

**DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY**



*Established in 1929*

# **NEWSLETTER**

No.16

January 1997

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*Registered Charity No: 246806*



**DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

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**EDITORIAL**

The fine summer we have just enjoyed served to emphasize the way in which aircraft noise increasingly impinges upon enjoyment of the Mole Valley countryside, not to mention the use of domestic gardens and rooms opening on to them. We make no apology for returning to this subject.

Often the decibels generated are such that conversation or appreciation of television or radio is overwhelmed for several minutes at a time. The multitude of aircraft in the Surrey skies also spreads much chemical pollution into the atmosphere.

It is possible to identify in our area at least four sources of this environmental bane:

1. Gatwick Arrivals and Departures
2. Heathrow Holding Pattern Flights
3. Helicopters
4. Pleasure Flying

In this matter central government has long since operated a policy of "divide and rule": no one body is awarded responsibility for the disturbance caused by aircraft and complaints have to be channelled according to the type of activity. Nor is there any compensation available by recourse to law.

GATWICK perhaps offers the greatest problem and we were pleased to notice that a local councillor has recently been moved to active protest. More power to his elbow! Although the present Government has this year unhelp-

fully allowed additional night flights, the most intractable problem with Gatwick lies in its poor 'track-keeping' record - the seeming inability (or wilful refusal) of many aircraft crews to follow the recommended 'noise preferential routes'. A monitoring system is now in place but contrary to our previous understanding, there is no structure of financial penalties for daytime infringements in immediate prospect. All that happens is that the airlines concerned receive a letter from BAA saying in terms "you have been naughty, please don't do it again". And of course they do.

The Noise Office of BAA Gatwick sets out to respond to complaints with a personal and detailed answer about the particular flight that caused concern. But even this good intention appears to be breaking up under the sheer weight of complaints, as we found recently when, for the first time, we followed the complaint procedure, using the free phone line (0800 393 070) to report an east-bound departure flying below low cloud immediate south of Dorking town, no less than 7 km north of the route it was supposed to follow. The intense noise made conversation quite impossible. When phoning just after this incident the response was a recorded message - an indication that the system is swamped by complaints. Two letters were subsequently received, the first not enclosing a leaflet said to be enclosed, the second forwarding the missing leaflet and also a computer generated map showing flight patterns

at a completely different day and time to that of our complaint. Not an impressive performance but wouldn't you lose heart if you were bowed under with complaints and had no means of pulling up the offenders?

**HEATHROW:** In the last few years we have noticed what appear to be increasing numbers of aircraft in holding stacks turning over Dorking at a considerable height but at very slow speeds as they queue to land at Heathrow. The noise is slightly less intrusive but irritating because it lasts up to five minutes and can be continuous when several aircraft are involved. It is indeed remarkable that these flights are allowed almost into the Gatwick air space but the BAA Noise Office at Heathrow (another free phone call at 0800 344 844) have confirmed that this is indeed so. Complaints are received and 'noted' but it is not apparent that anything much will be done about diverting stacking to less busy skies than ours. Perhaps it is part of a deep plot to gain Mole Valley support for a Terminal 5 at Heathrow.

**HELICOPTERS:** These make a great deal of unpleasant noise as they fly low to avoid the jets; their numbers seem to increase annually. Most of them are moving along an east-west axis and many if not all appear to be operating into or out of Redhill Aerodrome. Since this is sited immediately south-east of Redhill they overfly Leigh, Betchworth, Brockham, Dorking, Westcott and Shere. We understand that complaints about them should be directed to the Department of Transport at 0171 271 4906. This is almost certainly a futile exercise but if anyone has tried it we should be interested to learn of the result.

**PLEASURE FLIGHTS:** In fine weather, especially at weekends, old biplanes, other vintage aircraft types and microflights appear like butterflies (but more noisily) at the same heights as the helicopters. For some reason they enjoy flying round and round Box Hill in circular patterns until their fuel tanks get low. They too seem to use the Redhill facilities and it is to be hoped they will continue to

keep clear of the helicopter brigade, otherwise something nasty may happen before long. Complaints should be made to Redhill Aerodrome (01737 - 823 234).

