

*LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY*

NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2011

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

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David Hartley

01372 377839

SECRETARY

Vivien Hollingsworth

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TREASURER

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

For details - see programme in the Newsletter

2011 Membership Subscriptions

Ordinary.....£18.00 Associate.....£6.00 Junior (under 18).....£1.00

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY David Wall

01372 374773

The Museum is open at the following times

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

Editorial

We are now into 2011 and can only wonder what will happen this year to be remembered in History to come. A hundred years ago in 1911 so much was different and so many of the common day objects and ways of life had never even been dreamed about - television, computers, communication, ordinary people flying or owning cars. Medicine was primitive and minor illnesses of today lead to certain death. The discovery of antibiotics was over twenty years away and their practical use over thirty. The area we live in was deep into the country and was largely farming - Leatherhead had a population of under 5,000. It was in 1911 that George V was crowned succeeding his father Edward VII.



The History Society of today would desperately like to solve one of its current problems - the lists of officers of the Society show we badly need fresh talent in the far too many posts vacant. We need new ideas and reinvigoration. Unless members come forward we will soon not be able to continue our activities.

The Newsletter is always open for members to submit articles of general interest and there is a constant plea for submissions. There are so many facets of history - you are invited to write up your own interest and submit it to us - remember the value of an illustration.

If you are not yet a member and have enjoyed reading this Newsletter why not join the Society to receive it regularly and to enjoy the other benefits of the Society - contact the membership secretary, David Wall on 01372 374773.

Martin Warwick

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to this our first Newsletter of 2011. Thank you all - to those older members I thank you for your continued to support, to the new members I hope you will enjoy being part of our society. I would also like to invite you to join me and your executive committee to get involved in some of the day to day business of running a History Society and a Museum.



AGM 2011

You should all have received the notice for the 64th AGM on the 15th April 2011. We hope that as many of you as possible attend the meeting. It includes the election of officers for the year and also the major change to the rules of the society.

Item 5 on Agenda - The Election of Officers to the Executive Committee

In the May 2010 Newsletter I informed you that Vivien Hollingsworth our Honorary Secretary had confirmed her decision to retire at the next AGM after six years in that post. I am disappointed that since that notice no one has come forward or offered to take up this post.

On 24th October 2010 I received an email from John Derry our Leatherhead Archivist and acting Records Secretary, tendering his notice of these two posts with effect from the end of 2010 - unfortunately I received this news too late to record it in our November Newsletter.

These three positions remain to be filled and as they are vital to the wellbeing and health of the History Society we must try to resolve this matter at the AGM. The issue of lack of support in taking up office holder posts on the Executive Committee is not tenable. We cannot be expected to continue to operate effectively without your tangible support, we need you as volunteers to join us to fill these and other posts vacant - please refer to my previous comment in our May 2010 Newsletter page 3.

Item 10 on Agenda- Changes to the Rules of the History Society

Item 10 on the Agenda for this year's AGM is to ratify the amendment and revisions to the Rules of the History Society following the mandate given to us at last year's 63rd AGM to proceed with the merger of the two charities that exist, one to own and maintain the museum building and the other to operate and run the L&DLHS.

These Rules have now been revised and brought up to date and once approved

will be sent to the Charities Commission and issued to our membership with this year's May Newsletter.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Derry on behalf of the History Society for his good work and support in taking on the post of acting Records Secretary for the History Society following the death of the late Brian Godfrey in December 2008 and for his role as our Leatherhead Archivist, a job he has carried out with diligence since 2003.

We wish him well and hope that he will continue to support the History Society with his membership and that we will see him from time to time at our society's lectures at the Institute and at our AGMs in the future.

Chairman's Foot Note:

I thought that some of our members may be interested to learn I have recently been in touch with the newly formed 'Effingham Local History Group' in the spirit of mutual interest and co-operation. This new group was formed in the Spring of 2010 - its members meet in the Effingham Parish Room about once a month. The acting secretary is Sue Morris and anyone wishing to become a member, or would like to attend informally for the first time, is asked to contact her at: clerk2010@EffinghamParishCouncil.gov.uk or telephone; 01372-454911.

This group is working on many varied themes relating to Effingham's history. Some of this work has been uploaded to their website www.surreycommunity.info/effinghamparishcouncil/local-history/

David Hartley

Archaeology Report

Surrey Archaeological Society Symposium - Peace Memorial Hall - Ashtead

This year's Annual Symposium of the Surrey Archaeological Society will be held on Saturday 26th February starting at 10.00am. Tickets can be purchased in advance for £8.00 from Emma Coburn at the Surrey Archaeological Society at Castle Arch Guildford GU1 3SX. If you are interested please send your cheque payable to SAS together with a SAE, otherwise you can purchase your ticket on the day at the door for £10.00.

There will be a talk by Sally Jenkins of the Surrey History Centre on the subject of the digitisation of the Surrey Tithe Maps which should be of interest to local historians and local U3A study groups.

Peter Tarplee vice president of our history society will give a talk on the Past Industries of Ashtead on behalf of the Surrey Industrial History Group.

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeological Society (EEHAS) - Call for Volunteers

An excavation of Roman Ewell has been organised by Frank Pemberton Archaeology Officer of EEHAS and also a member of our society. The dig will run from Wednesday 2nd March to Sunday 20th March 9.30am to 5.00pm at Church fields, Ewell - volunteers for five days and or weekends are welcome. If you are interested please contact Frank Pemberton directly as soon as possible via email or telephone (email: frank.pemberton@btopenworld.com or 01306 640179).

The History Society's Parish Archives and Records

As I have reported elsewhere we are currently looking for a volunteer, a member of the history society to act as the Leatherhead Archivist picking up the reins from John Derry our previous Leatherhead Parish Archivist and acting Records Secretary who has now retired from these posts in December.

