

Lots of things to look at in this edition of our newsletter. First of all, a reminder that subscriptions are now due for 2016/17. Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed, and welcome to our new members. Full details are on page 6.

We are also running another boat trip from Byfleet Boat Club in August—places are limited, so see page 4 for details on how to book your passage.

Parish Day is also fast approaching, and the Society will be there as usual. Please let us know if you can help out for a short while on the afternoon—see page 6. Enjoy the sunshine while it lasts, and we hope you enjoy this newsletter.

FORTHCOMING
EVENTS 2016



*All talks are held at **St Mary's Centre for the Community, Stream Close, Byfleet** and will begin at **8.15pm** (except for the AGM which begins at 7.30pm)*

Thursday 14th July: Wine vault trip. Our July meeting will be a trip to the old Vickers air raid shelter, now used as wine vaults. There is one place left, but we may organise another trip if there is enough interest, so please let us know if you would like to go.

Thursday 8th September: Jim Allen reviews the Local Stars of Variety and Music Hall. Come and find out about the stars who lived nearby.

Thursday 6th October: Members' Short Talks. This month, our members take the floor with short talks on their own subjects of interest. Come

along for an evening of variety and interest.

Thursday 3rd November: Join us as we meet the **Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr Michael More-Molyneux.**

Thursday 1st December: Christmas Social. Join us for a mince pie while **Mike Webber** reviews the **new photographs** the Society has come by throughout the year. Don't forget, we are always pleased to see your photographs and to take scans for our archive.

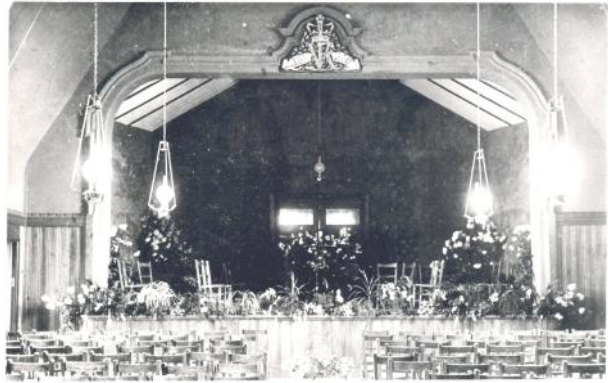
**Members free, Guests £2
Everyone very welcome!**

Members will be sad to hear that **Jeff Sechiari** will be moving away soon. Jeff has been with the Heritage Society from the very beginning, offering lots of support and taking on many roles on the committee. He has taken care of our membership admin, set up and maintained our website, been responsible for editing and taking to print our Journal, the latest (and very interesting) edition of which can be collected by members on renewal. In particular, Jeff has done sterling work in organising all our monthly speakers, finding us a really interesting variety of topics to enjoy and ensuring our meetings go smoothly. We will miss Jeff, and his wife Anne, but wish them all the very best in their new home.



For the Record...

Mike Webber took the floor after our AGM in May to take us through David Chapman's photos that he had collected for an exhibition at Byfleet Library in 1971. We only have a room for a small selection here, but if you would like to see more, pop along to the library on one of our Drop In days (first Saturday of the month).



Byfleet Village Hall, shortly after completion in 1899—exterior and interior. Jim Allen commented that although the royal crest is still in place above the stage, the surrounding coving was covered in when the arch had to be changed to accommodate new stage curtains.



Above, the Old Workhouse in 1968. The Workhouse closed in 1835 and became a cottage, which survived until the early 1970s. It stood on the corner of what is now Stream Close and Rectory Lane (which was formerly known as Workhouse Lane).

Above right: Oyster Lane by Plough Green (looking from The Plough pub towards Parvis Road)—a postcard from 1966. The shop on the far right is Freeland's ironmongers. This was known locally as The Tuesday Shop, as whenever you asked if they had something, the answer was always "It'll be in on Tuesday."

Right: Digby's Stores, 1969. Digby's Grocers stood next to the Blue Anchor pub in High Road, but shortly after this picture was taken, the building was demolished. Digby Way now stands on the site. Some members remembered going into the shop, where you could buy broken biscuits.

