

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**PROCEEDINGS**  
OF THE  
**LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT**  
**LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**



VOL. 1                      No. 3

1949

# LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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## Third Annual General Meeting

*Held at the Council Offices, Leatherhead, on 16th November, 1949*

**T**HE Report of the Executive Committee for 1948-49 is summarised in Secretarial Notes. The Accounts to 30th September, 1949, were duly adopted as presented. The Officers were re-elected with the exception of Mr. W. G. Gilbert, Programme Secretary, who did not wish to stand again. As no nominations or volunteers were then forthcoming the post was left vacant. (Later Mr. C. T. Fisher kindly came forward to fill the breach, the continued existence of which would have seriously affected the maintenance of a regular programme of fixtures which forms so popular a feature of the Society's activities).

At the close of formal business an animated and most useful general discussion took place on a variety of topics. All the suggestions made were noted for consideration with a view to putting them into effect if and when possible.

The Meeting also passed a resolution that a strong protest should be made against the projected demolition of the Old Toll-house, Effingham. This has been done and the protest has been endorsed by the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society, the Historical Association (Mid-Surrey Branch) and the Surrey Archaeological Society.

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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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**Vol. 1, No. 3**  
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**OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR**

*1949-50*

*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. C. T. FISHER  
(“ Silver Birches,” Leatherhead Road, Great Bookham. Tel.: Bookham 2232).

*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, O.B.E., F.R.S.A.

## SECRETARIAL NOTES

IT is with much pleasure that I can say that there are obvious indications that local (and wider) recognition of the Society and interest in its work maintain a marked and steady progress. Such interest, while most gratifying, demands a constant effort to improve the Society's ability to respond to the ever-increasing demands made upon it and its members.

The initial steps have been taken in an endeavour to arrange a cinematic record of the district to preserve, as far as possible, for future generations the story of its many features of historic interest and natural beauties.

New members during the year numbered 46, a net increase of 27 after deducting deaths and resignations. The total of all members at 6th October, 1949, was 152.

### *Lectures and Visits*

The following fixtures were arranged during the year, 1st November, 1948-31st October, 1949.

- 1948
- Nov. 17 (At the Annual Meeting). Talks by Mr. A. T. Ruby on the Society's work "Behind the Scenes," and by Mr. John Harvey, F.S.A., on "The Local Histories Scheme of the Surrey Archaeological Society."
- Dec. 11 Tea at the New Bull Hotel, followed by an address by Capt. Lowther, F.S.A., on the "Excavations at The Mounts, 1948," and an exhibition of the finds during that season.
- 1949
- Jan. 12 A lantern lecture by Mr. John E. S. Dallas on "Some Wild Flowers of the Southern Counties"; with an exhibition of paintings of wild flowers of the district by Mrs. A. Steventon.
- Feb. 17 A reading by Mr. H. Moore of Mr. A. J. Ginger's "Reminiscences of Old Leatherhead."
- Mar. 16 A lantern lecture by Mr. C. W. Phillips, F.S.A., on "The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial."
- April 6 A lantern lecture by Mr. R. W. Hale on "Wonders of Bird Migration."
- May 21 Conducted visit to the chapel ruins at WESTHUMBLE (conductor, Captain Lowther).
- June 18 Conducted tour of and talk on FETCHAM PARISH CHURCH (Mr. J. G. W. Lewarne). Followed by tea at, and an inspection (by the courtesy of the proprietors) of, the interior of the "Old Rising Sun."
- July 16 Conducted tour of "HATCHLANDS," near Clandon Village (Mr. Goodhart-Rendel. P.P.R.I.B.A.).
- July 19 Conducted visit to the BOOKHAM CAVES (Mr. G. W. Ridyard).
- Aug. 20 A conducted tour (Captain Lowther) of the 1949 excavations at THE MOUNTS and the exposed foundations of the XIIIth Century manor house there.
- Sept. 24 A visit to SUTTON PLACE, near Guildford.
- Oct. 18 A Film Show of "the Beginnings of History" and "Houses in History." (By arrangement with the Central Office of Information).

The Groups have continued their work and details appear in later pages. The most spectacular of their activities were, perhaps, the successful uncovering of the foundations of the lost manor house of Pachenesham Magna, and the recovery of the life story of Eustace de Hacche.

The Society has been very fortunate in that Mrs. M. P. Topping, Ph.D., has consented to take over the Natural History Group. The first report, on later pages, will show how active the Group now is. I would like to repeat the appeal for some member to come forward and undertake the vacant office of Leader for the Photographic Group.

The library grows slowly, but greater use could be made of this service. Otherwise there is little object in expanding its contents.

The second number of the "Proceedings" has, it is felt, rivalled—and even exceeded—the interest and value of the first. A high standard has indeed been set for all subsequent numbers. Further copies of the first two numbers are still available for purchase by members and non-members.

Accessions continue to arrive in ever increasing numbers and interest. Thanks to help from our members, of whom I must specially mention Mrs. Butler, the indexing is as up-to-date as can be expected.

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. (Vacant.)*
- "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, Ph.D., Angroban, Fir Tree Road, Leatherhead.
- "F": *Arts, Crafts, Folklore, Dialect, etc.*

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

THE work on the Ashtead Court Rolls proceeds, and records have now been made up to 1499. Earlier work has been revised up to 1448, and with the advantage of additional expert assistance, a second and, it is hoped, final revision is proceeding rapidly. It is, therefore, confidently expected that the recording of the present series of photostats supplied by the Public Records Office for the period 1387 to 1546 will be finally completed during 1950.

The Lawrence Map of 1638 has, through the good offices of members of this Group, been deposited with the Surrey Archaeological Society on loan from the Parish Church Council, Ashtead, thereby making it more accessible to members of both societies.

During the year many of the findings of this section of the Group have been extracted in popular form and published in the form of articles in the journal of the Ashtead Residents' Association, "The Ashtead Resident."

Much work has already been done on the church Registers of Fetcham and a transcription of the church Registers of Great Bookham is also in hand.

Work continues on the military history of the district. An examination of the publications of the Selden Society and the Quarter Sessions reports has brought forth numerous local items of historical interest and value, while similar items continue to come in from a variety of sources. The Leatherhead Vestry Minute Books have been examined and much interesting matter extracted therefrom.

The largest piece of work completed during the year has been Mr. Ruby's research into the history of the de Hacche family in connection with the Pachenesham Manor excavations.

Much work has been put into the examination of the contents of the Slyfield Chest in Leatherhead Church, and is continuing. The Chest and its contents are to form the subject of a talk to members in early 1950.

G. H. S.

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

ACTIVITIES of Group "B" have been confined mainly during the past twelve months to recording and drafting the remainder of the excavations which have been so successfully concluded at The Mounts this year.

The whole of these interesting excavations has been carefully surveyed and drawings are now being prepared showing the extent of all the evidence obtained, together with sketches indicating the conjectured restoration of the buildings. These drawings will be available for inspection when Captain Lowther makes his keenly awaited report on the result of the Society's work.

In addition, a preliminary survey has been made of the large earthwork adjacent to the Roman Villa at Ashtead with a view to making a careful survey prior to excavations in the near future.

With regard to the architectural recording of historical buildings in the Leatherhead district, lists have been obtained covering the whole area and it is hoped to commence this undertaking in 1950.

Any information which may be in the possession or knowledge of members in respect of buildings in the area will be welcomed.

R. F. E.

### REPORT OF GROUP "C" : Photography and Cartography

IN the absence of a Group Leader no actual programme has been undertaken, and there has been little call by other Groups for its activities. One of the members of Group "C" has, however, had the pleasure of making for the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society a full photographic record of Sweech Farm, recently acquired by that Society (*see Occasional Notes in No. 2 of the Proceedings*).



**REPORT OF GROUP "D" : Archaeology**  
**Third Interim Report (1949) on the Excavations at "The Mounts,"**  
**Pachesham (Manor of Pachesham Magna)**

By A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A.

**T**HE excavations at this site were, once again, the main activity of the year of this Group and work was carried on throughout the whole of July and August and, thanks to the exceptionally fine summer, with only a few hours' loss of work due to rain.

As before the work was done in conjunction with the Surrey Archaeological Society who made a further grant towards the expenses of the undertaking. Also, as in previous years, the actual digging was performed by members of both societies and by voluntary helpers from other parts of the country who kindly came and assisted for part of their holidays.

Mr. F. G. Carruthers, F.S.A., again assisted the writer for the whole period of the work as did Miss Smith and Mr. Boxall, and our thanks are extended to them and to all others, too numerous to mention individually, whose kind assistance made the work possible.

Work was confined to the whole of the area inside the Moat remaining unexplored at the end of the previous season and was extended eastwards from this point, the structural remains found in 1948 being uncovered once again. A series of trenches, stretching across the site from north to south and parallel with trench "E" of 1949, was dug successively eastwards and subsidiary trenches were dug between and opening out from them as the work proceeded and the various structural remains came to light.

As the plan on the Plate, facing p. 9 shows, the greater part of the site was occupied by the Hall and by the paved courtyard on its N. (entrance) side. The Hall measured 60 ft. in length x 25 ft. at the west end and 30 ft. at the east. The foundations for the outer walls consisted of a rubble-filled trench, 2 ft. to 2 ft. 6 in. in depth and of the same, varying, width at the top, clearly designed to take a timber building once carried on a sleeper-beam resting on this foundation and into which the main upright timbers were mortised. This foundation consisted not only of flints, but contained many pieces of broken blocks of dressed sandstone from the destruction of the earlier buildings.

