

*LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY*

NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2008

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, LEATHERHEAD, Surrey, KT22 8DP

Telephone: 01372 386348

Leatherheadmuseum@localhistory.free-online.co.uk

Web site: www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk

CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER
David Hartley	Vivien Hollingsworth	Ron Clarke
01372 377839	01372 801357	01372 375496

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

For details - see programme in the current Newsletter

2007 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 from 3rd April

Thursdays and Fridays .. 1.00pm to 4.00pm Saturdays ..10.00am to 4.00pm

CURATOR (Vacancy) 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 Letherhead Institute is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.00am to 12.30pm. 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&DLHS speakers for local societies.

PROGRAMME SECRETARY Fred Meynen 01372 372930

Further details are given on the inside back cover

Chairman's Report

Hello and welcome to our first Newsletter of the New Year. It has not been a particularly auspicious start to the New Year for our Museum or the History Society and it has certainly started with a bang literally, with a car running out of control into the front of the Museum on Sunday morning 6th January. You will have probably all seen the newspaper coverage.

The Museum Trustees and Alan Pooley the Museum Manager have done everything necessary with the insurance assessors to put the work in hand to reinstate and carry out the reconstruction works as quickly as possible in order that the museum is ready to open on time in April. A report on the details of this incident is carried elsewhere in this newsletter.



Notwithstanding the time of day the unfortunate accident happened, it has in fact raised the wider issues of public safety of pedestrians, museum staff and stewards during daylight hours. This is an opportunity not to be missed to raise the matter of heavy lorries and articulated vehicles who try to negotiate these streets and we will be exploring some of these issues with the County Council in the next few months.

With this Newsletter you will be receiving the notice and agenda for this year's AGM. I do hope that you will all come and use the opportunity to make constructive comment on matters and issues that concern you both about the History Society and your museum. Your Executive Committee, Trustees and the museum manager deserve your feedback and support.

We also have the positions of Curator and Publicity Officer vacant and we will also ask you to ratify our appointment of Martin Warwick as Newsletter Editor and Ronald Clarke as our New Treasurer as our present Treasurer Mrs Norma Robertson has previously indicated her desire to retire at the AGM after a number of years in the post.

So what now of our plans for 2008? I would like to see both the history society and our museum form stronger links and networks with other history societies and museums of Guildford, Ewell and elsewhere in Surrey. At a local level we can and should build on existing and form new links with groups such as the U3A in Fetcham and Bookham to see how we can reciprocate and assist each other in research and on

joint projects.

Your executive committee have spoken about new books and publications and it's my hope that we can launch or at least start some new projects that will lead to publication and will explore other aspects of our local history and range of interests in Leatherhead and District. There may in fact be members of the history society who have or are currently working on projects, or have a manuscript suitable for publication under the umbrella of the history society – if so please speak to us.

It's quite reasonable in my opinion that the history society should support and publicise some of the talks and lectures that members give to other groups and societies. I attended recently a very interesting and informative talk given by Peter Tarplee my predecessor and now vice president of our history society to the Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeological Society (EHAS) on the subject 'The beginning of Public Utilities in Surrey'. Peter's knowledge and interest in industrial history is well known to some of us and to those within his circle of like minded colleagues. Peter, Linda Heath, Derek Renn, Goff Powell and others do give these regular and occasional talks and lectures.

David Hartley

Museum Appeal

Volunteers and Ideas

The first stage of the appeal could be said to be over as the main donations from members and friends have been received and we can only expect further contributions to be minor. Many thanks for the generosity you have shown. There is always much work to be done. Fortunately the recent accident and demolishment of the bow window will probably be entirely met by insurance.

Grant giving bodies are mostly looking for new work to give funding - it is easier to obtain a grant to build an extension than to maintain an existing asset. Because of this we will need to stage money making events. If we are to raise further funds we will need volunteers to help us and offer need ideas. The Trust itself is bound by a limit of only six trustees.

Please help us with your ideas and your time.

John Morris

Treasurer & Trustee 01372 362524

The Lushingtons of Cobham

David Taylor MA, FSA, the well known Cobham historian and writer, was the speaker for our November meeting. David explained to the audience how he first became aware of the Lushingtons when writing his book on the history of Pyports, once the country home of Vernon Lushington. This lovely old red-brick house, which still stands today, is opposite St Andrew's Parish Church, Cobham. Pyports was formally called 'The Cedars'.

Judge Stephen Lushington a noted lawyer, who had represented Queen Caroline and Lady Byron in connection with their divorce trials, lived at Ockham Park near Ripley. He was also a friend of William Wilberforce and a campaigner for the abolition of slavery. He had twin sons, born in 1832, Vernon and Godfrey. Godfrey later became Under Secretary to the Home Office and was knighted for his services.



