

The Newsletter



Leatherhead Museum

November 2013

The Quarterly Magazine of the

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409
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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

2011 Membership Subscriptions

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

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Editorial

I suppose the most significant change in this Newsletter is that there are colour pictures. Last quarter the cover changed from its long time plain green and now hopefully the magazine is more interesting with some more colour. The change is made possible by a different printing process - in the past the method was 'offset litho' but it now uses a modern laser print process resulting in very high quality of print. The only problem is that many of the photos and prints to support the articles come from an age of black and white but in future perhaps more use can be made of old sepia photos.



A better magazine really calls for a higher membership to read it - the History Society does need an influx of many more younger members. In the articles there are several calls for help to fill the many vacancies on the Committees or other positions. One of these is a replacement for Goff Powell who can no longer continue to service the publications on which much of the income of the Society is obtained. The work he has done cannot be underestimated. Who of you, the readers, is willing to take on this role?

As was announced in the last Newsletter Judith Witter's book 'Mary Chrystie and Her Family' is now available and there have been already good steady sales at bookshops and from her own efforts in publicising the book..

Make sure you visit the History Society Website

www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk

Next Edition Deadline - 4th January

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to this Autumn Newsletter - and it is a good opportunity to reflect and reassess the year especially as the History Society's principal objective is to run the local museum at Hampton Cottage Church Street. Sadly I sometimes wonder how many members know where the museum is or have in fact visited it in the last six months.



There are a few dedicated members of the History Society and Friends of the Leatherhead Museum who are there on a weekly basis either managing or dealing with the day to day matters of running the local museum or acting as Stewards who are on duty weekly, on the Thursday, Friday and Saturdays when the museum is open. This is voluntary work by members two to three times a week or a month.

There have been times this year when we have not had enough volunteers or we have been unable to fulfil the commitment and in some cases the museum has not been able to open or has had to close early without enough volunteer stewards to step in to fill the gap.

So what of the future? We now urgently need your Support.

The day to day running of the Museum behind the scenes is dealt with the museum Manager Alan Pooley, the President. He and his small team continue to use their best endeavours to achieve their objectives but they need your support. The Curator, Lorraine Spindler who is actively working towards the Museums Accreditation for 2014 is also planning forthcoming museum events and outreach programmes and she needs volunteers for tasks and targets for 2014.

The Friends of the Leatherhead Museum are working tirelessly with limited resources and urgently need volunteer support to run events and raise funds for the benefit of the museum and also provide the necessary volunteer training required to be able to open the museum to the public on a weekly basis - this is one of the primary objectives. The Friends also need a Chairman and Committee members and a more active membership to take on and run new projects.

The History Society Executive committee needs new active members and office holders to support the Lectures sub-committee, a New Membership Secretary, a Publicity Officer, an essential position to raise the public profile of the history society and to publicise events, lectures and increase membership take-up.

A new Publications and Sales Officer is urgently required to take on the role ably filled to date by Goff Powell who is obliged to retire after many years of service to the Society.

If you are interested in local history and getting involved in a new voluntary experience, in taking part and helping to run a history society and local museum for just three times a week you could make all the difference. Contact me on my Mobile. 07947471165 or by email Hartley1949@msn.com.

New Ashtead Archivist

On a more positive note I would formally like to welcome John Rowley of Ashtead as the new Ashtead Archivist, he takes up a very interesting archive of Ashtead's history and we look forward to working with him. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Gwen Hoad who held the Ashtead archives on a temporary basis following the retirement of Jack Willis.

Leatherhead Archivist

With the passing of the Linda Heath we have lost a valuable member and friend who was a staunch supporter of the Museum and the History Society. She was also the Leatherhead archivist of photographs so we are interested in recruiting a new volunteer to pick up this role and manage the Leatherhead archives. If you have some archive experience or would be interested to learn on the job please contact and speak to the Records Secretary Roy Mellick 01372 457839.

David Hartley

Archaeology

Saturday 16th November 9.30am – 4.30pm

The Council of British Archaeology South East AGM and Conference is to be held at Queen Elizabeth rammer School Faversham Kent ME13 7BQ tickets priced at £8 for CBA South East members and KAFS members and £10 for non-members. Advance payment and details www.kafs.c.uk. The conference 'Landscapes of South-East Britain during the Roman Period' is organised by the Kent Archaeological Field School and the Council of British Archaeology South East.

Saturday 28th November

Surrey Archaeological Society Medieval Forum and Members Day at St Catherine Village Hall Guildford, details of time and admission to be confirmed

Saturday 15th February

The annual Surrey Archaeological Society Symposium at the Peace Memorial Hall Ashtead, details of program and price of admission to be confirmed.

Saturday 15th March

Guilds and Industries, a meeting of the SyAS Medieval Forum to explore rural and urban industries and occupations in medieval Surrey planned for Saturday 15th February 2014 at Cobham Village Hall,

Details of program and price of admission to be confirmed.

Heritage Open Days

14th / 15th September at the Letherhead Institute



The Leatherhead and District Local History Society provided a display of the works of John and Edward Hassel watercolours of Leatherhead & District circa 1822. The display was dedicated to the memory of the late Linda Heath past Chairman and President of the history society, the display was mounted in Room G5 at the Letherhead Institute.

This year's display proved to be a very popular. For the first time the number of visitors visiting to view the exhibit in G5 was recorded - 100 visitors on Saturday and 118 on the Sunday giving a total of 218 with book sales of £103.00 including £40.00 from four sales of the new book on the Mary Christie (of Bookham) by Judith Witter.

I would personally like to thank Jane Summerfield our EC Minute Taker for support on Saturday morning and visitors Goff Powell, Roy Mellick and Alun Roberts and Gordon Knowles who provided support on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday thanks to John Wettern for the morning session and Gwen Hoad for her support on the afternoon session, with visits from Fred Meynen, Jenny and John Morris and finally all those visitors who attended and purchased copies of our publications.

Thanks you to June Robinson of the LCA for all her support on Saturday and to Peter Humphries of LCA for his attendance and support on Sunday opening of the Letherhead Institute.

Judith Witter the author of the new book on Mary Christie presented her display in the Dixon Hall where the Leatherhead U3A family history group presented a version of 'Who do You Think You Are'.

Finally, acknowledgement and thanks to the Surrey History Centre at Woking for the access to the Robert Barclay Collection of John Hassel watercolours and the use of copies for our display.

Thanks, to 'The Stonehill Collection' for the use of copies of the Leatherhead collection of John and Edward Hassell.

