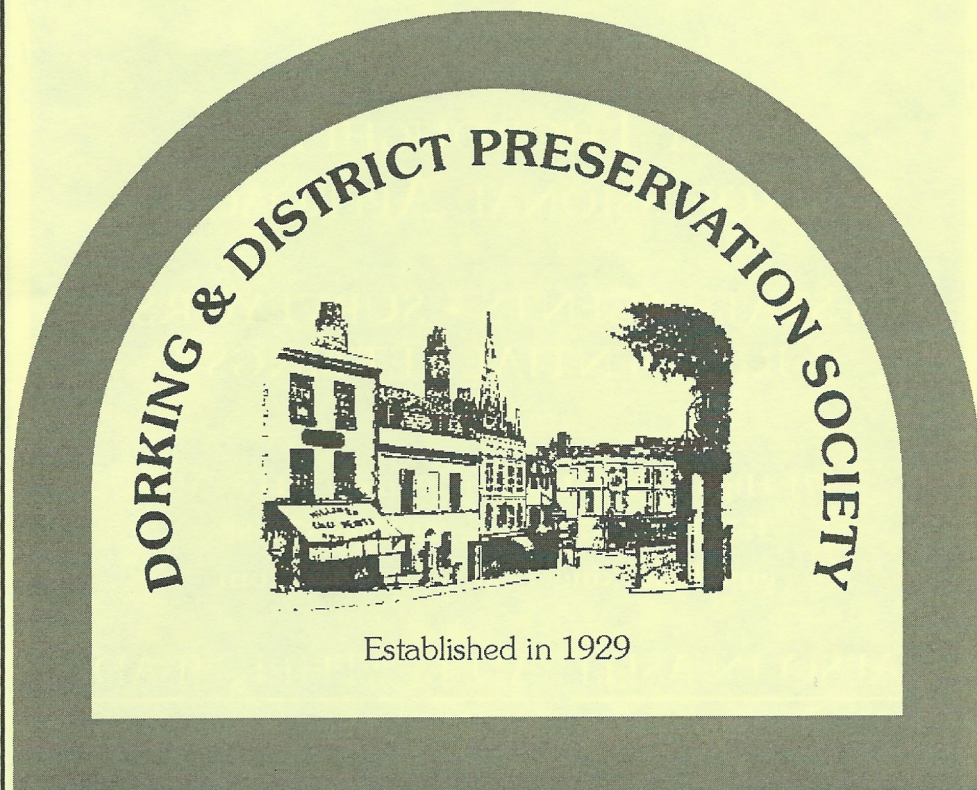


# NEWSLETTER

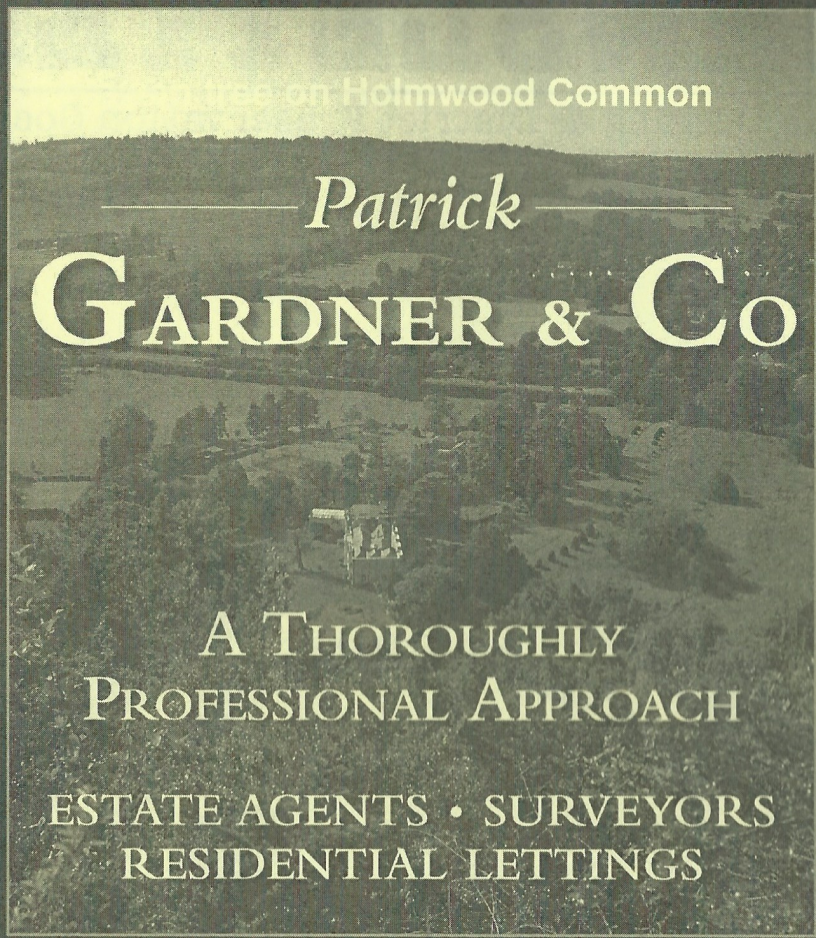
of the Dorking & District Preservation Society

