

The Newsletter



November 2015

The Quarterly Magazine of the

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Editorial

As you may know, our chairman, David Hartley resigned initially from all his roles in the Society but has now offered to retain his role as Archaeology Secretary. David has been the chairman since 2006 but over the intervening time has taken on more and more roles as they became ‘vacant’ and nobody was found to take them on. These include Secretary, and Sales and Publications Secretary which themselves involve considerable work.



First we must thank David for all his efforts and a suitable tribute to him has been contributed by our President, Alan Pooley in this Newsletter. Following this news a special meeting of the Committee was called and as an interim measure (until the next AGM) Fred Meynen has taken the role of Chairman. The other interim arrangements are separately recorded.

This enforced situation calls for a rallying of the society’s members. Years pass and age takes its toll and always new and younger generation additions are needed to enliven the society. Interest in history is still live but much of this has been serviced by the U3As of the surrounding districts who offer a variety of more specialised areas of interest such as family or military history. It is now up to the History Society to firmly find its own place. What is our association with the U3As? Having said this we already have some unique established roles because of the Museum, the Newsletter and the Proceedings.

How can we take this opportunity to refresh the whole image of the society?

Martin Warwick

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

Next Edition Deadline - 2 January 2016

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From the President

A Society such as ours, often grows initially due to a few individuals who have both the drive and the foresight to create something out of nothing. Continuance of a Society such as ours is only possible due to drive and dedication of its members and Stephen Fortescue, a founding member, in his lecture marking the Society's Diamond Jubilee in 2006 gives a very good summary of the way the Society had developed and noted that it had essentially fulfilled its original purpose of researching and publishing histories of the five parishes of the old Leatherhead UDC.

The Society has been fortunate in that it always had individuals in the post of Chairman who brought new ideas and their own particular specialist expertise. Looking back, the list starts with Capt Lowther then Mssrs Ruby, Renn, Fortescue, Smith, followed by Linda Heath and in the year 2006 David Hartley took over as Chairman from Peter Tarplee.

As most of you are likely to know by the time this is circulated, David Hartley who had already indicated that he would not be standing for re-election next year, found that working full time and for other personal reasons meant he had to resign earlier than intimated. In some respects a chairman's job as such may not take up too much time. However when you realise that the post of Society Secretary was vacant, that David was also the Archaeological Secretary and he stepped in to fulfil the role of Sales Secretary plus being on the Museum Committee and the Fabric Committee, the extent of his contribution to the well being of the Society is very considerable. It is vital that the post of Sales Secretary is not vacant since not only must the Society present a good business face to the world but the income is essential if the Society and the Museum survive into the future. David was leading the discussions with the Priory representative regarding the possible renewal of the lease of the basement without which the Society might well not be able to maintain running the Museum.

He has also been a regular contributor to the newsletter on both Society and archaeological topics. He produced the well researched and presented display panels for the Museum on the prehistoric, Roman and Saxon remains that have been found in the locality and answered queries both on archaeological matters and otherwise. His time was also spent on presenting other displays at the Museum outside in the Gazebo for children and I am pleased to say that he is remaining a steward at the Museum. David is probably the only one now who has detailed knowledge of the Society's quite extensive archaeological collection.

David's tenure is a hard act to follow and I am quite sure that many others, as I am, are sorry to see that he has had to resign and hope that in due course he will be able to take a more active role with the Society again particularly on archaeology. Hopefully in due course he will be able to contribute further papers or notes on that subject for the Newsletter and/or Proceedings. I am pleased in this note to formally thank David for all the time and effort that he has expended for the Society.

At the time of writing there has just been a meeting of the remaining Committee members and some temporary arrangements have been formulated but this does highlight the quite significant problem that the Society has in finding active people to undertake the management and development of the Society. Taking slightly out of context but very relevant Stephen

Fortescue wrote in 2006: “Otherwise the Society will become merely a social club with a monthly dose of local history”.

Alan V Pooley President

Interim Arrangements

A meeting chaired by Fred Meynen was called of the Executive Committee and temporary arrangements were made to allow the Society to carry on until the AGM meeting next year. Fred Meynen accepted the temporary role as Chairman, Jane Summerfield as Secretary and Roy Mellick as Sales and Publication Secretary. Following the meeting we are pleased that David Hartley agreed to continue in his role as Archeological Secretary.

Chairman	Fred Meynen
Secretary	Jane Summerfield
Sales/Publications	Roy Mellick

These roles are reflected on the inside pages of the cover.