David Hartley

Old Surrey Customs and Folklore - September Lecture

Matthew Alexander, Honorary Remembrancer of Guildford and former curator of the Guildford Museum, made a welcome return to speak to us in September on 'Old Surrey Customs and Folklore'. He said that culture (in the sense of customs, superstition and tradition) changed more slowly in Surrey than elsewhere. Until 150 years ago, the county was made up of middle-sized and smaller farms and villages. There was no middle class, and few large landowners. The agricultural depression of the 1870's hit hard, but there was little mechanization to riot against.

He pointed out that as more people became literate, superstition declined and commonsense prevailed over many customs and traditions. But we still delight in ghost stories, from the Blue Donkey climbing the stairs at Slyfield Manor to a haunted car park in Guildford. Tales of tunnels and buried treasure were associated with ruined abbeys and churches (for example Newark Priory and Ockham church). The removal of churches by the Devil was usually explained by the removal of the village for another reason. Matthew told us the legend of Catherine and Martham the two giantesses of Guildford, building on rival hilltops and throwing their only hammer from one to the other.

Witchcraft ceased to be a criminal offence in 1620. the witch was nearly always a poor old woman living on the margin of society who would be blamed for disease or injury to animals or young children. A farmer shot a white hare; the next morning his neighbour had a limp: was he just a bad shot? White magic-folk medicine often had a simple explanation: the healing well at Thorncroft helped eye infections because any bathing would relieve the symptoms.

The speaker debunked three Surrey folk tales: The Silent Pool above Albury was an eighteenth-century chalk pit, nothing to do with King John. The exact route of the medieval Pilgrims Way through the county was a guess by the Ordnance Survey, and the silencing of the Chertsey Curfew Bell was a legal change, not to save a lover's life.

Community disapproval took the form of 'rough music'. A wife beater's sleep would be ruined by the beating of metal pots and kettles. On the other hand, if a wife left home the husband would literally 'put the broom out' to signify his needs.

Many customs were recent: the plaiting of ribbons in the maypole dance was due to John Ruskin, and the mayhem of Hallowee'n was a new import from America. Shrove Tuesday street football, with no rules, lasted longest in north Surrey, particularly at Dorking. Guy Fawkes' night riots against unpopular local worthies in Guildford had eventually to be put down by the army, not the police.



Both harvest supper and Christmas dinner had the same menu - beef and plum pudding. A berry would be removed from the 'Kissing Bough' each time a kiss was claimed until all were gone. Gifts were exchanged on New year's Day and the cake on Twelfth Night contained a dried bean and a pea and a bean: the lucky finders were king and queen for the day.

Wassailing - singers wishing good luck to houses and particularly apple trees -was not originally a Christmas tradition. Many carols were locally composed, and Matthew ended his talk by singing two verses from one found in a 1660 book at Elsted.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 18th October when Frank Haslam, Janice Steele and Ian Whitwick will describe their study of the lives of those commemorated on local war memorials. We meet in the main hall of the Letherhead Institute (top end of the High Street) at 7.30 for 8.00pm and visitors are always very welcome.

Derek Renn

A Short History of the site of Bookham Grange in Rectory Lane Bookham

The Seawell Family to Arthur Bird

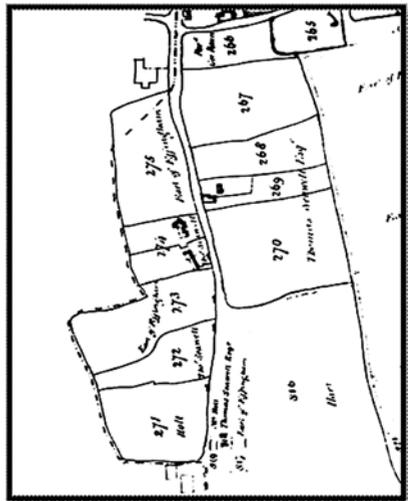
The site of the Grange in Rectory Lane has had a long and interesting local history which has much to do with the people and families that have occupied the houses on this site and the preservation of documentary sources which made it possible to research the history of the last 400 years. Previously in this Newsletter I have presented research into the families of Thomas and Mary Seawell circa 1792-1832 and that of Lettice and Henry Collins Rector of Little Bookham circa 1609-1614.

The following is an abstract from a Survey of Great Bookham 1797-1798 - a schedule of some of Thomas Seawell's lands In Hand:

- 267 Field opposite Mr Seawell own house
- 268 Small Field
- 269 House Garden and Orchard
- 270 Three Acre Close
- 272 Small Close
- 274 Cottage, Orchard and Garden, including these properties and parcels of land at this time.

He owned by lease or copyhold a total of 81 acres.

The development of the property from that of the image of the house painted by John Hassell



circa 1823, the seat of Thomas Seawell to the present Bookham Grange as we know it today commenced following the death of Thomas Seawell on 25th May 1832, age 71. His will dated 5th September 1827 appointed his two sons Thomas Samuel Seawell and Henry Seawell his executors and probate was granted by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) on the 12th June 1832.

Thomas Samuel Seawell, the eldest son of Thomas and Mary Seawell (née Newcome) of Little Bookham was born in 1788, educated at University College and matriculated 16th Dec 1806, age 16. In 1822 he married his first cousin Ethelred Harriett Seawell daughter of Charles Seawell of Gipple Lincolnshire and Etheldreda (nee Birch) and fathered six children. Thomas Samuel Seawell had property interests in Northamptonshire and Hampshire and as the eldest son he inherited the bulk of his father's freehold, copyhold and leasehold estates in Great and Little Bookham and Effingham with the exception of a small freehold cottage in Eastwick Lane Bookham including a chalk pit and land adjoining the cottage which his father Thomas Seawell had purchased and bequeathed to his youngest son Henry.

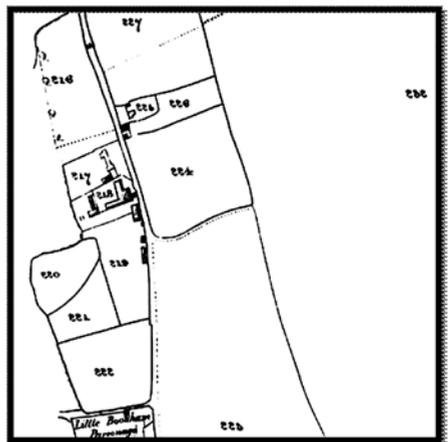
An Indenture of Lease and Release dated 16th April 1833 was drawn up a year after Thomas's death between Thomas Samuel Seawell of Paston Hall in the County of Northamptonshire for the sale and purchase by Henry Seawell of his father's freehold properties (hereditaments) in Little Bookham free from encumbrances from his brother for the price of £4,133.

