

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Letter 2/69

March 1969

Dear Member,

The following meetings and visits have been arranged :

Friday 28th March. Twenty-second Annual General Meeting at the Council Offices, Leatherhead, by courtesy of the Leatherhead Urban District Council.

Coffee and biscuits will be served to members at 8 p.m. in the Council Members Room.

A general discussion on Local History will follow the business, in which it is hoped many members will take part.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Twenty-second ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society will take place at the Offices of the Leatherhead Urban District Council at 8.30 p.m. on Friday 28th March 1969 with the following Agenda :-

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
2. Matters arising therefrom
3. Presentation of the Executive Committee's Twenty-second Report (Copy enclosed)
4. Presentation of the Accounts to 31st December 1968
5. Election of Officers and Committee for 1969
6. Other Business

Thursday 24th April. Lecture - Dr. S.C. Sowerbutts on 'Bookham Common'. Illustrated with slides. Dr. Sowerbutts has kindly agreed to give this talk in substitution for that arranged in January which was cancelled owing to illness.

Thursday 22nd May. Lecture by G.C. Titmus, Esq., on 'Your County Newspaper'. Mr. Titmus was a member of the British Delegation at the Anglo-German Press Conference held at Konigswinter as guest of the West German Government attended by seven British Members of Parliament. He has been also Surrey Representative on the Council and member of the Executive of the Chartered Institute of Journalists and a member of the National Union of Journalists for over thirty years, and has served on the Editorial Staff of Provincial Evening and Local Newspapers in various parts of the country.

THE ABOVE MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE LEATHERHEAD INSTITUTE, HIGH STREET, LEATHERHEAD, AND MEMBERS ARE PARTICULARLY ASKED TO NOTE THIS CHANGE OF VENUE. CAR PARKING IS AVAILABLE AT THE REAR OF THE INSTITUTE, DRIVING IN BY THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING.

Time - 8 p.m. for 8.15 p.m.

Overcrowding of the Reeves Room has necessitated the altered venue and it is hoped that members will welcome the change.

The Committee are considering arranging a visit to Porchester Castle, Hants. and the Fishbourne Romano-British site near Chichester. A coach party can be arranged provided sufficient support is forthcoming. The date would probably be Saturday 20th September and the visit in all would last from approximately 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The approximate cost would be 16/- exclusive of meals, for which members should make their own arrangements. Those members who are motorists may welcome a respite from the rigours of driving and there will be no parking worries. As the coach must be booked well in advance of the date, it will be appreciated if members will kindly notify the undersigned of their intention to join the party not later than 24th April. ~~Please use the enclosed form.~~

Capt. Lowther has asked that the following explanation of the Colophon at the back of the new issue of the Proceedings (Vol. 3 No. 1) should be noted here.

'This flagon was almost certainly made at the potteries at Fulham (still existing) or Lambeth, both of which turned out Bellarmine flagons made of stoneware of buff colour flecked with brown and glazed and usually ornamented with a grotesque mask.'

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A course of six lectures on archaeological field techniques will be given at Surbiton Secondary School, Surbiton Hill Road, on Wednesdays at 7.15 p.m., beginning on 29th April. Those interested should write to the School Principal.

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### Historical Notes

The following extracts from the Leatherhead Parish Magazine may be of interest to members.

January 1886.

'Our review of the year (1885) has no special outbreak of sickness to record, and the condition of the Parish has been fairly healthy. The number of Marriages in Church has been 23; of Baptisms 100; and of Burials 59.

The chief events in connexion with the Church has been the erection of a Lich Gate, which has added greatly to the appearance of the Churchyard, and the enlargement of the Organ, which is now a truly grand instrument - and was heard to advantage at the Re-opening Recital given by Mr. Hoyte, on 17th December.'

Later in the Magazine the Re-opening of the Organ is described.

'This Organ was originally built by Sneltzler, about the year 1750. It was repaired and enlarged to meet the needs of the Church when removed in 1873 from the West Gallery to its present position. The funds then available were not sufficient, however, to carry out thoroughly the repairs that were needed, and the instrument has since fallen into dilapidation. The Organ has now been rebuilt, completely modernized, and enlarged at considerable expense, the work being done, as in 1873, by Messrs. J.W. Walker and Sons, of London. ----- The keyboard of the original organ, which was played upon by Handel, is now exhibited as an interesting relic in the Church.'

February 1886.

'During the recent severe weather a Soup Kitchen has been opened on Tuesdays and Fridays from 12 to 1 p.m., behind Mr. Tribe's shop. About 75 gallons per week has been distributed. The kitchen will be kept open as long as it appears to be really required.'

'A Free Registry will be opened during the present month at the Registrar's Office, Mr. F. Hailstone's, Church Street, Letherhead, for the parishes of Ashted, Fetcham and Letherhead. Working Men, Artisans, Labourers and Mechanics of respectable character, who have been residents not less than six months within the district formed by the three parishes, may enter their names at the Registry, free of charge when in want of employment. The Registrar will be in constant communication with employers of labour in the neighbourhood. The plan has been tried with great success at Egham, and it is hoped that it may be found useful to the respectable resident working men in our parish and the neighbouring parishes of Ashted and Fetcham.'

