

*LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY*

NEWSLETTER



August 2012

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

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Editorial

It is good to see so many articles with a variety of interesting topics in this edition of the Newsletter. Looking back over five years the Newsletter has almost doubled in size. It would however be good to see yet more new authors submitting articles.



Many older members of the Society must have past memories that would be good to see recorded in future Newsletters. A particular reason for making the point at this time is that some members of the Military History Group of Bookham & Horsley U3A including myself have worked on a book entitled 'The Bookhams in World War II' - it should be available later this month (August 2012, 128 pages, highly illustrated). In gathering the material for the book so many intriguing stories of life during the war have emerged. It would have been tragic to have lost the information it contains and now with the production of the book it has been recorded for future years. To some of us World War II was part of our life experiences but to anyone less than perhaps sixty years old it is history, something that happened in the past. To today's twenty year old is there any difference between the Napoleonic Wars and World War II in terms of being part of British history?

So have you a memory or an experience? We would like you to tell us about it. Your memories could be sent as emails or even in handwriting (still done!) and a photograph or two is invaluable.

Next Edition Deadline - 6th October

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Chairman's Report

There was a good turn out of members for the 65th AGM on Friday 20th April. A total of 62 members and visitors were present to hear the talk following the AGM, given by John Wettern on the theme 'Surrey A Hundred Years Ago'.



The Executive Committee met on Monday 21st May to ratify the approved resolution of the AGM to amend Rule 5 and to appoint four Trustees of the History Society, namely the Chairman, Hon Treasurer, Fred Meynen and David Wall. This change to our constitution and rules together with the names of the new Trustees have been submitted to the Charity Commissioners by our Hon Treasurer.

Your new executive Committee for 2012-13 will comprise of the following office holders:

Chairman:	David Hartley - (Trustee)
Hon Treasurer:	David Lokkerbol - (Trustee)
Membership Secretary:	David Wall - (Trustee)
Sales Secretary:	Goff Powell
Programmes & Lectures Secretary:	Fred Meynen – (Trustee)
Proceedings Editor:	Barry Cox
Newsletter Editor:	Martin Warwick
Website Editor:	Frank Haslam
Records Secretary:	Roy Mellick
Archaeology Secretary:	David Hartley
Museum Manager:	Alan Pooley
Doug Hollingsworth – committee member	
Linda Heath – committee member	
Posts that remain to be filled:	
Hon Secretary: -	vacant
Museum Curator:	vacant
Librarian: (Letherhead Institute)	vacant
Publicity officer:	vacant

It is unfortunate and disappointing that I have again to raise an appeal to the membership that we need to fill these vacancies, particularly that of Hon Secretary, a role I personally have been carrying out since the retirement of our previous Hon Secretary at our AGM in 2011. Fortunately since last year John Wettern has volunteered to take the minutes of our EC meetings (but only as a temporary arrangement). Also Vivien Hollingsworth kindly agreed to take the minutes at this year's AGM otherwise the Society would have been without a proper record of that meeting.

Some stark choices will have to be made this year if we do not get a volunteer to fill

the role of Hon Secretary or any of the other posts vacant from the membership. I have already made my decision that I will not continue to perform the function of Secretary. My thanks go to Roy Mellick our Records Secretary and that steady, committed group of members who are the History Society's Parish Archivists namely;

Ashted Parish: - Jack Willis

Bookham Parish: - Roy Mellick

Fetcham Parish: – Documents - Alan Pooley

Fetcham Parish: – Photographs & Maps Ed Tims

Leatherhead Parish: - Documents – position vacant

Leatherhead Parish: - Photographs – Linda Heath

Leatherhead Parish: - Maps – Alan Pooley

Again you will see that we require a member to fill the role of the Leatherhead documents archivist following the retirement of John Derry in 2010.

The role of the Society's Historical Enquiry Service continues to be performed by Alun Roberts.

We should acknowledge the role played by Alan Pooley, Peter Tarplee and the team that work behind the scenes at the Museum, the Friends of Leatherhead Museum and the volunteer Stewards who work at the museum to keep it open, all performing a very useful and vital function to the success of the Museum.

Finally we should acknowledge the honorary roles of our President and Vice President, Gordon Knowles and Peter Tarplee both heavyweights of our Society who have both past and present guided our History Society.

Other Business

The transfer of title of the Museum to the History Society and on to the Official Custodian of the Charities Commission has been completed by our solicitors.

The Chairman and the Hon Treasurer have just signed a new five year lease on a storage facility for the museum artefacts.

In the light of the re-opening of the Dorking Museum it is perhaps timely that we should be re-considering our collection policy for the Museum, so we do not duplicate the collections and that we explore other means of presentation and use of space. There is also need to consider the long term storage issues for Archives and Artefacts.

It was proposed at our last AGM that we should canvas opinions of the membership on the desirability or otherwise, of receiving the Newsletter by email. This is not something members should get anxious about as there are no immediate plans to phase out the publishing of a paper copy of the Newsletter. However some members have expressed an interest in receiving their copy by email as a PDF document. This option is available to those who request this together with their email address.

We have in conjunction with Alan Pooley our Museum Manager being considering ways of introducing interactive multi-media facilities into the museum to attract more families and visitors by telling the story of Leatherhead & District behind selective objects. David Lokkerbol has prepared a draft proposal for what we have in mind elsewhere in this Newsletter it would be helpful to have your feedback.

David Hartley

Archaeology Report

These last few months have been some of the busiest for those who are keen to work and dig with archaeological groups in Surrey. In the last Newsletter we reported on a number of local up and coming digs and Ewell made a very good start in spite of the weather and will have finished by the time this Newsletter reaches you. Nevertheless Ashted is about to start and David Calow is due to be digging at Flexford later in the year. The Surrey Archaeological Web site www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk can be checked to see what is going down.

Excavation of the Ashted Roman Villa and Tile Works:

22nd August to 11th September 2012

The Roman Studies Group is undertaking a seventh season of excavation on Ashted Common. Working days are grouped as three sets of 5 days from Wednesday to Sunday each week. The dates are as follows and contact: Stella Fagg in the first instance email at fagg@freeuk.com

Wednesday to Sunday 22nd - 26th August,

29th Aug - 2nd September

5th - 9th September with the

10th - 11th September (possibly needed for tidying up etc)

For newcomers there will be conditions that will be applied, membership to RSG (Roman Studies Group) and membership to SyAS (Surrey Archaeological Society) and or a daily fee may apply.

Leatherhead & District - Heritage Open Days 9th – 12th September

A reminder that the Mole Valley Heritage Open Days booklet is awaited and a copy will be able to be picked up from the museum or the Help Shop in the High Street. Do not forget to support the local events at the Letherhead Institute, at the museum and the published walks around Leatherhead.

