

DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY



Established in 1929

NEWSLETTER

No. 20

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NEWSLETTER 20: May 1998 **Free to Members**
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The opinions expressed in this Newsletter by the Editor and contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society. The Editor welcomes letters and items for publication from Members and other readers.

EDITORIAL

We were not really surprised at the total lack of response to the appeal made in Newsletter 19 for news and views from the countryside and villages in our area. Newdigate, Brockham, Capel, Ockley, Westcott, Mickleham, Westhumble, Charlwood, South Holmwood, Forest Green, Abinger, Holmbury St. Mary, Buckland, Betchworth, Leigh and Box Hill all remained silent. Can it really be that in none of these places or the spaces in between there is nothing happening or threatened that is worthy of report and discussion in these columns?

Apathy has always been present in regard to local affairs but hereabouts it seems to grow by the year. The many who spend most of their lives working outside their homes do of course devote almost all their energies to earning their daily crust and attending to family and other personal concerns and recreation. It is at least understandable that for them it takes a really meaty NIMBY issue to stir up interest and action. This perhaps explains that while there are notable exceptions, almost every member of the Society under retirement age seems content to leave local affairs in the hands on their elected councillors and officials and the Oldies who comprise the majority membership of voluntary groups such as ourselves. What is really troubling is that the recently retired are not coming forward in any significant numbers to take an active part in the main and ancillary work of this Society.

We have an urgent need for the younger generation of "active retired", especially in the early retirement group. They could bring energy and hopefully knowledge of computer and communication technology to aid our efforts. With certain valuable exceptions, such people are not very apparent in our ranks. Perhaps we should do more actively to seek them out?

Other factors contribute to this generally prevalent public inaction and lack of involvement with matters of local concern. Local Government is seen as "boring" and only a few electors take the trouble to vote in local polls. Also, apart from really sensational developments, our local newspapers no longer treat the reporting of the activities of the Surrey and Mole Valley Councils with the serious care and detail that was the case until 40 or so years ago (anyone who doubts this should study the volumes of newscuttings in the Dorking Museum). It is so much easier to fill the "local" with otiose details of forthcoming television programmes and new models of motor cars or with "puff" pieces supplied ready to serve by the spin doctors of East Surrey Hospital Trust, Gatwick Airport and the office of the local MP. Editorial policy, such as it is, appears terrified of taking a strongly independent view which might upset one or other of the political parties. Although it is difficult to assess the state of the local press nationwide, the impression is, slightly to paraphrase the old joke about the curate's egg, that it is today only good in very small parts.

Some fortunate areas have very lively local papers, much involved with local issues, but most have to make do with what are at best mediocre channels of news and opinion.

The apathy that these attitudes and influences encourage allows Surrey and Mole Valley councils and their officials to pursue controversial policies that should perhaps be questioned much more actively at an early stage, or simply to get away with delays, prevarication and, worst of all, total inaction. Why do we have so many empty shops in Dorking - what can be done to bring the eastern part of the High Street back to lively retailing? Why do we tolerate the continued accretion of "freebie" all day parking on Cotmandene, Heath Hill and roads around the railway station? With no consultation as to what the public want, new staffing and pricing policies

have been adopted at the refurbished Dorking Halls which have caused the disappearance of almost all the popular and well-attended collectors' fairs and reduction in size of those that still hang on. Of course there are arguments for and against in every case and in this last it may well be that the majority do prefer the new emphasis on stage shows, cinema and musical performances, but let us have wider and more informed discussion and more intervention when we sense something is not being done that could be done, or is being done wrongly. The Performing Arts Library controversy, as will be seen from David Lees' contribution below, stands out as a fine example of what can be achieved in local affairs when energy overrides apathy.

Alan A Jackson

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

Members will recall my concern over the ailing state of the retail sector in Dorking - vividly demonstrated by the continuing, if not increasing, number of shop premises which are unoccupied, especially in the High Street. Not only does this discourage new businesses from establishing themselves in Dorking, but it is dispiriting to residents and visitors alike when using the town's facilities or coming to Dorking as tourists.

It is therefore very pleasing to note the recent initiative of the Dorking Town Centre Forum in appointing Elaine Erskine as Town Centre Manager to capitalise on Dorking's very considerable assets and focus the efforts and resources of everyone to strengthen and build up the economic standing of the town.

