

Make a Note in your Diary

EVENTS 2006

Tuesday 7th February 7.00pm

Museum Open Evening

Open evening for the Friends of Guildford Museum arranged by the staff of the Museum. Come and enjoy a glass of wine and meet the new manager of the Museum. It is also an opportunity to look at new additions to the Museum. Tickets will not be issued but please tick box on booking form.

Saturday 18th February

HA

Skittles and Lunch

Meet at The Grantley Arms, Wonersh at **noon** for lunch and an afternoon of competitive skittles. Organised by Heather Anderson for the eighth consecutive year this popular social outing includes the cost of lunch which should be ordered in advance from a menu sent out with tickets.

£13.50 (or 316.50 to include a sweet course)

Saturday 20th May

Annual General Meeting

To be held in the Brewhouse at 2.00pm.

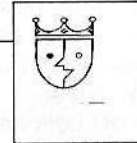
Make a note in your diary of the AGM. More details to follow.

More events on pages 21 - 24

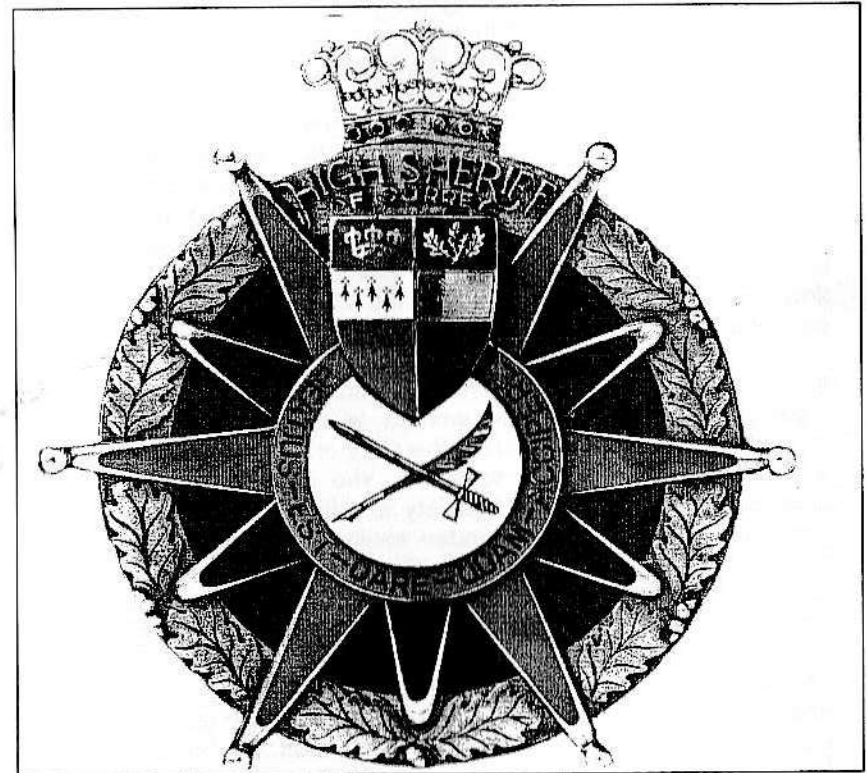
FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

January 2006



Issue 21



The Badge of the High Sheriff of Surrey

Our new Museum Manager

Jill Draper joins the museum team on 16 January in the post of Museum Manager. This is a new post, created to lead the museum through a period of transformation and development.

Jill's interest in museums and historic buildings started in childhood. She always loved to visit historic houses and imagine life for the people who lived in them in the past. While studying for a degree she started undertaking voluntary work in museums and, while volunteering at the Museum of London, became hooked on a museum career. One of the dresses in the collection was that worn by Queen Victoria when opening the 1851 Exhibition. Jill recollects that seeing the evidence of that moment in history made it real and much more than just a date in a history book.

Following a postgraduate course in museum studies Jill worked in museums in Edinburgh, Luton and Oxfordshire, getting involved in a range of exciting projects. In Edinburgh she was part of the team that worked on the refurbishment and reopening of the Museum of Childhood and the People's Story Museum, both situated on the Royal Mile. She particularly remembers the excitement of travelling down Princes Street on a float for the Edinburgh Festival opening ceremony.

A recurring theme for Jill is working with the community and local organisations: in Luton she worked with elderly Afro-Caribbean residents on an exhibition telling the story of their arrival in the town; at Abingdon Museum, Oxfordshire, she worked with the local archaeological and historical society and the Oxford Archaeological Unit on a Heritage Lottery funded exhibition looking at the town's archaeological heritage, while at Gunnersbury Park Museum she collaborated with the Brentford Football Club and its supporters in an oral history recording project and exhibition.

