

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



VOL. 1 No. 2

1948

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Second Annual General Meeting

Held at the Council Offices, Leatherhead, on 17th November, 1948

IN the regretted absence of Mrs. E. Levett, Chairman of the L.U.D.C., the meeting was opened by Alderman J. A. Farmer, C.C., in a felicitous speech congratulating the Society on its progress. After adoption of the minutes of the last meeting, the Report of the Executive Committee (summarised in Secretarial Notes) and the Accounts presented to the meeting were adopted after a few questions. The officers were re-elected *en bloc* with the addition of the Hon. Programme Secretary—see page 1 for names. After considerable discussion a motion proposed by Mr. John Harvey and seconded by Mr. S. E. D. Fortescue, condemning the proposed removal of the elm tree by Bookham Church was declared carried. Councillor W. G. Mayer desired his vote against the motion to be recorded.

After formal business, Mr. A. T. Ruby gave a talk on the Society's work "Behind the Scenes," describing the variety of requests received for information on local historical matters, and the liaison work with other societies. He also mentioned certain hitherto unappreciated features of the activities of the Groups, and then described the work of recording and indexing the Society's accessions, concluding with a few examples of the interest and humour to be found therein.

This talk was followed by one by Mr. John H. Harvey on the Local Histories Scheme of the S.A.S. Mr. Harvey said that historians were now turning more and more to the study of local histories and developments, and recognising that field as the source of the further greatest developments in the science of history, which plays so vital a part in the understanding between nations and the knowledge of one's own environment. He pointed out that for a millenium the unit of all English history had been the county, and will remain so whatever past or future modifications of boundaries. Leatherhead, having once been the county town of Surrey, should have a special interest in the county as a whole, and in the County Archaeological Society founded some ninety years ago, and all members of local societies should also be members of the county society. Mr. Harvey went on to describe the advantages which the county society could confer on its members by the accumulation of material over so wide an area and for so long a period, and some of its activities now in progress to further especially the work of the local societies.

Briefly the OBJECTS of the Society are :—

To institute, promote and encourage the study of local history, architecture, archaeology, natural history, folklore and similar subjects appertaining to Leatherhead and surrounding districts ; including the search for, recording, and preservation of, historical records and other material ; a library for members' use ; lectures, debates, exhibitions and tours ; fieldwork ; photography of historic features ; and (as a long term objective) the compilation and publication of a history of the Leatherhead district.

A real interest in the locality is the only necessary qualification for membership ; those with any specialised knowledge are, of course, doubly welcome, but this is not essential. The Society hopes to help those who have little or no special knowledge to improve or acquire it. Provision is also made for Junior Members at a nominal fee.

Persons who would like to keep in touch with local history but have no time to take an active part can join as Non-Active Members. They have all the other privileges of full membership.

The yearly membership fee for all adult Members (to include one copy of the Society's Proceedings) is seven shillings and sixpence. Apply to the Hon. Treasurer : Mr. S. E. D. FORTESCUE, Pond Meadow, Preston Cross, Gt. Bookham (Bookham 2683).

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OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR
1948-1949

Chairman : Capt. A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Secretary : Mr. A. T. RUBY, M.B.E.

(53 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham. Tel. : Leatherhead 3127).

Hon. Treasurer : Mr. S. E. D. FORTESCUE

(Pond Meadow, Preston Cross, Great Bookham. Tel. : Bookham 2683.)

Hon. Programme Secretary : Mr. W. G. GILBERT, C.B.E., I.S.O.

("Ranmoor," Hawks Hill, Fetcham. Tel. : Leatherhead 2000.)

Committee Members : Mr. F. B. BENDER

Mr. S. N. GRIMES

Hon. Auditor : Mr. W. H. TAYLOR

Hon. Librarian : Mr. W. G. MAYER

(65 Copthorne Road, Leatherhead. Tel. : Leatherhead 2579.)

Hon. Editor of the "Proceedings" : Mr. S. G. BLAXLAND STUBBS, M.B.E.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

IT is very gratifying to be able to announce that the initial success and rate of progress reported for the previous year have been more than maintained. The numerous enquiries and requests for information received from all quarters have indicated so rapidly growing a recognition of the Society's efforts and value as to be a most encouraging and rich reward for its labours. Cordial relations with other bodies, both in the district and outside, have been extended. (*See also* "Occasional Notes", Back Cover.)

New members during the year numbered 37, a net increase of 20 after allowing for deaths and resignations. The total of all members at 20th October, 1948. was 125, and it is still increasing.

Lectures and Visits

The following fixtures were arranged during the year, 1st November, 1947-31st October, 1948.

- 1947
- Nov. 19 (At the Annual Meeting.) An address by the Chairman on "The Excavation at the Mounts."
- Nov. 26 Talk by Mr. G. H. Smith on "The Work of *Group 'A'*" (Historical Records).
- Dec. 3 Talk on "The Work of *Group 'B'*" (Photography) Mr. M. Snellgrove; (Cartography) Mr. A. T. Ruby.
- Dec. 10 Lecture by Mr. John Harvey on "Field and Place Names."
- 1948
- Jan. 21 Lantern lecture by Mr. B. Hope-Taylor on "Archaeology from the Air," with a reference to Celtic field systems and the site on Leatherhead Downs.
- Mar. 10 Lantern lecture by Mr. Phillip E. Brown, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., on "The Bird and the Bird Watcher" (in co-operation with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds).
- April 17 Conducted visit to STOKE D'ABERNON CHURCH (Mr. John E. S. Dallas).
- May 29 Visit to JUNIPER HALL, Mickleham, Centre of the Council for the Promotion of Field Studies (Mr. C. C. Fagg).
- June 12 Conducted visit to SLYFIELD MANOR.
- July 10 Conducted visit to DORKING CHURCH with its CRYPT and to the CAVES. Followed by a drive to ANSTIEBURY for a tour of the Iron Age Camp there.
- July 27 Conducted visit to POLESDEN LACEY.
- Aug. 21 Conducted tour of the 1948 excavations at THE MOUNTS.
- Sept. 25 Conducted visit to GUILDFORD for Abbot's Hospital, Edward VI Grammar School, the Museum and the Castle.

Miss N. Bourne (now Mrs. Peck) was obliged in May, 1948, to resign as Hon. Programme Secretary, the duties of which post have been carried out during the remainder of the season by other officers—to whom the Society's thanks are due. For 1949, the Programme Secretary is Mr. W. G. Gilbert, C.B.E., I.S.O.

The Groups have continued their functions, and details of their activities are given later. Mr. Hanscomb was unfortunately obliged for business reasons, to resign the leadership of Group "B" (Buildings, etc.), but Mr. Foster Elliott has proved a most worthy and efficient successor. Captain Lowther found it impossible to continue to add the leadership of Group "E" (Natural History) to his many other activities, but most fortunately for the Society Mrs. M. P. Topping, D.Sc., has agreed to act in his place. Mr. M. A. Snellgrove has had to resign leadership of Group "C" (Photography and Cartography) and a successor had to be found when these notes went to press.

The Library continues to grow, and grateful thanks are due to the numerous donors. The Society and its members have suffered a real loss which all deplore, in the sudden death of their librarian, Mrs. K. Rhydderch. Mr. Mayer has kindly undertaken the duties.

The first issue of the "Proceedings" met with an excellent reception and has aroused interest in many places. It is hoped that this, and subsequent numbers, will maintain its reputation. Copies of the first number are still available for purchase by members or non-members.

My call at the Annual General Meeting for volunteers to help in indexing the Society's Accessions has been nobly answered by two members, Mrs. Butler and Major Cruickshank, who have put in much time on this very necessary, though somewhat laborious, task. The Society's sincere thanks are due to them. There is still much to do here and extra helpers would be welcome.