Trenches dug at the back (south side) of the Hall disclosed a flint and gravel paved terrace extending to the (now much denuded) edge of the site. This terrace now drops away steeply and much of the foundation of the south wall of the Hall has disappeared, though sufficient remained, especially at either end, to determine its position. The terrace, as sections dug through it showed, had originally been levelled up by the depositing of layers of clay and debris on the southern lip of the natural hill, apparently at the time when the moat was dug. The gradual outwards collapse of this material, which must originally have been held in place by some revetment, accounts for the present steep slope of the terrace.

On the surface of this rear terrace were found a number of pieces of a particularly fine ornamental glazed and coloured jug, dating about 1280-1290 A.D., and just about a dozen very large oysters, quite the largest found at this site, and especially remarkable since the oysters of the de Hacche and Darcy period (*circa* 1286-1350) from everywhere else on the site have been remarkable for their small size and poor quality.

The paved court in front of the Hall on its north side had almost in its centre a post-hole of exceptional depth (3 ft. 9 in. from present surface, and about 3 ft. 3 in. from the original surface of the courtyard which had at this point been destroyed). A timber measuring 7 in. x 4 in. had been in this hole and, judging by the depth, it must have been carried up for a considerable height above ground. The most likely explanation for it is that it was for a flagstaff, in which case probably the part above ground was of a round section and tapered towards the top. It stands just clear of the line of the route between the entrance gateway (of which traces of the foundations were found) and the main entrance doorway to the Hall, the position of which was marked both by a deposit

of chalk (apparently to take a step, or steps) and by the end of a gully which ran at the foot of the outer wall, to carry away rainwater drainage from the roof.

A post-hole just to the east of the entrance to the Hall, and about a foot away from its front wall, had held a 10 inch x 12 inch post. It seems probable that it was for some such purpose as that of tethering horses, though there may well be other explanations for its presence there.

The only other features outside the Hall of which remains were found were :—

(a) the S.E. corner and part of the south and east foundations of a small building, which, from its east-west direction, is conjectured to have been the Chapel. A small gully for drainage existed on its south side and contained a large quantity of roof tiles, some pottery, and (at its western end and where a door may be presumed) the remains of an iron nail with a large, ornamental head of the type used in connection with medieval doors ;

(b) a row of post-holes at the western edge of the courtyard in the area where the stable buildings (which are known to have existed) may be presumed to have stood ;

(c) a rectangular pit (only partially excavated, since one of our largest soil-dumps covered its westward extension) in the rear of the Hall. (This from the nature of the filling is presumed to have been connected with a latrine) ;

(d) The well at the S.W. corner of the site which is described later in this report.

The Hall as originally built had, as already stated, consisted of a timber, barn-like structure on a rubble foundation. Inside, and clearly to reduce the span of the roof, there had been a number of square and round posts, serving as pillars of which (since the whole of the area within the Hall was not excavated) only a few were found. A screen built of roof tiles set (with wide joints) in mortar and probably originally plastered on both sides had divided up the Hall, forming a five foot wide passage along its southern side. In the eastern half it turned to the north, separating what can be taken to be the "dais," or "Lord's" end of the Hall from the remainder, while it also formed a three foot passage (possibly ending in a flight of steps) on the south side.

Two circular open-hearths were found close to the north wall and on either side of the entrance doorway. One of these hearths (that in the dais compartment) was in good preservation, although cut across by a later foundation ; the other, the western one, had been mainly destroyed by the later walls.

These hearths, circular and of 6 ft. 6 in. diameter, were formed of large flints, set in rings and bedded in clay and originally with a covering of clay, of which a part remained. A considerable amount of pottery of types in use late in the XIIIth century was found embedded in the hearth and had been fused and blistered by extreme heat. The clay had been fired to a bright red colour while the flints were calcined or "fire-crackled" and of a grey colour and in a condition such as is produced when flints are heated and while still hot soused with cold water (actual experiment has proved to be the case). Clearly we have here direct evidence of the dowsing of fires with buckets of water such as we know to have taken place each night at curfew time.

Round the edge of the eastern hearth remained some of the floor, formed of a thick layer of mixed chalk and clay. Clearly if there was a raised timber dais in this area it was confined to the extreme eastern and southern part of this compartment and was not more than ten feet in width.

Beside the remains of the western hearth was found a broken "prick-spur" of iron, of similar form to that figured on the brass of Sir John Dabernon the younger in Stoke D'Abernon Church.

The closeness of these hearths to the inner face of the north wall makes it certain that they were provided with large "smoke-hoods," and with flues attached to this wall and of the type shown in some early illuminated manuscripts (e.g., *Bodleian Misc.* 264. This shows one dated *circa* 1338-44). That, at such an early date (1291 A.D.) Sir Eustace de Hacche should have employed fireplaces of this type (instead of the central open hearth which was more usual at this period) suggests that he was only making use of what was

already established in France, and which, no doubt, he had encountered during his service in the Gascon wars.

Returning again to the screens already described it should be mentioned that from their construction it seems likely that they were only 7 or 8 feet in height. That to the main or western part of the Hall must have had at least two door-way openings in it. Clearly also there were subsidiary doors in the two end main walls of which no evidence remained.

As to the external appearance of the Hall, a certain amount can be deduced from the finds. It clearly had a steeply pitched tile-covered roof running the length of the building with brown glazed ridge tiles along the apex and with similarly glazed plain tiles for the courses immediately below this ridge. At either end of the ridge were green glazed ridge tiles or finials, surmounted by equestrian figures (knights on horseback) of which several fragments were found during the excavations both in 1948 and 1949.

Presumably also the door and window openings were formed with "pointed" arches, but as they were probably of timber no traces of these were found. Some stone-work from the structures demolished by de Hacche had clearly been re-used and a large block found amongst the debris had one surface fire-blackened as though it had been employed for the wall adjoining one or other of the hearths.

At a date shortly after Robert Darcy obtained the manor, i.e., probably shortly after 1310 A.D., certain extensive alterations were carried out within the Hall. Walls, whose flint rubble foundations were found, had been inserted in such a way as to divide the Hall up into four compartments and the two hearths and the screening of de Hacche's period were then done away with. The largest of the new compartments, measuring 14 ft. x 35 ft., must have served as the new Hall, while the room at the east end was, presumably, for the Lord and his family. The two smaller compartments appear to have served as lobbies screening the entrance doorways and thereby improving what in the earlier period must have been a very draughty building. Whether at this period open hearths were employed or whether new hearths were constructed against the south wall, and, like the earlier ones, provided with hoods and flues, could not be established as none of the later floor-level remained undisturbed.

As to the reasons for these alterations it seems that these are in accord with what we know regarding the two men, de Hacche and Robert Darcy. The former a soldier and on such occasions as he was resident at his Pachesham manor probably attended by a number of men-at-arms (mounted troops clearly, from all the known facts) while the latter, a civilian, may be presumed to have had less need of the same accommodation and could devote some of it to improving the amenities of the building. At the same time it must be pointed out that by doing away with the wide side passage he retained an equivalent area for his hall, while at the same time he converted it into a room of more rectangular shape, measuring 14 ft. x 35 ft.

As mentioned last year, the inventory of the building which William de Wymeldon was accused of having destroyed late in the XIVth century included a dwelling with "two chambers" as distinct from the Hall. Of this building no trace was found during the excavations. It can, however, be presumed to have been situated at the eastern end of the Hall where, though there is at the present day very little space for it, this is due to the sides of the moat having been splayed back since medieval times and apparently through the action of the "drawing out" of tree-trunks felled on the site during the five and a half or six centuries that have elapsed since the buildings were destroyed.

The square, flint-masonry, pier and nearby depression filled with debris, found at the S.W. corner of the site towards the close of the work of 1948, were quite tentatively suggested to have some connection with a "well." It was therefore of some satisfaction when the next year's work proved this guess to have been correct. Not only was the upper part of the well (of 3 ft. 6 in. internal diameter, and lined with flints set in mortar) discovered and cleared to a depth of five feet, but a corresponding pier to that previously found was located and a part of the (partially collapsed) flint walling which had formed



the east side of a square well-head was discovered. It seems likely (and this suggestion is borne out by finds elsewhere) that the two large masonry piers served to support a horizontal beam, on the centre part of which was pivoted a large counter-balanced beam which served in the process of raising water much in the same manner as that of the "shaduf" of ancient and present-day Egypt. As to the depth of the well no information could be obtained as the open nature of the site precluded any deep digging being undertaken, quite apart from the fact that timbering would have been necessary for such a job. The filling that was removed consisted mainly of clay, and it had compacted to such an extent that it was extracted only with difficulty. It seems probable that the well was originally at least 30 or 40 feet in depth.

Some useful evidence as to the date of the well, which showed it to have been constructed about 1290 A.D., was found in the form of the pieces of a large cooking-pot (nearly half of the entire vessel) as well as the handle and side of a skillet, which were found at the back of the well-lining where they had been rammed in when the flint-lining (or steining) was in process of construction. Both vessels are of types which can be dated to about 1280-1290. The pot (of a type that is commonly labelled a "store-jar," but in this case the marks of the flames of fires on which it had been set cover the base and extend up the sides) is ornamented with applied strips of clay (or "ribbon" ornament), four of them being set vertically round the pot at intervals, one round the base of the neck, and another forming an "overlapping scale" pattern runs round the under edge of the base. It is of shell-gritted ware with a flat-topped rim and hollow neck, and was originally of a maximum diameter of about 18 inches.