Vernon Lushington of Pyports.

David informed us that he had recently been given access to Lushington family papers and diaries and was currently researching Vernon Lushington the Positivist for his PhD. Positivism or 'the Religion of Humanity' was adopted by a large number of intellectuals in the 19th century and was based upon the philosophy of Auguste Comte but little is heard of it today and the theme of his illustrated talk was to be about Lushington and his family and friends.

Lushington became a noted lawyer, but is now better remembered as being a friend and patron of the artists known as the Pre-Raphaelites. He had introduced Burne-Jones to Dante Gabriel Rossetti and was part of a circle which became known as 'the intellectual aristocracy'. He was a Christian Socialist and was involved with the Trade Unions in the formative days. He also helped create the Working Men's College in London, which opened in 1854. Frederick Denison Maurice the Colleges first principal was a dear friend and also John Ruskin taught elementary and landscape drawing there.

When Vernon and his wife Jane were married in London, Sir Arthur Sullivan played the organ at the service. Rossetti painted a portrait of Jane, the year they were married and they had three daughters, Kitty, Margaret and Susan. Although the family spent part of the year at their London home in Kensington Square, they were always keen to escape the city and get down to their 'Beloved Pyports' where the family played their part in village life. Although not that wealthy, they donated to many of the good causes of the time. They were a very musical family as seen in a painting by Arthur Hughes



called the 'The Home Quartet', showing Mrs Lushington and her three daughters and they held numerous concerts in the barn at Pyports and later in the old village hall in Anyards Road. Sir Hubert Parry, the composer who was a great friend of the family often tutored the girls.

The Lushington's circle of friends was many and varied. Among those not already mentioned were Thomas Carlyle, Charles Kingsley, Mrs Gaskell, George Elliott, Thomas Hardy, Matthew Arnold, Charles Darwin, George Meredith, Ralph Vaughn Williams, (his cousin was Stephen Massingbred, who married Margaret Lushington, who played the organ on their wedding day), Jenny Lind and William Morris. Many of these people were frequent visitors to Pyports.

Vernon and his wife became great friends of Sir Leslie Stephen and his wife Julia. The Stephen's daughter Virginia, a childhood friend of the Lushington girls, is better known as Virginia Woolf and she used her friend Kitty Lushington as the model for Clarissa Dalloway in her novel 'Mrs Dalloway'.

David concluded by saying that once his PhD studies were over he hoped to be able to present a fuller study of the Lushingtons and their life in Cobham and reproduce some of the diaries and letters.

Goff Powell

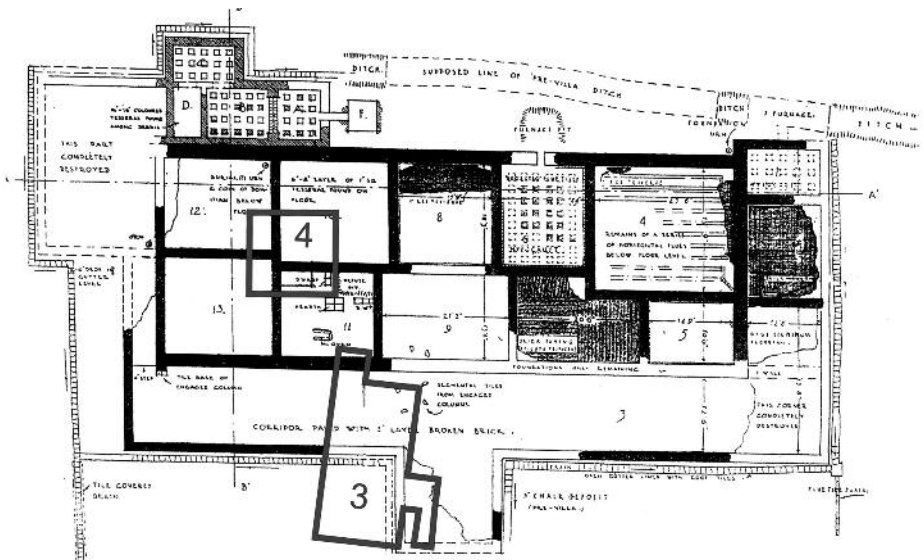
Our Annual Proceedings

I am pleased to be able to report that, thanks to the efforts of our members Geoffrey Hayward, Brian Bouchard, Gwen Hoad and Peter Tarplee, I have been able to edit a very pleasing Proceedings for 2007, which will also be the first Number for a new Volume, 6. However, these same names have occurred fairly regularly over the past few years, so come on everyone else, there must be other members out there who could add a touch of variety to our jaded lives! But, whoever you are, I shall be pleased to receive contributions for the next issue – by mid-November, please.

