

DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY



Established in 1929

NEWSLETTER

No. 18

September 1997

Contents

	page
Editorial	1
The Chairman writes	2
Heritage Open Days	2
Shopping in Dorking and the 1997 Local Plan	3
Changes in the Society's Council	4
News from your Planning Team	5
The Society's Name: More Views from Members	6
Letter to the Editor	6
Report from Dorking & District Museum	6
News from the Local History Group	7
Gatwick Airport and its Impact on the Area	7
Buckland Windmill	8
Extraordinary General Meeting & Autumn Meeting	8
Report on the Spring Walk	8

DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER No 18: October 1997 **Free to Members**

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The opinions expressed in this Newsletter by the Editor and others do not necessarily represent those of the Society.

The Editor welcomes letters from Members and other readers.

EDITORIAL

Like other areas around the outskirts of London, Dorking and its environs suffer from night-time light pollution, most noticeable when the cloud cover is low and it reflects back. A map published in the national press some time ago showed that there are now very few areas in Britain where it gets completely dark at night. If you are on high ground after dusk in our district you will certainly see pools of mainly orange light all around and, if you have an unobstructed view north east, towards the Great Wen, the whole sky appears lit up. This is sad, because it makes it difficult to study the stars and planets, a sight that will always arouse the spiritual dimension within us, correcting any illusions we have as to our importance and immortality.

Although there are other contributors, a major cause of light pollution is the perceived need of the still growing flood of motor traffic. In our area this factor is particularly important, for as the major roads approach London, they converge like the spokes of a wheel, making many brightly lit junctions. Important roads are often lined with high posts which dispense a ghastly orange glow all around, whilst more is added by the extra lighting at petrol stations and in the vicinity of roundabouts, both features often found in the open countryside.

Some Mole Valley villages try to hold back this creeping form of suburbanisation of the landscape by resisting installation of street lighting, believing that by so doing they can strengthen their fragile rural atmosphere. But they cannot avoid the distant orange glow from the major roads, Gatwick and other light clusters. In Dorking and the larger villages until the mid 1980s it was enough to light residential roads with well spaced posts carrying 100W filament bulbs, but nowadays a veritable bath of quite strong orange light at close intervals is seen as the desirable norm, even if it is still not always achieved in practice. It is amusing to recall that until about 1963, in the northern part of what is now the Mole Valley District, all the 100W street lights in residential roads were switched off at midnight to save electricity and keep down the rates (now council tax).

Our meditation on this modern blight was stimulated by reading of some guidance published in July by the Countryside Commission. This document states unequivocally that light pollution is 'spoiling the countryside'. In referring to the current popularity of security lighting for commercial and residential property, it avers that there is usually no need for 500W lamps 'which shine out to illuminate surrounding trees and buildings' (and, they might have added, neigh-

bouring bedrooms); 150W 'will generally do the job'. It is also stated (can this be right ?) that on houses and rural offices 'a 9 watt tube will do just as well'. Personal experience has shown that whatever their merits in frightening off nocturnal robbers and banishing evil spirits, security lights fitted with sensors are certainly perverse in their behaviour, coming on in broad daylight when they get the itch, whilst at night they can be triggered when a strong wind arouses movement in trees or when a fox or cat prowls around the house. Of one thing there can be no doubt: they generate steady work for electricians and additional profits for the electricity companies.

On road lighting, the Countryside Commission suggests that most minor rural roads do not need lighting and that street lighting in many villages is 'both unnecessary and unattractive'. Since it is stated elsewhere in the report that most of the recommendations apply equally to urban areas, it is perhaps arguable that street lighting is largely superfluous in quiet residential roads in small towns, especially as so many houses are now lavishly illuminated by security and other ex-

ternal lighting. As for the illumination of motor roads, the report recognises that roundabouts should be adequately lit for safety reasons but questions whether 'hundreds of yards of orange lights' either side are really necessary. It goes on to say that petrol stations need have no more than lighting spilling downwards from the canopy with a sign in the lit-up area beneath. In towns, sign lighting or shop windows should always 'face the street where it will be seen' and in car parks, directional lighting is better than lights pointing into the sky.

