

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM  
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1998



issue 5



LEWIS CARROLL 1832 - 1898

## From the Editor

### Lewis Carroll Festival 7th to 17th May 1998

January 14th 1998 marks the centenary of the death of Lewis Carroll. From 1868 until his death, Carroll was a frequent visitor to the town and as Marjorie tells us in her article (page 7) 'The Chestnuts' became the family home.

For the past two years a small committee, including representatives from the Museum and Town Guides, has been beavering away to produce a programme of events as a fitting tribute to the man. The official programme and booking form will be available from the Tourist Information Centre in Tunsgate towards the end of February but a brief summary of the events with dates and times is given on pages 14 & 15 so that you may keep the dates free in your diary should you wish. I'll mention just four of the dozen or so events to whet your appetite. First bring your children, grandchildren or just come yourself to the 'Wonderland Adventure' (May 10th) where children of all ages are invited to come down the rabbit hole with Alice and join some of the characters she meets. Circle Eight will entertain us (May 10th & 11th) with examples of Alice stories as portrayed in the cinema, television and radio during the last hundred years in a programme called 'Alice through the Camera Lens'. To find out more about Carroll's interest in mathematics, Edward Wakeling, the acknowledged expert on this area of Carroll's life, will be waiting to amuse you on May 15th. But don't miss Kevin Moore in his acclaimed stage performance of the world of Lewis Carroll (May 8th & 9th). Taking its title, 'Crocodiles in Cream' from one of Carroll's poems and set in his Oxford study, every word is taken direct from his work.

Guildford House will be displaying various items inspired by the work of Lewis Carroll. The Museum will mount an exhibition looking at the life and work of the man and his connections with Guildford using artefacts and photographs drawn from the Museum's collections. There is certainly something of interest to all so bring your friends and relations as well.

## Message from our Chairman

*A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS*

*I would like to thank everyone for their support during the past year. We have a thrilling programme ahead and I look forward to meeting you on the outings.*

Sincerely  
*Elizabeth Cobbett.*

### DID YOU KNOW ?

In 1856 Charles Lutwidge Dodgson was a contributor to the train magazine and submitted a poem with the title 'Solitude' under the initials 'B.B.'. The editor Edmund Yates was not pleased with this and suggested Dodgson chose a *nom de plume*. He sent Yates a choice of four names. The first two were 'Edgar Cuthwalls' and 'Edgar U.C. Westhill' which were made by transposition out of Charles Lutwidge. The other two were 'Louis Carroll' and 'Lewis Carroll'. Both being derived, also, from his first names Charles and Lutwidge. The latter being his mother's maiden name. On March 1st 1856 Dodgson wrote in his diary 'Lewis Carroll was chosen'.

I am sure you have played the game where you choose two words having the same number of letters and try to link the words by changing one letter at a time. For example, change EYE to LID (EYE DYE DIE DID LID). Carroll first published this, under the name 'Doublets' in a letter to the editor of the magazine 'Vanity Fair' in March 1879.

'Dear Vanity - Just a year ago last Christmas, two young ladies - smarting under that sorest scourge of feminine humanity, the having 'nothing to do' - besought me to send them some 'riddles'. But riddles I had none at hand, and therefore set myself to devise some other form of verbal torture which should serve the same purpose. The result of my meditations was a new kind of puzzle - new at least to me - which now that it has been fairly tested by a years experience, and commended by many friends, I offer to you, as a newly-gathered nut, to be cracked by the omnivorous teeth which have already masticated so many of your Double Acrostics.'

So if you are still in party mood why not try these which appeared in later editions of the magazine. PIG to STY, FOUR to FIVE, OAT to RYE, ARMY to NAVY and FLOUR to BREAD. - Ed.

## Secretary's Letter

I was able to report to you in the August newsletter that our membership was 180. Since then we have seen a slow but steady increase and have now reached the milestone of 200 members. With so many Associations trying to build up their membership there must come a time when they all reach saturation point but it would seem that there are still many people who are interested in the future and welfare of our museum.

In spite of present so-called 'good times' there are still shortcomings from local rates and the museum is one of many areas in which financial restraint must be applied and it is a great tribute to our members that we have been able to offer our museum even more support this year - not only financially but also with many hours of stewarding during the summer months. Our sincere thanks to you all. Even so, we are still short of volunteer stewards for the undercroft and displays at Salters. If there are any members who can spare a few hours, please telephone Marjorie on 569794.

