

NEWSLETTER

of the Dorking & District Preservation Society

No. 56

Summer 2010

DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY



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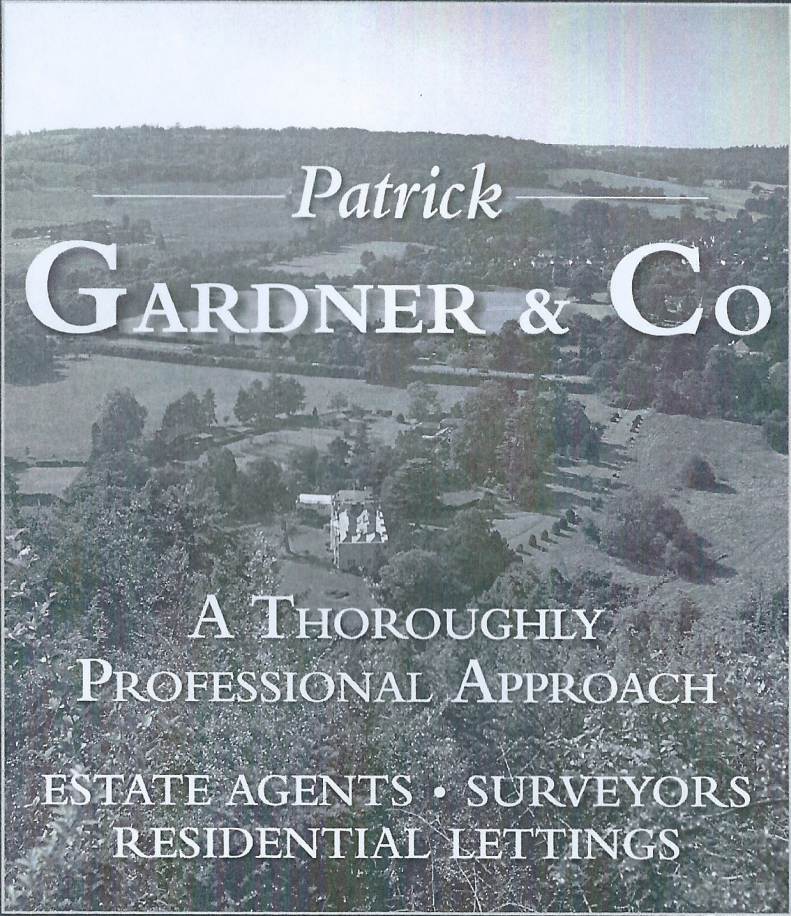
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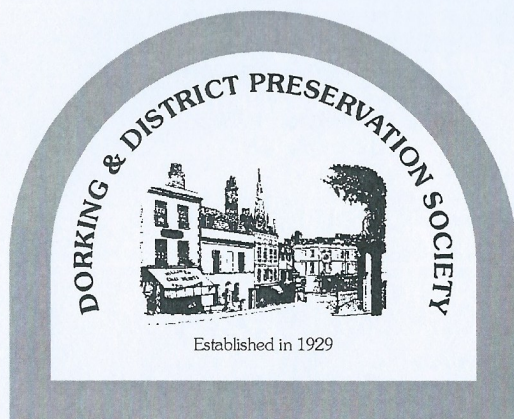
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NEWSLETTER

of the Dorking & District Preservation Society

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Free to members

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uted by the Editor.

President:

Adrian White, CBE, DL

Chairman:

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

Secretary:

Position Vacant

Editor:

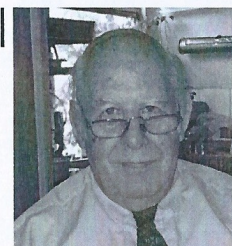
Hank Etheridge
18 The Orchard
Ashurst Drive, Boxhill Road
Tadworth KT20 7LP
Telephone:01737-844379

Membership/Subscriptions:

Jean Pearson
Osbrooks Lodge, Horsham Road
Capel RH5 5JH
Telephone:01306-711043

www.ddps.org.uk

editorial



There seems to be a touch of coali-
tion about our District Council; the
night-time car parking charges
have been gotten rid of and we shall
be having hanging baskets once
more, thanks to all the High Street
shop keepers. Eric Pickles, the
Communities Minister, has told
Councils to keep their hands off the
Green Belt and has changed back
gardens into Greenfield areas, no
longer brownfield sites. All this will
bring pressure to bear on the com-
pilers of Mole Valley's Local
Development Framework (LDF),
with the loss of back-garden devel-
opments and fewer 'windfall' sites
further complicating the situation.
Derek Rowbotham explains all in
his article on page 14. The new
government's intention to put
decision-making back to local levels
has its good and bad points. It is
good that local councils will be able
to decide what is best for their
areas, but bad because it will quite
likely lead to fewer houses being
built.

Alex Bagnall gives an update on
his work on the Hope Mausoleum,
and we have been fortunate to have
received a delightful article – with
pictures – from Helen Shackleton,
the artist who painted all the won-

derful wildlife murals at the Na-
tional Trust building on Box Hill.

Adam Jolyon reviews a 'must
read' book about climate change
and how the genius of mankind will
overcome it, and I, wearing my
Planning hat, detail the successes
we have had in getting two unwel-
come Applications refused, along
with a complicated Application to
build a faux Georgian house on
Ranmore.

The preliminary work on the
new museum is ticking along quite
nicely at the moment. Discussions
with Perry Barnes, the architect,
are progressing well, 'tweaking' the
floor plans to gain the optimum
amount of space for both artefacts
and archives. I have finished the
design for the Fund Raising leaflet
which will be distributed at events
in the area, and the museum pub-
licity and marketing people are
working flat out on all sorts of
future promotions.

