

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**NEWSLETTER**



February, 2006

# LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

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**CHAIRMAN**  
Peter Tarplee  
01372 452301

**SECRETARY**  
Vivien Hollingsworth  
01372 801357

**TREASURER**  
Norma Robertson  
01372 453795

The Society meets on the third Friday of the month at the Letherhead Institute between  
September and May.

For details see programme in this issue

## 2006 Membership Subscriptions

Ordinary.....£15.00

Associate.....£6.00

Junior (under 18).....£1.00

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Jenny Morris

01372 362524

**The Museum** will be open at the following times from Saturday, 1st April to mid-December 2006

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**

Peter Wells

01372 272367

**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

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

First of all I must apologise for a mistake in a notice which I produced for the November, 2005 *Newsletter*. I gave the date of the Surrey Archaeological Society's Archaeological Research Committee's Annual Symposium as 25 January. This should have been 25 February - I apologise to anyone who was misled by this. Our society will be having a display at this event which starts at 10.00 hrs (coffee from 09.30) at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall and finishes at 17.00hrs.

We have been without a Secretary since July when Judith Mills moved from Leatherhead and I am very pleased to report that at their November, 2005 meeting the Executive Committee co-opted Vivien Hollingsworth to be Honorary Secretary. Our grateful thanks go to Vivien for taking over this work for the Society.

You will also know from the November *Newsletter* that this is the last issue that will be edited by Brian Bouchard. We thank him for keeping the publication going over the past year but I regret that no-one has come forward to take his place and so the prospects for a *Newsletter* in May are vague. There is still an opportunity for someone to save the situation and maintain the continuity of an organ which has been published since 1947. It would be a pity if we celebrate our Diamond Anniversary by not having a *Newsletter*.

We have started our celebrations, however, with our Diamond Anniversary Annual Dinner which was held at the Bookham Grange Hotel on 27 January. We were pleased to welcome Audrey Monk as our Guest Speaker this year. Audrey Monk is the President of the Surrey Archaeological Society and she gave a very interesting and helpful talk which explained how both local and county-wide history societies had their parts to play. I hope that she also convinced some of our members that the archaeological society does not just do digging and that

local societies such as ours are not precluded from being involved in archaeological excavations. Audrey also referred to the swingeing cuts which are being proposed by Surrey County Council and their likely effect on societies such as ours. She was concerned at the loss of services following the reduction in staff working in the heritage field. The archaeological and other specialists will disappear and the future of the museum service is also seriously in doubt.

I often feel that the authorities are readily prepared to consider cutting the Surrey museums service, presumably as they feel that museums can manage on their own. That may be possible for museums with professional curatorial staff but amateur-run museums, such as ours, rely very much on help from the professionals in the Museum Development Officer's department. We are at present endeavouring to upgrade Leatherhead Museum from being 'Registered' to being 'Accredited' and help and advice at these times is invaluable. Local authorities are ever willing to publicize a town by noting its museum as an attraction, they get the museum operated by enthusiastic amateurs at little cost to the authority, and the least they could do is not reduce the professional help available at county level.

Enclosed with this *Newsletter* you will find the papers for the AGM. I would ask that as many of you as can do come to the AGM and that you also consider the vacancies on the Executive Committee and submit your nominations by 20 March. As I said last year, I am standing down at this AGM after ten years as Chairman and so whatever happens the Society will have a new Chairman after the meeting.

*Peter Tarplee*

## **DAVID BRUCE - IN MEMORIAM**

Members will be very sorry to hear that David Bruce died in December after a heart valve replacement. David occupied various key posts in our Society, having been Records Secretary, Hon. Secretary, our first Museum Curator, and Chairman of the Museum Trustees.

How David came to be Records Secretary is rather amusing in retrospect, though perhaps not quite so amusing for him at the time. 1968 was the year of the Great Flood in Leatherhead and many nearby properties were flooded. At this time the records were in Fetcham in the garage of Mr. Ruby, Chairman of the Society, who had died earlier that year. Answering a plea from Mrs. Ruby to rescue the records from the floods, John Lewarne collected them and decided to take them round to David Bruce. As David and his wife were out, John Lewarne left them with their daughter - complete with wardrobe in which to house them! So that was how he became Records Secretary. He held this post until 1984, and also that of Hon. Secretary from 1970-71.

