

# *The Newsletter*



*Leatherhead Museum*

*November 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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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*

It seems a familiar tale -asking for more help. This quarter we really would have been pleased to receive more articles for the Newsletter. On the whole it is only a small number of members who are contributing to it with articles and one or two new ones would have been very welcome.

This is also reflected in the Society's Proceedings. Normally a yearly publication, this year it unlikely to be produced. To be a recognized society it needs serious studies to be undertaken and recorded. This fact has this year been submerged under discussions on whether it should be only produced digitally and not in its usual printed form. The discussion is meaningless if the real problem is that we are struggling for any substantial content at all.

Meanwhile there are several history groups in other local organisations. The U3As have very healthy groups on Family History, Local History, Military History amongst others. The History Society badly needs more support. After many requests there still remain several unfilled offices . The Committee needs new faces especially as the years pass and no one gets younger. As you read this please consider whether you yourself could fill one of the posts or be even more of a live contributor to the Society.



*Martin Warwick*

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

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

***Next Edition Deadline - 3rd January 2015***

### *Index to Articles*

Archaeology	3	LDLHS Website	15
Chairman's Report	2	Letter to Editor	16
Christmas Quiz	16	Postcard Collecting	6
Editorial	1	Publications	14
Friends of Museum	13	September Lecture	5
Good Old Days	10		

# *Chairman's Report*

Welcome to this November's Newsletter.

Increasingly year on year we appear to be losing members from the executive committee without the where withal to find a suitable candidate to fill the vacancy left behind. Recently I had to accept the resignation of Barry Cox the Proceedings Editor on the ground that he wished to retire due to health issues - he reminded me that he had been in post as the editor since 2006 when he dutifully took on the role from the late Jack Stuttard.



My executive committee on behalf of the history society would like to take this opportunity to thank Barry for his contribution and commitment as editor in maintaining the high standards of the Proceedings.

One of the principal problems the Proceedings Editor has had to wrestle with over the years is the fall off in articles of sufficient length and quality from one year to the next. The pool of authors used to writing paper for publication appears to be drying up.

So what is to happen now? The executive committee are committed to maintaining the editorial standards that Barry has built up over the years. Firstly we need to find a new editor with a keen skill-set to bring new ideas and a fresh approach to make this editorial role their own and who will engage with new and existing authors and engender a resurgence and enthusiasm for new research topics on all aspects of local history and archaeology to enable a new editorial remit to accept papers on local history from outside the tight confines of the parish and work to create a new pool of authors.

The Proceedings for 2014 were due to be published and distributed at the February meeting in 2015 but without a Proceedings Editor in place and insufficient papers for publication it is probable that we will have to postpone publication to February 2016 when we would hope to publish a joint publication of the Proceedings for 2014-2015.

Moving on I find it disappointing to have to record here that at the Special General Meeting (SGM) on 19th September which was convened following the AGM in March this year to discuss the History Society's Membership Subscription for January 2015 was not so well attended - out of the total membership only 34 members were recorded.

The President Alan Pooley chaired the SGM with David Lokkerbol, Hon Treasurer and David Hartley, Chairman of the EC in attendance. The Notice and the Agenda and the two resolutions for the SGM had been circulated in advance with the August Newsletter to all members and the Hon Treasurer had also contributed an article in the August Newsletter setting out the reason and objective for the two resolutions.

Following a record of the apologies for absence the President addressed the purpose of the meeting reconfirming the resolutions on the paper and asked the membership for comments. Derek Renn, Peter Tarplee and Brian Hennegan and one other member raised questions from the floor which were responded to by David Lokkerbol or David Hartley.

The President then called for a vote on each of the two resolutions and both resolutions were carried. Finally a third resolution was proposed, seconded and carried that the subscriptions will remain at 2014 level of £18.00 for the forthcoming year 2015.

Those members wishing to receive the Proceedings as a paper copy will pay the additional sum of £3.00 together with their Subscription due on 1st January 2015.

Under the heading of any other Business – Sandy one of the blind members asked the question about the possibility of providing an audio reading of the Proceedings which engendered various constructive comments from the floor about the possibilities of text to voice and it was stated that the EC would look into the possibilities for both the Proceedings and the Newsletter.

