

*LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY*

NEWSLETTER



November 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

This quarter has gone from the sublime to the ridiculous - last quarter we had a Newsletter of 32 pages and now only 24 can be filled - there really has been a shortage of submitted articles. The Society is still very dependent on a faithful few - everybody gets older as the years go by and new talent is badly needed. The Newsletter does give everybody an opportunity to contribute and nobody should hold back from writing an article on any topic of interest. The Society is fortunate to have two levels of output, the Newsletter and the Proceedings. Articles in the Proceedings need to be more formally researched with the sources referenced. The Newsletter invites less formal articles but still of great interest to the members. Hopefully the size of this edition is an exception and can be excused by holiday periods or even the weather!



A great success has been the publication of the book 'The Bookhams in World War II' which in just a few weeks from the end of September nearly sold out its first print. The Society agreed to take on its publication after it had been produced by the Military History Group of the Bookham U3A. A reprint is now being looked at to ensure there are enough available for the Christmas market. It can be obtained from the bookshop in Leatherhead or from shops in Bookham such as 'The Wishing Well' or the post office. It is full of interesting tales and also some 138 illustrations. It revives so many memories of now so long ago.

Martin Warwick

Next Edition Deadline - 5th January

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Chairman's Report

In this issue we have some cause for celebration as I am pleased to announce that a number of volunteers and members of the Society have offered their services to fill the vacant posts of Hon Secretary, Museum Curator and Publicity Officer. They are as follows, Hon Secretary: Barry King from Bookham, Museum Curator: Lorraine Spindler from Walton on the Hill and Publicity Officer: Natasha Bligh from Bookham. We have also created a new post of Publicity Co-ordinator who will interface between the Committee and the Publicity Officer and our other sub-committees in the person of John Wettern a long standing and committed member. They will all have our encouragement and support.



David Wall our Membership Secretary who has carried out his office diligently since 2010 has announced his retirement from the Executive Committee and will stand down at the 2013 AGM. I would personally like to thank him on behalf of the History Society for his contribution and wish him well and hope he will continue to support the Society through its various activities and his continued membership. We are now on the lookout for a volunteer to take over the office of Membership Secretary who can run alongside David Wall to enable a smooth transition at the AGM.

We still have two vacant posts - the Librarian for the History Society's collection of books housed in the library at the Letherhead Institute, and Letherhead Archivist. I would be pleased to hear if you are interested in filling these vacancies.

I would like to thank Linda Heath and all those members of the History Society who



Linda Heath and Alun Roberts Manning the History Society's display at the Letherhead Institute Library

assisted her with manning our display at the Heritage Open day at the Letherhead Institute. The theme was the Celebration and Jubilation of Leatherhead and the founding of the Letherhead Institute.

AGM 2013

The executive committee have discussed and agreed to change the month of next year's AGM bringing it forward from April to March on a continuing basis to enable the report of the proceedings to appear in the May Newsletter instead of the August issue. The date for next year's AGM will be Friday 15th March.

David Hartley

Archaeology Report

Roman Villa and Tile works at Ashtead

A seventh season of excavation from 22nd August to 9th September was undertaken by the Surrey Archaeological Society and members of the Roman Studies Group under the direction of Dr David Bird, ably supported by his team of Alan Hall, Stella Fagg, David Calow, Emma Corke, Gillian Lachelin, Frank Pemberton, Roger Brookman, Nikki Cowlard, David and Audrey Graham, Isabel Ellis and the ARRG Finds Team.

The City of London team of Sean O'Kelly and Lizzie Bruce and other members continued to provide essential and valuable support to enable the excavation to take place. This excavation was also well supported by a good number of diggers and other volunteers who had signed up in advance to work on site. The principal objective was to achieve a better understanding of the newly discovered Roman building and its relationship to Lowther's 'villa' and the tile kilns. A small amount of work was also carried out on the detached bath house but no further work was carried out on the triangular earthwork this season now that its prehistoric origins have been determined.

David Bird has prepared an interim report for publication in the forthcoming Surrey Archaeological Society's Bulletin.

Forthcoming events for your 2013 Diary

Saturday 9th February 2013 The Surrey Archaeological Society Research Committee hold their Annual Symposium at the Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashtead. The price of tickets and a full programme of speakers will be announced at our January lecture or sooner if and when the details become available.