At Westcott - Heritage Open Days 9th – 12th September

Peter Bennett will again be conducting his Milton Street Walk on the Thursday 9th (pm) and Friday 10th (am) for which places may be booked at the Dorking Halls box office.

There is no need to book to visit Tony Harcombe's unique Static Engine Museum at The White House in Chapel Lane, where the Local History Group will again be mounting an exhibition 'Westcott in Wartime'

Exhibition in the Air Raid Shelter, open from midday on Friday 10th and from 10.00am on both Saturday and Sunday.

At Woking Palace - Saturday & Sunday 8th – 9th September

Features special displays and marks Heritage Open Day

Advance notice – Local History Symposium on Saturday 10th November

Surrey Local History Committee a group of the Surrey Archaeological Society will be holding their Local History Symposium on Saturday 10th November at the Peace Memorial Hall in Ashted. This meeting has been relocated from the original venue in previous years in Chertsey. If you would like to participate and attend this lively event entry is by ticket, the cost of which has yet to be advised. In the meantime check out the Surrey Archaeological Society web site www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

David Hartley

Albert Warren - Photographer 1868 – 1951

Albert Warren was born 1868 in Luton, Bedfordshire; his parents were William and Catherine. In the 1871 census his father's occupation is listed as a cord winder, and the family were living at 77 Albert Road, Luton. At that time he was the youngest of seven children, five sisters Fanny (1853) Elizabeth (1857) Clara (1859) Kate (1863) and Minnie (1866) and Brother George (1855).

The 1881 census records a further sister Maude born 1875. The 1891 census shows Albert as a visitor to 10 Borough Street, Brighton the home of Sarah Ludlam. No occupation is listed. By the 1901 census he is married to Ada and they have one son Harold born 1898, living at 73 Vicarage Road, Watford and his occupation 'Photography'. The 1911 census still shows him residing at the above address but with an addition to the family, a daughter called Nora born in 1902.

Some of his photos say 'Warren Photo Watford' but others 'Warren Photo Rickmansworth and Watford'. Before Warren came to Leatherhead we have Richard



*Red House Cottage, The Crescent.
(Photograph Courtesy of Steve Poulter)*

Huck (1823 – 1926), who resided in St. Johns Road, Frederick Robert Parrett (1855 – 1915) and gentleman named H. Penny to thank for many of the earlier photographs of people and places in and around the area. He arrived in Leatherhead midway through World War I, acquiring Red House Cottage

The Crescent the photographic studio of Frederick Robert Parrett who had died in 1915 and whose name is still to be seen very faintly on the tile work of the building. Before moving to The Crescent Parrett's studio was in Leatherhead High Street. In the early 1920s another well known Leatherhead photographer called Austin Youell set up in the High Street, but soon moved to 36 The Crescent opposite Warren's studio but by the 1950s he had ceased his photographic business and concentrated on being a Tobacconist and Confectioner.

Prior to moving to Leatherhead Albert Warren's early photographs seem to have been mainly topographical. However, I have collected postcards for over thirty years and have yet to see any of this area bearing his name. Much of his work relates to topical events, such as celebrations, weddings and studio portraits.



He soon established himself in the town and in March 1917 photographed the unveiling of the Leatherhead Roll of Honour on the Fire Engine House / Clock Tower in North Street. In that same year he produced several postcards of the disastrous fire at Fetcham Mill on August 22nd.

He was also responsible for the many photographs taken of the Leatherhead Peace



Unveiling of the Roll of Honour



Fire at Fetcham Mill August 22nd 1917 March 21st 1917



North Street Leatherhead



Woodfield Lane, Ashted

Celebrations on the 19th July 1919. On the 4th August of the same year he was again on hand to photograph Ashted's Peace Celebrations

Although the photographs of the Unveiling and Dedication of the War Memorial on the 3rd April 1921 do not bear his usual inscription or embossed stamp they are more than likely his work due to their exceptional quality.

*Unveiling of War Memorial 3rd
April 1921*



The photographs he took of the King George V's Silver Jubilee Procession in 1935 and those of prior events are a reminder that he was not just an excellent photographer but an astute businessman. Just think of the hundreds of postcards he must have sold to people who said 'look that's me', I must have one of those.



King George V Silver Jubilee 1935

On a more personal note I have Albert Warren to thank

for the lovely Otway family photograph taken about 1917. The lady in the middle is Amelia Otway nee Shurville, who is my wife's Grandmother, to the left is Harold, on her lap is Ernest and to her right is Frank and Elsie my wife's Mother.



But my interest in Albert Warren does not end just yet, for without the following photography taken by him in 1943, I would have been unable to see what I looked like at the tender age of four. It shows my Father Godfrey, though no one ever called him by that name, he was always known as Charles or Charlie, his second name, my Brother Thomas and my Mother Margaret. It was taken just before my Father was posted to North Africa. I was one of the lucky ones 'my Dad did come home'.



*Powell Family 1943 with
a very young Goff*

Albert Warren continued to live at 23 The Crescent until his death in 1951 at the age of 83. By then the studio was in the hands of W. R. Ayling A.R.P.S. He was there until the 1960s when the business was acquired by Derek Gardner. In the 1940s and for many years after the building was also the surgery of Dr. Gordon Newbury Box and Dr. Arnold Morley Phillips. Both Albert and his wife Ada who died in 1937 are buried in St. Mary and St. Nicholas Churchyard Leatherhead

Today the building is occupied by The Leatherhead Clubhouse part of the Mary Frances Trust which is a Surrey based charity established in 1994. Who seek to provide support to people with mental health needs?

Godfrey (Goff) Powell

Advertising in the Newsletter

With the expansion and growth of interesting articles in the Newsletter the executive committee are looking for local sponsors to take advertising space on a quarterly and or annual basis to defray the cost of production of the Newsletter. The Newsletter is circulated free to all the members at the third Friday meeting in February, May August and November and is then distributed free of charge to visitors to the Museum and at subsequent events and meetings at which the History Society is participating. In addition the Newsletter is available as a PDF document via the website or on request will be emailed for circulation to a wide audience.

Rates are as follows (text and artwork must be provided):

	One Edition	Annual Rate
Full Page	£40.00	£160.00
Half page	£20.00	£80.00
Quarter Page	£10.00	£40.00

Customers are encouraged to consider advertising on an annual basis for four issues (February, May, August and November).

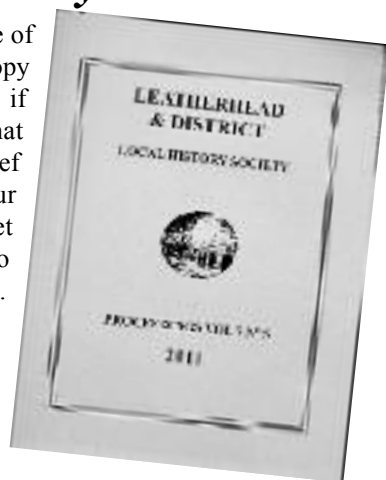
If you are interested in supporting the Newsletter, please contact me by mobile phone: 07947471165 or by email Hartley1949@msn.com.

