

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**NEWSLETTER**



**NOVEMBER 2006**

# **LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Registered Charity No. 802409

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**CHAIRMAN**

David Hartley  
01306 743828

**SECRETARY**

Vivien Hollingsworth  
01372 801357

**TREASURER**

Norma Robertson  
01372 453795

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

For details see programme in the appropriate Newsletter

### **2007 Membership Subscriptions (NOW DUE)**

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 until Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2006. It will reopen  
at the beginning of April next year.

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**

Fred Meynen

01372 372930

**The Library** at The Leatherhead 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

*Further details may be found on the inside back cover*

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello, and welcome to this our November Newsletter. There are a number of examples I would like to explore on the subject of participation and getting involved.

Firstly this year's Dallaway Lecture given by Stephen Fortescue on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006. He chose as his subject *The History of our Society* since it marked the occasion of our Diamond Jubilee, 60 years of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society from its foundation in the Autumn of 1946 to the present. Linda Heath our President has written a full report elsewhere in this Newsletter. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who attended and supported this event, I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. In particular I would like to thank the organising sub-committee of Dr Fred Meynen, Vivien Hollingsworth and Lindsay Trim and all those other members who helped and assisted in various ways on the night to make that evening a success.

Congratulations are in order. I have been informed that the Museum will shortly be receiving its formal accreditation. A vote of thanks should go to Alan Pooley for all his hard work and professionalism in making our submission to the accreditation board. It will I hope send all the right signals to all those outside the circle and the public at large, it denotes in my opinion the quality and professionalism of our local Museum, its manager, curator, helpers and stewards and all volunteers who give up their time to participate and support the running of a very fine, interesting and successful museum.

I would also like to sing the praises of another organisation, the Surrey History Centre at Woking. I needed to visit the centre in October on two separate occasions recently, researching and gathering photographs and illustrations for our Society's presentation to the Local History Symposium at Chertsey on the subject of '*Parks in Surrey*' (the review follows elsewhere in this Newsletter). I had the opportunity to observe at first hand how the archivists and staff dealt with the enquiries of visitors to

the Centre, and was very impressed by their level of knowledge, interest and patience in dealing with all enquiries. I thank them all for their helpful support, in dealing with my enquiry.

The History Centre is a wonderful resource and I would highly recommend that you take the opportunity to visit the centre and look into their Robert Barclay Collection, a unique assembly of watercolours depicting views of Surrey by John Hassell, 1767-1825. He painted these while travelling through the county in the 1820s. An excellent resource and, taken together with the History Centre's separate catalogues of illustrations, prints and photographs, it is a very good starting point for further work on local history.

Finally, Autumn and Winter pastimes and themes for Christmas. Please don't forget on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December our '*Christmas Miscellany*' to round off the year with coffee and mince pies I look forward to meeting you there.

**Christmas Past & Present** – We have some excellent books on local history available at the Museum shop, they would make nice present for someone. Another Christmas idea : why not gift a year's subscription to the History Society for a close friend or member of your family for Christmas. I feel sure that they would enjoy joining you at next season's lecture series at the Leatherhead Institute.

Just a timely reminder that members' subscriptions to the History Society for 2007 fall due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. And please note that any standing orders for the current year should now be cancelled. All payments will be gratefully received by personal cheque. There will be no increase in subscription levels for the coming year. If you have not already completed a gift aid application for 2006 may I suggest that if you consider completing one for your 2007 subscription. The current subscriptions levels are published at the back of this Newsletter. Any enquiries concerning Gift Aid should be addressed to Jenny Morris our Membership Secretary.

*David Hartley*

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

### Recent additions to the library

#### SURREY – Individual Towns & Villages

##### EFFINGHAM

RICE-OXLEY, Mary & Simon – “*Effingham: a Surrey Village Remembered*”. Page to Page, 2006

These photographs show Effingham in the early years, a peaceful small village, little touched by the outside world. Now the through traffic and the twice daily school traffic along roads mainly unchanged, present a different situation.

