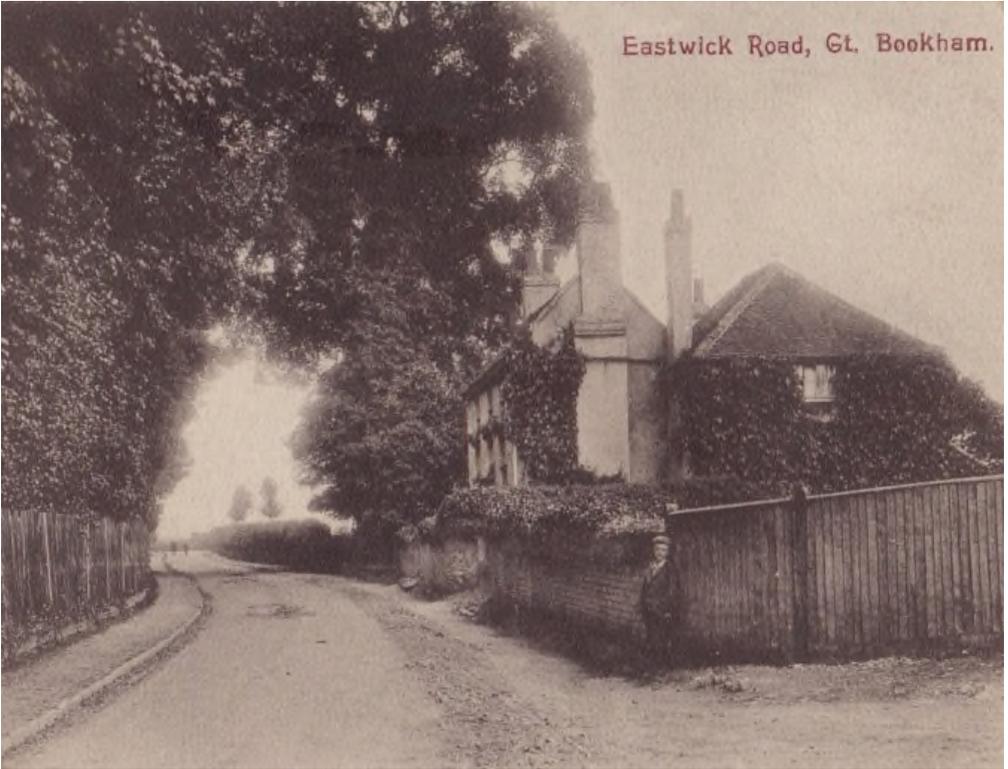




*Leatherhead & District Local History Society
covering Ashted, the Bookhams, Fetcham, Headley,
Mickleham and Leatherhead*

Newsletter

March 2018



Above: A southward view of Eastwick Road, Great Bookham, in the early days of the 20th century. This was during the childhood of local personality Turville Kille who featured in the Christmas Miscellany meeting in December. See Page 9. Although there are cottages today on both sides, the shape of the road is still recognisable as it heads up towards the Leatherhead-Guildford Road. The allotments are just out of view further up on the left and the Lower Road some way behind the photographer .

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DAVID WILLIAMS (1949-2017)

The last *Newsletter* scheduled our February lecture to be given by David Williams, head of Surrey's Portable Antiquities Scheme, on *Working with Detectorists*. Sadly David died suddenly on 9 December and Mark Davison stood in for him on 16 February. Mark's talk will be reported in the June edition.

An intrinsic part of Surrey archaeology for well over 25 years, David was the scheme's Finds Liaison Officer from the start in 2003. He directed many excavations, was seen on every Surrey Archaeological Society dig, and identified countless finds for anyone who asked. He is greatly missed.



David Williams

EDITORIAL

As well as announcing our AGM on 16 March, this edition also includes a warm welcome to our first corporate member, the estate agency Michael Everett & Co of 58 The Street, Ashted (see picture below) A family-owned firm founded in Epsom, it has been operating for some 60 years and now also has offices in Ashted, Banstead and Walton-on-the-Hill. It is run by brothers Mark and Hamish Everett, sons of the founder.

The launch of our new website at www.leatherheadhistory.org late in 2017 has changed how we communicate with the wider public as well as our members and Museum Friends. Much more visually attractive and easily read, the site is now updated immediately after every Society or Museum event, with other news hitting the home page even faster. In its 71st year, the Society really has arrived in the 21st century. Unless you never use the Internet, do get used to checking it regularly.



We are also improving the way we provide this *Newsletter* to members, ensuring that everyone who wants a lasting copy does receive the printed edition rather than just an all-too-easily deleted digital one by email. All members in Ashted and Bookham will now have their copies personally delivered and if we have sufficient volunteers the same will eventually apply throughout the whole district. So if you live in Fetcham or Leatherhead and are able to offer a little time to help with personal deliveries just let us know.

Meanwhile, just enjoy this edition and always think history and heritage first!

TONY MATTHEWS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Our previous Charities Commission registration became defunct as Big Ben struck midnight on 31 December 2017. But don't worry. We transitioned smoothly to our new registration with a shiny new number and the initials 'CIO' after our original name. It stands for Charitable Incorporated Organisation and allows us greater freedom of approach while protecting the trustees along the lines of directors of a limited liability company.

All of our financial accounts were vested in the new organisation. The re-issue of a Land Certificate for the Hampton Cottage site has been less straightforward but not a show stopper and I warmly acknowledge the considerable efforts undertaken by our Treasurer, Carl Leyshon, in this work.

I am really pleased to announce Michael Everett, the long-established estate and letting agency, as our first corporate member. A warm welcome to Mark Everett and his team. Mark himself is custodian of the land on which Little Ashted Manor was established, although he does not hold the title of Lord of Little Ashted Manor. The actual last known title-holder was William Chippindall of Fetcham who died around 1846.

The speaker at our February meeting was to have been local archaeologist David Williams. Sadly, he died in December after a short illness. An extensive two-page tribute appeared in the *Leatherhead Advertiser* on 25 January and we were very grateful that the paper's Mark Davison also stepped in to talk to us on David's subject and his own role as a metal detectorist.

We are now looking for new officers to manage book sales, provide legal advice to the new Board of Trustees, and join our Programme Committee, all vital roles for the Society's future. Please help if you can. I am delighted to report a £5000 legacy from the late Alan Gillies towards publishing more of our research. This is now book-marked to underpin any risky publication ventures.

Finally, a reminder that members are invited to nominate and second non-executive positions on the Executive Committee/Board of Trustees at the AGM on 16 March. See you there. **JOHN ROWLEY**

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

By GWEN HOAD

The social evening for all stewards and helpers at the Museum was held on 4 December in the Letherhead Institute. It was a bit different and hugely successful. A really lively and enjoyable evening.

Robin Christian arranged for Chris Stagg of Surrey Hills Radio to repeat his October talk about the story of the Bluesette Club, located in the 1960s behind what is now the Black Dog Gallery in Bridge Street. This time his audience was smaller but just as enthusiastic.

Chris showed many photos accompanied by recordings from the period when Leatherhead was a hub for rock stars including Marc Bolan, later of T Rex. Surrey Sounds Studio in Kingston Road was another venue. Go to Page 21 of this *Newsletter* for pictures from the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at the site of the Bluesette Club on 20 January. Lots more detail online at www.leatherheadhistory.org.

The Museum closed for winter on 9 December and will reopen Thursday, 5 April with the official opening Saturday, 7 April. Janet Lines helped with the stocktaking of the Museum shop and then putting the stock away so she fully deserves our thanks.