Do you have a view on ways and means to improve Dorking and what may make it more successful in the future? Well, if so, now is your opportunity to air those ideas which hopefully will lead to Dorking not only retaining its unique identity and historical importance in the new millenium but also a town which offers modern facilities as well as a convenient and varied retail and commercial environment. I urge you to

write to Mr Rod Shaw, Planning Department, Mole Valley District Council, Pippbrook, Dorking, RH4 1SJ, with any comments.

For those members living in the district outside Dorking, I make no apology for the emphasis on Dorking in this letter, since I am firmly of the view that the well-being of Dorking Town is inextricably bound up with the best interests of the surrounding villages.

A very important matter affecting everyone in both Dorking and the district is the increasing impact of road traffic on the environment and our individual lives. While cars are of vital necessity for those living in the country without adequate, or indeed any public transport, the effect on towns such as Dorking needs no comments from me. What is really vital is the publication of a traffic management plan for public consultation NOW. For example, the traffic flow from Westcott into Dorking is a matter of great concern to many members living in the west of the town. When can we expect action from the County Council authorities on a problem which impinges on us all?

Barry Collins

Performing Arts Library: Success so far

A stay of execution has been achieved, a joint working party has been set up and an appeal for funds is going extremely well.

The County Council's original plan involved dispersal of the Performing Arts Library stock and closure of the Dorking premises. When this became known, there was a general outcry which resulted in two public meetings. A Performing Arts Library Users' Group was formed and a committee appointed to pursue two main objectives; firstly to secure a delay in the implementation of the original proposals and secondly to seek out a scheme by which the P A L could be kept in Dorking.

The first objective was achieved on 21 January when, after intensive lobbying and the submission of two petitions, the County Council voted to defer for six months any action on their proposed changes. At that meeting there were 75 supporters in the public gallery.

The second objective is now being tackled by a Joint Working Party comprising officers of the County and Mole Valley District Councils together with representatives of the P A L Users' Group. The three parties are at last all committed to working together to organise and oversee a proper feasibility study.

While a number of council members and officers had been keen to set up such a joint group, it was not easy to ensure that it would actually happen.

In trying to persuade the Councils, the Users' Group decided it was necessary to give a strong lead. They therefore set out to raise their own fund to enable them to offer to contribute to the costs of the study. The response to the appeal, launched in February, has been a reassuring indicator of continuing public support. The Users' Group was able to appeal directly to over 1,000 supporters, both individuals and organisations, and after only five weeks the fund stands at nearly £4,000, with donations still coming in. The generosity of contributors is impressive - eleven donations have been for sums of £100 or more.

The Joint Working Party will shortly be having its first meeting, and the Users' Group is well placed, both financially and with offers of free technical advice, to join the discussions and contribute to the costs.

Anyone wishing to support the campaign to keep the Performing Arts Library in Dorking is invited to contribute to the fundraising appeal. Cheques should be made payable to the PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY USERS' GROUP and sent to the treasurer, T Hennessey-Brown, 11 Abbot Road, Guildford, GU1 3TA. (Donations will not be acknowledged unless accompanied by a SAE.) General enquiries should be sent to David Lees, Secretary, P A L Users' Group, 21 Daneshill, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 2DW (01737 763565)

David Lees.

Letters to the Editor

Sir,
The views expressed in your editorial of Newsletter No 19 reflect my own feelings about Dorking over the years and I would like to add the following.

Quite apart from any extra needs of visitors, the High Street falls seriously short of the environmental standards now expected for shopping. The pavements are narrow and sometimes obstructed by items of sales overspill, noise is disconcerting (at times appalling) and I doubt if the exhaust pollution has ever been measured.

Frankly, I avoid Dorking in favour of Horsham, since it is roughly equidistant from Ockley. In Horsham one can stroll about in relative quiet

unimpeded by traffic, pause for a coffee in the open or just sit. The experience does not jangle the nerves. Maybe there are many other dissatisfied customers.

Is it any wonder that many traders have closed?

J M B Clarke
Ockley

Sir,
I would add my support for the promotion of tourism in Dorking and its surrounding countryside. At present there is a complete lack of any information at either the main station or any other point of town. The Museum, I believe, could be a place for this, apart from the station, and could be signposted. If the town should proceed with this something needs to be done about

West Street to prohibit heavy lorries from using it; they could be diverted round the town via Ashcombe Road back to the A24.

I think there is a case for traffic lights at the Westcott end of West Street which I am sure would ease the present flow of traffic and make life in the town a little better for all concerned.