David Hartley

Proceedings of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society

I am now looking to receive articles for the next issue of our Proceedings. I would need to receive the final copy by early January, but it would be very helpful if prospective authors could let me know in advance that they intend to send me an article, together with a brief note of what it will contain. Much as I value our established authors it would be particularly nice to get articles from new authors and I should be very happy to help with advice and comments on prospective articles.

Barry Cox, Editor, the Proceedings.



Great Bookham's History

How much do you know about the early history of Great Bookham? The Surrey Archaeological Society is attempting to answer this question and find out more about Great Bookham's past.

The two Bookhams, Great and Little, were reputedly given to Chertsey Abbey in a joint agreement with Frithwald, Sub-regulus of Surrey and Bishop Erkenwald in 675 AD. The original charter is lost, but four subsequent Saxon kings confirmed the grant. Great Bookham (Bokeham Magna) remained under the Abbey but the Abbey divested itself of its interest in Little Bookham. Great Bookham is mentioned as a separate village in Domesday. The survey describes it as having 36 households, a church and watermill (on the River Mole, probably at Slyfield). Most of the houses would have been clustered around the church, but there would have been other farms in the area, and hamlets at Eastwick (east of the manor farm) and Preston (Priest's Town).

In the 14th century the Abbey ceased to work its demesnes and about this time the freeholdings and copyholdings were owned by fewer people. Chertsey Abbey's role became one of managing the extensive rent roll. The Abbey's demesne manors were arranged in nine groups each with their own rent collector. A steward would manage the rent collector. The demesnes of Great Bookham and Cobham were in one group. In 1535 Great Bookham was ranked eighth in value of the Abbey's manors.

Chertsey Abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1537, and Great Bookham reverted to the Crown for the next 13 years. In 1550 the manor was granted to Lord William Howard, and remained in the Howard family for many generations. Sir Francis Howard built a new brick-built manor house at Eastwick in 1626. In 1801, this house was substantially remodelled and covered with stucco by James Laurel who purchased the property from Richard Howard. The mansion was demolished in the 1950s.



Bronze leg of ewer (14th/15th century) and early pottery (12th century)

Bookham had a medieval weekly market which was held on a Tuesday opposite the church on the Lower Road. The monks of Chertsey Abbey also gave a grant for a two day fair to be held at Michaelmas. The market and fair were probably an attempt by the Abbey to turn Great Bookham into a market town. This fair continued until 1792.

There are several Tudor buildings in Great Bookham, and the earliest timber-framed house has been dated to 1490 by dendrochronology. The oldest building is the church of St Nicolas, which has parts that date back to 1140. Abbot John de Rutherwyk extended the church in the 14th century, and a plaque

commemorating this can be seen to the right of the altar and is written in Lombardic script. There are later 15th century additions.

We are very fortunate to have several maps of Great Bookham that show all the properties and the names of the owners. The tithe map of 1850 offers a wealth of information, and a 1798 map and survey has more details about the village. In 1614 Thomas Clay was employed by Sir Edward Howard to prepare an extensive survey and he produced a detailed map with drawings of each house and an accompanying survey book with details of the owners and how much rent they paid to the Lord of the Manor. Unfortunately, documents and maps can only take us back so far and we need other techniques to help us reveal the past.

Several medieval finds in Great Bookham are recorded including the bronze leg of a ewer (14th to 15th century) and early pottery dating back to the 12th century. A test pit in 2010 suggests that the original manor house lies behind the church. An evaluation trench is planned for 2013 to examine possible wall structures highlighted by a resistivity survey.

There have been no Saxon finds in the central area of Great Bookham, and there is no evidence of Roman occupation. This doesn't mean it doesn't exist. In the areas surrounding Great Bookham a Saxon burial ground was found at Hawk's Hill, a Roman building at Fetcham and Neolithic flints in the south of the parish.

The Great Bookham Dig 2013

How do we find out more about our past after we have exhausted the search of documents and maps? One way is to implement a test pitting program in a selected area. A test pit consists of 1m by 1m area of ground. If the chosen area is grass, the turf is carefully removed so that it can be reinstated. An area of flower bed would be treated with similar care, and all test pit areas would be left as they were originally found.

Two or three archaeologists would work on a test pit and the work should be completed in one day.

We are appealing for volunteers to offer a 1m² area of their garden for a test pit. You don't have to do any digging, but if you want to be involved, it can be arranged. You can watch as the archaeologists uncover the past! It is hoped that random test pits will uncover evidence of Saxon and Roman settlements.

At this stage we are trying to compile a list of residents who are prepared to offer a 1m² area of their garden for a test pit. If you live in Great Bookham, it would be a great opportunity to help rewrite Bookham's history.

The test pitting will take place in 2013, although dates are yet to be finalised. If you think you might be interested in the project please email lyn-smith@talktalk.net, or phone 01372 454766 for more information.

Lyn Smith

No Through Road

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 required Surrey County Council to carry out a review of all roads used as public paths (RUPP) and to re-classify them either as footpaths, bridleways or byways open to all traffic (BOAT). This involved investigating if lanes had vehicular rights - not necessarily motorised. River Lane, Fetcham was included in this survey and there was concern that this Right of Way might develop into a through road from Randalls Road to the village.

In 1991 the Surrey County Council instituted a Public Inquiry at which the Fetcham Residents Association was allowed to submit evidence to establish that River Lane should be classified as a

bridleway with no vehicular rights as it was already impeded by a footbridge over the River Mole. With the assistance of old photographs it was shown that the former Splash, that allowed horse drawn vehicles to ford the river, no longer existed and, therefore, vehicular rights had been extinguished.

As a direct result, the Surrey County Council issued a Traffic Regulation Order in 1993 that forbade the passage of vehicles from Meadow Cottage (No 1 River Lane, Leatherhead) to the river. This Order is irrevocable and, to the relief of Fetcham, removed for ever the possibility of a through road.



1879 photo shows the timber footbridge and the Splash through which horse drawn vehicles could ford the river



1995 photo with Leslie Robinson standing where the photographer stood to take the earlier photo. The Splash no longer exists (except in name) as the river bank has been raised by several feet.

A Local History of Leatherhead in Fifteen Objects

The 2010 Radio Programme ‘History of the World in 100 Objects’ was inspirational. It provided an incredibly visual way (on radio!) of seeing the development of civilisations. It now turns out that Surrey Museums are collating a History of Surrey in 50 objects and are seeking help from the Local Museums who are each asked to identify 15 of their own objects. This fits very conveniently into our own thinking about how to move the Museum presentations forward. So, how to get it done?



