

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Chairman

S E D Fortescue
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The Mount
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Tel: Leatherhead 72847

Hon. Secretary

Miss J Fuller
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NEWSLETTER 3/80 - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1980

A note from the Chairman -

"Members will be sorry to learn that Rosemary Vracas has had to resign as Hon. Secretary as her husband is now in Nigeria and Rosemary will be spending most of her time in Nigeria with him. On behalf of the members, I thank her for all her enthusiasm and hard work as our Secretary.

Fortunately Miss Joyce Fuller, who has been Assistant Secretary for some time, was willing to fill this office, so the Committee duly appointed her. All correspondence should therefore be addressed to her, and I know that all secretarial matters will be dealt with in the efficient manner to which the Society has become accustomed.

S E D Fortescue"

Dear Member,

I am very honoured that the Committee has appointed me Secretary and I will do my best to cope. However, as this is the first Newsletter for which I have been responsible, I hope you will forgive me if it is not as good as usual - I am still trying to find my way around the affairs of the Society.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome eight new members:

Mrs J Gardiner - Ashtead	Mr & Mrs D Shillingford - Leatherhead
Mr Paul Hemsworth - Leatherhead	Miss M E Smith - Ashtead
Miss M I Mayell - Nottingham	Mrs I Thomas - Fetcham
Mr J Rook - Great Bookham	

We sincerely hope they will enjoy being with us and taking part in the Society's activities.

You may be interested to know that we now have over 350 members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

As we said in the last Newsletter, the subscription for 1981, due on 1 January, has been raised to £3. Please, Please, PLEASE would those members who pay by Banker's Order ask their banks well in advance to increase the amount to £3. (We still have 19 members whose Banker's Orders have remained at £1-25.)

May we also thank those members who, with their 1980 subscription, sent a donation to either the Museum or the Society. We are most grateful to them.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Mr E Barnwell, the Programme Secretary, gives these notes on the future programme. All meetings will be at 8pm at the Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead, unless otherwise stated. PLEASE NOTE THE ADDITIONAL MEETING IN DECEMBER.

Friday, 5 December 1980. The Leatherhead Miscellany - with coffee and mince pies. We would still like to hear from members who can give short talks, etc., on anything connected with local history.

Monday, 15 December - A talk entitled "Bookham Between the Wars" to be given by the Rev. J Burton.

Mr. Burton lived in Bookham, adjoining the present Rectory, until ordained just before the war. He now resides in Co. Cork, Eire. His visit to the district is only a short one and he does not arrive until after the miscellany, hence the extra meeting. Please therefore make a special effort to attend. 8pm Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead. Monday 15 December.

Friday, 16 January 1981 - It is some time since we had a Natural History Lecture and so we are pleased to welcome Mrs Jean Combes, a well-known W E A Lecturer who will give us an illustrated talk - "Local Wildlife - A Look at Plants, Birds and Butterflies".

Friday, 20 February 1981 - An illustrated lecture on STEYNE STREET by Mr W E Larkin of Little Bookham.

Friday, 13 March 1981 - The Annual General Meeting in the Council Chamber, Leatherhead. The usual formal notification will be included in our next Newsletter.

Friday, 27 March 1981 - An illustrated talk on the RIVER MOLE by Mr L W D Lloyd of Esher.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Dallaway Lecture. - We are delighted to announce that Viscountess Hanworth has consented to present our 1981 Dallaway Lecture, and her subject will be connected with Roman Surrey - more of this later.

Excursions

We have several excursions in mind including:

- A guided tour of the National Trust Claremont Gardens
- A visit to Farnham, Odiham and the Basingstoke Canal
- A whole day visit to Colchester under the guidance of Derek Renn
- A walk round Effingham in October

And we are hoping that the Brooklands Society will present their feature on the Brooklands Motor Racing Circuit.

The Programme Committee is working on these and full details will appear in our next Newsletter. Meanwhile if anyone has other ideas or criticisms, now is their chance to speak. Telephone Mr Barnwell on Bookham 54947.

SOME PAST EVENTS

Tour of Little Bookham - 26 July

This was a very successful afternoon tour with many interesting things to see. It was made even more memorable by the simply enormous tea that was so kindly provided for us at the Old Parsonage.