I received just one letter from a
member, to which I shall be re-
sponding. He is upset about what
he calls 'the glass monstrosity' at
the old Harley Davidson building at
the eastern end of the High Street.
Although I disagree with him, I
confess that it is very encouraging
that someone actually makes his
feelings known rather than just
doing nothing.

Hank Etheridge, Editor

chairman's message



Problems for our District Council

I was looking through some of the back numbers of our newsletters recently, and saw that in our Summer 2009 edition my headline was 'MVDC needs to prune its expenditure... But how?'. As we now know, they did, following careful consultation (in which we participated) and taking a number of awkward but on the whole sensible decisions. So where is Mole Valley now? Waiting to find out what further cuts the new government will soon be insisting upon. It is going to become still harder for our local government to provide us with a reasonable service.

Nor is that all. At the end of May the new Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote a short two-paragraph letter to the heads of all local government councils (addressing them all as 'Dear Leader' – as in North Korea). Paragraph one said, in brief: 'Tear up all your work on Local Development Frameworks. That was based on a top-down procedure. Now we are going for bottom-up instead'. Paragraph two said, in effect: 'That is all for the moment. More information later. Meanwhile, please bear this in mind with any decisions you may be taking'.

So on what basis can Development Control Committees of Councils throughout the land make any decisions at all? Will every council have complete control over its own housing policy, presumably after sounding and absorbing public opinion? This could be the NIMBY's charter, leading quickly to an even greater housing shortage. One

must presume that, at the very least, any new Local Development Plan would, as before, be reviewed by an inspector, but on what basis is he or she to make a judgement?

One thing has become quickly clear to us. The evolution of any 'bottom-up' Local Development Framework cannot but be heavily reliant on local amenity societies such as our own. We look forward to playing our part.

Dorking Museum & Heritage Centre

Kathy Atherton's three-year stint as Chairman of the Local History Group was up in April. She handed over to Peter Camp and moved smoothly over into the job of Chairman of the Museum. I was preparing to write here some notes on the Museum, but Kathy Atherton's report, prepared originally for our most recent Council meeting on 17th June, gives such a vivid impression of the hive of activity that the Museum committee has now become, that I need do no more than to recommend to you the article she has written. There are huge difficulties to overcome, but equal determination to overcome them. I have no doubt that we will get there, though it may still take time.

The Best Development Competition and Heritage Open Days

I mentioned in our last newsletter that Sarah Hawkes, who had organised the Best Development Competition and worked with Mole Valley to help produce the nation's best Heritage Open Days, retired at the end of last year. Heritage Open Days are already earmarked as something that MVDC has decided to discontinue. A shame, but there it is. I reported that Graham Clark had agreed to take over the running of the Best Development Competition. Alas, it was not to be; he decided not to, in May. It was by then

too late to start with somebody else, even if they could be found. This coincided with the preference stated by both Peter Mills and Rod Shaw in the district council's planning department to run the competition every other year. As it was, we had no alternative but to accept this. It will give us time to find, again, a successor to Sarah Hawkes, although a biennial competition will involve very nearly twice the amount of work. We will quite soon be discussing with Mole Valley how the Competition can be reorganised.

October Meeting and the Hope Mausoleum

We decided at the June meeting of our Council that we should continue to have our October general meeting, even without the Best Development Competition. I am hoping that the chairman of the Mausolea and Monuments Trust, Mr Roger Bowdler, will be able to give us a talk on the Deepdene and the Hope Mausoleum. Many will know that Mole Valley has decided to dig the Mausoleum out again, reversing a decision made in the 1950s to bury it. It is at present half visible again. Many of us know about Thomas Hope, the leader of architectural style in the 1820s. Two years ago there was an exhibition about him at the Victoria & Albert Museum. As not many know, both his homes, in London and the Deepdene, have gone. The Mausoleum, which he designed, is therefore the only surviving building designed by this key figure in the history of British taste.

Jobs that need doing

For the last 24 months, since the retirement of Christine Thom, we have not had a Secretary. The task of preparing and assembling the papers for our Executive and Council meetings and of writing the minutes has had to be mine.

I have got quite good at it, but it has required time and effort. It is also not a good practice for the chairman of a meeting to write the minutes as well. (It is too easy for him to nudge the record in the way that he would have liked it to have gone!) Then, in November, our relatively new Treasurer found he had to resign owing to pressure of work in his business. So since then I have had to try and be Treasurer too. In March, Peter Parkin, our Membership Secretary, told me that he and his wife Mary were going to move to Liphook. By the third week in April they were gone, leaving all the membership records with me.

At the Annual General Meeting I made an impassioned plea for volunteers. I am glad to report that I had a magnificent response. Alan Loryman, who is a trained accountant, offered to take on the job of Treasurer, and has already got his feet under the table. I had two people offering to become Membership Secretary. Between them they decided that one of them, Jean Pearson, should take the post. Jean is, I think, very well known, particularly in Capel, which she has represented as District Councillor ever since the Capel incinerator was first proposed. Latterly she was Leader of the Council. She is now again a back bencher, and has announced that when her seat comes up for re-election in May next year she will be standing down. We are very lucky indeed to have her.

So all we need now is somebody to do the Best Development Competition and somebody to be the Secretary. Offers, please.

Martin Wedgwood

planning report

My committee and I have had a very busy time since April. We have been involved in preventing tenants being thrown out of their homes; helped to stop two ugly, pastiche houses being built in a secluded area of Westhumble, and are presently preparing a response to a very complex application for a replica Georgian mansion on Ranmore.