Many thanks to Mike for a nostalgic trip round the village.





In June, we welcomed Helen Gristwood to give her talk, **Broadoaks: the story of a house**, and she sent us this article for our newsletter.

The house was built in 1876 on land that had previously been known as Shepherds Farm, adjacent to West Hall, situated on the road from Byfleet Corner to Byfleet. In 1862 James Sparks sold the farm to Mr Dowdeswell, who sold it to Charles Seth Smith in 1865. His brother Ernest designed and built the house for him.

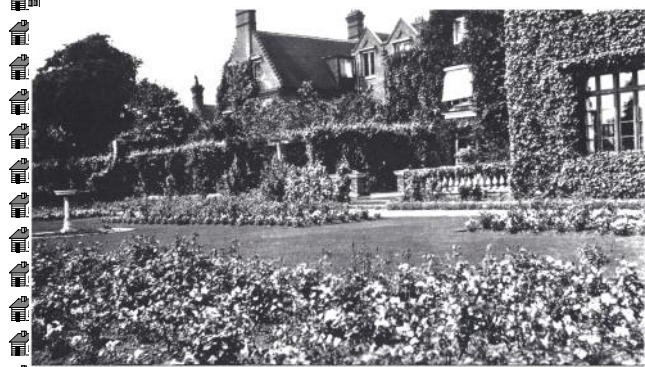


„Broadoaks“ West Byfleet.

The Electoral role of 1886 shows that Charles still owned the house (called Broad Oats!) but it is unclear whether he ever lived there. However, there were some interesting occupants.

The Census of 1881 lists an Irish widow, Elizabeth Cator, as the occupier, along with her family and 14 servants, including a butler, footman and lady's maid. She was the widow of Albermarle Cator, Esquire and a JP for the county of Norfolk, and owner of Woodbastwick Hall. She was a wealthy lady, listed in the census as 'Funded Proprietor' which indicated that she was living on her own means.

From the mid 1880s, the house was occupied by Major William Alfred Collis Browne, his wife Mary and their three sons who were born at Broadoaks and baptised in Byfleet Church. The family had 11 servants, but were less formal than Elizabeth Cator as they didn't have a butler, a footman or a lady's maid. There is some evidence to suggest that William was the son of John Collis Browne who invented Chlorodyne. The Collis Brownes were local benefactors who also lived on their own means. They moved to Godalming in 1898.



Sir Charles Tennant bought the house in 1898 when he married Marguerite Agaranthe Miles. He was a Scottish MP, a wealthy industrialist and landowner with vast estate in Scotland and a house in Grosvenor Square. He met Marguerite when she was 30 years old and he was a 75 year old widower with 12 children, the youngest of whom was aged 34. Marguerite and Charles had 4 daughters before his death from a gastric ulcer at Broadoaks in June 1906.

Marguerite inherited Broadoaks after Charles' death. She married banker Geoffrey Lubbock in 1907, and by 1911 they had 2 sons. She was a keen golfer and bought the lease of West Hill as a wedding present for Geoffrey so that she could play golf herself (women weren't allowed to be members of golf clubs). The Lubbock banking name was lost when the bank merged with Coutts & Co in 1913.

Marguerite and Geoffrey lived well during their time at Broadoaks. They had 36 servants, of whom 17 were indoor and 19 outdoor. Amongst these were an Italian chef, a German Governess, a lady's maid, 2 butlers, 2 footmen and 4 laundresses and an assortment of maids, chauffeurs and gardeners.

In 1911 the house had 43 rooms and 71 acres of land. It had stables, a coach house, 2 lodges, a circular drive, several cottages and a model dairy. There was a real tennis court, a tennis lawn, croquet and pitch and put. They even had their own cricket pitch and pavilion. Swimming was available in the fish pond!

