

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



May, 2005

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

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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: -

Thursdays and Fridays .. 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Saturdays .. 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
CURATOR Graham Evans 01372 386348

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

CHAIRMAN John Wettern 01372 459277

The Library at The Letherhead Institute is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.00 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 David Hartley 01306 743828

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Brian E. Bouchard, 40 Links Road, Ashtead, KT21 2HJ, 01372 275273

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am writing this just after the AGM when we considered the year 2004 and held elections for officers and committee members. The first effect on the committee, of course, was the need to replace Jack Stuttard who had edited our *Proceedings* and other publications for so long. I am pleased to report that Barry Cox has agreed to take on this work for us. Barry is an experienced editor but I do encourage all members who wish to have a contribution considered for inclusion in the *Proceedings* to contact Barry as soon as they can with their proposals.

Also Pauline Hulse has resigned from being the Archaeological Secretary and she is replaced by David Hartley. Pauline came into this job at a time when the Society's archaeological collection was in much need of conservation and cataloguing and this has now virtually been completed, even on to the computer data- base. It is unfortunate that it seems not to be easy these days for amateur societies to get involved with archaeological digs but we hope that opportunities will arise in the future. Maybe the day at the museum with David Williams [Reported below, Ed.] will have sparked an interest.

I referred in the last *Newsletter* about the change in editorship of this journal. For Brian Bouchard this is his first issue and I hope that you have provided him with plenty of copy.

Another committee member who has left us is John Bull. As Treasurer of the museum trustees he has represented them on the Executive Committee for more years than most of us can remember and we

especially thank him for all he has done for the Society and particularly its museum. We welcome John Morris as his replacement.

I would like to repeat the thanks I gave at the AGM to all committee members and especially those who are leaving at this time.

I mentioned last time the book which Linda Heath and I are preparing, provisionally titled *Leatherhead & District, then and now*; this is progressing and we hope that it will be published later in the year. Possibly it will be ready in time for the museum's birthday celebrations.

Our museum has reopened after the winter shutdown period. This has been a very active time even though we were closed. Graham Evans has produced a large display on World War II commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of the war as well as revising many of the other displays. We have purchased two new display cabinets. These are similar to the other ones we have installed over the last few years, and with doors in the front and with internal lighting they make it much easier to provide attractive displays. We have nearly got rid of all the old shop counters which served us for so long. We are pleased to acknowledge a grant from the Surrey Museums Consultative Committee covering half the cost of these cabinets and the remainder was found from the generous legacy which the society received some years ago from Sheila Burrough. I would like to thank both the SMCC and Profile Display and Design Ltd (who supplied the cabinets) for pulling out all the stops to get the cabinets to us before the museum opened, after our first grant application was delayed through no fault of this society.

One new acquisition is Magneta master and slave clocks from Preston Park telephone exchange, near Brighton, which were made at Asthead. This is a welcome addition to our not inconsiderable Goblin collection.

The Society owes a debt of gratitude to the Friends of Leatherhead Museum for arranging the craft days within a week of the opening followed by the Finds Day with the county Finds Liaison Officer.

So having just held our AGM I think we can say that we start another year with positive thoughts for the future; your committee will continue to try to advance the various activities of the society.

Peter Tarplee

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

The Surrey Industrial History Group has recently published a new book entitled "*Surrey and the Motor*" by Gordon Knowles (as reviewed in the February, 2005 *Newsletter*, Ed.). Here follows a short extract:-

"In Leatherhead the firm of Ventham in Bridge Street (they also had a business in Dorking) ventured for a short time into building car bodies. They were famous in London in the 1830s as coachbuilders, moving to Leatherhead in the 1840s, where among other products London to Brighton stage coaches were built. After WWI they turned increasingly to motor body manufacture and repair, by 1929 it was virtually their sole business. The firm closed in 1936 on the retirement of the grandson of the founder. The site was then let as a general engineering and garage business until 1985 when the site was cleared and redeveloped. A tiring platform from the coachbuilding era, though not from Venthams, and a hand-operated petrol pump from the garage on the site are now in the Leatherhead Museum."

This book has been added to our library but is also on sale in the Museum, price £10.95.

