

DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY



Established in 1929

NEWSLETTER

No. 30

November 2001

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Registered Charity No: 246806

DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

President: Brian Carr MA,
Westmount,
Ridgeway Road,
Dorking RH4 3AT (01306 883208)

Editor: Alan A Jackson FRSA,
St Michael's Steps,
Deepdene Park Road,
Dorking RH5 4AN (01306 883324)

Chairman: Sir Martin Wedgwood Bt,
Pixham Mill,
Pixham Lane,
Dorking RH4 1PQ (01306 889941; Fax 889010)

Membership/Subscription Enquiries:
Peter Parkin,
2 Purbrook, Pixham Lane,
Dorking RH4 1PH (01306 881111)

NEWSLETTER 30: November 2001

Free to members

Published each April, July and November.

Last dates for copy to be with the Editor: 5 March, 5 June, 5 October.

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter by the Editor, contributors and correspondents do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society. The Editor welcomes letters and items for publication from members and other readers. All unattributed material is contributed by the Editor.

EDITORIAL

An attractive leaflet has been produced to publicise and invite contributions to a scheme aiming to enhance Dorking town by placing two bronze dogs outside the Post Office at a cost of some £15,000. The Mole Valley Council has agreed to pay £4,800 towards the total.

This proposition has aroused quite strong support but also some controversy; opinions, pro and con, have been twice featured in *The Dorking Advertiser*. Your Editor has also heard a number of critical verbal comments from those unable or unwilling to take advantage of the democratic procedures available both within our Society and within our local government structure, standards far short of those current in Switzerland, where popular votes decide almost everything.

Some might see it as regrettable that the bronze dogs were not listed as one of a number of alternatives for town improvement at similar cost (are there any?) and the list put to a ballot of the whole DDPS membership. Of course it can be argued that both DDPS members and Council taxpayers

vote for others to represent them, and if they do not like what they do on their behalf, they have the alternative of standing themselves next time round or voting for someone else. However, with proposals likely to stir up controversy, it is not unreasonable to say a ballot might have been the preferable course.

It is true that at the Society's Annual Meeting (which, although well-attended, could hardly be considered representative either of the Society as a whole or of Mole Valley Council taxpayers) our Chairman did ask boldly for comments from the audience, but serious opposition did not make itself heard. It would have needed only one person to stand up and question the merits of the proposal (there were certainly some opponents in the hall) to encourage others to speak out. But it did not happen and all we got was a convincing explanation of the trouble taken to make sure the dogs would not be a hazard to pedestrians (as if the Council would allow otherwise). Much was made of the pleasure and fun the dogs would generate for children and adults. And, (did we hear aright?) we were also told that dogs are generally popular and somehow special to Dorking people.

Continued on next page

Some of those opposing have made much of the cost, suggesting the money might be spent more usefully on something more practical such as two stout seats, which would no doubt be much appreciated by visitors studying their maps and guides and also by the elderly, in this position against the reflected warmth of the south-facing walls of the Post Office. Perhaps unfairly, those making this type of criticism might be seen as Philistines, or if that is too harsh, at least grouped with all who consider true art died somewhere around 1920 and the best parts of the Tate Modern are its architecture and the views from its top floor.

As static exhibits, the bronze dogs seem harmless enough, worthy of a passing smile, cynical or heartfelt. They may indeed excite some transitory interest (not least from live dogs?) but is the proposed *location* the best choice? One sour wit suggested to us they could

be made useful as well as decorative if positioned strategically in the middle of the High Street (suitably floodlit after dark?) where they would slow the relentless pace of the fast and noisy motor traffic that plagues our historic town centre in much the same way as a motorway accident checks the flow as those unaffected dawdle to stare. We fear this is far too radical for those in positions of power to accept, but why not put the dogs on Meadowbank, where they would look more at home and less pathetic? Sitting by a tree, waiting patiently for curious children to discover them (much as in our youth we used to search for Peter Pan's statue in Kensington Gardens), they might amuse a larger number of genuine dogs whilst their indestructibility would deny satisfaction to the youthful vandals said to haunt this pleasant spot.

ALAN JACKSON

NOTES, NEWS AND VIEWS

AUTUMN MEETING

As mentioned above, the hall of the United Reformed Church was well-filled on the evening of 25 October for a full bill of fare. Sixteen entries were received for Best Development Awards this year and, for the first time, certificates were awarded to the architects as well as to their clients. A description of the winning entries and their merits was read out and photographs were available at one side of the hall. It was noticeable how those standing by this photo display turned to look at them as the account was read out, and again it seemed a pity that the spoken descriptions were not enlivened and made more comprehensible by simultaneous illustration with colour slides. The apparatus for this was already in position for the later lecture.