However, undoubtedly what David is best remembered for is being our first Museum Curator from 1983-1991. Although many volunteers helped with the restoration of Hampton Cottage, enabling it to open as a Museum in 1980, it was David who, almost single-handedly, acquired the artefacts to display and who set everything up in the Museum. Since then it has gone from strength to strength, and it is sad that he was not able to come to the Jubilee last October. However, I am sure that he would have been very proud to see how what he established as 'his baby' has grown into such an excellent Museum which is still very much loved and cherished by all who serve it, in whatever capacity.

*Linda Heath*

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Recent additions to the library:

### SURREY - Individual Towns & Villages

#### LEATHERHEAD

HEATH, Linda & TARPLEE, Peter- Leatherhead & District: Then & Now. Tempus, 2005

Members are strongly recommended to buy their own copies at £12.99. They will be on sale at the Friday evening lectures and at the museum when it re-opens on Saturday, 1 April 2006.

This book was launched on 8 October as part of the celebrations marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Leatherhead Museum. "This collection of past and present images offers the opportunity to compare and contrast changing modes of fashion and transportation, shops and businesses, houses and public buildings, while recalling local people who once lived and worked in Leatherhead and the surrounding area."

"Ashted Park was the medieval manor house of Ashted and was visited several times by Samuel Pepys. It was bought in 1680 by Sir Robert Howard, who was described as 'not ill-natured but insufferably boring'. By 1684 he had built the present house to the south-east of the old one, planted avenues of trees, made fountains and gardens, enclosed the parkland and installed a herd of deer. So he achieved a good deal in spite of being boring!"

"A wide range of [Ronson] products as well as lighters was made by the company. Electric toothbrushes, hairdryers and shavers were produced

as well as other butane-operated devices such as blow lamps and decorative candles. A display of many of these may be seen in Leatherhead Museum.”

NEWBOLD, Andy & GABBERT, Euan- A day in the life of Leatherhead. Acorn Images, 2005 (£9.95)

Photography started before 7.00 a.m. on Thursday, 11 August 2005, and did not finish until 11.30 p.m.

The museum is given a two-page spread, with an excellent photograph of John Wettren and the stewards for that day, Gwen Hoad and Val Hammond.

“Leatherhead Museum affords a unique glimpse into the town’s past and is well worth a visit. The building itself is one of the town’s treasures.”

## SURREY – PLACE NAMES

SMITH, Gavin – Surrey Place-names. Heart of Albion, 2005

The author has sent us a complimentary copy. You can buy the book for £6.95 or obtain it from Gavin Smith at the reduced price of £6 (postage and packing free of charge). His address is:

32 Langton Court Road, BRISTOL BS4 4EH (tel. no.: 0117-977-4252)

“There were many influences on the naming of Surrey’s places: early paganism, multicultural mixing, economic development, land

management, ecclesiastical history, regional politics, the influence of London, and a gradual shift from Celtic to the Old English language."

"Leatherhead in circa 880 was recorded as Leodridan...interpreted...as Germanic leode rida "the public ford"...[but] in 1980 re-evaluated...as Celtic leta ritu 'grey (well, perhaps chalky-white) ford'. Instantly Leatherhead jumped back in time by a few centuries, from being English to being Romano-British."

### SURREY-TOPOGRAPHICAL & MAPS

BRANDON, Peter - The North Downs. Phillimore, 2005

"The North Downs and Surrey Hills have for centuries been the most important of London's lungs. It would be difficult to find an area of comparable size with such diversity, and the corresponding responses to this of plant, animal and human life, anywhere in the world."

"A section takes in the Downs between Dorking and Epsom and depicts the setting of the beautifully diversified scene from Jane Austen's 'Emma'...; the common downs of Fetcham, Betchworth, Leatherhead and Walton, Epsom with its race-course; the commonable heaths of Headley and Ashcombe; the common fields in each of the parishes of Ashted, Leatherhead and Bookham. All this diversity was thickly beset with gentlemen's country houses and parks, including Norbury Park, Churt Park, Denbies, the Deepdene, Betchworth Castle, Fetcham Park, Bookham and Ashted Parks, Woodcote, Durdans and Thorncroft. Pepys' little excursion can be worked out from John Lawrence's map of Ashted dated 1638."

[The portrait on page 108 is of Horace Walpole of Strawberry Hill, not of John Evelyn. A portrait of Evelyn appears on page 19 in the book below].