A. T. RUBY,
Hon. Secretary.

Reports of the Separate Groups

GROUPS AND LEADERS

- "A" : *Historical Records, MSS. and Other Written Records.*
Mr. G. H. Smith, Roselawn, Leatherhead Road, Ashtead.
- "B" : *Architecture, Buildings, Surveying, etc.*
Mr. R. Foster Elliott, A.R.I.B.A., Bridge Cottage, Dorking Road, Leatherhead.
- "C" : *Photography and Cartography.*
Mr. M. A. Snellgrove, 6 Gatesden Road, Fetcham (Resigned, March, 1949).
- "D" : *Archaeology.*
Capt. A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A., The Old Quarry, The Warren, Ashtead.
- "E" : *Natural History.*
Mrs. M. P. Topping, D.Sc., Angroban, Fir Tree Road, Leatherhead.
- "F" : *Arts, Crafts, Folklore, Dialect, etc.*

REPORT OF GROUP "A" : Historical Records, MSS. and Other Records

THE work on the record of Ashtead Manor continued throughout 1948. The main work was that of deciphering and recording the Court Rolls, but other matters connected with the manor were also dealt with from time to time.

The Rolls have now been dealt with up to 1447. Revision up to 1440 has resulted in a few additional place names while others have been corrected. The condition of the membranes necessitated prolonged and careful work.

During the year photostats were obtained of the Beadle's Accounts of 1381/2 and 1383/4, the Reeve's Account for the year 1420, and the Collector's Account for the year 1441. From all these twenty-three place names have been discovered, and three found on the 1638 map.

A record was also made of all available information in connection with the tile-works and "Henry the Tiler," of Ashtead, with the assistance of Mr. Harvey, who also provided extracts from the documents in the Cowper MS. (Roxburghe Club), taken from the Cartulary of the Monastery of St. John, Colchester. This contained very interesting information concerning the churches of Leatherhead and Ashtead, showing their connection with that Monastery during the years 1087-1202.

The transcribing of the Registers of Little Bookham and of Leatherhead has now been completed.

Extracts of all items relating to this area have been made from Major Heale's "Records of Merton Priory," and from the "Cartulary of Colchester Abbey," for particulars relating to Leatherhead Rectory.

Work in hand at the beginning of 1949, apart from the Ashtead Manor above mentioned, includes the history of the Manors of Pachesham and Thorncroft, the military history of the district, and local government before the formation of the Urban District Council. Extracts from the Leatherhead Vestry books relating to the bridge and other matters of interest are also being made. The transcription of the Parish Registers of Fetcham is well in hand, and it is hoped during 1949 to deal with the Registers of Great Bookham.

G. H. S.

REPORT OF GROUP "B" : Architecture, Buildings, Surveying, etc.

EARLY in 1948, the Group were most unfortunate to lose the services of its first leader, Mr. C. E. Hanscomb, who asked to be relieved of his duties owing to ill-health and pressure of business, and the Executive Committee accepted his resignation with reluctance.

Previously, on 3rd December, 1947, Mr. Hascomb had delivered a most interesting lecture on "The Work of Group 'B' (Buildings)" at the Institute, Leatherhead, and several pleasant Group meetings were enjoyed at his home during the winter months.

The main activity of the Group has again been confined to field surveying.

The first instruction received from the Executive Committee was in respect of the Celtic crop marks on the Leatherhead Downs of Cherkley Court. These crop marks were ascertained from an aerial

photograph of the district, but a close examination of the site showed that a contour survey would not reveal these marks. It is intended to re-visit the site and plot the lines of the crop marks when the Society is in a position to commence the excavations.

Secondly, the Executive Committee asked for a report on the accessibility of a barrow or tumulus, also on Leatherhead Downs, off Green Lane, opposite the Goblin Factory. Here it was possible to report favourably, and upon obtaining permission from Commander J. C. K. Woodall, R.N., instructions were given to make the necessary level survey. On 19th June, 1948, after a stormy morning, several members, including the Hon. Secretary, turned out in force and so enabled us to complete the survey before nightfall. A simple job compared with last year's toil at "The Mounts." Drawings were prepared and handed to the Executive Committee for use in due course.

Working in conjunction with Group "D," the excavations at "The Mounts" have, as circumstances demanded, been surveyed and carefully drawn, of which some are illustrated elsewhere in this issue, and, together with the photographic records of Group "C", will gradually build up a precise and accurate story of this most interesting mediaeval manor house. The shapes and dispositions of the buildings and appurtenances are now beginning to take shape on the drawing board, and as foreshadowed by our Chairman's lecture in December 1948, the excavations in the summer of 1949 should prove rewarding to our patient and cheerful workers. Surely a happy beginning to the long and laborious task of faithfully recording the history of our town of Leatherhead!

A complete list of the buildings of historical interest in the five parishes has now been compiled from the second and third editions of the "List of Antiquities," together with those which have been recommended for inclusion in the fourth edition. It is intended to commence detailed examination of these buildings in the coming year.

After obtaining the consent of the Wimbledon Corporation, a survey was made of the new cemetery grounds at Randalls Park on the 23rd October, 1948, to find if any evidence existed of the supposed early pre-Saxon settlement in this area. A close examination of the many open drainage trenches across the site showed no evidence or signs of occupation, the soil appearing to be entirely undisturbed in all places.

Cordial thanks are acknowledged to the willing members who at all times have so readily assisted in the past year's work.

R. F. E.

REPORT OF GROUP "C" : Photography and Cartography

SINCE the last report progress has been made with the photographic record of local buildings of interest and the list has nearly been completed; but much remains to be done. In many cases, e.g., the old building known as Sweech Farm in the centre of Leatherhead, the excellent photographs already taken of the front of the building must be supplemented by views of side and rear, and detail work on the interior.

An important development in the recording side of our labours is the scheme now working between the Society and the County Record Office, for the exchange of photographs to fill in the gaps in each other's records. To accord with the practice of the National Buildings Record we have adopted "Full Plate" (whole plate, 6½ ins. x 8½ ins.) as the standard size of our photographic records. Thanks to the generous help of our members and the members of the Bookham Camera Club this will prove less expensive than at first feared.

Some fine photographs of the excavations at "The Mounts" were taken during the year, and there is no diminution in the tasks obviously ahead. Help from everybody will be welcomed and there are many occasions when even an ordinary box camera in the hands of anyone who has achieved a reasonable snap of his or her baby on the lawn, will be quite adequate. A building at least keeps still, and it is not even necessary to wait until it is entirely clear of passers-by. Many old photographs are positively enriched by the groups of townspeople staring at the formidable paraphernalia of earlier photographers, and often the groups alone enable the photograph to be dated. Our efforts should be made in the remembrance that all history is the history of living beings.

M. A. S.

REPORT OF GROUP "D" : Archaeology

THE main activity during 1948 was that of continuing the work of excavation at "The Mounts" (see "Second Interim Report" below). In addition to this, there were certain of the lectures and visits which were designed primarily for members of this Group (described elsewhere in these Proceedings). These include that on Saturday, 11th December, at which the results obtained from the first two seasons' work at "The Mounts" were described (at the Bull Hotel, Leatherhead) to members of this Society and of the Surrey Archaeological Society. The main finds from this site were on exhibition

and the lecturer was followed by Mr. G. C. Dunning, F.S.A., of the Office of Works (Ancient Monuments Department) who enlarged on the pottery discovered and by Mr. J. H. Harvey, F.S.A., who dealt with the recorded history of the site and those connected with it, on which subject both he and our Hon. Secretary have thrown a flood of new light by their researches into the early manuscripts preserved at the Public Record Office.

The survey undertaken by Mr. Elliott and members of Group "C" working under his direction of the small "ring-ditch" earthwork on the downland close to the Goblin factory, south of Ashted must be mentioned here as an invaluable preliminary to the excavations of this site, which it is hoped will be carried out by this society at a future date. (Our member, Mr. J. Fox, of the Archaeology Branch of the Ordnance Survey, first reported the presence of this earthwork, as well as several others in the vicinity.)

The active membership of Group "D" is now 31.

"THE MOUNTS," PACHESHAM (Manor of Pachesham magna)

Second Interim Report on the Excavations (19th July-21st August)

THIS work, again under the writer's direction, was carried out by a combined volunteer force, consisting of members both of this Society and of the Surrey Archaeological Society, of students from the Institute of Archaeology of London University, and of archaeologists who, though living at a distance, had kindly volunteered their assistance with this work.