Saturday 11th May 2013 The Medieval Forum of the Surrey Archaeological Society have arranged an important conference in conjunction with the Medieval Pottery Research Group on the subject 'Medieval Pottery and the Transition to Post Medieval Production'. This conference is arranged to take place at the Surrey History Centre at Woking and a full line-up of influential speakers on this subject has been organised. Details and booking arrangements will be advised in the February Newsletter.

David Hartley

September Meeting - Weather Forecasting

It was appropriate that, on almost the only wet evening in September, Ian Currie should talk about the history of weather forecasting. Ian is a freelance consultant meteorologist, best-known to many for his weekly column in the Leatherhead Advertiser for the last 34 years. A Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, Ian also publishes his own magazine and website. He has written many books and broadcast both on radio and television.

The Greek philosophers were great observers. Aristotle attempted to explain the natural world and Hippocrates noted the effect of weather on health and happiness. Philo of Byzantium made a crude thermometer and prehistoric Indo-Iranian farmers measured rainfall roughly in bowls. A ninth-century Pope decreed that churches should have a cockerel

weathervane on their roofs which turned to show the direction of the wind. One is being put on the roof of Westminster Abbey in the Bayeux Tapestry. (The cup anemometer, which measured windspeed by counting revolutions over a set period, came much later.) Galileo researched atmospheric pressure and Merle of Oxford in the fourteenth century described weather features. The 'Shepherd of Banbury' John Claridge, in the 1670's gave a number of forecast adages, related to changing features on land and sky like the sun, cloud shapes or distant landforms,

It was not until the seventeenth century that accurate measurements started being made. These became possible because Italian glassmakers were by then able to produce tubes with a uniform bore. Torricelli in 1643 made a barometer, measuring air pressure by the height of a column of mercury that it supported. It is uncertain how early was the first glass ball sun recorder. In the 1680's Richard Townley made a proper rain gauge. In 1728 Gabriel Fahrenheit graduated a thermometer between the freezing and boiling points of water, a scale later revised by Celsius and by Kelvin with lower limits of 0° and -273° (absolute zero).

The position of instruments is important; the famous naturalist Gilbert White recorded remarkable differences of temperature and pressure within his house and on the hill



above it. Glasier, the first secretary of the Royal Meteorological Society in 1815 made observations outdoors and subject to random eddies and shades.

The aneroid (partial vacuum) barometer was invented in 1849 by Lucimillier. In 1854 Fitzroy the first superintendent of the Meteorological Office introduced standard screening of instruments and a system of telegraphs relaying weather data from western Britain to allow forecasts to be relayed to the Navy by way of the ports. The first weather map with isobars wind direction/ speed and temperature was made by the French during the Crimean War.

Weather fronts were so named by Bjenes in 1916, by analogy with war battle fronts, in his theory of the fights between air masses to equalize matters. In 1922 there was the first radio broadcast of a weather forecast, followed in 1936 by a televised map and in 1954 the first TV weatherman, George Cowley. Presenters were plagued by slipping symbols on the magnetic board which nearly cost Bill Giles his job!

Derek Renn

Rous of Polesden

In 1657 Sir Francis Vincent of Stoke d'Abernon sold the Advowson of St Nicolas, Great Bookham in equal shares to Francis and his kinsman Samuel Rous. Francis Rous in his will left his half share to the Vicar of St Nicolas except for a scholarship of £40 per year left to his alma mater Broadgates Hall, Oxford (later Pembroke College). Francis was an MP for many Cornish constituencies, Speaker of the Barebones Parliament, Provost of Eton, an important member of Cromwell's councils and a versifier of Psalms which were adopted by the church and parliament of Scotland.

Samuel Rous was the son of Anthony who in 1630 had bought the Manor of Polesden from William Castleton. I have found records of the baptisms of three children of Samuel Rous at St Nicolas - Jane, 1655, Arthur, 1656 and Elizabeth 1658. It was inherited by Samuel's daughter Elizabeth who in 1723 sold the Manor, the half tithe and advowson to Arthur Moore. In 1654 Samuel Rous JP ruled that all marriages in Dorking were to be proclaimed in the market place. According to Manning and Bray, Samuel presented three priests to the living - Richard Carter, 1657; John Fleminge, 1663 and John Hyet, 1668.

