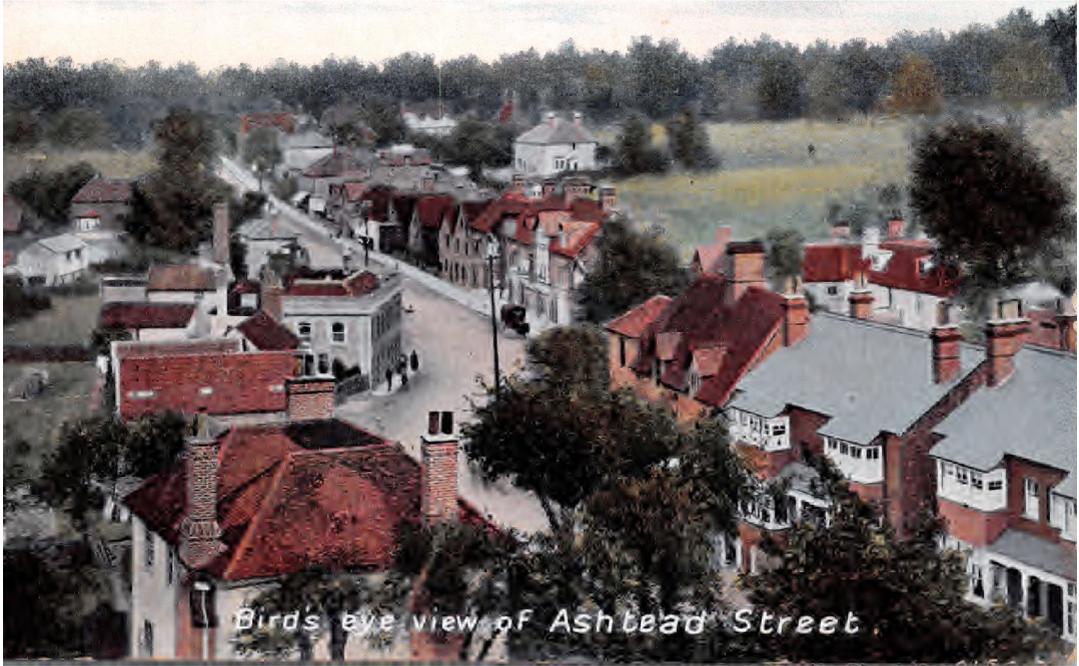


The Newsletter

Leatherhead & District August 2016
Local History Society



Bird's eye view of Ashstead Street



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Front page upper: Aerial photo of Ashtead Street c1905. It was taken from the chimney of the works then existing at the top of Greville Park Road. Street Farm is still visible to the left while Albert Road, built around 1908, is absent.

Lower: Street level image, also c1905. Frith card from collection donated by Gwen Gale.



Editorial

In the last *Newsletter*, my first as Editor, I thanked my predecessor Martin Warwick for his superb work and wished him well for the future. Sadly he had been ill for some time and we heard of his death on 30 June. Our condolences go to his wife Jill and their family. Martin's funeral took place on 13 July at the Leatherhead Crematorium with a gathering afterwards at the

Old Barn Hall, Bookham. The Society has lost a long-serving and irreplaceable member. You can read both his own story on Page 4 and his last *Newsletter* article on Page 21.

After a break, the Society is once again producing its *Proceedings*, now both in printed format and online. Copies of Volume 7 No 8/9 covering 2014-15 will be available at our September meeting and Editor Bill Whitman plans to start on No 10 in October covering 2016. He wants to encourage as many contributors as possible so do contact him by telephone or e-mail with your ideas. He is especially interested in historic material on the development of the Leatherhead district from 1945 to 2000.

This *Newsletter* also marks the first of a new series on oral histories of people who lived in the Leatherhead district long ago and recall life here over the past century. Writer Edwina Vardey interviewed many local personalities between 1979 and 2000. Her historic sound recordings are now being transcribed for the first time and some will appear in edited form in future *Newsletters*. The recordings themselves will eventually become available for use by the Museum and the Society. However, to start the series, Edwina was interviewed about her own life since moving to the district in 1949. Part of her interview appears in this issue.

TONY MATTHEWS

*Newsletter contributions to tony.matthews@blueyonder.co.uk
Next edition deadline - 2 October 2016*

OBITUARY:
MARTIN WARWICK
(1934-2016)

Martin Warwick was a remarkable man with an amazing history. More of that later. Most people in the local community came to know him only after his retirement when he and his wife Jill left their home in Dulwich for a peaceful life in the much greener and more relaxed atmosphere of Great Bookham.

That was in September 2001. Their new home was a small bungalow in The Garstons surrounded by concrete. Over the next year they transformed it into a larger and far more comfortable home with landscaped gardens and an ideal setting for cosy living with their dog. Martin, a keen musician, soon became a regular steward at Polesden Lacey, playing its grand piano for visitors and editing its internal magazines. It was the start of a new voluntary career as he also took over the editorship of *Bookhams Bulletin*, the Bookham Community Association's magazine, and from 2009 the *L&DLHS Newsletter* as well. Both publications were transformed in design, doubled in size, and reflected the fun-loving attitude to life that made Martin such a popular and special person.

Special indeed. Despite an impressive career, Martin's earlier life had never featured journalism at all. His talents had taken him in a very different direction.

His parents were living in a council house in Peckham when Martin, their second son, was born in 1934. His father was a post office worker at Mount Pleasant sorting office. The family remained there for decades and it was Martin's home throughout his childhood, spanning the years of World War 2 and later.

He and his brother Peter both attended local LCC primary schools and then the private Alleyn's School on scholarships. Martin developed his love of sport but was taught only arts subjects and languages. Yet in the sixth form he showed an instinctive talent for mathematics and physics and at 18 won a prized open scholarship to study pure and applied maths at Queen Mary College, London University. After graduation, this led to teaching posts for several years at private schools in Norfolk before he discovered his real



Martin's picture first appeared on editorials in the L&DLHS Newsletter in August 2009. It marked a major change in this publication.

calling in the world of computers. He would never look back.

In 1963 he joined English Electric and worked on software development for one of the earliest digital computers. This involved creating operating systems that would enable software programs to be written. He was at the heart of developments as the whole industry took off, moving into

management and from 1969 worked in London, lived in Dulwich, and eventually became a consultant to both public and private organisations then establishing themselves in the rapidly evolving world of digital technology.

Yet Martin's life was far from straightforward. He was born into a strict religious sect but changed direction in his thirties and adopted a very different lifestyle.

He and Jill were married in 1978 and between them had seven children. Two of them went to Martin's old Alleyn's School where Jill also worked for a time. Her son Matthew learned music there and went on to become a professional musician with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Martin's role at the *Bookhams Bulletin* was crucial as he masterminded every aspect of its production until shortly before his death on 30 June. But his editorship of the *L&DLHS Newsletter* was also revolutionary, using his technological expertise to turn it into a real magazine, introducing colour first on the covers and then throughout in November 2014, and always adding his own light hearted approach to the content and its presentation. He was a wonderful asset to the Society and is sorely missed.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

9 - 16 September: Heritage Week

The Society will have a bookstall and will exhibit in the Letherhead Institute on 10 and 11 September. A free booklet giving the whole programme of events throughout Mole Valley is available from local libraries.

16 September: Lecture

David Graham will tell us about Farnham and its unique castle. David is a former President of the Surrey Archaeological Society and has done much work in West Surrey.

21 October: Lecture

L&DLHS member Sally Todd will tell us about St John's School, Leatherhead, in the First World War. Sally was the Librarian at St John's and is now responsible for its archives. She has been involved in a major project on World War One.

