

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

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

NEWS LETTER 5/63

Sept., 1963

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Dear Member,

The following events have been arranged :-

Saturday, September 21st - Visit to Blechingley.

Blechingley, which is situated on the main road between Redhill and Godstone, has a long history and the visit should be attractive to those members interested in brasses and old buildings.

Mrs Haynes will instruct, assist and supply materials for those members who desire to make rubbings of the fourteenth century brasses in the Church.

Apart from the Church, members will be interested in -

Two Old Inns - The Plough and the White Hart. The latter was probably the house of a well-known local family and became an inn in 1733.

Woolner Cottages - Built 1552.

18th Century Shop Fronts - in the High Street.

On the outskirts of Blechingley there are

Brewstreet Farm House - a Jacobean timbered building, half timbered Gate House at Place Farm - the only vestige of Anne of Cleves' Palace, and Pendell Court - 1624

The above buildings are a small selection of those of interest and members are referred to 'Blechingley' by Uvedale Lambert (Surrey Arch. Soc. 1949) and the same author's 'Blechingley - a parish history' (Camb. U.P. 1921). Pamphlets are normally available at the Church. This visit links with the December lecture *qui vide*.

Transport: 470 'bus from Leatherhead Church at 1.35.p.m. alighting at Deepdene Roundabout at 1. 53. p.m.  
414 'bus from Deepdene Roundabout at 1. 56. p.m. alighting at Redhill at 2. 30. p.m.  
410 'bus from Redhill at 2. 30. p.m. or 2. 45.p.m. reaching Blechingley at 2. 49 and 3. 04. respectively. The stop is near the Church. Alternatively members may travel via 418 or 470 'bus to Epsom, to Redhill by 406 'bus and then as above.

The cheapest method is to purchase a 6/- Rover Ticket on the first 'bus boarded. These tickets provide unlimited travel on Green 'Busses on the day of issue.

Members travelling by car, who have spare seats and are willing to take passengers are asked to notify Mrs. Topping (Lea. 3565) during the week prior to the visit and if those desiring lifts also contact her she will endeavour to accommodate them. Those availing themselves of lifts are expected to donate a minimum of 2/6d. to the driver's pet charity, especially if that pet charity happens to be the Leatherhead and District Local History Society.

Please meet outside the main door of the Church at 3. p.m. Arrival of the 3. 04. 'bus will be awaited. The first period will be spent in the Church subject to Weddings not causing delay.

Saturday, October 19th - Fungus Foray at Oxshott.

Organiser - Mrs. Topping. The British Mycological Society are holding a whole day foray at Oxshott led by Dr. Hora of Reading University. Our members are invited to join this meeting at Oxshott Station at 11.15. a.m. bringing a picnic lunch. Those wishing only to spend the afternoon

at Oxshott are asked to meet at the Tea Hut by the station at 2. 30.p.m. Specimens will be displayed and identified at the hut later in the afternoon.

Transport: 'Buses leave the Bull Leatherhead 10.48.a.m. arriving at Oxshott at 11. 05.a.m. and at 1.53.p.m. arriving at Oxshott at 2.10.p.m. Ask for the Oxshott Station stop.

Thursday, November 7th

Lecture on 'Anglo-Saxon Jewellery' by Miss J.M. Cook, Curator of the City Museum, Chichester. The Lecture will be illustrated by coloured slides. Venue - Wesleyan Hall, Church Street, Leatherhead at 8.p.m. Visitors are welcome 1/- entry fee.

Saturday, December 14th

Lecture on 'Building Materials and Surrey Houses' by K.W. Gravett Esq., B.Sc. (Illustrated by slides) This is a joint meeting with the Surrey Archaeological Society. Venue - Red House Assembly Rooms, Leatherhead. Tea and Biscuits will be served at 3. 30.p.m. and the Lecture will commence at 4.p.m. Admission 2/- each to Members of either Society. 3/- to Non-Members - payable at the door.

Your Committee are sure there are many living in the district who have only to be approached for them to join the Society. Particulars will be gladly sent to any interested person. The Proceedings of the Society are of recognized value and are on the shelves of many college, reference and public libraries. One lady who recently purchased a range of back numbers wrote - 'I was very pleased to receive the back numbers of the Proceedings. They have come to an appreciative home - I am already burning midnight oil. What a treasure chest they are ! How fortunate is Leatherhead..... ! Our aim is to maintain this standard. We greatly need another fifty members to make us financially sound and we look to our present members to help us attain this target.

Historical Notes

During the years 1791 to 1800 the ages of death are recorded against the burials in the Leatherhead Parish Registers. An examination of the 211 burials recorded provides the following details :-

Under age 1 year	46
Between ages 1 and 20	46
Between ages 21 and 40	31
Between ages 41 and 60	38
Over age 60	50
	<u>211</u>

The high rate of mortality amongst infants is very clearly shown.

Extract from Bradshaw's Descriptive Railway Handbook 1871. 'Leatherhead - a telegraph station. Hotels - Swan, Bull, Dukes Head. Population 2,079. Fair - Oct. 10th for horses and pigs. This is a good starting place for tourists. It is situated on the River Mole, which is crossed by a bridge of 14 arches. The railway follows the valley of the Mole, through most inviting scenery, equally attractive to the pedestrian and the angler, for its fine views and excellent trout. The Church was built about the year 1346, in the form of a cross, but has since been restored; the fine stained window was brought from Rouen.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATES LISTED ABOVE

PARTICULARS OF UNIVERSITY OF LONDON LECTURES ON LONDON HISTORY, ENGLISH HISTORY, LOCAL HISTORY AND PALAEOGRAPHY WILL BE SUPPLIED ON REQUEST. BILLS ARE DISPLAYED IN SOCIETY'S FRAME IN LEATHERHEAD LIBRARY.

J. G. Lewarne., 69 Cobham Road, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

*Mr. Smith 22  
Mr. Brown 9  
Mr. Gold  
Mr. Fiddell*