##### LEATHERHEAD

POWELL, Goff – “*The Inns and Public Houses of Leatherhead and District*”. L&DLHS, 2006

This booklet is described on page 7 of the August newsletter. Here follows a short extract:

“*The Original King's Head, High Street, Leatherhead:*  
*The original inn was destroyed by fire in 1794 and was rebuilt. It stood on the eastern corner of King's Head Alley and jutted out into the High Street. It was described as 'one of the beauties of the town' but people who used to go there said it was a 'long and awkward sort of pub'. It was demolished in 1929 and a Sainsbury's store was built here.*”

#### **Books on offer:**

Robert Lever's widow kindly gave Jack Willis a number of books from his collection. Jack has selected and listed the following as being of interest to members:

Philip Riden – “*Record Sources for Local History*”

W G Hoskins – “*Fieldwork in Local History*”

Robert Dunning – “*Local Sources for the Young Historian*”

W B Stephens – “*Sources for English Local History*”

Robert Douch – “*Local History and the Teacher*”

Francis Celeria – “*Local History*” (Teach Yourself Books)

F G Emmison – “*Archives and Local History*”

F G Emmison - “*How to read local archives, 1550-1700*”  
David Iredale – “*Discovering Local History*”  
J R Armstrong & P G H Hopkins – “*Local Studies*”  
Judith A Brent – “*The History of a Parish or Locality*”  
D W Humphreys – “*Local History in School*”  
British Local History – a Selected Bibliography  
“*How to Write a Parish Guide*”  
Surrey History: Vol. 1: No 5;  
Vol. 2 : Nos 1, 2, 3, 4 (some pages are missing from Nos 1 & 4);  
Vol. 3: Nos 2, 3, 4, 5;  
Vol. 4: No 1

The following books, already in the library, are also on offer:

Duncan Moul – “*Picturesque Surrey*”. F E Robinson, 1902  
E A Judges – “*Some West Surrey Villages*”. ‘Surrey Times’ Printing & Publishing, 1901

If a member would like any of the aforementioned books, please ring me on 01372 272367. The books are offered free of charge, but of course a donation is always welcome!

*Peter Wells*

## NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM & AN APPEAL

Leatherhead Museum of Local History has just been awarded *Accredited Museum* status. This is the successor to the *Registered Museum* status that we have had over the last six years and it has been achieved through quite hard work in demonstrating to the Museums Libraries and Archives Council that we have in place the practices, policies and facilities that meet their exacting standards. We have admitted that there are deficiencies in our standards of care of the artefacts and in other procedures but they obviously have accepted our proposed programme of work over the next few years to mitigate the deficiencies. However we will *never achieve* the deadlines or maintain a professional operation unless we develop a team of volunteers in addition to the few who already do sterling work around the back.

For example, we have a list of all the artefacts that are recorded as being in poor condition, and the first stage is simply to physically examine them

and see if any conservation is required and thus determine if we have a problem — no specialist skill required, just common sense. We have secretarial type work sitting around undone. We need a team of volunteers specifically to handle housekeeping duties. We need volunteers to undertake Health and Safety and Fire Safety inspections. These latter matters are mandatory legal requirements and again no specialist skill is needed, we have procedures already established, waiting to be implemented. We need help in the processing of new artefacts — (they don't get recorded and marked by the fairies unfortunately). It may be that a few volunteers might choose to make a regular time at the Museum say a Wednesday afternoon or perhaps come at other times, whilst others as and when, We are looking for suggestions, and if you think that you might be interested then please let me know, and depending upon the response we hope to call a special meeting to establish arrangements.

