

*LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY*

NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2011

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409
Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP
Telephone 01372 386348
Email: staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com.

Monthly Meetings: Every third Friday of the month at the Letherhead Institute between September and May at 7.30pm for 8.00pm

MUSEUM (Hampton Cottage): open Thursdays and Fridays 1.00pm to 4.00pm and Saturdays 10.00am to 4.00pm

L&DLHS WEBSITE: www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk

2011 Membership Subscriptions

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

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President:

Gordon Knowles 01372 458396 knowles.g@btinternet.com

Vice President:

Peter Tarplee 01372 452301 p.tarplee@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman:

David Hartlee 01372 377839 Hartley1949@msn.com
07947 471165

Secretary:

Vacant

Treasurer:

David Lokkerbol 01372 375756 david.lokkerbol@gmail.com

Archaeology Secretary:

David Hartley (as above)

Proceedings Editor:

Barry Cox 01372 273167 barry_cox@btopenworld.com

Museum Manager

Alan Pooley 01372 374093 Alan-maryon@tecres.net

Museum Curator:

Vacant

Publicity Officer:

Vacant

Editorial

Not quite as large an edition as the previous quarter which went up to 32 pages! Articles are always welcome from any source. Currently they still tend to come from a limited number of people and we would like to see more members contributing to it. There must be a wealth of information relating to our local history and photos of the past which would be of great interest to our readers. We would welcome readers' accounts of their research into local people, places, history or objects.



The list of Officers of the Society has now been renewed on the inside covers and we hope it is correct. The main additional information is the email addresses reflecting the current electronic age.



I hope you are aware by now of the latest publication of the Society: 'Railways Around Leatherhead & Dorking'. It is a new book by Peter Tarplee with around 160 pages of information and some 200 photos. It shows how railways have developed in this part of Surrey over the years and is well worth buying. The book costs just £10 and can be bought directly through Goff Powell (01372 374923), from the Museum, at the Letherhead Institute lectures or from a local bookseller.

Martin Warwick

Next Edition Deadline - 6th January

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Chairman's Report

This is the last Newsletter for the year and hopefully our prospects and that of our country will look a little brighter by the time we prepare our next issue in the new year. We can and should perhaps be looking forward to the new opportunities to celebrate and promote our History Society and Museum even in the midst of a recession. With the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics these national events will present scope for us at a local level to promote membership and our aims and objectives.



Looking back to September we were actively supporting Heritage Open Day 2011 in Leatherhead, Fetcham and Ashted and members worked hard in preparation at the Leatherhead Institute but with some disappointment that more did not turn up for the event. Our members of the History Society made a commendable effort to prepare and provide the displays as did members of the LCA who turned out to provide teas and coffee but the public support was just not there.

Nevertheless the History Society provided three very interesting interpretations on this year's theme of Work Rest & Pray illustrated with a display of pictures provided by Linda Heath reflecting on Work & Rest and John Wettren's contribution basing his



display of Pray on a selection of the engraved illustrations from 'Views of Surrey Churches' by C. T Cracklow 1827. These were contrasted with current photographs of how some of the churches look now.

Alun Roberts provided a full and interesting display on the life of Edward Stenning and WH Brown and their involvement and development of St Nicolas

Hill Leatherhead in 1908. This exhibit is now currently on view at the Leatherhead Museum - do try to get there and take a look.

An excellent fourth display was provided by John Morris a former member our Society on the life of Nathaniel Bland of Randalls Park. The Mole Valley District Council was also represented by a display of photographs of Historic Houses in Mole Valley and Derek Renn one of our distinguished members dutifully led this year's walk around Leatherhead due to the incapacity of Linda Heath following an accident at the

beginning of September.

Our museum at Hampton Cottage fared quite well with an increased number of visitors partly due to the Friends of the Leatherhead Museum organising their coffee morning to coincide with the Saturday morning of HOD - thanks should go all round to the Friends and those stewards on duty on the day.

St Giles Church Ashtead

John Watts the assistant curate of St Giles organised this year's HOD theme to encompass his church service, celebrating 400 years in Church and community. John approached the History Society and asked if we could provide a display to reflect both the theme and the Church in 'Stewart Period' around the time of the printing of the King James Bible in 1611.

This proved something of a challenge but nevertheless we rose to the occasion and provided three boards (see photo) providing both pictures and maps to reflect something of the image flavour of that time. This project brought home quite vividly that times were so very different then, in fact another time



and place, far removed from today's issues, they certainly had their own problems to deal with. The feedback was positive and thanks should be acknowledged to our members Gwen Hoad, Jack Willis our Ashtead archivist for the use of pictures and maps and to Alan Pooley our Museum Manager who allowed us to use some of the artefacts on loan from the museum to illustrate the display.

Fetcham Park - 300 year old site of a Grade II listed Mansion

Thanks go to our members Alan Pooley, Peter Tarplee and Goff Powell and others who were actively involved on Heritage Open Day at Fetcham Park House. This year's theme of Work Rest & Pray looked at the house from 1924 to the present day, an interesting interpretation. There was a great turn-out of visitors to the house and this year's event was a great success.

Peter Tarplee's Talk - 'Development of the Railways in Mole Valley'

Fetcham Village Hall was the venue for Peter Tarplee's talk on the Sunday of HOD. The title of his talk was the 'Development of the Railways in Mole Valley'. The first railways arrived in the Mole Valley in 1849 and it was another 10 years before trains ran to Leatherhead, the line from Leatherhead to Dorking and on to Horsham in 1867.

Peter provided a full and detailed account of these and other railways up to the present illustrated with a very full collection of photographs as in Peter's book 'Railways Around Leatherhead & Dorking' priced at £10.00 which is now published and is available from Goff Powell (telephone 01372 374923 or email goff@goffpowell.plus.com) or can be purchased directly from our Museum Bookshop.

An acknowledgement and thanks should go to the author Peter Tarplee and to Martin Warwick our Newsletter Editor for his work, help and support in putting this book together and to Goff Powell who has the job of marketing and sales.

