

*LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY*

NEWSLETTER



MAY 2011

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

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

Telephone: 01372 386348

staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com

Web site: www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk

PRESIDENT : Gordon Knowles 01372 458396

CHAIRMAN

David Hartley

01372 377839

SECRETARY

VACANT

TREASURER

David Lokkerbol

01372 375756

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

(Vacant)

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

In time to come perhaps the most memorable event of the last year will be the merger of the History Society with the Museum Trust as decided at the April AGM. However it will make little impact at a practical level - it means little more than the two previous charities being combined into one with just one set of Trustees. There certainly is no intent to change how we operate in practice.



This quarter is encouraging to see the number of articles received for the Newsletter and we hope this continues. There must be more of you in the Society who have a particular interest in the history of an area or particular building or personality and we invite you to send in an article for publication - the Newsletter is a good vehicle for this. We hope all the members of the Society look forward to receiving the quarterly magazine and enjoy reading the articles.

We still have a far too long list of posts to fill, the word 'Vacant' appears too many times in the officers of the Society. We invite you to get more involved with us and our activities. Filling one of these posts usually brings you in a new band of friendship with not too onerous tasks. Remember we are not looking for professional historians, enthusiastic amateurs are ideal!

Martin Warwick

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to both members and visitors to this Newsletter. We are on the lookout for new dynamic and busy individuals who can find some time to spare to assist in one of the activities, at the museum, writing an article for the Newsletter or carrying out some research for publication in our annual Proceedings on local history relating to the parishes of Ashtead, Bookham, Fetcham or Leatherhead.



Following our most recent executive committee meeting it was unanimously agreed that we need to raise the profile of our History Society and the Museum and gain new members. We have a lot to do and we need addition help particularly now that we now own and maintain the museum building in addition to the usual day to day running of the museum and its artefacts managed by Alan Pooley the museum Manager and his team.

One way of course for us to raise our profile is for members to spread the word talking to friends, neighbours and relations and even strangers about the work of the History Society and its Museum. We have an urgent need for a volunteer to fill the vacant post of Publicity Officer left vacant following the retirement of John Wettren our previous Newsletter Editor who was always keen to promote the Society and the Museum. Fortunately John Wettren and Fred Meynen are due to meet a candidate for this post in the next few weeks and we will of course keep you informed as to progress. If there is however anyone else interested in this role we would be delighted to hear from them.

I would like to welcome and thank Roy Mellick, a recent new member to the Society, for taking up the positions office of Records Secretary and the post of Bookham Archivist. Roy is currently actively involved in the Bookham U3A Military History Group.

We are still seeking a volunteer with local historical interests to take on the post of Leatherhead Archivist following the retirement of John Derry.

Finally our able Hon Secretary Vivien Hollingsworth has now retired following this year's AGM after some six years in the post and we have no immediate replacement - it will be difficult for us to continue to operate and function correctly and effectively as a History Society without filling this office. I appeal to our membership for a volunteer for this important post.

Three Important Events

Ashtead Village Day on the 11th June on the Playing Fields at Lower Ashtead adjacent to St Georges Church we intend to have a stand and display to promote and sell our publications. We need help in erecting a gazebo and setting up and manning the stand during the day - offers of assistance would be gratefully received - contact me on my mobile 07947 471165 or landline 01372 377839 or email Hartley1949@msn.com. As

this is the first time for many years that we have attempted an open air site in Ashtead please support us at this event.

Bookham Village Day Saturday 18th June with the theme 'A Day at the Races' gives plenty of scope for dressing up and putting on the style. The History Society will provide an appropriate display and promotional material as well as books for sale. Our stand will be inside and we would like your support to man the display for an hour or so to promote us and sell the occasional membership and books -please visit our display.

Heritage Open Days on 8th - 11th September in Mole Valley and the Society and Museum will as usual take part in this event with a display at the Museum at Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street Leatherhead and in the Dixon Hall at Leatherhead Institute. Full details of all events will be forthcoming in due course - we would like to see more members participating and supporting this year's event - contact me by phone or email or Alan Pooley our Museum Manager on Monday mornings at the Museum by phoning 01372 386348 or email staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com

David Hartley

Archaeology Report

There are three forthcoming events in support of the Surrey Archaeological Society and the Surrey Industrial History Group. The Surrey Local History Committee spring meeting is on Saturday 21st May at 2.00 - 4.30pm at Shalford Village Hall (Upper Hall) with the theme 'Surrey Woodlands'. Entrance is £5.00 payable on the door - for more details contact Janet Balchin on janet.balchin@btinternet.com.

Surrey Archaeological Society's Annual Lecture is at the Menuhin Hall, Stoke D'Abernon on Friday 10th June entitled 'The Life & Work of Helen Allingham RWS'. The illustrated lecture on one of the finest watercolour artist of Victorian Times is by Annabel Watts a leading expert. Doors open at 6.30pm and the lecture will commence at 7.45pm - a bar will be available from 6.45pm and tickets are £12.00 including a glass of wine. Tickets are only available in advance from the booking office at the Menuhin Hall telephone 08700 842020 or by email boxoffice@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk.

The Surrey Industrial History Group have prepared another very full and interesting programme of lectures for their 2011 -2012 season on the many and varied subjects of Industrial Archaeology and History. This series of eleven fortnightly meetings commence on 4th October at 7.30 - 9.30pm in Lecture Theatre F at the University of Surrey, Guildford. Enrolment is by application form available from Bob Bryson (SIHG Lectures), 6 Wychelm Rise, Guildford GU1 3TH or telephone Bob Bryson 01483 577809 or email meetings@sihg.org.uk. There is a discount available on the full fee of £5.00 if you pay before 31st July.

For enthusiastic computer web browsers and/or ‘dirt archaeologists’ there is an interesting website ‘Past Horizons’, www.pasthorizons.com. It is a site that offers a monthly newsletter with articles amongst other things on current archaeological topics including favourite tools for both young beginners and the mature archaeologist.

If you are interested in field work experience, sites to dig or archaeological field trips to far flung horizons visit the Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS) site at www.kafs.co.uk to download their newsletter as a PDF document.

David Hartley

Museum Musings

Derek Renn very kindly added to our knowledge of the Saxon Bucket which is proudly displayed in the Museum. We now know about the circumstances of its discovery at Watersmeet in Fetcham around 1930. We know of the extraordinary similarity that exists between this design and that known to the Norsemen as I discovered in the Oslo museum. There is one thing more that I would still like to know - can someone tell us about that splendid model of the bucket based on the finds from the dig?

The replica that is displayed gives us a clear idea what the original looked like even though all that remained were traces of the metalwork which had been attached to the wooden parts, long since rotted away. So who was the talented creator of our model and how did he manage to achieve this? Is there a story about this splendid artefact and if so could it be shared with your readers?