Since plenty of artificial light at night is now an established practice, regarded by many as essential to their peace of mind, it seems doubtful whether all this 'good practice' will be followed to any serious degree. It would be advisable to get out there and admire the stars and planets whilst you still can; that is if you are able to distinguish them from the lights of aircraft roaring out of and into Gatwick or idly chugging around as they queue up for Heathrow.

Alan A. Jackson

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

The months of July saw two Inquiries into widely differing matters, both of considerable importance to this Society and to residents of Dorking and district in general.

The first concerned the objections of J Sainsbury plc to the Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) Draft Local Plan and is a continuation of their original approach to build a superstore on land south of Reigate Road and west of Deepdene Avenue. This is dealt with in Brian Carr's piece below.

The second Inquiry related to the circumstances of a private landowner undertaking quite extensive landscaping changes at **Juniper Hill**, Mickleham. This activity included filling in a BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic), erecting fences across it; and the widening of existing tracks and making new ones through an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). The owner was appealing against four enforcement notices and four refusals of planning permission by the MVDC. The original Inquiry had opened in April but had to be adjourned to allow time for gathering new archaeological evidence. After hearing evidence from all interested parties, the resumed Inquiry

concluded with a site visit by the Inspector, whose decision is now awaited.

I believe that our Society has played and will continue to play an important role in voicing its members' views and, hopefully, the views of the community, on these crucial matters which affect the protection of the planning process and our heritage in the Mole Valley. I am however concerned that our membership level of approximately 1,100 ordinary and 51 corporate members remains static; this is disappointing. May I again urge all members to promote the work undertaken by the Society and to persuade those who are not yet members to join with us in protecting our heritage and environment.

Barry Collins

Heritage Open Days

This year's Heritage Open Days are 13/14 September and as usual, free entry will be available to certain buildings not normally open to the public. 18 properties will be open and eight walks will be organised. Modest charges will be made where refreshments are available.

AAJ

Shopping in Dorking and the 1997 Local Plan

'Retail provision and investment will be concentrated in Dorking town centre. Proposals for major retail development, particularly involving any large new foodstores on the edge of, or out of the town centre will not be permitted'

So starts the proposed 'Policy S1 -Shopping in Dorking' in the draft MVDC Local Plan, which, when approved, will set the framework for our area for the next ten years or so and has been the subject of an Inquiry this year by the Government Inspector. This policy has had the wholehearted approval of this Society and the vast majority of local residents and traders, demonstrated in many different ways, not least at the packed meeting in the Dorking Halls when only two of about 500 people present favoured the idea of a superstore in the Reigate Road area.

At first Waitrose opposed S1 but have now given it their support. Sainsbury have however maintained their objection, bringing counsel and expert witnesses to the Inquiry. It is no secret that this firm have built up by purchase and by option a substantial land take on the south west side of the Deepdene Roundabout, although a few house owners have stood out in face of tempting offers. The good news is that the MVDC has recently bought Bakers' Garage, thus limiting the area of Sainsbury ownership and consolidating the area already in public hands - the swimming centre, car park and Dorking Halls.

We have supported S1 because we believe from what has happened in so many towns and from local information, that an 'edge of centre' or 'out of centre' supermarket would have a debilitating effect on an already fragile local economy. In our view a prosperous and cared-for town centre with thriving shops is good for the environment and we fear that the pull away from it created by such a supermarket would be likely seriously to damage the small local retailers so important to the attractions of Dorking.

The key document in formulating Local Plan policy is the relevant Government Planning Policy Guidance document, particularly, in this context, PPG6 'Town centre and retail developments'. When the MVDC Plan was originally drafted, the current version of PPG6 was dated 1993. The worry then was that like its predecessors, it favoured the supermarket developers, who naturally prefer to go where land is at its cheapest -outside the town centres [something

made possible by near universal car use-Ed]. Both the Society and the MVDC were therefore pleased when the July 1995 version of PPG6 offered a more balanced approach.