The only other addition to our library this quarter is the following:-

SURREY - RECORDS

SURREY RECORD SOCIETY - The 1248-9 Special Eyre of Surrey
and Kent. SRS Vol. 38, 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

BOOKS FOR SALE

Several secondhand books of local interest have come to hand, and are for sale. First come, first served.

Edwina Vardey - *History of Leatherhead*, 1988. 2 copies, one in excellent condition offered at £10 the other in very good condition offered at £6.

Geoffrey Gollin - *Bygone Ashtead*, 1987. In very good condition £6.

Surrey Archaeological Society - *Aspects of archaeology & history in Surrey*, 2004. New. Offers invited.

Surrey Archaeological Society Collections Vol.90, 2003. New. Offers invited.

All proceeds to the Friends of Leatherhead Museum.

Contact:- Gwen Hoad on 01372 273934

LEATHERHEAD AT WAR

Specially produced videos, DVD's and booklets are on sale in the Museum to accompany the Leatherhead at War exhibition currently showing there.

Prices are:- Videos £6.50, DVD's £7.50, & Booklets £3.00.

PROFILE

**ANTONY WILLIAM GEORGE LOWTHER, ARIBA, FSA,
(1901-1972)**

The group photograph of the Society's centenary lunch at Kingston in 1954, reproduced in the *Bulletin* for September 2004, includes Tony Lowther, Honorary Secretary of the Society between 1947 and 1958. After Charterhouse, Lowther took Flinders Petrie's course in Egyptology and that of the Architectural Association in London, subsequently restoring several country houses including Avebury Manor for Alexander Keiller. He acted as an unpaid observer of building sites and finds recorder for the Guildhall Museum (1924-28) before excavating the Roman tiler complex on Ashted Common, whose plan he used for his own house 'The Old Quarry' [now the site of Ashted Hospital], also the Saxon cemetery on Guildown.

In 1932 he assisted Mortimer Wheeler in his excavations at St Albans, being responsible for the uncovering of the Roman theatre and the design of the new museum to house the finds from Verulamium. His popular book to accompany his monograph on the theatre remains in draft. Lowther collaborated with Kenneth Oakley and Wilfred Rankine in a *Survey of the Prehistory of Farnham*, returning after World War II to excavate the 'Six Bells' site there. In 1940 he was commissioned into the

Royal Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, building bases in Persia against an expected German invasion, which was prevented by the battle of Stalingrad. He had to be invalided out after being crippled by poliomyelitis, but he could still wield a mean pickaxe, and went on to direct the pioneering excavation of 'The Mounts', a manorial site at Pakesham near Leatherhead and another at Effingham. He also wrote the first *Research Report* of the Society, a wide-ranging study of Roman patterned flue tiles, sparked off by his Ashted finds. A select bibliography of his work is included in *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540* (ed. Joanna Bird and D G Bird) published by the Society in 1987.

He was the first Chairman/President of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society, a keen naturalist and artist, who built up a remarkable collection of local history transcripts and Civil War broadsides and books. He never married, and latterly was almost house bound by his infirmity. His grave in Ewell churchyard, on the site of a Roman road, was sprinkled with Samian potsherds.

Derek Renn

Taken principally from the obituary by F B Bengier in the 1973 issue of the Proceedings of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society (Vol.3, pp.160-63)

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

On Monday, 25 April the annual general meeting for The Friends was held. This provided an opportunity to report on finances and to review the state of membership (both reported as satisfactory): also to look back at events during 2004. This added up to a successful and eventful year and the continuing fulfilment of the Friends' principal objectives, that is, promoting and supporting the museum and providing stewards.

Specific events included training days for the stewards and social events such as the coffee morning and the annual outing. The date for this year's coffee morning was announced, namely Saturday, 11 June. This will include the usual bring-and-buy sale. Last year this was well attended, and the plant stall, particularly successful. Even greater success is hoped for in 2005. Society members are welcome to come along and are invited to bring their friends.

In August the Friends will again join up with members of the History Society for their outing, this time a visit to the outdoor museum at Singleton, West Sussex. There are fuller details of this on another page.

John Wettern

JUBILEE NEWS

Events leading up to the celebration of the museum's silver jubilee in October are now up and running. These have been planned to provide a continuous series of 'happenings', each intended to stimulate interest in the museum. The *Arts and Crafts* days as reported in the February *Newsletter*, have come and gone. These four days in early April proved a singular success, participation by children perhaps being the high point. Above average attendance was reported on each of the days.