An elder brother of Francis, Robert married a relative of Pym, the famous Puritan. His son Anthony Rous 1605-1677, married Mary Bradshaw, their son was another Francis Rous. In 1648/9, a John Bradshaw was minister at St Nicolas and two of his sons were baptised there. I do not know if he was a relative of Mary.

There are no Rous or Bradshaw names in the St Nicolas Burial Registers.

Bill Whitman

Further evidence for Leatherhead's Theatrical Society

This article was first conceived after having seen a painting, a watercolour by John Hassell circa 1767 – 1825. Linda Heath our archivist of Leatherhead pictures provided me with a number of photographs of Hassell's works of Leatherhead's Buildings circa 1822 in preparation for our forthcoming display at the Peace Memorial Hall in Ashted in November.

One particular picture captured my attention that of 'Residence of John O' Keefe Dramatic Author', a name that I had not heard mention before in our local histories, this in turn prompted me to try and delve a little deeper to find out more about the owner and the location of this property, in the process of doing so it opened up further interesting aspects on Leatherhead's theatrical society.



*Leatherhead Residence of John O' Keefe Dramatic Author.
A watercolour by John Hassell 1822 in The Stonehill Collection.*

John O'Keefe 1747–1833 an Irish playwright born 24 June 1747 began his career as an actor in 1764. He moved to London in 1781 - around this time that his marriage broke down, he wrote a string of successful comic operas and dramatic works, including *Wild Oats* (1791) unfortunately he was also suffering from failing eyesight and was nearly blind at the height of his fame. In 1800 a benefit performance was staged for him at Covent Garden.

In 1826 O'Keefe wrote his memoirs which covered his life experiences and various interactions with the leading artistic figures of his day. His recollections were dictated to his daughter Adelaide O'Keefe (1776-1865) who oversaw their publication, O'Keefe recounts his years in London, discussing many of his plays and giving a glimpse into theatre life in Georgian England. In the same year O'Keefe he was awarded a pension by George IV. He died 4 February 1833 aged 85 in Southampton.



*John O'Keeffe Portrait by
Thomas or William Lawranson
oil on canvas, 1782.
Purchased, 1863 National
Portrait Gallery*

Try as I may, I have not yet been able make a documentary connection with O'Keeffe and Leatherhead other than through the Hassell watercolour, but in the process of further research, it has been possible to shine a light on Leatherheads' early theatrical history of strolling players through the recollections of one Joseph Shepherd Munden and his early experience in provincial theatre in Leatherhead circa 1778.

Joseph Shepherd Munden 1758 -1832



*Joseph Shepherd Munden
Portrait by George Dance,
pencil sketch 1798.
National Portrait Gallery*

Born in the year 1758 the son of a humble tradesman, a poulterer in London's Brook's Market, Holborn, he ran away from home on several occasions to join a strolling company, he was engaged to play old men at Leatherhead circa 1778. Munden had a long provincial experience and career as actor and manager and became the most celebrated comic actor of his day, he made frequent appearances at Covent Gardens and the Haymarket, and was admired by Lamb, Hazlitt and Leigh Hunt.

An extract from the “Memoirs of Joseph Shepherd Munden”, Comedian by his son Thomas Shepherd Munden 1844.

“Munden, in later years, recalled his early distress, was accustomed to say, in the strong language which he sometimes used: “By G-d, Sir, a man’s best friend is a guinea!”

At the moment of necessity, Munden became acquainted with the manager of a strolling company, then assembled at Letherhead, in Surrey: he entered his name among the list; and under the banner of this theatric monarch, he set off, possessed of the amazing sum of thirteen pence.

As a reader may reasonably suppose, the thirteen pence was nearly exhausted in a journey of eighteen miles. He found the theatre a barn, the stage manager making the necessary arrangements, whilst the prompter was occupied clearing away the refuse of corn and straw on the floor. Munden wanted money: the manager had none, and the actor’s watch was pawned for support.

The following night was appointed for a performance; the rehearsal over, the barn floor was cleared, planks erected, and saw-dust strewed for the expected company: but in vain was the barn floor cleared, in vain the saw-dust strewed, - the audience were – nil!