We would also like to hear from any member who is keen on documentary research in general to take on the role of our Records Secretary following in the steps of the late Brian Godfrey and John Derry. We would like them to join us on the executive committee with the remit to develop an overview and if necessary, a new records policy for co-ordinating the society's archives for Ashted, Bookham, Fetcham and Leatherhead.

Alan Roberts is currently dealing with all the day to day enquiries that come into the museum.

I am current making contact with members of U3A groups in Bookham, Fetcham and Leatherhead and the newly formed group in Ashted. These groups appear to be dynamic in their approach in carrying out and working on independent research projects. I hope we can involve them in some of the very necessary work to be done in sorting through archives, documenting and building on the existing index and data base and digitally recording on disc documents and photographs for easier access to avoid handling original material.

Currently on the table for further work are the papers and documents given to the History Society by Stephen Fortescue, a founder member and a past president of the society and the author of several books on the history of the parish of Bookham.

I would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in this task prepared to make a commitment and get involved in this project.

David Hartley

Charlie Smirke

Charlie Smirke's four Derby wins, along with his seven other Classic successes, fully entitle him to be bracketed along with Sir Gordon Richards, Harry Wragg, and Lester Piggott as one of the outstanding jockeys of his era. He was possibly the greatest flat jockey never to be crowned champion.

His self-confident, almost aggressive personality enabled him to compete with the most gifted of his profession. A cheerful outlook on life that was

near-impossible to subdue, even in hard times, served him well in facing setbacks during a riding career which spanned nearly 40 years, with his first Derby ride, in 1924, separated by 35 years from the last. This period included a wholly unjust five-year suspension from the Jockey Club at a crucial time when a less durable character's fledgling career might have floundered. In fact, within a season of returning to the saddle, Smirke had won his first Derby and went on to reap the success his natural talent warranted.

Born Charles James William Smirke in Lambeth South London in 1906, he soon developed a passion for horses as he admired the giant Suffolk Punches and dock tailed hackneys which passed his house every day, in a world before cars, and it was not long until the boy was atop of a horse himself, delivering fresh fruit and fish for his father.



People could see the lad had a natural talent with horses but he was also becoming a renowned fighter in the boxing ring and thus the decision was made which would shape the rest of little Charlie's life. Luckily for racing, on a Sunday in the early summer of 1920, his father signed the Articles of Apprenticeship and like many other fine riders of his generation, he joined the legendary trainer of the day Stanley Wootton in 1920 at his Treadwell House Stables, Epsom.

He rode his first winner in a selling race at Derby in 1922. Solomon Joel the thoroughbred owner and breeder retained the young apprentice, taking advantage of a frame that was still under seven stone and able to partner the lowest weights in any of the big handicaps of the day.

In 1925 and 1926 he was the Flat Racing Champion



Charlie Smirke on Mahmoud with the Aga Khan III - 1936

Apprentice Jockey. Being the apprentice who has ridden the most winning horses (70 and 71 respectively), during the Flat Racing season. In 1926, the penultimate year of his apprenticeship, he was retained by the Aga Khan III (Sultan Mohammed Shah). It was the beginning of an association that would last, on and off, for the next 30 years.

At this point in his career, when he should have been consolidating his growing popularity with owners, he was the subject of one of the Turf's great injustices. In 1928, he was warned off for five years by the Jockey Club which found him guilty of making no effort to start on a horse called Welcome Gift, an 11-4 on favorite, at the now defunct Gatwick racecourse. He protested his innocence, and although the horse subsequently repeated the boorish reluctance to race on a number of occasions, the low public standing of jockeys at the time in the eyes of the racing establishment ruled out the possibility of justice on appeal.

As money ran low, he was forced to take up a job working in Brighton - cleaning beach huts. At night he would lie in his bed under the town's pier wrapped in a tarpaulin and ask himself 'Why?' As winter drew in and prospects of work dwindled, he was forced to pawn his coat just to buy a meal. He was broke. However, after five long years, the authorities had a change of heart and allowed the once promising jockey to ride again, providing he stayed out of trouble. There was no warm welcome on his return, no offers to ride talented racehorses. He had to start from the bottom rung of the ladder again. However, owners soon began to notice him and let him ride their horses. The winners were soon flooding in like they had done years before.

In 1934 the great rolling wheel of his life had spun a full circle as he rode Windsor Lad to victory in the Derby, finishing a generous length clear of his nearest pursuer.

In 1935 he repaid the Aga Khan's loyalty in restoring him to the saddle after suspension by winning the St Leger on Bahram. Now re-established as one of his generation's most gifted riders, he confirmed this status by winning his second Derby in 1936, when he steered the same owner's Mahmoud to victory in a record 2 minutes 33.8 seconds, a time since matched only by the present Aga Khan's (Karīm al-Hussainī) Khayasi in 1988.

During the Second World War he served his country as a driver of staff-cars and on his return to riding at 39 years old, many considered him an 'old timer' who would probably never get his weight down let alone win a valuable race again. How little did they know?

He repeated the success for the Aga Khan on Tulyar in 1952. That year Tulyar also won the Lingfield Derby Trial, Ormonde Stakes, Eclipse Stakes, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the St Leger. Tulyar was probably his best Derby winner, despite the evidence of the clock which points to Mahmoud. He was so sure that Tulyar would win the 1952 Derby that he sent a cheeky telegram to the Press Club Derby Luncheon: Hope on Wednesday at 3:40, I will be saying "what did I Tulyar." The bookmakers did not share his enthusiasm for his chances and were still laying odds of 100 to 8 when betting on the course began. However, a wholesale public gamble took place and Tulyar

went to post the 11 to 2 favourite and got home by three quarters of a length from Gay Time, ridden by a teenager named Lester Piggott.

