



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020 No. 43

2020 has been a busy year already, but there are signs of spring flowers to cheer us all up – I’m sure all of us will be growing web feet otherwise. I am looking forward to reading the full article below and thinking about human influences on our climate. A gathering of the data over the last 20 years from Gatwick Airport, leaves me thinking...is this really the data for rain?

The committee has been really helpful, sharing out tasks to support Mike with managing his own health and that of his wife. Particular thanks go to Sue Tombs for her help producing end-of-year accounting information. June and Sue are temporarily taking on the role of Treasurer. We are hoping that a member or two will consider joining the committee in the near future. Please do come forward and talk to me about this possibility if you might be interested. Other unsung heroes are our members Liz and Alison, who regularly and consistently provide us with refreshments at our talks. Many thanks.

So onward with our new year of talks – and remember: any articles for 2020 Dorking History should be with Jim Docking by July.

Gwen Wood – Chairman

A Short History of ‘Local’ Weather

What a request for such a vast subject, even if it is supposed to be “local to Dorking” [*mea culpa: it isn’t!*]. So I bargained for an article as well! * I couldn’t resist this letter:

“Tomorrow, October 5th, as you wish my lord, I will provide some goods ... by means of which we may endure the storms if they are troublesome.” This looks like hope over experience. Sometime later, a writer pens that he would not send down to Catterick to collect his wagon “as the roads are so bad”. This is obviously written prior to the A1,

let alone the A1(M). What date would you suggest? ¹

The weather has been a fruitful topic of conversation, probably since we became “human”. The first entry in my book on Agricultural Records by JM Stratton is:

AD 220 A great frost in England is said to have lasted 5 months.

also AD 230 *The Thames is said to have been frozen over in London for 6 weeks.*

and AD 245 *Many thousands of acres in Lincolnshire were flooded by the sea.*

Let’s have a look at Iceland’s volcanoes, always seem to be a bit dodgy! Remember the aircraft grounded a few years ago? In 871 there was a huge volcanic eruption there, and in 934 the biggest eruption on earth in historical time. There was worldwide trouble in agriculture in Europe, and as far away as China. If the effects were felt that far away, countries nearby Iceland must have had a bad time. Volcanoes disrupt the weather, which adversely affects the crops. If there is little sunlight due to dust, these will also affect pastureland for animals. Famine was fairly common in these early A.D. years e.g. 793, 795 and 797, although this slightly later period is not mentioned in my trusty Stratton. Reading through the data for the first millennium, I am always glad I was not alive then. The second millennium’s data often brings the same thought to mind. You will meet these in the later article.

Jane le Cluse (*the weather nerd*)

* A fuller article will, hopefully, appear in Dorking History 2020

¹ c101-105AD. From the Vindolanda Letters

² Radio 4 programme on volcanoes on 18th March 2015

	Jan-00	Jan-10	Jan-20
Temp (° F)	Average	Average	Average
Max Temp	48.82	43.5	48.94
Avg Temp	43.27	38.56	44.5
Min Temp	37.05	31.71	39.71
Dew Pt (° F)	Average	Average	Average
Dew Point	34.81	31.66	41.93
Precip (Inches)	Average	Average	Average
Precip	0	0	0
Snowdepth	0	0	0
Wind	Average	Average	Average
Wind	9.12	8.12	8.26
Gust Wind	0.98	0.39	1.87



October 2008 Denbies from Boxhill

Financial Report 2019

Included with your AGM notice is a copy of the accounts for the calendar year 2019. At the time of writing the accounts have not yet been examined by the Dorking Society's new examiners Cheeld Wheeler and Co of Reigate; an update will be made at the AGM.

The accounts show a very small deficit of £7. The Group's website had to be moved during the year as the Surrey Communities service (which provided the basic website) is closing in March 2020. The Miscellaneous one-off expenditure item of £80 was the cost of doing this transfer. The new website can be found at <https://dlhg.org.uk>

Sue Tombs

2020 Local History Symposium

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

**Saturday 21 March at the Surrey
History Centre**

9.30am for 9.55 am – 3.30 pm

Poverty

"You have the poor with you always"

This symposium will cover aspects of poverty in Surrey, including details in post restoration times; rethinking the Old Poor Laws; letters and glimpses into the lives of poor; Guildford Workhouse inmates stories; post WW1 building for ex-servicemen and workers.

The fee for the day is £15 (in advance) and includes tea and coffee. Refreshments will be available throughout the day but please bring your own lunch.

Please book online at

<https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/events/all/list>

Spring Programme

The programme for the next six months is enclosed with this mailing. We meet at Crossways Community Baptist Church on the first Monday of each month – bank holidays permitting – 7:15pm for 7:30pm.

John Patterson is our Meetings Organiser and if you know of any speakers that you feel would make an interesting evening please let John know by contacting him on

01306 888401 or jhp3660@yahoo.co.uk

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on the first of January each year and remain unchanged currently. Paying by standing order cuts down on our work considerably. It also eliminates the member having to remember to make out a cheque on the first of January.

Cheques can be sent to the Membership Secretary, **June Mills, at the address below.**

Membership

We welcome the following new members:

Georgina & Mr.A L Afonso
Christina Quinnell
David Williams
Margaret Elliott
Tuula Tuorma
Hilary Bradley

We remember the following recently passed members with fondness:

Mrs Judith Whitaker
Mr C van der Lande

To contact DLHG: email:

gwen215@btinternet.com or Google - Dorking Local History Group.

Or write to us: Dorking Local History Group,
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