## SURREY - LITERARY & OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Banerjee, Jacqueline - Literary Surrey. John Owen Smith, 2005

Chapters are devoted to:

John Evelyn, Fanny Burney, country writers in Surrey (William Cobbett and Richard Jefferies), Matthew Arnold, George Meredith, children's writers in Surrey (including Lewis Carroll, F. Anstey, and Enid Blyton), H. G. Wells, E. M. Forster and Surrey writers at war (including John Galsworthy, Warwick Deeping, Siegfried Sassoon, and R. C. Sherriff).

[Note: The booklet "Literary Leatherhead and its surroundings: writers with local connections", published by the Society, is still available in the museum.]

### **FREE OFFER!**

#### Volumes produced by the Surrey Record Society

One of each of the following volumes is a duplicate and is offered to members free of charge:

- Vol. XXX: The Deposition Book of Richard Wyatt, JP: 1767-76
- Vol. XXXI: The 1235 Surrey Eyre: Part 1: Introduction and Biographia
- Vol. XXXII: The 1235 Surrey Eyre: Part 2: Text and translation
- Vol. XXXVI: Gunpowder Mills: Documents of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Vol. XXXVII: Index to the 1235 Surrey Eyre

Vol. XXXVIII: The 1258-9 Special Eyre of Surrey and Kent

If a member would like any of these volumes, please ring me on 01372-272367.

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.

*Peter Wells*

**AMENDMENT TO THE REPORT ON OCTOBER, 2005 LECTURE  
"Surrey's ancient houses and their dating by tree-rings"**

Howard Davies has written to suggest that the sentence, beginning on the ninth line of Page 23 in last November's *Newsletter*, about his contribution to Mr. Wild's talk should be revised to "Howard Davies reminded us of an earlier tree-ring dating for the felling of three of the timbers in the roof of the church tower of Ashted church as 1450/1483." He also asked for the following comment to be added: - "This may confirm other evidence of the building or repair of the tower early in the 16<sup>th</sup> century from such wood as was available."

*Brian Bouchard*

## CANADIANS IN BOOKHAM (1940-1944)

Further to the editor's note in the last bulletin, "The Friendship Tree" and its commemorative plaque can be found outside 5 Eastwick Park Avenue. It is thought that the trees were planted near a guardhouse erected beside the main drive leading towards the school from Lower Road. Little is known of the Canadians stationed at the school during the early war years, but information provided by Ed. Storey, the Royal Canadian Engineers historian in Ottawa, indicates that the 4th Canadian Field Survey Company were at Southey Hall from 31 March 1944 until about 18 August 1944 when they went to Normandy. Their role whilst at Southey Hall is not clear, but the company does seem to have been involved in the preparation of maps for use in France. The 2nd and 3rd Field Survey Companies were also at Southey Hall around the same time.

*Brian Godfrey*

## NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

The year 2005 ended with a flourish when, shortly before Christmas, the Friends were hosts to the stewards and those who help at the Museum. Stewards whilst on duty at the museum have few opportunities to meet their colleagues so this was not just a pleasant social event but also a chance to get to know others involved with the museum.

Planning towards a successful 2006 is well advanced, and dates of events throughout the year have largely been fixed. Anticipating the opening of the museum on Saturday, 1 April, training sessions for the stewards are being prepared. These will take place during the final weeks of March and once again we are indebted to Messrs Bairstow Eves, across the road from the museum, for the use of their conference room.

Events at the museum will once again include Arts and Crafts demonstrations with participation by young and old. These will be in early June during the schools' half-term break. Also during the summer we will be assisting with the holding of the Archaeology Days, so successfully pioneered with the Roman Days last year.

Visit to Shere Museum and Church. On Wednesday, 22 March we are invited to visit this unique, privately owned museum shortly before it closes in order to move to new premises: also to visit the 12<sup>th</sup> century village church.

History Society members are welcome to join the Friends for this outing. Those interested should contact Fred Meynen, telephone 01372 372930.

As a reciprocal gesture the Society aims to combine with the Friends on their outing in June. The destination will be the village of Selborne in Hampshire. Fuller details of this appear elsewhere in this edition of the *Newsletter*.

