

# *The Newsletter*



*Leatherhead Museum*

*August 2013*

*The Quarterly Magazine of the*

*Leatherhead & District Local History Society*

# ***LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY***

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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](http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk)

## 2011 Membership Subscriptions

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

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### *Editorial*

Today as I write it happens to be St Swithun's Day and what more could be hoped for – it is one of the hottest and sunniest days of the year! St Swithun (sometimes Swithin) was the Bishop of Winchester who died around AD 865 and whose only real memorial is the poem predicting 40 days of sun or rain. The one I like best is:

*'If on St Swithun's day it really pours  
You're better off to stay indoors'*



The myth is that he asked to be buried outside so that 'it might be subject to the feet of passers-by and to the raindrops pouring from on high'. Certainly his body was not kept in one piece and it is believed his head is in Canterbury Cathedral and at least one arm in Peterborough Cathedral.

If there is any truth in the story it is that about this time the jet stream settles into a pattern that remains for a long period either bringing continuous good or bad weather. By the time the Newsletter is circulated you the reader will be able to judge the wisdom of St Swithun. This year we can only hope that St Swithun was right.

Just going to print is another book that should be of interest to all our readers produced by the Society – 'Mary Chrystie and her Family'. Mary Chrystie was a very influential figure in Bookham from the 1860s to 1911. It is a very well researched book and gives a good insight into her times and her character especially in her support of the Temperance Movement. It will be available from the normal sources in September and is a good read for £10.

*Martin Warwick*

## *Next Edition Deadline - 5th October*

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# *Chairman's Report*

Summer season, greetings to you all, both new and existing members. I hope you will all enjoy your summer vacations in this country or travelling abroad and we look forward to seeing all at our first lecture meeting of the autumn season in September in the Dixon hall at the Letherhead Institute.

You will notice that we have given some space in this Newsletter to the Dorking Concertgoers' forthcoming programme. This is a reciprocal arrangement to publicise their programme and our history society in their programme and we would consider other appropriate reciprocal arrangements with similar organisations and charities. It is important for our History Society to maintain the right balance between our Newsletter and information, members' articles and any future advertising.



## **Linda Heath 1931- 2013**

It is with sadness to record the death of one of the most dynamic members of the History Society. Linda held many offices including that of Chairman and President and she was also a very active member on various subcommittees and a staunch supporter of the Leatherhead Museum when the building was maintained by a separate charity. She was also instrumental with Gordon Knowles our recent past president in the winding up of the museum trust and steering the merger of the trust with the L&DLHS.

Linda was also active with Peter Tarplee our past Chairman on behalf of the History Society in supporting Heritage Open Days in Mole Valley, attending meetings, working with Rod Shaw and organising and working with the Leatherhead Community Association to mount displays on one or other annual themes set for those days.

Several members have been approached and asked to provide their own recollections of Linda and of her work for the society. They have kindly obliged and I would like to thank them all for their contributions which are in this Newsletter.

## **Goff Powell Sales Secretary**

At our executive committee meeting on 20th May the committee were unanimous in their approbation of Goff Powell and his work as our sales secretary which he has diligently and professionally carried out on behalf of the committee and the History Society.

I have been asked to record the committee's vote of thanks for all his work in marketing and promoting the sales of the Society's book titles, sometimes in very difficult market conditions. He has with determination and perseverance sought out new outlets and diligently recorded and managed the sales receipts.

Apart from all this he has written and contributed to local historical researched articles in our Newsletters, Proceedings and other various free newspapers such as the Challenger and others. He has worked with his good friend Brian Hennegan on two book titles on North Leatherhead, and has also been responsible for setting up the microphones at each of the history society's lecture meetings in the Dixon Hall at the Institute for a number of years.

Some more recent health issues have impacted on Goff Powell's decision to retire from our Executive Committee and from a number of other roles he so ably performed. We wish him and his wife Maureen well for the future and hope that he will make a full recovery to good health.

We are looking for a new volunteer to take on some of the roles that Goff performed so well. If you are willing and able to take on the role as our Sales Secretary we would be delighted to hear from you.

*David Hartley*

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## *Archaeology*

Ashted Roman Villas the 8th and final Season of Excavation (under the direction of David Bird)

The Roman Studies Group will be undertaking its eighth season of excavation on Ashted Common Surrey. Working days are grouped in three sets of 5 days from Wednesday to Sunday during the following weeks:

Wednesday to Sunday 28 August to 1 September

Wednesday to Sunday 4 - 8 September

Wednesday to Sunday 11 - 15 September

Monday to Friday 16th - 20th September is likely to be needed for tidying up etc.

No charge will be made for members of Surrey Archaeological Society. Non-Members of Surrey Archaeological Society will be asked to pay a non-refundable contribution towards the cost of organising the dig of £25 per 5 day week or part thereof to be paid before 17th July.

When your application for the dig has been accepted cheques should be made payable to Surrey Archaeological Society marked on the back only 'Ashted 2013' and sent to 29, Colcokes Road, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2EJ. Inexperienced newcomers please note that preference will be given to those who can attend for at least 5 days.

If you are interested in taking part in the excavation and have not already been in touch, please contact Irene Goring on [irene@greenhayes.plus.com](mailto:irene@greenhayes.plus.com) or 01737 362025 giving contact details and availability. Newcomers need to give an indication of their excavation skills.



*Make sure you visit the History Society Website*

*[www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk](http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk)*

# *The Refurbishment of Dorking Museum*

A fascinating account of events leading up to the re-opening of Dorking Museum was given to our members and considerable number of guests by Kathy Atherton who described the prominent part she played in this enterprising and extensive operation. Dorking now has a museum worthy of its status. The planning and execution of the venture was complex and far reaching. Its special interest lay in the many diverse aspects which had to be dealt with. It began with an assessment of what existed at the outset - the site: a former foundry - not an ideal location, the space available for development and problems of access: the vast collection of objects available for display, and most important of all, the need to have people willing and able to see the project through - all these factors presented problems that had to be overcome.



