

**Horley Local History Society  
NEWS  
June 2011**

**Meetings Calendar**

The Society meets at Strawson Hall, 156 Albert Road, Horley, Surrey, every 4th Thursday in the month at 7:30pm for 8:00 unless otherwise stated below.

**Meetings Calendar**

Thursday 23 June 2011 An outside visit

Tuesday 26 July 2011 A guided walk around Riverside Country Park lead by Pete Crawford of Gatwick Greenspace Partnership. Meet in Riverside car park at 7 pm sharp. Stout footwear recommended.

Saturday 3 September 2011 HLHS stall at "Hello Hookwood 2011" Hookwood Memorial Hall 11 am to 6 pm.

Thursday 22 September 2011 Illustrated talk on Gatwick Greenspace Partnership by Pete Crawford, Head of Community Wildlife.

Thursday 27 October 2011 History of Sussex Wildlife Trust by Mike Russell

Thursday 24 November TBA

Christmas meeting TBA

**Welcome to our new Chairman**

At our AGM in February Alan Reid stepped forward to fill the post of Chairman to ensure the Society can continue through 2011. Our thanks go out to Alan and I am sure all members will give him their support as we might have to take some tough decisions in the coming months as described below.

**The Future of our Archives**

Many of you will have noted that John McFarlane's house is up for sale which signifies that at any moment the Society will be asked to remove the majority of its archives that he has been kind enough to store there over the years. Not only has he done this, but with the aid of several members has continued to file away new material received. We wish John well.

The Borough and Town Councils have been approached and some possible buildings have been viewed. If any member knows of any suitable site within Horley your Committee would urgently like to be informed asap.

Many of these archives have been collected over some 60 years and today virtually constitute Horley's heritage that can never be replaced.

### **From the Archives (1)**

Those who lived in Horley before 1984 will remember the name of Stapley in relation to three stores the family had in the town. In 1865, Thomas Stapley opened a grocery shop where Peacocks stands today. It had rows of small drawers behind a large counter in front of which stood open sacks of various vegetables, etc on the wooden floor, the combined smell of which was something to behold. It was called Albion House.

In 1907 George Stapley opened a ladies drapery shop on the corner of Albert Road and the High Street, then called Station Road, where Lloyds TSB Bank is today. It was called Grosvenor House.

In the same year, John Stapley opened a gentleman's hosier and hatters shop where the Subway Sandwich and the Children's Trust shops stand today in the High Street, with their beautiful original curved front shop windows. It was called Crosby House. His son Aubrey Stapley took over in 1924 and after 60 years dedicated to giving as he said, quality and service at most reasonable prices, he decided to close and the name of Stapley in Horley came to an end, or did it?

Next time you walk by, just look at the entrance flooring to the Subway shop!

### **From the Archives (2)**

Many say that bygone headmasters were stern and sometimes did not possess compassion or a heart especially towards their school children. But some did.

Mr Alfred Wisdom retired after serving Burstow School as Headmaster for 31 years and 10 months. They gave him a leaving party in early November 1923 but he was rather ill and could not attend, so he wrote a letter of thanks:-

My dear children, teachers and friends

I would so much have liked to have come down to say goodbye to you all and to thank you personally for the delightful present you have so kindly given me, but the state of my health unfortunately prevents me from doing so.

I do hope you will not think it ungrateful of me.

I shall miss you all very much indeed, for although it was my duty occasionally to correct some of you, yet I was always very fond of you all.

Your gift will always hang up in my new home and whenever I look into it, and men do sometimes look into such things, it will call up to my mind the school, with all your bright sunny faced children, sometimes tiresome of course, but who were always so ready and willing to do anything for me they possibly could.

I shall never forget the children of Smallfield, and it will be a great pleasure to me at any time in the future to run up against any of you and have a chat about old times.

