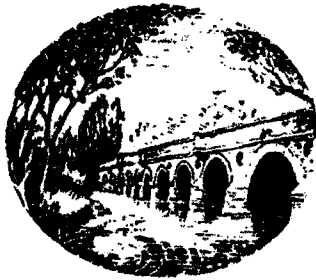


LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER



August, 2000

# LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, LEATHERHEAD

Surrey, KT22 8DP

Tel: 01372 386348

Registered Charity No. 802409

---

CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER
Peter A. Tarplee	Vacancy	Judith Mills
01372 452301	01372 386348	01372 372146

**The Society** meets on the 3rd Friday of the month in at the Letherhead Institute from September to May. For details see programme in this issue.

## 2000 Membership Subscriptions

Ordinary.....	£9.00
Associate.....	£4.00
Junior (under 18).....	£1.00

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Jack Barker	01372 458469
----------------------	-------------	--------------

---

**The Museum** is open from April until December at the following times :

Thursday	1:00 p.m. -	4:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 p.m. -	1:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 p.m. -	4:00 p.m.

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN	Alan V. Pooley	01372 374093
------------------------	----------------	--------------

---

**The Library** is open from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday and from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on the first Saturday in the month or by arrangement with the Librarian.

LIBRARIAN	Gwen Hoad	01372 273934
-----------	-----------	--------------

---

**The Records** are available for study by arrangement.

RECORDS SECRETARY	Brian Godfrey	01372 454654
-------------------	---------------	--------------

---

**Lectures** on the local history of the area may sometimes be given to other local societies by our members.

LECTURE SECRETARY	Gordon Knowles	01372 458396
-------------------	----------------	--------------

---

**The Newsletter** is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. *Copy for the November 2000 issue should reach the Society's Office by 17<sup>th</sup> October.*

NEWSLETTER EDITOR	John Wettren	01372 459277
-------------------	--------------	--------------

---

**The Friends of Leatherhead Museum** support the Society's work in the Museum

SECRETARY	Thelma Lucas	01372 844345
-----------	--------------	--------------

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

During the past weeks there have been a number of activities where the Society has, on its own or in co-operation with other bodies, been involved in publicising the history of the town. First of all, walks have been arranged around Leatherhead on some summer Sunday afternoons starting and finishing at the museum. These have all been organised by Linda Heath and we are grateful to her and her helpers as well as to those who have manned the museum on these days. The museum welcomes the publicity as well as the additional donations in the box!

Two new walks or trails are in the course of preparation in conjunction with Mole Valley District Council. One will guide folk around Leatherhead town centre, pointing out buildings of historic interest on which it is planned to erect descriptive plaques. The other will describe a walk along the River Mole on the stretch between Thorncroft and the Common Meadow. This has also involved the Lower Mole Project and will describe natural history as well. Both of these should be available soon and we are pleased to assist the local authority in publicising the history of our area.

Another project in which we co-operate with many local bodies is the Heritage Open Days, which this year are to be held on the 16th and 17th September. Again a very full programme has been arranged including visits to buildings, talks, displays and guided walks. For further details, see page 16 of this Newsletter. Copies will be obtainable from various outlets in the area as well as being published in The Guardian.

The Society's representative on the Planning Committee for the event will not be available on that weekend, but it would help if some of our members would volunteer to assist at some properties. This would involve simply stewarding and guiding visitors. You will not be expected to describe any buildings or their history.

Will anyone wishing to help, even for a short period, please contact Rod Shaw at Mole Valley District Council; telephone 01306 879247.

The Society paid its annual visit to Bookham Village Day when we mounted a display on the theme of Twentieth Century Travel illustrated mainly by extracts from our publications. We hope that these occasions enable more people to know that there is a local history society. A few weeks earlier the Society provided a display at Fetcham Park House where there was a flower festival on behalf of the Red Cross. This illustrated the history of the house. Our thanks to all who helped with these events.

