

Make a note in your Diary

- Thursday 19th March** Members Visit to Guidhall
- Tuesday 12th May** Tour of Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking
Janet Hilderley
- Saturday 16th May** Annual General Meeting & Lecture
- Saturday 6th June** Butser Hill
Heather Anderson
- Tuesday 16th June** Surrey Villages Esher
John Wilkins
- Thursday 9th July** Chatham Dockyard &
River Medway Cruise (1 ½ hours)
John Wilkins
- Wednesday 15th July** Surrey Villages – Alfold & Dunsfold
John Wilkins
- Thursday 13th August** Surrey Villages – Oxted
John Wilkins
- Thursday 27th August** Dorset Steam Fair, Blandford
John Wilkins
- Saturday 10th October** River Trip from Tower Pier to
Peter Hattersley Thames Estuary Forts (9 hour cruise)

Tickets from Derek Somner

18 Abbot Road, Guildford ,GU1 3TA (01483 539447)

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

December 2008



Issue 27



From the Editor

With Christmas nearly upon us pop along to the Museum shop for those last minute gifts and stocking fillers. Roger Nicholas' book on Henry Peak is surely a must for anyone interested in Guildford's history. An introduction to the book is given on page 15. At a price of £6.50 it does not make a large hole in the pocket. Henry Peak, as Borough Surveyor was responsible for much of the Victorian development of Guildford and designed many of its buildings. He also witnessed the Guy riots in Guildford which is the subject of another book available in the museum.

Our cover picture is of the former Cooperative building in North Street. It was heavily damaged by fire in the 1960's. Next to it is the Congregational Chapel, demolished in 1964. The picture was one of many items in the Museums Living History exhibition. If you missed this do come to the current exhibition on Hidden House Histories which runs until the 3rd of January.

Lewis Carroll was not one to sit back when he thought matters were wrong so I thought with the American presidential election just behind us that you would wish to learn of his interest in fair elections. Whilst he could not persuade Parliament to adopt his system, it was used at his college, Christ Church, at Oxford.

Finally may we wish you all a very happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2009.

Eric Morgan

The Editor welcomes items for the Newsletter or comments. Please send them to Eric Morgan 21 St Michael's Avenue, Guildford GU3 3LY. Tel No. (01483) 233344. Copy date for next Newsletter is 1st May 2009

Staff Restructuring

In August the staff was approved. It is hoped that the new team will be installed for the start of the new business year in April 2009, however, while the restructure process plays out, a number of short term posts have been created to keep operations running smoothly. These include a temporary Caretaker, Mary Ratrieks; temporary Administrative Assistant, Karen Laul; and a temporary Assistant Curator, Nick Booth. Mary and Karen may already be familiar to Friends, having worked here as casuals, while Nick, a professional curator, is new to Guildford but already proving his worth in the Museum.

Jill Draper Museum Manager

Boxing Day 1927 - In Guildford, streets were buried under a foot of snow and the Hogs Back was completely blocked. Three buses and a lorry were buried within two miles of Guildford town centre. High up on Box Hill, hundreds enjoyed the sudden ski resort facilities. Some, it is said, dazzled the natives with splashes of orange, green, red and black in their costumes. built on the bathing pattern, with little caps and a dash of crimson round the tops of their socks. But the rain down at Merstham caused a landslide on the railway line, which stopped trains. By New Year's Eve, many main roads such as the London to Brighton route were passable with care, although many hilly thoroughfares had become narrow passages between walls of snow up to 10 feet high, and the Bagshot to Basingstoke road was still blocked west of Hook in Hampshire.

If you would like to keep up to date with Friends events let the secretary have your email address. It will not be given to anyone outside the committee. j.hilderley@btinternet.com

Guildford In the Sixties

The Museum staged this exhibition in their Living Memory series from June to October. On entering, David's three pictures of railway engines during the time the engine sheds were closed really brought back the nostalgia of the period.