Barry Cox

Ashtead Roman Villa And Tileworks

A second season of fieldwork was undertaken by the Society's Roman Studies Group on Ashtead Common between 29th August and 18th September. After our 'summer' the weather was amazingly friendly, with hardly any rain. As we are not yet in a position to undertake potentially complex environmental sampling, work was confined to the area of the villa itself. The main aims were to gain a better understanding of the villa plan and its phasing, clarifying the relationship between the approach road and the villa and gathering information about the current state of preservation of the buried archaeological remains.



Trench location plan overlaid on the plan of the villa published in 1930 -(Alan Hall

Only two trenches were opened as the archaeology proved more complex than expected; it was surprisingly difficult to identify the backfill of Lowther's excavations with certainty. One trench (4) was sited to examine the junctions of the walls of rooms 10-13 and we can now be almost certain that room 11 pre-dates the rest, which strongly suggests that the villa started as a single line of rooms like so many others. The walls were not easy to interpret and there was nothing as satisfactory as an obvious butt joint, but those around room 11 had foundations that went more or less straight on down. The corner was reinforced with tiles which bonded round the corner and did not go beyond it on the 'outside'. The walls around room 12 had offset foundations and these were shallower than the others - there was no tile reinforcement.



The foundations were made by digging trenches into the clay and packing them with flints, roughly coursed. The walls above foundation level were also entirely of flint, except for the tile-reinforced corner already described. In excavation the wall lines were seen before walls as such were found, which suggests that Lowther found the walls in some way and left an un-dug piece of site debris above them, as though each room was a trench and the walls were the berms. The wall between rooms

10 and 12 refused to turn into a 'proper' wall until foundation level, but there was so much debris along the line that the most reasonable explanation is that it was treated as a 'wall' by Lowther but was in fact a robber trench which was left standing as an island. A mortared floor level was found in room 11 but the others had only a disturbed sticky grey layer over the natural, most probably a mixture of trample in the 1920s and the original ground surface. A possible tile hearth was located in room 10.

Work in progress in trench 3: in the foreground is the corridor floor of crushed brick; beyond that the dark line marks the location of the front wall and the gutter; beyond that again is the area of debris thought to be the result of Roman-period (or later) robbing of the site.

In the other trench (3) a large area of the corridor was examined to the west side of the supposed porch, where Lowther's plan indicated that there had been considerable disturbance in antiquity and therefore it might be possible to sample earlier levels without destroying much surviving archaeological evidence. The trench had a small extension to sample the south wall of room 11, which survived at foundation level, and from there crossed the corridor, still floored with a layer of crushed brick, the line of the front wall and the gutter, and then a large mound initially thought to be one of Lowther's spoil heaps but later seen to be mostly debris that probably relates to robbing of the villa in the Roman period or subsequently. There was very little surviving evidence for the front wall, even at foundation level and the gutter was represented only by a few pieces of the chalk blocks said to have lined it and a solitary example of the tegulae, laid flange down, that originally formed its base. This one tegula had presumably been left by Lowther because it was in three pieces; when they were lifted they proved to have been laid on clean yellow sand.

Most of the trench was then left untouched but with English Heritage sanction two deeper excavations were begun, one cutting across the corridor where it had mostly already been destroyed and the other sectioning the mound of debris. The first produced evidence indicating an earlier phase or phases below the corridor, with

a possible wall suggesting an earlier, narrower corridor. The second showed that the debris seemed to have distinct layers, with from the top: flint and tile rubble, then mostly wall and floor plaster with some tile, in turn over yellow gritty material with some cobbles overlying a hard-packed flint surface. This surface has yet to be fully explored but it is in the right place to be the approach road, with signs that it was extended sideways to the 'porch'. The latter could not be recognised where Lowther's plan suggested it should be but there may have been a smaller version. An area of the debris in front of the possible porch produced many finds and may have been a pit, but it has not yet been possible to define the edges and it may prove to be material sinking into the top of a deeper feature not yet properly recognised. Finds included what seemed to be part of a stack of pilae on edge, tesserae including a few small black and white ones, good quality pottery, a gaming counter and what may be a tile marked out as a game board. It was noticeable that little bone was found in the debris - or metalwork, although regular checks were carried out with a metal detector (expert assistance was provided by Bill Meades and John Cole, who also helped out in various other ways).



Fragment of samian cup

Work in the second trench could not be completed in the time available and it will be reopened in 2008. If possible, further investigations will also be undertaken then in order to gain more information about the earlier plan of the villa and its dating. At the same time it is hoped to test other possible buildings in the area, including the corner of the enclosure identified by John Hampton in the 1960s and relocated this year.