We had a chance to appraise the new version in draft and found its wording in parts too loose, offering opportunities for argument by clever counsel. We welcomed the recognition given to maintaining the viability and vitality of town centres but emphasised that the policy document should be strong enough to prevent damage to historic towns by insensitive and misplaced shopping developments which so often did not take sufficient account of the effect on the environment, on the prosperity of town centres and on the lives of so many ordinary citizens.

We then focused on a specific provision in the draft policy guidance, one that suggested the test of whether or not a shopping area was 'town centre' or 'edge of centre' was distance. The draft said 'most shoppers are unlikely to wish to walk more than 300 to 400 metres carrying shopping'. We asked whether the Minister had ever tried to do this 300-400 metre trek with heavy shopping, and suggested that about 200 metres would be more appropriate. We did this recognising that we were not likely to achieve such a major shift but knowing that in Dorking terms the crucial distance was about 300 metres.

We shall never know how many other people made a similar point but we do know that a much improved version of PPG6 appeared in July 1996 in which the critical distance was altered to 200-300 metres and, what is more, the definition of an 'edge of town' development was specifically altered to include the words: 'for shopping purposes, location within easy walking distance (i.e. 200-300 metres) of the primary shopping area'. This neatly excluded from the Dorking central area both the Sainsbury Deepdene Roundabout site and the land to the north of the Wickes store in Vincent Lane. The Society could feel quietly satisfied.

At the Inquiry, Sainsbury shifted the argument by saying the MVDC was wrong to rule out all 'edge of town' and 'out of centre' sites, proposing that following other advice in PPG6, the Local Plan should adopt a 'criteria based' approach, saying in effect, that if it proved impossible to make sufficient provision for supermarkets in the town centre than it was reasonable to seek a site further out. The MVDC

met this by stating that there was no suitable site outside the town centre and that investigation of the three town centre sites (Sainsbury, High Street; Waitrose, South Street; and St Martin's Walk) showed they all had a sufficient potential for development. That it would be cheaper to go further out was not and must not become a prime factor in a small town like Dorking which is surrounded by Green Belt land.

Moreover and more importantly, it became clear that both Waitrose and the owners of St Martin's Walk each wanted to expand on their present sites but were not prepared to spend large sums on this if the Shopping Policy S1 were changed to allow development on the edge of town, since this would steal their trade. They therefore lined up with the Society and the MVDC to keep the Local Plan policy as it is.

Most members would agree that preservation and enhancement of the Green Belt is the most important aim of this Society in matters of planning. We are only likely to succeed in this aim if we can keep the economy of our towns and villages healthy which is why we support the retention of village shops and see the inclusion of Shopping Policy S1 in its present form as a matter of such importance.

The Society congratulates the MVDC Planning Committee and its officers (in particular Jon Lloyd, the Chief Planning Officer, and his Deputy, Clive Smith, who gave evidence at the Inquiry) on the case made to the Inspector. We now await the Inspector's recommendations on this and all the other aspects of the Inquiry, only too well aware of their importance to the future of Dorking and district.

Brian Carr

Since the above was written, we have seen in *The Dorking Advertiser* (31 July) a somewhat sensational item which quotes the President of the Dorking & District Chamber of Commerce as saying that one of the reasons why Sainsburys' are likely to get their store is the change of Government; it is suggested that New Labour are all for out of town centre developments and are not taking into account the well being of town centres. A forecast is offered that 'if New Labour stays in power', Sainsburys' will win. However, the national press announced on 4 August that the existing policy is being perpetuated by the new Government and retail developments will be directed to town centres. In *The Daily Telegraph* of that date, a partner in the

well known firm of Healey & Barker mentions that the reports of a change of Government attitude were no more than election rumours. He also points out that one of the problems with town centre sites is in assembling an area large enough to accommodate modern projects, so if town centre developments are to succeed, councils will have to use their site assembly powers.

Of course one does wonder whether a superstore of the kind proposed is not already obsolescent. Is it not likely that in 15-20 years' time, if not earlier, food and other regularly-consumed items will be available to order from home computer monitors and delivered to the door from warehouses which are fully automated? It would be a great shame if our little town had to absorb such a major development if it is likely to be quickly outdated.