18 November: L&DLHS 70th birthday celebration

Wine and nibbles, followed by brief talks on the Society's own history, personalities and achievements. As a member of our Society you are invited to bring a guest. There is no admission charge but donations towards expenses are always welcome. It is hoped that Stephen Fortescue, our Founder Member and Past President, will be the Guest of Honour.

2 December: Frank Haslam will present another Quiz Night/Supper. Please put this in your diary. Even better, start asking friends who might form a team with you for an entertaining evening which also raises funds for our Society. You don't have to be a history buff. See the enclosed booking form.

Details of activities will be posted on the Society's website and announced at meetings, all of which take place in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute (top end of the High Street), starting at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors are always welcome.

THE NEXT PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE AT SEPTEMBER MEETING

All members were informed via their membership form that:

*Our next *Proceedings* would be available to download via an emailed link to members with an email address.

*A printed reference copy would be placed in local libraries including the Society's library in the Letherhead Institute.

*The cost to those who would prefer to have their own printed copy would be £3. About 25 members have indicated they would buy a printed copy. **If you would like a printed copy, please complete and return the enclosed order form. It must be received by no later than Monday, 5 September. Printed copies will only be issued at the September meeting to those who have ordered them.**

FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

Report by GWEN HOAD

The committee of the Friends of the Museum were very sad to say goodbye to Julia at their recent AGM. She had joined the committee in 2006 while serving as a steward in the Museum.

She became Education Secretary as her former career as a junior school teacher made her an ideal person for this position. She took on the responsibility enthusiastically and professionally and was full of ideas for furthering the role of the Museum in reaching out to the younger generation.

She organised visits to local schools and was on hand when school parties or groups of Cubs and Brownies visited the Museum. With the help of Robin Christian, she started the idea of Craft Days during school holidays which became, and still are, very popular.



Julia was presented with a pot plant at her farewell meeting.

She created a trail for children to follow on visits to the Museum, and she and Debby Humphreys made Explorer bags which children could borrow for their visit. Julia and Robin organised joint visits with the Local History Society to places of historical interest, usually another museum. She also undertook the role of Honorary Secretary when that post became vacant.

When Fred Meynen resigned as Chairman of the Friends' committee in 2012, Julia added that role unofficially to her already full commitment. She now represented the Friends at meetings of the Executive Committee of the Society, wrote about the Friends' activities for the *Newsletter*, wrote a separate *Newsletter Bulletin* for the Friends themselves, and produced minutes.

Since Julia resigned she has had a spell of ill health and we wish her a speedy recovery. In the meantime we have no Chairman, but Judy Wilson has nobly taken on the role of Honorary Secretary. The Friends urgently need someone to lead their committee. Are there any volunteers?



What are these?

Julia's farewell meeting also featured a quiz that she had organised. Two teams were asked to identify a series of exhibits from the Museum.

They are all shown here. Could you have recognised them all? Answers in the November *Newsletter*.

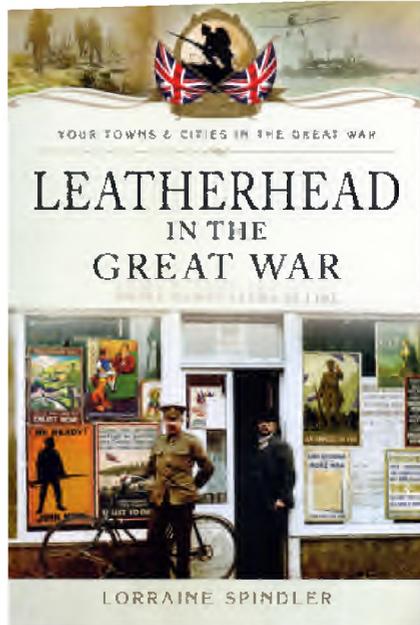
LEATHERHEAD IN THE GREAT WAR

Lorraine Spindler's new book *Leatherhead in the Great War* was published to coincide with the centenary of the Battle of the Somme in June. Copies are now on sale at the Museum at £14.99 (plus £2.50 postage if ordered by mail). Lorraine signed copies at a formal launch on 16 July at Barton's Bookshop in Bridge Street, Leatherhead.

Interviewed by the *Leatherhead Advertiser*, she said it had been a privilege to research the lives of local residents during the Great War. 'Many suffered beyond imagination and yet their stories have been lost over time,' she told the paper. Her book had originated from her planning of commemorations for the war's centenary and its impact on the local community.

The paper said: 'The book recounts the lives of individuals such as a Mrs Leach of Vale Lodge who organised collections of eggs for the wounded. The parish magazine reported that more than 4680 eggs had been dispatched. The Leatherhead Boy Scouts guarded the waterworks to stop enemy spies from poisoning the water. Locals feared the tennis courts of the rich were intended to be used as emplacements for heavy guns to be used by the invading enemy. Children were warned not to accept sweets from strangers in case they had been poisoned by the Germans.'

It continued: 'While Leatherhead residents busied themselves with endless charitable activities, there was a darker side to the effects of war. For example, Prussian-born William Suhr was the town's hairdresser, working long hours from his shop in Bridge Street. William and his wife were openly persecuted by many local



residents to the extent that he wrote a heartfelt letter to the local papers to plead for their support. His son was fighting with the Canadians and was taken prisoner, while his wife's family members had fought for Britain during the Boer War.

'Thirty Belgian refugees took shelter in the town from February 1915, at first warmly welcomed but by 1918 it had become a constant struggle to raise money and provide support for the visiting families. Virtually overnight, the town became unrecognisable. Ventham Coachbuilders switched from manufacturing motor cars to tanks, Zeppelins flew over the town's skies and the streets were flooded with troops such as the University and Public Schools Battalion, Kensington Rifles and Canadian soldiers on leave from the Woodcote Convalescent Hospital.

'Parents said goodbye to their sons and daughters as they left to serve with the forces. Louisa Taylor waited for news but four of her six sons perished, serving with the army. After the war Louisa never locked the door of her home in Kingston Road, just in case one of her missing sons returned. Towards the end of the conflict Ada Weller of Gravel Hill, a member of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, died as a result of the Spanish flu epidemic as the town faced further threats to the lives of the young.

'On 19 July 1919, Leatherhead joined the nation to celebrate peace. A lunch for returning servicemen was laid out and a procession of more than 2000 Leatherhead residents proceeded to Randalls Park. As the Leatherhead Silver Band played, the town rejoiced with fireworks, dancing and the customary bonfire. Though warmed by the flames of celebration, Leatherhead was irrevocably altered.'

Lorraine added: 'Since writing the book I have been thrilled to meet the descendants of some of the Leatherhead residents who went off to fight. Pearl, daughter of Frederick Kew, who served with the Royal Field Artillery, told me over a coffee of how her father was patrolling on horseback, near the front lines in France. His horse was suddenly spooked for no apparent reason and bolted away from his two colleagues. As his horse galloped forward, an explosion took the lives of his colleagues and their horses. The Army permitted Frederick Kew to keep his war horse which he transported back to England after the hostilities ended.'

COMMENT ON FEBRUARY LECTURE

By **BRIAN HENNEGAN**

I would like to clarify some points about my talk on Mabel Fuller in February. First, her tutor was Tobias Matthay whose studio was in Wimpole Street, London. He was controversial, liked by many but ridiculed by others. His style was rather demonstrative and his detractors thought his playing techniques somewhat effeminate.