No. 64

Spring 2013



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Large tree on Holmwood Common

Patrick  
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# NEWSLETTER

of the Dorking & District Preservation Society

NEWSLETTER 64: Spring 2013  
Free to members

Published each April, July and October

Last date for copy to be with the Editor: **1<sup>st</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> September.**

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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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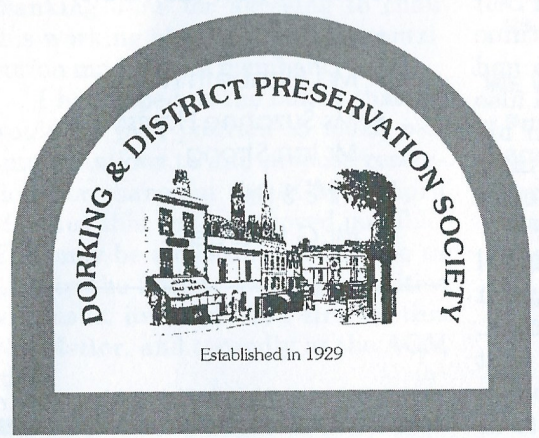
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## editorial



If you approve of the changes that Chris Heaps wants to make to your Society, this will, quite possibly, be the last Newsletter in this format and my last time as editor. If the changes are approved, it will be for the Society to decide in what format future publications are prepared. Anyway, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to edit and design this magazine over the last ten years. I hope you have enjoyed reading it as much as I have had putting it together.

Although I shall remain a member of the Society, I shall be standing down from the executive and council as of the AGM. Derek Rowbotham will also be doing the same. However, he will continue to be the Society's 'Planning Guru' in the fight to preserve the Green Belt around Dorking. I shall continue doing watercolour illustrations and PR work for developers. I shall also be able to spend more time in my much-loved Winchester, Anglo Saxon Capital of England, where I was raised and educated.

As you will see from Nigel Arch's article about the museum, it is going from strength to strength. The display about the JU88 that crashed on Holmwood Common in '44, should be most interesting to us

ex RAF chaps, but as I learned from a young lady I pick up daily from school, only of remote historic interest to her age group.

Read Chairman's proposals for re-organizing the Society very carefully: they must be approved by over fifty percent of the membership if a poll is demanded. The DDPS has been in existence for 84 years so an up-date is on the cards but as members it is your decision and yours alone.

On page 10, I have tried to give an obituary of Peter Mills who died recently. Unfortunately, most of his contemporaries have also – I think the term is 'passed on' – which has not allowed me to detail his history within the Society. Just before publication, I heard of the demise of another stalwart of the Society. He was Bernard Grimsley, one time Chairman of the DDPS previous to Brian Carr. There will be a Thanksgiving Service in the Summer.

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### Welcome to new members:

- Mr Daniel Field
- Mrs Elizabeth Harper
- Ms Suzanne Harrison & Mr Ian Strong
- Mr E S Hill
- Mr G Pearce

---

*Hank Etheridge, Editor*

## Chairman's Message



In the Autumn issue of the Newsletter of Dorking & District Preservation Society ('the Society'), I mentioned that the Society's Council had agreed – at my instigation – to set up a working party to consider the future of the Society and to make recommendations to make it more attractive to local residents. I invited comments on some of my personal thoughts on the matter, and I thank those members, albeit limited in number, who took the trouble to respond to my invitation.

The Future Working party was set up under the chairmanship of Jane Le Cluse, who organises the History Group's annual Journal. Its membership is made up of representatives of the Society, from the History Group and the Museum, and by the date of publication of this Newsletter, it will have met at least four times. I take this opportunity of thanking Jane for agreeing to chair this working party and for the contribution made by its members.