On another aspect, even if we cannot expect a balanced appraisal of the issues involved, it really is quite remarkable how little of this very important Local Plan Inquiry has so far been reported in the local press. As recently as 40 years ago, there would have been almost verbatim reporting of the proceedings. **Editor**

Changes in the Society's Council

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Mr John Pratt as Membership Development Officer. This is a position of considerable importance to the future progress of the Society, particularly in the context of our corporate membership.

It is with very great regret that I have to announce the resignation of our Honorary Secretary, Mrs Lynda Bailey, who is moving to Oxfordshire. Lynda was Membership Secretary, in which post her knowledge of computer work enabled her to modernise the Society's records. She became Secretary after the retirement of Peter Hawkes in 1996 and quickly acquainted herself with the job. The Society owes her a debt of gratitude for an enthusiastic and effective contribution; the Council will be the poorer for the lack of her presence.

I am in contact with a possible candidate for the vacant position of Publicity Officer and if successful, I shall propose at the September Council meeting that the appointment be confirmed.

Barry Collins

Notes from the Planning Team

These notes cover the three months May to July, during which time we wrote to the Chief Planning Officer of Mole Valley District Council on 32 planning applications, in addition to other correspondence.

There has been much recent publicity about a hideous pole that has appeared in South Street for the closed-circuit television cameras being installed in order to improve security. On buildings, the cameras are usually unobtrusive, but the pole seems to be unexpectedly bulky. Another is scheduled for Pump Corner, where there are already about a dozen other poles within ten yards. Besides objecting, we asked that some kind of rationalisation should take place in the number of poles. This idea met with support from the Planning Committee of the Council, and we are pursuing it further.

We were astonished to learn of an application for retrospective planning permission to demolish a cow-shed behind **Mickleham Hall Stables** which since 1983 had had permission, granted on appeal, to be converted to residential use, with the condition that the dwelling be limited in area to that of the cow-shed, which was 98 square metres. The planning permission being applied for, however, was retrospective because the cow-shed had already been demolished, and a dwelling to replace it was already complete up to the eaves, and consisted of 208 square metres. Our objection was only one of many, and this application has now been withdrawn - but another is pending.

In May I reported on the application by the Landmark Trust, the owner of **Goddards**, in Abinger Common to open the house to the public on Wednesdays, which was turned down as a result of a report of the Highways Department of the County, who were concerned about the effects of an increase of traffic. Their second application, which was to open the house on Wednesdays by appointment only and which we also supported, has been approved. There has been much local concern that there will be an unacceptable increase of traffic. Permission, however, is to run for two years only.

One of the most encouraging developments of recent years has been the move to **Cleveland Lodge, Westhumble** of the Royal School of Church Music. A letter therefore that we did not enjoy writing was in connection with an applica-

tion they made, on professional advice, to alter the conditions governing the use of **Cleveland Lodge** to allow any religious or musical or charitable activity. We wrote to say that we thought this was not the right solution to the technical problem they were seeking to address. Their application was withdrawn. A revised application is currently expected. We much hope that we will be able to support it.

Nionisle, whose contract to use **Betchworth Quarry** as a land-infill site expires at the end of this year, applied for a seven-year extension, to which we objected strongly. This is a County Council matter, but the Planning Committee of the Council debated it and passed it up to the County Council with a primary recommendation that it be refused. Now we must try and see if we can influence the County, which is not so easy.

Readers will remember that there have been endless problems with the fisheries at **Old Bury Hill**. When the extension to the fisheries was agreed earlier, the owner undertook to limit parking to designated areas, and to allow parking around the ponds only for disabled drivers. He has recently applied for retrospective permission to waive this last condition, since for some time parking round the ponds has been effectively uncontrolled. I am glad to say that the Planning Committee of the Council has refused to allow it and issued an enforcement notice. It has now gone to appeal, and there will doubtless be a further report to make in a subsequent issue of this Newsletter.