Summer Barbecue

On Saturday evening of 17th September the night of our barbecue the weather was so bad that it almost turned into a disaster. Too late to cancel the event we decided to go ahead and following a torrential downpour of rain around 6.30pm we managed to get a brief respite for about 2 hours to proceed with the Barbecue.

Thanks to the support of Fred and Margaret Meynan, Julia Lack, Roz Hennegan and Shirley Adams who prepared and set out the food and with the loan of the two gas fired barbecues, one from Dough & Vivien Hollingsworth and the other from Fred and Margaret Meynen, we were in business. Goff Powell and Brian Hennigan dealt with the lighting effects and yours truly managing the barbecue.

Musical entertainment was provided by John Muhlhaus (one of our members) and his partner Dinah Bean as seen pictured in the Museum garden who responded to the appeal in the August Newsletter. We were then ready to rock and roll (not literally). John and Dinah were generous with their time and gave us renderings of well-known standards which took our mind off the weather for the rest of the evening. If you would like to engage or recommend John and Dinah (the least we could do considering that no charge was made for the entertainment they gave us) John Muhlhaus lives in Bookham and is a multi-instrumentalist playing both solo and as a band member under the name 'Doctor' John. His partner Dinah Bean is a singer of long standing in the



Teddington area. Together they provide musical entertainment for private parties and functions. Their music includes songs from the thirties up to the sixties and they can be seen on YouTube (just type in their names). For bookings contact John on 01372-454331 or Dinah on 07941-275779.

Twenty five members of the Society braved the

elements to attend this barbecue and I would like to thank them for their support and for the work of tidying up after the event.

The Role of Honorary Secretary

I find it very disappointing that two Newsletters have come and gone and I have not had any response or enquiry to my appeal for someone to step forward to take up the role of Secretary to the History Society. We cannot continue to operate without your support - it is not just a question of you paying your subscriptions, we need you to become engaged and get involved in the running of the History Society and its activities, otherwise we will have no Society.

David Hartley - Chairman

Archaeology report

Ashtead Roman Villa

This year was the sixth season of excavations carried out by the Surrey Archaeological Society with the valuable support of the Corporation of the City of London on the site of the Roman Villa at Ashtead. Work proceeded apace under the direction of David Bird and his team of Alan Hall, Margaret Broomfield, Nikki Cowlard, David Calow Emma Cork, Gillian Lachelin and Frank Pemberton with surveying work carried out by David & Audrey Graham and Aerial Archaeology Research Group (AARG) led by Isabel Ellis and of course those volunteers the diggers (the dirt archaeologists) without which no dig would be complete. This site continues to excite and intrigue us all, firstly with the re-opening of the kiln trench for the purpose of re-examining an earlier kiln found below the upper kiln excavated in 2009/10, the evidence of which was discovered just at the close of the 2010 season. Secondly the trenches to the south west of the original villa building opened last year revealed tentative flint and tile footings. This season these trenches were re-opened and the area of investigation extended to reveal a more substantial structure of flint and tile wall footings of a previously unrecorded building.

The third area of excavation was a cross section of the ditch to the triangular shaped earthworks, no previous work had been carried out on this site other than the survey carried out by English Heritage in 2006. Based on that information it was decided to set out a trench across the ditch at the current location, the initial cross section was cut using a digger with a bucket under the watchful eye of the trench supervisor David Calow. Sean O'Kelly of the City of London Estate Office cut a substantial trench cross section across the ditch depositing the spoil to one side away from the edge of the trench and the cut revealed the filled section of the ditch profile which enabled the archaeologists to clean up the sections and examine the fill sequences and the various phasing of ditch fill and recuts of the ditch.

A full interim report is forthcoming shortly in the Surrey Archaeological Society's

Bulletin prepared by Dr David Bird which provides a more detailed review of this season's work in context and the work yet to be achieved over the next two seasons.

Surrey Archaeological Society - Village Study Group

In October I attended a very useful all day session at the Woking History Centre on the theme of 'Mining Maps & Digging for Evidence'. David Taylor the local historian of Cobham and author of a number of books on the history of Cobham chaired the meeting. We were addressed by Sally Jenkins of the Surrey History Centre and David Young of the Surrey Archaeological Society on the important use of the Tithe maps and the Tithe Apportionment records as a valuable source of documentary evidence, taken together with other printed and written sources this should form an essential part of all current and future work on Village Studies in Surrey.

Sally also outlined the extensive work of volunteers and others in the various parishes who had made a valuable contribution together with staff of the History Centre, pulling together all the tithe records and data under the title of 'The Surrey Tithe Records Project'. This is now complete and is available on a CD for each of the parishes where the records exist - there are however a few exceptions.

Richard and Pam Savage organised a workshop session where we had the opportunity to trial the new CD for two of the parishes in the study. We were organised into teams with a laptop computer between us and instructed how to interrogate the data on the CD, combining data from the Tithe Map and the Apportionment document. It proved a very useful first session although in fact we need a little more time and experience to glean the best out of the data, a very useful source nevertheless. If you are interested in using this application contact the Surrey History Centre for availability and access details.

Richard Savage provided us with a full review of the test pitting programme from Old Woking carried out during 2010 – 2011. This was then followed by updates and reports from three currently running Village Studies Group programmes for Bookham, Ockham and Esher all of which had made considerable progress on aspects of their research.

The Surrey Villages Test Pitting programme is moving forward under the leadership of Chris Hayward of the Surrey Archaeological Society. I would like to see members of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society and the local U3A Groups getting involved in this programme. There are several potentially important sites within the parishes of Ashted, Bookham, Fetcham and Leatherhead and also at Effingham where we could make a very useful contribution by preparing desktop assessments, drawing on maps and our own historical archives and other data to justify a test pitting project with, of course, the land owners permission. I am keen to meet and discuss this proposition with anyone who has an interest in this programme. My contact details are at the front of this Newsletter.