It began with a review of objectives. What do people expect their museum to feature? Surely not just a collection of unrelated artefacts. What to emphasise: local history, social history, natural history? There was material enough to cover all these - a vast fossil collection: much history from diverse periods including the Roman era: a mediaeval heritage, not to mention many of the products of local industry and agriculture for which Dorking was noteworthy. There emerged the decision that the museum would portray the town and its surrounding district, highlighting its history and displaying familiar and unfamiliar objects. Also to be taken into account was the very extensive and valuable archive, inadequately stored and needing a lot more space. This would have to be included in the plan.

Funding had to be obtained and this thankfully was forthcoming. A budget was drawn up and the project succeeded in being on time and within monetary limits. A builder was engaged and a first-class designer brought in. A public relations campaign was mounted not only to inform the public about the scheme but to enlist the support of volunteers who would be needed to manage all aspects of the task. Happily the volunteers came flocking and the process of training them was undertaken. It needed not just skills but a large measure of enthusiasm. Both these targets were achieved. On every open day 15 people have to be on duty.

Thanks to a set of splendid slides Kathy traced the progress of the project. It made those in the audience visualise what was taking place and made most of us want to pay a visit to view the final result. Details such as the use of signs and photographs were highlighted as having great importance. The problem with all museums is that is impossible to put on show everything that exists in the collection. The skill lies in getting the right balance: to stimulate the visitor's interest without an excess of clutter. All age groups must be considered and

most importantly the children. Many features like ‘dressing up’ exhibits were introduced.

Summing up the result of all the work undertaken it was clear that all the targets had been met. The museum now has an entirely different look, its ‘forbidding’ aspect has gone. A lot has been done to ‘keep it quirky’ to stimulate the visitor’s interest. One feature that Dorking takes pride in is the decision to mount special presentations from time to time and this is currently being pursued.

Kathy’s presentation ended with some interesting questions and a well deserved ovation from her audience.

This lecture concluded the Spring series for 2012-2013. The next season will begin in September with a talk on Surrey Folklore. Details will follow nearer the date.

*John Wettern*

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## *Servants*

### *Notes on the June Lecture by Dr Judy Hill*

The number of female servants in 1851 was 751,641 and in 1871 was 1,204,477. Male servants 1851 were 96,610. In 1891 (population then 29 million) servant class was the largest ever with 1,386 thousand female and 58 thousand male. There were many reasons for the increase in servants -19th century industrialisation, bankers and entrepreneurs investing in land and property, landowners acquired mineral rights to their land, railways making travel easier leading to an upsurge in entertaining and a huge increase in the middle class.

There were books suggesting how many servants should be retained in a household. According to the social scale more servants were retained in different categories with the level of servants kept in a household showing its social standing. At the lowest level there was a charwoman then additional servants at each level - general maid, nursemaid, cook, first man servant

If in 1865 you had £500 to spend a year you would add a lady’s maid and butler. In 1857 with £1,000 a year you would have six or seven servants - a butler, coachman, one or two





housemaids, a cook, lady's maid and nursery maid. Landed gentry would have additional staff such as gardeners.

As a maid you would be expected to own your own uniform unless employed by a big estate which would provide a uniform. Standard uniform was print dress, a black dress, several aprons and shoes with the full equipment costing about £4. The work of the female staff such as laundry maids was extremely long and hard.

Governesses were of upper servant class but not accepted below or above stairs so they were very isolated with no promotion - it was drudgery.

As an example of a large country estate Petworth in 1834 had 73 servants in the servants' hall and a staff totalling 135. Staff were kept on even when they became elderly. They had 24 grooms and 25 gardeners.

The upper servants' sitting-cum-dining room used by butlers or head parlour-maids, cooks, housekeepers, valets and lady's maids was known by the irreverent inferiors as 'Pugs Parlour'. Lower servants were often given new names by masters which were used in such things as a census. Emma was a very popular name for housemaids. No contact was allowed between staff and upstairs so cleaning had to be done when the upper class were not there. Servants were expected to pay for breakages or damages which would be deducted from their wages. There was instant dismissal with no reference for a serious offence as without a reference there was no question of future work. One month's notice was required for job change.

Servants were found by word of mouth, parish clergy, and workhouses but upper servants would be obtained from advertisements. A maid servant recruited from a rural labourer's cottage to the kitchen of a small farm was soon worn out and often looked elsewhere to work. Some landed gentry retained servants when elderly but many female servants aged over fifty had no other option than the local workhouse.

In 1848/52 wages paid quarterly or annually were:

- Cook £15 per year
- Housemaid £11 per year
- Nursemaid £11 per year

Leisure time for servants was half a day or a day per week. It was not until 1880s that staff were given half a day after lunch on Sunday. By 1890s they were given pay for a week's holiday per year.

Until the early 19th century food was served from a central table and guests helped themselves. Later food was served 'à la russe' (at a place setting much as we do today and the food served individually) and service for this needed more servants.

*Judith Witter*

## *Baseball comes to Fetcham Grove*

Did you know that in 1952 the Leatherhead & District Sports Association introduced baseball to Leatherhead? It was in conjunction with Sutton Beavers Baseball Club and held at the 'Grove' on the 26th July. It was billed as an international between England and Canada.

A report of the match in the Evening News tells a somewhat different story. 'On 26 July 1952 a team representing England took on a squad from the Canadian military at the ground of Leatherhead Football Club. The English team comprised players from a trio of London-area clubs, the Mitcham Royals, Mitcham Tigers and Sutton Beavers. The team was essentially an All-Star squad from the Western League, but it was given the 'England' moniker to help publicise the contest and it worked. The game attracted a sizable audience that included Walter Winterbottom the England football coach. The All-Stars ultimately lost the contest 17-13. The score was tied until the fifth innings when Canada jumped ahead and held the



lead despite 'two beautiful homers' by English players Frank Adey and Ray Reynolds. Despite this the newspaper reported that 'the Canadians told the British players they have a long way to go yet'. However it took another four years to be played on a more regular basis.