Appeals seem to be an increasing feature of planning procedures. The Chairman has written on page 2 of the **Juniper Hill** appeal, for which the postponed second day occurred on 21 July. On 22-24 July we had the appeal on the development proposal for the **Upper Farm** caravan site, for which we attended the first two days. We are currently still awaiting the Inspectors' reports on both these appeals.

There is currently an appeal for the retrospective change of use of **Inholms Farm** as a skip assembly point and there are many more appeals in the pipeline, which are creating a volume of work that is putting a lot of pressure on the already overworked Planning Department of Mole Valley.

Martin Wedgwood

The Society's name: More Views from Members

This matter is still very much open to discussion and the Society has yet to reach a final decision.

'The present title is still right for all our aims and we should not use the word 'Heritage', which is overused these days'. MR & MRS LESLIE WEST

'I strongly support the title of 'The Dorking Society' as a preferable name. It is short yet embracing and seems to carry a note of importance'. J M BERRY-CLARKE ARPS.

'I favour "Dorking & District Society". The image is important; much better to include the word 'Preservation' in the objectives rather than the title.' MIKE BENOY.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My wife and I would like to thank all concerned for the excellent Newsletter we have just received; having helped to run a club myself for many years before retiring to Dorking, I do know just how much work is involved. The views given about our Valley and Town are, I am sure, echoed by most members; we need to support all efforts to retain our beautiful countryside and unique town.

We are also very concerned about the continual closing of shops and feel that the supermarkets and the ever increasing demand for rental are mainly to blame. Some of the products sold by the supermarkets should have been left to the smaller retailers.

The suggestion for a pedestrianised shopping area is we feel a good idea, particularly needed in West Street, if only at weekends.

It would also be nice if we could reduce the traffic through the centre of the town, particularly heavy lorries which must be causing a great deal of damage to our road surfaces and buildings, not to mention the effect it must be having on pedestrians.

LESLIE WEST 31 May 1997.

Reports from the Dorking & District Museum

We wish to record the Museum's sincere thanks to the directors of SmithKline Beecham (SB) for so generously donating furniture, equipment and articles of local interest to our Museum and to the managers, for facilitating their collection. As many will know, the SB medical research laboratories and offices at **Brockham Park**, Betchworth have now closed and the operations have been transferred elsewhere.

Our Curators visited the site to see what was available and we were very pleased to hear we could have most of the items we identified as wanted. Apart from much-needed furniture, such as an oak reception desk, chairs, bookshelves, filing cabinets and tables, we were delighted to acquire a section of an oak tree which fell at Brockham Park in the Great Storm of 1987. The section had been labelled on its growth rings with the marketing dates of medicines discovered and developed at Brockham Park and certain historic events of national importance. Mounted in a glass-topped display cabinet formerly in the entrance lobby at Brockham Park, this may now be seen in the ground floor room of the Museum Library. Dr. Maurice Soulal, who had the foresight to create this novel feature, was very pleased to hear it had found its way to the Dorking Museum and we are grateful to him.

We also acquired a glass-fronted display cabinet from the entrance foyer to the main research building which will be used in the Museum for its original purpose of displaying sample containers of the various antibiotics discovered at Brockham Park. The containers themselves were rescued from a waste bin and will return to their proper place after being recorded and photographed.

I am most grateful to Mary Turner, Terry O'Kelly, John Crust and Eric Mansfield for help with the retrieval of all these objects. Without Eric and his trusty trailer we might never have managed this task.

Martin Cole
(Chairman Dorking Museum)

After a flurry of school study sessions and group visits including afternoon tea or short talks, we have settled back to the usual routine. That is not to say that Brian Hodges is not still very busy with parties eager to see the exhibits on display.

Our splendid new furniture (see Chairman's Report) is everywhere noticeable and should make our collection more accessible to researchers. Meanwhile please be patient as we attempt 'business as usual during refurbishment'.