*Alan V Pooley 01372 374093*

## **FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGY SECRETARY**

October heralded the launch of the long-awaited Surrey Archaeological Research Framework 2006 (SARF) with the sub title, '*Providing the Foundation for Future Archaeological Work in Surrey*'. This document amounting to 87 pages was the culmination of numerous meetings and consultations led by David Bird with the steering group and interested members of the Surrey Archaeological Society. It was prepared and presented by David Bird, former county archaeologist on behalf of the Surrey County Council and the Surrey Archaeological Society whose name is attached to the final document and published in an Adobe Acrobat PDF format for the widest possible distribution by the internet from [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk) or [www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

The success or the failure of this proposition will ultimately depend largely on how Surrey Archaeological Society adopt and take up this manifesto, mobilising and encouraging the various interest groups within the Society. Ultimately the Surrey County Council must be prepared to nail their colours to the mast and put their full weight, resources and taxpayers' money behind achieving both the short and long term objectives for Surrey and the South East. Otherwise this document may just as well lie on the shelf to gather dust. The archaeologists and the

historians will however continue to pursue their own lines of research and tangible objectives.

Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> October was the day of the Local History Symposium at Chertsey. The theme of this year's symposium was '*Parks in Surrey*', an interesting choice of subject and a good starting point as a spring board for further and future research. The subject was intended to be interpreted as broadly as possible encompassing ancient Royal Mediaeval hunting parks for the King and his friends, through to the private parks, estates of the ennobled families, lords of the manor, through the social order to the country seats of the squire and country gentlemen, the estates of the *nouveau riche*, the brewers, manufacturers and industrialists, finally the public parks, including the Celebration and Memorial parks and recreation grounds such as King George V.

Most if not all of Surrey's local history societies were well represented at this symposium and everyone had made a good effort to apply this year's theme to their particular locality, highlighting a local landed estate past or present, depicted in a written and pictorial display, their archive research illustrated with estate maps, pictures, photographs etc.

This year's presentation for the Gravett Prize was awarded to the much deserved Egham and Runnymede Trust. The publishers Phillimore provided the prizes.

Phillimores had their usual bookstall in the lobby with an excellent display of books and new titles added to their catalogue on local history, people and places. I was able to purchase, appropriately enough, their 2006 reprint of the title "*Capability Brown and The Eighteenth Century English Landscape*" by Roger Turner.

The lecture programme however proved to be a little disappointing and not quite up to the standard of past Local History Symposium speakers with two exceptions : Brenda Lewis of Surrey Garden Trust on "*Surrey Parks from Medieval to Municipal*" and Judie English, vice president of the Surrey Archaeological Society, on "*Baynards Park*".

However, all said and done, it was worth the participation, and indeed the subject as a whole deserves further research, exploration and development. We can thus build on the achievements of the local societies and the speakers. There is an enormous potential here to develop the roots and look at the detail.

*David Hartley*

## REPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER LECTURE

### Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September. “*Roman Surrey*” by Dr David Bird

At this meeting the speaker, the former County Archaeologist, described the evidence for the four centuries of Roman rule in the county, demolishing many myths in the process. He pointed out that Surrey did not then exist as a unit. London only became a town after the Roman army arrived : the Iron Age tribal centres were at Silchester and Chichester. The Surrey region had a small population, mostly living in roundhouses near the hill forts to the west and south.

Dr Bird said that Julius Caesar’s expedition of 55 B.C. led to increasing Roman influences in southern Britain, and the Claudian conquest a century later was not entirely unwelcome. It was uncertain whether the army had landed on the Kent or the Sussex coast, and the battle fought south of the Thames might have been beside either the Mole, Wey or Medway rivers.

