



# *The Newsletter*

*Leatherhead Museum*

*August 2015*

*The Quarterly Magazine of the*

*Leatherhead & District Local History Society*



**Editorial**

Have you thought of writing down the memories of your life? It only comes home to you how many questions you would have liked to have asked but never did when death of parents and relatives has taken its toll and their memories of the past vanish for ever. They lived through a different age, maybe fought in wars and have memories themselves of forefathers. When death comes all the questions that could have been asked remain unanswered.



In so many cases knowledge of family history is only a schedule of dates of births, deaths, marriages, where they lived and their occupations gained from websites and public records. Unanswered is what characters they were and the stories of their lives. For future generations it is invaluable to write down all we can remember of our own life and times for children and grandchildren to read of life as it was and experiences prior to their own time.

We are pleased to announce (see also p18) that a new book written by Goff Powell and Brian Hennegan published by the History Society is now available – ‘Over the Other Bridge’. It is the third in a trilogy, the first two centred on the Railway Bridge and now the third on the Town Bridge. The book goes along Bridge Street to the town centre describing the memories of all the shops and houses. It is full of fascinating photos and reminiscences. Priced at only £8 it is a very good worthwhile buy.

*Martin Warwick*

***Make sure you visit the History Society Website  
www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk***

***Next Edition Deadline - 3 October 2015***

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# *Chairman's Report*

I hope you are all enjoying this summer either here at home or travelling overseas. Some will probably be touching history, visiting ancient and not so ancient sites, cities, towns, villages, grand houses and modest remains of human habitation. You may have gained an insight into the history of people, people not so very different from us all yet from another time and place and culture.

Local or national museums may show the artefacts of these people and their cultures and a guide book or the internet tell us more of what is known about the people and the place visited.



Nearer to home and perhaps a little more tangible to most of us are our own family histories, some of us may be more adept at doing our own family history research with so many sources on line. History in my mind is first and foremost about people.

We now have a new Proceedings Editor in the person of Bill Whitman a member who has written a number of papers in the Proceedings and the Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin and who has also published a booklet on the history and development of the Parish Church of St Nicholas in Great Bookham. Bill Whitman has offered his services in this role as Editor, with the assistance from Barry Cox our former editor and Martin Warwick's skills on the publishing side. Bill is tasked to put together a joint Proceedings for the years 2014-2015 which is due to be published and distributed in February 2016.

There is a general call to members, researchers and authors for articles and papers on local history, archaeology and industrial history of Leatherhead and district and the surrounding parishes in Surrey for submission to our new editor. Manuscripts should be typed and ideally submitted as a word document to William Whitman, Editor of the Proceedings, c/o The Leatherhead & District Local History Society, Hampton Cottage 64 Church Street, Leatherhead KT22 8DP.

A new email address for our Proceedings Editor is to be set up to which copies of manuscripts can be sent, this will be advised in due course if it is not already published elsewhere in this Newsletter.

L&DLHS Coffee Morning in the library at Letherhead Institute on Saturday 27 June organised by Ann Fraser our Society's Librarian proved another success attended by a number of members and visitors. Ann placed on display some of the most interesting books in the History Society's collection supported by three display presentations, one on the work of John and Edward Hassel watercolourists circa 1823 of buildings and places in Ashted, Bookham, Fetcham and Leatherhead. There was also a display 'Work, Rest and Prayer in Tudor and Stuart Ashted' on the history of St Giles Church, Ashted,.

John Rowley our Ashted Archivist provided a presentation of photographs of members of an Ashted family in WW1.

Coffee, tea and biscuits were available and there was also a selection of our History Society

books on show for sale. Thanks are due to Ann Fraser and members of the History Society and visitors who supported this event to make it a successful coffee morning.

*David Hartley*

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## ***Archaeology & Forthcoming events***

A notice has been received from Mole Valley District Council in connection with a Planning Application for a change of use of Devonshire House, Church Street from offices into residential use. We have made representation to Mole Valley requesting that an archaeological condition be placed on the proposed rear extension of the rear wing that we have no early archaeological context evidence for the early history of this site. Hopefully an archaeological evaluation and watching brief may shed some light on earlier periods of this site.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **September 8 - 28 September - Woking Palace Excavation**

This is the seventh and final year of excavation of this important medieval Tudor Palace in Old Woking. Experienced volunteers are invited to join the training course or sign up to the 'Dig for a Day' scheme for beginners.

Contact Hanna Potter at the Surrey History Centre via email [scou@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:scou@surreycc.gov.uk) or telephone 01483 518737 for more information and to reserve a place. Help is also required for volunteers to assist with finds processing.

September 27 Sunday - Woking Palace Excavation public open days visit: [www.woking-palace.org](http://www.woking-palace.org)

#### **December 5 Saturday - Designed Landscapes – Parks & Gardens**

Part of Surrey Archaeological Society – Surrey Historic Environment Research Frame work. Conference on the subject of 'Designed Landscapes – Parks & Gardens' from 10.00am to 6.00pm in the Abraham Dixon Hall at the Letherhead Institute, Leatherhead

A full day of presentation from a number of eminent researchers and local speakers including Paul Everson, past-chairman of the Society for Landscape Studies and past president of the Medieval Settlement Research Group will provide the keynote address entitled 'Ghosts of Gardens - an archaeologist's view'.

The afternoon session will be opened by Dr Paula Henderson a leading specialist and author on the History of Tudor and Stuart gardens who will take as her topic 'Rus in urb: gardens in Elizabethan and Jacobean London'.

Other speakers will include Rachael Delman of Oxford University speaking on the 'Gardens of the Medieval Elite' and local researchers Jan Clark and Cherill Sands who will focus on the important gardens at Albury Park and Pains Hill Park respectively.

Admission will be by ticket, application forms and ticket price will be advised and will be available in August.

*David Hartley*

## *Berryfields and Dr Edward Bach; a little known Ashtead connection*

Dr Edward Bach was born in 1886. He worked for many years as a bacteriologist and Harley Street physician and became convinced that illness occurs when the mind and body are out of tune with each other; in other words that our emotions strongly influence our health. He is best known for defining 38 emotional states which he felt made up the human condition and for a system of 38 flower essences, the Bach flower remedies that aim to help sufferers balance each specific mood or emotion.

Dr Bach's work inspired many people to create their own systems and the field as a whole we now refer to as essences. Essences are the energetic imprint of flowers from plants and trees, crystals or other natural sources captured in water and preserved in alcohol. They are sold in small dropper bottles and usually taken orally as drops though pillules, creams or sprays are sometimes available. Dr Bach's essence system is famous around the world and available in UK outlets such as Boots and Holland and Barrett. Indeed many of you may already be familiar with his combination of essences for emergency use the best-known brand of which is called Rescue Remedy. But what is Bach's connection with Ashtead?

Bach took several years to develop his theories and products. Between 1930 and 1934 he spent summer months travelling around the country making essences and winter months in London or Cromer trying them out on patients. His constant companion was a young assistant called Nora Weeks. This itinerant lifestyle however conflicted with his professional need as a doctor to have a registered medical address. For this he chose Berryfields, Park Lane, Ashtead (spelt Ashstead at the time).



*Berryfields 1925-6 Photobook p21 1927*

Local records show that Berryfields was built on open fields between 1925 and 1926 by Edwin (sometimes recorded as Edward) Wood for his own personal use. The local village blacksmith, John Wyatt made the property's iron gate. This originally marked the pedestrian entrance to Street Farm located on the North side of The Street between Woodfield Lane and The Marld. There are no records to show when it was moved to Berryfields. However it is thought that this was before the Second World War as in 1943 the gate was deemed valuable enough to warrant a protective order being requested to prevent it being melted down for the war effort. The architect's drawing for the appeal can be found in local records.

Bach is known to have been a close friend of Mr Wood though whether this was through medical or masonic connections is unsure. He and Nora did however visit Ashtead and stayed at Berryfields during their travels. Bach was also grateful to his friend for the use of the address for his professional communications with the General Medical Council. By 1932 for example Bach was experiencing much success in treating people with his 'flower remedies'. He was also gaining some support for his work amongst his medical friends but

was impatient that the general response was slow and limited. In November he therefore decided it might be best to spread the knowledge amongst the lay population through articles in magazines and newspapers. When he experienced difficulties in getting these published he managed to take out a short advertisement for his essences in two of the big daily newspapers despite rejections by two others. It read, 'Heal Thyself. There are British herbs of great value within the reach of us all. Information gladly given. Dr. Bach. MB, BS, DPH.'<sup>1</sup> Shortly afterwards the General Medical Council cautiously queried whether the advert had been placed by Bach and if so whether he wished to change his Ashtead address. When he confirmed that he was the author but did not wish to change the address they sent him a copy of 'the Council's Warning Notice in regard to advertising for the purpose of procuring patients'. Bach replied that 'The advertisement was for the public good, which I take it, is the work of our profession'.<sup>2</sup>

Wellsprings,  
Sotwell,  
Wallingford, BERKS.