David Hartley – Archaeology Secretary

Surrey Local History & Genealogy

Classes

Would you like to find out more about your family history and the area in which you live?

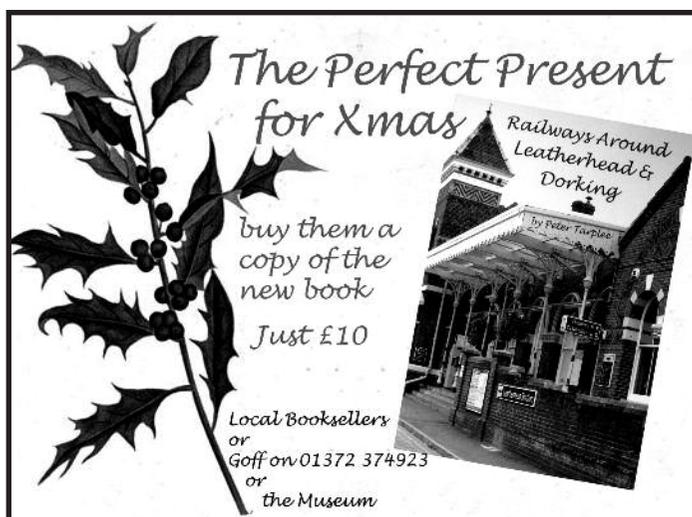
Subjects to be covered will include: Life in a Surrey workhouse; Surrey during the Civil War; Sheridan's Polesden Lacy; Epsom Derby and the Durdans; World War II local memories; Nonsuch and Hampton Court – a comparison; Anglo Saxon Surrey revealed; Surrey's connections to the slave trade; Enclosure and its effects on our landscape; Letters from Trafalgar to Banstead; Newspaper magnates of Walton on the Hill; Edwin Lutyen's Surrey; The Onslows and Clandon Park.

Plus: Your family research and the secrets of the census; Victorian crime and punishment records; Finding family wills; Manorial records; Dead and buried but not forgotten; What the Parish Chest tells me about my ancestors; Migration – who, why and how; What did my relatives do in the wars? and Using Seventeenth Century history sources.

Whether you want help researching your own family history or are interested in finding out about the details of Surrey's rich past please come and join our lively and entertaining group. Now in our second year!

Classes are at Walton-on-the-Hill, Mondays 2-4pm starting on October 10th. Each session is £8 per person and includes refreshments.

To secure your place or for more information call Lorraine Spindler on 07798 538966 email : lorrainespindler@hotmail.co.uk



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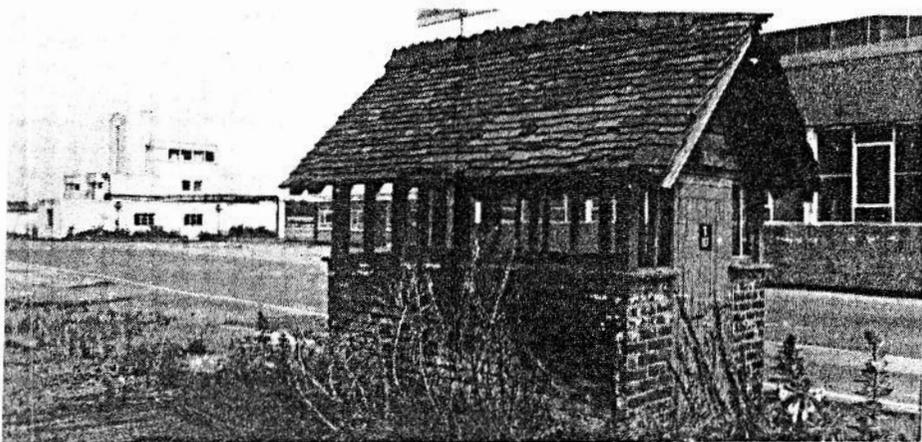
*Railways Around
Leatherhead &
Dorking*
by Peter Towbridge

Another Brooklands- Leatherhead Connection

I expect many members read the 'Leatherhead Advertiser' local newspaper, and probably the 'Yesteryear' section, and during July you will have noticed a report from 1911 of Messrs. Keith Prowse & Co.Ltd., having written to both Dorking and Leatherhead Councils regarding flights between Brooklands and the two towns, and suitable landing grounds. If use of land was obtained for arriving and departing, Keith Prowse would advise the councils of any passengers who would be flying and the times, so that townsfolk might have the opportunity of witnessing the descent and departure of the aeroplane.

Dorking council replied by suggesting that Sondes Place Meadow may be suitable, but arrangements would have to be made with a Mr.Broom. Leatherhead council felt that no suitable open space was available but suggested Keith Prowse approach the owners of Cherkley Court estate. As far as we know nothing became of the enterprise.

In the 'Flight' magazine of 28 January 1911 there was a report of Messrs. Keith Prowse and Co, the well-known box office proprietors, attempting to establish a direct link between Brooklands and their 38 premises. Mr Keith Jones, the Managing Director, and Mr Phillips were at Brooklands arranging for a direct telephone line to the aviation ground. It was proposed that cars would meet the passengers at Brooklands to convey them to their destinations.



HISTORIC EDIFICE: The famous ticket office at Brooklands, as it is today. The extensive flying activities and ever mounting public interest some 75 years ago attracted the attention of the famous ticket agency, Keith Prowse. In February 1911 their representatives visited the aerodrome to arrange for the sale of admission and flying tickets from their offices, and in 1913 the kiosk was erected in front of the Blue Bird Cafe to facilitate booking. Ticket prices are interesting: a short flight cost two guineas; a flight of three circuits of the aerodrome ending with a 'volplane landing' (this being boosted as a daring experience) cost four guineas, and a cross-country flight cost 10 guineas. A list of pilots and their aircraft was provided by the office so that customers could take



Ticket Office now

In February 1911 Keith Prowse representatives visited Brooklands aerodrome to arrange for the sale of admission and flying tickets from their offices. In 1913 the famous ticket office was erected in front of the Blue Bird Cafe to facilitate booking.