A stewards' briefing will be held at 2pm on Saturday, 24 March in the Museum. It is with sadness that we record the resignation of Pat Mills and Kathy Bucknall from the stewards' rota. They have served as partners together for many years and we thank them. We are in need of more stewards as usual and we are still looking for a chairman of the Friends' committee. Any volunteers?

Our own AGM will be held on Monday, 30 April in Room G6 at the Letherhead Institute from 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Please send any motions and nominations to Judy Wilson in good time before that date. A reminder as well to members of the Friends who are not also members of the Society that subs were due on 1 January. They can be left in the Museum or posted to me. For just £3 you can now be sure of receiving your own regular copy of the L&DLHS *Newsletter* each quarter.

We are looking forward to another successful season ahead with the new exhibitions, school visits, craft days and the Heritage weekend. Thanks to all stewards, museum helpers and the Friends Committee.

<p style="text-align: center;">ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Letherhead Institute, 8pm Friday, 16 March 2018</p>

Leatherhead & District Local History Society
Registered Charity No. 802409

The 71st Annual General Meeting of the Society as previously registered. Chaired by Honorary President Alan Pooley. An Ordinary Resolution is passed if approved by over half the votes cast. A Special Resolution is passed if approved by two-thirds of the votes cast.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of 70th AGM and matters arising.
4. Minutes of Special General Meeting, 15 Sept 2017. Matters arising.
5. President's address.
6. Chairman's Executive Committee report for 2017.
7. Treasurer's presentation of the Society's accounts for 2017.

The Executive Committee has approved the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017. Members are asked to receive them. The full annual Accounts and Trustees' Report may be obtained from the Treasurer. **Ordinary Resolution:** To receive the Society's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017.

The President opens the first AGM of:

Leatherhead & District Local History Society CIO
Registered Charity No. 1175119

1. Treasurer's presentation on the vesting process.
2. Election officers/members of the Executive Committee 2018.
3. **Ordinary Resolution:** Approve re-appointment of Mr Adrian Radford as the Society's independent examiner for the year ended 31 December 2018.
4. Any other business (notified to the Chairman before 24 February).
5. Proceedings closed.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Monthly meetings are normally held in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute. Coffee at 7.30pm and 8pm talk.

10 March, 10.30am-3pm: Barton's Bookshop, 2 Bridge Street, Leatherhead. Author Alice Graysharp signs copies of her novel *The Keeping of Secrets* featuring Leatherhead during World War 2.

16 March, 7.30pm: Annual General Meeting and a short lecture by Professor David Hawksworth, Editor of the L&DLHS *Proceedings*, on *Biological Approaches to Dating Archaeological Surface Features and Artefacts*.

20 April, 7.30pm: Jane le Cluse, Archivist at Dorking Museum, on *Mediaeval life in Surrey Villages*.

18 May, 7.30pm: Professor Pat Wiltshire on *The British Hedgerow - Past and Present*. She will outline how the hedge came to be and how its management and exploitation have influenced the nature of the local landscape. The natural history of hedges and their importance for biodiversity will also be discussed.

13-16 September: Heritage Open Days. Centenary themes will be the end of World War 1 and the introduction of female suffrage for the first time in Britain. Our area has links with leaders of the Suffragette movement but other extraordinary women will be covered too. If you have any ideas of your own for HOD events, please contact Rod Shaw at Mole Valley District Council (rod.shaw@molevalley.gov.uk). Formal registration until May.

19 October, 7.30pm: *A Study of Country House Services at Polesden Lacey*. A team from the Industrial Heritage Group of Fetcham U3A will outline the research they carried out on the house's utility services - water, electricity and communications - in the first half of the 20th century. Together these helped to make 'Polesden Lacey fit for a maharajah', to quote owner Mrs Greville.

LECTURE REPORT

When Bamber Gascoigne came to Leatherhead Theatre

**JOHN WETTERN reports on the Society's
hugely popular lecture on 17 November.**



John Wetttern

It was to be about West Horsley Place and the birth of the new opera house. What Bamber really had to tell us was a host of stories about himself, his family, his inheritance and revelations about the opera episode which surprised us all. The theatre audience was fascinated and delighted by Bamber's brilliant delivery. Every seat was taken that evening.

It began with an obvious question. How did he come to inherit such an historic place? He explained that he was the only eligible successor to his great-aunt, the Duchess of Roxburghe, and an executor to her will but had not expected to inherit her entire estate and all her possessions.

With accompanying pictures on screen he described the house, surprising us when he explained that the beautiful Jacobean elevation was in fact only a façade. Behind it lies a typical Surrey hall house, much expanded and with many, many rooms. The entire estate, he said, covered about 300 acres.

The bequest included many other items which eventually had to be recovered from various locations and duly accounted for. Personal effects included priceless jewellery including no fewer than four diamond tiaras. All to his amazement.

The arrival of the Grange Opera and the launch of its first season provided an astonishing narrative. The opera company had been forced to vacate its former location for legal reasons and needed urgently to find a new home. The season was already planned and the principals engaged but where would the performances take place?

He described how the move was made possible by construction of a complete new opera house in the grounds, built to a very high specification and finished just in time for the opening of the season.

The summer season's three productions turned out to be a great



Bamber receives a framed picture of himself with Leatherhead (Thorndike) Theatre founder Hazel Vincent Wallace. Alongside him are Mrs Christina Gascoigne and Society chairman John Rowley.

success, the building came up to every expectation with splendid acoustics, and audiences flocked to the performances - all sold out. In the best tradition of country operatic festivals, the grounds and gardens of the house provided the perfect place for mid-performance feasting.

Bamber went on to recount some of his other achievements and ambitions. He was always determined to make sure there would be maximum benefit to the local community. To this end he described some of the projects already started and being further developed.

In one of the barns scattered around the estate there was now a pottery workshop and other craft activities were being created to emphasise teaching of new skills to young folk.



Left: Plaque in the local church commemorating Bamber's great-aunt, Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe.

CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY REPORT

Turville and Marie - the ultimate contrasts

By **TONY MATTHEWS** and **DR FRED MEYNEN**

You would be hard put to find two more contrasting characters than the subjects of the Christmas Miscellany talks on 8 December.

Tony Matthews presented the life of Turville Kille (1898-1997) (right), the one-time postman who came to head local government and worked to preserve the district's precious allotments. Dr Fred Meynen talked about Marie Stopes (1880-1958), the wealthy socialite and campaigner for sexual responsibility who lived in both Givons Grove and Norbury Park and revolutionised attitudes towards birth control.

Frank Haslam stepped in as master of ceremonies to replace Brian Hennegan who was absent due to illness.

Turville Kille died just over 20 years ago, shortly before his 100th birthday. A Bookham native, he wasn't rich or highly educated but he became chairman of the local Allotments and Recreation Committee 1941-57 and 1959-63; chaired Leatherhead District Council 1964-66; and was a member of Surrey County Council 1965-70. It all sounds grand but he lived a pretty simple life in what was first an entirely rural village, then a small suburb of Leatherhead, and finally a growing residential settlement in its own right.

Turville was born 29 April 1898 at Homestead in Eastwick Road, the year after his father started working as a handyman for William Keswick, Lord of the Manor. The house is still there today, as are all the other cottages Turville lived in until moving into Southey Court care home 94 years later.

Homestead had a kitchen range, fireplace and an upright piano but no running water and only paraffin lighting. The farm stretched from there to Fetcham and from the top of the Downs to Bookham Common. Next door were a barn, cowsheds, pig sties and a trough. Turville started school in 1903 a few doors away but it closed when the teacher married the farm bailiff and the rest of his education was at St James School in the village. When his father was sacked the family moved into the empty schoolhouse and his mother established a laundry business to continue feeding the family of six.



