

# *The Newsletter*



*Leatherhead Museum*

*May 2014*

*The Quarterly Magazine of the*

*Leatherhead & District Local History Society*

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

Registered Charity No. 802409  
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Telephone 01372 386348  
Email: [staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com](mailto:staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com).

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

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

L&DLHS WEBSITE: [www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk](http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk)

## 2014 Membership Subscriptions

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

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*Editorial*

Time passes very quickly together with the memory (apart from those personally affected) of the severe flooding of the early part of this year. As this is written it is well into April and most of the country has dried and springtime in all its glory is upon us.

We now have available to us the Archive Database and it is relatively simple to look up many references to local flooding. Currently I have on screen the 1964 Proceedings where there is a valuable article on 'The Leatherhead River' by AT Ruby. There are many references there to floods and the flood plain one going back to 1343: 'Even in 1343 the waterlogged meadows (*terra aquosa*) of Pachensham Manor are specified<sup>3</sup>'. It is very difficult to defend against the forces of nature.

Attention is drawn to the Archive Database as it is a very valuable addition to the Society and it hoped members make good use of it. We also hope that it attracts new members to the Society to enjoy the new facilities it offers.

*Martin Warwick*



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

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

***Next Edition Deadline - 5th July***

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# *Chairman's Report*

## Chairman's Report

It is with sadness that we record here that Pam Knowles the wife of Gordon Knowles our past President passed away on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March after a long battle with cancer. Her funeral was held on 26<sup>th</sup> March at Randalls Park Crematorium Leatherhead and our thoughts have been with Gordon and his family at this sad time. Pam was of great practical support to our History Society not least in the operation which she undertook with care a diligence of addressing, labelling and filling envelopes with our quarterly Newsletters and the annual Proceedings of the society for distribution at our Lecture meetings at the Leatherhead Institute.



Our 67<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March and was chaired by our President Alan Pooley who provided a brief introduction to his first full year as President of our History Society. He referred to the loss of the late Linda Heath who had been very active in support and on behalf of the history society up to and until her death on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013. Our President also made reference to the sad news of the death of Pam Knowles the wife of Gordon Knowles and the forthcoming funeral arrangements.

The minutes of the 66<sup>th</sup> AGM were approved, no outstanding matters arising.

The Chairman made a brief address under the presentation of the EC Reports for 2013 saying that his committee had diligently fulfilled their offices on behalf of the society and that it was disappointing that after repeated requests for volunteers to step forward to fill vacant posts on the EC this had not happened and that some members were juggling more than one role in order to bridge the gap - not a tenable situation and must be resolved. Another example given was the provision of refreshments at lecture meetings with the retirement of Maureen Powell and Roz Henegan who regularly provided tea and coffee - no one has stepped forward to take on this role after repeated requests.

Our President called for any nominations to fill vacant offices on the EC but there were none forthcoming and it was proposed and seconded to re-elect the current officers of the EC en bloc including our new Librarian Anne Fraser who had been co-opted on to the EC.

The President called on our Treasurer to make his report. The key points from the 2013 accounts are;

The Society is solvent. Overall, assets total £70,684.

Overall the Society's assets are up £1607 (£2581, 2012), due to unrealised equity gains. In 2013 Investment gain was entirely within the equity portfolio - fixed interest and deposit accounts lost money. It is believed that market trends for 2014, will be similar. Even the switch to Virgin Money whilst significantly better than CCLA deposit rate its rate has fallen in 2013.

On a % age basis, the riskiest investment (global equity) makes the biggest gain. Such gains cannot be locked in.

Book Sales remain the Society's biggest source of revenue but somewhat inevitably, publications are the biggest driver of cost.

As in the last few years, current account operations have shown a net loss (-£1366 cf -£932 for 2012)

As shown in the notes, this net loss is attributable to Museum operations. The Society operations per se are in profit year on year primarily because of membership fees and book sales, whereas the Museum has very little income but large expenses

The only change to 'attributed' funds is to the Museum Fabric fund down £1267 for essential maintenance.

Membership income is down significantly on last year due to swings in whether payments are made before or after the 31st December year end cut off. Reduced member numbers are reflected in the membership secretary's report.

Adrian Radford was thanked for his help preparing and examining these accounts.

Each year the committee prepares a budget for the coming year. In 2013, we tracked the budget fairly closely. Budgeting for 2014 is particularly difficult because we will be without Goff's input on Book Sales. Our Chairman is working incredibly hard to plug the gap but he does urgently need help.

