

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



August, 2005

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

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CHAIRMAN
Peter Tarplee
01372 452301

SECRETARY
Position
vacant

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

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 Wettren

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

Peter Wells

01372 272367

The Historical Enquiry Service offers to seek answers to questions about the history of Leatherhead, Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham submitted via the Museum

CO-ORDINATOR

Peter Wells

01372 386348

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.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In this issue I am giving details of two opportunities for members to help the Society.

As many of you will know, Judith Mills, our Honorary Secretary, is leaving Leatherhead in September. Judith has served the Society for about six years, first as Treasurer and latterly as Secretary. We thank Judith for what she has done for us and wish her well in her new career as a mature student at Nottingham University. She will not be severing all her links with the area and we look forward to seeing Judith again whenever she returns to Leatherhead.

Judith's departure does mean that there is an opportunity for someone else to be the Society's secretary. This is a job which, to a certain extent, can be varied to suit the incumbent but the primary need is for somebody to record the minutes at the six committee meetings a year as well as at the Annual General Meeting. In general, the present members of the Executive Committee are fully committed with other tasks so I am appealing for a member of the Society who would be willing to fill the role of Honorary Secretary. If any of you is interested in this please contact Judith or me to discuss what is involved.

Looking slightly further ahead, as I announced at the AGM, I shall not be standing for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting. I will have been Chairman for 10 years and the Society is certainly due for a change after this period of time. If any member would like to consider taking on this work, or would like to suggest a likely candidate, please talk to me.

Since the last Newsletter one new member has joined the Executive Committee. Peter Wells has taken over from Gwen Hoad as the Society Librarian and has been duly co-opted to the committee. Peter has already been helping our archivists with dealing with historical queries and he now takes on the responsibility for our library, a task which Gwen has carried out for over ten years. We are pleased to welcome Peter to the Executive Committee.

This year is the 25th Anniversary of the opening of our museum and you are all aware of the arrangements being made by the Friends of Leatherhead Museum to celebrate this. I would ask ALL Society members to support the Friends in these activities and particularly to come to the functions on Saturday, 8 October. A number of District and County dignitaries will be honouring us with their presence during the morning and we would like the Society members to give support by being at The Theatre. The Lord Lieutenant of Surrey will be the principal guest and displays are being prepared to illustrate the history of the museum since the cottage was purchased in a rather dilapidated state.

Whilst talking of anniversaries I am reminded that next year (2006) the Society will have been in being for 60 years. For the last two years we have had very successful Annual Dinners and next year we are hoping to make this event a bit special in view of the diamond anniversary. Again the function will be held at the Bookham Grange Hotel and the date will be Friday, 27 January, please keep the evening free. Our guest speaker will be Audrey Monk who is the President of the Surrey Archaeological Society, and I hope that as many of you as possible will come to welcome her to our local society.

Peter Tarplee

GOODBYE

Members will have picked up from the Chairman's comments that I have resigned from the Executive Committee because I'm leaving Leatherhead to pursue my interest in history more actively - I have a place at Nottingham University to study for an MA in History. I just wanted to say how much I've enjoyed my time with the Society and to thank everyone on the Committee, particularly Peter Tarplee, for their help and support.

I'm proud to have been associated with the Society. When I moved to Leatherhead about nine years ago, I almost immediately volunteered as a Museum steward; somehow, shortly after that, I found myself co-opted as Treasurer and three years after that moved over to become Secretary - all fascinating jobs. By the time this note is printed, a new Secretary may have been appointed, but if the job is still vacant, I'd encourage anyone and everyone to consider taking it on - the beauty of being Secretary is that you get to know all about the Society's work but don't have to get deeply involved unless you want/are able to. Because of work and family commitments I was only able to 'do the basics', i.e. minute the 6 regular meetings and AGM, write the odd letter and fill in the occasional form, but in the process, I learnt a lot about the Society.

Although I'm leaving Leatherhead I'm going to keep up my membership and who knows, one day I might be able to get to a Friday talk, or visit the Museum. In the meantime, best wishes to everyone in the Society - may it go on from strength to strength.

Judith Mills

ERNEST CROSSLAND

Members will be sad to hear of the recent death of Ernest Crossland. Ernest was one of the early members of this society as well as being one of its most active. He was for many years our Archaeology Secretary

and he served on the Executive Committee in this capacity until increasing deafness meant that he could not fully contribute to the meetings.

