

NEWSLETTER

of the Dorking & District Preservation Society

No. 46

Spring 2007

DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY



Established in 1929

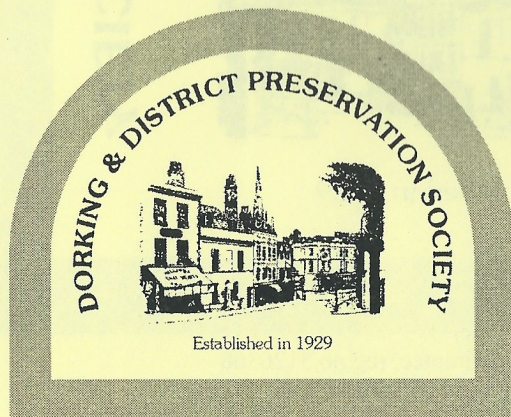
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editorial

Alan Jackson will be a hard act
to follow. I shall do my best to
maintain the high standard he
set for this journal.

Further on in this Newslet-
ter, there is a fuller appreciation
of the great service Alan has
given the Society, so I shall
confine my comments to "Thank
you, Alan", but not forgetting
the hard work done by Rachel
Farndon in typesetting and
artwork over the years.

I must admit, I volunteered
for this job on the understanding
that it is on a temporary basis –
we still need a full-time editor.
Any volunteers?

In the meanwhile, as all
editors do, I shall attempt to put
my own stamp on this publica-
tion during my editorship.

Because of the vital impor-
tance to all of us, we have, over
the past months, tended to
concentrate rather heavily on
the planning side of our remit.

Although I shall still carry
on emphasising the problems
which government regulation in
this sphere may impose on us, I
want to include to a much
greater degree the good work
being done by other members of
the Society's Council.

To this end, I have planned
for a permanent contribution
each issue on the work and
exhibits of the Museum, the
work of the local History Group,
countryside matters and all the
other aspects of our responsibili-
ties.

To give you some idea of my
background, here is a very brief
CV. For the past 54 years I
have been on the creative side of
advertising, marketing and
publishing, both in this country
and the USA. I am also poacher
and gamekeeper, in as far as I
am involved in Planning as well
as working as an illustrator with
developers – it gives me some
useful insights working on your
behalf as Chair of the Planning
Committee. The phrase 'While
my left foot is cracking walnuts'
seems appropriate here.



*Hank Etheridge
Editor locum*

chairman's report

The Museum building is ours!

We have, at last, exchanged contracts with Mole Valley District Council for the transfer of the freehold of the Dorking & District Museum to ourselves.

It has been a long, drawn-out process. The Council agreed to sell us the premises in November 2005. There followed seven months during which the exact details of the transfer were agreed. Affairs were put into the hands of our respective solicitors in June last year, and now after nine more months we are there.

What we are acquiring:

- (i) The three buildings the Museum currently occupy, i.e. the Library building, the main Museum building and the space housing the toilet at the back of No.62a, West Street;
- (ii) The approximately rectangular space between the two main buildings; and ...
- (iii) The alleyway between No.'s 61 & 62a, West Street, that provides pedestrian access to the Museum from the road.

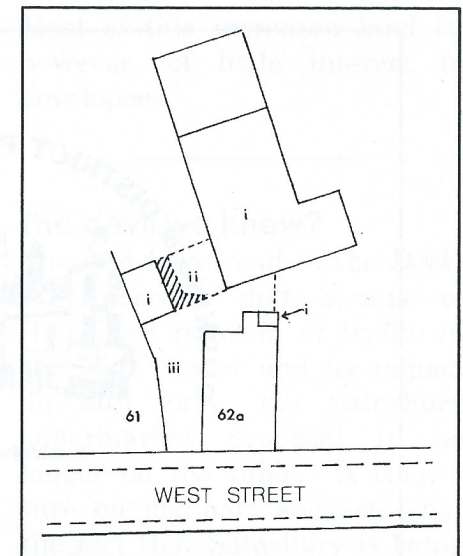
Our plan is to replace the entire Museum, except for the façade of the Library Building, which is what you principally see when passing along West Street. At present, as you know, only the Library Building is built to two storeys. We hope to receive a grant big enough to rebuild the whole of (i) and (ii) opposite (except the toilet!) to three storeys, with the only proviso that a passageway no less than two metres in width should be allowed through the building at ground level, to allow the other tenants of the Old Foundry site to continue to have pedestrian access to and from West Street.

The alleyway connecting the Museum to West Street is not to be built upon, but we were keen to include it in the ground we have bought, so that it would be under our control. Since it would otherwise have become a disconnected piece of land owned by Mole Valley, they were quite happy to include it in the sale at no extra cost.

I have been reporting in previous newsletters on our progress in negotiations with Mole Valley and on our other activities in connection with the projected new Museum, so I do not need to recapitulate in de-

tail. Stage One of our application for a Heritage Lottery Fund is proving a much bigger task than we expected and is still in preparation, but should be ready soon. Our architects, Cullum & Nightingale, have completed all of the preliminary work up to the level required for Stage One. I have asked their senior partner, Richard Nightingale, to come and talk to us about his firm's plans at our April meeting immediately following the AGM. I do hope that as many members as possible can join us. It should be of real interest to us all.