While at Oxfordshire Museums Jill earned a degree in management and in her last post as Curator and Estate Manager of Gunnersbury Park and Museum, West London, managed an historic estate, formerly a home of the Rothschild family, containing 13 Listed buildings and 186 acres of Grade II listed parkland. 2002 was a most

memorable year in this post as Jill took part in planning and organising a visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Gunnersbury Park (as part of her Golden Jubilee celebrations) and an accompanying picnic in the park event for the people of West London. Since then she has been active in progressing plans for developing the estate including producing an HLF application for a conservation plan to guide future strategy.

Jill is pleased to be returning to Guildford. A frequent visitor to the town through the 1980s / 90s when her parents lived here, she remembers her Mother and Father keeping cuttings of Guildford Museum's activities for her to read on visits home. Although sadly no longer around, Jill is sure they would be delighted that she is taking up this post. Jill's husband, Paul Morris, is also supportive of her new role and looking forward to getting to know Guildford better.



Reconstruction of a WWII allotment at the Castle last August.

Secretary's Letter

As the single most important factor underlying the influence that the Friends can bring to the Museum is the level of membership, I will once again start by letting you all know the latest position. Renewals are deemed to have been received by 1 September and on that date the number of paid up members was 237; this was 11 less than at the same period last year. The renewal rate was again very high at 90% but sadly the number of new members was for the second year running only 7 during the preceding half year. Even for a 90% renewal rate we need about 25 new members each year to maintain a total of 250 which has been the actual level of membership for a number of years. The current paid up membership is 244.

Your committee has noticed another factor which will have an adverse long term effect on membership. It appears that the annual attrition rate is much higher for more recently joined members than for those who joined between 1995 and 1998. This is obviously demographically unsatisfactory! We have not yet been able to understand why this is. One possible explanation is that there is each year a greater range of societies, lecture series, adult education courses etc. from which the public may choose. Another is that our range of events and outings is less popular than it perhaps used to be, despite having more of the activities arranged for weekends which were called for in the response to the October 2002 questionnaire. Now that there is a real sense of movement in the plans for the development of the museum, it is more than ever important that there is a good level of support from the Friends, both in numbers and funds. I make no apology in asking you all again to try and enlist the support of more new members.

Since I last wrote there have been a number of interesting and well supported events and outings. In June a full busload travelled to Dorset to Sixpenny Handley and Cranbourne Chase where the continuous presence and impact of man since stone age times could be witnessed. A full day village outing to Bletchingley took place in July under the expert guidance of Jackie Malyon. On 16 July we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Friends at the Great Tower of

Guildford Castle. This was a most successful event with some 70 people attending including the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, the High Sheriff and the Mayor of Guildford. It was the first time that the newly refurbished castle had been used for a social event. It proved to be a fine venue if somewhat challenging due to the very sharp incline up which everything necessary for the celebration had to be pushed; the day was also rather warm which for the small minority of willing workers was slightly less than ideal! The committee would like to thank all those helpers who made the event such a memorable one. Late in July, members visited Oxford to see the Ashmolean and Christchurch; the day was enjoyable except perhaps for the great pressure of foreign tourists, no doubt good for Oxford if less good for UK tourists. In mid August, St Mary's at Bamber and Lancing College Chapel were the buildings visited. Everyone was greatly impressed by the quality of restoration of St Mary's and the elegant structure of Lancing Chapel. In September a large party went to Cirencester to see the newly refurbished museum. The quality and innovation of the structure, décor and exhibits were most impressive; not a few of us expressed a hope that our museum might one day, not too far ahead, look just a fraction similar. The afternoon was spent on the water, on the upper navigable reach of the Thames; the weather was fine and the views from the water delightful. As the crow flies we covered only about a mile and a half but many times that by boat, including a lock; a church on the left one moment suddenly would reappear on the right within a minute or two causing some noisy discussion over a cream tea! The final outing was to the Steam Museum at Swindon followed by a visit to Wroughton airfield where the Science Museum has its extensive repository, open by appointment only, of aeroplanes, cars, trucks, buses, agricultural machines and a very fine collection of vintage bicycles. There was, not unexpectedly, a majority of male members present; indeed several regulars could be seen minus their better halves. Nevertheless many comments of enjoyment and fascination were noted emanating from those ladies that did make the trip. Needless to say the males were quite in their element at both locations. This trip concluded the 2005 season which has been another successful and well supported one. As usual we should all thank Peter Hattersley, Jonathan Jessup, Derek Somner and John Wilkins for the considerable time and effort which they all put into organising the programme.

After 10 years of managing and organising the annual programme of outings, Peter Hattersley has decided that it is time for him to step back and to hand over to one or more other members to continue. So far he has had very little support in this regard. Members of the committee will be approaching some members during December to elicit their help in organising one event each. If no such help is forthcoming, it is very likely that there will be a much reduced 2006 programme.

The Undercroft in the High Street had 600 visitors on Heritage Open Day but sadly late on the same day someone found it worthwhile to steal the banner which will now have to be replaced. It is hard to understand the motive behind such a wanton act; the banner has no value to a third party. During the season from May to September almost 350 hours were provided by volunteer stewards; once again we are grateful to them and to Marjorie Williams who organises the rota.