Ernest was very active in the museum where he was a long-serving steward. He was involved in many archaeological digs in Surrey and yet, perhaps, we remember most of all his excavation of the well at Hampton Cottage.

He was a member of the Surrey Archaeological Society and served on its Council for many years. He was elected a Vice-President of that Society. Ernest had many interests as well as archaeology - among them were scouting, rambling and gardening. A few years ago Ernest moved to Wimborne Minster in Dorset, but before that he had been extremely active in all aspects of the society's work.

Peter Tarplee

I would like to add a personal tribute of my own to Peter's one. As we all know, Ernest was a great supporter of both the Society and the Museum. His enthusiasm was boundless, as was his energy. Indefatigable is a word that comes to mind. All of us who heard him lecture on various topics will remember with admiration how he would talk on a subject without any notes, but finish exactly within one hour.

I looked on Ernest as a good friend - patient, kind, and with a great sense of humour. He was also a very loyal and supportive member of the Committee when I first became Chairman. I shall always remember him with gratitude and affection.

Linda Heath

CAR PARKING AT LEATHERHEAD INSTITUTE

We have been advised by the Leatherhead Community Association that, in order to combat unauthorised and irresponsible parking at the

Institute, a gate is being installed at the entrance to the car park. This gate will be open from 08.30 until 19.15, Monday to Friday.

After 19.15 it will not be possible to enter the car park, but cars may leave until 15 minutes after the end of the hiring. So anyone wishing to go elsewhere in the town after a meeting should remove their car from the car park and park it elsewhere. Only the 24 marked spaces may be used in the evenings, parking elsewhere in the car park or access drive is not allowed by the fire authorities.

Car parks in Leatherhead are free in the evenings and members are asked to co-operate by not abusing the facilities at the Institute.

Peter Tarplee

SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP

This year SIHG, which is a Group of Surrey Archaeological Society, is celebrating its 25 years of existence with an all-day series of lectures at the Dorking Christian Centre on Saturday, 8 October.

The morning programme considers the development of industrial archaeology over the past 25 years. It starts at 10.30 with a talk by Marilyn Palmer (Chairman of the Association for Industrial Archaeology) entitled **The Way We Were - industrial archaeology, then and now**. This will be followed at 12.00 by Alan Crocker who will examine the position in Surrey with **SIHG - successes and failures**. Then there will be a discussion before the lunch break.

The meeting resumes at 14.00 with three talks about some Surrey industries 100 years ago. First Stuart Chrystall will talk on **Public Transport** followed by Ken Smith from the Brewery History Society who will talk on **Beer and Brewing**. Following tea, the final talk will be given by Peter Tarplee on **Public Utilities**. The meeting will conclude at 17.00.

There is no admission charge for this event. When you have celebrated 25 years of our museum in the morning why not celebrate 25 years of SIHG in the afternoon? One of the speakers will need to do just that.

Dorking Christian Centre is adjacent to St Martin's Church, off the High Street and close to Mill Lane public car park.

Peter Tarplee

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Local History Symposium

This year the symposium organised by the Local History Committee of Surrey Archaeological Society will be held at Chertsey Hall, Chertsey on 22 October. The theme is **ON THE ROAD IN SURREY**; the exhibits will be ready for viewing at 10.30 hrs and the proceedings will close at 17.30 hrs. The talks are as below:-

Roman Transport in Surrey - David Bird, Principal Archaeologist, SCC.

On Horseback - Peter Edwards, Professor of History, Roehampton University.

Wagons and Packhorses in London c.1680-1840 - Dorian Gerhold, Wandsworth Historical Society.

Early Cycling on the Surrey Roads - Les Bowerman, Send and Ripley LHS.

Early Cars in Surrey - Gordon Knowles, Surrey Industrial History Group.

Tickets (which include morning and afternoon tea/coffee) may be obtained from Alan Crocker, 6 Burwood Close, Guildford, GU1 2SB enclosing a SAE. The cost for members is £9.00, visitors £10.00 and blocks of 5 or more tickets may be purchased at £8.00 each.

Hot and cold lunches will be available at the hall, where there is also a bar.

Two of the lecturers and one of the chairmen are members of this society and we also hope to have a display at the event.