January 8.1936.

To the President of the General Medical Council.  
Dear Sir,

Having received the notification of the Council concerning working with unqualified assistants, it is only honourable to inform you that I am working with several, and shall continue to do so.

As I have previously informed the Council, I consider it the duty and privilege of any physician to teach the sick and others how to heal themselves. I leave it entirely to your discretion as to the course you take.

Having proved that the Herbs of the field are so simple to use and so wonderfully effective in their healing power, I deserted Orthodox medicine.

Registered medical address.  
Berryfields,  
Park Lane,  
Ashstead,  
Surrey.

*See Reference 4*

Early December saw an exchange of letters enquiring whether Bach intended to continue advertising in the press. At first he did not reply; then finally wrote, 'I am endeavouring to bring to the notice of the British public certain herbs which have healing properties are harmless and can be used by anyone. The report of these herbs has been published in medical papers and brought before the profession. If I feel that certain articles in the Press or further advertisements are necessary I shall be compelled to use these methods'.<sup>3</sup> In April 1933 this letter was brought before the Penal Cases Committee of the General Medical Council and Bach was warned to heed the rules on advertising. He again made no reply and in November received a further warning and asked if he had ceased to practise medicine or had changed his residence. He replied that he had not done either. Correspondence on the subject then ceased for three years.

In 1934 Bach decided to lead a more settled life and rented a small house called Mount Vernon in the village of Sotwell, Berkshire. This became his and Nora's home and the work-base for the essence project. A newer member of Bach's team of assistants, Victor Bullen (a builder and healer Bach and Nora had met in Cromer) rented rooms nearby whilst Bach spent an increasing amount of time at the home of another new assistant, Mary Tabor. Mary with whom Bach is thought to have had romantic connections bought a house with extensive grounds called Wellsprings just around the corner from Mount Vernon. Bach used both Wellsprings and Mount Vernon for his essence work and retained Berryfields as his registered medical address. In 1936 the General Medical Council wrote to Bach at Berryfields expressing concern that he was working with unqualified assistants. A copy of his reply is enclosed for interest.<sup>4</sup> In the same year Bach embarked on a series of lectures to promote his health theories and essences but died after a short illness.

Edwin Wood went on to create a land development business with a surveyor called Frank Chown. He named it Chowood and based its estate office at his home (see local Street

Directories). Chowood greatly altered the face of Ashted by acquiring and sub-dividing all the land covered by Ralliwood Road and Grays Lane and then developing it after WWII. So from Bach to building, essences to environmental changes Berryfields has proved to be and still is a house for people with powerful influences. Long may it so remain.

*Jan Stewart (with help from John Rowley and Roy Mellick of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society and Stefan Ball from The Bach Centre)*

## References

- 1 Weeks, N. (1973) *The Medical Discoveries of Edward Bach* Physician London: C.W. Daniel Company Ltd., p.86.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid, p.87.
- 4 Copied from Howard, J. & Ramsell, J. (1990), *The Original Writings of Edward Bach* Saffron Walden: C.W. Daniel Company Ltd., p.120.

Jan Stewart is a retired university director and now co-Chairs the essence therapy lead body, the Confederation of Registered Essence Practitioners ([www. corep.net](http://www.corep.net)). Readers may like to buy and try Bach's essences for themselves or look on-line at the Bach Centre's (still based at Mount Vernon) or the British Flower and Vibrational Essences Association's websites ([www.bachcentre.com](http://www.bachcentre.com) and [www.bfvea.com](http://www.bfvea.com)) to find a qualified essence practitioner.

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## *Let's Climb a Stairway to the --- down platform!*

Most of us will at one time or another have had cause to traverse the town's one way system either in a car or on a bus. As we go from Station Road to Randalls Road we pass the last remains of Leatherhead's second Railway Station. (Never referred to as a 'train station'). This structure was the staircase to the 'down platform' i.e. the one serving trains that were going away from London. This always caused consternation to foreign visitors when they wanted to go 'up' to Scotland.



*The stairway to the down platform*

The stairway has recently been 'tidied' up and the brickwork has been trimmed and made waterproof as befits a 'cherished architectural gem'. There are only four remaining clues to the existence of the London and South Western Railway Station. Before we arrive at 'the staircase' we see a wall. The brick work is in remarkably good condition considering its age. There is a protrusion that formed part of the foundation of the signal box that was located on the platform. If we travel along Station Road

*Protrusion is part of the platform signal box*



as though we were going on to the industrial estate we can see on our left some brick work partially covered by vegetation. This is part of the bridge that carried the line over Station Road of which more anon.

Our last clue is the Old Station Approach entered from Randalls Road together with the Railway cottages that were built by the L&SWR. Cottages built to this or very similar patterns can still be seen all over the South and West of England. Their very existence betrays the site of a long lost railway.

Perhaps a brief history of the Leatherhead railways will not be amiss at this point.

Leatherhead first appears on the railway scene in 1859 when the Epsom and Leatherhead Railway was completed. On completion it was operated by the London Brighton and South Coast Railway (LB&SCR) in partnership with The London & South Western Railway.

The first Leatherhead joint station was located just to the North of the site of the Kingston Road railway bridge. It very soon became evident that facilities nearer to the town were needed.

By March 1867 there were two new Stations, one for each of the two companies. The Station that we use today is that which was built for the LB&SCR. The staircase belonged to the L&SWR.

By May 1867 the 'Brighton Line' had been extended as far as Horsham. However the South Western line was a terminus at Leatherhead. Just beyond the Southern end of the station there was an engine shed together with a turntable roughly where the electrical sub-station is now. This state of affairs would continue until February 1885 at which time the line was extended to Effingham Junction via Bookham thereby creating a connection with the then new line to Guildford.



*The London & South Western Railway cottages. Cottages the same or very similar pattern can still be seen all over the South and South West of England.*



*The bricked up ground level entrance to the down platform.*



*This picture taken in 1925 from the top of a signal post that was located just to the South of the Kingston Road Bridge. It shows the original junction. The lines going off to the right are for the old station.*

Passengers (not customers) using the South Western would have travelled from Waterloo whilst those arriving at the Brighton Station would have started their journey at London Bridge or Victoria.

All these journeys would of course have been made behind a steam engine accompanied by the sounds and smells that only this noble form of transport can provide. I have always maintained that were I able to bottle these sensations as a ‘chaps toilettries’ I would clean up! Electric trains would not arrive on the scene until July 1925 when the newly formed Southern Railway began a long awaited modernisation plan.

It had been obvious for some time that the ‘two station’ layout was creating operational problems. An urgent and drastic solution was called for and the Southern Railway bit the bullet.

The plan was that the L&SWR Station would be closed and all the trains for Dorking and Guildford would use the LB&SCR Station (the one we use today). This meant that changes to the track layout were required. A new junction was constructed and the arrangement we have today was commissioned on the 10th July 1927. This resulted in a rather tight curve on the Guildford line and if you have travelled over that track you will have heard the squeals of protest from the wheels.

So you see the two bridges that we pass under on the one way system are in railway terms comparatively new.

The South Western Station although abandoned as far as passengers were concerned did soldier on in a new guise. The electrified lines were used to stable electric trains that



*This is a view again from 1925 taken from the top of another signal post. Here we can see both stations. The current one is top right and the old station is on the other side of the road that now forms part of our one-way system. Our stairway to ‘paradise’ is just visible extreme left.*



*We will all recognise this view. The two bridges were constructed in July 1927 so they are fairly ‘new’.*

were laying over in 'off peak' periods or at weekends and they made provision for 'short workings' i.e. trains that started or terminated in 'The Gateway to the Surrey Hills'. This practice continued up until c.1973.

Although the 'old' station closed in 1927 I can say that I spent many happy hours on the platform and I knew the facilities on the down platform rather well but the signal box had disappeared. Before the mathematicians among you say to yourselves 'how old is this chap' I had better explain.

I come from a railway family and although I never 'went on' myself I spent much of the war years with my Grandfather. No less a mortal than the King had asked my Dad to go to places such as Africa and Italy not forgetting a place called Catterick.