As part of the excavation campaign the deep pit left by Lowther on the site of the villa's attached bath-house was backfilled, and part of one of the old spoil heaps was used to backfill this year's trenches. The excavation made clear that the corridor was only covered by a shallow layer of topsoil, having apparently been hardly backfilled by Lowther. Its floor still survives in part as does the floor in room 11 and some of the walls are also well-preserved. Many of the trees have now been removed from the villa site by the Estate keepers and further conservation work can now be planned.

Ashted Common is a National Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, which means that excavation must be planned in advance and must take account of nature conservation requirements. The villa site is a Scheduled

Monument which also imposes constraints. Fortunately both Ralph Hobbs of Natural England and Richard Massey of English Heritage have been very supportive of the project and have been able to balance the various requirements. Access to the site requires a long walk for volunteers, whose numbers must be



restricted to avoid overmuch general disturbance, and we cannot rely on machine help for tasks such as backfilling. We are therefore very lucky to have the keen support of the Estate keepers (especially Sean O’Kelly) and their nature conservation volunteers, who not only cleared and fenced the site but also provided a compound, delivered tools, water and other necessities and removed the finds when required.

As well as the excavation, other work has been undertaken on the project over the course of the last year. Magnetometer and topographical surveys were carried out by Archaeology South-East around the villa and a possible building was identified. This work was generously arranged by the Estate. Further surveys are planned as site clearance continues. Further research was carried out on the tile kilns aspect of the site, aided by a workshop (about tegulae) given by Peter Warry to RSG and AARG earlier this year, and the SIHG visit to the Swallows Tiles works near Cranleigh. Most of the ceramic finds have now been gathered together and the whole of John Hampton’s archive. With the aid of new equipment Alan Hall and Margaret Broomfield have begun to make a superb photographic record of the finds. It is intended to extend this to include finds currently in the British Museum.

Thanks are due to all who took part, especially those who carried out the thankless task of backfilling. Alan Hall again played a key role in setting up and carrying out the work on site. Margaret Broomfield has coordinated all aspects of the work on the finds, most of it carried out by AARG. We are now in a position to know what we can expect to achieve with fieldwork (so long as it does not rain very much) and to have a much better idea about what questions we can hope to answer and how to tackle them. If funding can be secured for the key aspects of environmental sampling and a scientific study of the tiles (including ‘Ashtead’ patterns found elsewhere), then this will add further to the important results that can now be expected from this programme of work.

David Bird

JOHN WILLIAM GROVER (1836-1892)

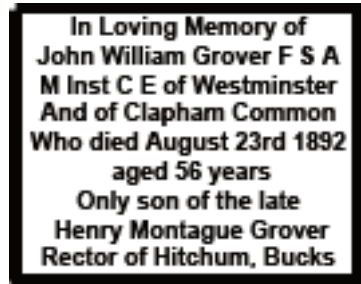


Leatherhead's first waterworks, built by Grover in 1884 in Waterways Rd

John Grover was born in Burnham, Buckinghamshire, the only son of the rector of Hitcham, and after being educated at Marlborough and in Germany he was articled to Fox Henderson, a leading ironwork contractor. I gave an account of his principal engineering activities in an article on the public water supplies for Leatherhead which appeared in the L&DLHS Proceedings, volume 7, no

1 and I thought that there may be some interest in his non-professional achievements.

As well as being an engineer with many interests he was also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a vice-president of the British Archaeological Society. Between 1870 and 1892 Grover lived at 27, North Side, Clapham where he took a great interest in the history of the locality culminating in a lecture on 'Old Clapham' which he delivered in 1885 at the Clapham Hall. In fact, he is commemorated by a tablet on the south wall of Holy Trinity Church.



In the lecture he had described Holy Trinity Church as "an ugly, square, comfortable building... built in an age when church architecture had reached its lowest depth".



Marble statues of the Atkins children now in St Paul's Church, Clapham

He is best known locally, however, for his involvement in the recovery of the Clapham marbles in St Paul's Church. There had been impressive life-size marble statues of Sir Richard Atkins (Lord of the Manor of Clapham), his wife and three children in the original parish church but these had disappeared when the church was demolished and St Paul's Church built on the site in 1815. Grover traced the vault in which the statues had been deposited, got permission to open it and arranged for the statues to be displayed again in the

**THIS MONUMENT
WHICH HAD BEEN IMMURED IN THE YEAR 1815
IN A VAULT AND FORGOTTEN,
WAS, BY THE EXERTIONS OF
JOHN WILLIAM GROVER
(F5A AND M.INST.C.E.)
OF CLAPHAM COMMON.
RECOVERED
AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A COMMITTEE.
AND
THE REVEREND F.W. ATKINS BOWYER,
RESTORED IN THE YEAR 1888**

north transept of St Paul's Church. His efforts in doing this were recorded on a marble tablet by the statues bearing the following inscription as shown.

