

# NEWSLETTER

of the Dorking & District Preservation Society

No. 57

Autumn 2010

The complete picture

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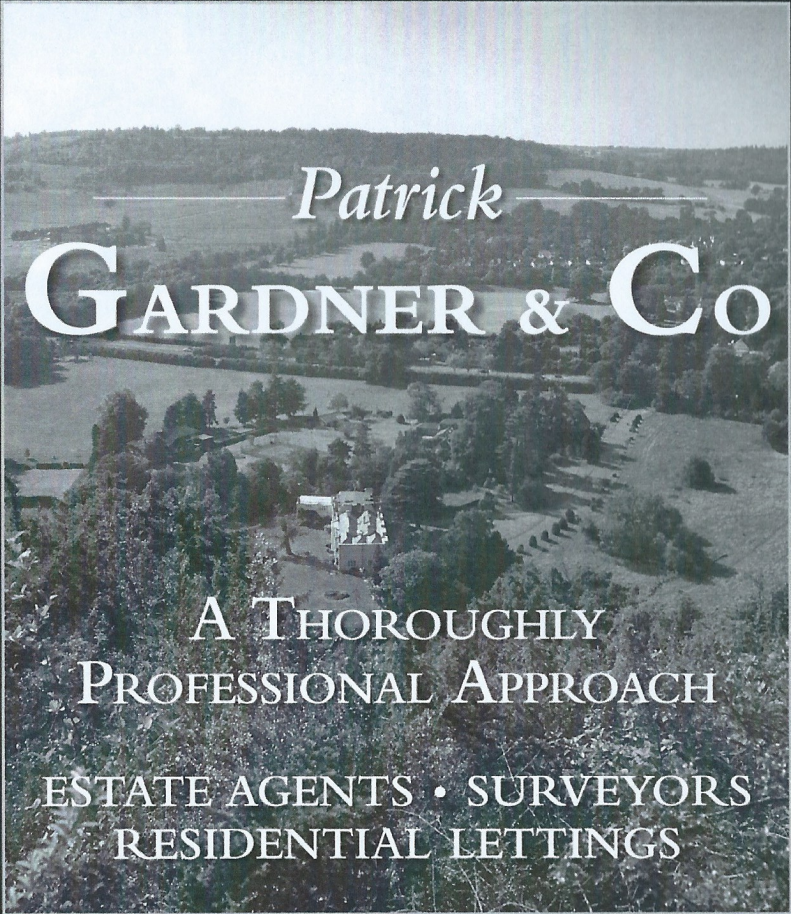
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# NEWSLETTER

of the Dorking & District Preservation Society

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Free to members

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The Editor welcomes letters and items for publication from members and other readers. All unattributed material is contributed by the Editor.

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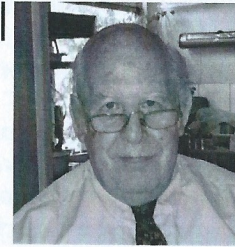
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## editorial



I see that our gardening philosopher, Adam Jolyon, has started his column with a song lyric. I am going to emulate him by quoting "Dust yourself off, Pick yourself up, And start all over again", a song I think from a Disney cartoon. However, it is relevant to the news about our plans for a new museum. In Kathy Atherton's article, you will read about the honesty of our museum committee with both itself, our members and also about the realistic decisions that have had to be made regarding the rebuild.

It is also possible that, by the time you read this, many of the Planning issues that have taxed us for over two months may well be settled. However, the various articles describe the thinking behind our opposition to, or our problem with them.

On the Planning front, we have been tackling the library controversy and the proposed new estates at Springfield Road, Westcott and Marley Mead off Ridgeway Road. My own and Derek Rowbotham's Planning columns will explain all. With regard to the library, the Society only received three communications from members. One of these I print in the 'Letters' section

along with a response from Sir Martin.

We also publish in our *News and Views* section an interesting piece about an unfinished manuscript by Vaughan Williams, based on a story in the *Sunday Times*. I shall be honest with you. I am not a great classical music buff but I love anything with a tune or a harmonic frequency that can send a chill up my spine. Vaughan Williams' "The Lark Ascending" does just that to me: it features a lot in my 'Quiet Time' that I have around five o'clock each day with my *chota peg* whisky.

I have also included two pages of a few of the paintings of local scenes dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries which are held by our museum. A while ago, it was decided to photograph them and store on discs for easy access from the Internet. Hundreds of early and more recent photographs of Dorking and the surrounding villages have already been stored on discs for the same reason. Some of these I shall print in the spring edition next year.

Because this is the last *Newsletter* until spring, I shall climb on the retailer's bandwagon and wish you a Happy Holiday.

*Hank Etheridge, Editor*



## chairman's message



### A Way Ahead for our Museum

The big news since our last newsletter relates to the decisions taken by the museum committee, and I recommend that you read Kathy Atherton's article 'Museum Re-think'. The final paragraphs are a fine example of thinking 'outside the box'. All along, the thinking had been 'How do we provide premises and acceptable conditions for the exhibits that the museum happens to have?' Now it is more: 'How do we provide a museum which is appropriate for Dorking and its district?' So the discussion now is not 'How do we decently house the exhibits that we happen to have?' but, 'How do we put across the history of our town and district, and what exhibits do we use for this purpose?'