Our hard-working Chairman, hot foot and breathless from a six o'clock presentation about the Sainsbury project for St Martin's Walk, gave a brief summary of this (see Chairman's notes, p.4), following up with a résumé of other significant events since the AGM. He concluded with an enthusiastic discourse on the aforementioned prematurely-famous bronze dogs.

After refreshments, Mrs Iris Piggott delivered a well-illustrated and absorbing account of the restoration of the Wey and Arun Junction Canal (built 1813-16, abandoned by 1871 and currently under restoration). An apology is offered for the mis-titling of the Canal on our flyer about this Autumn Meeting,

THE TRAFFIC CHAOS AND POLLUTION COST OF WEST STREET

A report in *The Dorking Advertiser* shows that traders in West Street still cling to the curious supposition that the level of their business is somehow sustained by the day-long stream of heavy trucks, vans and cars that pollutes and clutters up this very narrow thoroughfare, built in the era of horse transport and totally unsuited for today's heavy motor traffic.

In truth West Street must be one of the most miserable examples of traffic arteriosclerosis to be found anywhere in south-east England. Most towns with the same problem have eradicated it long since.

Instead of being thronged with happy locals and visitors eager to purchase the splendid baubles and delights on offer, West Street carries a continuous flow of slow-moving motor vehicles large and small, driven by uninterested people with their gaze not on its shop-windows but firmly fixed forward. The level of the consequent atmospheric pollution (most concentrated towards the top of the hill as any pedestrian passing along its perilously narrow pavements can testify) has now been confirmed by an official publication, *Surrey-Your Air*, as being heavily contaminated with the poisonous red-brown gas, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) two units above the Government's recommended safe limit for human lungs. Carcinogens and other irritants from diesel engines abound as cars, buses, trucks and vans queue at the Pump Corner bottleneck. To be sure,

many of the cars now have catalytic converters which may reduce the level of *some* pollutants, but these expensive bits of kit do not begin to function until the car has been driven for around three miles (i.e. from at least South Holmwood or places beyond Wotton).

It is a very poor argument to cite Leatherhead as a "failure of pedestrianisation"; shops in Leatherhead's High Street have never offered the same level of interest and attraction as that presented by Dorking's West Street. Its aura is simply not in the same league. In many towns, experience with pedestrianisation has shown that this boosts trade, not reduces it. Shoppers and visitors feel more comfortable, safer and more relaxed in a quiet traffic-free and unpolluted environment. This means they will spend more time browsing and buying. These are precisely the factors which have brought the indoor shopping malls so much success, and a pedestrianised West Street would become an open-air shopping mall with our Museum as a special bonus. At present, pedestrians in West Street feel insecure looking in shop windows as they stand on the narrow pavements or walk along, mostly with eyes grimly ahead, terrified that something in the road might mount the pavement or brush against them.

Transport planners need to do some really hard thinking about motor traffic here and elsewhere in the Mole Valley area. The number of vehicles on British roads has tripled since 1970, whilst cycling and walking show a steady decline. Traffic in the EU generally is forecast to rise by 50 per cent in the present decade, an average figure, probably to be exceeded in Surrey, with its multiple car ownership in many households and where there is no more scope for road building or road widening if the environment we so wish to protect is to be preserved.

CHURCH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENTS DELAYED

This area remains the first candidate for the long-term project *Making Dorking Distinctive* (see Editorial in our No.29). A "design brief" has been placed with Messrs. Burns & Nice who have obligingly begun work pending formal commissioning. Funding constraints will, however, not permit a start until mid 2002, possibly not until 2003.

DRIVING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL: THE DISADVANTAGES

We hear a lot nowadays about school runs by car being the most polluting type of car journey undertaken and how the level of traffic congestion visibly lightens during school holidays (when even buses are able to run much closer to time). Here are some things to think about if alternative arrangements can be made, whether it be by "walking bus" or otherwise.

Continued in next column

A teacher recently commented on the fact that she had asked her class to describe the sensation of being caught in a rain shower. Half the children had great difficulty with this exercise because they had been driven everywhere, all their lives.

Surveys of overweight children in England and Scotland, carried out in 1972, 1982 and 1990, established that their numbers had increased on each occasion.

Walking to primary school teaches children the basic principles of road safety, preparing them for the time when they attend secondary school and will want to walk or use public transport with friends, rather than ride in a car.

Parents walking their children to primary school enjoy sharing with the seasonal and daily changes that take place along the route. Those driving children to school are often obliged to ignore their passengers whilst they concentrate on traffic, time and parking problems.

Children walking to school can use off-street footpaths (which abound in Dorking) and other short cuts, avoiding the pollution on main roads. This will help them to have cleaner lungs and healthier bodies. Exercise builds up the immune system, and if carried through schooldays into adulthood, it reduces the likelihood of developing coronary heart disease and diabetes in later life.

SCULPTURE DONORS TO BE RECORDED IN STYLE

Those contributing £100 or more to the proposed dog sculptures will have their names recorded in a Roll of Donors, a handsome volume, purpose-made and bound, designed to be preserved in the Dorking & District Museum.