John Wettren

From Alan Pooley in reply:

I can clear up one “mystery” regarding the Fetcham bucket reproduction - it was made by David Bruce and Geoff Crossland to a sketch produced by David Williams who had been asked to draw it by Rob Poulton. This is stated in our records associated with the artefact.

What is a mystery to me which I have never pursued is: Where exactly were the remains found?

The January 1933 Antiquaries Journal paper by Arthur Cotton is perhaps a bit ambiguous. It starts off, “In March 1929 Mr. Edward Mizen... in digging foundations for a greenhouse, found a sword and three spearheads...”, later, “In March 1930 further digging in one of the adjoining greenhouses produced a sword-knife, spear head...” “On visiting the site I [Arthur Cotton] found that the greenhouses were built on the banks of a large mill-pond which overflowed into the river Mole”. Other items were also found then and the article continues: “The most interesting and important finds were the remains of a small bronze bucket, which were found on the 24th of March 1930, buried in the river gravel at a depth of about 3 ft”.

I have little doubt that the greenhouses referred to were the ones to the rear of the bus garage on the site now occupied by the Fire Station, not exactly on the ‘banks of the

mill-pond' but close by.

The article continues listing other finds but then states: "With the exception of a few worked flints, which were found at a depth of 4 ft on the site, and the bones of a horse which were dug up at a depth of 12 ft, some few yards from the site at the side of the river, no further discoveries were made until February last when at a distance of 14 yards to the north-west of the former site an iron sword..... were found at a depth of 3 ft from the surface."



Mizen leased land between the river and the Guildford line railway embankment and built green houses here as well. Is the statement "at the side of the river" used as a more specific or broad description?

Further Note from Alan Pooley:

Further to my earlier note I came across this on the 'Pastscape.org.uk' website:

Saxon inhumation cemetery at Watersmeet. In March 1929 in digging foundations for a greenhouse (the property of Mr. Edward Mizen), a sword and three spearheads of 5th - 6th century date were found. In March 1930 further work close by brought to light a scramasax, a spearhead and an umbo of similar character. Still further finds were another sword, a socketed spearhead, a knife, portions of another umbo, a bronze sword pommel of the cocked hat type, a circular bronze ornament, and the remains of a bucket with bronze ornaments. Finally another iron sword with bronze chapes and remains of a scabbard.

A bronze ornament is in The British Museum (1-2) TQ 16015617. The site of these finds falls in the flood plain of the River Mole.

Mr. A.W.G. Lowther is of the opinion that they are weapons lost either as a result of a skirmish at the river crossing, or whilst fording the river. However, Mr Mizen who was present at the time of discovery and pointed out the site states that the weapons were found lying in a line in groups in gravel at a depth of 3ft. and therefore would appear to represent burials, though no bones were found.

Some of the finds remain in the possession of Mr Mizen.

Site surveyed on to A.M. (3)

No further information - the greenhouses have been pulled down. (4)

The attached map with the article, clearly indicates that the site is in the middle of the current fire station which is confirmed by the map reference!

Rose Cottage and the Akehurst Murders

This picture of Rose Cottage is from a painting before it was very considerably rebuilt incorporating the massive chimney and flue along with some internal work. It is one of the few remaining ones of up to eight cottages that once existed on Fetcham Common.



In 1792 the Court

Baron gave a grant of leave to John Akeurst to enclose a piece of Waste on the Manor of Fetcham and later the Enclosure award granted to him 'all that parcel of Copyhold land....containing three roods and thirteen perches' [approx $\frac{3}{4}$ acre]. Oddly a 1818 reference refers to it as $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of Freehold land. I have no doubt that Rose Cottage is the location of the following which comes from a pamphlet in the Minit Library:

Cruel Murder

Committed at Fetcham Common on Friday October 13th 1826 on a helpless old man named JOHN ARKHURST aged 96 & ELIZABETH HAINES his housekeeper aged 74 who was found bruised and cut in a most barbarous manner & surrounded on all sides with their own blood.

The neighbourhood of Leatherhead in the county of Surrey was thrown into a state of horror last Friday morning at the discovery of a cruel murder, perpetrated upon a helpless old man named John Arkhurst aged 96 and Elizabeth Haines his housekeeper aged 74 who inhabited a cottage in a solitary situation in Fetcham common within two miles of Leatherhead on the Guildford Road. The discovery was made by a lad who had been employed by the deceased to gather his stock of apples and who attended on the premises on Friday morning at 6 o'clock for that purpose. On calling on Elizabeth Haines & receiving no answer he suspected all was not right and returned and communicated his suspicions to his mother, who accompanied him to the spot and made the dreadful discovery. She was so much alarmed that she hastened from the scene to get other assistance & magistrates & officers were quickly brought to the spot & an examination of the premises was commenced. The house had been entered by the wash house window. At the head of the staircase was a room in which the female slept, at the extreme end of which was a door leading into that occupied by the old man. On entering this the unfortunate woman was discovered lying on

the flat of her back with her face towards the door. There was a pool of blood surrounding her head, the back of which was fractured by a blow by a heavy bludgeon or some blunt instrument. There were black marks on her neck as if an attempt had been made to strangle her and one of her hands were bruised, apparently from holding it



up to avert the blows. To the right of the door the body of the old man lay extended on the bed. It presented a shocking spectacle, both of the hands raised up over his head as if defending it from blows. The knuckles and backs of the hands were dreadfully lacerated and on the right of his head above the ear appeared the two fatal wound that caused his death. The bed clothes were streaming with gore and his night cap which was lying close alongside the pillow was saturated in blood. Nothing was found to throw the slightest light on the perpetrators. The chests in the upper rooms occupied by the deceased persons were found to have been rummaged, but none of the clothes together with the will of the old man bequeathing his little cottage and spot of ground to his daughter were touched.

This account continues and there is another slightly spiced up version which covers subsequent events in the book ‘The Murder Club’ by Brian Lane. It seems that although there were various suspects at the time and accusations made nobody was convicted but my money is on the wayward daughter Mary Ayres and her companion ‘Page’.

We know that in 1842 the cottage was owned by William Barnard Hankey and occupied by Richard Austin, a sawyer and obviously used as an estate cottage since later occupants were gardeners and a gamekeeper. By 1885 Charles Pinion also a gardener and his family were here and he received £3 compensation for land taken for the construction of the railway line - a lot less than the owner.

The railway severed the end of Cock Lane leaving the cottage on a stub off Fetcham Common Lane, the modern name for the end of Kennel Lane after it crosses the line. This stub for many years was still a public right of way up to the railway fence!

It was lot 4 in the 1920 Estate auction by George Barnard Hankey but did not sell and in 1923 the daughter of the occupant, Stephen Tickner succeeded in purchasing it for £450 plus possibly another £30 for a piece owned by the agent Druce.

In this photograph the chimney can just be seen through the trees on the right hand side.

AGM 2011 Review

The following is an extract from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Letherhead Institute on Friday 15th April 2011 at 8pm which we publish here recording the approval of the membership to the following resolutions, a copy of the Rules of the Society will be distributed separately with the Newsletter for your record.