Remember: all architect's plans can be altered. So if you have ideas, let us know them.



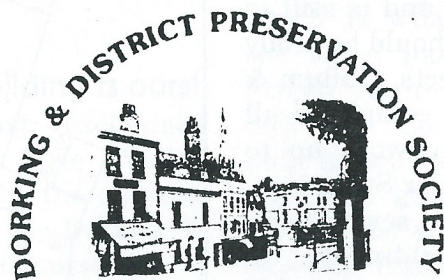
Key

- i* current Museum buildings
- ii* space between the two main buildings
- iii* alleyway connecting the Museum to West Street.

NB: The hatched area shows the pedestrian passageway through the proposed building at ground level.



Sir Martin signs the contract giving the Society the freehold of the Museum



Established in 1929

The Annual General Meeting of the Society
will take place on

Thursday 19 April 2007 at 7.30 pm
in the United Reformed Church Hall

After the formal meeting there will be
an interval for tea and biscuits

followed by an illustrated talk by

Richard Nighingale, Senior Partner of
Cullum & Nightingale, architects

on

The New Dorking & District Museum

news&views

Something to crow about

In France, the Cockerel is a symbol of publicity. As our cockerel is now a *fait accompli* I wondered why no PR exercise had been undertaken to publicise our cockerel and Dorking via County; Local and National Newspapers and TV. I am told that Local Radio will be featuring Dorking soon so, hopefully, they may comment. We have the statue, let's crow about it.

Playing with numbers

The Green Belt continues to shrink, notwithstanding John Prescott's pledge that it would be expanded – a pledge repeated by successive ministers including Ruth Kelly. In the South East, the green belt has shrunk by 116,140 acres – some of it re-designated as part of the New Forest National Park. Discount this, and the loss is still 553 acres. Because nationwide government has extended protection to large tracts of land in Yorkshire, Humberside and the South West, they can cook the figures to show that they have **increased** the Green Belt.

Most of this increased land is, however, of little interest to developers.

The devil we knew?

You will have read in the *Dorking Advertiser* that, because of the vexed problem of traffic in the High Street and its impact on Mill Lane, the Sainsbury supermarket proposal is no longer on the table. A conjecture on my part suggests that the fact that Sainsbury is being stalked by a 'Buy-Out' consortium may also have been a factor.

Thornfield, who own the site, will, without doubt, still want to develop it. They, along with MVDC, who also have a vested interest, will be looking at other plans to build something. Any plans for another, large, retail outlet will be faced with the same logistical problem of traffic. If a housing development is conceived, it will still have the same stumbling block to navigate. We may end up with something worse than a supermarket – who knows?

Dorking desperately needs something to attract more visitors and shoppers to combat the

growing popularity of Reigate and Leatherhead.

The Society have a close working relationship with planners at Mole Valley, so will be watching developments as they arise.

If you want to sell your house after June – get Hip

No, this is not a Rock 'n Roll headline, but a reminder that future house sales will have to be accompanied by a 'Home Information Pack' incorporating a whole slew of facts about your home. These must include copies of planning, listed building and building regulation consents, guarantees for all work carried out on the property, standard searches for water supply and drainage and an Energy Performance Certificate, to name but a few of the required documents. The pack must also contain evidence that you actually own the property ... and so the list goes on.

In my opinion – and I stress my opinion – this is yet another way of leeching money from hard-pressed home owners to add to inheritance tax and council tax. Those profiting from this bureaucracy will be only the

'specialist' companies and individuals undertaking the necessary research on your behalf: it will cost a lot of money.

This year's Best Development Competition

As you already know, or should by now, the Society, along with *The Dorking Advertiser* and Mole Valley District Council, organise a 'Best Development Competition' which is now in its eighteenth year. Prizes will be awarded for new or converted buildings, including extensions, which were completed before March 31st, 2006.

If you know of any property eligible for entry in the competition, please telephone Sarah Hawkes on: 01306 883699, who will be delighted to send you a leaflet.

The Award Presentations will be made at the Society's Autumn meeting.

Keeping up with the times

Those readers amongst you who have access to the Internet can now download this Newsletter at www.ddps.org.uk.

If you are able, and would like to, please telephone or

Email Peter Parkin on: 01306 881111 or: pcep@mac.com, and let him know that you would like to access the Newsletter on-line in future.

English Heritage – also keeping up with the times

English Heritage – established to "Protect and promote England's spectacular historic environment..." – is rethinking its remit. Basically, its proposals acknowledge that change is inevitable and therefore must respond to social, economic and technological advances:

places must remain authentic, embodying the 'historic values' attached to them, by defining what matters about a place and then building on that, making changes to add authenticity if need be;

in some cases, intervention which results in only limited harm may be justified if it helps to preserve an historic building for the future.

The above examples outline only a small part of English Heritage's proposals, which can be read in full on their website: www.english-heritage.org.uk.

A new President for Society

Adrian White DL, prominent Dorking businessman, has agreed to become President of the Dorking & District Society. He succeeds Baroness Thomas of Walliswood OBE, who has moved out of the area.