First, of course, is to agree which 15 objects. My own list is below, but other, more knowledgeable, people, may well have better ideas. The criteria behind selection is

Use of Physical Objects – rather than documents or pictures

Objects from all corners of the Museum display

Objects around which can be wrapped a good short story – preferably bringing in

	THEME	OBJECT
1	Agriculture	Spring Trap
2	Archaeology	Ashtead Villa model
3	Arts	Lion head from Ashtead Pottery
4	Children	Bone Skates
5	Communication	Telephone Switch Board
6	Entertainment	Thorndike Theatre Carpet sample
7	Food	Iron stove
8	Home	Goblin Teasmade
9	Housing	Hampton Cottage Model
10	Industry	Ronson Lighter
11	Leisure	Swan Brewery Sign
12	Science	PIRA Instrument
13	Sport	Campbell Steering Wheel
14	Transport	Enamelled Railway station name
15	War	Mine fragment: Cherkley Court

Next would be to work towards telling each object's story. For this we need a group to take it forward. There are a number of tasks and skills. These include – Research behind the selected objects, writing the story/presentation, photography of the associated images, reader to provide voice overs, production of the individual presentations. Various IT formatting skills, etc....

Ultimately we would like to present these 15 object stories on a number of platforms for the Museum's audience. These might include use of photo screens (the ones used at home to scroll through family photos), audio guides, QR tags (barcodes that can be read by smartphones), booklets, DVD, the World Wide Web. Once we have the stories we can worry about rolling across all platforms targeting different types of audience but especially young people.

If you would like to join me in putting this exciting project together please contact me ASAP.

David Lokkerbol (contact details on the inside cover of this magazine)

***Make sure you visit the History Society
Website***

www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk

Eastwick Park Dairy

The dairy was until the Autumn of 2011 located in what is now the garden of No1 Eastwick Drive. The dairy built in 1806 originally formed part of the Eastwick Park Estate and in the estate auction details of 1831 is the following extract :

‘Distinguished Freehold Estate, Eastwick Park with Singularly Elegant Mansion...in a Highly Fashionable Neighbourhood and in the Most Picturesque and Delightful Part of the County of Surrey. Eastwick Mansion, A Substantial and Complete Residence for a family of Fashion with numerous Offices, Stabling, Walled Kitchen Garden. In a Grove on the skirt of the Park and not too distant from the dwelling, are Two small Octagonal Buildings, Brick- built and Thatched; the one an Ornamental Dairy, the other a Scalding House, connected by a Thatched Open Corridor.’



In Turville Kille's book 'The Life and Times of Turville Kille' he describes how as a boy before the First World War he would go down steps into the dairy where on a hot summer's day the difference of temperature was unbelievable. The right hand side of the room was tiled with blue and white tiles and there was also a solid angular slab on which stood bowls of cream, jugs of milk and joints of meat for the Manor House.

After the First World War and the breaking up of the estate, dairy farming ceased and the dairy became redundant. By 1976 it was in a state of decay and being Grade 2 listed was placed on the English Heritage list of buildings at risk. Further deterioration

occurred over the next 20 years until Patrick Gardner and Nick Benger, Trustees of the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society (LDCPS) proposed that the Society investigate the possibility of the dairy being repaired and refurbished. The Society appointed the Conservation Architects, Nye Saunders and Partners of Church Street, Godalming to prepare record drawings of the dairy and to liaise with the Listed Buildings Officer, Peter Mills from Mole Valley



District Council and Dr Nigel Barker of the South East Region of English Heritage with regard to repairing the buildings. It had been hoped to retain the dairy in its original location but it became apparent that in the grounds of a private house it was not going to be practicable. Instead an alternative proposal was pursued for the buildings to be taken down and moved to a site within the grounds of the Eastwick Junior School, thus keeping it within the boundary of the original estate. Planning permission and Listed Building Consent was obtained and specialist building firm Matrix Construction provided the most competitive tender for the work. It was at this stage that LDCPS decided that it did not wish to commit further resources to the scheme.

It was at the end of Summer 2010 that one of the partners from Nye Saunders approached The Weald and Downland Museum, Chichester who were immediately enthusiastic at having the dairy relocated to Singleton in West Sussex. The dismantling and relocation took place in September and October of 2011 and the following are extracts from articles written by Curator Julian Bell for the autumn and spring editions of the museum's magazine and describe in full the location the construction and the process of careful removal.

Located in the village of Great Bookham on the A246 to the west of Leatherhead, the dairy formed part of the Eastwick Park Estate. This was most notably occupied during the early 19th century by the Bazalgette family renowned for developing Victorian London's sewer system. The dairy was constructed in 1806 to serve the mansion house and consists of two separate, octagonal brick built buildings one slightly larger than the other connected by an open, covered walkway, the larger being the dairy, and the smaller, a scalding house, containing a stove and chimney, albeit later additions. The buildings had steeply pitched roofs covered in thatch whilst inside whitewashed lath and

plaster ceilings were added to the tie beams.

In its current condition the dairy is tiled and the scalding house covered with modern roofing felt. Virtually no physical evidence of the walkway roofing timbers remains apart from one wall plate and there is little physical evidence of either building having been thatched although the dismantling process may provide some.



The Scalding House

The buildings have been sited in a dell which appears

to have been man made for the dairy. This feature was designed to gather the heavier cold air around the dairy, acting as a natural refrigerator to help preserve the goods produced.

Despite providing a very basic, practical function for the estate, these buildings appeared to have been constructed to a very high standard using methods and materials more suited to a much higher status building. However when it came to dismantling the building the brickwork was not of the standard expected although the timberwork, where it had survived, was to a high standard. The wooden fittings and architraves are relatively decorative and have been painted a deep burgundy colour whilst the whole of the brick exterior was originally white washed. Coupled with the thatch used to roof the dairy buildings this would have been an impressive sight, appropriate to the Regency tastes of the time.

The interiors of both buildings would have been fully plastered with wooden benches attached to the walls running around the perimeter. Many of these have disappeared but sufficient remain with marks left on the walls demonstrating their construction and positioning.



Inside the Dairy

At some time in the late 19th



Inside the Scalding House

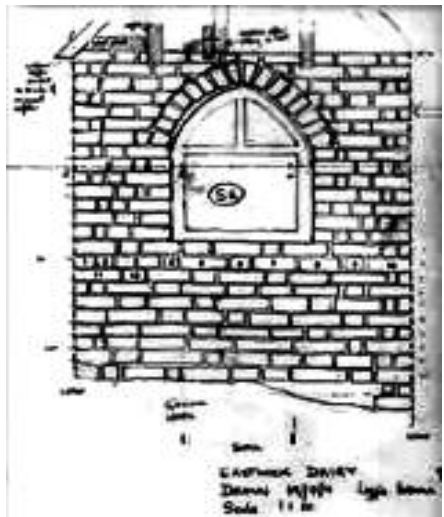
century the open thatched walkway joining the two buildings was replaced with a brick corridor. Also in the 19th or early 20th centuries the thatch on the roof of the dairy was replaced with tiles, initiating some of the major structural problems from which the building has since suffered. Tiles are obviously a great deal heavier than thatch and put a much greater strain on the roof timbers not originally designed to take such weight.