To commemorate his achievements on Tulyar the Aga Khan presented him with a superb Waterford Crystal bowl. It had a central deeply etched portrait of Tulyar with Charlie Smirke in the saddle - at auction in 2007 the bowl sold for £750. He won the 1,000 Guineas for the Aga Khan on Rose Royale II in 1957, but was replaced as the retained rider the same year. In 1958 his fourth and final Derby victory was for another powerful owner-breeder of the day, Sir Victor Sassoon, on Hard Ridden, at the age of 51.



Before retiring from riding in 1960, he rode in France for the Aga Khan. Although he considered training on his retirement he kept no professional links with racing and in later years was rarely seen on a racecourse. Indeed, he was so famous that he was immortalised in cockney rhyming slang with the word 'Charlie Smirke' which meant a 'Berk'.



He married three times and for many years lived at Pachesham Manor, close to Leatherhead Golf Course. In 1993 he died the age of 87 at the Manston Elms Nursing Home in Oxshott Road. The racing world and his many friends said goodbye to a legend. There is a fitting memorial to him at the rear of Randalls Park Crematorium

Goff Powell

‘Early Years of Motoring in Surrey’

Corrections to Report in Last Newsletter - ‘Early Years of Motoring in Surrey’

First Paragraph p19: The county was involved with the motor car since its introduction into Britain in the **1890s**.

Second Paragraph p20: The first practical vehicles using the internal combustion engine were produced in Germany by Karl Benz in 1885 and **Gottlieb** Daimler in 1886.

Third Paragraph p21: Names included Pilgrim (Farnham), Trojan (Croydon and Kingston), Carlette (Weybridge), **Jappic**(Wimbledon), Lagonda (Egham) and General, an attempt at streamlining in 1902(Norbury)

Ashtead Blacksmith Isaac Rushen - Update

In the Newsletter November 2010 there was an enquiry from Steve Nelson of EEHAS requesting information on an Isaac Rushen of Ashtead a Blacksmith in 1740. We had two interesting responses to the enquiry, one from Brian Bouchard and one from Barry Cox both of whom are members from Ashtead and have previously contributed articles to our Proceedings.

Brian Bouchard writes:

With reference to David Hartley's request on your behalf in the L & D LHS Newsletter, you will find the smithy with which Isaac Rushen was involved considered by the late Geoffrey Gollin under The Three Horseshoes in *Bygone Ashtead* at page 104. A copy of the book should be held in Bourne Hall. Perhaps I should also have mentioned a record of Isaac Rushen of Asted (sic) marrying Widow Tydey of Abinger 30 January 1749/50

Barry Cox writes:

Having read your piece in the L&DLHS Newsletter, I hasten to send you more information about the Ashtead blacksmiths, which I published in the Proceedings of the Society (2005, 6, 257-261).

As you will see, the Rushen/Rushin/Rushing family worked the blacksmith's business in The Street from 1684 until sometime between 1730 and 1756. (Does your 1740 reference to Isaac Rushen indicate whether or not he was a blacksmith?) The property is shown in Lawrence's 1638 map of Ashtead, and was located on the south side of The Street about where the newsagent is today. It was then held by copyright by George White from the Lord of the Manor, Henry Lord Maltravers, that being the courtesy title of the Earl of Arundel and Surrey and Duke of Norfolk, the family name being Howard, who were the absentee landlords of the manor estate.

From the internet the following was found at the Genealogical website Origins network at www.origins.net/BritishOrigins/Search. I have copied the relevant will abstracts from the records of Surrey & South London Will Abstracts 1470-1856.

Abstract ID. SW/30_257:

Thomas Rushin (X) of Ashtead, blacksmith, snr. 6 Feb 1723/4 to my son Isaac Rushin £10; to my daughter Elizabeth Amber wife of John Amber 1s; to my daughter Sarah Millis wife of William Millis £20 all after the death of my wife Mary Rushin; all my copyhold messuage etc. to my wife for life; my copyhold land in Ashtead in the occupation of Thomas Rushin, jnr; to my said son Thomas, jnr.; residue to my wife Mary Rushin, exec. Witnesses: Edward Shove; John Chette; George Page Proved: 10 Mar 1723/4 to exec. [DW/PA/7/19 ff.250-1; DW/PA/5/1724/111

Abstract ID SW/22_831: A Will of Thomas Tegg of Thames Ditton, yeoman, 26 Mar

1664 - several beneficiaries including; to my kinsman John Rushen two messuages in Thames Ditton.

Abstract ID SW/20_566: A Will of George Lyfe of Reigate, Blacksmith, snr, 4 Jan 1666/7 - several beneficiaries including; to my daughter Elizabeth Rushen wife of William Rushen £5.

Abstract ID SW/21_430: A Will of George Life of Reigate, blacksmith, 23 Nov 1675 - several beneficiaries including; to my sister Elizabeth Rushen wife of William Rushen of Hook, Kingston, blacksmith £100.

Abstract ID SW/25_610: A Will of John Jones of Epsom, joiner, 25 April 1683 - several beneficiaries including; to William Rushen in Hook Lane and his wife and children 1s each; to ...Rushen of Ashtead, blacksmith and his wife and children 1s each.

Abstract ID SW/23_25: A Will of Robert Parsons of St Saviour Southwark dated 25 July 1689. - several beneficiaries, Robert Parsons refers to his daughter Mary as being the wife of a Thomas Russhen.

My cottage etc., smith's shop etc. in Hooke in my occupation and that of Robert Perkins, blacksmith to my wife Elizabeth Rushon for life and after the death of my wife to my daughter Sarah Ware; to my grandson George Rushon 5s; residue to my Abstract ID SW/27453: A Will of William Rushon of Hook Kingston, blacksmith 19 April 1712 - several beneficiaries; daughter Sarah exec.