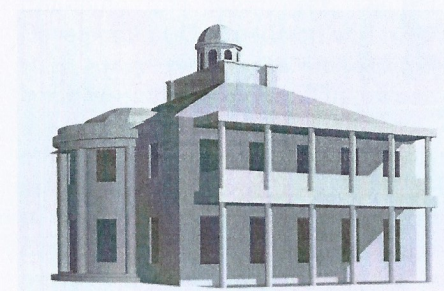
The first application was from a developer who bought a large chunk of ground in Mickleham from Lord Beaverbrook. You may remember that, in the autumn of 2008, we, along with Ben Tatham, Mickleham Parish Council and CPRE, fortunately managed to get an application to demolish a complex of Victorian estate workers dwellings, which would have made the existing tenants homeless, refused. The intention of the developer was to build some urbanised, ugly buildings on the site. It went to appeal and was again turned down. A new application by this developer was lodged in late 2009 to renovate and enlarge these dwellings, doubling the number of bedrooms and 'gentrifying' the complex. A reasonable alternative to the first application one might think – but, again, making the sitting tenants homeless. Our previous opposition group swung once more into action. The developer's representatives, however, didn't do their homework properly, putting outright untruths about consulting with the sitting tenants into the application documents, and not complying with a direction from the Inspector of the original appeal about obtaining a Bat

Survey. After we had a stormy meeting with the representatives on-site one Saturday morning, it was decided by Mole Valley to, yet again, refuse the application. Clive Smith, who represents the Surrey Hills AONB, has suggested that the developer sells this part of his acquisition to a Housing Association. We shall have to wait and see.

Our second crusade was again with a second application for two large 'Footballer's Wives' houses, both with a triple garage the size of a small bungalow, to be built on the site of one house in Camilla Drive in Westhumble. With the help of some intelligence from a resident, we pointed out in our letter of objection that the proposed houses were only fractionally smaller than the original application, but had been made to appear smaller because the original application's dimensions were of the exterior of the buildings as opposed to the interior dimensions being quoted on the current application. It has been refused.

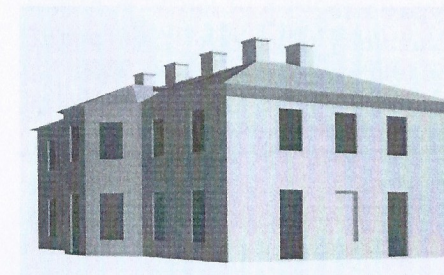
As I write this in mid-June, our current concentration is upon an application to build a modern replica of a very large Georgian mansion at an old Victorian farmstead in the depths of Ranmore. Back in February 2009, my committee looked at a previous application for a similar but more flamboyant version of the present one. My notes of our meeting tell me that we made 'no comment' at that time. I am still wondering why. The replica, 'aspirational', pastiche building was enormous, with a cupola, balustraded balconies with Doric columns and a whole slew of fussy detail, set within a group of

Victorian brick and flint farm buildings. See picture below.



The original design

Even Clive Smith, for some reason or another, didn't pick up the inappropriateness of this application, and it was approved by Mole Valley planners. Recently, however, the National Trust at Polesden Lacey and Clive Smith, representing the AONB, became aware of this approval and made representations to the applicant who, to give him his due, has had the original design altered to cater for Clive's and the NT's concerns.



The revised design

The revised design is likely to be built in stone and most of the original building's 'twiddly bits', including the cupola, removed. What is left is a rather lumpen building which is even more of a contrast to the farm buildings. I must admit, we are in a

dilemma. Some of my committee prefer the original application's design and others, including myself, are not at all happy with a replica building from the 18th century being foisted upon the 21st.

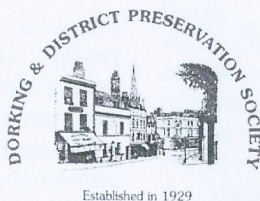
The 'sting in the tail' of this application is that, if it is refused, the applicant will proceed to build the first design for which he has planning permission. I shall tell you in the autumn issue what transpires.

You will see from the 'Letters' page that a member has objected to what he calls "*the glass monstrosity*" at the eastern end of the High Street, in the old Harley Davidson building. Although I disagree with him, it was great to find someone who was passionate enough to speak out rather than just moaning to his friends and family. In saying this, I am not 'Damning him with praise'. I just wish that more of our members would speak out for or against MVDC planning decisions.

During these past few months, we have looked at quite a few Listed Building applications for extensions and alterations but, after discussing them in depth, have not needed to comment, although some were not too happy about replacement of a bow window overlooking a pond with a more unsympathetic design.

The latest announcement from the Coalition government is about the changed status of back gardens, which will no longer be deemed as brownfield sites. This will, of course, be music to the ears of neighbours, who have sometimes had to put up with an apartment block.

Hank Etheridge
Planning Chairman



NEWS & VIEWS

Welcome to

District Councillor Mrs Jean Pearson, who has taken over the Membership Secretary post for the Society, and who will be a terrific asset on our council.

Alan Loryman who now becomes our new Treasurer. His skills have already been welcome in sorting out our funds and putting them into a form that all of us non-accountants can understand.

Kathy Atherton, past Chairman of the Local History Group, is now the Chairman of the Museum committee, bringing her extensive expertise to organising the many tasks facing us in the rebuilding of the Museum. In collaboration with HE associates Design Group, a Fund Raising leaflet has been designed to be given out at all of the events being organised in aid of funds. In addition, everyone who donates £20 or more will receive a signed certificate with their names hand-written upon them. These can be framed and displayed in the home, shop or office. (See right.)