What can be done? First, we would suggest that members disturbed by aircraft noise should immediately complain by telephone or in writing (preferably both) to the appropriate authority, giving details of time and location. This will at least ensure a greater awareness of the level of nuisance caused as all complaints are logged. Attempts to revise the present *laissez faire* policies (e.g. by imposing a system of heavy financial penalties) are of course a matter for Parliament and should be raised with Parliamentary candidates or the sitting MP. It is doubtful whether local councillors exercise much influence in this matter but we would be pleased to be told otherwise.

**Alan A. Jackson**

#### **Newsletter Arrangements and Copy Dates**

This Newsletter is published three times a year in May, August and December. The last dates for receipt of copy by the Editor are respectively 30 April, 31 July and 30 November.

In order to relieve the seasonal burden on the voluntary distributors, the December issue is posted.

Views expressed in the opening editorial columns are those of the Editor and do not necessarily represent the policies of the Society. It is our aim to show the source of all other items and here again it should not be assumed that the Society necessarily agrees with opinions expressed. We want to see lively debate in these columns about all aspects of the Society's remit and space will readily be given to views opposing those already published. The Editor reserves the right to summarize contributions.

**AAJ**

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## The Chairman writes:-

### Youth Heritage Project

Society members may have heard me comment in the past that I am concerned over the predominantly older profile of our membership and the need to engage the interest and active participation of the younger members of the community in our work. Indeed, in the past, a photographic competition was organized which was a success in itself, but this initiative did not unfortunately lead to a continuing involvement of youth interest.

More recently, with the encouragement of our Youth Member, Judith Minden, I have been in contact with the Headteacher of the Priory School to suggest a joint approach in this quest which has in principle been welcomed by the school. The proposal is for the Society, in conjunction with the Head of the History Department, to establish an annual award for the best group submission on an agreed heritage or environmental subject, the award being a challenge trophy and/or cash prize to be presented at a formal occasion at the School. The idea that a group project might well form the basis of additional contacts with schools in Gouvieux, the town in France with which it is hoped to twin in the future, is also a further attraction.

Clearly, a lot of thought needs to be given to matters such as the subjects selected, judging criteria, the appointment of a judging panel, the award ceremony etc. but I am hopeful that now a start has been made the idea may generate enthusiasm and support. A small working party has been set up and I will keep you informed of developments.

### Council Changes

Those of you who attended the Autumn Meeting of the Society will of course be aware of the changes in Council membership effective from October. However, for those not present, the main changes are as follows:-

Hon Treasurer: Mr Michael Forster  
 Chairman of Planning Committee: Sir  
 Martin Wedgwood  
 Hon Secretary: Mrs Lynda Bailey  
 Membership Secretary: Mrs Mo Bushell

The positions of Publicity Officer and Membership Development Officer are both vacant due to the resignations of Mr Henry Hopper and Mr Michael Beggs. Please help me by volunteering to fill these two positions and thus ensure that the Council fulfils its work satisfactorily.

As you all know, Mr Peter Hawkes was Hon Secretary for 10 years and was instrumental in reorganizing the Society into its present structure. In recognition of his contribution, a special presentation was made at the Autumn Meeting by Council members in the form of two engraved silver goblets and two bottles of champagne.

### Readers' Letters

In the last issue of the Newsletter, I chided members for not reacting to my comments and other news items in the newsletter. I have received three letters since the last Newsletter. They are summarized below, together with my comments. I hope that this will encourage further correspondence with me, the Editor, or members of the Council.

**Barry Collins**

### Members' Views

*(For reasons of space, we have had to summarize recent letters from members and in some cases the Chairman's comments but we have endeavoured to cover all the main points mentioned - Editor).*

Quoting the examples of Egham and Godalming, Mr Leslie West suggested (in a letter of 8 September to the Chairman) that the Society needed its own building in the High Street, possibly the Oddfellows' Hall, which could be used both for meetings and also to give the Museum a more centrally situated site. In replying, the Chairman, whilst agreeing that a much more prominent site for the Museum would certainly generate more interest amongst visitors, noted that the human and financial resources available to the Society are insufficient to permit this.