Donations should be sent to Michael Forster, The Clearing, Deepdene Wood, Dorking RH5 4BQ, and made payable to "DDPS Sculpture Fund". Mr Forster can supply Gift Aid forms for those liable to pay income and capital gains tax in annual amounts greater than the sums donated or subscribed to the Society (including membership fees). This procedure maximises your gift.

NO RATS IN PIXHAM LANE

The Surrey County Engineer has decided to close Pixham Lane to through ("rat run" traffic at its southern end (A25) for a trial period of one year from early 2002. Retractable bollards will allow entry of emergency vehicles at the blocked end during the closure period.

STRENGTHENING THE RAILWAY - STOPPING THE SLIP

A new reason for footpath closure

During August there were rhythmic clanking noises drifting across the fields in the Beare Green area. A notice nailed to a local electricity pole by Surrey County Council proclaimed the temporary closure of Public Footpath 153 and stated that the closure order was necessary to enable AMEC Rail Ltd to carry out essential repairs to the railway embankment. This notice gave an alternative footpath via Public Bridleway 234 (Moorhurst Lane) and Public Footpath 238.

As I live in the area and recollected reports of landslips disrupting rail services south of Dorking, I decided to take a walk down PF 238 to see if I could locate the activity. The path goes in a southerly direction from Moorhurst Lane, and after passing the site of the old Dando Windpump (now repaired and re-erected at the Museum of Rural Life, Tilford), comes to a pedestrians-only crossing point on the railway south-west of Holmwood station.

It was now clear to see what had been going on. Heavy steel shuttering has been driven into the ground along the base of the embankment on both sides of the curving track for 200-300 metres south of the crossing. In places the shuttering stands two or more metres high above field level, the trackside having been backfilled with thousands of tons of aggregates ballast of the type used under the sleepers.

At the base of the shuttering, water is trickling out and spreading across the exposed clay surface of the adjoining cereal field, suggesting that there must be a spring nearby. Leith Hill, with its porous sandstone above the clay, is to the west. A large-diameter pipe has been put under the embankment below the tracks to take flood water (now dry), but it comes out in a sump on the east side from which it drains via smaller pipes, presumably to lower ground. However, there is already a large plastic drinks bottle in the sump just waiting to float into a drainage pipe and block it!

Railtrack will have to hope that this remedial effort is successful, as the track has to take the load not only of the electric trains but also of 100-ton steam locomotives which occasionally haul special excursion trains on this line. There is yet another potential hazard near the end of the iron shuttering. Rabbits have constructed a warren in the embankment which at this point looks rather sandy. I suppose we should have some sympathy for those battling to maintain the railway infrastructure against the ravages of nature. As a result of my research I have learnt that my local lane is Public Bridleway No.234, but more importantly that when I do travel to London from Holmwood station the train is less likely to be delayed by the plasticity of the Wealden clay.

MARTIN COLE

REPORTS OF SOCIETY OFFICERS AND GROUPS

A NEW PLAN FOR SAINSBURY'S

Until the evening of 25 October, months had gone by with nothing new to report on the plans of Sainsbury's for their projected new super-market adjacent to St Martin's Walk. That evening, however, Hank Etheridge and I had to do some smart dovetailing of our movements because our Autumn meeting, starting at 7.30 pm, was preceded at 6 pm by a meeting of the Planning Group of the Dorking Town Forum, called to hear a presentation by Sainsbury's new architects, Lambert Scott & Innes. Their work is already known to Dorking because they were the designers of the

District Council offices at Pippbrook. More to the point, however, they have since then designed the Castle Mall shopping centre in Norwich.

Some members of the Society will have been able to visit the exhibition of the new plans on display in one of the vacant shop units in St Martin's Walk on the 15, 16 and 17 November. For those of you who were not able to do so, I can report that the new scheme is quite different from the first one. I am glad to say that provision is being made for affordable housing which will be available for those

Continued on next page

now living in Church Gardens, and there will be more housing besides. The flats to replace Church Gardens will be built first, on the western edge of the site, the only part of the site where the ground level will not be changed. Everywhere else the level of the site will be lowered to that of the present Malt House pub, allowing four storeys of construction underneath a landscaped roof.

The new Sainsbury shopping area is to be on the top floor, on the same level as Marks & Spencer, and much nearer the High Street than in the earlier proposal. This will involve a big rebuild of the northern end of St Martin's Walk. Below the shopping area there will be the service areas for the store with access for their lorries, and below that two levels of parking, covering the whole of the area to be redeveloped and providing about 100 more parking spaces than there are at present. Above the shopping area, instead of a conventional roof there will be a landscaped park, level with the churchyard on one side, so that it appears a natural extension of it, with paths leading down to Meadowbank.