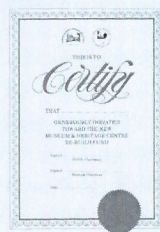
Gardens advice

The Planning Inspectorate has issued advice to inspectors to overcome the confusion caused by references to the revised PPS3 to regional spatial strategies (RSS's). Ministers had earlier told councils to ignore RSS's. Changes to PPS3 deal with 'garden grabbing' by redefining gardens as Greenfield land. They also remove the minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare.

Source: *Planning Magazine*

Gypsy sites

Community Secretary Eric Pickles has told local authorities to carry out another study to assess demands in their areas.



Best Development Competition

For a variety of reasons, including financing and manpower, the Best Development Competition will now be held every two years instead of it being an annual event. The owner of the property or their architects or builders can enter any new build or extension completed from April 2009 to the end of March 2011. The editor has already seen a property on his patch which, if neither owner nor architect wants to enter, he will nominate himself.

The Autumn Meeting

Because there will be no Best Development Competition this year, the structure of our Autumn Meeting will be different. We have been following with great interest the progress of clearing and exposing the Hope Mausoleum, as you will have noticed from the articles by Alex Bagnall, MVDC's Tree & Countryside Officer, which we have published in both the Spring and this Newsletter. Sir Martin is trying to arrange an illustrated talk by the Chairman of the Mausolea & Monument Society, who will be taking over responsibility for the renovation and upkeep of the Hope Mausoleum. We shall be looking at other innovations to make the meeting a great night out for members. But – Scouts' Honour – no Bingo!

Our Planning Committee

We are looking for another member to join our Planning Committee at Pippbrook every Wednesday morning. At the moment, the ladies outnumber the gentlemen on the committee. We (I) wish to redress the balance and recruit a gentleman who has knowl-

edge of, or interest in, planning, architecture or building regulations and, of course, the ability to be able to attend the Wednesday meetings and, from time to time, visit application sites and – maybe – take some photographs. Although it is not a requirement, we would prefer someone under the age of seventy to give a boost to us, slightly more elderly, committee members.

Doorstep Conmen

There is, currently, a spate of shady persons calling on elderly people in our area and defrauding them of thousands of pounds for unnecessary and badly carried out repairs to roofs, pathways and other parts of properties. Many of these rogues' targets are followed home from Post Offices on the days that pensions are paid out, or homed-in-on from gossip picked up in shops and public houses. Although the Surrey Trading Standards Officers are doing a terrific job in identifying and prosecuting offenders, there are always others stepping into their shoes, so it is an ongoing battle which can only be won with the help of the sort of people likely to be targeted and other members of the public. Trading Standards say that if anyone needs repairs carried out either inside or outside their homes, they should refer to the published list of traders recognised by them or local councils.

The NUM3ERS Game

39% Percentage of people in England who feel they are able to influence decisions in their area.

Source: *DCLG 2008-09 Survey*

Dorking Museum Keeping the Flag Flying

By Shirley Neighbour



As I am sitting down to write this article I am aware of being watched by two large black eyes. I look up to see that I am looking at Shawn the Sheep, who is wearing a knitted jumper with the following words on it, "Oh no! Not another crisis, my schedule is full!"

That's how it sometimes feels when you are the publicity officer for the Dorking Museum. My museum brief, should I decide to accept it, like a naïve fool, is to keep the interest in the museum alive, which at times can be like Mission Impossible.

As I am writing this article I am in the process of sorting out photographs and an activity for two events in May. At the very last minute we managed to get a stall at the COWPIE Show. By the time this is in print the events will have taken place.

What I didn't expect was the funny comments, off-the-cuff remarks or challenges I have been given, which make me question my own sanity.

After sending out an SOS to the various custodians and local history societies, we received some fantastic photographs of farming activities from the 1890's.

But what really stopped me in my tracks was the request from the Surrey Young Farmers secretary for COWPIE. She asked me, "Could you get hold of a Dorking Cockerel?". Panic and dread set in. The secretary didn't realise that the museum was being packed up and stored in various locations around Surrey, and I had no idea where the inventory was! I recall seeing the Dorking Cockerel – stuffed and standing regally to attention in a glass case in the museum. Well, I thought I did!

An Email was sent out to ask, do we have our own cockerel on display at COWPIE or do we try and find a live one? What am I saying? A reply came back to me saying that, yes, we have a cockerel, but it's unfit to travel. Did I read it right – a stuffed cockerel not fit to travel? Now what do I do?

Another verbal comment flew across the ether to me, "What size cockerel do you want?". Do cockerels come in different sizes if they are stuffed! At this point my eyes started to glaze over as a horrible thought came into my mind's eye. I could see the museum working party walking stealthily about in the pitch black, having decided to liberate the cockerel from the roundabout. It is certainly large and could become a big attraction for the Dorking Museum and Heritage stall, but we could be in serious trouble.

I visited Cherkley Court with the Westcott Local History Group. It was pointed out to me that there

was a Dorking Cockerel on the porch roof. By now, I feel that I am being haunted by the birds. After an animated discussion it was decided not to steal the cockerel because they would have known which group had stolen it.

Another Email came in to say that a Dorking Cockerel road sign had been found. It will probably fall off the table as it is very heavy. I can imagine a lawsuit against the museum on the grounds of "failing to keep under control a cockerel with intent to injure visitors to the stall".