In the late 1950s a team called Leatherhead Maple Leaf played on the sports ground adjoining the main football ground. The team was composed of former Epsom Lions players and other expatriate Canadian and Americans plus a younger generation of local men interested in the game. Regrettably baseball only lasted a few years at the 'Grove' but it was a pleasure to watch at the time.

*Goff Powell (thanks to 'History of the Great Britain Baseball Team' and personal knowledge)*

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## ***New Book - Mary Chrystie and her Family***

The book follows the life of Mary Chrystie and her family in the Victorian period. She lived in Bookham for nearly 50 years until her death in 1911 aged 73 and she is remembered to this day in the Chrystie Recreation Ground on the Dorking Road.

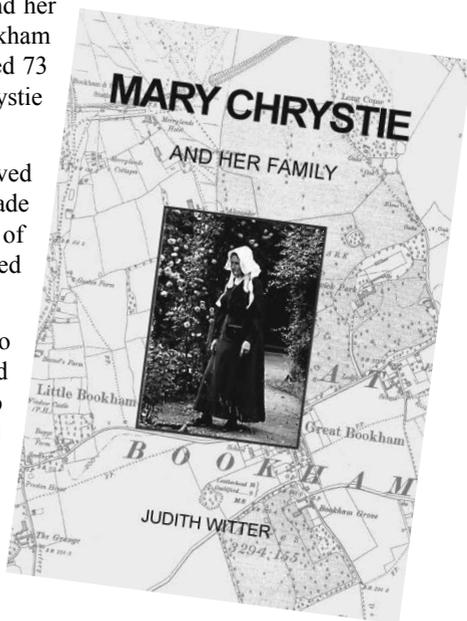
It tells the story of her family who were involved in sugar plantations in Jamaica and the slave trade and how their lives evolved following receipt of compensation when Parliament finally abolished slavery.

Mary married an army captain in 1859 who had fought in the Crimean War but who died in 1864 leaving no children. She moved to Bookham after her husband's death and had a big impact on the village for the rest of her life. She had inherited large sums of money which she used to acquire an amazing number of properties and land amounting to thirty one lots by the time of her death. In particular she bought public houses, closing them to prevent the sale of alcohol and building non-alcoholic hotels (Victoria and Merrylands). She was an ardent follower of the Temperance Movement and keen to persuade others to abstain from alcohol. To this day conditions written into deeds of her old properties ban the sale or use of alcohol.

Mary was a generous benefactor during her lifetime; paying fees and organising outings for Bookham school children, paying for people from the East End of London to visit Bookham and giving away land for the Chrystie Recreation Ground.

The book is very well researched and gives a good insight into life at that time and is a valuable addition to the information available on Bookham.

The book will be available in September and is a good read at £10.



## *Fetcham Mill*



Alan Pooley our new president gave a fascinating account of Fetcham mill and its millpond at the April meeting. Several watermills once stood on the banks of the River Mole near Leatherhead. The last survivor was a ‘cutt-mill’ that is to say one powered by water channelled from springs and not from a river – with the advantage of an even supply of power. The mill could be traced back to 1167 and became part of a small farm at the junction of the roads to Cobham and Guildford.

Between 1705 and 1710 Arthur Moore (a director of the infamous South Sea Company) built Fetcham Park House, installing an ‘engine’ to pump water from the millpond up to a reservoir (which still exists in Rookery Close) to feed ponds and a canal in the grounds around his home. There is a similar arrangement at Petworth House in Sussex. In 1794 there was a proposal to dig a canal alongside the Mole upstream from Walton on Thames using the Fetcham springs as the headwater supply.

Milling continued for centuries; the railway embankments and Waterway Road were aligned to cause as little disruption as possible. By then mains water was available and Fetcham Park had an easier supply. Larger mills dominated production and the Mill House was leased out. In August 1917





Postmarked 22nd May 1903  
 This shows clearly the Mill House left with Clapboard Mill Building.  
 Pumphouse on right with hipped roof

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the mill buildings and barn were destroyed by fire. Although the house was repaired milling ceased. Photographs taken after the fire show the 12-foot mill-wheel and 'buckets' which resembled those still in action at Ifield Mill near Crawley.

In 1922 the Mizen brothers, market gardeners of Mitcham bought the estate and laid out glasshouses and watercress beds to exploit the pure water supply. A narrow-gauge railway track was laid on a concrete base for trucks to carry the watercress to the packing shed, from whence the cress went by lorry to Covent Garden Market. The elder Mizen had a large house, 'Watersmeet' built in the angle between the railway embankments. In 1924 the Mizens sold the Guildford Road frontage to the London Omnibus Company for a garage. In 1929-30 excavations for new glasshouses revealed skeletons, Saxon swords and an ornamental bucket (now in the Leatherhead Museum). By 1934 the springs had had to be channelled, extra boreholes driven and the size of the millpond reduced at the Cobham Road end to maintain sufficient flow.

In 1957 the East Surrey Water Company who already had pumping stations at the end of Mill Lane bought out the Mizens and watercress growing ceased. The Company demolished 'Watersmeet' and the Mill House (but not the cottage nearby) and removed most traces of the mill. The millpond was reconfigured and lined, the spring water being pumped up by a complex 'contraflow' system to the treatment works on Hawks Hill. To maintain water purity various conservation measures are in place around the springs: no fertilisers are used on the fields and the pond banks are only mown twice a year. A new fire station was built near the millpond in 1969 and the Surrey Society of Model Engineers have leased part of the site for an elevated railway track since 1978. All that now survives of earlier days is Mill Cottage, the Mizens' Waggon Lodge and the water channels.