**Miss Alison Lanning** wrote to the Chairman on 24 September expressing her appreciation and thanks to those who helped to organize the Heritage Weekend, adding 'having seen some fascinating views of Dorking, I'd like to emphasize my request for a calendar for the Preservation Society to be considered'. In response the Chairman stated that the matter of a calendar had been discussed. Recalling that a previous attempt had proved unsuccessful, he emphasized that the initial costs were high and a suitable financial return was not guaranteed.

**Mrs. E. M. Loram** wrote on 9 September to the Chairman about the Editorial in Newsletter No 15. She expressed concern that if traffic was removed from West Street and "calmed" through the High Street, it would be diverted through a residential area. The Chairman pointed out that the Newsletter Editorials set out to stimulate thought and discussion, and did not necessarily express the thinking of the Society. He added that whilst the Society was alive to the need to maintain the vitality and prosperity of the town, there might be changes (not necessarily those suggested in the Editorial) which would be beneficial to town users and residents alike.

**Mr. G. G. Elias** wrote to the Editor (29 November) reporting that he had counted 12 vehicles discharging freight in the High Street on that morning and asked whether the local authorities had powers to prohibit goods vehicles from entering the town between 08.00 and 20.00. He suggested the extra costs involved would be more than offset by the traffic improvements secured in daytime. (What a good idea, but alas, it's far too simple to secure bureaucratic acceptance - Editor).

**Ms Stephanie A. Wright** wrote to the Editor (15 September) on the Parking Zone Scheme, reporting that she had concluded most residents would not be able to park within the specified periods if they lived on a road too narrow for traffic to flow easily with parked cars to one side. Residents' parking spaces would be limited to a few in Wathen Road and elsewhere. Parking would for example have been prohibited for residents on all roads on the west side of Cotmandene. She suggested that residents' parked cars at present slow down traffic to safe speeds. (It would seem that these proposals have now been kicked into touch but no doubt some alternative will come forward before long. Meanwhile can anyone indicate what proportion of the 40-50 cars daily decorating the precious splendour that is Cotmandene belong to residents who have no drive-in space? And was the Dene Street car park not built for the residents of the adjacent Council flats? - Editor).

**Mr N.E.C. Molyneux** (who once suffered injury from a rear view mirror whilst walking along the narrow pavement of West Street) has shown the Editor his carefully devised low-cost plan for pedestrianising West Street at the top (east) end. This is illustrated by a large scale plan and would divert through traffic via a reversed one-way Junction Road and a new two-way system in South Street. Vehicular access to the closed section of West Street for deliveries etc. is allowed for and there would also be access to the car park west of the UR Church. North Street would be one way (northbound) only. He has submitted his proposals to a MVDC councillor and to the Surrey County Council.

*(The Editor would be pleased to receive further views on these and other relevant topics.)*

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### **The Heritage Open Days**

These were an outstanding success and the occasion was well supported by the MVDC. Some seventeen properties were opened to the public and three guided walks were arranged. Over 1,300 participated at all sites and at one point there was a queue of 250 at

the South Street Caves. Some 150 people visited the Museum in West Street, about ten times the average daily total. The Society gained fifteen new members over the weekend. It is hoped to repeat the event in 1997 with even more sites available for tours. **AAJ**



## Dorking & District Museum

### List of Acquisitions since 1 August 1996:

1. 'Plus' Adding Machine (Bell Punch Co Ltd) - c 1935 \*
2. 'Desmo Radilamp' - Paraffin Oil Heater - c. 1930 \*
3. Magic Lantern (London made) - incomplete
4. Gestetner Diaphragm Duplicator
5. Collection of local bottles, from Coldharbour
6. Brass Door Knocker with Tony Weller motif \*
7. Electric Hand Lamp - c. 1930s \*
8. Premier Electric Toaster - c. 1930s \*
9. 'Solo' Garden Spray - c. 1920s \*
10. Iron Dock Tool \*
11. Dorking Brick Company Bronze Press stamped 'DBC' \*
12. Hair Curling Tongs, late Victorian \*