Untidy footpaths

A member of the Society complained to the Executive about the state of the footpath running behind the Linden Homes development on Deepdene. A call was made to MVDC, and a 'Hit Squad' was sent to clean it up that same day. At the next Executive meeting, the Planning Chairman was asked to investigate who within MVDC is responsible for keeping footpaths clean and tidy. His investigation revealed that a company called *Cleanaway* is contracted to deal with them, but only the main ones. A list has now been obtained of these contracted footpaths, and has been sent to our Footpaths Officer David Read to identify those not on the contract. When he reports his findings, we shall discuss whether or not we need to set up our own, volunteer 'Hit Squad' for the non-contracted ones.

Alan Jackson

Not only ... but also ...

Alan Jackson has recently retired from the post of Editor of the Preservation Society Newsletter after many years in office, and Martin Wedgwood has paid fitting tribute to his achievements in this role.



But that is not the limit of his work for the DDPS. As Curator of Archives at Dorking Museum and a past Chairman of the Dorking Local History Group, I can bear witness to the vast amount Alan has done for both these important sub-groups of the Society.

From 1985 to 1997 Alan Jackson edited, and often con-

tributed to, the Dorking Local History Group's Newsletter, *Dorking History*. As Editor he was also involved in the many publications produced by the Group during this time. He wrote *Dorking's Railway*, he edited and co-wrote the definitive history, *Dorking, a Surrey Market Town*, and he was co-author, with Doris Mercer, of *The Deepdene, Dorking*.

For 20 years he has been involved with the Museum Archives, until fairly recently helping researchers every Wednesday afternoon. Between visitors he took on the job of card-indexing the 30 or so albums of press cuttings, coming in weekly on a second afternoon to be able to work on it uninterrupted. He next turned his attention to the collection of approximately 4,000 photographs, producing a much-needed card index.

It was during this time that the Museum started to embrace modern technology, albeit in members' homes. Brian Overell and I devised a way of recording as much information as possible from the large collection of Sales Particulars on a computer spreadsheet, and from it producing comprehensive printed indexes. The luxury of a second-

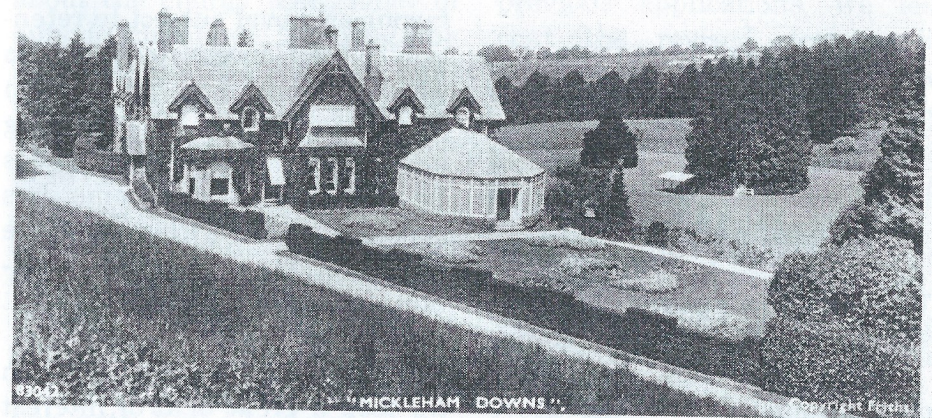
hand machine in the museum coincided with our purchase of the David Knight Photograph Collection. When the time came to index it we decided to use the printed format rather than cards. Alan took on the task of studying each photograph (more than 2,000) and entering information on our now familiar spreadsheet for Brian to convert into full printed indexes. Similar indexes to the postcard collection followed.

Meanwhile, conservation work on the main photograph collection, involving removing many from unsuitable albums and renumbering them, prompted thoughts of a new index. Flushed with previous

success, it was decided to replace the old card index with a computerised version. Alan took on the task of information gathering. By autumn 2006, after four years' hard work, he had worked his way through eight filing cabinet drawers of photos. With the completion of this mammoth task, Alan decided it was time to retire.

The indexes he has worked on for 20 years are indispensable, and I would like to take this opportunity of paying my own personal tribute and giving him my heartfelt thanks. We miss him at our Monday workgroup sessions, especially the stories and jokes around the tea table, and wish him a happy retirement.

Mary Turner



One of the Frith postcards of the (now demolished) Mickleham Downs House from the archives at the Museum

planning report

Since I started writing these reports, my committee and I have embarked on a 'Learning Drive' to get a better understanding of the planning process. We constantly refer to the Local Plan, read 'Planning' magazine and try to keep up with governmental thinking – a difficult task, I assure you. Mole Valley planning decisions are monitored, if not always understood, with councillors sometimes reversing decisions made by the planners and vice versa, plus random elements being introduced from time to time. However, I hope that the reports give you some insight into the sometimes arcane world of planning. Now to the report ...

The last appeal for four houses at Greystones was dismissed, along with the previous appeal for two houses. This means that all the hard work by local residents and the Society paid off. We fully expect another application at some time in the future.

After receiving correspondence from people living above Stubbs Close, Dorking, we wrote to MVDC saying that we ap-

proved the excellent design of a proposed new apartment block on the site, but asked that consideration be given to the concerns of the house owners living above it. The application was approved, but with the condition that every effort be made to answer those concerns. (Overlooking is not a Planning Consideration.)