I was still determined to find a Dorking Cockerel. I found the organisation secretary, based in Ilkley, North Yorkshire. Yep! My husband knows the town well. Eventually I managed to find a cockerel owner in Holmwood. Another interesting conversation developed. I ended up having a very serious and earnest conversation about the birds with a very mature gentleman who talked about the breed with affection. He said that there was a spare cockerel drifting around. The cockerels didn't like being separated from their 'tarts'. Did I hear correctly? They can be bolshie if they are parted. If you went to COWPIE you will know if we did succeed in finding a cockerel.

The other event was to do with the St. Martin's Fayre. The theme was *fun with crystals*. I knew I shouldn't ask, but yes I did! Does the museum have any minerals? "Yes", came back the reply. "Can we use them for a display?". "No, they

are too fragile or too valuable; you mustn't let children touch them ...", etc.

I then heard myself asking, "How do we get hold of replica crystals, how do you grow crystals?". This was followed by, "Do we have any photographs?". I won't go any further – I will leave it to your imagination.

All I can say is a very big thank you to all of you who came along to the second coffee morning in April, to look at the new museum plans. We raised £283 after expenses. A small puddle in a big ocean, but it's a start.

I suppose I will have to get used to people avoiding me as I walk down Dorking High Street. People will be wondering what kind of questions I'm going to ask, or whether I'm on the cage.

So, if you see a stranger wearing a trilby hat, dark glasses and a trench coat, it might be the Dorking Museum Publicity Officer incognito and on the hunt for the very trendy and fashionable cockerel egg.

Shirley Neighbour
Dorking Museum Publicity Officer
sneighbour@f2s.com

Dates for your Diary

- 17th July Holmwood Village Day
 - 18th Sept Quiz Night at The Christian Centre, 6pm-10pm.
 - 16th Oct Coffee morning at The Christian Centre, with a Christmas theme.
-

Planning Policy and the new Coalition Government

By Derek Rowbotham



The planning system now seems certain to take on a new look since the broad announcements made in the Queen's opening statement at the inauguration of the new Parliament. The signs are that the whole regional and sub-regional framework will undergo a significant change. A Conservative manifesto promised to reject Regional Assemblies following criticism of the reality of their democratic authority. The regional plans conveying the spatial strategy to which local development plans have to conform will, it is announced, be rapidly abolished, with decision-making powers on housing and planning being returned to local councils. This will impact the important content of Local Development Frameworks (LDF's), notably the target for homes made in Regional Plans. The detailed numbers of homes to be built by 2026, already quantified in the Mole Valley LDF Core Strategy, have indicated that land to fulfil the target numbers will require the transfer of land out of the Green Belt. How this will be done is subject to discussion, but has been set out in the Mole Valley District Land Allocations Development Plan document.

These political procedural changes, although introduced in very summary terms, will mean either

endorsing or reviewing and revising the Core Strategy housing target numbers. Inevitably, work will be needed to carry out the independent verification of housing need in Mole Valley, which was not done in the 2009 Public Enquiry. The evidence of local need was handed down by the SE Plan, not produced by MVDC. This emphasis on determining the local need for housing will also reflect the circumstances as to whether Green Belt land is really needed. We understand that the coalition government has imposed another constraint, that housing need locally does not justify taking Green Belt land, and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, has issued an instruction that in areas where the Green Belt has been threatened, councils will be free to block housing developments. He has said, "*It will no longer be possible to concrete over large swathes of the country without any regard to what local people want*".

So the government has endorsed the Society's sustained stance against the use of Green Belt land. We are sure that our members will welcome the abandonment of the regional tier of planning if, to our unrestrained delight, this will mean that the destructive deployment of Green Belt land is avoided. We shall follow up the implications of the restraint introduced by the government in the talks we are having on progression of the Land Allocation's DPD.

*Derek Rowbotham
Vice Chairman & Planning Policy*

The Hope Mausoleum

By Alex Bagnall

Since the previous Spring Newsletter when plans for the restoration of the Hope Mausoleum and surrounding parkland were outlined, the project has been progressing well. The Mausoleum was subsequently upgraded by English Heritage to Grade II*, recognising it as a particularly important building of more than special interest and within the top four percent of listed buildings in the country.

May 20th saw the official launch of the Mausolea and Monuments Trust's campaign to restore the Hope Mausoleum. The event was marked at the Sir John Soane Museum in London, with a talk on the Deepdene given by the eminent architectural historian Professor David Watkin. MMT Chairman Roger Bowdler then outlined the Trust's plans. The Trust aims to raise £200,000 and help Mole Valley District Council to restore this unique building, which is the only surviving structure built by this arbiter of regency taste. Recent

excavation work has begun and the structure was opened for the first time in fifty years. The internal investigation revealed an interior with an extraordinary quality of work which appears to be remarkably well preserved. A plan of works is being drawn up with the aim of repairing and restoring the building. To this end, a fund raising site has been opened, details of which can be found at www.justgiving.com/HopeSpringsEternal.

Progress has not, however, been limited to the structure alone. Since the previous article outlining the Council's aims to restore the parkland around the Hope Mausoleum, the tree felling has, in the main, been completed. The site has now largely returned to its tree cover of 1870 as indicated on historic maps, with dotted sycamore on the lower slopes and larch on top of the hill. A number of views have been opened up and it is now possible to see Brockham Church from the top of the hill. The tree felling has helped to reconnect the area to the surrounding parkland landscape of Dorking Golf Club, giving an idea of the original setting of the mausoleum.