Thank you all dear children, teachers and friends for your very great kindness to me. The most difficult word left to me to say is "Goodbye"

From your old master and friend

**Alfred Wisdom**

He died a few days later on 10 November 1923

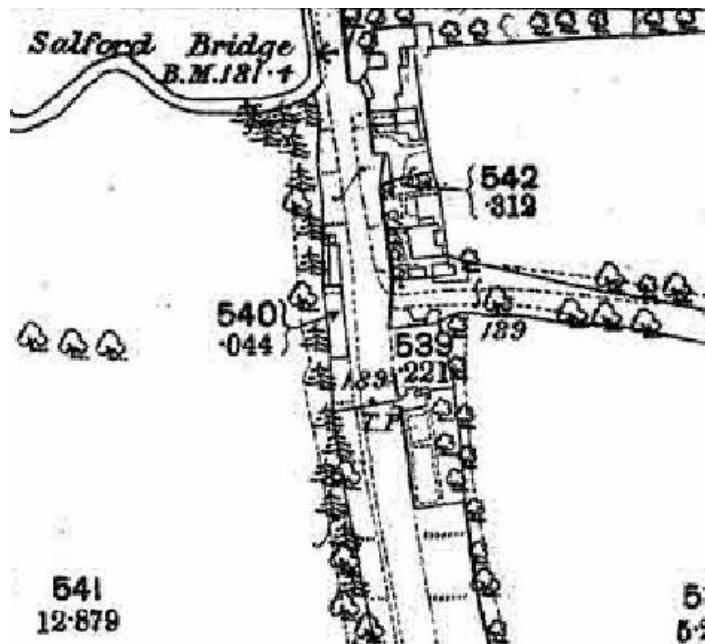
### From the Archives (3)

This is a résumé of a General Meeting held by the Reigate Turnpike Trust at the White Hart Reigate on Friday the sixth day of June 1817

It considered the removal of the tollgate called Peteridge (its spelling) Gate at the North end of Peteridge Lane (believed to be near to the western end of today's Tollgate Avenue) and replacing it at the South end of Peteridge Common near Salfords Bridge.

It ordered and directed the tollgate to be repositioned across Bones Lane just to the south of the entrance to Honey Crock Lane (its method of spelling) which it said lead to Burstow. It also ordered that a toll house be built on the eastern side of the gate with suitable buildings, a garden and other conveniences on land not exceeding half a rod. The vacated toll house on Peteridge Lane was to be sold.

As the land on which it stood was originally part of Reigate Waste and then belonged to the Right Honourable Charles Lord Sommers (it's spelling) and now (at 1817) owned by his son John, then he should have the preference of purchasing it.



Bones Lane is shown above running South from Salford Bridge, with Honey Crock Lane to the right and the Tollgate marked "TP" across Bones Lane just South of it. The building to the East of "TP" is the Toll House. Taken from the 1870 1/2500 OS map.

### Another Horley Subject to Research?

In January 1965 Frank Chisholm (who then had the clothiers shop in Victoria Road) decided to write his memories of the founding and development of the early garages in Horley for the maintenance of motor vehicles. These memories were kindly loaned to the Society by his son.

As many garages have come and gone in Horley this immediately revealed that this subject has not been recorded and knowledge of it is likely to be lost if this is not tackled in the near future.

While it would not necessarily result in another book to be published by the Society, it could be the subject for another note/report to be added to those already covered. You probably are aware that we have covered the following topics and all are available to be viewed in the Library;-

Transport in Horley  
Maps & Houses in Horley  
High Trees School 1922-1984  
No 35 Munitions Store in WW1  
The Empire Works 1927-2000  
The History of Strawson Hall  
A History of Haroldslea  
The Search For Yattendon  
Electricity in Horley  
Cinemas in Horley 1912-1981

We still need to record:- Gas, Street Furniture in Horley, etc. Any offers to undertake them?

This newsletter is published by the Horley Local History Society. [www.horleyhistory.org.uk](http://www.horleyhistory.org.uk)  
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