Leslie West
Dorking

Sir,

With reference to the discussion of tourism in your excellent editorial (issue no 19), I take the view that active promotion of tourism is essential if Dorking is to avoid the fate of so many other towns, i.e. full of charity shops and estate agents.

Dorking would do well to take a leaf out of Kingston's books, with guided walks around the town, promotional advertising and literature and readily available tourist information.

There is no reason to suppose that Dorking would be engulfed by visitors following any successful campaign to promote tourism, if only because Dorking will to a great extent be overshadowed by London.

Increasing the number of visitors to Dorking and the surrounding district would not only benefit the small retailers but would heighten residents' awareness of Dorking's many attractions.

We cannot sit back and just hope that visitors will manage to fit the Mole Valley into their itinerary, we must bring the Mole Valley to their attention and, having done that, we must ensure that there are sufficient attractions, facilities and amenities to persuade them to come.

I note from the Editorial that some local councillors are pressing for an exploitation of the tourist potential. I take the rather cynical view that matters left in the hands of councillors either fail to materialise at all or take years to come to fruition. Pressure should be brought upon councillors to take action now.

Finally, may I endorse Barry Collins' suggestion of "The Dorking & District Heritage Society" as the new name. "Heritage" covers many aspects of our cultural inheritance, not just preserving the old and interesting, and reflects more accurately the aims of the Society.

Vivian Waymouth (Mrs)
Sutton

Reports from the Dorking & District Museum

Museum Extension:

The Working Party, under the guidance of our Buildings Curator, Terry O'Kelly, has completed the repairs to the concrete floor and is preparing it for an application of floor paint. They have also spent a lot of time planning the major items of further work. As we lease the buildings from Mole Valley District Council, we have been in discussion with their Lands Officer and Surveyor over the details of the various alterations. The old sliding warehouse door has been removed and replaced by a smaller double hinged door surrounded by new brickwork. This will become the new entrance to the museum when all the internal refurbishments have been completed. We thank Eric Mansfield for supervising this work.

We have obtained estimates for the cost of a British Gas ducted warm air heating system for the whole museum and for a suspended ceiling for the ground floor of the extension; an estimate of the cost of electrical work is awaited. We hope to start this work as soon as possible.

Curatorial Advice

We have had a further visit by Simon Lace, our Curatorial Adviser; he has been discussing aspects of the conservation of our paintings and drawings with our picture team, Joyce Foster and Barbara Turnbull. He has also been assisting with the computerisation of our records.

Dr Paul Davis, who has been appointed the Geology Project Officer of the Surrey Museums Consultative Committee, visited the Museum and was most enthusiastic about our collection of minerals and fossils. He was rather taken with the story behind our dinosaur's tail, found deep down a well dug in the clay south of Dorking; he had a vision of looking for the rest! He will be helping with conservation and recording work on our geological specimens.

Visit by MVDC Leisure Services Manager

We were very pleased to welcome Mr John Cawdell to our Museum to meet Simon Lace, our Curators and other volunteers. He has had involvement with museums before coming to work in Dorking and was particularly interested in

what he saw and what we have to offer the community. We look forward to working with him in the future.

Donations and Grants

We are very grateful to Chris and Michele Kohler, Trustees of the Bantam Charitable Trust, for a generous grant towards the cost of conserving our old 25" to 1 mile Ordnance Survey maps of the district. We are hoping to obtain further funding for this from the South Eastern Museums Service. We are also grateful to Stewart Robertson for a generous donation towards work in the museum extension.

Museum Display Cabinet

We successfully bid for a large double-sided glass topped cabinet in a recent Crow's auction. We plan to use this to protect and display our mineral specimens and dedicate it to the memory of David Loram.

Martin Cole
Chairman

The Museum's Art Collection

Members may know that the Museum has an interesting collection of pictures, in all about two hundred, including oil paintings, watercolours, black and white drawings and engravings. In the majority of cases they depict scenes in Dorking and its surroundings at periods during the past two centuries. The oldest is a pencil and wash sketch by the Flemish artist Hendrik de Cort (1742-1810) of the Old Smithy, which once stood at the corner of London and Reigate Roads, where the Telephone Exchange is now situated.

There are also a few portraits of local residents, an interesting example being a small oil painting of the eccentric Major Peter Labilliere (1726-1800) who, as he considered the world was topsy-turvy, was at his request buried upside down on Box Hill, in order to be the right way up on the Day of Judgement.