## CENSUS STUDIES

In the February Newsletter anyone interested in studying censuses and other records using computers was invited to contact the Secretary. There has been some interest and those concerned have been put in touch with each other. This is a first step towards achieving a full scale study of Leatherhead's population using census records. We would like to hear from anyone else who might be interested in this project.

Through the good offices of Alun Roberts, information on the census of 1881 for Leatherhead, Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham is now on the Society's computer at Hampton Cottage. Anyone wishing to access this information should apply to the Records Secretary or the Newsletter Editor.

## SOCIETY RULES

The Rules of the Society have been reprinted. If any member would like a copy they may be obtained from Jack Barker, our Membership Secretary, whose telephone number appears on the inside front cover of the Newsletter.

## 'LEATHERHEAD BRIDGE' by John Varley

Members will know that the Society owns this watercolour painting and that the original hangs in the office of the Vice-Chairman of Surrey County Council at County Hall. There is a print of the picture displayed in our museum, where we also sell postcards of the painting.

I was interested to read recently in *Network*, the newspaper of the National Grid Company, that a print of this watercolour is now displayed in the reception area of Kelvin House, the company's office in Leatherhead.

David Varley, who is the great-great-great-grandson of John Varley, works at Kelvin House and has displayed the picture there. The production of prints for David Varley to use was arranged by this Society and we are pleased that one of them is available to be seen by a number of workers in the town.

*Peter Tarplee*

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

As we mourn the passing of the Thorndike Theatre whose life as a living theatre seems to have come to an end, I quote this month from a book entitled "*Lewis and Sybil: a Memoir*", by John Casson, their son, published by Collins in 1972. It was written three years after Lewis's death in 1969 at the age of 93.

" In the months that followed [Lewis's death] Sybil never flagged. She broadcast, gave recitals and appeared on TV. She was at the opening of the Leatherhead Theatre with Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon on 17th September. She and I travelled to Leatherhead with Larry Olivier in his car, and at the party afterwards no one doubted who was the leading lady of the evening. In early October she played the funny ragged and homeless old creature in "*There was an old Woman*" at the Thorndike Theatre. I don't think it was a very good play and on the opening night hardly anyone of the distinguished audience took their eyes off Sybil. It wasn't so much a play as an

opportunity for Dame Sybil Thorndike to make a personal appearance in a kind of charade. It was memorable only for her achievement in rising above and beyond her personal appearance. For myself I remember very little about the play except the sight of Sybil sitting very still at the side of the stage remembering. I wish the play had been a better one, for the character would have made a beautiful swan song for what was almost sure to be, not by any means her last appearance on a stage, but her last performance in a play".

Were there any of our members present at this performance I wonder? There was another local connection between the Cassons and our area, as their daughters bought a house in Ashted in 1944 called "*Thirty-Trees*", which they used as a base while their husbands were serving in the Forces. Their parents almost certainly have visited them there. It was sold after 2 years however. This and other books are housed within the Institute Library room.

The only recent addition is:

## **SURREY - INDIVIDUAL TOWNS & VILLAGES**

### **TADWORTH**

Clew, K.R. - "*Tadworth Station (1900-2000)*": a brief history of its effect on the development of the village. Walton on the Hill & District Local History Society, 2000.

In case of difficulty in finding what you want please contact the Society's Librarian (details on the front inside cover of this Newsletter). Don't forget your current L&DLHS card when you visit the Library.

*Gwen Hoad*

### **Note to Library Users**

Letherhead Institute plans to install a lift. During its construction the L.C.A. Library will need to be closed. Commencement date is not yet fixed but it may be as early as September. This will also affect those requiring access to the Society's records for Leatherhead which are housed at the Institute's library.

## 'BOOKHAM IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY'

A few years ago one of our members, Bill Culley, gave three talks in the Barn Hall, Great Bookham, in aid of the Friends of Leatherhead Museum on the recent history of Great Bookham and Little Bookham. Bill had spent many years researching the subject and many hours interviewing old residents and recording their reminiscences. Following the talks he received numerous requests to record the information in the form of a book. This he has now done, and the Local History Society has supported the publication of this book and has made arrangements for it to be printed and distributed.