Regarding hedgehogs and pokers, these had nothing to do with Tobias. It was Miss Fuller who jokingly told me that she would apply the hedgehogs and the poker to me so that my posture and touch might be improved. I was always a challenge to her and I think that on more than one occasion my father would have questioned the perceived value from his quarterly cheque.

The 'large lady' mentioned in the report in the last *Newsletter* may have been confused by my reference to Miss Fuller playing a large part in the local music scene and beyond. In fact she was rather petite with a very precise manner, both in speech and movement. Apart from her dedicated work at her LSOM in Church Road, she conducted the Leatherhead Choral Society and was involved with the Leith Hill Music Festivals. She had also occasionally, worked with Ralph Vaughan Williams when I was her pupil.

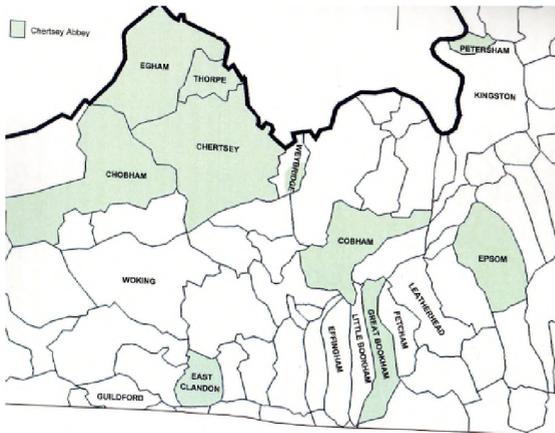
APRIL LECTURE

Digging up Bookham

Report by **DEREK RENN**

In her garden some years ago, Lyn Spencer dug up part of a brass ewer and pottery fragments which experts told her were medieval, some as early as the 12th century. According to a 400-year-old detailed map owned by the National Trust, Bookham Courte, a grange of Chertsey Abbey, had stood there centuries earlier.

Bookham Courte, just north of the parish church, was demolished in about 1720. Fired by this history on her doorstep, and using both sorts of evidence - archaeology and documents - she built up a picture of the village in the past, which she described at our April meeting.



Left: Lyn's new book has this map showing lands in Surrey owned by Chertsey Abbey. They were given by Frithwald, ruler of Surrey under King Wulfehere of Mercia. Map is courtesy of Surrey Archaeological Society.

Further excavations in the garden uncovered a demolition layer of flints and roof tiles, a chalk floor, an hearth made of tiles set on edge, conglomerate pebbles similar to large blocks in the nearby church, burnt clay and a mysterious row of large chalk blocks. Small finds included clay pipes, bones with butchery marks, a whetstone and a copper repair strip. As recently as this March, building work in a neighbour's garden had uncovered a larger area of tiles on edge, but the extent and layout of the old Bookham Courte buildings have still to be worked out.

Our speaker had gone beyond her own garden to put her discoveries in context. Most village excavations have been on deserted sites, but test pits in living villages give a better picture with a longer time scale. She had appealed for volunteer house-holders, and then organised digs in gardens right across Bookham.

Each pit was a metre square and up to a metre deep, dug in 20cm spits. Some pits drew a blank, others produced worked flints and fragments of prehistoric pots. Those at Eastwick contained Roman pottery. No Saxon finds were made, but medieval pottery was found in several pits in the village itself.

Bookham was among many long, narrow parishes on the dip slope of the North Downs. People need water and their villages were sited on the spring-line, where rainwater draining through the chalk was stopped by the London Clay, producing a narrow band of fertile loam soils now called the Lambeth Series. Sheep would have been grazed on the chalk downs and pigs rooted in the oak and

beech woods. The woods provided materials for housing and fuel. Old field names suggested that the crops grown nearer the village included wheat, barley and rye.

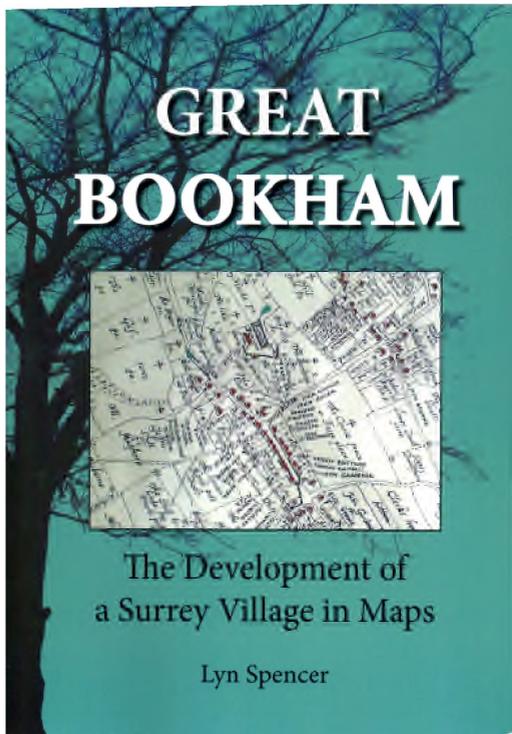
Audience members asked about the old route of The White-way, the whereabouts of clay pits (some ponds on the Common were probably used for this purpose) and how her results compared with those of other test-pitting programmes.

Richard and Pamela

Savage of Surrey Archaeological Society have written about Lyn Spencer's new book *Great Bookham: The Development of a Surrey Village in Maps*, summarising her research and conclusions so far. She confirms that a settlement has existed at Great Bookham since the land was granted to Chertsey Abbey in 675AD.

The origins of the farming estate given then cannot now be traced but recent archaeological discoveries are beginning to paint a picture of the dip slope of the North Downs as settled by the late Iron Age with cultivation continuing through the Roman period.

The important early routes through Bookham and neighbouring settlements seem to have run from north to south. However over time the focus of the road network shifted, with almost all traffic through the parish today running on east/west roads.



Lyn reports on both medieval and later documentary sources and outlines recent archaeological research, including the results of the test-pitting programme organised around the village.

Copies of the book, which costs £10 (plus £2.60 p&p) can be purchased from the Museum at 64 Church Street, open Thursday and Friday (1pm-4pm) and Saturday (10am-4pm) or from the Book Sales Secretary c/o the Museum address.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Leatherhead & District Local History Society'. Lyn Spencer herself can be contacted by e-mail at lyn-spencer16@sky.com

MAY LECTURE:
Protecting Our Built Environment
Report by DEREK RENN

In a wide ranging and well illustrated talk on 20 May, Peter Mills explained that his duties as Historic Environment Officer for Mole Valley District Council did not include all conservation matters. Fly-tipping, tree protection and recycling were all excluded and his job also related solely to above-ground features. Archaeology was for the County Council's Archaeological Unit.

But his work was part of the local government framework plan under the Town & Country Planning Act of 1990. Aided by building control officers and printed guides, he was there to help owners and there were about 1000 structures for him to handle. As well as individual buildings, townscapes needed protection and the Leatherhead conservation areas had now merged to include the High Street itself.

The first structures to be protected nationally had been derelict ancient monuments like Roman forts and medieval castles. The list had expanded steadily but a particular surge after the demolition of the Firestone building in London (over a bank holiday weekend to prevent listing) had exposed a deficiency in the 1947 Town Planning Act.

Structures worthy of protection against destruction or unauthorised alteration now fell into one of three groups, he explained. These were those of purely local importance, those of national concern, and

THORNDIKE THEATRE

The Thorndike Theatre was designed by Roderick Ham and named after the actress Dame Sybil Thorndike.

It was opened in 1969 by Princess Margaret. Formerly the site of the Crescent Cinema, the Thorndike replaced the old repertory theatre at No. 27 High Street, which itself had also previously been a cinema.

