



DORKING

LOCAL

HISTORY

GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017 No. 37

Your committee is pleased to present the first newsletter of the year, with new faces fully settled in some of the roles. We enjoy our meetings and they seem to be as productive as ever.

So far this year we have been very pleased with the new and very comfortable venue for the monthly meetings, though we are still 'learning' about the integrated sound systems. I am writing this following the recent members' evening where we heard some really interesting information about some local characters, with thanks to Maureen Cole and Mary Peckham. Julian Womersley also provided a great follow-up about a mystery that Keith Harding left us with concerning Walter Rose, last September. Interest in local history appears to be thriving and continued collaboration with other interested groups is productive. I recently enjoyed a superb tour of St Michael's Church, Mickleham, put on by the Mickleham & Westhumble local history group.

Finally – thanks to Martin & Maureen Cole – we note that 2017 is the **50th anniversary of the DLHG.**

Here's to the next 50 years! (see article below)

Gwen Wood – Chairman

Dorking Local History Group, *excerpts from Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin, June 2005*

'In 1967, prompted by a few enthusiasts, it was decided that the Dorking, Leith Hill and District Preservation Society (now the Dorking & District Preservation Society) should form a local history committee. Although in theory this was to open to all members of the society, in fact for a few years it consisted of a handful of members meeting together once a month to discuss any aspect of the history of the town, or occasionally the villages, which happened to take their fancy.'.....
'The objectives of the group were, and are, to conduct research into the history and archaeology of Dorking and district and to record, publish and give lectures on the result of such research. Also to stimulate an interest in local history by

arranging lectures, exhibitions, walks and visits'.
Vivien Ettlinger



Financial Report of 2016

First may I pass on my appreciation to Christine Thom, who made possible the smooth transfer of responsibilities to myself with ease. 2016 has been financially a stable year, subject to final auditing. There has been a small surplus of £556.00.

Income for the year has been generated by steady numbers of members, and the attendance of visitors to our monthly meetings. This has resulted with a small number of new members. The sales of the history group publications showed a healthy figure of £1,759.97 with special thanks to Peter Camp who gave up many hours servicing the accounts with orders, and to John Woodcock who maintains the stocks we hold. The member's outings during the year after expense's left a surplus of £136.50
In 2016, Gift Aid of £160.54 was successfully reclaimed.

The COIF Account (Charities Commission) has seen a small increase in value to the present figure of £9535.03 The monitoring of this account is handled by Mr Alan Loryman Treasurer of the DDPS.

Insurance and Audit fees total £300

Miscellaneous expenses £128.39 included software materials for the laptop purchased in the previous year. And the purchase of a hot water flask.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to June Mills, who is the new membership secretary

Mike Gooch - Hon Treasurer

Blue plaques

A blue plaque is a permanent sign on a public place to commemorate a link between the location and the famous person or event as an historical marker.

There are many blue plaques around the country marking the homes and workplaces of famous people. The first blue plaque appeared in the 1857 in London and the scheme continues to this day. It is now administered by English Heritage. Earlier by Society of Arts, The London County Council and greater London Council culminating in English Heritage in 1986.

The one in West Street, Dorking was erected to celebrate William Mullins and family, Pilgrim

Fathers who sailed on The Mayflower to America in 1620. Another blue plaque in Mole Valley is to commemorate Susi Jeans based in Westhumble.



In all there 88 Blue plaques in Surrey compared with 112 in West Sussex, 264 in East Sussex, 160 in Hampshire and 242 in Kent. Currently the London scheme is maintained by English Heritage as each area has its own plaque schemes. We are looking for a proposer who would be willing to promote such a scheme and design how the cost of promoting and maintaining can be handled by the District. It is often difficult to place plaques in a suitable position as the building may have been demolished. Most blue plaques are blue although some may be other colours and different shapes, but the official ones will have the name of the body that run the scheme. The blue plaques are generally made by a company from Cornwall who has been involved since 1984. The total scheme costs approximately £400 per plaque. There are similar schemes in other countries such as France, Italy, Norway, Eire, and further afield in Australia, Canada and Unites States.

Jean Pearson- Chairman of DDPS

Surrey Local History Annual Symposium 2017

**Saturday 25 March, 9.30am - 3.50pm
'Feeding the County – Agriculture in
Surrey'**

Surrey History Centre, Woking, GU21 6ND

The symposium will cover various aspects of agricultural history and also look at useful sources for historians. It is a very full and varied programme with some excellent speakers. £12 includes tea and coffee. Refreshments will be available throughout the day but please bring your own lunch. Please book a place online, in person at Surrey History Centre or any Surrey Library or phone 01483 518737

Summer Outing to Goodwood House will take place on Sunday, 30th July 2017.

Note that the deadline for booking a place on this trip is **30th April 2017**. Details with booking form is enclosed; alternatively contact Katie Mackay on 01306 888609 or: katiemackay@uwclub.net.

***After many years of organising these outings
Katie is standing down from the role. Anyone***

***wishing to take over this role please contact
the Chairman.***

The Museum's Care Homes Group

A group was formed a couple of years ago to visit local Care Homes with appropriate artefacts that will interest the residents. These visits last approximately an hour or so (plus travel time) and are very well received by the residents and the staff – we are told that the visits are still being remembered by the residents for several days after the visit.

We visit local Care Homes in Dorking and the surrounding villages and whilst we have a few visitors we are in need of two or three more volunteers. **Please can you help?**

On average you would make a visit about once per month and there are always a minimum of two visitors per visit. The Care Homes have staff on duty to assist the residents.

You would be accompanied by someone with appropriate experience.

If so, please contact Tracy Lyons, 01372 800506, tracy@thelyons.net or Peter Camp, 01306 888123, petercamp123@btinternet.com.

Spring Programme

The programme for the next six months is enclosed with this mailing. NOTE that the talks begin at 7.30pm and we meet at Crossways Community Baptist Church.

John Patterson is now our Meetings Organiser. If you know of any speakers that you feel would make an interesting evening please let John know by contacting him on 01306888401 or jhp3660@yahoo.co.uk

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on the first of January each year and remain at £8 for singles and £10 for two or more at the same address. Paying by standing order cuts down on our work considerably. It also eliminates the member having to remember to make out a cheque on the first of January.

Cheques can be sent to the Membership Secretary at the address below.

Membership

We welcome the following new members:

Judith Kinloch	Geoffrey & Felicity Tumber
Sharan Felton	Fiona Reynoldson
Andy MacGregor	

To contact DLHG: email: gwen215@btinternet.com or Google - Dorking Local History Group. Or write to us: Dorking Local History Group, Dorking Museum, 62 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1BS