A photo of a small boy with his Father looking at one of the last steam engines to pass through Guildford Station reminded one how beautiful is black and white photography. The

floods, of course, in 1968, had plenty of coverage and I loved the rowing boats making their way by St Nicolas Church.

The Beatles came to the Civic Hall on June 1st 1963 and a carefully kept programme reminded us of how they looked 45 years ago.

A beautiful painting of Allen House by Olive Atherton together with a photograph reminded us of how this building looked before it was demolished to make way for the new RGS building.



Allen House prior to demolition.

Then we were taken into the Yvonne Arnaud in pictures, when it was built in 1965. There was an excellent film by

Circle 8 following the progress in building, with Vanessa Redgrave setting her foot in concrete, Michael Redgrave opening the theatre and finally the first night. Masses of celebrities ascended the staircase and among them Jessie Matthews. This brought back memories to me. My Father was the 'chippy' on many of her film sets at Shepherds Bush Film Studios and I have many autographed photos. Even on one occasion my Father holding the door in a film for Jessie Matthews to pass through.

Jessie Matthews at Yvonne Arnaud on opening night. (taken from Circle 8 film).



Finally and most appropriately there was a picture of a young lady in a mini standing by a mini.



London Bridge is Falling Down

- My Fair Lady -

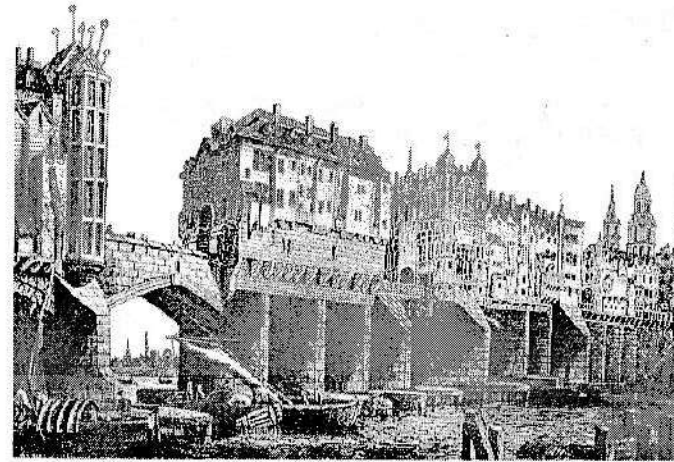
It may be that the origin of this rhyme relates to the destruction of London Bridge by Olaf II of Norway in 1014. But then the bridge has always been falling down. Olaf I is supposed to have burned the bridge during raids in England during the 980s, the bridge was also destroyed by a tornado in 1091 and burned in 1136. Does the "My Fair Lady" refer to Queen Eleanor of Provence who was a frequent visitor to Guildford Castle?

The present version of the song "London Bridge is Falling Down - My Fair Lady" was composed in the 13th century and based on an old Norse saga. However, the rhyme is not confined to the UK and variants exist in many other western and central European countries.

In the 13th century this song is said to have been reborn as one of an angry sarcastic criticism against the Queen. She certainly seemed to have a knack of upsetting the public. On July 13, 1263, she was sailing down the Thames on a barge when her boat was attacked by citizens of London. In fear for her life, Eleanor was rescued by Thomas FitzThomas, the Mayor of London, and took refuge at the Bishop of London's home. Six years later, the Queen's husband, Henry III, gave her the tolls from the bridge as a present. She decided to use the toll money on her retail therapy hobby instead of spending it on the bridge. The citizens of London were not pleased and needless to say, the bridge fell into serious disrepair.

In spite of this work soon commenced on building a stone bridge across the Thames under the direction of Peter de Colechurch. The bridge took thirty-three years to build

through the reigns of three monarchs. Henry II, Richard-the-Lionheart and John. It had a road 20 feet wide and 300 yards long and was supported by 20 arches, curving to a point



London Bridge 1600

in Gothic style. This Bridge was completed in 1209 and lasted over 600 years. It had gatehouses, a drawbridge, houses and 140 shops (some three stories high) to provide rent for the upkeep of

the bridge. Below the arches were water wheels for grinding grain.