Postal enquiries led to a very pleasant meeting in June with a lady from Georgia, USA, who is researching family history and had discovered that her great great grandfather was John Owen, Methodist Minister in Dorking in 1851. I was able to show her the house he lived in and where her great grandfather Luke was born. However the chapel in Church Street proved more elusive. We know where it was - the site is now occupied by the west end of Chapel Court - but we have no photograph in the Library and would be interested to know if anyone has one that we may copy. Meanwhile we must make do with seeing it in a large aerial photograph we have of Dorking town, which was taken at some time in the late 1950s. This was hanging until recently, largely unnoticed, in the library stair well and is now on display in the library lower room where it is attracting quite a lot of interest.

Work is continuing on the David Knight Photo Collection, which will soon be housed in the museum library and be available for consultation. Work has also started on a special exhibition for the forthcoming Heritage Weekend (13/14 September). We hope to show a few of the interesting buildings the town has lost to demolition over the years.

Another project is a small booklet telling the interesting history of the site of the museum. This is a first venture into desk-top publishing and we are still very much at the learning stage. Nevertheless we may soon be in a position to sell it in aid of funds; and who knows what might follow!

Mary Turner
(Curator, Library)

Acquisitions since 1 May 1997

- Small safe marked 'Dorking & District Chamber of Commerce' (1943)
 - 'Ideal' electric travelling iron (c 1930)*
 - Cabinet containing section of oak felled in Brockham Park 16 October 1987* (see Chairman's Report above)
 - 'The Fire Guard's Handbook' (1942)*
 - Cream maker (c 1930)*
- (* = on display in the Museum)

B. S. Hodges (Curator, Exhibits)

Local History Group

Our meetings, held at 19.30 on the first Tuesday of each month in the Friends' Meeting House, Dorking continue to be well attended. Members enjoy a varied programme of talks, the three latest on the history of *The Surrey Advertiser*, the history of Gatwick Airport, and Conservation of Historic Buildings in Mole Valley. As the Hall is not available in August, we usually manage an evening visit somewhere in the neighbourhood, this year, a guided walk in CAPEL.

The outing in July had the added bonus of lovely summer weather. We first visited BASILDON PARK, an impressive 18th century mansion near Pangbourne. We had arranged to have the place to ourselves with expert and entertaining guides to show us around. In the afternoon we went on to DORCHESTER ON THAMES, a beautiful and relatively little-known village in Oxfordshire. In the brief time available, Mary Tame, chairman of the Local History Society, outlined the story of the ancient village and took us on a short guided walk. Members were then served a very welcome tea with biscuits in the lovely old abbey, many vowing to return to explore more fully.

In an endeavour to revive the Group's research team, Vivien Ettlinger held a study morning in the Museum Library. A dozen members were given an introduction to the Dorking Manor Court Rolls. Hopefully we shall be able to set up more sessions like this if enough interest is shown by members.

Membership is open to all members of the Dorking & District Preservation Society. If you wish to join, please contact Sandy Hine, c/o Dorking Museum, West Street, Dorking, RH4 1 BS or telephone her on 889807. New members are always welcome. Mary Turner (Chairman)

Gatwick Airport and its Impact on the Area

Mainly due to the operations of BA, noise by both day and night has got significantly worse in the past two years and the number of night flights is rising each year (10,150 this summer, compared with 5,190 in 1993). New flight paths are disturbing hitherto peaceful zones. Complaints from up to 20 miles from the airport have reached a record level. The airlines are stubbornly resisting any reduction in maximum noise limits and BAA persist with study of an additional runway, despite the legal agreement which precludes construction before 2019.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Join the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC), Stanhill, Charlwood, Surrey RH6 OEP (01293 863369)
- Check that your local amenity society/parish council is a member of the GACC (The D&DPS is a member!)
- Make sure that the GACC Newsletter is properly discussed at their meetings
- Urge your local authority to play a ACTIVE role in protecting the environment impinged upon by Gatwick's noise and pollution
- **COMPLAIN TO THE AIRPORT (FREE-PHONE 0800 393 070) AT ONCE** about any aircraft row that annoys you or prevents your enjoyment of the TV, radio, conversation, garden or outdoor activities. Persuade your friends and neighbours to do the same. Ask GACC for its notes on how to follow up your complaints.
- Write to your recently-elected MP and County Councillor about the increasing nuisance arising from Gatwick. (All local MPs have pledged themselves to oppose any legislation to overturn the second runway agreement).
- Send GACC details of how you are disturbed by night flights in addition to complaining to Gatwick

(Based on GACC Newsletter 58 and GACC Chairman's covering letter).