The theatre was reopened as The Leatherhead Theatre in April 2001 and has been staging productions ever since.

Above: Plaque outside the Leatherhead Theatre, firmly on Peter Mills' list of protected local buildings.

those connected with a notable person or event.

The first category included the milestone at the foot of Hawks Hill, a granary at Bockett's Farm, and a group of table tombs in Leatherhead churchyard. Our district's only examples of national concern were some churches and Slyfield House and Farm.

The third category included buildings such as Polesden Lacey, the *Running Horse* pub, and in Ashted, Giles Gilbert Scott's *Gray Wings*, which had glazing similar to that of his famous red telephone box designs, and Michael Manser's *Forest Lodge*, which had walls entirely of glass.

Leatherhead Theatre had innovation in both design (no proscenium arch) and construction (bare shuttered concrete, like the National Theatre). Purely engineering structures, like the medieval Town Bridge and the railway viaducts across the River Mole were included.

The list had now almost reached saturation point, and Leatherhead's Roman Catholic church had failed to secure listing. Possible future candidates were the water pumping station and the French Château opposite the parish church. National surveys were now pinpointing hospitals and war memorials, he added.

He described some of his current work: getting matching tiles made for Leatherhead railway station's roof; rebuilding a gate



John Rowley, our new Chairman.

pillar at Ashtead Park demolished by a lorry; adaptation of the blacksmith's forge at Headley; conversion of Wesley House from council to private offices (the former council chamber was excellent for presentations); and the new link of St John's School chapel, previously converted to a library.

Good examples of new houses on sensitive sites included those facing the parish church. Conversion of empty buildings presented numerous challenges, flats needed extra services and access. The biggest threats were to the integrity of terraces, quirky new shop fronts and discordant plastic windows.

In answer to two of several questions, Mr Mills said anyone could put forward something for listing. Historic England was bound to consider every proposal against its published criteria. Organisations had an important part to play in the system, since some developers' suggestions ignored historic neighbours. Fetcham's war memorial had been listed on the initiative of the residents association. Listing covered the whole structure (whatever the value of each part) but might ignore the rest of the curtilage.

After thanking Peter for his talk, Frank Haslam announced that John Rowley, the holder of our Ashtead archives, had been elected Chairman of the Society, following Fred Meynen's planned retirement from the post. John said he had been elected because he was the only member of the executive committee not already doing two jobs!

He had trained as a civil engineer, and had designed bridges and road systems in the Middle East for a large local consultancy. After setting up on his own, he had specialised in creating standards for - and reconciling different systems of - computer data, most recently for the Olympic Development Authority. His present unpaid task was to digitise the Ashtead paper records.

In November, the Society will celebrate its 70th anniversary. Our next season of talks will begin on Friday, 16 September, when David Graham, a former president of the Surrey Archaeological Society, will describe Farnham and its unique castle. We meet in the main hall of the Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for coffee/tea, the talks beginning at 8pm. Visitors are always most welcome.

VISIT TO SLYFIELD HOUSE

Report by JOHN WETTERN



Enjoying a welcome beside the blooming wisteria.

A radiant sunny day in May helped to bring to perfection our members' visit to this location. There were 14 in the party. One or two of us had been before but we all shared the expectation of an interesting and stimulating guided tour of this great house.

The owners, Paul and Vanessa Richards were our hosts, our guides and a fount of detailed information about the house and its intriguing history.

It was hard to believe that we were in a dwelling whose origins dated back to the Middle Ages, the original owners being, in fact, the family named Slyfield. The tour covered the house – downstairs and upstairs – and also the garden. Each room showed us a mixture of history, with its period design, and a feeling of comfortable modern living, due to the décor and furnishings provided by the current owners. A wonderful blend indeed.

Our guides told us much about the history of the place, a story spanning centuries, combined with a description of the individual

rooms visited, also the garden and the surrounding buildings. The present building dates from the 1600s, replacing the original mediaeval manor house. That history will not be recounted here because there has been a wealth of excellent accounts appearing recently. One of the most outstanding appears in the website of the *Bookhams Bulletin*, yet another work authored by this *Newsletter*'s late Editor, Martin Warwick. Well worth a look.

A normal site visit consists of fact gathering and an enlargement of one's local knowledge. This was different, hence even more of a pleasure. The extra ingredient was the hospitality of our hosts who received us with great kindness and concluding with refreshments.

All of us were delighted. No fee was charged but it was suggested that each visitor made a contribution to a good cause named by our hosts. This we did and the proceeds were directed to financing a celebratory event at the nearby Yehudi Menuhin School. This was to be the festival in July celebrating the centenary of the birth of that great musician. A fulsome letter of appreciation for our members' generosity was subsequently received by the writer.



Slyfield House dates back to the 17th century.

EXHIBITION REPORT

Field Marshal Montgomery, St John's School

In May, the Old Chapel at St John's School was used to celebrate the role of Field Marshal the Viscount Montgomery of Alamein as chairman of the governing council from 1950-1966 and president until his death ten years later.

The displays included paintings, artefacts and photos showing him laying foundation stones, opening buildings, joining Speech Day guests, meeting prefects and welcoming royal visitors. There were original handwritten letters and notes, signed copies of his memoirs, books presented by war leaders, programmes, menu cards and press cuttings.

Monty's involvement came by chance when the school heard he was coming to Leatherhead to inspect Surrey Cadets one day in 1948. The impressively named headmaster, Hereward Wake, invited him to present prizes at the following year's Speech Day and since Monty was the son of a bishop and the school had been founded for the sons of clergymen, he was easily persuaded to continue the association.

During the next 26 years he made an immense contribution to the school, giving his own time and money and managing major fundraising projects. This included £35,000 for the school's centenary year in 1951 alone when he helped arrange a Mansion House dinner and J Arthur Rank gave the school all the proceeds from the premiere of Ealing Studios' classic comedy film, *The Lavender Hill Mob*.





Clockwise: Monty with NATO Supreme Commander and Mr Wake in 1958; memoirs and a book-case; laying the foundation stone for a new school building; panels at the 2016 exhibition.



Heading the Leather!

by **MARTIN WARWICK**

Down at Fetcham Grove in Leatherhead on a Saturday afternoon you might well hear the resonant call 'Up The Tanners!' The casual visitor might well think that this is a recall of a distant memory when the town was the centre of a flourishing leather trade.

In fact this is not the case at all. Although there was once a tannery at the bottom of Leatherhead Bridge the town's name has nothing to do with that. It actually originates from the Anglo-Saxon and originally known as Leodridan meaning a 'place where people can cross the river'. It is called Leret in the *Domesday Book* with other spellings subsequently of Lereda, Ledreda, Leddrede. The settlement grew up on the east side of the River Mole although Saxon remains have been found on the Hawks Hill side.

So now the only association with leather is 'The Tanners', the Leatherhead football club. Even that connection is faint with not even the footballs made of good old fashioned leather. It is interesting to look back. Most of us older generation will well remember when balls were good solid brown leather, treasured possessions as children. Unfortunately after a short spell in wet weather the water soaked into the leather making it heavier and heavier. England's victorious 1966 World Cup at Wembley was played with such a ball and the type was replaced not long ago.

Football as a game goes back in history but it was not until well into the 19th century that any standards were introduced. Very early games were played with an inflated pig's bladder which obviously had a short life. Then leather casings were used but inflated by an animal bladder. Cork was also tried as a filler. Following the invention of the vulcanisation process by Goodyear in the 1830s, a rubber bladder could be made and used to inflate the ball.