There was a sharp intake of breath when we saw the application to convert the Royal School of Church Music in Westhumble into apartments, along with some new buildings to the rear of the school. Both Lady Wedgwood and I have been involved with this building, so we looked long and hard at the proposals. After discussions among ourselves and with other interested parties, we decided in favour approval subject to retention of the Concert Room, which was designed for maximum acoustic qualities by a leading member of the National Physics Laboratory. The scheme has been approved, with one of the 20 conditions being the retention of the Concert Room. Hooray for us!

Another application in which we took a great deal of interest was for the conversion of the listed Little Dudley House in

South Street, Dorking. A one-time pizza parlour, the plan is to renovate it into an upmarket restaurant. One cold, bleak, morning my committee and I turned up at the site and were shown around by the developer. Later, committee member Beryl Higgins wrote a report to the Surrey Archaeological Society about various minor problems that would have to be addressed, some of which we incorporated into our letter in favour of the application. However, the proposal has since been withdrawn, in order to deal with points raised by us and by others. We are confident that the proposal will eventually be approved.

Further on in this Newsletter, you will read an article written by another of our committee: John Gilliard. He writes about the energy inefficiency of outside chimneys. During the past five months, we have commented in similar vein in various letters we have written to MVDC about both extensions and new builds. When I think about the results of these recommendations to applicants and their architects, the phrase 'Like a Lead Balloon' comes to mind.

Our committee, in collaboration with Vice Chairman Derek Rowbottom, have had a lot of

correspondence about a 'perceived' vulnerability at Yew Tree, Chichester and Kepple Roads and Calvert Crescent on the northern edge of Dorking. At present, it is designated as a 'Residential Area of Special Character' (RASC). An applicant who wants to build a new house on vacant land in Calvert Crescent is challenging this, quoting PPS3. We have written to MVDC saying that the RASC designation should be maintained to conserve the integrity of this sensitive part of Dorking, and that the application be refused.

In December, we wrote approvingly of a revised design for Haybarn House in South Street, Dorking. Although DTC8 of the Local Plan has been quoted in the past by MVDC to refuse previous applications, we felt that the revised design answered most of the criticisms. We also said that we hoped the LPA's desire that the building be knocked down and a new one built to replace it (as per DTC8) had been proved to be extremely uneconomical, and that this element of their objection had finally been laid to rest. It has been refused.

We have written a comprehensive letter to MVDC about a

proposed 'mini-estate' on the sloping side of Longfield Road, Dorking, close to the Nower. In it, we quoted all the ENV's this scheme would be offending, and quoted parts of our planning submission to the up-coming Local Development Framework which will eventually replace the Local Plan. These quotes were about inappropriate development on the edge of Dorking.

We were approached by Churchill Retirement Living about their plans to demolish three dwellings in Westcott Road, replacing them with warden-supervised retirement apartments. To give the impression that there are still three frontages to this complex, they have designed two deep recesses into the building. When they attended one of our planning meetings at Pippbrook, we acknowledged that this was a cute idea, but thought that the recesses would be dark holes for most of the day, and would not alter the fact that the building would still be perceived as one very large frontage, having a large impact within the landscape of its nicely-spaced neighbours. The application also conflicts with ENV's 18, 22, 23 and 24 of the Local Plan, and would be an inappropriate de-

velopment. We recommended refusal.

On February 21st we saw the revised plans for a community hall at St. Paul's Church in Dorking. It is a slight improvement on the previous design which was refused, but we are still unhappy with the proposed new entrance which would obscure much of the west front of the church. The Victorian Society have voiced their concerns, but we shall have many more discussions and consultations before reaching a decision.

*Hank Etheridge NDD., ATD.
Chairman, Planning Committee*

A burning issue

As the 'Environment' member of the Society's Planning Committee, I and my colleagues see many applications throughout the year, and I metaphorically tear my hair out when I see that architects are still specifying open fireplaces and chimneys on the outside walls of both new builds and extensions. There is enough literature available for them to see that this practice is highly inefficient with regard to thermal energy loss.

Around 50% of heat from an open fire situation on the out-

side wall of a building is lost into the outside atmosphere : it is like having a double-glazed, centrally-heated room with a 1ft diameter hole in the outside wall.

Hundreds of years ago, open fireplaces were State-of-the-Art, a vast improvement on a pile of burning logs in the centre of a room with a hole in the roof but, nowadays, they are antique technology, especially in modern housing.

Now for the science bit! A survey done in Canada by the 'Combustion and Carbonation Research Laboratory (CCLR) found that most open fireplaces were -10% to +10% efficient and, if a fireplace was situated on an outside wall, figures were reduced by the 50% I mentioned above. In other words, in most cases they were negative energy efficient.

An open fire, burning logs, does so inefficiently and causes pollution. It also sucks out the air from the room it is in nearly one and a half times every hour, further negating its warming effect. Even when the fire is not being used, warm air from inside the room is replaced with cold air from outside. Obviously, this has serious economic as well as environmental impli-

cations. Heating these days does not come cheap.

There are 'Sticking-Plaster' solutions, like fitting glass doors which marginally increase efficiency, although some people say that glass doors spoil the beauty of an open fire rather like some of our ancestors said that glass-enclosed gas mantles spoiled the pleasure of reading by candlelight.

