

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President : Capt. A.W.G. Lowther, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.

NEWS LETTER 3/63

May, 1963

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Dear Member,

It is regretted that this letter has been delayed through illness.

You will remember that the Surrey Archaeological Society commenced excavations at Hawk's Hill, Fetcham, in 1961 on what proved to be a Farmstead of the Little Woodbury type. Further excavations have been conducted by Mr. F.A. Hastings in 1962 and 1963 and the discoveries made this year are of great interest.

Arrangements have therefore been made for members to visit the site on Saturday, June 8th at 3.00 p.m. when those attending will be conducted around the excavations.

The map reference of the site is N.G. 155554 on A246. From Leatherhead this is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile past the bus garage up Hawk's Hill on the right hand side of the road just before reaching The Mount. (408 bus route stop "The Mount", Fetcham).

Further visits will be notified to members in the next news letter.

The Proceedings will soon be available for distribution from the printers and will be forwarded within the next two or three weeks to those members whose subscriptions for 1963 are duly paid. Reminders for those who have not paid are enclosed herewith and subscriptions should be remitted to the Hon. Treasurer, Lloyds Bank Ltd., Leatherhead, Surrey.

Members are reminded that the Society's library is kept in the rooms of the Surrey County Library at the Mansion, Church Street, Leatherhead, and that reference to it may be made on application to T.C. Williams, Esq., Honorary Librarian, on production of membership card.

It may interest members to know that an enquiry was received recently from the Dorking Urban District Council regarding the history of the Fort at the summit of Box Hill. The following is the reply sent from the Society :-

"A pamphlet (surviving copies are rare) entitled "The Battle of Dorking" by Sir George Chesney was published in 1871, giving an account of an invasion of this country where ultimately the German Army captured the summit of Box Hill.

Because of this pamphlet, which was a reprint from *Blackwood's Magazine* of May 1871 and for which there was a sub-title "Reminiscences of the Volunteers", there was a tremendous upsurge of public opinion and as a result, the string of forts along the North Downs, of which the two you mention are

It may be of interest to know that after the appearance of this article a long correspondence was conducted on the subject in the Times."

It is of further interest to note that it was generally realised during the first and second World Wars that, had an invasion actually succeeded, the first tenable line of defence on land for London would have been, once again, the North Downs."

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J.G.W. Lewarne,
Hon. Secretary.

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