Granddad had joined the South Western as a plate layer and worked his way up to the post of Senior Permanent Way Inspector by which time he was with The Southern Railway. His office was located in the old station buildings on the down platform. I would on occasions go to 'help' him during some weekends or the school holidays.

At the time we were living at what is now the B&Q end of the town. In common with most people Granddad never had a car and he never learnt to drive so the mode of transport was usually 'Shanks Pony'. So off we would go up the Kingston Road over the old bridge and there our journey left the route taken by mere mortals. We went through the large gates that led to the railway goods sidings. There was a large cast metal sign that very clearly stated that 'TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED'. (The area in question is now occupied by the industrial estate).

We proceeded through the goods yard being careful not to hit our heads on buffers or hanging coupling chains. When we reached the station we had to cross over the 'main lines'. I knew which were the live lines and which were the running lines at a very early age. Crossing the road in front of the Station we went through a substantial iron gate and walked along the old 'down platform' to the office. I can still see the interior in my minds eye. The space was dominated by a huge desk behind which was a large Windsor Back chair and a glass fronted book case containing a variety of technical books covering all the aspects of Granddad's job.

However the item that really dominated the room was the black turtle back stove that stood in one of the corners. In the winter months it kept the office very warm. We had a black kettle which Granddad kept warm ready for instant hot tea as and when required. From time to time a 'Ganger' would come in to discuss a point of work. I got to know the oft repeated conversation "I see you've got a new assistant Mr Watts we could do with him on the track" Granddad's reply was along the lines "He doesn't want track work he wants to be a driver, isn't that right young Brian?"

As I have said I never 'went on'. I went off and built aeroplanes instead.

*Brian Hennegan*

## *Ashtead's Refugee Priest*

### *Aspects of the life of The Reverend Peter Hamelot*

Prominently situated at the south east corner of St Giles Parish Churchyard Ashtead is an 18th century limestone ashlar tomb chest listed as a Grade II monument. It commemorates the lives of three members of a French Huguenot family – Peter (Pierre) Hamelot and his wife Catherine and mother Jeanne both of whom predeceased him. The inscription on the tomb still quite readable despite the ravages of time includes the following:



“PETER HAMELOT MA. When the Popish fury destroyed the Protestants in France he left his Patrimony and came into England. He was chosen Pastor of this church the 25th of March 1699 and dyed the 14th day of April 1742 aged 81 years.”

Peter's father Jerome (Heirome) was a French doctor with ancestors long established in La Rochelle on the west coast of France which had become the stronghold of the Huguenots. Peter's great grandfather Jerome Hamelot was Minister of the Reformed Church in La Rochelle.

Religious and civil liberties in France granted to the Huguenots at the end of the 16th century by the Edict of Nantes were gradually being eroded in the second half of the 17th century and by the 1680s Protestants in certain areas were being terrorised. Over time some 200,000 Huguenots fled from France to settle in the non-Catholic countries of Northern Europe. Up to 50,000 came to England and were generally welcomed here.

In October 1685 the French King Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes. All Protestant pastors were forced into exile while the laity were forbidden to leave France. As a refugee Peter Hamelot and his family must have faced an uncertain future if they had migrated directly to England at that time. The Catholic King James II had succeeded to the English throne in February 1685 and had crushed a rebellion by the Protestant Duke of Monmouth in the following July. However head-on confrontation with leading Anglicans and the

imprisonment in the Tower of London of the Archbishop of Canterbury William Sancroft and six Anglican bishops came only towards the end of the king's three year reign. By that time Peter had been ordained as an Anglican deacon. This took place on 25th September 1687 by the Bishop of Lincoln at Buckden now in Cambridgeshire. On the following day he was licensed as curate in the Parish of Benniworth, Lincolnshire. He was priested at Buckden in the following March. In order to be ordained he would have to have exhibited 'letters testimonial' of his good life and conversation. The Church of England database lists Peter to have held a Master of Arts degree on his admission as a deacon.

Along with many Huguenot refugees Peter became an English citizen. In a warrant for Denization<sup>1</sup> of French Protestants dated 13 March 1693 he is listed as one of six clerks together with over a hundred other French Protestants.

Peter was appointed as Rector of Ashted on 17 March 1698/9 just fifteen days after the death of his predecessor The Reverend William Duncumb. This would surely have come about from his close association with the Howards who held the Manor of Ashted. He was installed as Rector on the first day of the then new year 25 March 1699. Six months earlier Peter's patron Thomas Howard had succeeded to the manor on the death of his father Sir Robert Howard, Secretary to the Commissioners of the Treasury and Auditor of the Exchequer.

Peter at some stage was tutor to Thomas's son also Thomas. The Reverend Francis Paget in a publication 'Some records of the Ashted Estate and of its Howard possessions' (1873) stated that Thomas "was a lad of great promise if we are to believe the touching entry in the Ashted Register made therein by Peter Hamelot then Rector of Ashted to whom the poor boy's education had been for a while committed." Tragically Thomas was just 14 years of age when he died in 1702 at the Howard's Westminster town house. His father had died eleven months earlier. A memorial on the south wall of St Giles' chancel commemorates both father and son.

It seems that Peter would have been a familiar figure in the London Society in which he moved and visited from time to time. He became associated with the French speaking Church of the Savoy established in London in 1661. From the outset it was a conforming church and adopted Anglican clergy. As early as 1691 Peter was in London to conduct a marriage ceremony: at some stage after he had become Ashted's



*Thomas Howard Memorial*

Rector a memorandum had been inserted in the parish register stating that Peter “had the honour to marry the Honourable George Booth Esq to the Right Honourable Lady Lucy Roberts in London at a private house but in the presence of several witnesses of credit reputation and honour. Averred and attested by me Peter Hamelot Rector.” There were other occasions when Peter was in London either to officiate at or attend baptism and wedding ceremonies. He must have made many uncomfortable journeys from Ashted to London along the rough roads at that time before the age of the turnpike.



*Feilding House*

In 1692 Paul Colomies a cousin of Peter’s father died. Paul, grandson of a notable Huguenot pastor and preacher Jerome Colomies of La Rochelle was a distinguished author and librarian to William Sancroft and for a short period was Rector of Eynsford Kent. He had become an English citizen in 1688. Peter had been appointed as executor of Paul’s will under which he was beneficiary of Paul’s ‘small savings’. So he would most likely have been present at Paul’s funeral and burial in St Martin in the Fields Church, London.

One tries to imagine what life would have been like for Peter ministering to the needs of the high-born and humble in a rural community. At the Bishop’s visitation to Ashted in 1725 Peter said that “the number of souls may be about 200 including children”. He would have doubtless supported the good works of Lady Diana Feilding, the widow of his Patron Thomas. Lady Diana for long played a prominent role in the affairs of Ashted until her death in January 1731/2. In 1707 she had married William Feilding, the son of the Earl of Denbigh. When he died in 1723 he was described in the parish register as Lord of the Manor ‘by right of his wife’. As Rector of Ashted Peter was appointed as a trustee of a bequest under Lady Diana’s will for the establishment of an alms house to accommodate ‘six poor widows of the parish’. Feilding House built with moneys from the bequest was opened in 1736. Eventually the bequest became part of Ashted United Charities along with The Haven opened in 1893 and Maples House opened in 1975 enabling countless women of limited means to be provided with homes in Ashted. Lady Diana’s fine memorial graces the north wall of the nave at St Giles.

Peter was a widower for 14 years remaining Rector of Ashted until his death in 1742. As far as is known he left no issue. Bequests he made in his will drawn up in 1740 give some indication of his status and mode of living. They include relatively small gifts of money and clothing to his ‘man servant’ and ‘maid servant,’ sums of money to two goddaughters and a life annuity and much of Peter’s personal effects to Mrs Susanne Routhon who Peter stated

in the will, “hath lived with me for many years.”

So ended the life of one of the most notable and long serving Rectors of Ashtead.

John Rowley

1 Denization: an historically accurate, though obsolete in modern English meaning literally, to become a ‘Denizen’ or citizen with full landowning rights.

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## *Coffee Morning*



Saturday morning saw a flurry of activity in the Kirby Library, Letherhead Institute as LDLHS held its second coffee morning for members and non-members alike.

David provided a wonderful display of watercolour paintings by James and Edward Cassell. The paintings are exquisite and truly reflect the beauty of these glorious residences some now long gone or much altered. My favourite was that of Norbury House and Park – still a beautiful part of the Surrey Hills for walking and



admiring the views. David had also provided some fascinating photos and prints on the topic of St. Giles’ Church Ashtead and the lives of those in the community over the centuries.

