

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No T 802409

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NEWSLETTER 3/90

August 1990

THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Your Secretary obviously had a "Silly Season" when she produced the last Newsletter.

Firstly, the name of Geoff Hayward, our hard-working Sales Secretary, was left off the list of Officers and Committee for 1990. Apologies to him. Also one of the telephone numbers was incorrect. So please tear up the old list and replace it with the one enclosed dated July 1990.

In the list of events on the last page of the Newsletter, the Surrey Symposium on Saturday, 10 November 1990, is of course being held at Guildford UNIVERSITY, not the Museum.

MOLE VALLEY FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS - "Bygone Ashted" - at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall.

Through no fault of the Council (or the Secretary!) the Council's publicity material about our "Bygone Ashted" event has gone out with the wrong date on it.* The correct date is FRIDAY, 26 OCTOBER, not the 19th which is the date of the Dallaway Lecture at Leatherhead Institute. Would you please make a careful note of these dates. We don't want to lose our audience on either evening.

*The fault was entirely mine, as I gave the wrong date to Mole Valley Council. (I too must have had a "Silly Season".) I do apologise for the mistake. Please do everything you can to draw people's attention to the correct date.

Linda Heath

NEW MEMBERS

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

Ashted

MacDermott, M

Fetcham

Grieves, Mr & Mrs R
Nowson, Mr & Mrs S J O
O'Neill, Mr & Mrs F

Leatherhead

Lear, Mrs M
Smith, Mr & Mrs M
Smith, Toby (Junior)

ESSO

We were very pleased to accept an invitation from Esso for a small party to visit their new premises in Ermyr Way, Leatherhead. Our host was Mr John Sylvester, their Public Relations Officer. He gave us a most interesting tour of the offices - a real trip into the "year 2000" - and a view of the vast amount of landscaping done to make the building environmentally acceptable. Our thanks to Mr Sylvester and to the Esso company.

SAXON CEMETERY IN LEATHERHEAD

Finds from the cemetery discovered during excavations by Esso of the old Goblin Works, will be on display at the Museum until the end of August. The Museum is open on Fridays from 10am to 1pm, and on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm.

On sale in the Museum is a book entitled "Saxon Secrets in Surrey", written by Rob Poulton with illustrations by Michaela Stewart and map illustrations by Giles Pattison. The price is £1-50 and the book was produced by Esso who have given the Society the copies now on sale. The finds at the site in Ermyri Way are described in detail, with many illustrations.

THE DALLAWAY HISTORY OF LEATHERHEAD

Facsimile hard-back limited 1975 edition of James Dallaway's classic history of Leatherhead first published in 1821 under the title "Etchings of Views in the Vicarage of Leatherhead".

Text by James Dallaway, illustrations by Harriet Dallaway, with an Introduction by Francis W Steer, MA DLitt, FSA

A few copies of this limited edition of 500 will be on sale at the attractive price of £4 at the Society's presentation "Leatherhead Revisited" on 21 September, and at the Dallaway Lecture on 19 October. They are also available from Dr R Humphreys, telephone Dorking 882710.

All proceeds from the sale will go to the Leatherhead Samaritans.

RALPH HUME MEMORIAL FUND - From David Bruce

Mrs Joan Hume has donated £200 in memory of her late husband Ralph, the money to be used to the benefit of the Museum, which, as she said, was always close to his heart.

With her agreement, the money will be used to start a Fund in his memory, from which the cost will be met of printing postcards from interesting old photographs of Leatherhead and district, held by the Society. The profit from the sale of the postcards will benefit the Museum. The initial expense of printing will return to the Fund, with any interest, ready to finance further printing.

Donations to the Fund from Society members and others would be welcomed - already some members have contributed additional amounts - and it is hoped to produce the first postcard in the fairly near future. The Fund is presently being administered by "The Friends of the Leatherhead Museum" of which Ralph was a Committee member. Cheques should be made payable to the Friends of Leatherhead Museum and sent to their Treasurer, Gordon Wilson, 61 Ottways Lane, Ashtead KT21 2PS, telephone Ashtead 272898.

