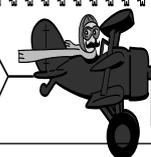


Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018, which we hope you will enjoy. We have a full calendar of talks for the year ahead, and hope to see you there. If you have any suggestions (or would even like to give a talk yourself!) then please let us know. Also if there is anything you would like to see featured in the newsletter, we would be happy to hear your ideas. The dates for 2018's coach trips are also announced on page 5, and all look very interesting, so make sure you book your place. We hope to see you soon!

FORTHCOMING
EVENTS 2017



All talks are held at St Mary's Centre for the Community, Stream Close, Byfleet and will begin at 8.15pm.

Thursday 22nd February: 'Carriages without horses shall go – the early days of motoring' by Anthony Saunders.

Thursday 22nd March: Nick Hewitt will give a talk on "Jutland 1916—Drama in the North Sea."

Thursday 19th April: Dave Page will tell us about "The Wildlife of Elmbridge."

Thursday 24th May: **AGM. This year we revert to our usual meeting time.** After the business of the AGM, join us for an evening of members' reminiscences, "Remembering Schooldays."

Thursday 21st June: Come and hear Bob Fuller speak about *The Victoria Cross*.

Thursday 19th July: 'Byfleet Then and Now' by Chris Glasow.

Thursday 23rd August *The BHS goes boating.* As usual there is no meeting in August, but our annual EVENING BOAT TRIP will take place along the Wey Navigation canal. Further details to be announced.

Thursday 20th September: David Taylor on 'Reformers, Pre-Raphaelites and the Bloomsbury Group'

Thursday 25th October: Join us for another of our popular evenings of "Members' short talks". Full details to follow. If you have a topic that you would like to share please contact us

Thursday 22nd November: Rev Nick Aiken will speak about "Pyrford."

Thursday 20th December: Our annual Christmas meeting, at which Mike Webber will show a collection of photographs and other items of interest that the Society has acquired during 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!**

Don't forget—if you have a topic or an idea for a talk, please let us know.

Can you help?

The lady who currently runs the Farmers' Market on Plough Green on the first Saturday of the month is going to have to step down in a couple of months. At present this means that when the insurance runs out in June/July, the market will stop. She is looking for someone to take over the admin, which is not very onerous, as other jobs such as collecting fees etc she will still be able to do as she would continue to have a stall.

If anyone could help out, please contact Grahame Osborn on sueandoz@hotmail.com or on 01932 496218. Thank you.

For the Record...



In December we had Mike Webber's now traditional presentation of Society acquisitions. Many interesting pictures were shown and memories awakened. Here is a small selection from the evening.

To the left is a sketch of the alleged West Hall ghost. The figure on the left was seen by a Shell messenger in the main entrance area. It passed through a wall which had not existed in the original house. The figure on the right was seen standing against a fireplace by a lady from Mouchel's accounts department. Has anyone else ever experienced anything similar?

Below on the right is a photo labelled as a Graf Zeppelin over Brooklands track, August 1931. The photo is labelled as taken from Clem's allotment in Rectory Lane.

