

Shops & Commercial premises

In the High St, **Morrisons Local** duly opened on 25th November. On the same side of the road at No38 the **Red Kite** country shop closed its doors on January 13th and moved to an address in Yattendon Rd. The premises are now vacant but show the old 'Honeybunch Florists fascia. Also the barbers shop has re opened next to the Gatwick PH although with no name. The cycle shop in the Smallfield Rd closed down in the Autumn. The main and very sad news is the sudden closure with no prior warning of Menzies **Chequers Hotel** on 29th November with all staff being made redundant. The local press report that there was a problem with the leasehold and that other hotels in the chain were rescued. An unconfirmed rumour has reached me that the site has been acquired by a developer and we can all guess what this will mean and that it won't still be an hotel. Let's hope that the oldest, original part of the building is saved – it is locally listed. The **Russell Square** development is moving ahead very fast indeed and at the time of writing the shell of the building is up to the 4th floor on the SE corner. When completed this complex will certainly dwarf anything else that we currently have in Horley. (*Am I being unkind when suggesting that it will be an eyesore -Ed*) In November a plastic banner announced the coming of Fish & Chip shop in Consort Way, Victoria Sq but was ruined by the recent gales and seeming not replaced – is it coming or not ?

Flooding December and January

I hope readers will not have suffered from the wet and windy weather throught December and the resultant chaos. A heavy storm on 22nd-23rd-24th December led to extensive flooding in all the usual places, Bonehurst Road, Mill Lane, Balcombe Road, Haroldslea, Meath Green Lane where the wall of the bridge over the Burstow Stream was damaged. *I think road traffic in late November may have something to do with it too – Ed*. Buses were only running to and fro Crawley, trains were severely disrupted on their pre-Christmas close-down and the mighty River Mole, as it became, burst its banks in the Longbridge area across the Church Fields and surrounding land. Nearby Gatwick was in the news as the North Terminal power supply was knocked out by flooding causing misery to thousands of travellers. By the next day, Christmas Day, the position had somewhat improved but leaving behind a trail of mud, slime and fallen trees. Many residents spent Christmas trying to dry out their homes and to clear up.

A few wet and rainy days followed but then on the night of 16th-17th January more very heavy rain led to worse flooding leading to more widespread misery for many residents and travellers. A newspaper source quoted 2.13 inches of rain at Gatwick. Unconfirmed reports suggest that the ditches by the roundabout at the entrance to The Acres were up to the top and almost overflowing but the swales held. However, we all hope that the estate developers have got their earthworks right and that there will not be subsidence in years to come. Within hours the worst of the floods had started to subside but with the land saturated it will be many months before the memories are behind us. Post the flood there have been strong and urgent protests by residents in the Haroldslea area pinpointing that permission has recently been granted for a new development of 50 dwellings on Inholms Farm land which has flooded very badly and that current foul and surface water drainage is unable to cope as it is. The Environment Agency are said to be looking at the situation and also any similar problem that may arise when the NW sector developments expected in the Meath Green area takes place. There are some 35 flood pictures in the Gallery on our website.

MODERN COMMUNICATIONS

In the modern age in which we live, many of us use technology to communicate and like it or not, we must try to use the Internet to work for us rather than fight its introduction. Dependent upon any decisions as to the future of the HLHS to be made at our AGM (see notice on page 1) your Committee are looking to see if we can distribute the News Letter and any other communications to anyone who is able or willing to supply us with an email address. The immediate benefit is the reduction in copy costs, postages and/or time in hand delivering to your door. Also it will enable us to send 'reminders' of forthcoming meetings and the ability to get in touch with you

quickly if need be. The forthcoming membership subscription renewal request will carry such a request. We can guarantee that any addresses that you give us will be used only for HLHS purposes and will NOT be disclosed to any third party/ies unless and except if compelled by law (highly unlikely!) However, *if you do not have access to emails* it does not matter and you will continue to get your paper copy of the NL

WEBSITE www.horleyhistory.org.uk

We have recently received an enquiry about Parkhurst House. The grandson of Arthur Parker has contacted us enquiring as to where the property is/was in Meath Green Lane. Arthur lived there in the 1920s and 30s and his grandson would like to know of any history relating to the house. Anyone able to help on this one, please? This is just an example of several serious enquiries that we have received.

Want to know what is happening in Horley or need some information - why not try looking on our site?

A REPLACEMENT for Lou Targett – help required please

In the previous Newsletter we were asking for a volunteer to record and save any mention of HLHS that has appeared in articles, newspapers, etc for our archives. Unfortunately nobody has yet come forward to help with this important task which really isn't really very onerous or time consuming. Could YOU do this for us – if so, please contact one of the Committee (details below)

FINALLY

Your Committee were pleased with my effort with the last edition of the Newsletter and I have agreed to continue as Editor. I can only include what is sent in either to HLHS or anything that I can write from my personal notes and observations. Anything you think should go in the NL – please let me know !

JAC 140125

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