However, apart from outside chimneys, all is not lost. In the last few years the technology of wood-burning stoves has been quietly progressing, mainly in the USA due to severe pollution problems in California and other States like Pennsylvania, and it is now increasingly available in this country. [continued overleaf ...]



"Boston" - a Ceramic Wood Stove

These are advanced-combustion wood-stoves that, combined with leak-proof chimneys, produce a high temperature, efficient burn. These stoves have an air requirement of only 0.04 air changes per hour, a 35% improvement over an ordinary fireplace, and they come in a range of very attractive designs.

In the 18th century, the poet William Cowper wrote "Fireside enjoyments, home-born happiness" – and a little later on in the 20th century, we have all snuggled down in our favourite armchair by the fire at Christmas time listening to Bing Crosby singing "Roasting chestnuts on an open fire". I guess we all can still do, but it puts a new twist on the phrase 'having money to burn'.

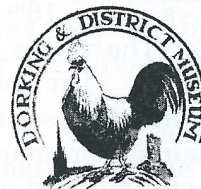
John Gilliard



Firebelly FB2 contemporary stove

Ockley's famous son

Nicholas Culpepper, author of *Culpeppers Complete Herbal*, still in print 360-odd years after it was first published, was born in Ockley in 1614. He was the son of the Reverend Nicholas Culpepper, Rector of Ockley, and Mary Attersol, daughter of Reverend William Attersol, Rector of Isfield near Lewis in Sussex. After an idyllic childhood and youth in the Sussex and Surrey countryside, Culpepper left for Cambridge University in 1631 where, similar to today's youth, he became radicalised, anti-establishment and a heavy pipe smoker. Leaving Cambridge, he became an apprentice Apothecary whilst challenging the medical and political establishments of the day, speaking out against the authority of the College of Physicians (of which William Harvey, credited with the discovery of blood circulation was a member), and Charles 1st. His detailed botanical knowledge of his boyhood stood him in good stead in the writing of his 'Herbal', which turned out to be a blockbuster – so much so that, after his death in 1654, his wife combined it with other pieces of his writing and made sure that the 'Complete' Herbal carried on being published.



Dorking Museum

The Museum is an important sub-group of the Preservation Society. It is run by its own management committee and handles its own finances. A team of about 60 volunteers are at present involved, giving anything from 2 hours a month upwards of their time. They aim at the best possible standards, and at the end of 2006 were awarded Accredited Museum status.

The team can be justly proud of the service it provides, both to on-site visitors and to researchers from all parts of the UK and beyond. But it cannot keep going without three very important things – people, time and money. Why not get more involved in your museum? Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

Visit more often and spread the word – tell your friends and neighbours about us and en-

courage them to come along. As well as boosting our visitor numbers it will also boost our funds since we rely on admission charges, donations and sales of souvenirs for our income. DDPS members are entitled to free admission, but a small donation in lieu would be very welcome.

Become a Steward – just for 2 or 3 hours of your time once a month will help us keep the museum open. At least 3 stewards are needed for each session, 20-25 sessions per month, and we do have vacancies. To be able to open the museum more often, a lot more stewards will have to be found.

Share your expertise – help with background work is also important and can vary enormously. Don't be too shy to offer your special talents.

Help finance a conservation project – as responsible curators we make sure that our collections are stored correctly. Archival collections in particular, which are regularly handled, need special protection, but it is expensive. For example, two photographic street surveys carried out in the 1960s and 1980s are stored in 14 unsuitable albums. We need to put each photograph in a clear ar-

chival sleeve before storing them safely in boxes. 100 sleeves cost £33, and we need in excess of 700. Donations towards this and other projects are always welcome.

Dorking Museum
62 West Street
Dorking RH4 1BS
www.dorkingmuseum.co.uk

Art & Textiles

Last October the Surrey edition of the Public Catalogue Foundation was published. This organisation, a registered charity, is sponsored by leading art galleries and auction houses, and records the nation's collection of oil paintings in public ownership. Sixty paintings in the Museum's collection are illustrated in colour, and the book gives sizes and full details of the artists. We were given eleven copies to sell at £20 each, with the proviso that all proceeds are to be used for future conservation work on our oil paintings. A copy has also been added to the Museum Library. It is envisaged that the Surrey volume will eventually be available on the Internet.

We have received a generous gift from Bob Miller of a pastel portrait believed to be of

Stephen Lynn (known as "Boozy"), a late 18th century licensee of The Bull's Head in South Street. The pastel has been in the possession of the Walker family for many years, since a Lynn married a Walker, and it hung in the house of John Walker, Bob's uncle and our first Curator. The pastel and its frame were in need of conservation work, and this has been carried out by S.A. Esdaile Ltd. It has had treatment for mould and foxing and the original frame has been altered to leave a space between the glass and the drawing. New UV filtering glass has also been fitted. We are indebted to Mole Valley District Council for their help in financing this work. The pastel now hangs in Room 2 of the museum, beside a portrait of William Broad, the well-known coachman who operated a daily service from The Bulls Head to Gracechurch Street in London during the 19th century.