The book should be delivered in October and copies will be available in our museum, at our Friday meetings and in local bookshops and libraries. Anyone having difficulty in obtaining a copy is invited to contact the acting Sales Secretary, who is also the Chairman.

*Peter Tarplee*

### **Ashtead in Past Times**

We are grateful to our member, Meredith Worsfold of Ashtead who has sent us copies of documents which set out the strict rules applicable to inmates of institutions in the district in the early part of the last century. Here is one of them :

“Regulations for Prospective Inmates of the Ashtead Almshouses (1921)

“Poor widows of good character, who have been resident in the Parish for not less than five years who are not at the time of their appointment in receipt of Poor Law relief other than medical relief, and who from age, ill health, accident or infirmity are unable to maintain themselves by their own exertions, are eligible for the appointment.

“Preference will be given to those who have shown reasonable providence, and to those who have been longest resident in the Parish.

“Application for appointment must be made in the first place in writing to the Trustees fourteen days at least previously to the election. Every applicant must state her name, address, age and occupation, and must be prepared to produce

sufficient evidence of her qualifications for the appointment, and, except in case of physical disability, to attend in person.”

“Note. An earlier ruling expected inmates to be regular attenders at Church of England services. Also persons were not allowed to be absent from the Almshouses for more than twenty-four hours without permission : this was later extended to seventy-two hours.”

*With acknowledgments and thanks to the Trustees.*

## HISTORY OF HAMPTON COTTAGE

Alun Roberts has contributed some valuable notes shedding light on one aspect of our museum's history. Here is an extract : -

### BAPTIST MEETING ROOM, HAMPTON COTTAGE, CHURCH STREET, LEATHERHEAD

“From 1844 to 1865 Hampton Cottage (which was then called Ormond Cottage and is now Leatherhead Museum) was occupied by the seedsman and gardener Richard Blake (1787-1865) and his wife Barbara (1799-1872). The couple were devout members of the Particular or Strict Baptist faith and held regular Thursday evening prayer meetings at their home. For Sunday worship they had to walk all the way to Tadworth or Brockham Green, there being no Baptist Chapel nearer at that time. In 1846 they applied for and were granted a preaching licence for Ormond Cottage and the first sermon preached there was delivered by the Pastor of the Tadworth Chapel on Sunday October 18th that year. Meetings continued at the cottage for twelve years, the average attendance being some twenty worshippers. New members were inducted into the faith by the rite of baptism by total immersion, which was either carried out in one of the neighbouring chapels equipped with a baptistry or in a pond at Woodbridge Brickyard, owned by Henry Sayers, a member of the group. Sometimes the River Mole was used. Entry No 251 in the 1851 Religious Survey refers to the cottage as a '*dwelling house not exclusively used as a place of worship*'.



"By 1858 the congregation had outgrown the building and larger premises were engaged at the Literary Institute in North Street, opposite the Independent Chapel.

After her husband's death Barbara Blake moved to Cavendish Villa in Church Walk, conveniently close to the new Chapel.

"There is some evidence that Blake may have lived in the cottage from as early as 1819. The title deed to the neighbouring property refers to Hampton Cottage as being occupied by '- Blake' in that year and the Tithe Assessment of the same year records a Richard Blake occupying a cottage in Lucas Yard at £5 a year, which was approximately the value of Hampton Cottage. However Blake does not appear in the 1841 Census and the records of the Baptist Church indicate that the prayer meetings in Hampton Cottage began in 1844."

A fuller version of Alun Roberts' research notes will appear in the next edition of the Proceedings of the Society.

## **MORE ABOUT LOCAL INDUSTRIES - Bridgwater Brothers and Ashtead Group**

Places close to Leatherhead can be found among the names of companies listed on the London Stock Exchange, not all of them necessarily being located where one might expect them to be. One can find *Bookham Technology plc* and *Cobham plc*; also *Ashtead Group plc*. The latter, although having branches throughout the U.K. and abroad, does indeed count Leatherhead as its home base.