In 1863 the first specifications were laid down by the Football Association. The standard (size 5) ball must be 68cm to 70cm in diameter with a weight of between 410g and 450g and inflated to between 0.6 bars and 1.1 bars (8.5psi and 15.6psi).

In an effort to obtain as round a ball as possible, various patterns of leather section have been used for construction. Traditionally the sections of the casings were sewn together and then turned inside out to leave a smooth surface. After the rubber bladder was inserted and partly inflated the final gap was laced together.

The standard ball used today has 32 panels, 12 regular pentagons (five sided) and 20 regular hexagons (six sided) but this has evolved from various other designs. In 1966, 24-panel balls were used at Wembley. The 32-panel ball is rounder and also has a truer flight through the air.

At a match, if a goalkeeper kicks a high ball down the pitch the ball leaves his foot at up to 60mph. This means that when a receiving player gets to head the ball it is probably travelling at say 40 or 50 mph.

Very often it is headed back high into the air again. This means that the linear momentum of the ball is suddenly reversed by the player's head and body movement running towards the ball. With a dry ball this would mean roughly a one-pound object travelling at least at 40 or 50 mph – quite a missile! This is a considerable impact and must have been so much worse in days gone by with a sodden wet leather ball.

What a shame Leatherhead has no leather connection - it would have made a good story. Still, 'Up The Tanners!'

Royal Fusiliers Public Schools Regiment 1914-1918 **by GOFF POWELL**

The Royal Fusiliers were young men drawn from English public schools and universities and were better known as the UPS. The following are of interest to the histories of both Leatherhead and Ashted.

The 20th Battalion (3rd Public School) was raised at Epsom by the Public Schools and University Men's Forces on 11 November 1914. They were located at Leatherhead from October 1914 to March 1915. During their short stay they were billeted in local houses and trained at Randalls Park. On 26 June 1915 they came under command of the 98th Brigade, 33rd Division.

They landed in France in November 1915 and in February 1916



UPS players. It is unclear how many survived the Great War.

were transferred to GHQ. They were disbanded in April 1916 with many of the men commissioned as officers.

The 21st Battalion (4th Public School) was raised on the same day at Epsom but located at Ashted from October 1914 to March 1915. They too were billeted in local houses and trained on Ashted Common and the grounds of Ashted Park House.

On 13 October 1914, King George V inspected the 18th and 19th Battalions on Epsom Downs, going on to Ashted Park to the 21st Battalion and finally to Leatherhead and the 20th Battalion. In March 1915 the 21st moved to Woodcote Park Camp, Epsom, and in June came under command of the 98th Brigade, 33rd Division.

After landing in France in November, they were transferred to the 19th Brigade, 33rd Division. They were disbanded in France in February 1918.

Despite not knowing what the future held, both Battalions still found time for leisure pursuits, in this case football. The following is an extract from *The History of the UPS*, published by *The Times* in 1917.

When the football season commenced, Brigadier-General Gordon Gilmour (commanding officer of the Brigade) offered a challenge cup to be competed for by the various companies, and the final tie for this trophy was played on Epsom Recreation Ground on

Saturday, February 6th 1915 between B Company, 20th Battalion (Leatherhead), and C Company, 21st Battalion (Ashted). Kick Off 2.30 p.m.

‘The ground was in good condition, considering the bad weather lately experienced, and a large crowd attended to witness the encounter, the majority of spectators being in khaki.’ A full account was given in *The Surrey Advertiser* on Saturday, 13 February 1915.

It was a thrilling match. At half-time Leatherhead’s B Company was ahead 2:1 and the final score was B Company 5 goals and Ashted’s C Company 3 goals.

At the end, the cup was presented by Brigadier-General Gilmour who said he did not think he had ever seen a more keenly fought, better contested, or better-tempered game. Leatherhead’s team captain, Pte Saville, said it gave him great pleasure to receive the cup from the Brigadier. This was the fourth or fifth game they had played in the competition, and he thought Ashted had given them the best game of the lot.

Life in the Workhouse

JENNY DENISON of Bookham U3A Social History Group reports on last autumn’s visit to The Spike, the casual ward of the old workhouse in Guildford.

As a result of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, the Guildford Union Workhouse was built in 1838 on the outskirts of the town on a site near the present St Luke’s Hospital. It housed the forgotten classes of Victorian society, the poor, the infirm, the ill and the destitute, as well as vagrants.

John, our guide, outlined the history of poor relief from the pre-Reformation monasteries-based practice, to the parish-based Elizabethan system and the workhouse-based Victorian Poor Law, through to the welfare state of the 20th century.

In accordance with the 1871 Act, the ward was erected in 1906 as a purpose-built casual ward to separate ‘undesirable vagrants’ with their disruptive influence, from the structural routine of the workhouse.

It became known as The Spike, thought to be a reference to the



spikes used by inmates to unravel old rope to form oakum, a loose fibre used in the caulking of wooden ships, or perhaps because of the spikes over the entrance gate.

It housed casual workers overnight. The accommodation was segregated by gender, with a married couple, called the Tramp Master and Mistress, superintending the house. Inmates were checked on entry for alcohol and other banned substances and had to take a bath and have their clothes disinfected.

They were then given a meal and a narrow cell for the night in which they were locked until the following morning. The cells were provided with a bell system, so that vagrants could call for help in an emergency.

On our tour we saw the individual cells (8ft x 4ft 6ins) where the vagrants slept, sometimes two to a cell, not always on beds but on the stone floor with only one blanket each for warmth. Attached to each cell was a workspace where those who could not pay their way were expected to perform a task to earn their keep by making oakum, chopping wood or breaking rocks.

There are four original cells which have grilles across the window through which inmates were expected to push the broken rocks, a system which ensured they were broken into sufficiently small pieces. By 1937, hard labour in The Spike had become a thing of the past but the building was still used as a shelter for casual workers and vagrants until the 1960s.

We were also able to hear tales of individual inhabitants and view the exhibition on how the sick bay or infirmary of the Guildford Workhouse developed into the present St Luke's Hospital.