Subsequently the church has been modified and the transepts included in a community centre behind the church, but the marble statues were renovated in

1970 and re-positioned in the Lady Chapel where they remain.

His writings cover railway and waterworks construction as well as 'Old Clapham' (a copy of which is in the library of the Surrey Archaeological Society) based on the lecture given in Clapham Hall in 1885, 'Ancient Reclamations in the English Fenlands' and 'Suez Canals from the most Ancient Times'. He was a polymath who achieved much in his 56-year life, not just being the Engineer to our local water company.



Peter Tarplee

Marble statues of Sir Richard Atkins and his wiferescued by Grover and now in St Paul's Church, Clapham

Archaeology Report - continued from page 11

Archaeology No.215 p.49 has also run an article on the funding threat to the Portable Antiquities Scheme by Neil Faulkner - visit www.archaeology.co.uk.

Finally we have received a copy of the second season interim report from David Bird for publication elsewhere in this Newsletter on the excavation of the Roman Villa and tile works site on Ashtead Common, undertaken by the Surrey Archaeological Society's Roman Studies Group between 29th August and 18th September last year. I hope you will find it interesting reading.

David Hartley

Archaeology Report

Welcome to this February's archaeology report - there are a number of forthcoming events and pieces of information I would like to tell you about in the hope that you find them of interest.

The Surrey Archaeological Society's Annual Symposium will be held at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashted on Saturday 23rd February starting at 10.00am with the Chairman's opening introduction. Admission is £10-00 on the door for a full day's programme of talks on archaeology and research in Surrey.

Attention is drawn to a new and highly recommended book by Dr Paul Wilkinson MIFA of The Kent Archaeological Field School and has received very favourable reviews from the likes of David Rudling of Sussex University and Peter Drewett, Professor of Archaeology. It is an informative and well illustrated book, a useful introduction to practical archaeology for both beginners and those with some experience at a very affordable £9.99 plus postage, or a signed copy for £10.95 + postage from 'The Kent Archaeological Field School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP'. Better still visit their web site www.kafs.co.uk to view their range of courses and visits.

The Holleyman Archaeological Lecture 2008 – 'The villa of Tiberius Claudius Severus – a window into the past' is being given by Roy Friendship-Taylor MPhil, FSA, MAAIS, AIFA of the Upper Nene Valley Society on 5th March 2008 at 7.00pm followed by a reception from 8.00-9.00pm. . The lecture is hosted by the University of Sussex and held in the Chichester Lecture Theatre University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN19QQ. Entrance is by a free ticket only available in advance from the Lecture Co-ordinator, telephone: 01273877888, email. Si-enquiries@sussex.ac.uk

The British Library is holding its annual Roadshow at the British Library in London on 21st April. The two hours session is free to attend with the opening address given at 10.00am. Bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis. For further information and booking contact the marketing manager Susy Wootton on phone 0207 412 7041, email Susy.wootton@bl.uk

I have been asked by a member to draw attention to the plight of the Portable Antiquities Scheme which is under threat from this year's comprehensive spending review. There is currently a petition for those supporters of the PAS to register their support for the proposition: 'We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to Preserve and Invest in the Portable Antiquities Scheme'. More details <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/PAS-Funding/>. The February issue of Current

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News from the Friends of Leatherhead

Foremost in our minds is the devastating impact and damage to Hampton Cottage in the early hours of 6th January by a Metro car. Fortunately no one was injured. As Friends we are committed to supporting the Museum Committee and Trustees in their efforts to clear the mess, rebuild the cottage and restore its contents.

December saw the annual Christmas party for stewards and volunteers given in recognition for their time and effort put in for the museum. Guests were asked to come wearing a hat and prizes went to David Hartley and Julia Lack for their creations. Among the 42 guests or so we were delighted to see Ann Kenney's young son who has the makings of a museum enthusiast!

The museum has a new trail devised by Julia Lack primarily for children although adults have been seen sneaking a look. The trail asks you to find artefacts in the various rooms and garden with a small reward at the end for a successful completion.

Friends events for 2008

6th,7th and 15th March - stewards briefing sessions

11th March - joint visit with History Society members to Dorking Museum and Caves. Meet at Dorking museum (West Street) 11.00am for introductory talk and guided tour of Museum and archive centre. Hear plans for extensive refurbishment. Lunch followed at 2.30pm with guided tour of Dorking caves. Guide is Professor Richard Selley. Numbers limited to 12 for the caves and be aware that passages are steep, narrow and claustrophobic (no spooks!). Complete reply slip indicating if you want to visit one or both venues. Cost is £4.60 for caves, payable on the day.