Hopefully a member may be able to supply a name for the Ashtead blacksmith referred to in the Will of John Jones of Epsom, joiner, 25 April 1683. Interestingly I wonder if it was John Jones of Epsom who made the door to which the hinges were attached.

David Hartley

Steve Nelson's Responses:

Thanks for this. There seems to be 2 families, at least, of Rushin (aka Rushon Rushen) blacksmiths in Ashtead and Hook in late C17, presumably brothers. Their sons inherit and carry on the business. They are also both obviously connected to other blacksmiths in Thames Ditton etc. The will of Thomas Rushin 1723/4 mentions his two sons Thomas and Isaac but not a Jacob Rushen apprenticed to a blacksmith in Kingston in 1696 - perhaps he had died by 1723/4. The book "Bygone Ashtead" mentions the blacksmiths smithy, S side of The Street was run untill 1756 by Isaac Rushin. The connection with an Epsom joiner is as you say interesting. Unless any further info comes up from your society readership this may be as far as we get.

Further email from Steve Nelson:

I now have a number of refs to the Rushen (various spellings) family as blacksmiths in Ashtead from c 1680 to at least 1756. There seems also a possible connection with Epsom as a John Jones joiner of Epsom wills property to a ... Rushen in 1683. I suppose we will never really know but my guess is that the hinges we have were made by I or J Rushen in the late 17th century.

St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham - Furnishings

The Victoria & Albert Museum in London became concerned that the furnishings of many historic churches in Britain were not properly recorded, unlike their structure. The Museum enlisted the help of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies to remedy this deficiency: so far about one-tenth of the churches in England have now had a proper record compiled. Led by Michael Anderson and Angela Stevens, a volunteer group from the Bookham Decorative & Fine Art Society has



spent six years compiling a very detailed record of the fittings and furnishings of Great Bookham parish church. On Sunday 5 December 2010 (appropriately the eve of St Nicolas' Day) a bound copy of the record was presented to the Rector of Bookham at a short ceremony in the church.

Not exhausted by these efforts, the BD&FAS group are now going to All Saints, Little Bookham to record that historic church also.

Derek Renn

Leatherhead's Junior Roadshow

Leatherhead has highlights of its heritage at both ends of the town. The Leatherhead Museum of Local History in a timbered 17c house on Church Street and the imposing Victorian Letherhead Institute at the top of the High Street - given to all the people of Leatherhead for educational and social pursuits by Abraham Dixon of Cherkley Court towards the end of the 19th century.

On Saturday morning there





was a selection of objects on display from the Museum, with an invitation for young people to drop into the Institute during the morning to handle and learn about their uses and their place in Leatherhead's history. The Leatherhead Community Association was delighted to host the event and a band of enthusiastic volunteers was on hand to provide free refreshments.

For those who missed the event, entry to the Museum is free, check the website for opening times throughout the year.

Pictured are two young visitors, intrigued by a 1915 typewriter - very different from the keyboards of their usual leisure activities and another completely engrossed in writing on a school slate!

June Robinson, Chairman Leatherhead Community Association

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Museum Musings

The copper alloy mounts from the restored bucket which took John Wettern's fancy (pages 10- 11 of the November Newsletter) is fully described in Jean Cook's catalogue [Early Anglo-Saxon Buckets: Oxford University School of Archaeology monograph 60 (2004) at page 94].

The bucket mounts were found three feet down in gravel, separate from two scatters

of weapons and ornaments, when foundations for glasshouses were being dug by the Mizens at Watersmeet in 1929-30 (.Antiquaries Journal XIII (1933) 48-51). As Anthony Lowther pointed out (in our Proceedings for 1959; vol 2 no 3, at page 72) they may have come from disturbed burials (no bones were found) or re-deposited more recently; there is a well-known Saxon cemetery on top of Hawks Hill above Watersmeet. Lowther said that the mounts were in the British Museum; Cook said ‘a private collection’!

Yours sincerely,

Derek Renn



Dear Martin,

I refer to the article by Derek Renn on page 13 of the last Newsletter and its reference to the foundation stone for Montague Burtons premises in Leatherhead High Street.

Two points:-

(a) I believe that Montague Burtons and Fifty Shilling Tailors were two separate and competing companies but the article implies that they were one firm.

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(Proprietors: Fifty Tailors Ltd.)

(b) The foundation stone for the shop was not covered over, it is on display at our museum.

The inscription reads:-

“THIS STONE WAS LAID BY MONTAGUE BURTON 1939”

*Peter Tarplee
Leatherhead Museum*



Friends of Leatherhead Museum

Junior Roadshow

This event was held on 27th November in The Institute and was a combined venture with the Leatherhead Community Association. June Robinson, Chairman of the LCA, thought of the idea and youngsters were invited to bring antiques and artefacts to be identified. The museum and Friends had a display of museum artefacts, information about the History Society and a large collection of bottles which were for sale. Coffee and biscuits were provided and interest was shown in particular to the Victorian school slates and an old typewriter, all with hands on experience under supervision! Despite extensive publicity attendance was disappointing but provided useful experience which could pave the way for other initiatives.

Christmas Party

Our annual party was held in the Institute and is a 'thank you' to the stewards, museum committee and volunteers for all they do for the museum. A round-the-wall quiz set the scene and quality wines and soft drinks were followed by tasty eats. The occasion is always an enjoyable social one and it was good to see two under 10 year olds, perhaps the volunteers of the future!

Future Events of the Friends

23rd February Wednesday - combined visit with the History Society members to Cobham Bus Museum at 10.30am. The museum is about to relocate to Brooklands and this will be the last chance to see the old WW2 hanger housing a few of the remaining buses and also the site where Barnes Wallis tested his 'bouncing bomb'. Lunch will be at the adjacent Silver Mere Golf Club followed at 2.30pm by a guided tour of the Mercedes Benz showroom/museum and test track at Brooklands.

