

DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY



Established in 1929

NEWSLETTER

No. 33

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EDITORIAL

We appear to have a temporary reprieve from the recent threat to reconsider the time-scale for enlarging Gatwick Airport but the need for the Society to remain vigilant is underlined by the attempt to build a "park and ride" facility near Dorking, referred to elsewhere in this issue. This planning application shows that it is not only the seemingly inevitable, if delayed, increase in capacity that hangs over us but a continual demand for more supporting infrastructure and transport links that spread far beyond Gatwick itself. This element, already barely adequate for the business handled, would of course have to be drastically enlarged if a second runway were built.

As things stand, all who live within Gatwick's shadow continue to suffer from a high level of airport-generated road traffic, as well as intolerably intrusive noise and emissions pollution from aircraft landing and taking off. We were long ago promised that planes would soon become quieter but in 2002 the prospect of this welcome improvement remains as far away as it was 20 years ago. Despite recent terrorist scares, the long-term trend suggests a continuing growth in air travel. This is primarily due to the artificially low fare levels, especially in the sphere of leisure traffic. Cheap flights are made possible by the industry's exemption from fuel and other taxes (apart from a minimal airport tax), a concession not

enjoyed by road, rail and sea transport. Of course if you offer low fares which exclude any element for the costs air transport imposes on the environment and society, customers will jump at the chance to travel to distant destinations and will even tolerate travelling in cramped conditions reminiscent of sardines in a can and the inevitable delays and other discomforts.

We have to conclude that the outlook for all who live within a 20-mile radius of Gatwick is by no means encouraging. No doubt politicians will continue to state that the strong fiscal constraints to check the unrelenting growth of air traffic are only feasible in the unlikely event of international agreement and in any case air transport supports a very substantial amount of employment which benefits the national economy. There is thus every prospect that Gatwick's adverse impact on the environment and quality of life in our area will continue for the foreseeable future. Moreover it will grow worse unless its runway capacity and supporting infrastructure is permanently kept within its present limits. This objective can only be achieved by building a new international airport in the remoter corners of the Thames Estuary or south-east Essex, or by expanding other existing airports within 50-60 miles of central London, with Stansted the likely choice since it is already rail-served.

ALAN A JACKSON

THE GREEN BELT AND THE SURREY STRUCTURE PLAN

In the last Newsletter I wrote at some length on the subject of Housing and the Green Belt, but I make no excuses for returning to the subject again. I can recapitulate my last article briefly as follows:

1. The Government has decided that Surrey should be required to provide 34,400 new housing units over the period 2001-2016.
2. The County Council has decided not to challenge this decision, but is proposing in its document *A Spatial Strategy for Surrey* that almost all of this requirement should be met by building in north-east Surrey, i.e. between Guildford and Woking, and in the M23/A23 corridor.
3. 6,000 of the new units are envisaged as being built on 'green field' sites, i.e. in the Green Belt.
4. There is a body of opinion in central Government that would like to see the boundaries of the Green Belt arbitrarily redefined, and a section of it believes that the Green Belt has outlived its usefulness.
5. This Society would in fact like to see new housing units built in Mole Valley, but believes that they should as far as possible all be of affordable housing for rent by Housing Associations. This would require legislation.

Our view of the proposals in *A Spatial Strategy for Surrey* is that they are dangerous. In practice the arbitrary removal of land from the Green Belt in the north-east of the county would be strongly resisted on the ground and the County Council be driven to put pressure on Mole Valley instead. There would then be resistance here too, but the resulting choices of which land to remove for development would still be taken with inadequate consideration of local feeling and indeed local circumstances. Without local consultation and debate they would be bad decisions. Worse: as things stand at present, all the new units would be of commercial housing and the main problem of our area, the totally inadequate supply of housing for key workers, would not even be touched upon.

At the time these lines are being written, the publication date for the Deposit Draft of the Surrey Structure Plan is 14 October. The Council of your Society decided that it was sensible to state our view in advance of its publication, so that it should be well established during the course of the discussions that follow the publication. Derek Rowbotham and I therefore jointly drafted the following letter. It is addressed to Mr Roger Hargreaves, the Head of Planning and Development at County Hall, and was sent over my name.