The house had 24 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, a billiard room and 5 reception rooms, including a magnificent ballroom with a sprung floor, a massive stone chimney and a waggon head ceiling. The drawing room had gilded oak surfaces, a marble fireplace, and 2 sets of gilded double-leaf doors embossed with the initial 'M' for Marguerite.

The gardens were spectacular with a paved terrace, rose gardens, a Dutch garden, herbaceous borders, a wild garden, rock garden and a grass walk with tea pavilions at each end.

There was a 2 acre walled garden with a kitchen garden, fruit trees, and an array of greenhouses and heated pits. The estate was surrounded by woodland.

Marguerite and Geoffrey sold Broadoaks (cont. Page 4)





in 1911 to the Charrington family (the brewery owners) who owned it until 1946 when it was sold to the Ministry of Supply for £4000. Mr Charrington died in 1936 and his widow locked his bedroom for the next 10 years. Troops were billeted in the attics during the War, but she continued to live there.

The house was used for Operational Research until 1996 when it closed down. It has remained unoccupied since then, although there are plans to develop it with mixed housing and a school, retaining and restoring the house and the grounds.

We thanked Helen for coming to speak to us, and we look forward to discovering the next stage in Broadoaks' history.



A Query

Jim Allen has been looking through some covenants relating to the sale of lands around the Clock House area. These date from the beginning to mid 19th century. He has found mentions of houses named Beckfield and Hunterford or Huntingford. There is also a road named Tinkers Lane.

Has anyone ever come across these names in Byfleet? Or does anyone know where we can find out?

If anyone has any information, please let us know, either by giving Jim a ring on 01932 342659, dropping us a line on Tessa@westlakesystems.co.uk, or you can also leave a note at Byfleet Community Library. Thank you.



Boat Trip on the Wey Navigation

We are running another boat trip from Parvis Bridge, this time heading towards Weybridge. We leave on Thursday August 11th from Parvis Bridge at 6.30pm, and the round trip is expected to take 2 hours. Tickets are £11 a head. There are 22 places available, so please ring Jim Allen (01932 342659) and leave a message with your name and contact number on his answerphone to reserve your place.

Members will be sorry to hear that long-time member of the Society, Jean Thackeray, passed away at the end of May.

Jean had been a member of the Society for many years, and was a regular at our monthly talks. She was also a keen researcher into her family history.

We will miss Jean at our talks and drop-ins, and send our condolences to her family.

There will be a Vigil to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme at St John's Church, West Byfleet on 30th June.

This will begin at 9.30pm and end at 10.30pm. All welcome.



West Hall Ice House

We received an email via the website from Janet and Mike Brisson, who were visiting from California. "I lived on Dartnell Park Road in the late 60's and as a teenager used to hike in the Old Woods across Parvis Road on the West Byfleet side of the canal. I used to go to the structure in the pictures (right and below). Back then, it was quite a bit taller. It had stairs leading up to a deep pit. The bricks are about 18" thick and the door faced north that let me



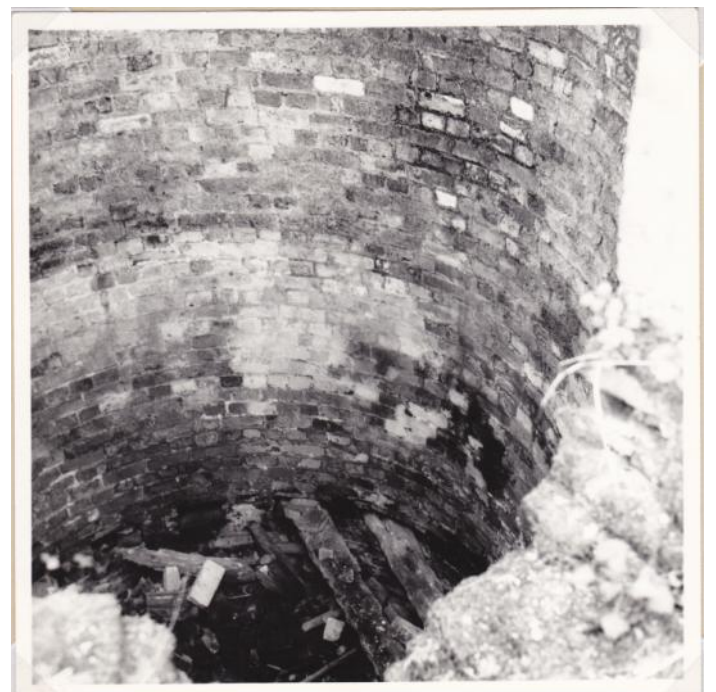
to believe it was for storage.