Agenda Item 10.1

The President moves that the revised rules of the Society, as tabled, be adopted as from the date of this meeting.

(The essential revisions are to the Objects which include those passed at the EGM earlier this year, incorporating ownership and maintenance of the museum, and the final one which has been subsequently marginally modified to include publications ‘for the benefit of the public’. This is to meet the requirements of the Charities Commissioner).

Motion seconded by Richard Trim.

Agenda item 10.2

The President moves that from the date of this Annual General Meeting the Leatherhead Museum and Heritage Centre Trust (Registered Charity No. 273798) is merged with the Leatherhead and District Local History Society (Registered Charity No. 802409).

(The latter will now be formally wound up and the assets, including bank balances and investments will be transferred. The Society Treasurer will retain separate accounts as hitherto.)

Motion agreed unanimously: nem con.

David Hartley

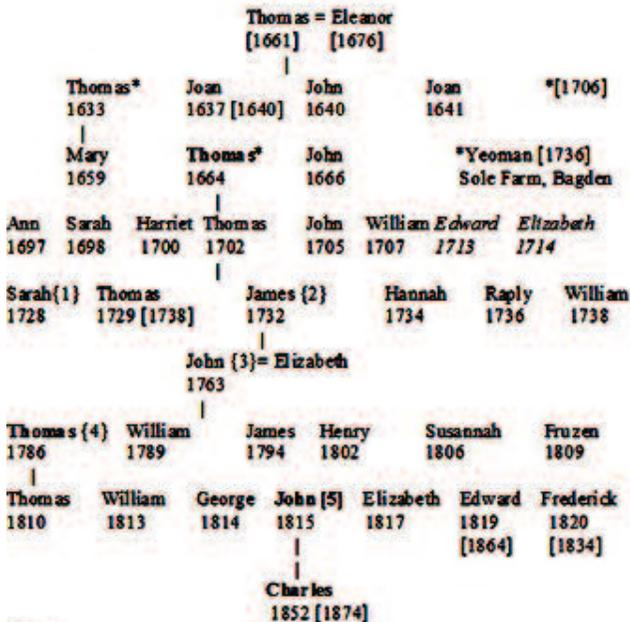


Two Wood Families in Bookham

There are on the Polesden Estate two farms that were for a long time occupied by members of the Wood family. Many family members were baptised and buried at St Nicolas, Great Bookham. Over 100 baptisms and nearly as many deaths are recorded from 1632, when our registers start, to 1865 and a few after that date.

I have used the registers to construct the outline of a family tree for the Bagden and Yewtrees families, aided in the case of the Yewtree branch by information from a relative. There is a cluster of graves on the West side of the path from the Lych Gate to the Church door that are Yewtree family and a table-top tomb alongside the path from the Fetcham gate remembers a Thomas Wood of Bagden who died in 1736.

Wood of Bagden.

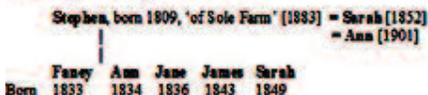


Notes:

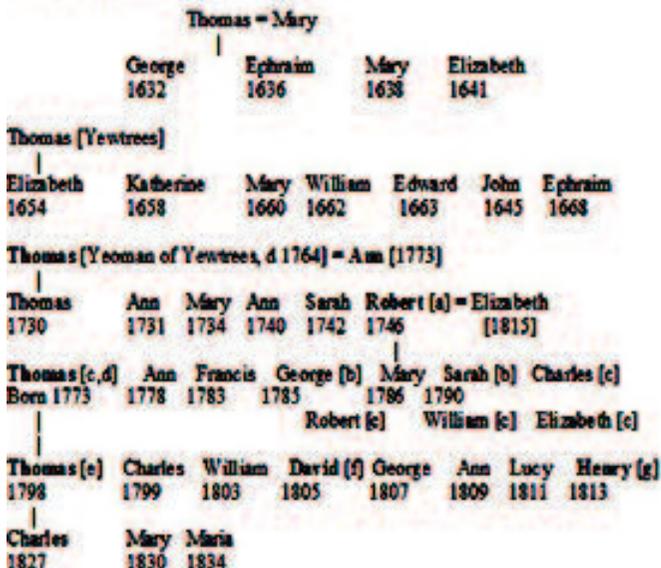
- 1 Sarah married Dean Leonard of Weybridge @ Bookham 1747.
- 2 James married Jane, and appears on 1820 Enclosure map
- 3 John married Elizabeth and appears on 1820 Enclosure map
- 4 Thomas, died 1837, married Maria, died 1831, and was a baker.
- 5 John, died 1866, married Anna, died 1877.

Wood of Sole Farm.

Some of the "Wood" s of Bagden are also described as 'of Sole Farm'.
The family below may therefore be related.



Wood of Yewtrees.



Notes:

- a. Robert, died 1805, described as 'late of Yewtrees'.*
- b. George and Sarah were not mentioned in the will of Robert*
- c. Thomas, Charles, Robert, William & Elizabeth were mentioned in will of Robert but not in Baptism Register. Elizabeth married William Cambridge.*
- d. Thomas, a carpenter married Maria. He died 1810, she died 1863.*
- e. Thomas, died 1860, also a carpenter, married Mary, died 1860..*
- f. David died 1821.*
- g. Henry died 1845.*

Thomas was a preferred Christian name in both families and to add to the confusion there are two tombstones to Thomas and Maria Wood, different but roughly contemporary. In this paper: names in Bold are on memorials in the Churchyard;

‘Open’ dates are from the baptism registers;

Dates in [] brackets are from the burials register;

I do not have baptism dates for Stephen Wood of Sole Farm or for Thomas Wood of Yewtrees, died 1810. We can calculate birth dates from their tombstones.

Thanks: My thanks to Roddy Clube who in the 1970s recorded all the inscriptions then legible on tombstones in the Churchyard and to Mrs Joyce Dawson who provided information about her ‘Yewtrees’ Wood ancestors

William Whitman

Dowsing and Archaeology

The March lecture was given by Keith Harmon on 'Dowsing and Archaeology' in which he demonstrated the use of dowsing to locate archaeological finds and buildings. Keith is a council member of the British Society of Dowsers and Chairman of their health group and the founder member and chairman of the



Middlesex and Surrey Archaeology Dowsers. He also is a member of a group recording finds on the Thames foreshore.

Keith introduced the subject by defining dowsing as an 'information system' which receives answers to the questions as to whether water, an artefact or building is present, its exact location and the depth below ground. The first records show dowsing going back to the time of the Egyptian Pharaohs where a pendulum was used in healing. Later a 15th century painting depicts how hazel rods are used to detect minerals.