We have an interesting new display of samplers in Room 1 of the Museum, inspired by the recent gift of two early examples in excellent condition. The earliest, dated 1787, was worked by Mary Champion, and shows stylised birds, trees, alphabet and numbers in various coloured

threads. The second, dated 1824, was worked by Mary's daughter Ann Boughton, when she was 8 years old. This is believed to have been inspired by her native village of Stoke D'Abernon, and shows birds, trees, flowers and, most unusually, water and a boatman. Ann married a William Sanders in 1841 and their daughter, Mary Ann, married a Randall in 1866. The Dorking connection is that a house called Sandlands was built in Roman Road for Mary Ann Randall very early in the 20th century. The house still stands today. The remaining samplers in the display are 19th century and were worked by local names such as Molyneux and Sherlock, and four unframed ones are children's school work, helping them to learn their letters and numbers.

Barbara Turnbull, Curator

From the Archives

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a fortune

These words always come into my mind when looking at the earliest of Dorking Museum's large collection of Sale Particu-

lars. Included is a copy of the London newspaper *The Morning Chronicle* dated Tuesday 2nd June 1812, carrying an advertisement for the forthcoming sale by auction of the Berry-hill Estate (sic). Touching the rag paper immediately transports me back nearly 200 years. In my imagination the 'Mrs Bennets' of Dorking chatter about the possible new owner – the auction took place at precisely the time Jane Austen was putting the final touches to *Pride and Prejudice*, published in January 1813. As it happened, the estate was purchased by Robert Barclay, who had been tenant of the house since 1803. Bury Hill remained in the Barclay family until the early 1950s.

The printed particulars describe the property in great detail: "a valuable and very improvable estate" with a "capital mansion". They also include the names of the estate tenants and a plan showing the land they held. It is information like this which is so valuable to family historians and those interested in the history of our area, and which makes our collection such an important resource.

When Pippbrook House was sold in 1890, a smithy and nine cottages were included. Lot 1, covering 14 acres, contained the "commodious family residence" with "delightful pleasure grounds and gardens tastefully laid out", an entrance lodge with stabling and rooms for the coachman, Branscomb Cottage, and Devonshire Cottage, a 3-bed villa let at £45 per annum. It sold for £9,500. The sale particulars include beautiful illustrations and a plan of the ground floor, most of which now houses the public library.

Many items in the collection relate to shops. One deals with "valuable freehold estates", on the corner of "East Street and Chertgate Lane", "admirably suited for the safe and permanent investment of money ... upon which the vendors and their family have successfully carried on the trade of butchers for a long series of years". The property, which William and Charles Alloway were selling in order to complete a family arrangement, came under auctioneer James White's hammer at the White Horse in May 1845. The comfortable house, with good wine and beer cellars, four first-floor chambers and three attic bedrooms, included

the butchers shop which faced the main road. As you enjoy a meal at the Café Rouge in the High Street, you may choose to forget that one of the selling points of the Alloway's shop was the lofty slaughterhouse at the rear, with a yard, stable, bullock lodge, spacious dung-pit and two piggeries.

A few cottages along Chertgate Lane, or Dene Street as it is now called, lived Daniel Pullen, a builder. The mid-19th century saw a boom in house building, and blocks of terraced cottages filled the area between St Martin's Church and the Pippbrook. Daniel and his family moved to St Martins Place in the 1850s. Most people rented their homes, and blocks of houses were usually bought up as an investment. It seems that Daniel did just that. Another of our Sale Particulars is headed *In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, re Daniel Pullen, decd. Taylor v Alloway & others*. Daniel wrote his will in November 1878 and died six months later, but this auction took place in July 1929, a mere 50 years later. The property on offer included three blocks of houses in Church Gardens and two rows in St Martin's Place.

These houses were far from commodious. Those in Church Gardens were built round a yard, which was used as a drying area by all the tenants, and each had an outside WC. The tenants are listed, and rents averaged 7/6 per week. Included in this lot were two properties in Mill Lane which were situated beneath four of the Church Gardens houses. Here, conditions must have been grim, with a bedroom, kitchen, coal cellar and WC, but without gas or electricity. A further two rooms were closed off, considered unfit for human habitation. The owner received a total annual income of £277 for these 15 properties, and they sold for £1,675. The 20 houses in St Martins Place, apart from No. 1, were a little smaller and shared one outside WC between two houses.

Two years later, in 1931, more houses in Church Gardens came up for auction. Some of these had shared WCs and outside standpipes for water. Two were condemned as unfit, and consequently the whole lot was withdrawn. In fact, our newspaper cuttings albums contain many references to unsanitary conditions and council warnings to landlords.

Something had to be done and, after the war, most of the area was cleared. In the early 1960s comfortable flats were built on part of the site, and what remains of the rest lies buried under the modern car park.

The Museum Archives contain fully indexed details of over 6,000 property sales in Dorking and the surrounding area. They give a wealth of information and are worth exploring. They may well include a property near you – maybe even your own home. Documents, maps, photographs, newspaper cuttings, albums, books, etc. are also available for research.

Mary Turner, Curator

Dorking Local History Group

In that last months, the Group has hosted a very successful and well-attended series of talks. Janet Balchin, author of the *History of Ewhurst* came to talk about the village. Mary Day related her fascinating researches into the history of the Manor of Shellwood in Leigh, during which she has managed to match together an ancient map of the manor with its accompanying text which had been separated for generations.