Turning to subscriptions it must be apparent that the Society needs to catch up on its cash flow. To turn the net losses around would require at least a 50% increase in subscription, a sum that is not competitive and not affordable by many of our members. However some increase does need to be made and a £2 increase seems the most appropriate. When this was discussed by the EC at their last meeting several alternative propositions were discussed one particularly involving the Proceedings. It was therefore agreed at this meeting to defer any recommendation on subscriptions to a Special General Meeting in September before which a proposition will be circulated and explained in the August Newsletter and will be sent out with the Notice and agenda calling for an SGM.

The re-appointment of our independent examiner Adrian Radford was proposed and seconded and confirmed.

Finally under any other Business our President made a formal presentation on behalf of the History Society to Goff Powell our former Sales and Publications Sales Secretary for his many years of dedication and service to and on behalf of our society in a number of roles.

Goff was presented with a Certificate of Life Membership to the History Society.

Two further presentations were made on behalf of the History Society to Maureen Powell and Roz Henegan of garden vouchers as a small token and acknowledgement of their valuable support in providing teas and coffee at our lecture meetings for the last few years always with a cheerful and friendly smile.

In conclusion our President declared the AGM closed

*David Hartley*

# *Archaeology and Forthcoming Events*

## **Call for Volunteers: Excavation at Cocks Farm Villa, Abinger June 2014**



A sixth season of excavation will take place at Cocks Farm Roman Villa, Abinger over two weeks in June, 2014 (2nd - 6th and 9th - 13th). Work will concentrate in the field adjacent to the scheduled area looking for evidence of Roman activity around the villa. Volunteers from the Society will be given priority, and non-SyAS members will be charged £25 a week (or part thereof) to cover costs.

If you would like to register your interest please contact the volunteer coordinator, Nikki Cowlard, [nikkicowlard@btinternet.com](mailto:nikkicowlard@btinternet.com) or telephone 01372 745432.

## **Medieval Forum Study Day at Portsmouth - Saturday 21st June 2014**

The Medieval Forum group of the Surrey Archaeological Society has arranged a Study Visit to Portsmouth on Saturday 21st June 2014, the visit will tour the Mary Rose Museum with a behind the scenes talk and a walking tour of historic Portsmouth led by Alan King the Historic Collections Librarian of Portsmouth City Libraries, the cost to be confirmed will be around £20.00 per person, excluded travel the visit is open to all members of the SyAS. Numbers will be limited tickets will be issued on a first come basis, if you are interested contact Richard Savage to register your interest now by email to [medforum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:medforum@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone: 01483 768875.

## **Call for Volunteers: Church Meadow Ewell – Excavation July 2014**

Volunteers are being sought for the third season of Excavation in Church Meadow, Ewell.

This independent project is financially supported by Surrey Archaeological Society, Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society, the Council for British Archaeology and the local Committee of Surrey County Council.

The excavations will take place between 2nd - 20th July, Wednesdays to Sundays 9.30am

to 4.30pm.

If you would like to register your interest please contact the volunteer coordinator, Nikki Cowlard, [nikkicowlard@btinternet.com](mailto:nikkicowlard@btinternet.com) or telephone 01372 745432

### **Woking Palace - Call for Volunteers, dates 8th - 29th September 2014**

The 6th Season of excavations at Woking Palace is planned to take place from 8th September to 29th September with a Public Open day on Sunday 28th September. This season is part of the current three year 'Woking Palace and its Park', the project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, headed by the Friends of Woking Palace, with the valuable assistance of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU).

Full details of Public Participation will be released shortly on line at <http://www.woking-palace.org>

The programme will include 'Dig for a Day' & 'Finds for a Day' and the popular 3-day 'Basic Skills in Archaeology' courses, as well as opportunities for local schools, groups and work teams to take part. If you would like to take part you need to register your interest directly with Abby Guinness who is collating details of all volunteers, contact Abby Guinness at; [education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk) or telephone: 01483 518722.

### **Mole Valley Heritage Open Days - 11 to 14 September**

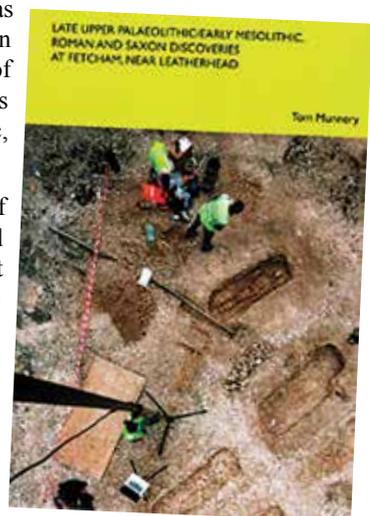
This years theme is "100 years ago" The History Society plan to mount display at the Leatherhead Museum on WW1 a full programme will appear in our August Newsletter, our history society will also be mounting a display on the theme of "Leatherhead & District 100 Years Ago" comprising old photographs of people and places in Ashted, Bookham, Fetcham & Leatherhead, all to be exhibited at the 'Leatherhead Institute' in Room 6 on both Saturday and Sunday 13th & 14th September from 10 am to 4 pm.

