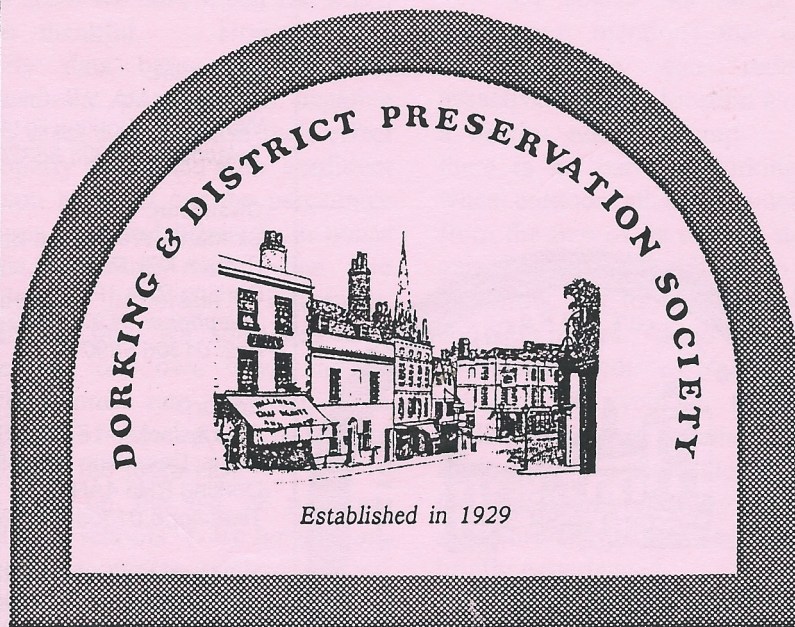


NEWSLETTER

of the Dorking & District Preservation Society

No. 35

July 2003



Registered Charity 246806

NEWSLETTER

of the Dorking & District Preservation Society

Contents

Editorial	1
Chairman's Report	3
News & Views	7
Annual General Meeting Report ..	9
Dorking - A Town of Issues	10
Planning Matters	13
Local History Group	14
Museum	7 & 15



Registered Charity 246806

Published each April, July and November.

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

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

President:

Brian Carr MA, Westmount, Ridge-Way Road, Dorking RH4 3AT
Telephone: 01306 883208

Chairman:

Sir Martin Wedgwood Bt.,
Pixham Mill, Pixham Lane,
Dorking RH4 1PQ
Telephone: 01306 889941
Fax: 01306 889010

Editor:

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

Membership/Subscription

Peter Parkin, 2 Purbrook,
Pixham Lane, Dorking RH4 1PH
Telephone: 01306 881111

editorial

As summer grass and weeds shoot up behind the anti-vandal fences around the doomed villas along Reigate Road and Deepdene Avenue; and as outsiders from the East and the West who motor daily into Dorking fill the columns of *The Dorking Advertiser* with reactions to the closure of what the Editor so tactfully calls "this convenient link road" (Pixham Lane), or complain about the difficulty of finding free parking in our residential roads, let us turn to contemplate our good fortune.

Having read about a recent report on residential locations, it would seem we have much for which to be thankful. Hometrack, a property data base company, has reviewed the positive and negative factors most significant in their effect on property values and with confident precision have set out the percentage additions to or reductions from house prices associated with what are considered important influences. Looking at this, we soon began to realise that our own town and its hinterland must rate very highly in any list of desirable residential locations in the south-east.

High on the list of pros are "good state schools" (- *we have them*), convenient access to well-served rail stations (- *we have two, serving all*

four points of the compass), access to motorways at a "discreet distance" (- *tick again*) and also proximity to "open countryside" (- *we have that in abundance and it is protected from undesirable development*). There is more. Other positive factors cited include restaurants (- *we have almost a surfeit of these, offering dishes from many countries*), "quality foodstores such as Waitrose and Marks & Spencer" are considered a valuable asset (- *we have both*) and lastly, "pleasant leisure facilities, cinemas and entertainment" (- *these we have, or will shortly have*).