The most obvious survival was the Roman road system. The first to be built linked the old tribal capitals – one ran direct from Silchester to Colchester, ‘island hopping’ across the Thames at Staines, just like the later roads from the south converging on London across the islands at Southwark. The settlement which grew up here was subject to flooding (early climate change ?), and recent excavations have uncovered whole timber floors, mosaic pavements and wall paintings. Roads were only straight in sections: Stane Street has a ‘dog-leg’ at Ewell, around a sacred spring-head site with a series of ritually filled shafts at Hatch Furlong, being reinvestigated this year and next. A little further south the road had to negotiate the slopes of Box Hill. The equivalent of a ‘service station’ probably existed at Burford Bridge, since the finds at Dorking suggest a large private villa. The road from Winchester to London has been traced through Hampshire but not into Surrey.

Roman villas were usually found below the chalk ridges, with good views. The best excavated one is Rapsley (Ewhurst), a working farm unit using high-quality Cologne glass and Samian pottery from Gaul. The villa and bathhouse in Ashtead Woods was being studied afresh 80 years after its excavation by the Society's first president, Captain A.W.G.Lowther. Unusually, its rooms overlap one another and the walls were jacketed in box flue-tiles. An unusual tile stamp had figures of a dog and stag together with the initials of the villa's owner and his tile works manager. There was a second villa near the later parish church. The tiles were fired in bonfire clamps, but properly-built kilns have been discovered at Horton (Epsom), Tilford and recently Reigate – moved for permanent display.

The Roman army brought in various new religions as well as 'official' ones (Christianity only became paramount in the fourth century), as well as private shrines. Large rectangular temples have been excavated at Farley Heath and Wanborough, with priestly regalia like sceptres and head-dresses. There was an earlier round Romano-British temple at Wanborough, both looted by modern treasure hunters of nearly ten thousand coins. This scandal led to the changes in the law of treasure trove.

Burial took place outside settlements, often beside a road. Stone and lead coffins have been found at Beddington but cremation (with grave goods) was more usual.

Changes were slow to occur in the countryside: the irregular shape of Iron Age fields was only replaced by rectangular ones (twice as long as wide) about 200 A.D. By the time that the army (mainly then German units) left in A.D. 410, all freemen in Britain were Roman citizens (at least in theory) and some elements of Roman civilisation survived for many years.

Dr. Bird fielded many questions, on land ownership, logistics of tile making and forms of transport.

*Derek Renn*

## THE DALLAWAY LECTURE – Our Diamond Jubilee

There can be few people who were founder members of any Society who give a lecture to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but such was the case on

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Stephen Fortescue, local historian and author, former President and founder member of our Society gave our annual Dallaway Lecture on '*The First Sixty Years*'. After explaining that the lecture was named after James Dallaway, an avid historian who was vicar of Leatherhead from 1804 to 1834, he gave a fascinating picture of life in Bookham before World War II and then went on to describe how the Society began. A notice appeared in the Leatherhead Advertiser asking people who were interested in setting up a local history society to come along, and about thirty turned up at its inaugural meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1946, of whom Stephen was one. Two of its original intentions were to produce histories of Leatherhead, Ashtead, Bookham and Fetcham, and to set up a local museum. It had been intended to keep membership restricted to those who were actively engaged in research, but it was quickly realised that this would not provide enough revenue to cover administration costs, so membership increased rapidly over the next few years.

The first chairman of the society was Captain A W G Lowther, a renowned archaeologist who led various excavations, including an area to the north west of Leatherhead near Patchesham Farm. This had revealed the foundations of a Manor House which existed from about 1200-1350. Another excavation produced the foundations of a Manor House at Effingham. Stephen also has carried out a number of local 'digs', in many cases by using dowsing methods to determine the sites. This is scorned by many archaeologists, but almost invariably produced results by Stephen. Examples of his successes with dowsing include a water tank and two wells at Effingham, an ice house and the foundations of a Roman villa at Abinger and another ice house at Juniper Hall.

