

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Telephone:  
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53, Nutcroft Grove,  
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Circ. 2/50

27th March, 1950

Dear Fellow-Member,

Fixtures

The following have been arranged:

Wednesday, April 19th at 8.15 p.m. at the Letherhead Institute. A lantern lecture by Mr. C.W. Phillips on "Air Photography". Those who heard Mr. Phillips' lecture last year on the Sutton Hoo excavations will need no assurance as to the interest and pleasure that can be anticipated from this fixture. The subject will be chiefly related to archaeological discoveries from the air.

Saturday afternoon in May (actual date to be fixed). Members will know that the 16th century farmhouse, known as Sweech Farm, at the bottom of Gravel Hill, has been acquired by our sister society, the Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society. In the course of restoration some very interesting features of the building have come to light. The C.P.S. have kindly arranged for this Society's members to have an opportunity of a conducted tour of the building, under the architect Mr. R. Foster Elliott, A.R.I.B.A. and of hearing its history from Mr. John H. Harvey, F.S.A. An exhibition, jointly arranged by the C.P.S. and this Society, of old illustrations of the district will be on view inside the building.

As soon as the date has been fixed each member will receive an invitation from the C.P.S. giving the details of date and time.

Tea (2/-) at the New Bull Hotel will be arranged, for 4.30 p.m., for any members who wish for it and notify me not less than four days before the date of the fixture.

Saturday, June 17th. Following on the request at the last Annual General Meeting for "outside" fixtures, a visit to the well-known and historic building of Penshurst, the birthplace of Sir Philip Sydney, with its 1340 hall and other interesting features, has been arranged. A coach will leave Station Road, near the New Bull Hotel, at 2.0 p.m., and should reach Penshurst about 3.30 p.m. Tea will be arranged after the visit and the party should be back about 7.0 - 7.30 p.m.

The charges per person will be:

Coach .....	7/-
Admission to house and grounds .....	3/6
Tea .....	1/6
Tips .....	6
	<u>12/6</u>

This should prove a thoroughly enjoyable outing and, if successful, will lead to others at a distance. To obtain further transport for an overflow of applications may not be possible and every reservation applied and paid for will be dealt with in strict order of receipt. (Verb. sap.)

All applications should be sent to me, stating the number of persons and whether for transport or tea - or both.

Further fixtures are being arranged.

General Note: For the benefit of new members the following is repeated.

Owing to the great difficulty in obtaining transport, and to avoid the, sometimes awkward, necessity of having to collect expenses during the course of an outing, members are asked to forward with their application for a place the amount of any charges indicated in the Fixture List. For all applications accepted a receipt will be given which will serve as a Reserved Ticket and will give the time and place for boarding transport where provided. The receipt will similarly reserve tea where desired.

If the transport booked becomes filled up every endeavour will be made to obtain supplementary vehicles: But **EARLY APPLICATION IS ESSENTIAL.**

It will be much appreciated if any Member who intends to use his own car will notify me if he is able and willing to take any passengers. Such members should, in any event, send in the charge for any teas provided in which they wish to share.

#### Excavations 1950

A certain amount of work is still to be done at the Mounts in filling in and tidying the site. It is also desired to make some exploratory cuts outside the moat to see if there is anything beyond the site of the manorhouse itself. The proposal is that work there will be started, at weekends only, as soon as weather etc. permits - say the end of April. Then, if the site can be cleared up and the further excavation completed in time, there will be a short season in late July and August to investigate a Celtic field system near Stane Street in the Ashtead area. This new site will prove a welcome change of objective, situation and technique.

The "Celtic dig" must however depend on the completion of the new excavation and the clearing up at the Mounts. Accordingly it all depends on the number of members willing to give up (not necessarily regularly) a part of their week-ends for that purpose.

Will those members willing to help please let me have their names as soon as possible, stating whether they prefer Saturday afternoon, or Sunday morning or afternoon and any other relevant information to enable me to organise the completion of the "Mounts" dig. Each volunteer will then receive details of time, tools required (if any) etc. Every endeavour will be made to arrange "fair shares" of tidying up and the more exciting work of the fresh exploration.

Details relating to the Ashtead site, if work there is possible, will be circulated later.

#### Pachenesham Manor House

Members can look forward to next autumn or early winter when a full account, illustrated by lantern slides, by Captain Lowther, on the excavations which so successfully put this Society "on the map", will be given. The full story can then be told, and, it is hoped, some of the more important finds exhibited.

#### Library

The following additions to the Library List (copies of which can be supplied to new members who have not had one) should be made:

Archaeology ... "Digging up the Past" (Woolley) Penguin. Donated  
"Archaeological Newsletter" January/February 1950

#### Subscriptions

Any member who has not yet paid his subscription for 1949-50 should do so at once to avoid any difficulty in receiving the current number of the "Proceedings", the issue of which is expected in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A.T. RUBY

(Hon. Secretary)