In September and October of 2011 dismantling of the building commenced but not before

numerous sketches plans and photographs were produced to record where material originated and where it should be located during re-erection. The museum's carpenter in residence, Joe Thompson who will be responsible for the replication of the roof, oversaw the successful removal and recording of the roof timbers which were returned to the museum as intact as their decayed state allowed.

The greatest challenge occurred in accurately recording the bricks so that they can be reinstated in exactly the same positions. In the past bricks have been physically marked according to a pre-numbered plan, but has proved very difficult to achieve a long lasting mark. In this instance there are some six thousand bricks to deal with so it was decided to use metal sided containers for storing and transportation. The bricks are set within the containers in layers and laid in sequence each layer separated by a board and annotated.

In lifting the stone flags in the larger dairy building a double 'V' (standing for Virgin of Virgins) ritual mark was found on the underside. Although certainly not unusual to find ritual marks within buildings it was decided to dig beneath this particular mark in case any other items had been deliberately placed. Lots of bones



Every Brick has to be numbered....

were found which were identified by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit as the remains of horses and cows. In the scalding house nine of the twenty three raised flags displayed similar marks.

The dairy will be re-erected on the museum site once funds become available. The bricks and stone flags will be returned to their exact original positions and new timbers will be commissioned for the roofs, windows, doors and internal fittings. The open walkway will be reinstated and the whole complex thatched so that the dairy will be returned to the original format of 1806.

In compiling this article I am most grateful to the Museums Curator Julian Bell for allowing me to use the bulk of his text contained in the Autumn and Spring editions of the Museums magazine.

Tribute should also be paid to the Trustees of the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society whose initiative undoubtedly led to the preservation of the Eastwick Park Dairy.

Terence J Staff

Fetcham Forge, St Clements and the Luffs

All communities once had a local blacksmith who would have quite a range of duties and Fetcham was no different. We can get from records the names of various blacksmiths in the 1700s and occasionally suggestions as to where they may have been at work and at least one Smith's shop must have been relocated as a result of clearances to enlarge Fetcham Park. In the 1788 sale we get the description 'Bristow Webb at will, House, Smith's Shop, Garden etc and close', the latter of just over four acres. This tallies with insurance details for 1800: £200 Brick and £100 Timber on a House and Blacksmith's Shop...situate about 100 yards northward from the Cock Publick House in the possession of Webb. However they got the direction wrong as it was south of the Cock which was still in business. 'The Street' is sometimes referred to in old documents as 'Webb's Lane' no doubt taking it from Bristow Webb who died aged 77 in 1827 to be replaced by Melanethon Blanchard

By the mid 1800s we know that the Smithy was alongside The Street roughly where the front garden of number 57 is, in the grounds associated with the white house set back to the rear now called Garden Cottage. It was into this house that James Luff moved from Leatherhead in about 1845 replacing Melanethon.

James, born in Dunsfold, must have moved into the district before 1836 when his first wife Sarah gave birth in Leatherhead to twin boys, James and John. However son James died a few months after as with 30 year old wife Sarah. James married again and in the 1851 census [see extract], James and family are living in Fetcham but there is still a Leatherhead connection as an 1859 Kelly's directory lists him as: 'Agricultural Machine maker and General Smith, Gasfitter and Bell Hanger' in 'Bridge Street and at Fetcham'. Another entry a bit later in 1867 list him as: 'Agricultural machine maker,



The Street at Fetcham

general smith, hot water and hydraulics engineers and manufacturers of all kinds of fencing’ also with a Bridge Street Leatherhead reference. There was obviously a business relationship with Alfred Blaker in Leatherhead who in the same year and also in 1874 appears as a ‘Furnishing and general ironmonger, gas fitter, whitesmith and bell hanger, iron fencing, hurdles etc and dealer in agricultural implements, North Street and at Fetcham’

James Luff	40	Whitesmith employing 3 men and 3 apprentices
Mary Luff	46	
John Luff	14	Whitesmith
George Freeman	20	Appr. Whitesmith
William Fenn	18	Farrier
George Hutson	14	Farrier

By mid 1860’s with the business obviously prospering, James had purchased a narrow strip of land of 12 perches [66 yards] length to the north of Tea Tree and Yew Tree cottages and had built a forge, two semi-detached cottages and another separate building, exact purpose unknown but perhaps a store and shop. These are clearly seen in the photograph taken across the pond in Cobham Road [by Orchard Close] with the forge buildings to the left and the cottages in the centre. Rather oddly the latter were actually built over an existing cottage which continued to be separately occupied. These although quite extensively modified, still there today, are quite interesting in their own

right and will be the subject of a later article.

It was probably son John's need for his own house when he married that prompted the 1865 move and by 1881 we find that he is obviously running the business and there with his Wife Charlotte and a 14 year old daughter of the same name, whilst James is listed as retired with housekeeper. After James's death in 1886 there were only the three of them living in the property and as daughter Charlotte never married, perhaps she took over the one originally occupied by James. Also working in the business there would have been William Fleet, a blacksmith who lived in Yew Tree cottage for over thirty years.

A J Ginger writing in 1949 [Pro Vol No 3] gives us a colourful description of John otherwise 'Puffer Luff — a rich double bass' He says: 'He was a short, stout mans and got his nickname from his habit of puffing and blowing his breath as he worked or walked along. What a fine singer he was! Ever in demand at local concerts and , when needed, for special services at the Parish Church Leatherhead.' Ginger has also in an earlier article given us possibly the only written description of the forge: 'Opposite the pound stood the village smithy. This was a large and gloomy barn where the blacksmith was busy all day at his anvil on iron work, ploughs, cartwheels and shoeing. We boys never tired of watching the sparks fly or helping to blow the furnace bellows while the smith made ringing music at this anvil. — In the era of the horse the smith in his workshop and the stone breaker by the roadside were ever-busy workers.'

Part of John's work involved the maintenance of the pumps down by the mill and the pipes that supplied water up to the cistern by Fetcham Park House. Contemporary



The Pond

newspaper accounts record the tragic circumstances when he was found drowned in the Mill cistern on the 17th October 1895. Whilst there are several suicides recorded by drowning in the Mill pond without doubt this was accidental.