More recently the visit to the museum by the Surrey County Council's Finds Officer (incorrectly reported last time as coming from The Surrey Archaeological Society) took place. This produced a stream of interested 'finders' who were able to have their objects identified. David Williams, our visiting expert, said that his visit was most satisfactory. He will return for a similar session on Sunday, 9 October.

Throughout the summer two further activities will be taking place, both involving photography. The first of these is a photographic competition open to all comers. The theme will be "*Leatherhead in the 21st Century*" and the winners will receive their prizes from The Lord Lieutenant of Surrey when she comes here for the ceremonies on 8 October. Leaflets, copies of The Rules and entry forms are available from the museum.

A competition of a different kind is the *Photo Quiz* in which visitors to the museum have the opportunity to identify eight mystery photos, each depicting a place in Leatherhead. The organiser of both these activities is Gwen Hoad, herself an experienced amateur photographer.

John Wettern

REPORT OF THE FEBRUARY LECTURE

"The Roman settlement and Stane Street at Ewell"

DISCOVERIES ALONG STANE STREET ROMAN ROAD

Despite studies over many decades there is so much still to be found about this the Roman-built main route linking London with Chichester. Our speaker, Frank Pemberton, addressed a well-attended meeting of the Society, giving us many intriguing insights based mainly on recent excavations carried out in the area of Ewell. He described the aims of the researchers which were, firstly, to seek traces of pre-Roman occupation, secondly, to establish the actual route of the road and, most importantly, to gain an impression of how life was lived by the local inhabitants in those far off days.

Even before the Romans invaded, there had been settlements in the area. These were typical Iron Age sites with "round houses" and stockades spread across the slopes of the North Downs. The building of Stane Street by the Romans (probably early 50's A D) brought about marked changes to the local economy. The message was: "We've arrived". Those living alongside the road began to enjoy a new era of prosperity based no doubt on the custom of passing trade and travellers. This is reflected in the quality of the finds such as pottery which emerged from the excavations.

Over many years efforts had been made to trace the exact line of the Roman road in the Ewell area. Some 100 sites have been investigated, not all of which proved successful. Nonetheless, traces of occupation were frequently discovered in the form of walls, floors, wells and hypocaust tiles. Between the 1970's and 2003 as many as seven excavations have taken place in the parish churchyard. Here, not only was the road itself discovered but interesting traces of buildings including one situated right alongside the metalled surface. Could this have been a wayside hostelry? Evidence of high status there certainly was such as glazed Samian tableware from France. Nearby was the cobbled surface of an extensive yard. Was this perhaps evidence of a posting station for the imperial mail?

The siting of Ewell has always aroused curiosity. Approached from the north-east by an almost perfect straight line from London, the route then bends and takes on a more southerly course, aiming for Epsom, Dorking and beyond. The reason for the deviation remains a mystery but our speaker suggested that the presence of the *sacred springs* might be a clue. Even today the pond with its springs in the centre of the village are a landmark, and ritual finds in the vicinity make it a strong likelihood that this place perhaps had mystical connections.

A great deal has still to be discovered about Stane Street and a working party has been set up to look into the many questions still unanswered. There is to be an investigation to confirm the route over Epsom Downs and also the side road which connects to the Roman tile factory on Ashted Common. The transition from the Roman era into the Saxon period in this area is also scheduled for study.

At the close of the evening numerous questions came from the floor, ably answered by Mr Pemberton. Thus ended an informative and stimulating meeting.

John Wettern

REPORT OF THE MARCH LECTURE

"The South East Film And Video Archives"

At our March meeting, Dr Frank Gray described and showed us some of the 'Screen Archives', formerly the South-East Film and Video Collection, in his care at the University of Brighton. Begun in 1992, the first films to be collected were those held by record offices, town halls, police and fire brigades and then extended to 'home movies', taken from about 1925 onwards and to 'magic lantern' slides, which went back to the seventeenth century. To prevent further degradation, films were copied onto polyester stock, with an expected 'life' of 450 years. A pre-war film of the Emberton family at work and play had lost its colours (except for a magenta red) but it was hoped to restore them. Film was both visible and tactile: the risk with electronic media like DVD was loss, corruption or process obsolescence.