Both Thomas S Seawell and his brother Henry Seawell were admitted the Manors of Great and Little Bookham to do homage for all the freehold, copyhold and customary hold lands inherited from their father.

There are unfortunately not many references to Henry Seawell. He was born in 1790, the second son of Thomas and Mary Seawell of Little Bookham, educated, admitted pens (pensioner) at Clare College on 14th December 1808, matriculated Lent Term 1809. Information about his life in Bookham is very sparse, his life probably was that of a gentleman farmer receiving rents from his properties. Henry is recorded in the 1841 Census and on the Tithe Map 1842 for Great Bookham. It is this Tithe Map and the apportionment from which to start to chart the changes to the property, from the old Seawell House painted by John Hassell in 1833 to the building known as the Grange.

Henry Seawell's Estate as owner and occupier was as follows (abstract from Tithe Map 1842)

- 216 Little Bookham Close
- 217 House and Yard
- 218 Farm Yard and Buildings
- 219 Machine Fields
- 220 Pit
- 221 Pit Piece
- 222 Parsonage Field
- 223 Fifteen Acre Field
- 224 Three Acre Close
- 225 House Yard and Garden
- 226 Orchard



Henry Seawell died intestate on 28th June 1842 a bachelor age 52 leaving Thomas Samuel Seawell his only brother his Heir at Law. On 19th July 1842, the administration of his effects was granted to Thomas S Seawell his only next of kin by the PCC. Henry was buried on 6th July 1842 in the Seawell family tomb in St Nicholas churchyard.

Thomas S Seawell had a property at Paston Hall in Northamptonshire and Marelands at Bently in Hampshire. He died in 1847 and was buried on the 22nd Jan 1847 at Bentley. His will dated 1846 was proved by oath by his widow Ethelred Harriett Seawell his sole executrix on 19th February 1847.

In his will he devised all his freehold, copyhold or customary estates to which he was entitled in Great and Little Bookham and all other estates to which he was entitled elsewhere at his death (with exception of certain copy hold estates in the county of Lincoln and freehold estates in London which were secured) to provide an income for his wife and subject to the use of Henry Newcome and Henry Pratt upon certain trusts until his eldest son Thomas Augustus Seawell had attained the age of twenty one. On attaining that age Henry Newcome and Henry Pratt as the trustees or their successors were to convey the said real estate subject to rent charges to Thomas A Seawell. An indenture dated 21st April 1852 between the trustees and Thomas A Seawell conveyed to him all the freehold estates in Great and Little Bookham and all other estates and interests to which he would have been entitled.

The eldest son of Thomas Samuel and Ethelred Harriett Seawell was Thomas Augustus Seawell born 1827, baptised 23rd August at Paston Northampton.

In the intervening years between the death of Thomas S Seawell and the coming of age of his son Thomas Augustus Seawell it would appear from research that the appointed Trustees let the estate on a tenancy which in all probability continued after the estate had been conveyed to Thomas Augustus Seawell. The census records for Thomas A Seawell for the years 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891 appear to indicate that he was not resident in Bookham but in the registration district of Alton in Hampshire.

There is a will of a Thomas Eaton dated 1856 who is described as having been formally and for many years in the Service of the late Thomas Samuel Seawell and now in the establishment of his son Thomas Augustus Seawell of Marelands Hampshire. From the census returns Thomas Eaton was born in 1771 in Northamptonshire and was probably employed at the Paston Hall, the estate of Thomas S Seawell. In the census of 1841 he is recorded aged 70 living with his son, an agricultural labourer and his wife and child in Twywell, Northamptonshire. In the census of 1851 he was then aged 80 years and was recorded at Marelands, Bentley Hampshire in the household of Ethelred Harriett Seawell, widow as a retired labourer. He died in 1856 age 85 years.

The only evidence for a tenancy of the Grange is a notice dated 1869 of a Sale by Auction for Leo Schuster Esq who had given instructions for a sale of his personal and household possessions in advance of his tenancy at the Grange coming to an end. The sale was arranged for Tuesday 12th October 1869 and conducted by Messrs White & Sons. Among the lots for auction were an interesting number of items of garden and farming equipment and plants and livestock. There is also a copy of this catalogue and the auctioneers notes, prices and account rendered to their client.

The census for 1871 records Thomas A Seawell living at Marelands, single age 43, a landowner of 155 acres, employing 5 men and 1 boy. Also recorded was a visitor Henry H Elkenton age 65, a retired Butler, born Leatherhead Surrey, probably an old family retainer. I have traced Henry Elkenton back to the 1861 and 1851 census and in 1861 he was in service of the same Thomas A Seawell as Butler in the 1851 census. Henry then age 44 was in the employment of Ethelred Harriett Seawell (the mother of the above) at Marelands, Bentley in Hampshire as Butler to the family. It may be of interest to note that both Henry Elkenton and Thomas Eaton (above) were at the same establishment at Marelands 1851, but probably living in different circumstances within the household.

No. 1838
"THE GRANGE",
LITTLE BOOKHAM,
THREE MILES from LEATHERHEAD and FIFTY from GUILDFORD.

MESSRS. WHITE AND SONS

As ordered with instructions from LEO SCHUSTER, ESQ., whose tenancy will shortly expire, to Sell by Auction, on the Premises, "THE GRANGE," Little Bookham,

On TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1889,

At 12 for half-past 12 o'clock, precisely, the following effects, viz.

A FASHIONABLE PARK PHAETON,
With hind seat, cushions, lamps, and appendages for one or a pair of Horses.

An excellent strong and light Market Cart on Steel Springs.
A 3-in. wheel Agricultural Cart with iron arms & side ladders.

A PONY BOB CART.

PHAETON, PONY AND THILL HARNESSES,
TWO CHILDREN'S SADDLES, A HEADED PERAMBULATOR, A FEW LOTS OF
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
And useful miscellaneous effects;
ALSO A QUANTITY OF
GREENHOUSE, STOVE AND BEDDING PLANTS.
Flower Stands, Vases and Palmettes, Garden Chairs,
A capital 24-in. SHANKS' LAWN MOWER, Water Barrow, Hog Troughs, Hen Rips, &c.
AND (BY PERMISSION)
A FAWN-COLOUR ALDERNEY COW,
AND TWO YEARLING HEIFERS.

To be viewed after 10 o'clock on the Morning of Sale.

These Catalogues may be obtained at the Price mentioned in the Printing Bills, and at the Office of the Auctioneers, Dorking.