Kathy Atherton spoke on her ongoing researches into the Pethick Lawrences and the significance of Holmwood and Peaslake to the Suffragette movement. Members have also contributed to an evening on the subject of local schools, and the winter outing to the Museum in Docklands will take place on 25th March. A full programme of speakers for the next six months is about to be published.

The group is currently producing a small exhibit, for display in the Museum, on the subject of the Olivier family's years in Dorking to mark the centenary of the birth of Laurence Olivier, the actor.

The Group's website, launched last year, continues to generate new members, visitors to meetings, book sales and queries – which have recently come from as far afield as the United States, Canada, New Zealand and the Middle East, from family historians, businesses investigating the histories of their premises, the local press and other Museums and galleries requiring local information. We have been able to provide editorial assistance to an author of local walking guides and to a family searching for a long-lost child, so diverse is

the nature of enquiries received. The website has also put the Group in touch with other researchers in possession of information and archive material of local interest, and which we have been able to make available to future researchers through the Museum archives.

After the AGM the Group will be looking to publication of this year's Dorking History and to the preparation of our display for Surrey Archaeological Society's Local History Symposium in October. We are also considering how we might contribute to Heritage Open Days in September.



Laurence Olivier and some of the definitive roles he has played on screen

IMPORTANT – Please Read!

Subscriptions – the lifeblood of the Society

They are due in January each year, and about half are paid by Standing Order. The remaining subscriptions are paid by cheque, mainly after a reminder has been sent in the Spring Newsletter.

When the Society became a Limited Company, it had to open a new current account, changing from **Barclays** Dorking to **HSBC** Dorking. Unfortunately, this meant new Standing Orders to be signed by Members. So, when the Statements from Barclays arrived in January, we were hopeful there would be no payments appearing for the Society, especially as it was two years since the changeover: **there were fifty!**

We shall be writing to those Members, asking them to sign the new Standing Order form we shall enclose with the letter, and asking them to check with their bank to make sure it is carried out – some banks aren't that efficient – as it is not possible in most cases to get this information from bank statements. The

only person to know where the money comes from is the one that receives it.

On your behalf, the Society is involved with many activities, such as keeping up with new planning regulations, the Museum, the Capel incinerator campaign and many others. What with donations from our fighting fund, attending seminars and meetings and purchasing government documents, our resources are stretched. We need subscriptions to carry out our commitments to maintain the integrity of Dorking and the surrounding villages.

Peter Parkin

*Your very harassed
Membership Secretary*

ANNOUNCEMENT

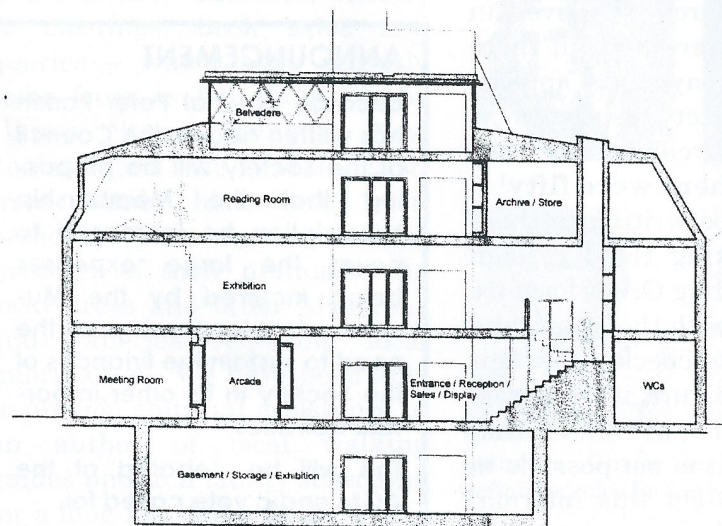
Because of what Peter Parkin has written above, the Council of the Society will be proposing that the Membership subscription be increased to cover the large expenses being incurred by the Museum development and the need to sustain the finances of the Society in its other important activities.

This will be debated at the AGM and a vote called for.

First thoughts on the design of our proposed new Museum

At this stage we have, with our architects Cullum & Nightingale, only started to think through ideas for the requirements for exhibits and the design of the inside and outside for our new museum. Much will depend on our own available monies and, hopefully, grants from the National Lottery and other organisations.

Right is a very rough sketch of how the new museum would relate to the present – and to be retained – Library and Archive building from West Street. Below is a section through the initial design of the proposed new building that may alter depending on available resources.



good things come in trees

Ted Green of the Ancient Tree Forum (I think that is what it is called) on 'The Importance of Trees in the Landscape'. It got me thinking about the trees I have planted in the grounds of various houses I have lived in since 1958.

In the beginning, it was mainly fruit trees. I planted 12 assorted, five year old, plums, pears and apples, and one apricot tree in the orchard at my home in Cookham in 1960. In the seventies, at my house by the river near Weybridge, I planted, among other small trees, a Sumac, because of its glorious autumn foliage. A bad mistake: suckers from this tree came up 15 to 20 feet away, many of them in my neighbour's immaculate lawn; he was not pleased.