High Warren and its Occupiers

The name ‘Warren’ will be familiar to Ashtead Residents though it is a locality name frequently used to identify land set aside for rabbit (or hare) breeding and shooting. The name ‘Duckham’ is more usually associated with Duckhams Q20/50 which was the first multi-grade engine oil to be developed around 1965 (prior to that most petrol engines required seasonal oil changes). In 1969 the Duckhams Oil business was acquired by BP. Unfortunately Ashtead’s two main history books associate the house called High Warren with this particular Duckham but awarding him the titles and forenames of his equally distinguished brother, Dr Alexander Duckham¹ (1877-1945) discovered a crude oil in Trinidad that was suitable for the manufacture of lubricating oil and founded the famous business based on this discovery. However he did not form a connection with Ashtead as far we can discover. His brother, Sir Arthur McDougall Duckham² however did form a connection, he was born 8th July 1879 and died aged 53 in 1932 at his home, High Warren in Ashtead. His story briefly follows:

He served an apprenticeship at the South Metropolitan Gas Company’s works in the Old Kent Road, London later moving to Bournemouth Gas and Water Company as assistant engineer under Mr Harold W Woodall. Very soon he is running a firm called Woodall and Duckham which is exploiting the invention of the Continuous Vertical Retort for the carbonisation of coal. He designed a new gas works at Poole and also a Water Pumping Station in Dorset.

Whilst engaged on distinguished World War One service in Munitions for which he is awarded his first knighthood, a KCB - he acquired Warren Cottage on the Warren Estate in 1916 or thereabouts: he seems to have occupied the house himself until 1919 when he installs Arthur D. Peppercorn as tenant. Arthur Peppercorn is his Father-in-Law.

In 1918 he joins the Institution of Civil Engineers where he chaired a committee which



High Warren I (1921-2014)

proposed and established the Institution of Chemical Engineers. He became its first President.

High Warren is not completed until 1922 but during construction six Roman coins were discovered on the site including one late one of Allectus. Sir Arthur lived there with his wife Maud and only son Richard Peppercorn Duckham (1915-1957) until he died on 4th February 1932. Prior to his death in 1928 he led a British Trade Mission to Australia, following which he was awarded a second knighthood, a GBE.

Warren Cottage continues with Mrs Peppercorn in residence and Lady Duckham is still recorded as being at High Warren until sometime between 1950 and 1961. By 1961 High Warren is occupied by Sir Patrick Berkeley Moynihan OBE TD and family. By 1962-3 he is listed as the Rt Hon Lord Moynihan³. He had 3 children by his first marriage which ended in 1952 and he married again in that year and they bore two more children. He succeeded his father as second Baron Moynihan in 1936 (so his 1961 listing as Sir Patrick is inaccurate) taking the Liberal whip in the House of Lords. He died on the 30th April 1965 whilst anticipating an embarrassing court appearance. Lady June Moynihan is recorded as the occupier of High Warren until 1972. At that date John PV Hughes (20/10/1927-27/09/1988) and wife, Suzy become the third owners of High Warren which was then sold by his widow for redevelopment in 2014.

Local Residents have differing stories about the latter part of the Moynihan era. In one Lady June occupies the Gardeners Cottage which later becomes independent as High Warren Bungalow, Crampshaw Lane. We also have a story of her husband building Little Orchard,

Crampshaw Lane for her but no record of her residence is available. Indeed she is recorded as having married Neville Barton Hayman on 23/06/1967. Another recollection has High Warren being occupied for a short time by a John Solomon⁴, a renowned English Croquet Player who seems to have peaked as winning 9/10 national tournaments in 1963.

Returning to John Hughes: his inspiration was horse racing and he was inspirational in changing the face of the sport beyond all recognition. He appears to have started his career at Epsom Downs as Assistant Clerk of the Course. He rapidly assumed the top job and moved around from racecourse to racecourse. After arriving at Chepstow he was recruited, first to the same post at Lingfield in 1974 and subsequently to Aintree as Clerk of the Course in 1976 by Ladbrokes (who had contracted now with the Jockey Club to run the National Meeting for 7 years). This new Management team inspired by John Hughes restored the three day event to commercial success with numerous on and off-course changes to achieve the Festival status it has today. John Hughes is remembered through National Hunt races named in his remembrance at both Aintree and Chepstow.

High Warren I has provided Ashted with a chain of distinguished residents: looking forward to High Warren II how will this distinctive story unfold?



Impression of High Warren II (from 2015)

If you are interested in National Hunt racing, I can recommend a book to you (written by John) which has a whole chapter dedicated to himself - 'Long Live the National!'⁵ by John Hughes and Peter Watson (Michael Joseph 1983) ISBN 0 7181 2231 3.

John Rowley, Ashted Archivist

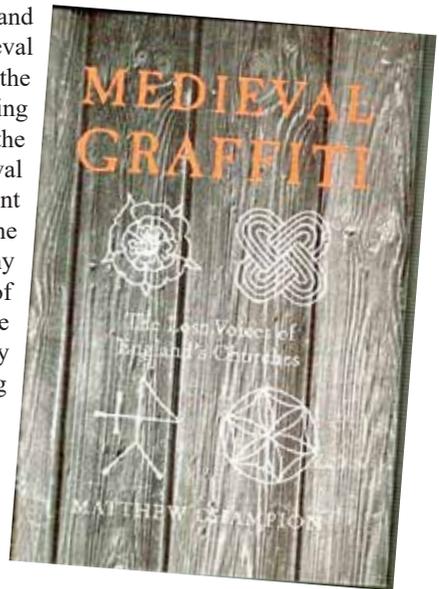
References

- 1 See Grace's Guide: http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Alexander_Duckham