Dear Mr Hargreaves,

Green Belt in Surrey

This Society wishes to register its strong view that the approved Green Belt boundary in Surrey should only be changed within a process that engages the individual and meets with general public consent. Green Belt policy has been upheld within our District for a very long time. Its permanence has served to ensure that the openness of the land, which to a large extent coincides with the scenic beauty of the district, has largely contained the spread of villages and prevented the emergence of visually prominent development on hill slopes and skylines. It has prevented suburban and village coalescence.

We do not regard the boundaries of the Green Belt as being non-negotiable. We see their importance as a means of combating deterioration in both the urban and the rural environment, but we are also much concerned with the very great shortage of housing in our area, particularly of affordable housing. We think that the County Council should be seeking to promote legislation to make it possible for Green Belt land, carefully chosen through the planning process, to be released for development by Housing Associations only, and that the provision of affordable rented housing should form an important part of the county's housing policy. We do not see this concession as one that would compromise the general presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

Recent publications and pronouncements, however, have made us apprehensive that Green Belt boundary changes will be handed down and set out without consultation, and at County level. We believe that advocates of this change do so because they believe that there is a general and uninformed resistance to Green Belt change among the public in Surrey. The bases for this belief need to be challenged.

If the quantity of housing units that Surrey needs over the next 15 years or so are to be built, the scale of change to the Green Belt will be significant, and will need to be managed within a process that is guided by criteria set at least in part at District level. Strategic guidance in terms of house numbers could inform the broad scale and location of change, but it will hardly be possible to accomplish this without the full co-operation of the District planners. We ask for reassurance that this will be the process to be initiated now and followed up in future.

MARTIN WEDGWOOD

THE WILL OF OWEN RUSS

At the October meeting I announced that our Society are beneficiaries of the will of Owen Russ. When I was first invited to join the Executive of the Society in 1989, Owen Russ was Planning Officer and was much admired for the thoroughness and reasonableness that he brought to the role. He retired in 1995 when our current President, Brian Carr, retired as Chairman and became Planning Officer instead. Owen died earlier this year.

He had had no relatives except his sister, who had predeceased him, and in his will he left his estate, which consisted mainly of his house and his sister's flat, equally between two charitable organisations, of which this Society is one. His will stipulates that the money to be received by us is to be used for the acquisition of new premises for the Dorking & District Museum. We were not expecting to receive the money until towards the end of this year but

events have moved faster than we had thought. Towards the end of October Michael Forster received a cheque from the lawyers for £504,000.

Your Council and the Committee of the Museum are both unanimously of the opinion that we should not look for new premises elsewhere, but should rebuild on the Museum's present site, which is ideal even though the actual building on it is not. The freehold of the site, of course, belongs to Mole Valley District Council, and the site contains other tenants beside the Museum, so any decision taken will closely involve the District Council. We aim to initiate discussions with the District Council as soon as possible.

We cannot adequately express our gratitude to Owen Russ. His immense kindness and thoughtfulness towards the Society will certainly transform the Museum. It opens up the most exciting prospects.

MW

SHOULD WE BECOME A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE?

In these days of tottering stock markets we are all becoming more conscious of what the financial boys call 'down-side risk'. (What can 'up-side risk' be?) Multi-billion dollar companies in America can go bust, leaving nothing but unpaid debts behind. Infuriated shareholders find that their investment is suddenly worth nothing at all. But at least they do not have to pay a share of their company's debts, as used often to happen in the nineteenth century, because they are protected by limited liability.

Many charities nowadays are becoming increasingly aware of the advisability of minimising risk. In effect this means taking steps to avoid the potentially serious results of the emergence of unexpected liabilities - which might arise as a result, say, of being required to pay damages or unforeseen legal expenses. There are many ways in which things can go unpredictably wrong.

The chances of this happening in our Society are slight indeed. We have significant reserves with which to fight appeals on matters of planning. Our affairs are responsibly managed. But if anything did go wrong, the effects would be devastating not only for the Society, but also for all its members, who would all be jointly and severally responsible for meeting the balance of the liabilities after all the assets had been exhausted. This is not at all widely known, possibly because such events are vanishingly rare. It is prudent to assume that if we are to acquire larger responsibilities as a result of the generosity of others (see the article above), that very small risk might become greater.