We have had many successful events during the past 5 months including Surrey village tours, an excellent lecture on The Pit at Tunsgate by Kevin Fryer, Marjorie's Quiz Evening and, such was the demand, no less than 3 tours of Sutton Place. Finally, in November a coach load of Friends enjoyed a visit to The Florence Nightingale Museum and a tour of Tower Bridge. While all this was happening we were busy building up a programme of events for 1998 and this has now been published. Once again the Surrey Village Tours have proved popular with East Horsley, Munstead & West Horsley being fully booked within the first two weeks. Other outings are well over half full so, if you are interested and have not yet booked - don't delay any longer.

Whilst on the subject of outings I feel that I should clarify our policy regarding bookings. If we receive a cancellation we will not normally refund but will attempt to re-sell the ticket once the tour is fully booked. We will maintain a standby list for this purpose. If we are unable to place the ticket we may at our discretion, offer to refund that part of our anticipated costs which are relevant to individual admission charges but not those associated with group costs such as coach hire and guide fees. It is felt that dealing with the problem in this manner is fairest to all concerned. I would also like to confirm that there are no free seats. The organisers pay their way at all times and all profits remain in our funds to be used for the future benefit of the museum.

Each year our events are organised by the same handful of people. If you have a wish to arrange a tour, a social event or lecture please contact me and you will be given full co-operation with costing and coach or venue booking.

I look forward to seeing you on some of our future events and in the meantime send my very best wishes for 1998 to all our members.

*Derek Somner*  
Hon. Secretary



(01483) 539447

Many of you on the outings tell us snippets of information on local history. Why not write them down and send them to me for inclusion in the magazine?

All contributions should be sent to the Editor, Friends Newsletter, 21 St Michael's Avenue, Guildford, GU3 3LY



(01483) 233344

## The Curator's Column

With the help of the Friends - and in particular Derek Somner - the interactive local history display is proceeding. This will enable visitors to explore Guildford's local history through a video monitor and a computer program, which they can operate by pressing buttons.

The next project with which I would like the Friends' assistance is the up-grading of the Undercroft. While it was principally intended that the building itself should be the exhibit, it has become increasingly clear that the Undercroft has greater potential. Furthermore, it is generally agreed that the street entrance is uninviting.

Accordingly, I propose to furnish the Undercroft as a mediaeval wine merchant's shop (which it may very well originally have been). This will involve acquiring large wine casks and a 'counter' - that is a table marked out as a counting board - together with pottery and other vessels appropriate to the wine trade. The existing chest and the magnificent chair will remain but the rather unsatisfactory cases will go.

One of the least attractive features of the entrance is the condensation which forms on the glass doors. I propose to replace these with oak doors with a mediaeval iron strap-work. In season, flower baskets would do a lot to enhance the appearance of the railings.

Of course all this will cost money and I hope the Friends will be able to help with elements of it - perhaps the casks or the doors themselves. I am in the process of obtaining costings, and will approach the Committee with these. The Undercroft is a great asset to the town and one we could make more of.

*Matthew Alexander*

## LEWIS CARROLL, HIS FAMILY and GUILDFORD

In 1868 Archdeacon Dodgson died at Croft Rectory leaving his eldest son Charles, better known as the famous writer Lewis Carroll, responsible for the welfare of seven sisters and three brothers. His first task was to find a replacement family home for them. After some house-hunting it was decided to rent 'The Chestnuts' at Guildford which because of its good train service, was convenient for visiting the many relatives living in the London area, and for Oxford University where Charles was a lecturer. (I'm sure he would not have relished having seven sisters living too close to Christ Church College!). Charles helped financially and also spent much time staying at the family home, especially during the Christmas and Easter vacations. Most of his time there was probably passed in visiting and entertaining relations and friends, in taking long walks with many of the local clergy, in giving talks and lectures and, in later years, in preaching at St Mary's Church. However, we know from his diaries that he did much writing there - apart from his erudite work on mathematics and symbolic logic he also worked on 'Through the Looking Glass' and actually began his poem 'The Hunting of the Snark' in Guildford.

On January 14th 1898 Charles died at 'The Chestnuts' and was buried in the Mount Cemetery. It is not widely known, however, that this house remained in the Dodgson family home until 1919, nor that The Mount Cemetery contains the graves of five of the sisters, their missionary brother Edwin and their dear aunt Lucy Lutwidge who had looked after them for twenty-nine years after the death of their mother. The other two sisters, Mary Collingwood who was the only one to marry and Henrietta who moved to Brighton, were buried elsewhere.

