

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

53 Nutcroft Grove,
Fetcham,
Surrey.

Telephone:
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4th January 1949

Circular No. 1/49

Dear Fellow-Member,

Fixtures

Please note the following fixtures, each of which should prove of great general interest as well as appealing to members of particular groups:- All will commence at 8.0 p.m.

- Wednesday Wesleyan Hall, Church Road, Leatherhead
January 12th A lantern lecture by John E.S. Dallas, Esq. on "Some wild flowers of the Southern Counties". This will be followed by an exhibition of paintings of wild flowers of the district, made by Mrs. A. Steventon during 1948.
- Thursday Wesleyan Hall, Church Road, Leatherhead
February 17th A talk to be given by Mr. Harry Moore on Mr. A.J. Ginger's "Reminiscences of old Leatherhead", being a personal account of the district in the last two decades of the XIX century. This intimate and descriptive story will be a pleasure to every member.
- Wednesday Leatherhead Institute, High Street, Leatherhead
March 16th A lantern lecture by C.W. Phillips, Esq., F.S.A., of the Ordnance Survey, on "The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial". This account of one of the most famous and valuable "ship burial" excavations with its extraordinary technique and finds, should prove of immense interest not only to archaeologists but to members generally.
- Wednesday Wesleyan Hall, Church Road, Leatherhead
April 6th A lantern lecture by R.W. Hale, Esq., on "Wonders of Bird Migration". The general interest of this is self-apparent.

2nd Annual General Meeting

For the benefit of those members who were unable to attend the Meeting the following brief account is appended.

The Meeting was held at the Council Offices, Leatherhead on 17th November. In the regretted absence of Mrs. E. Levett, Chairman of the L.U.D.C. the Meeting was opened by Alderman J.A. Farmer, C.C. in a felicitous speech congratulating the Society on its progress. After adoption of the minutes of the last meeting,

the Report and Accounts presented to the Meeting were adopted after a few questions. The officers were re-elected en bloc with the addition of the Hon. Programme Secretary, and are:- Chairman, Capt. A.W.G. Lowther, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A., (Ashted), Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S.E.D. Fortescue (Bookham), Hon. Secretary, Mr. A.T. Ruby, M.B.E. (Fetcham), Hon. Programme Secretary, Mr. W.G. Gilbert, C.B.E., I.S.O., (Fetcham), Committee Members, Mr. S.N. Grimes (Ashted) and Mr. F.B. Benger (Leatherhead), Hon. Auditor, Mr. W. Taylor (Leatherhead). After considerable discussion a motion proposed by Mr. John Harvey was seconded by Mr. S.E.D. Fortescue, condemning the proposed removal of the elm tree by Bookham Church was declared carried. Councillor W.G. Mayer desired his vote against the motion to be recorded.

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

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

Group E (Natural History)

As stated in the Executive Committee's Report for 1947/8, Captain Lowther has found it necessary to relinquish his post of Group Leader for this Group. The Society is most fortunate in that Doctor (Mrs.) M.P. Topping, D.Sc. of Angroban, Fir Tree Road, Leatherhead, has been good enough to step into the breach and take on the Group. All members of the Group will be contacted very shortly with a view to meeting their new leader and arranging the year's programme of activities. Any other members who wish to take part in these activities will be most welcome.

Library

It is with a real personal sorrow, which will be shared by all members who knew her, that I have to record the sudden death of Mrs. Kathleen Rhydderch, our Librarian. From the start Mrs. Rhydderch has taken such a keen and hardworking interest in the Society that her death is a severe loss to the Society itself apart from its personal aspect. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband and to her father in their tragic bereavement.

Pending the appointment of a successor, any inquiries regarding the Library should be addressed to me.

It is understood from the County Library that there is one book, viz. Stevenson's "Roman Empire" which is out with one of our members, and is due back in January, 1949. Will that member please send the book to me for return to the County Library.

Yours sincerely,

A.T. RUBY

(Hon. Secretary)