Turville was regularly naughty at school and harshly punished but had plenty of friends, joined the choir aged eight, and learned about gardening. He left school at 14 and became a door-to-door hardware salesman, then a bottle cleaner at the Swan Brewery, and in 1914 a gardener at Polesden Lacey. His father committed suicide in the same year, suffering from depression after a spell in the workhouse.

Turville enlisted in World War 1 aged 17 and served with the East Kent regiment, playing the bugle, fife and drums. He survived the trenches intact and enjoyed the camaraderie so much that he signed on after the war for another three years. He was happy as a private and rejected his only promotion to lance-corporal. This was the one period of his life when he didn't actually live in Bookham.

Returning home in 1922, he went back to work at Polesden Lacey and married an old school sweetheart, Annie Stemp, the following year. Soon afterwards he became a postman while also moonlighting as a jobbing gardener. The couple bought their own home in 1925, Downs View in Leatherhead Road, and Turville remained there for 68 years in all, long after Annie's death in 1982. They kept chickens, bees and pigs in the garden, and their son, also Turville, was born there.

Known throughout the village community, in 1935 he delivered the post one day to his old school headmaster who persuaded him to run as a candidate in the coming election for Leatherhead Urban District Council, writing his election address for him. The church warden printed his campaign leaflets and Turville conveniently included these with everyone's mail. He lost by three votes but stood again the following year as 'Everyone's Candidate', winning with a 210 majority. By 1939 he received 594 votes to his opponent's six. His postal colleagues ensured free delivery of his campaign leaflets on their own patches until the Post Office stamped down. He went on to serve in some official role or other for 40 years.

Turville saw himself as champion of Bookham's longstanding poorer population and joining every possible committee, he was able to influence decision-making on everything from housing and roads to sewerage, street lighting and car parks. He was personally involved with the introduction of a waste disposal system, creating usable compost for gardens and allotments. In World War 2 he led the auxiliary fire service in Bookham. Afterwards, he urged the council to buy land for public housing including Bookham Grove, south of Leatherhead Road, and backed construction of sheltered accommodation for the elderly at Eastwick Park.

He left the Post Office towards the end of the war - abandoning his pension on a matter of principle - and concentrated on gardening jobs. As early as 1923 he had campaigned to protect Eastwick's historic allotments and their survival today owes much to his efforts over seven decades. Chairman of the Bookham Garden Society from 1952, he won many prizes and served as chairman of the Eastwick Allotments and Gardens Association for 15 years as well as holding responsibility for allotments on Leatherhead Council.

His public role ended soon after the creation of Mole Valley District but he lived for many years after that and died in October 1997. He was buried beside Annie at St Nicolas church in Bookham.

Dr Marie Stopes (seen opposite) was born in Edinburgh in 1880 and died in 1958 at Norbury Park House, aged 78. She was undoubtedly an extraordinary woman. Academically clever, she was the youngest woman of her time to obtain a doctorate in science from University College, London. She wrote a treatise on coal mining and also obtained a degree in botany from Munich University.

She was a feisty individual, speaking her own mind, which didn't always endear herself to those around her. Her first marriage lasted three years and was not consummated, leading to her famous book *Married Love*, aimed at married couples understanding one another including their sex life. It was controversial and written during World War 1 when she was living in Belmont Road, Leatherhead.

She married Humphrey Vernon Roe, wealthy founder of the Avro Aircraft Company, who shared her concern for women struggling with poverty and large families. One woman writing to Marie wrote: 'I've no less than 16 children including two sets of twins. My

husband will not hear of any method of birth control, so I'll suppose he'll keep on till death claims me.'

This led to her second famous book, *Wise Parenthood*, about contraception, as well as the founding in 1921 of the Marie Stopes clinics on family planning. Both books brought her into conflict with the Catholic Church. The couple moved from Givons Grove to Norbury Park House where their son Harry was born.

Marie was keen on eugenics and perfecting the human race. This impacted her relations with her son. She made him wear skirts as a child and when Harry later fell in love with Mary, daughter of the engineer Barnes Wallis, who was living in Effingham, Marie forbade the marriage. She thought Mary imperfect because she had a slight sight defect and wore glasses. When Harry married Mary anyway, his mother boycotted the wedding.

Marie's home, Norbury Park House, was built in 1774. It has ten bedrooms, eight bathrooms and six reception rooms



and stands in 40 acres. After her death, the house was occupied by Philip Spencer, owner of Neil and Spencer, manufacturer of dry cleaning equipment in Leatherhead. He was proud of the building and its fine mural paintings in the hall and beautiful terraced garden with an avenue of yew trees. He sent clippings of these to the Royal Marsden hospital for use in cancer treatment. In Marie Stopes' time she had her laboratory in the basement but a later owner replaced this with an indoor swimming pool. Marie is shown above at work.

Marie Stopes' ashes were scattered off Portland Bill in Dorset where the couple had holiday retreats. She bought a cottage which is now a museum dedicated to her life. For all her flaws she was a remarkable woman. Highly talented, she also wrote plays, poems, novels and film scripts so her legacy included many books as well as the Marie Stopes International Clinics in family planning.

LECTURE REPORT

Beverley Nichols (1898-1983) - Ashtead's Forgotten celebrity

On 19 January, RICHARD HUGHES discussed the life of a polymath who was once described as a 'bright young thing'.

Once a household name but now has anyone under 65 ever heard of him? Those who have will probably think of cats and gardens – and comparisons with a man he hated, Godfrey Winn. Yet, extraordinarily, he was once spoken of as a possible Prime Minister! In his life he was a political figure, novelist, playwright, composer, pianist, film star and gardener. What on earth went wrong?

Educated at Marlborough from 1911-16 which he hated, and Balliol College, Oxford, where after a false start, he had a spectacular career, Nichols edited *Isis*, was president of the Oxford Union, chairman of the university Liberals, and wrote *Prelude*, a very successful first novel based on life at Marlborough. He was described by Osbert Sitwell as 'first of the bright young things'.

At Oxford for a year in 1917, he was sent down for failing his part one exams. He switched to Cambridge for officer training but poor health restricted his military activity. He briefly worked in intelligence in London before returning to Oxford in 1918. This time he shone, attaining the above mentioned posts.

In 1921 he became a freelance writer in London with two more successful novels and an autobiography. He ghost-wrote soprano Nellie Melba's memoirs and became her close friend, although 30 years younger. He interviewed the family of Edith Thompson who was executed for the murder of her husband, widely seen as a gross injustice. He contributed to reviews but fell heavily into debt due to an extravagant lifestyle.

In 1928 he bought Thatch Cottage at Glatton, near Peterborough. He designed an extensive garden and became committed to gardening, writing *Down The Garden Path* in 1932, his most successful book. The year before he had failed to become a screen star when his only film, *Glamour*, flopped at the box office.

In the mid-1930s he penned a column in the *Sunday Pictorial* newspaper.



Above left: Young Beverley at the keyboard.

Above: Merry Hall, his Ashted home.

Left: In his Ashted garden.

Below left: The Nichols publicity machine.



A pacifist, he condemned Noel Coward for the jingoism in *Cavalcade* and addressed a huge rally at the Royal Albert Hall. But in 1936 he attended the Berlin Olympics and, taken in by Nazi Germany, became involved with Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists. This

wrecked his attempts to help the war effort after 1939.

Nevertheless in 1945 he got a column in the popular magazine *Women's Own* and henceforth competed with Godfrey Winn to be the most popular and best-paid journalist. They had a friendly rivalry.

At the height of his fame in 1946 he bought Merry Hall in Ashted and in 1951 published the first of three books about the

property and its 3½ acres, entitled simply *Merry Hall*.