21st April - AGM room G6 ground floor Letherhead Institute 7.30pm drinks and nibbles 8.00pm meeting followed by a talk by Goff Powell on his extensive collection of Leatherhead Crested China of which we have a few samples in the museum.

17th May display barrow in the Swan Centre

29th, 30th and 31st May - craft days at the museum with hands on experience

21st June coffee morning with bring and buy, plants and cakes at the museum

28th August display barrow in the Swan Centre

13th and 14th September heritage weekend

6th December museum closes

15th December stewards' and volunteers' Christmas Party

Fred Meynen Chairman

The Museum

Whilst we still have a vacancy for a Curator, our great and critical need is sufficient help by volunteers to undertake the basic management of the Collection. Apart from Peter Tarplee and myself who are essentially keeping the day to day aspects running, Bob Grieves and David Atkinson are steadily building up the computer based



After the crash - notice the model

index whilst at the same time registering and recording new items that have been accepted. We desperately need more help as we cannot currently achieve our targets which we set out in our accreditation application. Even a couple of hours once every two weeks would help considerably.

The main task we are unable to cover is the very simple assessment of conservation needs. Most items in store are in boxes and progressively the contents of the boxes need to be examined to check on condition. If some form of conservation treatment is needed now or in the future a record must be made. Only a common sense approach is required and no specialist knowledge. Our register may record the condition as poor but that does not necessarily mean that an item is deteriorating, it may just be badly damaged. Boxes can be brought up to Hampton Cottage or looked at in the Priory but for Health and Safety reasons there must be at least two persons involved.

Can you help? Can you find a recruit to pair up with somebody to make a team? Ideally we could do with two teams of two and thus catch up with some other aspects of the collection management that needs doing.

If you want to know more we are usually available on Monday mornings at the Museum, or give me a call at home on 01372 374093. We wait in eager anticipation.

Alan Pooley

The Work of the Surrey History Centre

- the December Lecture

The final lecture in the 2007 series was given to the Society and guests by Matthew Piggott, a member of the Surrey History Centre's staff. So many interesting facts had to be compressed into a single hour but, assisted by a host of projected illustrations, we were given an outstanding picture of what the Centre does and what services it can offer to the community

Located in Woking, this striking new building was opened in 1999. Specially designed for its intended function it houses a vast archive of documents which are available for inspection by any interested person, be they researchers, historians or ordinary members of the public. At the front there are exhibition areas, lecture rooms, a reading room and a shop, but the central feature is the vast strong room where thousands of documents are stored in temperature-controlled conditions. Its contents include reference books, civic and parish records, maps, prints, photographs and numerous other categories. These range from 12th century parchment rolls to CD disks. Giving us a colourful illustration of the scope, he instanced the subject of crime and punishment, which could yield records of Quarter Sessions in 1659, witness statements and punishments meted out (including Transportation – a matter of great interest to family historians). From another record, the bridge at Leatherhead in 1613 was said to be “In bad repair and impassable in times of flood.” Sir Edward Tylney left £100 towards its repair.



Surrey History Centre Reception

Our speaker outlined the function and main activities of the Centre. He described the reception, restoring, cataloguing and storing of all objects taken in. This yielded some interesting facts. Many documents arrive in appalling condition, often damp and riddled with mould, spiders and ‘bugs’: some damaged by fire. All these conditions are treated in the Centre's laboratories. He described some of the processes such as freezing. Every page is scrutinised in accordance with strict rules. The Centre aims to cater not only for the current enquirer but for posterity and therefore cataloguing has to be undertaken with the greatest of care. Available information includes details of an item's provenance and where it resides in the vast collection.

Mr Piggott concluded by showing the audience examples of the objects that can be discovered in a visit to the centre, for example, copies of newspapers from the

mid-19th century, 'The Gentleman's Magazine' from 1731 to 1782, a 700 page catalogue covering the history of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, memoirs from the era of World War One and manorial records from estates in Surrey, one of these outlining 'the right to extract fees and duties'. He explained that it would be wrong to assume that written records were the only objects available. Many beautiful prints, engravings and photographs cover Surrey's people and places at every period. Business history is an important part of the archive, and this makes possible a study of firms located in the County, some not merely of local interest. Among many others are the Broadwood world- famous piano manufacturer and the vehicle builder Dennis of Guildford.

Students of family history form a large part of the 10,000 visitors received yearly. In the Search Room , microfilm and microfiche facilities are available and much of the data is now on the Centre's web site. There are strong links with local study groups. Amateurs and specialists are equally welcome.

Amidst this welter of facts highlighted by his excellent slides the audience felt a deep appreciation for the way our speaker had covered his subject - one could not but be impressed by the work done by the History Centre for the people of Surrey and its heritage.

John Wettren

Volunteer Stewards Needed

Is this a job for you?

