 Fourdriner machines made paper in continuous rolls. Professor Crocker showed us an engraving of such a machine, from the educational *Penny Magazine* of 1833 printed on paper from the local Postford Mill. The discovery of bleach improved colour, but the

inadequate supply of rags led to the use of straw and then woodpulp, and the industry moved back to the Thames estuary. The Chilworth paper mills lasted until 1870, when Unwins took over the site for printing, only to suffer a disastrous fire in 1895. The only artefact surviving locally was a boiler, used by the Blackheath Cricket Club as a roller. Alan concluded by saying that, although the modern Printing Industry Research Association has its laboratories in Leatherhead, the only local paper mills were at Ewell and Cobham.

Derek Renn

THE CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY :

"What became of that Road" - before and after

From John Wettern

As reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, the theme of the presentation given to members at the Christmas Miscellany dealt with roads in the district which never became highways but rather remained as footpaths and bridle ways. The format was to be a 'question and answer' session but there was no foreknowledge of how the proceedings would develop. Would the questions from the audience come plentifully or would it be 'a flop'?

To stimulate some discussion I asked, through the Newsletter, anyone with a question to put, to write to me in advance of the occasion. Perhaps this would get the discussion going. A response to the appeal was fruitful and one of the questions received through correspondence was dealt with at the session by Jack Willis. However, the level of audience participation surpassed our reckoning and there was not nearly enough time to deal with all the questions that came. As a result, two excellent written contributions could not be fitted in. Afterwards I apologised to the writers of the letters and thanked them. However, one of my 'panel'

of presenters, Derek Renn, followed up with his answer to each of their queries, thus providing us with some interesting local historical facts.

Here is the correspondence : —

[ATTACHED —

1. *Letter from Mr Keith Stanley about "The Kings Way" from Effingham to West Humble.*
2. *Derek Renn's reply to Mr Stanley*
3. *Letter from Mr John Wallis about an "Old London Road" in the Effingham area.*
4. *Derek Renn's reply to Mr Wallis.]*

21 August 2004

Dear Mr Wettem

LDLHS Christmas Miscellany.

In response to the note about this meeting in the August Newsletter there are actually two roads in Great Bookham the stories of which intrigue me.

In her lecture to the Society in October 2003 and in her guided walks around Polesden Lacy, Heloise Collier speaks of an old road, now almost totally lost, running down the valley between Effingham and West Humble. This she identifies as a king's way (or is it kings' way).

In the Chertsey Abbey Cartularies there are several references to a king's way apparently running north-south through the village presumably on or near the line taken by Church Rd, High St and Dorking Rd.

My understanding is (I may of course be wrong) that a king's way would have been a trackway used by, among others, king's messengers and of sufficient importance in the national network to warrant particular legislation to ensure they be maintained in a good and passable condition. A sort of medieval trunk route perhaps. Given their undoubted importance, most such appear to have been vital trade routes also, it is perhaps slightly surprising that the one should have disappeared so completely whilst the other is now severely downgraded, severed, where it passes over the Common.

Is it known what particular purposes these two ways served in their heydays and why and when they lost their importance? Were there other ways of a similar standing in the area?

Yours sincerely

Keith Stanley

15 January 2005

Dear Mr Stanley,

King's [High]ways

I am following up John Wettem's letter with some thoughts on your query which may (or may not) get into the Newsletter.

The way from Bookham to Dorking was called the king's highway early in the thirteenth century, according to the late John Harvey. What exactly was meant — and its route — is doubtful. The Laws of Edward the Confessor granted the king's peace over four major roads, only one of which [Watling Street] touched Surrey. The Laws of Henry I defined the width of royal road [*via regia*] leading to towns and castles; Dorking is marked on a fourteenth century road map in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, although the route of any road is not shewn. The Norman chapel at West Humble does point to a steady traffic along this way, although it may have been a short distance. I suspect that '*king's highway*' was a term often used loosely, especially when responsibility for upkeep, encroachment or other offences were in issue. I do not know how the royal messenger service worked in early times; it was certainly efficient: King Harold at York heard of William's invasion of Sussex only four days previously, for example. But we're talking about main roads between towns here, and it is difficult to imagine royal messengers often needing to pass between Effingham and Dorking. Beyond Dorking is the intractable Weald; there were Roman roads through it, but no large settlements before the coast.