John Rowley was able to whet our appetites for his upcoming publication of the biography of Jack Worsfold with photos and an excerpt from the book. I think we can be very

grateful that such a personal record of past times exists and I am delighted that the family are happy to share the book with others. Pat Jenkins also provided a tantalising glimpse of her soon to be completed account of World War II in Ashted. I know she has put a lot of work into it including interviewing various people living in Ashted at the time. I very much enjoyed the accounts provided for our perusal on Saturday.



In addition Frank was on hand with his trusty laptop to explain the intricacies of online archival research and David was able to tell a visitor in detail about the Anglo-Saxon skeletons that had been found beneath her childhood home in Hawks Hill. She was very pleased to know that there may be one final copy of the book she has been seeking on the subject.

I hope everyone enjoyed reading the extracts from the books on the shelves and leafing through those from the locked cupboards. Personally I found the paintings by Sutton Palmer in 'Surrey' and the story of the Running Horses found in 'Letherhead' by Rev SN Sedgwick delightful. The accounts of French refugees and the links to Fanny Burney at 'Juniper Hall' are also full of intrigue and exciting times.

The morning was well-attended with at least 25 people coming through the door. Most were members and it was good to see them taking advantage of the offer of coffee and biscuits! We also had a few non-members which was encouraging. I hope everyone had a lovely time – they certainly seemed to be enjoying a good natter as you can see from the photos. Some even purchased books. I would encourage you to borrow from the library or browse the

locked cupboards. Take along your membership card to show the lady in the library and check the list in the pink file on the shelf for titles.



A special thank you to everyone who helped out and to Jane for providing the coffee cups!

We are thinking of doing a book sale in time for Christmas. I would like to give it a Christmassy feel so if anyone has anything on Christmas in the local area I would love to hear from you.

*Anne Fraser*

## *Local Names – April Lecture*

Peter Edwards, professor emeritus in the Department of the Humanities at the University of Roehampton gave a very lively talk on the hidden history of Great Bookham through local names at our April meeting. The name Bōchām, the settlement by the beeches showed that the Saxons settled here early on probably before spreading further up the Mole valley. Our speaker remarked that it might equally have been called ‘Oak settlement’ since oaks are as prevalent as beeches here! ‘Great’ as opposed to ‘Little’ Bookham might acknowledge to either relative area or population. Horsehead Furlong referred to a pagan cult of horse-worship (hence the Padstow ‘Obby ‘Oss) and Elfare Lane used a Saxon lady’s name.



The parish boundary followed natural features like streams and the river but sometimes a tree had to be marked hence Markoak Gate where the straight boundary turned south through woodland to Commonsides. Slyfield (like Sole Farm) meant a slippery or muddy place. The hundred (as in Hundred Pound Bridge) was not a number but an Anglo-Saxon administrative district notionally of 100 families. Halfway House was midway between Effingham and Bookham. Goldstone Farm got its name from fields beside the Dorking road. Preston was the home of the priest put in by Chertsey Abbey who owned the manor until the Dissolution of the Monasteries by King Henry VIII.

Traffic over the downs cut into the chalk (hence Whiteway) and Hale Pit provided marl for the fields. Bagden, Hogden and Pigden were Pole’s (den) pasture for swine. The parish of Ranmore (uncultivated ridge) was created (partly out of Great Bookham) by the wealthy Cubitt family for their new estate village and church. Tanners Hatch (the youth hostel) was mentioned in 1664 when widow Tanner was excused hearth tax because of poverty. Phoenix Farm was voenace (wine estate) centuries before Denbies!

Eastwick was Bookham’s old dairy farm. Henry Keswick, MP for Epsom lived in the big house. The Surrey pack of foxhounds were kept near Kennel Lane. The Dawnay family sponsored the original village school. Lower Shott and Townshott Close commemorate two of the shotts or furlongs, bundles of narrow strips which made up the old agricultural system.

The evening ended with questions on the names of Crabtree Lane (which can be followed on foot to West Humble) and of the ‘Isle of Wight’ hamlet on Bookham Common. Professor Edwards pointed out that the spelling ‘The Laurells’ followed that of the previous house there.

*Derek Renn*

## *May Lecture*

One of the earliest maps of the world compiled about 220BC by Eratosthenes showed Britain and India at the far edges. Around AD1550 England began to seek a part of the ancient spice trade and in 1600 Queen Elizabeth I gave Thomas Smith a charter to found the East India Company. James Lancaster set up a trading centre at Bantam and the Company later took control of most of India.

This set the scene for John Morris' talk at our May meeting describing some of the people with Leatherhead connections who had made an impact on India. John had identified more than 400 such people and his talk could only cover a few of them. He had researched those whose memorials were in the parish church, those born in India (according to the censuses) and the pupils of St John's School who were born or served in the sub-continent.



John began with his home, Wood Dene (the 'French château' near the church) next door to which is the 'Little House' built for Colonel Strachey of the Indian Army who once served as a temporary viceroy.

Born in Bombay, William Lewis (d.1817) was buried in a large family tomb in Leatherhead. The son of Jane Dacres of the Leatherhead family he was involved with Warren Hastings as an officer of the Company in Bombay.

Captain Richardson (of Belmont where Fairmont House now stands opposite Lidl) was the third generation of Company sea captains. Captain William Stanley Clarke (of Elm Bank) rose from able seaman (RN) to chairman of the Company.

An 1857 stained glass window in Leatherhead church commemorates Robert Henderson of Randalls Park the first Chairman of the Borneo Company who was the largest jute grower in Bengal. Henry Crabb Boulton who lived in Thorncroft Manor although an MP and three times chairman of the East India Company is described only as 'lord of the manor of Leatherhead' on his memorial.

Turville Kille whom many of us will remember as a local councillor went to India during his Army service between the Wars. On the way there he ran a profitable bingo game and another by exploiting the favourable rate of exchange for rupees on board and then changing them back onshore for pounds.

Colonel Barltrop a former pupil at St John's School was Commandant of the Indian Army academy at Dehra Dun at the time of Partition (1947). He got the cadets who wished to serve in Pakistan rather than India safely away.

There will be an exhibit by John Morris on 'Leatherhead and India' in the Letherhead Institute as part of the Heritage Weekend in September. The Museum in Church Street (next to the traffic lights) is now open free on Thursday and Friday afternoons (and all day Saturday) for the summer with several new displays.

*Derek Renn*

## *The Proceedings - New Editor*

As the new editor of Leatherhead & District History Society Proceedings I would like to start by paying tribute to Barry Cox who has carried out the task of editor to a high standard for many years. I hope that with his help and advice I will be able to maintain the standard.

An essential requirement for producing an annual edition is a supply of papers of a good standard to fill our compilation. In addition to the traditional subjects of papers on people and places from the traditional past and the less common but very welcome descriptions of archaeological investigations I would like to be able to offer our readers a series of papers on our more immediate past.

Since the end of the 1939-45 war our district has undergone a most profound change. Leatherhead has moved from being a rather sleepy commuter town with a little light industry to being a thriving centre of commerce with as many employees as any town in Surrey.

This did not happen by chance; numbers of factors were involved and I would like to see our Proceedings providing a forum where these matters can be chronicled. This may require the contributions of writers not presently members of our Society as well as a degree of coordination to try to cover our full subject area without too much duplication. I am sure that there are writers among those who worked on these changes and are now retired and there are Local History Groups within bodies such as the U3A who may like to discuss participation in such a project. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these ideas

Please contact me through the Society at [proceedings@headmuseum.plus.com](mailto:proceedings@headmuseum.plus.com) or by post at W E Whitman 2, Marlborough House, Station Road, Leatherhead KT22 7AA.

*William Whitman 29 June*

### **DORKING CONCERTGOERS PRESENT**

#### **EMMA JOHNSON CLARINET**

**WITH JOHN LENEHAN PIANO**

**Sunday 26 September 2015 Dorking Halls 7.30pm**

**Mozart** Larghetto & Finale from Clarinet Quintet, K581

**Saint-Saëns** Clarinet Sonata in E flat, Op.167

**Lutoslawski** Dance Preludes

**Dove** The Pied Piper

**Chopin** Nocturne in G minor, Op.37 No.1

**Templeton** Bach Goes to Town

**Bernstein arr. Johnson/Lenehan** Scenes from *West Side Story*

Tickets £21



Emma Johnson © John Batten

#### **IVANA GAVRIC PIANO**

**Saturday 21 November 2015 Dorking Halls 7.30pm**

**Ravel** Valses Nobles et Sentimentales

**Grieg** Ballade Op.24; Selection of Lyric Pieces

**Cheryl Frances-Hoad** 4 Lyric Pieces

**Janáček** In the Mists

**Schubert** Sonata in A minor, D784

Tickets £20



Ivana Gavric

Tickets from Dorking Concertgoers' Box Office 01306 740619

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



## *The End of an Era - Leatherhead Police Station - Kingston Road*



*Leatherhead Police Station circa 1930s – now demolished to make way for Churchill Retirement Homes - This development has been granted planning for 38 one and two bedroom apartments.*

Leatherhead had one Policeman listed in the 1841 census. The end of the Napoleonic War brought about an increase in general lawlessness much of which was due to the fact that large numbers of military personnel were demobbed into society and had little money and in the case of long servicemen had no fixed abode.