### **County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) New Occasional Paper**

The Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) has published an important new Occasional Paper No.4, on two excavations in Fetcham by under the direction of Tom Munnery of SCAU, at New Tree Furlong Hawks Hill and a Late Upper Palaeolithic, Early Mesolithic, Roman & Saxon at Fetcham Mill, Near Leatherhead.

This publication is priced at £12.00 exclusive of postage & Packing (£2.00). Copies can be ordered from David Hartley at Leatherhead Museum, contact mobile: 07947471165 or Directly from SCAU offices at Woking.

*David Hartley*



# *Letters & Publications Received*

Stephen Fortescue a founding member of the History Society and a principal mover in establishing a Local Museum in Leatherhead. He wrote to us on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to congratulate the editor and the history society on the excellence of the Newsletter, he also admired the new work carried out in the museum garden.

Having read the article in the February Newsletter on the Crescent Cinema in Church Street and the ACE Cinema in the High Street by Goff Powell, he has added some of his own recollections,

“The old ACE Cinema to my recollection was known as the bug house. It was unusual as the seats in the auditorium were in couples”.

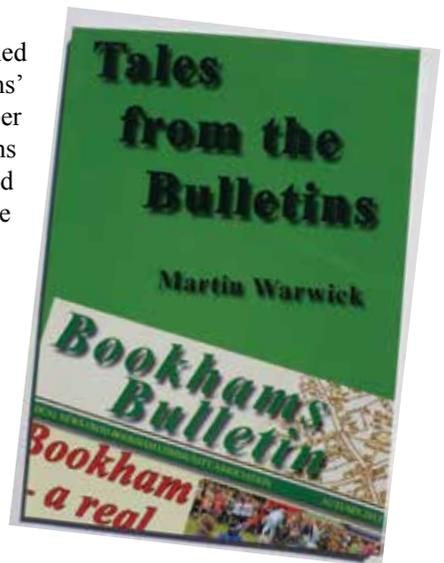
“As to the Crescent Cinema I recall the breakthrough when a section of wall was opened up (interior wall) by a battering ram. As well as Dame Sybil Thorndike being present, there was also Lord Goodman, Hazel Vincent Lovelace, Sir Lewis Casson and myself on stage and Grevitte Pike, Sir Lewis stood on the back of the stage with the heels of his shoes being partly over the floor boards – and a 6 foot drop behind him. I was on edge when making my speech hoping he would not step backwards and was at the ready to prevent a disastrous event. Luckily it did not happen and Dame Sybil duly set the battering ram in motion. This was the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1969, following I arranged a public walk to Clandon about 6 miles there and back which raised £4750 for the Theatre. The L.U.D.C (Leatherhead Urban District Council) provided £10,000 to help the theatre.”

## **New Publications**

### **Tales from the Bulletins**

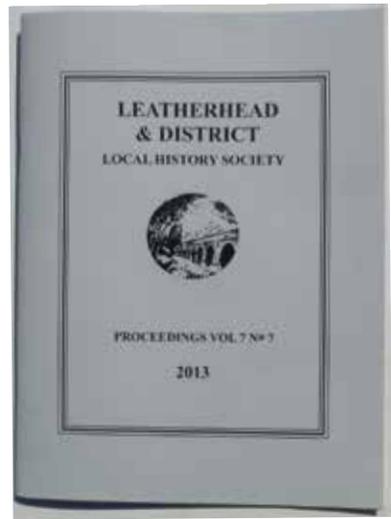
Bookham Community Association has published a new book ‘Tales from the Bookham Bulletins’ by Martin Warwick who has selected a number of interesting articles drawn from past editions of the Bulletin. It makes an interesting read and is modestly priced at £10.00 excluding postage & packing (£1.50).

Copies can be purchased at the L&DLHS lecture meetings or from the Sales Secretary at the Leatherhead museum or contact David Hartley directly on mobile: 07947471165.



## Proceedings

The annual Proceedings of the History were available for distribution to the members at the AGM but members unable to attend that meeting have a further chance to collect a copy at a future lecture meeting in the Dixon Hall at the Leatherhead Institute.



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## *Talks Following the AGM*

### Archival Information Website

Following the recent annual general meeting of the Society there were two interesting presentations. The first, given by Roy Mellick, the Society's records secretary was to report the launch of a new website containing a multitude of archival information which has been collated over the past three years. A brief overview of its scope was shown on the screen to members present. He explained that the online archives link can be accessed via the Society's website [www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk](http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk).

