



DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2020 No. 44

What an odd year this is – and it will go down in history without a doubt.

It has proved quite fun to join Garry and Simon Ritchie of Surrey History MeetUp and set up our talks over zoom. It certainly kept the three of us busy. DLHG has therefore carried on regardless, albeit in a different form. There have been a few changes in the committee – John Patterson has stood down and Garry Brooks has taken over this role. If anyone is interested in being a **committee member** please do contact me. Among other tasks, we need a **treasurer**. Sue Tombs has been doing a great job looking after our finances over this time, but she is busy with other roles and we need our own treasurer.

Each and every one of you has had a unique experience over this year coping with the unusual circumstances, so I hope you find some of the committee experiences both interesting and familiar. Certainly, for the rest of the year, we will continue via zoom for talks. Meanwhile, take care of yourselves and your loved ones.



Gwen Wood – Chairman

Committee Lockdown Experiences

Firstly, **John Patterson** has stepped down from his role as Talks Convenor, having set up with talks well into next year. John has been a superb member of the committee, and we will miss him very much. Not only has he provided us with many excellent talks and speaker contacts, he has kept Dorking Advertiser well informed with reviews of the talks and news of forthcoming ones. He has also provided great ideas, opinions and helped keep us all on the straight and narrow. Many thanks, John. Here's best wishes to your widening role as a grandparent and family rock.

June Mills – My Life in Lockdown

Thinking back to March 23 I feel I've been very lucky. I haven't been ill, I've been able to exercise for a short while each day, and because I have a working television, radio and a large collection of books I've been able to keep myself entertained.

Also, because I work for a small charity with an office two minutes' walk from where I live I've been able to go into work for a few hours daily to answer queries and help people who are having problems getting someone to deliver their shopping or collect medication. My colleagues work from home, so the office is mine.

I've also acquired new skills – WhatsApp, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, all of which have kept me in contact with my family, friends and colleagues. However, the novelty is definitely wearing off.....



How many of the six little ships have you spotted around Dorking? Each is named after a Dorking person who sailed on Mayflower.

Sue Hayward -The Coronavirus effect.

Like all of us Covid 19 has completely changed the way I live my life. We were lucky enough to be away in March, holidaying in Vietnam, as the virus took hold of the world we returned to lockdown. Queueing to shop, odd things in short supply and did everyone need all those toilet rolls!!

All of my activities stopped, afternoons volunteering at Polesden Lacey, scouting, Tai Chi, Pilates and of course the History Group. Thankfully the weather was gorgeous and we had a garden we could enjoy. It was a bit like being on holiday! Sitting in the sun reading a book. I had already discovered the online service provided by Surrey Libraries, so no problem finding something to read.

It was at this point that we made a decision that has really moved the cheese as they say. For a while now my husband has wanted to move away to be near our son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. With all my interests on hold I agreed. So as restriction lifted, we put our house on the market, sold and found a place in Kent to move to. So, it will be goodbye to Surrey where I have lived for all my life.

The silver lining to the virus has been Zoom and its like, it is now possible to do a lot of our activities through this medium, we have enjoyed a variety of speakers organised by the History group, I have done Pilates with my dogs! And joined my Tai Chi group in my dining room. Although it is not the same as face to face it has been a very welcome addition.
My best wishes to you all, keep well and safe.

Garry Brooks – Retirement in Lockdown

I joined the Committee a couple of months ago. Some of you may know me as one of the people who have run the online 'Lockdown Lectures' over the last few months. I retired at Easter this year after 40 years mainly in IT & Training, but I've also taught some history for the WEA. I look forward to helping DLHG schedule a varied programme of talks - both physical and online - in future years

John Woodcock – Interesting times, as always

John has been in the group of complete lockdown for most of these times. He is confident that all is well, though, with his family supporting him and Sheila well – shopping for them etc., but it was great when he was able to go beyond his own gates. Reading is John's pleasure, and he has recently acquired an old book published in 1884 - 'A history of Dorking and the neighbouring parishes, with chapters on the literary associations, flora, fauna, geology, etc., of the district' by John Shenton Bright. Committee members look forward to reading it when John has finished enjoying this little gem. John also had a very significant 90th birthday in lockdown. Belated happy birthday from all of us John. We are pleased to know that John continues with his work on the committee overseeing book sales.

Gwen Wood – New Experiences

Technology has been a real help for me over this time. Initially the wonderful showings from Covent Garden, ENB + National Theatre provided entertainment to look forward to; then I found some virtual museum tours, and toured all over the world from my study, walking through museums I will never see for real. I have completed an up to date electronic index of Dorking History plus a few other museum documents. My 'besty' has face-timed almost every day, and this evolved into cooking together over the web and enjoying the results afterwards, also via FaceTime. What fun! Our various recipes have also had us touring the world: France, Spain, Greece, Thailand, Caribbean, Venezuela.....and of course some good UK dishes. All this on top of much gardening and open air has helped to keep the dark moments in their place for me.



Autumn Programme

The programme for the next six months is enclosed with this mailing. We will continue the talks via zoom until we are sure it is safe to return to our venue once a month. We may even continue with one zoom talk per month as well. Members will receive emails with any programme changes, 'extra' talks and zoom links for the talks. Remember to register for each talk you wish to 'attend'.

If you know of any speakers that you feel would make an interesting evening please let Garry know by contacting him on 07751 468948 or garrypaulbrooks@gmail.com

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on the first of January each year. 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. It is also useful to us if this is gift aided.

Cheques can be sent to the Membership Secretary at the address below.

Membership

We welcome the following new members:

Mrs Christine McKnight
Stuart Dennison
Michelle and Steve Howes
Peter & Judith Witter

We learn with sadness of the demise of members:

Mollie and Derek Rowbothan
Allan Brigham
Brian Carr
Vicky Houghton
Lynne Huggins
Anthony Wakefield

and send the families our sympathies.

To contact DLHG: email:

gwen215@btinternet.com

or www.dlhg.org.uk

Or write to us: Dorking Local History Group,
Dorking Museum, 62 West Street, Dorking,
RH4 1BS