



# Horley Local History Society

# NEWS

MARCH 2012

## Meetings Calendar

The Society meets at Strawson Hall, 156 Albert Road, Horley, Surrey, every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in the month at 7:30pm for 8:00 unless otherwise stated below.

### Meetings Calendar

**Wednesday 21 March 2012** The Horley Local History Centre AGM to be held in Horley Library 7 for 7.30pm, followed by a talk on the History from 1904 of Garages for Car Maintenance in Horley by Brian Buss & John Chisholm.

**Thursday 22 March 2012** Mike Peters, will be giving the March talk on the history of Oxfam in Horley, and Pete Crawford of Gatwick Greenspace Partnership, who led our July walk around Riverside Garden Park last year.

It has been agreed that the first 30 minutes of the evening will be taken by Pete, who wants talk to us about possible future uses of the land to the north of The Acres, ie. the new development beyond Langshott, and ask us questions about our views on this subject. He will then hand over to Mike, who thinks his talk will last about 45 minutes. There can be a five minute interval to allow a changeover of speakers and display of artefacts, publications, etc. Mike Peters will give a talk on the history of Oxfam in Horley. Mike was one of the original members of the group of Horley volunteers working to promote the aims of Oxfam in the town over 45 years ago.

**Thursday 26 April 2012** The History & Humour of Fleet Street by Peter Durrant.

**Thursday 24 May 2012** Droughts, Deluges & Dust Devils by Ian Currie.

**Thursday 28 June 2012** Archaeological Survey on

Reigate Heath by Rosemary Hooker.

**Thursday 26 July 2012** Local Walk TBA

### The Range of Enquiries from Overseas

The number of enquiries from overseas have increased in recent months and so has the work involved in replying. A recent one from a nephew trying to help his 91 year old uncle who served with a Canadian unit billeted in Horley during WW2, wanted to identify a private school. The 20 year old soldier evidently had a relationship with a young teacher who lived in. Obviously she was not permitted to entertain him in her living quarters but this did not stop him seeing her. He used to climb over the fence jump on to the roof of a shed that allowed him to reach a drain pipe to shin up to her window (and presumably enter her room). On one occasion he was caught and the poor young lady was dismissed. From his description of the school it was easily identified as was the garage he worked in from 1941 to 1943, opposite what was then the Thorns pub, today the Air Balloon.

Another recent enquiry from a lady in South Australia has developed into almost a project in its own right. It concerns a family who lived at Burstow Hall, She wished to know where the Hall was, how it came about and the family who once lived there named Tustin who she was interested in. The person who built the Hall in 1856 was a notable solicitor named Kearsey and the Tustin family came later in c1880 This family was noted for its many commercial activities outside of Horley, including a factory making printing ink in Bermondsey. The factory was demolished some time ago, and now there is an estate of flats and a school. The estate is called "Tustin Estate"! At the beginning of this research, the Society had no knowledge of all this and what it has found to date as it is still on-going, has led to rather extensive communications and some excitement by the enquirer in Australia.

These two examples illustrate the wide variation of the enquiries dealt with.

### The Celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Society is assisting Horley Library staff in locating suitable photos to place on the exhibition stands in the library to mark this important event. Several come from the Society's book to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002, copies of which can still be obtained.

### **A History of the Church of the English Martyrs in Horley**

This concise and interesting book fills a long awaited history of a church that is an important part of Horley's heritage. While some tales of its early history and difficulties have been partly known, Nora McCarthy, Sylvia Worthen and John Scott Cree are to be congratulated for identifying them in such detail. Copies can be obtained through emailing : [sylvia.worthen@plus.com](mailto:sylvia.worthen@plus.com), They are priced at £5 each plus £1.50 postage at this time.

### **Duxhurst – Surrey's Lost Village by Ros Black**

The author says in this her latest book:- Once described as "A Farm Colony for Inebriate Women", three miles south of Reigate, has now all but disappeared. This book reflects 120 years of social history and brings to life the drama of Duxhurst, through a cast of colourful characters, beautiful buildings and mysterious happenings.