(Thanks are due especially to Miss Webb, Mr. J. Kent, Mr. G. Carruthers, F.S.A. and also to Mr. and Mrs. Mangus, of New York, who kindly devoted some three weeks of their month's stay in this country to assisting with the work.)

During this Second Season part of the area within the confines of the moat—that at the westernmost end—was examined. A trench (D-D¹, 3 ft. 6 in. in width) was dug across the site from north to south, and disclosed, approximately at the central point between the inner edges of the moat, a large rubbish-pit, or "midden" dating from the occupation prior to the digging of the moat. (The latter is now known to have been made by Eustace de Haache, or de Hacche, between 1286 and 1292—probably circa 1290.)

This pit measured about 12 feet in width at the top and 7 feet in depth (page 6). From the dating ascribable to the considerable amount of pottery found in it, it was in use as a midden from about 1150-1280. This pottery was lying in it, in a number of distinctly stratified superimposed layers, containing also bones, oyster shells, charcoal, fragments from a kiln or oven, and several small finds of bronze, iron and stone.

Description of Levels in Rubbish Pit—see Diagram, page 6

+ = Topsoil (humus).

1.1a = Soil and building debris (from final destruction of late 14th century date).

1.1b = Gravel spread, and pottery, etc., of last occupation (circa 1290-1350).

1.1c = Building debris, deposited circa 1290.

1.2 = Brown soil, with bones, oyster-shells, pottery, etc. (circa 1280).

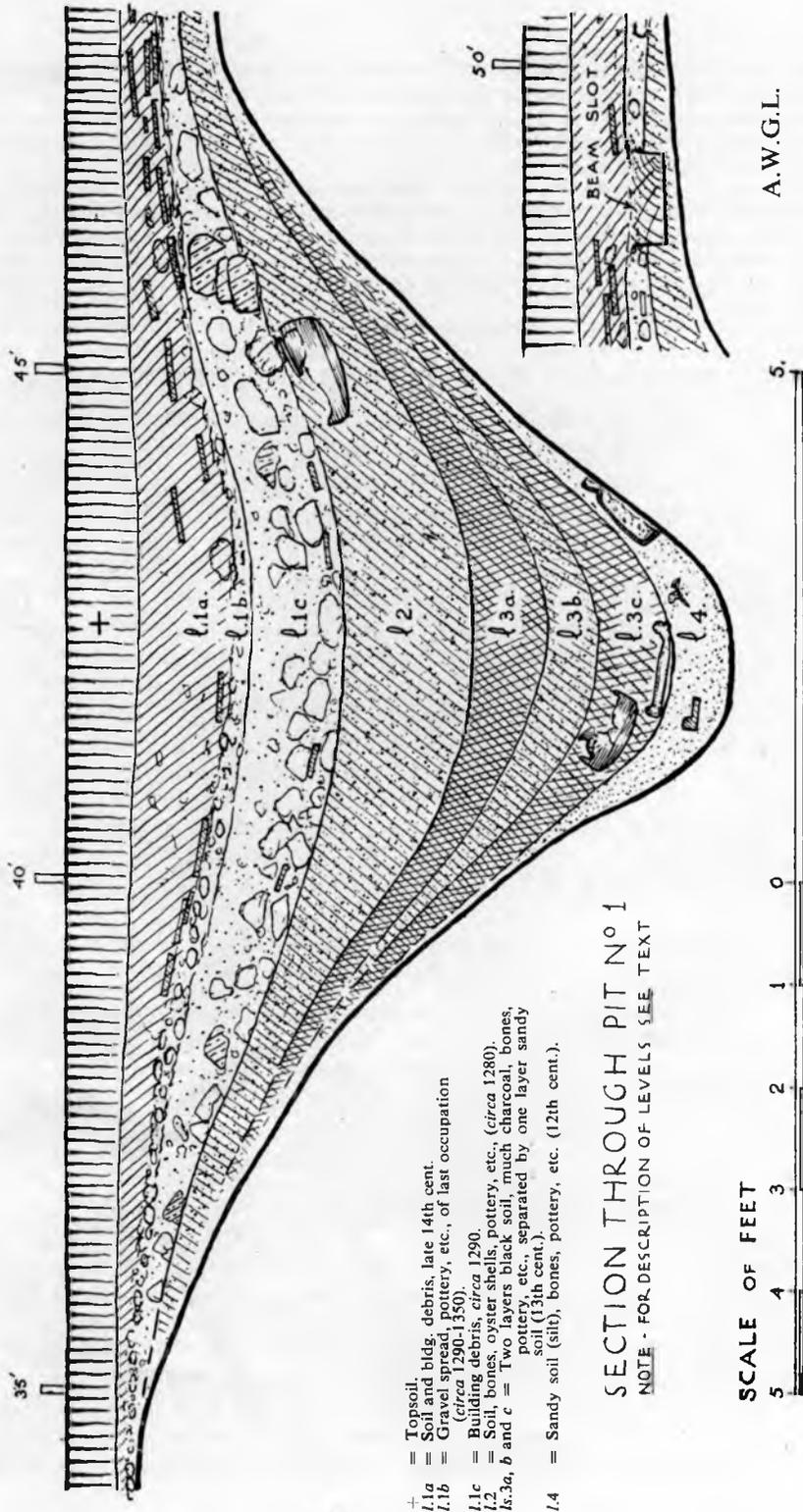
1.3a, b and c = Two layers of black soil, with much charcoal, bones, pottery, etc., separated by a layer of brown sandy soil. (12th and 13th century.)

1.4 = Brown sandy soil (silt) with bones, pottery, etc. (12th century).

The sequence of pottery and change in both "forms" and "types of ware" during the long period of use of this pit, is of considerable interest and is likely to be of much service in the study of early mediaeval ware from the surrounding district.

The period at which this pit ceased to be used as a receptacle for the household refuse was indicated quite clearly by a thick layer of building debris (flints, stone, chalk-blocks, mortar and some broken roof tiles) which had been shot into it to fill it up. Some pieces of pottery among this material indicated that circa 1290 A.D. was the date of this filling-up process. Even without this evidence it would still have been probable that this was the date when it was done away with, since once the moat had been constructed a large open

"THE MOUNTS" PACHESHAM NEAR LEATHERHEAD SURREY
 THE LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S EXCAVATIONS - AUGUST 1948
 PART EAST FACE OF TRENCH D-D¹ SHEWING PIT NO. 1

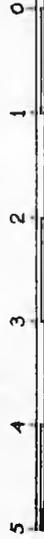


- + = Topsoil.
- l.1a = Soil and bldg. debris, late 14th cent.
- l.1b = Gravel spread, pottery, etc., of last occupation (circa 1290-1350).
- l.1c = Building debris, circa 1290.
- l.2 = Soil, bones, oyster shells, pottery, etc., (circa 1280).
- ls.3a, b and c = Two layers black soil, much charcoal, bones, pottery, etc., separated by one layer sandy soil (13th cent.).
- l.4 = Sandy soil (silt), bones, pottery, etc. (12th cent.).

SECTION THROUGH PIT NO 1

NOTE - FOR DESCRIPTION OF LEVELS SEE TEXT

SCALE OF FEET



A.W.G.L.

rubbish-pit would hardly have been left in such a conspicuous and central position within the moated area. Also, as our previous work has shown, roof-tiles were first employed as the roof-covering for the buildings at this site circa 1290, *i.e.*, when the rebuilding carried out by de Haache took place. This building material, most of which was clearly derived from the demolishing of the pre-14th century buildings, shows how extensively Eustace de Haache demolished the earlier work when he "made anew" his hall with the "twelve oaks fit for timber" granted to him by the King from the Royal forest of Gillingham (Calendar of Close Rolls, C54/110 P. 276 M. 10).

Amongst this building debris was a considerable amount of Roman tile, which had clearly been used in the construction of the earliest of the manor-house buildings—how early this was has still to be ascertained. On one side of the pit, close to its southern lip, and at a level which showed it to be contemporary with the layer of "filling-up" debris, the "cast" or imprint of a large squared baulk of timber was found. It was so placed as though it had been used as a "stop" for carts backed up to the pit in order to tip the rubble into it.