We went there yesterday and some of it is still there. We did find a square nail, which dates it. Any chance you can tell me what it was?"

This building used to be the Ice House for West Hall. In the days before refrigerators, these were filled with ice taken in during the winter months. The ice was packed with straw or sawdust to preserve it for use during the summer and to create a cold space to store perishable goods. Apparently, the ice would stay frozen for many months and sometimes even

until the following winter.

We found in our archive that David Chapman had recorded the ice house in 1968 when he worked for Mouchels who were based at West Hall. You can see the effect that time has had on the structure from his pictures below.



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SOCIETY NEWS
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Subscriptions It's that time of year again, and subscriptions for 2016/17 are now due. Many thanks to all of you who have already renewed at the AGM or since. If you are still to send yours in, you should find a reminder with this newsletter, along with details of where to send it. Very many thanks for your continued support.

We also have three names on our list, but do not seem to have contact details for them. We think they may have joined at a meeting, but did not leave an address. The names are **Beresford, Mott and Selby**. If anyone knows these members, could you ask them to get in touch with Tessa on 01932 351559—we would hate them to miss out on any newsletters and their copy of the journal! Thank you.

Parish Day
 The 151st Parish Day will take place on Saturday 16th July 2016 at Byfleet Recreation Ground. As usual, the Society will be there, so do come by and see us.

We would also appreciate any assistance during the day, manning the stand for half an hour or an hour, or with setting up beforehand. If you can help, please give Tessa a ring on 01932 351559. Thank you.



Help Wanted Please
 With Jeff's departure for pastures new, we are in need of someone to help organise our diary of events. The committee are on hand to offer suggestions for speakers, but we are in need of someone to coordinate our efforts to provide our monthly talks. If you feel you can help, or would like to ask more about it, please see a committee member at one of our meetings, or give Tessa a ring on 01932 351559. Many thanks.



St. Mary's Church from the air.

With the Rector's permission Andy Lambert has made a high quality drone video camera survey of the church and churchyard. This was done shortly before the leaves came out on the trees and also features a re-creation of the 1932 aerial photo from the BHS archives and the only known photo of the Vickers Warwick which forced-landed in the adjacent Three Acre Field in 1945.

To enjoy the video, please follow this link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2CF8jWESvA&feature=youtu.be> or go via our website.

Finally, we are passing this on for our members' interest.

“Surrey Heritage has launched a new website to document the experiences of Surrey residents during the First World War - both on the home front and battlefields overseas.

Over the next three years, the *Surrey in the Great War website* aims to publish thousands of stories about Surrey towns, villages, organisations and individuals to serve as an enduring record of the county's contribution 100 years ago.

People with stories or photographs from the time are invited to post them on the website to help create this lasting digital memorial. They will also be able to search through the website's records from the period including indexes to local newspapers to find out more about wartime life in the county. They will also be able to search through the website's records from the period to find out more about wartime life in the county, which back then included the London boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Sutton and Richmond.

The site is the centrepiece of *Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers*, a four-year First World War commemoration project funded with an HLF grant of almost £460,000.

The project has helped to uncover various wartime stories linked to Surrey, including the adventures of Flora Sandes from Thornton Heath who pretended to be a man and became a captain in the Serbian army. It also gives insights into the life of renowned war poet Wilfred Owen who trained at Witley North Camp near Godalming in 1916, where he wrote a precursor to his famous poem *Anthem for Doomed Youth*.

Please visit the *Surrey in the Great War website* via this address: www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk”