



## Bulletin for mid-August 2022.

Dear Member,

I expect you are wondering why our August Bulletin has arrived nearly a fortnight early? Well, the reason is that I want to give you plenty of notice about our next meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Apart from our usual matters, I am pleased to confirm that Lucy Quinnell and Cathy Brett (the new curator of Leatherhead Museum) will give a talk on the many references to places in and around Leatherhead that appear in Jane Austen's "Emma" (Highbury Park, Randalls and Box Hill for instance). Expect to see some lovely images. Leatherhead is a place with some truly wonderful literary connections, and Lucy and Cathy are absolutely determined that the whole town will celebrate its famous links with enthusiasm and style! You might want to have another quick read before the meeting!

At the start of the meeting I will be going through your reactions to the June Bulletin's request for items that need improving or renewing in Leatherhead. These were summarised in the July Bulletin and I will try to expand on each and tell you how things have progressed as well as mentioning a number of other issues that have been brought to my attention more recently.

Meanwhile, I would also like to bring to your notice that at least six upcoming Heritage Open Days are taking place quite near us in Leatherhead and the Speakers for our meeting are very much connected to and interested in them.

Leatherhead Museum (64 Church Street) is going to be open from 9<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> September instead of just on Saturdays. (Fri. and Thurs., 1 – 4 pm, Sats. and Sun. 10am – 4pm) Most of us are probably aware that Leatherhead can trace its history back to Saxon times and we are particularly lucky in being able to preserve the finds in this atmospheric building.

Another beautiful building from some 400 years ago is Fetcham Park, well hidden behind trees on Lower Road. Used for glamorous functions by both our Council and various businesses, this early C18th house will surprise the new visitor and will be open on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept from 10.00 to 17.00.

Of similar age is our own Mansion House, currently the Registry Office but formerly both the library and a school. The opening hours are very similar to the museum except they start

at 9.30 and close at 17.00 and include two more days, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Both are closed on Sundays and Mondays. Another building, which started as a school and remains so, is the highly visible St. John's, currently the subject of much major alteration. This will be open on Saturday, 17 Sept at 2.15.

If you prefer sitting down, there is a talk in the Dorking Halls on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> Sept between 19.30 and 21.00pm called "The English Country House – A Model of Invention."

But, lastly, in the line-up of very old buildings in Leatherhead, there is C14 "Rowhurst," home of one of our speakers, Lucy Quinnell. This is open from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept to Sat. 17 Sept (with the exception of Sun. and Mon. and Tue 11, 12 & 13 Sept) from 11am to 5pm. Well hidden in Teazlewood, this location never ceases to surprise visitors because it is still lived in and yet appears amazingly remote.

Finally, for those who take the future of our town seriously, we are preparing a presentation to the Planning Inspector who is conducting the "Examination of the Mole Valley Local Plan." This will be delivered at a hearing about the merits or otherwise of the proposed housing development sites in Leatherhead and is scheduled for late October.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for what promises to be an interesting meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September and as usual it will be in the LMC, commencing at 19.30

With best wishes

Caroline Brown (Chairman)

Addendum: This is for members who receive hand delivered copies of our Bulletins (those who receive email versions have already been notified ): In the July edition we reported that it is proposed to open the High Street to parking from 16.30. This is incorrect and the current arrangement of vehicle access from 16.30, but no parking until 18.00 is proposed to be retained and extended to include Sundays.