Proposed ticket prices are interesting, Brooklands to Dorking 15 guineas, Brooklands to Horsham 25 guineas. Whereas local flights cost 2 guineas a flight of three circuits of the aerodrome cost 4 guineas and a cross-country flight cost 10 guineas. A list of pilots and their aircraft was provided by the office, so that customers could make their choice. Another innovation was a ballot scheme among spectators in the public enclosure, and once a week a lucky onlooker would win a free flight. In September 1913 a winner of the weekly free flight was a Mr John Gillett jnr of Maddox Park, Little Bookham, younger brother of Thomas Gillett of Gillett Stephen fame.

The photographs of the Keith Prowse booking office show it in the original position adjacent to the Flying Village, rather derelict. The second photograph shows the booking office in its current position where it was moved to in 1989 on the museum site rebuilt and refurbished.

Other Airfields or Proposed Aerodromes in Leatherhead Area

There were a number of other instances of airfields / aerodromes being used around Leatherhead after the First World War, mainly by Mr. W G Chapman and his Leatherhead Air Services company. He was first granted a licence for an aerodrome at Byhurst Farm, Chessington from 14 April 1920 to 13 June 1920, and this was extended four times until 13 April 1923 by the Air Ministry. This was used for the purpose of running an air taxi service to and from Croydon, the then London Airport. He was also

granted a licence for an aerodrome at Rifle Range Meadow, Cobham from 13 July 1921 to 12 August 1921 and for an aerodrome at Westcott Road, Dorking from 18 August 1921 to 17 September 1921. Then an aerodrome at Tartar Hill, Cobham from 7 January 1922 to 6 April 1922 and Woodstock Lane, Long Ditton from 22 June 1922 to 21 July 1922 and Sunbury-on-Thames, opposite Walton-on-Thames from 28 July 1922 to 27 October 1922. But this all came to an end when he had his accident at Slough in August 1922.

In 1929, when Alan Cobham started his Municipal Aerodrome Scheme for developing civil aviation around Britain, he went on a twenty-one week tour to towns and cities who might be interested in joining the scheme. He visited Leatherhead to look for a suitable aerodrome site and proposed a flying ground at Leatherhead and Chessington, but nothing further came of the idea.

In the 1980s at Rushetts Farm, near the Maiden Rushett crossroads, an airstrip was laid down on the farm for the farmer, Mr Barry Dutnall, to operate his private aircraft. Later a Geoff Masterton leased some of the buildings and started a firm called Surrey Light Aviation Services servicing and maintaining private aircraft and rebuilding others. Unfortunately he died a few years ago and the company was taken over by a Mr John Day, I believe. I have not visited the site for some time and do not know the latest situation, although I believe the farmer still flies from there.

Some of the above information came from notes of John Wettern and Peter Tarplee for which I thank them.

Doug Hollingsworth

The Sea Still Sparkles through the Mists of Time

I have ensconced myself upstairs in the front seat of the 408, or was it the 470 - the number is not important because both buses would take me to my destination.

“Three please”. This is mid 1950’s ‘text speak’ for a 3 penny fare (1¼p) from the top of Craddocks Avenue, along the Epsom Road to the Leatherhead Hospital stop. No, I have not had an accident or caught the ‘dreaded lurgy’, my mission is far more important than that.

The midsummer day has, for once, done what it ‘says on the tin’. There is a clear blue sky and the mercury is already making its way towards the top end of the tube.

Why is this journey necessary.? Two reasons really. First and foremost I was courting, now that’s a word that has gone out of fashion. But perhaps just as important British Rail are running one of their Saturday specials to the seaside. For a mere seven shillings and sixpence return (37½p) one could go to Littlehampton or Bognor Regis, and we all know what King George V thought about Bognor. I like the way that in spite of the royal feelings the town elders clung to the ‘Regis’ suffix.

I leave the bus and make my way up past the hospital to Poplar Avenue and knock on

a back door - the front door was only used on special occasions or to greet special visitors and I fell into neither category. "Hello Mrs Elliott." She turns her head and speaks loudly; my future mother-in-law never 'shouted', "Rosalie, Brian's here, come in she won't be long". Details of the final preparations are not required here, but we



both left the house happy and fancy free. The departure was accompanied by Rosalie's Nan, giving me firm instructions "Don't you bring that girl back late my boy". "No Nan."

The special excursion left Leatherhead at 10 o'clock and that was the train to be used, if you wished to take advantage of the 'special rate'. The return trip could be made by any train. We made our way to the Station, in what was, in the 1950's and 1960's, a straight line, namely via Church Walk, Kings Head Alley, Neat's Alley, Middle Road, King George Gardens and Randalls Road. Life was so easy back then - remember there was no Town Centre or Lerret Way to impede your progress by Shank's Pony. Luckily we had ensured that we arrived in good time to buy our tickets. Fifteen Shillings (75p), I knew how to give a girl a good time. Still what the heck, I was a man of the world and as an apprentice at Vickers Armstrongs at Weybridge I was earning forty shillings and sixpence a week (£2 and 2½p). I passed my cash through the small opening with the rounded top into the hands of the booking clerk. In return I received two 'EdmunsonCard tickets after they had been duly date stamped, with the familiar 'thump' as the booking clerk inserted the tickets into the hefty date machine. This sound was 'part and parcel' of any railway station all those years ago. The tickets were specially printed with their rate and destination. Incidentally back in the 'good old days' it was possible to go to the Farnborough Air Show by train using a combined travel and entry ticket which included your bus fare from Aldershot station to the airfield. I have always felt that the old Edmundson Card really was 'a ticket to ride'

Once on the platform we joined the other passengers and I still recall the sense of excitement as we waited for the train. From this point in time we sometimes forget that car ownership was not the lot of most people as it is today. The train arrives. It might have started its journey at Sutton or even Epsom and could have consisted of two 4SUB units, the rolling stock that trundled daily to and from the London Terminuses.