During the past year, on behalf of the Lewis Carroll Society, I have been reading through the surviving Parish magazines of

Holy Trinity and St Mary's Churches. It was amazing to find just how many references there were to the sisters' work, and really glowing obituaries for two of them. It certainly appears that the churches were at the centre of their lives; they organised teas for Mothers meetings, served as secretaries and treasurers for many societies, and as 'District Visitors' visited the sick and elderly in the neighbourhood. They were prominent on the lists of all church appeals, even giving a large brass altar cross to St Mary's ( I wonder whether it is still there?). At 'The Chestnuts' they held every Saturday afternoon for many years a 'Home Working Guild' and on Sunday afternoons 'Bible Classes for Young Women'. They were always available to help nurse sick relatives and they loved to entertain and visit friends and relations. With servants to look after the housework, thus they passed their lives.

The picture I have so far painted makes them appear very worthy but extremely dull gentle spinsters; however the research of Sarah Stanfield, secretary of the Lewis Carroll Society, has proved otherwise. She quotes the words of one of their nieces, Violet, 'We as children were amazed by the learning stored in the heads of our gentle, 'parochial visiting aunts'. However there is no space here to expand on these words.

Members of our 'Friends' will, I am sure, be pleased to hear that the Dodgson graves in The Mount Cemetery, which were in an appalling condition, have recently been restored by the Lewis Carroll Society at a cost of almost £3000.

*Marjorie Williams*

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE!

Volunteers urgently required from  
May to September for Lewis Carroll  
exhibitions and Undercroft

MARJORIE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU 589794

## THE POSSIBLE SYNAGAGUE

Guldford Museum has gained some international publicity recently when I was invited, in October, to give two papers at an international conference on medieval archaeology, in Bruges. The papers were on medieval Guldford and the possible synagogue. The paper on the possible synagogue was followed by one on a definite one excavated in Vienna recently. The slides showed interesting parallels with our building, although the Austrian synagogue is larger. As a result of the talk I have been sent a booklet on a Hungarian synagogue which also has parallels with our building.

In October the protective covering on the chamber was removed so that the permanent floor covering could be laid down. We had about three days to examine the structure without any impediments and to look at the area around it. It was wonderful to stand up in the chamber at last, without having to crawl. We found that the chamber had been dug into the natural chalk, which could be seen level with the top of the demolished walls. We had suspected this before but could not prove it. This makes the synagogue interpretation more likely as we know they were built partly underground. This was so that they could be tall and imposing inside without being too obvious outside.

We are still searching for parallels for the architecture, but without any luck so far. If we can find a similar building with a known function that would be a great help.

The chamber has survived the demolition and re-building pretty well. There are a couple of cracks in the stonework, which have been repaired by Resurgam, specialists in stone conservation who are based in Gomshall. Despite all the conditions and safeguards for the chamber which were written into the re-development, when the chamber was uncovered an incomplete roof led to a deluge of water straight into the chamber, and down our necks, into our boots etc. as we struggled with buckets and plastic sheeting. The chamber is still

damp but is being dehumidified. A pale fungus covers the walls and toadstools were growing in the floor. Resurgam and ourselves are monitoring this daily and we hope that when the chamber has dried out we can deal with the fungus. (The toadstools have been evicted.)

In June, while the buildings were being demolished the gable of a timber-framed building was found. It was in between the two shops and was quite unexpected, as one shop had been completely rebuilt in the 1860s and the other has been rebuilt several times, or at least altered. However, the timber was very firmly there and we had great difficulty in rescuing it. It has been dated to the early 17th c. which makes it probable that it was part of the house of correction which was built at the Quarry Street end of the premises. The walls have been incorporated into the walls on either side of the building.

The site has now opened as Dillon's bookshop. We had always hoped that the chamber could be made accessible to the public by inserting a glass floor. Guildford Borough Council's planners and the Museum pressed for this, but it was turned down by the developers. We now find, too late, that the tenants would have loved a glass floor! However, there are displays about the chamber and other discoveries in the shop. Access to the chamber to the public will be possible, but very limited. There will be six visits a year, for ten people, but only for those who are agile. The access now involves walking bent double for the length of one building, under steel girders. We are very disappointed about this and it has given us a headache, literally, as even knowing the site and wearing hard hats we have clashed head-on with the girders. However, the new tenants seem to have a very positive attitude to the chamber and we hope it will be beneficial for them and for the Museum and for archaeology in general.