It was thought that there were Saxon foundations under part of Great Bookham parish church, and Stephen located these by dowsing, but without excavation there was no proof. However, correspondence about this between Stephen and Surrey Archaeological Society (SAS) went to the British Museum and came into the hands of a Dr. McCann. He offered to do a survey at the church with new Ground Penetrating Radar equipment at a cost of £900. (A bit different from dowsing rods at no cost!) This sum was raised by donations from SAS, our own Society and

two of our members, and the findings were virtually identical with Stephen's. This certainly seems to support his dowsing methods.

Stephen felt that perhaps one of the most remarkable achievements of the Society has been the annual issue of the *Proceedings of the Society*, providing articles based on research carried out by members each year. He pointed out that *The Proceedings* contain a wealth of historical information which has not been equalled by any Society for both the quality of its content and that of its appearance.

A significant landmark in the Society's history was the acquisition of Hampton Cottage in Church Street as a Museum of Local History. This had been one of the original aims of the Society, and when Hampton Cottage came on to the market in 1976 it was Stephen who was the leading light in campaigning to buy it and in undertaking to raise funds for the purchase and restoration of the building, of which it was greatly in need. The vast majority of this was carried out by volunteer members of the Society who worked tirelessly at weekends to get it into good condition. It opened as a Museum in 1980. We remember its silver jubilee last year.

Stephen concluded by saying that looking to the future, new material is always becoming available, so if the Society is not to become merely a social club with a monthly dose of local history it is essential for members to continue and publish research. He has just carried out this advice. His latest book '*Great & Little Bookham, The North End*' has just been published and is on sale, price £5, in Leatherhead at Corbett's Bookshop and at the Museum.

After the lecture, the Diamond Jubilee celebrations continued with wine and refreshments, making a festive conclusion to the evening.

*Linda Heath.*

## AEROPLANE PROPELLERS

Lately my interests with the Society seem to have centred round aeroplane propellers. Firstly, we received in the museum a propeller donated by Mr Finch of Bookham. This was found under a bench in Luff's garage in Kingston Road, Leatherhead. It had belonged to Leatherhead Aviation Services which was operated by Mr William Chapman who was Luff's predecessor at the garage at 268, Kingston Road. The aviation company operated from an aerodrome at Byhurst Farm at Malden Rushett and carried out quite a lot of joy riding trips as well as charter work. Research on this has turned up quite a lot of information, particularly from Mr Chapman's grandson and from the Croydon Airport Society as well as a number of interesting contemporary press cuttings. I am hoping that a more complete account may appear in the Proceedings.

Having found out all I could about the Leatherhead Aviation Services my attention was drawn to a recent article in *The Leatherhead Advertiser* about the building firm Presland Brothers which stated that as well as operating a breeze block making plant they made aeroplane propellers during World War I. More interestingly, they were said to have made the propellers for the Vickers Vimy in which Alcock and Brown made the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic in 1919. We have been trying to verify this but, so far, have found no proof (except the newspaper article).

The original Vimy plane is on display in the Science Museum but its propellers are replacements as the original ones were damaged when the plane landed in Ireland. Correspondence has taken place with the appropriate curator but they have no details of suppliers of parts for the original plane. One of the original propellers is in Brooklands Museum and this was examined by Doug Hollingsworth but none of the markings give us details of the maker. Preslands operated from 14, St Johns Road and 'The Withies', Garlands Road until at least 1931, and I shall be very pleased if anyone can provide any information about this company – particularly their propeller making activities. Mr Orliffe Wilfred Presland, one of the two Presland brothers, lived at 'Travelon', Ottways Lane, Ashtead.

Incidentally, the markings on Mr Chapman's propeller, which is on display in our museum, show that it was made by Betjeman & Sons who were cabinet makers in Pentonville Road, and were part of the family of the poet and journalist Sir John Betjeman.

Peter Tarplee

## THE SURREY HISTORY CENTRE - A Behind-the-scenes Visit

This was a special Heritage Day event. For the public, access to this extensive modern building at Goldsworth Road, Woking is restricted to the large reception hall, the reading room and the lecture room. Thirty people are employed there but many are never seen by the public.