THINK LEATHERHEAD DISTRICT HAS NO LINK WITH CANALS? THINK AGAIN

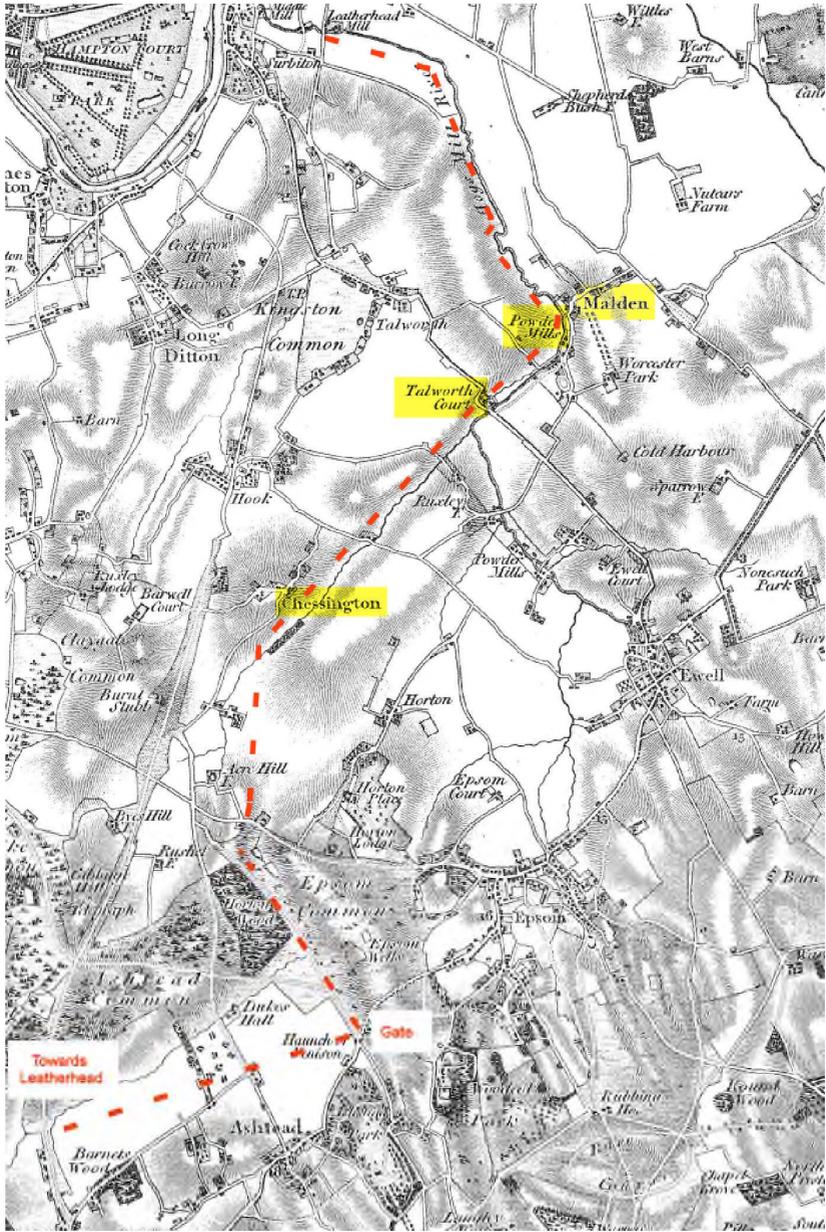
Before the advent of railways in the 19th century, the canals provided a major addition to the historic use of rivers for transportation in England. This has greater local history interest than you might imagine.

In his recent presentation to Bookham U3A Social History Group, **DAVID BISHOP** wrote: ‘The history of canal building goes back at least until the age of the Pharaohs. Canals existed on the continent; used to transport food and bulk fuel to populated centres pre-17th century. In England a natural river network was initially sufficient for a mainly agricultural population. This was developed first using cuts prior to the need for canals. Cuts improved water flow and allowed for improved movement of goods and flooding of meadows for agricultural improvement.

‘A cut is a waterway development that widens or deepens an existing river, using only natural water levels. No need for locks, bridges or aqueducts. The first major British examples in the Middle Ages involved London, the country’s main commercial centre. The Thames was the first point of entry to the City where taxes were made on goods entering and leaving port. At the time of the restoration in 1660, Bristol was next in size and importance as a trading centre.’ David went on to discuss canals nationwide.

The Leatherhead district has the River Mole, of course but no immediately local canal that it can call its own. Yet had things turned out differently, it might have had exactly that. A pamphlet published by the **EPSOM COMMON ASSOCIATION** in 1981 reported the story of the proposed Grand Imperial Ship Canal whose construction was being promoted over 150 years earlier.

The pamphlet reads as follows: ‘In 1825 rival plans were drawn up for the construction of a Grand Imperial Ship Canal to link London with Portsmouth. Sailing round by sea could take up to 12 days and it was estimated that the largest ships afloat would use this canal and thus be able to make the journey in less than 24 hours. Fresh food and farm produce could be brought to London, bypassing the awful local roads, shipwrecks could be avoided, and, in time of war,



Above: Proposed route of the Grand Imperial Ship Canal.

should such arise, goods and equipment could be taken to the naval base at Portsmouth rapidly and without risk.

George Rennie and his brother, John the Younger, submitted plans for this splendid project. Their prospectus detailed an 86 mile stretch of canal, 300 feet wide, 24 feet deep, from Deptford via Merton, Chessington, Epsom Common, Guildford, Alfold and Loxwood to the Arun valley, thence to Langstone Harbour: estimated cost £7 million. A rival set of proposals took the canal by a slightly different route on its southern reaches, but this too would have crossed Epsom Common entering it at a point most oddly described as “The Gate on Epsom Common”.

‘The whole thing however came to nothing and created little other than recrimination between the rival builders. One can't help regretting this. The vision of large ships placidly crossing our Common and passing all those bramble bushes, crab-apple trees, wild roses and furze patches is very attractive.’

Nicholas Wilcox Cundy, promoter of the scheme in 1825, had described part of the route as: ‘From Merton Road to Tolworth Court, across Merton Common and the Hogg Mill River, leaving Cannon Hill, Maiden Church, Mr Taylor's Powder Mills, Worcester Park and Ewell to the left, the ground is remarkably level, and chiefly consists of meadow and arable land, without interfering with a single house or enclosure, through a clay soil with marl earth.

‘From Tolworth Court over Horton Manor to Epsom Common, the land rises progressively to the summit valley on Epsom Common. Here millions of tons of the finest chalk can be brought to London, for brick-making, whitening etc at a small expense. Between Tolworth Court and Epsom Common I recommend three locks to be placed, which will at once raise to and extend the summit level to 20 miles. From Epsom Common to Leatherhead Bridge, the line runs through Horton Wood, about two miles of open common and some meadow and arable land, and one or two small enclosures: the understrata consists of chalk, brick earth and clay soil.

‘At Leatherhead Bridge the summit level will require filling and embanking for nearly a mile, which will give an opportunity of passing the Mole River under the bed of the canal. Here the line strikes

through two enclosures up Mickleham Vale, passing the east side of Norbury Park to Dorking Mill Pond, without being obstructed.'

His schedule of distances included 'To the Gate on Epsom Common 7½ miles and from Epsom Gate over the Common to Leatherhead Bridge three miles.' Horton Wood is a misnomer incorporated by surveyors on to the Ordnance Survey map of 1816 and copied by later cartographers. It was actually Newton Wood in Ashted Forest.

The projected route may be traced on the Surrey Ordnance Survey map surveyed around 1811 and published 1816-1819. It would have run beside the Hogs Mill River, passing St John the Baptist Parish Church, Old Malden, to Tolworth Court, then along its tributary the Bonesgate Stream behind Ruxley Farm to reach Chessington.

There it would need to rise up to the north-western corner of Epsom Common. A southern descent through Ashted's Newton Wood would have been started close to Woodcock Corner to parallel bridleway 38 down to Summersgate at the western end of Woodlands Road, The Wells, Epsom or 'The Gate on Epsom Common'. Thence the route continues west along the Rye brook through Ashted Common and the Woodfield towards the River Mole at Leatherhead.

The ships were to have been hauled along the canal by steam towage. Details of the various proposals for this ship canal which was never built may be found at www.jim-shead.com.

** Material contributed by Brian Bouchard from an article on the Grand Imperial Ship Canal produced for Epsom and Ewell History Explorer, which includes a more detailed plan of the route.*

LOOKING WESTWARDS

Although the Grand Imperial Ship Canal never materialised, in his U3A presentation, David Bishop added: 'Another cut from the Thames is the Wey Navigation, used to flood meadows and later developed as a canal down to the sea through Sussex.' As this is also near our own area it interested former L&DLHS Chairman **FRED MEYNEN**, who has written the following article.

Built 200 years ago, the canal linking the rivers Wey and Arun is

being restored by the Wey and Arun Canal Trust. Much of the work is done by volunteers, the finance coming from grants, sponsorship, donations and fundraising. Well over half of the 18 miles of canal has been cleared and 11 locks, 24 bridges and two aqueducts restored or rebuilt.