At length a play was bespoke by a gentleman in the neighbourhood for Saturday night, which being a night of fashion, the audience assembled, and the profits of the evening allowed to each performer six shillings! Besides having paid off incidental expenses incurred by the failure of the two unfortunate nights. To this good luck may be added the saving of two small pieces of candle.

This was the maximum of money Joe Munden had yet gained by acting; but such amazing good fortune could not be expected to last long. The theatre, after this, was poorly attended; and had it not been for a custom* which prevailed among itinerant companies, of the performers delivering the play-bills themselves round the neighbourhood, and who, on such occasions, were styled orators, and for which service he gained one shilling, poor Munden would have sunk into his former distress.

The theatre was burnt down. Joseph wrote a petition in the best style of Tomkins, and a collection was made, which amounted to between twenty and thirty pounds. The manager dealt five shillings piece to about twelve members, and, under the pretence of going to London to furnish a wardrobe for the Guildford Theatre, left a part of his troop at Letherhead, in vain to expect his return.

Munden’s next performance was at Wallingford in Berkshire; thence to Windsor and Colnbrook: here again the manager deserted his company”.

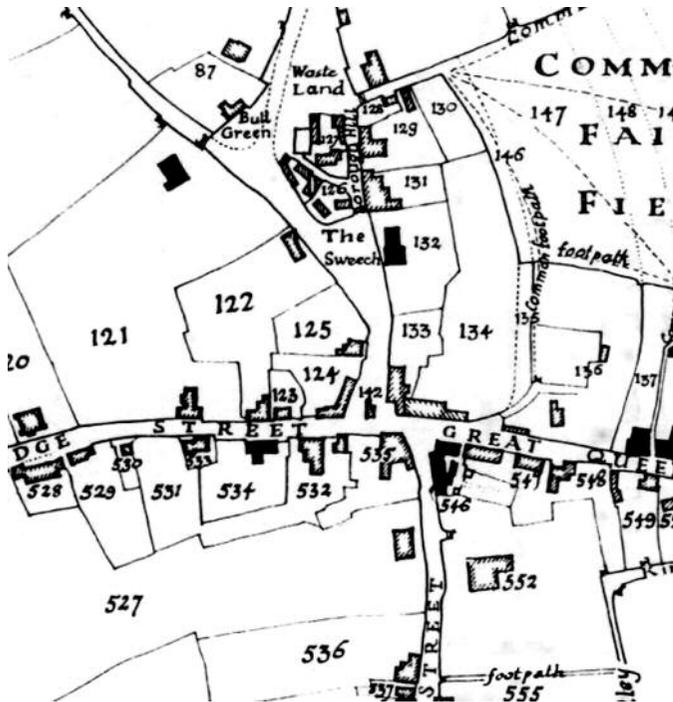
*A near relative of the writer, a great many years ago, saw the afterwards celebrated and wealthy Mrs Siddons walking up and down both sides of a street,

in a provincial town, dressed in a red woollen cloak such as formerly worn by menial servants knocking at each door to deliver the playbill of her benefit. Roger Kemble, the father, was manager of a strolling Company, in which Mr and Mrs Siddons performed. The Company consisted principally of the Kemble family.

J. R. Clube a long standing member of our history Society wrote a short paper in 1991 for the Society's Proceedings on the subject of 'Theatre-Going in Leatherhead: A play Bill of 1807'.

Based on Mundun's memoirs recalling his visit to Leatherhead circa 1778 approximately 29 years earlier than the Hand-bill of 1807 referred to by Mr. Clube in his research, it is possible and probable that the barn/theatre was rebuilt and continued as theatre on the same site before being fitted out as a place of worship for the Congregational Church in 1816 as recorded in Clube's paper. Interestingly the description given out on the Hand-bill for seating arrangements, for example Boxes 3 shillings, Pit 2 shillings and Gallery 1 shilling would seem to indicate a more permanent seating arrangement in 1807 than in Munden's day.

The plot number 124 on the Gwilt Map of 1782 was in the ownership of the widow Ede, which is described as a house and garden, Elizabeth Ede died in 1815 and her will was proved in London on 14th April 1815 which fits well the Congregational Church being set up in 1816.