This does not necessarily require a larger building, but it does call for a museum that is better planned and equipped. There is also the question of cost. The brief which we gave the three architects' firms indicated a cost of c.£420,000, and the estimates they gave in their presentations were not much in excess of this figure. When we looked at it more closely, however, and added all the necessary extras, some of them arising from the cramped nature of the site, we

found ourselves looking at a figure well in excess even of that. The way forward is now clear.

### The Revolution in Planning

We should all have sympathy for the poor over-worked planning officers in the District Council. It is up to them alone now to decide what the housing requirement is likely to be over the next 10 to 15 years, after consultation with the locals. The Council has commissioned a study by an outside source on the expected increase in the housing stock. Derek Rowbotham and Geoff Heaps have inspected the study and do not understand the methodology used.

There is also the question of the degree of consultation to be expected. A district-wide exercise would probably show a large majority – subject only to wide agreement that Green Belt land should not be used. But should proposals for a large housing scheme be subject to a consultation within the relevant ward? The result there would likely be a strong rejection.

Derek Rowbotham in his article (see page 12) mentions both the Marley Mead site and the site in Westcott alongside Springfield Road. Both sites are on land designated as reserve building land. These should only be released for building when the Council is faced with land shortage which is severe and immediate. We do not believe that this is yet the case.

### Moving the Public Library

Your Editor has printed in this newsletter a letter which I received from Mr. A.D. Winslade, together with two letters that I wrote to him in reply. My view, as you will see in my first letter, is that the prosperity of Dorking as a market town, on which the amenity of all its catchment area depends, lies in the prosperity of its traders. I would therefore be in favour of the library moving. The overwhelming view of the citizens, however, (see my second letter) is that they do not want it to move. They are fond of it. If it came to a vote, there seems little doubt that those who voted against the move would be in a strong majority. The majority must be respected. A vote, however, is not likely. All will depend on whether the County Council and the District Council are able to agree on terms for renewing the lease for the current library building. If they can, the library stays put. If they cannot, it moves to St Martin's Walk.

*Martin Wedgwood*

# 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

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For more details,  
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Sir Martin Wedgwood  
on: 01306 889941

or Email

[martin.wedgwood@ddps.org.uk](mailto:martin.wedgwood@ddps.org.uk)



## planning report

To bring you up-to-date, the revised design of a large Georgian 'Replica' mansion proposed for an old Victorian farmhouse on Ranmore, which we were unhappy with, has been approved.

We sent off a letter to the Inspectorate about the two proposed 'WAGS' houses in Camilla Drive, Westhumble, enlarging upon our letter of objection to MVDC. This Appeal will be dealt with via a 'Written Representation' as opposed to a 'Hearing', something that the local objectors in Camilla Drive are trying to change.

This planning report will cover some very emotive applications which have been made since I last wrote, and have involved the Society's Strategic Planning Group in a great deal of work, some of which has been covered in Derek Rowbotham's article on page???. Although I have been involved in this, my committee and I have also tried to deal with the vexed problem of the proposed library move.

Since my last report back in the summer, we have had the Springfield Road in Westcott application, a similar one for Marley Mead off Ridgeway Road and the controversial library move to deal with. The latter is dealt with by Sir Martin in the 'Letters' page further on in the *Newsletter*. However, in a straw poll of the Society's Council, only three members were against the proposed move. I should state that I am in favour of the move, although I stress that this is not necessarily Society policy. As I see it, the proposed new library will hold many more books, will have a more extensive IT capability, a dedi-

cated children's corner where authors can read to them from their books and, possibly, have life-size depictions of characters from children's books supplied by publishers. Its reference section will be more extensive, and it will have a ramp and toilet facilities for the disabled. There will be 'Quiet' places for users to browse their choices before checking them out. A library to me is a place for children to enjoy books and learn from them: a place for serious students within the reference racks and, of course, the widest range of new and vintage fiction. Can I also mention the coffee bars adjacent to the proposed new library? I discussed this proposed move with Parry Stock from SCC, and was privileged to see some of the correspondence between them and Mole Valley about the move. Negotiations are ongoing to resolve this matter to everyone's satisfaction. The Society's main concern is about the future of Pippbrook House should the library move. At a meeting in MVDC, it was decided that the library will move.

The two major applications for lots of houses on the Springfield site in Westcott, and another on Marley Mead off Ridgeway Road and abutting the Rough Rew, have been the subject of much research by the Strategic Planning Group. We have had legal advice and the expertise of Derek Rowbotham – an ex Planning Inspector. Our Group has been involved in consultation with Mole Valley about the new Local Development Framework (LDF) for three years, and have been influential in the construction of the Core Strategy. We are therefore certain that both

these sites are 'Reserve Sites', meaning they cannot be built upon until MVDC's Calculations of Homes is completed at the end of 2011. This is the basis of the Society's opposition to both schemes. If MVDC ignore this fact and approve the plans, we understand that proceedings in the High Court will take place. My committee and I have looked at both schemes and have read the research carried out by the applicants, much of which has been 'desk research', not really satisfactory on schemes of this size. For instance, no mention of the crested newts which abound on the Marley Mead site has been made.