Many early films were made to be exhibited in a local hall like the Institute, a few days after the event, with a presenter and piano (and sometimes violin and drum) accompaniment. Dr Gray described and showed us some of the work of early Surrey cine photographers like

Robert Paul, with Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee procession and the Derby horse race (filmed regularly from 1895). Cecil Hepworth made comic films at Walton on Thames including one of a drunken father attacking a dressed-up balloon! Before the NHS, hospitals (including the Royal Surrey at Guildford) made films to encourage nursing recruitment and charitable donations.

Dr Gray showed us the 'Leatherhead Newsreel' of the visit of Lord Simon, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, to the Crescent Cinema and Wesley House to promote War Weapons Week: Leatherhead was collecting to buy a minesweeper for the Royal Navy for £65,000. A post-war sound film showed the Leatherhead District Councillors winding up the Air Raid Precautions system, with shots of buildings damaged and destroyed, and an account of remarkable escapes from bombing (including the one V2 rocket which fell in the district). One film was precisely dated by the programme list on a cinema placard. The Archive was not just a store: clips were often reorganized to tell a full story, using contemporary newspaper reports, the recollections of those still alive and appropriate noises from the National Sound Archive. Copies of some items in the Archive were made available to schools, on the Internet or for purchase. Brighton was renowned for sea-surfing, and a local expert had assembled much old material on the sport, as well as making a new film using a 'headcam'.

Answering questions, Dr Gray said that extracts from feature films were seldom of good enough technical quality to keep, and that the Science Museum had always concentrated on collecting the apparatus for filming rather than the films themselves.

Derek Renn

REPORT OF THE APRIL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

Introducing the executive committee's annual report at our April meeting, Peter Tarplee said that a majority of members were doing a job of some kind for the Society, and he thanked them all, naming those who were now retiring. *Bookham and Leatherhead in old photographs* had been reprinted, and another selection of photographs with a commercial partner should appear this year. Peter remarked that the Society's own best-seller had been Bill Culley's *Bookham in the Twentieth Century*, which showed a healthy profit and he encouraged other members to write similar books on other parts of the district. Next year would be the Society's Diamond Anniversary, and he hoped that the Society dinner would become an annual fixture.

Linda Heath, our President, appealed for criticisms and comments on recent lectures and visits and suggestions for future activities, to be sent to Fred Meynen (programme secretary) preferably in writing. Norma Robertson (treasurer) underlined the need for new publications to increase income, but recommended that the subscription should not be increased yet.

The executive committee was re-elected, apart from Pauline Hulse (succeeded as archaeology secretary by David Hartley), and Peter Wall (succeeded as *Newsletter* editor by Brian Bouchard). Following the death of Jack Stuttard, Barry Cox was elected as *Proceedings* editor. Brian Kirkby was re-appointed as honorary independent examiner of the accounts.

Goff Powell then took us on 'A virtual pub crawl', using his unique collection of old postcards of the district, with anecdotes about each. He ranged from the Star on Chessington Road (once with its own schoolroom attached) by way of the Haunch of Venison (commemorating local benevolence) near the Berkshire Arms on the Epsom road, the Leg of

Mutton and Cauliflower (now reduced to an acronym) to the Sir Douglas Haig (the most patriotic of the series of names by which it had been known) at Effingham.

The closure of many public houses in Bookham after their purchase by Mrs Chrystie, a temperance reformer, the creation of a standard style of 'roadhouse' by Hodgson's Kingston brewery, the replacement of Woolworth's store by the Edmund Tylney and the conversion of the post office into the Penny Black were all recalled. Did Samuel Pepys visit the Crown in Bookham? The great Swan Inn and the basement 'Shades' next door have long gone (but there is a reproduction swan on the Travelodge), as has the Jug House in Church Walk. More recent losses have been the Bull (which moved from its original site across the road, like the Rising Sun at Fetcham, once a popular stop for coaches from London), the Prince of Wales (a soldiers' billet at one time), the Railway Arms and the Lord Howard of Effingham

Derek Renn

FINDS DAY AT THE LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

David Williams, the Finds Liaison Officer for the county of Surrey, presided over a very interesting event at the Museum on 23 April. The main object of the event was to publicise the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and make contact with both the public and, particularly, metal detector users who discover between them thousands of archaeological objects and artifacts each year. This scheme involves the identification, recording and photographing of finds discovered by the metal detector users and the public at large, artifacts discovered by detectors on public and private land with the permission of the landowners, or when digging in the garden of their own homes, or revealed during building site operations.