\* On display in the Museum

**B S Hodges**

### Library Report

There has been a wide variety of accessions to the Museum Library since the last Newsletter was issued. I hope the donors will not mind if I do not list them all. However, I must mention two very generous gifts. The first is a collection of documents and books associated

with Denham Jordan, the naturalist, writer and painter, who lived in Dorking from about 1850 until his death in 1920. He used the pen name 'Son of the Marshes', and among the collection are a number of original manuscripts for articles and several published books. We are also very lucky to have been given E W Brayley's *Topographical History of Surrey*, written with the assistance of J Britton and E W Brayley, junior, and published in 1841 by Robert Best Ede of Dorking and Tilt & Bogue of London.

We have also been given a second-hand microfiche reader, for which we are most grateful. We hope to be able to acquire certain local records on fiches in the near future. At present we are limited to the Local History Group's sets of the 1881 and 1891 census returns, which are deposited in the Museum Library.

Work is progressing on the David Knight Photographic Collection. Each photograph must be put into an archival polyester sleeve and the whole collection, which runs into thousands, must be sorted, documented and indexed. This is quite a daunting task, but we feel that this important collection requires special care.

**Mary Turner**

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### Local History Group Report

The Local History Group's latest publication, *The Deepdene, Dorking* by Doris Mercer and Alan A Jackson, was launched on 16 November in the Museum Library. Doris and Alan were kept busy signing copies of the book for first day buyers and sales have started very well. Copies may be obtained at History Group meetings or by post from the Sales Officer, c/o Dorking Museum, 62a West St., Dorking, RH4 1BS. They are also on sale at the Museum and Waterstones' Bookshop, South Street, Dorking, price £7.95 (postage and packing 75p).

The Group also took part in the Surrey Local History Council's annual symposium at

Chertsey on 2 November. The subject of the symposium was FIRE!, and members who attended heard four very entertaining and informative lectures. We also mounted a display and manned a sales table.

I would like to remind members that all 1997 subscriptions are due on 1 January (£5 for individuals and £2 for additional members at the same address). Please send your subscription to the Membership Secretary, c/o Dorking Museum. Local History Group meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 19.30 in the Friends' Meeting House, Butter Hill. New members are most welcome.

**Mary Turner**



**Local History Group Publications**

*The Deepdene, Dorking*, by Doris Mercer and Alan A Jackson, 1996, 76 pp, illustrated. Card covers. The history of Deepdene, the home first of the Howards and the Dukes of Norfolk, then of the Hope family. The story of its growth and grandeur, its decline and destruction, and development of the parkland as a residential estate. A revision of previous editions with many new maps and photographs. £7.95

*Growing up in Westcott*, by David Knight, 1995, 27 pp, illustrated. Card covers. The author's reminiscences of Westcott from the 1940s. £4.00

*Living Stream: Pixham and its People*, by Patricia Bennett, 1994, 48 pp, illustrated. Card covers. A history of Pixham. £4.95

*Chart Park: a Vanished Surrey Mansion*, by Doris and Edith Mercer, with plans by Beryl Higgins, 1993, 60 pp, illustrated. Card covers. A reconstruction of Chart Park, Dorking, from historical evidence. £6.50

*Dorking, a Surrey Market Town through 20 Centuries*, Alan A. Jackson (Ed), 1991, 124 pp, illustrated. A history of Dorking £6.50

*Dorking's Railways*, by Alan A. Jackson, 1991, 64 pp, illustrated. Card covers. A history of railways in Dorking. £3.50

*The South Street Caves, Dorking*, by Cliff Weight, 1988, 28 pp, illustrated. Card covers. A history and guide. £2.00

*A Scent of Violets....: Glimpses of Victorian Dorking*, by Patricia Bennett, 1987, 12 pp, illustrated. Card covers. An account

of correspondence between a family nurse in Pixham and the mother in Kensington. £1.40