We are fortunate to have been given a valuable note of the *Ashtead* company's early history. The story begins with that of the Bridgwater family and the firm they created. Our informant is Mr Basil Addington-Smith who was a director of that company and a resident of Ashtead for many years. A summary of his notes follow:

"Bridgwaters Ltd., a small public works company was started soon after World War One by E.J. and W.H. Bridgwater , who were said to have borrowed £100 from their mother to buy some shovels and wheelbarrows. Their office in the 1930s was in Woodfield Lane, Ashtead (in what was later to become the shop of Hayner the furnishers). Later they bought the old forge premises in Rectory Lane to store and repair their civil engineering plant. After the second World War the forge became the first depot for a company they formed called Ashtead Plant Hire.

"In the 1920s/30s the company worked mainly on Post Office cabling and estate development. Considerable expansion took place with many wartime construction projects. In 1940 Walter (generally known as Wally) Bridgwater, who had bought the Old Rectory in Rectory Lane, formed a Royal Engineers company, mainly from Bridgwater employees. The company served throughout the war, starting in North Africa and then through Sicily and on to Italy. Bridgwaters continued to use the Woodfield Lane office until the mid 1950s (when they moved to Epsom) and they also used the "Leg of Mutton and Cauliflower" as their "second office" !

"Shortly after the end of World War Two, Bridgwaters bought a precast concrete company operating from premises in Croydon near the airport. The purchase was from a Mr Lock-Kendell, one time Mayor of Croydon, after whom the company was named. In the early 1950s their precast concrete work outgrew the Croydon factory and the company, **Kendells Stone and Paving Co. Ltd.** purchased the disused Leatherhead U.D.C.'s refuse disposal area in Barnettwood Lane. They built a small factory there which continued to expand over the years. Production continued in Barnettwood Lane for some 30 years but in 1986, having obtained planning permission for redeveloping the site, the old buildings were demolished and a number of new office buildings were erected. In the late 1970s, again through expansion, concrete production was eventually moved to the old Ford Airfield in West Sussex.

"For some years Kendells used the office buildings themselves and leased the factory to others. Eventually, following planning permission to demolish all the old buildings, in 1987 they occupied the new office building there, having sold part of the site for further office development. In the late 1980s they moved from the Barnettwood Lane office to a site in Kingston Road, Leatherhead where they remained until the Kendell activities ceased in the early 1990s.

### **Mineralite Ltd**

"A notable addition to their products was *Mineralite*. This was a blend of crushed natural stone and glass mixed with secret chemicals and cement to produce a unique, long-lasting exterior form of plaster with an attractive sparkle. Kendells acquired a world-wide license to make and apply *Mineralite* from the Norwegian inventor, Erg Beck. The bulk of the output of *Mineralite* came from Barnettwood Lane, and it can still be seen on such buildings as the Westchester County Court House, New York State, the Exchange Building in Sydney, Australia, one of the King's palaces in Saudi Arabia and on the largest hotel in Africa, the Rameses Hilton, Cairo.

### **Ashtead Plant Hire Ltd**

"Bridgwaters' wartime construction work necessitated the use of much heavy plant, i.e. excavators, tractors, mixers, compressors, dumpers etc. Initially much maintenance work that could not be done on site was carried out on the site of the old blacksmith's buildings in Rectory Lane. Leslie Hawkins, who lived in Langley Vale was in charge, and Bridgwaters decided that it would be a good idea to transfer all their plant to a separate company which could then hire out plant not needed by Bridgwaters themselves. Thus Ashtead Plant Hire Ltd. came into being in the 1950s.

"Through continuous expansion the firm outgrew their Ashtead premises and when the Gas Board vacated their site in Kingston Road Leatherhead, Ashtead Plant Hire bought a large part for

servicing and storage purposes. They also acquired premises adjacent to the Bridgwater offices at Aylesbury and Ford. In the 1980s however, Bridgwaters began to wind down their operations and it was decided to sell the plant hire business. The new owners had capital to expand rapidly and they formed the Ashtead Group which secured a quotation on the Stock Exchange and now has world-wide interests."