The 1839 County Police Act made provision for the appointment of Police Officers but Surrey did not make such provision until 1851. The first Police Station was built around this time and many local folk will remember the building in Fairfield. The bracket that held the 'Blue Lamp' remained in place until the building was demolished in 1980 to make way for 'Leret Way' and the town centre development.

The station in the Fairfield remained until around 1905 for soon after this with Inspector William Faulkner still in charge it moved to Kingston Road. The street directory of 1911 lists Faulkner being still in charge with one sergeant and four constables. However by 1913 Herbert Tudgay is the new Inspector.

In February 1913 Suffragettes were causing problems and the Surrey Constabulary had to deal with three bomb outrages. The first and most famous happened at 6.10am on 19 February 1913 at a house being built for Lloyd George then Chancellor of the Exchequer at Walton-on-the-Hill in the Dorking Division.

Inspector Riley of the Metropolitan Police Special



*Leatherhead's first Police Station*

Branch and Major Cooper Keys, the Chief of the Explosives Branch of the Home Office were notified by Superintendent Coleman, the local officer and a motor car P8487 was traced passing through Banstead at 2.50am and returned at about 5.00am. The car was heard to leave the vicinity of the house at about 4.30am and so the fuse must have taken about two hours to burn down.

It is recorded that Mrs. Emmeline (Emily) Pankhurst, a founder member of the Suffragette movement was held in the Kingston Road Police Station on 24 February 1913. She had been arrested in London following a bombing incident and taken to Leatherhead where she was questioned and charged. Superintendent Coleman reported; “She is being detained in Inspector Herbert Tudgay’s sitting room and I have arranged for Inspector Tudgay to let her sleep in one of his bedrooms tonight.”



*Emily Pankhurst.*

Instructions from the Director of Public Prosecutions had requested that whilst in custody Mrs. Pankhurst should be treated with due consideration. Next day Mrs. Pankhurst was bailed from Epsom Magistrates Court having been driven to the court with the Superintendent which made her the first person in the Surrey Constabulary area to have been ‘conveyed to court in a motor car’.

The Police Station stood in its own grounds. Two pairs of police houses dating from the 1930s were built in Kingston Avenue just behind the Police Station. In the 1960s the Police Station was extended on the South side increasing the frontage by almost half as much again.

Around the same time a pair of semi detached police houses was built in Kingston Road next to the station on ground that was originally an orchard on Police property.

Dare we mention ‘scrumping’? Well it gets better. A young lad was coming home after swimming in the open air pool at West Wing which was next to the Leatherhead football ground. Only one ‘dare’ was required and through the hedge into the orchard he went. So intent was he with the task in hand that he failed to hear the Police Station Caretaker approaching. A hand grabbed the scruff of his neck and he was promptly marched into the station and placed in front of the Desk Sergeant. He still maintains to this day that the Sergeant was at least seven feet tall, mind you we were all a bit smaller in those days. There followed a period of stern admonishment and all the time the wayward lad was saying to himself, “don’t tell my Father.” Looking back I expect the Sergeant and the Caretaker had a good laugh about it. Let us hope they gave the lad points for his audacity.

There must be many a tale that the cells could have told.

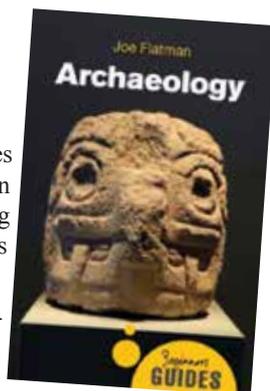
Gone But Not Forgotten!

*Goff Powell*

*Mainly extracted from ‘Over the Bridge the Southern Side’ by Brian Hennegan and Goff Powell - Leatherhead & District Local History Society 2011 – ISBN 0955278570 - £9.00*

## *Archaeology by Joe Flatman (Beginners Guides, 2014)*

Joe Flatman is the Head of Central Casework and Programmes at Historic England. He was formerly Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at University College London. His book *Becoming an Archaeologist* was named *Current Archaeology* magazine's Book of the Year.



This 187 page paperback includes an index and detailed further reading and website lists. It begins with what is (and isn't) archaeology. It then covers tools and techniques, followed by chapters on the archaeology of: objects; places; landscapes; travelling. It concludes with a chapter on the future of archaeology. It is very readable. My only criticism is that the publishers could have done better on the quality of the images.

What did I particularly learn? That good archaeology requires detailed research and planning. That a 'dig' has to be rigorously justified. That the outcome also requires planning and timely communication. That the findings should be available for analysis by others. That all the time new techniques and interpretation skills are being developed. This book was borrowed from Leatherhead Library.

*Frank Haslam*

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## *A Review of 'Little Apples Will Grow Again'*

"Books are like doors. You can open them and step into another place... or time.... or world."

Fred 'Scrapper' Brown's memoirs are full of the hustle and bustle, knocks and scrapes of a time where boys were nicknamed Stinker, Buster or Biggy Lightfoot. A world of carefree days spent making your own entertainment and annoying the neighbours with a quick game of Knock Down Ginger.

In this loving tribute to his parents the author tells of a young woman from Ireland and her handsome suitor and how their below stairs romance blossoms into marriage and family life in lower Ashted. With humour, affection and anecdote he reminisces about the loyalties of parents and siblings and the bond between neighbours in their Do What You Like Street. It isn't all rose-tinted spectacles however. We learn of personal difficulties and the trials of bringing up a large family during wartime. And as time passes we know that change is coming.

This is a vivid and sympathetic account of life during those years and the narrative ably brings to life the happy and not-so-happy times spent in this community. Next time I'm passing through that way perhaps I'll glimpse a boy with Blakeys in his shoes as he flits up the road to join the gang.

1 Chris Riddell Children's Laureate

Little Apples Will Grow Again, Fred Brown ISIS Publishing Ltd 2008

*Anne Fraser*

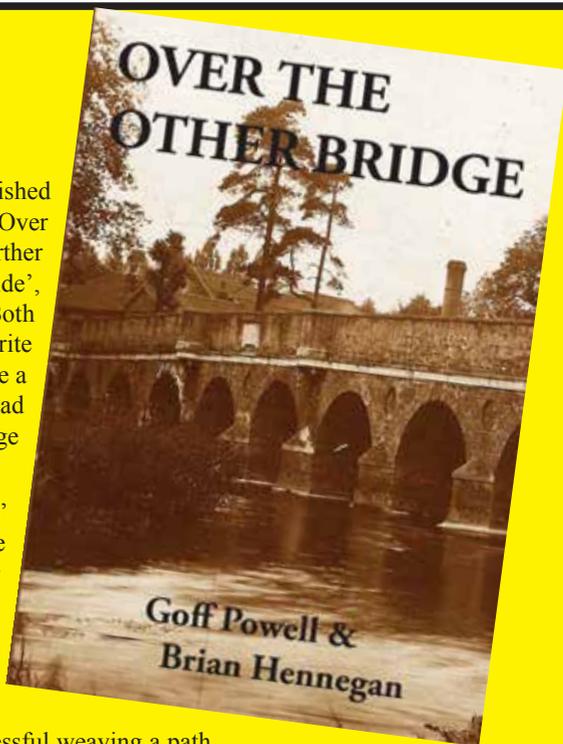
## *A New Society Book!* *Over the Other Bridge*

A few years ago the History Society published the book by Brian Hennegan entitled 'Over the Bridge' and this was followed by a further book 'Over the Bridge the Southern Side', by Brian Hennegan and Goff Powell. Both authors felt that it would be fitting to write another book about Leatherhead to complete a 'Bridge Trilogy'. The two previous books had featured the Kingston Road Railway Bridge in their title.

This third book still follows 'The Bridge' theme but now the bridge in question is the Town Bridge at Leatherhead over the River Mole at the foot of Bridge Street. The book begins at the site of 'The Rising Sun' public house and travels up Bridge Street to the crossroads in the town centre.