Work on cataloguing and storing the pictures has been carried out over the past two years and a comprehensive catalogue is now available in the Museum library. There are also biographical notes on many of the artists who have painted in Dorking and its surroundings.

Storage is a problem and it is hoped that if funds become available this can be improved. In particular acid free paper for wrapping and acid free boxes are required, as advised by Simon Lace, our Curatorial Adviser.

In addition, many oil paintings are in need of conservation work, e.g. surface cleaning and

repair to frames. In 1991 a survey carried out by the forerunner of the present South East Museums Service (SEMS) recommended that work should be carried out on about 40 of these paintings; the minimum time for some pictures is two hours of professional work, in other cases much more. Lack of money has so far prevented any of this work being undertaken and it is obviously desirable for some funds to become available for conservation so as to prevent any further deterioration.

Because of these problems of storage and conservation the Museum has been advised to accept only pictures of quality and interest and which are in good condition.

Barbara Turnbull and Joyce Foster

Dorking Museum Library

There is an air of anticipation in the Museum Library. Thanks to generous donations mentioned in the Chairman's Report we are looking forward to making a start on the protection of our 25" Ordnance Survey maps. Each will be placed in a Melinex polyester sleeve, making the regular handling they receive less stressful for map and curator alike.

Work on the David Knight Photograph Collection is progressing very well. Each photograph is now stored in a clear polyester sleeve and a computer database has been set up including all the photographs in the collection. The photographs are now being sorted and renumbered and more detailed information is being added to the database. Since the museum does not at present have a computer in the library, a comprehensive range of indexes will be printed out for use by researchers in due course.

It may seem that this work is a very long drawn out saga but it is worth remembering that it is all carried out by a small band of willing volunteers. These large-scale undertakings have to be fitted into the everyday routine of running the museum library including accessioning new acquisitions, which arrive in great numbers, helping visiting researchers, dealing with postal and telephone enquiries, entertaining visiting groups, attending ever increasing meetings and much else. Obviously we enjoy the work and believe that the Museum is a worthwhile contribution to the town. Conservation is time-consuming and expensive but it is an important part of the work as our collections are held in trust for future generations.

It would be interesting to know how much of the annual subscription members think should go towards the upkeep of the Museum - at present none of it does.

Mary Turner, Curator, Library & Records

List of Acquisitions since 1 December 1997

1. Polished stone axe head (probably Neolithic) found on Broome Hall Farm in 1994*
2. Glass paperweight - bobbin glass roundel*
3. Retractable tape measure inscribed "The West of England Clothing Association" - Tailors and General Outfitting, 143 High Street, Guildford*
4. School sampler worked by Ada Marshall in Standard V in July 1889*
5. Glass mineral water bottle - W R Butler & Sons Ltd., Dorking*
6. Soda syphon inscribed "W R Butler & Sons, Dorking"*
7. Contour layer map of Dorking and its environs made in 1958/59 by the donor, Mr Stanley Proctor, former Chief Planning Officer for Dorking Urban District Council and Mole Valley District Council*
8. Two ostrich eggs, inscribed "HMS Hermes 1910" and "1913" (respectively), owned by the late Mr W J Bennett, who was in the Royal Navy in World War 1 and was known as "Sunshine Jack" in his job as porter at Dorking Town (now West) Station
9. Three fragments of pottery found at Betchworth Castle*
10. Medicine bottle marked "B C Browell, Chemist, Dorking" (trading at No 2 High Street, before World War 1)*

B S Hodges

Curator (Exhibits)

*On display in the Museum

Report from the Local History Group

At the time of writing this report only our AGM remains on the Winter Programme. The series of speakers organised for us by David Drummond has been enjoyed by the many members who regularly attend our monthly meetings. The winter outing to Tunbridge Wells on 21 March was also very well supported, 53 members filling the coach for "A Day at the Wells".

We now have the Summer Programme of events to look forward to and once again David has arranged something for everyone:-

- 5 May - *Dorking Dinosaurs - Country Life 120 Million Years Ago* by Angela Milner
- 2 June - *Deepdene Gardens* by Vivien Ettlenger
- 7 July - *Polesden Lacey* by Andrew McElwee
- 4 Aug - *A Walk round Historic Horley* led by Brian Buss (Meet at the Chequers Hotel Car Park, just north of Horley, on the A23 at 7.45 pm)
- 1 Sept - *Dorking & District: The Golden Triangle of Bricks and Brickmaking* by John Sandford

6 Oct - Members' Evening - *The Houses We Live In*, the history of members' own houses

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Friends' Meeting House in Butter Hill, Dorking. Admission is free to Local History Group members; all other visitors are required to pay £1.