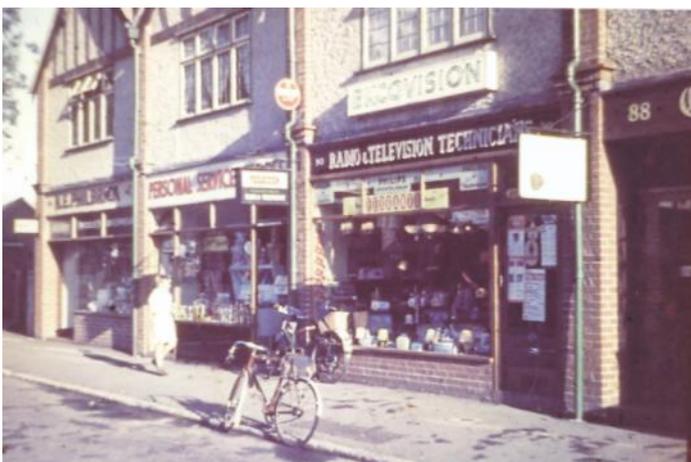


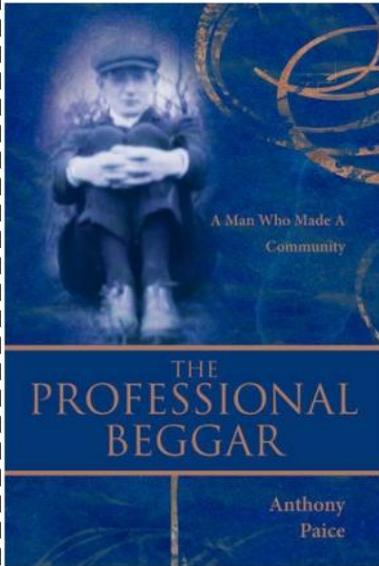
To the left is a picture of Byfleet Motors Ltd in High Road, from a report in Motor Sport magazine dated August 1935. The company

had just opened its new garage in Byfleet, which the article calls "A Brooklands tuning depot".

Below on the left is a photo given to us by Mr Berg, whose father owned the Ekovision radio and television shop. Next door on the left is Personal Services Stores, Byfleet's first supermarket, with the Copper Kettle tea shop on the right (later Barclays Bank and now the betting shop).

Finally a rather spectacular photo from our Facebook group which shows the Sultan of Oman's customised VC10 flying in low over the houses of Byfleet to Brooklands on 6th July 1987. The aircraft is on display at Brooklands Museum. Thanks to everyone who had lent or donated their items for our archive, and to Mike for his talk.





For our first meeting of 2018 we welcomed Tony Paice who spoke about the life of Reverend Cuthbert Arthur Hamilton, Rector of Pyrford, who called himself the Professional Beggar. Drawing on his research for his biography of Rev. Hamilton, Tony portrayed for us the character and achievements of the man against the background of his times.

Tony became interested in Rev Hamilton while collating the papers of the War Memorial Hall for depositing at Surrey History Centre. He was impressed with the Reverend's constancy, chairing every committee meeting, writing all the minutes, and fixing arrangements with anyone who could help. Rev Hamilton's time at Pyrford covered two World Wars and the Great Depression, intense times of loss and sorrow that affected everyone in the area.

Cuthbert Hamilton was the third son of an Anglican clergyman. He went to Malvern School and then to Trinity College, Cambridge. Although he was not an outstanding scholar (he obtained a third class degree) he became an accomplished cross country runner. His social conscience also began to develop and he became involved with the

Christian Socialist Movement which aimed to improve working class living conditions. He entered the church and was accepted for theological training by Bishop Rye of Winchester, who had recently opened a hostel for 12 ordinates in Farnham under the care of B K Cunningham, who became Cuthbert's mentor.

As a young curate, Cuthbert became quite a sportsman, especially enjoying cricket although his style was extreme, either being out for a duck, or the top scorer; he was described as "playing interesting cricket for his runs". He also played football, but in both sports he disliked competitiveness and simply played for the joy of it.

Cuthbert moved to the parish of Lower Bourne in Tilford, moving on to St Andrews, Farnham, where the Rector's sermon on a Sunday night became the social highlight of the week. By 1913 he was married to Agnes Maude Goodall, daughter of an army officer and a Swiss painter; it was a long and happy marriage. He also received his own parish of Wisley-cum-Pyrford.