Nichols was openly gay at a time when this was a criminal offence. In 1953, outraged by the homosexuality scandal involving Lord Montagu of Beaulieu and the jailing of three men, he tried to arrange a petition but failed to gain the support of other high-profile gay figures. The following year his play *Shadow of the Vine* about his alcoholic father was well-received, enjoying a successful but brief run in London's West End. However, the leading actor, Eric Portman, withdrew and the play failed to find another venue.

In 1956 Nichols sold up in Ashted and after a brief period in London, bought Sudbrook Cottage on Ham Common where he remained for the rest of his life. In the 1960s he wrote books about cats but after being sacked from *Woman's Own* in 1967, got into financial difficulties and began to slip from public notice.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s Nichols was involved in two huge publishing controversies. He wrote *A Case Of Human Bondage*, attacking the recently deceased Somerset Maugham who had been generous to him in his youth. The very elderly Maugham had written a bitter autobiography just before he died in which he poured scorn on his late wife, Syrie, daughter of Dr Barnado. Nichols defended her but got little thanks. It also ended his friendship with Godfrey Winn, another of Maugham's gay partners in earlier years. He was widely thought simply to be trying to make money out of the story. Then in 1972 he wrote his own autobiography in which he claimed to have tried to murder his own father no less than three times. This prompted questions in the House of Commons.

His final years were more tranquil. He died aged 85 in 1983 at his home on Ham Common. After such a triumphant start his star had faded. He had become a figure of ridicule compared with lasting figures such as Evelyn Waugh and Noel Coward, although he had once been considered alongside them. He always needed money so wrote too much, too quickly. Basically a dabbler in many areas, he never really became a master of anything. Some of his principles were clearly more appealing than others but he was evidently hugely entertaining company.

The present day owner of Merry Hall attended this talk and confirmed that most of Nichols' gardening achievements remain in place today.

ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE REPORT

More investigations at Bookham Courte

On 19 January at Bookham's St Nicolas Church, LYN SPENCER talked about her book, *Great Bookham - The Development of a Surrey Village in Maps*. Last summer's excavation in the centre of the village have helped bring the past to life, she writes.

A fourth season of excavation was undertaken over six days in August 2017 by members of the Surrey Archaeological Society at a property behind St Nicolas Church. It involved extending the 2016 trench No 7 and opening four new trenches.

The garden was once part of the manor complex of Bookham Courte, demolished about 1720. Bookham Courte may have been the original abbey farm set up by Chertsey Abbey. It is described in a 1614 document as consisting of a manor house covered in tile, a gatehouse, two great barns, a bakery, stables and other buildings surrounded by a great yard. There is a mention of Bookham Courte in the Chertsey Abbey Cartularies of 1332.

An aim of last year's evaluation was to see if the mortared flints found in trench 7 in 2016 were part of a wall. Trench 10 was an extension of trench 7. The aim of trench 11 was to find an extension of the line of mortar which appeared to follow the line of high resistivity from an earlier geophysical investigation.

Trench 12 was sited near trench 8 which featured robbed out wall foundations. Trench 13 was a trial trench in the front garden and trench 14 was on the same alignment as trench 10 but further north.

Trench 10 was to the south of the 2016 trench and measured 3m by 2m with a 1m by 0.5m extension at the eastern end. The excavation uncovered a cobbled surface under a highly compacted 30cm layer of chalk and flint. At one end of the trench the line of large chalk blocks seen in earlier years were seen to continue across the garden. The width of the upper chalk blocks was approximately 20cm, but the structure had little mechanical strength and may have been the base of a palisade or a flimsy internal wall. Unearthed bricks by the chalk blocks suggested a post medieval date.

The chalk blocks were sitting on a thin layer of earth and under



Above and opposite: The team extended an existing trench and opened four new ones in the search for remains of the medieval Bookham Courte manor complex.

this was a flint mortared wall 1m wide on around the same alignment as the chalk blocks. A portion of this was seen in the 2016 trench.

Finds included shelly ware, early white-ware, post-medieval red-ware, bones, a horseshoe and a sickle.

Trench 11 was initially 2.5m x 0.5m, near to the western boundary but was extended after a heavily compacted chalk and flint layer was found at a depth of 70cm. The extension included part of the area of high resistance found in 2016.

A later modern pit was found at the north-western end of the trench with post-medieval and modern pottery. The degraded lime-poor mortar area found in 2016 petered out in the extension to the east.

The hard chalk and flint area on the north-western arm of the trench was probably the floor of a building. This was found at a depth of 70cm and was about 17cm deep and lying on the natural soil. Pottery in this area included shelly ware, grey/brown sandy ware, white-wares and post-medieval pottery.

Trench 12 was 1.5m by 0.8m and approximately six metres from the tile-on-edge hearth found in 2015. Under the topsoil was pottery dated 1400-1700 and in the next context a few pieces of pottery dated between 1150 and 1400 were found. The natural was at 40cm.

Trench 13 in the front garden was 1m by 1m and had very few finds. There were one or two pieces of pottery dated between 1350 and 1800. Natural was found at 67cm.

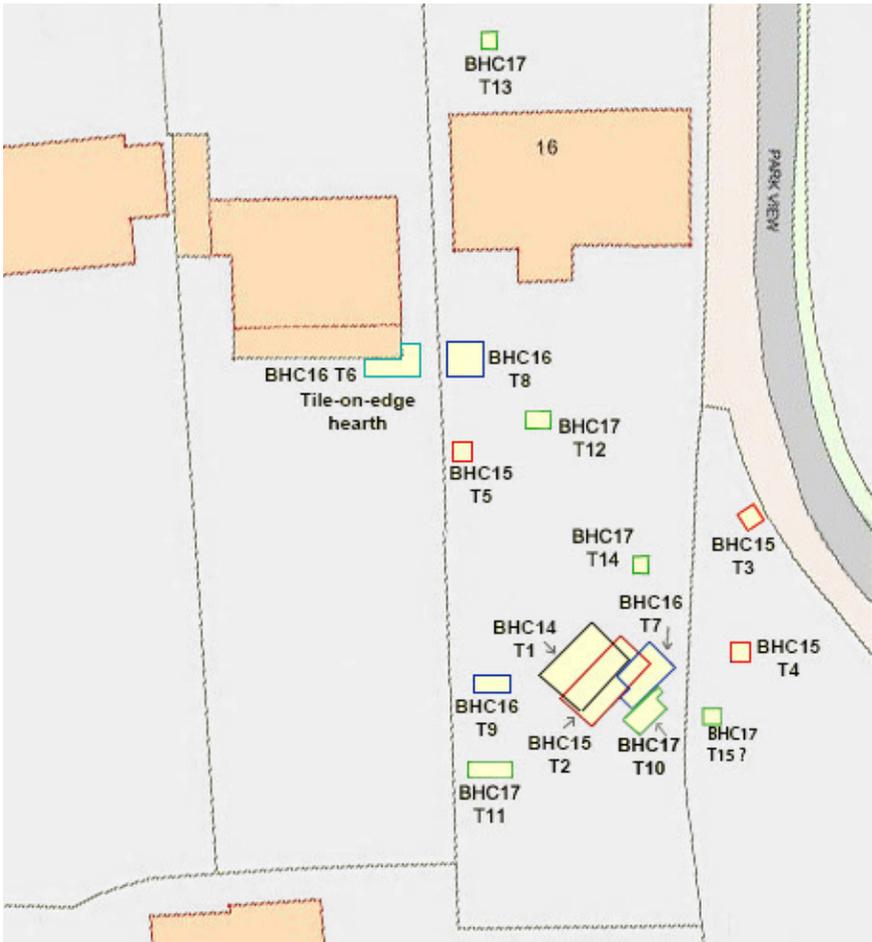
Trench 14 was 2m by 0.7m and to the north of trench 10. A few centimetres under the turf a flint packed surface was found with some later post-medieval pieces. Underneath this surface was a thin layer of earth and under this another flint surface containing bone, roof tile and one piece of white-ware dated 1240-1400. This lower flint surface was resting on the natural.