Peter Tarplee

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

In answering a query for someone, I had to refer to "Some records of the Ashtead Estate and its Howard possessors" written in 1873 by F.E.Paget. I thought the following short extract might be of interest to our members.

"So far as is known to the writer, there is no record of the condition of the Ashtead Estate when Sir Robert Howard purchased it [in 1680]. The Mansion which he found, and which was not wholly removed till the end of the next Century, (though for many years it had only been used as a dairy), was a building of considerable antiquity, apparently, not later than the time of Henry VII, or VIII. The old "Stede" clung to its ancient situation: it stood so close to the Churchyard that one of its doors opened into it, and the wall, (for which, at a later period, paling was substituted) that was the boundary of the garden, was, on the other side, that of the burial-ground".

Although this book may not be removed from the Institute Library room, it and the following recent additions may be found there.

SURREY - Social History

ALEXANDER, Matthew - More Surrey tales. Countryside Books, 1986

SURREY - Individual Towns & Villages

EWELL

EPSOM & EWELL HISTORY & ARCH. SOC. - Ewell: the development of a Surrey village that became a town. Researched and prepared by Charles Abdy aided by members of E&EH&A Soc. Surrey Arch Soc., 2004

LEATHERHEAD

LOVATT, J.W. - Howard Humphries: the first eighty years. [Thorncroft Manor]. Howard Humphries, 1979

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 who can help.

Gwen Hoad

LEATHERHEAD AT WAR

Specially produced videos, DVD's and booklets remain 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.

CANADIAN SOLDIERS IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE TWO WORLD WARS

L&D LHS member Beryl Williams (author of "Occupiers of a 'Customary acre of land lying in the Woodfield', Ashtead") would very much appreciate information or anecdotes about the Canadian troops who were billeted or hospitalised in the Leatherhead/Ashtead/Epsom area during WW1 & WW2 for an article in a Canadian magazine. Please email astridge@shaw.ca or write 501, 6223-31Av NW, Calgary, Alberta, T3B 3X2, Canada (postage will be refunded).

Brian Bouchard

LOCAL AUTHOR

Monica Weller , who lives at Bookham, has written to ask if I could mention that 'Ruth Ellis, My Sister's Secret Life' by Muriel Jakubait, with Monica Weller, has just been published. The book is said to contain much of local interest and intrigue in this story about the last woman to be hanged in the UK, which includes references to Garlands Road, Leatherhead, The Paddock Club, Ashtead and Cubitt Mansion in Dorking. The work, published by Constable and Robinson in paperback, price £8.99, is currently available from Corbett's, Leatherhead, as well as branches of Waterstones, Ottakar's and WH Smith.

Brian Bouchard

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

Attendance at the museum has surged on each occasion when a special event was held, notably the Arts and Crafts Days, the Coffee Morning and latterly the Archaeology days. Local people visiting for the first time were often heard to say: "We never knew Leatherhead had a museum" or, sometimes, "I've been meaning to come along for years". Clearly the task of publicising the museum needs still more effort!

The success of the Arts and Crafts days in early April was mentioned in the May newsletter. Following that there was the Coffee morning on Saturday, 11 June. This broke records in terms of numbers attending and the level of takings: the raffle, the plants sale, the books and bric-à-brac stall and donations for coffee.

The Archaeology Days- a 'first' for the museum- were supported with publicity by The Friends. We were delighted by the excellence of the displays and demonstrations, and have pledged our support for future occasions of this type.

Jubilee Preparations Plans to make 2005 a notable year for the museum have continued to unfold. Two competitions are now running: the first, a challenge to amateur photographers, invited to enter a picture with the theme "Leatherhead and District in the 21st Century". Entry forms are available from the museum; the closing date, 31 August.

The PHOTO QUIZ competition, also running until 31 August, invites visitors to identify eight architectural landmarks in the Town. Members can help by urging their friends to participate. Prizes will be presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey during the jubilee ceremonies on Saturday, 8 October.

John Wettern

JUBILEE NEWS

The Silver Jubilee Approaches

Preparations for the events due to take place in early October are progressing well. Members will already know something about the proposed celebrations on Saturday, 8 October to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the inauguration of the Leatherhead and District Local History Museum. It will be a prestigious day for the Society and indeed for Leatherhead itself with unique activities not only at the museum but at The Theatre in Church Street and in other parts of the Town.