- 2 See Grace's Guide: http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Arthur_McDougall_Duckham
- 3 See Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Moynihan,_2nd_Baron_Moynihan
- 4 See Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Solomon_\(croquet_player\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Solomon_(croquet_player))
- 5 FindJohnHughes's book: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/offer-listing/0718122313>

Medieval Graffiti - The Lost voices of England's Churches

Matthew Champion is a freelance archaeologist and Project Director of the Norfolk and Suffolk Medieval Graffiti Survey. His fascinating book explores the variety and possible origins of church graffiti being revealed by new photographic techniques. As the title implies the book concentrates on medieval graffiti. It speculates on the reasons for different types of graffiti - pilgrims?, bored apprentices?, the laying or warding off of curses? It looks at the many different 'designs' - ships, crosses and the sort of doodles we did with compasses at school, all the way through to the 'professional' graffiti used by masons in effect using flat surfaces as drawing boards.



New lighting techniques are showing up markings that have hitherto been difficult to detect because in many cases, there have been generations of whitewashing of the interiors of churches following the Reformation. You have

to remember that when first incised the 'graffiti' would have been highly visible as they were cut through painted surfaces into the stone below. This would not therefore probably have been seen as vandalism but as a sign of devotion.

Perhaps the book will inspire you to visit your local churches to inspect the walls (and woodwork). A quick look at Leatherhead Parish Church, for example near the font shows later graffiti of the more conventional kind such as names and initials!

Hardcover: 272 pages Publisher: Ebury Press (2015) ISBN 978-0091960414. This book was borrowed from Leatherhead Library.

Frank Haslam

The History of the Crystal Palace

- lecture by Ian Bevan, author and historian



This was a lecture that was outstanding in many ways. A well-researched subject, superb illustrations and above all a wide ranging diversity of insights. The theme running through the entire talk was the history of the project : how and why it came about; the story of its construction, its many functions and its tragic loss eighty years later.

The Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, opened by Queen Victoria in 1851 was its debut. It was a structure built of glass and steel in order to display industrial and cultural wonders from all over the world, the first ever of its kind. We learned how its unique style and appearance came about, the brain child of Joseph Paxton who began his career as a gardener. His greenhouses and glass structures created for the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth were the inspiration. Albert, the Prince Consort originally sceptical gave the project his blessing and support.

Ian's pictures took us through these early stages then on to the construction and finally a marvellous insight into the contents of the exhibition. Britain and its far flung Empire dominated but many other countries of the world also had a place. The 1850s were a time of enormous industrial advancement so naturally this theme was emphasised in the exhibits. This wasn't all however. The march of civilisation was depicted by displays showing how life was lived in times long ago. There were examples of how things were in the Egyptian, Greek, Roman and other past eras. People came flocking to see this wonder of wonders. Six million were counted and the eventual proceeds were sufficient to fund the construction of South Kensington's three great Victorian museums.

The story might have ended when the exhibition closed in 1852 but even greater things were to come about. The structure was bought by Paxton and an ideal site was found on which to rebuild it. This was on a hilltop at Sydenham, South of London. It was an ideal venue because the recently built London to Brighton railway ran close by, ensuring that visitors would come flocking. The Palace went up even bigger than the original with two majestic towers at each end. In the grounds sloping down the hill there were gigantic fountains and water features, there were facilities for sport and recreation. Notable were large statues depicting dinosaurs. The vast interior became the venue for great assemblies, concerts and numerous events. A firework display marked Queen Victoria's 80th birthday. During World War One it became a training centre for the Royal Navy. In the early 1930s it was the scene of early experiments with the transmission of television signals.



But it was all to end in a tragic but spectacular way. On the evening of 30th November 1936 flames were seen shooting skywards as the Palace became consumed by fire. It was a national disaster. The conflagration was visible miles away in South London, Surrey and Kent. It was estimated that 100,000 people turned out to see it. All available fire brigades made valiant efforts to extinguish it but of no avail. How could a structure of steel and glass be so

vulnerable many asked. The answer was that the entire floor was of timber with a ventilation space below it. This allowed the flames to spread unchecked. Next morning there was just a smoking ruin with the towers however surviving.

It was not quite the end of the story however. The extensive park continues to serve a useful purpose for many outdoor activities. Motor racing began in 1937 and continued until 1972. Many shows and outdoor events took place and still do. Crystal Palace Football Club now has another home. The towers have since been demolished so none of the original structure remains. In place of one however there stands a modern television mast. A nearby museum and the base of the south tower are the only surviving memories of the once majestic Crystal Palace.

John Wettern

“I wanna tell you a story”.

Some of you may remember the late Max Bygraves living at Pachesham Park, Leatherhead. One of Max’s favourite catch phrases was “I wanna tell you a story” and that’s what I intend to do. Sometimes they went on and on!