During 2005 the Town Walk Guides have again been active and raised donations, £450 of which has been kindly passed to the Friends for their funds.

I am happy to report that the Reserve Fund now stands at £15,000. You will recall that this is being generated to provide some appropriate aspect of the development of the museum. Your committee will continue to build on the current sum.

May I wish you all a very happy and rewarding New Year.

Richard Sinker Hon. Secretary.

Tel 01483 502207 Email rbsinker@btopenworld.com

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

If you are not a member we would love you to join us
Please send a cheque with the appropriate subscription to

Mr R. Sinker, Friends of Guildford Museum
2 The Ridgeway, Guildford, GU1 2DG

Subscription rates for 2005/2006

Individual £6	Family £12	Youth £3
Corporate £25	Individual Life	£100

Please make cheques payable to
FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

NEW BOOK

'...And the Lord Taketh Away'

This phrase, taken from the burial service of the Book of Common Prayer, has been chosen as the title of a recently published book which explains the origins of the Old Mount Cemetery and gives brief histories of some of those buried there.

The Guildford of the 1840s was probably a fairly unhygienic, not to say smelly, town. In this respect it did not differ greatly from any other town or city in the land and in many cases the cause of the malodorous environment had its origins in the local churchyard. For generations the same small area of land in each parish had been used as the final resting place for its inhabitants with few problems, but come the Industrial Revolution and the drift from country to town, which became a torrent, resulted in burial plots becoming scarce. Consequently bodies were buried on top of bodies and in the worse cases were covered with little more than inches of soil. Not a happy situation if the parish pump happened to be near the churchyard - not a happy situation in any event! Parliament's answer in 1852 to this unhealthy state of affairs was to pass the Burials Act which required all urban and city burial grounds to be closed and green-field sites away from residential areas to be opened by 1 November 1855. This book tells of the problems confronted by the Guildford Burials Board in carrying out its remit and how it was rescued from its indecisiveness, which resulted in the missing of the deadline by nearly a year, by one of the significant figures of pre-Victorian Guildford, Dr James Stedman. The later extension of the cemetery to the west was opened in 1892. The publication then goes on to outline the lives of some eighty of the many persons buried in these peaceful four acres. Regrettably the original records of the burials which have taken place therein were lost when the cemetery lodge was burnt down many years ago. However, approval was given to the author to draw on the index of headstone details which had been subsequently put together by members of the Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group and thus it was possible to trace obituaries from local papers and other sources. Hopefully these echoes from earlier times will help to paint a picture of how past Guildfordians, particularly those of the Victorian era, lived their lives.

The book, written by Roger Nicholas and priced at £3.95, is available from Guildford Museum.

Henry More Molyneux 1790 - 1822

The recent discovery of a pastel portrait by an unknown artist at Loseley House has stimulated research into the career of Henry More-Molyneux. This formed the subject of a display at Loseley House during the summer and I am grateful to Michael More Molyneux for allowing me permission to make use of the notes. The year 1805 was a critical year in British History. The peace treaty signed with France had broken, with Napoleon strengthening his hold over Europe, and in reply Prime Minister Pitt mustered additional men to augment the trained Regular Army. Napoleon announced that 2000 invasion boats were to be built to carry 130,000 men across the Channel, using ports in Holland and France to carry an invasion army across the Channel.

Henry was aware of military activity in the area, particularly as Godalming saw transport of war materials from London. Naval Officers were recruited from the sons of landed gentlemen, and Nelson had joined at the age of 12 after his uncle, who commanded a 74 gun ship, had agreed to take him aboard. Young boys had been



entered on the Muster Books until an order in council 1794 created "Volunteers First Class" for young gentlemen intended for sea service, provided they were not under the age of eleven years. Later this age was raised to thirteen, as it was considered that this was the latest that a boy should go on board "otherwise it renders impossible to acquire any great stock of what is called knowledge." It is clear that personal or family acquaintance of the captain was the major factor in being a Volunteer.

According to Naval records Henry was 15 when he joined HMS Orion, 74 guns, as a Volunteer First Class. There were five such volunteers on Orion and an indication of their status is that one eventually became the 6th Earl of Egmont and an Admiral; another became the fifth Baronet of Menstrie (Edinburgh). Volunteers were shown on the Ship's book as beneath Officers but before such positions as Chaplain, Master and Surgeon.

Orion, commanded by Captain Codrington, had a fine war record. She was typical of the ships that had established mastery of the seas, and had taken part in the "Glorious First of June" battle, Cape St Vincent and in the battle of the Nile. Henry joined on the 30th July 1805 at Portsmouth from where Orion proceeded down Channel, giving Nelson on his flagship Victory a traditional gun salute. He was returning from his abortive chase to the West Indies in search of French Admiral Villeneuve, later to meet him at Trafalgar. Orion awaited Nelson off Cadiz where Victory joined the Fleet on September 28th. On October 20th the scouting frigates reported that the enemy were leaving harbour.