Secrets of the Museum will be revealed at a meeting on Tuesday, 25 April, combining with a brief annual general meeting of the Friends. It will take place at the hall opposite Leatherhead parish church, and two interesting presentations will be given. The first, by Gwen Hoad, will reveal the riches of the museum's historic costume collection, most of which has to be kept in store due to our lack of space. Afterwards Dr Fred Meynen will talk about health care in former times, telling us about some of the objects that were used in those days. The meeting will start at 7.30 p.m. and anyone who is interested is welcome to come along.

*John Wettern*

## **REPORT OF THE NOVEMBER LECTURE**

**Friday, 18 November. "Landscape Archaeology in Surrey" by Judie English MA.**

Judie gave an update of her work since her last visit to us four years ago. Landscape archaeology is using simple surveying techniques to determine the use to which the land had been put. Work is done in close liaison with Dr Rob. McGibbon of the Surrey Archaeology Society who is regenerating heaths to prevent them becoming scrub woodland. She described three projects:-

### **1. Survey of 19th century military earthworks**

Recent work on the Ash Ranges in NW Surrey has located two hill forts where a combination of banks and ditches seems to suggest experimentation with different forms of defences in the mid 19th century when the government had purchased heathland to be used as army training areas. With the threat of an invasion by Napoleon, army camps were established, notably at Aldershot, and it was thought that London was largely unprotected and the French armies could be ravaging the towns in the Mole Valley Gap en route to the capital ! Earthworks consisted of combinations of internal and external ditches and banks of varying dimensions. On Hungry Hill, northwest of Farnham, a high ridge was invested with a system of trenches and polygonal redoubts (forts) built between 1854 and 1862, similar to the masonry forts built to protect Portsmouth harbour. Before the forts were built the land contained smallholdings leased by the Bishop of Wnchester for "the benefit of the poor " to avoid them ending up in the workhouse at Farnham.

## 2. Whitmore Common, north of Guildford

Work has just been completed on a site that dates back to the bronze age with two barrows (burial mounds) and a trackway. The coaxial field system was developed on sandy soil with banks held in place by hazel fences. Pollen analysis shows that cereals were grown and some of the grassland grazed. Eventually the area was taken over by grassland and has not been cultivated for the last three thousand years.

## 3. HoImbury Hill

Survey work is due to start at HoImbury Hill, one of three iron age forts probably constructed as a refuge overlooking the Weald and as a place from which to observe movements from other forts.

In concluding a fascinating lecture Judie hoped that landscape archaeology will train people to look critically at the landscape in order to determine the original use of the land. Archaeology without digging !

*Fred Meynen*

### **REPORT OF THE PRE-CHRISTMAS MEETING**

**Friday, 16 December. "Leatherhead & District, Then and Now" by Linda Heath and Peter Tarplee**

In the traditional way, the meeting was as much a social get-together as a lecture event. Coffee and mince pies were served and members and their guests gathered.

The lecture presented jointly by our president and our chairman provided copious pictures of Leatherhead and its surroundings in days

gone by. The aim was to highlight each scene, enabling the audience to see a moment in the past contrasting with the same view as it appears at the present time. The speakers referred to the recent publication of the book in their joint authorship: "Leatherhead & District, Then and Now". They explained that many books relating to the history of Leatherhead and surroundings have already appeared so, the audience might ask, what could be the justification for another one. The answer was well explained in the ensuing talk.

In planning the content and to ensure a wider public interest they chose to cover not just Leatherhead but also the outlying districts of Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham. The subject matter would be dealt with not in chronological order but in terms of theme, or rather, spheres of activity such as trade, industry, transport, countryside and so forth. In every case there would be illustrations contrasting the past with the present. Text would be used sparingly. As Peter Tarplee explained this was easier said than done. In some cases there was a dearth of pictures; sometimes however there was an overabundance, so selection had to be discerning. Many individuals had helped not only by contributing archive photos including postcards but also by producing excellent contemporary views. With Peter's presentation we saw a rich variety of scenes, both urban and rural, many reflecting changes in people's lifestyle. The row of meat and poultry carcasses hanging outside a butcher's shop made us realise how times have changed.