In January 1958 after enlisting at the Ministry of Labour and National Service Employment Exchange on Sunmead Parade, Guilford Road, Fetcham, I soon received a letter inviting me to attend a ‘Services Medical’ at Croydon. On arrival I first saw the doctor who listened to my chest and I was then asked to ‘drop my trousers, turn my head and cough’ - OK lad you’re A1.

I then proceeded to the Recruiting Officer who gave me an IQ Test and some general questions about what National Service was all about. Unfortunately by now most Navy and RAF places had been taken so it was ‘Khaki’ for me. The Recruiting Officer asked me could I drive, I said no, and he replied I’ll put you down for the RASC - 1st Choice followed by the RAOC.

Before my call up I was working for Ronson Products, Leatherhead as a Hollerith Machine Operator / Programmer (early computers) so why not the REME or even the RAPC.

I duly left and waited for a travel warrant and a destination to arrive. Much to my Dad’s amusement who had served in WWII – I was detailed to go to the Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham near Aldershot – Depot for the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Following my Nursing (A1) and First Aid training, I undertook a Clerks Course. My first posting was on the 2nd July to the *Medical Equipment Depot, Ludgershall*, Wiltshire, near Salisbury Plain. The posting was for a clerk, but when I arrived the CO said there was no vacancy for one but I see you have sign writing experience, so you are now officially the Depot Sign Writer. Before joining Ronsons I was a Trainee Commercial Artist and amongst other subjects I studied was Lettering at Epsom Art School and used to assist a local sign writer.

I was given some space in the Cutlers Shop and permission to buy brushes and paint. What a lovely job, but it only lasted two months before they cottoned on that the posting was a mistake.

I arrived for duty at 10 Coy RAMC Shorncliffe Hospital, Kent, near Folkestone on the 1st September. No sooner had I arrived there, I was seconded to the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham as Clerk in Charge of Military Service Personnel Records, for soldiers hospitalised there. Again what a posting, I was even allowed to dine in the Chief Petty Officers dining room, and I received an extra 3d a day rum allowance in my pay packet. Once again it only lasted two months.

So back to Shorncliffe where I finished my service having been on various jobs there including, Ante Natal Clerk for the Family Wing, coal and coke clerk, ambulance



A sample of my artwork

duties, in charge of the Linen / Laundry Store and finally my favourite being Ward Master responsible for the general running of the Hospital including the Family Wing and answerable directly to the Matron, a position normally held by a Sergeant.

I was only a Corporal by now so could not receive the third tape to Sergeant, because I was a National Serviceman. There were exceptions depending what your profession was in Civilian Life. Our two Pharmacists were both Sergeants.

One of my duties was to join the Matron on her Ward Rounds with clip board in hand where she would point out any items needed to make the Wards more efficient. I would then have to order the appropriate items.

You may wonder what all this has got to do with Leatherhead – Thank you for your patience. for myself indulgence – Finally my story now begins

I received a call from a Ward Sister to come to her ward and meet a Chelsea Pensioner who had been transferred from the Royal Hospital Chelsea for recuperation reasons following an operation. Shorncliffe Hospital being built into the cliff (hence the name) close to the sea it was an ideal place for aiding recovery. On a nice day a patient's bed could be pushed to the large opening windows that faced the coast line and take in the sea air. If you were lucky on a really clear day you could see the French Coast.

The Sister introduced me to him as just 'Jim' and I asked him what the problem was, he said he was having difficulty shaving with his wet razor these days and was there any chance of obtaining an electric shaver. The Sister gave her approval. By the way son, he asked, where are you from; I replied you have probably never heard of a town called Leatherhead. He replied yes I have and I have many happy memories of it, there's the Kings Head, Dukes Head, Prince of Wales, Running Horse and even the Jug House in Church Walk. I just laughed. It transpired he had been sent to the Royal School for the Blind which had been requisitioned by Kings College Hospital during the War. It was also known as the Infirmary.



The Infirmary Staff



Some of the Pensioners could still be seen in Leatherhead in their colourful uniforms well into the 1950s. .

Having had the approval to go ahead I went down to Folkestone and I chose a Ronson Electric Razor. The company had only recently diversified into shavers from their better known lighters. I never told the retailer that they were my employer in civilian life.



Ronson Razor c: 1950s

I took the razor back to Jim, who had never used an electric one before. I plugged it into the nearest socket and said be careful they vibrate. Unfortunately the vibration was too powerful for him and the razor fell to the floor cracking the case. He was so sorry, I said don't worry I'll see what I can do. I went back to the shop and explained what had happened. The shop owner was so obliging and said I'll send it back to the manufacturer and say it was broken in transit. I was glad I never told the retailer about working for them. Under the law Companies were obliged to re-employ servicemen after they were demobbed.

He suggested I try the Sunbeam equivalent for it has a better grip.

I hoped 'Jim' would agree when I returned, it proved to be just right, so it was all worthwhile.

When I was not on duty I would visit 'Jim' and reminisce about Leatherhead. Both the Crescent Cinema and the Ace Cinema (from 1951 the Repertory Theatre) were favourites on his list of places to visit. Remember we are taking about the war years and into the mid 1950s.