Keith went on to demonstrate the various types of dowsing instruments in use including the traditional Y shaped hazel twig and the L or angle metal rods which can easily be made from a metal coat hanger. Other types are nylon V rods and the pendulum made from various materials. The audience were each given a set of rods and asked to perform dowsing exercises consisting of verbal commands with the rods responding. One such exercise was to find the location of a well on the ground floor plan of an Elizabethan manor displayed on the screen while Keith moved a pointer across the screen with our hand held rods responding, or not, accordingly.

Using dowsing in archaeology has the advantage of cheapness with no disturbance of the ground. The existence and exact location of buried buildings can be mapped out even to the extent of defining the thickness of walls and the age of the building. The dowsing survey can be used as a preliminary pre-site visit before any excavation is done and this prompted many questions from the audience as to whether these surveys were later confirmed by archaeological digs.

Keith continued his lecture with reference to dowsing surveys done on archaeological sites around the country. Locating medieval ponds and burial sites at Westminster Abbey and a Roman amphitheatre site at the Guildhall in London were some examples. A dowsing survey done at Gunnersbury Park revealed the existence of a previous 15th

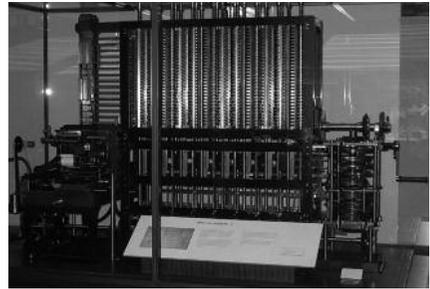
century mansion in addition to the present house built in 1750 and at Ham House the site of statues and the shape and size of steps leading into the garden were determined. Closer to home a survey done at the Manor Field Farm at Polesden Lacey revealed the site of a 15th century house, the survey encountering problems from an inquisitive herd of cows!

Dowsing is not an exact science and in answer to the question as to how it works Keith said that there are no explanations except that it works for 90% of people using it, the exception being sometimes engineers and scientists. He took the concept further when he talked about energy fields and resonance of walls and buildings and ended a fascinating lecture by inviting the audience to make their own dowsing rods and find out for themselves.

Dr Fred Meynen

The British Computer Industry

The January meeting was well attended and our speaker was our Newsletter editor, Martin Warwick who gave us a wide ranging review of the history of the computer, its evolution and development in Britain. He astonished us by quoting the words of an expert from a few decades ago, the savant said that he recognised the significance of the computer but doubted whether the world would ever have a use for more than six of these machines. A show of hands among the audience revealed that among those present, only about six did not possess one.



The Babbage Engine

The earliest computers were not electronic but mechanical. They were calculating machines evolving from the abacus, used in ancient times and even today in some parts of the world. In the 1850s Charles Babbage built a machine which can still be seen in the Science Museum. It was a mass of wheels and levers, operated with a handle. An important development came in the 1890s with the Hollerith machine. Data could be fed in and recorded using punched cards, a system which survived well into the next century. In the early days its use was largely by mathematicians and scientists, it still had no practical function for other purposes.

Martin told of the invaluable help made available by harnessing the computer to perform the task of decoding enemy ciphers during World War 2. He described the extremely successful ENIGMA machine used at Bletchley Park during that period. In those days the computer was a massive complex of valves and wires yet only having a fraction of the power of its present day counterpart.

Cakes and teashops seemed to have little connection with the subject of this talk.



However, in a milestone shift of the computer into new applications, the well known firm, J Lyons & Co. constructed a computer (aptly named LEO) to perform the everyday work of stock control and payroll for their empire of shops, restaurants and tearooms. This led to a widespread awareness of the myriad tasks which now could be performed through this electronic revolution. Pictures of these computers revealed room-size spaces with ranks of cabinets to house the necessary valves

and circuitry. The information they divulged was not as easily readable as now. The era of tapes, disks and display panels was only slowly evolving.

The next revolutionary development came in the 1960s with the invention of the transistor and eventually the printed circuit board. Computers could now be more compact and were able to store vastly more information in their memory. In 1976 the APPLE became the first table top computer. Home computing had become a hobby assisted by producers such as ACORN and AMSTRAD. Around the same time Sinclair was selling to the man-in-the street a model costing only £80.

The evolution of the entire industry was charted by our speaker. Much pioneer work had been done by the British but soon we were overtaken by the United States. Many smaller firms combined to form large groups – some becoming giants such as IBM. It was explained that the computer has no inbuilt intelligence - it exists to do what it is told, and the task of instructing it to perform what is required is a process known as programming. The designing of programs to enable the execution of countless tasks has grown in complexity, and this has enabled computers to be adapted for ever more diverse uses. Our speaker gave some staggering figures enabling us to judge the power of these machines, comparing the past with the present. In the 1960s those huge machines could handle thirty million pieces of information, known as bytes. This may sound impressive but it amounted to a very restricted performance. In comparison a present day ‘processor’, now the size of a thumbnail, can handle trillions of bytes.

At the conclusion of Martin’s most absorbing talk there was time for a few questions. One of the most interesting led to a thought about the computer’s future evolution. A hard one to answer but we were left wondering whether perhaps the conventional keyboard would one day disappear.

John Wettern



ICT 1906

Ashtead Roman Village and Tileworks Excavations

The Roman Studies Group is undertaking a 6th season of excavation on Ashtead Common. Working days are grouped as three sets of five days from Wednesday to Sunday each week: 24th to 28th August, 31st August to 4th September and 7th to 11th September, with the possibility of needing 12th and 13th September for tidying up etc.

Last year's work brought further evidence for several periods of activity on the site, for buildings west of the villa and, at the last moment, the possibility that the tile kiln lay above an earlier one. Survey work during the Spring should provide information for further investigation over the outlying remains.

Our enthusiasm has to be moderated by the status of the site as a Scheduled Monument, an area of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve but with the considerable assistance of the City of London who own the site we are attempting to develop an understanding of the whole tileworks complex.

No charge will be made for Roman Study Group members. Members of the Surrey Archaeological Society who are not members of the Group are asked to pay £5 covering all three weeks. Other volunteers are asked to pay £5 for each day that they attend. For inexperienced newcomers preference will be given to those who can attend for at least five days.

Anyone interested in taking part who has not already been in touch please contact Stella Fagg on or tel: 07850 285245.

John Tims (1860-1944)

John Tims was born in London, the sixth of eleven children of George and Mary (née Ragge) the daughter of James Ragge (1799-1873) - a direct descendent of Robert Ragge, one of the founders of the firm of collar makers and harness makers who traded in Leatherhead for over 300 years.

John was, by profession, a schoolteacher at the Battersea Park Road School. He lived successively in Battersea, Wimbledon, Hook and West Ewell with his last home in Chessington Road, West Ewell surviving amongst the new developments of the 20th century. He travelled daily from Ewell station and was sometimes the only passenger on the 8.08am train which was then a workman's train. He had issued to him the first six workman's tickets from that station.