Surrey History Centre the custodian for the county of records, archaeological finds and objects of historic interest. These are housed in a gigantic 'strong room' with floor-to-ceiling shelving stretching to a great height. The vista along the central corridor recedes into the far distance. For a comparison one could think of an aircraft hangar. It is temperature controlled and protected against fire. To describe the types of object held in the Centre's custody would need an article on its own. To recall some : pictures, maps, parish registers, electoral rolls, census records, directories and large numbers of family collections.

Our privilege was to be able to see the process of acquiring objects from arrival at the centre to their being installed in this magnificent archive. First however we were shown the archaeological section where finds are brought, cleaned, examined and recorded. Afterwards we visited the extensive suite of rooms on two floors in order to follow the process of accepting and '*treating*' the incoming documents. '*Treating*' covers a succession of processes which the layman would scarcely be aware of. In brief, after the essential formality of registering and indexing each article, the cleaning process begins.

To rid a document of damp, dust, mould (and sometimes spiders' remains), every single page of a book has to be inspected and treated. Then the high-tech process begins. The enemy to be kept at bay at all costs is the burrowing bookworm. Eggs and larvae have to be destroyed before the document takes its place in the archive. A deep-freeze process is the chosen method. Then comes the repairs stage. Methods of

repairing and restoring documents are too lengthy and complex to describe. This work is carried out in a large room housing equipment of all kinds.

The penultimate stage before the object goes to its shelf in the strong room is that of packaging and labelling. Systematic and standardised, the process of storing documents in a manner to ensure easy retrieval is meticulously carried out. Each object must be available to readers or researchers applying at the reading room desk so that it can be produced with a minimum of delay, and afterwards, safely returned to its appropriate place. We entered the strong room and marvelled at its vastness and the ingenuity shown in providing a safe and reliable system of access and retrieval.

The tour ended as we emerged from the ‘protected area’ into the reading room (which is shielded against ultra-violet light by special window glass) We welcomed the warmth of the environment here in contrast to the chilly temperature we experienced in the strong room. This had all been an intriguing experience, made absorbingly interesting by our guides Julian Pooley, the Centre’s Manager and his assistant, Janet Nixon whose task was to care for our safety as well as our curiosity.

*John Wettern*

## **NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM**

Our activities in the last few months have been directed towards finding new stewards as we were facing a critical situation, with insufficient numbers to cover the opening hours of the museum. Each year we lose stewards through a variety of reasons and that means the existing members having to fill the gaps. Extensive advertising in the local press including '*The Challenger*', '*Leatherhead Local*' and parish newsletters has been implemented, together with using the resources of the Theatre. The latter, initiated by Jane Merry, produced an unprecedented response which resulted in six stewards joining us and with others in the pipeline. We owe a great debt to our stewards without whom the museum would not be able to open, and as members of the Society we need to give them all our support.

The Friends Committee is giving a Christmas party for the stewards and their partners on Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm in the Institute. This is an opportunity for the stewards (and their 'other halves') to meet each other and for the Committee to say "*Thank you*" for all their dedicated work.

The museum officially closes after Saturday, 9th December till April, 2007, but as a trial we are hoping to open on Saturday 16th December from 10.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. to catch last minute shoppers. Free mince pies with every purchase! We hope to see you there.

*Fred Meynen*

## LECTURE PROGRAMME - WINTER, 2006-2007

Lectures are held on Friday evenings in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Leatherhead Institute at 8.0 p.m., preceded by coffee and biscuits at 7.30. Everyone is welcome. Entrance : Members £1, Visitors £2.

### **Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. "Christmas Miscellany"**

Coffee and mince pies will be served at 7.30 prior to the meeting. Two of our members will be giving a short talk on a topic of their own choosing, namely Goff Powell on Leatherhead's old clock tower and Brian Hennegan with a talk entitled '*Along the Lines*'. A slide quiz will follow, given by David Hartley. There will also be a display about the Society and copies of old *Proceedings* will be on sale.