*Derek Renn*

# Friends of the Museum

The three craft afternoons were very successful with nearly 160 adults and children visiting the museum. The organisers worked very hard to provide activities that were of interest to all age groups. We had two people volunteering new activities for next year. David Hartley suggested (off the record) that it might be something to consider doing once a month in future. This will be discussed at the Friends' committee meeting at the end of this month.



Thanks to Kayleigh we have a super new publicity banner that can be reused at each craft event.

We are still struggling for stewards and Lorraine and John Millard are trying hard to recruit new volunteers.

We would like to include our August Bulletin with the History Society Newsletter posting as we have done in the past. We have about 99 members who are members of both The Friends and the History Society and so combining postage/delivery is very beneficial to us. We will try to provide a volunteer from our committee to help with envelope stuffing when the time comes.

Julia Lack

## DORKING CONCERTGOERS PRESENT

### ALAN BROWN PIANO RECITAL

Saturday 12 October 2013 Dorking Halls 7.30pm

**César Franck** Prelude, Aria & Finale

**Medtner** Novelette in E major, Op.17 No.3

**Brahms** Klavierstucke Op.119

**Ravel** Sonatine

**Gershwin** Three Preludes

**Chopin** Nocturne in D flat major; Scherzo No.2 in B flat minor

Tickets £20

### ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Saturday 23 November 2013 Dorking Halls 7.30pm

**Mendelssohn** Overture *The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave)*

**Saint-Saëns** Cello Concerto No.1

**Wagner** Siegfried Idyll

**Beethoven** Symphony No.1

**Michael Francis** Conductor

**Laura van der Heijden** Cello

*(BBC Young Musician of the Year 2012)*

Tickets £12; £20; £25; £29

Tickets from Dorking Concertgoers' Box Office 01306 740619

or Dorking Halls 01306 881717

Details of membership from Dorking Concertgoers on 01306 740619

[www.dorkingconcertgoers.org.uk](http://www.dorkingconcertgoers.org.uk)



Alan Brown



Laura van der Heijden © Sam Tench



## *Friends of Leatherhead Museum – Craft Afternoons*

We had an amazing team behind the organisation of the three Craft Afternoons on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>. To start the ball rolling Robin Christian, Julia Iack and Jane Tickner met in January to explore ideas that were accessible and not too costly and then went away and worked on these. Meanwhile local artist and crafts experts were contacted and asked for their support. This year we had Margaret Meynen and Sylvia Oliver making peg dolls, Justine Munson creating pots on her wheel, Lorraine Wilmott encouraging budding calligraphers and Ritchy Rich masquerading as ‘Will I Am Shakespeare’ showing the art of the signature with ink and quill pen and answering questions about his life in the



16th and 17th centuries.



We are very grateful to all these people who gave their time and their enthusiasm to the Museum.

Dorothy Stapleton was with us by proxy as she had demonstrated a collage created from the insides of business envelopes - she kindly provided an example and all the envelopes. Jane Tickner created some wonderful collages with an aboriginal theme using the swan as a central motif. Many other activities were available each day - even trying to play the didgeridoo! We hope we are able to display the

creations and photos somewhere as we did in 2012.

The main difference for us this year was that we had the help of Kayleigh. Not only did she create a very eye-catching logo, poster and reusable banner for the Swan Centre publicity stall and the museum front but she was there at every event working with us and bringing friends and children with her. It was good to have a fresh eye on the event!

We had 153 visitors on three afternoons but my guess is that as some families with





pushchairs came through the back gate making it difficult to count all the visitors some were understandably not recorded.

The overall impression of the three afternoons is that the families who came thoroughly enjoyed their time at the museum. Some returned on other days and some came on all three days. This surely was the idea behind the Craft Days to introduce the crafts themselves, and also to create an atmosphere where families and especially young people feel that Leatherhead Museum is their museum, a place where they are welcome and a place that can offer them local knowledge and also hands-on fun.

*Julia Lack*

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## ***BC 67 – No! BT 67 (Before Tesco)***

Whilst in the overall scheme of things such a past period in time is not that long ago, it is in reality another world away. In the following lines I will try to take you with me into a golden age when the sun always shone and young people had very few worries on their shoulders. Oh yes I am well aware that the war had only just ended, the second world war that is! Almost everything was on ration and the fathers of some children were no longer with us.

‘Why Tesco?’ don’t I hear you ask? Well back in those days of yore before Tesco’s existed and before Dobbies Nursery that preceded it the Oxshott Woods came right up to the Oxshott Road. In the days before the M25 the Kingston Road and the Oxshott Road met in a T junction and the bridge over the Rye Brook was narrower with fine brick parapets surmounted by ‘bull nosed’ blue engineering bricks. It was these bricks that were polished by the ‘sit-upons’ belonging to the boys and girls that sat there in the summer evenings watching the coaches and few cars that were returning home from the seaside or other places of interest.

The woods were our playground among other frequented locations. It is amazing the changes that these years have brought about. In the summer months and at other times we

would wander with complete freedom and I think this was the most important currency of our youth. We would build camps out of the available flora a bit like Bear Grylls except his are probably more water tight! (Mind you in later years most of us boys were in the Scouts and he is now Chief Scout!) We would light fires, small and responsible ones you understand - on these we would cook a meal. The sausages on a stick would be as black as 'Newgates Knocker'. I hasten to add that these activities were not only the sole preserve of boys. The girls would often be in attendance - even back then us lads never missed a trick. However I must stress that our knowledge of 'relations' were not as highly tuned as some of today's youth.

