

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2007

As noted in our January Newsletter, Mole Valley District Council is again participating in Heritage Open Days this year. A brochure has been published giving full details of around ninety activities taking place in the district between 6th and 9th September. It is generally available in shops, libraries, museums etc.

The local theme this year is '*In War and Peace*' and some of the events will reflect this theme. I would urge all members who are able to take part to peruse the brochure for the Mole Valley area, and if you find that you have seen everything around here don't forget that Heritage Open Days are not confined to Mole Valley. This is a nationwide event.

There are a number of activities in which our members will be involved, including displays in the Abraham Dixon Hall at the Letherhead Institute, including "*The Parks of the Leatherhead Area*" (David Hartley) and "*The Inns and Public Houses of the Area*" (Goff Powell). There will also be a display about the food rationing in World War II prepared by Linda Heath which will bring back memories to many of us. I believe that the Trustees of the museum are also to have a display. Also in the Institute there will be displays on *Conserving the Countryside Heritage* and on Theatre. There will be walks around the town and buildings open to the public and, of course, our museum will be open on all the days. It may be of interest to any who have not yet paid a visit to Cherkley Court that, for the first time, they will be participating in Heritage Open Days on the Friday. There will be a walk around Leatherhead at 2.00pm on the Saturday, and Sweech House will be open for tours during the morning.

There will be several talks, some of which will centre on the wartime theme. On Thursday 6th September Goff Powell will be giving a talk in Fetcham Village Hall on the *Inns and Public Houses of Leatherhead and District*, and the weekend will be launched on the Friday evening in Leatherhead Institute when Peter Tarplee will explore some of the effects of wars (or the threat of wars) on local firms and landscape. At this meeting there will be wine available.

On Sunday afternoon Linda Heath will be speaking at Juniper Hall about Fanny Burney. Refreshments will be available before the talk and afterwards there will be a tour of the building.

The events described above are only a very small proportion of what is on offer in Mole Valley over the four days, let alone in neighbouring boroughs, so do not let this opportunity pass without taking advantage of some of the activities. Remember, there are around ninety events in Mole Valley alone as well as activities in other areas, so do get hold of a copy of the brochure and plan how you will spend the four days and, where necessary, get your booking forms in.

Peter Tarplee

FOOTNOTE. Those who have studied the Mole Valley brochure giving full details of all the Heritage Days' events should be aware of an error in it. The lecture on Leatherhead's pubs and inns which takes place on Thursday, 6th September (see page 33), will **not** be held at The Fetcham Reading Room but at the Fetcham Village Hall as mentioned in the text above.