Henry survived the battle and as a Midshipman and later Lieutenant saw service in many ships around the world, but after a short naval career died at the age of 29 in 1822. As the eldest son of the owner of the Loseley Estate he did not inherit Loseley as his father died the following year and the inheritance passed to a younger son James More-Molyneux in 1823. Henry is buried in the family chapel at St Nicolas, Guildford which gives his date of death as 23rd December 1822 at the age of 29. If this is correct he was 12 at the battle of Trafalgar and not 15 as we might suppose from the date given for his birth. Nelson himself had joined the Navy at the age of 12 and three months, and after the Battle of St Vincent, Nelson, now an Admiral, asked a young volunteer his age and was told eleven years. "Much too young" said the Admiral.

The family Naval connections started with the builder of Loseley House, Sir William More, a trusted advisor and friend of Queen Elizabeth 1st who appointed him a Vice Admiral of Sussex, at a time when the Country was anticipating the invasion led by the Spanish Armada. In addition to his other duties in the area his responsibilities included an oversight of the output of cannon in the foundries of the Sussex Weald, then the centre of gun production, to ensure that none fell into the wrong hands. He also had to take action in any cases of piracy which was a problem in the English Channel.

The Victorian era saw the nephew of Henry, Robert More Molyneux; follow him into the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1852, rising to the distinction of Admiral Sir Robert More Molyneux, G.C.B. and retiring in 1899.

Don't forget to show this Newsletter to a friend and encourage them to join!

My Experience as High Sheriff of Surrey by David Hypher

Writing an account of my year as High Sheriff might seem a bit premature when I am only 6 months into it; but the truth is I could fill a book with information already!

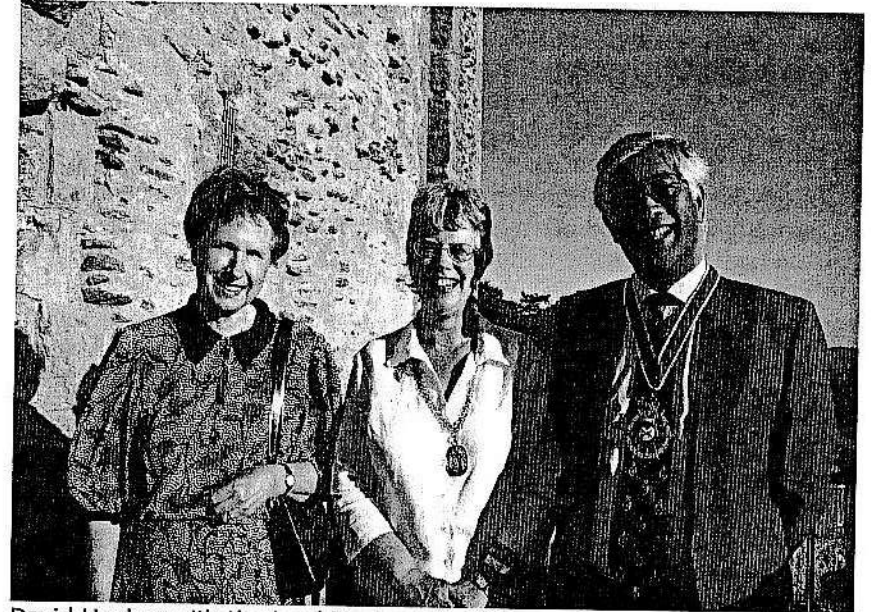
The experience starts before the actual installation which took place on 6th April 2005 at County Hall before the Lord Lieutenant and other dignitaries of the County.

High Sheriffs in nomination, as we are known before installation, attend events at the invitation of the serving High Sheriff in the year of so before taking office and also attend 'High Sheriff School' – actually annual seminars run by the Association of High Sheriffs of England and Wales giving guidance on the role of the Office. The Association also holds AGMs and those of its national charities: National Crimebeat and DebtCred which help to inform High Sheriff in Nomination of their duties. The near 1000 members – although there are only 55 officeholders at any one time – are well supported by their Association both before and during their time as High Sheriff.

Additionally and unusually, in Surrey, the County provides considerable support for the office of the High Sheriff for the 3 main social events during the year. Also High Sheriffs are encouraged to have a theme for their year and County Hall undertakes to help the High Sheriff to fulfil his/her aims in this respect. Since retiring from the City after 40 years, I have been involved in the voluntary sector and am currently chair of Surrey Community Development Trust (SCDT) which provides supported housing to vulnerable groups of people throughout Surrey and in Sutton so it seemed to me appropriate that I should chose 'supporting people' as my theme with a wide definition of the phrase to include both statutory and voluntary organisations engaged in a variety of services to the public I also resolved, with my wife, Pamela, that we would make ourselves available to as many organisations as possible and would be as fully involved as possible in the Civic Life of our Boroughs, Districts and the County.