A portion of the 1782 Gwilt's Map of Leatherhead showing the plot of 124 in the ownership of the widow Ede's on the west side of North Street

Two extracts from ‘The Story of Congregationalism in Surrey’ by Edward Cheal -1908

(Extract 1)

‘In 1816 Mr John Burrell, the proprietor of a boarding school, in conjunction with Rev. Thos Lewis of Islington secured a large barn in the centre of the village which had been frequently used by strolling players and fitted it up as a place of worship. It was opened on September 10 when Mr Lewis delivered a discourse on public worship and sermons were subsequently preached by Dr. Waugh and Rev G Clayton.’

(Extract 2)

‘In 1836 the lease of the chapel expired. Mr Thomas Wilson bought the freehold and some adjacent cottages for £1,000; next year he sold part of the property for £650, retaining the chapel and sufficient ground for a more commodious building.’



A portion of 1st Edition of the 1869 Ordnance Survey Map of Leatherhead map which shows the location of the Congregational Church on the west side of North Street.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan 1751-1816

Most of us perhaps will be aware of something of the life and work of Richard Brinsley Sheridan and his connections with the Theatre Royal Drury Lane and Polesden Lacy. The Polesden estate was owned at that time by Admiral Francis Geary and was sold on his death by his son to the trustees of Richard Brinsley Sheridan in 1804. Sheridan could never really afford to maintain the property with all his debts and expenses, His career did continue, with further short spells in government, his finances were

increasingly shaky. This situation was not helped by a fire which destroyed the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in February 1809. By 1813 Sheridan was bankrupt and under arrest as a debtor. Only the intervention of his friend Samuel Whitbread allowed his release who agreed to fund the building of the Drury Lane Theatre, but Sheridan had to withdraw from its management. Sadly Sheridan's finances never recovered and he died in poverty on 7th July 1816. His son Charles sold Polesden in 1818 to Joseph Bonsor but the house built in 1631 was by now quite ruined and Bonsor had it rebuilt by Thomas Cubitt.

O'Keeffe, Munden and Sheridan were clearly contemporaries and probably aware of each other, although perhaps moving in different circles of society, Munden certainly performed in productions playing comic characters, in plays written by both O'Keefe and Sheridan.

In conclusion there has been quite a lot written by others on the life and times of Strolling Players, the Authors and entrepreneurial Theatre Managers and the theatre of Georgian England, we are fortunate therefore to have what limited information that we do have for a small provincial theatre in Leatherhead, but there may well be other sources of documentary evidence out there which could fill some of these gaps.

References:

Recollections of the Life of John O'Keeffe Written by Himself Volume: 1 & 2, publisher: Henry Colburn, 1826

The Gentleman's magazine, Volume 158 by John Nichols

John O'Keeffe Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Memoirs of Joseph Shepherd Munden, comedian by Thomas Shepherd Munden - 1844

Memoirs of the Life of the Rt. Hon. Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Volume 1 & 2 by Thomas Moore 1826

'Sheridaniana' or Anecdotes of the Life of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Published by Henry Colburn – London 1826.

Theatre-Going I Leatherhead: A play Bill of 1807 written By J. R. Clube L&DLHS Vol. 5 No. 4 1991.

The Story of Congregationalism in Surrey by Edward Cheal published by James Clarke & Co Fleet Street 1908

Thanks also to Alun Roberts and Linda Heath for their contribution to this article.

David Hartley

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

**The Leatherhead & District Local History
Society**

**Would like to acknowledge and thank
Benjamin Wear the Branch Manager and his
staff at**

**Gascoigne–Pees Estate Agents,
29 Church Street Leatherhead**

**for their consideration and continued support
of the Leatherhead Museum**

Thank You

Bookham Cottage

We have recently received from Ena Culley a letter sent for her late husband, Bill who wrote 'Bookham in the Twentieth Century' for the Society. This was from Sara Burn Edwards whose grandfather was Herbert Allen who lived in Bookham Cottage in the 1920s and after whom Allen Road was named. Mr Allen was a builder responsible for a number of prestigious properties in West London such as Allen's estate in Osterley.