I had hoped at the outset that we would be in a position to make recommendations to and propose resolutions for change at the AGM on April 19<sup>th</sup>, but this has not proved possible. This may be a blessing in disguise as it gives the Society two opportunities to consult its members: first in this Newsletter, and secondly at the AGM itself.

The future of the Society is so important that I have not invited a speaker to the AGM so as to give all Society members all the time that is needed to discuss its future.

The aims of the Society, as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, will remain unchanged, but it is perhaps helpful to set out its proposed Mission Statement and Objectives:

---

### MISSION STATEMENT

**To understand, conserve, protect and promote the beauty, history and character of Dorking and its District.**

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Society are:

- To promote high standards of architecture and town planning in Dorking and its district.
- To encourage public interest in, and protection and care for, the beauty, history and character of Dorking and its district.
- To protect, develop and improve features of general public amenity and historic interest in Dorking and its district.

### WE WILL DO THIS THROUGH:

- Provision of a local museum and archive in Dorking.
- Provision of recommendations on planning and conservation matters.
- Liaison with and support for other organisations that share our mission.

Below, I set out the principal recommendations so far made by the Working party, although some details – such as those relating to membership fees – remain to be agreed.

1. A new management structure is proposed as set out in the matrix that accompanies this message. It is intended that the Board of Trustees will have an independent chairman and will include the chairmen of the three sub-groups which have provisionally been described as Dorking Museum & Heritage Centre; Local History Group and Planning and Conservation. The latter will take over many of the functions of the Society's current Council, whilst the Board of Trustees – which will meet less often – will deal with overall policy.
2. All parts of the Society will seek to develop a common communications system and image with a view to attracting new members, whilst retaining separate responsibilities.
3. The name of the Society should be changed to the 'The Dorking Society'. This would be consistent with the name policy adopted by neighbouring, similar bodies – The Guildford Society and The Reigate Society – and would demonstrate our commitment to the future of the town as well as its preservation.
4. All members joining after the changes have been adopted should join The Dorking Society (rather than a part thereof) although whether, and if so when, a single membership fee should be

introduced remains the subject of further discussions and research. I stress that the above are only proposals, and it will be for members to approve (or otherwise) the suggested changes. I hope that as many members as possible will attend the AGM to express views and/or write to me in advance at [heaps@waitrose.com](mailto:heaps@waitrose.com). If changes can be agreed in principle at the AGM, formal resolutions can then be carefully crafted for consideration at a subsequent EGM.

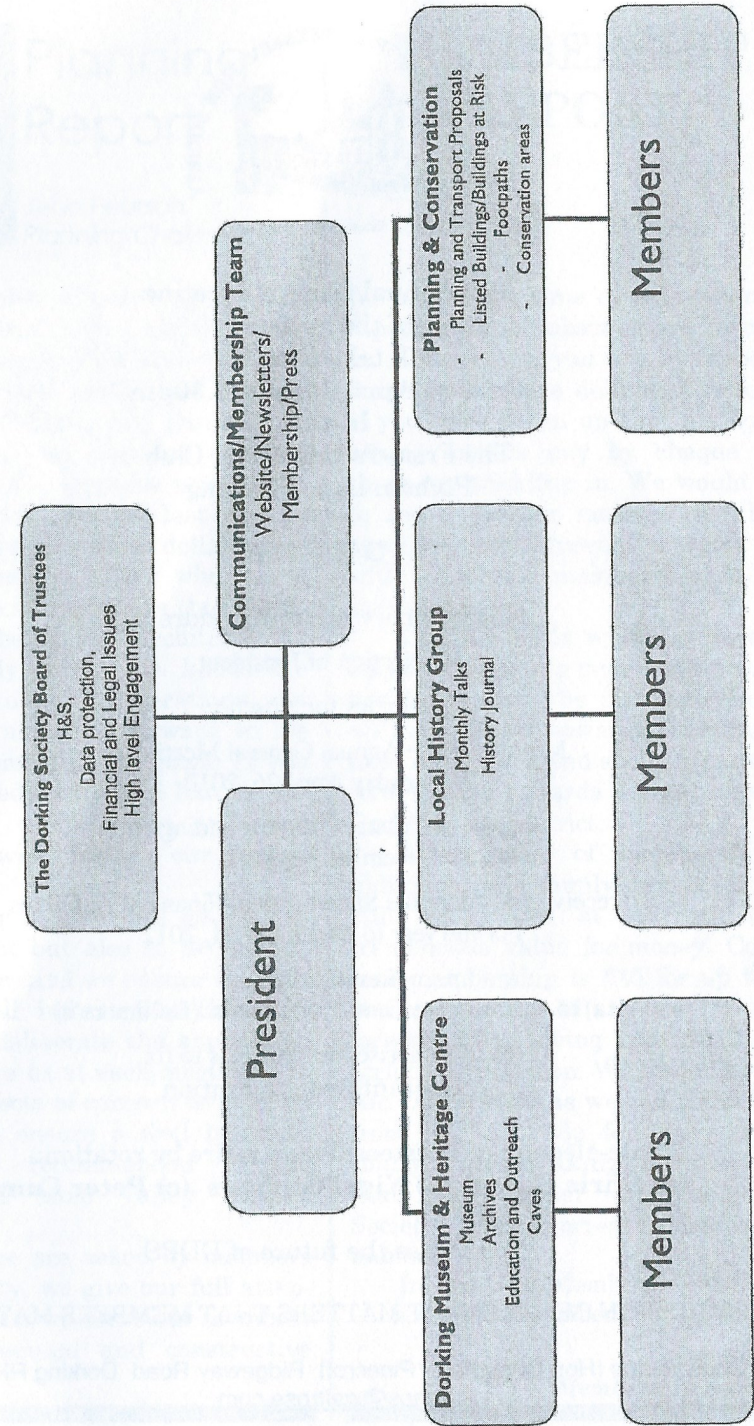
The re-opening of the Museum in October ensured that the year 2012 was a significant one in the history of the Society and its constituent parts. This year will be as significant, not only marked by the formal re-opening of the Museum by the Lord Lieutenant, Dame Sarah Goad GCVO, but also if the Society can make changes necessary to make it fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup>. Century.