The skillet is of hard buff-coloured ware with a tubular handle and with traces of a crude yellow glaze on the inside of the base. The outside is blackened by fire.

Other finds, exclusive of the pottery (the latter, found in considerable quantity in all parts of the site, will be described in detail in the full report) were not numerous but some are of particular interest. Of bronze are the foot of a large cauldron of cast bronze and a small fragment from the rim of a cup or chalice of turned bronze. Also, from below the paving of the south terrace, a bronze key and a piece of gilt bronze with traces of some ornamentation executed with a fine punch. Two spindle whorls, one of stone and the other of lead; several whetstones (of micaceous schist, quartzite, and a sandstone); a number of horseshoe nails and several pieces of horseshoes (none complete); a tanged arrow-head of iron are amongst the more interesting of the objects found. As in the two previous years no coins were found.

Briefly summarising the results of the excavations and the history of the site, it now appears that the earliest occupation at this site when the first buildings (those with stone and flint walls) were erected dates about 1200 A.D., and it is to this period that the rubbish pit found in 1948 belongs.

If not certain, it now seems probable that it was Brian de Therfield (who, as we know, obtained the manor from King John in 1203) who was responsible for the erection of these first buildings. Apart from the earliest of the pottery (that found in the bottom of the rubbish pit and elsewhere on the site, none of which need be earlier than 1200, though much of it is little different from the pottery in use at other sites during the XIIth century) and the building material (such as the fragments of dressed and carved sandstone), re-used in the later rebuilding, we have nothing very much belonging to this earliest occupation. This is perhaps not surprising when we consider how drastic were the changes made at the later date.

The early buildings must still have been habitable when, in 1286, Sir Eustace de Hacche obtained the manor from Peter de Wateville, and the fact that pottery in the upper part of the rubbish pit (but beneath the layer of building debris with which it was finally filled) can be dated 1280-1290, shows that these buildings were occupied right up to the date (1290-91) of their demolition and the erection of the new structures and the digging of the moat which enclosed them.

Of the later history, from about 1300 to Robert Darcy's death in 1342, there is little to add here, except to refer again to the alterations described above, which we now know that Darcy carried out to the Hall, and to mention that the pottery found during 1949 (which includes much glazed ware of the first half of the XIVth century) confirms the inference previously made, *viz.*, that all occupation at this site had ceased by about 1350 A.D.

A. W. G. L.

## THE STORY OF EUSTACE DE HACCHE

### Notes on the Life of the Re-Builder of the Pachenesham Manor House

By A. T. RUBY, M.B.E.

Following is an abridged account of the story told to members and visitors at the meeting at the New Bull Hotel on 10th December, 1949. The complete account will be published later.

**His Ancestry.** The parentage and date and place of Eustace's birth are the items of which the least is known. Of all the approximately 250 references to him none refer to his parents and only one to a brother (William). This William was later Sheriff of Louth and Constable of Drogheda Castle and was fined for allowing prisoners to escape while such Constable, the fine being later remitted on account of William's subsequent service in the Scottish wars. None of the existing biographical notices mention Eustace's descent except *The Complete Peerage, G.E.C.*, which suggests he may have come from Wiltshire. While his Wiltshire descent is probably correct, it is now reasonably established that he came, so far as his immediate family was concerned, from Ireland.

There is, however, a manor of Westhatch in the hundred of Dunsworth, Wiltshire, and in 1281 an Ellen of Westhacche transferred the manor to Eustace as a gift, on condition that she lived there for her life at the rent of a gillyflower and that Eustace paid her eight marks yearly. This gift suggests that she was some relation and that the Irish family including Eustace were a branch of the Wiltshire family. It must, however, be admitted that no dogmatic assertion as to Eustace's descent and ancestry can be made.

**His Life, 1275-1306.** Nothing is known of Eustace prior to 1275, but in view of early royal favours and the fact that this date is only one year after that of the return of Edward I from the Seventh Crusade, it is, perhaps, permissible to speculate whether Eustace had been with him on that adventure.

About 1276 (the exact date is unknown) Eustace married Avice, widow of Thos. Trimenell, and in her right held half of Morton Merhull, co. Warwick. This marriage was probably the foundation of his fortune.

Apart from his duties as an officer of the Royal Household Eustace was from time to time the recipient of royal grants of land and incidents, in addition to purchases of real estate which he made himself. The details (often quite intriguing) of these lands must await later publication. It may be sufficient to say that in 1297 he held lands in Berkshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Suffolk, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire and Wiltshire.

In April, 1279, he went overseas with the King. This was probably to Gascony, but he was back in August, when he was assigned as a Justice for the trial of a Jordan de Say for murder.

For the next fourteen months the only record of Eustace is his pardon by the King for taking deer unlawfully from Sherwood Forest and we then have the first record of his association with Wiltshire when—with Robert of Westhacche and others—he was excused jury service in that county.

There are minor references in 1281 and in October he obtained from Ellen of Westhacche the grant previously mentioned of the manor of Westhacche.

In March, 1282, Eustace was sent on a Commission of Oyer and Terminer to Oxford to try two cases there. The first was concerning the persons who assaulted John de Tidmarsh, Sheriff of Oxford and Bucks, and his servants as they were leading some con-

victed thieves to the gallows and tried the rescue them : the second concerning the trespasses of the burgesses and others of Oxford and the scholars of the University committed upon one another !

It was at this point that Llewelyn of Wales revolted against his overlord and Edward I hurried to put down the rebellion. Eustace accompanied the King, and his presence there is also testified by his witness of several documents making grants of Welsh lands in favour of Queen Eleanor.

In February, 1284, Eustace obtained the grant of the marriage of the heirs of John de Hardredeshull (Hartshill, co. Warwick). The heir was William, then aged 14-15, and he was promptly married off to Juliana, Eustace's daughter, then 6 or 7 years old at the most.

During the subsequent winter he was in residence at Hereford Castle. There is a royal Order to the Keeper of the Hay at Hereford to pass without question the delivery to Eustace of 20 oaks for work there for the King's Consort and of 10 oaks for fuel for the King's daughters, "then in Eustace's custody." He seems to have been there as an equerry to the Queen and the Princesses.

**Pachenesham.** The years 1286-89 can be taken as one period. During this time Edward I was absent from the Kingdom while endeavouring to make Gascony secure against the probable attacks of the new French king. Eustace did not go with him, possibly because he was detailed to look after the Princesses again. At any rate he seems to have had more time to attend to his personal affairs and most of his numerous personal transactions that are recorded occur within this period.

These years are of the most interest, however, because it was in them that Eustace came to Pachenesham Manor.

In September, 1286, Eustace bought the manor from Peter de Wateville for £100, rendering one clove gillyflower per annum and doing service to the overlord.

The reason for Eustace coming to Leatherhead is, of course, pure speculation, but it is not uninteresting to note that a certain Hugh de Kendal was rector of Leatherhead Church 1286-89. This Hugh was quite probably an official colleague of Eustace since, annexed to a grant in 1284 by Queen Eleanor, the King's mother, is a writ to Hugh de Kendal, clerk, to make out the necessary letters patent. They were acquaintances at least, since in 1288 Eustace pledged his lands in, inter alia, Surrey—the first mention of his connection with that county—to the said Hugh for 40 shillings. So perhaps it was the Rector who told Eustace of this residence replete with all medieval inconveniences !

Mr. John Harvey has reported (*see* Vol. 1, No. 2, of these *Proceedings*) the finding of a Return of *Quo Warranto* proceedings made by the hundred of Copthorne covering the period 1289-93 which includes a complaint that Eustace de Hacche, lord of the manor of Pachenesham, had made an enclosure of 18 acres of heath in the township of Leatherhead and had diverted (or stopped) the royal road to Oxshott, and another royal way leading to Kingston. In his interesting article Mr. Harvey identified the actual ground so enclosed. It seems a good example (of a minor type) of the offences which caused the King much concern on his return.

In November, 1290, Queen Eleanor, the King's Consort, died and there is little doubt, from his position in her household, that Eustace must have formed one of that melancholy cortège which brought her back for burial from Harby to Westminster.

The great event of the next year, 1291, was the birth of Eustace's first grandchild, John Hardredeshull, born at Pachenesham on St. Bartholomew's Day. His mother was then 13-14 years old and his father 21. Our knowledge of the details of the event is derived from witnesses at the Inquisition taken in 1312 as to John's proof of age. One of the witnesses was Ralph the Shepherd of Leatherhead, sixty years old in 1312, who related the delightful story that he had, some time before the boy's birth, bought from John de Cherburgh half a virgate of land in Leatherhead in the fee of Eustace, but, not having had the necessary licence from Eustace, he had been ejected from the land. When he heard of the boy's birth he decided to try to win Eustace's good graces by travelling to

London (presumably on foot), searching out his lord and giving him the glad tidings. Eustace was so overjoyed at the news that he not only gave Ralph twenty shillings but also restored the land to him.