During the Napoleonic Wars (1799-1815) the sea route from London via the English Channel to Portsmouth where the navy was based was in danger from French ships and it was realised that by making a navigable route joining the Thames, Wey and Arun river cargoes and naval supplies could be carried more safely.

In 1816 a contractor called Zachariah Keppel was appointed to build the canal using Irish, local unemployed and French prisoners of war for labour and using just picks, shovels and wheelbarrows. The barges were drawn by horses and carried wood, coal, bullion and gunpowder. With the advent of the railways the canal saw a decline in usage and was forced to close in early 1870.

The Wey and Arun Trust, a registered charity, was formed in 1973 with the aim of restoring the 23 miles of waterway linking the Wey and Arun navigations with the south coast at Littlehampton. The canal would therefore also be linked into the 3000 miles of inland waterways.

The trust has over 3000 members, some of whom are volunteers working and helping with restoration. Working parties are in action most days, clearing vegetation and trees, restoring the canal bed which is puddled to prevent leakage, building locks and bridges, maintaining towpaths and restoring hedges.

In 2002 the Drungewick Aqueduct was built for £400,000 and in 2009 the Loxwood crossing and lock cost nearly £2 million. Currently a new road bridge is being built near Alford at a cost of £780,000. Volunteers are always welcomed for a whole range of tasks from manual work, crewing on the boats to administration and publicity. Trip boats, including charter boats, operate on the navigable sections at Loxwood and provide income for the trust.

The Canal Centre (postcode RH14 ORD or telephone 01403 753999) is based at Loxwood, south of Guildford, on the B2133. It is next to the *Onslow Arms* pub and is open at weekends when the trip boats are operating. Come and have a look at what is happening.

FANNY BURNEY'S PAINFUL STORY

In her review of Linda Kelly's book on Juniper Hall in the *May Newsletter*, Anne Fraser mentioned the local significance of writer Fanny Burney. Here, ANITA LAYCOCK gives other details of Burney's fascinating and at times horrific life from her recent presentation to Bookham U3A Social History Group.

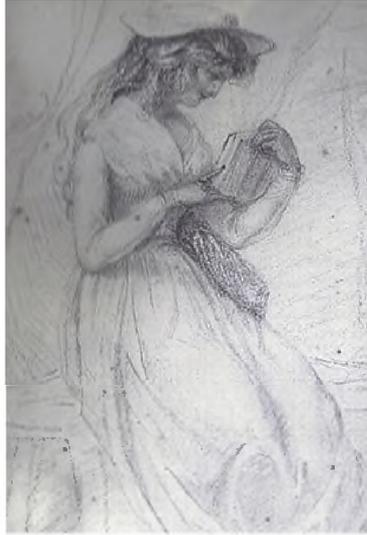
Frances Burney (1752-1840) was born in King's Lynn, Norfolk, second daughter of a musician, Dr Charles Burney, and his first wife Esther. They were a close-knit family of talented musicians and scholars.

Fanny didn't go to school but taught herself French and Italian by reading Dante, Petrarch and Voltaire. She also read books on self-improvement.

The family moved back to London. Fanny's first venture into writing began shortly after her mother's death after childbirth when she began to scribble 'little works of invention' secretly. These early fictions are now lost but she began a journal which continued for the next 70 years.

The family home became a meeting place for many London celebrities including Edmund Burke the philosopher, the greatly revered Dr Johnson, and the actor David Garrick.

Her first novel *Evelina or The History of a Young Lady's Entrance into the World* was



Fanny, painted by a cousin when she was in her early 30s. (National Portrait Gallery). She was a quiet retiring girl with soft blue eyes, rosy cheeks and lightly powdered fair hair.

published anonymously in 1778. A critical success, it was admired for its comic view of wealthy English society. Her sceptical father was impressed and it is thought that Jane Austen named her book *Pride and Prejudice* after an extract in *Evelina*.

In 1782 Fanny published *Cecilia or Memoirs of an Heiress*. She was paid £250 and 2000 copies were printed for the first edition with at least two more afterwards. Now wildly acclaimed, she was received at fashionable literary gatherings and in 1785 Queen Charlotte offered her the post of Second Keeper of the Robes with a salary of £200 per year.

As she feared, she had little time for writing and the position exhausted her. In a letter to her sister Hetty under the heading *Directions for Coughing, Sneezing or Moving Before the King and Queen*, she describes the rigid court life. After five years she was officially released after becoming ill from stress. The Queen kindly gave her a pension of £100 a year.

Her sister Susanna lived in Mickleham where Fanny met the French Revolutionary exile General Alexandre d'Arblay. They married on 28 July 1793 and on the 18 December 1794 she gave birth to their son Alexandre. She wrote the novel *Camilla*, earning her £2000 which allowed them to build a house in Westhumble, Camilla Cottage, on land given to them by William Locke of Norbury Park. In 1802 they all moved to France.

In 1810 she developed what appeared to be breast cancer and on 30 September 1811 underwent a mastectomy. Her account to her sister Esther shows what this involved without any anaesthetic.

‘I mounted therefore unbidden the bedstead and Monsieur Dubois placed me upon the mattress, and spread a cambric handkerchief upon my face. It was transparent, however, and I saw through it that the bedstead was instantly surrounded by the seven men and my nurse. I refused to be held but when bright through the cambric I saw the glitter of polished steel I closed my eyes.

‘I would not trust to convulsive fear the sight of the terrible incision. Yet when the dreadful steel blade was plunged into the breast cutting through veins, arteries, flesh and nerves I needed no injunctions not to restrain my eyes. I began a scream that lasted unintermittingly during the whole time of the incision and I almost marvel that it rings not in my ears still! So excruciating was the agony.

‘When the wound was made and the instrument was withdrawn, the pain seemed undiminished, for the air that suddenly rushed into those delicate parts felt like a mass of minute but sharp and forked

poniards that were tearing the edges of the wound. I concluded the operation was over. Oh no! Presently the terrible cutting was renewed and worse than ever, to separate the bottom, the foundation of this dreadful gland from the parts to which it adhered. Again all description would be baffled, yet again all was not over. Dr Larry rested but his own hand and - Oh heaven! - I then felt the knife racking against the breast bone, scraping it!

Somehow she survived and returned to England in 1812 to visit her ailing father and avoid young Alexandre's military call up. They were rowed to shore at Deal after a terrifying crossing from Dunkirk on a ship bound for America. Her husband briefly joined them and the couple returned to France without their son. General d'Arblay was serving King Louis XVIII and when a few weeks later rumours of Napoleon's escape from Elba reached Paris, the couple were separated by renewed warfare.

A week before Easter, guns were heard on the outskirts of Paris and General d'Arblay rushed home to tell Fanny that Napoleon's troops could be seen encamped just outside the city gates. He rode off into military action and Fanny watched him knowing that he would be involved in active combat on the battlefield. At nine o'clock that evening Fanny received a note from her husband telling her to leave Paris immediately. By 11 o'clock that night she was on her way to the Belgian border in the coach of an old friend from Juniper Hall.

She rented rooms in Brussels and was briefly joined by her husband but he returned to action. As events moved towards the eventual Battle of Waterloo, Fanny's love of a dramatic situation gives her letters from Brussels a startling clarity, evoking all the horror, panic and chaos of war. It also rained nearly every day during the fortnight preceding the battle, creating the muddy conditions that had such a disastrous effect on the morale of Napoleon's troops.