A full transcript of Mr Addington-Smith's notes has been deposited with the Society's Records Secretary.

*John Wettern*

## MUSEUM IN NEED OF EXPERTS

Because our museum is not just a storehouse of historical objects but a source of information about our past, there needs to be a pool of knowledge surrounding all the objects on display and those kept in store. Readers of our last Newsletter may recall the desire expressed by Alan Pooley, Chairman of the Museum Committee, to find people who can contribute their knowledge in some of the fields where expertise is currently lacking. Some of our members may be willing to offer their help but it was not certain what kind of information was needed.

As promised in our last Newsletter we now have a list from the Museum Committee which sets out some of the subjects where help is needed. Here they are :-

Agricultural tools & machinery	Electrical equipment
Archaeology	Geology
Blacksmithing/ Farriers	Jewellery
Bottles and jars of all kinds	Medals
Building materials, use of	Office equipment
Buildings styles & periods	Photography
Bus transport matters [local]	Rail transport matters [local]
Carpenters' tools	Sewing machines
Clothing, specific or otherwise	Smoking accessories
Coins & bank notes	Textiles, embroidery etc
Cycling and accessories	Toys

Domestic household equipment  
Domestic kitchen equipment

War ephemera  
Writing equipment

Knowledge relating to local businesses would be valuable, e.g. Works, like *Goblin*, shops or service suppliers such as gas, water, electricity, etc.

Alan Pooley adds : "Although I originally thought of this just as an aid to our identification in the museum, it seems to me that as the museum also fields questions which are really related to the Society as a whole, it should encompass all aspects of the Society's field of knowledge, plus where a lack arises, some external source if possible."

Anyone who would like to find out more about this effort should contact Alan at the museum or on 01372 374093.

## NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

Our Museum Stewards have been taking part in a market survey project which is looking at the most popular times for people to visit the museum. So far, no clear pattern has arisen but no doubt if we continue for long enough a pattern will emerge. The Museum Committee are trying to establish the best times for the museum to be open, but one thing is certain, unless we have more stewards we shall certainly not be able to increase the hours of opening. May I suggest that all readers of the Newsletter try to find at least one person willing to act as a steward. A commitment of one shift of three hours a month is involved and training in the work is given.

On Saturday 2nd September from 10 a.m. to 12 noon we will be having our yearly coffee morning and the traditional *bring and buy* sale at the museum. If anyone has a raffle prize they would be willing to donate or some item for the sales table, please contact me or any member of the Friends Committee.

We are planning to have a Friends' outing in October, possibly to the East Surrey Museum and Croydon Clock Tower Museum. Details will be circulated as soon as they become available.

The museum will have been open for 21 years next year and we would like to celebrate in some way. We intend to plan some suitable events to mark this milestone and are looking for ideas. We would welcome any suggestions you may care to put forward, so please put your thinking caps on. I am sure we shall be able to celebrate in style.

*Thelma Lucas*

## MUSEUM EXHIBIT AWAKENS MEMORIES

Recently, whilst doing her turn of duty as a steward at the museum, Thelma received a visitor, Mrs Davis of Leatherhead, who was so impressed by what she saw there that she wrote to us about her impressions on seeing the "Victorian Kitchen" exhibit.

"The moment I walked into Hampton Cottage I was transported back into my childhood. We had a stove in our kitchen just like the one in the Museum. My mother used it to cook all our meals on it. She was a very good cook. My grandfather who lived with us sat beside the stove all day. He kept the fire going and the kettle was always on and tea was stewing on the hob. When we went to the pictures on Sunday afternoon with Mum and about six children, coming home was best. Grandad would put a big frying pan on the stove with bubble-and-squeak (potatoes and cabbage left over from lunch) all lovely and crispy in doorstep-sized slices. Tuesday was stew day if it was cold, but the stew pot was never empty. You ate it with a thick slice of bread, or two slices if you were lucky. Her stews contained rabbit, carrots, onions, swede, pearl barley and potatoes. (I can smell it now). It was cooked in a big black saucepan.