Of course not all is perfect. The report mentions that road and aircraft noise can reduce the attractiveness of a location as much as a nearby rubbish dump. Already there is no part of Dorking where, when outdoors, there is much respite from the row of jet aircraft striving to gain height or "holding" to land at Heathrow, not to mention helicopters and light planes. Road traffic noise is constantly with us, also like the aircraft, the vehicle exhausts are fouling the air we breathe. Now and again there is a short interval in which the silence and relatively clean air our ancestors enjoyed all day long can be briefly experienced.

Two characteristics of our town

receive no special mention in the Hometrack report yet both are positive contributors to its desirability as a residential location. And both are candidates for vigilance by societies such as ours.

Although we have little or no urban architecture of particular merit, the older buildings that miraculously survive are worthy of protection. When walking along the High Street, West Street or South Street, if we raise our eyes to look above ground floor level, we can enjoy the great variety of honest vernacular styles dating from the 18th and 19th centuries or even earlier. These survive in a form that would render the place still recognisable if those who knew the town in Victorian times could return. Together with the undulating and curved nature of these old streets the building frontages contribute much to the "country market town" feel of the streetscape that is often mentioned. There are a few unsuitable and unremarkable buildings of the 1950-80 period at the eastern end of the High Street or in South Street which stand out so obviously there is no need to name them. Since the town centre is designated as a Conservation Area, there is perhaps little danger of major changes here but it will be necessary to ensure that any rebuilding of the bad teeth be rigorously monitored to ensure it is in keeping with its older neighbours.

Also not discussed in the report is the value of having easy access to

retail centres which are endowed with small specialist shops with a tangible diversity and individuality. This feature was once present in most of the old Home Counties towns and also in the so-called London "villages" like Hampstead, Chelsea, Wimbledon and Richmond. Partly by chance and partly thanks to this Society and the efforts of a few individuals in the last 50 years or so, it remains a characteristic of Dorking town centre, increasingly in peril as small independent shops struggle to keep going under the burden of steeply increased rents and above all of heavy business rates. Some have already closed, giving way to eating places, chain outlets, or the ubiquitous estate agents. Apart from a few shelves in a corner of an antiques emporium, we no longer have any second-hand bookshops in the town centre and the picture postcard dealer in South Street closed his doors some 15 years ago.

It is important then to keep alive the small individual retail outlets, including the antiques specialists so fortuitously grouped together in West Street. We must support any campaign for new legislation aimed at exempting small independent retailers from business rates, or at least at lightening their impact. Otherwise we may all too soon see Dorking made as unattractive to the casual shopper, whether resident or visitor as the majority of small towns around London already are.

Alan A Jackson

Quite by coincidence and without any collusion between us, Simon Matthews' article "Dorking - A Town of Issues", which arrived over a week after the above Editorial was written, makes some similar points on the importance of encouraging small individual outlets. EDITOR

News from the top

Some news points which may be culled from the Minutes and Reports of Society Council and Executive Minutes of 20 February, 13 March and 19 June will be held over until the next issue as the papers did not arrive on the Editor's desk until 13 days after the copy deadline for this issue. This lack of synchronisation is something we hope to put right from the beginning of 2004.

chairman's report

Gatwick again

Members of the Society who were able to attend the AGM in April will remember the discussion that took place about proposals to extend Gatwick Airport, and will have been left in no doubt about the seriously awful effects such extensions would have on Mole Valley. The second edition of the study entitled *The Future Development of Air Transport in the United Kingdom: South East*, published by the Department of Transport, in which these proposals appeared, came out in February this year.

The first edition came out last year. It discussed various possible sites for new runways to serve London, but Gatwick was not

included. The reasons for the omission were not given, although a choice of Gatwick would mean the Government disregarding an undertaking it had made in 1979 that there would be no second runway at Gatwick until 2019. Those of us who are deeply concerned that there should be no further expansion at Gatwick were relieved, but no victory is ever assured until the war is over. Organisations interested in staving off airport development at other sites (Cliffe and Stansted) objected to the absence of Gatwick from the study and complained to the courts, and the Court upheld their complaint. The Department of Transport might have appealed against the Court's decision, but decided instead to comply. The

result was the second edition of the study, to which we are objecting.