### Trivia in and around the Bookhams

There followed a talk by Chris Pullen from Bookham U3A entitled 'Trivia in and around the Bookhams'. Despite the title the talk was far from trivial : it revealed many interesting facts connected with Bookham and nearby places giving answers to what many locals perhaps knew little about concerning places, people and events. In nearly every case the narrative began with the name of a person associated with the village, some famous others less so. He sketched an outline of their career, the place where they lived and most importantly how they made their mark on the locality. As an example he cited the name Keswick, known to most by the road of that name. It turns out that this referred to William Keswick who made his fortune in the Far East and became the owner of the majestic manor Eastwick Park. He described the disappearance of the house after World War 2 and its



*William Keswick*

later history as a school and the site of Southey Hall.

More of a mystery was the name Frere. This was given to six almshouses situated off Crabtree Lane. It appears that this was associated with one, Sir Bartle Frere who in the mid-19th century became Governor of Bombay and who later was a hero in the African Zulu Wars. The association here has not been unravelled.



*Sir Bartle Frere*



There was an interesting story of Ada Lovelace, a mathematical genius who helped with the development of the earliest computer invented by William Babbage and after whom the computer language 'ADA' was named. She was the first person to write a 'computer program'. He had much to tell about the Lovelace home in Horsley and the architectural legacy of Horsley Towers and many unique buildings nearby.

Much is known about the former owner of Polesden Lacy, the widow Margaret Greville. However there was more to learn about her and her family, not to mention the colourful story of her life at the house. She was born in 1864, was married to Ronald Greville in 1891 (he died in 1908). Her father was William McEwan who made his fortune as a brewery owner. Her social life brought many celebrities to Bookham,

including royalty.

Many fascinating photos were shown to cover all aspects of this highly stimulating talk.

*John Wettren*

## *Leith Hill Place*

Gabrielle Gale, the speaker at our February meeting, trained at the Royal Academy of Music and was a founder member of 'The Fairer Sax', a group of saxophonists who toured the world. She gave this up, returning to England and joining the National Trust, first as a volunteer and then as Visitor Services Manager at Ham House. She was then presented with a tremendous challenge; to bring Leith Hill Place back to life.

Leith Hill Place was rebuilt for Richard Hull, who built the nearby Tower, about 1760. In 1847 Josiah Wedgwood III (grandson of the famous potter) who had married Charles Darwin's sister, bought the house. One of their grandchildren was the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, who spent much of his childhood here but, soon after inheriting the house, he donated it to the National Trust, preferring to live in Dorking. For nearly 40 years it was leased as a school dormitory, but since 2008 it had been unused and the subject of much criticism.



*Gabrielle Gale*



*Leith Hill Place*

Gabrielle listed the numerous problems she faced, as the only paid member of staff at the outset. Most of the surrounding land had been sold off, leaving only a small garden with no space for a car park. The house was a bare shell in a bad state of repair, with sitting tenants still in parts of it. As well as safety concerns, as a Grade 2\* listed building, every change

had to be agreed with both local and national authorities. There were no furnishings, nor endowment.

She set out to reassure local residents and enlist their help. DIY renovation was also helped by large groups (one from the Legal & General Assurance Society). Vaughan Williams was to be the 'spirit of the place': the top floor was restored as if in his childhood, with its views to the South Downs; assisted by a 'soundscape' of his nurse's voice and music. The emphasis was on informality: there was a room for just sitting or playing a piano (not one borrowed from the historic collection at Hatchlands, though!). Visitors were asked to write their comments on cards rather than in a book. Up to an hundred volunteers helped, as car park marshals, welcoming at the door, baking for the self-service cafe, guiding tours of the house or assisting at special events.

Gabrielle took the bold decision to re-open as much as possible of Leith Hill Place to the public in 2013. Despite it not being included in the National Trust handbook and being rather remote, 8,000 people visited it during the 14 week that it was open last year. There was still much to do: a member of the audience suggested that the reinstatement of the Heritage (vintage) Bus which used to tour National Trust properties in mid-Surrey would be of great benefit.

At our next meeting on Friday, 21 March at 7.30 for 8pm in the main hall of the Letherhead Institute (top end of the High Street)), Judith Witter will tell us how she researched her biography of Mary Christie, the benefactress of Bookham, and her family. This will follow our Annual General Meeting, open to members only.

*Derek Renn*

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## *News from the Friends of Leatherhead Museum*

The new season began on April 3rd this year and The Friends have worked hard finding a full rota of stewards to keep the museum open to the public. Last year we limped along in great difficulties toward the end of the year. Following a recruitment drive for volunteers we now have an almost-full rota. We do however need a few more people, for instance the first Saturday afternoon of each month and the fifth Friday and Saturday whenever it occurs. Please if you are reading this and feel that you could help this valuable and interesting work ring Debby Humphreys on 01372 378347.