Bookham Cottage contained seven bedrooms, servant's quarters and eight acres of gardens including chauffeur's and gardener's cottages, tennis court, lawns, stables, garages, barns as well as space for chickens, pigs and two cows. This may not have been the common idea of a cottage but the Allen family were amused when they learned that a later owner re-named the house Bookham Manor. This is the name by which some of us may remember it before it was demolished for the erection of the bungalows in Leatherhead Road and Allen Road.

Sara Burn Edwards who has only just seen Bill's book tells us that her grandfather was a local benefactor who endowed Leatherhead Hospital and supported many other local charities as well as hosting flower shows and county fairs in their front field. He gave some of his land to the local authority for part of the recreation ground for which he was made the president of the Bookham Bowling Club. His wife was also very active in local charitable and social institutions and they gave many garden parties and tennis teas on their lawns.

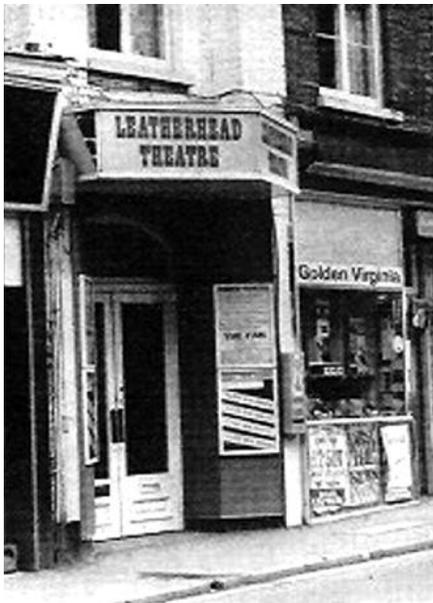
We are grateful to Sara Burn Edwards who was born in Bookham Cottage in 1931 for this further information about Herbert and Eileen Allen and explaining why Allen Road was so named.

Peter Tarplee

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

www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk

Leatherhead Repertory Theatre Murder



On Saturday 2nd November 1968 a real-life whodunit *The Murder of the Major* occurred when a body was found close to the Leatherhead Repertory Theatre in the High Street and turned the spotlight on the town.

The crime had all the drama of a stage thriller. In the early hours of the morning with rain pouring down a police constable came across a man's body in the dimly lit alley way between Bayley's Newsagents and Dolcis Shoes Limited. It lay by the stone steps leading from the back door of the stage.

The dead man was 53-year-old Lawrence William Byrne, a retired major in the Northumberland Fusiliers, and secretary of the theatre's Green Room Club. He had died from injuries to the head but there was no sign of the weapon.



On Sunday morning the police interviewed the club barman William Ryan who later that evening admitted the crime. It transpired that Ryan had pretended to be a police officer by making a bogus telephone call luring the major to the theatre where he carried out a prolonged and violent series of attacks. William Ryan pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility and was sent to Broadmoor.

Leatherhead Repertory Theatre

Goff Powell

Chedworth Roman Villa

While in the Cotswolds a visit was made to Chedworth Roman Villa now in the keeping of the National Trust. It is the remains of one of the largest Romano-British villas in the country covering a large area and in a very good state of preservation. Over a mile of walls survives and there are several fine mosaics.



The villa was discovered by accident in 1864 when a gamekeeper found fragments of paving and pottery on a bank of soil. The remains were uncovered over a period of two years at the expense of the then owner, the Earl of Eldon who also provided roofing for some of the structures and a museum. In 1924 the site was bought for the National Trust by means of subscriptions raised largely by the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. Since that time there have been further excavations and further discoveries.

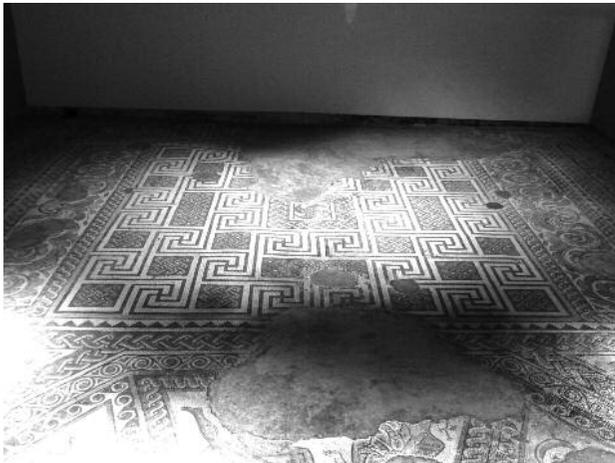
The villa was built in phases from the early 2nd century (about 120 AD) to the 4th century. In the early days it consisted of separate buildings to the west and south with a detached