The remains of a spread of gravel extending over the debris layer and out towards the moat in a northward direction, suggest that this part of the site became a small gravelled court or yard, when the re-building took place. Some pottery, of about 1300-1350, but with a few worn fragments of earlier ware, lay on this gravel and in turn were covered by a thick layer of debris, mainly broken roof-tiles and amongst them were many "two-inch" iron nails of a special flat headless type, which had clearly been used to secure the battens to the rafters of the roof. This layer like the similar one found the previous year in the moat represents the final destruction of the buildings, which, from both the pottery found at the site and from the evidence of manuscripts, is known to have occurred about the middle of the 14th century, or slightly later.

Some structural remains, consisting of the foundations of two walls—clearly of different periods—and a square pier or pillar, of flint and mortar rubble on a chalk foundation, were located and are to be followed up during the next season. The wall foundations had been extensively "robbed" and among the debris a three-pronged iron "agricultural" fork was found (Plate facing p. 8). It is an interesting specimen in a good state of preservation, and from the level in which it was found appears to date from the 14th century period when final demolition was in progress.

The "small finds" obtained this season include a spindle-whorl of chalk, a small whetstone of micaceous schist, the handles of some iron implements, horse-shoe nails of an early mediaeval type, pieces of a mortar made of Purbeck marble and a variety of other objects. A broken block of Purbeck marble has one face polished and retains part of a quarter-round moulding. Several of the broken blocks of sandstone—apparently from door and window openings of the earlier buildings—retain part of simple mouldings while others retain the marks of rough "axe" dressing. (The finding of some waste "dressing" chips of this same type of stone at the bottom of the rubbish-pit, confirms their belonging to the 11th or early 12th century buildings at latest.)

The finding of so much pottery and in such a useful sequence of stratified levels can be considered as one of the main results of this second season. Of outstanding importance amongst it are two small pieces of a "polychrome ware" jug, of a rare type made in Gascony in the late 13th century. In view of its being found in a level belonging to Eustace de Haache's period and of Mr. Ruby's discovery that the existing records show that de Haache visited Gascony in 1294 (in the train of Princess Eleanor on the occasion of her marriage to the Count of Bar) there is little reason to doubt that he brought this flagon back with him on this occasion. (Mr. Dunning who has made a special study of the few specimens of this ware found in this country, informs me that in spite of their

small size it is possible to be certain as to the nature of the decoration on this vessel when complete.) This is the only one of these flagons for which we can be certain, not only of the name of its owner, but of the actual year when it reached the spot where it was found. (A third fragment of this jug has been identified since the above was written.)

The cooking pots and other domestic pottery, passing from early types of crude shell-gritted ware to those of hard red and grey sandy ware, and ending with ornamental glazed wares (jugs and dishes) of the early 14th century, cover the period *circa* 1150 (possibly earlier) to 1350. Pieces of a roof-finial of green-glazed white ware (found in Level 1) are of especial interest. Sufficient pieces of it were found to show that it was fashioned in the form of a grotesque figure, apparently of a man holding (or blowing) a hunting horn. Probably, like the two "knights on horseback" ordered in 1317 for the Great Hall of Banstead Manor (and made by the pottery works at Cheam), this figure was on the roof of the Hall after it was rebuilt by de Haache.

The work during the next season (1949) will be concerned mainly with the following up of the foundations mentioned above. A. W. G. L.

"THE MOUNTS," PACHESHAM—Further Historical Notes

IN a previous sketch of the history of "The Mounts,"¹ reference was made to two mediaeval documents of which abstracts are preserved among the MS. "Notes for the Victoria County History of Surrey."² Examination of the original documents shows that in both cases the abstracts omit important material. The earlier record,³ catalogued as an Assize Roll, is a return made by the Hundred of Copthorne to a long series of articles of enquiry. This was part of Edward I's campaign against private franchises, generally known as the *Quo Warranto* proceedings.

This return of 1293 covers most of the earlier years of the reign, so that it is not possible to give an exact date for the various transactions, but so far as the history of Pachesham is affected, it would seem that the period is 1287-1293.⁴ Among the allegations made against Eustace de Hacche, lord of the manor of "Pachenesham" in Leatherhead, was that he had "made an enclosure of 18 acres of heath in the township of Leatherhead and diverted (or stopped)⁵ the royal road which led through the midst of the said acres towards Oxshott (*Ocschete*) and another royal way in a certain place called Were which leads from Leatherhead (*Leddrede*) towards Stoke and Kingston (*Kyngestone*)."⁶

From a later document,⁷ we know that the customary acre (the forest acre) in use on Leatherhead Common was measured with the 18-foot perch. Eighteen of such "forest acres" equal 21 a. 1 r. 27 p. statute measure. Now it is a notable feature of the older road system at Pachesham that Randalls Road used formerly to split into two just beyond Gutter's Bridge, the eastern arm running north-west of "The Mounts," while the other ran by the site of the present Sewage works to the west end of Patsom Green. The enclosed land between the two forks of the road and Patsom Green belonged almost entirely to the

¹ *Proc. Leatherhead L.H.S.*, I.i., 1947, p. 9.

² Surrey County Record Office, Kingston: cf. V.C.H. Surrey, III, p. 295.

³ *P.R.O.*, J.I. 1/892 of 22 Edw. I.

⁴ Eustace de Hacche is said to have held Pachenesham "per sex preteritos"; it can hardly be doubted that the word "annos" was accidentally omitted. The return is, in fact, dateable from this statement to 1292, as Mr. A. T. Ruby has recently discovered the Fine relating to de Hacche's purchase of the Manor misplaced among those for Sussex. The record, printed in *Sussex Fines* (Sussex Record Society, vol. vii, 1908, p. 137, No. 991), shows that in the autumn of 1286 Eustace de Hacche and Avice, his wife, had obtained from Peter de Uateville and Agnes, his wife, the Manor of Pachynesham at a rent of one clove yearly on the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Eustace paying Peter £100 for the fine. I have to thank Mr. Ruby for communicating this discovery and for his kindness in allowing me to make use of it here.

⁵ The word "obtusit" is twice used; perhaps a scribal confusion between *obtusit* and *occlusit*.

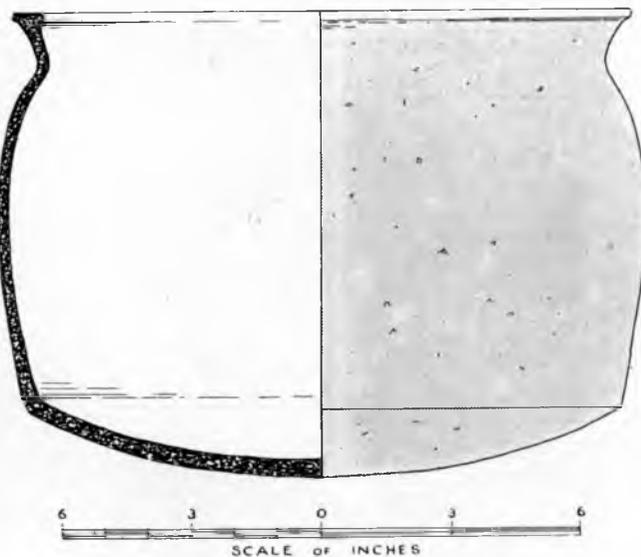
⁶ "Item ad. ix.m. articulum de purpresturis factis super Dominum Regem, &c. Dicunt quod Dominus Eustachius de Hacche fecit purpresturam .xviiij. acrarum Bruere in villa de Leddrede & obtusit Regale Cheminum quod duxit per medium dictarum acrarum versus Ocschete et obtusit eciam quamdam aliam viam Regalem in quodam loco qui vocatur Were que ducit de Leddrede versus Stoke & Kyngestone."

⁷ *P.R.O.*, C. 78/5 (no. 14), m. 8. (cf. Surrey County Record Office, S.C. 20/3:59)—Decree of Chancery in 1548, setting apart 80 acres ("The Four-score Acres") of Leatherhead Common as parcel of the Manor of Stoke D'Aberton, "to be measured after .xviij. fote in the poole accordyng to the custome of the country there."