By the time this goes to press we will have had our AGM. We are still desperately seeking a chairman and indeed committee members. Anyone who would like to join us please phone Julia Lack (secretary) on 01372 386050

We are experimenting this year with moving the Whit week Craft Afternoons to three consecutive Fridays in August. 'Family Fun Fridays' possibly. It is in the planning stage so watch for news and posters. Any craft ideas and helpers will be most welcome.

A small band of Friends and History Society members went to Mount Browne, the Surrey police headquarters on a beautiful Spring Friday. We had to jump through various security

hoops to get in but once we were registered and labelled we were warmly greeted by the Community Liaison Officer, Jane Stilliard.

The house itself is a rather large grand Victorian red brick mansion once owned by the Marquis of Sligo with amazing views over the countryside towards Artington and Godalming. It was purchased in 1947 for £17,500 by Surrey Police and eventually extended to act as its headquarters. The museum spread through the ground and first floor



corridors where working staff were passing to and fro from their offices. Luckily we were quite a small group but they had to keep saying ‘excuse me’ to move us aside.

It is always amazing to me to realise how young the Surrey Police force is at just over 150 years old. The boards logged the changes through time from being a Guildford borough force to amalgamating with other boroughs some absorbed from the Metropolitan Police and then eventually becoming the single division Surrey Police in 1993.

All the display boards were a mixture of text and photos printed with a uniform layout on a blue background colour. Each section featured a different aspect of the force.

There were individual boards describing notorious murders, remarkably few I imagine compared to a more urban division of the police. There was a history of police transport from a police officer sitting very upright in a horse drawn carriage through early cars and vans- think Z cars and The Sweeney - to the modern brightly coloured vehicles we see on our roads now. Photos of dogs were a key part of the exhibition - amongst other things Mount Browne is a dog training centre.

There were wonderful ornate truncheons from the early days painted with crowns and patterns and the letters VR. We saw dummies sporting the original uniforms from late 19th C with military style jacket, immaculate white trousers and sword by the side. Of the Women’s uniforms (women were accepted into the force in 1942) skirts went from lower calf to a rather daring over the knee length. The modern working uniform introduced in early 2000 being a total change with comfortable loose fitting trousers for all and a modern style top or sweater.

We were absorbed for an hour and a half not only by the exhibits but by the architectural features of this grand old house. On leaving Mount Browne we took a short car ride down a country lane to The Olde Ship Inn where we all had a splendid lunch at the ‘Captain’s table’ in this historic old pub.

*Julia Lack*

# *Mrs Ronnie: The Society Hostess Who Collected Kings*

by *Sian Evans (National Trust, 2013): ISBN 9781907892387*

## *Review*

Margaret Greville of Polesden Lacey, who styled herself ‘Mrs Ronnie’ will be familiar to many members as we have her Surrey home Polesden Lacey on our doorstep. When I saw this book in the New Books display in Leatherhead Library I hesitated before selecting it. Mrs Greville does not usually get a good press in the the biographies of contemporaries I have read. She was often seen as too enamoured of the Dictators and certainly of her own waspish opinions of others.

I was very glad I did read it and I recommend it to you. But please do read on.

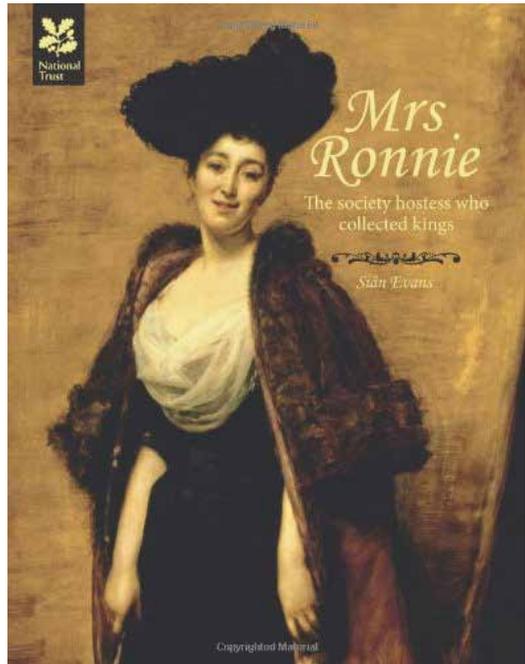
Sian Philips is a cultural historian, has written other books for the National Trust and has also worked for the V&A and the Design Museum. I suspect she

had the same reservations as I had about her subject. Not sparing Mrs Greville’s blushes Sian Philips writes without artifice and makes clear her admiration for this adroit Edinburgh girl who made the best of what she had. The editorial team have not stinted on the photos.