One view inside the house showing one of the mosaics and the raised floor for the underfloor heating



Two of the mosaics



bath house to the north. In the early 3rd century the west and south wings were rebuilt following a fire and the north bath-suite was enlarged with extra rooms added to its eastern side.

The 4th century building included a heated and furnished west wing containing a dining-room. The floors of at least eleven rooms were decorated with fine mosaics. There were also two separate bathing suites, a latrine and a water-shrine. One of the bathing suites was hot and sauna-like and the other was a cold plunge bath.

The main house is now preserved within a new building opened only earlier this year. If you are in the area it is well worth a visit. The mosaics are stunning and in incredibly good condition.

Martin Warwick

Old Aerial Photographs of Bookham

Have you ever wondered what Bookham must have looked like at the beginning of the 20th century when the population was just a few thousand? Well for some of you this question will have been answered when several large (83.5 x 58.5cm) photographs were displayed inside the Old Barn Hall on Village Day earlier this year.



These photographs show mostly the South side of the village from The Ridgeway to the Effingham crossroads and include Blackthorne Road, Chalk Pit Lane, Crabtree Lane, Dowlans Road, Howard Road, Hale Pit Road, Dorking Road, Dawnay Road, Oakdene Road, Woodlands Road and the Guildford/Leatherhead Road. Unfortunately, no pictures of the High Street or to the North side of the village are included apart from Eastwick Road, Keswick Road and The Ridgeway.

Most side roads were deeply rutted cart tracks and only the main roads were made up. Getting around the village in the winter or after long periods of bad weather would have been challenging and messy. Many of the houses shown still exist today but generally with much reduced back gardens as in-filling became the norm and land became scarce. Today there is little room for expansion as the population creeps closer to 12,000. It was around 4,000 in the 1920's and '30s.

Why were the photographs taken? The reasons are uncertain but most likely this was the application by the Council of newly acquired skills, learnt during the 1914-18 war surveying battlefields from the air. The date when the pictures were taken is not given but two sources have confirmed the most likely date as around 1922 or 1923.

Thanks must go to Jack Straw, Head of Planning Policy, at Mole Valley District Council for allowing these photographs to be shown and having the foresight to donate them to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society for future safekeeping.

Digital high resolution copies of the seven photographs have been put on CD and can be purchased for £5.00 from the Leatherhead Museum, Church Road, Leatherhead.

Roy Mellick Records Secretary & Bookham Archivist, Leatherhead & District Local History Society

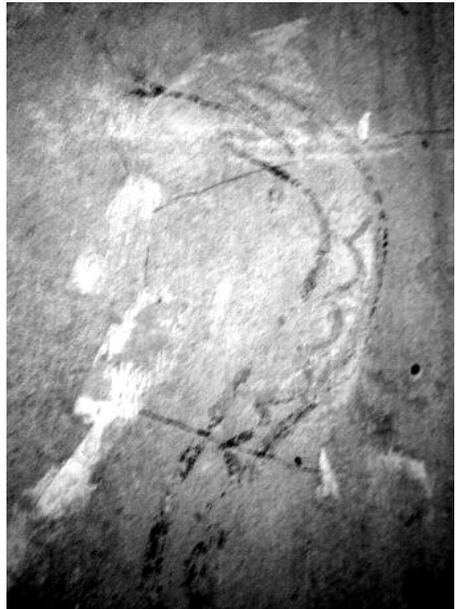
Graham Lodge in East Street

I don't know if the history society would find this of interest. The owner of Graham Lodge in East Street had been renovating the house and stripped the wallpaper to find drawings covering the walls from floor to ceiling.

Most of the drawings have been painted over and it is difficult to make them out but one features a vicar with a bible in one hand and a dove in another and a snake nearby. The caption 'Justice for Canon...' is above the drawing.