11th May Wednesday - Visit to Mickleham. 11.0 a.m. Guided tour of St Michael's Church. Lunch – own arrangements. Afternoon - Optional walk to parts of Stane Street close to the village.

Other Dates:

10th, 11th and 19th March - Steward open forum/update sessions

31st March - Museum opens

21st April - Friends AGM at 7.30pm in the Letherhead Institute

28th May - Swan Centre display barrow

2nd, 3rd and 4th June - craft days at the museum

If you would like to come please contact me on 01372 372930.

Fred Meynen

When did that happen?

Although local newspapers, parish and residents' magazines record many events in words and pictures, lots of things change almost without us noticing. The late Bill Culley's Bookham in the Twentieth Century was published only ten years



ago, but many of the shops that he mentions have since changed hands and now offer different services. What about the other parishes in our area? Change is ongoing, and it would be valuable historical data to chart this for as many properties as possible. Why not 'adopt a shop', a house or a road, and record changes in writing and on camera as they occur? Or a periodic 'Culley census'? I'm sure that our parish archivists would be interested to hear of volunteers for this, and of other research in progress-

As an example, Bookham railway station used to have two kiosks beside the footbridge. As a regular traveller, I recall several successive uses of each kiosk; before one (an estate agency half a century ago) was demolished some years back and the other (a barber's shop for many years, last used as a taxi booking office) is derelict. Although the station buildings, including the station - master's house (now a health practice), the footbridge, the tunnel and the road bridge are all scheduled as ancient monuments (yes, really!) the listing didn't specify the kiosks. A mobile snack bar appeared beside the footbridge in 2009 but disappeared in May 2010. In 2008 a cash/card- operated ticket-issuing machine was put up next to the ticket office, and each platform entrance sprouted a steel pole carrying a small display screen, still (January 2011) covered by a padlocked canvas hood. I was told that there is an uncompleted plan by South West Trains to extend the Oyster prepaid card system ('touch and go') outside the London area.

Continuing the railway theme, many of the older black on yellow (two faces set diagonally) angled or smaller black on white oval quarter-mileposts have been replaced recently by larger back-to-back blue on grey square plates hung diagonally - still Imperial and not decimal measures. When did the trackside solar panels and small windmills first appear in, and the last wooden gradient marker vanish from, our area?

Derek Renn

My Favourite Building

This was the theme for our Christmas social event on 17th December when members gave short presentations on their favourite building worldwide. Cold weather had been predicted and with evening temperatures starting at -4° C only but the most hardy ventured forth. We were greeted by our Master of Ceremonies Brian Hennegan and after selecting a glass of fine wine or a soft drink we were invited to sit at the decorated tables to partake from canapés and other goodies.

Bill Larkin started the proceedings with his favourite building The Letherhead Institute with its long history of community involvement and then taking a look at what its



Brighton Pavilion

future might be. Linda Heath chose Hampton cottage describing its long history of inhabitants and also the effect on her of the damage caused to the building in 2007. The history of the Brighton Pavilion was the subject chosen by Gwen Hoad and the connection the building had with her family. David Lokkerbol had the Vauxhall Cross Government building in London chosen

because of its iconic architecture while St Olaf's Church in Balstrand, Norway with its wooden structure had a special meaning for Goff Powell. Brian Hennegan found particular inspiration from Guildford Cathedral and Fred Meynen ended with his 50 year old garden shed full of old garden tools.

Mince pies and coffee were then served while the raffle was drawn and we all went out into the cold night air with the temperature down to -7 C. Next morning we woke up to a snow covered landscape!

Grateful thanks to Vivien, Doug, Roz, Lindsay and Margaret for their help and to 'Bob the Builder' Brian Hennegan for being such an entertaining and excellent MC.

Fred Meynen



Fred's Shed

Searching for Stane Street

Mickleham Downs to Ewell London Road

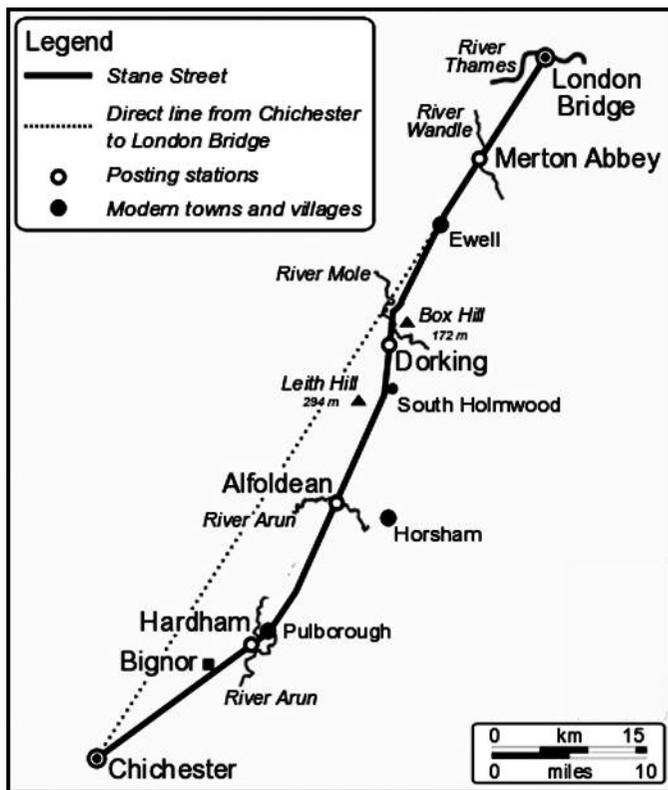
Roman roads interest many people, as the large audience for our November meeting clearly showed. Our speaker, Alan Hall, is secretary of the Roman Studies Group of the Surrey Archaeological Society and had carried out research on the local roads for his MA degree. As he explained, the Romans didn't give their roads names. Stane (Anglo-Saxon for stone) Street (way) was a later name, and even more recent was Pibble Lane. Stane Street could be traced from London Bridge through Streatham (a place-name often found on the line of a Roman road) to Ewell, the line being mainly marked today by the A24. Until recently the position of the road between the Organ Inn and North Holmwood was uncertain.. Thereafter Stane Street could be followed (particularly along the A29 through Ockley) to Chichester, a Roman town, and the coast and harbours beyond.