John Hardredeshull was baptised at Leatherhead Church. Doubtless, if there was a chapel then at the manor house it was not large enough for such a grand occasion. The godfathers were John de Berewyk, the King's Justiciar (and, according to *G.E.C.*, previously Treasurer to Queen Eleanor—and probably, therefore, Eustace's "chief") and Sir John Dabernon (son of that elder Sir John whose brass, with that of his son, is an outstanding feature of Stoke D'Abernon Church). The godmother was Agnes, damsel of the chamber to Dame Constance Dabernon—possibly representing her mistress. It must have been a brilliant scene, the procession of mounted gentlemen in their gay clothes, perhaps hawk on fist; the ladies, also mounted or in horse litters; with a crowd of attendants—making their way along Randall's Road; straight across in what is now Station Road to Borough (now Bull) Hill; then through the twisty lane of North Street and along the grass-or-field-bordered Church Street to the church. This church, then called "St. Mary's" only, was of course very different to what it is now. There was no West Tower; just the nave with two fairly recently built aisles, each with a chapel at the east end, and a much shorter chancel. The gardens outside to the west were probably then just waste land on which, while the ceremony was going on, grooms walked the horses up and down and attendants kept back the gaping audience who were, we hope, to share in the feasting and jollity of the day.

According to the church records the Rector was then Henry de Durham, but he is not mentioned in the account of the witnesses, who said the ceremony was performed by Robert, chaplain to the Parish. One witness, John Payn, records that the clerk was also absent and that he (the witness) took his place. Mr. G. H. Smith has kindly informed me that the reason the Rector did not take the service was that, although appointed Rector, he was only a sub-deacon and not qualified to officiate!

From this time nothing is recorded of Eustace as regards his official activities until the middle of 1293. The bereaved King was immersed in the question of the Scottish succession and Eustace probably was still in the late Queen's household with, possibly, lightened duties. In the following November, 1292, he received a gift of twelve oaks from Gillingham forest "to make anew a hall."

**Pachenesham Re-built.** It is now well established from the excavations made at the site of Pachenesham manor that about this time the original manor buildings were pulled down and a new house, of timber, erected. At the same time the moat around the main buildings was excavated. There is also the fact, reported by Mr. Harvey in Vol. 1, No. 1, of these *Proceedings*, that in 1292-93 Eustace was charged with having seized the wagons and horses of strangers in the Kingston market for the purpose of carrying timber to his manor of Pachenesham. These facts make it almost certain that it was in the years 1292-93 that Eustace re-built the manor and that it incorporated the royal gift of timber. This would have travelled up the river to Kingston, its further transportation to Pachenesham then giving rise to the problem so drastically solved by Eustace or his servants. The rebuilding was probably completed in 1293 since at Michaelmas in that year Eustace transferred Westhacche manor to his brother William.

**A Rise in Fortune.** It is reasonable to suggest, in the light of subsequent events, that the re-building of the manor house and its "embellishment" by the moat were signs of a rise in the fortunes of Eustace, both materially and in official status. No longer was he the "menial servant" as described by Dugdale (*Baronage*), and a real gentleman's residence within easy reach of Westminster was probably thought now to be a necessity.

In February, 1294, Eustace went to Gascony with Eleanor, the King's daughter, on the occasion of her marriage to the Count of Bar, and in April was appointed one of the four Commissioners to value her dower and to see that it amounted to the yearly value of 15,000 pounds of Tours. (The daughter to this marriage, Joan de Barr, was married in 1305 to John the 8th, and last, Earl of Warren and Surrey). Later on, in

September or October, he went again in the train of Edmund, the King's brother, this time accompanied by his brother William and his son-in-law William Hardredeshull.

In October Eustace was appointed Governor of Portsmouth. How long he held this office is not known, but, by the following year, open war had broken out between England and France, and Eustace remained in Gascony in the King's service during all 1295, 1296, and part, if not all, of 1297. In February of that year he was excused the tax of one-twelfth imposed by the King, because of his prompt response to the call for service overseas (*Eustace qui cum primis transfretantibus transfretavit ad partes predictas [Vasconie] . . .*). By his service in Gascony he missed the activities arising out of Balliol's revolt. Whether, while abroad, he was an active warrior, or a "brass hat" at the base, is not known, but on a later occasion the King mentioned in specific terms "the good services rendered to him in Gascony by Eustace."

In 1298 Edward I made a truce with Philip of France and determined to put down the rising in Scotland under Wallace. Eustace returned to England and probably this was the occasion on which he brought back the beautiful polychrome jug whose fragments were found at "The Mounts," Leatherhead, during the excavations.

**The Scottish Wars.** Eustace marched north with the King and took part in the memorable battle of Falkirk on 22nd July, when the English longbows, followed up by cavalry charges, routed the Scottish forces. Eustace was among the members of the King's household who had his horse killed in the battle, an animal described in the P.R.O. *Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland* as "a bay charger with a white hind foot, value 100 marks." Under Eustace's orders on this expedition were the two knights, his son-in-law William Hardredeshull and also his stepson Nicholas Trimenell, with a large number of "valetti" or esquires, all named. His brother William had not remained in Gascony, nor did he go to Scotland on this occasion, since he had been acting as Sheriff of Louth (Uriel) and Constable of Drogheda Castle since June, 1296.

In September, 1298, Eustace received a summons *as a baron* for personal military service against the Scots. This was a great event for him; no longer was he a simple knight, he had now attained the dignity of a knight banneret.

By this time he had also been appointed as Constable of Marlborough Castle and several very interesting Orders show that he held that office for some years.

In September, 1299, he was again called for military service to muster at York on 12th November. On this occasion his brother William went with him, having ceased, prior to 13th October, to occupy his Sheriff's post in Ireland. Eustace seems to have remained on the Border until the New Year, since on 20th December he gave a receipt to the Keeper of the King's stores at Berwick-on-Tweed for a cask of wine. Evidently for the Christmas celebrations!

The year 1300 was another busy year for Eustace. There is an order, granted at the instance of Eustace, for his brother William de Hacche to be appointed as Keeper of Athlone Castle. (This William then passes from the records except for a few minor references.) Eustace was also appointed to assist three different county sheriffs to carry out an order that all knights, esquires, etc., of their respective bailiwicks owning £40 yearly of rent or lands should be warned to prepare themselves to attend the King at Carlisle at midsummer ready for military service against the Scots, on pain of forfeiture of lands. This was in January, and in April the Sheriffs (with Eustace) were ordered to do all in their power to effect compliance and to notify the King of the names of those who would and of those who would not come.

Eustace presumably attended Parliament on 6th March, and the muster at Carlisle on 24th June. He certainly took part in the successful siege of the castle of Carlaverock in July, since his name is among those there present in the King's division, of whom a medieval poet gave an account and a description of their arms. Eustace's arms were *or* a cross engrailed *gules*, and they are described by the poet:

"Baniere bel appareille  
Jaune a crois rouge engreellie  
La Eustache de Hache estoit."



On 20th January, 1301, Eustace attended the notable Parliament at Lincoln, to which he had been summoned in the previous September, to consider the recent claim by the Pope, made at the instance of the Scots themselves, to the fee of Scotland. Eustace was, himself, one of the signatories, as a member of the "communitas" of England, to the famous reply dated 12th February, 1300 (O.S.), whereby the signatories denied that the Scots Kingdom was a papal fee: firmly maintained that the supreme overlordship of that Kingdom was, by law, vested in the Kings of England: and refused to recognise any jurisdiction of the Pope in temporal matters.

The year 1302 is marked chiefly by three summons' to Parliament and, in November, a further summons for military service, to muster at Berwick-on-Tweed on 26th May, 1303.

Some time before 10th November, 1303, William Hardredeshull died and was buried in Saleby Church. His monument shows the arms of Hardredeshull and Hacche, the latter differenced with a *martlet*.

In November, 1304, Juliana (the widow), was granted a licence to re-marry "whomsoever she will of the King's allegiance," and by references in 1306 it is shown that she married a John Hansard (Haunsard).

To return to Eustace. The Royal Household were at Dunfermline in the early part of 1304 and for 1st February, 1304, is shown a warrant by the seneschal of the Household commanding the Sheriff of Edinburgh to deliver 200 trusses of hay, including twelve trusses for "Sir Eustace de la Hacche and other gentlemen-at-arms of Madame la Reyne." (By this time the King had married again, this time to Margaret of France.) In November Eustace was summoned to a Parliament at Westminster to be held on 16th February, 1305, and in September he sold Westhacche (which he had evidently recovered from his brother William) to Thomas de Abberburi.

**His Last Year.** With the rising of Robert the Bruce in Scotland, the year 1306 gave promise of much busier times for all. In April, Eustace was summoned to Westminster for treating upon an aid for making a knight of the king's eldest son, and in May Eustace was again summoned for military service to muster at Carlisle on 8th July. Whether Eustace attended the muster or not is not known, but by a royal letter of 20th September, 1306, sent to Avice, late the wife of "Mons. Eustaz. de la Hacche" and the other executors of his will, it is clear that Eustace had died before that date. This letter is interesting because it was obviously a formal letter to the executors which the King personally corrected to a form more suitable to a friend, as he evidently regarded Avice. Of what Eustace died and whether it was during the first, and successful, campaign against the Bruce is quite uncertain, but the fact that there appears to be no record of any church burial or monument suggests that he met his death on the field of battle. His age can only be conjectured, but with a record of thirty-one years of activities he must have been somewhere in his fifties at the time of his death, by no means a short life judged by the standards of that time.