An essential part of this process is to pinpoint the location of each find of archaeological or historical interest and enter the information onto a pre-prepared form for imputing into a computer database for access by the public, local historians and archaeologists alike. The Portable Antiquities Scheme is supported by the Museums, Libraries and Archive Council and received Heritage Lottery Funding. You can visit their web site www.finds.org.uk. and they also produce a very interesting illustrated colour newsletter of which issue No 2 is out now.

Metal detector users have in recent years received a bad press. David believes that it is a question of developing a good working relationship and trust with the metal detector users and the clubs to which many belong, fostering and encouraging them and the public to report finds at the earliest opportunity.

There are a number of Finds Liaison Officers who have been appointed to deal with the various counties that make up the South East of England and they are responsible for running and promoting a number of interesting events throughout the year. David himself is available every second Saturday at the Guildford Museum at Castle Arch and you can contact him directly by phone 01737 247296.

The attendance at the Museum for this event was small: it was, however, well supported by the Friends of the Museum and members of the L&DLHS who dropped in to meet David Williams and his assistant for the day, Helen Mc Neill, an Anglo Saxon Archaeologist from York now living at Chertsey. Other visitors came from Reigate, Dorking, Mickleham and, more locally, Bookham, Fetcham & Leatherhead bringing with them items found in their gardens, mainly Victorian and Edwardian material which was outside the scope of this project. There were, however, some interesting clay pipe bowls found in the garden of a property adjacent to Fetcham Park, one with a makers mark not identified, most dated circa mid 18th & 17th cent.

Alun Roberts brought in a number of artifacts found in his garden, which included three flints, classified as Neolithic, showing clear evidence of having been worked and regarded as wasters. Alun also brought along a coin of Edward 11's reign, previously published on the back page of the *L&DLHS Proceedings* Vol. 6, No.5, 2001, which had been found in Worple Road, Leatherhead, by Mrs. Joan Banks. David Williams was particularly interested in these finds and duly recorded and photographed both the coin and the flints for the data- base.

At the end of the session, which finished at 1.00 pm, David was pleased at the level of interest shown, particularly as two of the visitors to the Museum were in fact metal detector users, one, from Dorking, brought with him a Roman coin he had found locally in Dorking some 30 years ago. Unfortunately, he was unable to confirm the location of the find. This coin could be identified by David as a much worn Roman coin known as a 'Radiant' but, due to the worn nature of this coin, it was not possible to identify the Roman Emperor. David recorded and photographed this find but stressed how very important it was to be able to locate the find- spot on an Ordnance Survey Map or by using the GPS (Global Positioning System) which a number of metal detector users now have available to them.

Another metal detector user from Bookham brought in an interesting artifact which looked like a large ring with a human face, that was reminiscent of the Roman God Janus, found in a wood at Effingham. David suggested this object was possibly a modern import brought back from abroad and of no antiquity. David arranged to make contact with both of these two metal detector users to look through their collections of finds acquired over the last thirty years.

David Hartley

PROCEEDINGS

Barry Cox has written to express his thanks on election to the post of Editor of the Society's *Proceedings* in succession to the late Jack Stuttard. Barry is developing some ideas with a view to obtaining economies in the high cost of production. He invites members to submit material for possible publication, following the layout exemplified in earlier Volumes, preferably on disc or by e-mail (to barry_cox@btopenworld.com) otherwise as hard copy, which he can convert into an electronic format, to his home address: Forge Cottage, 11 Blacksmith Close, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2BD -telephone 01372 273167

Brian Bouchard

TOWARDS A LIST OF DATED BUILDINGS

A number of structures in our district exhibit a date. A word of warning: the date given may be either that of foundation, of completion or of some other important event in the lives of the occupants. It may relate only to one part of the building, or even have come from elsewhere. The reliability of the date varies from near-certainty (multiple foundation stones at the Letherhead Institute, the Wesley Memorial Hall and the Bookham Baptist Hall, confirmed by newspaper reports and other records) to misleading (those inside St Nicolas' church and Crosslands are contradicted by architectural details elsewhere, and the Tudor overmantel was removed from the demolished Effingham East Court). The roughly-incised inscriptions of 1734, 1746, 1775 and 1806 could have been cut long after building, and the joint initials at three of them are probably those of the family then living in the house.