"We had a big boiler in the corner of the kitchen which was used every Monday for family wash. The kitchen was always lovely and warm when Mum was washing. She had twelve children living at home and her father lived with us so there was a lot of washing. The mangle was kept in the back yard. You had to fold the sheets head-to-foot then put them in the mangle. First you put a bucket under the rollers otherwise your feet got very wet. It was usually my job to turn the handle. It was very hard work (I was only ten). The job I hated most was putting shirts on the roller. You had to be careful how you folded them because if you did it too thick the buttons would break or make a hole in the material. I just hated Mondays and called it sweat day. Saturday was *cleaning the grate* day. What a big job that was. Grandad hated

it because he could not sit around the fire. We had to get brushes and cloths with Zebo polish which was black and you had to be so careful not to spill it as it was hard to get off your clothes or fingers (no gloves in those days) but when it was clean you could see the sparkle.

"Saturday was also bath night. We had a big tin bath in front of the fire. The youngsters were first then we all got bathed, after that we all had our hair washed : no shampoo, just green jelly soap, but it made your hair feel soft and smell nice. Then all the day's dirty clothes would be washed. We had no carpets or lino so the kitchen floor would get washed with the rest of the water.

"We only had gaslight. It was just a jet of gas but you had to buy a mantle which was a fine mesh cover to put over the flame. Sometimes I would run downstairs and it would burn so I had to go and get another one. We could get one at the oil shop in Lambeth Walk. They used to sell everything : oils, coal, firewood, soap. I have never seen a shop since that sold all those things."

## ASHTEAD PARK HOUSE

A number of our members took the opportunity provided by the invitation from the Surrey Gardens Trust to join them at a meeting at Ashtead Park House on Saturday 13th May. There was an illustrated lecture by Dr Sally Jeffery on the history of Ashtead Park in which she acknowledged the help which she had received from the Society, among others, in researching the subject. We were then able to see some of the Grade II\* listed mansion where we had tea before being taken on a tour of the gardens. Arrangements had been made for us to have access to the walled kitchen garden and the area containing the greenhouses and bothys, and it was possible to get some idea of what it was like when it was in private occupation.

We are grateful to the Surrey Gardens Trust for inviting Society members to this meeting. If any of our members would like further details of the activities of the Trust and information regarding membership they should contact Brenda Lewis, Environment, County Hall, Telephone : 020 8541 9419

*Peter Tarplee*

## Visit to Slyfield House

On Saturday 24th June we had a delightful visit to Slyfield House, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richards, who not only showed us all round the outside and inside of the house, but made us feel such welcome guests. We divided into two parties and Mr. Richards showed us round the inside and Mrs. Richards took us round outside. It is a fascinating house, not least because it has never really been 'modernised' or rebuilt since the 17th century, nor was it a really grand mansion, so it has remained a Jacobean family house. The earliest part is Elizabethan, but most of the house dates from the 17th century when George Shiers, a wealthy apothecary, bought it from the Slyfield family. Mr. Shiers was 'seriously' rich - he had made his fortune by charging people phenomenal sums for his cures for various complaints. As he made so much money from them, presumably they worked!

To go round both the house and the garden was a real treat, and Mr. and Mrs. Richards were both so knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the history of the house. How fortunate it is that not only are there people living there who care for the house themselves, but who are so willing to share it with other people. Somehow they made us feel that we had been invited as personal friends rather than a group, especially at the end of our visit when we all met up in the Knot Garden. Our sincere thanks to them and to Derek Renn for arranging this most enjoyable visit.

*Linda Heath*

## AUTUMN PROGRAMME

### LECTURES

All meetings are held in the Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Entrance £1 for members and £2 for non-members, including coffee served from 7.30 p.m.

**Friday 15th September.** *"The Management and Historic Value of Ashtead Common"* by Bob Warnock, Head Keeper of the Common.



The Corporation of London owns and manages nearly 10,000 acres around the City, including Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath. Bob Warnock is the Head Keeper of Ashted Common, and he will describe its natural and man-made history and how it is managed both as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and as a 'community woodland'.