Trench 10 showed that there had been various buildings or structures in this area. The large cobbled area is almost certainly part of the 'Great Yarde' referred to in the 1616 description of Bookham Courte. There was evidence of several structures that had been built in this area before all the structures were demolished in the 18th century. Maps after 1730 show no buildings.

The medieval pottery assemblage consisted of shelly wares (1050-1250), sandy wares (1150-1250) and Surrey white-wares of Kingston, Cheam and Surrey Border types dating from early 13th century to the late 15th century, together with post-medieval pottery. Dating taken from Phil Jones's Medieval Pottery Type Series in *A Guide to the Saxon and Medieval Pottery Type Series of Surrey*. (£5 plus p&p from Castle Arch.)

The team included Angela Mason, Emma Corke and Nigel Bond as trench supervisors. The hardworking diggers were Christine Pittman, Geoffrey Gower-Kerslake, Chris Quinn, Kathy French, Irene Goring, John Felton, Liz Felton, Mike Edwards. The finds team - Fiona Grisdale and Jenny Newland and Jan Spencer - also provided all the tea, coffee and cake.





*Above: Position of the trenches.
Left: Trench 11 with its dense flint/chalk base to the south.*

PHOTO FEATURE

Bluesette Club Memories



A plaque commemorating the 1960s Bluesette Club was unveiled at 22 Bridge Street, Leatherhead on 20 January. Shown clockwise from above: Mick Hughes, original bouncer on the now empty club site; Marina Dorey recalls T Rex; Andy Ellison of Marc Bolan's first band, John's Children; Chris Stagg of Surrey Hills Radio with the Society's own Fred Meynen, Mole Valley Council chairman Cllr Simon Ling, and Mrs Cynthia Ling.



FEATURE

Colourful scenes at the old Bookham pageant

BILL WHITMAN recalls *Bookham Church Scenes*, a once regular pageant that told the story of St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham from its inception through to modern times.

When the late L&DLHS president Linda Heath wrote and produced her play *A Rich Inheritance* for Leatherhead parish church, part of the inspiration came from *Bookham Church Scenes*, the traditional production performed over many decades during the last century.

The pageant consisted of a narrative connecting a number of scenes depicting events in the long history of the church, from the time of the Normans through to 1923. It was written by Miss Joce, who ran The Spinney School, assisted by John Harvey and the then Rector, Canon Hughes.

The first productions were in 1937 and then it was performed every five years from 1952 to 1992 when performances stopped because of lack of sufficient support. It required a good producer, a large cast of costumed performers, musicians and a substantial support staff. Over 100 members of the congregation were involved.

Many of us who took part in the performances, miss the friendships built up during rehearsals and we value the background knowledge that we acquired of the history of our ancient church.

The earliest times of the church were covered in the narration, from the foundation of Chertsey Abbey by Erkenwald in 666 AD and the gift to the Abbey of 20 houses in Bookham in 675, through Domesday, to the first scene, a vigil by a knight in 1292.

The next scene was a dedication of the chancel by Abbot John de Rutherwycke in 1341. Then came the wedding of Marion and John Barmsdale in the 15th century. This was followed by thanksgiving for the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 with Sir Charles Howard and then presentation of a new set of communion plate in 1673 by Elizabeth Shiers.

Matins followed with a sermon denouncing the execution of King Charles I, preached by Dr Shortrudge in 1715. Then Evensong and Catechism with Samuel Cooke, Jane Austen and Fanny Burney.



After this came Matins again with the Duke and Duchess of York in 1923. Later King George VI and the Queen Mother, the royal couple spent part of their honeymoon at Polesden Lacey that year.

The whole performance ended with a great procession of the whole costumed cast singing *Christ is the King! O friends rejoice.*



Above, left and below: Some of the colourful line-ups during performances of Bookham Church Scenes over the years.



ORAL HISTORY FEATURE

Charles Simmonds (1900-1993)

On 5 June 1987, Edwina Vardey interviewed gardener Charles Simmonds who spent most of his life working for large land-owners in Leatherhead and lived in the same bungalow in Worples Road for over 60 years. Originally from Taplow, Buckinghamshire where he had married in 1917, he told some fascinating anecdotes about his employers. Here is an extract.

I had just come out of the army in 1920. Things were very bad and we had to put the girl in care and go into service, the wife and I. We took temporary jobs because the pay was higher than in permanent jobs and that meant a lot. An extra five shillings. Half of our wages went towards her keep. The other half for us on travelling, buying our clothes and keeping ourselves respectable.

I was second gardener there at Vale Lodge [working for Charles F Leach]. The wife used to go out cooking dinners at night. Baking up at Tyrrells Wood sometimes. All over the place.

Mr Leach wasn't what I call a nice master. Very stubborn. His wife told me that he took over his father's business when he was 13. His father was a big ship-owner. They had a wharf at the side of Tower Bridge, Mark Brown's Wharf. The government commandeered his ships for the First World War and of course that made him a bit richer. Then in the second war they commandeered his ships again and the extra ones that he had already managed to build from the first one. Lord Muir Mackenzie was chairman of the London Ports Authority. He retired and Mr Leach took over the job. He was hoping for a knighthood or something.

Mrs Leach wrote off to the War Office complaining about the planes cutting the tops off her cedar trees.... She used to put our wages out on Saturday morning and collect them. The window used to be wide open and sometimes you could see pound notes blowing about all over the lawn. In the end he took the job over himself. Mr Leach. He was a terror.

[My earliest memory of Leatherhead was] the day I came over to



Above: Vale Lodge today.



Left: Now serving equestrians.

Vale Lodge, on the site of the old Rectory, was let to a lay tenant. Some 40 acres, it was the area's largest farm in the 16th and 17th centuries under the Rogers family.

It was rebuilt in brick around 1780, stuccoed with a slate roof, partly mansard. Charles F Leach and his family arrived in 1901.

Advised by Dr Von Bergen, Charles Leach bought land from the Windfield estate during World War 2 and donated it to the town. It became the site of Leatherhead Cottage Hospital in Poplar Road. Vale Lodge is now divided and separately occupied.

interview about the job. I was worrying it seemed like a dickens of a long ride from Guildford to Leatherhead by bus. I came from Hook Heath near Woking and I kept coming down worrying the conductor, asking him where Leatherhead was. So he said what are you doing at Leatherhead then? So I said I'm going for an interview for a job. He said where are you going? I said a place named Vale Lodge. He said I know the head gardener there. I pity you. I don't fancy you in your job.....

[They were lovely gardens.] We had them photographed once for a

catalogue. I'll tell you what they were like. The old fashioned English gardens. Lot of birds there, foreign birds. Lot of aviaries. That was his hobby....all rose arches, borders and round every path was a golden box cut a foot square. [The head gardener Stephen] Rapley and I used to have to do that. We had three fellows following behind picking up the clippings. Used to take us a fortnight...

I'll tell you the sort of man Mr Leach was. On Saturday we cleared up and used to leave off at mid-day. All the paths were black ashes from the stokers, tons of ashes there were. When wet and black they used to look very nice with the golden box on each side. We would go along the wall, he would go one side and I would go on the other, cut off what seed pods there were on the dahlias and any other faded or dead flowers to leave it nice and tidy for the weekend.