Evidence suggests that the original Forge [at number 57] was still in use up to about 1898 and utilised by Alfred Blaker who then abandoned it for St Clements a little while after John's demise although in 1891, William Fleet is listed as an employer. A directory entry for Fetcham 1899 has 'Alfred Blaker late Luff and son' with a description very similar to that of 1867. He is still there in 1909 however for the record Alfred Blaker senior died in 1898 and it was his son Alfred who continued the business. Meanwhile C S Gordon Clark of Fetcham Lodge rented Garden Cottage for his gardener from about 1908 and bought it outright from George Barnard Hankey in about 1915.

Although the 1914 Ordnance Survey map marks St Clements as 'Smithy', currently I have no evidence to indicate when it ceased trading. The unmarried daughter Charlotte lived there I believe until her death in 1932. By this time the northern most building was 'The Shop' tenanted by Arthur Miller, whose rent book is in the Fetcham Records. Charlotte also owned nearly all of the cottages on the common.

Noticeable on the early census and other descriptions was that James was a whitesmith i.e. worked in metals other than iron such as brass and/or bronze. As a bell hanger in the early days did he also cast bells on a small scale or did the name 'St Clements' come from the ring of the anvil? We shall never know. The museum has a garden roller with a cast plate indicating that it came from Blaker Bros. which may have been cast locally but to date I have never come across reference to anything made by James Luff and son.

A following article concentrating on the premises and later occupants will draw partially on the recollections of Keith Croft who was present when the photographer took the inset picture in 1946.

Alan V Pooley

Visit to Gatton Park

Two things threatened this visit: the fear of a torrential rain storm and worse, the possibility of having to cancel owing to a dearth of numbers. Happily neither of these occurred and the result was a successful and enjoyable day.

Most of those taking part had attended the Society lecture about the Gatton Park estate which was recently given to us by the landscape specialist, Glyn Sherratt. But the mental picture from our recall of his talk was nothing compared to what we saw when we toured this vast estate. Our guide, Lorraine, won praise from all the participants for her commentary and care. Her impressive historical knowledge and lively delivery was in true balance with the beautiful views and interesting objects which could be seen during the tour. In this short account one can only touch on what there was to see: the mediaeval church, the so called 'Town Hall' looking like a classical temple, the



Above: The Visit to Gatton Park

stunning views of the lake and the Wealden panorama, the Japanese garden and the Hall, once the home of the great and famous.

Below: The Japanese Gardens

The rain did come but only at the point when we were preparing to drive away. The dearth of numbers was saved by some welcome last minute volunteers. It was enjoyed by all, and many have resolved to return in order to see more of Gatton's wonders. Their list of open days and special events is well worth studying.

John Wettern



Surrey Village Signs



Surrey Village Signs was the topic for the May meeting and our speaker was John Chisholm. John is the Village Sign Society Liaison Officer for Surrey and Sussex also their contact for the National Village Sign Photobase, which is the photographic archive of all known village signs throughout the country. He based his talk alphabetically on Surrey Villages within approximately a 15 mile radius of Leatherhead.

He admitted that the word ‘Village’ is a slight misnomer because many of the signs to be shown relate to ‘Towns’ but nevertheless still meets the criteria laid down by the society. Each of the signs was complemented by photographs showing

the village or town in question.

Rather than list all seventy of them, here are some of the more interesting, starting with the parish of Abinger. Most people associate the name Abinger with the blacksmith striking the bell on the clock, hence Abinger Hammer, but if you walk around you will see the village sign depicting the blacksmith at his more familiar anvil commissioned in 2002. Venture further around the area and you will come across another sign relating to Abinger Common bearing a local coat of arms.



Many of the signs erected in Surrey have been to commemorate a national celebration for instance the Coronation of 1953 – Ewhurst and the original Byfleet sign, recently updated, the Queen’s Silver Jubilee in 1977- Forest Green with its elaborate scroll work including two deer and Pirbright showing a pear tree and the name Perifrith. Perifrith was a name first recorded for Pirbright, which is a compound of the two words pyrige (pear tree) and fryth (wooded country) or the Millennium in 2000 –

Merstham Town Clock and Shere depicting the Church, War Memorial and Forge.

One exception to these is that of Chaldon erected in 1986 to celebrate its 900 years



existence.

He also passed remarks on the Dorking Cockerel erected in 2007.

The 1953 Coronation sign for Tatsfield went missing and had to be replaced, the new sign bears the name Tatol - The name suggests it is derived from 'a field or open land belonging to one Tatol' (possibly a nickname meaning the lively one).

Hooley Village erected a tin plate sign in 2003 in remembrance of its 100 year association with the Surrey Iron Railway.

Often the scenes depicted are self explanatory for example Horne, a trumpeter, Ripley, a stagecoach – the old A3 London to Portsmouth Road, Ottershaw, an otter and Reigate with its familiar Town Hall.

He finished his lecture by telling the audience that although most village signs are assumed to be ornate ones on wooden poles, some are just plaques on walls, others such as that of Woodmansterne take on a somewhat different approach. It is chainsaw carved from an old cedar tree and incorporates several images such as a tree, a fox, a cobweb and even a seat in its design.

Hopefully the 'Queens Diamond Jubilee' will mean more signs being erected in the villages and towns of Surrey?