This consideration of risk has been known to make professional people, who are members of business partnerships, reluctant to join organisations without limited liability, since the liability, should it occur, would fall not only on them but on their business partners as well.

Your Council has agreed, therefore, that we should follow those many other charitable organisations that have converted themselves into a Company limited by guarantee. This limits the liability of the organisation to a specified very small amount in respect of each member. We would become a limited liability company, except that - like other charities in this category - we would not have shareholders (or the dividends that shareholders expect) and, being a charity, we would still not pay tax. We would be required to file copies of our annual reports with Companies' House as well as with the Charity Commissioners.

The procedure involves setting up a company, with the same name, and transferring all our assets to it.

At the same time we have to revisit our Articles of Association and make the relevant changes, as well as bring them up to date with latest legislation, if that needs to be done. It all costs remarkably little to do.

Once the process is nearing completion we will ask you to grant (or withhold) your approval at a General Meeting of the Society. I hope that it will be possible to do this at the Annual General Meeting in April next year.

MW

NOTES, NEWS AND VIEWS

FASTER ROAD CROSSINGS FOR PEDESTRIANS

Safe cycle routes from Brockham and Deepdene Park to Ashcombe School, and safer crossings of major roads by pedestrians and cyclists, are moving closer to achievement in east Dorking. At the beginning of October the light-controlled crossing on the north side of the Deepdene A24/A25 roundabout was brought into use. This incorporates red and green signals positioned above the push buttons and the light change operates with reasonable celerity. It is gratifying to report that the earlier (eastern) crossing also now appears to have been adjusted to give a slightly faster response time. But.....

A SAFER CROSSING NEEDED

Sadly, in July, at the junction of London Road/High Street, two pedestrian visitors lost their lives in an accident that might have been prevented if these traffic lights had a pedestrian crossing phase. We trust that the traffic controls at this busy intersection will very soon be modified to reduce the possibility of further deaths.

NO GARDEN CENTRE AT PUNCHBOWL

The site at the east corner of Reigate Road/Punchbowl Lane, featured in many aborted development plans over the last 50 years or so, is not to be redeveloped as the new location of the Wyevale Garden Centre.

SOCIETY PRESENCE ON 2002 HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

The 2002 Heritage Open Days on 14/15 September were a great success, with many visitors to the Museum on both days buying books and other items at the shop after walking round. A Society display and information desk was manned between 10.00 and 16.30 each day at Pippbrook Council Offices.

HAPPY EATER NOT TO BECOME UNHAPPY CAR PARK

The Society objected to a proposal to use land at the rear of the former "Happy Eater" site on the A25 for a park-and-ride car park for Gatwick Airport users. The "ride" would be a 20-minute interval bus service to and from Gatwick. The whole idea would further extend the Airport's unpleasant and unwelcome environmental blight in the Mole Valley area and we are pleased to report this application has been refused by the MVDC. No doubt someone will try something similar again in the future. Your Society will remain vigilant.

SPEEDS AND ACCIDENTS IN RURAL LANES

Road deaths in Britain in 2001 totalled 3,443, an increase over the previous year. This appalling slaughter included 218 children.

Perhaps the most dangerous places for pedestrians and car drivers alike, claiming around 1,800 lives a year (more than half the total), are rural lanes and roads, of which we have a fair number. At present much of the mileage is subject to a standard speed limit of 60mph, encouraging many motorists to drive dangerously.

A House of Commons Select Committee has recommended that this blanket 60mph limit be replaced by limits of 40, 50 and 60mph according to the size and quality of the road, with the higher limit applied to all long straight stretches.

GREATER DENSITY IN KEPPEL ROAD

Demolition of a pleasant-looking house in Keppel Road and its replacement by two new houses has been opposed by the Society. We have suggested retention of the existing house and a new one at right-angles to it on the plot.

ST BARTHOLOMEW, LEIGH

The Mortuary controversy has been settled; it will no longer be part of the Church Hall proposal but will become the local Post Office, which will incorporate public toilets.