The drawing is very naive, but the owner wondered if there is any history behind this. The house was built in 1901. Would anyone in the Society know anything about this? I said I would ask as they will be re-decorating soon.

Lyn Smith



News from the Friends of Leatherhead Museum

Leatherhead has been in the national news this summer with its direct link to the 2012 Olympics through the Cycling Road Races which were held on the weekend of the 28th / 29th July. Leatherhead was buzzing on the Saturday when the men's race was held and two of our brave members Alan Roberts and Margaret Meynen decided on the spur of the moment to open the museum (previously we had thought that the barriers and road closures would make it impossible). Thus many Olympic cycle race supporters were able to enter the museum bringing us visitors from far and wide.

We were kindly allowed by the owners and agents of the empty shop along Church Street to leave the exhibition of artwork from the Craft Days for a total of 6 weeks from 13th July – 24th August and so we gained further publicity from its proximity to the Cycle Race supporters as well as shoppers and visitors to the town.

The Friends made a decision to organise their annual coffee/tea /cakes morning to coincide with the Saturday of Heritage Weekend. It was a lovely warm day and it was good to see new visitors to the museum sitting happily in the garden enjoying refreshments. Members of the Friends very kindly donated some wonderful cakes and so we had a real feast to offer.

On the education front we have a visit from a local cub group and an outreach visit to St Michael's School, Mickleham to plan for in October and November and as always we hold ourselves ready to work with local schools who ask for our support for their history curriculum or any group who wish to make a visit. Anyone interested in becoming involved with this valuable work please contact Julia Lack on 01372 386050.

It seems amazing that we have only two months left in this year's museum open season. We have happily gained some new stewards this year and sadly lost some who have been with us for a long time. After the museum closes for the year the Friends will be holding the annual party to thank all stewards and helpers who give their valuable time to keeping the museum and garden neat and clean and to welcoming the public on open days.

Gwen's 'bargain basement' boxes have been a great success. For anyone who hasn't spotted them they are in the front room of the museum. If you are having a turn-out of books and have some that you feel would be suitable to be added to these boxes please bring them into the museum.

Looking ahead to 2013 we are hoping to find a chairman for our committee. We will be planning the important annual briefing sessions for stewards in March and hopefully announcing an outing which is traditionally open to all Friends and History Society members. Dates for all the 2013 events will be outlined in the February Bulletin.

Julia Lack

Outside Visits 2013

Owing to an apparent lack of interest in outside visits the Programme Committee have decided not to arrange any visits for Society's members to places of historic interest for the coming year 2013 as these visits involve a considerable amount of time and effort in planning and to have to cancel them at the last minute causes some embarrassment to the organisers of the venue who have perhaps arranged guided tours. The situation will be reviewed and if you have any thoughts on the subject please let one of us know.

The Programme Committee comprises Natasha Bligh, Linda Heath, Fred Meynen, Goff Powell, Derek Renn and John Wetter.

Lecture Programme

Lectures are held on the third Friday of the month in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute, top of the High Street - Coffee 7.30 lecture 8.00pm admission £1. All are welcome

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, soft drinks and light refreshments will be served followed by coffee and mince pies. The evening will be hosted by our Master of Ceremonies Mr Brian Hennegan and will end with a raffle.

18th January 2013 'Local War Memorials' by Frank Haslam

Frank has been coordinating the History Society's work in creating websites of local war memorials, listing names and researching their lives.

15th February 2013 'The Bookhams in WW2' by Michael Anderson

Michael will be describing the recent project of the Military History Group of the Bookham U3A which led to the publication of a book in September 2012.

15th March AGM followed by a lecture 'History on Record' by Roy Mellick

Roy is the Records Secretary of our History Society and will be giving an illustrated talk about the Society's archive and about the proposed Members Archive Website.

19th April 2013 'Bygone Ashtead' by Goff Powell

Goff is a local historian and author. He will dip into his extensive collection of old postcards from the 1900s to the 1960s, highlighting the many changes that have occurred in the once tranquil village of Ashtead.

17th May 2013 ' Finch, the local Haulage Contractor' by Richard Finch and his sister Ann

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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.

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

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Newsletter Editor:

Martin Warwick 01372 453717 martin_warwick@hotmail.com

Website Editor:

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