The speaker described the literature on the road, from Hilaire Belloc's fanciful ideas, Captain Grant's accurate survey, Stanley Winbolt's excavations and Ivan Margary's 'Roman Ways in the Weald' ground-breaking in more ways than one. A Roman road-book (the 'Antonine Itinerary') directed the traveller from Londinium to Noviomagnum (Chichester) in a roundabout way via Silchester and Winchester. Recently a direct Roman road from Winchester to London had been traced through Hampshire but its route beyond Farnham was uncertain.

Although Roman roads were remarkably correctly aligned between their final destinations, they were not absolutely straight. They wavered by a few degrees between each pair of high points used for surveying, and to avoid steep slopes (like Box Hill). At present the line of Stane Street between Juniper Hill and North Holmwood is unknown. The Mole was probably forded at Burford (hence the name: 'Bridge' came later). Many test pits dug all over the Denbies hillside produced nothing, but old maps showed a straight alignment along the valley bottom into the Mole gap.



Alan described each of the local excavations across the line of Stane Street from the cutting of the M25 (still crossed by a right of way bridge here) and another to bury a gas pipeline, the leasing of an Epsom allotment for archaeology rather than horticulture, and testpits in private



gardens (he recommended 1.5 metres square to give enough elbow-room). Where still complete, the road was metres (20 Roman feet) wide, built of flints covered in pebbly gravel, set whenever possible on solid chalk, not London clay or sand. Chalk and clay are slippery when wet: flints give a surer footing. A certain standard of proof of a road was necessary: alignments suggested by extending the known line had proved incorrect. Hedges could be deceptive, but old photographs could show terraces up to 3 metres high which had been ploughed out later.

Mr Hall's research had shown that Roman road construction here followed a line marked by a plough. Side ditches for drainage were not universal: often there was only one ditch on the uphill side of a terraceway, or the ditches were the result of quarrying for roadmetal. Slight changes of alignment occurred not only at major adjustments but also at intermediate (usually high) points of the route. Blanks drawn in Ewell (where he was working with Frank Pemberton) might indicate a double Z-bend here, perhaps for reasons related to the lakes and ponds. Stane Street was disused by the fourth century AD.

Among his answers to the many questions put to him, the speaker said that there were Roman stone bridges in northern England, At Alfoldean there were traces of the

wooden bridge by which Stane Street crossed the river Arun. Roads sank below the surface because of natural action (blown or washed-down soil and leaves, disturbance by earthworms as Charles Darwin had demonstrated on the site of the Abinger villa). Responsible detectorists might help by detecting metal finds (an iron axle-pin of the first century AD had been found near Cherkley Court many years ago). He was doubtful about the purpose of the side road to the Ashted villa -its very light construction suggested to him that it was a temporary trackway built to allow the removal of robbed stone, tiles and bricks.

Derek Renn

Newsletter Costs and Production

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided that the Society should try and reduce the costs of producing the newsletter. The format and the content are not to be compromised but other ways of producing the newsletter were discussed. The two suggestions below were discussed at length as being worth a trial and the committee would welcome your comments on them.



1. Online Production

In this day of increasing computerization it was felt that some members might be more than happy to receive their Newsletter on line. At the moment it is produced on a PDF format which is easily emailed to anyone who wishes to receive it that way. It will of course be produced as a hard copy to be collected, delivered or posted as at present to all other members.

The advantages of such a scheme are threefold: a) ease and convenience of delivery to members b) reduction in printing costs and c) reduction in postage costs.

2. Advertising in the Newsletter

As another way of increasing the awareness of the Society and its Newsletter the committee thought that having, perhaps, four pages of advertising by local companies/restaurants etc. would be an asset. The cost of these would be very reasonable, in the region of £60 for half a page for the four editions published in a year.

As a committee we would like to hear your views on the above suggestions and if you know of anyone who would like to advertise please contact the editor, Martin Warwick, myself or any other officer of the Society.

David Wall, Membership Secretary

News from the Museum Committee



The museum closed on 12th December and will reopen during the first week in April. As usual we will try to change as many displays as possible during the closed period but, as usual, there is a shortage of manpower to get it all done during this limited period. The temporary displays from the Heritage Open Days weekend have been removed and we will re-instate the permanent ones in time for the re-opening.

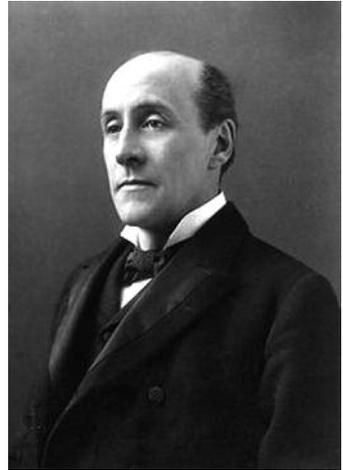
We are still receiving items for accession without any paperwork and this makes it impossible to complete the documentation or to establish our title to them. As we said in the last Newsletter, there has been a CB radio in the office for months now with no accession forms or information as to why it is there. We had hoped that the steward who put it there would have given us the details, but there has been no response. Is it being offered to the museum? There must be someone who took it in or put it in the office.

