

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In these difficult times, we are trying our best to keep you informed as to what is going on. Not having met since February, it appears that we shall not be able to resume our meetings and 'drop-ins' until well into 2021, our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. I had hoped that, 25 years after the official opening of our Heritage Room by Sir Cliff Richard, OBE, we might be able to meet on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021, to celebrate. This looks increasingly unlikely, but I hope that later in the year, when this dreadful pandemic has been tamed, we shall hold an event to look back over our first quarter century.

There are one or two other plans for 2021, but I will save these for another time, when our lives return to normal.

As you know, we planned our delayed AGM for 17<sup>th</sup> September, just a few days after the Government announced that the limit for meetings was six persons. I'm sure that you will understand that this was not viable, so we cancelled at short notice. The committee has decided that until we can hold the AGM, all present office holders and committee members will remain in post, and subscriptions will remain unchanged.

There is, however, one exception. Mary McIntyre has decided to step down after many years of loyal service and commitment to the Society. Her knowledge of the village over many years has been an invaluable source of information to us, and we shall miss her incisive input at our committee meetings, and her supervision of refreshments at our monthly meetings.

We are pleased to announce that Chris Glasow has offered to serve on the committee, and the committee has unanimously accepted his offer. As those of you who have heard Chris's talks will know, his expertise in the use of technology and computers will be an invaluable asset.

This year has seen the cancellation of events such as Parish Day and the Village Hall Christmas Fayre. This means that two of our most important sales opportunities for our calendars (and books) have disappeared, so I do urge everyone to buy copies to ensure that we do not, for the first time, make a loss on sales. Please tell your friends and neighbours. Finally, although no decision has yet been made, awaiting guidance from Woking Borough Council and the Royal British Legion, it is almost certain that we will not be able to hold our normal Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial. However, it is hoped that the occasion will be suitably marked, so look out for information in late October.

Thank you for your continued support and loyalty in these difficult times. It really is very much appreciated, and we urge you to keep safe and well, and look forward to celebrating with you next year.

Jim Allen

### 2021 CALENDARS!

Let's face it, 2020 has been a bit of an odd year, so what better way to look forward to hopefully better times than with a Byfleet Heritage Society 2021 calendar. This year the theme is ***Byfleet Through the Ages***, and they will be on sale for **£5** each from **1st October** at:

- \* The Queens Head public house, Parvis Road during normal opening hours.
- \* Byfleet Community Library, High Road during opening hours (currently Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10am-1pm, although these hours will hopefully extend)
- \* St Mary's Centre for the Community, Stream Close at the lovely newly refurbished cafe during normal opening hours (Tuesday to Friday 8.45am to 4.15pm and Saturdays 10am to 3pm).

If you are unable to get to these locations, you can email

Tessa@westlakesystems.co.uk and we will arrange delivery to your home address or convenient point. Please state whether you would like an envelope for each calendar at no extra cost. Copies can also be posted – please add an extra £2.00 P&P. Payment can be left at 8 Brewery Lane, Byfleet KT14 7PQ.

#### Byfleet through the Ages

Byfleet Heritage Society  
2021 Calendar

Celebrating the Society's 25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary




Official opening of the Society's Heritage Room on 1st February, 1996: Doug Bright (Founder & Chairman), Tessa Westlake (Secretary) and Sir Cliff Richard, OBE

Visit us at: Byfleet Heritage Room, Byfleet Community Library  
High Road, Byfleet KT14 7QN

The Byfleet Heritage Society's Heritage Room is open during library opening hours and entry is free.

Email: [Info@ByfleetHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Info@ByfleetHeritage.org.uk) Web: [www.ByfleetHeritage.org.uk](http://www.ByfleetHeritage.org.uk)

Find us on Facebook 

Byfleet Heritage Society, which covers the Ancient Parish of Byfleet and Vest Byfleet, has compiled this calendar

## For the Record...

### A VISIT TO BYFLEET MANOR

Heritage Society committee members Jim, Julian and Tessa were delighted to be able to visit Byfleet Manor recently to see the work that has been carried out on the house and gardens. We were shown round by Aidan Lynch, Strategic Project Manager, who explained what had been completed, and what was still to come.