The museum is in urgent need of stewards to cover the opening hours as from 3rd April (hopefully, following the accident!). It entails only 3 hours of your time once a month, working together with another steward. No experience or specific knowledge is necessary but an interest in local history is helpful.

The work is rewarding as it involves dealing with the public, receiving artefacts, answering queries and learning about local history.

Training is given, so come along and meet us - we are a friendly crowd. Please tell your friends and if you need more information give me a call.

Dr Fred Meynen 01372 372930

The Leatherhead Area and Brooklands

As many of you know Brooklands Museum celebrated in July 2007 the centenaries of both the track opening in June and the first motor race meeting which some of you may have attended. The year 2008 brings two further anniversaries with the first motor-cycle race meeting in April and the first aerial flights by an Englishman, AV Roe with his own British built flying machine in June. At least three members of this society are also volunteers at the museum and will be involved in the



celebrations - Brian Henegan with the motorcycle event and Albert Pruden helping to construct a reproduction of the original Avroplane and myself with both events.

Throughout the past hundred years there have been any number of Leatherhead and district residents involved in some way with activities at Brooklands. Sir Malcolm Campbell who lived in Leatherhead had his workshops for his racing cars and record-breaking cars at Brooklands and these are now part of the exhibition area for vehicles in the museum. Sir Barnes Wallis, famous for his forward seeking ideas at Vickers-Armstrongs, such as geodetic framework for airships and aircraft, for the bouncing bomb projects and very large bombs during the second world war, lived in Effingham. Sir George Edwards, the head of Vickers-Armstrongs and later British Aircraft Corporation at Weybridge lived in Great Bookham.

Earlier Douglas Graham Gilmour, a pioneer aviator who flew at Brooklands from 1910 until his death in 1912, lived in Little Bookham and his parents at Mickleham. Thomas Gillett, who lived in Little Bookham started an engineering business in 1910 in Little Bookham Street and expanded in 1917 to the factory opposite Bookham station as Gillett Stephen & Co, also broke motor speed records at Brooklands in the 1990s while a director of AC Cars at Thames Ditton.

I am sure there are many more connections locally with Brooklands, and in this year of centenaries it would be interesting to find out more. So if you have any knowledge or stories of further links with the track or the aviation activities we would be delighted to know of them.

Doug Hollingsworth

Recent Additions To The Library

Surrey – Individual Towns & Villages Leatherhead

“Queen Elizabeth’s Foundation for the Disabled: a history: 1934-1984”

Although this booklet appeared in 1984, it is, in fact, new to our library.

The contents are as follows:

1. The College (i) From the beginning to 1939 (ii)1939-1945 (iii)1945-1953
2. The National Association for the Paralysed 1948-1961
3. Dorincourt Estates (i)Banstead Place 1956-1973 (ii)Dorincourt since 1958
Lulworth Court since 1959
4. The College (i)1953-1963 (ii)Since 1963-buildings (iii)Since 1963-training
5. QEF since 1967
6. Banstead Place since 1974

Members who are interested in QEF will find this an invaluable guide to the background of this important voluntary organisation.

Surrey – Topographical & Maps

PURKISS, Richard- “**Memorials in Surrey’s open spaces**”. Published in collaboration with the Surrey History Centre, Woking, 2007

Here follows a short extract from the introduction to this booklet:

“Initially, memorials were found by chance. Later, more were added after research or thanks to hints from locals. The search was made under the definition of a commemorative structure of stone or concrete.”

Richard Purkiss concedes the list is not exhaustive. He admits there are almost certainly other memorials in the Surrey countryside which would satisfy the yardsticks for this collection. He would welcome any suggestions for retrospective additions to the list.

Peter Wells

Wanted - New Publications

Despite no society books being published in 2007, sales from previous publications continue to provide a steady income. However, if the society is to maintain its good record of publishing worthwhile historical material for general sale, new publications are urgently needed.

Bill Culley’s - Bookham in the 20th Century is still a good seller. Similar books on Ashted and Fetcham must be a worthwhile undertaking. So please, if anyone would like to record their memories of either of these villages, or if you have any other ideas that you think would make good reading, just let me know.

Goff Powell, Sales & Publications Secretary

John Evelyn – January Lecture

Attendance at our January meeting was exceptionally high, perhaps because the lecture promised to be of interest to both historians and to garden lovers. The subject was the life and achievements of one of Britain's most celebrated horticulturists, John Evelyn.

Our lecturer, Beryl Saich, of the Surrey Gardens Trust, impressed us as she listed the diversity of our hero's attainments – a brilliant diarist, a writer of books, traveller and innovator. His legacy has many facets, the most notable being his mission to instruct landowners in the task of managing their estates and gardens coupled with his love of trees. Testimonials to this are the books he wrote, and the beauty of the landscapes he created.