His executors were his widow and Thomas de la Forde, and they petitioned the King for an "allowance of those debts which were owing for his robes, wages and horses lost in the wars of Scotland and Gascoine"; pointing out that Eustace had bequeathed much in legacies to the Holy Land and to his servants and they could not pay the legacies until they received the arrears. The petition was granted and the Keeper of the Great Wardrobe was ordered to agree the figures with the petitioners and to report to the King. The inq. p.m. is missing but we do know from other orders that the only property held in chief at Eustace's death was at Chesterton in Warwick which the King re-granted to Juliana as Eustace's heir and to her second husband, John Hansard, jointly.

One echo of Eustace was heard in 1320 when a grant was made to Stephen de Hacche, tenant of the manor of Hacche, co. Wilts, that Stephen should not be distrained upon for debts owing to the Exchequer by Eustace at the date of his death.

**His Descendants.** After Eustace's death his widow retained the manor of Pachenesham until June, 1308, when King Edward II granted the manor to his favourite, Peter de

Gaveston, giving Avice the manor of Rodeston, Northamptonshire, in exchange. She was still living in 1310, but the date of her death is not known.

Juliana and her husband, John Hansard, appear to have retired to their Lincolnshire properties. Her elder son, John Hardredeshull, when he came of age in 1312, took over his own inheritance in the counties of Warwick and Lincoln and, after being made a prisoner at Bannockburn, settled down on his estates. (Juliana appears to have had a second son, John Hansard.)

So things remained until 1321, when John Hansard (Juliana's husband) joined the party of the Earl of Lancaster and helped to drive the two Dispensers, the King's new favourites, into exile. A formal pardon for him for the felonies he had committed in the "pursuit" of the Dispensers was granted, but in 1322 the King, aroused by fresh insults, raised an army, defeated the Mortimers and recalled the Dispensers. Then at Boroughbridge he overthrew the earl in a pitched battle and promptly had him executed. A fresh Parliament in May revoked by an Act all the pardons previously granted, and John Hansard the elder was imprisoned and his lands forfeited. John was moved from one prison to another and died prior to 2nd March, 1327, possibly still in prison and most certainly destitute. An inquisition p.m. of the last mentioned date laconically states "that he held nothing of the King in chief, in fee or of any other lord."

What happened to the unfortunate Juliana is not stated.

John Hardredeshull was more cautious or, rather, more loyal than his stepfather, and in 1322 his arms \* were entered on the roll of the battle of Boroughbridge as one who had fought on the King's side.

John appears to have had, under the new King, Edward III, as successful a career as his grandfather Eustace de Hacche. *G.E.C.* records that in 1342 he was the King's lieutenant in Brittany and was in the Black Prince's division at Crècy. He assisted in the capture of Charles of Blois and was himself a prisoner of "Rolland de Dynam, chivaler" in 1347 (his second experience).

He died prior to 18th June, 1369, at the ripe old age of 77 or 78, leaving three daughters as surviving co-heirs. (His son William by his first wife and that son's line had died out before John himself had died.) John's line descended, therefore, through the marriage of one of the daughters, Elizabeth, to the Culpepers. In both the Sussex churches of Worth and Hurstpierpoint there are Culpeper tombs of the XVth century (or later) showing their coat-of-arms, incorporating the Hardredeshull arms in the second quarter, and the de Hacche arms (differenced by a martlet) in the third quarter.

**Summary.** The story of Eustace de Hacche is a typical one of his period. While the statement must be made with all reserve, it is reasonable to regard Eustace as of an Irish family with probably west country ancestors; as having been a soldier of fortune rather than a "Knight of the Shires"; as spending most of his life as an official of the King's Household attached more often than not to the Queen's retinue.

Too much emphasis must not be laid on the various royal gifts of venison and timber, or the pardons for trespasses and the tax remissions which are recorded. The fact stands, however, that Eustace remained throughout his life a loyal and faithful servant of the King, and retained his royal master's trust and esteem until he died. Leatherhead has no reason to be ashamed of its connection, however transient, with Sir Eustace de Hacche.

A. T. R.

\* Argent : un cheveroun sable, poudree des merles de gules.

## REPORT OF GROUP "E" : Natural History

**M**EMBERSHIP of the Group continues to be small (about nine active members) but, in spite of this, considerable interest has been shown during the year.

Four indoor meetings were held during the winter. At one of these Mr. A. Norkett (of the Natural History Museum) gave a most interesting talk on mosses. The talk was followed by demonstrations of living specimens, some of which were shown under the microscope. Mr. Norkett pointed out that this district is very rich in *Bryophytes* and that within a few miles' radius of Leatherhead all

except a very few of the recorded English species can be found. Boxhill and Norbury Park are, in particular, rich hunting grounds for these little plants—some rare specimens being found in the former locality.

Another meeting was held at The Old Quarry, by kind invitation of Capt. Lowther, who talked to the Group about his collection of plants and fossils made in Ashted over a period of twenty years, and gave a survey of the changes in vegetation and fauna in the quarry itself during this time.

Several out-of-door meetings were held during the summer. The first of these was led by Mr. J. E. Dallas one Saturday afternoon in May. During this walk from Mill Way to Mickleham Mr. Dallas pointed out the habitats of many interesting, and some rare, plants. Many species of wild orchids were noted.

As the number of active workers is small it has been decided to concentrate observations on three selected areas within the district and to visit these at monthly intervals throughout the year. It is hoped that in time the size of the areas can be extended. The three regions chosen are those in which fairly rapid changes in vegetation are taking place.

On one—a part of Headley Heath—the natural heath vegetation was destroyed by war-time tank exercises. Re-colonisation of the sandy expanse is now taking place, and the vegetation is largely composed of mosses. Maps and records have been made in order that the sequence of vegetational change can be followed.

The second region is the stretch of Mickleham Down which was ploughed and cultivated by the Surrey Agricultural Committee, and is now returned to grass, and the woodland adjoining it. A small area of original downland remains in the vicinity, and here the typical chalk plants—viper's bugloss, dropwort, squinancy wort, etc.—continue to flourish. The records will show whether they are able to invade and establish themselves in the new grass on the ploughed land, or whether they are dying out. In addition to records of flowering plants, a collection of fungi was made in this area in the autumn. It is hoped to make a fungus foray an annual feature.

On the slope of White Hill, above Headley Lane, the vegetation is changing rapidly and this has been chosen as the third observational area. During the summer of 1949 many of the less common chalk plants, such as *Ajuga chamaepitys*, the ground pine, and *Iberis amara*, wild candytuft, were more plentiful than usual. Records and counts were made on which changes in succession and fluctuations in occurrence can be based. Many of these chalk-loving plants, such as *Ajuga chamaepitys*, are "southern continental" species, and in the British Isles are found only in this south-east corner of England. Here they are at their northern limit and are consequently at the mercy of small climatic variations. In a cool wet summer they are unable to mature and set viable seed. One would expect therefore after a hot dry summer, such as that of 1949, there would be an increase of such plants in the neighbourhood.

While some members concentrate on special tasks (Mrs. Steventon is gathering information on the orchids of the district, and Mr. S. Fortescue continues to keep the ornithological records) others prefer the historical approach.

It is hoped in time to obtain information concerning the changes in agricultural practice in the district, with the consequent effect on the natural vegetation and fauna. It is known, for instance, that in the XVIIIth century hops and oats were grown extensively, the oats being sent to London for the manufacture of ship's biscuits for the navy. Also, sheep rearing was once carried on over the North Downs as well as the South. The search for this kind of information can be carried on in the winter months, and by those who find it more difficult to join in the out-of-door activities.

M. P. T.

## FETCHAM IN VICTORIAN TIMES—2

By A. J. GINGER

**F**ETCHAM Church of England School, at which I was a pupil in the '90's, was simply the old part of the present building with the addition of a dwelling house (now demolished) for the schoolmaster and his family. Our Schoolmaster, a Mr. Constable, was a remarkable man and his fame as a teacher spread abroad, at least as far as Leatherhead. Some Leatherhead boys, sons of a tradesman, were permitted to join the school. Then my father obtained my entry and one or two more Leatherhead boys followed.

We were a privileged band of outsiders and we mixed happily with kindred spirits among the Fetcham boys and girls. It was, of course, a genuine co-educational establishment, and Mr. Constable's teaching methods were considerably ahead of his time. He installed a lovely library of reading books—adventure stories etc.—encouraged us to take an interest in current affairs and conducted a daily quiz on general knowledge and other subjects. For the quiz he gave a weekly prize (usually a popular weekly) to the child with the best marks. He introduced French and Physiology as extra subjects beyond the elementary school curriculum.

The straight-laced Victorian school governors, who included amongst them the Rector's wife, Lady Moon, were dreadfully shocked when they became aware that the proletarian boys and girls of the village were, altogether, learning all about the insides of the human body. So, just as we were becoming interested in the blood stream and the digestive organs an end was put to these fascinating studies.

Some authorities today favour the survival of dialect English; Mr. Constable had contrary views and strongly disapproved of the uncouth speech of the country children. He endeavoured to give us a level standard speech; something like that of our B.B.C. announcers today. Mouths well open, rounded vowels, no dropped aitches and no bad grammar or slang was the rule in school. In ridicule of our country twang he would grossly imitate it in this fashion—"Daa-own, araa-ound abaa-out the taa-own" and then contrast it by the standard way—"DOWn arOUNd abOUT the tOWN." Some London friends of the church organist, who attended service at Fetcham, gave our schoolmaster high praise for the excellent enunciation of the choristers.