The President Alan Pooley declared the SGM closed.

This meeting was followed on time by a talk given by the Past President Gordon Knowles with the title of ‘Surrey Roads – from Turnpike to Motorways’ at which 34 members and 8 guests were present, a review will appear elsewhere in this Newsletter.

*David Hartley*

### *Notice*

The executive Committee of the L&DLHS would like to invite all candidates with suitable credentials and publishing skill set to apply for the honorary position of Editor of the Proceedings.

The executive committee would also like to invite authors and prospective authors on behalf of the editor of the Proceedings to submit papers or articles on the subjects of Local history, Industrial history and Archaeology for consideration for publishing in the Proceedings for 2014 – 2015.

All applications and contributions should be addressed to The Chairman of the Executive Committee at the registered office of the L&DLHS Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead KT22 8DP.

All applications and contributions will be acknowledged.

## *Archaeology*

### **Roman Mosaic Workshops**

Interested in the craft of making Roman Mosaics I received an interesting email from Roman Mosaic Workshop offering courses and kits introducing both adults and children to the craft of mosaic work in the Roman way. They have interesting website worth a visit - contact: [www.romanmosaicworkshop.co.uk](http://www.romanmosaicworkshop.co.uk) or phone 07570 580184 - attention is drawn to the Terms and Conditions.

Also received this month was the Newsletter No.6 from the Kent Archaeological Field School edited by Paul Wilkinson [www.kafs.co.uk](http://www.kafs.co.uk). The illustrated Newsletter contained a good range of interesting subjects including this extract;

### **OPLONTIS - The Villas 'A' and 'B'**

The Oplontis Project began in 2006 with the study of the site known as Oplontis situated at Torre Annunziata, Italy. The work is sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Ancient Italy at the University of Texas in Austin. Its two directors are John R Clarke and Michael L Thomas. In addition the Kent Archaeological Field School, Faversham, Kent UK under its director Paul Wilkinson has been involved in fieldwork at both villa sites since 2008.

The aims of the project are to enable an understanding of the two buildings, one of which is Villa 'A', the other Villa 'B' to be enhanced through a comprehensive study of the buildings, the fabric, the artefacts and human remains, their location, and their function including a 3D model with interactive database which will enable scholars to write a series of comprehensive volumes which will be published by the Humanities eBook series of the American Council of Learned Societies. The first is scheduled to appear in 2014.

Villa 'A' is now recognised as one of the most sumptuous and extravagant Roman villas overlooking the Bay of Naples. It is thought by many that the villa was the property of Poppaea Sabina the Younger who was born in Pompeii in AD30 and married Nero in AD62. The evidence is somewhat circumstantial and consists of graffiti found on an amphora which said 'secundo poppaea' which in translation means 'to the second [slave or freedman] of Poppaea'.

### **Celebrating Sutton Hoo 75 years on**

A new display of the British Museum's unparalleled Early Medieval collections (from AD 300-1100) including the famous Sutton Hoo treasure will open in the new Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock Gallery (Room 41) on 27th March. Marking 75 years since the discovery of Sutton Hoo, finds from the ship burial in Suffolk, one of the most spectacular and important discoveries in British archaeology will form the centrepiece of the new display.

A meeting of the Medieval Studies Forum

Saturday 6th December at 10.30am – 4.00pm in the Education Centre at Guildford Cathedral.

A Medieval Studies Forum meeting of the Medieval Studies Forum, a group of the Surrey Archaeology society will be held at the Education Centre at Guildford Cathedral. If you would like to join the group's Forum you should email [medforum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:medforum@hotmail.co.uk) for details and an application form.

The speakers are John Arnold, Professor of Medieval History at Birkbeck and Diane Watt, Professor of English Literature who specialises in Medieval Literature and has a particular interest in anchorites. They will be dealing with the issues of 'Belief and Unbelief in the Middle Ages'.

*David Hartley*

## *September Lecture - Surrey Roads*

Gordon Knowles, our immediate Past President has been interested in industrial history for many years, especially transport. He has been Chairman of the Surrey Industrial History Group and at our September meeting gave us a foretaste of his forthcoming book 'Surrey Roads – from Turnpike to Motorway'.