A copy of the cover to the Auction catalogue

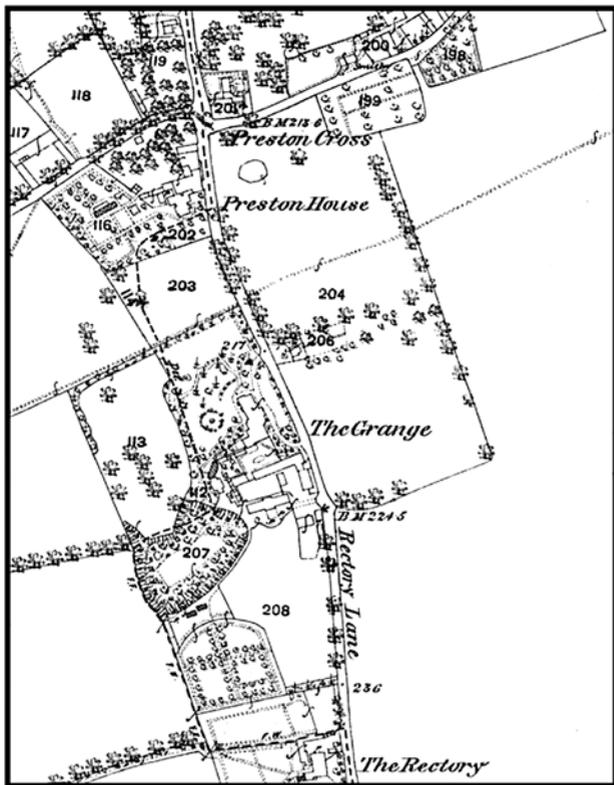
There is an extant copy of sales particulars for the 'Bookham Grange Estate' to be held by Auction on Thursday 23rd June 1892 at The Mart, Token House Yard near the Bank of

England by the auctioneers Dedenham, Tewson, Farmer & Bridgwater which give some interesting details of the house and grounds in 1892 - the particulars were distributed locally by Messer, White & Sons Land Agents Dorking.

The property was described as a freehold property with a small part copyhold, a residential estate known as 'Bookham Grange' or the Grange in the parish of Great and Little Bookham the total area about 94 acres 1 rod 39 perch. The greater part of this property was free of Land Tax with and a small part of the property subject to a Tax of £2 5s 0d per annum. The copyhold parts were held of the manors of Great Bookham and Little Bookham and were subject to a Heriot (right of a lord to seize) of the best beast on death.

Lot 1 The freehold property was described as an attractive residence in the Elizabethan cottage style approached by a carriage drive with beautiful grounds, a conservatory, glasshouses and outbuildings, with extensive stabling and model farm buildings and well-timbered in all about 8 acres, one rod, three perch

The particular went on to describe the arrangement of rooms. The ground floor comprised an Entrance Hall and Staircase, Lobby and a small conservatory and water closet a Dining room, two Drawing Rooms with two communicating doors, a Library, Morning Room, Study/Smoking Room, Kitchen, Scullery, Servants Hall and Butler's Pantry, Larder, a Back Hall and Pantry and Back staircase and good cellarage in the Basement.



On the first floor were arranged six principal Bedrooms, Dressing Room and Water Closet, there were also a further eight more bedrooms, store room and water closet arranged on the first floor over the offices on the ground floor.

The water supply to the house was laid on to the ground floor offices and the first floor from a deep well. In addition to this supply there were also rainwater tanks on the premises.

- Abstract copy of Ordinance Survey Surrey 25" XXV.6 First edition surveyed 1869-1870 (courtesy of the Surrey History Centre, Woking)

Outside in the grounds the particulars referred to a Capital, detached Billiard

Room and a Kitchen yard was described as having a Knife House, Coal Store, Fruit and potato Room, Game and meat Larder, a wood house and two water closets.

There was also an Upper Courtyard comprising a Brew House with cellar, a Hen House, Tool House and Piggeries and a range of stabling comprised two Stables of 4 Stalls, Loose Box, Saddle Room and a Coach House with two living rooms above.

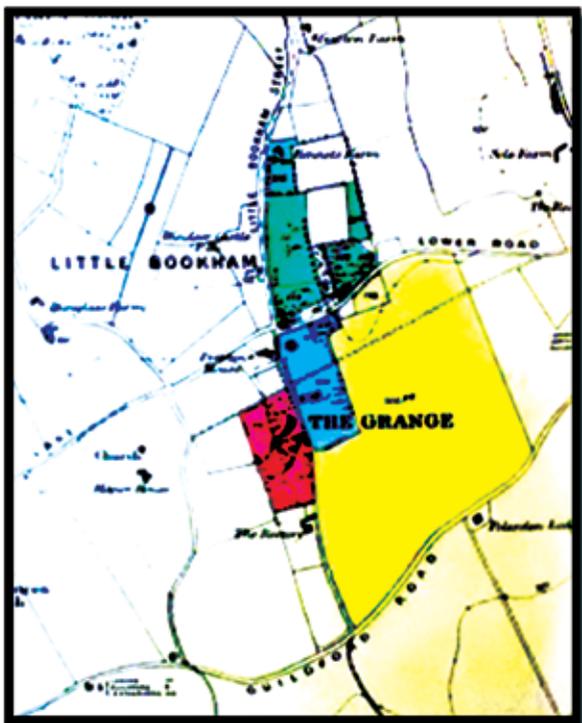
The Pleasure Grounds surrounding the property were described as beautifully timbered with shrubbery and wide spreading lawns and a Lawn Tennis Ground and shady walks. The old quarry (chalk/marl pit) had been planted with wild flowers creating a very pretty feature of the garden, beyond which was a Capital Kitchen Garden with glass houses, tool house, potting shed and seed Rooms.

There were also a separate range of farm buildings on the property which included a large barn, Cow House, Piggeries, a Farm Yard and two grass paddocks.

There were three further Lots of freehold and copyhold property were included in these particulars forming the Bookham Grange Estate in 1892 which are outside the scope of this article.

An extract, from the Bookham Grange Estate Map forming part of the sales particulars.

Lot 1. The freehold property is coloured pink on the plan, Lot 2. A freehold Cottage coloured Blue, Lot 3. Freehold land adjoining coloured Yellow and Lot 4. "Buggs Farm" and "Bennets Farm" lying North of the Lower Road and three Cottages at "Preston Crossways", known as Half Moon Cottages.



If the description of 1892 is compared with the adjacent Ordinance Survey abstract dated 1870 it can be seen that the map fits the description of the property even though the two references are 22 years apart.

If we go on to compare the earlier maps or plans of Thomas and Henry Seawell's property in 1798 and 1842 with the OS map of 1870 there is not much if any resemblance between the buildings shown on the site.