Local History Symposium - 27 September

The subject this year was "Sport in Surrey". The Symposium was perhaps a little thinly attended, but we had the satisfaction of knowing that we had one of the best-presented stands there. Our thanks are due to David Bruce for organising the stand, and to Mr. Wildgoose for acting as "Artistic Director".

Dallaway Lecture - 10 October

The Dallaway Lecture was given by Mr Robin McDowall, CBE, MA, FSA at the City of London Freeman's School, the subject being "Our Churches 150 Years Ago, as seen by the Hassells".

The meeting was one of the largest we have ever had, thanks mainly to the Publicity organised by Mr A Alderton, our Publicity Secretary. He had distributed 100 posters for display in order to ensure a good audience for our speaker, and his efforts were certainly well rewarded.

It was a pity that Mr. McDowall's voice could not always be easily heard. Mr Kemp, the Headmaster of the School, has very kindly offered to arrange for a public address system to be available for the next meeting - this will certainly be a great help.

"Ashtead Potters" - Supper Party and Illustrated Talk - 30 October

What a delightful evening this was. Mrs Elmer and her "catering" helpers had prepared a delicious supper for the 200 members who filled the Peace Memorial Hall at Ashtead, before an illustrated talk on the Ashtead Potters, given by Mrs Joy Hallam. We were very pleased to have with us several guests, including three of the original Potters. There was an attractive display of their handiwork on show in the hall, and among the slides which Mrs Hallam showed were many pictures of other examples of their work, making one regret very much the demise of Ashtead Potters Limited.

The Museum funds benefitted substantially from the evening. In all £345 was raised, £111 of which came from the raffle for prizes kindly donated by members.

Our thanks indeed to Mrs Elmer, Mr L A Smith, Mrs Mears and many other helpers who contributed so much to the social and financial success of the evening.

LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

The high point of the year was the Official Opening of Hampton Cottage on 4 October 1980 by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, assisted by the Chairman of the Mole Valley District Council, Mr Ben Tatham. It is unfortunate that lack of space prevented all members and donors being invited, but with invitations restricted to "Patrons" (those who have given cash or services worth £50 or more) the garden was packed for the speeches, and tours of the building afterwards had to be limited to fairly small groups to avoid overloading the upper floor! Luckily the weather was fine, and a most pleasant ceremony took place.

Since the last Newsletter, the carpeting has been completed, the many electric lights to illuminate the display panels have been installed (the low ceilings downstairs posed many problems) and the York stone was put down temporarily in time for the Opening. Luckily, Mr Wicks, a landscape gardener of Bookham, has offered to re-lay the stone in a more permanent fashion, and this will be done as soon as the surround to the Well has been consolidated (John Wall is in charge of this). In this connection, and for other jobs in the garden, several hundred second-hand bricks will be required, so if you have a pile of unwanted bricks cluttering up an odd corner of your garden, perhaps you would drop a note in the Museum. Additional pieces of York stone are also required.

Public interest in the Museum and Hampton Cottage is growing, and the Saturday stewards are kept quite busy, but it has been found that Tuesdays are very quiet. It is being considered whether the mid-week opening should not be changed to Thursdays in 1981 - Mr Parry will advise the Stewards as necessary. In any case, as next year, the building will be closed to the public from just before Christmas until the end of March, but a minimum amount of heating will need to be maintained throughout the winter to combat damp. However, should any member particularly wish to be shown over the building during that period, they should phone Bookham 58722 to make arrangements.

From April onwards, it is planned to stage a series of exhibitions on specific local themes, each running for two or three months, interspersed with exhibitions staged by outside local organisations who will be invited to take over the whole or part of the display areas to show their own material for a few days - such bodies as those concerned with Natural History, local artists, model-making etc. come to mind; other suggestions would be welcomed. Anyone willing to participate in the preparation of our own exhibits should advise David Bruce, 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham - Bookham 58722. No special knowledge is required, just enthusiasm - you'll soon learn!