In 2000 Heathrow handled 64 million air passengers, representing 460,000 air transport movements, plus 3,000 freight aircraft movements. The corresponding figures for Gatwick, with its single existing runway, were 32 million passengers and 250,000 air transport movements. Three proposals for Gatwick are discussed. The first is for a second close parallel runway (not especially efficient) which would increase capacity to 62 million passengers with 378,000 air transport movements. The second is for a second more widely spaced runway, taking land from the edge of Crawley, which would increase capacity to 83 million passengers with 486,000 air transport movements. The third proposal is the same as the second but with the further addition of yet another runway two miles to the north, which would increase capacity to 115 million passengers with 675,000 air transport movements.

The first proposal would therefore create an airport similar in size to Heathrow today, while the second and the third would exceed it. Gatwick lies sandwiched between Horley and Crawley and the second or third proposals, if adopted, would require the A23 to be realigned further to the south, in a tunnel. The extra runway of the third proposal would lie three kilometres to the north of the existing one, cutting the road running

north out of Charlwood. It would require the removal of most of Stan Hill, an operation that would make the destruction of Twyford Down, outside Winchester, to accommodate the M3, look modest by comparison.

In 1998 the number of people employed at Heathrow, both directly and indirectly, amounted to some 102,000. The corresponding figure for Gatwick was 43,000 (estimated to decline to 38,000 by 2015). But under the first proposal, the number employed at Gatwick is estimated to rise eventually to 53,000, under the second to 70,000 and under the third to 92,000, i.e. an extra 10,000, 27,000 and 49,000 people respectively, creating a demand for an approximately equal number of new housing units, plus all the infrastructure that such a substantial increase in the population of the area would make essential.

The position of Gatwick, wedged between Horley and Crawley to the north and south, with a railway line and a motorway to the east, make it unlikely that it can ever operate efficiently as an enlarged airport, as is demonstrated by the most awkward position proposed for a second new runway. In addition, its expansion would call for massive amounts of new housing in an already highly populated part of England where land is in short supply and land prices among the highest in the country.

Some unpopular planning decisions have never been forgotten.

Among them are the Euston Arch and Twyford Down. The destruction of Stan Hill would be easily in that category. In addition, the abrogation of the undertaking by the Government not to allow a second runway at Gatwick until 2019 would destroy public confidence in its ability to stand by any similar undertakings it sought to make in future.

We trust that our views, as set out in our letter to the Department of Transport, will have some effect in persuading the Department of the unsuitability of Gatwick. A decision to expand Gatwick would destroy Mole Valley as we know it, flooding it with housing, drowning it with traffic and deafening us all with aircraft noise. It must not be allowed to happen.

Waste Disposal and Regional Government

Waste disposal is the Cinderella of problems. Nobody wants to know about it – as long as it happens somewhere else. This makes it a hard problem to handle. As it is so difficult to reach agreement on sites, they tend to be few and far between. This means that the installations tend to be very large – which makes them even more unpopular, and so on.

District councils, county councils and central government all have a role to play in the collection and treatment of waste. Government establishes the criteria that all local

authorities, hitherto usually the counties, have to observe in drawing up their Waste Local Plans, and these in their turn establish the basis, or should do, on which sites for waste installations are chosen. Now there is a further complication. We are now also going to have Regional Assemblies. Our own, to be called the South-East of England Regional Assembly, or SEERA, comprises the counties of Kent, Surrey, East and West Sussex, Hampshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and thus runs all the way from Dover to Southampton to Milton Keynes. Its centre of gravity is, however, Guildford. The assembly has as yet no elected members, but there is a kind of pre-assembly of indirectly appointed people who meet to debate issues, and a growing battalion of public servants, some of whom have published a Consultation Draft of a Regional Waste Management Strategy. On 25 April Derek Rowbotham and I attended a one-day seminar in Guildford in which this document was discussed, and subsequently submitted our comments, which ran to six pages of typescript.

At a time when technological improvements are beginning to make it possible for old-fashioned incinerators to be replaced by higher-temperature, cleaner, smaller installations that produce electricity or heat for nearby housing and the Government in consequence has

announced a moratorium on the construction of old-style incinerators, we were glad to see that the draft referred frequently to 'Energy-from-Waste plants' and not once to incinerators, although we believe that old-style incinerators are not likely to be superseded completely.