It is therefore likely that at some time after the death of Henry Seawell in 1842 and his brother Thomas Samuel Seawell in 1847 the original house and outbuildings were demolished to rebuild the house in a more contemporary style for the time and to establish a model farm, perhaps retaining and incorporating some of the original farm buildings with the creation of a walled kitchen garden and landscaped grounds probably carried out circa 1860, (more evidence is needed to prove this point). The new house and grounds were probably very similar in appearance to the present Grange we see today subject of course to the later additions made during Arthur Bird's ownership post 1894.

As to the outcome of the auction of the Bookham Grange Estate in 1892 no evidence is to hand to say that it was sold or withdrawn, sufficient to say that there is a copy of an interesting document drawn up dated 15th January 1894 titled 'In the Matter of Contract for the Sale of the Bookham Grange Estate to Arthur Bird – 'Statutory Declaration' of Mr George Wood. This document is a declaration by Mr George Wood that states that he was gardener to Thomas August Seawell and that he declares that he had occupied that position of gardener in the service of Thomas A Seawell at Bookham Grange for a continuous period of Thirty Five years and during the whole of that period he has never been aware of any disturbance in the possession of Thomas A Seawell in respect of the said property or any part thereof. A plan of the said Bookham Grange Estate was provided to him and marked GW (George Wood).

George Wood goes onto declare that he believes that Thomas A Seawell has been in uninterrupted possession of all lands therein comprised and had received rents thereof for the last thirty years and more, had any such interruptions or disturbances occurred it would have come to his knowledge. He then declares 'I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true by virtue of the Statutory Declaration Act of 1835.

This document was declared and signed by George Wood at Eastwick Park in the County of Surrey on the 15th January 1894 before William Keswick Justice of the Peace.

Subsequently an Indenture dated 17th January 1894 was drawn up titled, 'Thomas A. Seawell to Arthur Bird Esq Assignment of benefit of the covenant contained in Indenture dated 18th day of December 1843'. This Indenture was between Thomas Augustus Seawell of Marelands in the county of Surrey sale and Arthur Bird of No 6 Bedford Row in the County of Middlesex Esq. The indenture recited Thomas August Seawell's title to his freehold estate in Great and Little Bookham. The said Thomas Augustus Seawell had agreed with Arthur Bird for the sale to him of the said hereditaments and premises together with other hereditaments and had agreed to assign to Arthur Bird the full benefit of the covenants for the payment of the sum of three hundred pounds. Contained in the principal Indenture with all rights and remedies for the due enforcement of the same covenant, the Bookham Grange Estate was conveyed to Arthur Bird.

Thomas August Seawell died at 'Marelands' Bentley Hampshire 28th September 1897 aged 70 years and on his death ended any further Seawell family connections with Great and Little Bookham.

The story or a short history of Arthur Bird and his family line will continue in the next February 2014 Newsletter.

David Hartley

Credits and Acknowledgements

Must be given to the staff at the Surrey History Centre Woking for dedication and commitment to the work they do in maintaining Surrey History Centre's Historic Document Archive and online search resource.

Thanks also to the Public Records Office at Kew and their online search resource.

References

A full list of reference sources will appear following the forthcoming article on Arthur Bird.

The Ashtead Automobile Association Roadside Telephone Box *(or another ancient monument that wasn't)*

The *Leatherhead Advertiser* for 10th October 2002 carried a headline, 'Village's historic AA box to be preserved' saying that the first AA roadside telephone to help stranded motorists was installed in Ashtead and that it was one of only 21 surviving wooden sentry boxes which were listed buildings and that it would remain standing with the phone removed. The boxes were being phased out (like motorcycle patrols) because of the increased use of mobile 'phones.

So why is the AA box (which stood on the A24 at the boundary with Epsom) no longer there?

The reporter had simply got it wrong: the first AA box was erected in July 1911 on the Ashford (Kent) to Hythe road. (Keir and Morgan, *Golden Milestone - 50 years of the AA*, 1955, p50) and the Ashtead box was never an ancient monument.

Derek Renn



Keep Calm and Carry On Researching

The Headley Heath Military History Project

The National Trust are currently investigating what happened on Headley Heath or Headley Common as it was then known during the Second World War. What was it really like to live in Headley during the war when the Canadian Army came to train on the Common? Two local residents both born in 1931 were taken onto the Heath on October 1, 2013 and asked to share their boyhood memories.

John Hills and Tom Thomas were reunited to tell us how they distinctly recall Red Indians, serving with the Canadian Army, sleeping out in teepees on Headley Common. As boys they were especially fascinated with the arrival of the Chevrolet army trucks, Harley Davidson bikes and tea bags, all of which they had never seen before. The children often scrambled for candy coated peppermint chewing gum called Chiclets the soldiers willingly shared, whilst oranges, bananas and cigarettes were in abundance.



Especially fascinating to the National Trust rangers are accounts of the Canadian Army ‘filling in’ two of the three valleys on the Common whilst practicing manoeuvres in preparation for the D Day Landings. John and Tom both emphasised how much Headley Heath had changed from its landscape of gorse, bracken and ponds to one that is now generously sprinkled with mixed woodland and especially the silver birch.

Headley had been a relatively quiet and self-sufficient country village before 1939 but once the war begun up to 500 Canadian soldiers arrived plus all the evacuees from London’s Forest Hill School. The overcrowding placed pressure on local resident’s homes as all the visitors needed billeting - to alleviate the problem Nissen huts sprung up across the Common.

Headley was not spared from particularly nasty devices called Butterfly Bombs dropped by the Luftwaffe, so named because the thin cylindrical metal outer shell which hinged open when the bomblet deployed gave it the appearance



I
Headley Heath
In Wartime




We need your help to commemorate wartime activities on Headley Heath. Do you have knowledge or better still were you there ?

Major Areas of Interest are:

1. Research, collation and publication of Historical information and facts for this area.
2. Knowledge gathering thru the local parish and SSRA
3. Canadian Army Activities on the Heath during WWII
4. Trenches and mark, airstrip and Trenches

Would you like to volunteer your services to become part of this exciting project or simply inform us of any interesting ones or groups from that period ? If yes then simply call the number below. We will be pleased to hear from you.

07443425360 | nationaltrust.org.uk/headleyheath

Share your love of Headley Heath on [Facebook.com/nationaltrustand#specialplaces](https://www.facebook.com/nationaltrustand#specialplaces)

National Trust

rich hour and a half they departed, carrying a museum leaflet and sticker, leaving us all exhausted but satisfied. Many said that they would return with their families. How good it is to see children in Leatherhead Museum asking questions and absorbing their own local history.