Unusual date 'stones' are a bas-relief plaque (unveiled 23 February 1905) accompanying the two slightly earlier foundation stones of the Wesley Memorial Hall, the rainwater hopperhead at Bank Chambers and the cairn at Givons Grove roundabout which gives details of the ceremonial opening of Young Street (a new road built in WW2) and of the reopening on 20 January 1978. Date inscriptions seem to cluster both in space (eg Church Road, Leatherhead, Little Bookham Street) and in time (mid to late 18th century, and again a century later).

1341 St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham [inside chancel]

1570 now at Effingham Golf Clubhouse

1734 12 Church Road, Great Bookham

1746 21 Little Bookham Street

1775 Crosslands, Guildford Road, Effingham

1799 16/18 Gravel Hill, Leatherhead

1806 Slyfield House barn, Great Bookham

1854 Wesleyan Chapel, Effingham

14 July 1856 St Lawrence's School, Effingham

21 April 1858 St James's School (now county library), Great Bookham

1869 Mount Zion chapel, Church Road, Leatherhead

1878 Indira and Myrtle Cottages, 15/21 Church Road, Leatherhead

1882 34/36 Church Road, Great Bookham

188? Gate lodge, Howard of Effingham School

1889 Bartle Frere memorial almshouses, Flint Close, Great Bookham

10 February 1892 Letherhead Institute

1894 11/13 High Street, Great Bookham and Queen Anne's Terrace,
Leatherhead

1897 St Nicolas' Church, Great Bookham [lych gate]

1898 The Grange, Rectory Lane, Great Bookham

1899 Shaftesbury Cottages, Little Bookham Street

1902 Broseley Cottages, Lower Road, Great Bookham
1903 Myrtle Cottage, Little Bookham Street
26 October, 1904 Wesley Memorial Hall, Church Road, Leatherhead
1905 28 North Street, Leatherhead
1928 Bank Chambers, Bridge Street, Leatherhead
10 September 1929 Baptist Hall, Lower Road, Great Bookham
1935 Pumping Station, Waterway Road, Leatherhead
1938 Postal sorting office, Station Road, Leatherhead
28 August 1941 Young Street, Leatherhead [ceremonial opening]
1963 Sundial Cottage, Kingston Road, Leatherhead
30 March 1974 Leatherhead Leisure Centre [ceremonial opening]

Derek Renn

(The author has requested reports of further examples. From Ashted, one can offer Woodman Cottages, 1898, [two cottages built for Miss Louisa Smithers, sometime publican at the Woodman beer-house, following plans submitted 1 July 1898 - now 188 & 190 Barnett Wood Lane], The Mays cottages, 1886, [6&8 Woodfield Lane] and The Ashted [Peace] Memorial Hall, 21 June 1924. Relatively short items similar to this article would be welcomed for future issues of the *Newsletter*. Ed.)

ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology South-East have carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Hawkshill House, Leatherhead. This work, in advance of the residential development of the site, has revealed some significant remains of Iron Age date. A total of 12 pits were dug ranging in size from 0.60m in diameter and 0.80m deep to a massive example 2.5m in diameter and over 2m deep. These pits, some having a distinctive 'beehive' shape, are thought to have been originally for the storage of grain, backfilled in antiquity when they went out of use. They are similar in form to other

examples excavated earlier last century in the Hawkshill vicinity and are a known Iron Age phenomenon. Finds from these features include pottery, animal bone, loom weights and spindle whorls. Part of a ring-gully, potentially an eaves drip gully for a roundhouse, was also identified. This possible building may have been as large as 10-12m in diameter. Interestingly, a pit was found adjacent to this ring-gully that may have been used for the production of daub used to coat the wattle walls of the 'roundhouse'. The upper levels of this pit contained the skulls of pigs and sheep. It is tempting to think that they are the remains of a feast which took place after the completion of the building. Millgate Homes funded the excavation and will fund the further, detailed, publication of this site.