However it might be made up of some of the express units that had corridors and sometimes a buffet car (which would not be in use on this 'special duty'). The express units went under curious designation, as indeed, so did all the 'southern' rolling stock. For example it might be a 4COR (Four carriages

with corridor access) or a 4BUF (Four carriages with a buffet car) or a 4RES (Four carriages with a restaurant car) and there were far too many more to mention here. A 2NOL indicated a two carriage unit with no loo! Enough of this 'anorak' talk.

Our trip would be by way of Dorking and Horsham, then on to Arundel and Ford stopping at selected stations. The fellow passengers would be a varied bunch, but predominantly families complete with two youngsters and the requisite quantity of buckets and spades. There could also be some 'old people' like wot I are now! They would be hoping for three things, a loo, a brew, and a view, not necessarily in that order, just as Ros and I seek now!

On arrival at our destination we joined the other pilgrims and made our way to the sea front. Have you noticed that we can sense the presence and sparkle of the sea, that brighter light, even on dull days, that screech of the gulls as they hover like a marauding gang around the cafes and other food outlets hoping for a freebee which they usually find. The day would consist of simple delights such as a dip in the briny, losing all your pennies in the slot machines, and going on the funfair rides. Whatever you do don't forget the fish and chips. An ice cream and candyfloss are a must. How about a round on the putting green?

At about 6 o'clock we would have had enough and would make our way back to the station. In those days of yore we would find a train that was going to Leatherhead and beyond without having to change. What a wonderful day out. Perhaps some people today would say "how boring", it was fantastic.

Just one last thought, how much had this extravaganza cost this youth as he tried to impress the girl that he was destined to spend the rest of his life with. I guess it would have been around twenty five shillings (£1.25p. Remember most seaside delights (apart from the fish and chips) would cost around six old pence, a tanner, and there were forty of them in a pound. Today, assuming that I spent at the same rate, I would be lucky to get any change from seventy pounds.

Weren't the old days grand. Perhaps the mists of time do cast a veil over some things.

Brian Hennagan

The Bookham ‘Monolith’

A letter from Heather Billingham published in The Leatherhead Advertiser of 4 August 2011 drew attention to a large standing stone in a field near Rectory Lane, Great Bookham. The Ordnance Survey map reference is TQ128542. The stone can be glimpsed through the trees from the footpath running from the corner of Glebe Close to Effingham, on the left just beyond the skate park, but it can be seen most clearly



from ‘Bookham Fields’, the open space which is the subject of a current application to nominate it as a village green under the Commons Act 2006.

Seen from a distance, the stone resembles a bent finger, light grey in colour and sarsen-like; not a local stone type. Its position rules out field clearance as an explanation. It is about a foot square at the base and stands about 5 feet high, curving over and narrowing to one side at the top to a vertical blunt chisel-like end. From the air, eight stones (or lumps of concrete?) set symmetrically in a circle round a ninth, together with one larger than all the others, can be picked out near the standing stone. All three sites are linked by tracks meandering across the paddocks into which the field is now divided by posts and rails.

BUT

None of these features appear on any maps or aerial photographs up to 2005, when the area was still a hayfield. The Google Earth Internet image dated May 24, 2009 shows them all, so they first appeared between 2005 and 2009. Can this interval be narrowed down? Perhaps you saw the stones being erected?

Place-names can be misleading. Goldstone Farm and Lodge (nearby, but on the other side of the Guildford Road) has borrowed the name of a field beside the Dorking Road, marked on Thomas Clay’s map of 1614-17.

SO

It is not an antiquity (yet!) but accidental or deliberate it is a public sculpture. Even if its creator explains its purpose, anyone else can give it a different meaning.

Derek Renn

Edward Wilkins Waite RBA 1854 – 1924

Edward Wilkins Waite was born at Leatherhead on the 14th April 1854. (His grandmother's maiden name was Virtue Wilkins) He was the son of a Congregational minister, the Revd Edward Waite MA, and Cleopha Julia Waite (nee Dukes), they had six sons, Charles b.1852, Edward b.1854, Herbert b.1857, William b.1861, Harold b.1870 and Arthur b. 1871) and two daughters (Elizabeth b. 1867and Winifred b. 1873.

He was born into an artistic tradition; his grandfather, William Watkin Waite, was a miniaturist, and his father an amateur watercolour painter. Three of his brothers became artists (Charles, Harold and Arthur) and two musicians. He was an amateur musician himself; a violinist and a conductor. He conducted the Abinger Choir when it won the full chorus prize at the Leith Hill Festival in 1905 and is recorded in later years as conducting an orchestra at Woolhampton.



The 1861 census for Leatherhead shows him living with his parents, and three brothers, Charles, Herbert and William in Bridge Street. His father was Leatherheads Independent Chapel (Congregational) Minister at the time. Herbert and William were also born in Leatherhead. Charles place of birth was registered as Tottenham, Middlesex.

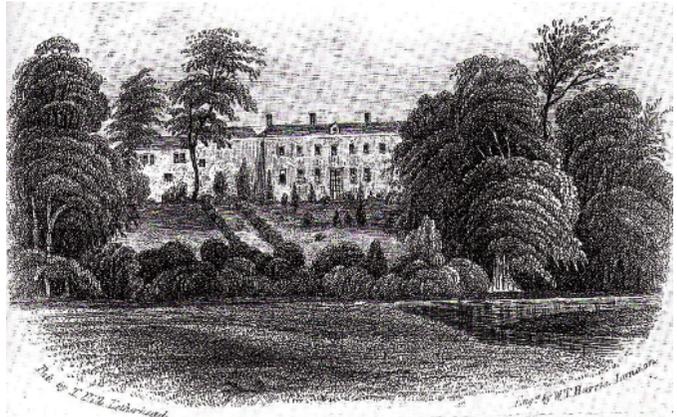


*Independent Chapel North Street Leatherhead Built
1844*

He was educated at the Mansion House Grammar School in Church Street, Leatherhead. In 1874 he went to Canada; sailing from Liverpool to Quebec aboard the steamship Circassian in July. He worked as a lumberjack near Palermo in Ontario during his stay in Canada, which appears to have lasted for about two years; a sketch book from his journey survives.

