

LEATHERHEAD and DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Leatherhead
3812

12, Cannonside,
Fetcham,
Leatherhead,
Surrey.

Circular 4/59

16th June, 1959

Dear Fellow Member,

It was extremely gratifying to see such a good attendance at Norbury Park, and I do hope that as much interest will be shown in future events. Miss Harrison and I are very grateful to all those who offered the spare seats in their cars; actually, only two members asked for lifts, but it is useful to know that if need be many more members who have no transport of their own can be accommodated.

June Meeting

The next excursion will be on Saturday, 27th June, when a visit will be made to St. Peter's Church at Newdigate, one of the only two Surrey churches with timber towers. The Rector, the Reverend D. Bruce-Walker, has kindly consented to conduct the party, which will assemble at 5.30 p.m.

If you are going by car, turn left from A.24 at Beare Green, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond Holmwood Station, and left again after another $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. A 439 'bus leaves the White Horse at Dorking at 2.57 p.m. and Dorking 'bus station at 3.00 p.m., reaching Newdigate at 3.22 p.m. Buses run back to Dorking at 4.44 p.m. (439 via Holmwood), and 5.28 p.m. (429 via Brockham). Tea may be obtained at two establishments in the village.

If you propose to come, will you kindly complete the attached slip and return it to Miss Harrison as soon as possible.

Other 1959 Excursions

Three further excursions are being arranged this year, and you may like to note them, though the dates are still liable to alteration.

25th July Juniper Hall Field Centre.
22nd August Excavations at Henry VIII's Palace, Nonsuch Park.
3rd October Fungus Foray at Mickleham.

In connection with the Nonsuch Excavation, I have received a notice to the effect that work will take place during July, August and September, and volunteers, who need not have had any previous experience, will be welcome. If you are interested, and would like to help for a period, I shall be pleased to give you further particulars.

Future Programme

I have been looking through the various issues of the "Proceedings" and noting the excursions that have been made during the past twelve years. The time has come when it is difficult to find new places of sufficient interest for a visit within the immediate vicinity of Leatherhead, but I understand on
P.T.O.

Cut here -----

Miss E. R. Harrison,
61, Eastwick Drive, Great Bookham.

I propose to visit Newdigate Church on 27th June.

- * I shall go by car, and can offer _____ seats to other members.
- * I shall be grateful for a lift if this can be arranged.
- * I shall go by 'bus.
- * Delete as appropriate.

Signature _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

the other hand that longer trips have not always been well patronised, and that money has on occasion been lost in hiring coaches.

I have therefore prepared a form of ballot, in order to ascertain your preferences, and I shall be grateful if you will complete it and return it to Miss Harrison in the near future. Your replies will be of great help to your Executive Committee in planning for the future, and will enable them to organise outings which you will enjoy.

Group Activities

I was disappointed to find, on being elected as your Secretary, that the activities of the various groups of the Society had become so few. It is my own feeling that these activities are essential to the healthy life of the Society, and that they should take place at regular intervals, quite independently of the general lectures and excursions. The number of members in each group need not be large, provided that they have the two essential qualities of enthusiasm and the willingness to devote an hour or two a week to the work. In addition, it is essential that a member with the necessary knowledge should be prepared to lead the group and co-ordinate its work.

Group A (Historical Records and Research) is the one which has remained most active, though its work is such as to depend mainly on individuals working in their own parishes.

It has been said in the past that Group B (Architecture and Surveying) and Group C (Photography) are "handmaidens" to the other groups, but there is no reason why they should not prosper in their own right. The work of recording the interesting buildings of our area, and the incessant changes taking place in the town and village scene, is one which would employ these groups for many years, and would eventually produce a collection of material of immense value to future generations.

Group D (Archaeology) has done good work in the past, as the excavation reports in the "Proceedings" plainly show. With competent leadership, there is much which could be done, both in the study of excavation technique and in practical field work. The latter cannot be on any extensive scale, but there may be opportunities of assisting in the work of the Surrey Archaeological Society or other bodies.

Group E (Natural History) is one that should thrive in our area, where so much unspoilt country is "on the doorstep", so to speak, and there is a great opportunity for work in recording the distribution of flora and fauna within the area.

The second part of the ballot form is intended to ascertain the particular groups you would support and to encourage the re-formation of those groups in which sufficient interest is shown. I would stress however, that unless an enthusiastic leader comes forward to guide the group and organise its work, interest is liable to dwindle and little will be achieved.

Yours sincerely,

KENNETH WAITE

(Secretary)

LEATHERHEAD and DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Please complete and return to Miss E.R. Harrison, 61, Eastwick Drive,
Great Bookham.