The woods themselves have changed much since then. Close to the road there was a large oak tree that was rather unusual in that its branches grew some way from the ground. It had never been 'pollarded'. However this was a fine tree to climb so in order to reach the branches it was necessary to take steps or rather make steps for the purpose. Solution - bang some 6 inch nails in groups of three to form hand and foot holds. It was a huge tree and before it was felled to make way for the nursery the nails had almost been 'devoured' by the expanding bark. No! I do not recommend this action to any young people reading these lines but back then we did not know any better!

In the late 19th and early 20th century the woods had been the site of a brick works and remains of the activity were still very much in evidence back then. The clay pits were still very clearly defined. Those of you who would care to follow the footpath that runs from the road to Tesco's Filling Station can still see the outline on the ground amongst the foliage. Before the M25 shattered our lives it was possible to walk from the Oxshott Road right through to Oaklawn Road skirting the grounds of Rowhurst Forge. Enroute you would have come across the 'rabbit warren' where these furry creatures had a perfect place to do their digging. The ground was full of broken bricks remaining from the brick making activity. You can still see this location but you have to enter through the footpath on the other side of the motor way almost at the foot of the dip in the Oxshott Road.

It was possible to walk beside The Rye Brook right through to Randalls Road. In the summer months the Leatherhead and District Motorcycle Club organised grass track racing in Prewett's fields and the smell of Castrol R, dope, oil and cut grass was second only to that of a steam locomotive in full cry down the main line through Esher.

The then recently excavated site of 'The Mounts' could be visited but back then we had very little knowledge of their significance. I did however go with the upper class from Fetcham School on a visit when Mr Snellgrove explained the excavations. His son John was a friend and fellow pupil at the school. Don't ask me why I went to Fetcham School. (Over the Bridge - a few say it is a good read)

It's all a long time ago.

*Brian Hennegan*

# *Update from the Records Secretary and Acting Librarian*

## **Archive Website**

Some of you may be wondering how I am progressing with the new archive website spoken about in earlier editions of the newsletters. I can report that there is a Beta version on the web which is still under construction or should I say waiting for more records to be added. So far I have uploaded all back copies of The Proceedings and all available Newsletters (with the exception of years 1961/62). With the help of both Ashtead and Fetcham U3As we are currently scanning all photographs/pictures/postcards etc in our possession which will gradually be uploaded to the website. Leatherhead pictures will follow on once those from the surrounding villages have been completed. Access to the scanned files will be by membership subscription only. This project will take time but as soon as we have sufficient records available we will launch the site officially.

The site will eventually contain the Society's collection of:

- Indexes to the Records
- Pictures/photographs/postcards
- Documents
- Maps
- Collections eg Fortescue
- Proceedings
- Newsletters
- Leaflets/Magazines eg Bookham Bulletins
- More

## **Enquiries**



*Fred Sawyer, Bill Penny (stroking a dog), Hugh Miller, Wallie Dawes, Miss Fanny Arnett (Scout Mistress) and Joe Fisher (Patrol Leader) : left to right*

The Society/Museum regularly get enquiries from people who are tracing their ancestors or wish to know about local history subjects. We try our best to respond to these quickly and provide the best knowledge we have on these subjects and by the grateful responses we receive I guess we achieve this most times. Recently I had a request from the 1st Bookham Scouts who are researching the history of their troop formed around 1909/10. At first I reported that I could not find anything in the Bookham Archive but subsequently discovered a postcard which had not been accessioned. This postcard (shown on this page) is probably the earliest picture of the troop and is believed to have been taken in 1917. The picture was taken outside the Old Barn Hall.

Any information/pictures you may have regarding the 1st Bookham Scouts will be gratefully received and can be sent to me please.

### **Library**

Recently the Leatherhead Community Association (LCA) asked if we could move the Leatherhead Records which are stored at the Leatherhead Institute Library to other shelves in the library in order to free up space for a book cabinet which was blocking a door needed for access. The files have been moved to the top shelf of the shelves facing as you enter the library room. A set of steps with a hand rail for support is available to reach our files. Whilst not ideal we do not have much choice in the matter and are grateful to the LCA for allowing us to store our records there. This may not continue unless more members make use of this facility. Please note that the books have not been moved and these are still available where previously kept.

LCA Library opening times are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.15am to 12.30pm

*Roy Mellick*

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## ***Programme Committee News***

Members may well ask “How does the Society manage to keep up the series of monthly lectures that take place on the third Friday of each month and somehow find an ever varied succession of speakers?” The answer is that this job falls to a committee of the Society called the Programme Committee. Its members have contacts in various places such as other societies and are attentive to what talks have been reported in other locations.

The reason for this being mentioned is that the committee has recently lost three members and is badly in need of volunteers to take their place. The late Linda Heath who contributed so much to the success of the Society in many aspects was one of our members.

The committee holds afternoon meetings every three months and the workload of individual members is not especially burdensome. It is interesting work.

Any member who feels they would like to consider joining the committee is invited to contact me.

*John Wettren (01372 459277 email johnwettren@ntlworld)*

# Inhumanity of Man

Man is often thought of as the head of the animal kingdom with superior intelligence to all other creatures. It does however seem to have a unique characteristic with a history of cruelty and slaughter of its own kind. As far back as we can go history has been full of one group slaughtering another group in vast numbers or exercising extreme cruelty. Living in the twentieth and twenty first century we have the relatively recent history of the holocaust. In just the few years of the second world war the number killed was anything up to 20 million (not just the Jewish people - around 6 million - but also from countries such as Poland).

If we go back to Old Testament Biblical times there are many cases proudly presented of the children of Israel going out and killing in a day or so 40,000 or 50,000 of a surrounding tribe. It was done under the name of 'command from the Lord God'. This warring and killing occurred frequently amongst all ancient people and so often in the name of religion.