With the majority of the trees removed, the next task is to clear the ground of debris to enable the site to be mown. The eventual aim is to return the site to species-rich grassland similar to the pasture land that historically characterised the area, with an annual hay cut being harvested. The removal of the dense tree cover not only returns the site back to its historic integrity but

will allow a ground flora to establish which, in turn, will increase the biodiversity of the site.

The work is far from complete but, with each volunteer work party, notable areas are cleared, enabling the site's future maintenance and in turn revealing ever more of this once forgotten but significant part of Dorking's history.



(The previous page) Hope Mausoleum, May 2010

(Left) Chart Park, November 2009

(Below) Chart Park, May 2010



PHOTOS: ALEX BAGNALL

AUTUMN WALK

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18th
at 10.30am.

Just under 4 miles
Approx. 1½ - 2 hours

NORBURY PARK

We will meet at the Crabtree Lane car park, on the edge of Norbury Park. The route takes us toward Great Bookham, then in the direction of Bocketts Farm, returning over Fetcham Downs via Norbury Park House and back to the car park.

The walking is generally easy, on well established tracks, and gives us two rewards:

Firstly, from the furthest point, views to the north and north east over Leatherhead and, secondly, on our return, wonderful views over the Mole Gap, Cherkley Court, Juniper Hill House, Mickleham and Box Hill.

There are no stiles, and dogs on leads are welcome. Even if wet, it is unlikely to be very muddy.

*Crabtree Lane is in Westhumble, and is reached by turning off the A24 to **Box Hill & Westhumble Station**. Turn right immediately crossing the railroad bridge (NOT through the arch to Camilla Drive) into Crabtree Lane. The car park is just over ½ mile up the lane on the right.*

If you have any queries, please call me on: 01306 884152 or e-mail henry-bennett3@btinternet.com.

I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU THERE. *Francis Bennett*

URGENTLY WANTED

MINUTE SECRETARY

If you are a retired lady or gentleman or self-employed, with some experience of working with Board Directors or Senior Executives, computer literate and have a desire to help in the work of the DDPS, contact Sir Martin Wedgwood at the number below.

COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

If you are passionate about the beautiful countryside around Dorking, and would like to make a difference, this is the job for you.

ROADS & TRANSPORT OFFICER

An important part of the Society's remit, attending meetings about Highways, Railroads and Airports, and reporting back to the Council.

For more details,
please contact

Sir Martin Wedgwood
on: 01306 889941

or Email

martin.wedgwood@ddps.org.uk

As I sat with my sketchbook in the dewy grass, watching rabbits hopping around in the clearing, I felt a wave of cool, calm tranquillity wash over me, the earlier hot-headed rage forgotten. Earlier, I'd seen the excavators ripping up the ground by the stream in which I had paddled only the week before. As I sat there, I realised that my short walk to wilderness was going to become a daily five-mile hike to bypass the new housing development in progress. At the same time, I became convinced that the

world was too small and overpopulated, and that the wildlife being destroyed by the excavators that day had as much right to exist as I did. This was my hometown of Huddersfield and I was eleven years old. The fact that I was carrying my sketchbook that day was not unusual either. In the words of my mum, "*Helen was only ever going to be an artist*". Not that I was academically challenged by any means – I, just like her, had a passion for painting.



My eureka Call of the wild Moment

by Helen Shackleton

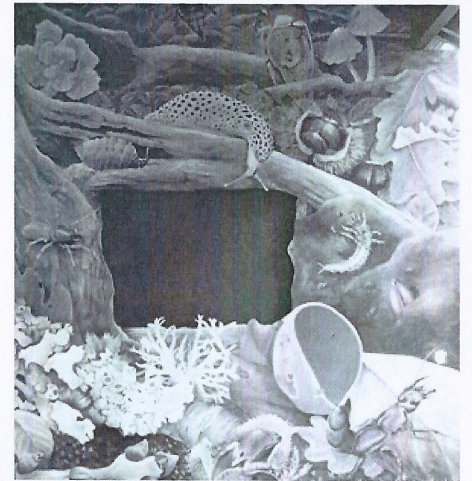
This was a significant moment in my childhood, which led me to a life in conservation. At a meeting of education officers and designers that I was attending on behalf of The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, I heard many similar stories to my own being described.

I went on to spend 16 happy years with WWT, as their Head of Interpretation, using my degree skills as an artist and graphic

designer to create exhibits that invited visitors to share the wonders of wetlands. However, as the years passed, and the career progressed from paintbrush to pen, I craved a new lifestyle. I took a deep breath and, in 2005, left WWT to launch 'Wildmurals' (www.wildmurals.com).

Sitting in my new studio/workshop in Stroud, Gloucester, I think about how my perspective on life is changing.

I can't remember how many times as a child, whilst on long car journeys, my mum would suddenly say, "*Look at the lovely scenery*", but I was always far too busy staring at the hedgerow as it sped by, hoping to catch a glimpse of a beetle or a butterfly. It is the minutiae of life, its colours and textures, that fascinate me. However, in the last few years, having worked with many different clients in both the private and conservation sectors, I have on occasion looked beyond the hedgerow to the fields and landscape,



(Top) Detail of outside of Learning Space entrance on Box Hill

(Middle) The colourful mural at the entrance of NT's building on Box Hill

(Bottom) The Box Hill Discovery Zone



happy to paint the whole scene, not just the foreground detail.

I still find constant inspiration in nature and love the fact that I am now getting opportunities to use it to create three-dimensional, sculptural forms. The first was the Reed Hide for the Cotswold Water Park Society, and most recently for the Northmoor Trust in Oxfordshire, a project which my husband and civil engineer Lloyd Turner is about to start building. Together, we form a formidable team, often joking that if I can draw it, Lloyd can build it, making the future potential really exciting.