Now 6 months into my year I have completed 180 engagements

so far, for a very wide variety of organisations and all of them fascinating. Sadly 45 invitations had to be turned down due to clashes of dates.



David Hypher with the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Sara Goad and the Mayor of Guildford, Tamsy Baker at the 10th Anniversary celebrations of the Friends in July

In the first few days of my shrivalty I presented some 20 NVG awards with Penelope Keith to offenders at Coldingley prison followed by the Princes Trust Awards to young people in Camberley, organised by Surrey Care Trust of which I am President, and attending the Cadets Sovereign's parade at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. After 6 prison visits, a morning spent in the Magistrates Courts in Woking and a week in the Crown Courts in Guildford, I feel I have fulfilled some of the Law and Order brief historically associated with the role of High Sheriff of the County. There have also been many visits to charities and attendance at AGMs, launch events, fund raising Lunches, Dinners and Balls, Civic Services and Receptions and a sponsored walk with the Chairman of Mole Valley District Council.

The 60th Anniversary of the end of World War 11 brought many commemorative events mainly organised by the Surrey County

Appeals Committee of the British Legion of which the High Sheriff is an ex officio member. There were also celebrations for the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

One of my biggest surprises is the number of Royal visits to the County. There have been 13 so far at which the High Sheriff is required to attend with the Lord Lieutenant. Also this year saw a General Election and for many of Surrey Parliamentary Constituencies the High Sheriff is the Returning Officer and as such I announced the Return in Woking.

The High Sheriff of Surrey is also invited to be a Trustee of Surrey Scholars which is part of SATRO and there have been a number of award presentations to undergraduates. Apprentices and to 6th form school teams. A major part of my office is to Chair the High Sheriff of Surrey Youth Awards Scheme which recognises and makes grants, if requested, to schemes involving young people working in projects and clubs that encourage crime prevention and community safety. There have been 16 awards made to such schemes so far this year and we are on target to make a total of 25/30 in the year. Our best scheme will be nominated for a national award under the National Crimebeat Scheme mentioned above. The grants made by the scheme are provided by local charities, the County and Boroughs and Districts of Surrey and supported by Surrey Police both from Mount Browne and the network of Police Community Support Officers throughout the County. Any organisation in Surrey may apply.

The badge shown on the front page was commissioned in 1972 by the then High Sheriff of Surrey Philip Henman DL, a great benefactor of the University of Surrey. It has a star with 11 points depicting the 11 Boroughs and Districts of Surrey and the old county shield. The gold ring of oak leaves depicts the oaks of Surrey and, the crossed sword and quill pen denotes the former role of law and order and local government carried out by the High Sheriff previously. The whole is surmounted on a Saxon Crown (that of Edward 'the martyr') indicating the antiquity of the Office and in the circle in the centre is the motto "Beatius - est - dare - quam- accipere" taken from the bible which translates into "It is more blessed to give than to

receive". Of particular interest to Friends of Guildford Museum is the fact that in 1247 a hall and chamber were built at Guildford Castle for the Sheriff of Surrey which added to my interest in visiting the Great Tower this summer.

I can best summarise my experience so far as that of being in a very privileged position to see the excellent work carried out by statutory and voluntary organisations and a partnership of both throughout Surrey. If a visit by, and a 'thank you' from, the High sheriff goes even a little way towards making people feel appreciated and valued for the work they do then my time in Office will have been very worthwhile.



The High Sheriff returning to the Guildhall following the Crown Court service in Holy Trinity Church

Recent Acquisitions to the Archaeology Collection

We have recently acquired several items through the new Treasure Act and through the Portable Antiquities Scheme, which is a result of the Treasure Act. Everyone is encouraged to report archaeological finds to their county's Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) who then records the items. Sometimes they are offered to the local museum, but if not there is still a record of them, which can be almost as useful as having the object itself. Surrey's FLO is David Williams of Reigate, who was recording finds long before he became a FLO. David holds monthly sessions at Guildford Museum, on the second Saturday of the month from 11.00-1.00.

Many items are found by metal detector users. There used to be bad relations between archaeologists and metal those who use metal detectors but now there is much more co-operation and understanding between the two groups. Archaeologists sometimes use metal detectors to locate metal objects and to check for small objects that may have been missed when excavating difficult soils. The people who use metal detectors are usually interested in the past and in the objects they find and are happy to add to the importance of the object by recording its findspot. Most finds are made in the topsoil which has been disturbed by ploughing, so the objects have been removed from their original context.

The findspot is vitally important because without it the object tells us very little about life in the past. Strangely, users of metal detectors find many items which do not turn up on archaeological sites. This is probably because they are stray finds which people have lost on journeys or while working, without realising it. If they lose an object at home they will probably realise and look for it. Also, houses, castles or abbeys are cleaned so that lost items are likely to be found.