He seems to have taken up painting seriously on his return. In 1878 he exhibited two pictures at the Royal Academy in London; again two in 1880 and, thereafter, with only eight breaks, in every year until 1919; a total of forty six works altogether.

The 1881 census for Leatherhead shows him living at Long Cottage, Church Street, although the family home was at Blackheath, where in 1875 his father had become headmaster of the School for the Sons of Missionaries. He visited Cornwall in the early 1880s and spent some three years sketching and painting there. On his return he spent much of his time in Brockham, near Dorking.



*The Mansion House Grammar School
From the River Mole c: 1850s
(Engraving by W. T. Harris of London)
Published by Thomas Hill Chemist & Stationer Bridge Street
Leatherhead*

On the 22 January 1891 he married Barbara Isabella Tait, daughter of Sir Peter Tait. They spent the summer of that year at Street's Farm Peaslake before moving, in October, to The Cottage, Abinger Hammer.

In November 1892 their first child Barbara was born. They had two more children, John born in 1894, and Margaret born in 1896.

He became a member of the Royal Society of British Artists in 1893.

It is possible to reconstruct, approximately, his income from the sale of paintings in most years from about 1890 onwards. It is not easy to draw conclusions from the results but the importance to him of selling his larger works at major exhibitions is clearly shown. In 1893 his income was £330 but £160 of this was accounted for by the sale of *When Autumn to Winter Resigns in the Pale Year* at the New Gallery in London. The picture was sold to the first Lord



*When Autumn to Winter Resigns the Pale Year (1890-1892)
(This is almost certainly a view on the River Mole, near Brockham)*

Crawshaw. In 1903, perhaps the best year, the income from picture sales amounted to £900; two pictures alone, both sold at the Royal Academy, accounting for half that total. However, in most years, there were no significant sales; his income from the sale of paintings being much more modest, although it is known that he supplemented it to some extent by taking pupils.

In the summer of 1905 he became ill and did not recover fully until late summer 1906. The nature of his illness is not now known, but whether because of it or otherwise, he and his family left Abinger Hammer in July 1906. They stayed for a while in lodgings until Sunnymount, their new house in Austen Road, Guildford, was ready in October. They remained there until 1910 when they moved to the White House, Woolhampton, between Reading and Newbury in Berkshire.

He left Woolhampton towards the end of 1915, moving to Haslemere, and then in 1919 to St Mary's Fittleworth, Sussex. Later he moved to Littlemead, Fittleworth, which was his home when he died on 19 February 1924. His wife survived him by more than twenty-six years, dying on 10 September 1950.

In September 1986 at the Guildford House Gallery, I had the pleasure of viewing a special loan exhibition of his work. The exhibition also included works by his grandfather, father, brothers Harold and Arthur, his nephew Alexander Edward (Charles's son) and niece Margaret Hebe ('Maisie') (Harold's daughter) – an extremely talented family.



A Day in Late Autumn, Old Box Hill Bridge (1917)

His paintings can be seen in five public galleries – Bolton Art Gallery, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston, Northampton Central Museum and Art Gallery, Reading Museum and Art Gallery and Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery.

His 1895 painting entitled Shepherd and Flock in Wooded Landscape can be seen in Dorking Library.

Regrettably the paintings shown in this article are in black and white, but for those of you who have access to a computer, I suggest you just ‘Google’ his name and then you will appreciate the full beauty of his work.

Goff Powell

(With acknowledgment to various sources)

Bookham in the War - ‘As Time Goes By’

I wrote to your Newsletter about a year ago to tell you of a project which was just being started by a number of members of the Bookham and District U3A Military History Group. This was to research what life was like and what happened in Bookham during the Second World War.

We have had a fascinating journey. We have interviewed and recorded people who have personal memories, we have researched contemporary articles and newsletters, we have read through newspaper archives and we have accessed material held at the Surrey History Centre and by yourselves.

We are now, though, reaching the end of our project. We plan to put together an illustrated talk and to publish details of our findings.

We do wonder however whether there might still be people around who were living in Bookham at that time and who might like to share their recollections with us. If there are we would very much welcome hearing from them. Contact points are either myself, Michael Anderson (01372) 454790, or John Chadwick who leads the Military History Group - (01372) 454601.

Michael Anderson

Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol 96

The county society’s latest journal [2011] reports several excavations and finds in our area. Nationally the most important is a pit at Parsons Mead School, Ashted which contained Mortlake-style Neolithic pottery whose radiocarbon date was some two centuries earlier than previously accepted for this ware. Pipeline construction in Cobham Road, Fetcham, revealed Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint-working, and a Roman masonry building, possibly associated with a bath-house.

Derek Renn

Rectory Cottages, The Street Fetcham

These cottages still exist in the southern portion of The Street rather hidden now on the left hand side when entering from School Lane. They almost certainly were built between 1871 when only two appear in the census and 1881 when three are recorded and the rebuilding may have resulted from when John Barnard Hankey started modernising the estate on



the death of his father in 1875. The original two, 32ft x 16ft with an 8ft x 16ft lean-to according to an insurance schedule, were transferred from the Hankey family to the Rector in exchanges as part of the 1803 enclosure award.

The accompanying photograph would appear from evidence to have been taken before 1900 and certainly before 1905 when the 'New' Rectory replacing Ballands Hall was built and would have been noticeable at the back on the right.