At the outbreak of the First World War the parish was a collection of small homesteads with larger properties along Old Woking Road. There was a Parish Room (destroyed in 1915 in a gale), a Board School and the Tin or Iron Room on the corner of Engliff and Upshott Lanes for concerts. There was a cricket team, but no pitch and a quoits team that competed at The Anchor at Pyrford Lock. Rev. Hamilton had already begun to draw the community together, particularly through his Parish magazine, which he used through both world wars to communicate with his parishioners. He further promoted social cohesion with Parish teas. He organised shelter in Pyrford for 15 Belgian refugees and he led the War Relief Committee, raising large sums for the relief of servicemen's families and the unemployed, as well as providing a trained Parish Nurse.

Rev Hamilton later served in the Church Army, going to France in November 1917 and later volunteering for the Royal Army Medical Corps, being one of the few ordained ministers to serve in the ranks rather than as an officer. By the Second World War, Hamilton was too old for the army, but he was a great supporter of the League of Nations. However, he was not an appeaser, and was critical of America's neutrality and refusal to support the League. During the war, he found places for 170 London refugees, raised money for the nursing association while maintaining the parish accounts and keeping the Mothers' Union and church clubs meeting regularly.

In 1942 Rev Hamilton was elected to Woking Borough Council, serving for two years and making sure he had earmarked a suitable successor before resigning. At the end of the war, he made sure that the returning servicemen received a warm welcome home.

Rev Hamilton's achievements have stood the test of time. The War Memorial Hall still stands, and his nursing regime was decades ahead of the NHS. His timely pre-war purchase of land made the later foundation of the Church of the Good Shepherd possible, and he aided the establishment of Pyrford Cricket Club and its grounds. He knew how to work his contacts with the local gentry and nobility for the good of the parish, charming Mary Dowager Countess of Lovelace and the Earl of Iveagh alike, and the money raised made the building of the Hall and cricket ground possible. Although Hamilton called himself the "professional beggar", he was held in respect by all who knew him and Hamilton Avenue was named in his honour.

FROM THE ARCHIVE



Above: Old Lodge stables (now the site of Old Orchard) c. 1955. Right: The Queen's Head in 1907-1909.



Above: High Road in the 1968 floods, showing the corner of Studland Road and the Post office chimneys on the right.

Right: Station Road, West Byfleet in the early 20th century.



Some pictures from our archive that we hope you find interesting.

If you would like to see more, don't forget our monthly drop-ins on the first Saturday of every month (except January) or our Facebook group if you use social media (go onto Facebook and search for Byfleet Heritage Society and click Join).

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**SOCIETY NEWS,
 AND QUERIES**
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We are sorry to report that Air Chief Marshall Sir Douglas Lowe, GCB, DFC, AFC, a long-time resident of Byfleet, and the speaker at our meeting in October 2013, passed away on 24th January. Many members will remember his talk, when he spoke to us for an hour without notes about his life in the RAF and the Ministry of Defence.

Coach trips 2018

- * **Thursday 10th May:** Portsmouth, with opportunities to visit the historic Dockyard, Gunwharf Keys shopping centre and the Spinnaker Tower.
- * **Thursday 28th June:** Royal Hospital, Chelsea, for an afternoon tour guided by Chelsea Pensioners
- * **Thursday 13th September:** A day by the seaside at Brighton
- * **Thursday 6th December:** London Lights.

All these dates are subject to confirmation. Members should look for the relevant posters, and for announcements at our monthly meetings and 'drop-in' mornings.

Ticket prices and departure times to be announced.

Enquiries or bookings to be made with Mary McIntyre (01932 341586) or at our monthly meetings

In addition, our annual boat trip will take place on Thursday 23rd August.



SEND INSIDE OUT

AN ART EXHIBITION
By 'OUR TIME' WOMEN ARTISTS
FROM
HMP SEND



AT
RIPLEY MUSEUM



FROM 17TH
 FEBRUARY
 TO
 END OF APRIL
 EVERY SATURDAY
 10-12.30
 Meet in Ripley Village Hall
 01932 643
www.sendinsideoutartexhibition.co.uk

February 17th will see the opening of something really exciting and different for Ripley museum. Seven artists from HMP Send – the closed female training prison located between Ripley and East Clandon, which delivers an integrated regime to around 300 prisoners, enabling them to work and benefit from an extensive education curriculum – have spent the last few months creating exciting new paintings just for the Ripley Museum.