The Friday Market is to be relocated, apparently at Sainsbury's or the developer's expense, in South

Street, which is to be reordered so that the pedestrian area on the War Memorial side will be greatly enlarged - with a lot more on-street parking on all other days of the week - and the roadway correspondingly reduced.

The above all seems greatly encouraging, but it is being written before the plans go on display in the middle of November and is based solely on the architect's presentation to the Town Forum. Our most important concern, that acceptable provision should be made to rehouse the people who live in Church Gardens, seems to have been addressed. We still need to see it demonstrated that the link between the new Sainsbury's and the High Street is sufficiently strong to be effective in drawing shoppers up into the High Street. We will not be prepared to support the new Sainsbury's proposals unless we are sure that they are to the benefit of the commercial centre of Dorking as a whole.

We will be writing, however, to stress that all the projected housing should be in the affordable category, not just the 'Church Garden replacement' units.

MARTIN WEDGWOOD

HERITAGE WEEKEND

Heritage Weekend, on 8 & 9 September, was again a most successful event. The numbers of visitors were up on last year. Downs had 110. Derek Forss gave his presentation 'The Spirit of Dorking' eight times in the White Horse, to a total of about 160 people, and gave huge plugs to the Society. Pam Hunter had about 60 for her talk on William Mullins in the Council Chamber. We would like to thank them both for the important help they gave in making the Heritage Weekend a success.

Barry Collins has been masterminding our leading role in the Heritage Weekends since their inception, in

close collaboration with the *Dorking Advertiser* and with Rod Shaw in the Mole Valley Planning Department, but this year he handed over the bulk of the work to Sarah Hawkes, and he has now formally handed over to her entirely. I would like to thank him here very much for the huge effort he has made over several years to see that the Weekends ran smoothly and efficiently, and I would like to give an especially warm welcome to Sarah Hawkes in assuming this responsibility. We are especially grateful to her since she is now also working with her husband Peter on the Best Development Competition.

MW

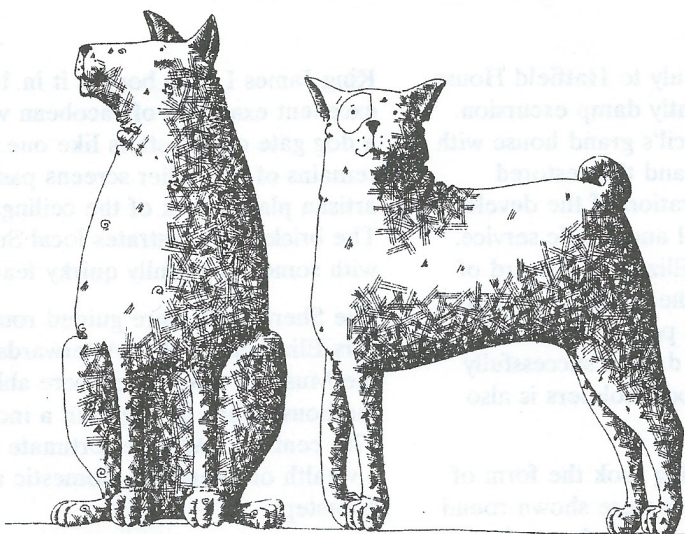
THE PROPOSED CAPEL INCINERATOR

Major planning matters take a great deal longer than 'run-of-the-mill' applications, and perhaps it is appropriate that they should do so. The application for the proposed waste incinerator at Capel, however, has been in the County Council's in-tray for well over 18 months. It is all taking enormously longer than anyone might have expected, and the prolonged wait is trying to everyone's patience, especially that of the people of Capel.

The application, together with those for two others in Surrey, is scheduled to be heard by the County Council in December, but the latest news is that the applicants have yet to supply the County Planning Department with relevant information, and there may well be a further postponement. The delay is actually helpful, because Government thinking is steadily moving towards promoting systems of pre-sorting waste, which would much reduce the role of incinerators.

MW

SCULPTURE IN DORKING



In April at the AGM I put on display drawings for our proposed sculpture outside the Post Office, and the opinions voiced by those who attended the meeting were overwhelmingly strongly in favour. Our fund-raising campaign, which did not begin until September, has so far raised, in donations and pledges, £3,700, so we have made a good start but still have a long way to go. A number of members, however, have voiced concerns about the project, and I have had approximately 30 letters from members of the Society objecting to the scheme.

The most frequently-voiced concern has been that the bronze dogs would be a hazard, particularly for elderly pedestrians and those with eye problems. This was a consideration that we had to address at the very beginning, before we could do anything else, because the Highways Authority would not grant permission otherwise. They asked that we consult the Dorking Access Group, who stipulated that the bronzes should be of a minimum height and that they should be placed close to the wall and several feet away from the door, in order not to obstruct those entering or leaving the Post Office. We have agreed to do this.