May 1886

A Clergyman's Sister, residing in this neighbourhood, is desirous of Meeting with Afternoon or Music Pupils. Acquirments - English, French, music and the rudiments of Latin. M., 3 Bridge Street, Letherhead.

69 Cobham Road,  
Fetcham,  
Leatherhead,  
Surrey.

J.G.W. Lewarne  
Hon. Secretary.

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31st DECEMBER 1968

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Committee has pleasure in presenting its Twenty-second Report.

1. Membership

As at 31st December 1968 the membership of the Society was 246. This figure shows a net increase for 1968 of 11. This increase is made up as follows -

New Members	<u>30</u>
Deaths	4
Resigned	1
Moved from District	4
Unpaid	<u>10</u>
	19

The increasing membership (while a good sign of a healthy Society) does create certain problems which are being considered in a wide study of the future working of the Society. Later this year the Committee hopes to put forward certain proposals for discussion. It will be pleased to consider at any time suggestions which might improve the well-being of the Society.

It is with regret the deaths are recorded of A.T. Ruby, M.B.E., the first Secretary of the Society and later its Chairman and Archivist; R.G. Austen; A.J. Ginger and Dr. Moss.

2. Lectures and Visits

The following were arranged -

January 10th	Lecture 'Early Churches of the Leatherhead Area' by D.R. Renn, F.S.A. (This lecture was repeated at the Surrey Local History Council Symposium held at Dorking on 9th November 1968).
February 7th	Lecture 'Archaeology in Surrey' by F. Holling.
March 22nd	Annual General Meeting and General Discussion.
April 5th	Lecture 'Recent Excavations in Scotland' by D.J. Turner, F.S.A. (Scot.).
May 14th	Lecture 'East Anglian Waterways' by L.A. Edwards.
June 15th	Dorking Walk conducted by J.E.N. Walker.
July 20th	Visit to Outwood Mill, described by W. Millar.
August 10th	Walk to demonstrate the 'Formation of the Mole Valley', led by J. Docherty.
September 11th	Lecture: 'Fungi' by Mrs. I. Gardener.
October 3rd	Lecture: 'Surrey Houses under the Tudors' by K.W.E. Gravett, F.S.A.
November 6th	Lecture 'Armour' by C. Blair, F.S.A.
December 5th	Leatherhead Historical Miscellany.

The average attendance at meetings was 50.

The Committee expresses its thanks to the Lecturers and Visits Leaders for their services.

Suggestions for future lectures and visits are invited at any time.

3. Proceedings

Volume 3 Number 1 was published in 1968. This was an enlarged issue to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the foundation of the Society.

Volume 3 Number 2 is in course of distribution to members who have paid their subscriptions for 1969.

The Honorary Editor will be pleased to consider contributions for inclusion in the Proceedings, or suggestions for the nature of the same.

4. Committee

Consequent upon the death of Mr. Ruby, the Committee elected D.R. Renn as Chairman and D. Bruce as Honorary Records Secretary. Mr. W.T. Bristow left the district, and his successor at Lloyds Bank, Leatherhead, W.F. Thuell, was appointed Honorary Treasurer in his place. The other Officers and Committee members are -

President	:	Capt. A.W.G. Lowther
Hon. Editor	:	F.B. Benger
Hon. Programme Secretary	:	Mrs. B. Haynes
Hon. Secretary	:	J.G.W. Lewarne
Committee Members	:	Mrs. I. Gardener; W. Millar.
Hon. Librarian	:	T. C. Williams

The Officers and members of the Committee retire at the Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election. Nominations are invited and should reach the Honorary Secretary not later than March 26th and should state -

1. Name of Nominee
2. Names of Proposer and Secunder
3. That the Nominee has expressed his or her willingness to serve if elected

5. Accounts

The Statement of Receipts and Payments for 1968 is enclosed. The Committee gratefully acknowledge the financial support given to its work by the Surrey County Council and the Leatherhead Urban District Council.

6. Subscriptions (10/-)

These fell due on January 1st and early payment to the Honorary Treasurer, W.F. Thuell (Lloyds Bank Ltd., Leatherhead) will be appreciated.

7. A number of talks on historical matters have been given to local organizations. Evening Classes on Local History were organized by the Chairman on behalf of the local education authority. Nearly 50 students attended each class.

8. The Society has built up over the years a collection of books, photographs, maps and documents relating to the history of Leatherhead and district. Among our most valuable items are the detailed reminiscences of some of our senior members, in which are found many facets of our local history which would otherwise go unrecorded.

Any member who possesses or knows the location of items of local historic interest, or who are willing to put pen to paper, is asked to contact the Honorary Records Secretary, D. Bruce, 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham. (Bookham 5722).

69 Cobham Road,  
Fetcham,  
Leatherhead,  
Surrey.

J.G.W. Lewarne  
Hon. Secretary

Date : 14.3.1969.