Linda Heath spoke of the difficulty in defining 'the present'. She pointed to cases such as that of the Bookham factory, a scene of thriving activity only a few months ago, now a burnt out shell. In matching the old with the new it was sometimes difficult to identify exactly the original photographer's viewpoint, as so much had changed in the meantime. The choice of views in Leatherhead was particularly difficult. Speaking of scenes in the High Street there were archive pictures available taken in every era from 1880 onwards. But a single choice had to be made in order to meet the publisher's requirements. Which should it be, 1905, 1912, 1928 or 1980 ?

She recalled the association of North Street with the Leatherhead fire service and showed on the screen the classic picture of the horse-drawn fire engine with its crew aboard wearing their gleaming brass helmets. Behind it was the clock tower in North Street which, she explained, was the place where the engine was housed. Her hope had been to persuade the present-day firemen to bring their machine to be pictured on the identical site. Sure enough the fire service consented. The only problem was that a white van was parked in that very place. At the hour the fire engine was due to arrive the van was still there but the driver was located. Summoning up her courage she said to the van driver : "Would you mind if I asked you to move, you see I'm expecting a fire engine ". To her relief the van drove off just as the engine arrived for her picture.

*John Wettern*

## **REPORT OF THE JANUARY LECTURE**

**Friday, 20 January. "The River Mole" by Charles Abdy**

Charles Abdy's talk on 'The River Mole' on 20 January was to a really packed audience. He described the course of the river first and how it starts south-west of Crawley, near Gatwick Airport where it runs under the main runway at one point. It is about 50 miles in length to where it joins the Thames at East Molesey, and has quite a number of tributaries. He explained how the Upper Mole from its source towards Dorking goes through sandy soil; then our section coming up through the Mole Valley is chalk; then the Lower part soil is clay.

We were treated to some beautiful slides of the river and its surrounds; quite a number of mills, of which the one at Cobham is the only one still in working condition; several bridges of interest, including all the Leatherhead ones; and lots of enticing old inns along the way!

We saw a view of the famous 'swallow holes' between Leatherhead and Dorking. In very dry weather this used to cause the river to disappear

under the soil in places along this stretch, and on some old maps it says 'Here the river runneth underground'. Some of us like to think this is how the Mole obtained its name, but we were told that historians tend to favour the more prosaic connection with Molesey.

The talk ended with some pictures of where the Mole joins the Thames and a stunning aerial view of Hampton Court across the river.

*Linda Heath*

## **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. Members £1 and visitors £2**

### **SPRING LECTURES, 2006**

**Friday, 17 February. "Management of Norbury Park Estate" by Graham Manning**

Graham is Head Ranger of the Estate and he has been in estate management since attending Merrist Wood College. His talk will include the history of the Estate and control of its flora and fauna.

**Friday, 17 March. "Surrey Vineyards, ancient and modern" by Prof. Richard Selley**

A wealth of information exists about wine growing in Britain, a history which goes back to pre Roman times. Richard Selley who is a geologist and consultant in viticulture will highlight the many sites in Surrey

where wine has been produced over the past millenia. His expertise led to the development of the Denbies estate as a vineyard.

**Friday, 21 April. AGM of the Society followed by "Time and Tithes" by John Morris**

Time permitting, subjects will include Leatherhead tithes and the friends of William the Conqueror; who owns the tithes - the Rector or the monks? Tithes collector plots against the Vicar; the end of the tithes and the map of 1841; and a new way with old maps - pioneered in Leatherhead.

**Friday, 19 May. "Selborne and Gilbert White" by Gwen Hoad**

Until recently, Gwen had been our Librarian for many years. It was from reading a very old copy of Gilbert White's 'Natural History of Selborne' belonging to her father that she first came to learn about the author. Over the years she has visited Selborne a number of times and enjoyed the grounds in different seasons. Gwen is a very keen photographer and her talk is illustrated by some beautiful slides. We are planning to follow up this talk with a visit to Selborne in June. (See visits below.)

**SPRING WALKS, 2006**

**Sunday, 30 April Guided town walk led by Linda Heath**

Leaving from the Leatherhead Museum promptly at 14.15, this walk, taking between 1 and 1 ½ hours, will proceed from place to place of historical interest. No booking is necessary. Come and find out things you didn't know about the town. There will also be an opportunity to visit the museum at the end to see the new displays and exhibits.

No charge, but donations to the museum would be welcomed.