Goff Powell

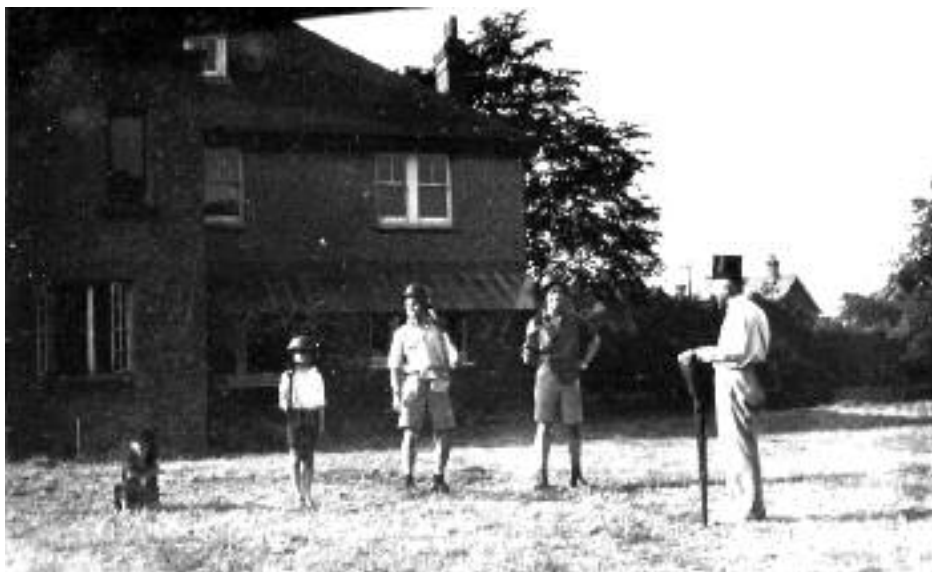


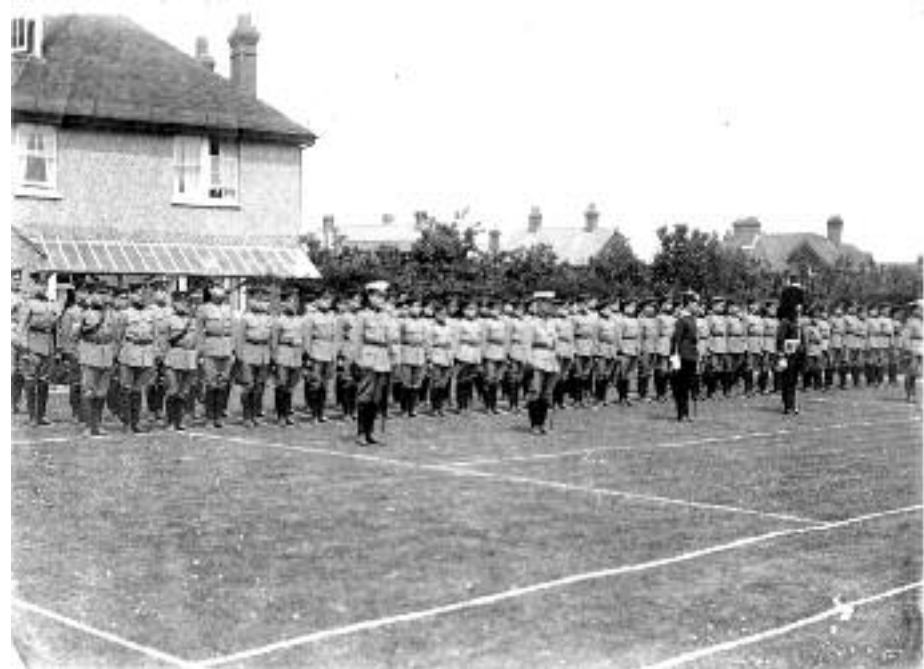
A Quiet Corner of Woodfield Lane, Ashtead

A quiet and almost forgotten corner of Ashtead has its own story to tell. Bruce Tucker has told me about his boyhood home, called Lynwood, behind Woodfield Lane, which has since disappeared.

He and his parents and two brothers moved to Lynwood when Bruce was 9 years old, in about 1952. The house lay about 100 yards off Woodfield Lane at the end of a long drive, at the back of other houses including Seaforth, now Avalon. Colonel J. Milne-Davidson had lived in Lynwood since soon after it was built in 1906. The first owner seems to have been James May who is listed at the address in a 1908 directory. Col. Milne-Davidson was a great collector of Scottish militaria but most of his collection was donated to the Glasgow Museum after his death. A few items were left behind in the loft of a room at the back of the stables and consisted of two German machine-guns, six German helmets and ammunition belts. The Tucker boys had a fine time playing at soldiers with them.

When the Tucker family moved in the garden had not been cultivated for about 40 years. There had been a tennis-court and a croquet-lawn but they were overgrown. The Tuckers built a new tennis-court off to the side of the garden not behind the house where it had been originally. The stables were halfway up the drive and a cow-shed was at the far end of the drive both of which had formerly been part of Woodfield Farm. It was when the stables were demolished that the machine-guns, helmets and belts were discovered by the new builders. The cow-shed was also demolished in 1952 by the



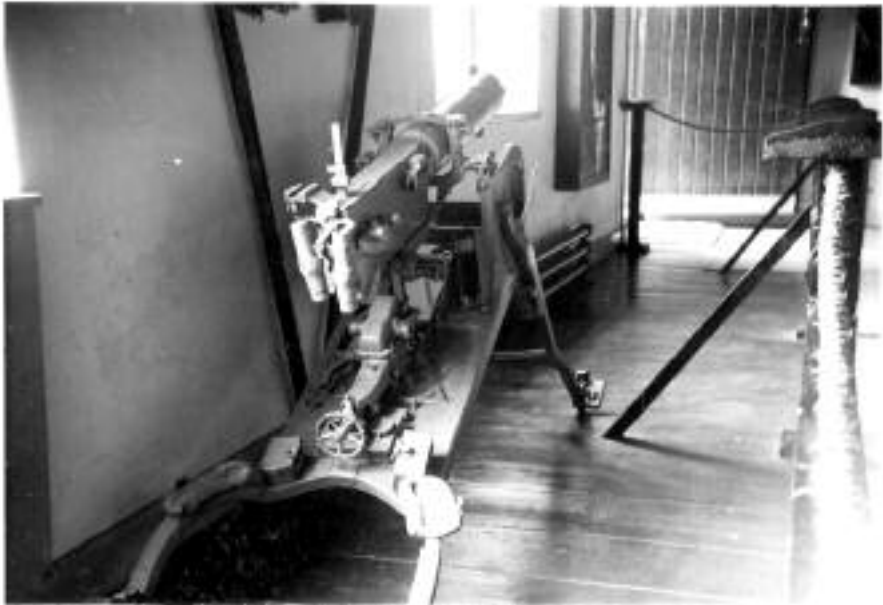


Tuckers. A lodge at the bottom of the drive is still there. It was used by the Home Guard in World War II and was later used as the office for the new owner of the present Lynwood. Part of the land on which Lynwood had stood was taken to build Moat Court in December 1964.

Adjacent to Lynwood when the Tuckers lived there, was the house known as Seaforth, now Avalon. Sir Eric and Lady Seal moved there in 1952. Bruce remembers their dog, Whiskey with whom he used to play. Sir Eric had had a distinguished career as a high-ranking Civil Servant having been Principal Private Secretary to Sir Winston Churchill from 1940-41. At this time and before he came to Seaforth he had lived at 8 Barnett Wood Lane. Opposite Lynwood there was a pig farm in Chitty's Barn and grounds and also stables.

Later occupants of Seaforth from after 1961 were Paul Simon Richmond Beards, his wife and 2 children, Simon and Liz. Beards had a career in the Civil Service rather similar to Sir Eric Seal's. Now Seaforth is known as Avalon, and is a care home owned by Surrey County Council but leased to the Richmond Church Housing Association.

Another distinguished resident of this part of Ashted albeit only for a short time was Commander Rupert Gould of Brains Trust fame. His mother, Mrs Agnes Monk-Gould owned Downside, a preparatory school situated between Zenda Cottage (the site of the later Public Library and Clinic) and Seaforth. She became a widow when her husband, William Monk Gould, an organist and choirmaster and composer of light music died in 1923. It seems as though she came to Ashted after his death. Downside and its later incarnations as Nonsuch School and Woodfield Preparatory School was demolished





and the site was used to make way for the access road to Moat Court.