The official ceremony takes place at The Theatre where our guests of honour, the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and the Chairman of Mole Valley District Council, will appear. There will be a photographic exhibition in the foyer. Later, a jazz band will be playing outside.

A programme of events will be widely distributed throughout the district. Perhaps the most memorable of these events will be the appearance of two vintage buses giving the opportunity for free rides round the Town.

The museum will of course be open for visitors, and on the following day, Sunday, 9 October there will be another visit by the County Council's Archaeological Finds Officer, whose attendance earlier this year attracted a lot of interest.

John Wetttern

TOWARDS A LIST OF DATED BUILDINGS

Further to the lists in the May Newsletter, I can add three more dated buildings from Fetcham.

The original part of the Alms-Houses at the junction of River Lane with Cobham Road, Fetcham, that are now called Morley Court, were built to replace the earlier ones dating from 1820 that were close by. Plaques record the funders who were the Squire, John Barnard Hankey, Rector, Sir Edward Graham Moon, and the Churchwardens and give a date of 1885. The original alms-houses were demolished and the Reading-Room erected on the same footprint just afterwards.

Close by, to the north and set a little back from the road, "Wellmeadow Cottage" bears the date 1810. This replaced an earlier dwelling and was in the 1800's known by the name Saddler's Flat. One can speculate that this may have arisen similarly to the suggested origin of (Old) Barracks Farm which arose from a militia assembly in the past.

Whilst, a little way to the south in the Street, Fetcham, the complex of shops consisting of an electrical trader, off-licence and a newsagent was known as "St Clements" and all were built in 1865 for James & John Luff respectively as a forge, two semi-detached houses and another store for their expanding business. At some date, probably between 1914 and 1920, the business that was now in the hands of Alfred Blaker ceased and some rebuilding to convert the premises into shops was undertaken. At that time an inscription was added low down to a plinth which recorded the original date of construction.

Alan Pooley

On behalf of neighbours in Leatherhead, I suggest :-

Kingston Road

All Saints Infant's School (North Leatherhead Community Association)
1900.

200-206 Oakwood Terrace 1900

258-260 Gordon Cottages 1903

262-264 Langstone Cottages 1904

Barnett Wood Lane

10-12 Arkesden Villas 1910

14-16 Merton Villas 1909

Copthorne Road

1-3 JRM 1905

5-7 :- 1904

9-11 EEW 1904

13-15 Primula Cottages 1904

17-19 Rosemary Cottages 1904

21-23 Camellia Cottages 1904

27-29 EL Chicks Grove Cottages 1904

31-33 WO 1905

Linden Terrace, 23-29 Linden Road, 1898

Queen Anne's Terrace, off Linden Road, 1894

St. John's Terrace, Upper Fairfield Road, 1905

Hillrise Court, Park Rise, 2002 !

and finally on Ashted, Oak Villas, Woodfield, 1907

Brian Bouchard

PROCEEDINGS

To help me to keep up the high standard of contributions to the published *Proceedings* of the Society that Jack Stuttard achieved as Editor, I hope that members will continue to send their work in to me. I

assure everyone that I shall try to keep editorial changes to a minimum , and that any of these will only be made after consultation with the author. It is generally helpful if the text can be illustrated by photographs, maps etc., but of course that is not always possible.

Barry Cox

COURSES IN LOCAL HISTORY

Anne Milton-Worsell, Director of Studies-English Local History, has approached me from the University of Surrey to explain that the Adult and Continuing Education Department has for some time been offering courses in English Local History. A degree course on the subject and a certificate course entitled "Researching the Past" are both open to mature part-time students. The certificate is for students who wish to develop specific skills in local history, and is said to be eminently suitable for the local historian who wants to develop research skills - such as the ability to read old documents, or trace through the history of a house or church. Students meet on a weekly basis, daytime or evening. The degree programme is aimed at those who wish to have a high level formal qualification, and students can work part-time or full-time. Most students would attend two or three classes between September and May.

Further details may be found in two leaflets that have been deposited at the Museum.

Brian Bouchard

REPORT OF THE MAY LECTURE

On Friday 20 May our lecture season ended with an excellent talk about George and Abraham Dixon by James Dixon, great-great grandson of George and great-great-great nephew of Abraham. It was particularly

fitting that his talk should be given in the Abraham Dixon Hall in the Letherhead Institute, founded by Abraham Dixon in 1892.