Sunbeam Razor c: 1950s

I'm sorry that my story as a sad ending 'Jim' died from pneumonia; he was in his early eighties. I never did find out his regiment. After the nurses had laid him out, I was called to take his body to the mortuary. The mortuary was not in the Hospital but had been hewn out of a cliff a short distance away. It was a very bleak place and so cold with just a single light bulb and a marble table to place the body on. They say grown men (in my case late teens) don't cry but I did that day.

Next day an ambulance arrived from the Royal Hospital Chelsea to collect the body.

It did not end there for a memorial service was held for him in the Garrison Church a few days later.

There ends my story.

Goff Powell



*23459073 Corporal Powell
Godfrey (Goff)*

Education Education Education

I hope dear reader that you will not be put off by this austere and somewhat 'political' title. It could have been called 'The Way We Were' but that has already been done.

Today education is rather a 'hot potato'. I feel for parents and indeed the young people who are trying to find their way through the mine-field that the current system has created.

But enough of this. I want to take us back to an age when the business of learning and education in general seemed so much simpler. In the following submission I would like you to come with me on a journey back to the late 1940s and the early years of the 1950s. The main focus will be that late lamented establishment, the Leatherhead County Secondary School which was on Kingston Road where the recently established Trinity School now stands. Incidentally up until April 1945 the school had been known as Leatherhead Central School and although I went there some time later it was still referred to it as 'Going up to The Central' because the parents still referred to it as such.

The school was built in 1913 by The Surrey County Council. You will see from the photos that the same architectural features can be seen in many schools in the County.

It consisted of two buildings one being larger than the other from henceforth known as the big school and the small school, simple really.

Of course at the time of our journey there was no Therfield School and when it arrived (in 1953) it was still called Leatherhead Secondary School. We would have to wait until February 1964 when the new name was adopted. The then Head Master, Mr Claytor realised that the land on which the school was build was part of the Manor of Pachesam and that this Manor was presented to Brian de Therfield by King John in 1205.



This view will be familiar to hundreds of people that had the good fortune to receive their education in these venerable buildings. This picture is looking at the east end of the big school from the top playground.

In those days of long ago we all started school at the age of five. Your first school would normally be an infant/junior establishment. In our area the relevant schools in Leatherhead were the two Church Schools, All Saints and Poplar Road. Asstead Church School and Fetcham also a Church School. There were also a number of small fee paying schools which might or might not feed into the Leatherhead Secondary School in Kingston Road. It should be noted that the 'new' Fetcham School in Bell Lane was still some way into the future. Each of these schools is an interesting story on their own but I only want to concentrate on The Secondary School here.

At the age of eleven we were all subjected to that long lamented (by some) infamous examination which surprise surprise was called 'The Eleven Plus'. Your result would determine your progression on the education ladder. Those who failed went on to the Secondary school. Those who passed went on to a Grammar School, normally Dorking. Some of the girls would be accepted at Roseberry Girls School in Epsom. And some lads would go to Glyn Grammar in Ewell.



We are now standing in the lower playground looking at the small school

I was one of those who failed the eleven plus and went up to 'The

Secondary'. Let me try and give you an insight into the feel of the place.

Like all the other lads and lasses who failed to achieve (this was a phrase for the future) I found the first few days rather a shock. Perhaps I should explain that we were 'streamed' and as a consequence each year was divided into five levels based on the results of the eleven plus. So there was 1A, B, C, D, E. Grading ran for years one, two and three.

My first year was in 1A and our class was located in The Co-op Hall in Kingston Road now the home of the ladies gym called Curves. At that time the ground floor was home to the Co-op Dairy so our lessons were punctuated by the noise of metal milk crates being moved around and taken back to the main dairy in Woodbridge Road Guildford. I have clear memories of having to draw up our timetables showing the time and location for our weekly lessons and wondering how on earth would I find my way around this very large 'pond'. The girl I married was in the same class and she recalls having the same concerns.

Our form teacher was a lovely lady called Mrs. Woods but you only saw her at registration. However she was a maths teacher so we did see her during the week. The School was under the control of the Head Master (not teacher) Stanley Arthur Moore, obviously referred to as 'Sam' but never to his face you understand! Sam was a firm but fair person and did not object to using the cane if an offence was such that it was 'justified'. I did get the cane when I was in the fourth year but there again I would have caned me for the misdemeanour! (No, I won't tell you).

Most Form Teachers had specific areas in which they specialised. For example we had Mr Lane, Lads PT/Games/some maths; Miss Owen, Girls PT/ Games; Mr Hurst, Maths; Miss Powell and Mr Maurar French; Mr Biggs and Miss Kew, English; Miss Zumbach, Music; Mr Taylor, Art;

There were of course many more but I will spare you the agony of reading a long list but these will I trust suffice to give you the idea and you will no doubt be able to relate to your own experiences if you happen to be of a certain age.