Do you know, [Mr Leach] went along behind after we had done all that and cut off a lot more seed heads, the petals had dropped off, and threw them out in the middle of the path. To give us a job, that was all. That was the sort of man he was. He would cut off a piece of groundsell and lay it on top of the box hedge. If you didn't happen to go round that way and pick it off the hedge he wouldn't half chew you out. He wanted somebody to pull the weeds up and carry them down to the rubbish heap. Sarcastic, terribly sarcastic.

[But] it was the first home we had. Rapley and the chauffeur used to live in that bottom semi-detached. [Mr Leach] had [another cottage] built for the kitchen gardener. He had the front at the back because he thought he could get round the Council to allow him to have an opening into St Mary's Road. The Council wouldn't agree. [But] he gave the land that the hospital is on today and also that piece of ground the war memorial is on, down by the post office.

[The Leaches had two sons. The first was called Grey De Leche.] Grey got a medal for bravery [in World War 1] because he was taking a class bombing hand grenades and some idiot pulled the pin out and dropped it on the floor. Dropped the bomb on the floor. So he rushed and picked it up. Ran outside to get rid of it and when he got outside he found the battalion was on parade. So he done no more than stick it to his stomach and bent over it. Terrible it was.

Claude he was altogether different, the other son. He'd never got

any money. Always pinching stuff of his father's. He went in for polo ponies. He used to play polo at Stoke. He had his polo ponies down here in the stables... Had a team over at Stoke d'Abernon. He used to pinch his father's stuff to feed these two polo ponies.

Mr Leach used to have half a dozen of those Scotch Highland cattle in the park just for people walking along the Dorking road to see. He used to feed them on linseed cake. There were six of them and each had a box of its own [with] a hand bowl full of linseed cake which they used to like, like kiddies want chocolate. Claude's polo ponies used to race the cows up to these boxes and start scoffing this large cake. Mr Leach said to Claude one day I don't buy that cake to feed your ponies. He says you can't grumble, you have the manure.

Every Sunday morning, Claude used to walk from the house down to the lodge at the bottom of the drive to see the kitchen gardener and have a chat with him about the ponies. They used to walk along inside the park along the Dorking road. The first Sunday we got about half way along the park, he said, jawing about the ponies, he started feeling around in his pockets. He said I've come out without my cigarettes. Got a cigarette on you? So he said I only smoke Woodbines. Oh I love Woodbines he said, so of course he had to give him one.

This happened every Sunday. He had always forgotten his cigarettes. So Mansell [the kitchen gardener] says this particular Sunday morning he thought to himself I'll pay him back somehow. So he said I haven't got mine with me. I've left them at home. So Claude says I'll wait here for you while you go and get them. So Mansell walked slowly back to his little lodge there. The toilet was down at the bottom of the garden. He knocked a hole out and stood in there watching Claude. He thought I'll make the old devil wait for a cigarette. He said I stood there about 20 minutes and he made a bit of an attempt to walk across the park indoors to get a cigarette. He said I kept him there as long as I could.

[Mr Leach] had 11 different orchids for a start off. Two big vineries, black ambers, one big peach house, one stove. That was tropical plants. The next one was the orchid house and the next house was a cold house full of carnations, the American tree carnation, perpetual flowering. Then over the other side there used to be in the old days pine pips. They grew pineapples. The first house was all special

plants. Begonias and things like that and some orchids. The middle house was melons and cucumbers. The next house was another flowering house. Above that was another 30-foot house in length. Full of carnations, border carnations. He was mad on carnations.

Rapley, the head gardener, and I used to have to take it in turns [to heat the glasshouses]. One week on, one week off. Seven days a week we used to work.....There was all the plants to water. There was the stoke oils, the fires to open up to get the heat up and then go down and fill them right up with fuel and shut them off so they kept going all night long. Then there was chickens to feed and pigs. We were paid the large amount of £2/5s/- a week, seven days a week and we used to have to take the bank holidays in rotation. If I was off Good Friday I was on Easter Monday or vice versa. I used to have to go down at night seven o'clock after they had gone to dinner and lock up all the gates and that all round the gardens. You was tied to the place and you earned your money.

[*Vale Lodge was occupied by Canadian forces during World War 2.*] The Canadians drove him [Mr Leach] out. Gave him a little cubicle. That was no good to him. He used to sit in his study of a night until ten o'clock at night working. Figures and that. Of course he couldn't put up with this little cubicle so he went to Ashted and bought a house over there. Used to come over and see us twice a week. See what we were doing. How we were getting on. Whether we were earning our money.

Never saw much of her [Mrs Leach] except for flower slashing. It used to take a fellow all Saturday morning with a barrow and a top carting out dead flowers what she carted in during the week. Used to slaughter the borders. I used to grow a lot of those big Japanese chrysanthemums. Tremendous great big ones. One on the pot. She would come up and say: 'Simmonds, I want some chrysanthemums.' Instead of cutting a whole pot down she would just have one bloom off of it. Then she would go along and tell me she wanted that bloom. She'd got a whole armful and off she would go down the house and arrange that lot.

Claude married the dentist's daughter down Station Road. Irene, I think her name was. She had a son about 12 years old. He didn't want this property here, Vale Lodge. That's why he got rid of it. He



*Above: Tyrrells Wood where Charles worked for Mrs Van Toll.
Below: The gardens as they may have appeared in his time.
Photos courtesy of Goff Powell.*



said he'd got a farm at Tring.
[After the Leaches sold Vale Lodge, Charles Simmonds went to

work for Mrs Van Toll, widow of the Dutch Ambassador, at her home, Tyrrells Wood, now clubhouse for the golf course.]

I was jobbing gardening then and we were paying rent for this place. Mrs Van Toll was advertising for a gardener and I went to see her about the job. Of course she jumped at me because she was on her own. Her husband dropped down dead at her feet one day when she was making some mince pies. The poor old soul was all on her own....I should say she was in her seventies.

I felt sorry for the poor old soul because leaving her on her own there in front of a big fire when I left off work and not being to see her again till the following morning, I never knew what happened. I used to lock the back door and wrap the key up in paper because her eyesight wasn't very good and I would put it through the front door letterbox. When she came down in the morning of course she could see the paper with the key. She would insist on making me a cup of cocoa with burnt milk every morning.

This particular morning I'm going to tell you about was when I got to the back door it wasn't open. I thought this is funny. I rang the bell and stood there about five minutes nearly. Nobody came, never heard anything. So I thought poor old lady passed on? So I thought the only way I'm going to find out is to go to the garage, get a ladder and put it up to her bedroom window. Which I did. All her windows were those lead diamond ones. When I got up to the window and looked inside she was fully dressed sitting on the carpet.

She had locked her bedroom door when she went to bed and the handle on the keyhole was too high for her to reach from a sitting position. So I said to her I shall have to break a pane of glass, I said, and come in and help you. So she said no, don't do that. I can manage all right. She see-sawed across the room to the dressing table in front of the window but she couldn't get up. So in the end I broke this one pane of glass, put my hand through and unlatched the window, got in the bedroom and lifted her up.

[Years before Mrs Van Toll had been an opera singer.] World-wide known. I've got a photograph of her also as she dressed up as Aida. She took the leading part in that. Queen Alexandra made it her business to go round to the dressing room and congratulate her. On her window sill up the stairway was all photographs of different

conductors that she had been under.

She was engaged by Marconi to go down to Cornwall [and] every night sing part of an opera for Marconi to transmit to the captain of a liner that was going to Canada. He was testing the strength of the signals. She kept on going and each night until he got farther and farther away and in the end he couldn't hear anything at all. Signals faded right out. As a present he gave her the tuning device.