Our principal concerns with the document were the following:

- When reference was made to landfill sites and waste management facilities it was never made clear whether these are two separate categories or whether the latter includes the former. It should be clear that these are two different concepts. It has hitherto been generally understood that landfill sites, once full, should be returned to agriculture or, if that is not possible, to nature. But because of the difficulty of identifying acceptable waste management sites there has grown up with some authorities the idea that landfill sites, being already waste management sites', are prime candidates, once full, for other waste management uses. We asked that the Strategy should contain a reference to the unsuitability of landfill sites for conversion to other waste management uses. Obviously, we were thinking of the site of the proposed incinerator at Capel.
- We felt that waste minimisation, which was discussed at some length in the draft, would not

come about without central Government legislation on subjects such as plastic bags, bottles, the wrapping of food, packaging that is either unnecessarily bulky or includes combinations of materials that have to be sorted separately, and on the responsibility of manufacturers and importers for the disposal of toxic waste arising from material they have made or imported, etc. We argued that reference to the need for such legislation should be included in the eventual Strategy as a means of maintaining the pressure on Government to do its bit to help.

- One of the proposed policies in the draft indicated that it might be acceptable to take land from the Green Belt for waste management purposes. One sentence, however, in the text read: "When facilities are proven to be required in sensitive locations, there must be rigorous testing to identify suitable sites." We asked that this sentence be given maximum weight by being placed in the wording of the actual Policy itself and that the supporting text should then list the criteria that would have to be met, making them as rigorous as possible.
- The draft made it clear that the proper place for identifying sites for waste processing facilities lay in the development of local waste plans, which we were glad to

note, given our recent experience in Surrey. The draft, however, listed but did not prioritise criteria for identifying sites for waste management facilities. We argued for the adoption of a rigorous, sequential procedure for site identification, with explanations given for every site selected to show how the decision had been arrived at by this method. There would at least be more

chance of public acceptance of the eventual decision, if this procedure was adopted and the steps in the decision shown.

Britain is not a poor country but we are short of space, and rubbish every year becomes a worse problem. It is worth remembering that, for the human race as a whole, if we cannot manage our rubbish, we have in the end no future at all. That is how important this subject is.

Martin Wedgwood

news & views

Dorking Museum

Mrs Bette Phillips has been very active in seeking a new home for the Dorking & District Museum in a location which will be more readily noticed by the passer-by, especially visitors to the town, and will also provide more space for displaying and studying the exhibits. As we go to press, an exciting prospect has emerged in West Street and an offer has been made. More news next time. (See p.15 for full *Museum Report*)

The Society meets the public

On 31 May Society officers manned an exhibition at the Farmers' Market in St Martin's Walk to bring the big issues currently confronting the Dorking area to the notice of Saturday shoppers. The possibility and implications of building more runway capacity at Gatwick Airport, the Capel incinerator proposal and the Sainsbury store proposed for the St Martin's Walk area were all portrayed and discussed with those visiting the Market. Nine new members were recruited. It is hoped to make this a regular event and volunteers are welcomed - please telephone Peter Parkin at (01306) 881111.

Aircraft noise in night hours

The annual average of night flights at Gatwick Airport (45 per night) is higher than that at Stansted (33) or Heathrow (16). It has recently been discovered that the disturbance caused by night flights has been underestimated by officials and the European Court of Human Rights has awarded £4,000 each to residents under the Heathrow flight path who claimed that night flights had breached their human rights by depriving them of a good night's sleep. This disturbance is of course greater in the summer months when there are more night flights carrying holiday passengers. At night, aircraft noise is accentuated by the lower level of road traffic noise.

Are new runways needed at Gatwick (or anywhere else)?

The Institute for Public Policy Research has published a report that argues against the pressure for new runways around London. It suggests they would encourage more trips overseas at the cost of the UK holiday industry and concludes the rising demand for air travel (of which 75 per cent is for leisure purposes) should be checked by a new environment tax on flights, aimed at reducing dangerous emissions. It is pointed out that

whilst only £11bn is spent by foreign visitors to the UK, £25bn is the corresponding figure for Britons holidaying outside the UK – a substantial trade deficit.

Further runways in the south east of England would add to air congestion and skills shortages already affecting the South-East.

Royal view on Gatwick 45 years ago

“Gatwick has had to encroach upon England's diminishing countryside and is also awkwardly close to the new town of Crawley. I sympathise with all those whose lives are going to be affected by this airport.....” – HM The Queen when opening the single runway Gatwick Airport in June 1958.