The authors hope that they have been successful weaving a path through the years and that the book will provide the reader with an enjoyable glimpse into the past and resurrect many latent memories. It is full of wonderful photos of old Leatherhead and makes marvellous reading

**Only £8 it is available directly from the Society or from the usual local bookshops.**



## *What is Under St Nicolas Church?*

### **Introduction**

This paper sets out some of the known facts about the floor of St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham, what is under it and speculates on some of the facets which in our opinion are by no means certain.

It is based on a talk given at the 2015 AGM of the Friends of St Nicolas, a support group who value St Nicolas as a beautiful, historic, landmark building.

Great changes were made to the Church in the reordering of 1885 carried out by Butterfield late in his career. We have a copy of the Faculty authorising this work and notes made on this particular copy<sup>1</sup> by Geo. Malleon the then Rector and by Geo. Bird his successor concerning the implementation of the work

## **Heating System**

To start with a most basic item. The first under-floor heating system was installed in the course of Butterfield's work with two boilers in a pit inside the South door. These were coke fired with the coke being 'shot' in from outside. We subsequently switched - first to oil heating and then to gas firing of the same boiler<sup>2</sup>. It was while laying the gas pipe that the Howard tomb where 16 members of the Howard family are buried was rediscovered outside the S W corner of the Church. Hot water from the boiler circulates through pipes laid in ducts under the aisles. The second boiler heated water for two large bore radiators in the Clergy and Choir Vestries. It was not fired as the heat from the main boiler was adequate to heat it but all went wrong about ten years ago when the system got clogged and starved of water and we had a 'boil-out' which caused some alarm and a lot of mess. This has since been replaced but the hot water feed pipe from the boiler room to the Vestries is still under the floor.

## **Ground Survey**

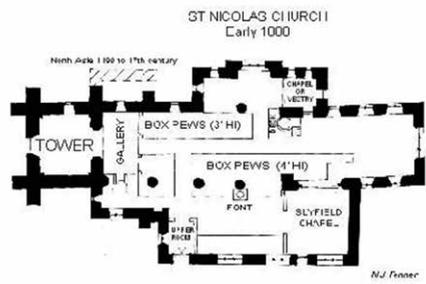
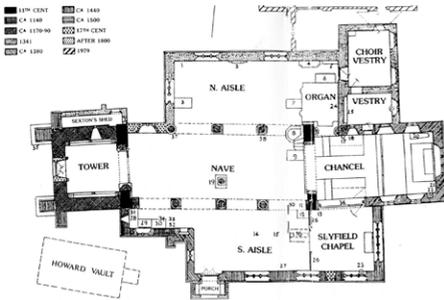
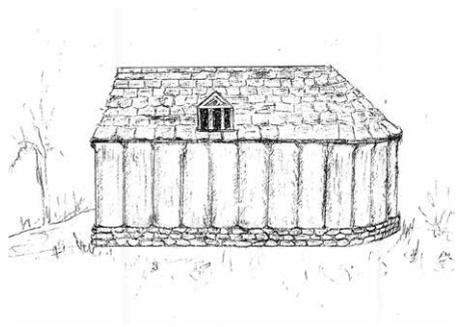
Some years ago Stephen Fortescue with Mrs Matts carried out a 'dowsing survey' of the Nave to look for evidence of an earlier Church building. The results were sufficiently encouraging for a ground penetrating radar {GPR} study to be commissioned and carried out in 1999. This was reported in Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin in 2001<sup>3</sup> showing undoubted reflections along the line just inside the North & South arcades from the Font to the Chancel Step. This would be consistent with an earlier church around which the earliest part of our present Church was built. Mrs Matts has made a drawing to show what this early church might have looked like. She also worked with Fortescue to identify the location of a possible Crypt.

There are undoubtedly burials in the South Nave because the Underwood Monument records that three members of the family were buried there. There is a story that when the boiler pit was being constructed coffins were found that were pushed out of the way – this implies availability of an under-floor area into which the coffins could be pushed. These were probably the Underwoods.

## **Burials In The Chancel**

During the reordering of the Church in 1885 or before drastic changes were made to the floors of the Church which are not reflected in John Adie's excellent time-lines. At that time the Church floor was essentially flat from the Tower right through to the East wall. This can be seen in Hassel's drawing of the Church. In 1849 new stone steps were built up to the Communion Table and a railing was installed. Butterfield raised the floor by building the Chancel step, the Sanctuary step and a raised plinth for the altar [communion table].

In the course of this work all the memorial floor slabs in the Sanctuary area which were described by John Aubrey<sup>4</sup> were lifted and ultimately redistributed around the Church along the lines of the aisles<sup>5</sup>. The burials to which they referred remained 'in situ'. Thus we have a memorial to Rev'd John Reeve right at the back of the South Aisle Mary Jernegan's monument is by the organ pipes, W'm Hilder is in the North Aisle built long after he died in 1659 and one Howard is by the organ pipes and more are down by the Howard window in the South Aisle. Some memorial stones were also either too damaged to replace or were



sold or possibly covered<sup>6</sup>. It is just possible that Abbot John de Rutherwycke of Chertsey Abbey is there also.

We know the Heberden/Andrewes family were buried in the Chancel and also the two Moores. Sir W'm and Mary Geary are there although there is no memorial to them – there is no memorial to them at Oxenhoath either. Sir Francis in his will asked to be buried with his wife in his vault at St Nicolas<sup>7</sup>.



Malleson notes on the Faculty that the burial vault was filled in before the new Minton tiles were laid.

Rev'd Samuel Cooke is remembered on a wall plaque in the Chancel but he and his surviving family are buried in the Church at Beckley, Oxon where there is a large wall plaque to his memory.

**Burials In The Slyfield Chapel**

This Chapel was built as a private Chapel for the Slyfield family in about 1440 and it may be assumed that from that date most of their family and the succeeding Shiers family were buried there. Edmund Slyfield sold the estate to Henry Breton who in turn sold to George Shiers. There is no sign of Breton in our burial registers. The memorials from the floor of

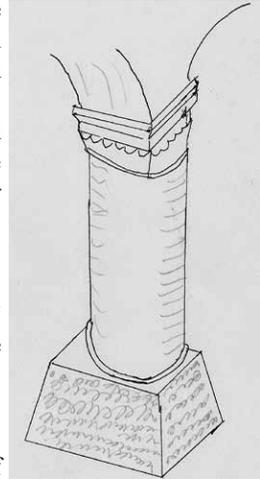
the Chapel were also moved during the 1885 upheaval. Some are in the South Aisle and the oldest, 1433 a lovely brass to Elizabeth Slyfield is at the foot of the pulpit steps. It is likely that the Slyfield wall brass originally on a floor slab, once stolen but now returned, was also in the Chapel. It is probable also that the body of Rev'd Hugh Shortrudge is also buried there as he asked in his will. He is not recorded in the Great Bookham burials register but that for Fetcham where he was Rector<sup>8</sup>.

### **Other Burials in the Church**

There is evidence<sup>9</sup> that some members of the Hilder family [17 in register] and Edmund Messenger, 1798 were also buried in the Church as well as the Underwoods already mentioned.

### **Settlement at Corner of Tower**

Building of the Tower began around the time of the arcading of the North Aisle, 1180. It is a massive construction with very thick walls but work was discontinued as the NE corner settled. Mrs Matts believes that this may be connected with an earthquake that damaged Esher Church. The corrective work was certainly extreme because not only was the Tower built more lightly with timber and shingles but also the two rearmost arcades on the North aisle were filled in as can clearly be seen in Fenner's plan of the Church derived from that of Cracklow<sup>10</sup> and also Turner's painting. The assembly of varied stone that can still be seen in the infill of the rearmost arcade may indicate a degree of urgency.



### **Floor Levels**

Now we come to the big puzzle. Floor levels. The pillars in the South Arcade are massive but very short. They stand on what look like concrete plinths about two feet cube. The doorway to the staircase to the former upstairs room above the South Porch is also about two feet above floor level.

This implies that the floor in this part of the Church was two feet higher than on the other side of the Church.

Why would anyone build on a site with two levels? Why was it not sorted at the time that the South Aisle was arcaded? How long did the situation last? The higher level must have been there when the South Porch was built 1380.

We know that there is no sign of a higher level in the building of the Slyfield Chapel, 1440 or the wall connecting the South Porch and the Slyfield Chapel, (c)1500.