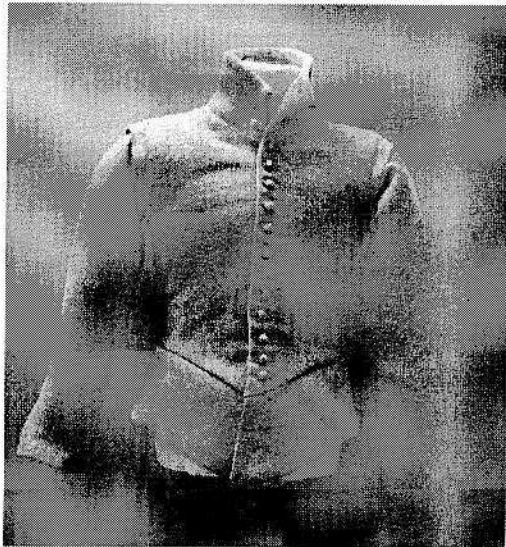
Peter de Colechurch died in 1205 and his bones were buried in the Chapel on the bridge which had been dedicated to the recently martyred Thomas a Becket. The bridge was demolished in 1831. The old Chapel remains were dismantled as well and Peter de Colechurch's bones were found but these were thrown in the river, an unceremonious end to the man who had built the bridge which had served London for six hundred years.

As I said Queen Eleanor was a frequent visitor to Guildford Castle. I don't know if she spent any of her money in Guildford but records show a fireplace was fitted in 1244 so that a larder could be used for the her wardrobe. Work was carried out on her chamber in 1246 and 1248 and her chapel in 1255 & 1257. The same year a small building was erected for warming up her food.

"Hidden House Histories: everyday objects and superstitious mysteries"

People carrying out work on old buildings have often found objects - mostly clothing or shoes - that have been deliberately concealed in buildings. The objects themselves are in poor condition, worn out and tattered. But they were deliberately hidden, not disposed of. This exhibition displays some and explores the reasons why they were concealed.

One motive seems to be good luck. The idea that by doing certain things one could protect a house or the people in it is an ancient one. Another is a more specific superstition: "witch bottles" could be hidden near fireplaces to avert evil influences.



On display will be a doublet – a tight-fitting jacket - found in 1990 during refurbishment of a house in Bell Street, Reigate. Dating from around 1600, the doublet is a waist length garment with four short tabs at the waist, an upstanding collar, long sleeves and buttons down the front. When the tangled mass of material was conserved by the Textile

Conservation Centre in 1993, it was possible to determine what the doublet originally looked like. An exact replica was made, a summer-weight buckram doublet of the end of the Elizabethan age.

A detachable pocket was found in a house in East St Helen Street, Abingdon. It is made of printed cotton and lined with silk, and has an opening for the hand. Dating from the middle of the 18th century, women wore such detachable pockets over their petticoats and under their gowns. They tied round the waist with cotton tapes and could be reached through a slit or 'placket' in the side of the gown. When found this pocket contained a 'cache' or collection of objects:

- A baby's linen cap, c.1755.
- Five documents dating from around 1678-9.
- Twelve coins and tokens.

One of the coins is a penny dating from 1797, showing that the objects were already old when hidden.

Another doublet was found in 1995 in a medieval merchant's house in East St Helen Street, Abingdon. Dating from about 1625 to 1630, it is made of plain woollen cloth and must have been for a boy or a small youth. Most of the fabric is missing, but enough survives to show its original construction.



Shoes are perhaps the most common such finds. They are usually single, and very worn. One, of about 1550-1575, was found in the rubble filling of a wall at the Royal Grammar School, presumably put there when the wall was built. There is a 17th century child's shoe, found in a house in Guildford. Another was found in the attic of a house in Milford. It has the high red heel fashionable in the 1660s and 1670s.