His older brother, James (1851-1937) was at some



Annie Tims



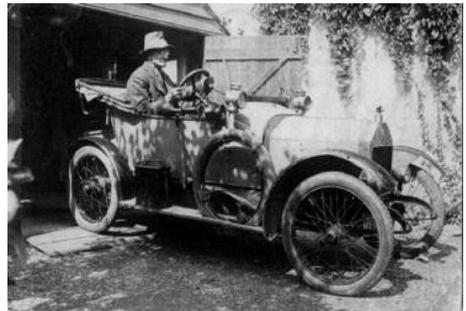
time employed by London County Council but lost his job on being sent to prison for the attempted theft of banknotes from the Bank of England in 1900. His wife died in an air raid on London in 1941 but was survived by two daughters, Mary and Daisy. At one time John supported two of his brothers from his modest schoolmaster's income because of severe unemployment at the turn of the century.

In his younger days he was a keen cyclist, his first bicycle being a penny-farthing which he purchased in 1879. He was also a skilled photographer, his first camera being bought in 1886 when photography was in its infancy. He developed and printed all his work with chemicals mixed at home and exhibited in London where he won several medals including a Gold Medal

from the London Polytechnic where he became a part time instructor in 1912.

Many of his photographs show localities that were quiet hamlets but have since become part of the great suburban developments. Amongst the collection are many scenes of countryside in Mole Valley and other parts of West Surrey. The legacy of 25 albums of photographs plus hundreds of lantern transparencies, some dating back to 1897 are kept at his grandson's home in Fetcham and in the Bourne Museum in Ewell where his cameras, projector and some equipment are on permanent display.

His experience as a car owner was limited to a few months in 1913 when he purchased a 1905 Swift - a two cylinder petrol driven car. In the days before garages with petrol pumps became a feature of towns and villages the petrol was purchased from a chemist and on one occasion when he ran out of petrol he asked for assistance from a passing lorry driver and was obliged to tip him with a ten shilling note for a tow to the nearest source of supply. He had no small coin with him and this unfortunate expenditure was equal to more than a week's wages!



He retired in 1923 and devoted his time to his hobbies that now included painting in oils. He rapidly became skilled but many of his best works were based on other originals that he sought to successfully improve. His wife died in 1936 but he remained active and was a frequent traveller on coaches to the south coast and to visit his sons and daughter in whose families he maintained a close interest.

Many of his photographs have appeared recently in magazines and newspapers where a 'Then and Now' theme is becoming very popular.

Visit to the Cobham Bus Collection and Mercedes World Brooklands

On Wednesday, 23rd February a party of members of Leatherhead History Society and Friends of Leatherhead Museum visited the Cobham Bus Collection, had lunch at the Silvermere Inn On The Lake and visited the Mercedes World Experience at Brooklands.



At the Bus Collection visitors are allowed to take photographs and the ones

included were taken by Robin Christian. The visit to the Cobham Bus Collection was opportune since the collection is in the process of moving to new premises at Brooklands. We were shown a film of the new bus museum and workshop incorporating all the latest technology for displaying the buses to their best advantage and ready for occupation in April. The site is to be re-developed for a care home after the buses leave.

The Building in which it has been housed is of itself of some historical interest. Known as Depot 45, it is the sole survivor of three similar buildings constructed by Vickers Armstrong Aviation as an outstation for their main factory at Brooklands. Major sub-assemblies for Vickers Aircraft such as the Wellington Bomber, Viking Airliner and Viscount Prop-Jet were built there. Situated behind Depot 45 is a lake on which it is said that Barnes Wallace carried out some of his early Dam Busters Bouncing Bomb tests.

The current collection of the London Bus Preservation Trust is probably unique in that visitors can see the exhibits close-up, several of which we were allowed to enter. The oldest bus in the collection is a Victorian horse drawn vehicle, the driver being open to the elements. There is also a Dennis 4 Tonner having a 5.1 litre Dennis 'D' Type petrol engine with manual gearbox. The driver is outside and the top is open. The flat fronted 1937 Q model was an attempt to maximise the area available for passengers by moving the engine to the side where it did not intrude into the saloon.

Especially interesting is one of ten purpose built articulated units used as mobile canteens at remote bus termini. Also converted into a mobile canteen is a Tilling double decker having an open staircase to the upper deck. Among the post war buses present is a 1952 AEC Regent III which was used to represent the British Travel and Holidays Association in a 12,000 mile tour of the USA and Canada in 1952 during which the bus

operated faultlessly. In fact, the London Transport Bus record of very high mechanical reliability is very striking and is a tribute to the very high standards of engineering design and construction employed.

A relatively recent acquisition in an AEC Reliance single decker delivered new to London Country Bus Services, entering service in December 1973. After retirement from

London Transport Green Line Service in 1988, this bus was used by Uxbridge Football Club until rescued by members of Cobham Bus Museum just days before it was due to be scrapped.



Our visit to the Cobham Bus Museum was a unique opportunity to see these historic buses. Also of interest is an example of a Leyland Clock, one of seven such, erected in prominent roadside positions, this having been at the Shack Cafe on the A30 at Hook, Hampshire.

We had ‘our own choice’ lunch at the Inn on the Lake at Silvermere and then went on to The Mercedes-Benz World at Brooklands where a wide variety of current motor car products are on show. Famous Mercedes-Benz models from the past, emphasise the continuity of high quality automobile design and production for which Mercedes-Benz are famous. As well as visiting the static exhibits, there is also a three storey escalator which enables one to have a bird’s eye view of all three floors, and leads to a small auditorium to see a promotional film which included the history of motor car development and motor racing at Brooklands. After leaving the film, one can view the skid pan and the driving track watching with amusement drivers coping with a 360 degree turn in a skid.



Our grateful thanks to Dr. Meynen for organising such an interesting day which showed buses lovingly restored by skilled volunteers contrasting with the gleaming products of a modern factory.

Richard Trim

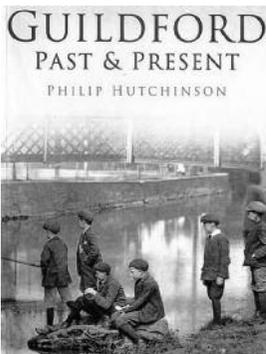
Guildford Past & Present

Guildford Past & Present was the subject of the Society's illustrated lecture on the 18th February and our speaker was Philip Hutchinson. Phillip is the Senior Custodian of Guildford Castle Keep and has published several books about Guildford.



Following a brief introduction, he took us on a fascinating tour of the town comparing many of the old buildings with their current replacements. Examples are the

Connaught Hotel originally called Guildford House demolished in the early 1940s and replaced by the Farnham Road Bus Station. The Lion Hotel (originally The White Lion) demolished in 1956 for the construction of Woolworths (now Marks & Spencer).