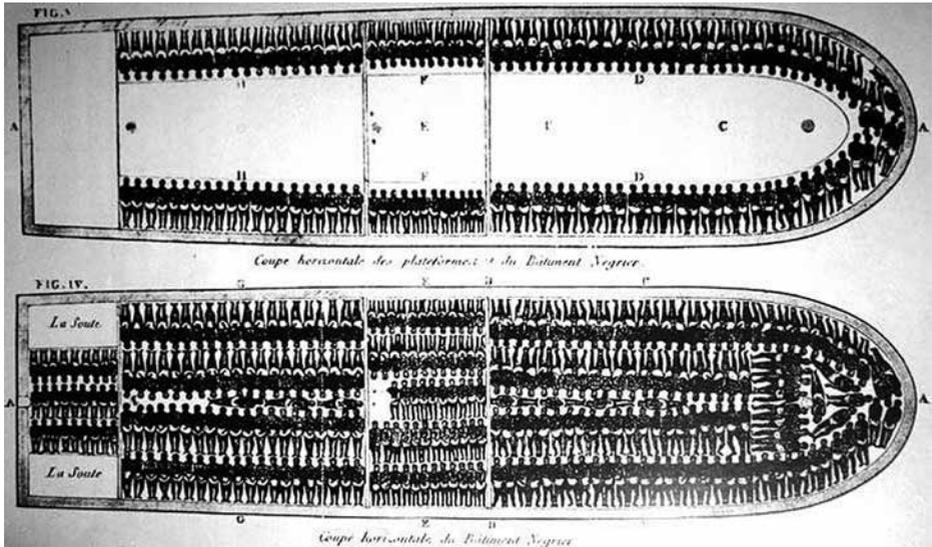
One can only wonder if this conduct is practised by any other species of the animal kingdom – the mass slaughter of their own type?

Killing is only one extreme of human cruelty. Thoughts were turned to this topic on considering the slave trade. Slavery on a small scale was practised for as many years as we can imagine. It existed in all the old cultures, Assyrian, Babylonian, Ottoman, Roman, Greek and every other. It was just making use of the poorer or weaker to benefit those in power. Its harshness depended on the master, maybe a king or noble. The source of slaves was always at hand by capturing those of a foreign nation.

Slavery developed into a vast operation when it was realised that a slave had a value to be bought or sold. When the new world was opened out in the sixteenth century its financial potential was seen but there was no workforce which created a vast demand for slaves to work the developing plantations. There was an easy source of manpower from the many countries of Africa. Much of the early action was led by the Portuguese followed by the Dutch. The British realisation in this was relatively late but developed strongly in the seventeenth hundreds. The trade was conveniently three-cornered which meant that ships never sailed empty. Goods such as iron, guns, cloth



**TO BE SOLD, on board the**  
Ship *Bance-Island*, on tuesday the 6th  
of *May* next, at *Affley-Ferry*, a choice  
cargo of about 250 fine healthy  
**NEGROES,** just arrived from the  
Windward & Rice Coast.  
—The utmost care has  
already been taken, and  
shall be continued, to keep them free from  
the least danger of being infected with the  
**SMALL-POX**, no boat having been on  
board, and all other communication with  
people from *Charles-Town* prevented.  
*Austin, Laurens, & Appleby.*  
N. B. Full one Half of the above Negroes have had the  
**SMALL-POX** in their own Country.



and drink could be shipped for sale to West Africa where they could be traded for slaves. The slaves could be packed as cargo and taken to the West Indies. Once sold goods such sugar, coffee and tobacco could be shipped back to Britain. Liverpool and later Bristol became the centre of this trade in Britain.

It was all so convenient except one of the essential goods was human slaves. Humans have little regard for humans. The slave ships were just a hold to fill to transport to the other side of the world. The ships were not large in modern terms and the need was to get on board anything up to 600 men, women and children. Not only did the 600 have no freedom – they had to be shackled. The Atlantic trip took anything up to two months depending on weather conditions. There was no sanitation, food had to be eked out to last and there was no medical support. On a good voyage perhaps only one tenth of the slaves died with their bodies thrown overboard. Exercise was to the pleasure of the crew. One method was to have them in sets up on deck shackled together by the leg and dancing to the lash of a whip. There was only one hope, that they would be sold to a kindly plantation master and would eventually earn their freedom.

The abolition of slavery came in 1807 after the strenuous campaigning of William Wilberforce and others. In practice it continued for some time after this in a small way. Estimates range from 10 to 20 millions for the number of slaves transported over the years.

Will humans ever learn humanity? History is against this ever happening. The Middle East is currently a centre of unrest. One can only wonder when and where the next major killing will occur. How many nuclear weapons exist today and what is the chance of them not being used? Hiroshima and Nagasaki saw the death of close on a quarter of a million.

Will man ever learn?

*Martin Warwick*

# *An Appreciation of Linda Heath*

Linda was a member of the local history society for many years and contributed to it in so many ways. She first joined the Executive Committee in 1986 and was elected to be its Chairman three years later a position she held until 1996. In 2002 Linda was appointed to be President of the society, an office which she held until 2007.

She was always willing to work for the society and she was an active member of the Programme Committee as well as a trustee of our museum. When the museum trust ceased to exist as a separate body Linda again became a member of the Executive Committee.

She was a steward at the museum for many years and as well as giving many talks she also contributed to the society by writing a number of books on their behalf.

Linda lived with her husband, David (who died in 2006) in Little Bookham from 1960 but they soon had to spend 3 years abroad where David was working. They returned in 1964 and lived in Leatherhead but a year later they spent 3 years in Beirut.

From the time that they lived permanently in Leatherhead Linda was extremely active in whatever organisation she was involved none so more than the Leatherhead and District Local History Society. Whatever needed doing from making tea to chairing a committee Linda was always willing to take on the task. Our society as so many other organisations in the area will miss Linda very much but we should all be grateful for her contribution over the years. Linda was very active in Leatherhead Parish Church as churchwarden, archivist, organist and organiser of the Voluntary Car Service. She was a member of Leatherhead Community Association on whose committee she represented the local history society. She also represented L&DLHS and the LCA for many years on the organising committee of Mole Valley Heritage Open Days as well as helping with walks and visits during the weekend.