Fanny rejoined her wounded husband in Trier and together they returned to Bath in England. Fanny wrote of her experiences in her *Waterloo Journal*, written between 1818 and 1832. General d'Arblay was rewarded with promotion to Lieutenant General but died shortly afterwards from cancer in 1818. Fanny's son Alexandre died in 1837, three years before her own death.

Southside House - truth stranger than fiction

by **TONY MATTHEWS**

Exactly 13 years ago in the *Newsletter* of August 2003, our former Chairman and then President, Linda Heath reported an organised visit by members to Southside House, Wimbledon, on 26 April.

She wrote: ‘Southside was an amazing house - not least because of its delightful garden at the back, laid out in a series of small hidden gardens. Also because it has been lived in by the same family since the 17th century. The Prince of Wales stayed there in 1750 and later on, William and Emma Hamilton and Nelson were frequent visitors and we saw the salon where Emma performed her famous attitudes. One of the Pennington descendants married the author Axel Munthe who wrote *The Story of San Michele* there. We had a marvellous tour of the whole house with an excellent guide who really brought everything to life for us.’

What Linda and the rest of the party did not know at the time was that the whole Southside House story was actually a figment of one man’s imagination. Major Malcolm Munthe, MC (1910-1995) had created the myth of a house with a history by filling it with an extraordinary collection of paintings by old masters and an amazing assortment of objects alleged to have belonged to famous historical characters.

The house first opened for public tours in 1982 but one look at the Ordnance Survey of 1865 would have shown that it simply had not existed two centuries earlier. In fact it was not until 1931 that the Major’s mother, Hilda Pennington, bought two semi-detached 18th century houses on Southside, Wimbledon Common, and transformed them into what became Southside House.

Yet the truth about Malcolm Munthe was no less exciting than the fiction he created. Moreover, once revealed, it fully justified the house’s fascination for visitors anyway!

When fire broke out in the roof of Southside House in November 2010, many artworks were rescued and it was months before visitors could return. But during the restoration, a secret room was discovered underneath the dining room floorboards, its entrance perilously close to the hearth. It contained a cache of arms including a service



Above: *Frontage of Southside House.*
Right: *Major Malcolm Munthe.*



automatic pistol and a sub-machine gun. In 2014, Richard Surman, Curator at Southside House, gave a talk entitled *Southside House – A Psychological Landscape*, dismissing the mythology and revealing the facts.

Malcolm Munthe was the son of the Swedish court physician and writer Axel Munthe (1857-1949) and a wealthy British heiress, Hilda Pennington. His father wrote the international bestselling book of medical memoirs *The Story of San Michele*. His mother's family had made their fortune in cotton and shipping.

They had a house at Biarritz, in the south of France, where in the late 19th century they bought a large estate and built a lavish villa. There they entertained royalty. Its vast ballroom and reception rooms were filled with treasures including glass chandeliers, statuary, objets d'art and valuable furniture.

Aged ten, Malcolm was appointed a page at the Swedish court and with his elder brother Peter, a gifted artist and performer, spent summer days touring in Sweden on a farm cart loaded with scenery and props for productions to entertain local villagers. They also spent holidays in France and Italy and were proficient in several languages.

The financial crash of 1929 ended this glittering lifestyle. However, the family weathered the break-up of Hilda's marriage to Axel Munthe and they were still asset rich, with properties in several

countries. Following her divorce, Hilda moved to Wimbledon and bought the two houses beside the Common while her sons attended the prestigious King's College School next door.

When World War 2 broke out, Malcolm joined the Gordon Highlanders and with his multilingual talents was quickly recruited into the Special Operations Executive. Sent to help ferry arms to Finland in its defensive war against Stalin's Russia, in 1940 he returned to Britain for a parachute and guerrilla warfare course before being dropped into Nazi-occupied Norway.

He slipped in disguise through German checkpoints until, wounded in both legs, he was captured and hospitalised. After nine days he escaped and on reaching neutral Sweden became military attaché at the British Legation. He later served with distinction in Sicily and mainland Italy but suffered severe injuries at Anzio and was left with shrapnel lodged in his head.

After the war, he his wife, Ann, daughter of the 2nd Baron Rea, settled in a large three-storey residence on Bankside, near the site of the present Globe Theatre. He happened to find an old plaque on a bombsite saying *Sir Christopher Wren lived here*. He attached it to his own house regardless of the truth and it remained there for years.

Southside House suffered severe bomb damage during the war but afterwards the Munthes received a grant for restoration. Still recovering from his injuries and scarred psychologically by his experiences, Malcolm set about creating a fantasy hideaway there.

Peter produced ceiling and wall paintings and the house became a depository for many possessions from the family's pre-war home in Biarritz. Malcolm added to the collection of contents and invented ever more extravagant stories about them. They included the necklace allegedly worn by Marie Antoinette and the comb used by Anne Boleyn at the times of their respective executions. Knowing that Lord Nelson and Emma Hamilton had lived at nearby Merton, he brought them into the story too, as well as visiting royalty and links with the 18th century Hellfire Club and others.

All fantasy. Yet Malcolm Munthe's life was more than enough to have attracted enormous public interest anyway.



ORAL HISTORY

Edwina Vardey, Author

The History of Leatherhead

Interview: 2.25 pm, Thursday, 9 June 2016.
Venue: Monkswell, The Priory, Leatherhead

My name is Edwina Mary Vardey and I was born in Battersea. My mother thought it was Chelsea. I was born on 1 October 1924. My parents were Edwin Hollingshead, an English journalist, and my mother was Ann Cassidy. She was Irish. I had a sister, Shelagh. My parents lived in a flat in Battersea. They moved there before I was born. My father ended up as a prospective Editor of *John Bull* and worked for Odhams Press.

I went to school, a convent, in Strawberry Hill and then another convent in Isleworth called Gumley House. I remember mostly the nuns who were very keen on acting and there were huge numbers of performances. I appeared in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. I played Tom as I had jet black hair and brownish skin. My hobbies then I still have today. Writing, poetry and producing magazines. People would ask me to write and they still do.

I moved to Leatherhead from Strawberry Hill when I got married in 1949. I lived in the White Cottage in Fetcham for 57 years where I worked with my husband, an artist, and raised our five children.

Leatherhead was very rural with few shops. It was mainly countryside and ideal for bringing up five children. My husband made a dolls house for the girls to play in and we had a swimming pool which he dug himself and a tennis court. We played there nightly. It was very idyllic.

My husband was Louis George Vardey and my eldest child is Lucinda Mary, a writer who ran an agency in Toronto for 20 years. My second daughter, Melissa Mary, is a professional pianist and composer living in California. My third daughter, Natalie Jane, lives in Scotland and is a jewellery designer and silversmith. My son Giles Edwin is a banker living in Dorset and my youngest child is Edwina Louise, after her father and mother. She was a producer for the BBC and then became a court mediator. She lives in Bath.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 802409

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Telephone: 01372 386348 Email: staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com

Website: www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk

Monthly meetings at the Letherhead Institute every third Friday of the month between September and May, 7.30pm for 8pm.
Museum (Hampton Cottage): open Thursdays and Fridays 1pm - 4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm.

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The Society's archival material including documents, illustrations
and maps, may be accessed through the following members:

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Bookham Roy Mellick

Leatherhead/Fetcham Alan Pooley

Historical Enquiry Service

This tries to answer questions about the histories of Leatherhead,
Ashtead, Bookham and Fetcham submitted via the Museum.



READERS' QUERIES

1. What does the picture left show and where is it?

2. *Leatherhead Legends* says a penny was charged for carrying a corpse through the Swan Brewery yard. Why was that?

Answers to the Editor by 2 October, please.

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