The Angel Hotel, the town's only remaining coaching inn was almost forced to close in 1989 but luckily it survived this crisis and today is one of the most prominent buildings in the High Street. Another is the Guildhall that dates from around 1550 with earlier foundations. John Aylward's famous projecting clock face comes from 1683. The current clock face is a Victorian replacement. 155 High Street (now better known as Guildford House) was built by John Child in 1660 is one the most architecturally prized buildings in the town. It was bought by the Guildford Corporation in 1957 and today houses the town's main art gallery.

We were shown a photograph of Haydon's Bank founded by draper William Haydon in 1765. The Bank later became Capital & Counties and in 1920 it became home to Lloyd's Bank (now Lloyd's TSB). The interior of the building is highly impressive. We were informed about the origins of Tunsgate Arch before moving on to Abbot's Hospital founded by George Abbott in 1619 situated at top of the High Street. The gatehouse was modelled on that of Hampton Court Palace. Philip explained that although many of the High Street buildings have survived it is the junction of North Street and the left hand side of the Upper High Street going towards Epsom Road that has changed considerably. This was mainly due to road widening. One building that survives on the right hand side is The Royal Grammar School founded in the 1550s. A fire in 1962 severely damaged parts of the building, although the esteemed chained library was saved.

Before returning to North Street we were shown the Odeon Cinema in the 1950s. The



Then



Now

cinema was opened 1935. In the 1960s ‘pop’ concerts were held there, including acts such as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Cliff Richard. The trip down North Street included photographs of the Cloth Hall (formally home to Clark’s College – now EWM), the old Fire Station (now public toilets), the Horse & Groom Public House (famous for the Guildford Pub Bombings of 1974), the Borough Hall which later became the Theatre Royal in 1912, and the Theatre shut after 20 Years but reopened as Guildford Repertory in 1946. A fire destroyed the theatre in 1963. Other places of interest included the Methodist Church, Guildford Barracks, the Picture Palace and the Friary Brewery now home to the Friary Centre.

We were reminded of the Lewis Carroll connection with Guildford and that he is buried in the Mount Cemetery. Before finally finishing our tour at the Castle Keep with its ornamental fishpond and Memorial Gardens, we saw pictures of the damage caused by the 1906 storm and the 1968 floods and scenes of just how the local people enjoyed Charles Leroy’s Boats on the River Wey, together with the original Jolly Farmer Public House.

Goff Powell

Ashtead U3A - Local History Group

A Local History Group has been formed within Ashtead U3A but it is short of participants. We would like to encourage more people to join us so that we can become an active, thriving group. At the moment each of us is researching a building of our own choice within Ashtead but there are other possibilities for the future if we can recruit more members. At the moment we meet on the third Monday afternoon of each month in a member’s house.

The Group Leader is Judy Wilson - telephone 01372 275371.

Gwen Hoad

Arris Hill Cottage Fetcham

This faded photograph (P 879 in the Society's possession) which has been digitally enhanced, has 'Thorn's Cottage' written on the reverse and from its footprint and the surroundings this would appear to be correct. It was located in a small enclosure to the north of Cobham Road in land forming part of the Slyfield Estate. In the 1791 tithe survey it is



identifiable with 'Cottage and Orchard by Fetcham Common' parcel 379 in the terrier and in 1842 as 'Arris Hill Cottage' - this part of Cobham Road then possibly being called Arris Hill as the road on the common was on a slight ridge. There was also another cottage in 'Gaters Mead' to the rear probably shown also in 1816. By 1869 this seems to have vanished when only one building appears on the Ordinance Survey map - marked '29' on the extract below.

It was one of the few timber frames cottage known to have existed in Fetcham and originally may have been thatched. From the photograph, the right hand third of the building between the chimneys looks to be an addition as there is a discontinuity in the roofing in line with the middle chimney and the eaves line dropping. Detailed examination shows that there is a main timber post to the left of the door and the roof tiling sags slightly on either side about 18 to 24 inches from the side of the chimney. This suggests that the chimney and flue were originally external and later integrated into the original building and the door moved here from its original more usual central location. The bushes unfortunately hide the rest of the structure. It is worth noting that Pound cottage which was of probably a similar size was also extended to incorporate the chimney, fireplace and flues. The 'extension' has a hipped end and the fireplace offset towards the front elevation.

There are two families consistently identifiable from the 1841 to 1891 censuses at this location and it is probable that it was divided at that time with the front door giving access to the original part and another round the side to the extension. Also there seem to be two gates that add credence to this.

The 1891 census lists James Thorne then aged 39, his wife, father-in-law and a visitor there and separately, Henry Knight, an 82 year old widower who in 1897 is recorded as being in the Gardener's Bothy presumably a reference to the extension.



James or ‘Jimmy’ Thorne later became Gamekeeper to Gordon Clark who was a principal land owner after the sale of the Hankey estate in 1920. The cottage which was described in a newspaper as being of brick and timbering with hazel laths inside apparently fell down about 1934! Although the photograph is not dated it is reasonable to assume that the couple seen at the door way are Jimmy Thorne and his wife Sarah.

The strip of land to the cottage side of Cobham road was waste and used for digging out road mending materials in ancient times. Fixby cottage, a more modern rebuild on the site of an earlier house is built on the start of this land which is still identifiable up as far as Godstone House. The entrance to and site of Arris Hill cottage nowadays is masked by the trees but coming down the hill a sharp eye (taken off the rather dangerous road bend) will detect trees that are growing on the site of the cottage on the inside of the bend.

Alan Pooley

Ermine Street / Stane Street

Alan Hall has reminded me that during his talk he showed a Victorian photograph of local farmworkers standing on the Roman road embankment was labelled ‘Ermine Street’, so the alternative name for Stane Street is of some antiquity. The Romans didn’t name their roads, and the place-name experts derive Ermine Street - from the Saxon earnings who lived roughly where Cambridgeshire is now - by the Great North Road out of London. So why in Surrey? I suggest two hypotheses:

Any solid-based road could be called ‘Stane’ in Anglo-Saxon. Ermine Street was one of the four great highways specified as being under royal protection from late Saxon times (the ‘king’s ways’). The other one in south-east England is Watling Street. This is best known as the Dover road (A2) but it continues beyond London to Chester and Holyhead roughly as the A6 so linking the major SE/NW early towns and ports by way of London. In the same way, Ermine Street continuing through London would link those of the NE (York, Humber estuary etc) to the South (Chichester/Portsmouth) that is roughly the A1 and A3.

Alternatively, the local name here might derive from the early name for the river Mole, viz amele/emlyn; the former spelling, as Amelebrige [Elmbridge], occurs in Domesday Book.

Derek Renn

Just Fish

This was the modest title of Ron Fowler's talk at the October meeting last year. Not so very long ago every high street had its branch of Mac Fisheries or an independent fresh fishmonger. Mac Fisheries is now only a memory and fishmongers - even itinerant ones - a rarity. Fish is now sold in supermarkets frozen and ready-packed for cooking. Shops serving fish and chips - the original 'fast food' - survive, but fish is no longer the cheap meal that it once was.