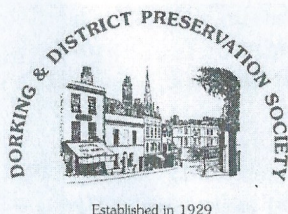
At the AGM, I will express my thanks to those long-serving members who have decided not to stand for re-election, and also to Linda Freshney who is standing down as Hon. Secretary due to the illness of a member of her family.

Accordingly, we need volunteers, both to join the Council and to act as Secretary. If you think that you can help the Society, or require any further information, please contact me at [heaps@waitrose.com](mailto:heaps@waitrose.com) or on 01306 881752.

*Chris Heaps*

### Proposed Structure of The Dorking Society





The Annual General Meeting  
of the Society  
will take place on  
**Friday, April 19th at 7.30pm**  
in the  
The Friend's Life Social Club  
Pixham Lane, Dorking

### A G E N D A

Chairman's welcoming address

Re-election of President

Apologies for Absence

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on  
Wednesday April 26, 2012

Report of Trustees for year ending on  
December 31, 2012

To receive and adopt the Statements of Financial Activities  
For the year to December 31, 2012

Resolutions

(a) to elect Independent Accountants (Bullimore's)

(b) to authorise the Trustee's to fix  
Accountants' remuneration

Re-election of Trustees due to retire by rotation:-

**(a) Chris Heaps (b) Nigel Gibbons (c) Peter Camp**

To discuss the future of DDPS

DISCUSSION OF RELEVANT MATTERS THAT MEMBERS MAY RAISE

Chris Heaps (Hon Chairman) Pinecroft Ridgeway Road Dorking RH4 3AP  
[heaps@waitrose.com](mailto:heaps@waitrose.com)



## Planning Report

Jean Pearson,  
Planning Chairman

A large number of planning applications still come in on a regular basis from the District office and the Committee consider each one that is relevant to Dorking and District. As per tradition, we continue to meet monthly in the reception area of the District offices. After our last plea for more members, we were delighted to welcome a new member who has a wealth of knowledge as his background is being an Architect. We have already found his knowledge invaluable to our deliberations and discussions and look forward to his input for some time to come. If you are interested and would like to join us, we will welcome you and your experience will enhance our discussions.

Planning is important not only to the applicant but also to neighbouring properties and we ensure we have access to all information that will help us to deliberate the application that is before us at each meeting. We take all aspects of concern or support seriously to ensure a well balanced decision is recommended to the planners at Mole Valley District office.

When we are asked by members of our Society, we give our full attention, and trust we serve our members in a professional and constructive manner.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are at the time of year when we expect annual subscriptions to come in. A number of you pay by standing order and we are delighted so many of you have taken up that method of paying; others pay by cheque and these are trickling in. We would like to see a greater interest and hope now that the Museum is open this will encourage membership to our august Society.