I used to mess about [with wireless equipment]. I was one of the first ones around here with wireless. Used to have crowds of people in listening. Coils and all. [Mrs Van Toll had] the whole length of paper ribbon with the Morse Code on it. It was the last message the captain of the ship sent to Marconi. She told me she was going to give it to the museum at the BBC. Whether she did or not I don't know. But she went a bit funny in the head towards the end and they put her in nursing homes.

FEATURE

A SAINTLY KING IN SURREY

by **BOB KELLEY** of **Bookham U3A Social History Group**

Since the 1980s the relics of King Edward the Martyr have been in the safekeeping of an Orthodox Christian community at a purpose-built church in Brookwood Cemetery, Pirbright. The boy king is now recognised as a saint and the monks of the St Edward Brotherhood who care for the church may not be without a sense of humour, judging from the sign outside (see photo right © Dr. Liz Lee-Kelley).

But to explain. On 22 January 1931, the relics of



King Edward were discovered in the ruins of the former Shaftesbury Abbey, Dorset. The young monarch had been murdered at Corfe Castle on 18 March 978, aged just 15, and his place of burial attracted pilgrims during the Middle Ages. A legal battle over ownership of the relics took place and they were brought to Surrey to be housed in the strong-room of Lloyds Bank in Dorking.

The killing was probably at the instigation of his stepmother Ælfthryth, the first crowned Queen of all England and last wife of his father, King Edgar. Since that time, the boy's unfortunate fate has had repercussions for more than 1000 years.

His body lay buried at Wareham for a year before Ælfthryth initiated re-interment at Shaftesbury Abbey, perhaps as a gesture of reconciliation. According to *The Life of Oswald*, the body was found to be incorrupt when it was disinterred, which was taken as a miraculous sign.

A great procession followed the body's removal, culminating in its reburial with full royal honours on the north side of the abbey's altar. A miracle happened on the way when two crippled men were immediately restored to full health after being brought close to the bier while those carrying it lowered the body to their level. Many other miracles were said to follow through Edward's intercession, including the healing of lepers and the blind, turning Shaftesbury into a major site of pilgrimage.

The abbey became England's wealthiest Benedictine nunnery. It was bequeathed so much land it was said that 'if the Abbot of Glastonbury bedded the Abbess of Shaftesbury, their heir would be richer than the King of England.' When King Henry VIII broke with Rome in 1536, Shaftesbury was too valuable a prize to ignore, its net income assessed at £1329/1s/3d.

The last Abbess, Elizabeth Zouche, hoped a conciliatory attitude might save her nunnery. In a letter dated 1536, Sir Thomas Arundel told Thomas Cromwell that she had presented the parsonage of Tarrant, for which he had expressed a desire, adding: 'My lady is right glad to do you pleasure.' In December 1538 Arundel wrote again, telling Cromwell that, contrary to advice, the Abbess refused to follow the 'moo' (majority) and resign, offering the King 500 marks and Cromwell £100 for the convent to be allowed to stand.

However, its fate was sealed, the last abbey in Dorset to fall. The Abbess finally gave her signed deed of surrender to the King's Commissioner, Sir John Tregonwell, on 2 March 1539 on behalf of 56 nuns who accepted pensions. Before they left, the nuns hid the casket of King Edward's relics so well that it remained hidden until 1931.

Abbot Richard Whiting of Glastonbury refused to surrender and after questioning by Cromwell himself in the Tower, was hanged, drawn and quartered on 15 November 1539 on Glastonbury Tor. He was denied the due process to which he was entitled as a member of the House of Lords.

Cromwell neither gave nor received any Christian forgiveness. Although by then the 1st Earl of Essex, he too was denied the same rights before his own execution just eight months later.

TRIBUTE

Mary Rice-Oxley (1925-2016)

Mary Rice-Oxley was among the founders of the L&DLHS and made a major contribution towards the study of local history. Although she died two years ago, at the time the *Newsletter* carried no obituary. This tribute aims to rectify that.

Mary Rice-Oxley was born 26 August 1925 and lived in Ashted during her early years, the only child of Harry and Lena Bridger.

Harry lost an eye and many fingers during the Battle of the Somme in World War 1 but always remained cheerful. A director of the company Sleighmakers in Covent Garden before the war, he and Lena moved to Effingham in 1930 when they opened their shop, the Village Stores, and stocked it daily with fresh supplies from Covent Garden.

The premises had previously been a bakery and tea room. Harry would now go up to Covent Garden on the first train each day, cycling to the station. He would occasionally hit rabbits on the route and these were always hidden in the hedge to be picked up on his return. All shop deliveries were made by bike until a green Austen van was bought later. During World War 2 an air raid shelter was

built but the family always took refuge under the stairs during raids, preferring to use the shelter as a cold store for dairy products.

Mary went to Roseberry School and then trained as an architect, at first using the letters SRIBA after her name (Student RIBA). Unfortunately this advantage was scrapped with only the full RIBA qualification being recognised. As Harry and Lena couldn't afford any further training for the exams, Mary was left as a lifelong architectural student.

In her twenties, she met a local solicitor called Stephen Fortescue and was among the founders with him of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in 1946. With Stephen's assistance, she was able to maintain her interests in architecture and got a job with the prestigious Minoprio & Spencely partnership in London. Sir Charles Anthony Minoprio (1900-1988) was heavily involved with town planning after World War 2 and in 1947 prepared a development plan for Crawley New Town. Mary worked on this and was deeply involved in the town's design, visiting the old villages soon to be absorbed as Crawley expanded to become the new town.

Harry Bridger died at 69 after catching pneumonia following a performance of *The Pirates of Penzance* at Dorking. Mary met Frank Rice-Oxley at the Bookham Young Conservatives of which he was chairman. He organised a ramble one day to meet at the Victoria Hotel at the top of Bookham High Street. After a fruitless half hour wait only Mary turned up. They walked over Bookham Common, had tea in Cobham and were married on 20 October 1951.

Frank's family had founded the prestigious industry newspaper *Metal Bulletin* and he eventually became its chairman. They lived at first with Lena Bridger before moving to Heysham, a semi-detached cottage at 326 Lower Road, Little Bookham, by Preston Cross. Mary worked at the School of Stitchery and Lace, now The Grange. Their son Simon was born in 1952 and daughter Sally in 1957. They then moved to 9 Manor Gardens, Effingham, until buying the house Sturminster in Effingham Common Road in 1970.

Mary started writing local history books together with Stephen Fortescue. Among them was *The Story of Hampton Cottage, Leatherhead*, home of the Leatherhead Museum from 1979. She collected historic postcards over many years, publishing them as

the book *Effingham, A Surrey Village Remembered*, see below.

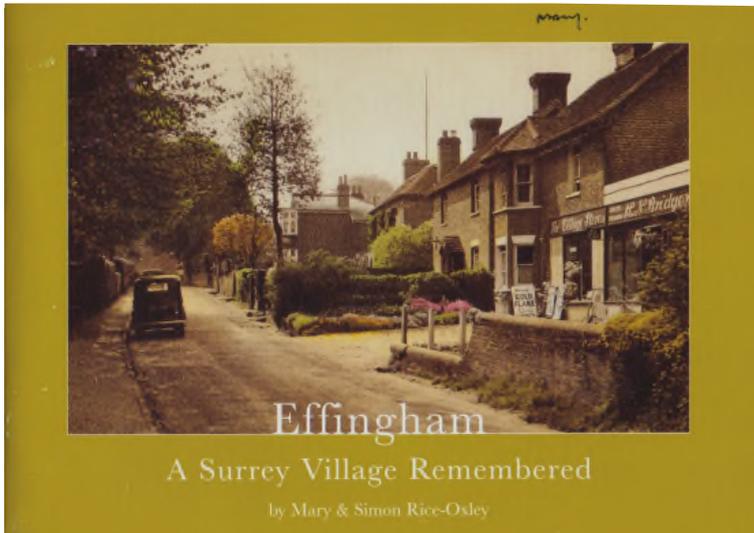
Her collection of meticulously catalogued documents and photos from her life's work were given to Effingham Local History Group when she reached the age of 80. The group's own book *Effingham, A History In Photographs* was dedicated to her as it contains all the photos from her own book as well as others. Her other books included one on the *Swan Hotel and Brewery*. She also copied extracts from the



Mary Rice-Oxley

diaries of Morris Snellgrove, another founder member of L&DLHS, which were published as an A5 booklet.