However, sometimes people deliberately bury objects in out-of-the-way places and these are usually found by chance rather than in excavations. (My one claim to fame is that I uncovered the important Petters' Sports Field Bronze Age hoard of about 80 bronze objects during an excavation in Egham in about 1978.) Bronze hoards used to be described as 'founders' hoards' and were thought to be a bronze smith's stock which he had buried for safe-keeping but failed to reclaim. Now we tend to interpret them as votive deposits, buried for some ritual purpose. A recent group of objects which I collected

from the British Museum on 1st November is one of a few groups which are almost certainly votive.

It consists of three bronze objects which were buried together beneath a cairn of flints at Mickleham. The presence of the cairn obviously means that they were not going to be dug up again. It was in an area of lynchets – terraces for farming – and may have been on the edge of one of them. The date of the lynchets is not known, but the bronze hoard suggests that they are of the same date. The hoard could have been a votive deposit made when the lynchets were laid out, to ensure their success in growing food.



The bronzes are also important because they show three objects of different styles in use together. This will help archaeologists to date other objects. The three objects are two palstaves and a sword scabbard chape. Palstaves are a type of axe hafted on a split piece of wood and tied on through a loop at one side. Bronze axes began as flattish axes of a similar shape to flint axes, then the palstave developed, and then socketed axes, which were a much better way of hafting them. The palstaves date to the Late Bronze Age, around 1150-800 BC, but the sword chape dates to 1150-1000 BC, so the group must have been buried within that time span.

The chape is the first one we have in the Museum so I was very pleased to acquire it. It is also a very elegant and beautiful object. It protected the end of a leather sword scabbard.

This group of objects is important for several reasons. It tells us a lot about people in that part of Surrey: about their way of life and their beliefs and helps archaeologists throughout the country to date and interpret similar finds. They were declared treasure because they are 'a base-metal prehistoric associated find containing two or more metal objects'. Treasure is no longer just gold and silver. The definition is now much wider so that important groups of archaeological finds have a legal protection.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport offers Treasure items to museums for a price decided by a committee. The Mickleham bronzes were valued at £2000 but the landowner waived their share so we had to find £950.

We were able to get grants from the Victoria and Albert Purchase Grant Fund and the Headley Trust for £750, fortunately.

The bronzes are on display in a temporary display about the Portable Antiquities Scheme and will join our permanent Bronze Age displays later

Mary Alexander
Curator of Archaeology

NEW MEMBERS

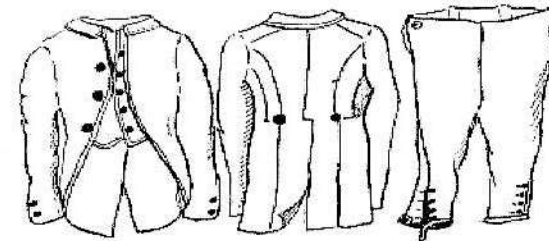
We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Association and look forward to meeting them at the functions.

Mrs Jean Gronset	Mrs S R Mather and family
Mrs Gennyfer Pearson.....	our tenth LIFE MEMBER
Mrs Rosemary Povey	Mrs Helen Thompson
Miss Patricia Woodbridge	Miss Susan Woodbridge
Mr Peter Trevaskis	

Was your school like this?

During July the museum will be mounting an exhibition on Victorian Childhood which we hope you will all visit. Schooldays were certainly very different then to those encountered by today's children and Marjorie Williams has drawn my attention to a letter that appeared in the 'Surrey Times' in 1896 (before the child protection act!). It has been taken from J.F. "Green's Sidelights on Guildford History III" published in 1954

'One method of punishment was "shaking the ink bottle". A large stone bottle which had to be shaken in a horizontal position until further orders. Sometimes a boy was doomed to "stand out" and hold a ruler for an hour or more at a stretch. That same ruler was often used to ram down a boy's throat to make him speak out. For some trifling offence it was my lot to be sentenced to be locked in from morning school until afternoon. How my heart fell when the key turned and the last boy died away down the winding staircase, and then, the crowning point of my fright, a noise came from a recess in the thick wall where the coal and chips were stored, and who should appear but my chief chum, Jack S., who had stowed away to keep me company. We repaired to the other schoolroom, made a ring, and fell to marbles until the pangs of hunger impelled Jack to attempt an escape. From the gallery of the church he crept through a window, dropped on to the old chantry chapel and scrambling down the corner of the tower, saved his dinner.'



BANKS OF
BLUE COAT SCHOOL,
GUILDFORD
c.1800 - 1855



UNIFORM WORN IN
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
TOWER, 1802 - c.1825.
BLUE COAT WHITE SHIRT
BREECHES, CAP TAIRED
WITH YELLOW.

Drawn from suit in possession of Abbot's Hospital, copied from an original in 1888 for use in connection with the Grand Fancy Dress Fair of Holy Trinity Church.

Lots of Thanks from the museum.....