This magnificent hall was comparatively recent addition. an obvious effort has been made to compliment the original. not long after i took thos picytre the wreaking ball reduced it to a pile of rubble. what a pity it could not have been left to serve the fine new trinity school building

The School was well equipped for its time and was housed in a variety of buildings. We have already met with the famous Co-op Hall. The buildings consisted of two main buildings, ie the large school and the small school, I suspect the size of each determined their acquired title.

In addition to the original buildings there were a number of single storey Horsa Huts. These were located at the top end of the site, roughly where the Trinity School building now stands. Each hut had a central entrance that opened out to the left and right into two class rooms. There were three

huts and six class rooms. One of the huts contained the Carpentry and Metal Working workshops. Another contained two Science Labs and the third housed the Domestic Science classrooms. In the latter the girls were instructed in all things domestic such as cooking and ironing etc. Incidentally it would appear that some ‘wise people’ in Government think that it would be beneficial if the food aspect was resurrected, well that’s an idea!

There was also a large canteen together with kitchens. Part of this space also doubled as occasional classrooms. (You had to be out in time for the ‘dinner ladies’ to make their preparations). It was evident that the facilities would soon be insufficient for purpose.

The ‘large school’ had a hall that was used for the daily assemblies and also had climbing ropes and wall frames. At these assemblies ‘Sam’ would give out any relevant notices and would usually conduct brief prayers.

Amongst all this pretence at modernity we have to remember that we still had outside lavatories (we did not call them toilets back in the old days). The boys urinals had no cover but the WCs did, however it was still not the place to hang about in the winter months. We just hoped that the pipes had not frozen. You will be pleased to learn that the fair sex did have overall cover but no heating!



I apologise for this one but by the time i got there this was all that was left of the girls facilities in the lower playground

The education that we received was to my mind sufficient to set one on course for the big outside world. In the fourth year you would either go into a Grammar, Technical, Commercial or general stream. (One of the teachers in the general stream was a Mrs Startup, now how inspiring was that!)



The bell tower that called the young to learn for nigh on ninety five years

We were able to leave school at fifteen. I wanted to go into engineering so I went to Vickers Armstrongs and when I became sixteen I commenced a five year Tool Making apprenticeship.

Before we go I must mention the School Bell that was located in the magnificent cupola with the green copper cap. This loyal servant rang for the beginning of the school day called us back after the lunch break (although back then we were unsophisticated and referred to it as dinner). It then called us to observe the end of our daily labours. It was rung from a rope in the main hall but you had to be a chosen one to perform

this task. My claim to fame is that I was possibly the last person to ring the bell. During my ‘photographic’ trip in the condemned building I noticed that the rope was still in place, I looked at Alison the Head Teacher at Trinity, she looked at me and said “go on then but I never said yes”. The old thing gave out what was to my mind a mournful tone. It sounded tired and seemed resigned to its fate. It had since 1913 held true to its calling. I had tears in my eyes.

All the photographs were taken by me just days before ‘the wreaking ball’ reduced the edifice to a pile of dusty brick rubble. I am extremely grateful to the then Head Mistress for providing the facilities.

(Acknowledgments to Linda Heath’s book ‘Of Good Report’)

Brian Hennegan

Renewing your Membership for 2016

As agreed at the AGM in March, the Society’s membership fee will be £20 for 2016, an increase of £2 on 2014. The fees for associate membership and membership of the Friends of the Leatherhead Museum are unchanged. It was also agreed that the next issue of the Proceedings of the Society would be available in hard copy for £3 to members and would be available to members on-line, arrangements to be published nearer the time of publication.

The membership year begins on January 1st. An application form is provided with this newsletter and is also available via the membership page of our website.

Frank Haslam, Membership Secretary

DORKING CONCERTGOERS PRESENT

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA WITH MICHAEL COLLINS CLARINET/CONDUCTOR

Saturday 30 January 2016
Dorking Halls 7.30pm

Prokofiev Symphony No.1 Classical
Mozart Clarinet Concerto
Beethoven Symphony No.4

Tickets £14; £20; £25; £29

FUTURE CONCERTS

STRING QUARTET SERIES: HEATH STRING QUARTET

Sunday 21 February 2016 3.00pm: £20

Works by Mozart, Beethoven & Tchaikovsky

Sunday 6 March 2016 3.00pm: £20

Works by Haydn, Ravel & Tchaikovsky

Sunday 20 March 2016 3.00pm: £20

Works by Mozart, Bartók & Tchaikovsky



Michael Collins Photo: Benjamin Estovega

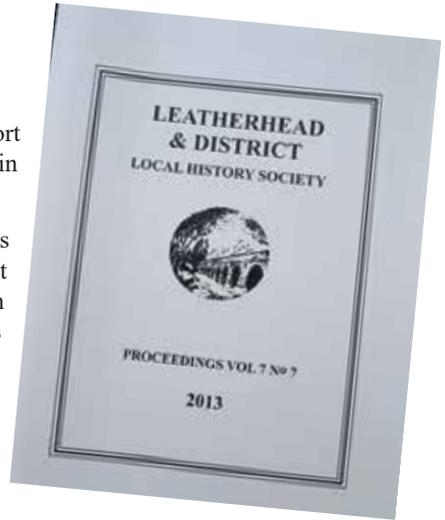
Tickets from Dorking Concertgoers' Box Office 01306 740619 or Dorking Halls 01306 881717
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Submissions for the Proceedings

There has been some discussion about the sort of articles required for the Proceedings and in particular the need for and style of references.