There are interesting stories about the staff at Polesden Lacy: you had to be good at your job of course, but they seem to have had a good time, some of them, as noted by guests, a rather splendid time indeed.

A taster: Shortly after WW1 Mrs Greville was travelling in France, and on a journey with Grace Vanderbilt, on a minor road the back axle of their car broke, the chauffeur lost control and the car ended up in a ditch, knocking him unconscious. “Heavens, what are we to do?” wailed Grace Vanderbilt. Mrs G suggested that they should clamber out and flag down the first car that came along, to take the chauffeur to hospital. “But suppose we were to be taken for two cocottes?” implored Mrs V, who like her fellow passenger was a stout party of some years and favoured sensible footwear. Picking a rogue nettle out of her rubies, Mrs G observed “I think my dear we may take that risk”.

It’s all here - humble beginnings, riches, romance, glamour, power, royalty, beautiful objects, sadness: when may we expect the mini-series, I wonder?



*Frank Haslam*

# *‘Two Hundred Years of Surrey County History’*

*LECTURE by Julian Pooley from the Surrey History Centre, Woking*

A full audience of members and many guests were addressed by our visiting lecturer who first explained the reasons for his interest in this topic. Since his student days he was absorbed in history and in particular the study of old texts as well as letters which he managed to acquire and in many cases to transcribe. He found a copy of “The Victorian History of the County of Surrey”, dated 1911, of which he wrote a critique. Inevitably his attention was drawn to the two authors who were to be the main subject of his talk. Owen Manning, born in 1721 and William Bray born in 1736. They both grew up in Surrey and became the county’s leading historians.

Manning was the rector at Godalming, an Anglo-Saxon scholar with an avid interest in local history. Without neglecting his pastoral duties he found that a study of parish records yielded much of interest. He made a study of the Domesday records for Surrey of which he undertook to write a facsimile. This became the first episode of what was to become a history of the county.

He travelled widely and met countless landowners and residents. Over thirty years he collected data on all aspects of Surrey’s history. At one stage he circulated a ‘round robin’ type questionnaire. This phase was completed by 1789. His death came in 1801, and it fell to William Bray to attend to its publication. He was the ideal person. Bray lived in Shere and was a county lawyer with a practice in London. He had a taste for travel and research. His circle included antiquarians and academics. He was a member of The Antiquarian Society and eventually became a Fellow. He had all the talents needed to bring Manning’s work to fruition.

The final publication was to run to three volumes, the first appearing in 1804. The work was completed in 1814. During this time he visited every parish in Surrey, making copious notes. His research extended to libraries and other archive sources such as Lambeth Palace. He visited Loseley House and Sutton Place, and he corresponded with all those who he felt could provide useful historical information. He discovered John Evelyn’s diary, and developed a keen interest in archaeology. His publisher was John Nichols: however, a fire at the latter’s premises was a great setback since much valuable material was lost as a result.

Volumes II and III followed in 1809 and 1814. It had taken 13 years to complete. Volume I dealt with the Domesday records and the history of Surrey churches. Volume II took the form of a historical dictionary which was continued in Volume III. The latter included references to the national census, military history and that of local gaols. Railways even got a mention.

Bray was a tireless worker and was active nearly up until the time of his death in 1831. He was 95. Another of his achievements was the transcription of the Loseley manuscripts. He also helped the writers of other county histories.

The talk concluded with many interesting questions from the audience, ending with a well-deserved round of applause.

*John Wetttern*

## *Now you see it – Now you don't Leatherhead Clock Tower*



*North Street Leatherhead c: 1950*



*North Street Leatherhead c: 1953*

The Clock Tower was originally built to house the towns fire engine in 1859 at a cost of £129.4s.2 1/2d. The clock itself was added a year later. It was given to the town by the Congregational Church that once stood in North Street, because they could not afford to pay the tax imposed on public clocks. The horses used to draw the fire engine were stabled in Bridge Street. The same horses were also used to pull the local dustcart.

In Victorian times the Clock Tower became a prominent place for itinerant showman and 'soap box speakers', who could often be heard giving the views on anarchy and atheism. The Town Band often entertained the townsfolk there on Saturdays.

Then came the First World War and alas, in 1917 the Town Clock took on a different mantle. It became a War Shrine. Leatherhead's high casualty rate led to an early call for the fallen to be commemorated by a roll of honour, on the wall of the building. On the 21st March 1917 the Bishop of Winchester dedicated it. The shrine was a triptych of fumed oak carved by C. E. Grantham from a design submitted by the donors, the women of Leatherhead. It is now in the Chapel of Remembrance, Leatherhead Parish Church.

In 1926 the town acquired its first motor fire engine and a new Fire Station was built in Belmont Road close to the banks of the River Mole. This move rendered the Clock Tower redundant as far as its intended role was concerned, so it went 'down market' and became a public convenience.