I wish in retrospect that we had covered this concern in the leaflet that we sent to all members - although it would have had to be bigger if we had!

The sculpture is bound to be subjected to the usual indignities suffered by all street furniture but, since it is of bronze, it is most unlikely to receive serious harm. The danger from vandalism is always overrated.

Many of those who wrote to me disapproved quite strongly of the bronzes because they were not seen as relevant to the town. This almost always meant 'not historically relevant'. In fact they are indeed relevant

but in a totally different way. Many people in Dorking, including Council officers, are deeply concerned for the future of the commercial centre of our town. In these days of easy transport, Dorking competes not only with out-of-town shopping centres but also with larger neighbouring towns. A distinctive piece of sculpture in a prominent position in the centre of the town should contribute to making a shopping visit to Dorking a more pleasurable experience and thus encourage visitors or, at the very least, encourage Dorking people to shop in their own town and not elsewhere, as many do. Nowadays the division between art and entertainment, I am happy to say, no longer really exists. Wishing to help the town centre in this way to flourish, we were delighted to be able to choose a work that was amusing. This is the true relevance of the sculpture we have chosen. It is to make the town fun to visit and to shop in. Another statue of a famous inhabitant of the town would not achieve this effect.

We took the opportunity of the October meeting to have a discussion about the dogs, which proved to be a very friendly affair. We did not all agree, of course; when it comes to preferences in matters of art, full agreement is impossible. But the disagreement was amicable.

I am sure that, once they are in place, these bronze dogs will quickly become a popular feature of Dorking, particularly with the young. If you would like to contribute but have hitherto been put off for the reasons I have outlined above, it is not at all too late to do so. The more people who contribute, however little, the more of us will feel we have played a part in securing these delightful and entertaining sculptures as a benefit and a pleasure for all. The bronze dogs are for everybody.

MW

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our summer outing on 7 July to Hatfield House was an interesting if slightly damp excursion. The combination of Robert Cecil's grand house with the remains of the Old Palace and the restored garden provide a moving illustration of the development of political power in royal and public service. It was at Hatfield that Queen Elizabeth I heard of her long-awaited accession. The Elizabethan portraits and some of her intimate possessions remind us vividly of a life fraught with danger successfully avoided. The exhibition of model soldiers is also well worth inspecting.

On 7 August our evening meeting took the form of two separate visits. 18 members were shown round Slyfield House, Stoke d'Abernon, and about 40 went walkabout in Shere. The owners of Slyfield House guided us through the history and layout of the surviving parts of the mediaeval manor of Slyfield, including the barn. The present house was adapted for his own use by William Shiers, apothecary to

King James I, who bought it in 1615. It contains excellent examples of Jacobean woodwork, including a dog gate on the stairs like one at Hatfield, and the remains of an earlier screens passage. The naïve artisan plasterwork of the ceilings is exceptional. The brickwork illustrates local Surrey artisan style with some delightfully quirky features.

The Shere party were guided round the village by Mrs Elizabeth Rich. Afterwards they looked round the Museum where they were able to identify some of the houses they had seen in a model of Shere in the 17th century. We are fortunate indeed to have such a wealth of interesting domestic architecture on our doorsteps.

Recent evening meetings have informed us about the Chilworth Gunpowder and Papermaking Mills, the histories of Ewell and Capel, and updated us on archaeological research in Surrey.

PAM HUNTER

DORKING & DISTRICT MUSEUM

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We were very pleased to be invited by Adrian Wood, Branch Manager HSBC Dorking, to mount a small temporary display in the Bank's Hall (see *Dorking Advertiser*, 20 September 2001). The idea was to promote jointly our Museum and the community involvement of the Bank which is very close by. Mary Turner and Brian Overell produced a splendid display illustrating the history of the bank site, including enlargements of some of the £1 notes issued by private Dorking banks in the 1800s. We also included a section on what can be found in the Museum. Adrian Wood reported that he had received many favourable comments from customers - now his staff want to have a look round the Museum.

Two of our very old oil paintings are being professionally restored by Dr Richard Hearn. One is the Old Mill Pond, Netley, Shere, by Philip Daws. The canvas has several tears and the stretcher is broken. The cost is being met by a very generous donation to the Society under the Gift Aid scheme. The other painting is of the coach proprietor, William Broad, artist unknown. Both paintings were very dirty and the varnish had gone brown; the transformation as this is removed is amazing. Non-original paint is also being removed; in the past this was often applied round

damage to "improve" the appearance and often covered several square inches.

Our "Squirrel Trail" quiz for children, designed by Bette Phillips and advertised to schools, brought many children into the Museum over the summer holidays to hunt for the answers. This event was part of a scheme involving several Surrey museums and as a result many mums and dads "discovered" our Museum.

Maintenance of our buildings, which are leased from MVDC, is a burdensome responsibility, particularly as they are old. The upstairs windows of the Library building are in a parlous state, and estimates in the region of £2,000 have been obtained for replacement. An application is being made to the Council for a grant.