Mr. Constable gave up his hard task of trying to raise a spark of intelligence in the wooden heads of country bumpkins and so left Fetcham to devote the rest of his career teaching slum children in the East End of London.

Church life in Fetcham was always an interesting and happy one for me. Having been a probationer chorister at the new All Saints Church, Leatherhead, on going to Fetcham I was promptly recruited for the village church choir where I remained until my voice broke. Our organist was a gifted musician and an excellent choirmaster. Those of us who were the principal boys would attend for special voice-production training at his Leatherhead home in addition to the weekly choir practice at church. He was, unhappily, rather fond of the bottle and on occasions was known to be totally incapable of playing or conducting. Except for this failing our organist was a likeable man. We loved to walk with him and listen to his spirited and interesting conversation. He died while still young.

On practice nights we Leatherhead members of Fetcham Choir—there were four of us—enjoyed a treat denied to our village confrères. Sir Edward Moon gave the order that, because of the great distance (one mile) we had to walk, tea was to be provided for us each practice night. So, after school, instead of going home we went to the Rectory house (now known as the Ballards—*Ed.*). There, standing at the kitchen table, we were supplied with large mugs of tea and a plentiful supply of beautiful bread and butter and plum cake. The clean, attractive smell of that large kitchen, the delicious odour of rich foods in preparation for the evening dinner, the beautifully polished copper cooking utensils, the neat and pretty maids and the buxom cook are memories which remain always.

As choir practice did not start early we had considerable time on our hands, after our Rectory tea, in which to get into mischief and to play games. We took with us the ornate church door keys (part of our duty was to open the vestry door) and when the evenings were light we climbed up into the rickety, disused belfry and out on to the tower roof. We were surprised to discover six bells hung there in the ruinous chamber—only a tiny tinkle of three notes had we ever heard.



FETCHAM CHURCH about 1809. From a coloured engraving published by F. W. L. Stockdale, dated May 1, 1809, and sold by W. T. Testolini, Cornhill.

*In the possession of Miss Phyllis Morgan, Fetcham.*

One of our mischievous games was to prepare shocks for other boys with Farmer Dodge's mangel wurzels. We carved out grotesque eyes, nose and teeth in the mangel's skin, scooped out a cavity at the back and into this placed a stump of tallow candle taken from the vestry stocks. With the mangel wurzel lit up and placed on a tomb-stone, and hiding in the adjoining yew trees, making suitable howling noises, we guaranteed ourselves excellent fun. Unfortunately, like all criminals, we left clues which gave us away. The candlefat ran out on to the marble tomb of a departed village gentleman, and the gardener to the deceased person made enquiries about the desecration. (Probably he had obtained information on the facts willingly given by our victims.) So we, the real culprits, were hauled up by the schoolmaster and examined by the accusing gardener. Of course, no one knew anything about the affair, but we were each and all promised suitable punishment should the offence be repeated.

It was always a delightful event to me as a choirboy to function at a full choral service of a fashionable wedding, when the church would be decorated with flowers and the pews filled by grand folk from London and the County, all splendidly arrayed. Another great church occasion was the Annual Choir festival of the Leatherhead Rural Deanery, when the massed choirs of eighteen parishes (Leatherhead Deanery then embraced Epsom and beyond) assembled at the Parish Church. Fetcham and Banstead choirs were the most resplendently robed of all, for we alone wore purple cassocks instead of the usual black.

The main route to Fetcham Church in those days was via the Squire's drive (entrance opposite the "Salt Box") past his mansion and up some steps built in the grave-yard wall. The Squire did not object to the devout villagers taking a direct and easy walk to church instead of the roundabout route via Ridgeway and the Park which is now necessary.

Attached to the church were some quaint characters. Old "Dicky" Carnarton, formerly schoolmaster, sang in the choir alternately a cracked alto and a teathy tenor as the fancy pleased him. A great, rich double bass was "Puffer" Luff, the blacksmith. He was a short, stout man and got his nickname from his habit of puffing and blowing his breath as he worked or walked along. What a fine singer he was! Ever in demand at local concerts and, when needed, for special services at the Parish Church, Leatherhead. Poor "Puffer" was found drowned in the Mill race one morning.

The quaintest character of all at Fetcham Church was bell-ringer and organ blower, Walter Rye; a big, black-haired, black-bearded man with a queer, long, striding gait. He had an impediment in his speech, a violent temper and was considered to be a madman. Walter was for ever threatening to murder his mocking tormentors, the village boys. But if one spoke kindly to him he turned out to be a gentle and kindly fellow himself.

There was also a local softy known everywhere in the district. No one knew of his place of abode (it was probably under the haystacks), his family or his true name. We called him "Happy Jack."

Happy laughed aloud and spoke or shouted his thoughts as he ambled along; he scarcely ever walked. He was a great runner and followed the hounds afoot for miles. Sometimes, he would arrive at the meet attired in full hunting rig—red coat, velvet cap, and white breeches—but in the evening his finery would be all mud-spilt. At Epsom races Happy would be found there singing and shouting as he rubbed down tethered horses and ponies. Horses and Happy Jack were inseparable. At election times he would appear in Leatherhead's streets, bedecked with sandwich boards, shouting "Vote for Dr. Davis" (a candidate for the Urban Council).

One day Happy Jack appeared before the magistrate at Epsom. Said the magistrate to Happy—"You were here again for using bad language a few weeks ago. I warned you then it would be your last chance."

Happy Jack—"If you let me off, Your Worship, I'll go right out of the country."

The magistrate—"Where will you go?"

Happy Jack—"I'll go right the other side of Bookham."

Reference to Epsom Police Court recalls my own appearance there as witness. My first job in life was that of assistant at Fetcham Post Office, then established at the School House. Mr. Constable held the dual post of schoolmaster and sub-postmaster. Mine was not a very busy job but we dealt with many more telegrams in those days when the telephone was in its infancy. The telegrams were received and sent by means of a primitive telephone joined in omnibus fashion to Leatherhead, Fetcham, Bookham and Effingham. The telegraph messenger's duties were performed by Edie, Mrs. Constable's domestic help. If Edie happened to be out on a long delivery, say as far as Roaring House Farm, and another message arrived, then I abandoned the office to become telegraph boy myself. There could be no delays in the swift telegraph service of those days.

Much of our telegraph traffic concerned the ordering of victuals for the gentry, business telegrams for the City gentlemen of the village, and betting. The Colonel and various men servants in the big houses were frequent users of the telegraph for the latter purpose.

One of our betting telegram customers was, to my astonishment, a village youth who had obtained the post of hall boy at Squire Hankey's house. Perhaps you may not all know what is a "hall boy." He is the "boots" or junior male servant serving a kind of apprenticeship for the grade of footman. He proceeds upwards in his career as a high class menial via the posts of underfootman and first footman to the exalted and dignified position of butler. Or perhaps he may become a gentleman's valet or "Courier."

Perhaps our young Park House hall boy's selections had not been coming home fast enough to give him a fortune so he took to dishonesty to cover his losses. One day he came to the Post Office and boldly demanded that I should change a cheque for him. Knowing me so well, he no doubt,



considered me "easy" and a "sucker." To his surprise, great annoyance and contempt I refused: telling him I was not permitted to change cheques. A few days later the Police Inspector from Leatherhead and a constable interviewed me about the stolen cheque affair and so I had to attend at Epsom Police Court. The defendant did not appear, he had absconded to distant parts and I never set eyes on him again.

The gipsies, as always, liked our part of the country with its many commons and—the greatest venue for all nomads—Epsom Downs at race time. The land where Cleeve Road Council Estate, Leatherhead Common, has been built was their usual camping ground. No one seemed to disturb them during their frequent and large encampments there.

My dislike for and fear of gipsies dated from the time when I was warned that they stole everything, including naughty little children. One Saturday evening in winter during a great frost, I was sent to fetch my sister's Sunday boots from the snob. Returning, I stayed to slide on Bradmere and down the snowy hillside with the tobogganers. So I placed the mended boots beside a post and time flew while the fun went on. There were some gipsy boys from the Common encampment also enjoying a slide and when at last I started for home—where were my sister's Sunday boots?

Gipsies used to appear in the police courts fairly regularly, as did also the poachers. I knew several families in the district who notoriously produced a poacher or two—ne'er-do-well workshies. Lack of food in the poor families and the proper means to purchase it were common in the Victorian days of astounding prosperity and plenty. The poachers saw that good food in plenty was running wild about the fields, commons and woods and all so easy to obtain by trapping. It was only necessary to walk down the lane to Roaring House Farm by moonlight to see multitudes of hares and rabbits scampering over the brow of the hill. So why not take a few from such a bounteous supply? But these game were all "preserved" for shooting, and to take a wild rabbit home for the boiling pot was heinous and a punishable crime.

As a boy I used to look upon these noted poachers with horror and alarm. So also did I look upon those poor men and womenfolk, mostly domiciled on Leatherhead Common, who used to walk about the roads (in summer time usually) barefooted.

To be so poor—and my own family was by no means well off—was to my mind shameful. Often in the night I was troubled with bad dreams in which I was walking the streets in my bare feet and dreading to be seen.

The poverty of the poorer classes in those times seriously troubled some of the more comfortably circumstanced people. One heard much about Charity and "Helping the Needy." The Fetcham ladies did good work during the winter months at the Reading Room where they provided, and served free, hot pea soup for the poor folk and school-children. I partook of so much pea soup in those winter days that the taste of this nourishing food became ever afterwards distasteful to me.