There will be a **guided walk**, "*The History of Ashted Common*" at 2 p.m. on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September as part of Heritage Weekend. Please telephone 01372 279083 to book.

**Friday 20th October - Millennium Dallaway Lecture.**  
*"LEATHERHEAD - Church and Parish"* by Linda Heath.

This will include a brief history of the building with a mention of three great 19th century vicars. It will concentrate mainly on the impact of the church on all aspects of village life, especially the poor, before the advent of local government and the welfare state.

**Friday 17th November - "The Surrey History Centre"** by Julian Pooley.

Mr Pooley of the Surrey History Centre will speak on the work and the collections of the Centre, at 130 Goldsmith Road, Woking. He will describe how material is received, preserved and stored in the purpose-built premises. In his illustrative slides he will include some items of particular interest to our area.

**Friday 15th December - The Christmas Miscellany** arranged by Gordon Knowles, the Society's Lecture Secretary. This year's theme will be "*Historical Hobbies*".

As usual, Gordon will be pleased to hear from any member who might wish to present a short contribution at this event. (His telephone number is on the inside cover).

*Linda Heath*

## SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

This year the Autumn Symposium of the Surrey Local History Council will be held on Saturday, 28th October at The Chertsey Halls from 10.30 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. The theme will be *Surrey's Music*.

As we have neither a Sales Secretary nor an Honorary Secretary the Society may find it difficult to provide a display and sales stand at this event. If any member would be willing to attend the symposium and help to prepare a stand and to man it on the day, our Chairman would be pleased to hear from them and put them in touch with others willing to help.

**A reminder of the commemorative meeting for the late chairman of the SLHC and member of L&DLHS, Ken Gravett.**

As stated in the last Newsletter, this will be held on Saturday 23rd September between 2 and 5 p.m. at Wanborough Barn (NGR SU 934 489). Tickets, which are free of charge, may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary of the Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX enclosing a S.A.E.

*Peter Tarplee*

## HERITAGE WEEKEND

This year's dates are Saturday, 16th and Sunday, 17th September.

Full details of all events are in the Mole Valley leaflet. If you missed out on this summer's town walks, there will be guided walks led by members of our Society from the Institute at 2.30 and 3.30 p.m. both days, but you will have to book to go on these walks so that we shall know how many there will be on each walk. Please ring Dorking Halls Visitor Information Assistant (01306 879327) to book a day and time.

We should also be glad of more volunteers to lead these walks (script provided!). Please ring Linda Heath (01372 372603) if you can help with these. Other events in which our Society is involved include tours of Sweech House and displays at The Mansion and Wesley House. See leaflet for opening times.

## ASHTHEAD'S HERITAGE DAYS' ACTIVITIES

As a contribution to the Heritage Open Days, the Society will be displaying a collection of Ashtead photographs, maps and documents in the Marshall Room of the Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashtead, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September between 2 and 5 p.m. There will also be two short guided walks around the old part of Ashtead at 2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.

Any member interested in helping should contact Jack Willis, 54, Links Road, Ashtead, telephone 01372 275199.

## SURREY'S MAPS AND PAINTINGS ON SHOW

An exhibition entitled "*Surrey's Maps, Historians and Artists, 1600-1830*" is being held at The Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking. Admission free.

For further information ring Julian Pooley on 01483 594601.

The exhibition runs until 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

## HISTORY IN ACTION

As part of the Millennium celebrations there will be another production of Linda Heath's "*A Rich Inheritance*" in Leatherhead parish church on 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November. This is a dramatisation of historical events in Leatherhead from 1395-1897 which was first performed by "*Churches Together in Leatherhead*" in 1995. Tickets costing £5 will be on sale from October at Alan's Antiques, 1-3 Church Street, at the museum and at the door.

## OBITUARY

Readers will be sorry to hear that one of our members, Mr. Creasey, tragically died on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> July in Randalls Road while cycling. Although not known by name to many, he was a long-standing and keen member of our Society.