She was ill for about four years before her death at St Anthony's Hospital, North Cheam, on 2 June 2016. Her funeral, at Randall's Park Crematorium on 5 July, was marked by a celebration of her life at The Woodlands Park Hotel, Stoke D'Abernon.



SCENES FROM THE PAST

The day a Ford Metro collided with the Museum

A decade ago the new year 2008 started with a real bang when a Ford car smashed into Hampton Cottage in the early hours of 6 January. It caused devastating damage both to the building and the collection (see right).



David Hartley, L&DLHS chairman, wrote at the time: ‘The Museum Trustees and Alan Pooley, Museum Manager, have done everything necessary with the insurance assessors to put the work in hand to reinstate and carry out the reconstruction works as quickly as possible.’

Fred Meynen, then chairman of the Friends, wrote: ‘Fortunately no-one was injured. As Friends we are committed to supporting the Museum Committee and Trustees in their efforts to clear the mess, rebuild the cottage and restore its contents.’

The Museum re-opened on Thursday, 29 May with a good turnout as Lucy Hanson, Town Centre Manager, performed the ceremonial beginning of the craft weekend. Two new display cabinets had been bought for the front room downstairs to replace those destroyed.

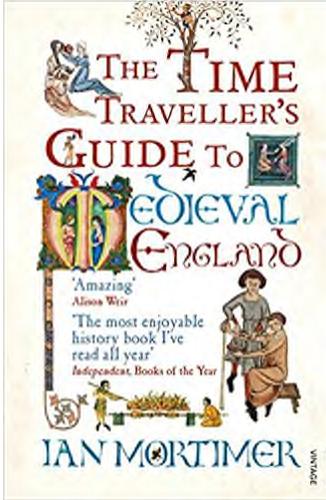
Some displays were changed during the shutdown with a new showcase showing pharmaceutical items from Hewlin’s pharmacy in Bridge Street and a comprehensive set of joinery tools donated by the late owner’s family in the front downstairs gallery.



Left: Scene at Leatherhead War Memorial 101 years ago in March 1917. Photo courtesy of Cathy Lewer.

BOOK REVIEW

Membership Secretary **FRANK HASLAM** writes about *The Time Traveller's Guide* series.



How many of us have wondered what it must have been like to get through the day in olden times? What time would you get up? What would you wear? Could you bear the smells? What do you eat and drink? How might you get into trouble? What was it like to be ill?

The questions are endless. Ian Mortimer's *Time Traveller's Guide* series to Medieval England, Elizabethan England and Restoration Britain provides a fascinating guide to what life was like at different levels of society during these periods.

In the 1953 novel *The Go-Between*, writer L P Hartley says: 'The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there.' Dr Mortimer, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and of the Society of Antiquaries, writes history like the best travel guides. You feel that here is someone who really knows their stuff but tells it so that you always want to see what is round the next corner. He is the guide you want to be with.

The three books are all highly recommended if you want to take a break from the battles and buildings and immerse yourself in life as it was then. His next *Time Traveller's Guide* will cover Regency Britain. The books are in Surrey Libraries.

Membership Renewal for 2018

Thanks if you have already renewed your Society membership for the calendar year 2018. If you have not yet done so, you will find a renewal form enclosed with this *Newsletter* (or with your email if you only receive the digital version online). The form also enables you to join or renew membership of the Friends of the Museum. The deadline for renewal is the end of March so please don't delay.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 1175119

Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead KT22 8DP
Telephone: 01372 386348 Email: museum@leatherheadhistory.org

Website: www.leatherheadhistory.org

Online Archive: www.ldlhsarchive.co.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 + Sunday 10 September 10am-4pm

Officers of the Society

President

Alan Pooley

president@leatherheadhistory.org

Chairman

John Rowley

chairman@leatherheadhistory.org

Secretary

Jane Summerfield

secretary@leatherheadhistory.org

Treasurer

Carl Leyshon

treasurer@leatherheadheadhistory.org

Archaeology Secretary

Nigel Bond

archaeology@leatherheadhistory.org

Museum Curator

Lorraine Spindler

curator@leatherheadhistory.org

Secretary, Friends of Leatherhead Museum

Judy Wilson

rjawilson6roe@aol.com

Programmes and Lectures Secretary

Fred Meynen

programme@leatherheadhistory.org

Records Secretary

Roy Mellick

records@leatherheadhistory.org

Membership Secretary

Frank Haslam

membership@leatherheadhistory.org

Newsletter Editor/Publicity Secretary

Tony Matthews

newsletter@leatherheadhistory.org

Proceedings Editor

David Hawksworth

proceedings@leatherheadhistory.org

Archival Material

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

ashteadarchive@leatherheadhistory.org

John Rowley

bookhamarchive@leatherheadhistory.org

Roy Mellick

fetchamarchive@leatherheadhistory.org

Alan Pooley

leatherheadarchive@leatherheadhistory.org

Nigel Thompson

Historical Enquiry Service

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

Kirby Library (Letherhead Institute)

The Library is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10am-12.30pm. Exceptionally, arrangements may be made to use it at other times by applying to the Librarian.

2018 L&DLHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Ordinary £20 Associate/Student £6 Small Corporate £125



Above: L&DLHS chairman John Rowley welcomes Mark Everett, senior partner and son of the founder of Michael Everett & Co of Ashted, the first local firm to take advantage of the Society's brand new corporate membership category.

DORKING CONCERTGOERS AT THE DORKING HALLS

SACCONI STRING QUARTET Tickets £20
Sunday 25 March 2018 | Martineau Hall 3.00pm
 Haydn String Quartet Op.54 No.3
 Janáček String Quartet No.2, Intimate Letters
 Dvorák String Quartet No.12 in F major, Op.96 American

ALEXEI GRINYUK PIANO Tickets £20
Saturday 21 April 2018 | Martineau Hall 7.30pm
 Bach Partita No.1 in B Flat Major
 Beethoven Piano Sonata No.23 in F Minor, Op.57 Appassionata
 Chopin Piano Sonata No.3 in B minor, Op.58
 Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody No.9 in E flat major Carnival in Pest



Alexei Grinyuk

YEHUDI MENUHIN SCHOOL ORCHESTRA Tickets £14; £18; £26
Saturday 19 May 2018 | Grand Hall 7.30pm
 Oscar Colomina i Bosch Conductor

These exceptionally gifted young musicians play pieces for string orchestra including Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis.

Join the Dorking Concertgoers and receive a discount on your tickets (Membership costs £12.00 per year (£20.00 for 2 people at the same address) and entitles members to discounted tickets, saving up to 20%, and priority booking to all our concerts. Tickets from Dorking Concertgoers' Box Office 01306 740619 or Dorking Halls 01306 881717 Details of membership from Dorking Concertgoers on 01306 740619 www.dorkingconcertgoers.org.uk www.dorkinghalls.co.uk