Anyone using Mill Lane over the last while will have seen the restoration of the gardens and surrounding lands. Many trees have been removed, but Aidan said that all trees taken out were either diseased, were unsafe or had grown up over the years and so needed thinning. There have been 40% more trees planted already than have been removed and by the time the work is finished, they will have planted significantly more trees. The waterways to the rear of the property and next to the river have been dredged and cleared of invasive plants. This not only helps with flood prevention measures, but also provides a wonderful natural habitat for the local wildlife, which is already moving back in.

The courtyard walls, which are a very old feature, have all been repointed and restored. The distinctive gate pillars, which were very worn, have been removed and a decision will be taken on how best to restore or replace them. The gate will be widened to allow access for emergency vehicles, and the pillars will be reinstated at the end of the works once all the heavy vehicles are safely out of the way.

The house is being treated from top to toe. The roof has been mended and all chimneys repointed, and the scaffolding which has covered the house for many months will gradually start to come down. We ventured into the basement which at the moment is full of supporting pillars. It was noticed that some of the timbers were no longer strong enough to support the floors above, but this has now been rectified, and there are a number of measuring points throughout the house to make sure that nothing is moving or settling more than it should. Aidan said that one of the largest floor supports was believed to have come from a ship; others were of varying thicknesses which suggested they had been recycled from another building.



*In the basement showing the supports and the large beam believed to have come from a ship*

As might be expected with a house of this age and complexity, many unexpected things were found once paper and plaster were removed. Previous builders may not always have been working to exacting standards; for example, whoever had inserted a connecting door on the first floor had installed a rather lightweight lintel, and filled the space above with loose rubble. This has now been rectified with solid brick and a sturdy lintel. Previous owners had taken care with their interior decorating, so many of the interior features which at first looked old have turned out to be more modern. Ceilings thought to be original plaster were found to be covered with plasterboard, or a dividing wall which looked old turned out to be made of modern breeze block. But there are still many old features, such as wood panelling and fire places which will be carefully restored.

There is a planning application in progress for a modern extension and swimming pool to be built to the east side of the house; this will be designed so that it does not impinge on the present view of the house from the public footpath. Once the scaffolding is down and the heavy work finished, the garden and front courtyard will be landscaped, and the work will be complete.

It was very kind of Aidan to take the time to give us such an extensive tour and it was very interesting to see the careful and skilful restoration work being carried out which should make sure that Byfleet Manor survives well into the future.



*The house with protective roof and scaffolding*



*The repaired door lintel and wall*

Given the strange times in which we find ourselves, I thought I would see if I could find out how Byfleet coped with previous epidemics. I spent a very interesting afternoon on the British Newspaper Archive website finding lots of Byfleet stories, which I'll save for another newsletter, but there were a few articles that revealed what life was like during an outbreak, and some of the measures that were taken then seem familiar now.

During the Spanish Flu epidemic, The Surrey Advertiser reported in October 1918, "Surrey has not escaped the prevailing epidemic of influenza, and from all parts of the county come reports of schools closed in consequence of the scourge, and of number of victims among the people. But, so far...there have been comparatively few deaths among the civil population as a result of the epidemic, and if people who are threatened take prompt care of themselves there is no reason for undue alarm." However, in the Army camps "influenza has claimed victims by hundreds, and unfortunately a goodly number of cases have had a fatal termination" as the military had "wholly inadequate medical staffs to deal with the situation." The article continues, "As stated, schools have been or are being closed all over the place. All the elementary schools in Woking have been closed for a week or two; and at Chobham, Byfleet, Bisley, Leatherhead, Kingston, Long Ditton, Malden, Chessington, Guildford, and many other districts it has been deemed advisable to prevent the children from assembling and spreading infection." Then, as now, doctors were reported to be "extremely hard worked." One at Kingston had visited over sixty patients, and another in Woking said "From early morning till late at night I have done nothing but rush from one 'flu' patient to another."