James Dixon explained that without Abraham, George could never have got where he did, but that without George's financial resources, Abraham might never have been able to found the Institute.

Abraham was born in 1815 and George in 1820 in Yorkshire. They both went to work for Rabone's merchanting business in Birmingham which dealt in merchandise worldwide, from saucepans to the equipment for Stanley's expedition to find Livingstone in Africa. Both brothers were fluent in French and Spanish, and in 1846 George was travelling extensively in Spain. In the 1850's Abraham paid at least one visit to Jamaica, where his interest in tropical plants may have originated.

In 1866 George became Mayor of Birmingham and set up the Birmingham Education Aid Society which led to his forming the National Education League in 1869 with concepts of free and compulsory education for all. Compulsory education did not in fact come until 1876 and free education in 1891. It is interesting that both brothers were passionately concerned with education for the less affluent. In the same year, Abraham acquired Cherkley Court, which he described as a 'small estate near Dorking' notwithstanding that it consisted of at least 400 acres and the house was to contain some 31 bedrooms! He had by this time formed an amazing collection of tropical plants, and before he left Birmingham an entire railway truck-load of his plants was sent to Kew. His conservatory and tropical house at Cherkley Court were on a par with those at Kew.

George died in 1898 and Abraham in 1907. Perhaps the most lasting memorials to both brothers are George Dixon's Technical School in Birmingham and Abraham Dixon's Letherhead Institute "to provide means and opportunities for educational, social and recreational occupation for the working men and for all social classes in the town and its immediate neighbourhood."

Our next meeting will be on Friday, 16 September at 8.00 p.m. at the Letherhead Institute when we shall have a talk on "Surrey and the Motor Car" by our Vice President, Gordon Knowles, whose book on this subject will be on sale at the meeting. Coffee is served from 7.30 p.m. and visitors are welcome at £2.00 admission including coffee.

Linda Heath.

VISITS AND WALKS

REPORT OF THE MAY VISIT

Docklands Museum, Canary Wharf

A small group lead by Linda Heath visited the Museum in Docklands on 7 May. To quote the museum's "Highlights" guide, 'the museum occupies three of the five bays of No.1 Warehouse, West India Quay. The West India Docks opened in 1802 and were London's first purpose-built cargo handling docks'. It is now part of the modern development of Canary Wharf, with its interesting mix of architecture, not least the spacious Underground station. The museum tells the fascinating story of London's development as a port in great detail, the largest port in the world by 1810 and for a long time afterwards. The information is clearly interpreted for visitors. Displays include Anglo Saxon Lundenwic with its beach market along the line of present day Aldwych, the Roman settlement of Londinium in what is now the City, and the later Londonburgh. But without the River Thames none of it would have existed. It is impossible to give a detailed description, but particular features are on World War II, the Rhinebeck Panorama (showing the metropolis in the early 17th century and hidden in a house loft in the USA until 1941; it was purchased by the Museum of London in 1998) the incredible model of both sides of London bridge (one side devoted to the 1400's and the other side in Tudor times) and the model of a WWII estuary fort; exhibited in New Zealand, Australia etc. from 1946, it did not return to Britain until 1993! A fascinating museum for those interested in the River and docks and how they shaped London's

development up to the present day. Access is easy via the DLR or the Underground (Jubilee line). Unfortunately the Thames gallery was closed for alterations when we visited, but it was still a very full day. The dock also has two historic steam vessels not connected with the museum, 'Robin' a coaster and 'Portwey' a tug. 'Portwey' is open to the public on Wednesday afternoons; I could find no information on 'Robin's opening times, however they both have www.com websites.

Peter Wall

REPORT OF THE JUNE VISIT

Tour round Claremont Landscape Garden on Sunday 5 June

The view from the 'belvedere' at Claremont is not only 'beautiful to see' but absolutely spectacular. The immediate approach to the belvedere is through an allee and bowling green. The rolling green pleasure grounds were laid out by Capability Brown, William Kent and others in the 18th century to create focal points and vistas for the strolling nobility. Although overgrown, the hillside to the top of the amphitheatre remains full of beautiful trees, while the Cedars of Lebanon around the lake point to Claremont's noble and royal past. The Camellia Terrace was formerly a glass house in memorial to Princess Charlotte. Only daughter of George IV, she and her baby died in childbirth (thereby causing a marriage race between her profligate uncles). The surrounding railings with crowns and, Leopold, her widower's initials have been beautifully restored in black and gold. The camellias planted in Charlotte's memory continue to thrive and make the Terrace particularly poignant.