Maintaining contact with local children is so important, they are our History Society members and historians of the future. In this spirit Brian Hennegan went into Trinity school on the afternoon of Oct 4th to talk to Year 6 (10/11 yr olds) about Leatherhead during WW2. Having his firsthand experiences and stories to tell made the talk come alive and the children listened absorbed for about 50 minutes and then asked very good questions.

We are lucky to have people who are willing to give up their time voluntarily to do these outreach activities. If anyone reading this feels that this is something they might like to be involved with please do contact Julia Lack on 01372 386050.

We are not always so lucky with our Stewards Rota and as you may have noticed we are still looking for new volunteer stewards. Please, if you know of anybody who might be able to give us a few hours each month for the nine months we are open ask them to contact John Millard on 01372 374281 or Alan Pooley on 01372 374093

Watch this space for news of another Friends/ History Society outing in spring 2014. Robin Christian is working on a few exciting ideas, so, more next time!

One last thing I need to alert members of the Friends to is that the renewal of the membership (£3 or £5 for couples) is due on January 1st 2014. We are very grateful for those members we have and would like to keep them and keep them informed about the museum and its activities.

You can bring your subs to the museum for Gwen Hoad or post them to her at 66 Craddocks Avenue, Ashted KT21 1PG. Thank you very much.

Julia Lack

Jottings from Frank Haslam

Memories of Linda Heath

Many memories and photos of Linda can now be seen on the Parish of Leatherhead website <http://www.parishchurch.leatherheadweb.org.uk>

Find Linda's page via the *History > Remembrance > Linda Heath* path. Further recollections and good photos are still welcome.

Windfield

I am hoping to research the history of the site that is now the Windfield estate. If you have memories or photos of what it was like before the estate was built, or of events that took place there, please contact me.

Frank Haslam 01372 379341

Was it a Dream?

It was a restful sleep – no dreams - until... a dream began, or was I being teleported?

I was standing by a river bank. A high hill up there on the left told me exactly where I was. Yes, that was Box Hill so this was the River Mole. No buildings in sight, but there was a man standing alone not far away. I approached and greeted him. His costume was strange, could it be Roman? He spoke : that sounded like Latin. Oh dear! Can I muster my schoolboy Latin to return the greeting? I tried and it worked.

He spoke : “I’m an engineer and I’ve come to look at this ford where our road crosses the River. “Flumen Molecus”, he said. “I’m planning the bridge that our men are going to build.” “What road is this”, I said. “There behind you, it comes from Londinium”. “And to the South, where does it go?”, I asked. “All the way to the capital of the Regni territory”. (I knew he meant Chichester.)

“What about the next stopping place on the road”, I asked. He pointed South West and there was the road, bordered by the vineyards in the foreground.

“That’s the next place ; we call it Dorkinium. It’s an important, growing place and already there’s a hostel there for passing travellers. There’s an East/West road that crosses our road, and the local people hold regular markets there for their livestock and produce.” He added : “There’s an important well right there at the intersection”.

I looked in that direction and there, plainly I could see the line of the road with a wisp of smoke in the far distance where that town would surely be.

Then it all started becoming hazy. As if to say “Farewell” I looked at him one more time. “Oh, by the way my name’s Burfus the bridge builder”. Then everything melted and I was back in bed, awake.

I thought long and hard about all of this encounter. Firstly it was that road, making a beeline for Dorking which our archaeologists say cannot be traced. “I must tell them to go on looking : perhaps to dig deeper.” Then I remembered what he had said about that well at the road intersection. I knew just where he meant. It’s where West Street meets South Street and nowadays it’s called Pump Corner.



World War II in Ashtead

This brief story is based on a substantial memoir by Heather Godley nee Couper which recently arrived in the Ashtead Archive.

Heather was born to Cyril and Sybil Couper in London in 1927. At the outbreak of war in September 1939 she was a pupil at the City of London School for Girls in Blackfriars. Her parents took her on holiday to Jersey where they were overtaken by imminent threat of invasion and left for Southampton on one of the last boats to leave. On arriving back in London they discovered that her school had been evacuated to Ashtead – to the City of London Freemen’s School. She was billeted across from the school gates in Park Lane. The girls were based in a disused cafe by Ashtead Railway Station in the morning playing games, sewing and the like. In the afternoon they swapped with the boys and girls of Freemen’s school for lessons at Ashtead Park. Heather had a lot of freedom and on a bicycle ride one day she discovered a very old neglected cottage and later persuaded her parents to move in! This cottage had been condemned to be knocked down at the end of the war. At one time there were three cottages, known as Barton Cottages, one occupied by the Prossers and the other two let to the Coupers for 18/- per week. After the War in 1954 the Coupers bought all three along with the first Ashtead school and this became known as Apple Bough cottage, Rectory Lane. The property is thought to date from the latter half of the 16th century.



Heather visiting her family home in 2003

Returning to the war, one day Heather was walking in a field past the end of Rectory Lane when she and friend

were machine-gunned by a Messerschmitt - they dived to the ground and luckily escaped. After the school relocating to Yorkshire much of the next three years was spent with Heather travelling Ashtead to Yorkshire – it must have been quite daunting for a young girl to travel by train unaccompanied doubtless squeezed between travelling service-men! The school returned to London by 1944 just in time for the V1 ‘Doodlebugs’ and V2 rockets with Heather and her Father suffering near misses in London



Barton Cottages before conversion to Apple Bough circa 1950

from the V1s. When the V2s started Heather was again despatched to Yorkshire. By VE Day she was back in London and with friends went to the Mansion House to join in celebrations with the Lord Mayor before commuting back to the family home in Ashtead.

Apple Bough is one of Ashtead's most important properties and we owe it to two generations of this family and their successors for their loving conservation of a building that was condemned to be demolished when the war was over. Fittingly, Cyril and Sybil now rest in St Giles Churchyard.

John Rowley

Help – please!

This is only part of the story which is quite long and a fascinating read and is a very recent acquisition for the Society. We have decided to ask the Ashtead Community for more war stories and photographs. We are hoping to gather enough material for a book – Ashtead at War 1939-1945 so if you can help or know someone who can, please contact me at staff@leatherheadmuseum.plus.com.

The Society Needs Helpers!