Any article to be published in the proceedings should be adequately referenced. This shows that it has been researched from sound sources in adequate depth and makes it possible for readers to refer back to the original sources: to obtain more information; to confirm that the author has correctly interpreted the source publication; to compare the information sources used with other information which may be available to the reader.



In professional publications there sometimes seems to be a competition to cite as many references as possible and one measure of a scientist's standing is the number of times his work is cited by his fellows. I do not advocate that. I think simplicity should be the key.

If I may use as an example a paper of which I was a part author which appeared in The Newsletter in Aug 2015. This was offered to The Newsletter because it was not original research but was based on a talk. By chance the references cover a wide variety of sources: books – ref's 4, 6 & 9; a learned publication – ref' 11; a variety of booklets and a bulletin – ref's 3, 5, 8, 10; the parish filing system – ref's 1, 2, 12, 13; and a personal communication. When you wish to abbreviate the title of a publication please use the form of abbreviation used by the publication itself, do not invent a new one.

If our authors will follow these examples they are likely to please the editor! All the references are entered as superscripts in the text. My Windows Vista programme does this very neatly for me using the 'references' sub-programme and eventually puts them all where I want them at the end of the article.

If you feel you need to use footnotes then I suggest you create them as 'text-boxes'. Illustrations should also be made into 'text boxes' complete with their appropriate caption. These should be submitted separately from the article. It may help to make a print of the article with the preferred location of the footnotes and illustrations marked but when the article is prepared for the press it may well cover part pages and illustrations and footnotes may need to be adjusted to make the best use of space and to improve the overall presentation.

As for subjects; take anywhere in or about northern Mole Valley from earliest archaeology to 2000. Ask before you commit yourself if you want to avoid duplication, or if you have any doubts or queries. I'm learning on the job too.

Bill Whitman

News from The Friends Of Leatherhead Museum



This year The Friends decided to celebrate the new Mediaeval Room by using that era as the theme for the three craft days on July 31st and 7th and 14th August. We had 215 visitors over the three days which I believe is a record. Some families returned from previous years but many were first time visitors to the museum. Children were invited to take part in a range of activities including weaving, simple pottery, crown making, cutting and drawing 3D mediaeval houses. We had young Queens and Kings signing their own Magna Cartas and adding a seal of their choice with sealing wax. It was exciting to see so many local friends as well as committee members giving their time and sharing their talents. Kanchan Bagwatt and her friend Priti did henna patterns and taught the children simple quilling. Thanks to





Tesco, who provided the oranges and cloves, Dorothy Stapleton helped the children to make pomanders. Robin Christian who spent the three days grandly dressed as a mediaeval lord enlisted a team of friends, also in mediaeval dress, who brought activities such as heraldic shield making and dressing our wagon wheel to sit outside during the cycle race. During the afternoons children dressed in mediaeval clothes from our new upstairs dressing-up area, came dashing through the garden brandishing swords and shields or just being proud to look mediaeval. It was a very lively, action packed three days.

On June 26th a year 1 class from Fetcham Infant School walked to the museum to spend half the morning in Hampton Cottage and half in the Leatherhead Library. Robin Christian, Julia Lack and Diana Rogers worked with small groups discussing and handling objects from the Mediaeval Room, the Victorian Kitchen and the archaeology pit. Our new archaeology pit added a fresh dimension to the school visit. Robin explained how to carefully uncover finds with brushes and trowels. These 6/7 year old children relished the hands-on learning that this provided

On the morning of Sunday August 2nd stewards, Fred Meynen and Ann Cardew opened the museum for the Prudential Ride London cycle race. The race was so fast and furious that Ann had trouble crossing the road to get to Hampton Cottage to open up!

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

At the moment we have seven committee members and in addition Alan Pooley attends our meetings in his role as museum manager but we could do with more members, 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.

Julia Lack

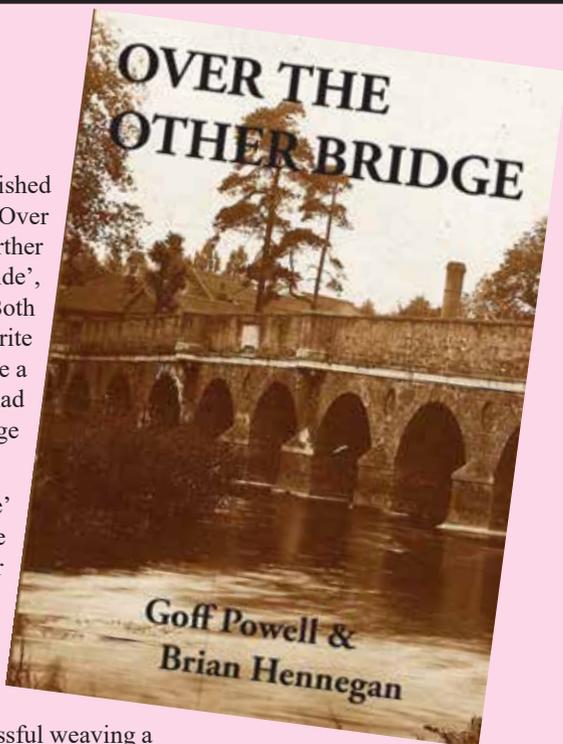
A New Society Book! *Over the Other Bridge*

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.