EXCAVATIONS AT "THE MOUNTS," PACHESHAM, 1948



A. Three-pronged agricultural fork, 14th cent. (From "E" level I)



B. Reconstruction of large 12th cent. cooking pot 12in. wide, 8in. deep. Of shell-gritted ware, it came from bottom of the rubbish pit (level 4)



C. First indications of rubbish pit (Pit No. 1) during digging of trench, looking N.

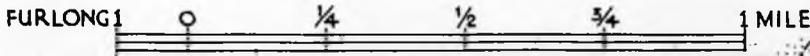


D. Partial excavation of Pit No. 1 (see sectional diagram, page 6).



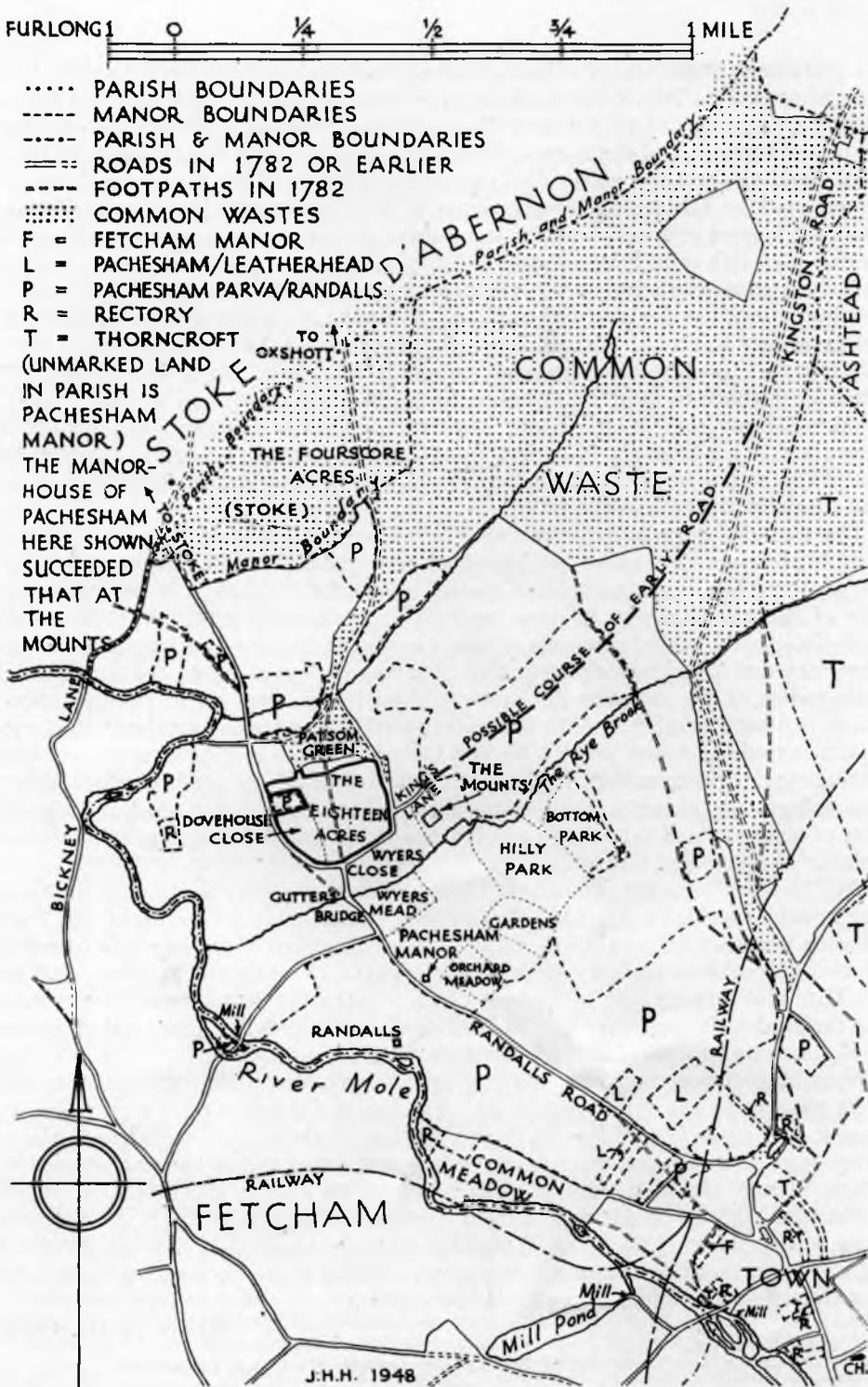
General view looking S. of the Excavations at "The Mounts", 1948.
Pit No. 1 (the rubbish pit) is in the centre foreground.

Photograph by courtesy of "The Times"



- PARISH BOUNDARIES
- MANOR BOUNDARIES
- PARISH & MANOR BOUNDARIES
- ==== ROADS IN 1782 OR EARLIER
- FOOTPATHS IN 1782
- COMMON WASTES
- F = FETCHAM MANOR
- L = PACHESHAM/LEATHERHEAD
- P = PACHESHAM PARVA/RANDALLS
- R = RECTORY
- T = THORNCROFT

(UNMARKED LAND IN PARISH IS PACHESHAM MANOR) THE MANOR-HOUSE OF PACHESHAM HERE SHOWN SUCCEEDED THAT AT THE MOUNTS



LEATHERHEAD, SURREY - PACHESHAM & BEFORE 1782/3

Drawn by John H. Harvey

ancient demesnes of the Manor of Pachenesham,⁸ and was reckoned in 1782 as 21a. 1r. 22 p. statute measure.⁹ Further, the fields east of Gutter's Bridge at the base of the fork were in 1788¹⁰ known as "Otter's, formerly Wyer's, Close and Mead." The double coincidence between the acreages and the names Wyers-Were, together with the situation on the road to Stoke and Oxshott, leaves no doubt as to the identity of the "18 acres" which had been enclosed by Eustace de Hacche, circa 1290. The present line of road accurately follows the ancient course, which for some seven centuries was preserved only as a right of way. (See 18th cent. Plan on page 9.)

But an even more interesting point emerges. Which was the "royal way . . . which leads from Leatherhead towards . . . Kingston?" The present Woodlands Road is the royal way to Stoke, while Oaklawn Road represents the beginning of the old road to Oxshott, which close to the present house, "Oak Lawn," bent due north over the Common. Neither of these roads led to Kingston; this third road can only have been the "Drove Way" or "King's Lane" that bounded "The Mounts" on the north-west. This must have led from the Kingston Road along the northern scarp of the Rye Brook direct to the manor house of Pachenesham, only to fall into disuse after the destruction of the house in the 14th century.¹¹

The second document is the record of the Court of Common Pleas in 1398 on the case of *FitzWaryn v. Wymeldon*.¹² The pleadings show that on 5th October, 1386, Sir Ivo FitzWaryn and Matilda, his wife, had granted a lease for life to William Wymeldon of the manor of Pachenesham with its appurtenances and two water-mills. The rent was to be £20 of silver yearly, with 2 cartloads of hay, 2 cartloads of straw and 2 quarters of oats at Michaelmas, and it was provided that if the rent was 15 days in arrear, the landlords might distrain, while, if no sufficient distraint could be found, they might re-enter upon the premises. After Michaelmas, 1393, the rents in kind (hay, straw and oats) remained unpaid, no distraint could be found, and Sir Ivo and Lady FitzWaryn re-entered upon the premises on Monday, 17th November, 1393. Later, they sued Wymeldon for waste, sale and destruction on the premises, their claim alleging that he had dug sand and clay from 2 acres of land and sold it to the value of 40s., and had taken down various houses within the manor and sold the timber.

The "houses" specified amount in effect to summary survey of a typical timber-built manor house: one Hall worth £40; 2 chambers, 1 chapel, 2 barns (*grangeas*) and 2 water-mills, each worth 20 marks (£13 6s. 8d.); 2 byres (*boverias*) and a hay-byre (*domum pro feno*), and 1 dovehouse (*columbare*) each 10 marks (£6 13s. 4d.), and 2 stables, each worth £10. They also claimed that he had cut down 30 oaks and 30 ash-trees, each worth 4s., and in the gardens 20 pear-trees and 30 apple-trees, each worth 2s. The total of the values claimed amounts to £201, but their damages were put at £300.