However, the epidemic also brought out some entrepreneurs. An advert in the For Sale section of the Surrey Advertiser in November 1918 offered the following solution:  
*INFLUENZA! If you use a Telephone use a Telephone Shield, and avoid Contagion; everyone should have one; carry it in your pocket, and slip it on the instrument when you use it; it give cleanliness and better sound; post free 4 1/2d, or three for 1s – Edward Cocks, Stationer, High Street, Weybridge.*

Naturally, health advice was offered, although maybe not all of it was strictly medically based. The Western Gazette on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1918 perhaps rather prematurely reported that "the influenza epidemic is now stationary, if not actually on the wane" but nonetheless offered readers "Some Sensible Advice":

"Mr E.W. Morris, house governor of London Hospital, is circulating for the advice of people in the East End a leaflet containing simple rules that should be observed in regard to the influenza epidemic. They include the following: If you get a cold or bad throat or feel feverish, go to bed and stay there for four or five days. Influenza only becomes dangerous when you do not go to bed. Don't try and fight it and keep about – just go to bed. Send for a doctor if you do not feel better. Dissolve a teaspoonful of common salt in a tumbler of warm water, and gargle your throat and mouth with this two or three times a day. Do not go into crowds more than you can help. Wear warm clothes. Eat well, but do not drink spirits. Go to bed early and have as long nights in bed as you can. Remember that you catch disease most easily when you are cold, wet, hungry, and tired." So far, so good – and some of the advice has become familiar to us all over the last few months. However, Mr Morris goes on to recommend some more novel measures: "Keep cheerful and laugh as much as you like. We find in the hospital that infectious diseases seem to let cheerful people alone." While a positive attitude has its benefits, Mr Morris' next advice is perhaps a little optimistic: "Don't talk about influenza. It is already wearing itself out, and will go all the sooner if you don't talk about it. Influenza is a disease that likes to be noticed."

There was also advice that many people could cheerfully get behind, such as this recommendation in the Illustrated News from 1<sup>st</sup> March 1924:

"The doctor and coroner at an inquest last week both made public their strong belief in the value of alcoholic stimulant as a remedy for influenza. An excellent spirit, taken with much benefit when one is threatened with influenza, is the Cuban spirit "Ron Bacardi," distilled by a special process from the sugar-cane, which has a great vogue throughout North and South America as a specific against this malady, and is now being shipped to England." It doesn't say who placed the ad, but you can draw your own conclusions from the final sentence, "It can be obtained from Messrs Hedges

and Butler, Ltd., 153, Regent Street, the well-known wine merchants." Even our own Byfleet Brewery had an answer; the Friary brewing company (then owners of Byfleet Brewery) ran the advert pictured in the Surrey Advertiser in 1909. So take your pick – early nights, gargling with salt water, having a laugh and ignoring the whole thing, or a rum and a bottle of Stout!

## "Resist Influenza"

BY DRINKING

# FRIARY INVALID STOUT.

Analyst's opinion:—"From the result of my analysis and from my personal visits to the Brewery, I am of the opinion that this Stout is **GENUINE** in every sense of the word, and may with confidence be recommended in those cases where a **NOURISHING** Stout is advised by medical men."

Signed, G. G. MOOR, M.A., F.L.C., F.C.S.

Of all Wine Merchants, Hotels, etc., or from

### THE FRIARY BREWERY, GUILDFORD.

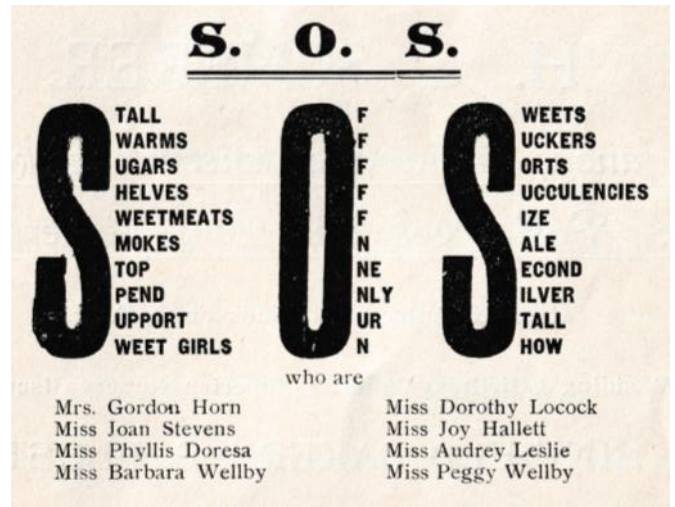
Branches: Aldershot, Byfleet, Chertsey and Dorking.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