*A History of Sports in Dorking*, Celia Newbery (Ed). 1985, 138 pp, illustrated. Card covers. A history of most sports except cricket. 50p

*The Dorking Cock*, by Patricia Bennett, 1985, 4 pp, illustrated. Leaflet. A history of the Dorking breed (which is the town emblem). 40p

*The Dorking Cock Colouring Sheet* 20p

*Domesday Card*, Dorking's entry in Domesday Book, with commentary 20p

*Dorking in Wartime*, by David Knight, 1989, 136 pp, illustrated. Card covers. A chronological account from 1938 to 1946. (Published by David Knight; stocks posthumously acquired by the Group). £5.50

*Survey of St. Martin's Churchyard, Dorking*, 1985. 44pp with chart. A survey of gravestones carried out by the Local History Group. Photocopies prepared to individual order. £5.00

**Available from** The Sales Manager, Dorking Local History Group, Dorking Museum, The Old Foundry, 62A West Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BS; and from bookshops. The Museum shop is open 14.00 - 17.00 Wednesdays and Thursdays and 10.00 - 17.00 Saturdays.

**Terms:** Net per copy + 75p postage per order. (Trade: 1 or 2 copies - 25% discount post free: 3 or more copies - 33% discount post free).

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## Notes from your Planning Committee

### Martin Wedgwood writes:

Readers will remember that I took over the responsibility of chairing our Society's planning committee in April from Brian Carr, shortly before he became our new President. I have therefore been involved in this extremely interesting work for about eight months now. At first I was a bit daunted, as I thought that Brian would be a hard act to follow, but am glad to report that the work is most enjoyable - and it is never dull.

The Planning Department of the District Council publishes every week on Wednesday a list of the planning applications that are now ready for public discussion. At the same time it writes to all those, principally neighbours, who it thinks may be affected by the application and have views on it, and notices are also posted at or near the site. Our committee meets once a week, currently on Tuesdays, in the Council offices, where we take out the files of those applications which we consider might be worth looking at, and discuss them. Our committee has five members: Beryl Higgins, Richard Ingle, Bill Merry, Daphne Rice and myself. We include one architect, two former planning officers, a retired lawyer and one (myself) with no qualifications other than my own native wit. I think I am extremely lucky to have such a strong committee. Our discussions are informed, combative and friendly.

These notes are being written on 5 December. As a result of our discussions we have, I reckon, since I took over, written to the Chief Planning Officer of the Mole Valley District Council on 69 planning applications. Of these 69, to date 45 have either reached a decision or been withdrawn. Of these 45, 34 were decided either on an interpretation of fact (this applies to applications for a Certificate of Lawful Use) or in ways that were in accordance with the comments we had made. The remaining eleven where this was not so were, with one exception, relatively minor cases. This struck me at first as a disappointingly high proportion. In about half of them, however, it was probably unavoidable. As for the other half, one should not expect always

to be right. I think on the whole that we are right about seven times out of eight.

Here are brief notes on some of the more important or interesting cases on which we have made representations:

**The 'Jolly Farmer', Buckland:** Allied Domecq Leisure applied in June to convert this pub on the A25 into a 'Wacky Warehouse', a kind of amusement arcade for children, i.e. a new mini-Chessington in the Green Belt. We objected strongly on a number of grounds, including the volume of traffic it would generate if successful. Permission was refused in July.

A revised application was submitted in July for a pair of kiosks in **the main square of St. Martin's Walk**. We felt that, like an earlier application that had been refused, but more so, it cluttered up the square. It was intensively debated by the Planning Committee of the District Council at its August session, and permission was granted.

An application was submitted by the occupants of **Cherkeley Wood, Leatherhead** to replace some wooden buildings which had been put up in connection with war games, for which they had never applied for permission. They seem to have been there for several years. Cherkeley Wood is a Site of Nature Conservation Importance and is in the middle of an Area of Great Landscape Value. Although it is technically just outside our area, we decided to write, because of the importance of this case. Permission was refused by the Council. The applicants have appealed, and we await developments.