The summer outing on 11 July to Alresford, the Mid-Hants Railway and Alton, is at the time of writing already almost sold out.

If you would like to join the Local History Group, please come along to one of our meetings or write to the Group's Membership Secretary, c/o Dorking & District Museum, West Street, RH4 1BS. The annual subscription is £5 (additional members at the same address £2 each), payable to Dorking Local History Group.

Mary Turner, Chairman

Eric Ferguson

Eric Ferguson, our calligrapher, sadly suffered a broken shoulder bone and leg bone in a fall at his Deepdene Avenue home early this year. He is recovering slowly in the Dorking Community Hospital and welcomes afternoon visitors. Fortunately Eric supplied a fair stock of items for

our popular back page so this feature will not be interrupted. We thank Jennifer Huber for two further poems which have been placed on file; we know that Eric will be eager to get to work on these as soon as he is fit again.

AAJ

The Mystery of the Mathematical Tiles

When in late March and early April the scaffolding came down from the tri-gabled building on the High Street high pavement, some vigilant observers were at first under the impression that the mathematical tiles had been removed during the refurbishment of the frontage, which is protected from alteration since it is within the High Street Conservation Area. However, closer inspection revealed that the tiles have been replaced in their original position but that the colour of the mortar used deceives the eye on what is already a deceptive architectural feature.

AAJ

Newsletter Distribution

Two new volunteers have kindly joined the noble band who deliver this Newsletter, rain or shine; Peter Hawkes, who served the Society in the fullest measure as its Secretary for 10 years, and Graham Potter, Museum Secretary and steward.

Mr Hawkes has taken over the round of the late David Loram and Mr Potter has assumed responsibility for half the extensive area previously covered by Lynda Bailey (Jane Busby shoulders the rest).

We have 26 helpers in all in Dorking town, with a further nine in the villages, and collectively they insert 560 of each issue of around 800 in members' letterboxes, an average of 15 or so each, involving a round of half to one mile. Their combined efforts save the Society about £330 in postage each year.

Further volunteers are always most welcome and are sought in particular at this time in **West-humble** (15 calls, one mile) and **Strood Green** (only 8 calls). As well as gaining healthful exer-

cise and getting you off the car seat, participation in this task will teach you a lot about letter box positions, shapes and sizes!

MB and AAJ

Best Development Competition

With regard to my comments on page 6 of Newsletter 19, Peter Hawkes has pointed out, in the politest possible way, that a summary of the entries for this Competition, complete with photographs, names of winners etc. has in fact been deposited in the Museum Library since its inception. With my close acquaintance with the Library, I should have known this and I offer my apologies.

Peter also says that the question of projecting slides of the entries at the Society's Autumn Meeting is under active consideration.

AAJ

South Street Caves

The Mole Valley District Council has agreed to pay £6,000 towards the cost of installing electric lighting in the caves.

Our copyright and "The Surrey Yeoman"

Those who have ventured past the fake gas lamp into the refurbished interior of *The Surrey Yeoman* may have noticed something familiar about items hanging on the walls - unauthorised reproductions of the maps of Dorking specially drawn by Beryl Higgins for the Local History Group's best seller publication, *Dorking: A Surrey Market Town Through Twenty Centuries* (1991). Our copyright has not been acknowledged, nor has the due fee for reproduction been paid. Our President has addressed a suitably phrased letter to the firm involved.

AAJ

More On Aircraft Noise

A recent visit to the Flight Evaluation Unit at Gatwick Airport turned out to be far more illuminating than expected. I found a surprising amount of information about flight paths and noise levels was being gathered continuously, using radar tracking and noise monitors. The latest computer technology is used to store and process this data and present it in a way which is easily understood.

The Manager of the Unit, Paul Guest, invited me to test the system. I asked if they could recall information relating to three flights which had disturbed me at 00.20, 00.24 and 00.29 hours

during the night of 26 August last year. By searching the database, the flights were quickly identified by name of aircraft and operator with details of their flight paths and noise levels. They took off in a westerly direction, then turned clockwise to fly east. Now imagine seeing the paths of each aircraft revealed as a computer-generated line, continuously plotted out on an Ordnance Survey map of the area. And, yes, there they go, right over the top of my house in South Holmwood at between 3,200 and 4,000 feet. Did they infringe any regulations? Not on this occasion (so I was told). But where are the sound monitors? About 6.5km from the aircraft

start of roll position, where noise levels are the greatest. However, this is hardly relevant to what happens later. And South Holmwood is supposed to be on the northern limit of the 'Noise Preferential Route' for aircraft taking off westerly, then turning to fly back east. All kinds of circumstances mean that the 'heavies' are often on the outer edge and sometimes way beyond it over North Holmwood or even the southern edge of Dorking itself.