Commander Gould had a brilliant mind and had a distinguished career in the Royal Navy. His speciality was chronometers on which he worked at the Royal Observatory where he was in charge of clocks. While there he rediscovered timepieces made by John Harrison (1693-1776) who invented the marine chronometer. He restored and repaired them and got them working again. They can still be seen at Greenwich. Gould was an alcoholic and had several nervous breakdowns during one of which he went to live with his mother at Downside so she could look after him. He had a workshop in the attic where he could work on his clocks. In 1938 he is shown as the occupant of Downside. He died in 1948 and is buried in St Giles' churchyard.

It seems to be a feature of Ashted early in the twentieth century that many men from the professions and/or Services, came to live there. Large houses were built as land was freed up for building and the proximity of London and a good train service were probably an attraction.

Gwen Hoad

Calling All Members!

As part of our remit the Programme Committee arranges visits to places of historical interest. Where possible these are local and include venues not normally open to the public. In most cases the visit will have a specially arranged guided tour.

Unfortunately in the last few years we have had to cancel visits and walks through lack of support. This inconveniences the host and is disappointing for us when we have

spent a lot of time and effort in arranging the event.

We would like to know from you whether we should continue to arrange walks and visits and, if so, have you any ideas for possible venues and also whether the day of the week is important.

Your comments will be most welcome and can be made in a letter to Martin Warwick, the Editor of this newsletter, or to me email fredmeynen@live.co.uk tel 01372 372930.

I look forward to hearing from you

Dr Fred Meynen Programme Secretary

News from the Friends of Leatherhead Museum

Despite all that the weather could throw at us, gales, downpours, drizzle, and persistent wind the craft days on June 7th, 8th and 9th were a great success. Picture nearly ninety parents and children huddled under two gazebos in the pouring rain (and inside the museum) on Thursday 7th between the hours of 1.00pm and 4.00pm beavering away at pottery, collage, peg doll making and museum trails and smiling cheerfully as they queued under the dripping edges of the gazebos for each activity.



We had fantastic activities to offer thanks to a doughty band of very creative people. On Thursday the children were able to create their own clay pot on the wheel with local potter Justine Munson. They were able to design and make a beautiful royal peg doll with tiny crowns, swords and sparkling clothes with Margaret Meynen and Sylvia

Oliver. Jane Tickner was helping everyone to create a Jubilee Collage on a large canvas with SWEETS. Much sampling accompanied the art work!!



On Friday (Woodland Ways) those of us setting up the activities (Robin Christian, Jane Tickner and myself) had first to re-erect the gazebos brought down in the overnight storm and anchor them against a ferocious wind. Friday and Saturday were quieter days as far as numbers of people were concerned, but

the activities provided even more fantastic opportunities for those who took part. Robin was making a full sized hazel hurdle and showing a variety of objects from woodlands such as owl pellets with tiny skeletons in them. Jane was creating a large 'Tree of Life' collage with pulses and pasta and the children were able to try to draw with charcoal and make their own miniature gardens.



Saturday was dry at last, although still windy, and so it was decided that our calligrapher Lorraine Wilmott was safer indoors with her beautiful books of illustrated manuscripts and special paper and writing tools. She showed the children how to write their names in ornamental lettering with a double pencil and colouring pencils. She even gave two young girls from Minchin Close some tutoring so that they could write their wedding invitations.

Jane Tickner was working on the final canvas with an Olympic cycling theme; this time with sweets in the colours of the Olympic rings. These canvasses were all cleverly pre-drawn by Jane who very generously gave us so much of her time, ideas and materials. Robin Christian was working on an idea he had seen at a craft fair of weaving on a loom suspended from a piece of rough wood with the warp weighted down by stones and the weft being woven from any materials to hand. With the children he produced a wonderful multi coloured length of fabric. Jane, as well as guiding the collage, was demonstrating knitting with plastic carrier bags. It looks amazing! A great recycling theme going on here! We hope to find somewhere to display all these creations, possibly the empty shops along Church Street. They are too good to just pack away and forget. The children also made individual pieces of weaving on card to take home with them.

From the Barrow in the Swan Centre on 2nd June through which we publicised the Craft Days (and the Museum and History Society) through to the three afternoons of the Craft Days we had fantastic support from the band of people mentioned above. I



think a huge thank you is due to all of them and also those who donated materials and the stewards who supported the children with their museum trails. The museum was humming with people (170+ I think) and especially children who spent time exploring the artefacts and becoming acquainted with their local history through their local museum.

Julia Lack

Lecture Programme

Lectures are held on the **third Friday of the month** at the Letherhead Institute, top of the High Street.

Coffee 7.30pm lecture 8.00pm admission £1 All are very welcome

8th/9th September Heritage Weekend

The theme this year is ‘ Celebrations and Jubilations’. We shall have displays at The Institute and The Museum. A guided walk round the town centre looking at historical sites will leave The Institute at 2.00pm and will last about 1 1/4 hours. No booking required. Full details of all events will appear in the Heritage brochure available at the Help Shop and library.

21st September ‘The History of Weather Forecasting’ by Ian Currie

Ian is a fulltime freelance weatherman, author of several broadcasts and best known locally for his weekly column in the Leatherhead Advertiser

19th October ‘Painting on Sculpture in the Middle Ages’ by Ann Brodrick

This lecture is part of The Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival. Ann Brodrick was Senior Conservator for the Victoria and Albert and British Museums and Consultant to The Paul Getty Museum. Her lecture will focus on the various painting techniques used on sculptures including the effigies in Arundel Cathedral and the death mask of Henry VII.

16th November ‘Local Railways’ by Peter Tarplee

Peter Tarplee was previously Chairman of our Society and author of several books and publications on local history. His latest book ‘ Railways around Leatherhead and Dorking’ was published in 2011.

14th December Members Social Event

This is our annual social evening for members, their friends and invited guests with presentations by members on ‘My Favourite Hobby’. If you would like to give a short talk about your hobby please let me know. Wine, light refreshments followed by coffee and mince pies will be served. The evening will be hosted by Mr Brian Hennegan and will include a raffle. Cost £2 pp. Please note the date of the event.

18th January 2013 ‘ Local War Memorials’ by Frank Haslam

15th February 2013 ‘Bygone Ashtead ‘ by Goff Powell

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

Friends of the Leatherhead Museum Chairman

Fred Meynen 01372 372930 fredmeynen@live.co.uk

Librarian (Letherhead Institute):

Vacant

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.

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Frank Haslam 01372 379341 frank.haslam@gmail.com

Committee Members:

Doug Hollingsworth, Linda Heath

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	Vacant
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