*Peter Tarplee*

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## *Linda Heath - Musician*

Members of the Society know of Linda as a local historian but may not know that she was a professional musician. I had the privilege of playing piano duets with her most weeks for several years. She seemed to be delighted to find someone with whom she could share her enjoyment of music and was disappointed when something prevented our meeting.

Linda studied at the Royal Academy of Music and qualified as a teacher, a career she followed all her working life. While in London she sang with the Bach Choir but her work took her to Wycombe Abbey in 1953 then to Canada in 1955. She met her husband, David on the boat she travelled back to England on. He saw this young woman playing the piano on board and that was that.

David worked as an architect at the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works at Chessington while Linda taught music at the Howard of Effingham School and at the Leatherhead School of Music in Devon House, Church Road. There followed a period of travel abroad when they went to Hong Kong for 3 years, after which they bought their house in St John's Avenue. David was transferred to the Diplomatic and Consular Service which took them to the Middle East and Beirut in particular. On their return to Leatherhead Linda resumed teaching at the

Leatherhead School of Music now in Bridge Street. She also taught the piano at home where pupils were able to play on her lovely grand piano. There are local musicians who owe the start of their musical careers to her.

She served the church through music, playing for services at All Saints until it closed for worship recently and at Leatherhead Hospital. She was very involved in the campaign to reinstall the Parker organ at the Parish Church and wrote a booklet about it.

Linda performed on the piano in public from time to time including when abroad and was very flattered to have been asked to play in the Chopin Society's members' recital for a second time which sadly she did not live to do.

*Gwen Hoad*

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## *Some Recollections of Stephen Fortescue*

Linda Heath in the late 1950s or early 1960s had taken up the position of music teacher at a local school and rented a cottage in Little Bookham from Miss Elsie Micholls of Manor Farm, Little Bookham. Miss Micholls was the daughter of the Lord of the Manor of Manor House, Little Bookham. Miss Micholls invited me to take tea with her and to meet Linda and her husband David. Inevitably the conversation turned to local history and Linda had joined the Society. Miss Micholls' nephew, son of Dr G H Rendell who for a short time was headmaster of Charterhouse, gave a lecture on the History of Little Bookham at which Linda was present. The lecturer always talked with his hands in his trouser pockets. To the alarm of all present his fly buttons were undone – a local resident, Michael Easun prepared and suitably equipped to rush on stage in case anything untoward happened.

Linda became chairman of the Society in 1989 which office she held until 1996 when she was appointed Vice President until 2002 and then President until 2006. She was actively supported by David who was a surveyor at the Office of Works and responsible for the restoration of the Albert Memorial in London.

It was during her term in office as Chairman that the Howard Vault in the Churchyard of St Nicolas in Great Bookham was investigated and supervised and Linda arranged for David to survey the interior. An article appeared as an Occasional Paper No.4 of the History Society and David made a plan of the location of the coffins.

Again with the encouragement of Linda David surveyed the removal of the granary then in the car park of Preston Cross Hotel and the siting of it in the grounds of Manor House School, Little Bookham for its proper restoration. I can remember watching with Linda when David made his first investigation. The floor of the granary was rotten but David crawled underneath and his head popped up through the rotten floor reminiscent of the head of John the Baptist on the plate.

Linda was an indefatigable worker for the Society – her enthusiasm was infectious. She wrote and published many books and pamphlets on the History of Leatherhead and of local schools. She was sometime a churchwarden of St Mary and St Nicholas Parish Church and much of her research related thereto.

Her wisdom and enthusiasm will be missed.

*S E D Fortescue*

Friends of the Leatherhead Museum Chairman

Julia Lack                      01372 386050                      upper.mole@ntlworld.com

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:

Frank Haslam                      01372 379341                      frank.haslam@gmail.com

Records Secretary:

Roy Mellick                      01372 457839                      roy.mellick@btinternet.com

Sales Secretary:

Vacant

Programmes & Lectures Secretary:

Vacant

Newsletter Editor:

Martin Warwick                      01372 453717                      martin\_warwick@hotmail.com

Website Editor:

Frank Haslam                      01372 379341                      frank.haslam@gmail.com

Committee Members:

Doug Hollingsworth

Archival Material

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

Ashtead	Gwen Hoad
Bookham	Roy Mellick
Fetcham Documents	Alan Pooley
Fetcham Photographs and Maps	Ed Tims
Leatherhead Documents	Vacant
Leatherhead Photographs	Vacant
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

## *Autumn Lectures*

Lectures are held on the third Friday of the month at the Letherhead Institute at the top of the High Street. Coffee 7.30pm, lecture 8.00pm admission £1. All are very welcome

### **20th September**

'The Folklore of Surrey' by Matthew Alexander former Curator of Guildford Museum.

### **18<sup>th</sup> October**

'Local War Memorials' by Frank Haslam, one of our members and an authority on service graves.

### **15th November**

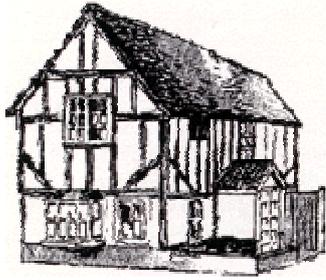
Surrey Historic County Maps by Carole Garard

(There is no lecture in December)

## *Heritage Open Days in Mole Valley 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September*

Celebrate and support Heritage Open Days, England's Local & National culture and buildings, offering free access to buildings that are usually closed to the public or who normally charge for admission. Buildings of every age, style and function, ranging from Castles to Factories, Tithe Barns to Town Halls, and Parish Churches to Buddhist Temples, it is your chance to discover the hidden gems and architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of events and activities.