FRIENDS OF THE LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

To help with the cost of heating, lighting and maintaining Hampton Cottage, the "Friends" have been formed and now has nearly 50 members. It is estimated that allowance must be made for an annual outgo of up to £500, so many more members are required - why not complete the enclosed form. The splendid effort of the "Friends" in Ashtead in raising nearly £350 recently, was reported above.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

We have been advised by a member, Mr G Gollin, The White House, 24 Ottways Lane, Ashted - Ashted 72206 - that he is currently researching the following subjects:

1. The Beckford family of Ashted
2. John Hackblock and his Copthorne estate
3. The ancestors of John Smith, MP of Ashted House
4. William Chippendall, solicitor of London, Lancashire and Leatherhead
(He with his son bought in 1832 from Mrs Lucy Browne the Manor of Little Ashted)
5. White of Dorking collection of Ashted Tithes
6. With Mr Lever - Ashted Manor Records
7. The so-called "Cottages" of Ashted

He would welcome hearing from anyone who has any information bearing on these subjects.

Other researchers might also like to advise the Records Secretary of the projects they are undertaking or have in prospect.

PUBLICATIONS

(a) Leatherhead History

The Committee working on the Leatherhead History have set themselves the task of producing the first draft of the History by 27 October 1981. A lot of original research has been undertaken, and a particularly interesting facet has been the recording by Mrs Edwina Vardey and her daughter, of the reminiscences of elderly inhabitants of the district.

(b) 1979 Proceedings, Volume 4, No.4

This will be ready for distribution in the early Spring.

We should be very glad to receive old issues of Proceedings. If you have any that you can spare, would you please get in touch with Mr J R Gilbert, 34 Green-acres, Great Bookham - Bookham 54956.

(c) Reprint of Ashted History

A reminder that a Second Impression dated 1979 of the Ashted History is now available, which includes certain amendments and additions to the first edition. The book is on sale at the Museum and at the Society's evening meetings, at the reduced price for members of £3.

PAINS HILL PARK, COBHAM

Members will be pleased to learn that Elmsbridge Council have purchased Pains Hill Park with the intention of restoring it to its eighteenth century glory. Many will remember the interesting talk given to the Society on 20 January 1978 by Mr N Kitz, who was leading the drive to have the Park restored, but it must be admitted that to us his chances of success at that time seemed very slim. He and his "Friends" are to be congratulated on the happy outcome of their vision and effort, and it is to be hoped that our small donation in 1978 helped their cause.

PARISH MAGAZINES

The Library Committee of the Surrey Archaeological Society is anxious to compile a handlist, or location guide, to all known collections of Parish Magazines in the county. It is felt that such magazines are very important sources of local material, which, due to their ephemeral nature, tend to be neglected. Whilst only a token collection of magazines can be maintained in the SAS Library at Guildford, a location guide would be an invaluable aid to local history research workers. Alan Gillies (Sunnymead, Epsom Road, Ashted KT21 1LD) has agreed to co-ordinate the initial collection of material for such a guide, and would be grateful to receive full details of any collections of Parish Magazines known to LDLS members.

As this is the last Newsletter in 1980, may we wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely, Joyce Fuller

FRIENDS OF THE LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

Hampton Cottage
64 Church Street
Leatherhead

Hampton Cottage, an early 17th Century timber framed building, has been restored by the Leatherhead Museum and Heritage Centre Trust and the Leatherhead and District Local History Society, out of public subscriptions and will be run by them as a Museum of Local History, providing facilities for both display and research projects.

Many people in sympathy with this concept have already donated generously to the Trust Fund, but no doubt they and others would like to maintain a more permanent link with this undertaking, and to this end the FRIENDS OF THE LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM has been formed.

The objects of "The Friends" will be:—

- To help in the upkeep of the museum
- To assist the museum committee to stage displays of local history
- To help publicise the museum
- To encourage research into local history
- To issue a newsletter relative to the museum's activities
- To foster interest in museums and display techniques

..... detach here

I would like to become a 'Friend of the Leatherhead Museum', and I enclose my first annual membership fee of £1.00 which will go towards the running of Hampton Cottage as a Museum of Local History.

Name

Address

.....

Telephone No. Date

Please leave in Museum, or send to D. BRUCE, 7 FOX LANE, LITTLE BOOKHAM. Tel. No. Bookham 58722