As a pupil at St Paul's School in Kingston Ron Fowler often bought chips for lunch in Jarvis's shop nearby and enjoyed their bloaters for tea. He became fascinated watching a lady filleting wet fish in another part of the shop. Ron became a 'Saturday boy' there doing all the menial jobs of cleaning the slabs, sweeping the floor and so on. On leaving school he became an apprentice which included going out in a trawler and visiting the smokehouses in Scotland where fish was prepared for transport all over Britain. He saw mountains of fish being bulldozed into containers and ground up for fishmeal and used as fertiliser to keep prices high enough for fishermen to earn a living..

On completing his apprenticeship Ron was allowed to wear a long white coat! His son followed the same career but persuaded Ron to set up on his own in a Bookham shop where they both are to this day. It was an ideal position - dayboat fish (like plaice and sole) caught in Cornwall would be in his shop the same evening before the rest of the catch got to the London's wholesale Billingsgate Market. Fish is still wholesaled by the stone (141b) measure. Half of any fish by weight is bone or skin so buying whole fish does not save money. Ron's shop had little other waste - local restaurants usually bought any fish left at the end of the day.

Mr Fowler is no ordinary fishmonger, though - he teaches at various cookery schools (including Tante Marie and Gordon Ramsay) and has appeared in several television series (a new one for ITV is being filmed). Ron is one of the very few certificated to sell certain varieties of Scottish salmon. He brought along more than a dozen varieties of fresh fish, which he challenged us to identify, None of his fish (except prawns) were frozen before sale. Today's favourite sea bass sold in his shop is line caught, not imported frozen from Greece. He gave advice on checking for freshness and quality, with anecdotes for each variety. Here are a few at random:

Cod (now twice as expensive as rainbow trout) can grow up to 2001b. Its bones could be used as needles (with 'eye') and as fish-hooks and used to produce a brawn-

like paste which was useful for chest complaints.

Pollack (Cornish Cod) sells out locally there to the summer holiday trade: the French pay more than the English for mackerel.

The tiny male Monkfish is a parasite attaching itself to a female's bloodstream. After fertilising her eggs the male goes to another hostess.

A crab takes 4 years (and a lobster 7) to grow to one pound weight

Derek Renn

News From The Museum Committee

The museum re-opened on 31st March after our usual annual shutdown since December. As usual we managed to do about half of the things which we planned to do during this period and we can't decide whether this is because there aren't enough of us or because we are getting older. Anyway, the window display has been changed and a number of new acquisitions are on display in the front room among which are some items which are new to our collection.

The stewards attended forums before the opening and a number of ideas came out of these meetings. Also they were told that if they are not busy and they can see something which needs doing no-one minds if they do it! Alan Pooley has started photographing the items in the Society's collection so that eventually we hope to have a complete record. Bob Grieves, David Atkinson and Ian Exwood continue to check the items and to ensure that our documentation is accurate. We are grateful to Richard Trim who has renovated our two 'Goblin' radios and we will retain the better example on display.

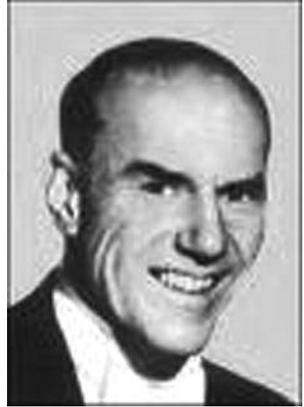
Members will be aware that the Society is without a Records Secretary as well as archivists for Leatherhead and Bookham. We are finding it difficult to ensure that people who leave historical queries at the museum or by telephone or e-mail to the office get a reply. In general Alun Roberts deals with Leatherhead and, of course, Ashted and Fetcham have archivists in place but we are keen that enquirers get an adequate reply, even if it is only to say that we cannot help them. The lack of a Records Secretary is becoming increasingly embarrassing and we would ask if there is a member who would be willing to undertake this task.

The lack of a Records Secretary also means that we lose an important link with the Executive Committee particularly as we still do not have a Museum Curator. Another link lost is also via the Society's Secretary. For the last few years Vivien Hollingsworth has served on the Museum Committee and we would like to thank her for her work with us and for providing the link with the Executive Committee but as she is due to retire at the AGM this will be lost. I must point out that because of our publishing schedule I am writing this before the AGM - by the time you read it the situation may be solved.

Peter Tarplee

‘Slow, slow, quick-quick-slow’
***Victor Silvester – Old Johnian (St. John’s
School – Leatherhead)***

Victor Marlborough Silvester, OBE was a English dancer, composer and dance band leader whose records sold 75 million copies from the 1930s through to the 1980s, and a significant figure in the development of ballroom dance during the first half of the 20th century. He was born in 1900 the second son of a vicar in Wembley, Middlesex. He went to three schools one of which was St John’s School, Leatherhead and managed to abscond from them all.



At the age of only 15 after lying about his age he enlisted in the army in the First World War. His true age was not discovered until he was wounded in 1917 and discharged. During his time in the army, Silvester was ordered to take part in the execution by firing squad of five British soldiers for desertion, a task he found deeply distressing. After the war his first thought was to resume a military career and he was admitted to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, but quickly decided it was not for him. He also studied music at Trinity College, London, having already had private piano lessons as a child.

His interests had meanwhile turned to dancing. He was one of the first post-war English dancers to feature the full Natural Turn in the Slow Waltz, an innovation which was a factor in his winning the first World Standard Ballroom Dancing Championship in 1922 with Phyllis Clarke as his partner. He competed again in 1924, coming second to Maxwell Stewart - the inventor of the Double Reverse Spin - and Barbara Miles. He was a founder member of the Ballroom Committee of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing which codified the theory and practice of Ballroom Dance and published the first book *Modern Ballroom Dancing* embodying the new standards in 1928 which was an immediate bestseller and has remained in print through many editions, the latest issued in 2005.

He went on to open a dancing academy in London, which eventually developed into a chain of 23 dance studios. By the early 1930s his teaching had become famous and he had taught some of the top celebrities of the day, such as Estelle Thompson, better known as Merle Oberon.

The lack of what he felt were adequate records for dancing led Silvester in 1935 to form his own five-piece band which grew to be Victor Silvester and his Ballroom Orchestra, whose first record, *You’re Dancing on My Heart* (by Al Bryan and George M. Meyer), sold 17,000 copies and was to become his signature tune. He insisted his

recordings conform precisely to the beats per minute recommended by the ISTD for ballroom dancers, a concept he termed 'strict tempo', and in British eyes he became indelibly associated with the catchphrase 'slow, slow, quick-quick-slow' - the rhythm of a variant of the foxtrot used for social dancing otherwise known as Slow and Quick Rhythm.