As an ardent Royalist he went abroad during the Cromwell era, during which time he toured France, Italy and the Low Countries, noting the diverse and attractive landscapes that existed in the gardens and parks he visited. On his return to England he brought this knowledge and put it into practice, but there was always an 'English' element in his designs.

Surrey was a prominent beneficiary of his talents. He owned property and advised numerous landowners within the county. Most notable are Albury and Wotton. Both of these have seen changes since his time but much has survived. At Albury its owner wanted a 'new' garden and he gave it a canal, a grotto and a landscape dotted with trees of many varieties. Wotton belonged to his family and an Italianate garden was created there. There had been a loss of many trees, which John deplored. These were later restored and the property eventually passed to his grandson Jack. A book which he wrote, 'Memoirs for my Grandson Jack', abounds with practical advice. His counsel was largely followed, and Jack (who became Sir John) not only nurtured his grandfather's legacy but also became a supplier of trees for other properties including Claremont.

John Evelyn was a colourful and popular person. He had many friends from among the famous and gifted members of society. He identified with those pushing the boundaries of science and learning. One of his sayings was 'Enquire and experiment'. But his reputation as a champion of landscape architecture coupled with his love of trees outshines all his other virtues.

At the conclusion of the lecture members of the audience were given the chance to inspect and purchase from a variety of publications that were being displayed on a bookstall, on offer from the Surrey Gardens Trust.

John Wettern

Programme of Events

Lectures are normally held on the third Friday of each month in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute at 8.00pm with coffee and biscuits at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome - members £1, visitors £2. Please note the exception - the March lecture is on the 4th Friday in the month, 28th March.

FEBRUARY

23rd Saturday 10.00am - Surrey Archaeological Society's Annual Symposium - Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashted - £10.00 on the door

28th, 29th Thursday, and Friday – Stewards Briefing Sessions

MARCH

5th Wednesday 7.00pm - Holleyman Archaeological Lecture – ‘The Villa of Tiberius Claudius Severus – a window into the past’, Roy Friendship-Taylor of the Upper Nene Valley Society - Chichester Lecture Theatre University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN19QQ. Entrance by free ticket only in advance from Lecture Co-ordinator - 01273 877888 or Si-enquiries@sussex.ac.uk

11th Tuesday – Friends and members to Dorking Museum and Caves. Meet at Dorking Museum in West Street at 11.00am - introductory talk followed by special guided tour of the Museum and archive centre.

15th Saturday – Stewards Briefing Sessions

17th Monday – Executive Committee meeting

28th Friday Lecture - ‘Early Cycling on the Surrey Roads’ by Les Bowerman, Send and Ripley History Society, member of Veteran Cycle Club and Vice President of Chariotville Cycling Club of Guildford. He has an extensive collection of veteran bikes and will be exhibiting a few of these at the lecture.

APRIL

3rd Thursday – Museum Opens

18th Friday Lecture - AGM of the History Society followed by a Short lecture on Monks Green Farm by Derek Banham who has lived for the last 36 years in this 17th century farmhouse in Fetcham. After extensive and painstaking research he has recently published a document which details the full history of ownership and alterations that have occurred.

21st Monday 10.00am - British Library annual roadshow at the British Library - free bookings on first come, first served. Information and booking - Susy Wooton 0207 4127041 or Susy.wootton@bl.uk

Continued overleaf

(Continued Events)

MAY

3rd Saturday - Guided Walk through the village of Great Bookham by Derek Renn who has extensive knowledge of the history of the area. Meet at 2.30pm in the Bookham Grove car park, top of the High Street on the left of the A246 coming from Leatherhead. £1 payable on the day. The walk will take approx. 1¼ hours and further details can be obtained from Derek on 01372 454880

16th Friday Lecture – ‘The Homewood’, Esher by Andrew King

This National Trust property has many unique features. It was built in 1930 in the modernist style incorporating what was then a ‘new’ material – concrete.

Besides its unusual design and layout the interior style and furnishings match the clean, bare lines of the house itself. Its owner, the architect Patrick Gwynne donated it to the Trust in 1999.

19th Monday – Executive Committee meeting

Future walks and visits details in May Newsletter

June - visit to Cherkley

July - visit to Horsham Museum

Fred Meynen

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Archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGY SECRETARY David Hartley 01372 377839

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR Martin Warwick 01372 453717
Email : martin_warwick@hotmail.com

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Proceedings

EDITOR Barry Cox 01372 273167
Email : barry_cox@btopenworld.com

Forge Cottage, 11 Blacksmith Close, Ashted, KT21 2BD

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 document	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

Sales of L&DLHS Publications

SALES SECRETARY Goff Powell 01372 374923