Does any good come out of the investigations into complaints? We know airlines get fined up to £1,000 for triggering the noise sensors at the end of the runway and they don't want to do that too often, but what about complaints concerning their deviant flight paths and noise *levels way beyond the airport?* The Noise Information Manager, Richard Hilton, in a recent letter, tells me that a series of mobile sound monitors were deployed at the New Year between Charlwood and Horley and they will collect data for a research project over the next 2-3 years. This data *might* be used to suggest beneficial changes to flight patterns. I have been told that if I would like to apply for a mobile monitor, I could write to GATCOM at County Hall, Chichester.

I have reported that similar aircraft seemed to be using very different flight paths when their ultimate route was clearly the same. Obviously aircraft load and weather conditions are factors but the results of investigations by the Flight Evaluation Unit were rather surprising; on several occasions one particular airline found it more difficult to fly the 'Noise Preferential Route' than others. The airline was invited into the Unit and it was revealed that the reason was the way the

Notes from the Planning Team

During the period December-March, on which these notes are a report, your Planning Committee seems to have been busier than in August-November, on which I reported in the last issue of this newsletter. In this latest period, I see to my surprise, we wrote no less than 72 letters, of which 63 were representations to the Chief Planning Officer of Mole Valley in connection with planning applications, seven were representations to planning inspectors in connection with appeals, one was to the County Council with two points on the forthcoming new Surrey Structure Plan and one was a letter to the *Dorking Advertiser*. I should emphasise that in spite of all this apparent industry we still intervene in only a tiny minority of planning applications.

aircraft's Flight Management System had been programmed; they are having the software recalibrated!

Another problem has to do with taking compass bearings from beacons based a long way from the airport, e.g. Detling in Kent; the further away the beacon, the wider the signal beam. With a beacon more than 20 miles away, this can result in an aircraft being almost 3 km either side of the centre line of the Noise Preferential Route while the cockpit instruments suggest that the pilot is on track! This is really only a problem when aircraft have to make 90 or 180 degree turns, as they only intercept the signal from the beacon when the turn is complete, i.e. they are 'unguided' during the turn! Monitoring what is going on will help to suggest solutions but I am wondering whether it is going to be such a good idea to aim to have every aircraft flying along a narrow path. This could make matters worse for those directly below such a path. We look forward to the introduction of the quieter 777 2-engine aircraft, which will start operating from Gatwick early in 1998. The phasing out of the noisy planes such as the Boeing 707, 727, some older B747, BAC 1-11 and DC8 aircraft commenced in April 1995 and will continue until March 2002.

My thanks go to Cllr Tim Wilkie (Oakwood Hill and Ockley) for arranging the visit and to Paul Guest and his colleagues for showing us the workings of the Unit and supplying me with a set of October 1997 Fact Sheets issued by Gatwick Airport Ltd.

Martin Cole

I reported in the last issue that the result of the appeal for a housing estate on the site of the **Upper Farm caravan site** was still awaited. It came through in January, and we were much relieved to learn that it had been dismissed. We were particularly glad to note that the inspector's recommendation was purely on the use of the site for housing, without reference to the proposed density. This will make it much harder for the owner to reapply for a scheme in which the density will be lower.

The results of two more important appeals, which were heard together, was announced on 30 March, and were both from the **Dorking Tennis and Squash Club**, mentioned in the last issue, in

relation to two applications, one for eighteen poles carrying floodlights for some of their tennis courts and one for nine poles. There was considerable opposition from local residents, which we supported. The appeal for eighteen poles was dismissed. The one for nine poles was allowed with conditions, of which the most important were: first, no floodlights to remain lit after 9.30pm and secondly, matching floodlights to be installed on the existing lighting poles, to replace the present lights which cast a significantly less focused beam. We consider this a reasonably satisfactory outcome.