*Mary Alexander.*

## Surrey Young Archaeologists Club

YAC members recently went up to Burlington House in London, to attend the Archaeological Institute's annual Young People's Lecture. This is always a popular event, and this year Simon James spoke on the subject of Asterix. He examined the accuracy of this popular comic book series, and looked at the way Asterix's creators depicted the ways of eating and drinking, costume, attitudes to the Romans, and of course, the Roman attitude to the Gauls. He concluded that it was a remarkably accurate account of Gaulish life, except that they ignored the gory details such as the collection of enemy heads, and the fact that they tended to go into battle naked: Asterix and his friends preferring to be more modestly clad. The menhirs were also rather out of their true time, as were the chimneys of the village houses. The YAC's enjoyed the lecture, and also the bags of notebooks, pens etc which were given to them afterwards. They are already looking forward to next year's trip.

*Christine Hardman.*  
(Club Organiser)

*For further details about the Club contact Christine Hardman or Sue Roggero at the Museum Tel No (01483 444752)*

To join the FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM, please send a cheque with the appropriate subscription to  
Mr T.C. Bryers, Friends of Guildford Museum,  
2 Southbury, Lawn Road, Guildford, GU2 5DD

Subscription rates for 1997/8

Individual £5	Family £10	Under 18's £2
Corporate £25	Individual Life £100	

Please make cheques payable to

**FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM**

## EDWARD THE MARTYR

One of the 'FRIEND'S' outings last year took us to the Church of St Edward the Martyr in Brookwood Cemetery where we were shown an oak box carved with celtic designs and which contained the bones of King Edward. The story of how and why these bones are now at Brookwood is a long one so I must restrict myself to a summary of the events.

On King Edgar's death in 975 his son Edward became King of the English at the age of twelve. His stepmother owned Corfe Castle and wanted her seven year old son Ethelred on the throne instead. Three years later in March 978 King Edward was hunting near Corfe. He became separated from his companions and decided to pay his half brother a visit. On arriving at the Castle he requested refreshment from his stepmother. The treacherous woman, seizing her opportunity, arranged for a servant to stab the King in the back while he was drinking his wine on horseback. The King involuntarily spurred his horse but in doing so fell from the saddle and was dragged to the bottom of the hill. Here he was found dead and the servants hid his body in a well. Later the local villagers recovered the King's body from the well and carted it off to the church at Wareham.

The power struggle which led to the Edward's death continued afterwards with the leaders of some Saxon Kingdoms being replaced. The chief nobleman of Mercia was one of these and it fell to him to give the late king a proper burial. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles tell us that he brought the holy body from Wareham and accompanied it with great honour to Shaftsbury. The procession over this short distance is said to have taken seven days and seven nights. There the body was interred in the Benedictine Nunnery. In the year 1001 the King, Ethelred the Unready, out of respect for his murdered half brother, created him a Saint. A visit to the shrine in Shaftsbury Abbey was believed to effect miraculous cures and attracted pilgrims from far and wide. That was until Henry the Eighth ordered the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538. The nuns not wishing their most treasured possession to be desecrated, entombed the bones in some secret place.

In 1930 Mrs Claridge decided to extend her garden and purchased the Abbey site. The following year her gardener, Bert Richards, hit upon the find of the century. In a corner of the north-east part of the

Abbey, Bert lifted a stone to reveal six pieces of lead making a box about 2 ft by 9 inches around a skull and other bones. Even the 'Times' for 26th January 1931 went wildly enthusiastic about the discovery and described it 'of great importance' and 'of unique interest' for these were Royal remains.

Mrs Claridge had two sons George and John. John constructed a small shrine for the bones in the Abbey. Mrs Claridge died in 1951 and the Abbey was sold but the new owners allowed the shrine to stay in return for an annual fee of 6 pence. When these owners died in the 1960's, John removed the bones, placed them in a small leather bag and deposited them, for safe keeping, in an old cutlery box in a vault in the Midland bank in Woking while he sought a suitable resting place for the bones.

Father Alexis of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad offered to find a home for the bones and so set about raising £28,000 to purchase a disused chapel in Brookwood cemetery together with four acres of land. On Saturday 15th September 1984 the church would be ready to receive the relics when dignitaries from abroad would attend. However, on the Tuesday before a High Court writ was received from George Claridge claiming he had a half share in the bones. The case was held on the Friday. The Judge said he was not sure he could rule on who owned the bones. He felt there was a strong case for them still belonging to the original owner. He did rule, however, that the bones should be kept in secure accommodation. So Father Alexis received the relics as planned on the Saturday but they went straight back to the Bank at Woking for safe keeping.