Wymeldon denied waste, but the jury found that he had pulled down one stable and sold its timbers to the value of 17s. 6d., and had cut down 3 oaks worth 10d. each. Judgment was given for Sir Ivo and Lady Matilda in three times the damage, viz., 60s., but they were in mercy for their false claim in respect of the rest of the alleged waste of which Wymeldon was acquitted. The report of the case is unsatisfactory, in that it does not establish how or when the alleged damage had been done, but it is clear that the limiting period is from 1386, when Wymeldon took the lease, to 1398 when the case was heard. Within those twelve years the manorial buildings of Pachenesham, enumerated in the statement of claim, disappeared for ever.

JOHN H. HARVEY

⁸ See *Proc. L.L.H.S.*, 1947, p. 9.

⁹ *Map of the Parish and Manor of Leatherhead*, by G. Gwilt, in the possession of Gilbert H. Grantham, Esq.

¹⁰ Conveyance enrolled on *Close Roll 1788, part 7, P.R.O.*, C. 54/6847, ro. 4.

¹¹ The old course of the roads is shown to a large scale on Rocque's *Map of Surrey*, c. 1768.

¹² De Banco Roll, Michaelmas Term 22 Ric. II., *P.R.O.*, C.P. 40/551, m. 422.

REPORT OF GROUP "E" : Natural History

DURING 1948 the members of this group continued the work of compiling records for our area, in all branches of Natural History according to their individual interests. As described elsewhere in these Proceedings certain of the visits and lectures were of especial interest for members of Group E. (The Chairman, who had hitherto acted also as leader of this Group, regrets that owing to preoccupation with the work of Group D—and to the Society's excavations in particular—he was unable to devote as much time as he would have liked to organising the activities of this group during 1948. He is, therefore, pleased to be able to record that Mrs. M. P. Topping, D.Sc., has kindly consented to take over this work, and at the time of this report was already in control of Group E.)

The very wet weather experienced during the summer appears to have affected the later hatched species of both moths and butterflies, and there were fewer records of the less common varieties than in the previous year. The normal spring species were, however, plentiful and the following "first appearances" were noted at Ashted :

Butterflies :—"Peacock" (hibernated sp.)—29th Feb.
(*Rhopalocera*) "Brimstone" (male)
"Brimstone" (female) —13th April.
"Orange Tip" (male) "
"Speckled Argus" (several) 12th April
"Brown Argus" 24th May
"Grizzled Skipper"
Moths :—Several "Dotted Border" moths (at light)—28th Feb.
(*Lepidoptera*) "Privet Hawk Moth" (newly hatched)—24th June
Beetles :—Two specimens of special interest were taken by the writer, viz :
(*Coleoptera*) *Tetropium Gabrieli*, Weiss (13th June)
Pogonochaerus dentatus, Fourc.—12th Nov.

Botanical lists were compiled by several members, and lists of species of birds by members working on ornithology under Mr. S. E. D. Fortescue.

A. W. G. L.

REPORT OF GROUP "F" : Arts, Crafts, Folklore, Dialect, etc.

AS previously stated this Group is not functioning independently, but material relative to its purposes is being collected during the activities of other Groups.

One interesting item reported is that of an old Leatherhead Folk Song of 1838, based on the discovery by the local Hunt of the body of an unknown woman on Leatherhead Downs. Her burial is recorded in the Parish Registers.

FEUDAL TENURES

A Note on the Manor Heriot Rights

By S. E. D. FORTESCUE

(In the first *Proceedings* (1947) Mr. Fortescue's paper on "Feudal Tenures" includes a reference to Heriot Right as an incident of tenure: *Ed.*)

IT is stated in Blackstone's Commentaries that Heriot Rights were generally supposed to be a legacy of the Danish Conquest of parts of England; in fact, in the areas of the country in which Dane-Lage (Danish Law) was in force they were probably universal, and when the Dane-Lage was consolidated with the Western Saxon-Lage, compiled by King Alfred, and the Mercen-Lage, which was operative in the counties on the Welsh Borders united into the one kingdom of Mercia, Heriots became almost general throughout the country.

Heriots, which were an incident of tenure particularly attached to copyholds, though occasionally attached by custom to freehold lands, were the rights of the Lord of the Manor to claim according to the custom of the Manor in which the tenant resided, either, the best animal or best inanimate object—such as a piece of furniture or jewellery—on the death of the tenant or, in more recent times, where a tenant was permitted to alienate his land. It should, however, be pointed out that the right was a purely personal one and only related to personal chattels; therefore, it was not a charge on the land, but only a charge on the goods and chattels of the tenant.

If this right is deemed to have descended from Villein tenure, there was no hardship to the villein as this was the tenure at the lowest rung of the feudal ladder, of the semi-servile peasant, who, in return for permission to occupy a small portion of the land of a Manor, was bound to cultivate the land and perform other rural tasks for the lord of the manor. The villein was little more than a chattel of the lord, who could sell or exchange him in the same way as farm stock ; the villein could not leave the lord without permission, and he could acquire no absolute rights to land or goods. The former was primarily the lord's and the latter were derived either directly or indirectly from the soil, and therefore, also belonged to the lord.

There were two types of Heriots, service and customary. Heriot service was reserved to the lord in a grant of land by him and was rarely found and then only attached to a particular area of land. Heriot custom existed in accordance with the general usage of the manor from time immemorial and must have originated prior to the Statute of "Quia Emptores" 1290.

The selection of the beast or article was in the lord and the tenant had to be the owner ; therefore on the death of a married woman, who then had no rights of ownership whatever of personal articles, no heriot was due. If the tenement was divided in any manner two heriots became due, but when this multiplication of the tenement ceased and it reverted to a single unit, again only one heriot was due, but if the land was held subject to a heriot and the lord by his own act acquired part of the tenancy absolutely the heriot was extinguished because it being attached to the whole could not be apportioned and the lord could not place the burden of the heriot upon the remainder of the tenement not purchased by him. In some manors it was the custom that the heriot should be commuted for a money payment, but any agreement made between a lord and a villein not pursuant to manorial custom was bad, and did not bind the personal representative of either party. By the late 18th century, with the advent of the Industrial Revolution and the consequent change of a considerable proportion of the population from rural to industrial pursuits, heriots became impracticable. Several Acts were passed enabling commutations to be made either by the tenant or the lord, and heriot rights became extinguishable by enfranchisement in respect of both copyhold and freehold tenures by the Copyhold Act, 1894. Provision was made for their final extinguishment by the Law of Property Act, 1922, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1924.

S. E. D. F.

FETCHAM AND DISTRICT IN VICTORIAN TIMES

By A. J. GINGER

THE following give a few of the many vivid memories I possess of Leatherhead and its surrounding districts in my earliest years.

Firstly, may I explain myself briefly ? Born at Headley in the early 1880's, I lived at Leatherhead from the age of three until the year 1900. We lived in Leatherhead town and my father remained in the district till he died in 1939. In 1889, when a tiny boy, I joined Fetcham Church Choir and sang in it until my voice broke. I will, therefore, start with my memories of Fetcham and go on to Leatherhead later.

Our earliest impressions are often the strongest and remain with us always, while other later experiences vanish from the mind. My own recollections of this lovely Surrey district, even from the age of three years, are very distinct. Those final 15 years of the century, were, as you all know, destined to see the passing of one age of leisurely progress, peace, plenty and fine craftsmanship to a new age of great speed, noise, unrest, austerity and mass production. Only those who have lived in Queen Victoria's reign can rightly appreciate the significance of this enormous change in our way of life ; a change as wide apart, in some ways, as that which separated the Victorians from the Elizabethans.