These offenders take part in the weekly art workshops delivered by Watts Gallery Trust and funded by the Michael Varah Memorial Fund (MVMF). Last June, six of the seven exhibited at 'Our Time', the much-lauded exhibition for invited guests within HMP Send that was organised and curated by the women artists themselves – the first initiative of its kind in any UK prison.

Their highly original new artworks for our museum – including interpretations of well-known Ripley and Send landmarks – will be available for sale. The women explain: *“We know that we must donate 20% from the sale of any work to Victim Support Surrey (to benefit those whose lives have been affected by crime) and we also want to support the in-prison programme for future members and so 10% will go back to the MVMF.”* This is part of the social enterprise model that gives the women artists transferable skills that might lead them into training or employment on release.

We are delighted that the High Sheriff of Surrey 2017-2018, Robert Napier CBE has agreed to officially open our exhibition – entitled **‘Send Inside and Out’** – on Saturday 17th February at 11.30 am. Coffee and cake – and the opportunity to buy postcards by the Send artists (in aid of the MVMF and with all profits going to support the HMP Send programme), will be available from 10.15 am in the small village hall. The museum is open every Saturday from 10-12.30 and some Sundays (to coincide with the Antiques fair in the village hall). There will also be a special opening on Sunday 25th February between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm.

A selection of letterhead from Byfleet businesses from the beginning of the 20th century. Pantlings was in the first house at the bottom of Parvis Bridge; Freeland's stood near Plough Green and Boutells is still in its premises next to the Village Hall.

May 27th 1911



S. E. S. 8728/11

Memo. from **W. & A. PANTLING BROS.**
 (LATE E. WOODGER)
Builders, Sanitary Engineers, High-Class
Decorators, Hot Water and Gas Fitters,
STATION ROAD, WEST BYFLEET, AND
CHERTSEY ROAD, BYFLEET.

PLUMBERS TO THE
WEST SURREY
WATER Co.
+
ELECTRIC BELLS,
&c., FIXED AND
REPAIRED.
+
ESTIMATES GIVEN
FOR GENERAL
REPAIRS.

Dear Sir, *Estimate*

TELEPHONE 81 BYFLEET.
ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BYFLEET.

To Mr. G. J. Bruzand *Sept 15th 1919*

Estimate from
T. H. FREELAND & SONS,

Ironmongers,

Farriers and

General Smiths
Wheelwrights.

MOTOR AND CYCLE WORKS,
VULCANIZING BY THE H. F. PROCESS. CARS FOR HIRE.

HOT & COLD WATER FITTERS. ALL KINDS OF IRON & WIRE FENCING, RANGE WORK, Etc.

And at **ADDLESTONE & WEST BYFLEET.**
BYFLEET, SURREY.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED FREE FOR ALL BRANCHES OF THE TRADE.

Telephone: 37, Byfleet.

Amptwade House, Byfleet, Surrey. *h*

G. J. Bruzand Esq *May 27 1913*

G. BOUTELL & SON,

Builders, House Decorators, House Furnishers,
Upholsterers, Undertakers.

Furniture, Carpets & Linoleums of all descriptions.
— FUNERALS FURNISHED TO SUIT ALL CLASSES. —

INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE BLINDS
MADE
TO ORDER.

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TAKEN UP,
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RE LAID.

ESTIMATES
FOR GENERAL
REPAIRS.

DISTEMPERING,
PAINTING
AND GLAZING

Estimate

E. S. D.

CORRECTION
 In our account of our October 2017 meeting we said that a suggested location for the house where Anne Roberts' great aunt lived was Old Orchard, but we should have said Old Avenue. Apologies for the error.