An anarchist in our midst

Not all Dorking's graffiti 'artists' are immature juvenile exhibitionists. The old wall that divides the back of the Deepdene Gardens houses from the footpath between Moores Road and Deepdene Avenue currently exhibits some childish scribbling but also, in neatly formed capitals, the old political slogan ANARCHY IS FREEDOM. Elsewhere, on the surface of the same path, is an equally neat “A” (for Anarchy) in yellow, set within a circle and drawn by the same hand.

Annual General Meeting 2003

This was held, as is now usual, in the United Reformed Church Hall, West Street, with a very satisfactory attendance, including Sir Paul Beresford MP (Con). The business part of the evening was despatched with the customary celerity. Despite his recent indisposition, Brian Carr gallantly announced that he was prepared to serve as President for another year but at present was understandably hesitant about going beyond that.

Apart from Derek Rowbotham, Christine Thom, Sarah Hawkes, Simon Matthews and Ed White, who were elected as Vice Chairman, Secretary, Council member, Publicity Officer and Treasurer respectively, all other officers were confirmed in their posts for 2003-4, no other nominations having been received. The retiring Vice Chairman, Barry Collins, and Treasurer, Michael Forster, were duly confirmed as Vice Presidents, bringing this select group up to a total of seven.

Somewhat surprisingly, in view of its origins, this Hall has very poor acoustics, rendering it impossible for anyone but practised orators, preachers or professional actors in full voice to be heard clearly, even in the front three rows. Those of us who suffer from the insidious creeping

deafness associated with advancing years will certainly welcome the microphones promised for future meetings of the Society in this location.

Refreshments were prepared for the last time by Debbie Jones, who received a bouquet from the Chairman in recognition of her sterling services at a time of personal difficulty. Afterwards, Peter Mills, the Mole Valley Council's Conservation Officer, presented a well-illustrated talk on the buildings he is required to identify and advise upon. He explained that the well-known “lists” include only those properties acceptable to government as “of special architectural or historical importance”, classified as Grades I, II* or II to indicate their relative importance; once listed, they may not be demolished or altered without the consent of the local planning authority (Mole Valley District Council) and repairs to them may qualify for grants or loans from local or central government. Buildings of the post World War II decades are now eligible for listing. In addition to listed buildings, groups of buildings or parts of towns and villages may now enjoy protection as a Conservation Area and once this is agreed, the planning authority has a duty to safeguard its quality and character. Central and local government can make grants to owners for repairs even if the building seen on its own is

not individually remarkable. Grants can also be given for paving, landscaping or reinstatement of railings.

Dorking – a town of issues

In the last issue I gave readers an overview of how small town retailing has changed in recent times. Here I hope to give you a brief insight into how 'town management' aims to keep Dorking a vibrant, vital and most importantly a viable town. Firstly it would be useful to establish a key fact – Dorking as a town and surrounding villages has insufficient population size to support the 275 shop units (retail, catering and office) that currently trade in High Street, South Street & West Street.

This surprising fact is not because our population has fallen in recent times, but because we now spend our money in more diverse ways and over a much wider area. Study pictures of Dorking from the 1900's through to the 1960's and note the huge variety of retailers that traded from the town. Correlate this with the mobility of the population and you will find that most people had to shop locally, as they did not possess any form of personal transport, therefore Dorking town was by default their main place to shop.

In Dorking the centre of the town is a Conservation Area, enjoying this protection.

Compare this with modern shopping, where Guildford and Kingston are less than an hour away and competing local towns of Reigate and Horsham are less than half an hour away. A new threat becoming much more noticeable, is the infinite world of internet shopping, just a few 'clicks' away. A chart CD can now be ordered from CD-Wow in Hong Kong for £5 below the UK price and be delivered to your door, post free in two working days! How does High Street music retailer 'Sanity' (formerly 'Our Price') compete with this type of retailer?

With such stiff competition how does a historic, open-air i.e. weather vulnerable, shopping town such as Dorking look to survive this retail revolution? In a nutshell – by being distinctive! Offering something that you can't find in the standard 'identikit' High Streets found across the UK. By offering a unique shopping experience in surroundings that are genuinely historic and well preserved. By offering standards of service that people remember and want to come back to and experience again. These attributes are as a rule mainly found within the independent sector, where the business owner is

actively involved in the running of their business. Dorking, although having its share of national multiples, has a growing percentage of independent traders whose individuality stands them apart from the normal High Street names.