Thank you very much to all the Friends who took the time to complete our questionnaire on the Royal Holloway Lecture series and return it to the office. The initial findings point to two main areas that we can change. First, many people do not like to go out in the evenings and those who do find that evenings are allocated on a regular weekly basis in classes and they do not have the time available on Thursday evenings. With this in mind we are looking into providing afternoon lectures, possibly on a Tuesday, but this will depend on Matthew Alexander's local history classes and what he decides to run next year. Secondly, there seems to be a demand for local history subjects rather than general historical topics. Although this area is at present catered for by the Guildford Group in the evenings, we will look into perhaps doing a series of afternoon lectures on local interest subjects to complement these.

The Royal Holloway lectures have been well supported this year, with a current average of 40 people per lecture, which is well up on last year, and we may continue this series in some form for January – March 2007. The months before Christmas are already busy with the Book Festival and late night shopping.

Thanks once again to our hardy **Undercroft volunteers** who kept this part of Guildford's history open to the public for another summer. It was lovely to see them all enjoying lunch at the museum last week, looking extremely fit and healthy and none the worse for being shut underground for several hours in the summer months!

Thanks to those who helped steward the museum's **Home Front Guildford** exhibition in the summer. This was our most popular recent exhibition with nearly 2000 visitors during the summer.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE FOR 2005/2006

Chairman Peter Hattersley, Vice Chairman Heather Anderson Secretary Richard Sinker,
Treasurer Tim Bryers, Museum Manager Mike Beckwith, Events Booking Derek Somner
Events Publicity John Wilkins, Volunteer Organizer Marjorie Williams
Newsletter Editor Eric Morgan, Jonathan Jessup, Maureen Newman, Cllr Jennifer Powell

British Association of Friends of Museums

This year the BAFM Conference took place at Barnard Castle and the delegates were very fortunate in being able to visit Raby Castle which is a 14c fortress set in a 200 acre deer park. Built by the Neville family it was here in 1569 700 knights gathered to plot the doomed "Rising of the North" against Elizabeth 1st. After this the castle was forfeit to the Crown and the descendent of the next owner, Lord Barnard, welcomed the conference guests to his home.

The Friends of Chertsey Museum were delighted to find that their museum garden had been awarded 'Highly Commended' in the Runnymede in bloom competition. Friends of the Willis Museum held a photographic competition- one from each person, £1 per entry. Quite a good way to easily fund raise. The Friends of Tamworth Castle are about to install a third touch-screen computer system in the Castle, to further enhance the pleasure of visitors, especially those who cannot manage the stairs to the upper floors.

For the first time a National Museum award is to be judged by children who will have to select from a short list chosen by judges. One of those on the short list for this Guardian Family Friendly Museums Award, is Farnham Museum. The Weald and Downland Museum's Friends organisation have been established since 1970. Their fund raising has been incredible since in the 34 years they have donated nearly £1.2 million to the museum.

As part of 200 years since Trafalgar many museums, including ours, have put on excellent exhibitions. Lancaster Maritime Museum is trying to find descendents of crew members of the Victory during the battle. Younger sons of Lancashire farms often went to sea as a way of making their fortune. Coming forward to the 20th century Great Northern Publishing Magazine (who publishes the BAFM Newsletter) are looking for people to tell of their experiences during the 2nd World War. These may be published in their bi-monthly magazine. Details at www.greatnorthernpublishing.co.uk. Finally if you are travelling further afield to Australia with your family, the Friends of the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney have the use of a comfortable lounge, café area and play facilities for young children. What more could you want?

Events at the Museum - January 2006 to March 2006

- Jan 9 **Guildford Group Meeting**
 "The Surrey Dendrochronology Project" by Rod Wild
 7.30pm at St Nicolas Church Hall, Millmead.
 Entrance fee £2.00 for non-members.
- Jan 12 **RHUL Lecture Series**
 The Fourth Crusade by Dr Jonathan Phillips
 7.30pm at The Guildhall
 Entrance fee £6.00 to include a glass of wine
- Feb 2nd **RHUL Lecture Series**
 The Fall of Constantinople by Dr Jonathan Harris
 7.30pm in the Guildhall
 Entrance fee £6.00 to include a glass of wine
- Feb 13th **Guildford Group Meeting**
 "Saxon Guildford" by Dr Mary Alexander
 7.30pm in the Museum Classroom
 Entrance fee £2.00 for non-members
- Mar 2nd **RHUL Lecture Series**
 "The Revolving French" by Prof Pam Pilbeam
 7.30pm in the Guildhall
 Entrance fee £6.00 to include a glass of wine
- Mar 2nd **World Book Day** - Museum shop event
- Mar 4th **Women's Celebrations** - Talk at Guildford Institute
 On women's wartime roles
- Mar 13th **Guildford Group Meeting**
 "The Lovelace Bridges" by Peter Hattersley
 7.30pm at St Nicolas Church Hall, Millmead
 Entrance fee £2.00 for non-members
- Mar 30th **RHUL Lecture Series**
 "Pre-Raphaelites" by Dr Guiliana Pieri
 7.30pm in the Guildhall
 Entrance fee £6.00 to include a glass of wine