SALES - From Geoff Hayward

"Saxon Secrets in Surrey"

The quantity of "Saxon Secrets in Surrey" kindly released to the Society by Esso, is selling fast at the Museum. This interesting and colourful booklet costs £1-50.

Proceedings

For the benefit of new members, especially those who have joined since 1987, we can supply a package of ten Proceedings dated from 1977-1986, plus the three indexes to earlier Proceedings, at an inclusive price of £5.

These can be collected from the Museum or from the Sales Secretary - Geoff Hayward, Ypiana, 1738 Cobham Road, Fetcham, telephone Leatherhead 372674 - otherwise postage will be charged. Earlier Proceedings are still available at 50p each, though the stocks of these are diminishing rapidly.

General

"A History of Leatherhead", "The Story of Hampton Cottage" and other publications are available from the Museum.

VISIT TO FISHBOURNE & PORTCHESTER : 12 MAY

A very full coachload of members and their friends were disappointed to miss this visit owing to the non-appearance of the coach we had booked. Ernest Crossland, the organiser, was equally disappointed that all his arrangements were wasted. Ernest will re-arrange this visit in May 1991 and we hope all of you who booked for the first visit will be able to come. . Details later.

VISIT TO DORCHESTER : 12 JULY

By contrast, this visit was a great success, due to all the arrangements made by Steve Poulter on our behalf. Our thanks to him for all his work.

MOLE VALLEY FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS PRESENTATIONS

FRIDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER - "Leatherhead Revisited" - Leatherhead Parish Church Hall at 8pm. Admission £2 at the door.

This event will take the form of a panel of members involved with writing "A History of Leatherhead", who will each speak for about ten minutes on a particular aspect of interest from their period of the book. After an interval for coffee and biscuits, the team will try to answer questions from the audience. If they can't answer them at once, they will try to find out the answers later. A few questions sent to Linda Heath in advance might be helpful!

SATURDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER - "Tales of Olde Surrey" - Leatherhead Institute.

This is a film produced by a group called Circle Eight about various events, both legendary and factual, in Surrey's history. This event is being put on by the Leatherhead Community Association, who very kindly altered their original date to avoid a clash with our "Leatherhead Revisited" presentation.

Tickets available from Joan Kirby, LCA Post Box, The Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead, or from the Leisure Centre. Cheques payable to the Leatherhead Community Association.

FRIDAY, 26 OCTOBER - NOTE 26 OCTOBER - "Bygone Ashtead" - Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall at 8pm. Tickets £2 at the door.

A talk by Michael Gale on the village of Ashtead as it used to be, copiously illustrated with slides.

REST OF THE PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER - All Day Visit to Historic Dockyard Museum, Chatham

Details of this visit, arranged jointly with the Leatherhead Community Association were given in the last Newsletter, together with a booking form, which should be returned to Mrs Joan Kirby at the Leatherhead Community Association, The Institute.

WINTER LECTURES - All in the Dixon Hall, The Institute, Leatherhead, at 8pm. Entry 20p members, 50p visitors including coffee.

FRIDAY, 19 OCTOBER - The Dallaway Lecture - also open to the public.

This year's speaker is Dennis Turner and his subject will be "Building Conservation in Surrey".

Mr Turner is Chairman of the Surrey Archaeological Society's Conservation Committee.

FRIDAY, 16 NOVEMBER - "New Light on Ashted - Bookham - Fetcham - Leatherhead" - From David Ellis

More entries for this exhibition would be most welcome. At our Annual General Meeting, several members expressed willingness to take part, and I am sure I have not heard from all of them.

I should like to stress again that it is not a competition, and that I for one am a very amateur photographer! All entries will be of interest because they will reflect your personal sightings of local history. Please help to make this a worthwhile event.

Details were given in the May Newsletter and another copy of the entry form is enclosed. Please take action NOW.

FRIDAY, 14 DECEMBER - Christmas Miscellany

Derek Renn has again offered to organise our evening of short contributions from members. Anyone who has anything - literally - that would be of interest to the rest of the members, is asked to get in touch with Dr Derek Renn, 7 Burrows Close, Great Bookham KT23 3HB, telephone Bookham 54880. We need as wide a cross-section of subjects as possible.