### **Friday 19th January. "Rowhurst" by Lucy Quinnell**

'Rowhurst' is a 14<sup>th</sup> century private house owned by Lucy Quinnell opposite the Fire and Iron Forge and Gallery in Leatherhead. A recent 'tree ring' survey has dated the building and discovered it to be 660 years old.

### **Friday 16th February "The Kohler-Darwin Collection" by Chris and Michele Kohler**

Chris and Michele, Dorking antiquarian book collectors, have over the last 20 years built up a unique and extensive collection of 3500 Darwin archives including a first edition of '*The Origin of Species*' and a hand-written letter by

Darwin. The collection has recently been acquired by the Natural History Museum.

**Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> March “The Palace of Nonsuch” by Jeremy Harte**

Today Nonsuch Park at Ewell is an oasis of tranquil countryside in suburban Surrey. But underneath its turf lie the vanished glories of Nonsuch Palace, an architectural masterpiece which was founded on the ruins of Cuddington village. At the whim of Henry VIII it continued as the scene of Tudor and Stuart splendour for more than a hundred years and was finally destroyed in the 1680s to defray the gambling debts of a royal mistress. Jeremy Harte brings this lost history to life in his forthcoming lecture.

*Fred Meynen*

**THE ANNUAL DINNER , 2007**

The Society is holding its annual dinner on Friday, 26th January, 2007 at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. This will be at the usual venue namely Bookharn Grange Hotel, Little Bookham Common. This has proved to be a popular venue in the past with spacious accommodation, a cosy bar and ample parking. It offers a good opportunity for members, partners and friends to meet in a relaxed and informal environment.

We have invited Dr Frank Pemberton, B A , M A, A I F A to be our guest after-dinner speaker. Frank is a noted archaeologist from the Epsom and Ewell Archaeological and History Society. He grew up in Fetcham and is a lively and authoritative speaker who should both entertain and inform us.

The dinner will have three courses with coffee and mints, the cost being £22.90 per person. A cash bar is available, and seating will be at tables for six and eight people. Friends will be most welcome but please indicate on the return slip who you would like to sit with. Dress will be lounge suits.

To reserve a place please fill in the enclosed form indicating your choice of menu and seating preferences. To avoid confusion at the dinner please bring with you a note of the choice you have made.

I am afraid that cancellations made after Monday, 22nd January cannot be refunded.

We look forward to seeing you at what should be an enjoyable occasion.

*Fred Meynen*

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, 2007**

Subscriptions for the calendar year 2007 become due on 1st January next, and enclosed with this newsletter you will find a subscription renewal form. Please complete the form and send it with your cheque to me at the address shown on the form, at any time from now.

Subscription rates are :—

**Ordinary Member - £15** for the initial member in any household;

**Associate Member - £6 per head** for any additional members at  
the same address

**Junior Member - £1.**

*You will see that you can pay a subscription to the Friends of Leatherhead Museum at the same time.*

### **Important Note about Standing Orders**

LDLHS is not accepting subscriptions by standing order so please cancel any of these still in force and send me the subscription form and cheque as requested above.

### **Gift Aid**

If you are a taxpayer and wish the Society to benefit from tax refund under the Gift Aid Scheme please complete the part at the bottom of the renewal form. Last year's declarations will still be effective but if you are in doubt, please complete the form.

*Jenny Morris, Membership Secretary*

## Archaeology

**ARCHAEOLOGY SECRETARY**      **David Hartley**      **01306 743828**

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

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**      **John Wettern**      **01372 459277**

## Proceedings

**EDITOR**      **Barry Cox**      **01372 273167**

Forge Cottage, 11 Blacksmith Close, Ashtead, KT21 2BD.  
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:-

Ashtead	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, Ashtead, Bookham and Fetcham submitted via the Museum

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