When lockdown was announced in March, it seems that quite a few people turned to having a sort out and I'm very pleased to say that we have been the beneficiaries of this. We have gratefully received some lovely items for our archive which, once we can have our monthly drop-in sessions again, we look forward to sharing with everyone.

Included are press cuttings and pictures of Manor Farm when it was run by Mr Buree, as well as many of his shields won at the Surrey County Show; a wrapper from a bag of flour from S Pickering of Petersham Parade and a scan of a picture of Brewery Cottages both gratefully received from Peter Randall; photos of Byfleet and West Byfleet stations in the 1990s were purchased very reasonably from Ebay; and a large bundle of photos and newspaper cuttings showing the long career of Clifford Finbow, a teacher at West Byfleet in the 1940s, sent to us by his granddaughter.

Most recently we received a large bundle of goodies from Chris Glasow including programmes, magazines and booklets from Byfleet's past. One absolutely charming item was the programme from the Byfleet Fancy Fair which took place on Friday and Saturday June 12th and 13th 1925 in aid of the Parish Church Restoration Fund. Tickets were 6d in advance or 9d on the day and Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire performed the opening, after which the merriment commenced. There was maypole dancing, country dances and singing games, various novelty races (including Hat Trimming for Men and a Tortoise Bicycle Race), a funfair, children's sports, a Fire Brigade competition (where "The Byfleet Dennis Motor Pump and Equipment will be used by all teams,") and "well known Palmiste and Character Reader Madame Hall" would "tell you all you want to know and much that will surprise you!" Mrs Stoop presented the prizes. On both evenings from at 8.30pm there was dancing on the lawns of Weycote (the house still stands on the corner of Green Lane Close and Parvis Road), with "refreshments at popular prices" and "thousands of Fairy Lights." Among the sideshows and attractions, Mr Joe King "has kindly offered to give Joy Rides in his Aeroplane to twelve people". Tickets were 2/6d and the lucky



**COME** and SMASH THE CHINA,  
You can't do it at home, 'cause of the Missus.

**COME** and BUST THE BUBBLE,  
Top of the League. Open to all Internationals.  
(and others).

**COME** and SOUSE THE GENT,  
He wants a Bath, its up to you to give it him.

**COME** and see IFUKANOKIZTOPAROFF.  
The Bolshy Danger.

**COME** and GUIDE THE GLOBULE,  
Thousands of Pounds paid away nightly:—Its a gift!

**COME** and DIP IN THE BRAN,  
As you can't dip in the Briny—

**COME** and see YOUR PHIZ :—  
As others see it. No offence meant.

**COME** and FIND THE MYSTERY MAN—  
Who  
What  
When  
Where } IS HE ?

twelve would be decided by a



draw. L R Stevens organised a Natural History and Curio Collection including "thousands of land, fresh water and sea shells, large and small, from all parts of the world" among other wonders. The overall impression you get from reading the programme is the huge amount of fun they must have had writing it, as the pictures here show.

Our thanks to Chris and to everyone who has donated items or lent pictures for scanning. And if you are having a clear out and you find something from Byfleet's past, we would be delighted to see it.

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**MORE FROM  
 OUR ARCHIVE**  
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A report from the West Surrey Times for 25th December 1869 reminds us all that decisions taken after a pub crawl may not be the best ideas you ever had!

**CHERTSEY PETTY SESSIONS—DUCK STEALING AT BYFLEET**

Isaac Smith and Thomas Berryman were charged with stealing, at Byfleet, on the 18th inst., three ducks, value 5s., the property of Mrs Henry Yeowell.