We discussed the track across Bookham Common at the *Miscellany*. I see it as the route to Chertsey Abbey, going out of regular use after the Dissolution of the monasteries, when the new lord of the manor was based to the east. The heavy clay of the woodland would have been difficult in winter, but there might have been occasional need still to reach the main London to Guildford road. I wonder how they got the timber out for Nonsuch Palace?

Yours sincerely, D.F.Renn

18th August 2004

Dear John

Reading the LDHS August 2004 Newsletter, I see you have volunteered to organise a question session on the subject of roads etc.

If my mystery road is not too far away may ask if anyone has any ideas of why in these days, in Effingham, to go to London, we start by travelling east towards Leatherhead whilst in Greatlee Wood there is a north/south track known as Old London Road. To the south, the line of this track starts from the A246 at Orestan Lane but to the north seems to disappear in the mass of fairly new houses.

I suppose the question must be why did it go north, where did it actually go and what caused the subsequent change in direction to London? I can only postulate that maybe the fact that Merton College, Oxford was endowed with land in the Effingham area, access roads were primarily directed to the north towards Oxford.

I expect to enjoy myself in December as a member of an appreciative audience and will not mind in the least if my question is rejected on the grounds of being off the beaten track!

Yours sincerely

John Wallis

15 January 2005

Dear Mr Wallis,

The Old London Road, Effingham

I am following up John Wettem's letter with some thoughts on your query which may (or may not) get into the Newsletter.

This name may just be a local joke (compare the Isle of Wight on Bookham Common). However, the track might have continued beyond recent Effingham Junction either as Cobham Road or as Old Lane to Bolder Mere on the A3. Also, the OS map marks the junction of Greendene and Crocknorth Lane (Horsley) as 'London Cross' and a footpath runs from here to Brockholes Cross at the end of Dirtham Lane on the A246. Dirtham is a lost Domesday manor, which seems to have covered much of the area north and west of Orestan Lane and become part of Effingham-la-Legh manor (hence Greatlee Wood). Our Society excavated the site of the manor house there. The A246 is a relatively modern (turnpike) road bypassing most of the medieval settlements, whereas the A3 from London through Cobham and then to Guildford and Winchester appears on a fourteenth-century map in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. So the 'Old London Road' may have been the way towards London for many years. It may have continued beyond the A3 as well for another five miles to Chertsey Abbey, a major landholder in the district until the Dissolution. Chertsey (rather than Merton Priory) is perhaps a more probable destination for non-local traffic. There is a roughly parallel track through Bookham from Cobham to Denbies at least. Dorking is marked on the same early map.

Yours sincerely, D.F.Renn

"What happened to that road"

From John Morris

At this meeting an appeal was made for information relating to roads and paths.

As a follow up to the successful defence of the right of way from the bottom of Bridge street to the Common Meadow further questions were raised at the Vestry meeting on 6th September 1849. These concerned footpaths from:

Linden Pit Fields via Kings Gap Meadow to Barnet Wood Lane;

Barrs Lane to Givons Grove then dividing to lead to Leatherhead Down and the Dorking Road near Norbury Lodge;

from Glory castle to the Oak and Rowhurst Farm; and from near Chitty's Cottages to Randalls Lane.

The Glory Castle was situated at the junction between the Kingston Road and Kingslea. It was owned by Richard Boulton and 'occupied' by James Harriott the High Street Butcher.

Below is a continuous transcript of the Vestry meeting of 13th August 1849:

On Monday August 13th 1849 the people won the case, the path was held to be a public path.

James Barlow held a victory celebration for the town in the Fair Field. Did Mr Richardson submit to the law? Read on.

6th September 1849 - Resolved that the Waywardens be required to communicate with Mr Richardson on the subject of certain obstructions in the footpath from the Dog Kennel to the Common Meadow and also with Mr Richardson as the owner of Kings Gap Meadow respecting certain other obstructions in the footpath from Linden Pit Fields and Barnet Wood Lane with a view to the removal of the said obstructions.

Moved by Mr Barlow seconded by Mr Clark carried nem con.

Resolved that the Waywardens assisted by Mr Martyr and Mr Clark be desired to collect evidence concerning the right of way for footpassengers from Barrs Lane to Givons Grove thence diverging to Leatherhead Down and to London and Dorking Road near Norbury Lodge. Also from Glory Castle through certain fields leading to the Oak and Rowhurst farm. Also from near Chitty's cottages to Randall's Lane, and to report the result to the next meeting of Vestry. Moved by Mr Barlow seconded by Mr Bradford carried unanimously.