Town Management is actively encouraging these businesses to locate in Dorking. As the normal cycle of retail vacancies unfolds, new businesses start up and try to carve a niche in the market. Some do fail as with many new ventures, although many do succeed, often moving to larger premises or expanding into other nearby towns. Recent success stories such as the excellent *Vineyard* wine merchant in South Street, *Chimes* in St Martin's Walk, who have just opened their second outlet in Leatherhead and *Bonita* who has moved to larger premises in West Street, prove that the right business formula can succeed in Dorking. We have also seen some regrettable casualties in recent months, although new businesses are already filling the spaces they vacated. Natural selection is alive and kicking in the retail world!

Going back to my core fact that Dorking and surrounding villages are too small to support the town, town management has been active in promoting Dorking to the ever growing and potentially lucrative visitor and tourism markets. The

incredibly successful *Discover Dorking* booklet and supporting website visitdorking.com have been held up as a 'best practice' example of how to market a small town. With inbound foreign tourism numbers much diminished by world events, the tapping of our local home market is essential to boost our retail and visitor economy. Much is still to be done; the potential of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is still largely untapped. This summer a promotion by South Central Trains will put Dorking and the Surrey Hills in front of potentially 400,000 readers of its summer guide, distributed throughout London and the south-east.

Dorking does have a great future in servicing the local community, yet also appealing to the visitor and tourist, who can provide some essential top-up business to our retailers. We will continue to see some unusual shops opening in the town and still not see some of the old-fashioned shops that we would like to see! We cannot genetically engineer the town, but we can support it and see it survive. If you have any feedback on my views please email me at town.manager@visitdorking.com or fax me on 01306-742359.

Simon Matthews

[Simon Matthews is Dorking's Town Manager, responsible for the economic vitality and viability of the town. He is also the Society's Publicity Officer.]

Best Development Competition

Leaflets were sent out to all local architects and to the owners or agents of all developments completed before 31 March 2003. We also have had more requests for leaflets than in previous years, suggesting that the fame of the competition is spreading.

So far we have received ten entries and we anticipate receiving a few more before the closing date of the end of June. Judging will take place over the summer. At the moment we are busy fixing a date for visiting the entered properties that is convenient for all the judges.

Peter and Sarah Hawkes

Heritage Open Days

We have just over 60 events taking part in Heritage Open Days, which is slightly fewer than last year. The opening event, on Friday 12 September, will be an illustrated talk by

Society member Derek Forss about famous people associated with places in Mole Valley. This talk will be at St Mary's Fetcham with (free!) refreshments afterwards at the splendid Fetcham Park House (Council members might like to make a note in their diaries to book for this!)

We are in the final throes of compiling the brochure which we hope will be printed by mid July. The proposed date for opening of bookings is 25 July. 12,000 brochures will be printed and will be available at Dorking Halls, libraries, MVDC Offices as well as at other shops etc throughout the Mole Valley DC area. We hope that publicity will be even better than last year, partly as Barry Collins (of DDPS) has gathered together the full details of all parish magazine and local publication editors along with their copy dates.

As well as many properties being open, there are to be several exhibitions, talks, walks and quizzes.

Richard Hughes and Hilary Porter have both joined the organising committee. I continue to be indebted to all of the organising committee for their contributions but in particular to Rod Shaw of Mole Valley DC Planning Department.

Sarah Hawkes

Planning matters

The Committee have sent off a flurry of letters over the past month commenting upon a wide range of Applications. Most important of these must be our objection to the demolition of **Nower Lodge School** in the Coldharbour Lane Conservation area to build a development of undistinguished houses.

Coming fast on the heels of this came an Application for a **helicopter pad and associated hangar in a field next to Fredley Manor**, just off the A24 at Mickleham. This field has been used for centuries for agriculture and we felt that to place an industrial type building upon it would be at odds with the general ambience of the area and be entirely inappropriate. In our letter objecting to the application, we quoted four policies from the Local Plan to lend weight to our objection.