The Society is thriving and active, but it has a problem. There is a serious shortage helpers. Yes, all these are vacancies needing to be filled -.here's what we need:

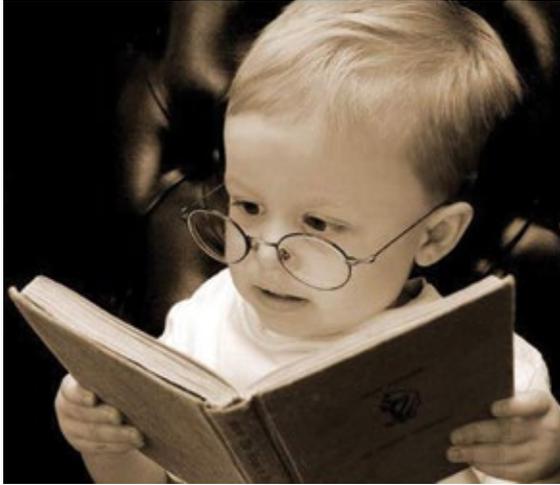
- 1 More stewards at the Museum (we are even risking having to shut the door because of falling numbers).
- 2 A Membership Secretary (the present incumbent is doing two jobs to fill the gap).
- 3 A Sales Secretary who promotes our wonderful range of books (his retirement has been announced).
- 4 A Secretary for the Society (the last one retired quite a time ago).
- 5 A person to manage our publicity effort, helping to make us better known and bringing in more members.

Perhaps you the reader or a friend of yours agrees that something has to be done, and might consider volunteering. If so, it would probably need more thought. Maybe you would like a chance to discuss the situation which could determine your response. I think that this is the vital point. You would probably like to know more about what the work entails, how much time is involved, how much prior knowledge is essential, would it be an enjoyable experience and so on.

So here's my proposal. Let me put you in touch with those in the Society who are calling for volunteers. If you contact me I can briefly explain the need and tell you which of our people can tell you more.

I do hope that many of you will take advantage of this offer, helping to fill the gaps.

John Wettren, a member of the Executive Committee 01372 459277 ; email : johnwettren@ntlworld.com



Wanted!!
Sales and Publications Secretary

The Society are urgently looking for a Sales & Publications Secretary to promote the Societies own publications and that of other local books.

Would suit person with buying, selling and bookkeeping knowledge, together with computer skills in Word and Excel

For further information contact Goff Powell on 01372-374923 or goff@goffpowell.plus.com

***Percy & Arthur Melmoth Walters - English
Amateur Footballers***

‘The Local Connection’

The Brothers were English amateur footballers both born in Ewell, Surrey, Percy on the 30 September 1863 and Arthur on the 26 January 1865. They were sons of a solicitor, and both attended Charterhouse School although Percy did not play for the school football team. He went up to Oriel College, Oxford where he won a blue in 1885. Whilst at Oxford, Percy made one appearance for the University cricket team in a match against the MCC. in May 1885 when he was the wicket-keeper. In his one innings, he scored nine runs in a drawn match.

However, Arthur did play for the school football team in 1882 and 1883 before going up to Trinity College, Cambridge where he won a blue in each of the years from 1884 to 1887.

The brothers became known as ‘morning’ and ‘afternoon’ in allusion to their initials. They were generally regarded as the finest fullbacks in England for a number of years. Percy in his final year at Oxford followed Arthur and joined the Corinthians Football Club which had been established three years earlier with a view to giving amateur players the opportunity to play together on a regular basis in order to improve the quality and strength of the England team.

Arthur made his debut for Corinthians on 13th November 1884 in a 7–1 defeat by the Notts Club. He was unable to take part in the Corinthians tour of northern England in December but was able to join the Easter tour in which five games were played in six days. Arthur played in four of the five games including the opening fixture against Preston North End on 6th April 1885, when he played at left-back with his brother Percy alongside him on the right.

This match was the first of many over the next six years in which the two brothers played alongside each other as the two full backs. Amongst the more significant matches were a 6–0 defeat of the FA Cup holders, Blackburn Rovers, in December 1885 and a 7–0 victory over Notts County in March 1886.

The brothers’ final match together for Corinthians was on 8th November 1890 in an eight goal victory over Sheffield in which younger Brother Hugh (born 7th April 1868) who was only playing his second match for the club scored a hat-trick, with another goal from Percy. Shortly after this match, the younger brother died from a football injury inflicted during a match and, in deference to their parents’ wishes, both brothers retired from football to concentrate on their legal careers.

The withdrawal of the brothers from the Corinthians team had a significant effect on the team’s performances as they were ‘extremely hard to replace, and Corinthians were destined to win only six of their next nineteen games’.

Both Percy and Arthur spent some time as volunteers in the army, and in August 1886 were promoted to the rank of lieutenants in the 3rd Surrey Rifles.

Despite the promise made to their parents, the brothers made a return to the Corinthians for a multi-sport tournament against the Barbarians Rugby Club in April 1892. Arthur played in the soccer match (without Percy) which Corinthians won 6–0. The clubs also played a rugby match which Corinthians won 16–13 although the match was not a very serious encounter and was described by The Times newspaper as ‘a very amusing game’. The rugby match was followed by an athletics meeting in which C B Fry was prominent, winning both the long



Arthur Melmoth Walters



Percy Melmoth Walters

jump and high jump. Finally, the two clubs met a few weeks later in a cricket match in which Percy played alongside several other prominent Corinthians including Fry, Lindley and Charles Wreford-Brown. Percy during his time with the Corinthians made 54 appearances, scoring once, whilst Arthur made 48 appearances also, scoring once.

Percy after graduating in 1885 joined the old-boys' team of his former school, the Old Carthusians. Later Arthur who graduated 1887 followed him there. Their major successes came late in time with the club, reaching successive FA Amateur Cup finals, winning the cup in 1894, the competition's inaugural year, and reaching the final in 1895.

Percy and Arthur made their England debuts together on 28 February 1885 in a 4–0 victory over Ireland, with Percy at left

back and Arthur on the right. Percy made thirteen appearances for England, five as captain. Percy first captained the England team, in only his third appearance, against Ireland on 13 March 1886, in the absence of the regular captain, Norman Coles Bailey. England 'totally dominated the Irish' to record a 6–1 victory. Arthur made a total of nine appearances for England, with the final match being against Scotland alongside Percy in the 1890 British Home Championship. The match ended 1–1, and as a result England and Scotland shared the championship. Of the nine matches he played for England, four were won, three drawn (all against Scotland) and two were lost (also against Scotland).

Percy qualified as a barrister and was called to the bar in 1888. Arthur eventually qualified as a solicitor in 1899, and joined the family firm.

During his football career, Percy also played for East Sheen FC and Epsom FC. Percy and Arthur are also credited with being two of the founder members of Ewell FC in 1890 and in 1894–95 both brothers played for Leatherhead Football Club (a predecessor of the current club) Arthur later becoming President of the club.