Report prepared by Jim Stevenson of Archaeology South-East to whom thanks are offered for his kind co-operation

David Hartley

WHAT BECAME OF THAT ROAD

South, West, North and East Roads, Caen Leys Estate, Ashted

Jack Willis has indicated that the Programme Committee remain willing to seek answers to any further questions about roads and paths in the district.

Members may have wondered about the "roads called South, West, North and East" - "on the future Links Road Estate" - in Gwen Hoad's very interesting article on James Weller and Woodfield Farm : *Proceedings*, Vol. 6, No. 8, 2004. North and East together became Ashted Woods Road, West has been reduced to a footpath from Bushey Shaw and South was named Links Road on a map prepared under the Town Planning Act of

1925. There has been much speculation in the past about the derivation of the name for Links Road but Epsom Rural District Council Minutes contain approval of two planning applications relating to a property now numbered 22:-

- 1) 10 August 1904. House in the road from Woodfield to the Golf Links &
- 2) 28 December 1904. Conservatory at the house on Caen Leys Golf Links.

These seem to provide clear evidence of a connection to the Ashted Golf Club, which existed from about 1900 to 1904, with a number of members residing in the Woodfield Lane area and maintenance contracted to J. Weller.

Brian Bouchard

SUMMER PROGRAMME

VISITS AND WALKS

Sunday, 5 June. Afternoon walk around 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 of the National Trust. There are still a few vacancies for this but please apply soon to Linda Heath, sending no money.

Sunday, 3 July. Visit by cars to Croydon Airport and Carshalton Water Tower

Following the interesting illustrated talk on the History of Croydon Airport given by Robert Duffett, last October, we now have the opportunity to visit the original terminal building, presently the Croydon Airport Society's Visitor Centre. Conducted tour begins at 10.30 a.m. There are plenty of choices for lunch at or near the airport site.

After lunch, on the return journey, a visit to the Carshalton Water Tower has been arranged. This is set in the beautiful grounds of Carshalton House. Built in the early 18th century, it contains a suite of rooms - the Pump Chamber, the Orangery, the Saloon and the unique Bath Room. For directions to both locations, or requests for lifts, send applications to John Wettern with £2.00 to cover both visits as well as a S.A.E.

Saturday, 6 August. The Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton.

An 'own car' outing in combination with The Friends of Leatherhead Museum. An open air museum, spread over several acres of West Sussex countryside, offering a chance to explore six centuries of traditional rural buildings saved from destruction. Seven gardens show the herbs and plants that met the everyday needs of rural households. Country crafts demonstrations, conservation workshop and a chance to sample tasty Tudor fare. Send fee of £7.00 including prepaid admission and S.A.E. for directions or requests for lifts to John Wettern.

HERITAGE WEEKEND

This will be Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 September. Details of events in August *Newsletter* and Heritage booklet.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

Friday, 16 September. "Surrey and the Motor Car" by Gordon Knowles.

Cars have been running on Surrey roads since 1895, and over 100 firms in the county have made them. Gordon, our Vice President, will describe many of them, whether commercial vehicles, passenger or racing cars, with an account of the racetrack at Brooklands and other events which made Surrey important in motoring history. His recent book "*Surrey and the Motor*", mentioned above, will be on sale at the meeting.

FUTURE EVENTS

Details of all other autumn lectures will be in the August *Newsletter*. Watch this space!

To help us with planning future lectures and visits, the programme committee would welcome members comments and suggestions. Are the lectures of sufficient interest and variety for you? Can you see and hear the lecturers and is the time and duration of the lecture appropriate? Have you any suggestions for future topics and lecturers? Are the visits and walks of interest to you and have you any suggestions for future venues? Please send your comments and any suggestions, anonymously if you wish, to me at the museum, Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP.

Fred Meynen

LECTURES

(Lectures are held on Friday evenings in the Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute, High Street, at 8.00 p.m., with coffee beforehand at 7.30.)

Items for August 2005 *Newsletter* to the editor at the address given on the inside front cover (or, as an attachment to email, to bouchard40@tiscali.co.uk) not later than 31st July, please.

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