The owners of the **Upper Farm Caravan Site, Box Hill**, applied in July for permission to build 36 houses on this ten-acre site. It abuts on the west on the National Trust Box Hill property and the easternmost two acres have a tree-preservation order on them. It is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Green Belt. There is, understandably, much local opposition. The implication is that if permission is refused the site will



revert to caravans. Our stance is that, on balance, caravans are preferable. We addressed the Planning Committee of the Council which, after debate, voted to refuse permission. The applicants have appealed and the appeal will be heard next year. We suspect that even if the appeal is dismissed, there will be further developments. We said at the meeting that if the Council really wants to solve the problem they should acquire the site themselves. There could hardly be a more sensitive site than this, and we must be prepared for more battles.

**Ashcombe School** applied in July to build a basket-ball hall of international standard adjacent to its existing sports hall. We objected to the corrugated steel cladding for the walls

and the roof, which we thought insufficiently in keeping with the rest of the school. This is a County Council matter, but when it came up before the Mole Valley Council Planning Committee in September, although they were unwilling to object to the building, they felt they had to express their concern over the choice of building materials and the height of the building. The County Council may or may not accept the comments of Mole Valley.

I or my colleagues will be making a regular report on our activities in these pages. There are many other matters I would like to mention but I have already taken up too much space. I hope to cover them in subsequent issues.

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### Conserving the World's Flora

At the Manor House School, Bookham, at 19.30 on 9 April 1997 Professor Sir G Prance FRS, the Director of Kew Gardens, will address the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society on this subject, not only to inform about global issues but to draw attention to the need to preserve the flora of the Mole Valley. The talk will be directed at the non-specialist and there will be an opportunity to ask questions of this distinguished expert. Tickets at £7.50, including the reception, are obtainable from 'Prance Lecture', c/o LCA Post Box, 67 High Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8AH. Cheques should be made payable to the LDCP Society. All members of the D&DPS are welcome, but please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your tickets and apply by 25 March. **AAJ**

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### Public Transport

Surrey County Council's Highways & Transportation Department has reviewed railway facilities in South East Surrey (Report TS 10875/T/2). In our area, the proposals are:-

1. An evening service between Dorking and Horsham;

2. Improved passenger interchange between Dorking and Dorking Deepdene stations;
3. The construction of a north to east curve at Dorking to give Leatherhead, Epsom etc. direct access to Gatwick Airport and provide general relief to the road network. This would also involve electrification between Dorking and Reigate.

The last suggestion (3) revives a Southern Railway proposal which received Parliamentary sanction in Acts of 1924 and 1927. Powers to construct the connecting curve were kept alive until at least 1940 and the necessary land at Pixham was duly purchased. This land was sold by BR in 1994/5. Rubbish-strewn, it lies unregarded and unused beyond the western extremity of Swan Mill Gardens, planning permission for building having been refused to its new owner. The cost of a rail connection here, estimated at £3m, would have to be found by Railtrack but the current fragmentation of the rail system into market-orientated units does not encourage any scheme that does not offer an immediately favourable financial return. Were it a road scheme, it would of course be assessed on a different basis and public finance found.

**AAJ**



### Visit to Painshill Park

This proposed coach trip and guided tour (see Newsletter 15/4) has been cancelled owing to lack of support. **AAJ**

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### An Editorial Confession - and an Invitation

We are very conscious that our Editorials pay too little attention to the problems and concerns of the Mole Valley's villages, farms, horseculture, rural craft centres and countryside in general. Your editor was born and bred in a built-over environment and his interests lie in the works of Man rather than those of Nature, although often enough - as now - he has lived at the very edge of the countryside and certainly enjoys accessibility to fields, hills and woodlands for temporary recreation. Alas, boredom soon descends and if obliged to stay more than a week or so in such surroundings he becomes restless. Whether it is a rustic scene as firmly marked by the efforts of mankind as Surrey's semi-urban countryside or the wilder less spoiled scenery of the Welsh or Scots borders, this *angst* for urban civilisation always appears sooner or later. His ideal is *rus in urbe* or, in English, a distant view of wooded hills from the study window with the town lying between, within walking distance. This Dorking has provided, and he is grateful for it. But the fact remains that there is one respect at least in which he is unqualified to be your Editor, for the Society sits astride both urban and rural environmental concerns.