It is important that you read Derek's article to get a more complete picture.

Having gotten that out of the way, here is our report of our work on other applications.

We looked at an application to build two detached bungalows with car ports in Noys Yard in Brockham. We noted in the design and access statement that the applicants had made an in-depth study on environmental building and installation systems, but had not committed to any of them. They further blotted their copy book by positioning the two buildings at an orientation that denied them the full benefit of the sun. They also went on to commit another environmentally unfriendly decision by including outside chimneys which research has shown leeches heat out into the atmosphere thereby reducing it inside the home.

We also looked at a proposal for a change of use application to turn a small, vintage retail shop in Westcott into a one bedroom apartment. We

asked whether or not the applicant had fully explored the retail possibilities of the shop before making the application, on the grounds that too many small retail units in villages are being lost to the residents. We added that, if the CU was approved, any period features in the shop should be retained during the conversion. It has been refused. A revised application has now been made.

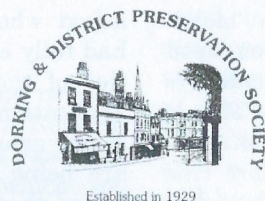
The 'Old House at Home' pub in West Street, a listed building, applied to convert a garage/store building in their back yard into a garden bar. Although we did not object, we point out that this pub was on the site of the old Dorking Pipe Maker, Thorntons, and that possibly there could be disturbance to any archaeology if trenches were dug to accommodate utilities. It has been approved.

We stated in a letter to MVDC that, although we were reasonably happy with an extension to a house in Ridgeway Road, we had noticed that some proposed concrete paving slabs and new piles overlaid the roots of a mature beech tree. In our letter, we said that if Ron Howe – the Tree Officer – was happy with it, so were we.

At today's Planning meeting (August 18) we decided to write a letter about an extension to a house in Beare Green, the plans for which, we felt, were insufficient for our understanding of the scheme. We shall also discuss the plans for Wonham Mill House with Peter Mills before making a written comment.

*Hank Etheridge*  
Planning Chairman





# NEWS & VIEWS

## Welcome to

Matt Gibbs, who joins the museum team as its PR officer. Matt started off as an archaeologist but later changed skills and became a professional PR man.

## Lost Vaughan William's work played at Proms on September 5th

An unfinished work by Ralph Vaughan Williams, started over 50 years ago and written for cellist Pablo Casals, has been 'completed' by David Matthews, a composer and Vaughan Williams expert.

The rediscovered work was found in the British library, and on September 5, cellist Stephen Isserlis performed the finished slow second movement at the Albert Hall.

However, there was an obstacle to completing this work. Ursula Vaughan, William's widow, had written on the manuscript, "This work is unfinished and should not be performed". Isserlis and Matthews contacted the Vaughan Williams Trust, which decided to overrule her wishes, but only as far as allowing completion of the slow movement. Vaughan Williams, of course, lived at

White Gate House in Dorking.

*Condensed from The Sunday Times.*

## Waste not – Compost it

I was putting out my recycling bin along with my food waste bin at the same time as a neighbour. Gesturing at the food waste bin he said, "I've been making garden compost for years and I would never put cooked food onto it. It makes it all gooey and doesn't work". He had a point. The next day I spoke to a waste management guy at Mole Valley and asked, "How do you make compost from food waste?". Unfortunately, Josh Strickland, who heads up the department, was on vacation, so I only received a bare description from one of the operatives. He told me that it was broken down anaerobically, and that was it. I shall be contacting Mr Strickland to ask him to write a rather fuller, expert description for the Spring Newsletter. *Ed.*

## It's a fine pickle you've gotten us into Grant Shapps

Lucy Alexander, writing in The Times, said in an article on the chaos of the new government's approach to

planning, that she was dubious about the Housing Minister Grant Shapps' confidence that giving local communities more say in planning matters in their localities would not lead to 'nimbyism'. "Unfortunately", she said, "the people likely to get involved are not those with most to gain from house building." She went on to say, "The people likely to become involved are retired home owners rather than first time buyers".

The planning system in England and Wales is presently in a state of disarray. Our own District Council is having to look again at their Core Strategy, thus delaying the Local Development Framework. Developers are threatening to take the government to the High Court over dumping the Regional Assemblies, which will, they say, result in making future building plans even more chaotic.

## THE NUM3ERS GAME

£5,000

From next January, the government grant towards purchase of an ultra-low carbon car.

40%

Proportion of families on social housing waiting lists who need homes with 4 or more bedrooms.

## DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP 2010 – 11 PROGRAMME

- Oct. 5** The Deepdene  
*Yvonne Durell*
- 
- Nov. 2** Family Histories for Local Historians  
*Brenda Miles*
- 
- Dec. 7** House Histories of Brook Lodge and Waterlands Farm  
*Bruce Galley / Peter Camp*
- 
- Jan. 4** Songs through the Seasons  
*Sally & Phil Gorton*
- 
- Feb. 1** Woodcarvings of Newdigate Church  
*John Calcutt / Jane Lilley*
- 
- Mar. 1** Woking Palace  
*Rob Poulton*
- 
- Apr. 5** English Inn Signs – Their local & regional significance\*  
*Janet Pennington*

- Note that this meeting commences at 7.45. It will be preceded by a short AGM, commencing at 7.30.