On a personal note, we are pleased that Curator Brian Hodges is feeling better, and we send our best wishes to Gladys Arlett for a speedy recovery. Gladys is keen to get back to her photographs, and in the meantime Mary Turner and Margaret Read are looking after things. Gladys has very generously funded the cost of more conservation sleeves for a very large number of our photographs; we thank her most sincerely.

MARTIN COLE

GOOD NEWS FOR THE FUTURE

During the summer the Mole Valley Local Plan 2000 was finally released to the public. Members of the Society will be delighted to learn that there is a new policy (number DTC10) which reads as follows:

DORKING MUSEUM AND THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FOUNDRY WORKS, WEST STREET AND NORTH STREET.

The District Council will promote a mixed redevelopment scheme for Dorking Foundry and Dorking Museum to include small dwellings, small offices and a new Museum.

In other words, any proposals which we, or others working with us, can put up for a scheme along these lines for the improvement of the Museum site, will be in accordance with stated Council policy. It is the Society's strong wish that the Museum should stay on its present site, and its long-term aim is to have purpose-built premises. This policy makes the long-term aim much more attainable.

MW

LIST OF ACQUISITIONS BY DORKING MUSEUM SINCE 6 JUNE 2001

1. China cockerel with Dorking crest *
2. Collection of fine knitting needles in rolled leather case (Victorian)
3. Optimus paraffin camping stove in original tin, complete with accessories etc. - c. 1960 *
4. Cast iron paint grinder - c. 1890 *
5. "Fuluse" travelling iron in original box - c. 1930 *
6. Earthenware bottle marked "C. Bowering, Dorking" *
7. China mug commemorating end of World War I. Decorations include Dorking Cock *
8. Trade token "Penfold of Dorking"
9. "Great-grandmother's spectacles", with case *
10. Rose farthing - copper, Charles I, 1625-1649
11. Framed charcoal drawing of Nellie Langdon - estate of Mary Felgate (granddaughter of Mrs Langdon)
12. "Sun" circular ribber knitting machine, complete with instruction leaflet
13. Military insulated food container - World War II *
14. Framed watercolour painting of St Martin's Church from Meadowbank by Leslie West
15. "Gee-whiz" horse-racing game in original box, complete with instructions - 1926 *
16. Columbia Gramophone, late 1920s, in mint condition. Originally owned by Judge Carl Aarvold *

* On display in the Museum

BRIAN S HODGES

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

Since January there have been over 70 accessions to the Library & Archives, too many to list separately. One accession might cover anything from a single sheet of paper to the complete contents of a filing cabinet drawer. Eight have been selected just to give an idea of the variety of material that has been added:-

1. Correspondence and list of cheques paid by the Dorking Greystone Lime Co Ltd, 1888-1944 (with gaps). These show their involvement with local companies, including the Dorking Foundry (the site of the present museum).

Continued on next page

2. Map of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Paul's Dorking, based on the 25-inch Ordnance Survey First Edition (1868). This large map was produced by James Wyld and printed in colour, mounted on linen and varnished. It was originally fixed to wooden rollers.

3. A set of 8 drawings made in 1893 by local architect F J Dibble for a "new villa residence" in St Paul's Road for G A Strong, the builder.

4. Transcripts of the 1851-1891 census returns for Westcott, with an index of names. This impressive work was carried out by members of the Westcott Local History Group.

5. A copy of the chapter in Felicity Medland's book *A Slice of Life* describing the time she spent as a projectionist at the Home Guard School based at Denbies during World War II. Incidentally, very few people seem to know about the training school; do any DDPS members remember it?

6. *The History of the Evelyn Family* by Helen Evelyn, published in 1915, which includes a special memoir of William John Evelyn MP (1822-1908).

7. A large collection of original documents relating to Mulberry Cottage, Westhumble, 1824-1970.

8. Perhaps the most important addition to the collections this time is the archive of the Leith Hill Musical Festival (1905-1995). The LHMF has played an important part in Dorking's life, and we are very fortunate that its committee has decided that its archive should remain in the town.

The last two items are at present being processed by library staff - anyone wishing to consult them should ask the curator.

As well as archival material and books, we have been very fortunate to have been given some second-hand equipment during the year - a Windows 95 computer

processor with keyboard and mouse, which is a considerable upgrade for us; two 4-drawer filing cabinets in good condition; and most recently a computer monitor, which was donated by ISIS Computers of Ranmore Road when our old screen, which had given us several years of good service, finally lost the will to live. We are most grateful for this help from local companies and friends.

MARY TURNER, Curator (Library & Archives)

CELEBRATING ELIZABETH'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Next year sees the Queen's Golden Jubilee, and we are hoping to mark the event with a small exhibition provisionally called "Coronations and Jubilees". It will start with Queen Victoria's Jubilees and we aim to show material on local celebrations of all the subsequent Coronations and Jubilees. We have most of the official programmes and hope to show photographs of local events.