One way of righting this defect occurs to us. It would be pleasant indeed if someone - perhaps more than one - would give thought to this deficiency and occasionally wipe the mud off their boots, turn up the central heating,

kick the dog from the chair to fetch the slippers and sit down at the word-processor or typewriter to knockout a 'guest editorial' of say 500 to 800 words on themes we have overlooked. We offer any help you may need in achieving this and if we can read your handwriting that will be fine too....

The recent statements by the Secretary of State for the Environment on the standardisation of rural housing designs across the whole of the British countryside and the CPRE's comments about intrusive, excessive and ugly road signage, car telephone transmission aerial towers &c, suggest themselves as suitable topics, but there are many more. If you live in a rural environment, you must surely be conscious of concerns that your Editor overlooks.

Should you be incurably shy of expressing your personal opinions or afraid that in doing so you might upset good friends or colleagues of the same political persuasion, we would protect your anonymity - always provided of course you give us your full name and address in confidence. Please think about it, but don't put it off too long! **AAJ**

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### Our Name

Suggestions for a new title for the Society are still sought. One member has protested that the 'Friends of Dorking & District' is too close to similarly-named bodies in the area, thus possibly leading to confusion. The Editor now tends to favour 'The Dorking & District Society' or 'Dorking & District Citizens' Association' but Mr G G Elias has proposed 'The Dorking & District Heritage Society'. There is certainly a strong feeling in some quarters that the word 'Preservation' should be dropped as it generates a negative image. Please let us have your views. **AAJ**

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## Corporate Members Supporting the Society

Note that all addresses are of Dorking town, unless shown otherwise, and all telephone numbers shown have the code 01306.