Packhorse trails, the first roads rather than footpaths, made a visible impact on the natural landscape. Roman roads were very well built; the major one in our area was that from London to Chichester via Ewell and Dorking, running north-south rather than east-west. When a road fell into disrepair, local landowners became responsible. In 1386, Chertsey abbey was fined for seizing the goods of a tenant who had drowned in a pothole! Vehicle improvements in the 17th century made it possible to move heavy goods like food, timber and iron cannon to London, except in winter when the roads became impassable. Samuel Pepys lost his way twice near Cobham on his way to Portsmouth.



*Gordon Knowles*

The solution was the creation of turnpike trusts, charging tolls spent on repairing a road, often only 20-30 miles [there were three trusts along the Portsmouth road]. The name 'turnpike' came from the pole, topped with military pikes, which formed the mobile barrier across the road. The earliest trust in Surrey (1696) controlled the road south of Reigate, the latest one (1836) was a link from Godalming to Dunsfold. The roads from Leatherhead to Dorking, Epsom and Guildford were each 'turnpiked' in 1755-58. The 'turnpike mania' lasted from 1751-72, followed by those for canals and railways, competitors to the roads.

Twenty seven toll collectors' cottages survive in Surrey, all as private houses. Most early signposts have gone, but many milestones have survived road-widening and collisions (the 'White Lady' at Sandown Park, Esher, still directs people to the Duke of Newcastle's Claremont House). A General Highways Act of 1835 began the take-over of major roads by central authority, culminating in the creation of Surrey County Council in 1889. The 'Macadam' system was to cover the road surface with loose stones, to be broken up by traffic: Gordon showed a picture of a notice requesting drivers to go slowly, so that crops were not dust-covered. In 1905, Tarmacadam was introduced: Dorking had its own tar-works.

Both the RAC and the AA originated in the county, in response to the Chief Constable (Capt.Sant)'s campaign against 'furious driving'. Ripley was notorious for police speed traps. John Henry Knight was prosecuted for driving a very early British car at 10mph in Farnham, and the annual 'Emancipation Run' to Brighton celebrates the repeal of the 1865 Act which required a man carrying a red flag to walk in front of any mechanically-propelled

vehicle to warn cyclists and horse riders of its approach.

A number of town by-passes were built, often against local wishes, to cope with increasing traffic and incidentally to reduce unemployment after the First World War, creating unfocussed 'ribbon development'. Leatherhead's by-pass (Young Street) was built during WW2 by units of the Canadian army. The 1944 Abercrombie Plan envisaged several ring roads around London, one of which became the M25, completed in 1985. The last Surrey bottleneck was removed in 2011 by driving a tunnel next to the Devil's Punchbowl on the A3 at Hindhead.

In the discussion following Gordon's talk, an overgrown dual carriageway in Nonsuch Park was mentioned: was Surrey the first place in England to have concrete-based roads? The coach route to Guildford up the steep Hawk's Hill was dry all the year round, unlike the spring-line floodable Lower Road.

*Derek Renn*

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## ***POSTCARD COLLECTING LEATHERHEAD –YOUR HAVING A LAUGH!***

Every hobby and interest has a vocabulary of commonly used words and phrases. Below is a list of some of the terms and their meaning for Postcard Collecting.

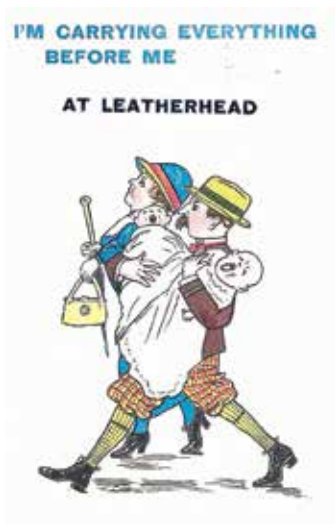
**Victorian Postcards** - Dating from the era of Queen Victoria who reigned from 1837 until 1901 - It was during Victoria's reign that Britain's penny post service was introduced (in 1840) and in 1870 the first postcard was made available, a pre-printed correspondence card with a half penny universal delivery charge. The availability of this fixed cost and reliable postal service resulted in a wide and rapid public acceptance of the medium.