I would repeat the appeal made last year for more people to help in the museum. If you don't want to get involved in the documentation at least you may be willing to help by cleaning and re-arranging the displays before we re-open.

Peter Tarplee

Anthony Hope

St John's School in Leatherhead was originally founded in 1851 by a clergyman who was vicar in St John's Wood, north London. It was founded with a dual purpose, to offer free education for the sons of poor clergymen and to provide a choir for his large church. It first moved into Kilburn and it was not until 1872 that it moved to Leatherhead. One of its first headmasters was the Reverend Edward Connerford Hawkins. His wife was Jane Isabella Grahame (an aunt of Kenneth Grahame, author of *Wind in the Willows*) and they had three children Geoffrey, Joan and Anthony.



Anthony whose full name was Anthony Hope Hawkins was educated at St John's until old enough to be sent to Marlborough College, where he edited *The Marlburian*. He won a scholarship to Balliol College at Oxford University in 1881. He played football for his college, took a first-class degree in Classics, and was one of the rare Liberal presidents of the Oxford Union, becoming known as a good speaker.

Anthony is better known as Anthony Hope, the English novelist and playwright. He was a prolific writer, especially of adventure novels and is remembered best for the two books: *The Prisoner of Zenda* (1894) and its sequel *Rupert of Hentzau* (1898). These works, 'minor classics' of English literature, are set in the fictional country of Ruritania and spawned the genre known as Ruritanian romance. Anthony Hope was England's rival to Alexandre Dumas, with his books matching the popularity of *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Man in the Iron Mask*

He trained as a lawyer and barrister, being called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1887. He had time to write, as his working day was not overly full during these first years, and he lived with his widowed father, then vicar of St Bride's Church, Fleet Street.

His short pieces appeared in periodicals, but for his first book he was forced to resort to a vanity press. *A Man of Mark* (1890) is notable primarily for its similarities to *Zenda*: it is set in an imaginary country, Aureataland, and features political upheaval and humour. More novels and short stories followed, including *Father Stafford* in 1891 and the mildly successful *Mr Witt's Widow* in 1892. He stood as a Liberal candidate for the Southern Division of South Bucks in the election of 1892 but was not elected. In 1893 he wrote three novels (*Sport Royal*, *A Change of Air* and *Half-a-Hero*) and a series of sketches that first appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* and were collected in 1894 as *The Dolly Dialogues*, illustrated by Arthur Rackham. *Dolly* was his first major literary success. AEW Mason deemed these conversations 'so truly set in the London

of their day that the social historian would be unwise to neglect them' and said they were written with 'delicate wit and a shade of sadness.'

The idea for his tale of political intrigue, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, being the history of three months in the life of an English gentleman, came to him at the close of 1893 as he was walking in London. He finished the first draft in a month, and the book was in print by April. The story is set in the fictional European kingdom of 'Ruritania', a term which has come to mean 'the novelist's and dramatist's locale for court romances in a modern setting.' *Zenda* achieved instant success, and its witty protagonist, the debonair Rudolf Rassendyll, became a well-known literary creation. The novel was praised by Mason, the literary critic Andrew Lang, and Robert Louis Stevenson. The popularity of *Zenda* convinced him to give up the 'brilliant legal career that seemed to lie ahead of him' to become a full-time writer, but he 'never again achieved such complete artistic success as in this one book.' Also in 1894, Hope produced *The God in the Car*, a political story.

The sequel to *Zenda*, *Rupert of Hentzau*, begun in 1895 and serialised in the *Pall Mall Magazine*, did not appear between hard covers until 1898. A prequel entitled *The Heart of Princess Osra*, a collection of short stories set about 150 years before *Zenda*, appeared in 1896. He also co-wrote, with Edward Rose, the first stage adaptation of *Zenda*, which appeared on the London stage that year. He alone wrote the dramatic adaptation of *Rupert of Hentzau* in 1899.

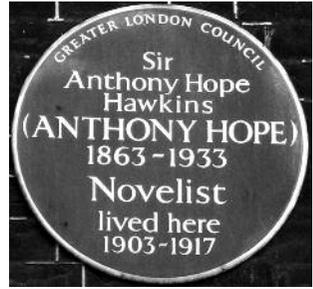
He wrote 32 volumes of fiction over the course of his lifetime, and he had a large popular following. In 1896 he published *The Chronicles of Count Antonio*, followed in 1897 by a tale of adventure set on a Greek island, entitled *Phroso*. He went on a publicity tour of the United States in late 1897, during which he impressed a New York Times reporter as being somewhat like Rudolf Rassendyll - a well-dressed Englishman with a hearty laugh, a soldierly attitude, a dry sense of humour, 'quiet, easy manners' and an air of shrewdness.

In 1898 he wrote *Simon Dale*, an historical novel involving the actress and courtesan Nell Gwyn. Marie Tempest appeared in the dramatisation, called *English Nell*. One of Hope's plays, *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, was produced in 1898. This was followed by his novel *The King's Mirror* (1899), which He considered one of his best works. In 1900, he published *Quisanté*, and he was elected



Film Versions from 1922 to 1988

chairman of the committee of the Society of Authors. He wrote *Tristram of Blent* in 1901 and *Double Harness* in 1904, followed by *A Servant of the Public* in 1905, about the love of acting. In 1906, he produced *Sophy of Kravonia*, a novel in a similar vein to *Zenda* which was serialised in the *Windsor Magazine*; Roger Lancelyn Green is especially damning of this effort. In 1910, he wrote *Second String*, followed by *Mrs Maxon Protests* the next year.