Events at the Museum April 2006 to July 2006

- Apr 1st - 13th **Tannery Exhibition in Salters**
- Apr 1st **School Holidays - 'White Rabbit Hunt'**
 Museum treasure hunt with clues and prize
- Apr 8th **Tannery Activity Day** -
 Practical demonstration and talk
- Apr 10th **Guildford Group Meeting**
 "Classical Sites in Libya" by Peter Youngs
 7.30pm in the Museum Classroom
 Entrance fee £2.00 for non-members
- May 8th **Guildford Group Meeting**
 "Temples, shrines and Offerings" by David Graham
 7.30pm in St Nicolas Church Hall, Millmead
 Entrance fee £2.00 for non-members
- May 13 **Old Sarum, Iron Age Museum, Danebury**
- May 29th **County Show - Theme to be notified**
- Jun 12th **Guildford Group Meeting**
 "Woking Old Palace" by Steve Dyer
- Jun 21st **Midsummer Book Launch at The Great Tower**
 6.00pm by ticket sales
 Launch of the abridged version of
 Dr Mary Alexander's thesis on Guildford Castle
- Jun 30th - **Summer Festival**
 Jul 30th
- Jun 30th - **Festival Stall**
 Jul 8th
- Jul 15th - **National Archaeology Week** - Organised by Surrey
 23rd County Archaeological Unit and Surrey Museums
- Jul 22nd - Aug 31st **Victorian Childhood Exhibition** in Salters
 Jul 29th "Mad Hatter's Tea-party" - Events Day

Events at the Museum August to September 2006

- August Exhibition in Salters
- Aug 1st Surrey Museums summer trail
- Aug 12th Talk associated with Victorian Childhood

Do you suffer from AADD? (Age-related Attention Deficit Disorder)

I was recently diagnosed and this is how it manifests.

I decided to wash the car. As I start towards the garage I notice there is mail on the hall table. I decide to go through the mail before washing the car. I put the car keys down on the ledge, sort out the bills and throw the junk mail into the waste bin - which I notice is full. I decide to put the bills back on the table and empty the bin. But then I think, I can do that when I go out to wash the car, so I may as well pay the bills first. I take my cheque-book out and see that there is only one cheque left in it. My new cheque-book is in my desk drawer in the study. On my way to the study I see a vase of flowers that needs topping up with water, and I discover my reading glasses that I have been looking for all morning! I decide I had better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I put them down and go to the kitchen to fill a jug and suddenly I spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table. Tonight when we want to watch TV I will be looking for the remote but I won't remember where I last saw it - so I decided to put it back where it belongs. But first I will water the flowers. I fill the jug and accidentally spill some on the floor. So I put down the remote and get some paper towel to mop up the spill. Then I head back down the hall - trying to remember what it was I was planning to do. At the end of the day the car isn't washed, the waste paper basket has not been emptied; the bills are unpaid because I cannot find my glasses. I've mislaid the remote and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

When I try to work out why nothing gets done today I'm really baffled, because I know I was busy and I'm quite tired.

From 'The Keep' No 54 by permission of Guildford Institute, submitted by Tessa Johnson.

Saturday 10 June

 HA

Brunel's Bristol

Depart at 8.00am to meet our guide in the centre of Bristol at 10-30am for morning coffee. After coffee we visit the cathedral like church of St. Mary Redcliffe, one of the most beautiful churches in all England and one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in the country. It was founded in the 13th century and built over a period of 200 years. We then rejoin our coach for a tour of Bristol, stopping to visit Brunel's suspension bridge. We also stop to savour the view from the Downs. We'll stop by the waterside in the Old City for lunch (not included). After lunch we visit the ss Great Britain, the first iron-hulled propeller-driven steamship in the world. A new on-shore museum leads us via a level bridge onto the deck to tour the ship and see the restoration.

NB 2006 will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
£32.00

Wednesday 2 August

 JJ

Silchester /Reading Museum

Exact details to be confirmed


More events are hoped to be arranged with the assistance of members.

Surcharge for non-members £1.00 per event

HA Events organised by Heather Anderson (Tel No 01483 567700)

Events Publicity : John Wilkins

JJ Event organised by Johnathan Jessop (Tel No 01483 569895)

 Coach pick-up points are opposite the library in North Street and the bus stop opposite the BP garage at Burpham. Please use the tick boxes on the booking form to advise of your choice. In fairness to other members, coaches will depart strictly on time. Tickets for coach tours include provision for the usual gratuities. Unless otherwise noted, coach tours are planned to return to Guildford between 5.30 & 6.00pm.

Tickets are available from Derek Somner

18 Abbot Road, Guildford, GU1 3TA Telephone 01483-539447

The Editor welcomes items for the Newsletter or comments. Please send them to Eric Morgan, 21 St Michael's Avenue, Guildford, GU3 3LY.

Telephone number (01483) 233344.

Copy date for next Newsletter is May 1st 2006