Name	Address	Tel:	Business
Abbey Information Systems Ltd.	1 Paper Mews, 330 High St. RH4 2TU	740 553	Computer consultancy
Bales Tours Ltd.	Bales House, Junction Road, RH4 3EB	885 923	Travel agents
Betchworth Park Golf Club	Reigate Road RH4 1NZ	882 052	Golf club
Biwater Group Ltd.	Biwater Ho., Station Appr, RH4 1TZ	740 740	Water treatmt, eqpt, services
Bradney & Co	56 Dene Street, RH4 2DP	743 939	Chartered accountants
Bradshaws	94 South St., RH4 2EW	882 540	Newsagents
Bullimores	156 South Street, RH4 2EU	880 880	Chartered accountants
A. B. Clear	246 High Street, RH4 1QR	883 455	Antiques
Country Gardens Ltd.	Reigate Road, RH4 1NP	884 845	Garden centre
Cowan & Wood	114 South Street, RH4 2EZ	886 622	Solicitors
Crow's Auction Gallery	Behind Dkg Halls, Reigate Rd, RH4 1SG	740 382	Auctioneers & valuers
Dorking Golf Club	Club House, Deepdene Avenue RH5 4BX	886 917	Golf club
Dorking School of Motoring Downs	3 Lyons Court, RH4 1AB 156 High Street, RH4 1BQ	880119 880 110	Driving school Solicitors and notaries
Ellis Atkins & Co.	1 Paper Mews, 330 High St., RH4 2TU	886 681	Chartered accountants
FdK Design Consultants	South House, 21 South St., RH4 2JZ	741 343	Design consultants
Friends Provident Life Office	Pixham End, RH4 1QA	740 123	Life Assurance
Graham Brown & Co (Dkg) Ltd	43 South Street, RH4 2JX	882 264	Insurance brokers
Graham Leather Ltd.	64/65 West Street, RH4 1BS	887 727	China and glassware
Grosse UK Ltd.	Portland Road, RH4 1JL	743 333	Fashion jewellery mfrs.
Hammond Concrete Tstg & Servs	P. O. Box 75, 2 Cedar Close, RH4 2YX	887 854	Concrete contractor
Hart Scales & Hodges	159 High Street, RH4 1AD	884 432	Solicitors
Harvey-Jones, Phillips Prtnrshp	57 West Street, RH4 1BS	742 200	Ind. financial advisors
International Sports Mktg Ltd.	Bales Ct., Barrington Rd., RH4 3EJ	743 322	Marketing consultants
Kuoni Travel Ltd.	Deepdene Ave., RH5 4AZ	840 888	Tour operators
Locomotive Software Ltd.	Unit 10/11, Vincent Works, RH4 3HJ	747 757	Computer software
Martin Brown	253 High Street, RH4 1RP	884 685	Estate agents
National Westminster Bank plc	14 High Street, RH4 1AX	881 823	Clearing bank
Newspaper Press Fund	Dickens Ho., 35 Wathen Rd., RH4 1JY	887 511	Charity
Newton & Co.	173 High Street, RH4 1AD	884 208	Chartered accountants
Rapley & Co.	Jubilee Terrace, RH4 1LE	882 605	Wheelchair sales/repairs
Rose Hill Nursing Home	9 Rose Hill RH4 2EG	882 822	Nursing home
Michael Schryver Antiques Ltd.,	The Granary, 10 North St., RH4 1DN	881 110	Antiques restoration
Philip Sears Designs	18c Horsham Rd., RH4 2JD	884 477	Architectural bldg surveyors
Simply the Best Party Stores Ltd.	238 High Street, RH4 1QR	885944	Novelties and party goods
Tricia Topping Associates	40 Upper Mulgrave Rd., Cheam SM2 7AJ		Public relations consultants
Unum Ltd.	Milton Court, RH4 3LZ	887 766	Disability insurers
Venhill Engineering	21 Ranmore Road, RH4 1HE	885 111	Specialist cable mfrs
Ventrolla	Myrtle Cottage, Newdigate RH5 5AD	631 773	Window frame restorers
Viscount Agencies	Concept House, 3 Dene St., RH4 2DR	880 715	Duty free agency
L. A. White (Dkg) Ltd.	11 Yew Tree Road, RH4 1HU	885 245	Builder
White & Sons	104 High Street, RH4 1AZ	887 654	Estate agents
Whitelegg Machines Ltd.	Fir Tree House, Horsham Rd., Beare Green RH5 4LQ	713 200	Electrical engineers

### Other Corporate Members Supporting the Society:

Bartholomew Court Residents' Assoc.	Brockham Green Village Society Coldharbour Sports and Social Club	Leith Hill Group of Women's Institutes
Box Hill Afternoon Women's Institute	Friends of Box Hill	Holmwood Women's Institute Leigh Residents' Association Westcott Village Association

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Published by the DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY, Hon. Secretary,  
Mrs Lynda Bailey, Danesmount, Tower Hill, DORKING, RH4 2AT. NEWSLETTER No:16



**MATTHEW ARNOLD** JULY 1882

I mention Wotton because I was never before so struck with the beauty of that country. The parallel foldings, of which the Wotton folding is one, running up into the greensand knot of Leith Hill, are inexhaustible in beauty, and opposite to them is the sharp slope of the chalk hills, where I have been three or four times with my daughter Nelly this season to explore for flowers. They are the best chalk hills I know anywhere, the best wooded, and the most abounding in exquisite combs and bottoms.

**GEORGE MEREDITH** from Flint Cottage, Box Hill

JANUARY 1868

I am every morning on the top of Box Hill – as its flower, its bird, its prophet. I drop down the moon on one side, I draw up the sun on t'other. I breathe fine air. I shout ha ha to the gates of the world.

AUGUST 1974

I have been rising here at half past five, and have enjoyed the tonic air immensely, yet more the fresh loveliness of the downs and fields, the velvet shadows, sharp and thin, and the exquisite sky.