**Court Cards** - Between 1894 and 1899 British postcards were 'court sized'. British postal authorities limited by law the size of privately published postcards to be of similar size to those that they published (and smaller than the cards published by other European nations). Court sized cards were four and half inches by three and half. The origin of the phrase 'Court Size' remains something of a mystery.

**Golden Age** - The era in which postcards were at their peak of popularity. Generally considered to begin in 1902 when the introduction of the divided back and improved printing technologies allowed publishers to produce cards with images of a larger size and quality. The Golden Age continued through to the start of the First World War in 1914.

**Divided back** - The earliest postcards carried the recipients address and postage stamp on one side, the message was written on the 'picture' side. Such cards are known as undivided back postcards. In 1902 Great Britain introduced the divided back, a picture on one side and a divided space on the other side for both the recipients' address and sender's message. The transition from undivided to divided back took many years as postal authorities around the world adopted similar standards.





**Edwardian** - Postcards dating from the era of King Edward VII who reigned from 1902 until his death in 1910. Often referred to as the golden age of postcards there were few telephones, no radio and so on. Postcards were the best, the quickest, the cheapest method of communicating with family and friends. It was in this era that postcard collecting was firmly established. Postcards covered every subject of interest. Publishers competed fiercely and the cards of this era thoroughly document their time.

**Seaside Comic Postcards** - Designed to be sent home by the British seaside holidaymaker always with a comic theme, often risqué and sometimes vulgar. English seaside comic postcards first appeared in the early 1900's illustrated by artists such as Tom Browne. Later

the cards became saucier and, with an emphasis on sexually suggestive double meaning and innuendo, the artist Donald McGill achieved recognition as the master of this style. In the 1930's and 40's the saucy postcard was at its peak with many millions being sent each year. The tide turned in the 1950's when the government decided that Britain's moral fibre was threatened. McGill was prosecuted under the 1857 Obscene Publications Act. The industry suffered as a result with retailers reluctant to stock the cards and, while the more open minded society of the 60's saw a brief revival, the saucy seaside postcard went into decline. Happily, today the cards are seen as being great fun and very much 'of their time' and are avidly collected.

**Topographical** - Sometimes shortened to topographic or topo. A postcard displaying a scene of the world as our predecessors knew it. Views of markets, of street scenes, people at work or at worship and of buildings. Your house, your road or town as it was some time ago - Topo postcards are an excellent social history resource. Genealogists collect such cards to document locations associated with their family history. Many collect the history of the town they live in or have family links to. Some collect features of interest such as Piers, Cinemas, Theatres, Harbours, pubs and so on. The list is as endless as your subject of interest.

**Real Photo** - A photographic print developed and printed directly onto a piece of card with a postcard back. The finest were produced by local photographers in very small quantities, sometimes singly, sometimes with a small number of copies. Larger companies also produced real photo postcards in some volume. The difference between real photo postcards and printed photo postcards is swiftly apparent under magnification.

**Chromo Litho** - Chromolithography is a printing method. It was the first method capable of producing multi-colour prints and prevailed on postcards published in the late 18 and early 1900's. Based on lithography it used print blocks (originally stone slabs) onto which an image was drawn using an oil based medium. There was one block (or stone) for each colour. A chemical process etched away the oil free parts of the block leaving the image part for the given colour proud of the surface. The card would be printed in multiple impressions, each block adding another colour layer.

**Advertising Postcards** - In the late 1800's and early 1900's postcards were the major means of low cost everyday communication. Advertisers took note of this trend and many fine advertising postcards were produced. These postcards were often distributed with a product to encourage further purchases to complete a 'set'. Theatres would leave advertising postcards on the seats promoting future performances. Some companies elicited trade orders via a postcard mailing, and so on. Today these cards are avidly collected for their striking design, their social history interest and, occasionally, simply for the wild claims made by manufacturers of the era.

**Art Deco Postcards** - An art and design style that emerged in the mid-1910's, reached its peak in the mid 1920's and continued into the early 1930's. Characterised by angular shapes and bold colours it was a considerable change from the swirling curves and softness of the preceding Art Nouveau era. Many wonderful artist postcards were produced in this era featuring the glamour and fashion of the time.