COMMUTER CAR PARKING

The entire car parking site at the main Dorking railway station has now been released for use by rail passengers; the former arrangement of reserving sites for employees of Biwater and Redland no longer applies. Car parking restrictions will shortly be implemented in Chichester Road, Calvert Road and Croft Avenue.

NOTE FOR YOUR 2003 DIARY!

The Society AGM has been booked at the URC Church Hall, West Street, for 24 April 2003. The speaker will be the MVDC Conservation Officer, Peter Mills.

DO YOU PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BY STANDING ORDER?

If so, it will help the administration if you ensure the date of payment is in January each year.

"QUIET LANES" AND "HOME ZONES"

The Transport Act 2000 gave local authorities power to designate roads as "quiet lanes" with a 10-20mph speed limit and also to convert residential areas to "home zones" with a 10mph limit on all traffic.

After over two years, progress with both concepts in Surrey is slower than a senile snail. The problem is that no priority has been given to them in the Surrey County Council (SCC) budget. This is sad, since home zones are based on an interesting concept which has been proved successful in Holland. It involves considerable expense (£0.6m upwards) in replanning of the space occupied in residential areas by frontages, roads, footways, verges and roundabouts; it is not suitable for residential enclaves containing through-roads and bus routes. The aim is to replace car-dominated planning to one in which there is equal opportunity of use for all residents. Home zones include attractive areas for children to play safely, environmental improvements such as tree planting and grassed areas and a number of seats to allow adults to relax and pass the time of day with other residents. So far only one scheme has been launched in the whole county, at Nutley Lane, Reigate, where additional funding has been awarded by the Government.

Further information on both schemes is available from Roger Archer-Reeves, the SCC officer responsible for them in the Mole Valley District; he is located at the Pippbrook MVDC Offices, RH4 1SJ (tel. 01306-879368). It is not difficult to suggest possible candidates, but Mr Reeves considers suitable funds will not be available for at least another three or four years. If anyone wishes to press the case for an earlier start on a particular scheme, we can only suggest they lobby their County Councillor and the MP for the Mole Valley.

WESTFIELD BECOMES WESTFIELD GARDENS

Westfield, the Victorian house opposite the junction of West Street and Vincent Lane, will be remembered by older residents as the home and surgery of Eliazer Bruinvels, dentist, in the late 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. This year it has been converted to three "apartments", and its latterly somewhat neglected garden accommodates nine new "mews cottages" set behind "private electronic gates". This development is being advertised as "Westfield Gardens".

DORKING CAVES NO LONGER A SOCIETY RESPONSIBILITY

From 5 September 2002 responsibility for the caves in South Street, including public access, became a responsibility of the Mole Valley District Council. This will reduce the Society's income. All enquiries regarding bookings should be addressed to the reception desk at Dorking Halls (01306-881717).

OLD BANK BUILDING TO TAKE ON A LIVELIER ROLE

When the National Provincial Bank built its premises at the west end of the High Street around 1930-31, it was required to set back from the existing building line in readiness for a proposed widening of the High Street, as were other new premises erected before the 1974 decision to declare the High Street a Conservation Area.

The building then erected, to the designs of the Bank's Chief Architect F C R Palmer, forms a quietly handsome adornment to this part of the High Street and is of value as a rare example in the town of 1920s commercial architecture. It was rendered redundant for its initial purpose by the National Provincial's 1970 merger with the Westminster Bank, and after a very long delay it is about to be brought back to full use - possibly as a café or a wine bar on street level, with residential apartments above.

Some will question the wisdom of the wine bar idea, mooted and heavily headlined in the *Dorking Advertiser* of 3 October. Over-indulgence in alcoholic refreshment at weekends with its consequent mayhem imposes unwelcome burdens on police and public transport, ambulance and hospital staff, and has become an unattractive feature of contemporary life, regularly reported in the local press of many communities hitherto relatively free from such behaviour, not least our own. Dorking does not lack licensed houses and other sources of intoxicating drink, and we should not be surprised if it is deemed prudent by the authorities to declare in this instance that the building's "potential to add vitality to our town centre" mentioned in the newspaper report should be confined to that vitality which comes from imbibing caffeine and light refreshments in congenial surroundings.