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, BUTTER HILL, DORKING ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7.30PM. FREE TO MEMBERS; NON-MEMBERS VERY WELCOME, PAY £1 AT DOOR.

## DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

If you are NOT a member – Would you like to join?

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This will give you the following:

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## Confusion in Planning



By Derek Rowbotham

Since the arbitrary cancellation of the SE Plan there has been confusion in progressing the existing adopted Local Development Framework's (LDF's) planned Development Plan documents. These documents will allocate the required land for housing for the period up to 2026, and were to be published to enable meaningful consultation with the public.

The Secretary of State, Eric Pickles MP, said in a short letter addressed to all district planning authorities, that "*decisions on housing supply ... will rest with the local planning authority without the framework of regional numbers and plans*". This has caused disruption of the policy planning needed to complete the allocation of sites, because there is no other guide to the quantity of houses which will be needed across the district. This information was to be found in the SE Plan which provided an allocation of homes per district at regional level.

The cancellation of the top tier of plans without any indication, other than the advice to leave it to the local community to decide how and where houses would be built, is a very disruptive process. It means that Mole Valley has to do the research to determine the potential numbers of homes which will need to be built in the district, given the changes to the

resident population in the future. There will be some difficulty in registering the opinions of local communities that can be applied to the allocation of homes in different parts of the district.

Latest information in the MVDC LDF Newsletter states that it will be the end of the year 2011 before work on the calculation of homes is completed and, therefore, the basis of the spatial allocation of homes and accordingly the requirement for land. There will be uncertainty in determining whether or not the individual application for planning permission to build can smoothly go ahead by identifying policy criteria, or whether the lack of a satisfactory development plan will prove to be too great a practical problem. We can only state that we will try to keep abreast of the changes to come!

However, the effects of this hiatus are already being experienced in relation to the two separate planning permission applications for (i) the greenfield site at Marley Mead, Ridgeway Road, South Dorking and (ii) the village site at Springfield Road, Westcott. These proposals have occasioned strong opposition from the local communities, and both attempts to secure permission will not achieve the degree of support envisaged by the government to endorse their acceptance in the new regime.

*Derek Rowbotham*

*Vice Chairman & Planning Policy*

## Museum Rethink



by Kathy Atherton

Dorking Museum is down, but not out. That is the message that the museum has been striving to get over to the public this last three months. Whilst the rebuild has been temporarily stalled, the team has focussed its activities on participation in local events and building partnerships with local organisations, with a view to repositioning the museum at the heart of the community. This has resulted in a high profile for the museum despite the continued closure of the building. Our presence at local events has enabled us to attract volunteers, to make contacts, and to make money. Heritage Open Days saw us hosting two guided walks as well as a temporary display on the subject of Georgian Dorking, whilst also being central to the Dorkinians' digital photography project and producing Mole Valley's leaflet on the history of cricket in Dorking. In terms of fundraising, our July strawberry event raised £700 towards the rebuild project, and our new website – courtesy of our sales and events manager, Erica Chambers – enables us to sell books directly and to receive donations via PayPal. Already, we have attracted

a number of first-class volunteers through the site.

We have taken the closure of the museum as an opportunity to improve our systems, our collections and our services in anticipation of reopening. Digitisation of the archive collection of several thousand postcards and photographs is proceeding at speed. Meanwhile, curator of artefacts, Dominic Carter, is conducting a comprehensive stock-take of the museum's collections.

The key focus of our efforts this quarter, however, has been on assessing the viability of the Perry Barnes' plan for the museum rebuild, which has been the subject of coverage in previous newsletters. As readers will recall, Perry Barnes won the architects' competition run by the DDPS to generate a design for a new museum. Though the design found favour with nearly all involved, with funds tight, the viability of the scheme had to be very carefully assessed. The last months have therefore been spent in obtaining accurate costings for the proposed building, in projecting the running costs for such a building and in putting together a business plan for the long-term sustainability of the project. Likely sales figures, ticket prices, educational throughput, repeat footfalls and the commitment and number of our volunteers were all assessed in detail. Advice was taken from other museums, from those who had been through the lottery process and from those with experience in



construction (with special reference to the difficulties of our site).

The conclusion was reached that the build costs for the proposed scheme would exceed the figures presented to the architects as a guide figure by several multiples, necessitating an unfeasibly large lottery application. We were advised that to succeed in such a bid we would need to be able to show clear community benefit and a far greater footfall than we had projected to be able to achieve, for this particular museum, in its particular site, and with its particular collections. Not only would such a bid require a dedicated team to devote at least the best part of a year to this aspect of the project alone, but it seems highly unlikely that, with no local authority support and therefore no paid staff, we could persuade the lottery assessors that we would be able to offer the kind of programme of community events or the sort of opening hours that would satisfy them that the project represented value for money, community benefit and sustainability. Nor did we anticipate being able to satisfy either lottery assessor or other funders that we would be able to meet the vastly increased running costs of the proposed new building on the business model that we might realistically achieve.