Heales, 1871 sketched one of the South Aisle pillars showing them standing on 'rubble' that had been pared back to a slope [battered]<sup>11</sup>. They are not mentioned in other early descriptions of the Church. The bases were cemented as square blocks during the 1885 reordering. They certainly are not concrete blocks as they are sometimes described.

Our theory is that the ground was hard to dig but easily drained and that a first Church on the site be it wood or stone was built on the two levels. This became difficult to correct when

pews were built.

In considering foundations it is appropriate to talk first about the local soil. Lower Road runs along the boundary between the chalk of the North Downs and the river clays of the Thames Valley. There is a strip of free draining gravel along the interface and numerous springs which give rise to the many small streams which run down through the northern part of the village either to the ponds in Spring Grove and thus into the Mole near River Lane or across the Common to Chasemoor Farm and the Mole at Downside.

When the Church Room was built a special support was fabricated to avoid disturbing burials but when the Pastoral Centre was built the plan to deep pile was suspended when a bed of compacted flint was encountered<sup>12</sup>. One of the grave diggers while he was working on a grave at the East of the Church said that he had never found difficulty in our Church-yard in digging to the normal full six foot depth of a grave.

In 1999 at the time when there were worries about the Tower it was realised that the South wall of the church leaned outwards. It has subsequently been established that this is a long-standing aberration as is evidenced by the way in which the Geary monument was remounted when it was moved in 1885. The monument is vertical but stands quite proud of the wall at the top but less so at the bottom.

Fabric Committee members have dug down and not found any evidence of a spread of foundations. A wide bore plastic pipe was inserted outside the South Aisle and water has never been found in this pipe indicating that the water table is certainly not high and that the ground is free-draining<sup>13</sup>. There is however a painting by M.Poole, 1829 of the Church from the S.E. which shows in the road outside the Church-yard a large pool reminiscent of the pooling that still causes trouble by The Crown and at the corner of East Street.

## **Discussion**

We have set out here what we think we know; we can also summarise what we don't know:

1. Was the original Church built on an unlevelled site two feet higher on the South side?
2. When was the site levelled? – between 1380 and 1535?
3. Why was the Church built in the centre of the site and not on a more level spot?
4. Was there an earlier Church on the site of our present nave around which the new stone Church was built at some time after 1000?
5. Was the building of the tower stopped by an earthquake?
6. Are the pillars in the South Aisle solid stone or are they filled with rubble?

Have you got answers?

*William Whitman & Elizabeth Matts.*

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- 1 Parish archives, Faculty for reordering the Church, 1885
- 2 Parish archives, Church heating
- 3 Surrey Arch Soc Bull 351, 2001, W A Mc Cann.

- 4 John Aubrey, 'Natural History & Antiquities of Surrey', Vol 2, 1975 ed'n pp 266-79.
- 5 Church Guide pp14/15. St Nicolas PCC.
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- 7 Geary family, personal communication.
- 8 The Shortrudge Trust & Shiers of Slyfield, K Salmon
- 9 History of Surrey, Manning & Bray, Vol II, p 699.
- 10 Great Bookham at the time of Jane Austen, St Nicolas PCC.
- 11 Surrey Arch Soc Coll'ns Vol 5, 1871, pp 24-52, A. Heales.
- 12 Parish Archives. Church Room & Pastoral Centre.
- 13 PCC, Fabric C'ttee Min's 2006-2010.

## *A Vicar of Leatherhead Remembered at Bletchley Park*

Sandy Morris became Vicar of Leatherhead in 1971 and was succeeded by David Eaton in 1989. In WW2 the day before Sandy was due to enter the Royal Navy he was called to London. After an interview he was told that as a Classics student at Jesus College, Cambridge he was being posted to Bedford to learn Japanese! This he duly accomplished.

He was then posted to Hut 7 at Bletchley Park to learn the mysteries of the Japanese naval cyphers. He was then posted to the Pacific Fleet in Colombo in what was then Ceylon now Sri Lanka.



Sandy's widow Anne (now Mrs Gabbott) is delighted that Sandy is commemorated in the on-line Bletchley Park Veterans Roll of Honour maintained by the Bletchley Park Trust. The family are in contact with Bletchley Park Trust to get the spelling of Sandy's middle name corrected (<http://rollofhonour.bletchleypark.org.uk/search/record-detail/11479/>).

Another person connected with Leatherhead and Bletchley Park was Commander Alexander (Alastair) Guthrie Denniston CMG CBE RNVR. In 1914 Denniston helped form the famous Room 40 in the Admiralty responsible for intercepting and decrypting enemy messages. He helped to continue work on codebreaking between the World Wars keeping contact with the universities identifying those who might be suitable if needed. He selected Bletchley Park as GC&CS's (Government Code & Cypher School) new base. He was one of the small team who in July 1939 met Polish cryptographers to learn of their progress with Enigma cyphers.

However a point was reached when Alan Turing and others felt necessary to go over Denniston's head to Churchill to seek the vital increase in GC&CS resources to make the progress needed. Churchill reacted immediately ordering 'Action this day'. Resources

were transferred as fast as possible. In February 1942 GC&CS was reorganised. Travis, Denniston's second in command and chief of the Naval section succeeded him at Bletchley Park overseeing the work on military codes and cyphers and presided over an administrative revolution which at last brought the management of Intelligence into line with its mode of production.

Denniston and his wife had a son and a daughter. Their son Robin was educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford. After Alistair's 'demotion' Robin's school fees were paid by benefactors. The Dennistons' daughter had to leave her school. Denniston retired in 1945 and reportedly then taught French and Latin in Leatherhead. We know that he was not on the staff at St John's. Can anyone help to identify which school or perhaps he was a private tutor?

William Friedman the American cryptographer who broke the Japanese Purple code later wrote to Denniston's daughter "Your father was a great man in whose debt all English-speaking people will remain for a very long time if not forever. That so few should know exactly what he did ... is the sad part."

Robin distinguished himself as a publisher. In 2007 he published *Thirty Secret Years*, a biography of his father that consolidated his reputation in GCHQ history.

Are there any other Bletchley Park alumni with local connections?

*Frank Haslam using Wikipedia*

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## *Isn't History Amazing?*

An extract from Leatherhead Parish Magazine published in the April 2015 was about a Confirmation Service at Leatherhead Parish Church taken by the Bishop of Guildford which included twelve soldier candidates.

Peter Ford, Captain of Leatherhead Parish Church Bellringers asked me 'was there a Bishop of Guildford in 1915?' A very interesting question. Yes - it was the Suffragan Bishop of Guildford created in 1874 to help the Bishop of the then huge Diocese of Winchester. Since 1927 the Bishop of Guildford has been a Diocesan Bishop.

The first Suffragan Bishop of Guildford, John Utterton is commemorated in the stained glass windows of our Lady Chapel and is buried in our churchyard. His headstone has a Bishop's Crook carved on it (see photo).



*Utterton Graves*

The east window in the Chancel is dedicated to his son, Frank Utterton who was a much admired Vicar here from 1876 to 1907 (see the plaque in the Chancel). Frank and his wife Eveline are buried next to the Bishop. Their graves are along the 'Worple Road side' path in the churchyard. Sally Todd, Archivist at St

John's School tells me that one of the stained glass windows in the Old Chapel features an example of the use of a representation of a real person's face - Frank Utterton's.

The 'Utterton' East window replaced one given in 1863 by the Henderson family of Randalls Park. With their consent that (very nice) window was removed to a church in Bishopstoke, Hampshire by one of Frank Utterton's Leatherhead curates, Sidney Sedgwick who became Vicar there.

The 'Henderson' East window here replaced one made up of assorted old stained glass that had been collected by an antiquarian Vicar of Leatherhead, James Dallaway. It was placed in storage above the choir vestry and faded from memory only to be rediscovered years later when electric lighting was installed. It included 'Death on a Pale Horse' described by one of our WW2 Vicars, Gerald Coleridge (great grandson of the poet Coleridge) as "the stuff of nightmares". Eventually Death and another section went to the V&A Museum. The rest can be seen in our Chapel of Remembrance window which is in memory of Gerald Coleridge.

Sedgwick's housekeeper in Leatherhead was Charlotte Collyer. She and her family moved with him to Bishopstoke. The Collyers later decided to emigrate. Charlotte and her daughter Marjorie survived a nightmare crossing of the Atlantic but her husband Harvey did not. They were on the Titanic.

This is an extremely condensed version of what can be seen in full with many more images on [www.parishchurch.leatherheadweb.org.uk/isnt-history-amazing.htm](http://www.parishchurch.leatherheadweb.org.uk/isnt-history-amazing.htm) - perhaps visit Leatherhead Parish Church and churchyard to see for yourself and for the Collyers visit Leatherhead Museum.