This is where you come in. Do you have photographs etc. of any Dorking celebrations? What about street parties or special school activities for the 1953 Coronation or 1977 Silver Jubilee? Does your old family box include photos of events for the Coronation of George VI or the Silver Jubilee of George V or even earlier? If so I would be very happy to see them at the Museum.

If anyone feels like putting pen to paper, I would be especially interested to read your memories of those times and, with your permission, add them to the Museum library collections for others to see. Don't be bashful - they do not have to be great works of literature, it's the memories that are important.

MARY TURNER, Curator (Library & Archives)

MEMBERSHIP

On 13 September 2001 the Society had 868 private members, residing in 611 households. So far 14 new members have joined this year. 99 subscriptions for 1999, 2000 and 2001 remain unpaid but earlier non-payers have been removed from the books. Gift Aid responses, which maximise our income, have been received from about one-third of the private membership. If you have not already done so, and pay income and capital gains tax, please consider this - it costs you nothing and benefits our finances.

There are also 44 paid-up corporate members and 20 associate members, most of the latter on a reciprocal

basis. There are still a few members who pay by bank standing order but whose addresses we do not have and have failed to obtain from their bank; in the meantime we accept the money!

PETER PARKIN

Membership and Gift Aid enquiries (apart from sculpture donations - see p.3) should be addressed to: Peter Parkin, 2 Purbrook, Pixham Lane, Dorking, RH4 1PH (tel. 01306-881111; e-mail address is pcep@mac.com).

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 Street, RH4 2TU	740 553	Computer consultancy
Ashcombe School, The	Ashcombe Road,	886 312	School
Betchworth Park Golf Club	Reigate Road, RH4 1NZ	882 052	Golf club
Bits & Bobs	20 South Street, RH4 2HL	743 119	Party shop
Bray Estates	278/280 High Street, RH4 1QT	740 837	Valuers, surveyors & property managers
Broadheath Restorations	Myrtle Cottage, Newdigate, RH5 5AD	631 773	Window frame restorers
Browns of Dorking	2 Allen Court, 56 High Street, RH4 1AY	881 212	Delicatessen and catering
Bullimores	156 South Street, RH4 2EU	880 880	Chartered accountants
Burley, G & Sons	Burley Corner, Moorhurst Lane, S.Holmwood, RH5 4LJ	711 799	Amenity horticulturist
Chandler Cars	Unit 23, Vincent Works, Vinc't Lane, RH4 3HQ	882 001	Services and sales
Clear, S J & Co Ltd	65 High Street, RH4 1AW	883 340	Electrical contractors/shop
Cowan & Wood	114 South Street, RH4 2EZ	886 622	Solicitors
Dorking Desk Shop, The	41 West Street, RH4 1BN	883 327	Antique furniture dealer
Dorking Golf Club	Club House, Deepdene Avenue, RH5 4BX	886 917	Golf club
Dorking School of Motoring	3 Lyons Court, RH4 1AB	880 119	Driving school
Downs	156 High Street, RH4 1BQ	880 110	Solicitors and notaries
Downsman Ltd	Overdene, Paper Mews	877 023	Management Services
Ellis Atkins & Co	1 Paper Mews, 330 High Street, RH4 2TU	886 681	Chartered accountants
Friends' Provident Life Office	Pixham End, RH4 1QA	740 123	Life assurance
Garth House Nursing Home	Tower Hill Road, RH4 2AY	880 511	Nursing home
Graham Leather Ltd	64/65 West Street, RH4 1BS	887 727	China and glassware
Grossé UK Ltd	Portland Road, RH4 1JL	743 333	Wholesale costume jewellers
Hammond Concrete Tstg & Servs	PO 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 advisers
Hulsta Studio	120 South Street, RH4 2EU	880 330	Contemporary furniture specialists
International Sports Mktg Ltd	Bales Court, Barrington Road, RH4 3EJ	743 322	Marketing consultants
John Arthur Gallery	Old King's Head Court, 11 High Street, RH4 1AR	741 120	Fine art gallery
Kuoni Travel Ltd	Deepdene Avenue, RH5 4AZ	840 888	Tour operators
Munro, Ian	10 High Street, RH4 1AT	882 270	Men's outfitters
Newspaper Press Fund	Dickens House, 35 Wathen Road, RH4 1JY	887 511	Charity
Newton & Co	173 High Street, RH4 1AD	884 208	Chartered accountants
Omya UK	Curtis Road	886 688	Mineral extraction
Patrick Gardner & Co	16 South Street, RH4 2HQ	877 775	Estate agents
Rose Hill Nursing Home	9 Rose Hill, RH4 2EG	882 622	Nursing home
Sears, Philip, Designs	18c Horsham Road, RH4 2JD	884 477	Architectural building surveyors
Seymours Garden Centre	Stoke Rd, Stoke D'Abernon, Cobham, KT11 3PU.	01932 862 530	Garden centre
Songhurst, W Ltd	Rayleigh House, Chapel Lane, Westcott, RH4 3PJ	880 411	Builders
Super Specs	62 High Street, RH4 1AY	875 201	Opticians
Temptations	Old Kings Court, High Street, RH4 1AR	885 452	Antique jewellery & silver
Treeline	The Spinney, Horsham Road, Wallis Wood	741 800	Tree care and maintenance
Uden, C J & Co	Pledges Yard, Falkland Road, RH4 3AD	887 551	Drainage consultant and surveyors
Unum Ltd	Milton Court, RH4 3LZ	887 766	Disability insurers
Venhill Engineering	21 Ranmore Road, RH4 1HE	885 111	Specialist cable manufacturers
Viscount Agencies	Concept House, 3 Dene Street, RH4 2DR	880 715	Duty free agency
White, L A (Dkg) Ltd	11 Yew Tree Road, RH4 1HU	885 245	Builder
Whitelegg Machines Ltd	Fir Tree House, Horsham Road, Beare Green, RH5 4LQ	713 200	Electrical engineers