On looking through the list of applications on which we have become involved in these four months, several of the most interesting and significant involve the re-use of farm buildings. Many of you will know **Lower Boxhill Farm**, which lies in a prominent position halfway up the escarpment of Box Hill, slightly to the east of the lookout. The owner is in process of selling it to the National Trust, but is retaining the long disused ancient farm buildings, including a listed grain-store. He plans to convert them into housing. We support this scheme. The important point is that these buildings are worth preserving. That means a use must be found for them. Oddly enough, despite their position, they are not especially prominent, because of a good belt of trees to the south and the embankment of the east-west railway line to the north. We are, however, concerned about the density. In all, six dwellings are proposed; we think there should be no more than four. There is no reason to retain one of the barns, which seems to date from c.1900, and the long cart-shed should become, not a house, but a shed for cars. A smaller number of houses would also reduce the amount of extra traffic on the Old Reigate Road, which has an awkward access onto the A25.

Denshott Farm, Leigh, is rather different. Most of the farm buildings have disappeared or been replaced by houses, forming a pleasant group on the south side of Flanchford Road, which is almost quiet enough for children to play in. There remains one very large modern barn, which its prospective new owner wants to use as a warehouse, with a surprisingly large amount of parking. It stands at the western end of the group of buildings and is extremely prominent in three directions. Its conversion to a new use would be a local disaster, and we hope very much that we have helped to block this application.

Greens Farm is fascinating. It lies south-west of **Newdigate**, west of Rusper Road and south of

Trig Street. The farmhouse dates from the early fourteenth century and is listed. Three other buildings are listed, including a small two-storeyed barn, perhaps once a dwelling house, which dates from the fifteenth century but contains on the upper floor features which may date from even earlier than the farmhouse. The new owner wants to convert most of the old farm buildings into workshops and offices. We think that this is an excellent way of preserving them and are basically in support. We are, however, worried about the farmhouse, the most important building in the group, which has not been considered and is in danger of losing what ought to remain as its curtilage.

The Friends' Provident has sold **Redcote in Pixham Lane, Dorking**, which it used as staff flats, and the new owner wishes to redevelop with 14 new houses. A thought: Leslie Road, the next street to the north, is chock full of its occupants' parked cars. (The other day there was a fire at the top end of the street and the fire engines could not get through.) *If only* the new owners of Redcote could be persuaded to part with a strip of land on the north side of their site, the occupants of the south side of Leslie Road could have access to the rear of their gardens and park their cars there. It's worth a try.

Pollingford, in Church Lane, Okewood Hill, is another listed building - on which some ten years ago or so an extension was added. By the time this was spotted by the Council, the house had already changed hands twice. The current owners tried to put it right, but their proposed alterations were not really an improvement at all. We wrote to say that their applications had to be refused, and they were. Councillor Wood wrote a letter to the *Dorking Advertiser* blaming us for tilting the balance towards a harsh decision, to which we replied. My colleagues and I greatly sympathise with the owner of Pollingford, but something that had gone wrong had to be put right.

There is no time limit for correcting unauthorised work on listed buildings. It is always important when buying a house to have your conveyancing done properly, but especially so when the house is listed.

I have mentioned here only a small fraction of the cases our team has looked at between December 1997 and March 1998. I could continue for several more pages, but I have run out of space.

Martin Wedgwood

Corporate Members Supporting the Society

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

Name	Address	Tel:	Business
Abbey Information Systems Ltd.	1 Paper Mews, 330 High St., RH4 2TU	740 553	Computer consultancy
John Arthur Gallery	Old King's Head Ct., 11 High St. RH4 1AR	741 120	Fine art gallery
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 Approach, RH4 1TZ	740 740	Water treatmt, eqpt, services
Bradney & Co	56 Dene Street, RH4 2DP	743 939	Chartered accountants
Bullimores	156 South Street, RH4 2EU	880 880	Chartered accountants
Classic Bedrooms	120 South Street, RH4 2EU	880 330	Retailer
Country Gardens Ltd.	Reigate Road, RH4 1NP	884 845	Garden centre
Cowan & Wood	114 South Street, RH4 2EZ	886 622	Solicitors
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
Edolph's Farm	Norwood Hill Road, Charlwood RH6 0EB	01293-862 130	Farm
Ellis Atkins & Co.	1 Paper Mews, 330 High St., RH4 2TU	886 681	Chartered accountants
Friends' Provident Life Office	Pixham End, RH4 1QA	740 123	Life Assurance
Patrick Gardner & Co.	16 South Street, RH4 2HQ	877 775	Estate Agents
Garth House Nursing Home	Tower Hill Road, RH4 2AY	880511	Nursing home
Graham Leather Ltd.	64/65 West Street, RH4 1BS	887 727	China and glassware
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 Prtnrship	57 West Street, RH4 1BS	742 200	Ind. financial advisors
Hurtwood Litho Printers	39a South Street, RH4 2JX	877 557	Printers
International Sports Mktg Ltd.	Bales Ct., Barrington Rd., RH4 3EJ	743 322	Marketing consultants
King's Court Galleries	54 West Street, RH4 1BS	881 757	Art gallery & framers
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
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
W. Songhurst Ltd.	Masters Ho, Guildf'd Rd, Westcott RH4 3NG	880 411	Builders
Treeline	The Spinney Horsham Rd., Wallis Wood	741 800	tree care and maintenance
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' Association.