In 1976 three pairs of breeches were discovered, stuffed into the front wall of a house in Godstone,

and plastered over. Two are on display. One belonged to a young working man, and are heavily worn, patched and darned. The fine material suggests that they may have been handed down from a higher class family. The missing pieces were probably cut off for patching other garments and the buttons were probably removed for re-use. A child's breeches date from around 1800 and were part of a 'skeleton suit' – breeches buttoned onto a matching jacket – which was one of the first fashions specifically for children, worn c.1790-1830. The breeches were later passed on to a working child: the wear on the knees shows that two different boys wore them. The cotton twill fabric was hand-woven, and the garment was heavily worn, patched and darned. The breeches were conserved in 1990 by the Textile Conservation Centre.

A "witch bottle". This is a 17th century stoneware bottle of the type known today as a 'Bellarmine'. The ugly bearded face with which they are usually decorated is said to resemble the 16th century inquisitor, Cardinal Bellarmine. These bottles were made in Germany and were imported in large numbers into England, full of Rhenish wine. Perhaps it was the sinister face that made them favourite vessels for making a witch bottle. If someone fell ill, and the evil influence of witchcraft was suspected, then water, nail clippings and hair from the sufferer was put in a bottle, together with pins. The bottle was then sealed and placed in or under the fireplace. When the heat of the fire boiled the contents, the blood of the guilty witch was supposed to boil as well! This superstition was practised in Surrey at least until the mid-Victorian period.

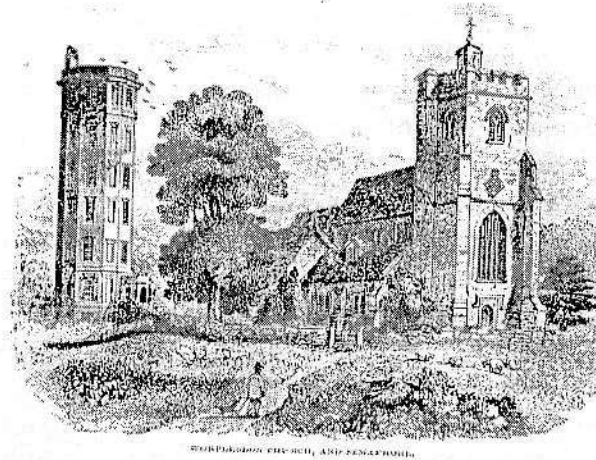
"Hidden House Histories" runs at Guildford Museum from 18th October 2008 to 3rd January 2009, 11.00am - 4.45pm (closed Sundays).

Matthew Alexander

Patronage of the Parish of Worplesdon

The present-day patrons of the benefice of Worplesdon are the Provost and Fellows of Eton College, but this was not always the case. Until 1692 Worplesdon was one of the livings vested in the Crown. How the transfer took place is an extraordinary story. Charles Seymour, sixth Duke of Somerset, who had married the only daughter and heir of Percy, the last Earl of Northumberland, was one of the most powerful peers of the realm and stood high in royal favour. He was commonly known as "the proud Duke" and

many tales were told of his haughty magnificence.



His favourite residence was at Petworth in Sussex, the benefice of which was in the gift of Eton College. The Duke wanted this for himself so made an offer to Eton to exchange the Petworth living

for livings which he held in Yorkshire. The Provost and Fellows refused: they liked to appoint one of their own number to College livings and they would not countenance one so far away.

The Duke set about finding some parishes nearer to Eton which they might accept and he hit upon the parishes of Clewer, Farnham Royal and Worplesdon, in Surrey. The Crown held the patronage of all three, but it was easy for the Duke, with his influence, to persuade the Crown to accept them for two parishes in Yorkshire and one in Northumberland. He then had no difficulty in exchanging, with Eton College, the benefices of Clewer,

Farnham Royal, and Worplesdon, for Petworth. The Duke not only effected this triangular exchange, he got Parliament to give it legal authority. An Act was passed in the fourth year of William and Mary (1693) confirming the exchanges. By this Act, then, the patronage of Worplesdon passed to Eton College. The Act stated: "The said Advowsons, perpetuall Patronages, and Rights of Presentation of and to the said Churches and Rectories of Clewer, Farnham-Royall and Worplesdon, shall be settled and vested in the Provost of the Colledge Royall of the Blessed Mary of Eaton, near unto Windsor, in the County of Bucks., and the said Colledge and their successors".