**Art Nouveau Postcards** - An art and decorative design style fashionable between 1890 and 1910, characterised by the organic curves of nature and often depicting flowers, leaves or

tendrils and the flowing hair of a young woman. Art Nouveau artist postcards are among the most sought after of cards.

**Embroidered** - Postcards with an embroidered panel forming the image. Embroidered postcards from World War One are generally known as “WW1 Silks”. They were mostly produced by French and Belgian women refugees who worked in their homes and refugee camps, and then sent the finished strips to factories for cutting and mounting on postcards. Because of their beauty and uniqueness, the WW1 Silks were wildly popular with British and American servicemen on duty in France. This is why the themes for most of the silks produced are patriotic and feature British, French and American flags, symbols and greetings.

**Hold to light** - A novelty postcard with die cut or transparent areas designed to allow the transmission of light through parts of the image to create a ‘lit up’ effect when the card is held to a light source. Typical subjects include night scenes with the windows of buildings that light up, though there are also many more elaborate styles.

**Mechanical** - A novelty postcard with some moving parts. There are numerous types, cards with levers or tabs to change part of the displayed image. Cards with thumbwheels which when rotated update the display of a calendar or clock, Gramophone record postcards and Postcards with squeakers.

**Novelty** - Postcards that vary from the norm. Postcards made from an unusual material such as Celluloid, leather or aluminium, postcards with mechanical features, postcards with hair, feathers, flowers, glass eyes or other materials attached and postcards with pullout strips of images.

**Pullout** - A style of novelty postcard. The postcard has an attached pouch containing a concertina strip of pull out images. Open the container to extend the strip of miniature images. The better cards present the pouch as an integral part of the design; as postmen’s sacks, suitcases or motorcar luggage, as seaside creatures, as WW1 knapsacks, and so on. The pull out images are usually local views but examples featuring military imagery, cartoons, and childhood images are occasionally to be found.

**Squeakers** - Postcards that have an embedded mechanical device that ‘squeaks’ when the card is pressed. Typically these cards depict animals.

**Vignette** -A postcard image in which the colour or tone fades gradually to blend into the (invariably white) background of the card. Vignettes were a common feature of early undivided back postcards on which white space had to be left for the sender’s message on the picture side of the card.

**Write Away** - A postcard on which the first few words of the senders message has been included in the design. Very often the illustration is of a comic nature and depicts the write away phrase. Phrases such as; ‘I shall be under the clock...’, ‘I really must stop...’, ‘I must remember...’ and so on. Write away cards were very popular in the first few years of the 1900’s with those using the illustrations by Lance Thackeray being good examples.

If you are interested in collecting postcards - Why not join the Surrey Postcard Club – Meetings are held at The Friends Meeting House, Ward Street, Guildford GU1 4LH every Third Wednesday of each month 7.30 pm – Several dealers and Guest Speaker in attendance.

Or visit the Surrey Postcard Club 21st Annual Fair to be held at St Peter’s School, Horseshoe Lane East, Merrow, Guildford GU12TN off the A246 - Saturday November 22nd – 10.00am to 4.00 pm. Refreshments available.

*Goff Powell with thanks to various postcard collecting websites*

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## ***The Good Old Days?***

Some old photographs recently came to light of the beginnings of The Garstons, Great Bookham (off Lower Road) now a road of mainly bungalows. The land was part of Sole Farm, a name that still remains with Sole Farm Avenue and Sole Farm Road. By 1957 part of the land had been sold to a developer, Davis Estates who by the second half of that year had built five bungalows initially as ‘show houses’. The picture shows a board offering them for sale at £3,435 - if you wanted a garage as well it was another £400. In 1957 far



from everybody had a car and a garage was not a necessity but if you had a car you needed a garage as cars left out rusted badly in those days. New cars were still in very short supply with the after effects of the war. Often the car people proudly owned would have been a 1937 or 1938 model such as an Austin 7/8, Ford Popular or Morris 8.

£3,435 doesn’t sound a lot nowadays - that for a three bedroom bungalow! The current going price is something like 150 times as much! What can you buy for £3,000 nowadays?

It wouldn’t nearly buy a hut at a seaside resort.