Notable aspects are the recessed entrance doors, the asymmetric elevation, the variation to the roof tiles and the mock timbering. Two bands of shaped tiles are evident in the main roof, the upper band being broader than the lower one. These seem to be of better quality than the other plain tiles of which several are broken and/or missing. This seems perhaps a little odd for a roof with an age of about 25 years. The ridge tiles are quite robust in nature with a roll top. A surprising feature is the two tall isolated chimney pots - possibly a means of stopping smoke going down an adjacent flue in a down draught. Water tabling separates the rendered section from the upper plain brick termination on the stacks. The timbering to the upper floors is obviously not structural and thus is decorative and is evidence of an attempt to add some character to an otherwise plain rendered elevation.

The present day terrace maintains the same appearance except that the rear right hand stack has been removed, the roof retiled without embellishment and an extension added to the left hand end. The hedge has been replaced by a brick wall.

Incidentally the occupant of one of the cottages in 1841 was James Friday and his family, an agricultural labourer who in 1845 was also the first Post Office Receiver, effectively an agent for the Post Office in Leatherhead.

‘Surrey in Tudor Times’

The Society’s opening lecture for the 2011-12 season was presented to a near record audience by Catherine Ferguson who had chosen for her subject her in-depth study of the Tudor era as revealed by the archive of family papers from Loseley House, near Guildford. The house was acquired by the More family at the beginning of the 16th century, the first owner being Christopher More (1483-1549). He was a social climber but came from humble origins, his father being a fishmonger. This was not unusual for the time, for, as the speaker pointed out, both Thomas Cromwell and Cardinal Wolsey among the most noted of Tudor statesmen, also had lowly forbears.

Throughout her talk Catherine drew parallels between events and customs then and now, often causing astonishment and sometimes amusement. The audience may have expected a dry as dust examination of endless archive documents, but instead we were presented with a lively account of a family history full of stories ranging from key historical landmarks down to amusing trivia reminiscent of present day family life.

Christopher More and three succeeding members of the More family lived through the times of the Tudor monarchs and into the Civil War period. William (1520 to 1600), his son George (1553 to 1632) and following him Thomas Molineux More. Each managed to gain wealth and influence both at Court and in their role as men of power in Surrey. Christopher became Clerk of the Court of the Exchequer, also Justice of the Peace for Surrey from 1539 to 1547. William became a J P. from 1558 to 1579. He was also Commissioner for Church Good and Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey.



We were given an insight into the source of all this information. At Loseley House a room had been set aside, called ‘The Evidence Room’. Every scrap of paper affecting the family’s affairs, however unimportant, was stored here and remained untouched over the decades. Its discovery was like the revelation of a treasure – a Tutankhamen moment, as Catherine described it. From here on the archive underwent a process of splitting up, with consequences which were mixed – some bad and some good. The worst feature was the loss of a portion to the U.S.A. Much of the rest was analysed and dissected resulting in a classification under subject headings which was largely beneficial. The well known historian William Bray made a selection and bound these into volumes. Some were found in a mouldering state in the Surrey Muniment Room at Guildford. Fortunately these were ‘rescued’ and

restored, and now reside in the Surrey History Centre in Woking. The task of cataloguing all this is proving a monumental task but is progressing well. Those interested were urged to find more on the web by visiting exploringsurreypast.org.uk.

It was not an easy task to convey in the time available all that could be told about the Loseley papers. To name the general categories there were (1) Manorial records dating back to the 12th century ; (2) abundant correspondence with details of the private life of the family, down to details regarding dress, the engagement of servants, etc. ; (3) matters relating to government both local and national. William wrote a great deal concerning his role as a J.P. Here his role was to enforce the policies of the Tudor dynasty. Interestingly he wrote not just of court proceedings but touched on private 'out of court' matters as well. There was much evidence of social upheavals and unrest that existed at the time. The background causes of this included a widening gap between living costs and earnings, a succession of bad harvests and several bleak winters. The threat of riots was never far away. As a church commissioner there was the task of ensuring that the clergy was literate and cultured. Sometimes this failed to happen, and a vicar at Leatherhead was described as being far from this ideal.

Weighty matters of state and religion were also reflected, remembering that during these times the Reformation was taking place. International tensions, wars and threats of war – not forgetting the Spanish Armada and the Civil War all occurred within the lifetimes of these men. In 1557 William was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Surrey. In this capacity he was responsible for the local militias (as there was then no standing army). The fear of invasion and of sedition was very real in those years.

Visits to Surrey by the monarch occurred frequently. The county received Queen Elizabeth on 227 occasions and Loseley House played the host five times. A royal visit was a vast affair since it meant accommodating the entire court as well as the servants and retinue. These had to be housed and fed. The quantities of food required for such an occasion were of staggering proportions and the economic strain fell heavily upon local households. All these occurrences feature at great length in the records. In one reference to food there exists a note about the arrangements for a family wedding. A feature which causes astonishment to the modern reader is the quantity and variety of birds destined for the pot – not just domestic fowls but wild birds of every description.

Another surprise was to learn that our present day National Lottery had its Tudor equivalent. William More was the treasurer to this enterprise, and its workings are described in interesting detail.

It was now time to sum up and to assess the consequences of this exploration. It amounted to saying that the Loseley manuscripts have contributed a huge amount of information about our county in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. However they also bring to our notice an intriguing fact, namely that the people living in those times, different in many ways, nevertheless had a very great deal that are recognisably similar to those of today : it left one feeling that ordinary people do not change as much as we might expect.