A proposed extension to **St Joseph's RC Primary School, Dorking** prompted another letter. In it, we requested that every effort be made to using matching – maybe recycled – bricks and tiles, as well as ensuring that the mortar is treated to match that on the existing building. This has been approved with, hopefully, our recommendations incorporated.

“At last! Some exciting architecture.” This was the opening line

of a letter we sent to MVDC about two beautifully designed **contemporary houses planned for Weare Street, Capel**. Not only would they be environmentally sound – one would use wind turbine generated power, the other a Photo-Voltaic system. Both would use rainwater and recycled waste water for all non-potable purposes and are super-insulated. All this combined with their sheer good looks, prompted us to highly recommend their approval.

We also visited a proposed **conversion of an old barn at a farm in Beare Green into living accommodation**. The barn itself is quite old – late 18th, early 19th century – but over the years has been ‘messed around with’ and is in a bad state of repair. We feel that the conversion, which will retain the overall ‘look’ of the barn, would be an improvement and are minded not to object. We are, however, suggesting alternatives for some of the proposed Velux windows in the roof, more in keeping with the period aspect of the building.

A **proposed loft extension at Box Hill Station** caught our eye, mainly because of the large number of Velux windows planned for the roof. We discussed this with Conservation Officer Peter Mills, who will be asking the applicant to reduce the number to three.

We are also awaiting a report from a Case Officer about an application to **demolish a greenhouse**

and part demolish a barn at Cloudshell Farm in Leigh, to build a residential building. We are concerned that the greenhouse may be

Victorian and could be conserved. There are quite a few of these in the County, along with Orangeries, that could be restored.

Hank Etheridge

local history group

Following the Annual General Meeting, the new 'slimline' Committee met in April, when John Coombes was co-opted. All the Committee members have been 'recycled', including the Chairman! Finding 'new blood' is a recurring problem as is thinking up new topics for speakers and new venues for outings. However, the membership remains satisfactory at 241 (153 paid up) and meetings are still well attended. The first of these in the current programme was a Members' Evening, when the topic was Maps. This proved popular and we are encouraged to propose similar informal meetings in future. We may also 'recycle' some earlier speakers and outings for the benefit of newer members.

The Summer Outing on 12 July, organized by Katie Mackay, will be to Lewes and will include visits to Anne of Cleves House Museum and to Lewes Castle.

The annual Symposium of the

Surrey History Committee (formerly Council) is to be held in Chertsey on 12 November 2003. The theme will be *Surrey Historians* and the group intend submitting a display, which will include information on historians with Dorking connections such as John Timbs, H E Malden and the amateur historian, A H Lyne. The Symposium is always well organized and well worthwhile. It would be good if more 'Dorkingites' were present to support the Local History Group. (For booking information please see our Autumn Newsletter.)

Vivien Ettlinger has agreed to be our Editor in place of Brian Overell who has sadly retired because of ill health. We thank him for the great contribution he has made to the success of our publications and wish him well. Vivien would be pleased to receive contributions, however small, for the next edition of *Dorking History*. Her address is 'Royden Cottage', Cliftonville, Dorking RH4 2JF.

Mary Day

membership

We currently have 816 members and 53 Corporate members.

We regret to report the deaths of the following Members –

Mrs M Moore, St Paul's Road East, Dorking

Mr D Wrigglesworth, Westcott

Miss Gladys Arlett, Canterbury Court, Dorking (see obituary in our last issue)

Miss J H Senior, St Martin's Mews, Dorking

Mr D F Bland, Ridgeway Close, Dorking

Mrs A S Sayer, Canterbury Court, Dorking

Mr S D Robertson, Swan Mill Gardens, Dorking

These Members have moved away from the area –

Mr & Mrs J Thompson, Abinger Common

Mr P Treharne, Ridgeway Road, Dorking

We welcome the following New Members –

Mr & Mrs T Greenwood, West Bank, Dorking

Mr M Gibson, Old School Lane, Brockham

Miss E Henwood, Rothes Road, Dorking

Miss K Atherton, Mid-Holmwood

Mr & Mrs D P Ladell, Tadworth

Mr P Davies, North Street, Dorking

Mrs S Saville, Martineau Drive, Dorking

Miss J Stoner, Harrow Road West, Dorking

Mr & Mrs C W Crossman, Harrow Road East, Dorking

Mr G Cox, Newdigate

Mr T Taylor, Downsview Gardens, Dorking

If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2003, please forward it to me (address on inside cover).