On the North wall of the building there was a drinking fountain that had a metal cup attached by a chain. As children, most youngsters at the time had strict instructions from their Mothers,



*Clock tower c: 1950*

who else, not to drink from the cup, but if we really needed a drink we must use our cupped hands. This town landmark was demolished in 1952 at a cost of £77.

It was deemed to be in the way of road traffic. Picture the same congested scene today with the parked cars and the buses trying to carry out their business. Gone but not forgotten, which would you prefer?

For a more detail history of The Clock Tower I suggest you read 'Over the Bridge the Southern Side' by Brian Hennegan and Goff Powell Published by the L&DLHS in 2011 Price £9.00 from Leatherhead Museum and Barton's Bookshop.

*Goff Powell*

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## ***History Talks for Other Organisations***

For many years members of our Society have made available talks on a host of subjects which they give to local groups, such as WIs, Round Table, Rotary and so forth. A list of these has been collated by the Programme Committee and is republished from time to time. This list can now be viewed on our website or by contacting the undermentioned.

A new question has arisen: are there any of our members who feel that they could offer a talk and thus be added to the list? We would like to offer some new topics and also to give more people the chance to help in promoting the Society by offering one or more lectures to other local bodies.

Anyone who would like to have more information about what this entails can contact me, John Wettern. Email address [johnwettern@ntlworld.com](mailto:johnwettern@ntlworld.com), or phone 01372 459277.

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## ***The Archive Database***

### ***Do You Realise What We've Got?***

I'm not sure how many members appreciate what is now becoming available. Google provides a search engine for general computer use to answer almost any question - just enter any relevant word or phrase and a list of sources appears to answer the query. Now within the Society we have a similar facility for searching information that is held within our own society - documents, Proceedings, Newsletters, collections and photos. It is called the Archive Database.

Perhaps an article is known to have appeared sometime in the past or perhaps there is an uncertainty whether a topic has ever been explored. You may just wish to find out about a place, object or person. What is now being made available is a ready way to access any of the information held by the Society. Just enter a few relevant words and there it is on the computer screen.

Of course this has not happened without a lot of effort and hard work. We really have to thank Roy Mellick for this who has spent endless hours assembling information and



# Online Archive Project

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

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## Archive Project

### Welcome to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society's Online Archive Project

The Project has been set up to make the extensive records, held by the Society, available in digital format in order to make them more accessible to Society Members. The images and documents are provided for research and educational purposes and in many cases will be protected by copyright, e.g. Frith

On this site:

- [List of books](#) held by the Society in the Members Library at the Leatherhead Institute Library
- [Searchable indexes](#) to the extensive records held by the Society since 1946.
- [Contact us](#) - with your local history enquiries or stories, uploading picture & document files where appropriate.

In addition Members can view -

- Digitised records, including back copies of our [Proceedings](#) and [Newsletters](#).

(Note - A request to login will appear the first time an image/document Accession No. e.g. [BP0023/00](#) is selected on an index page - only Accession Numbers coloured blue/underlined have a digital record assigned. Scanned records will be added to this website as they become available).

**To apply to join the Society or to or to learn more about it  
please visit the Leatherhead & District Local History Society's website  
<http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk/>**

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#### *The opening screen of the Archive Database*

then getting it into computer form. Years of writings, documents, old photographs and postcards have been photographed and turned into computer format – it is only the very latest information that is already in that format. Of course the work is not yet fully complete and much has still to be done but the Archive database is already in a form which is highly useful and usable. It is an ongoing project especially as more and more becomes accessible.

How is it accessed? Only the minimal knowledge of computing is required. Go to the History Society website ([www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk](http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk)) and in the choices down the left hand side is 'On line Archives'. One click and the opening window appears.

The facility choice is - Home News Search Library Records Contact Us

The best way of finding out how it operates is to bravely try it yourself. There is always the 'Back Arrow' at the top of the browser window to get back to where you were before.

Let's illustrate how it works. First we will look up 'Barnes Wallis'

Click on the first entry and up comes the 'Collection of Postcards' by Barry Feltham. You could just go down looking through each page. Instead use the 'Find' facility (Cntrl



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 It's free and easy. Do it over!      Know when a web page changes  
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Search Results From This Site  
 Found 88 items, now showing 1 - 12      sorted by relevance    [sort by date](#)  
[index](#)    [search logs](#)    [advanced search](#)    [sitemap](#)

<< Prev | **Next** >>               

1. <http://www.kthsearchive.co.uk/wcpdb/100911.pdf>  
 Lj - 11: Wv Rp p j5 - 4 . 5h 1 . . S # 1 a 8M > - . S E F T all nat . . . ST 8M ( v e - 85ha . . M a te r i o f . . S \* \* \* red . h p \* \* \* 108k . . . 2010-03-08 10:42:47 GMT