Part I - Summer Excursions

Mark "X" as
appropriate.

1. Time

I would prefer { all day excursions on Saturdays
afternoon excursions on Saturdays
afternoon excursions on Sundays
excursions at mid-week

2. Distance

I would support excursions { to places of interest at a
distance
to places near Leatherhead
only

3. Transport

I would use a coach if such were hired
I would prefer to travel in my own car
I would be grateful for a lift in a member's car

4. Tea

I would prefer { tea in a party, booked in advance
o buy tea individually or take my own

I am not interested in the Society's excursions

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Part II - Group Activities

Mark "X", or if
more than one,
1, 2, 3 in order
of preference.

I would be interested in taking part in the
activities of:-

Group A - Historical Records and Research

Group B - Architecture and Surveying

Group C - Photography

Group D - Archaeology

Group E - Natural History

I am prepared to act as group leader

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I am unable to spare time for these activities

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Name _____ Address _____
Telephone Number _____

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

30th July 1959

Dear Member,

Programme

Before listing the forthcoming visits and lectures a word of explanation is necessary about the Juniper Hall visit, advertised for July 25th. From the beginning I had known that the invitations would be limited but the number of five finally allotted to us was smaller than I had expected. Unfortunately there was not enough time to arrange a substitute meeting and I hope that members have not been too disappointed.

August 22nd - Nonsuch Palace

This summer a Ministry of Works excavation, under the direction of Mr. Martin Biddle, is uncovering the foundations and plan of Henry VIII's famous and lavish Palace at Nonsuch, demolished by Barbara Villiers. Those of the Gate House towers have recently been uncovered and by August 22nd there should be a great deal to see. Arrangements have been made for a party from the Society to be taken over the site at 2.45 p.m. and tea can be obtained afterwards in the Mansion House in the Park.

The site is a little way inside the London Road gate of the Park, across the main drive, and there is a Car Park inside this entrance. This Gate can be most easily approached by continuing along the A 24 towards London from the Organ Inn at Ewell East Village. After about three-quarters of a mile the road meets the Park wall and bends at right-angles to the left. The gate is at the centre of the bend. The 93 bus, which stops close to the gate, leaves Leatherhead Institute at 2.13 p.m. and returns from Ewell at 23 and 58 minutes past the hour.

October 3rd - Fungus Foray

A fungus foray, led by Mrs. Topping, has become a tradition of the autumn. Would foragers for 1959 kindly meet at the William IV at Mickleham at 2.40, to allow those who wish to do so to catch the 2.25 p.m. bus from the Crescent at Leatherhead. The rival prospects of Mickleham Woods and Norbury Park can then be assessed on the day. Please bring your own tea.

November 7th - "Saxon Surrey and the Millenary of King Edgar"

This will be a tea-time meeting to commemorate the millenary of King Edgar. Dr. Kiralfy, Reader in Law at London University, will speak on Edgar himself and Dr. R.H.M. Dolley, of the British Museum Department of Coins and Medals, has chosen "Saxon Coins, with Special Reference to the Dorking Hoard", as his subject. An exhibition of casts of these coins and photographs of objects of the period will be a third factor in this special symposium.

Accommodation has been booked at "The Old Rising Sun", by the London Transport Bus Garage at Leatherhead, and tea will be served from 3.30 p.m. The lectures will begin about 4.0 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. The inclusive charge will be 3/6d, and I shall be grateful if members who intend to come will forward this sum to me by Monday, November 2nd, at the latest. Definite numbers must be known a little in advance for catering and because there is a limit to the capacity of the room.

November 18th - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Talk

Proceedings will begin at 8.10 in the Council Room at the Council Offices at Leatherhead but further details will be circulated later.

December 5th - Joint Meeting with Surrey Archeological Society

Again this will be a tea-meeting at "The Old Rising Sun". Dr. Corcoran, of the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, London University, will speak on "Stonehenge and its Cultural Significance" and illustrate his talk with slides.

The charge will be 3/6d and I shall be grateful for this sum from all members who intend to come by Monday, November 30th. As this is a joint-meeting the pressure on accommodation will be greater so that I shall be obliged to deal with requests in the order in which I receive them.

The planning of next year's programme must begin soon, so that, if there are any more members who wish to fill in the forms sent with the last circular, I would be grateful if they could return them to me as soon as possible. This information will be helpful, and I would like to thank the many members who have already sent it to me.

"Common End",
Eastwick Drive,
Great Bookham.

Programme Secretary.

Bookham 2702