

No. 4

We reported in our previous newsletter that we have booked the Village Hall for the whole of Saturday April 26th as a Society Open Day. Plans are now well advanced and we hope to display or have available for reference all our archives and items given or loaned to us. Please be sure to support us by coming to visit the exhibition and talking to your Committee about the information we have on properties or on family trees. Your presence will help to make the day a success and you will surely learn something of the history of the parish. There is no charge for admission. Doors will be open from 11.30am to 5pm. If you have any items - photographs, documents, etc. which you think would be of interest to be added to our library please bring them along. If you do not wish to donate them to the Society, we would be happy to take a copy and return the original to you.

We are still looking for a permanent home for all our collection. Your committee has written to the officers of the Community Centre to enquire whether a permanent room can be found in the new extension planned for the Village Hall.

Please also make a note in your diaries for October 28th when Miss Edith Mercer, O.B.E., Ph.D. will be showing an illustrated talk to members, entitled "A Journey Down the River Mole".

Our second presentation of "A Village at War" on November 14th last year was again very successful, before a packed audience. The magazine "Surrey Life" is publishing a precis of the presentation in their March issue. Unfortunately Bob Bettsworth will be unable to get copies through his normal channels so we suggest that you place an order for this through a Dorking newsagent. John Callcut is now editing all the material collected during the research for "A Village at War" and Diana Salisbury has already begun to type this. We hope in time to be able to make both this and a typescript of the presentation itself available for purchase.

John Ede's photographic presentation "Then and Now" on February 4th also proved to be very popular. We are indebted to Ken Edwards who saved the day after the epidiascope which we had borrowed proved to be inadequate. Thank you, Ken, for the loan of your excellent machine.

The sale of Tea Towels has gone very well and we have sold over 600 since the middle of November, when they first appeared on sale. They will continue to be available through the various village outlets at the same price - £1.75, so please continue to buy them. The profit goes to Society funds and will be used to expand our library of information. We are now giving thought to some other ideas for another product to be ready in time for next Christmas.

Your committee and a few other members continue to work on research. (More projects could be undertaken if others offered their services - especially for typing. Will you help?) In particular the photocopying of the farm records of New House Farm from 1908 to 1926 has been completed by Diana Salisbury and we hope they will be on show on April 26th.

Progress is also being made by Charles Thompson on the development of family trees. He has recently spoken to or been in correspondence with members of the following families - Horley, Lapworth, Wonham, Burberry and Risbridger. If anyone has any information on any of these names please let him know.

Bob Howard has completed the indexation and analysis of the Census returns 1841 to 1881. In particular he has been able to locate who lived in which house during this period. You may be interested to know who lived in your own home.

John Callcut has recently had correspondence from the Letter Box Study Group. Most of the Newdigate letter boxes have been surveyed and their origin established. There are throughout the country, over 200 different designs and this group of enthusiasts takes pride in locating them and adding them to their computer file. We have a copy of their report for Newdigate.

We were saddened to learn of the death of one of Newdigate's oldest residents - Reg Tröw. Last summer he gave us a lively interview about his life in Newdigate before 1914, so we are fortunate to have his voice and memories preserved on tape for posterity. The Society was represented at his funeral by George Green.

Members will be interested to know that Mr Francis Humphrey Maurice FitzRoy Newdegate (NEWDEGATE) has assumed the Viscountcy of Daventry on the death of his uncle, the 2nd Viscount who had succeeded his mother. She was the widow of Captain Edward FitzRoy, Speaker of the House of Commons from 1928 until his death in 1943 and M.P. for Daventry. The Newdegate family left this parish in the early 17th century. We have written an appropriate letter to Viscount Daventry.

We look forward to seeing you on April 26th in the Village Hall.