2. [LJLCHS Archive - Leatherhead X](#)  
 Gina CAMPBELL & family 3 press items from ... Sundry documents and photos re Donald Campbell 1925-1987 LX10610090 Charlie ... 0890 Daughter of Donald Campbell, account of car crash. Daily  
 2010-04-21 10:10:29 GMT

3. [LJLCHS Proceedings Vol 7 No 6 2012](#)  
 Society led walks around the district and gave talks to organisations during the year. ... Accounts for the year 2011 were adopted ... Committee members elected to serve until the  
 2010-04-24-28:41:49 GMT

4. [LJLCHS 2010 February](#)  
 Aircraft Production in WWII; Donald Campbell lived in Pipers Ford, now Campbell Court, and the driving wheel of ... the area of what is now Campbell Court but in 1981 was known  
 2010-04-27 10:20:29 GMT

5. <http://www.kthsearchive.co.uk/wcpdb/LJLCHS%20Newletter%201990%20February.pdf>  
 Miss Gina Campbell would present a "Blue ... steeringwheel from the late Donald Campbell's record-breaking "Blitzen", by his daughter Gina Campbell. A father-german seal  
 2010-01-21 11:42:49 GMT

6. <http://www.kthsearchive.co.uk/wcpdb/LJLCHS%20Newletter%201985%20April.pdf>  
 Campbell, a goldsmith, and presumably a ... William lost to mortgage to Campbell what remained of his rights ... mortgage and £880 T1s. led to Campbell to discharge his bond etc: The  
 2010-02-23 10:51:41 GMT

7. <http://www.kthsearchive.co.uk/wcpdb/LJLCHS%20Newletter%201985%20April.pdf>  
 Fitcham WEA, and keenly interested in local history, and the other, the steering wheel of Donald Campbell's record-breaking ... his daughter Gina Campbell. The wheel, splendidly  
 2010-02-23 10:51:41 GMT

8. <http://www.kthsearchive.co.uk/wcpdb/LJLCHS%20Newletter%201997%20May.pdf>  
 Brighton" by Cynthia Campbell This lecture, named after the Road, James ... authority on a subject of general interest. Cynthia Campbell was formerly Head of Public Services at the  
 2010-05-03 10:19:49 GMT

*Archive Database Result screen of Search for 'Campbell'  
 Item 7 is chosen shhwing a 1985 entry*



*Photograph taken from the 1988 Procedures labelled 'FISHING BELOW LEATHERHEAD BRIDGE c. 1890'*



*One of the photos on the database (St Nicolas, Bookham)*

The Database offers a fine selection of photographs. Currently the Collection of Barry Feltham postcards which have a textual commentary are online and also Goff's collection. The photographs are overprinted lightly so that the rights on them is restricted as they have a good value (as are the Frith Collection). Some examples are shown.

The opportunities with the Archive database are endless. We are indeed extremely fortunate to have it available and can look forward to more and more to be loaded on to it so that all information held by the Society is available online. Loading the data is very time consuming. (Take just one copy of an old Newsletter. Each of the 20 /24 pages has to be passed through a scanner and afterwards transcribed from the picture form into usable text through a process called OCR). To make the system useful this has already been done for many documents. For example all the historic documents held by Stephen Fortescue have already been scanned and are available online. The success of the task can be judged by using the system and finding how rewarding this is. Look through the many photographs online collected by people such as Goff Powell or Barry Feltham.

The Archive also offers a very valuable facility to the Society. A password is needed to make use of the facility which is only available to members. Perhaps many more local people will be willing to join the Society to gain access to the information or even just the local postcards and scenes. The Society badly needs to increase in size.

Once again thank you to Roy Mellick and others who have assisted him to make this all possible.

*Martin Warwick*

Friends of the Leatherhead Museum Secretary (Chairman - Vacant)

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:

Fred Meynen (Trustee), 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

## Monthly Lectures

The monthly lectures recommence in September after the Summer break. They are then held on the third Friday of each month. Location: The Letherhead Institute. Time : 8.00 p.m. Coffee served from 7.30pm. Admission : £2. Non-members are welcome.

## Coffee morning at Letherhead Institute Library

Coffee morning at Letherhead Institute Library - pop in at any time 10.00am to 12.30pm on **Wednesday 4th June**.

Open to members and non-members to see what is available on the LDLHS bookshelves and have a peek into the locked cupboards! I will be showcasing a couple of the books myself. I am hoping that there will be the chance to chat informally with some of the members about their research. There is a vending machine for tea and coffee at 50 pence and I will be providing biscuits. Gwen will be assisting.

Anne Fraser (Librarian)