



Horley Local History Society

NEWS Letter

MARCH 2018

The Venue

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

Parking is available at the rear.

Meetings Calendar

Thursday 22 March 2018 Centenary of the RAF/Horley Men lost in WW1 & 2 Brian Buss & Doug Cox

Thursday 26 April 2018 Rarely seen Photos of Horley John Chisholm

Thursday 24 May 2018 Researching Your Family History Charles Kay

Thursday 28 June 2018 Search for a Soldier Jim Butt...tracing a WW1 soldier from artefacts.

Thursday 26 July 2018 A History of Bell Ringing at St Bartholomew's Robin Grant at St Bart's Church

Summer Break

Thursday 6 September 2018 A Talk about Lee Street from the Chequers and along Mill Lane to the Black Horse (part of Horley's Heritage) Alan Reid

Saturday 8 September 2018 A Heritage Walk in Horley...meet outside Boots the chemist, times to be announced.

Thursday 26 October How the First World War Really Ended Doug Cox

Thursday 22 November The Veteran Car Run Including a Film....David Ralph

Thursday 13 December A Christmas Evening

Our HLHS Secretary has taken up an overseas post

Cora McLaren has acted in this roll most ably for several years. However, she recently accepted a post in Bermuda to advance her career. We extend our thanks to Cora and extend a warm welcome to **Hazel Oldfield-Bevan** who has volunteered to replace her.

Strawson Hall

It is pleasing to see the foundations of the Hall have been laid and the building of it will now follow. As mentioned in the last News Letter Doug Kilborn (01293 782619) is actively seeking new volunteer Trustees to give it a renewed lease of life and to welcome new users when it is open again later this year.

This Hall will then continue to have a most important part in Horley's history and ensure that what George Frederick Strawson gave to Horley in 1919 will continue to be carried forward for posterity. If anyone would like to support it in any way, then please contact Doug and offer your services. Thank you.

An Artist of some Repute

John Hassel (1767 – 1835) was a watercolour painter, engraver and a drawing master. He also published several books, mainly to do with 'Gentleman's Estates' close to London and he had a deep interest in Surrey.

The Surrey History Centre at Woking has 5 of his paintings of Horley houses and St Bartholomew's Church. Also in a Catalogue of Pictures by Baley & Moss in the Surrey Archaeological Collections Vol 75 (1984) there are a further 5 houses listed in Horley, but the originals are held by the British Library.



Horley Court Lodge the seat of Mr Chessington by John Hassel in 1822 (SHC)

St Bartholomew's Horley

In 2018 the Church is planning to commemorate 800 years since the first named minister of the Church. This was Walter the Parson who we know was the vicar in 1218 because he witnessed a document relating to Horley Common.

HLHS will be assisting with a photographic display.

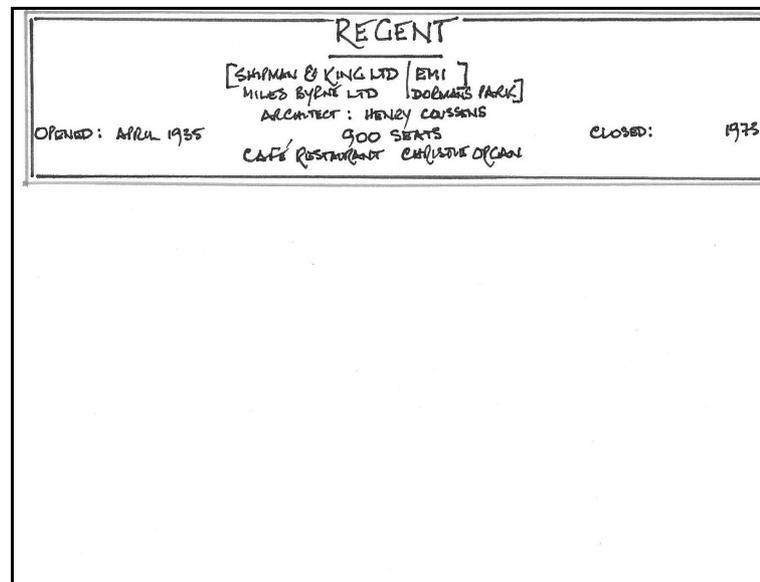
From our archives:

Cinemas in Horley

The first showing of films was in the original Constitutional Club (where Natwest Bank is today) on Thur 8 Feb 1912 and it cost 1½d (old money) admittance. It was called *The Biodrome* when used for this purpose and of course showed silent films with piano accompaniment.

The exact date of when the so called *Cinema Theatre* at 13 Massetts Road opened cannot be confirmed as it was around 1914 when WW1 was declared. By 1915 it was referred to as the *Electric Cinema* (as electricity did not come to Horley until 1927 so it used the generator from the garage next door for its supply). However it changed its name several times later when it competed quite furiously with *The Biodrome* until the site was redeveloped with its typical facia that still stands in Massetts Road today with its 1925 date. However it did not open until 1926 and was called the *New Pavilion Cinema*. By 1930 it was the first cinema in Horley to show talking films.

The proprietors were Shipman & King who were accompanists who decided at that time and later to acquire many other cinemas in southern England and were responsible for the next and most grand cinema in Horley that opened in 1935 seating almost 1000 people. It was called the Regent and it stood where the entrance to Consort Way off Victoria Road is today. It had an organ (that is owned and played today by an enthusiast in Norfolk who purchased it). The cinema sadly closed in 1980 to make way for Consort Way and sadly there is no longer a cinema in Horley today.



*The Regent Cinema, Victoria Road
1935 - 1980*

A WW1 Muniton Site in Horley

A 15 acre site was located on farmland close to Horley railway station that straddled across parts of today's Fairfield Avenue and The Ridgeway. Although classed as a Munitions Store it also filled some 5 million 18 pounder shrapnel shells during 1916 & 1917. The majority of this work was undertaken by women who came mainly from south London. They also made the wooden boxes in which to transport the shells to the front via the port of Newhaven. The site also had a central rail siding onto the main line. Many of the foundations of the buildings still exist within the gardens of several houses on Horley Gardens Estate .

High Trees School 1922-1984

In 1922 a matron from a children's hospital in Liverpool moved to a large house in Salfords to set up a Children's Convalescent Home for very young children, some from 2½ years of age. A year later she was joined by a qualified teacher from Liverpool and between them they ran the Home that grew into a School for the next 30 years.

In 1928 a serious fire broke out one night and although most children were saved, 5 lost their lives and the house was destroyed. The ladies quickly moved the home to the nearby Manor House on the Lady Henry Somerset Homes at Duxhurst (off the A217 north of Horley) until they were able to purchase the large house called High Trees at the top of Horse Hill. Here they flourished and expanded until, in 1940, it was requisition by the RAF and evacuated to Woolacombe in Devon. While there the lady who founded the Home died and the other brought it back to High Trees in 1946, but she died 6 years later. The new Headmaster, who himself was a former pupil, was appointed and

expanded the school considerably, but with the changes in teaching standards and shortage of trained staff it became financially difficult to maintain the school and it closed in 1984.

Written details of all three of the above items from the archives can be seen for reference on the shelves of Horley Library.

We would welcome your ideas of the type of speaker and subjects you would like offered at our evening meetings.

Now that the attendance at our monthly meetings is growing - and we hope to maintain this, it is very important to offer you topical/interesting subjects for your consideration. Your committee does maintain a constant list that we can readily show you, but if you feel that others should be added, please say.