SAINSBURY PROPERTIES IN REIGATE ROAD AND DEEPDENE AVENUE TO BE REDEVELOPED

In September the recently-vacated *Fairways*, one of the 1920s detached houses on the south side of Reigate Road just east of the squash club, took on a somewhat sinister aspect; its windows were boarded up and large pipes filled with concrete placed across its drive, presumably to prevent occupation by squatters. When completed in 1926, this double-fronted house faced the then lightly-trafficked Reigate Road, and the A24 was still some years away. It was built by Nathaniel George Wilkinson as his home. He occupied it until his death in 1951.

Wilkinson was both developer-builder and a councillor. He was first elected to the Dorking Urban District Council in 1927, serving with breaks until his death, and was Chairman in 1935-38. From 1940-49 he was also a County Councillor, specialising in education matters, travelling frequently to and from County Hall, Kingston by public transport in the blackout. His firm

erected a number of 4-bedroom detached residences in Deepdene Park in collaboration with the legendary Major Maurice Chance and built other houses in Dorking, Westcott and North Holmwood.

According to *The Dorking Advertiser* (19 September), Fairways and six other adjacent houses and gardens, 2¼ acres in all, are currently owned by Sainsbury's. Following abandonment of their plans for a retail

store on the site, they have put it on the market for residential development. It seems probable that an effort will be made to secure permission for a much higher density per acre than is the case at present, perhaps hoping to ease granting of planning permission by promising to provide at least some "affordable housing".

DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The Editor did not receive the report dated 7 May 2002 until well past the copy date for the last issue of this *Newsletter*. The following is an edited summary.

At the AGM it was announced that membership numbers and attendance at events were being maintained but there was a worrying lack of volunteers to serve as officers. Members have contributed items for the new Mole Valley DC web page. The winter outing to Milestones Museum and other features in Basingstoke was over-subscribed. Tony Hall's video *My View of Dorking*, illustrating how much of the town's attractive nature has survived since 1965, was enjoyed at the April meeting, and Edwina Vardey entertained the May audience with a talk on the famous and infamous inhabitants of Leatherhead past.

The Group's Report dated 20 August 2002 is reproduced below in full.

The Dorking Local History Group (DLHG) web page continues to attract e-mail enquiries from across the globe about the history of people and places around Dorking. Some queries are concerned with tracing ancestors while others are keen to gather information about different aspects of Dorking's past. Happily we are able to respond to callers informatively and to their satisfaction. We encourage those living nearby to visit the Museum library in the hope they will pursue further research themselves and perhaps even join our Group and enjoy its activities.

Even more welcome than the occasional e-mail from America was the order received recently from New England for 50 copies of Pam Hunter's 'Mullins' booklet. We continue our efforts to build bridges

with young people in the area. Donations of DLHG publications have been made to both Ashcombe and The Priory schools for use in their libraries. We understand the venture has stirred increased interest in local history.

The considerable amount of research carried out in recent years by a group of diligent DLHG members into life in early Victorian Dorking should soon bear fruit. Using the data unearthed, a book is nearing completion covering many aspects of Dorking's past. Included will be sections on typical Dorking households, family size, occupations, society, migration in and out of the town, schools and schooling, savings institutions, friendly societies, workhouse administration, public health and religious attendance. The various aspects of Dorking life are being described against the backcloth of contemporaneous life elsewhere in Britain. Much of the history contained in the volume has become available for the first time. This is because DLHG researchers mainly gathered their information from primary sources including censuses, parliamentary papers, reports of Royal Commissions, directories, etc.

Recent DLHG events include a summer visit to Woburn which provided a wonderful day out on 13 July. The excellent weather enhanced members' pleasure on a fascinating day delving into the nation's history. Nearer to home, on 6 August members greatly enjoyed their visit to St Mary's Church, Stoke D'Abernon, which occupies a site used for Christian worship for close on 1,500 years. Last but not least, Charles Abdy's talk on *Epsom Past*, held at The Friends Meeting House on 2 July, was enjoyed by an attentive audience.

JUDITH MINDAN

DORKING & DISTRICT MUSEUM REPORT

Mrs Phillips took over Chairmanship of the Museum at the Museum Committee meeting on 17 September.

