

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
Registered Charity No 802409

Chairman

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Secretary

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NEWSLETTER 4/91

NOVEMBER 1991

NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming to the Society, the following new members:

Ashted

Eaton, Mr & Mrs R  
Hammond, Mr B  
Longstreeth, Mr & Mrs W E  
Tuffery, Mr A A  
Waters, Mr & Mrs A G  
Whittington, Dr & Mrs D R

Bookham

Claridge, Miss B M  
Slater, Mr & Mrs C H

Fetcham

Gowing, Mr & Mrs J

Leatherhead

Creasey, Mr L

Papazoglou, Miss E

MR G A PREEDY

We were very sad to learn of the death in October of Mr G A Preedy. Our sympathy goes to Mrs Preedy and her family.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

In the last Newsletter of the year, we remind you that subscriptions are due on 1 January 1992 at the new rates of £6 single, £9 husband & wife agreed at the AGM. Juniors remain at £1.

Those of you who pay by Banker's Order will find in their Newsletters a new form for completion and return to the Secretary. We apologise for asking you to complete yet another form, but as last year only about 25 percent of the Banker's Orders were changed, our consciences don't feel so bad! We assumed last year that some of the subscriptions would still go to Lloyds Bank and that account was left open for a while for their receipt. The account is now closed, so if Banker's Orders are not changed, subscriptions will be returned to your Banks and we shall not receive them.

Subscriptions of £1 to the Friends of Leatherhead Museum are also due on 1 January 1992 and can be added either to your bank instruction or to cheques in payment of subscriptions - the money will be passed to the Friends in a lump sum: they are hoping that every Society member will become a Friend, so

please add on that extra £1 each. The Friends also have a Life Membership of £20 minimum.

A slip for payment by cheque is enclosed.

**PLEASE NOTE :** The Membership Application Form has been updated with the new subscription rates and the new Bank details. Therefore - anyone who holds the old membership forms **PLEASE TEAR THEM UP** and ask the Secretary for some new ones.

The Library and the Museum already have new supplies.

#### **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Prior notice that the AGM will be held on Friday, 20 March 1992. All papers for the meeting will be circulated with the February 1992 Newsletter.

We should be pleased to hear from any member who would like to join the Committee in any capacity whatsoever. All the present Committee are willing to stand for re-election with the exception of David Bruce, the Museum Curator, and Geoff Hayward, the Sales Secretary. To everyone's regret, both have resigned after many years' work and replacements have to be found.

Please contact the Chairman if you can help us: she will explain what work is involved in these two positions or in the Committee generally: Linda Heath, Leatherhead 372603.

#### **"A HISTORY OF ASHTEAD"**

The preparation for a new history of Ashtead is progressing, but we desperately need someone to be responsible for the Victorian period onwards. Is there anyone who would take this on? Also we need volunteers for this period who would be prepared to read old local newspapers, parish magazines etc. A lot has happened since 1977 when "Ashtead: A Village Transformed" was produced, so there is quite a bit of new material to be researched and included.

Alan Gillies is co-ordinating the project, but he can only work with the material he receives so we need some helpers urgently NOW. If you can participate in any way, please contact Alan Gillies, Sunnymead, Epsom Road, Ashtead KT21 1LD, telephone Ashtead 274616.

#### **PROGRAMME**

Meetings are on Fridays at 7.30pm for 8pm in the Dixon Hall, Leatherhead Institute. Coffee is available before the meetings.

**December 13 - Christmas Miscellany**  
Organised by Gordon Knowles. If you have a short item, serious or amusing that you would like to contribute, please let Gordon know on Bookham 458396. Don't worry if you have never "spoken" before - this is a good place to start.

**January 17 - "Some Stories of Tracing Family Histories"**. Talk by John Clark. Not "how-to-do-it" but some interesting stories that came to light during research.

**February 21 - "The Admiralty Telegraph & Semaphore Lines from London to Portsmouth"**. An illustrated talk by Ernest Crossland who will mention particularly the four stations in our area. These include Chatley Heath which we visited in 1990.

**March 10 - The AGM, followed by Linda Heath on another of her "Leatherhead Then and Now" tours round the town.**

**Early notice of Other Events**

"Walk" over Ashted & Epsom Commons - Sunday, 29 March 1992.  
A full afternoon with several objects in view.

Visit to Canterbury - The Society is joining with the Leatherhead Literary Society in a visit to Canterbury. The date is Saturday, 25 April 1992. The visit will include a guided tour of the Cathedral and a choice of a historical or literary tour of the city.

Visit to Litchfield - The Society is joining with the Leatherhead Community Association in a visit to Litchfield. The date is Saturday, 13 June 1992. Guided tours have been arranged during the day.

Make a note of these dates now. Full details and booking forms in the February 1992 Newsletter.

**THE "MISSING" EAST WINDOW FROM THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY & ST NICHOLAS, LEATHERHEAD - From Linda Heath**

In the course of researching through old parish magazines some years ago, I came across an article of May 1909 about the dedication of the present East window in memory of Canon Utterton, Vicar of Leatherhead from 1877 - 1907. The previous East window had only been installed in 1863 as a gift from the Hendersons of Randalls Park, and the article in May 1909 mentions that this window had been moved "with the family's consent".

For ages I had wondered where this window had gone, and earlier this year the answer came quite out of the blue. A member of St Mary's church at Bishopstoke, near Southampton, wrote to the Vicar of Leatherhead to ask if he could shed any light on a newspaper article of 1909 describing the dedication of their new church tower, in which the following paragraph appeared:

"Simultaneous with the consecration of the tower, a couple of beautiful stained glass windows have been placed in the south side of the church, depicting a set of scenes from the life of Christ from his baptism to his ascension. This was a gift to the Rector from Leatherhead, and will be highly appreciated by the parishioners."

That certainly seemed to solve the mystery of where the "missing" window had gone (plus another one as well), but why did it go there? The link between the two churches turned out to be the Rev S N Sedgwick, a remarkable man, who was a writer, a keen naturalist and a fine musician who composed a great deal of music ranging from operettas to church music, including the hymn tune Savannah. He was curate in Leatherhead from 1897 - 1905 and then became Rector of St Mary's, Bishopstoke.

He obviously heard about the installation of the new window at Leatherhead - he may even have been asked to contribute towards it! So it is quite likely that he asked whether his church could have the old window. He had been an outstanding curate at Leatherhead, so they were probably happy to let him have it with the consent of the Henderson family, together with one of the two north chancel windows which had been removed in 1886 when the present ones were installed.

About twenty members of Leatherhead church went to Bishopstoke in August to see the windows, which are very attractive - indeed, some people felt that Bishopstoke had got the best of the deal!

#### LABELS

Last year one of our members gave the Secretary some sheets of self-adhesive labels. They have been worth their weight in gold. If there are any more available, the Secretary would be delighted to have them: Ashtead 277876

AND OUR BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR MEMBERS -  
for a Happy Christmas, and a trouble-free and healthy New Year.