*Ducks left over from the old Sole Farm as the estate was being built*

It all illustrates how much money has lost its value. Back in 1957 that amount was a great deal of money and needed a healthy mortgage perhaps paying well over £200 a year. Today that’s only a couple of weeks’ shopping bills at the supermarket. What is so easy to forget is that many people lived comfortably on a wage of £200 a year (£4 per week)

- they weren't the rich but just everyday wage earners. Many rented their house for perhaps 7s 6d a month (37½p), a far cry from the £1,000 to £2,000 per month of today.

1957 sounds a long time after WWII but it was still a time of austerity. It was only a few years after food rationing had eventually ended and you no longer needed your coupon books. National Service was still compulsory and all school leavers still had to do two



1957 £5 note - 8¼" x 5¼"

years in the army or another service. It was about the time that I eventually emerged from schooling - 1956. I'd prolonged it by doing four years at University and there was a let-out to call-up - Mathematics and Science teachers were a shortage and offered an alternative to National Service. I opted to do that and went totally unprepared into the teaching world - no teacher training! My skills went to the Norwich region and started with the fantastic salary of £500 a year (about £42 per month before tax). Wealth at last! The school offered a house in rural Norfolk. All things can be overcome - it lacked certain amenities such as no mains electricity, gas and no mains water supply either. What's the problem when you have a deep well outside the front door? It formed a home at least until a house of my own could be built.

In a neighbouring village some five miles out of Norwich a small plot of land was acquired from a local farmer and plans were made to build a three bedroom bungalow. I still have the bill - £1,800 - nowadays a large television in some shops costs this amount. A nice little bungalow in a nice plot of land way out in the country! Of course with a £1,800 to pay it had to be a twenty five year mortgage. But with £500 and soon £600 a year it still left enough to have a car.

All this didn't last long and a computing firm offered the absolutely fantastic salary of £1,000 a year. It doesn't sound anything now but in those days it was a fortune - rich at last! Of course this meant moving and this time to the Potteries area. It was a delightful



1950 One Pound (no £1 coins!)

time in computing where it was a mad development phase. Computers were just moving from using valves to transistors (not millions on a chip but each individually made). It was a time when all of us were mathematicians or physicists with our own odd sense of humour and appreciation. I was always on the software side and it was a time of invention - my line was operating systems, a new art.



*Some of the 1950 coins - Penny (240 to £1), halfpenny (480 to £1), farthing (960 to £1), shilling (20 to £1), threepenny bit (80 to £1), sixpenny bit (40 to £1)*

My £1,000 meant that I could now branch out - a four bedroomed house was called for at Congleton and there it was new and ready to be moved into. The price £5,400. Four bedrooms, a garage and a good plot. At that time there were still very few cars on the road. It was on a very good road and not much traffic - it was actually the main road, the A54 Holmes Chapel Road but when so few cars were about what difference did it make? I have not been back to look but I should imagine that the road may well be a dual carriageway and as busy and noisy as can be and now would be the last place anyone would choose to live!



*The to door Morris Minor and the Ford Anglia (Popular was later)*

The car of 1950 was a far cry from that of today. The Morris Minor had a price of about £400. It had a 918cc engine and a top speed of just over 60 mph. The comparative Ford Anglia cost about the same and had a top speed of 57 mph. Today there is hardly a car on the road that could not reach 100 mph. In those days cars were few and far between. It wasn't until 1959 that the first stretch of motorway was built. Austin produced a comparative model in 1951, the A30. It would cost about £20 per month to buy one of these on a two year hire purchase scheme.



It all shows how money has completely changed. Nowadays people go on strike for only £1,000 annual rise! In those days it was a fortune. It is difficult to understand how money has lost its value. Money seemed to devalue overnight when decimalisation came in 1971. It is always difficult to understand the comparison between old and modern day prices and costs. What is the factor? It obviously differs from item to item. Salary-wise the ratio must be about 100. Those of us old enough can probably

still remember the days when even a farthing (1/4d - if you don't remember - a quarter of an old penny or 960 to the pound!) still bought something even if it was a small packet of sweets.

Those were the days?

*Martin Warwick*

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## *The Friends Of Leatherhead Museum*

The lovely summer months have seen The Friends of being very active in support of Leatherhead Museum

Our first event was a publicity stall in the Swan Centre on 19<sup>th</sup> July. Thanks to several stalwart members we managed to give out about 150 fliers. One of these was general publicity about the museum its ethos and its whereabouts and the other a small A6 handbill publicising the Three Craft days in August. I feel it is always worth flagging up the museum in this way but there is no way of knowing whether it influences the footfall.