Certain items of clothing have been transferred to other public collections where they can be properly conserved and made more accessible to the public. This includes duplicate items of Victorian underwear that the County Wardrobe, Woking, is delighted to have, as they fill a gap in their collection; and a Royal Artillery Officer's uniform and regalia which the Royal Artillery Museum, Woolwich, is very pleased to accept. We still have a substantial collection of clothing, which we are attempting to record and which will be drawn on for display or teaching purposes.

The Museum Stewards' Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday 30 October at 19.30 at the Friends Meeting House, Dorking, when Mrs Phillips will be introduced and Peter Mills, Mole Valley District Council's Conservation Officer, will give a talk on "How and Why Buildings are Listed".

A revised draft list of donations to the Museum has been produced following preliminary discussion by the Executive. The list with 33 entries starts with Miss Baldry's major bequest in 1981 and includes grants and gifts of equipment and furniture etc. For cash donations, only those of £100 and over are included. Non-Museum donations to the Society have to be added to the list which will then be transposed to the Donations Book by Hank Etheridge. The Museum Committee needs guidance on how the book should be held; there was a feeling that it should be on display in the Museum.

A record of events and achievements at the Museum for each year since 1997 has been produced. Copies

will be held by the Museum Chairman and Secretary and a copy made for the Chairman of the Society.

A Registration Return for the Museum has been made to SEMLAC (South East Museums Libraries & Archives Council) for the period since the granting of Registered Museum status in 2000. This was supported by a favourable report from our Curatorial Advisor.

The Royal Horticultural Society celebrates its bicentenary in 2004. Following a request from the Society to local organisations, the Museum Committee have started to give thought to how it might contribute by way of an exhibition. We have a considerable amount of archival material and garden-related artefacts. It is interesting to note that Sir Trevor Lawrence of Burford Lodge, an orchid enthusiast, was President of the RHS from 1885 to 1913.

For the Heritage Weekend, 14/15 September, the Museum opened each day from 10-16.30, free of charge. Its Jubilee & Coronation exhibition was on display.

In recent months Mrs Bette Phillips has organised visits to the Museum by three groups from Redland School and four from Nower Lodge. Two quiz forms for the Jubilee display were created to cater for different age groups. Teachers and pupils expressed their pleasure. "Learning packs" about Victorian life in Dorking which Bette has created will be loaned to St Paul's and Nower Lodge Schools at £5 a week during the Autumn term.

Our recent Museum publication *Dorking - a brief history* had a favourable full-page review by Greta Morley in the *Dorking Advertiser* for 1 August 2002. It is selling well at £2.50.

MARTIN COLE
BETTE PHILLIPS

Curator's Report (Library, Archives and Photographs) - Some of the more important items of 31 received:

- Programme for Pippbrook Park Open Day, 6 September 1969; includes references to local groups - Dorking Group of Artists, Chess Club, Gardener's Club, Flower Arrangement Group, Play Group Association, the Century Bowmen, Pippbrook Bowling Club, Camera Club.
- Dorking & Leith Hill Preservation Society, annual reports 1930-38, 1950, 1955/6-1964/5; draft constitution, amended and adopted 1938; "Landscape of the Future" leaflet reprinted from the *Surrey Advertiser* 1962.
- Sales Particulars, Little Orchard, St Paul's Road West, Dorking; draft details awaiting vendor's verification; illustrated; 2002; connections with Ralph Vaughan Williams.
- Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria, 1897; Report with statement of accounts and a list of subscribers.
- Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, 1897; Official Programme for celebrations in Dorking (duplicate).
- Coronation of George V, 1911; Official Programme of celebrations in Dorking; Poster of programme; Poster showing results of competitions; balance sheet and list of subscribers.
- World War I: Poster for recruitment of special constables in the County of Surrey, 1914.
- Colour photograph of the Dorking Town section of the 1838/40 Tithe map of the parish of Dorking.
- Family trees for the surname Weller, including many from Newdigate; photocopies 14 pp; copy of birth certificate of Emily Sarah Weller, b. 1869 in Newdigate.
- The Dorkinian*, Newsletter of the Ashcombe Dorkinian Association; No.21; autumn 2002; includes obituaries for Roy Tunstill (1931-2002) & David Jones (1935-2002); Filming the air raid shelters during World War II; Memories of a first day at Mowbray County Secondary School (1964).
- A map loaned to us by Mr Baker in September 2002; Mr Baker has now died and his daughter & son-in-law, Mr & Mrs Ray Langridge, have given the map to the Museum.