Box Hill Afternoon Women's Institute

Brockham Green Village Society

Coldharbour Sports and Social Club

Friends of Box Hill

Holmwood Women's Institute

Leigh Residents' Association

Mickleham Parish Council

Newdigate Parish Council

Westcott Village Association

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NEWSLETTER No:20

Dorking v Gravesend

in 1847

God prosper long our noble Queen
Our lives and safeties all
A grand cricket match once there did
On Cotmandere befall.

Even mighty Gravesend men
As fine as might be seen
Came for to play the Dorking chaps
All on the Cotmandere.

And in the Shops great bills there were
(By Chisholm done) I ween
All to announce the cricket match
To be on Cotmandere.

And flags of red and blue there were
Upon the turf so green
To mark aright the playing bounds
Upon the Cotmandere.

And tents and pipes and porter too
On every side were seen
In honour of the cricket match
To be on Cotmandere.

And lots of men and girls and boys
Were congregated there
On the first day all for to see
This cricket match so fair.

The Gravesend men were mighty chaps
Of portly mein were they
Who thus came all the way from Kent
With Dorking for to play.

But Dorkings men were young and light
Unmarried men were they
Who came upon the Dorking ground
The Gravesend men to play.

Two Boxalls (brothers), Copus, West,
(all goodly men, and true)
With Dudley, Razzel, Bothwell, Philips,
Jupp, Taylor, Jeffreys too.

The Gravesend men I can't relate
For t'would much trouble be
But if you look upon the bill
Their names you there will see.

The Gravesend men first took the bat
And mighty well played they got
One hundred and forty two they got
Or e'er they moved away.

Young Philips of Dorking then went in
But got alas! no run
And in this innings all the score
Was only seventy one.

But evening shadows now came on
The people moved away
All grieving sore at the bad luck
Which they had had that day.

The Dorking cricketers went home
And to themselves did say
We'll do our best, we'll play like bricks
Upon the morrows day.

And straight the morrow's day did come
And all the town were there
To see the termination of
This cricket match so fair.

The Gravesend men went in again
And played right famously
And soon the rival combatants
Unto their grub did hie.

Again the men resumed their plays
And quickly swelled the score
John Boxall held the bat, nor could
Gravesend his wicket score.

Others came in and out, and then
His brother did him meet
And (then believe me reader)
The playing was a treat.

Anxiety reigned in each heart
And bets about did fly
Yet these two brothers still kept in
And scored right merrily.

At each good hit a mighty shout
Resounded o'er the plain
Fives, fours, and twos, flew from their bats
They played with might and main.

John Boxall took a mighty run
Young Clifford seized the ball
And ran him out, the Dorking crowd
Thus saw their champion fall.

Fast grew the score, the Gravesend men
Consulted silently.
Another man then took the ball
As though to win or die.

Straight went the ball, a moment more
And Bothwell's wickets fly
But still Charles Boxall kept the bat
And played right splendidly.

Eight wickets down again does Philips
Go out without a run
Excitement was in every face
They cry 'Run harder, run!'

Taylor and Boxall now are in
The last two wickets they -
Some four to win, on these two rests
The fortune of the day.

The bowler bowls, young Taylor's stump
Right nearly takes the ball
He hits a catch, a Gravesend man
Seizes, but lets it fall.

Another run, the cries resound
The longestop lets a bye
Full fast they run, and now the shout
Reaches round, they tie.

The Gravesend men in dread suspense
Look round with eager eye
Another hit, and is caught at point -
The game remains a tie.

The crowd went home but such a match
Will ne'er again I ween
For many many future years
On Cotmandere be seen.