We have in many recent years been so familiar with tragedy and distress, in the great wars and upon our roads, that we have become inured to such things. The wireless each day now gives details of some fatal road accident. In the days of my childhood road accidents were so infrequent that each isolated case was an event and a sensation to be much talked about. The road then belonged to pedestrians as much as to the horse riders and drivers. We did not keep to the right or left but walked abreast fearlessly on the crown of the road till some carriage or cart hove in sight, for then no speeding motors had ever been heard of. You have read or heard about the flagman who, by law, must proceed in front of every mechanically propelled vehicle or engine using the roads which exceeded so many miles per hour, but I saw many a flagman in front of a steam roller or traction engine when I was a child.

The nineties saw the coming of vast hordes of cyclists after Dunlop had invented his pneumatic tyre. They were the original "road hogs" and the first great danger to life and limb on the King's Highway. On Saturdays and Sundays Leatherhead was crowded with London cycle club members who made it one of their favourite venues, and their noisy behaviour and their women companions dressed in billowy bloomers inspired our contempt. My Calvinistic grandmother, who as a girl came



RECTOR OF FETCHAM, 1683-1720.

Rev. Hugh Shortridge, D.D. Of a Devon family. He matriculated at Exeter College, Oxford, in the dining hall of which hangs this portrait. He acquired the Manor of Slyfield in 1700 and died there. His bequests are recorded on a tablet in Great Bookham church.

up to London from Stevenage in a stage coach before railways were built, held the view that a woman who cycled was doomed to perdition.

Two bad accidents which took place in Fetcham left a mark on our minds. Mrs. Miller, of the Mansion House, Leatherhead, and a friend were taking a drive along the Cobham Road in their landau driven by burly coachman Castleman. The horse bolted and dashed into the bank just past School Lane. The carriage overturned and poor Castleman was severely injured; both his legs having to be amputated. The ladies escaped but the details of that accident shocked everybody.

Another accident proved even more serious. A poor Fetcham boy, a schoolfellow of mine, used to earn a shilling or two each Saturday helping a Leatherhead tradesman on his rounds delivering goods. In River Lane, one day, the boy slipped and fell while mounting the cart as it was moving. The wheel passed over his body. Just a simple tumble from a lightweight vehicle, not a violent impact with a fast car, but the boy was killed. Our Rector made a touching reference to his loss in the sermon on Sunday.

Poor "Puffer" Luff's tragic drowning while at work on the Mill (previously mentioned) made a great sensation and so did another village tragedy, that of one of the maids at General de Tessier's house Fetcham Grove, (now the Green Domino—*Ed.*). From my choir stall seat I used to see and admire her, a tall, beautiful girl, every Sunday, for she was a regular churchgoer. The poor girl's dead body was found one day on the line near Norbury Tunnel.

The two hundred-years-old murder of a girl in Dead Woman's Lane was still talked about in my time and so was the traction engine disaster on Hawks Hill of years before. On the side where the Water Company's plant now exists there used to be a deep chalk pit amongst the trees. A traction engine was going downhill one day when the driver lost control, the engine swerved, dashed into the fence and toppled over upside down into the chalk pit, killing the driver. The horror of that accident filled my mind always whenever I passed by the gloomy pit.

Such few and isolated tragedies of the Village were events which moved us greatly in the days when almost the only excitement on the roads was a bolting horse or a speeding bicyclist.

Perhaps you may wonder how the name "Reading Room" was given to the small building by the railway arch in Cobham Road.

One of the most popular diversions of Victorian times in villages and towns was the "Penny Readings." One paid a penny fee to go into a school, or hall, to listen to a gentleman at a lectern reading from the works of popular authors such as Charles Dickens. My first introduction to Dickens was obtained in this way. Not a very exciting diversion compared with the modern cinema but we thought it wonderful and crowded the halls on these occasions. Sometimes there would be the added excitement of a magic lantern. My guess therefore (but it was only a guess) is, that "Reading Rooms" were established mainly for the "Penny Readings" rather than a place in which to sit and read newspapers and periodicals.

These are some of the impressions of Fetcham village and district which I gained in my childhood days. If in this picture of the past I seem to present it in pleasanter colours—to prefer the old to the new and to regret the many changes—it is perhaps but the usual prejudice of the elderly who are never tired of telling their juniors "Those were the days when I was young."

If we had a truly rural Fetcham in Victorian days we also lacked many good things. There was dust on the roads in summer and mud in winter. The sanitary system was vile. Well water was not unknown; heating and lighting was primitive—the church was lit by candlelight and the cottages by oil lamps—and there was no street lighting in the village. Leatherhead streets were lit by gas but in the poor dwellings there was only the colza-oil lamp. Until main drainage was introduced at the beginning of this century Leatherhead's sanitary system was also horribly crude. Today you have all the modern comforts and gadgets and decent dry dwellings instead of damp, if picturesque, ivy-clad cottages.

We could not go back to pretty old Fetcham if we wished, but modern Fetcham is not to be despised for, in its newer form, Nature and Man are together giving it another kind of beauty. There is still left all around in every direction some of the loveliest country in the South of England, and my chief regret is that I do not still live in your ever charming Fetcham.

(Concluded)

A. J. GINGER.

## LOCAL INCIDENTS OF TENURE

By S. E. D. FORTESCUE

The incidents of tenure between the Crown and the Tenants in capite and the manorial services rendered by the villeins to the Lords of the Manors appear, from the V.C.H. accounts, to have been commuted for money payments at an early date (*i.e.*, by *circa* 1500 A.D.) in the manors of the five parishes of the Leatherhead District.

Possibly the most interesting of the manors is that of Padesham in Leatherhead of which the Bishop of Bayeux was the overlord at the time of the Domesday Survey. This manor later came into possession of the Crown and King John in 1203 made a grant for the rent of a sparrowhawk. Later in the reign of Henry III the rent appears to have become divided into three serjeanties, and a William Frankelen had to provide a pavilion or hall in which to hold the County Court, Walter Le Hore had

to maintain a prison to lodge persons condemned at the Sheriff's tourn, and William de Oxencroft had to provide a cattle pound when any cattle should be taken for the debt of our Lord the King.

The Manor of Thorncroft was held for half a Knight's fee and came into the possession of the founder of Merton College in 1267.

The Manor of Fetcham is mentioned in the Domesday Survey when it was held as three separate sections, one by the King, another by Odo of Bayeux and the third by Oswold of Thegn, but by what service is not stated. These three parts appeared to become merged in the Crown by the time of the accession of Edward IV. In 1086 the King's Manor included four Mills. The Manor of Cannon Court probably represents the portion which was held of Edward the Confessor by Oswold and was retained by him in chief after the Conquest. The Prior of Merton, as a successor in title to Oswold, granted his interest in one of the Mills together with an acre of land in payment of 5/0d. yearly and the free grinding of all corn he required for the Priory.

The Manor of Ashtead became the property of the Bishop of Bayeux who granted it to his Canons, but it subsequently came into the hands of the Earl of Surrey in socage, and in 1563 Elizabeth granted the reversion of this Manor to the Earl of Arundel for the payment of a money sum and one fortieth of a Knight's fee. There was also the reputed Manor of Little Ashtead, or Priors Farm, which belonged to the Canons of Merton, but in 1538, on the dissolution of the Monastery, it passed to the Crown.

There were three Manors situated in Great Bookham, that of Great Bookham itself, the reputed Manor of Eastwick which in 1627 became merged in the Manor of Great Bookham, and the reputed Manor of Slyfield, probably held of the Lords of Great Bookham, and which became a freehold at an early date. It is probable that they all at one time formed part of the lands of Chertsey Abbey.

In 1275 part of the Manor of Little Bookham was held for one Knight's fee, part for one quarter of a fee, and part of Chertsey Abbey.

The majority of the manorial incidents of villein tenure appear to have been commuted at an early date and there are very few records of actual services or goods rendered, although on several occasions capons and pullets comprise part of the rent payable; and it is on record that in 1628 the Royal Oak\* paid a rental of a red rose on the Feast of St. John the Baptist (24th June) and a quart of lamphreys in Lent to the Manor of Eastwick. In a Lease dated 1729 of Slyfield Mill a rent of £28 was reserved and, in addition, two fat pullets and one full third part of all eels to be caught in the waters of the Mill. (This is referred to in the collection of Slyfield Deeds recently made public by the owner of the property —see "Occasional Notes" herein).

At Effingham small tithes were still being rendered in kind in 1678. In the parish books it is recorded that one landholder paid £2 per annum, ploughed two acres of land and provided two geese, one pig and a tithe of the fruits of a plot of land by the churchyard; and it is stated that in the same year another landholder paid £2 4s. per annum and an acre's ploughing to be carried out at three or four days' notice.

S. E. D. F.

\* Teste J. H. Harvey.

## THE BOOKHAM CAVES

### Blagdon Hill

On Tuesday evening the 19th of July, a conducted visit was made to the Bookham Caves close to Boxhill Station.

For this interesting "scramble," the generous leadership of Mr. G. W. Ridyard, an expert speleologist, was obtained; the party of about twelve gathering in the forecourt of Boxhill Station at 7 p.m. before proceeding to the site of the caves.