This hopefully will also have an effect on corporate membership which has fallen over the last few years – we are working towards encouraging local businesses and shops to consider contributing towards a great asset to Dorking and District.

A reminder of membership – individual and family membership is still maintained at £10 which is tremendous value for money. Corporate membership is £15 for up to 10 staff and £25 for 11 and over. We look forward to receiving your 2013 subscription very soon. We also offer Gift Aid Declaration as we can claim back from HMR&C 28p for every pound that you give, making your money go that much further which helps the Society. The current membership numbers are:

Independent Members:	394
Corporate Members:	50

Jean Pearson  
Membership Secretary

## Dorking Local History Group



The membership has been maintained at the same level as 2011 but we do need to increase it during 2013, this should ensure that we can keep the subscription at the current price for 2014

To help to achieve this, the application form is being revised in order to make it more attractive and noticeable. This new image will be carried through in other literature and stationery.

The Deepdene book has been reprinted and our overall book sales have enabled us to finish the year showing a small profit.

We are hoping that now the museum is open, our book sales will increase in 2013 – the museum sales used to be an important revenue source.

The committee has met on 10 occasions during the year and I would like to thank all members of the committee for their support.

Christine Thom (Treasurer) stepped in to create the Winter Programme – Jennifer Sherlock has now taken on this position. Lorraine Spindler is now looking after the Outings.

It is felt that we need to increase the size of the committee by one or two members – a project for 2013.

We held 14 events during the year – 2 outside visits, 1 walk and 11 meetings with speakers – all very

successful. My thanks to the organisers and the participants.

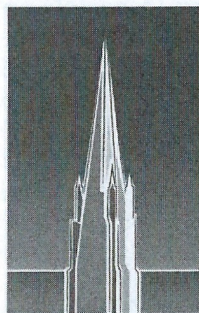
Thanks to those members who undertake the refreshments after our lectures and to Katie Mackay for greeting the members and visitors and especially to Cathy Stevens for writing up the excellent reports of our meetings for the Dorking Advertiser.

I also thank those who have undertaken the work on this year's "Dorking History", our annual publication – Jane Le Cluse (editor), Christine Francis (production) and Chris Childs (indexing).

We do have two vacancies that need to be filled – both Officers of the Group – the Secretary and the Chairman. They have served the normal three years and I would stress that the Group cannot function without filling these two vacancies.

These are not onerous roles and there is an excellent committee ready to give support – applications to me please.

We look forward to another interesting and successful year in 2013.



**DORKING**  
**LOCAL**  
**HISTORY**  
**GROUP**

*Peter Camp*

## Winners & losers

By Nigel Arch  
Museum Chairman

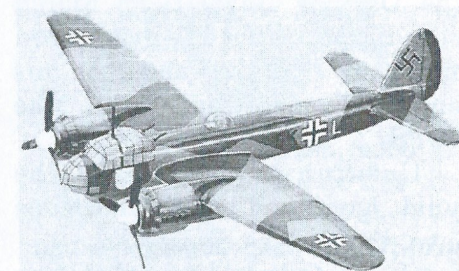
The picture is of a Junkers 88, a German Fighter Bomber of WW2. You will find out the connection with the museum if you read on.

But first, winners, and some good news of the museum! As you will know, the 'new' museum opened its doors to the public last autumn. We had had a good deal of publicity and this undoubtedly helped push our visitor numbers to a very satisfactory 1173, for the period up to December 30. The poor weather with which we have been plagued since the beginning of 2013, has obviously affected numbers but, nevertheless, between January 4 and February 16, we had 402 visitors. Remember, we are only open on Fridays and Saturdays at present, so this is a very good result. From May, we plan to extend opening hours.

As important as the actual numbers is the quality of the visit, the enjoyment and sense of discovery that is provided through the displays. Our noble volunteer Visitor Assistants report a range of very positive comments from a range of audiences. Our education and family activity days have also been very successful.

However, we know that we cannot stand still; we have to refresh our displays so that there is something new, on a regular basis, to encourage return visits. By the

time you read this, a new photographic exhibition will be on show. Meanwhile, we are planning an exciting venture with the National Trust and a number of local enthusiasts, and this is where the German aeroplane comes in, (the 'loser' in my title to this article). In March 1944, an RAF pilot shot down a JU88 that eventually crashed on Holmwood Common where, for many years, it has been buried deep in the ground. A number of excavations have recovered an extraordinary amount of material: we shall be putting a selection of artefacts, together with photographs to tell the story.