The three Craft days on 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August instead of at Whit half term were fun. We had about 50 visitors each Friday afternoon - just a few less visitors than last year. It was warm and dry - a great bonus- and many families said that they would return to look at the museum again which is one of the main objectives of this event. Again many thanks are due to the people who gave their time and ideas to make the event a success. Three adults in rather unauthentic Roman togas on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day caused great amusement and the old bicycle from the garden looked quite revived under its decoration ready for the cycle race.



The cycle race on 10<sup>th</sup> August was far from warm and dry and three stewards braved the weather to keep the museum open from 8.30am to 3.30pm. A painted banner made at the craft days looked splendid on the front of the museum during the TV coverage. The squally weather- a nightmare for the cyclists - served

us well as spectators popped in to get out of the rain and then stayed to chat and look around.

Stewards kept the museum open on the Sunday of Heritage Weekend and there were plenty of visitors during the whole weekend.

Outreach education work is an important part of our remit as a support group for the museum and we are looking ahead to some schools visits booked for this autumn. One in Fetcham at Oakfield School and one in Mickleham at St Michael's Infant School. We are also beginning talks with Trinity School, Leatherhead about a possible joint project

So The Friends have had their usual busy summer. We need all our current committee members who meet four times a year to keep functioning in the way we do but we could do with some more, so if you are reading this and feel you would like to join us please phone Julia Lack on 01372 386050. We are a friendly group and you will be most welcome.



*JuliaLack*

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## ***Publications and Sales Secretary***

The sale to the members of the history society of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit's Occasional Paper No.4, has sold well, the last two copies were sold at the meeting on the 19th September. If there are any members who would still like to purchase a copy please let me know as I will not re-order unless I can get sufficient numbers to make it worthwhile.

The publication is priced at £12.00 if you collect from the lecture meetings or from the museum where we also have a display presentation on the first floor of the Saxon Burial site - otherwise postage & packing (£2.00) will apply.

You can still order from me David Hartley via the Leatherhead Museum or contact me by email [Hartley1949@msn.com](mailto:Hartley1949@msn.com) or mobile: 07947471165. Otherwise you can order directly from SCAU at Woking.





## Books & Reprints for Christmas Presents

The Publications and Sales Secretary has arranged for the purchase of three re-prints of book titles that have become out of print, the titles are;

Images of England - Ashtead, by Jane E. M. Jones & Ken Rogers

Images of England – Bookham and Fetcham. compiled by Linda Heath

The Archive Photographs Series – Leatherhead, compiled by Linda Heath

All are priced at £12.99 exclusive of postage and packing (£2.00), unless you purchase and collect directly from the museum or at the Lecture meetings held on every 3rd Friday.

The History Society is on the lookout for new authors to write on aspects of local history both past and present.

Two particular subjects come to mind, 'Post War 1950s Leatherhead & District' and 'Leatherhead & District in the 1960s'. There must be hopefully a good number of members and residence of Ashtead, Bookham, Fetcham and Leatherhead and the surrounding parishes that have recollections and photographs - we would like to hear from you.

The subjects are wide ranging, including local government, the impact of roads and transportation the rise in cars ownership and traffic jams, post war housing, repairs and re-development, the rise in home ownership, re-development of town and village centres, listing buildings of historic interest, local industries and the Green Belt, the rise in consumer goods, hire purchase, retail shopping, cinemas, coffee bars the youth culture of the period, rock and roll, teddy boys, mods and rockers and many other aspects of local history.

*David Hartley*

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## ***The L&DLHS Website*** ***www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk***

The Leatherhead War Memorials website - see via the War Memorials link on our website - now has a WW1 page on which month by month is reproducing extracts from Leatherhead Parish Church's Great War parish magazines. They may provide a fascinating insight into the impact of the War on the parish and town. If you have family history skills, could you help to research the background of local WW1 casualties?

If you know of local families who have WW1 stories or memorabilia, please put us in touch. What do you have in your parish?