Buckland Windmill

A restoration of this sawmill workshop windmill began in 1995 and the first phase is now complete, making the structure and tower weather-proof. The owner, Duncan Ferns, has succeeded in obtaining Listing Grade II. This is believed to be the only surviving wind-powered sawmill workshop in the UK and dates from 1860-76, probably originating as an amenity of the Buckland Court Estate. The dating is derived from a metal plate which shows the installer as *W. Cooper, Engineer, Henfield*

The windmill is located in the garden of the owner's late 17th century cottage, *Yewdells*, Dungaltes Lane, which is also listed Grade II and was formerly the home of carpenters to the Buckland Court Estate. Further details are available from Dr. Duncan C Ferns (01737 843388 or day, 0171637 9111 ext. 4399).

(extracted from material supplied by Dr. Ferns)

Extraordinary General Meeting & Autumn Meeting

There will be an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Society at 19.30 on Thursday 16 October 1997 in the Martineau Hall, Dorking Halls, and this will be followed by the Autumn Meeting. The EGM will ask members to approve proposed changes in the wording of the Constitution which clarify what is meant by 'properly audited accounts'. This present wording could be taken to mean a full audit by a registered Auditor rather than audit by an independent examiner which is the existing practice. The proposed changes in wording have been approved by the Charity Commissioners and will be circulated to Members at or before the EGM.

The Autumn Meeting will take the form of an illustrated talk by Michael Edwards of the Lutyens Trust and Godalming Museum on 'The Surrey Style', covering both gardens and architecture in Surrey. It will be preceded by some items of business, including a proposal to raise the ordinary subscription rate to £5 a year, pensioner/student rate to £3, family rate to £7, the corporate rate to remain unchanged.

LB/AAJ

The Spring Walk

The Society's Spring Walk, ably led by Sue Tombs on 18 May, attracted only about a dozen members but provided some wonderful views of the North Downs from the little known countryside north of Buckland Green. We saw the landscaping of a worked-out sandpit before climbing up to traverse a portion of the Pilgrims' Way below Juniper and Conybury Hills. Making two crossings of the railway (closed that day for engineering works), we passed by the 1849 Crossing Keeper's house below Kemp's Farm. This is the only remaining crossing keeper's cottage on the line between Redhill and Reading and was recently spot-listed Grade II after action was taken by our member Victoria Houghton (see *Dorking History*, 17). Returning to Buckland, we took tea in the garden of a family of bird lovers, where we were served by some delightfully eager and polite (if slow) juvenile staff. After tea, garden plants and RSPB sales items were on offer to mop up any remaining small change.

AAJ

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
Croxton + Garry Ltd.	Curtis Road, Dorking	886688	Mineral extraction
Dorking Golf Club	Club House, Deepdene Avenue RH5 4BX	886 917	Golf club
Dorking School of Motoring	3 Lyons Court, RH4 1AB	880119	Driving school
Downs	156 High Street, RH4 1BQ	880 110	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
Garth House Nursing Home	Tower Hill Road, RH4 2AY	880511	Nursing home
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 Ptnrshp	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 IHU	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	Leith Hill Group of Women's Institutes
Box Hill Afternoon Women's Institute	Coldharbour Sports and Social Club	Holmwood Women's Institute
	Friends of Box Hill	Leigh Residents' Association
		Westcott Village Association

Willow Walk, Dorking

Long after you and I are gone
The Dorking stream will flow:
When it began - when it will end -
No-one may know.

History sleeps in its sandy bed,
Secrets silted with age,
Stories you will never find
On any page.

Come to its banks with reverence
As to an holy shrine.
Take comfort from its waters -
Such balm divine!

By quiet backs of houses,
Cool, willow-fringed retreat,
So near - and yet, so infinitely far
From busy street.

V.W.