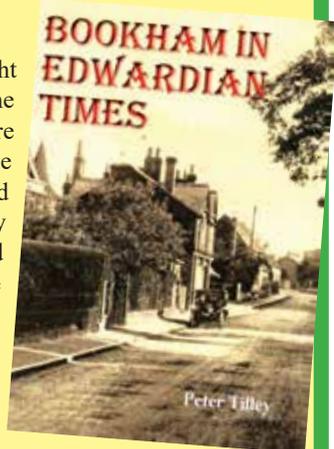


Bookham in Edwardian Times

This intriguing book full of photos and illustrations gives an insight into Bookham in Edwardian times tracking every household from the census enumeration of 1911. The locations of occupied property are identified and are shown on printed extracts from the 1914 Ordnance Survey maps. Many of the buildings survive to the present day and the book gives a brief narrative about the occupants of each property allowing the reader to identify for instance where a four roomed cottage had ten occupants or where a twenty roomed villa had one occupant and seven servants.

Due to its popularity the book has now gone to a reprint. Price £10.

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR COPY?



Making Use of the Heritage Weekends

Heritage weekends provide the wonderful opportunity to visit places and houses that are not normally open to the public but only a limited number can be visited during one weekend and a choice has to be made. A choice of mine was Fetcham Park House.



Fetcham Park House

It is easy to travel up and down the Lower Road at Fetcham and never notice the large house close to Fetcham Church and which can really only be seen from Badingham Drive. What is startling is that there stands a considerable country house in a live and perfect state with fountains playing in the landscaped gardens. No attempt is made here to give its history which is freely available on the Society's Archive (ref 1).

We are used to grand country houses and manor houses preserved by the National Trust and only a mile away is Polesden Lacey. But Fetcham Park House is no museum of the past – it is a living house set up for daily use in its grandeur. Polesden Lacey is kept behind dark blinds with dimly lit rooms and warnings 'Try not to Touch' to





Views from inside the Fetcham Park House. Above the magnificent Laguerre ceiling so well restored to its original glory





More of the splendid views



preserve its historic contents from damage from the light or handling. The chairs are not to be sat upon but to be admired and to remind visitors who had sat upon them in the past. Fetcham Park House is different again. Sunlight streams through the ample windows, everything is in perfect condition and brightly polished and is furnished fitting for a stately home.



A recital in one the rooms in Heritage weekend

The house dates back to just about 1700 and a fortune was invested on building and establishing the house and estate. A magnificent stairway was adorned with murals by the French artist Louis Laguerre and Capability Brown advised on the design of the grounds.

It has seen its dark days when it became a school, Badingham College from the 1920s to 1965. It then became derelict and was badly neglected. In 1979 a company bought it and sensitively restored it to its former glory including the magnificent Laguerre murals as well as extending it to make it a house of today. It now offers high class office facilities and also can be hired for functions such as weddings.

It is magnificent inside, all in perfectly restored condition including all the works of art. It has an atmosphere of elegance just as would be expected from a live country house including the staff. Outside the lawns and flowerbeds are all in keeping.

Today there are few country house maintained to this standard. Usually they are visited as museums. Here is a magnificent house alive today.

Martin Warwick

Ref 1: 'Fetcham Park House' by Alan Pooley in the 2004 Leatherhead History Society Proceedings, Volume 6 Number 8 – available online from the LDLHS Archive

Readers' Queries - Do you know?

Thomas Clay's plan of the manor of Great Bookham (1614-17) marks the site of today's Polesden Lacey House as 'Little Coppenden'. Where was Great Coppenden, and why the name?

Have you any questions you want answering? Use the Newsletter to obtain reader's answers.

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.

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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

All meetings take place in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute (top end of the High Street) starting at 8.00pm, preceded by coffee or tea from 7.30pm

4th December Christmas Quiz Night - Quizmaster Frank Haslam

7.00pm for 7.30 start - Our Christmas Event - it's Quiz time again! Many of you who came to our Christmas Quiz last year said you hoped we would do it again, and so we are. Please book early as we are only allowed to seat 70 at tables in the Abraham Dixon Hall at the Institute. Bring along your friends and have fun. Frank Haslam will again be our Quizmaster and the evening includes a Fish & Chip Supper. Full details are on the enclosed booking form.

15th January Nigel Bond 'The Anglo-Saxon Minster at Letherhead'

19th February Famous People of Letherhead

Come and find out who they were! A series of 10 minute talks by members of your Programme Committee

18th March Annual General Meeting