In short, we have concluded that the proposed scheme is too big for a town of Dorking's size and too expensive to fund, especially at a time of economic difficulty. It may

have been a good design, but it was not the scheme for us.

Sad though this may seem, we have emerged positively from the process, having undertaken a thorough, honest and professional assessment of the risks and issues. The team now has a much clearer picture of its resources, of its strengths and weaknesses, and those of the collections. We have a strong vision for the future of the museum and its place in the community.

A museum is more than bricks and mortar. It is not about stuffed things in cases. That does not mean that we do not want things in cases; what it does mean is that a flashier building does not necessarily mean a better museum. A museum should be a living, lively place and should be involved in community events, in its own events, in walks, talks, visits to schools and to those who cannot come to us, on the web and in the archives, getting people involved in history. Which is what we continue to do; we are getting an education team together, volunteer Clare Flanagan is managing a reminiscence project, Susannah Horne is researching and writing and Yvonne Durell has reopened the archives on an appointment basis and is working towards putting our collections catalogues online.

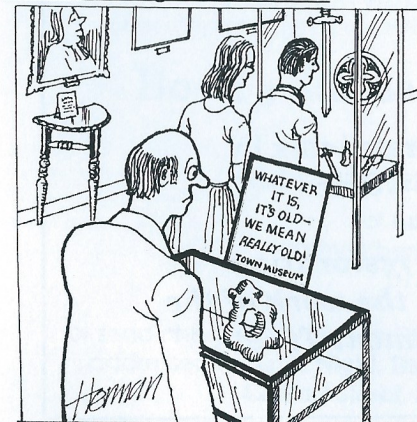
So we will not be holding out for a building that may take many years to finance and which may never be built; instead we are assessing the costs of a refurbish-

ment and refit of the current building, with a view to keeping our budget within what remains of the Owen Russ bequest. Now that the museum is empty it is possible to see that we have a large exhibition space available. We are confident that if we were able to upgrade that and to be selective about what exhibits go back in, displaying them with purpose-created panels which tell the story of Dorking and its inhabitants, we would have a good local museum which would become a lively presence in the community.

So we press on. And, in the meantime, we are a 'virtual' museum – being virtually everywhere, or so it seems to us as we dash from event to event, to web query, to piece of research.

Come and join us – there is something for everyone.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me, Kathy Atherton, by calling 01306 743752 or Email to [kathy.atherton@btinternet.com](mailto:kathy.atherton@btinternet.com), or visit the museum website: [www.dorkingmuseum.com](http://www.dorkingmuseum.com).



## DONATION FORM

**DORKING & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

I want to help refurbish and refit the Dorking Museum and Heritage Centre.

Please find enclosed a donation of

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Address.....

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

*Please make your cheque payable to:  
DDPS Museum Reconstruction Fund.  
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.

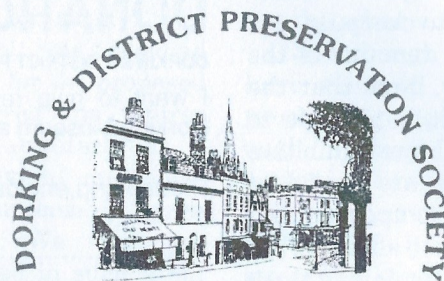
Signature

Date

If you would like a receipt, tick here

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





Established in 1929

**The Autumn Meeting of the Society  
will take place on  
Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm  
in the St. Martin's Christian Centre**

Sir Martin will review the  
work being done on the Planning  
and Museum Front



Afterwards there will be  
an interval for tea and biscuits



followed by an illustrated talk by  
**Dr. Roger Bowdler**  
on  
***Thomas Hope, the restoration  
of his Mausoleum and the work of the  
Mausolea & Monument Trust***



Come and test your brains at a superior

## Quiz Night

Hosted by Newdigate historian, John Callcut  
In support of the Dorking Museum rebuilding fund

**Saturday September 18th  
7:00pm to 10:00pm  
at the Christian Centre, Dorking  
Teams of 6-8 are invited,  
or join a Team on the night**

Entry £12 – includes nibbles, soft drinks  
and a full fish & chip supper  
*(Participants are welcome to bring their own wine or beer)*

**Book your table or place now!**

Contact **Erica Chambers** on  
[ericachambers@dorkingmuseum.co.uk](mailto:ericachambers@dorkingmuseum.co.uk)

or **Kathy Atherton**  
[kathy.atherton@btinternet.com](mailto:kathy.atherton@btinternet.com)  
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or send cheque payable to DDPS a/c Museum Reconstruction Fund,  
addressed to: **QUIZ Night, The Dorking Museum, The Old Foundry,  
62 West Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1BS**



Dear Sir,  
**The Library**

I would like to record with you my objection to the planning application MO/2010/0833, 'Proposed New Location for the Dorking Library' for the following reasons;

**Assessment for the need for relocation.**

1) I object to the proposal for the Pippbrook area (the Council Offices, the Bowls Club, the tennis courts, the magistrates courts and the library building) being re-developed for up to 120 residential units. The statement in the 'SHLAA' (to have the current Pippbrook House and surrounding area redeveloped for residential purposes) is not a valid reason for re-locating the library.