**Sunday, 21 May Guided walk round Norbury Estate led by Graham Manning, area Ranger for East Surrey**

Following on from his talk in February, Graham will be showing us flora, fauna and points of historical interest relating to the estate. Meet at 14.30 in the Fetcham Park estate car park at the top of Young Street. Walk will take approx. 2 hours -wear stout shoes and dogs are welcome provided they are controlled on a lead. Fee payable on site £3.00 , part of which will be donated to the Surrey Wild Life Trust. Please fill in the enclosed form if you would like to come, indicating if you would like a lift.

**Tuesday 20 June. Combined visit by cars with Friends of the Museum to Selborne, home of Gilbert White**

Arranged, following Gwen Hoad's talk in May, to avoid weekends. It is a pleasant drive of 1 - 1 ½ hours along the A3 to Alton, then B3006 - house well signposted. We shall meet in their excellent shop at 11.15 a.m. (opens at 11 a.m.) and hope to have short introductory talk before being free to wander round house and grounds at our leisure. The house also includes the Oates Museum in memory of the Oates family. (Lawrence Oates died on Scott's ill-fated expedition to the South Pole.) Lunch can be obtained in a nice restaurant (quite small) in the house, or there are several pubs nearby.

Cost £5.00. Applications and cheques to Linda Heath by the end of May please.

## **July, Advance Notice. Visit to Slyfield Manor**

Actual date to be announced. Limited numbers, so look out for details in *May, Newsletter* and book early.

*Fred. Meynen*

## **ANNUAL HISTORY SOCIETY DINNER, 27 January 2006**

On Friday, 27 January our third Annual Dinner took place at Bookham Grange Hotel, again arranged by Fred Meynen. As before, it was a most enjoyable occasion and, as we were celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society, the dining room was decorated with festive balloons and Margaret Meynen's pretty floral table centrepieces. The meal itself was excellent, with plenty of time to enjoy both food and conversation.

We were delighted that our sole remaining founder member, Stephen Fortescue, and his wife Henrietta, were with us to celebrate the occasion. Our guest speaker was Audrey Monk, President of Surrey Archaeological Society, who gave us an excellent and thought-provoking speech after the dinner. She congratulated the Society not only on reaching our Diamond Jubilee, but on its achievements and its excellent reputation, not least for our annual Proceedings. She remarked also on the close associations linking our Societies, citing Captain A.G. Lowther FSA, our first Chairman, and John Harvey as two members both renowned for their archaeological research.

Audrey Monk went on to tell us that Surrey County Council is making considerable cuts in their staff in places such as the Surrey History Centre at Woking. Because of this the Council is devolving much of its work onto local borough councils, particularly in relation to matters of local historic interest. It is therefore essential that Societies such as ours should make sure that local councils are fully aware of the importance

of places and buildings of historic interest - unfortunately, this is by no means always the case. We then returned to festive mood by drinking the Society's health. Our thanks to Fred Meynen for arranging the dinner - let's hope we can continue to make it an annual event.

*Linda Heath*

### **PROPOSED ARCHIVES RESEARCH CENTRE AT HAMPTON COTTAGE**

As members will know, we are always short of storage space and we have no central place in which to keep our archives. The Executive Committee and the Museum Trustees have therefore applied for planning permission for a small building at the end of the Museum garden where our archives could be both stored and studied. This would be a major undertaking and all our members should be aware of it before proceeding further with such a scheme. Enclosed with the AGM material is an article explaining various options, which I hope all members will read. It is an ambitious scheme, but could be a well worthwhile project.

*Linda Heath*

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2006**

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.

*Jenny Morris*

**Items for the May, 2006 Newsletter should be addressed to the Editor and sent c/o Vivien Hollingsworth, 16 Mead Crescent, Bookham, KT23 3DU not later than 28 April please.**

*Brian Bouchard*

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

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Position vacant**

## **Proceedings**

**EDITOR**

**Barry Cox**

**01372 273167**

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Contact by email [barry\\_cox@btopenworld.com](mailto:barry_cox@btopenworld.com)

## **Records**

**RECORDS SECRETARY**

**Brian Godfrey**

**01372 454654**

The Society has some archival material, documents, illustrations and maps which may be accessed through the following members:-

Ashted	Jack Willis
Bookham	Brian Godfrey
Fetcham documents	Alan Pooley
Fetcham photographs and maps	Ed Tims
Leatherhead documents	John Derry
Leatherhead photographs	Linda Heath
Leatherhead maps	Alan Pooley

**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**