I realise how lucky I am to live in such a beautiful part of England, with only a five minute walk to my own version of wilderness. Our

house is perched on the edge of Rodborough Common and has views not unlike those at the National Trust site on Box Hill. In fact, when I first started working on the Discovery Zone for the Friends of Box Hill, I had a real sense of home from home.

Like my Dad, I have always loved the sea, and in the future hope to fill my sketchbooks with pages of coastal-inspired design ideas. Whatever that future holds, I know it will involve a paintbrush of some sort or another. My mum inspired me and, hopefully, my work will inspire others to take a closer look at the natural world around them and do what they can to preserve it for generations to come.

A corner of the Learning Space room on Box Hill, with bugs & butterflies



News from the Museum



by Kathy Atherton

Since April, Yvonne Durell has taken over from Mary Turner as archivist, Erica Chambers has taken on events management and sales and Dominic Carter is now curator of artefacts. Teacher Sarah Brogden has come on board to liaise with schools and Clare Flanagan has undertaken to move things forward on MLA accreditation.

The Museum is now almost completely stripped of its contents, and Dominic is working with Terry Wooden to reconcile the artefacts accessions register with the storage records. He will then undertake a thorough audit with a view to a rationalisation of the collections. Yvonne, meanwhile, is digitising the archive collection of photographs and postcards.

With regard to the redevelopment plans, detailed discussions could not commence until we were provided with accurate costings for what is proposed. These have just been received at the time of writing, although we have one or two questions. We will shortly be in a position to assess how much money needs to be raised, and therefore whether the project is viable. (We

cannot risk paying out for detailed plans to be drawn up without a reasonable expectation of being able to build.)

In order to apply for lottery funding (which it is anticipated will be necessary) or to attract business donations, a thoroughly researched and costed business and operating plan is being put together. Research is being undertaken into projected future running costs, projected operating hours, sales and charging strategies, staffing levels, and expected footfalls. Advice is being sought from those who have had experience of lottery funding. It is clear that we will need to show strong community support for the project and evidence of community benefit, particularly amongst disadvantaged groups. (It is anticipated that to satisfy the lottery we will need to project substantially increased footfall over what has traditionally been achieved – and this with no paid staff, which makes it difficult to guarantee increased opening hours or activities.) It is also clear that our historically low income (about £2000pa) may be of concern to potential funders of a capital project which will have higher maintenance costs. Addressing these issues is not something that can be rushed; all figures and projections will be thoroughly assessed by potential funders. It is therefore expected that this process will take some time.

In the meantime, the committee is working to raise the Museum's

profile in the community through press coverage, walks and talks and participation in local events (village days, Heritage Open Days, Transition Dorking's mass photo scan, etc.) – with the additional hope of garnering more volunteers. We are also making contact with local community groups with whom we can work in the future and who might support us in any funding bid. To this end we have prepared permanent portable display boards. A new website is under construction. A new logo has also been adopted, and Hank has designed new donation forms.

The committee is also working on a series of fundraising events – a Strawberry Sunday, a coffee morning and a quiz night. These will help with running costs, but there is at present no volunteer capacity to take on any larger-scale or more regular fundraising. Nor will it be possible for the lottery or other funding bid to be dealt with by a dedicated team until we have a larger and more active group of volunteers.

DONATION FORM

DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

I want to help build and fit out the Dorking Museum and Heritage Centre.

Please find enclosed a donation of

£.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....Post Code.....

Please make your cheque payable to:

DDPS. Send to: Alan Loryman, Dorking Museum, 62 West St, Dorking RH4 1BS

If you would like to receive more information about other ways to help, or become a volunteer, please tick box

e-mail address

Telephone Number:

I am a UK taxpayer currently paying income tax or Capital Gains tax that is at least equal to the tax deducted from my donation. I should like the Dorking & District Preservation Society to claim back the tax on this gift and any future gifts until further notice.

Signature

Date

If you would like a receipt, tick here

Registered Charity No. 1107459 Trustees: The Council of the Dorking & District Preservation Society

LETTERS

This letter came to me as a copy of one to Adrian White, our President. A copy was also sent to Sir Martin and, eventually, was published in the Dorking Advertiser. *Ed.*

Dear Sir,

I refer to my recent telephone conversation with Martin Wedgwood regarding the monstrosity of the new development at the eastern end of Dorking High Street. He maintained that he and the Planning Committee approved this construction as it was in line with their concept of 'Preserve and record the best of the old and encourage the best of the new'. A policy with which I wholeheartedly agree knowing there is 'some leeway' between decisions of what is the 'best'.

Having now, however, been able to obtain sight of the original illustration [elevation drawings *Ed.*] presented to the planning committee I can see why, but not understand why, the committee was bamboozled into approving and agreeing to the development in the first place.

Such is the computerised presentation, much predominance is made of the Western end of the structure, the design of which is quite in standing with the existing character of the town, that scant attention is given to the Eastern end which fudges the actual proposed building details.

As it is, Dorking will now have a glass walled eyesore in the High Street that will cause controversy for many years and people asking 'who the blazes allowed it in the first place?' And what is more, could well provide the basic argument for future developers to quote this for more progressive modern and futuristic designs.

N.W. Kindon

RESPONSE by me, the editor, wearing my Planning Chairman's hat.