2) The current access to the existing library in Pippbrook House is very good, either on foot, by bus or by car, with free parking available immediately outside. Disabled access to Dorking library is also good (via the short ramp at the front entrance). I object to the proposed library location in St Martin's Walk because the facility would be less accessible, in terms of distance from the station, distance from parking, and for disabled access. I also object to the fact that library users would have to pay for parking.

3) The 'Assessment of Need' states that a population of Dorking's size needs a facility of c512sm of public lending space. I do not consider this to be a valid reason for relocation, because the figures are based on a recom-

mended standard only (whereas actual provision may be more or less). Secondly, Dorking has excellent additional public lending space available in nearby Denbies Vineyard, for music.

4) I object to the proposal to place the library facility in a retail setting. The current library in Pippbrook House has excellent space for quiet reading, or for young families to introduce their children to books. This will be impossible to replicate to the same standard in St Martin's Walk.

**Opportunity presented by the empty units in St Martin's Walk.**

5) The Design and Access Statement states there has been a strategy started several years ago of allowing the retail units in St Martin's Walk to become vacant or only being let for a short term awaiting future development, which has led to a centre with a number of voids. I consider this strategy is at fault, and this is not a valid reason to relocate the library.

**The activities carried out by a modern library.**

6) The existing library in Pippbrook House already has a welcoming and attractive front of house area, regular promotions, large children's library, comfortable seating and internet access, so there is no need for the library to be moved.

**Assessment of the location.**

7) I do not agree that a relocated library in St Martin's Walk will result in less congestion in the town. Pippbrook

House probably has a greater catchment of residents who can access the library on foot. The proposal is based on the idea that people arriving by car will combine shopping and a visit to the library in a single visit, but this is not necessarily the case.

The impression I have is that there is strong opposition in Dorking to both the library move and the proposal to redevelop the Pippbrook area for housing.

Yours sincerely,  
*A.D. Winslade*

**This letter was sent to Sir Martin who obtained permission from Mr Winslade to publish it in the Newsletter. Sir Martin responded twice to the letter, once as an acknowledgement, and for a second time after receiving more information from a councillor at Mole Valley. Ed.**

**RESPONSE #1**

Dear Mr Winslade,  
Many thanks for your very interesting letter, which I received today.

I think that most of the points you made I could have made as well, but I would have given them a different weighting.

The background of our thinking in the DDPS is the unusual situation in which Dorking finds itself, surrounded as it is on nearly all sides by the Metropolitan Green Belt. This makes it very difficult for the town to expand. Its population is much the same as it was 40 years ago. In that time, Horsham has quadrupled in size. More recently both Leatherhead and Reigate have transformed themselves, despite only moderate increases in population, so that their town centres are now significantly more prosperous. Dorking town centre struggles and in an economic downturn retailers too often go to the wall.

St. Martin's Walk has also suffered from the policy of the freeholder giving only short leases, whilst they considered whether to reconfigure the whole site. They have now abandoned this idea, which is why they have been prepared to do a deal with the County Council.

With the Public Library relocated, the footfall in St. Martin's Walk would benefit not only St. Martin's Walk itself but also other retailers in the town centre. More people would be able to come into the centre of the town, do their shopping and visit the Public Library without having to relocate their cars. Currently a visit to the Public Library too often requires a separate journey. So it too should benefit by receiving more frequent visits from a wider range of citizens.

The principal concern of our Society is: What will happen to Pippbrook once the Public Library has vacated it? It is a Grade I listed building. It is an eighteenth century shell which was comprehensively remodelled in the 1860s by Sir Gilbert Scott, one of the leading architects of his age. It was probably much pushed around when the Dorking Urban and Dorking District Councils moved in, and again when it became a public library. There is talk of it being converted into flats. This may be possible, but I would like to see the plans if any emerge. It might well become the headquarters of a medium size company, for which less modification would be needed. We will have to see. But this is a separate problem. This Society will not be slow to criticize whatever will be proposed, if necessary.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,  
*Sir Martin Wedgwood, Bt.*

**RESPONSE #2**

Dear Mr Winslade,  
Further to my letter of two days ago, I would like to pass on to you thoughts with regard to the Public Library, arising from a conversation I had yesterday on the telephone with a



district councillor. I had left a message on his telephone at least a week ago to ask for his views, but he was away and only got my message yesterday.

He said that never in his experience had the Council met with a matter which had aroused such opposition from members of the public as this one. The Council's reaction has been to back-track and to offer the County Council a further lease. The terms that the County Council initially proposed were unacceptable to the District and they are now negotiating. If both bodies are sensible and respect the strength of public opinion they will presumably come to an agreement, and the Public Library will stay where it is. If not, then the Library will move to St. Martin's Walk.

Public opinion would seem to be divided between the town centre traders, who are in favour of the move, and residents, who are not. As always, it is those who oppose an issue whose opinion is most vocal. In my position, however, it is easier to pick up the views of traders in the High Street than those of the general public, who are less easy to canvas.

Arguments can be made for each side. Personally I agree with the traders, but the opinions of the majority must be respected.