John Wettren

Heritage Weekend



Letherhead Institute and our chairman in front of the “Surrey Churches” display



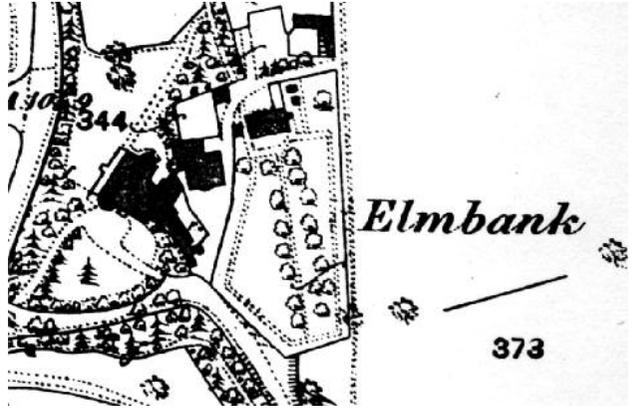
Church of St Giles, Ashted



Fetcham Park House where the Society’s team (Alan Pooley, Peter Tarplee and Goff Powell) were in full action

Newly Discovered Elm Bank Well

In the Newsletter of November 2010 we reported the discovery of a well or cistern in the garden of a modern house built in the 1950s in the grounds of the old Elm Bank House, which stood in Dorking Road opposite the Thorncroft Bridge until it was bombed in the Second World War and demolished shortly afterwards.



Members may recall that a hole appeared in a dramatic fashion in the lawn shortly after a garden party (photograph below). This has now been fully excavated and it is evidently the original well of Elm Bank House (and may even predate that house, although little is known of what stood on the site before Elm Bank was built in the late eighteenth century). It can be seen to the right of the house (a tiny 'P' for pump) on the 1869 Ordnance Survey Map above.

When discovered it was about five feet wide and thirteen feet deep, the bottom being covered in earth and rubble. The owner was at first inclined to have it filled in as a potential hazard, but inspired by the example of our well at the Museum, he decided to make a garden feature of it. A local builder was called in to excavate it and with the help of two assistants removed enough earth to fill a five ton skip. After five days work they struck the water table at a depth of about thirty feet. The bottom of the well was

reached after a further day spent extracting mud and water, giving a current depth of about a foot of clear water. Dr Bruce Osbourne of the Spas Research Fellowship, who was brought in as a consultant, thinks that this will increase to about three or four feet by early next year. The owner has had an electric pump installed and now has a source of good clean water for his garden. No



analysis has been made yet, but we took our lives in our hands and tasted it and it was pronounced good! No ill effects ensued.

It is lined with brick for about the first ten feet, the top courses of which appear to be of the size and shape of bricks of the Tudor period. There is little information about previous houses on the site, but it is possible that the well is of that age. On the other hand the adjacent Church House,



Dr Bruce Osbourne and David Hartley, the Chairman of the History Society, examine the well



which dated from that period, was demolished in 1850 by Captain William Stanley Clarke, the then owner of Elm Bank House, and the bricks which may have been reused.

Alun Roberts

The new well head showing the modern brick courses resting on the older smaller bricks below.

News from The Friends of Leatherhead Museum

Heritage weekend proved to be a busy weekend for many of us, including the Friends. Saturday 10th September saw 80, yes eighty! visitors to the museum which must be a record.

The Friends had decided to hold their annual coffee morning on Sunday 11th September with a bric-a-brac stall, raffle and other attractions resulting in £80 for our funds. 34 people came, not a large number considering the work involved and also the difficulty in finding stewards to open the museum on a Sunday. Our museum is dependant on a dedicated team of stewards who give up their time to keep the museum open. We are always in need of stewards and if you feel you can give up three hours of your time once a month to a fascinating and rewarding job please get in touch with

me.

The Friends helped with the BBQ held in September at the museum, an enjoyable but rather wet event ! A report is in this newsletter.

The Annual Christmas Party for museum volunteers and stewards will be held on Friday 9th December at 7.30pm at the Letherhead Institute. This is a 'thank you' to everyone who works behind the scenes and keeps the museum open.

Dr Fred Meynen

Lecture Programme

Lectures are held in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute(top of the High Street) coffee 7.30pm lecture 8.00pm admission £1. All are welcome

18th November 'Researching the History of The Country House' by Dr Richard Goodenough

Dr Goodenough has recently retired as Head of Geography and Environmental Science at Christ Church University, Kent and is a guide at the Royal Academy in London. He has published a book on the History of the Country House which has been adopted by English Heritage and is currently researching on habitat and countryside conservation.

16th December Members Social Evening. Short presentations by Members on 'Why I Moved to this District'

The evening will be informal with bistro-style seating. Fine wines and light refreshments will be served and the event hosted by our Master of Ceremonies Brian Hennegan. Coffee and minces pies and a raffle will end the evening. Members are invited to bring guests and friends who will be most welcome and if you would like to give a short talk please get in touch with me.

Spring Lecture Programme 2012

20th January 'Gatton Park : Restoration of an 18C Garden' by Glyn Sherratt

Glyn Sherratt is the Landscape/Heritage Officer at Gatton Park and has worked in historic gardens and landscapes , both in this country and abroad.

17th February 'The Tudor Palace at Woking' by Richard Savage

Richard Savage has organised the research and excavation of Woking Palace, one of the lesser known royal palaces, Hampton Court and Nonsuch being the best known homes of Tudor kings.

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

Friends of the Leatherhead Museum

Chairman

Fred Meynen 01372 372372930 fredmeynen@live.co.uk

Librarian (Letherhead Institute):

Peter Wells 01372 272367

The Library is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.00am to 12.30pm. Exceptionally, arrangements may be made to use it at other times by applying to the Librarian.

Membership Secretary:

David Wall 01372 374773 dandswall@btinternet.com

Records Secretary:

Roy Mellick 01372 457839 roy.mellick@btinternet.com

Sales Secretary:

Goff Powell 01372 374923 goff@goffpowell.plus.com

Programmes & Lectures Secretary:

Fred Meynen 01372 372930 fredmeynen@live.co.uk

Newsletter Editor:

Martin Warwick 01372 453717 martin_warwick@hotmail.com

Website Editor:

Frank Haslam 01372 379341 frank.haslam@gmail.com

Archival Material

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 Documents	John Derry
Leatherhead Photographs	Linda Heath
Leatherhead Maps	Alan Pooley

Historical Enquiry Service

Coordinator Vacant

The Service offers to seek answers to questions about the history of Leatherhead, Ashtead, Bookham and Fetcham submitted via the Museum