MARY TURNER

Museum Accessions - 22 May to 30 September 2002

1. George III penny dated 1797, the only year this was minted. It was found on Box Hill.
2. A small cardboard container labelled "Alan Woodcock, Dispensing Chemist, High Street, Dorking", for Boric Acid, c.1950.
3. A WWII civilian gas mask in box which appears to indicate that it was issued to a Miss Potter of Westcott. However, the address *White Gates, Dorking* also appears on the box, so it may have some connection with Dr Ralph Vaughan Williams.
4. A Dorking Jubilee Carnival lapel badge.
5. Promotional souvenir ashtray advertising the centenary of Colliers Furniture Store which for many years occupied the premises at 235 High Street, Dorking (now the Pizza Express restaurant).
6. Horseshoe, for a shire horse. Found on Holmwood Common. This artifact is now displayed in the Agricultural Collection.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT NOTES

You may have noticed a single-deck bus passing through Dorking bearing the curious destination blind "FULWELL Tram Depot". This new service runs between Dorking and Fulwell bus depot, which was built by the London United Tramways in 1903 to accommodate 189 double-deck electric tramcars and still exists. The route serves Teddington, Kingston, Surbiton, Chessington and Leatherhead. It is good news for any who have relatives or friends resident in the Greater London area since they are able to use any type of Travelcard bought in London and available on London buses to travel on this service to Dorking.

On the railway, Network cards can no longer be used on Mondays to Fridays to obtain discounted rail fares priced below £10. This restriction does not, however, affect Gold Card Annual Season Ticket Holders, who can continue to use their cards to buy discounted fares of *any price* for themselves and up to three other adults and four children. Child tickets bought this way cost only £1 per child, whatever the distance travelled.

DDPS MEMBERSHIP REPORT**Private Members -**

770 paid up to date
39 paid up to 2001
18 paid up to 2000

Total 827 from 583 households.

A welcome increase of 28 members so far this year.

We cordially welcome the following new members:

Mrs A Cliff, Nower Road, Dorking
Mr & Mrs K Deacon, Keppel Road, Dorking
Mr & Mrs G Faulkner, South Drive, Dorking
Mr D B Gurrey, The Pines, Dorking
Mrs C Holloway, Leslie Road, Dorking
Mr J R S Lewis, Okewood Hill
Mrs J Rodier, Calvert Road, Dorking
Mr & Mrs D A Rolt, Westcott
Mr P Rouse, Knoll Road, Dorking
Mr P Turner, West Bank, Dorking
Mrs E Watson, Bentsbrook Park, Dorking

Corporate Members

41 paid up to date
8 paid up to 2001
5 paid up to 2000

54 in total plus 23 *Newsletter* free copies to Parish Councils, Libraries etc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

As a long-standing but unfortunately mostly absent member, I always enjoy the *Newsletter* and vastly appreciate the work you do to safeguard as far as you can the beautiful area I know so well from younger days. Thank you indeed.

As regards Sir Martin Wedgwood's observations about possible housing within the Green Belt, my strong feelings are that incursions should be discouraged and regeneration of run-down urban areas made a priority with help from Government resources. The results of relaxation of controls are all too evident in the Ashford area of Kent, whereas Llanelli is a good example of what can be done by way of regeneration.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL ALLEN GODCHILD
Bronwydd, Carmarthen

20 July 2002

Dear Sir,

In the July edition of the Society's *Newsletter*, Sir Martin Wedgwood called for expressions of opinion on the Green Belt. I think all encroachments on the Green Belt should be opposed. The pressures to release a little here, a little there, are enormous but should be resisted. Even the Housing Association route, what might be described as a "least bad" solution, will create situations that others will seek to exploit. If you are keeping a tally of responses, my wife shares my views and I think it legitimate to count this letter as two expressions of opinion.