In addition, he wrote or co-wrote many plays and some political non-fiction during the First World War, some under the auspices of the Ministry of Information. Later publications included *Beaumaroy Home from the Wars*, in 1919, and *Lucinda* in 1920. Lancelyn Green asserts that he was 'a first-class amateur but only a second-class professional writer.

He married Elizabeth Somerville (1885/6–1946) in 1903, and they had two sons and a daughter. He was knighted in 1918 for his contribution to propaganda efforts during World War I. He published an autobiographical book, *Memories and Notes*, in 1927. He died of throat cancer at the age of 70 at his country home, Heath Farm at Walton-on-the-Hill. He is buried in Leatherhead Parish Church.

His memory is secured by the enduring popularity across the decades of *The Prisoner of Zenda*. In Hawkins' own lifetime, that book was filmed twice, in 1913 (James K. Hackett, Beatrice Beckley and David Torrence), and 1922 (Ramon Novarro and Alice Terry). During the sound era, the 1937 (Ronald Colman, Madeline Carroll and Douglas Fairbanks) Selznick production (still one of the greatest swashbucklers ever made) was followed by a shot-for-shot remake in 1952 (Stewart Granger, Deborah Kerr and James Mason), and a 1979 (Peter Sellers, Lynne Frederick, Lionel Jeffries, and Elke Sommer), comic version not strictly true to the book but has been thought by many to capture its spirit very well. In 1988 the Australians released a children's animation, comedy-adventure film, very loosely based on the classic swashbuckler.

Goff Powell

Ted Bowley

Edward Bowley's father (also Edward) was a gardener and was born at Slindon, Sussex in 1856. In 1881 he was lodging with Henry Champion, a blacksmith who lived at Oaktree Cottage, Byfleet. In 1852 he married Henry's daughter Jane. Their first son was called Arthur and their second son was Edward who was born in Leatherhead in 1890. How he came to be born in Leatherhead is not obvious, perhaps his mother had been staying with her family in the area. The family home in 1891 was at Clayton Court Lodge, Hill Brow, Sussex near Liss, Hampshire.

His father must have been a cricket enthusiast because he had a wicket made in a field



at the back of the house. It seems bowling was his speciality, for he would give good length deliveries to his youngest son, thus providing good batting practice that would stand him in good stead for the future. He learned his early cricket at Liss and nearby Stodham Park, these being the first clubs he played for before he went to the Sussex nursery having qualified by residence for Sussex. While at Brighton he improved as the result of batting in good company, owing much to the excellent advice given him by Joe Vine and Albert Relf.

Henry played his first match for Sussex in 1912 and in the following season took part in only four County games but in 1914 he became a regular member of the side and in County matches, with a highest innings of 84, scored 1,170 runs and averaged over 27. Then came the war and for him, as for

very many others, cricket had to be given up for the more serious business. He joined the Army and did not play again until the season of 1920. For the next 14 seasons he was a reliable run-getter for his county and for the three seasons from 1927 to 1929 was among the heaviest scorers in the country. At 39, he was called up for two Test matches against South Africa in 1929, and the following winter he toured New Zealand and Australia with Harold Gilligan's MCC team, playing in three of the four Test matches against New Zealand. He scored 109 at Auckland.



He shared in several big partnerships for Sussex, two of them still county records. In 1921, he put on 385 for the second wicket with Maurice Tate against Northamptonshire at Northampton. Against Gloucestershire at Hove in 1929, he hit an undefeated 280 in a day and shared a first-wicket partnership of 368 with Jim Parks senior. This Sussex record was beaten four years later when, with John Langridge, he put on 490 runs. This is the third highest first-wicket partnership in England, the fourth highest of all time and the eighth highest partnership for any wicket in first-class cricket. In this partnership, against Middlesex at Hove, he made his highest score, 283. He was also a useful leg-spin bowler, regularly taking around 50 wickets a season. In 1928, he took 90 wickets as well as scoring 2,359 runs.

In 1930 he was Wisden Cricketer of the Year. He retired from First Class cricket in 1934. On his retirement he moved to Winchester, where for 23 seasons successive generations of boys profited from his coaching and enjoyed his friendship.

He died in Winchester Hospital on July 9, 1974.

Goff Powell

Spring Lecture Programme

Lectures at The Letherhead Institute (top of The High Street) - Coffee 7.30pm lecture 8.00pm admission £1 All are Welcome

18th February ‘Guildford Past and Present ‘ by Phillip Hutchinson

Phillip is the Senior Custodian of The Guildford Castle Keep. He has published several books about Guildford and is a popular tour guide.

18th March ‘Dowsing and Dowsing for History ‘ by Keith Harmon

Keith is a Council Member of The British Society of Dowsers and a registered instructor. He is also Chairman of The Middlesex and Surrey Archaeological Dowsers who made interesting finds at Polesden Lacey.

15th April AGM followed by - lecture ‘Fetcham Parish Boundary and Beating The Bounds ‘ by Alan Pooley

Alan is a local historian and archivist for Fetcham. He is Manager of Leatherhead Museum of Local History

20th May ‘Lovelace in Surrey : A Project’ by Peter Hattersley and Andrew Norris

The project was launched in 2003 and is a partnership between the Horsley Countryside Preservation Society and The Forestry Commission. Peter is the project co-ordinator and Andrew the project surveyor.

Additional Visit:

11th May Wednesday - Visit to Mickleham.

11.0 a.m. Guided tour of St Michael’s Church. Lunch – own arrangements. Afternoon - Optional walk to parts of Stane Street close to the village. Applications to John Wettern, 01372 459277 or johnwettern@ntlworld.com

Dr Fred Meynen Programme Secretary tel 01372 372930 email fredmeynen@live.co.uk

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Records

RECORDS SECRETARY (Vacancy)

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

Ashtead	Jack Willis
Bookham	tba
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, Ashtead, Bookham and Fetcham submitted via the Museum

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