Originally owned by Vanbrugh and then the Duke of Newcastle, the former acreage has shrunk from over 1600 to 49, but indications of Claremont's fascinating past are all around. The belvedere interior betrays its original use for dining and gambling by the Kit-Cat Club,

while the Duke could not only view the surrounding countryside but the night sky from the roof. Today, Windsor Castle and Heathrow Airport can be seen on a clear day, and during our visit the Epsom Grandstand and surrounding marquees from the previous day's Derby were discernible beyond the raised highway of the A3. Our guide, Christine Dall, gave us a most interesting tour, subsequent to her illustrated talk to us in January.

Cherry Peplar

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

Since there was insufficient support, proposed arrangements for this visit were cancelled.

Brian Bouchard

A REVIEW OF NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK AT THE LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM 21 -23 JULY

A combination of good weather and the fact that the Leatherhead Museum was open for three whole days, on 21, 22 & 23 July, from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. to mark National Archaeology Week contributed in part to the success of this event.

This was the first year that the L&DLHS and the Leatherhead Museum had participated in marking this event which from all accounts drew a total number of 92 visitors to the museum over the three days including 25 children with parents and grandparents. This was a national event sponsored and promoted by the Council for British Archaeology (www.britarch.ac.uk) and was also supported by English Heritage.

The museum curator, Graham Evans, delved into the museum's store to recover artifacts to provide an archaeological theme to the window

display and make space for a large reconstructed medieval pot from the Pachenesham site known as The Mounts.

David Hartley, the archaeology secretary, also prepared a number of themed presentations to exhibit and demonstrate human ingenuity and technology. First up was 'Man the Toolmaker' illustrating early flint tools together with a practical video demonstration of flint knapping by the well known flint knapper John Lord from Norfolk who produced an example of a Bronze Age barbed & tanged arrowhead (www.flintknapping.co.uk). John Lord started with a large flint nodule from which he selected a large flint flake waster and by a careful and considered reduction of this flake created a fine flint arrowhead worthy of our ancestors.

Other presentation boards reflected some of the Romano British Villa types and mosaic floors found at villa sites in Surrey together with known bath houses with hypocausts which were employed to illustrate the use of under floor heating and of box flue tiles to provide ducted heating.

The villa and tile works on Ashstead common and the kiln site at Horton and Wykehurst Farm were singled out as an example of Romano British production and manufacturing, producing a range of building products used in the construction of local villas and bath houses. Examples of these products have been found during the excavation of these sites in the last century by A.W.G. Lowther and other archaeologists.

A practical demonstration was also given by David Hartley showing the use of patterned rollers and dies replicating some of the original box flue tile patterns identified by A.W.G. Lowther.

A number of the children visiting the exhibition had the opportunity to try their hand at using these rollers and dies for themselves especially

the famous dog and stag pattern and they were encouraged to take their samples home.

A special I-Spy Picture Quiz was compiled specifically for all children aged 5-12 years visiting the museum. This quiz involved identifying the pictures of exhibits and artifacts displayed in the museum and there were prizes of a £5.00 book token on offer for each of the first three completed and correct entries drawn from a hat; the winners have yet to be notified.

Some children had the opportunity to practice Roman writing and numerals on pre-prepared beeswax writing tablets in the Roman manner. Others used dipping pens with the old fashioned nibs and black ink to write on paper since no Papyrus was available.

Two young bright scholars, a girl and a boy on different days, demonstrated their knowledge of the Latin they had learnt at school. Both spoke fluently and one wrote a Latin text in the Roman way on one of the wax tablets.

On the Saturday, to conclude this event at the museum, we all had the opportunity to sample some of pre-prepared recipes for Roman food which involved the considerable use of honey and an anchovy sauce as a substitute for a rather lethal fish stock, known as Garum.

