

Horley Local History Society NEWS

APRIL 2009

Meetings Calendar

The Society meets at Strawson Hall, 156 Albert Road, Horley, Surrey, at 7:30pm for 8:00 unless stated below.

Monday 27 April 2009 "John Nash, the Brighton Royal Pavilion Architect" by Mark Perry-Nash

Monday 25 May 2009 "Bees & The History of Beekeeping" by Peter Cox

Monday 22 June 2009 TBA

Monday 27 July 2009 TBA

Spiers Farm

The photo below shows Spiers Farmhouse, situated in The Drive in 1956. The right hand side of the house was parallel to what was once the south western edge of Horley Common. The farm was part of the land purchased by Christ Hospital in 1602 and its plaque was mounted above the front door. The farmhouse was demolished in the 1980's but the plaque was saved and is at present in the custody of the Society.

Just recently the site of the old farmhouse has been cleared in readiness for the development of 10 dwellings and discussions have taken place as to the naming of the development and perhaps the re-erection of the plaque at a suitable site nearby.





The Christ's Hospital Plaque

The History of Cinemas in Horley: 1912-1981

In the January 2009 Newsletter it said that a copy of this brief history will be placed in our archives and one in the library. This has now taken place. However in the intervening period, excellent photos of the interior of the 1935 Regent cinema was acquired and have been included in the history

For Model Railway Enthusiasts; Part 2

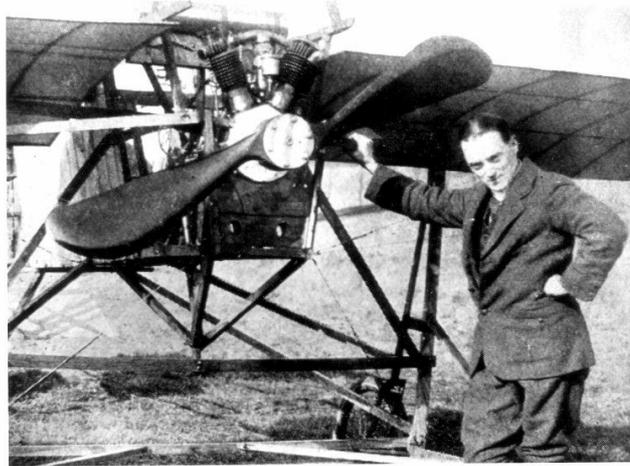
Wessex Wagons has now launched its 00 gauge scale model of 2 versions of Horley's once well known coal merchant's wagons used by William Whitmore & Sons who ran their business in Victoria Road from 1883 until 1954. These are now available in Horley. As was stated in the January Newsletter, David Hall recently received from Wessex, a photo of a wagon taken some time ago with Whitmore's name of Horley resplendent on its side. At the time this photo was not thought to be taken in Horley, but further study confirms that it was on a siding that once occupied part the north west section of today's Waitrose carpark.

The Scout Hut in Michael Crescent: an update

The Town Council were most interested in our proposal to rebuild/convert the Hut into a museum and archive centre and an on-site examination was held recently with members of the Council and the HLHS. Whilst the Council would look favourably at a conversion of the upper floor into an archive centre it would prefer to develop the ground floor into an area for local community activities. To meet such requirements would need considerable funding and the Town Clerk agreed to investigate what might be available. If anyone can suggest various sources of funding, would they kindly contact Alan Jones on 01293 784765

Malcolm Campbell: a man of many parts

We all know that Sir Malcolm lived close by at Hookwood for several years. We also know him for his prowess behind the wheel of a very fast car for he held the World land speed record from 1924 and at other times up to 1935 when he then held water speed records. However in 1910 he tried his hand at designing aircraft which he actually flew – briefly.



The caption to this photo from the “BP Book of the Racing Campbells” reads “The Campbell flyer! Designed and built (and briefly flown) in 1910”.

From the Archives concerning Schools.

We rely somewhat on the early history of schools in Horley on W H Chouler's book "One to 8 ;the Story of Horley and its Schools", despite having to extricate the facts from the many stories and non-related information he included. However, other information can be gained from the reports in the local newspaper of the period, particularly when elections for the governing board arose from 1834, when the first National School was built in Horley Row. Around 1880, Mr Green was the headmaster and in 1996, his grandson contacted the Society and became a member for some years and passed on the following information:-

- 1) On 14 January 1881 a separate department for infants was set up in the Horley Row School.
- 2) In 1883 a school building was erected in Albert Road. A brick with this date was inserted into the east wall (I wonder if it was saved and if so where is it now?)
- 3) 5 May 1884 the 'Boys' school was opened in the Albert Road building. The girls and infants remained at the Horley Row School.
- 4) Early in 1890 an exchange was made, the boys returned to Horley Row and the girls and infants transferred to the Albert Road School.

5) 3 March 1890, the Infants School opened in Albert Road and this is the date in which the school celebrated its birthday.

(The last one held by Mr Green was in 1974 when the school all dressed in Victorian costume.)

The boys remained at the Horley Row School until 1906 when the new school in Lumley Road was opened.

The Industrial Farm Colony at Duxhurst

The Society has recently received several enquiries requesting information about this Colony that was set up by Lady Henry Somerset in 1894 for the reception and help of inebriate women.

It consisted of a model village in some 180 acres off the A217 some 2 miles north of Horley, that consisted of several home-like cottages grouped around an open quadrangle with an adjacent chapel. Each cottage housed about 12 patients presided over by a cottage sister. The village also had a dining hall, kitchen, recreation hall, laundry, workshops, workrooms and hospital.

Lady Somerset was regarded as the Florence Nightingale of her generation having realised the appalling problems faced by women of all classes.

In World War 1 it virtually became a Red Cross Hospital where casualties came to convalesce. When Lady Somerset died in the 1920s the colony was in financial difficulties and despite the good actions of various religious organisations in trying to fund and run it as an orphanage, along with part occupation by parties such as High Trees School after its dreadful fire in 1928 at Salfords, its demise was inevitable. In 1936 the entire estate was put up for sale, but there were no takers. In World War 2 it was used by the military as a training camp but after 1945 no organisation was found to take it on for say, educational or convalescing purposes so it became derelict and was used by squatters. It was also said that Black Mass was celebrated in the chapel and gradually the site was pillaged. Today there is little if any sign that it existed.

Most of the above is taken from "Beauty to Ashes" by John Norsworthy, September 1981 (John Norsworthy was a pupil at High Trees School when it was using Duxhurst Manor house between 1928 and 1930. Later he became head of the School in 1952 when it was at Horse Hills and remained in that post until it closed in 1984)

(See also "High Trees School", 1922 to 1984, by B Buss & R Cooper, HLHS 2002)

(B. B.)

This newsletter is published by the Horley Local History Society.
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