The New Forest was my boyhood playground, equalling or even surpassing my love for the beautiful South Downs. There is something about trees that gives me intense pleasure. I could not live happily anywhere in a landscape devoid of them. Apart from a few years living in London and, briefly, outside of New York, I have always lived among or close to trees.

These thoughts flooded back to me when I attended an enthusiastic lecture given by

Around 1992, in my small garden of my present home, I planted a small shrub with young leaves that start out bright red, turning to a glossy green when they matured. It was a Photinia which the nursery had labelled as a 'Red Robin'. It now stands 15 feet high, so I rather suspect that it is another, similar Photinia (*fraserii*) called 'Birmingham', which can grow quite tall. Another shrub, an American

Cotinus (sub-species 'Grace') which I pruned quite savagely three years later, has grown to 10 feet over the years, with a mass of purple leaves in the autumn. To keep it at this height, I saw-off branches and generally prune each spring. Of course, from my previous article, you will know that my pride and joy is my Chusan Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*), which lends a tropical look to my garden.

There have been other trees over the years which have either become too invasive, blocked out light or just up and died, as did a beautiful Abutilon I had grown from a seed picked up in the Temperate Gardens at Ventnor, Isle of Wight. I doubt that I shall embark on any more tree planting, so I have joined The Woodland Trust, and let them plant trees for me. Most trees take a lifetime to mature. One should plant them in one's youth, to be enjoyed in old age.

I shall end this article with a wonderful piece of doggerel verse by the poet George Pope Morris:

*Woodman, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bough!
In youth it sheltered me
And I'll protect it now.*

Go hug a tree today!

Adam Jolyon



CORPORATE MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE SOCIETY

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Tel.</u>	<u>Business type</u>
ADV (UK) Ltd	The Old Crumpet Factory, 16 Brockham Lane, Betchworth, RH3 7EL		
Antony Wakefield & Co Ltd.	Suite C, South House, South St RH4 2JZ	740 555	Fine Art & general insurance brokers
Betchworth Park Golf Club	Reigate Road, RH4 1NZ	882 052	Golf club
Bray Estates	278/280 High Street, RH4 1QT	740 837	Professional property consultants
Browns of Dorking	182 High Street, RH4		
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
Carrington (1953) Ltd	5 Stacey's Meadow, Elstead, Godalming, GU8 6BX		
Chandler Cars	Unit 23, Vincent Works, Vincent Lane, RH4 3HQ	882 001	Services and sales
Christique Antique Centre	11 West Street, RH4 1BL	883 849	Antique furniture & interior design
Clear, S J & Co Ltd	65 High Street, RH4 1AW	883 340	Electrical contractors/shop
David Cowan	114 South Street, RH4 1AW	886 622	Solicitors
Dorking Desk Shop, The Downs	41 West Street, RH4 1BN	883 327	Antique furniture dealer
Downsman Ltd	156 High Street, RH4 1BQ	880 110	Solicitors and notaries
Ellis Atkins & Co	Overdene, Paper Mews, RH4 2TU	887 023	Management services
	1 Paper Mews, 330 High Street, RH4 2TU	886 681	Chartered accountants
Fothergills Coffee Lounge	19 St Martins Walk, RH4 1UT		Coffee lounge
Friends Provident plc	Pixham End, RH4 1QA	654 4220	Financial services
Garth House Nursing Home	Tower Hill Road, RH4 2AY	880 511	Nursing home
Hart Scales & Hodges	159 High Street, RH4 1AD	884 432	Solicitors
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
Newton & Co	Ranmore House, 19 Ranmore Road, RH4 1HE	884 208	Chartered accountants
Omya UK Ltd	Curtis Road, RH4 1XA		
Patrick Gardner & Co	16 South Street, RH4 2HL	887 775	Estate agents
Penwizard Ltd	Dene Lodge, Cotmandene, RH4 2BN		
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 surveyor
Songhurst, W Ltd	Rayleigh House, Chapel Lane, Westcott, RH4 3PJ	880 411	Builders
Treeline Services Ltd	Chadhurst Farm, Coldharbour Lane, RH4 3JH	741 800	Tree care and maintenance
Uden, C J & Co	Pledges Yard, Falkland Road, RH4 3AD	887 551	Drainage consultant and surveyors
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
Woolcock Partnership Ltd, The	Hulsta Studios, 120 South Street, RH4 2EU	880 330	Furniture retailer and installation
Wyevale Country Gardens	Reigate Road, RH5 1NP	884 845	Garden centre

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Abinger Parish Council	Dorking Town Centre Management	Newdigate Parish Council
Amis de Gouvioux, Les	Friends of Boxhill	Ockley Parish Council
Ashcombe School	Friends of Gouvioux	Sir Paul Beresford MP & Lady Beresford
Betchworth Parish Council	Friends of Holmwood	The Dorking Advertiser
Brockham Green Village Society	Headley Parish Council	The Guildford Society
Brockham Parish Council	Holmwood Parish Council	The Reigate Society
Buckland Parish Council	Leigh Parish Council	The Surrey Advertiser
Capel Parish Council	Mickleham Parish Council	Westcott Village Association
Charlwood Parish Council	Mole Valley District Council	Wotton Parish Council
Coldharbour Sports and Social Club		

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