



# HORLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER

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**REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT HORLEY LIBRARY, HISTORY CENTRE ON MOST  
TUESDAY AFTERNOONS 3.00pm ~ 5.00pm      SATURDAY MORNINGS 11.00am ~ 1.00pm**  
(If travelling a distance and you particularly would like to see someone, suggest you check by phone beforehand)

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## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – PLEASE NOTE VENUE – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 - ONLY**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November      Early days of Redhill Aerodrome – Brian Buss**

The Society has been invited by Ann Bartaby, Chief Executive, to visit **Redhill Aerodrome** and to use the 'Pilots Hub' as the venue for the November Meeting. HLHS member Brian Buss will present "**Early Days of Redhill Aerodrome**". This is sure to be an interesting talk and you are urged to attend as Brian is a lifelong aviation fan and has extensive knowledge of aviation matters.

Full details are on the website and our Facebook page but for those without access to such media the address is :-**Redhill Aerodrome off Kings Mill Lane, postcode RH1 5JY adjacent to Hangar 9 at 'The Pilots Hub'**, time 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. If anyone would like a lift please contact Brian Buss or any member of committee, details at the foot of page 2 overleaf. We are indebted to Ann Bartaby, Chief Executive of Redhill Aerodrome for this invitation.

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**PLEASE NOTE VENUE for all other Meetings until further notice.**

**Horley Methodist Church, 145 Victoria Rd Horley in the Meeting Room at rear of building; there is also car parking adjacent.**

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<b><u>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>	<b>Early days of Redhill Aerodrome – Brian Buss</b>
<b><u>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December</u></b>	Quiz and Christmas Social
<b><u>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January</u></b>	Rotters of Gatton – Alex Hunter
<b><u>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February</u></b>	AGM followed by History of Lowfield Heath – Cora McLaren

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## **RECENT MEETING Reports**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June** An attentive audience of members and guests enjoyed a presentation by Sheila Corbin on the life at times at St Hilda's School

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July** saw just a handful of members travelling to Charlwood for a guided tour of the village. Starting in The Street we passed by the Pound and then on to view the ancient Providence Chapel. Continuing back across the Village Green and down the Stoney Path running behind ancient houses and the Half Moon PH before emerging to visit to the Church. We viewed the ancient wall paintings and medieval screen. By now the light was failing and our group dispersed after thanking our guide for an interesting tour.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September** Accompanied by maps and sketches on almost the exact centenary of the start of the Battle of Loos on the Western Front in France, Doug Cox related this sad story where there were some 59000 casualties to British troops in this, the largest British Battle in 1915. We were shown many of Doug's modern photographs of the peaceful scene today and it is hard to imagine the dreadful scene of all those years ago.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** Cora McLaren delved into history to tell us about how residents in the 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> centuries warded away evil spirits and witches by marks put on timbers in the fabric of their houses. In many cases these can still be seen today and indeed, she claims to have seen some of the marks in her own home which dates back several hundred years.

## **Brief Review of Shops & Commercial premises**

There appears to be little progress with the conversion of offices in Consort Way into living accommodation or at Imperial Buildings opposite the HSBC in Victoria Road. There are currently a lot of empty shops in the town, probably more than we have seen for several years. The new units on the ground floor of the Russell Square development are said to have all been let but as yet just one open, a new eatery, 51' North. Rumour has it that Costa Coffee may be taking one and local papers suggest that the Library may be moving there as well.

In the High St our last remaining florists, Floral Designs, abruptly closed and window notices suggest a 'Vapour Lounge' will open shortly. Gatwick Luggage only lasted about a year but now window notices advise a pending Coffee Shop, Serendipity. Across the road, Morrisons Local has changed hands and is now trading as 'M local'. Horley Electricals have merged into the fireplace shop on corner of Lumley Rd whilst Collingwood have taken the next-door shop temporarily. Long closed cafe by the subway entrance has changed hands and now trades as 54. I seem to be saying too much about eateries and drinks but that's the way it is at the moment.

Moving to Church rd, long vacant premises at no 4, formerly Fliquors & Liquors is to be some kind of beauty parlour whilst on the Balcombe Rd "Bed's Galore" have finally closed after posters have been out for very many months advertising 'Closing Down Sale'. All one can say is that it took them an absolute age to close !! Silver Dreams in the Kiosk in Victoria Square closed in the Summer and is currently vacant.

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**Books & Publications** Did you know that we still have lots of books available for purchase at the bargain price of just £5 each :- Public Houses in Horley, Maps & Houses, Street where you Live, Horley 50 years ago, Gt Grandfather's Horley Books 3 and 4 are just some of the titles. There are also copies of The Chequers at £3 and 1000 years of Horley at £3.50. Full details are on the website or please enquire at the Library on Tuesday or Saturday (times as above)

Doug Cox's **Men of Horley – 1914-1918 Lest we Forget** book has been published and copies are now available from the Horley Bookshop or by visiting us at Horley Library when we are in attendance on Tuesday & Saturday (details above).

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Over the course of the last few months, the Society has been gifted a fine copy of the book **Lord John Sanger's Circus, a National Institution by Mark Twitchett** which was published in September 2014. This contains much information and is profusely illustrated with pictures. A much later book, **History of Monotype Corporation**, by three authors, Judy Slinn, Sebastian Carter & Richard Southall published in 2015 has been purchased by the Society, at a significant cost. It is in three sections covering the History, the Typeface & design and development of composing machines. The book contains much information of the company who for years occupied extensive premises at Salfords, providing hundreds of jobs for local people. Both these books are available for loan to members, and loan really means just that, upon application. HLHS member Anthea Naylor has kindly agreed to look after these two items and will arrange for the books to be made available if you contact her, initially by phone please. 01293-772127.

## **Congratulations to HLHS member Veronica Ballard**

Veronica has recently been awarded an M B E for services to the community. As well as all she has done for us over the years I know that she is active with many other groups in the area and the award is well deserved. WELL DONE Veronica

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**WEBSITE** [www.horleyhistory.org.uk](http://www.horleyhistory.org.uk) webmaster Peter Cox

As usual there has been a steady trickle of enquiries received over the wires, which are ably processed by our webmaster. If he is unable to answer himself he passes them to an appropriate member who may be able to help. Recent enquiries have asked for information on 'High Trees School', & 'Shadrach Blundell'. Want to know what is happening in Horley or need some information - why not try looking on our site? We also have a presence on Facebook, find us on Horley Local History Society page but DO NOT mix us up with Memories of Horley page, they are nothing to do with us at all.

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**CONTACTS FOR HORLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY** website [www.horleyhistory.org.uk](http://www.horleyhistory.org.uk)  
**Chairman** Alan Reid 01342-844789 **Vice-Chairman** Peter Blakey  
**Treasurer** Doug Cox 01293-410366 **HLHS Archives** contact via Chairman  
**Newsletter Editor** John Chisholm 01293-786419 **email** johnchis.holm27@uwclub.net  
**Committee** Betty Woodburn 01293-784668 **Contact for Redhill, Brian Buss 01293-782231**