At the Letherhead Institute the L&DLHS will present a display on the work of John & Edward Hassell, watercolour painting of 18th century houses in the Parishes of Ashted, Bookham, Fetcham, Leatherhead and Mickelham. This display will be dedicated to the memory of the late Linda Heath 1931-2013 past Chairman and President of the History Society who was a very active and dedicated supporter of Mole Valley's Heritage Open Days held at the Letherhead Institute.



## FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

### \*NEWS BULLETIN\*

AUGUST 2013

HAMPTON COTTAGE,

64 CHURCH STREET, KT22 8DP.



#### Dear Friends

With summer arriving at last it seems brighter and cheerier during afternoons spent at the museum. Having both front and back doors open makes the museum seem more accessible to the public and people are generally in more of a mood to explore Leatherhead and take in the museum.

Thank you for your continued support of The Friends which in turn helps The Friends to enhance the museum with new equipment, furniture and educational and other activities. Thank you also to all our loyal and hard working stewards without whom the museum would not function. I cannot stress enough how important you are. A collection of artefacts and a lovely old building are nothing without visitors coming in to seek information, reminisce and contribute their stories. Don't forget the Book of Memories if anyone comes in with a pertinent local story. There are some really interesting nuggets in there.

We have been weathering a patch when for one reason and another we are very short of stewards. Lorraine is working hard with the volunteer agency to find new people but often word of mouth is the best avenue. If you have any friends who would be happy to join us once a month for 3 hours, please let John Millard know on 01372 374281. A little bit of persuasion often works wonders! It's certainly how I got involved in Leatherhead Museum in the first place.

For those who are stewards, if you know you will not be able to do your day please can you use your 2013 rota to ring around for a swap or use one of the reserves on the list at the bottom of the rota. I know this is not easy but John Millard is not able to fill in as often as he is being asked to and should not be finding substitutes for people.

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#### \*EVENTS PAST\*

The **Briefing Session for stewards** run by Lorraine Spindler on **March 9<sup>th</sup>** was well attended and so it seems that having an annual event on one date instead of 3 worked effectively. Any comments on this please contact Lorraine on 01737 813964

On **March 22<sup>nd</sup>** a group of members went to visit Chertsey Museum. The start of our visit was made easy by the fact that we could park on the street outside the museum, a fact worth knowing if anyone reading this is inspired to make a visit.

We were made very welcome with coffee and biscuits; always a good start! Whilst we enjoyed our refreshments in their large, airy education room Emma Warren gave us a power point presentation of her 20 favourite items in the museum. This provided a good focus when we started to look around this 3 storey Georgian house. The staff couldn't have been more attentive and helpful and we saw some wonderful artefacts. I can recommend this museum highly, particularly if you are interested in costume as they had a whole room devoted to sparking 1920 outfits and accessories. During the afternoon Emma took us on a (freezing cold) walk around the ruins of Chertsey Abbey and brought it to life with her description.

Chertsey Town itself is interesting to wander around and there are a variety of lunch places. It was a thoroughly good day out. If anyone has ideas for next year's outing please let me know. Julia Lack **01372 386050**

The **AGM** on **April 26<sup>th</sup>** was well supported. We re-elected the current committee + a new member, Debby Humphreys. We are still without a chairman and would like to see one in place by the next AGM:

**Chairman** - vacant, **Hon Secretary** - Julia Lack, **Hon Treasurer, shop manager, membership secretary** - Gwen Hoad,

**Members** - Robin Christian, Brian Hennegan, John Millard (stewards), Alan Pooley (Museum Manager), Pat Seymour,

**Ex Officio** – Lorraine Spindler (curator). **Newly elected committee member** – Debby Humphreys

The **Craft Afternoons** on the **30<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> of May and the 1<sup>st</sup> June** were very successful. The museum vibrated with action as 150+ people came through the museum to take part in creating baskets, collages, friendship bracelets, sculptures, pottery, calligraphy, peg dolls and many many other activities. Traces of glitter are still lurking in corners of the courtyard. We were helped by many inspiring volunteers who gave up their time to work with the families who came to enjoy the activities. This year our publicity was beautifully handled by Kayleigh Arunsalon. Anyone out there who would like to be involved next year please contact me or any another committee member. We already have someone offering to come next year to do Henna hand painting which is marvellous as new ideas are always welcome.

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#### **\*FUTURE EVENTS\***

**Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>** - We are hoping to open the museum for the cycle race. It was such an exciting event last year and it brought people from far and wide to Leatherhead.

This year **Heritage weekend** is on the **13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September**. We will need stewards for **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**. This is an interesting day to do as we usually get local visitors but also people coming from far and wide.

The museum closes for the winter on **Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup>** and opens again on **April 6<sup>th</sup> 2014**

We will be setting up publicity stall in the Swan Centre on Saturday **28<sup>th</sup> September**. We need volunteers to man this so if you are free and able please phone 01372 386050

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#### **\*VOLUNTEERS\***

We were all very sad to hear of the sudden death of Linda Heath in May this year. Her funeral was held at the Parish Church on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June and the huge numbers of people attending attested to her prominence in Leatherhead as a musician, historian, director of plays and active supporter of many local societies.

As a committee we bid farewell to Margaret Longstreth who has been an active member of the committee as Secretary and Membership Secretary for many years. We thank her for all the time and energy she has put into her work for the Friends Committee over the years.

Welcome to our new steward Tim Hall, Thomas Hedger and Paula Smith. We hope you enjoy working with us. We value our stewards highly and are always pleased to welcome new people.

Thanks to all those who renewed their membership when it became due in January. If it has slipped your mind Gwen Hoad is our new membership secretary and is there to receive your £3 (or £5 for couples). Gwen can be contacted on 01372 273934