THE HOWARD FAMILY VAULT IN GREAT BOOKHAM CHURCHYARD - From Ernest Crossland

On 14/15 July 1990 a few members of the Society identified, examined and recorded the contents of the Howard Family vault in the churchyard of the church of St Nicholas at Great Bookham. They found it to be a brick built structure no more than 6" below the grass, 30' long, 12' wide and 8' high lying along the south wall of the tower of the church. The entrance is at the east end through an arch 7' wide and 8' high but entrance was gained from the west end at a point where access had been effected some time in the past.

Mr Stephen Fortescue's researches had shown that 30 members of the Howard family had been buried at Great Bookham following the grant of the manor to them in 1550, which they sold in 1801. Of these, 17 were surmised to be in the vault. In fact, 16 coffins were found laid on the floor in six alcoves (three on each side with a clear area 7' wide down the centre), with 7 coffins lined against the west wall.

Most of the coffins were of lead encased in wood and covered with fabric (probably red velvet) fixed to the metal with dome-headed brass studs similar to drawing pins. On this had been fixed various plaques and inscription plates denoting the rank of the deceased, name, date of death, age, etc.

The earliest burial (in 1743) appeared to be of Francis Howard, First Earl of Effingham (created 1731) and the last of Miss Georgiana Ann Vyse who died 13 May 1857. The uncertainty concerning the first Earl's burial is that the coffin assumed to be his lies below that of Anne, Countess Dowager of Effingham (his second wife and widow) who died 15 November 1774. However, on the wall adjacent to these two coffins is an interment plaque of an Earl. The first Earl died in 1743 and this date is scratched on the northern jamb of the entrance arch.

Some coffins had been supported on baulks of timber which had largely rotted away and with several of them the lead had corroded in places.

Two small coffins were obviously of children. They had no identification plates nor any decoration. In all probability they were of Francis and Thomas Howard, children of Lieutenant-General Thomas and Mary, since their father lies in the opposite bay and Catherine, a daughter, is in the same bay with them.

The two bays at the eastern end and the ceiling between them had been white-washed but the rest of the brick-work had not been treated, presumably as it would not be seen from the entrance.

Thanks are due to those who sanctioned the investigation or helped with the work, but in particular to 3rd Bookham Venture Scout Unit who toiled on a very hot afternoon and then mounted an all-night guard, and to the Reverend A C Warner for his interest and encouragement and the loan of floodlights to make possible the photographic record.

A fuller report on this work, with plans and details of the burials, will be published in the 1991 Proceedings.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- TO END
AUGUST** Finds from Saxon Cemetery, Leatherhead on display at the Museum. Fridays 10am - 1pm, Saturdays 10am to 4pm
- SATURDAY
8 SEPTEMBER** All Day Visit to Historic Dockyard Museum, Chatham (jointly with LCA)
- FRIDAY
21 SEPTEMBER** Contribution to Mole Valley Festival of the Arts: "Leatherhead Revisited" - 8pm, Leatherhead Parish Church Hall
- SATURDAY
22 SEPTEMBER** LCA Contribution to Festival of the Arts: Film - "Tales of Olde Surrey" - 8pm Dixon Hall, The Institute
- FRIDAY
19 OCTOBER** Dallaway Lecture (also open to the public): "Building Conservation in Surrey" - D J Turner
- FRIDAY
26 OCTOBER** Contribution to Festival of the Arts: "Bygone Ashtead" - Michael Gale, 8pm, Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall
- SATURDAY
10 NOVEMBER** Surrey Symposium - "The Artist in Surrey" - Guildford University
- FRIDAY
16 NOVEMBER** Photographic Exhibition, 8pm Dixon Hall, The Institute: "New Light on Ashtead - Bookham - Fetcham - Leatherhead"
- FRIDAY
14 DECEMBER** Christmas Miscellany - 8pm Dixon Hall, The Institute

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No T802409

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