Our simple Menu consisted of;

- Gustatio -Conditum paradoxum (spiced wine)
- Sala Cattabia (bread & chicken salad)
- Honeyed mushrooms
- Epityrum or olive relish
- Celery Puree
- Savoury Cheesecake

- Sweet Cheesecake

Finally, in the afternoon, we all had the opportunity to meet Justine Monson a well known local potter who gave us a demonstration of wheel thrown pots having produced in advance, for our exhibition, a Roman copy of a funerary jar, based on an original design with a humorous face, together with a wine flagon without handle. It is hoped both pots will be put on show at the museum, following firing, later in the year together with a replica of a box flue tile demonstrated at this event. A number of children were also given the opportunity to raise a pot on the wheel with guidance and assistance from Justine.

To all our guests and visitors, those stewards on duty on the three open days and to those members of the L&DLHS and the Friends of the Leatherhead Museum who encouraged and supported this event, I would like to thank you one and all.

David Hartley

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

HERITAGE WEEKEND

This will be Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 September. Full details of all events may be found in the Heritage booklet.

Our Society will be taking part in Heritage Weekend as usual, including the following events: on the Saturday morning we shall be giving tours of Sweech House (times in the Heritage booklet), and there will be a display called 'Leatherhead 1841: A-Z' making use of the old tithe map of 1841 at the Institute all Saturday. This has been compiled by John Morris, and the historical interest is in finding out who owned the various plots of land at that time. By using an 'overlay' to place over the

map you will be able to see what existed on the land where you live now. N.B. The Heritage booklet says Sat. and Sun. at the Institute but, in fact, this display will be on view at the Museum on the Sunday which will be open that day from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

On the Sunday afternoon there will be a guided historical walk round the town centre starting from the Institute at 2.00 p.m. (Booking required - see Heritage booklet.) The walk takes about an hour to one and a half hours. Refreshments available at the Institute all day both days.

Linda Heath

"Three lost Tudor Palaces in Surrey"

Edwina Vardey (Editor, *History of Leatherhead, A town at the crossroads*) is to give a talk on "Three lost Tudor Palaces in Surrey" at the Council Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking on Saturday, 11 September at 2.00 p.m.

Edwina Vardey also heads up Bookham and Leatherhead U3A Creative Writing Group who, once again, are performing their own work at the Penny Readings, part of Mole Valley Arts Festival, on 27 October at 7.30 p.m. in Corbetts Bookshop, Swan Centre, Leatherhead.

LECTURES

Lectures are held on Friday evenings in the Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, the High Street at 8.00 p.m. with coffee beforehand at 7.30 p.m. -including the December meeting.

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.

Friday, 21 October. The Dallaway Lecture

This year's Dallaway Lecture is on "Surrey's ancient houses and their dating by tree-rings". The speaker will be Rod Wild, co-ordinator of the Surrey Dendrochronology Project who lives in a timber-framed Surrey house himself.

Friday, 18 November. "Iron Age Forts in Surrey" by Trudie Cole

Trudie is the Education Officer for the Surrey County Archaeological Unit and has done extensive research including digs on the Surrey sites. Her talk will provide a fascinating insight into the lives of the people who inhabited these places.

Friday, 16 December. "Leatherhead, then and now"

This meeting will be preceded by mince pies with coffee at 7.30 p.m.

Last year we made a break from our traditional Christmas Miscellany by substituting a question and answer session with audience participation, and this year there will be something on similar lines. Linda Heath and Peter Tarplee are going to talk about compiling their new book on "Leatherhead & District Then and Now" which is due out in the autumn. They will show "Then and Now" slides of some photos used in the book and some which were not used, to be followed by questions and comments from the audience.

FUTURE EVENTS

The programme committee would continue to welcome comments and ideas for future lectures, walks and visits. We had no response to the appeal in the May *Newsletter* and, therefore, if you have any suggestions please send them, with your name and telephone number or anonymously if you wish, to me at the museum, Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP. Thanking you in anticipation,

Fred Meynen

THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF "SCOUTING" IN LEATHERHEAD

David Oinn, Group Chairman of 1st / 8th Leatherhead Scout Group (and a member of our Society), has written to ask if anyone formerly involved in the local scouting movement could provide him with information as material for production of an illustrated book, "Leatherhead Scouts-85 years" to mark an anniversary in 2006. He may be contacted at 13 Oaks Close, Leatherhead, KT22 7SH - by telephone: 01372 374145

Brian Bouchard

Items for November 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 October, please.

Brian Bouchard

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