As I have mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, my committee and I disagree with Mr Kindon. The eastern end of the High Street is already home to a plethora of architectural styles, some better than others but all reasonably contemporary. Just around the corner in London Road there is the inelegant brick box of the telephone exchange and, across the road, the odd looking Swimming Baths. Further along are the recent Apartment blocks and the nicely designed medical centre. Pippbrook itself is of modern design. As an architectural illustrator, I am not terribly happy with the overall look at that end of the town, so it was with delight that my committee sent a letter recommending approval of the 'Glass Monstrosity'. It is the MVDC Planning Officers and the Councillors on the Planning Committee who approve projects, not the Society.

Having said all that, I know how Mr Kindon feels. Every time I go back to my home city of Winchester I too get depressed at the things they are doing to my ancestral home. I was born, bred, educated there during the thirties and forties and, when I came home from the RAF, I went to Art School there. It was in the sixties that the developers moved in and started to knock down ancient streets to build supermarkets et al.

Having worked as an artist with developers for the last thirty years, I am aware of the horrors they are perpetrating on the public with their 'aspirational' homes for executives, towering apartment blocks and ticky-tacky box houses, many of which are looking back at the past rather than forward to the future.

Necessity is the mother of invention

By Adam Jolyon

When a mine owner in Cornwall had a flooding problem, he invented the steam pump. From this invention came the steam engine. Industry picked up the idea and increased their productivity by leaps and bounds. The steam locomotive opened up the countries of England and America, and then personal transport arrived in the shape of the Stanley Steamer automobile. From there, it was only a short while before the more efficient gasoline engine was developed, which also allowed powered flight, and so on. The point I am making here is that mankind – that of course includes women – in the face of a problem, has a genius for overcoming it. Alan Turing, in the Second World War, devised the basis of computers which have become a part of all our lives, and their versatility increases by the square every year.

This introduction leads me to recommend a book written by Matt Ridley titled, 'THE RATIONAL OPTIMIST How Prosperity evolves'.

Ridley posits that one idea leads to another. He calls this 'ideas having sex'. A tiny example he quotes is the telephone having sex with a computer and the Internet was born. His is also the first book in decades that isn't an hysterical pot boiler that predicts we will all starve to death, get drowned in rising sea levels or goodness knows what else due to climate change. He debunks the value of wind turbines and points to the vast profits some companies are making, riding the

crest of the wave of all the scare tactics being imposed on us by governments, do-gooders or just plain eco-nuts. It is an enlightening read in this paranoid world we live in.

My predictions in the Spring edition of this Newsletter that the snow we suffered in the winter would bring down a load of mineral goodies from the atmosphere is certainly visible in my garden. I have redcurrants bending down the branches of the bushes with their fruit. I also noted that, in my neighbour's garden, he has oats and wheat growing up in his borders. Not enough to make bread of course, but another indicator of what is floating around up there in the sky.

The cow (ox?) slips at the base of Box Hill this year were magnificent. When I was a lad, I thought the flowers were called cows-lips or ox-lips, and wondered why. In my studies of Anglo Saxon, I now know that the 'slip' bit on the name refers to cow patties through which the flowers grew and thrived. I suppose it could have been worse.

Back in the winter of 2009, I had an accidental overflow from my washing machine outlet which poisoned the soil in my front garden, so much so that I lost some much-loved bushes, including a Pieris Flame and a really ancient fuchsia. I am currently having a gardener in for two or three hours every week, and he has discovered that the fuchsia has started to grow about two feet away from the parent bush. I am afraid, though, that the Pieris will have to go. However, the euonymus through which it grows is thriving.

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.

Name	Address	Tel.	Business type
ADV (UK) Ltd	The Old Crummet Factory, 16 Brockham Lane, Betchworth, RH3 7EL	01737 845 450	Building Preservation & Construction
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
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		
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 1 Paper Mews, 330 High Street, RH4 2TU	887 023 886 681	Management services 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
Patrick Gardner & Co	171 High Street, RH4 1AD	877 775	Estate agents
Penwizard Ltd	Dene Lodge, Cotmandene, RH4 2BN		
Priory School, The Rose Hill Nursing Home	West Bank, RH4 3DG	887 337	School
Sears, Philip, Designs	9 Rose Hill, RH4 2EG	882 622	Nursing home
Songhurst, W Ltd	18c Horsham Road, RH4 2JD	884 477	Architectural building surveyor
	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	The Old Crummet Factory, 16 Brockham Lane, Betchworth, RH3 7EL	01737 845 451	Building Preservation & Construction
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

OTHER CORPORATE MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE SOCIETY

Abinger Parish Council	Dorking Town Centre Management	Newdigate Parish Council
Amis de Gouvieux, Les	Friends of Boxhill	Ockley Parish Council
Ashcombe School	Friends of Gouvieux	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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- Local places of interest
- Local travel information

Stockists of maps, guides, books & dvd's.
Two internet access stations.



Take a trip into history deep underground!

The Dorking Caves are one of Surrey's best kept secrets. Carved out of the Lower Greensand, these hidden galleries have been in use for hundreds of years and are the last remaining set of the town's network of caves open to the public. A visit to Dorking Caves is one you will not forget!



Enjoy a guided walk through the streets of this historic market town

Learn about the fascinating people and interesting events that make up its past with our resident Blue Badge Guide. Explore the streets where markets have stood since medieval times, imagine the noise and colour of the annual fairs, picture the hustle and bustle of the 18th Century coaching inns



To book both Caves and Guided Walks please
visit or contact Visitor Information.
Dorking Halls, Reigate Road, Dorking
next to the box office Tel: 01306 879327
Email: visitor.information@molevalley.gov.uk

Discover
Dorking
Heart of the Surrey Hills