Percy also represented Surrey, and was a member of the FA committee in 1886, and a vice-president from 1891 to 1892. Although known mainly for his football prowess, in 1883 a report for 'Leatherhead Cricket Week' states 'Mr P.M. Walters kept wicket throughout the week admirably, taking fast and slow bowling alike without a long stop'.

At the outbreak of the South African War Percy joined the 'other ranks' of the Inns of Court Training Corps, leaving as a Corporal. However, when World War 1 broke out he returned to the Corps to train recruits, giving up his practice at the Bar to do so.

Arthur became a director of the London Guarantee and Accident Co and of the Phoenix

Assurance Company and also president of the Law Society of England and Wales

Arthur lived at 'Hillside' Kingston Road was also an accomplished cricketer and occasionally played for Leatherhead Cricket Club. He also later became Chief Fire Officer for Leatherhead Fire Brigade. He was a trustee of the 'Duke of Connaught' Lodge which was established in 1885.

Percy lived at 'Crampshaw End', Crampshaw Lane, Ashted from around 1911 where he died on 6th October 1936 aged 73 years.

Arthur later moved to Holmwood, Surrey and died at his home 'Minnickwood' on 2nd May 1941 aged 76

Goff Powell - (acknowledgements to various web sites and to 'How Green is Mole Valley- The history of Leatherhead FC 'by David Johnson & Graham Mitchell also the 'History of Leatherhead Cricket Club' by Patrick Rennison)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Martin,

I have procrastinated enough - this letter is long overdue but as I am halfway to age 92 it is high time that I congratulate you on the excellence of your Newsletter. What a transformation from the days when as Secretary I assisted John Bull with the single sheet Newsletters duplicated on a cast off Gestetner machine. Before I ramble on I must say how sad I was at hearing the news of Linda Heath's death. Whenever I was in touch with her she was always pleasant, a good listener and willing to get something done. I knew she had many interests but thanks to your correspondents, Stephen Fortescue, Gwen Hoad and Peter Tarplee I now have a full picture of her very active life.

In recent years she wrote and asked if there was a chance that I might visit the Leatherhead area. This was after I moved to Poole and although I managed a visit or two to attend a lecture or see the Museum it became impossible when 3 or 4 years ago my wife was stricken with acute arthritis and also has IBS I can just manage to be away for two hours or so for shopping and odd jobs.

We came to Poole in 1995 and although I felt I should not take up Committee work at 73 I did become very interested in the Poole Local History Centre and use it when I can.(see leaflet attached). As I pick up more and more about old Poole I realise that unwittingly my wife (who chose to move here) has brought the Hayward family back to its roots - some worked in Poole in the 1840's.

My memories of pleasant times in Leatherhead are of working with others to help restore the building which was to become the Museum. Ralph Hume and I built the dwarf brick walls in the garden and when finished we sat on one and celebrated with a whisky or two! I remember John Bull atop a ladder at the front left repairing a rotted main timber joint with wood hardener. He had to use quite a lot. The stewarding when the Museum opened was very enjoyable.

One of my most alarming experiences was at the time the builder had left the uninsured Hampton Cottage upper floor propped up on stilts in order to replace the old rotted ground

floor walls. It looked absolutely crazy and when a gale force wind sprang up one night I expected to find Hampton Cottage blocking the Street next day. My alarm arose mainly because I was one of the original trustees. Later the workforce team found another project - the restoring of the upstairs hall at the Institute when the Leatherhead Community Association was formed. There was always something to do as a result of joining the Leatherhead and District Local History Society and it is an interesting way of meeting people from many differing backgrounds.

May the Society continue to prosper with its attractive Newsletters and excellent annual journal - the Proceedings.

Geoffrey Hayward (195 Sandbanks Road, Poole, BH14 8EJ - 01202 735279)

Obituary - Janice Hammond

It is with great sadness that I report the sudden death of one of our members on 7th September. Janice had spent almost all her life in Ashted and was well known in the village. She was extremely interested in the history of Ashted and the people who had lived there.

Her grandfather, James Weller, was the farmer at Woodfield Farm until his death in 1935 and he was the last farmer in Ashted. By the time of his death he had already sold some of his fields and the rest of the land quickly followed for housing development on both sides of the railway. The Berg Estate was a prime example. Most of the farm buildings were demolished but a few still remain.

Janice's mother, Queenie Henderson, had a collection of photographs taken around the farm and fields and also of Dukes Hall Cottages. With Janice's encouragement, she allowed me to make copies of them and these are now in the Society's archive.

I spent several sessions with Queenie while Janice prompted her mother to talk about her life on the farm where she was born. This led to other conversations with Ashted residents such as Kathleen Whitehead and Kenneth Lifford while they reminisced about earlier days.

Janice was very proud of her grandfather who had been a well liked character in Ashted and a good employer. As well as being a farmer he was a builder and oversaw the building of the row of cottages facing the Common, which are still there.

Janice was also very proud of her great-uncle, George Weller, who was killed at Passchendaele in 1917.

All of these people have appeared in my articles in the Proceedings and I have to thank Janice for making this possible. She also encouraged me to give talks about the farm which were illustrated with slides made from her mother's photographs. She and her husband, Les, were always there to support me.

Janice played a huge part, for many years, in the running of the Junior Section of Ashted Tennis Players' Club along with Les and their son Andy, the club coach. It was an indication of the popularity of this club and her charisma, that St Giles' Church was full of young people and their parents for the Service of Thanksgiving for her life. She will be greatly missed.

Gwen Hoad

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	John Rowley
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

Meetings and Lectures November to April

Lectures are held on the third Friday of the month at the Letherhead Institute, top of the High Street. Coffee 7.30pm lecture 8.00pm admission £2 All are very welcome

15th November

Surrey Historic County Maps by Carole Garade

December Meeting cancelled.

17th January 2014

Lecture : ‘Surrey History, 1760-1832 , the Manning and Bray Bicentenary’ by Julian Pooley from the Surrey History Centre.

21st February 2014

Lecture : ‘Leith Hill Place’ by Gabrielle Gale

21st March 2014

Annual General Meeting followed by a lecture.

11th April 2014 (Note the date – NOT 18th April)

‘Donald Campbell’s Water Record’ by Donald Stevens.

Message to our Members

The Committee would be glad to hear from any member who belongs to another history society, local or otherwise. We are anxious to know of any good lectures that you might have heard because we are always on the lookout for speakers who perhaps would be willing to appear in our future programme.

Contact : Derek Renn - 01372 454880 email : derekrenn@btinternet.com