Yours sincerely,

*Sir Martin Wedgwood, Bt.*

## STOP PRESS

Yesterday – September 1, Mole Valley's Development Control Committee, after a very pragmatic debate, overwhelmingly voted to move the Library from Pippbrook House to St Martin's Walk. The main thrust of the debate was about increasing footfall in the High Street.

### Come on! It's the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

This Newsletter, like all those before it, comes to you after a long procedure. The articles are written, then edited, and then passed to a typesetter (who is paid for her work) who arranges all the pages, then on to a printer (who is also paid). After that, the copies are all returned to John Ball who (with help) stuffs them into envelopes with addresses supplied by our new Membership Secretary, Jean Person. John then separates the filled envelopes into bunches for onward transmission to our dedicated team of volunteers. The largest bunch, however, consists of envelopes addressed to members where we have no volunteers, because volunteers are increasingly difficult to find – and quite a few members live beyond the limits of Mole Valley anyway. Nowadays, stamps for three second class envelopes costs very nearly a pound. A fat Newsletter will often cost more. It all adds up. Now, would it not be better, in this day and age, not to use printers and rely so heavily on the Royal Mail and on our loyal hand-deliverers, but to send our Newsletter by e-mail. Not only will you get it faster, it will come in colour. If you would like to receive them this way, just send an e-mail to Jean Pearson, telling her that this is what you would like. That's all. Jean's e-mail address is [jeanosbrooks@aol.com](mailto:jeanosbrooks@aol.com). It's easy – and much easier for us. It saves money too. *Martin Wedgwood*

#### THE EDITOR REPLIES

I HAVE WORKED, ON AND OFF, WITH MAGAZINES FOR NIGH ON FIFTY YEARS, AND IT IS MY CONTENTION THAT A MAGAZINE SHOULD BE PRINTED AND PASSED TO READERS IN PRINTED FORM – ON PAPER. ALTHOUGH I APPRECIATE WHAT MARTIN HAS SAID ABOVE, NOT ALL OF US ARE AS NUTTY ABOUT E-MAIL AS HE IS OK IF A COMMUNICATION IS JUST TWO OR THREE PAGES OF TYPE, BUT A MAGAZINE IS SOMETHING TO FILE AWAY ON YOUR BOOKSHELF OR TO SHARE AMONG YOUR FRIENDS. I HATE TO THINK WHAT THE COST WOULD BE IN INK TO PRINT OUT THE NEWSLETTER IF YOU WANTED TO KEEP IT. INCIDENTALLY, MARTIN KNOWS THAT I AM AGIN THIS IDEA.

Editor

## A child's memories of Box Hill

*By Honey Hawkes*

As a child I suffered from frequent attacks of bronchitis, and it was recommended that we moved to Switzerland. This was impossible – it was 1939 – and I ended up at Box Hill. So, for the first few years of my childhood my parents and I lived in a hut at Upper Farm, the home of some interesting and unique residences, including a double-decker bus.

In the late nineties, I did a small nostalgic tour of my old haunts, and the memories came flooding back. Our hut was tiny – one room was the bedroom for my parents and me – enough room for bunk beds and a small camp bed. We lived, ate, cooked and washed in the other room. The hut was lit by oil lamps and candles, the smell of candle wax and oil mixing with the aroma of drying mushrooms that we gathered in the woods behind the camp. My mother would slice the mushrooms, threading the slices with a needle and cotton and festooning the 'living' room.

I was about seven years old and was sent to the primary school in Mickleham. There was a school bus but I preferred to walk – there was so much to see in the morning dew – families of rabbits, a field mouse in its nest and any number of interesting birds. I thought nothing of walking down and up the hill alone, varying my route, sometimes skipping down the brow of the hill, sometimes dawdling along the military road. Walking up the hill on

clear, dark evenings was a delight. The hill was starred with glow worms, and I was always afraid of stepping on one.

Weekends were always spent walking with my father or playing alone in the woods. There was a little refreshment shack at the top of the military road, and I was usually allowed a drink there. In season, we would pick pounds of wild strawberries in the valley behind the campsite, never seeing another soul.

Another treat was at Upper Farm, where my father taught me to swim.

My life was busy with chores. It was my job to get water in large enamel jugs from a standpipe in the centre of the camp, invariably spilling quite a lot. I also did a great deal of my mother's shopping at the general store and post office, which was the source of all of our provisions and groceries. It was a long walk back with heavy bags.

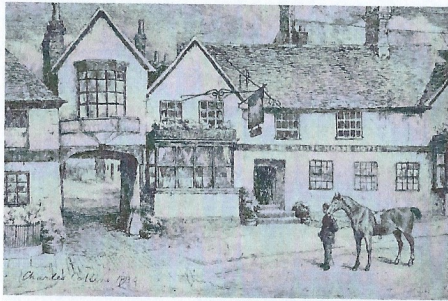
During my short visit, I met a delightful lady, Miss Ena Hawkes, whose memories helped me confirm my own. It seems that badgers are still vandalizing the garbage as they did all those years back, and that the Yew tree I loved to climb is still there fifty-plus years later.

*Sadly, Honey died two years ago, but is still missed by her myriad friends. Although she never talked much about the war, Honey and her parents fled Vienna when the Nazis took over. Honey was sent to a boarding school in France to begin with and, later, when her parents managed to escape, came to England. Her father was a university lecturer, and the only reason they ended up on Box Hill was because of Honey's bronchitis.* Ed.