With torches, a wonderful array of old clothes and overalls and plenty of enthusiasm, the party climbed up the slope of fallen chalk to the entrance to the caves, situated up the face of the quarry, and plunged into the depths of the earth.

Following in Indian file, but closely on the heels of Mr. Ridyard, we clambered down slopes and up rocky inclines, sometimes crawling head first downwards, as we scrambled from one commodious cavern to another. We soon lost all sense of direction, but were comforted by the warmth of the atmosphere as each wriggled rapidly after the pinpoint of light ahead. We paused halfway round our circuitous route while Mr. Ridyard explained that the caves were actually chalk workings, now disused, and that originally level galleries had been worked in the strata, but now the continuous up and down passageway was due to the ceiling falling down in many places.

After about twenty minutes' journey we happily emerged into the light and sunshine once more, covered from head to foot with white chalk, but feeling both brave and proud of ourselves. As a measure of our enjoyment, a call for a second party was immediately welcomed and we plunged again into the earth to traverse the journey in the opposite direction.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Ridyard for so interesting an evening and we returned home with secret admiration at the courage of the elder members of our party.

If the Executive Committee ever instructs Group "B" to make a survey of these caves, some keen volunteers will be required!

R. FOSTER ELLIOTT.

## ASHTEAD AND ITS HISTORY

By A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.

*Reprinted by agreement with the Ashtead Residents' Association from the series of articles by Captain Lowther in "The Ashtead Resident".*

### I—Before the Roman Conquest (2000 B.C.—43 A.D.)

AS will be known to most residents of Ashtead, the Parish boundaries, which are, apart from minor adjustments, those of the ancient manor of "Stede," enclose an elongated area stretching from north to south and enclosing a wooded clayland in the north and open chalk downland in the south. Such a situation was one of great importance when the manor came into being in Saxon times, and it is likely that the boundaries were so arranged deliberately, thereby providing both "woodland" (for timber and "pannage" or feeding for pigs) and "downland" (with grazing for sheep and well-drained farmland) within the confines of one manor.

In early prehistoric times the sub-soil was of the greatest importance, especially during the so-called "neolithic" period—about 2000 B.C.—when the story of the occupation of our area really begins, since with their primitive axes of chipped and polished stone (of which at least one specimen has been found at Ashtead) these people were unable to do much in the way of clearing the dense forests that then covered the clay regions. They were thus confined to living on the downland, which they cleared of its light scrub and where they dwelt in stockaded enclosures of a distinctive type known to us as "causewayed camps" from the series of discontinuous ditches surrounding them. They carried on farming of a primitive kind, but of interest as being the first attempt at the cultivation of crops known to us in this country.

During the succeeding Bronze Age ("Early," "Middle" and "Late"—*circa* 1800-600 B.C.) and the opening phase of the Iron Age (*circa* 600-300 B.C.) conditions, though slowly improving, and remained much the same as regards the ability of the inhabitants to cope with the heavy clayland, their occupation sites are still mainly on the chalk downland. That many people were at this time living in our area is confirmed both by the boundaries of their fields, discovered recently by air-photographs, and by the number of their burial-mounds (or "barrows") which, though mostly ploughed down level with the surrounding ground, can still be distinguished on air-photographs through their encircling ditches appearing as what are known as "crop-marks." In a Royal Air Force photograph taken during the war a group of these "barrows" is shown to lie in the fields north of Thirty-acre Barn.

It was during the Iron Age that the primitive trackway, once known as the "Harroway," came into being, and passed through our area on its way between Kent and the important tin-mining district of Cornwall. Like all such early trackways it has a series of roughly parallel alternative routes. One of these, leading eastwards from the ford at Leatherhead, stretched up on to the downs, on the line of Green Lane and Shepherd's Walk, and on in the direction of Banstead. Another, probably one of the so-called "Summer routes" (as against the longer but drier downland routes used during the winter), more or less followed the line of the present Leatherhead-Ashtead-Epsom main road, and Iron Age occupation village sites have been found alongside it at several places (e.g., Ashtead Warren and at Ewell). Another of these small settlements was some distance south of this route in ground now built upon in Park Lane at a point near the Parish Church. Somewhat later in date than the other settlements, it was founded by the "Belgae." This was a warlike tribe from across the Channel which invaded this country, first in 100 B.C., followed by further hordes, to escape from Caesar's punitive campaigns in Gaul, some fifty years later. By the date of the Roman Conquest of 43 A.D., the whole of the inhabitants in South East Britain were of the Belgic race. These were the people who, with a high standard of both weapons and agricultural implements, were the first to clear and cultivate much of the dense forest land and heaviest clayland. In their settlement near the church, mentioned above, some of their pits for the storage of corn, and their pottery and coins (the first introduced into this country) have been found. Discoveries at this site have shown that this settlement lasted throughout the whole Roman period, and it is therefore possible that it continued through the "Dark Ages" of the Saxon settlement to form the nucleus of present-day Ashtead.

It is now considered fairly certain that there was some survival of these Roman-British villages into the "Early Saxon" period, and it is possible to find evidence of this in Ashtead and still more at Ewell. It is something more than a coincidence that original Saxon settlers (of about 500-600 A.D.) should have selected this for their village settlement or "stedding" ("Stede") and later have built their first church there in the very area where there had been a settlement for the previous five or six hundred years!

*(To be continued)*

## OCCASIONAL NOTES

IT is a matter for congratulation that members of the Society, Messrs. F. B. Bengier and J. H. Harvey, F.S.A., have been instrumental in arranging for the preservation of two further sets of archives. These are firstly the Court Rolls and Books 1585-1885 of Headley Manor, now with the County Record Office, Kingston; secondly the Slyfield Muniments now given to the S.A.S., and at present with Mr. Harvey pending examination and correlation with the documents in the Slyfield Chest in Leatherhead Church (see Report of Group "A" on page 3). See also the same Report in connection with the Lawrence map.

It has been a pleasure again to furnish to the Leatherhead Urban District Council information regarding the history of the district in connection with a proposal to re-name roads, this time Barnett Wood Lane. The Society has also prepared the Notes on Local History which have appeared in the new Local Guide.

A copy has now been obtained of the amusing *jeu d'esprit* attributed to the Rev. James Dallaway concerning the "Priory of Ripa Mola," with its references to the "Manor of Squabbedown," and the quarrels over candle ends and fishings. It is available for perusal on application to the Hon. Secretary.

The reference in Occasional Notes in No. 2 to the disastrous fire at Leatherhead in 1659 has brought forward information as to an earlier fire of 1392. Under that year John Malverne, continuing Higden's *Polychronicon* (ed. J. R. Lumby, Rolls Series, IX, 271) records, in translation:

"In this summer fires of houses and towns prevailed greatly in different parts of England. Notably at "Lederede" the fire ran from one part of the town to another and leaping over certain houses consumed almost the whole town. Only those houses which the fire jumped across were miraculously saved from the flames."

The late Commander K. R. U. Todd, of East Horsley, was very busy during 1949 excavating a pre-historic flint mine near his home. This is a particularly interesting excavation as being the first flint mine found in Surrey. After much work it was unfortunately found that the particular shaft excavated had been disturbed from the west. Excavation to the east of the stairway cut in the chalk by the miners remained to be carried out, there having been found signs that the 14th century disturbance may have left portions untouched. Work will be continued in 1950 and volunteers should contact Mr. E. S. Wood, 21, Ganghill, Guildford.

An examination of the drainage trenches excavated on the new Pound Farm Estate, Fetcham, resulted in the recovery, at the North end, of a number of worked flints thrown up from the bottom of the trenches. It is probable that these have merely been brought down by the River from its higher terraces and deposited in time of flood. Members and others are asked, however, to keep a look-out for further finds on the site and to report them promptly.

An amusing incident occurred in connection with an alleged "buried chest" found by children in a sandpit at Tyrrell's Wood. On investigation its situation suggested a long period of burial but further excavation showed it to be suspiciously like a buried ammunition box. This view was heightened by the discovery of a buried wire apparently leading to the box. The police and military were called in and the engineer officer took a sufficiently serious view to consider calling in the Bomb Disposal Squad. Further search proved, however, that it was nothing but a mass of old wires disposed of by burial in the ground and the box an empty and harmless piece of "junk."

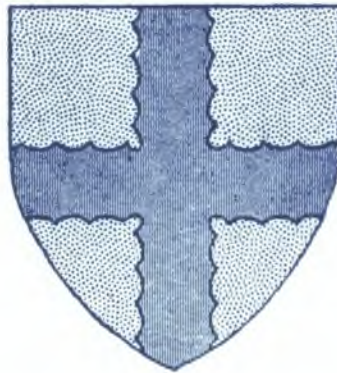
This "mare's nest" should not, however, prevent anyone from reporting a find. However valueless the discovery may prove to be the finder will receive nothing but grateful and sincere thanks for reporting the matter for investigation.

A copy of the new Guide, "The Leatherhead District," produced by the Urban District Council in co-operation with the District Chamber of Trade, has been received. It is a substantial volume of 188 pages, price 2s., with about 100 pages of text and 30 new photographs. The comprehensive contents include a full account of the Council's work and organisation, the Leatherhead armorial bearings and also very full reference material with historical notes on the district and each of the four wards. The latter were prepared or edited by the Hon. Secretary of this Society. An excellent feature is the large scale map (varying from  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in. per mile) for each ward and the district.

### 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.





THE ARMS OF SIR EUSTACE DE HACCHE,  
or, a cross engrailed gules