PC Blancks deposed: At half-past nine o'clock on the 18th inst., in company with PC Veal, I saw the two prisoners come out of the beerhouse kept by John North of Byfleet. We followed them to the Blue Anchor. They stood outside for ten minutes, and then went on to the Plough Inn. They did not go inside, but I saw them go through the hedge, and I lost sight of them. Subsequently I met the prisoner Berryman near the school house. I enquired what he had with him. He replied nothing. I then discovered the two ducks under his coat. The remaining duck was found upon the prisoner. I then searched them, placed on the handcuffs, and took them into custody.

Anne Yeowell deposed: I reside with my mother at Byfleet. I recognised the ducks as my mother's property. They were the only ones we had. I am quite positive. I fed them myself. They were quite safe on the afternoon of the 18th inst. They were allowed to run about the premises.

The prisoners, who had nothing to say, were sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour.



I think we are all missing the normal round of social gatherings, so here are some pictures from our archives of events before social distancing was ever dreamed of. To the left are the staff of Sanway Laundry on stage for your entertainment at the Village Hall. The picture is undated, but possibly from the 1920s/30s. Bottom left is a ticket for an Autumn dance held at Royston Chase Hotel (where the library and Laurel Grange are now) in 1953. Below is a picture labelled "Sanway Outing 1924 or 5" where the residents of the Sanway area have taken a trip in a wonderful charabanc. From the left, the passengers are: Mr Casemore Snr, Rene Alexander, Pad Alexander, Mrs Violet Alexander, ?, Mrs Casemore snr (standing), Mrs Ethel Edes, Mrs Margery Edes, Mrs Ellen Denly, Stella Edes and the driver. Behind are Bob Casemore, ? Casemore, unknown gentleman standing, and behind the driver, Mr Frank Edes, Mr Harry Denly and Mr Fred Mabey. Are any of your relations among them?



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**SOCIETY NEWS,  
AND QUERIES**  
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**BYFLEET COMMUNITY LIBRARY REOPENS**

We are very pleased to tell you that Byfleet Community Library reopened on 15th September. For the first four weeks it will be open in the mornings only, on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10am - 1pm.

After that, barring snags or other instructions, they will revert to their usual hours.

Things won't be quite back to normal just yet.

There will be a one way system in place and unfortunately no newspapers, and no public computers or printing. Rhymetime, Storytime and group meetings and AGMs have also been suspended for now.

It's requested that masks should be worn in line with all shops and there will be much wiping, spraying and cleaning to keep everything as virus/germ free as possible.

It is so good to see the library open for business again, and we wish everyone well with the new arrangements.

As members will be aware, we were unable to hold our AGM in May this year due to the Covid restrictions, and we don't expect to be able to meet again soon, which is very sad news.

The AGM is when subscriptions for the coming year become due, and we would like to say a huge thank you to those of you who have sent yours in. We are very aware that we are unable to offer our full programme of events at the moment, so we are very grateful for your continued support. We are working on producing an interim issue of our Journal which we hope will go a little way towards making up for our missing meetings.

If we have not received a renewal, you should find a form in with this newsletter, and we would greatly appreciate it if you would consider joining us again for another year. Full details are on the form.

Thanks again for your continued patience and support during this odd year, and we very much look forward to seeing you all again when meetings and drop-ins can begin.

Some sad news. **Les Bowerman**, Vice President and Honorary Life Member of the Charlotteville Cycling Club, passed away in July at the age of 87. He broke many records during his cycling career and was also a keen local historian, publishing a volume of the Club's history in 2003 and speaking to the Society on the history of cycling in Surrey in 2012. Members might also remember his collection of historic bicycles which he often brought to Parish Day.

**NEWSLETTERS VIA EMAIL**

Just a reminder that if you would like to receive your newsletters and other Society news by email, do let us know. Just drop an email to [Tessa@westlakesystems.co.uk](mailto:Tessa@westlakesystems.co.uk) to be added to our emailing list.

If you need to contact the Society, we can be reached in the following ways:

Leave a note at Byfleet Library, email us at [info@byfleetheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@byfleetheritage.org.uk) or ring our Secretary, Tessa Westlake on 01932 351559