Your own interesting Editorial addressed an equally intractable problem. I think traders who oppose pedestrianisation are wrong and not being oppressed by the traffic actually encourages people to shop. The problem is how to bring it about. I would certainly join those who oppose any increased use of Ashcombe Road. A road south of the town is the only sensible way but very many people would disagree with me on that. You will not be surprised to hear that like many others, I have no practical solution.

Yours sincerely

J K TODD

5 September 2002 Calvert Road, Dorking

(Can anyone offer a feasible plan for diverting the A25 [east-west and west-east] through traffic away from the increasingly-congested High Street and the Vincent Lane/West Street one-way system? Editor)

Dear Sir,

Housing and the Green Belt

Our Chairman pursues an interesting line of thought in his article on this subject in the July Newsletter, and he seeks reactions.

I for one would agree that we should consider releasing Green Belt land to Housing Associations if this offers a way of providing "affordable" homes in the South East. As to his third question - my instinct is that a (relatively) large number of small sites is to be preferred to large conglomerates; and that they must be at the edge of existing townships, or have good public transport, if they are to provide a realistic living for the lower earners Sir Martin has in mind.

One supplementary question: is a Housing Association a "for all time" arrangement? Or are any safeguards necessary to protect the status of such schemes?

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL BENOY

4 August 2002

Tower Hill, Dorking

(Housing Association properties are only for rental. Any 'affordable' housing built for sale is only 'affordable' for the first owner since it will subsequently change hands at the market rate. Editor)

Dear Sir,

I have just read your excellent article in the DDPS *Newsletter*, which I see covers much of the same argument as my letter of today's date to the *Dorking Advertiser*. I would like to support your editorial and the call for any action to limit the growth of traffic in Dorking.

Yours sincerely

JAN ELIAS

The Desk Shop, West Street,
Dorking

23 July 2002

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
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	Dean House Farm, Church Rd, Newdigate, RH5 5DL	631 773	Window frame restorers
Browns of Dorking	182 High Street, RH4 1QR	881 212	Coffee shop
Bullimores	Old Printers Yard, 156 South Street, RH4 2HF	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 4BY	886 917	Golf club
Downs	156 High Street, RH4 1BQ	880 110	Solicitors and notaries
Downsman Ltd	Overdene, Paper Mews, RH4 2TU	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	BPA House, High Street, 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	Ranmore House, 19 Ranmore Road, RH4 1HE	884 208	Chartered accountants
Omya UK Ltd	Curtis Road, RH4 1XA	886 688	Mineral extraction
Patrick Gardner & Co	16 South Street, RH4 2HL	877 775	Estate agents
Priory School, The	West Bank, RH4 3DG	887 337	School
RGP	21 Monks Court, Monks Walk, Reigate, RH2 0SR	01737 243 980	Public relations
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 Services Ltd	Holmwood Farm Court, North Holmwood, RH5 4JR	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
Wyevale Country Gardens	Reigate Road, RH4 1NP	884 845	Garden Centre

OTHER CORPORATE MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE SOCIETY:

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

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NEWSLETTER No. 33

The wood, the enchanted wood, a haunt that all dogs love—
 Where gracious trees grow tall and strong to meet the sky above.
 The song of birds and insects hum, the murmur of a stream.
 In spring the bluebells clothe the ground to make a scented dream
 Where rampant bracken mingles with the flowers and whispering grass
 And holds within its curling fronds the dew, like drops of glass.
 Rabbits, deer and fox alike seek their refuge here—
 For in its large and tranquil heart, the wood shields them from fear—
 When the days of summer pass and winter shows her face—
 And quickly takes the wood itself within her cold embrace—
 She strips the trees of all their leaves, scattering browns and gold
 Till on the ground bright colours glow — a carpet to behold.
 When the spring returns again with warm caressing hand,
 To heal the scars that winter left upon the ravaged land.
 The wood that was in winter bare, now turns to softest green
 With pastel shades to please the eye, so delicate and clean.
 Through the seasons' changing moods, the wood remains a real place—
 Where one may stroll in solitude, away from life's mad race—
 And listen to the silence there and breathe the woodland air—
 For these are golden moments, for which we should have care—

THE WOOD

Jensifer Huber