Peter Parker

museum report

In April, the Museum was visited by 30 children from St Martin's School and ten members of the Dorking Library staff (to whom Mary Turner explained how our archives are kept).

In May, Professor Selley, a Deepdene resident, brought twelve members of the Mole Valley Geological Society to see our collection of fossils; two classes of 24 children came from

Powell Corderoy School and we were also visited by a party from the Merton Historical Society.

Our first booking for the new Learning Pack *Dorking in Wartime* went to Powell Corderoy Key Stage 2 pupils (9-10 year olds). This was a great success and 12 other schools have now been advised of its availability.

I attended a meeting of representatives of Surrey Museums at Elmbridge Museum in May, thanks to MVDC agreement to renewal of the joining fee. This is a most useful forum where common problems are discussed and best practice passed on. It was invaluable when we initiated

Learning Packs.

Robin Wade, who has been involved in many of the most prestigious and successful museum designs in this country and abroad, is being asked to do a feasibility study in connection with a new site for the Museum.

Any grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund will be dependent on our meeting new (2004) regulations for Access for the Disabled when we acquire new premises.

We have agreed to take part in the Surrey Finds Day when members of the public will be invited to bring their finds to the Museum for inspection by David Williams of the SCC.

Bette Phillips

Accessions

Recent accessions include –

- Postmaster's stamp from Dorking Post Office.
- Ronson "Venetian" table cigarette lighter, made in the Leatherhead factory. Since many Dorking people worked for Ronson, it was accepted into the Museum's collection.
- "Ever Ready" pocket torch, purchased in Dorking in 1962 for 3s 9d.
- Miniature souvenir album of Dorking views with the enamel cover.
- Ivory satin wedding dress from the 1940s, with matching headdress and net veil and a white organdie collar with lace edges.
- Metal and glass oil lantern, reputedly one of several hung outside Lyne House, Capel, by the Broadwood family to celebrate the victory at the battle of Waterloo.

Fred Plant
Curator

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, telephone number	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 Estate, 278/280 High Street, RH4 1QT (740 837)	Valuers, surveyors & property managers
Broadheath Restorations, Dean House Farm, Church Road, Newdigate, RH5 5DL (631 773)	Window frame restorers
Browns of Dorking, 182 High Street, RH4 1QR (881 212)	Coffee shop
Bullimore's, 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, Vincent 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 (887 023)	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
Grossé UK Ltd, BPA House, High Street, RH4 1JL (743 333)	Wholesale costume jewellers
Hammond Concrete Testing & Services, PO Box 75, 2 Cedar Close, RH4 2YX (887 854)	Concrete contractor
Hart Scales & Hodges, 159 High Street, RH4 1AD (884 432)	Solicitors
Hulsta Studio, 120 South Street, RH4 2EU (880 330)	Contemporary furniture specialists
International Sports Marketing Ltd, Bales Court, Barrington Road, RH4 3EJ (743 322)	Marketing consultants
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)	Minteral extraction
Patrick Gardner & Co, 16 South Street, RH4 2HL (887 775)	Estate agents
Priory School, The, West Bank, RH4 3DG (887 337)	School
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 Road, 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 King's 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

Continued overleaf

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
Whitelegg Machines Ltd, Fir Tree House, Horsham Road, Beare Green,
RH5 4LQ (713 200) Electrical engineers
Wyevale Country Gardens, Reigate Road, RH5 1NP (884 845)... .. Garden centre

OTHER CORPORATE MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE SOCIETY

Abinger Parish Council
Amis de Gouvieux, Les
Betchworth Parish Council
Brockham Green Village Society
Buckland Parish Council
Capel Parish Council
Charlwood Parish Council
Coldharbour Sports and Social Club
Friends of Box Hill

Friends of Boxhill
Headley Parish Council
Holmwood Parish Council
Mickleham Parish Council
Newdigate Parish Council
Ockley Parish Council
Westcott Village Association
Wotton Parish Council

Published by the
DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Hon Secretary:

Mrs Christine Thom, New House, Capel Leyse, Moorhurst Lane, Holmwood,
Dorking RH5 4LJ. *Tel:* 01306-712044 *E-mail:* christinethom@clara.co.uk