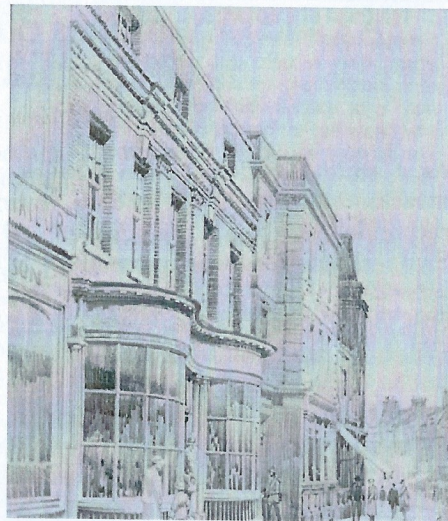


putting you  
in the  
picture

By Yvonne Durell



1



4



2



3

Whilst the archives are currently closed, we are working hard behind the scenes tidying up the electronic catalogues so that, at some point, they can all go onto our brand new website, enabling people far and wide to search our image collection – we currently hold more than 4,000 images, and the collection continues to grow. These are a tiny selection of the paintings of local scenes that we hold.

- 1 *The White Horse, Dorking High Street* by Charles Collins RBA
- 2 *Gun Inn, North Street, Dorking* by Arthur C Fare
- 3 *Bury Hill House, gatehouse* by JD Harding
- 4 *Mason's Grocery Store, High Street, Dorking* by Arthur C Fare



5



6

- 5 *Pine Trees at Bury Hill* by George Gardener
- 6 *Bury Hill House, summer lodge* by JD Harding
- 7 *The Old Dutch House, High Street, Dorking*



7

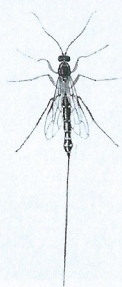


## "And it's a long, long time from May to December

By Adam Jolyon

Somewhat appropriately, seeing that we are in September, I've started this column with the lyrics by Maxwell Anderson written for Kurt Weil's 'September Song'. September is also the month that Keats told us was "The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". It may have been in his time, but for the past few years this season seems to have been replaced by October. I note from previous articles I have written for other publications that September has tended to be a prolongation of August which, in turn, I also note has not always lived up to its reputation of being the hottest month of the year, as it was in my youth.

Another change I noted this year was the appearance of bugs which I don't recall seeing in this country before. Mind you, that may be because I have not been looking out for them, or because I haven't been in the right spot at the right time to see them. The bug in particular, I think, was an *Ichneumon fly* complete with an enormous ovipositor – see illustration, courtesy of 'Field Guide to Plants & Animals' by the publisher Octopus. Of course, I may be wrong, maybe you could correct me. If I am right, this species inhabits Europe and Asia, and would have strayed a long way from its natural habitat. While on the



subject of bugs, I have never seen so many honey bees on one of my flowering trees. I stood and counted thirty or more, and that was only on the side I was looking at. Another welcome sight has been the large number of hover flies this year. As a counterpoint to this, I have seen few wasps so far, although I still have my hornets, but fewer than last year.

A few years ago, I had a rampant wisteria cut back, a tad too viciously I am afraid, and it gave up the ghost. As I mentioned in one of my earlier articles in the *Newsletter*, I have had a gardener clearing weeds and brambles in my garden. One of the places he cleared is the site of my late, lamented wisteria. To my delight, it has been resurrected and is, at present, small but thriving. My next task is to train it up the wall. I doubt it will flower for a few years but, who knows? I shall be doing the same to a rampant rambling rose which fell off the wall last winter, and is currently thriving along the ground and over a footpath. One disappointment are my oleander bushes which were purchased in the spring. So far, not a flower in sight, although a friend who bought some plants from a the same nursery a few weeks ago has hers covered in blooms. My green thumb is obviously losing its powers.

Lavateras are relatively short-lived, and it might be a good idea to take some cuttings this month to pot-up in vermiculite and compost. Put in a shaded cold frame, but remember to trim off most of any hanging bark from the cutting and to dip it in a fungicide before planting in the pot.

### 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 Crumpet 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	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	The Old Crumpet 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		

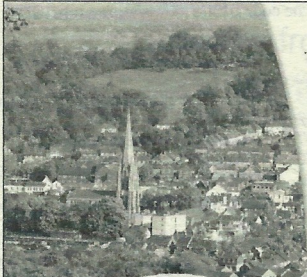
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## MOLE VALLEY Visitor Information Centre

### Visitor & Tourist Information on:-


- Hotels, B&B's and self-catering accommodation
- Local and regional attractions and events
- Dorking Caves and Guided Walks
- Local places of interest
- Local travel information

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



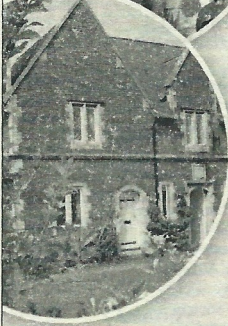
### Take a trip into history deep underground!

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](mailto:visitor.information@molevalley.gov.uk)



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Heart of the Surrey Hills