Of course, a great deal of the work of the museum goes on beyond the displays you see when you visit. The archives provide an invaluable source for academic research and family history; the reserve collections must be carefully stored and conserved; and we must make quite sure that the museum operates as a successful business.

Please continue to visit the museum and encourage your friends to come along too. Persuade them of the benefits of our membership scheme.

## FAREWELL

Peter Mills (The Elder)\*  
1927 - 2013

You note the asterisk by Peter's name? This was to distinguish him from Mole Valley's Peter Mills who, at subsequent Council meetings, would be given the appellation 'the Younger'.

Most of Peter's background in his lifetime was well covered by The Dorking Advertiser's March 14 edition. What I have been trying to find out about is his long-time connection with the DDPS.

Unfortunately, many who could have had this knowledge have, themselves, passed on.

He definitely preceded my connection with the Society by many years, and colleagues who are even longer serving than me cannot give me a date. I have discovered that, because of his architectural background, he chaired the Society's Planning Group for quite a few years and then moved to become our Transport representative in the area – a job he did extremely well, dealing with Gatwick; the Rail services and Roads. It is said of Peter that if he took on a responsibility, he



did it very well and wholeheartedly.

I met Peter when I attended my first Council meeting around twelve years ago. That was at a time when our Council included, not only Transport, but also Countryside and Footpaths. Peter and I discovered that we were both King's Scouts and that I was an architectural illustrator, so we got on like a house on fire, although he wasn't averse to ticking me off from time to time.

The last time I saw him was when Beryl Higgins and I were looking at architects for the Museum, but he is part of my memories and as such, hasn't gone. In my mind, I remember many good friends who have died over the past few years: Peter has joined them.

*Hank Etheridge 1927 - ?*

## Goodbye Snow Queen: hello Aeostra

*What to do in your garden  
after the Arctic month of  
March*

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the snow will have gone. If it hasn't, look out for glaciers coming down from the north.

Aeostra (pronounced 'Estra') was the Anglo Saxon goddess of spring and fertility. Easter is named after Aeostra- that's where the eggs and bunnies come in.

It is quite possible though that your soil will still be – if not frozen – too cold to take summer bedding plants: the same applies if it is waterlogged. If none of the above applies, you can start putting in your early potatoes, shallots, broad beans and spinach.

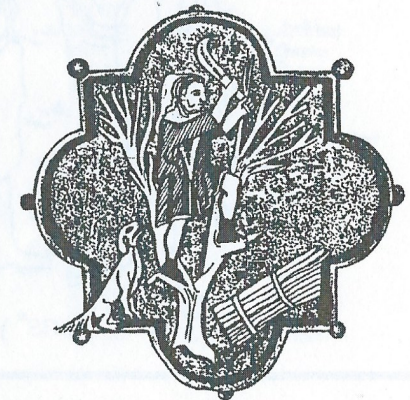
If you have winter-flowering shrubs, they should be pruned as soon as they stop flowering. This is especially beneficial with winter flowering jasmine (*Jasminium Nudiflorum*). Train the growths that have finished flowering to where you want them and cut the rest back to about two or three buds to make for strong growth next winter.

Trim back Heathers that have flowered during the winter by chopping off the tops with shears.

Look at any dahlia tubers stored over winter, to make sure there is no mould. If you do spot any, dust with *Flowers of Sulphur*. Fruit trees growing in grass should

be fed with *Sulphate of Potash* – about 4ozs per tree. Just gently fork around the base of the tree, making sure that you don't pierce the roots or scrape the bark. Spread the treatment over the forked earth and water in.

The illustration for February in a medieval treatise on gardening was a man pruning a tree.



I cannot stress too much the importance of pruning at this time of year. Good pruning now will ensure vigorous growth in Spring and Summer. Pruning to fruit bushes this time of year will give you more fruit in the summer and autumn. If your gooseberry bush is not pruned from the centre to clean out old wood, gooseberries will be short on the vine this year. This pruning will also allow air into the centre of the plant thus stopping various fungal diseases which can kill off a gooseberry bush in no time at all.

The last time we had a frozen March, we had a very hot Summer. Let's hope history will repeat itself.

*Adam Jolyon*



"Don't worry Hans" you said. "It's one of ours."

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	1 Paper Mews, 330 High Street, RH4 2TU	886 681	Chartered accountants
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Woolcock Partnership Ltd, The	Hulsta Studios, 120 South Street, RH4 2EU	880 330	Furniture retailer and installation
Wyevalle Country Gardens	Reigate Road, RH5 1NP	884 845	Garden centre

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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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