That the assistant xxxxx be requested to demand of Mr Simmons the sum expended for the use of the tarpaulin to cover Ragge's cottage - his children being sick - and the tiles having been removed by Mr Simmon's order. Moved Mr Barlow seconded Mr Clark.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2005

Thank you to all those members who have already paid their subscriptions for the current year, whether by standing order or direct to me. If you have paid, your new membership card will have been enclosed with this *Newsletter*. If you have not received a card, please let me have your subscription as soon as possible.

If you pay by standing order and wish to help the Society's finances by way of the Gift Aid scheme please note that you will need to fill in the Gift Aid declaration which was enclosed with the November 2004 *Newsletter*. (Thank you to those 'SO' members who have already sent me their declaration.)

Jenny Morris, Membership Secretary

SPRING PROGRAMME

LECTURES

Friday, 18th March, 'The South East Film & Video Archives' with Video Film by Dr Frank Gray

Dr Gray is in charge of the South East Film & Video Archives at the University of Brighton and will tell us about the work of this department and give a video presentation of films of this area, including footage of Leatherhead during World War II.

April 15th is the Society's AGM, followed by a presentation of slides of 'Local Inns by Goff Powell. Anyone who has seen slides of Goff's postcards will look forward eagerly to this visual 'pub-crawl'.

May 20th 'George and Abraham Dixon' by James Dixon, great-great-grandson of George, and great-great-great nephew of Abraham. What better place and person to tell us about the Dixon brothers! We know nothing about George, and all that most of us know about Abraham is that he was a great philanthropist and provided the Letherhead Institute for the people of the town. We look forward to hearing about these interesting men.

(Lectures 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.)

VISITS AND WALKS

Sunday 10th April. Walk round Fetcham village led by Alan Pooley. This is a repeat of the walk last October which was so popular that it was oversubscribed, so Alan is very kindly going to lead another one. The idea is to imagine the village 100 years ago, and members will be provided with maps of 1870. Subject to availability, the walk will include the parish church and finish with tea and biscuits at the village hall. Cost £2.00. Please send application form with cheque made out to Alan Pooley. Meet at 2.00 pm Outside Symphony World Travel in the parade of shops just before Budgens, where cars can be left.

Saturday 7th May. Morning visit to the Docklands Museum at Canary Wharf. This is an amazing museum which is well worth a visit and will be of particular interest after our talk on Old London Bridge last autumn, as there is an enormous model of the bridge - on one side depicting the 15th century and on the other side the 17th century. But as well as this there is a great deal to see and to make one appreciate that right from Roman times, it was trade and the Thames which brought London into being. If you have never been inside the Canary Wharf building, the shopping mall there is an experience in itself! Travel by train to Waterloo and Jubilee Line (or boat, or DLR) to Canary Wharf then five minutes walk to the Museum. Snacks available there (also restaurant) and lots of eating places all around. Meet at Museum at 11.00 am. Entrance fee £5 (£3 concession). Pay at the door. Please send application, so that I know who is coming, (but no money) to Linda Heath and SAE for directions, if required, to Museum from Canary Wharf.

Sunday 5th June. Afternoon walk round Claremont Landscape Gardens, following Christine Dall's talk in January. The original garden layout of 1715 is being restored and although the house itself is no longer open to the public, we shall be able to visit the Belvedere (slight climb) which is only open once a month. Tea Room available. Meet at 2.00 pm in the car park. Cost £4.00 for non NT members; free for members. Please send application, so that we will know the numbers, (but no money) to Linda Heath.

Sunday 1st May,

GUIDED HISTORICAL WALK ROUND LEATHERHEAD

In addition to the above walks and visits for members, we shall be leading a guided historical walk for the public on the Bank Holiday of Sunday 1st May, to which our members are most welcome. It will leave the Museum at 2.30 pm. No charge, but donations for Museum welcomed.

FUTURE EVENTS

Details and applications for the following events will appear in the May *Newsletter*.

Sunday 3rd July. Morning visit to Croydon Airport, following our talk on that in the autumn.

Saturday 6th August. Combined visit with Friends of the Museum to the Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton, West Sussex.

Items for May 2005 *Newsletter* to the editor by 30th April please (see inside front cover for name, address and telephone number).

Due to space constraints an item from Derek Renn about A W G Lowther will appear in a future edition of the *Newsletter*.