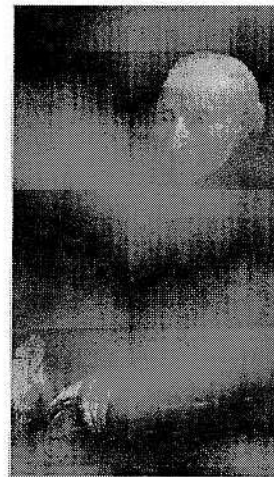
In spite of this settlement, however, in 1750 on the death of Algernon, Seventh Duke of Somerset, his nephew and heir, Sir Charles Wyndham, contested the right of the Crown to present incumbents to the Yorkshire parishes which the Crown had acquired from Somerset. Thereupon the Crown similarly contested the rights of Eton College as they related to Clewer, Farnham Royal and Worplesdon. Litigation followed and it dragged on for years. In 1774, however, the right of Eton College to the three parishes was ratified. It is strange to consider that the Eton/Worplesdon relationship came about because of the arrogant whim of a 17th Century Duke who neither knew nor cared about Worplesdon but wished to control every aspect of life in Petworth which was his home.



Somerset House in Upper High Street Guildford 1903. A former resting place for the Duke of Somerset on his journey between London and his house at Petworth.

Baseball

Surrey History Centre recently acquired a volume of William Bray's diary which had lain for some time in a shed. In an entry for Easter Monday 1755 Mr Bray records that with friends he played the game of Base Ball near Guildford. This is the first written evidence of the game and another first for Guildford. Many of you will, of course, know that the first written mention of cricket occurs in a land dispute when in 1598 John Derrick stated that fifty years before when he was a boy at the Guildford School, he and friends' did runne and plaie there at crickets and other plaies' Returning to Baseball, the first mention of the word in print was in a rhyme entitled Base-ball published in England in 1744 and in America in 1762. In 1748 the Prince of Wales played a baseball like game. Jane Austen mentions baseball in the opening pages of Northanger Abbey, which she wrote in 1797-8. Introducing her tomboy heroine Catherine Morland, Miss Austen wrote "It was not very wonderful that Catherine who had nothing heroic about her, should prefer cricket, baseball, riding on horseback, and running



William Bray

about the country at the age of 14 to books." The first American reference to the game of baseball comes in a bylaw published in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 1791. It prohibits the playing of baseball within 80 yards of the town meeting house! On the death of the Reverend Manning, William Bray took over Manning's work on compiling a history of Surrey with great enthusiasm. He visited all but two of the county's churches and researched extensively through local and national records, and excavated historic sites. His three volumes of

'The History of the Antiquities of the County of Surrey', were published between 1804 and 1814 and remains the basic source for Surrey historians today.

Elections

One person, one vote and the candidate with the most votes wins seems to be a democratic way of deciding elections. In practice though, Parliamentary elections in this country and Presidential elections in America turn out differently. Since 1945 no British winning party has had an overall majority. In the year 2000 Al Gore polled more votes than Bush but lost. Even in the current American elections the Democrats took 364 seats in the electoral college to the Republicans 162 but Obama only had the support of 52.5% of the voters compared with 46.2% for McCain.