The book may also be read as a companion to "A Talent for Humanity", a biography of Duxhurst's founder, Lady Henry Somerset, also by Ros Black, but it also provides a stand-alone account of local heritage and how easily this can be lost.

Again it has brought together a detailed history in a single volume before it becomes lost forever.

### **No 1 Central Buildings, Victoria Road**

The very first occupier of this address was Dixeys Ltd, an Ophthalmic Optician. The initial 25 year lease ran from March 1934 but the premises were not occupied until 14 April that year. The upper floors were occupied on 19 June 1934 as Dixeys registered office but later this was transferred when the company also had an address at 28 & 29 Duke Street in Brighton. It closed in 2005/6. The next occupier continued in the same line, but only until this year when it closed.

### **More Information about the WW1 Munition Store**

The history note on this subject that sits on the Library shelf has already been reissued as Edition 2 in 2007 due to further information received. So it is always remarkable when a visitor arrives with yet more new information. This happened in late 2011

when two further photographs were loaned for copying and one revealed details of another department we had no prior knowledge of whatsoever. It showed that some 130 female workers were employed in what was called the "Box Factory". By the hundreds of wooden cases seen behind them and from their dimensions, they appeared to be for the 5 million 18 pound shrapnel shells known to be filled on the site.

This and information from the other photo received has been incorporated in a further Edition 3 to be issued shortly.

### **The AGM on 23 February 2012**

Sadly the attendance was very poor and no new names were proposed for any of the offices, but those committee members listed on the Society's website agreed to continue.

A discussion about the Society's archives followed that included concern for the need to carry out a considerable amount of work to bring them up to a standard worthy of calling them an archive. Also, it is likely that the Society in the near future will be called on to accept historical files and information from another that will increase its present archive by possibly 50%.

Once again the plea must go out for a more permanent long term home.

### **From the Archives.**

#### **The early history of Monotype at Salfords**

The Monotype type composing machine was the invention of an American called Tolbert Lanston. He had conceived the idea of controlling such a machine with a coded punch tape after he was shown a Hollerith tabulator. Financial backing to develop the idea was provided by J Maury Dove, who became the first President of the Lanston Monotype Company and patents were taken out in 1887. HM Duncan became the technical advisor to Lanston. Two years later an early model was exhibited at the World Fair in Chicago and a production of 50 machines followed.

The design was modified from die stamping cold lead strips to hot metal casting while Lanston improved the keyboard but in 1897 the lack of funding in the US threatened to halt development.

Duncan and Dove shipped 4 of the machines to London to seek British capital and on the sea crossing met the Earl of Dunraven. He formed a syndicate to

purchase the British rights for £220,000 and the Lanston Monotype Corporation was founded in England in 1897. The name was changed to the Monotype Corporation Ltd in 1931.

### **The passing of local industrial companies**

Up to the 1940s, Horley had been considered as a rural community. Monotype was the first modern industrial company to set up in the locality at Salfords in 1899 employing in its heyday during WW2 some 2000 people. However by 1992 it faced closure.

The small industrial site on Peartree Hill, known at the time as the Empire Works, employed far less than Monotype during the life of the various electrical and radio companies of Aeonics, etc from 1927 to the mid 1930s. (Many of the workers there being brought in from the depressed areas of Wales during the time of the depression.) WW2 brought Mullards to that site to produce aircraft radios where possibly 1000 people worked. After the war this company became Phillips Research Laboratories who expanded the site to undertake pioneering research work until 2009 when it decided to move to Cambridge.

While there are still some companies in Horley that might be classed as industrial/engineering, few employ large numbers of people compared with those mentioned above. Therefore perhaps Horley could be described today as a commuter and airport worker community. History in the making.

Hall & Co the coal and builder's merchants had developed its business extensively since 1898 in Redhill and beyond when it decided to create a site to maintain all its vehicles and equipment. In September 1930 it opened a site to do this close to the railway station at Salfords and by 1948 had doubled its size. During WW2 it became a major centre for the repair and modification of army tanks so possibly the site employed several hundred people. By 1950 it was considered to be one of the best equipped engineering sites in the country. By 1968 it had closed.