Leatherhead has, of course, developed but its street or town part, though suffering the loss of some of its oldest and best buildings, has not yet greatly changed. Fetcham and its neighbour, Bookham, have undergone most changes. Many years have passed since we looked on that great sweep of open farm lands stretching from the Ridgeway and Marden Hill to Bookham Village, over which sometimes the huntsmen or the beagles would chase. I have myself followed the hounds afoot after foxes, particularly over the Eastwick estate adjoining Ridgeway and the Lower Road, Fetcham, now largely built over.

Fetcham was one of the prettiest villages in the country, and away from the main stream of traffic along the Guildford Road, it remained quiet and select. Several big distinguished-looking mansions were then inhabited by wealthy people who maintained large staffs of indoor and outdoor servants.

Then came a few smaller good class residences and the various farmhouses and the Mill House with its water-mill still functioning. The village schoolhouse, the smithy and the various cottages completed the village. Of course, not to be forgotten were those two warm, welcoming and truly charming old English pubs, the Rising Sun and the Bell Inn, now replaced by elegant, but austere-looking, modern hostleries.

The total population of Fetcham was said to be about 400 souls—seemingly a large number for so few dwellings—and this figure had been nearly static for centuries.*

Old Fetcham with its wide cornfields, glebe lands, woods and hills, its horses and cattle, the abundance of sweet-smelling wild flowers and gay songbirds, was indeed a place to inspire the muse of a poet.

What lovely trees and hedges and myriads of wild flowers were there along the banks flanking the roads! On the east side of Cobham Road towards Cannon Court Farm, were the cultivated lands, sweet and colourful with golden corn, oats and root crops in summer. A line of most magnificent elms bordered the farm fields. On the other side, from the corner of Lower Road to School Lane, were grass lands which we called the Rectory fields. A thick and wild hedge of hawthorn, sloes, briars and blackberry bushes and a succession of beautiful oak, sycamore and ash trees bordered the Rectory fields along their whole length.

In spring time, under this hedge over by the fields, there bloomed countless sweet-smelling violets, and beyond masses of cowslips. This great hedge housed in nesting time many varieties of birds, both common and rare. The Lower Road also had its complement; in the tall tree tops of the park was a great rookery.

So quiet was the Cobham Road the birds would nest fearlessly in the most open places. A reed warbler once built its nest and reared its young ones unmolested in the tall, waving growth of the ditch not many yards away from the Mill Pond path. A few yards farther on, where the road to Cannon Court begins (now Raymead Way—*Ed.*) a tom-tit regularly laid its 20 tiny eggs in a hollow tree stump. As the boy with the thinnest arm I was always selected to reach down and count them. Another tom-tit used to make its home behind the ivy on the Church Tower.

Swallows and martins regularly built under the eaves of the school building, regardless of the noisy children. We schoolboys being proud members of "The Dicky Birds Society" were bound by its rules to protect all birds at nesting time, but were permitted, by a wise clause, to take at least one egg from each nest for our collections.

School Lane, which, then as now, was tree-lined, but without a single building, save a barn or two, until the school was reached, was another bird sanctuary, with robins, nearly tame, nesting in the banks of the ditch. On pain of awful retribution none dared touch a robin's nest. Was not this fear born of an age-old superstition that the robin got his redbreast through touching the bleeding body of Christ as he hung on the Cross, and by this act obtained blessing and protection for its breed for all time?

Further along Cobham Road, where the post office and other shops now stand, there was a roadside horse-pond which we called Cock Pond—a favourite sliding and skating rink in winter time. At the triangle where Cobham Road joins the street there stood the village "Pound." This strong, oak-fenced arrangement was the prison for straying cattle. Here the truant animals were locked in until retrieved (on payment of a fine, I believe) by their owners.

Opposite the pound stood the village smithy. This was a large and gloomy barn where the blacksmith was busy all day at his anvil on iron work, ploughs, cartwheels and shoeing. We boys never tired of watching the sparks fly or helping to blow the furnace bellows while the smith made ringing music at his anvil. I shall have more to tell of that fine fellow, our village blacksmith. In the era of the horse the smith in his workshop and the stone breaker by the roadside were ever-busy workers.

Farming, of course, was the chief occupation at Fetcham. Most of the cultivated lands were owned by Squire Hankey of Fetcham Park House (now Badingham College), and these farms were let to tenant farmers. Farmer Dodge of Cannon Court tilled the largest acreage. He was a stern and distant sort of man, and as we boys liked to taste his turnips and swedes and to acquire a mangel wurzel or two for certain purposes, we usually gave him a wide berth through guilty conscience.

Farmer Lang, whose house adjoins the Village Hall (which used to be his great barn) was a more kindly sort of person. When he came down from Scotland he brought two tall sons to help him. They dressed in a queer style, with tight breeches buttoned below the knees and thick long stockings; the same fashion of a century before, favoured by Robbie Burns the poet, also a farmer in Scotland.

* An engraving, dated 1827, of Fetcham Church in the possession of the Editor gives Census figures as follows: 1811, 271 persons; 1821, 377. In 1924 the population is believed to have been about 500; 1933 about 1,600; 1948 from 5,000-6,000.



The old Bell Inn, Bell Lane, Fetcham, about 1932.
Photograph, Mr. Lionel Jackson.



The old Rising Sun Inn, Guildford Road, Fetcham, about 1905.



Meet of the Surrey Union Foxhounds at rear of Bell Inn, Fetcham, about 1905.



Surrey Hounds in Bell Lane, Fetcham, 1905 (Huntsman, Mr. Laurence).

Photographs (except top left), Mr. Frank E. Webb.

We laughed at the sight of these men who looked like overgrown schoolboys. Farmer Lang, like all Scotsmen, was an energetic, progressive man. He was one of the first in these parts to use a sort of tractor. Two steam engines stood at opposite sides of a field and these propelled a special plough attached to an endless chain, or band, backwards and forwards between them. The engines shifted gradually until the land was all ploughed over.

The Water Mill was in good working order in those days, but the Mill House was always used as a private residence for middle class people. At that time the mill pond extended as far as the cottages on the Cobham Road. The weed problem was always acute, but these were cut and stacked annually. One of our great thrills as schoolboys, was to ride with the workman in his punt at weed-cutting time. The deep springs, bluish and bubbling, were always something of wonder, while the swans, wild duck and water fowl and the swift wily pike in the water were there in great numbers. Sometimes the Mill House tenant would boat with friends on the pond. Sometimes, even, he would erect a sail in his boat ; hardly credible to-day.

The Splash, at the bottom of River Lane, where the boys now go to fish, was formerly a real splashing waterfall of some beauty. To-day the water rushes through ruined and rotting sluice-gates on the main stream and no longer tumbles merrily over the curved wall. It is perhaps owing to improvements in the Thames Valley Area for the abatement of flood water that the Mole does not overflow so widely as in former times. During my boyhood days we looked forward to the winter rains to give us a glorious sight of the floods across the fields. I have seen the riverside land at Thorncroft, including the present Leatherhead Football Field and cricket field, the Lammas meadows and along by the Splash, all under flood water. One day we schoolboys from Leatherhead found all roads to Fetcham impassable —at Thorncroft, Guildford Road (where the water came up to the railway bridge), and at Fetcham River Lane. So we had a splendid excuse for playing truant from Fetcham School till the water subsided. There was, indeed, the railway embankment which would give us a dry causeway, but, that time, we were good boys ; we dared not trespass on the line !

It may interest you to know about some of the people of note who lived in and dominated the village sixty years ago.

First, came Squire Hankey, with his elegant wife and sons and daughters. He was a sparely built old English gentleman who had married twice. His sons by the first wife were young officers in the regular army and seldom at home. Their own sister remained at home until she married the village curate, her uncle (by courtesy), for he was brother to her step-mother.

I knew the two children of the second Mrs. Hankey ; a girl of my own age and her younger brother. When the boy came home on vacation from school he was happy to play in the park with us ordinary lads of the village. There was no snobbish side about him. When I was confirmed in Bookham Church it was my luck to walk up the aisle to the Bishop by the side of young Miss Hankey, lovely in her white Confirmation dress and veil. A few years later she married a son of Sir Jeremiah Colman then of Nork Park, Epsom. This marriage, however, was annulled in court.