May I remind you to look at our website (accessible from the main website) for the excellent ON-LINE ARCHIVE project run by our Records Secretary, Roy Mellick. This enables you to find out what information and material is in our archives which includes past copies of the Newsletter and Proceedings. As Roy and the team of volunteers (more welcome) digitise the items, members will increasingly be able to view these directly on-line.

*Frank Haslam Membership Secretary, Website editor, L&DLHS*

## ***A Christmas Quiz - Friday 5th December***

On behalf of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society I will be hosting a Christmas Quiz at The Leatherhead Institute at 7.30pm on Friday 5th December. Tickets will be £10 including a Fish & Chip Supper, bring your own drink. There will be a Raffle.

I hope as many as possible of you will support this fun pre-Christmas event in aid of the Society which as you know funds our Leatherhead Museum. Some of you may be among the regular attenders of the popular quizzes that I have run for many years for the Friends of Leatherhead Parish Church. By the way, the quiz won't be a history exam! More details in the enclosed booking form. Please put the date in your diary and think about getting a table together with your friends.

*Frank Haslam, Website Editor & Membership Secretary*

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### ***Letter to the Editor***

Dear Martin - Newsletter August 2014

I am pleased that Anne Fraser (Librarian, Letherhead Institute) has written in praise of James Dixon's book 'Out of Birmingham' because not only is it an excellent account of George and Abraham Dixon's efforts in the education and charitable fields but it is the best example of good proof reading that I have encountered.

Many older members of the History Society will remember that Abraham Dixon's gift to Leatherhead town - the Institute - was in danger of being demolished to create a roundabout at the junction of the Epsom Road and the new Leret Way.

In a letter to the Leatherhead Advertiser I had pointed out that we were in danger of losing what Abraham Dixon wanted - an educational centre - and also a fine example of late 19th century architecture. It ought to be remembered that amongst other local groups the History Society played an important role in saving the Institute as well as its involvement in saving Hampton Cottage.

I believe Stephen Fortescue on the LUDC at the time and Frank Berger, one time editor of the Proceedings as well as the driving force behind the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society had influence. With this background, memories of Frank and Joan Kirby's devotion to the LCA and the sterling work done by many volunteers to produce Edwina Vardey's 'History of Leatherhead' I am at a loss to understand why the History Society should have a declining membership. Have the local townspeople lost interest in their heritage?

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey Hayward

(older members will remember George Hayward, a very active member of the History Society in many roles over the years. He contributed several articles about Abraham Dixon around 1975 in the Proceedings (now online via the Archive Database). He and his wife moved to Poole, Dorset in 1994. Now a young 93 and wife 92).

Friends of the Leatherhead Museum Secretary (Chairman - Vacant)

Julia Lack (Secretary)      01372 386050      upper.mole@ntlworld.com

Librarian (Letherhead Institute):

Anne Fraser      01372 278500      Anne.o.fraser@ntlworld.com

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:

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Records Secretary:

Roy Mellick      01372 457839      roy.mellick@btinternet.com

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Vacant (David Hartley - Acting)

Programmes & Lectures Secretary:

Vacant (John Wettern - Acting)

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 are held on the third Friday of each month (not December). Location: The Letherhead Institute, Time: 8.00pm, Coffee served from 7.30pm. Admission : £2. Non-members are welcome.

**November 21st Judith Witter, ‘Researching Mary Chrystie of Bookham and her family’**

Judith is the author of the well-received biography of the Edwardian benefactress, recently published by the Society. She will tell us how she came to write it, and what sources she explored

**December - no talk this month**

**Friday January 16th Ian Bevan, “The Crystal Palace”**

Created in 1851 and burnt to the ground in 1936. A story of Victorian magnificence . Art, music, industry, archaeology and entertainment all feature .

Ian is a City guide, a lecturer and an author with a special interest in the story of the Crystal Palace.

**Friday 20th February Julie Wileman, ‘Crime and Murder in Surrey’s Past’**

**Christmas Quiz - Friday 5th December**

Frank Haslam will be hosting a Christmas Quiz on behalf of the LDLHS at the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets will be £10 including a Fish and Chip Supper, bring your own drink. There will be a Raffle. Call Fred Meynen on 01372 372930 to make a booking.