The Silvester band always had a distinctive sound, achieved by an unusual line-up including, as well as the usual rhythm section, alto saxophone, a lead solo violin and not one but two pianos, one taking turn in solos and the other maintaining an improvised tinkling continuo in the background throughout every piece, which Silvester called his 'lemonade'. Silvester's drummer for over four decades was Ben Edwards, crucial for supplying the strict tempo. Typically there would be four saxophones altogether, two altos and two tenor all doubling on clarinet as required. On some recordings, the Ballroom Orchestra was augmented with 15 strings and woodwind, when it became 'The Silver Strings'. Unlike most British dance bands of the era, there were no vocals. Silvester did not play but stood in front of his orchestra in white tie and tails, conducting with a flourish. His jaunty way with a catchy tune ensured the appeal of his records went wider than dancing enthusiasts.

He would continue to make music for half a century, mostly covering the popular music standards and show tunes with a strong melodic line, but sometimes swing, trad jazz and skiffle, and in later years, especially from 1971 when the orchestra continued under his son Victor Silvester Jar, rock and roll, disco and pop, although these modern attempts to stay 'with it', which involved the introduction of an electric guitar, were not always convincing. It is mostly the more melodic recordings of the 1940s and 1950s that are now reissued on CD and sold all over the world.

By 1958, when he published his autobiography, he was the most successful dance band leader in British musical history, and a major star on British radio and television. His BBC Television show *Dancing Club* lasted 17 years. He also presented a weekly request programme on the BBC Overseas Service (later World Service) which ran from 1948 to 1975. His obituary in *The Times* noted, "Turn on a radio in Famagusta, Cape Town or Peking and one would be likely to hear his music issuing from the speakers".

Victor Silvester was awarded the OBE in 1961. He died while on holiday in the south of France at the age of 78. The orchestra remained in existence under his son's direction until the 1990s.

Members Talks to other Society's & Events

Surrey Archaeological Society Symposium

On 26th February Peter Tarplee our Vice President delivered a talk on the subject of 'Industries of Ashtead' to the membership of the Surrey Archaeological Society (SAS) on behalf of the Surrey Industrial History Group (SIHG) at the Annual Symposium held at the Peace Memorial Hall Ashtead.

Our History Society supported Peter's talk, providing a display, a presentation of boards illustrating some of the past industries of Ashtead, for which the Society was awarded the runners-up prize of £100.00 and a certificate in this



Peter Tarplee at the L&DLHS Display holding his latest book. 'Past Industries of Ashtead, Leatherhead & Bookham'



Presentation of the runner s-up prize by Richard Savage the Chairman on the Day to the Chairman of the L&DLHS who accepted the cheque and certificate on behalf of the History Society

year's Ivan Margary Awards for best display presentations, supported and sponsored by the SAS.

Thanks of Alan Pooley our Museum Manager for the loan of the Goblin Teas Maid and the vacuum cleaner to dress the display, to Gwen Hoad for providing the books for sale and manning the stand in my absence. Thanks to all those who visited the stand and purchased books, a great days work.

Talk to Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeological Society

Linda Heath was asked by Eve Myatt- Price of Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeological Society (EEHAS) to give a talk on a subject of her own choosing, to the members of EEHAS in celebration of her 90th Birthday.

Linda prepared an illustrated talk on the subject of Emma Darwin with the support of John Wettren who assembled the illustrations into a Power Point presentation and delivered the talk to a full audience of EEHAS members at St Mary's Church Hall Ewell on 6th April.



Emma Darwin 1808 – 1896 born 2nd May 1808 at Maer Hall Staffordshire was the youngest of seven children of Josiah Wedgwood II and his wife Elizabeth. Emma's grandfather was Josiah Wedgwood of the Potteries fame. Emma married the Naturalist and scientist Charles Darwin the author of *Origins of Species*, Charles was her first cousin sharing Josiah and Sarah Wedgwood as grandparents. The Darwins purchased Down House near Bromley Kent with Emma in 1842. Down House became their family home raising 10 children, three of whom died at an early age - she was devoted mother and wife.



Linda provided a sensitive and interesting insight to the life of Emma and her family, it is hoped that she will be able to deliver this same talk to our own Society's membership at some future date.

News from the Friends of Leatherhead Museum

Together with members of the Society the Friends visited the Cobham Bus Museum and Mercedes Benz World in February. A report of the visit by Richard Trim is in this newsletter.

Briefing sessions for the stewards of the museum were held in March with an open forum format asking the question 'Has the museum a future' and inviting comments and suggestions. The museum is looking for help to run it as the varied tasks are becoming too numerous for the current staff to manage. Alan Pooley already has a list of jobs that need doing and if you are interested in helping he can give you more details

as to what is involved.

The tasks fall into four categories namely the garden, housekeeping including cleaning, secretarial and technical. The last one includes acquisitions and data entry and would require some training. We are fortunate that Ruth Aldridge maintains the garden but the other three categories could do with some help. This appeal goes to all Friends and Members of the Society to see if we can find a few people who could spare a bit of their time to help with the various tasks. The work is not onerous and can be even enjoyable but requires a regular commitment which would mean the continued viability of the museum.

Future events of the Friends

Saturday 28th May - display barrow in the Swan Centre advertising the museum and the Society. Come and see us at work!

2nd, 3rd and 4th June -craft days at the museum with hands on experience for children (and adults!) free admission

Fred Meynen

Visits and Lecture Programme

Wednesday 8th June 10.30am Lovelace Bridges Walk

A guided walk visiting a number of bridges and bridge sites The walk is approximately 4 miles long over varied terrain and surfaces and may be muddy if wet. We meet at Green Dene car park (grid ref. 091509) East Horsley and have lunch if desired at the Duke of Wellington.

Transport in shared cars and if you would like to come contact me for further details tel 01372 372930 email fredmeynen@live.co.uk

Sunday 3rd July 14.00 visit to Loseley House

We shall have a guided tour of the house lasting 45 minutes after which there will be time to look round the gardens and have tea! The cost is £7 pp , payable on the day and if you would like to come please contact Linda Heath by mid June at the latest and say if you need or can offer a lift. Tel 01372 372608 email heath987@btinternet.com

Saturday/Sunday 10th, 11th September Heritage Weekend

This year's theme is 'Work, Leisure and Play'. Details in the August Newsletter

Friday 16th September 'Life at Loseley House' by Catherine Ferguson

This is the first of the autumn lectures at The Institute, details of which will be in the August Newsletter of the Society

Fred Meynen, Programme Secretary

Archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGY SECRETARY

David Hartley 01372 377839
07947 471165

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Martin Warwick

01372 453717

Email : martin_warwick@hotmail.com

August Edition – Articles - not later than Friday 8th July

The Website www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk

WEBSITE EDITOR

Frank Haslam

01372 379341

Proceedings

PROCEEDINGS EDITOR

Barry Cox

01372 273167

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

Email: barry_cox@btopenworld.com

Records

RECORDS SECRETARY (Vacant)

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

Ashtead

Jack Willis

Bookham

Roy Mellick

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

CO-ORDINATOR

(Vacant)

Sales of L&DLHS Publications

SALES SECRETARY

Goff Powell

01372 374923