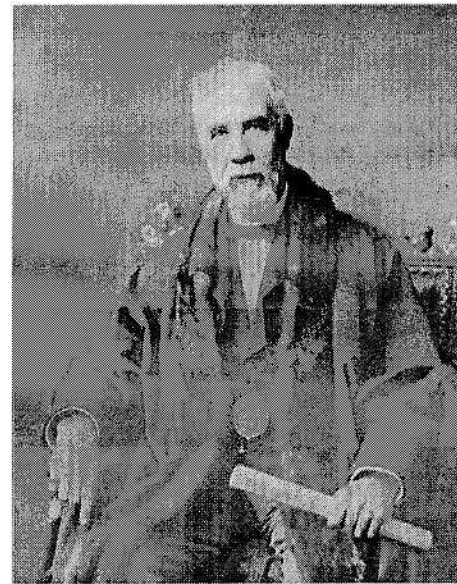
This is not a new problem. In the 1880's the Reverend Charles Dodgson, the Oxford mathematician and logician better known as Lewis Carroll was quick to realize that an election involving three people could never be fair. In such a case "the principle of voting makes an election more of a game of skill than a real test of the wishes of the electors" he wrote. It was a subject he continually returned to and culminated in a pamphlet entitled "The Principles of Parliamentary Representation" which he sent to all M.P.'s just before a debate on the subject in 1884. His ideal system was very simple – let everyone vote for as many candidates as they like and then total the votes up. He considered other methods as well. The mathematics behind these, however, was very complex. His arguments are based on the two person zero sum game which had to wait until 1928 before it was put into mathematical form by Neuman..

Unfortunately Lewis Carroll published his work in a form that although clear to himself was not so obvious to others. His arguments have all the rigour of the mathematics with the mathematics only occasionally appearing, generally as simple equations. He showed an understanding of game theory which did not appear in text books until the 1950's. History has not yet fully appreciated his ability as a mathematician. His work on Parliamentary Representation appears on the syllabuses of many Universities. *Lewis Carroll's home for thirty years was at the Chestnuts in Guildford.*

PEAK'S DIARIES IN PRINT

Or to be more accurate, that part of the diaries covering Henry Peak's professional life in Guildford.

Many members will be aware that the actual diaries extend over sixteen pocket books and cover the writer's life from his early days in Clerkenwell, London, until the completion of his year's mayoralty of his adopted home-town in 1900. Additionally, there is much material, mainly in the form of press cuttings, concerning celebrations and happenings in the town during this period, together with the obituaries of many of his contemporaries.

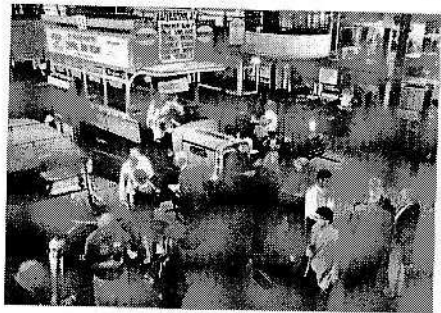


The transcription published this summer concentrates on the specified period during which Peak not only established himself as a much sought after architect but as Guildford's first borough surveyor. This was felt to be the part of most interest to local readers. There was also the consideration that the size of the volume had to be comparable to the earlier Museum publications in the same series!

There is much in this book for those interested in old Guildford to appreciate: descriptions of life in the town in the second half of the nineteenth century, of personalities and of events. Many of the buildings he writes about are still in situ; others have succumbed to the developers' destructive powers and more are likely to do so in the future. Fortunately the setts in High Street, the Castle Grounds and Charlotteville estate are reminders of his contributions to the townscape of Guildford. **The book is available from the Museum Price £6-50**

British Association of Friends of Museums

The British Association of Friends of Museums held their South East day at Brooklands Museum in September because there had been many inquiries about insurance and a speaker came from NFU Mutual to give information about Insurance for Friends, Trustees and Volunteers.



The London Transport Museum has reopened and judging by the photo is looking really splendid. North Yorkshire Kiplin Hall celebrates annually its links with America and the granting of the Charter to Terra Marie or Maryland as we know it today. Charles I presented the charter

to the son of Lord Baltimore who built the Hall in 1632.

In the South East the Friends of Buckinghamshire County Museum held an exhibition "Delightful Temples – The Arts and Landscapes of Stowe". Since the 18th C the house and gardens have been admired and I am sure many of us have been there. The Friends of HMS Victory went to France to see the D Day Museum at Caen and the Naval Museum at Brest. Here they were able to see the Tall Ships gathered and many small ships from round the world.