Questions on the bones were raised in Parliament. The Attorney General Sir Michael Havers thought the bones belonged to the Queen. The Palace said they had no power to intervene. Over the next months and years George objected to proposed security systems for the bones and so Father Alexis asked the Attorney General for his advice. He suggested a system which was then installed, the Church went back to the court saying they could now keep the relics secure and so in December 1988 the bones were finally removed from the Bank and housed in the Chapel in Brookwood Cemetery, now named St Edward's Chapel.

Are they really King Edward's bones. Well, no one can be certain, but Dr Stowell says they are consistent with a fall from a horse and carbon dating has put them at 940 A.D. which is close enough for my money.

## LEWIS CARROLL CENTENARY

- Sunday 11th Jan 11-15am Service at St Mary's Church when a plaque will be unveiled to commemorate his duties at the church as a clergyman.
- Thursday 7th May 8pm LEWIS CARROLL IN MUSIC AND WORDS  
Devised and presented by pupils and staff of the Guildford High School
- Friday 8th May 8pm OPERA THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS - Clandon Park  
8pm CROCODILES IN CREAM  
Kevin Moore  
Mill Studio Yvonne Arnaud
- Saturday 9th May 11am LEWIS CARROLL'S GUILDFORD  
Guided Walk meet Holy Trinity  
2-30pm GRAND SNARK HUNT  
8pm CROCODILES IN CREAM
- Sunday 10th May 2.30pm WONDERLAND ADVENTURE  
Castle Cliffe Gardens & Racks Close
- Monday 11th May 8pm ALICE THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS  
Circle Eight Film Group  
The Electric Theatre
- Tuesday 12th May 8pm ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND  
A magical evocation of the two Alice books.  
The Mill Studio, Yvonne Arnaud  
8pm ALICE THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS
- Wed 13th May CARROLL IN THE COUNTRYSIDE  
Walk over Newlands Corner to Albury

- Thursday 14th May 8pm ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND
- Friday 15th May 8pm CURIOSERI AND CURIOSER I  
Light-hearted talk on Carroll's recreational mathematics by Edward Wakeling at Guildford High School  
8pm ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND  
9.30pm CARROLL'S MUSICAL CABARET  
at The Electric Theatre
- Saturday 16th May 11am LEWIS CARROLL'S GUILDFORD  
Guided Walk meet Holy Trinity  
2.30pm LEWIS CARROLL'S RESTING PLACE meet Mount Cemetery
- Sunday 17th May 11.15am Memorial Service St Mary's Church  
1pm Literary Lunch - Speaker  
Professor Morton Cohen

**Please check dates and times of events against the official programme which is expected to be available from the Tourlat office in mid-February**

### NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Association

Mrs M Adley	Miss J Lamyman
Mrs J Butcher	Miss V Patrick
Mrs J Carter	Mrs J Preston
Cllr Mrs A Earle	Mr R & Mrs J Purves
Mrs M Fricker	Mrs P Read
Mr D & Mrs M Hattersley	Mr & Mrs Van Der Lande
Mrs J Herbert	Mr J & Mrs B White
Mrs J Hobbs	Mrs A Wilde
Mr N & Mrs C Hobbs	Mrs M Wilkins



## Make a note in your Diary

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### Events 1998

- 31st Jan Saturday KELVEDON HATCH NUCLEAR BUNKER  
& LULLINGSTONE ROMAN VILLA  
9.00am Tickets £15
- 21st Feb Saturday SKITTLES & LUNCH SOCIAL Noon - 4pm  
Grantley Arms Womersley Tickets £11 (Includes LUNCH)
- 23rd Feb Monday EVENING for 'FRIENDS' at MUSEUM
- 28th Feb Saturday LOVELACE BRIDGES & EAST HORSLEY  
----fully booked----
- 15th March Sunday FORT AMHERST & CHATHAM DOCKYARD  
9am Tickets £13.50
- 25th March Wednesday Tour of BROCKHAM VILLAGE 2pm Tickets £2
- 18th April Saturday BLETCHLEY PARK 9am Tickets £11.50
- 22nd April Wednesday Tour of MUNSTEAD ----fully booked
- 26th April Sunday FARLEY HEATH WALK 2pm Tickets £2
- 29th April Wednesday Tour of WEST HORSLEY ----fully booked
- 20th May Wednesday Tour of CHARTERHOUSE & EASHING  
10.30am Tickets £8
- 28th May Thursday ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
8.00pm GUILDHALL - members only  
followed by a talk by Marion May
- 18th June Thursday HIDDEN LONDON & REGENTS CANAL  
Details of these events can be found on the  
sheet previously circulated to members.

Tickets are obtainable from Derek Somner,  
16 Abbot Road, Guildford GU1 3TA



(01483) 539447

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