*Frank Haslam, Parish Archivist: with thanks to Peter Ford, John Morris, Sally Todd and  
Proceedings articles by the late Linda Heath*

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## ***News from The Friends Of Leatherhead Museum***

Hopefully our new 'archaeological dig' in the museum garden will be fully open by the time you read this. Designed by Robin Christian with support from Alan Pooley it is made from salvaged wood. The idea sprung from a visit to East Grinstead museum. We have had one or two trials with visitors and the reaction has been very good.

### **Heritage weekend 10th – 13th September**

Our ever present plea is that like most voluntary organisations we are in need of Committee members and volunteers. The committee only meet four times a year so it is not an onerous task and we are a friendly bunch whose objective is to keep Leatherhead Museum open to the public and to liaise with schools and local groups.

*Julia Lack*

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:

Frank Haslam      01372 379341      frank.haslam@gmail.com

Records Secretary:

Roy Mellick      01372 457839      roy.mellick@btinternet.com

Sales Secretary:

Vacant (David Hartley - Acting)

Programmes & Lectures Secretary:

Vacant (John Wettren - 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, David Lokkerbool, John Rowley

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

**Friday, 18 September. 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 special interest in the story of the Crystal Palace.

**Friday, 16 October, 2015. Nicholas Ennos, “Jane Austen – a New Revelation”**

The novel “Emma” was published exactly 200 years ago, and Nicholas has discovered at least ten places correspond with real places around Leatherhead, many illustrated by the watercolourist Hassell.

**Friday, 20 November. Monica Weller, ‘Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in England’** Some details of her secret life and the Leatherhead connection.

## Historic Town Walk Heritage Weekend - 12 September

A town walk has been arranged by our Society on Sunday 12th September at 2.00pm from the Letherhead Institute, top of the High Street. It will take approximately 1.5 hours, the second half being not suitable for wheelchairs.

The walk will begin with a brief introduction to the history of the town and then go down the High Street highlighting interesting buildings including the Duke’s Head pub, Cradlers House and the site of the Swan Hotel. At the crossroads we go up North Street past the Penny Black, Sweech House and the War Memorial and continue down past Lidl to Belmont Road, site of Marie Stope’s first house and then on to the river Mole.

At the town bridge near the Running Horse and site of the tannery we continue along a short stretch of the Mole with Leatherhead FC and Thorncroft Manor on the other bank , up through the lovely gardens to the historic Mansion House. Further along Church Street we pay a brief visit to the Museum and then back along Church Street to the Parish Church and Barlow’s House.

We then go down Church Road past the Mount Zion Baptist Chapel, Magazine Place, the Methodist Church ( John Wesley preached his last sermon in Leatherhead in 1791 ) , Byron Place , Leatherhead Start ( Night Hostel ) and back to the Institute.

Numbers will be limited on the walk and booking will be through the Heritage Booklet published in July and available at the Museum and the Help Shop.

Fred Meynen



## FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM



### \*NEWS BULLETIN\*

AUGUST 2015

HAMPTON COTTAGE, 64 CHURCH STREET, KT22 8DP.

Dear Friends

We have enjoyed many changes in the museum this year. Firstly, some very interesting WW1 displays about local families. Lorraine Spindler our curator has produced these and has caught the interest of passersby through the huge banners on the front of Hampton Cottage. Secondly, the upstairs back room has been beautifully painted, stencilled and refurbished by Lorraine and her team of volunteers and is now the Mediaeval Room. There are new display boards and a children's dressing up area cunningly created where the old filing cabinets were at the top of the stairs. There are plans afoot for changes to the upstairs front room also. These projects take a huge amount of planning and time so thanks go to Lorraine and her team for their hard work. I am sure Lorraine would like me to say that anyone interested in being part of these creative projects can contact her through the museum.

The archaeology sandpit in the garden, created by Robin Christian, aided by Alan Pooley, has already had adults and children equipped with soft brushes and trowels unearthing bones, a huge key and various pieces of pottery. There is a laminated reference sheet in the reception area for those who want to identify their finds. Thanks to Robin who comes all the way from Horsham to work as a volunteer.

If anyone has any historical books that they have finished with but would like to see them go to a good home, Gwen Hoad would be really pleased to receive them to include in her bargain box in the shop.

One of the key responsibilities of the Friends is the museum steward's rota. At the moment we are doing quite well for volunteers but I know that Debby Humphreys can always do with more. Do contact her if you, or anyone you know might be interested on 01372 378347. We have visitors from all over the world and it is always fascinating when someone from abroad makes a visit. Even when the day is not so busy there are books to read, displays to examine, and fellow stewards to get to know. You never know what will occur when you arrive for your stewardship.

We are very grateful to the members of the Friends who pay an annual subscription thereby helping us to support the museum in various ways. Amongst other things we have been able to restock the museum shop just recently with souvenirs and the most popular postcard of the town bridge. We like to keep you abreast of what is happening in the museum and what is planned for the future through our twice yearly bulletin. Thank you for reading this.

#### **\*\*EVENTS PAST\*\***

**The Annual Briefing session for stewards was held in Room G6 at the institute on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March.** This was well attended and gave the stewards an all important refresher about procedures which structure the day to day running of the museum. It was organised as a question and answer session and so there was time to sort out any queries as well as time for everyone to meet other stewards. We welcome new stewards Sylvia and Olly Oliver and Emma Horrocks and hope you will enjoy your time at the museum.

**On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March** the museum was officially opened for the season by relatives of the Taylor family of Leatherhead whose letters, artefacts and story are on display in the downstairs front room of the museum.

**The Friends' joint outing on 24<sup>th</sup> March** with the History Society this year was a visit to Christ's Hospital Museum at Horsham. About 15 of us met at the school's Sports Centre which, like its theatre, is open to the public. We had our coffee whilst a surreal mixture of outsiders in modern sportswear and pupils in their long navy silver buttoned woollen coats, yellow socks and white bands (like a lawyer) moved to and fro around us. We were labelled (security is tight) and taken by a guide through to the museum which is housed in the old infirmary of the school. She then introduced us to the team of volunteers who maintain and steward the museum. They have a very interesting collection of paintings, models and artefacts from this 600 year old school which was gifted by Henry VIII and set up as a school by Edward VI for the poor orphans of London. We felt very fortunate to be guided around by the knowledgeable volunteers as this museum can only be visited by special arrangement. Lunch was taken in the newly constructed Sussex barn at the Newbridge Garden Centre at Broadbridge Heath – worth a visit if you are travelling the A24.

**Our AGM on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April** was quite well attended and was followed by a very interesting talk by Laurence Naylor who does sterling work in the Priory Basement sorting and categorising the Museum's vast collection of artefacts. He showed us some very interesting boxes of treasures from the basement and people stayed quite late talking with him about the contents. We voted two new committee members to our Friends Committee, Diana Rogers and Judy Wilson; we welcome them and wish them well as committee members. Julia Lack announced that this is to be her last year as acting chair, secretary and education officer. We were amazed to discover that Gwen Hoad who manages the finances and the shop has been filling this post for 20 years. Thanks go to her for her hard work, loyalty and efficiency. We hope to enlist more new committee members by our 2016 AGM next April. Anyone interested please contact Julia on 01372 386050. We have four meetings a year and we are a friendly bunch!

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

##### **Craft Afternoons**

As I write this we are fast approaching the annual Craft afternoons which will be held on Friday afternoons on the **31<sup>st</sup> July, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August**. By the time you receive this they will be over or nearly so. We have some very talented Friends members who will be creating things with the children on a mediaeval theme. We will be making pomanders, thanks to Tesco who have agreed to help us fund this with oranges and cloves, heraldic family shields, small clay coil pots, stained glass windows, crowns, magna cartas (fake) and many other things to help the children to get into the mediaeval mood.

##### **Cycle Race**

On Sunday **August 2nd** the Prudential ride London cycle race will be coming through Leatherhead again and we will have the museum open for as long as we can to catch the crowds. Last year it was a case of giving shelter from the rain. Whatever happens weather-wise we will be bound to introduce a few new visitors from outside Leatherhead to our museum

##### **Heritage weekend**

We will make sure that we are open for all four days from **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September**. The theme this year is 'Words and Music'. In Leatherhead Museum there will be a new mediaeval trail devised by our curator. If you haven't taken part in this weekend before it is really worthwhile. The booklets should be on display soon so check the details and plan your tour of the local historical sites.

**Once again thank you for reading this and thank you for your continued and invaluable support**