Squire Hankey kept a great staff of servants in his house ; as did all the other country gentry in those days of low taxation and great prosperity, at least for the wealthier classes.

Sir Edward Graham Moon, Bart., the rector, and his lady, were prominent and dignified villagers, typical of the worthy upper classes who influenced so powerfully life in Victorian days. They had several sons, and one daughter who became the Squire's second spouse. Colonel Graham Moon, of the militia, was the eldest son and succeeded to the title. His recreations were chiefly hunting, shooting and horse-racing. He died unmarried. Another son, Mr. Wilfred, was in the army. His severe experiences in the Chitral Indian Border Campaigns led to ill-health and a shortened life.

The present holder of the title, Sir Arthur Graham Moon, is I believe, a descendant of Mr. Wilfred. Mr. Cecil Moon, the youngest son, was our curate for a time. He was good-looking (like all the Moons), jolly, popular with everybody, a generous, kindly gentleman, interested in the affairs of the village, the school and life in general. He seldom wore the clerical garb and rode often to the hounds —in fact, a typical sporting parson. When he fell in love with the Squire's elder daughter all the village knew about it. Frank, straightforward Mr. Cecil took his sweetheart for walks everywhere about the village lanes, showing his regard for her unabashed, like any village swain. Rumours said that the Squire disapproved of the match. Suddenly, they were seen no more together and there was only a sad Mr. Cecil. Then he left Fetcham to take a living, somewhere far away. He married his girl, at last, and they lived happily thereafter.

The Graham Moons got their title and money from a Mr. Moon who was a well known picture dealer, engraver and print seller in George the Fourth's time. He became Lord Mayor of London in the 1850's when he was made a baronet. There is an engraving of his portrait to be seen at the Victoria

and Albert Museum, showing him in the glory of fine uniform and decorations. Perhaps when you happen to stay in an old-fashioned boarding house, or enter an ancient country inn, you may notice a faded engraving on the wall. Likely enough it may bear the name of " Moon, Engraver & Publisher " printed in the corner.

Another eminent villager was Admiral Sir George Richards, hero in his midshipman days of one of those Arctic expeditions of long ago, of the sort we boys loved to read about in books by Marryat and Ballantyne. A son of Sir George was an officer on board the *Victoria* battleship when it was sunk by the *Camperdown* during the 'nineties. He was a lucky survivor from that disaster. Many of you may be hazy about this event, but it was one of the great sensations of those days. The tombs of the aforesaid notables of Fetcham can be seen in the churchyard.

Every winter the gay hunting folk of Surrey, in their red or blue coats and habits, were a common sight about Fetcham and Leatherhead. Sometimes a " meet " would take place at the Bell Inn or the Rising Sun, where a brave, gay crowd of ladies and gents, the huntsmen and the noisy hounds would assemble. During the season a grand hunt ball would be held either at the Swan Hotel or at the Victoria Hall (now the Repertory Theatre), Leatherhead.

Shooting rabbits and hares was another big winter-time sport, often taking place in the park. Village men and boys would act as beaters to the guns. On such occasions the school would have a welcome day's holiday. Another sport of the Surrey gentry was polo, and Fetcham Park Polo ground was a noted one. This fine ground with its small stands and tethering boxes was situated on Hawk's Hill extending from the Ridgeway to the coppice above the Chalk Pit. We schoolboys were constant spectators and also the happy recipients of broken and discarded polo mallets. Winter-time in our village was never a dull time.

It is probably a trick of the imagination, or the child mind magnifying all the happenings of its youth, but it seemed to us that winters were all hard and cold and summers were all hot. It seemed that skating, sliding and snowballing were to be enjoyed every year. Records, at any rate, show that there was one long hard season in the winter of 1894-95 comparable to that of 1947. When the thaw came in '95 I saw great blocks of ice, as thick as the pond was deep, removed from Bradmere pond at the foot of Bull Hill, Leatherhead. (Bradmere was an ancient horse pond which was filled in about forty-five years ago).

(To be continued in our next Issue—Ed.)



The Great Barn of the Home Farm, Fetcham (Mr. Lang) in 1932, before its reconstruction as Fetcham Village Hall. A main beam in the Hall has the date 1856 carved on it.

From a drawing by Mr. Alfred Meredith.

OCCASIONAL NOTES

MR. DALTON'S eloquent appeal in the last number of the "Proceedings" for the completion of the transcription of the Little Bookham Parish Registers has not gone unanswered. Mr. H. Everard has kindly completed the task and the MS. is now with the Committee for Micro-Filming Parish Registers for copying and indexing. As Mr. G. H. Smith reports elsewhere, the Leatherhead Registers have also been completed, and they are with the Committee for the same purpose.

Members of the Society explored and reported on the "caves" in the chalk-pit by the Eastwick Road end of Keswick Road, Bookham. Access is difficult and only possible through the "roof." The so-called cave is clearly only a dene-hole from which chalk was dug for marling the surrounding fields.

The Society was glad to be able to furnish, on requests made twice during 1948, information to the Leatherhead Urban District Council as to the old history of certain lanes, to enable the Council to consider the question of renaming them. Among other requests for historical information was one from a local sports club which desired to choose appropriate club colours.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, PRINTS, CUTTINGS AND NOTES WANTED

No excuse is necessary for repeating the appeals previously made by various means for all old photographs, or other illustrations (views, buildings, personages or activities) relating to the district; for references thereto from uncommon sources; for any pertinent literature (deeds, souvenir programmes, sales lists, etc.). It will be appreciated that matters of little apparent current interest may prove of value to later historians; while a brief and passing reference in some unconnected publication to the district or some person or place therein, may prove the clue to important facts.

A scheme of exchange between the Society and the County Record Office of photographs of antiquities in the Leatherhead district has been inaugurated.

It is good to learn that Sweech Farm (2, 4 and 6 Gravel Hill) has been acquired by our "compatriot," the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society. This building is of 16th, if not 15th century date. Its acquisition and preservation by the C.P.S. is a matter of congratulation for all who appreciate the extant evidence of the rich reality of the past in this lovely part of Surrey.

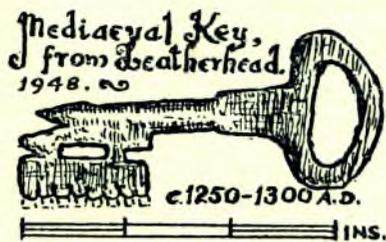
The following is an extract from the Minute Book of Leatherhead Parish Vestry:

"23rd June, 1760. At a Vestry held this day at the Swan by adjournmt . . . Ordered at this Vestry that if any person or persons not belonging to the parishes of Leatherhead and Fetcham are desirous to go over Leatherhead Bridge may have that Liberty on paying 10s. 6d. a year (and finding their own keys) towards the Repair of the said Bridge and if they belong to either of the said parishes to pay 5s. (and find their own keys) towards the Repair of the same and this Order to stand provided the parish of Fetcham agree to the same provided they lock the said Bridge secure after their passing over the same."

The original brick bridge of fourteen arches (widened in 1824) was not built until 1782, but there had been a bridge here for many centuries. A mortgage of 1286-9 refers to a capital message at the bridge in the town of Leddrede, and in 1357 a licence was granted by Edward III to collect money for its repair. Vol. VI of the "Surrey Quarter Sessions Records, etc., 1659-1661," presented by the Records and Ancient Monuments Committee, contains an entry for 1661 to the effect that the bridge is so out of repair that His Majesty's lieges cannot pass by without great peril to their lives.

In the same volume is an account of a lamentable fire at Leatherhead in 1659, which apparently did much damage, burning to the ground several dwelling houses and their contents, with divers barns, stables and shops, and rendering many of the town's inhabitants destitute. The damage was estimated at £592 19s. 2d.

The association of Eustace de Haache (or Hacche, modern form Hatch) with the Manor of Pachesham referred to in various pages of these "Proceedings" make his record of considerable interest to the Society. Mr. A. T. Ruby, the Hon. Secretary, undertook research in the matter and has unearthed over 200 references to de Haache in the surviving documents. These will be the subject of a lecture in the 1949 season.



(Found, in his garden, by Mr. F. B.
Benger, and given to this Society)