The Rural Life Centre Farnham is a country life museum spread over ten acres of fields and woodland, including a shepherds hut and Blacksmith Forge, Village Hall and Cricket Pavilion. This sounds an ideal trip for children or grandchildren. A cup of tea can be obtained in the café. Merrist Wood loaned a big timber shredder to help with the coppicing in the woods.

The Friends of Harris Museum in Preston are hoping to purchase a portrait of Richard Arkwright who lived in Preston. He was of course one of the great pioneers of the Industrial Revolution and invented the water frame while in the town.

Exhibitions at the Museum

November

HIDDEN HOUSE HISTORIES. Exhibition continues until 3 January.

Sat 22 – Pastfinders event ‘Draw like an Egyptian’. Junior museum club meeting.

Please contact the museum for details.

December

HIDDEN HOUSE HISTORIES. Continues until 3 January.

Admission free.

Sat 6- HIDDEN HOUSE MYSTERIES

4pm-6pm The discovery of hidden artefacts in the nooks and crannies of old buildings can hide intriguing tales of love, loss and betrayal! Powerhouse theatre company brilliantly bring to life stories of real and imagined events surrounding these mysteries. Ticket price £6 adults, £4 Children, £16 family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) Tickets available from Guildford museum. No unaccompanied children.

Sat 13 – Pastfinders event ‘Mistletoe and Wine’ Junior museum club meeting.

Please contact the museum for details.

The Museum will close at 3pm on Wednesday 24th December 2008 and re-open at 11am on Monday 29th December 2008. The Museum will be open on New Year's day 11am to 5pm.

January 2009

HIDDEN HOUSE HISTORIES. Exhibition continues until 3 January.

Sat 15 – WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS EXHIBITION OPENS. A display of items and information about this interesting subject. Continues until March 21. Open 11am to 5pm Monday to Saturday. Free admission.

**Thurs 8 – Royal Holloway, University of London Lecture Series
'Dynasties and Their Memorials: From Henry Tudor to Charles Stuart'**

By Prof Pauline Croft.

7.30pm in the Guildhall, High St, Guildford. Tickets £6 including a glass of wine.

Sat 17 – Pastfinders event 'Anglo Saxon Heroes' Storyteller Janet Dowling will tell the fascinating tale of Beowulf and Grendel, talk about the oral tradition and help to bring the Saxon myths to life. All welcome. Cost £8 members, £7 non members
Please contact the museum for details.

**Thurs 29 – Royal Holloway, University of London Lecture Series
'The Return of Ulysses: A cultural History of Homer's Odysseys'**

By Prof Edith Hall

7.30pm in the Guildhall, High St, Guildford. Tickets £6 including a glass of wine.

February

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS EXHIBITION. Continues until March 21. Admission free.

**Thurs 12 – Royal Holloway, University of London Lecture Series
'Was Empire a Good Idea?'**

By Prof Greg Claeys

7.30pm in the Guildhall, High St, Guildford. Tickets £6 including a glass of wine.

Thurs 26 – Royal Holloway, University of London Lecture Series:

'From Sir Walter Scott to Osama Bin Laden: Ideas of Crusading over recent centuries'

By Prof Jonathan Phillips

7.30pm in the Guildhall, High St, Guildford
Tickets £6 including a glass of wine.

March

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS EXHIBITION. Continues until March 21. Admission free.

Thurs 26 – Royal Holloway, University of London Lecture Series:

'Surrey and the Hundred Years War'

By Prof Nigel Saul

7.30pm in the Guildhall, High St, Guildford
Tickets £6 including a glass of wine.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members
And look forward to meeting them at the events.

Mrs D Sturley, Mr Anscombe and Family

Mrs S Mather, member since 2005, is now a Life Member

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 D. Somner, Friends of Guildford Museum
18 Abbot Road, Guildford, GU1 3TA

Subscription rates for 2008

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

Please make cheques payable to

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