OTHER CORPORATE MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE SOCIETY:

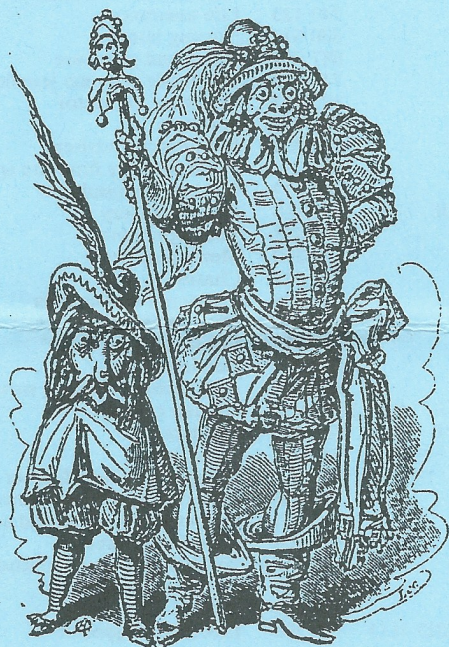
Abinger Parish Council	Guildford Society
Amis de Gouvieux, Les	Headley Parish Council
Bartholomew Court Residents' Association	Holmwood Parish Council
Betchworth Parish Council	Leigh Residents' Association
Box Hill Afternoon Women's Institute	Mickleham Parish Council
Brockham Green Village Society	Newdigate Parish Council
Buckland Parish Council	Ockley Parish Council
Capel Parish Council	Reigate Society
Charwood Parish Council	Westcott Village Association
Coldharbour Sports and Social Club	Wotton Parish Council
Friends of Box Hill	

Published by the DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY
 Hon Secretary: Mr E White, 16 Deepdene Drive, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 4AH. Tel. 01306-882037

NEWSLETTER No. 30

The Lord of Misrule

The functionary with the above whimsical title played an important part in the festivities of Christmas in the olden time. His duties were to lead and direct the multifarious revels of the season, or, as we should say at the present day, to act as Master of Ceremonies...



The following is an extract from the 'articles' drawn up by the Right Worshipful Richard Evelyn Esq, father of the author of the Diary and deputy-lieutenant of the counties of Surrey and Sussex, for appointing and defining the functions of a Christmas Lord of Misrule over his estate at Wotton:-

IMPRIMIS, I give free leave to Owen Flood, my trumpeter, gentleman, to be Lord of Misrule of all good orders during the twelve days. And also I give free leave to the said Owen Flood

to command all and every person or persons whatsoever, as well servants as others, to be at his command whensoever he shall sound his trumpet or music, and to do him good service, as though I were present myself, at their perils.....

I give full power and authority to his lordship to break up all locks, bolts, bars, doors, and latches, and to fling up all doors out of hinges, to come at those who presume to disobey his lordship's commands. God save the King!

* * *

In the engraving, one of these Lords of Misrule is shown with a fool's bauble as his badge of office, and a page, who acts as his assistant or confederate in conducting the jocularities. We are informed that a favourite mode for his lordship to enter on the duties of his office was by explaining to the company that he absolved them of all their wisdom, and that they were to be just wise enough to make fools of themselves. No one was to sit apart in pride or self-sufficiency, to laugh at others. Moreover he (the Lord of Misrule) came endowed with a magic power to turn all his auditory into children, and that, while his sovereignty lasted, he should take care that they conducted themselves as such. So fealty was sworn to the 'merry monarch', and the reign of fun and folly forthwith commenced.

FROM THE BOOK OF DAYS · 1864