

# LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Newsletter 3/70

July 1970

Dear Member,

A Special General Meeting was held immediately before the A.G.M. on 20th March, 1970, to consider the Rules of the Society. A copy of the proposed new Rules had been circulated with Newsletter 2/70, and they were passed by the Meeting, with the following amendments:-

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Rule 2(c) insert "fine arts" between "topography" and "architecture".

ADD "Rule 2(c) to accept and hold either on loan, donation or purchase any items conforming to the objects of (a) and (b) above, and to hold same in safe keeping as may be directed by the Executive Committee."

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Rule 4(d) insert "shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than business" between the fourth and fifth lines.

Rule 6 line 5 - for "each" substitute "such".

Rule 7 line 2 - for "Auditor" substitute "Editor".

Members are asked to amend their copies of the Rules accordingly.

At the A.G.M. the following members were elected to the Executive Committee:-

Chairman	D.F. RENN
Hon. Records Secretary	D. BRUCE
Hon. Editor	F.B. BENDER
Hon. Treasurer	F.A. STOKES
Hon. Programme Secretary	G. HAYWARD
Committee Members	J. BULL
	S.E.D. FORTESCUE
	W. MILLAR
Hon. Auditor (re-elected)	A.H. KIRKBY

Mr. LEWARNE, whilst not standing for re-election, kindly consented to act as Hon. Secretary until the next Executive Committee Meeting, there being no nomination for that post. Warm tributes were paid to Mr. Lewarne who had been the Hon. Secretary of the Society for over nine years.

At an Executive Committee Meeting held on 6th April, Capt. A.W.G. LOWTHER was unanimously re-elected President, and Mr. J. PARRY was co-opted to the Executive Committee. Mr. D. BRUCE agreed to act as Hon. Secretary until another candidate could be found, and he welcomed the offers of assistance made at the A.G.M. by Miss S. HIND - compilation and distribution of the Newsletters, and Mr. E.D.K. TAYLOR - distribution of the Proceedings.

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Mr. J.G.W. LEWARNE has served the Society as Hon. Secretary for nearly ten years, and in other capacities before that, and has achieved much in his term of office. His warm personality, enthusiasm and kindness has been appreciated by all members, and he leaves behind a reputation for unremitting energy and efficiency. The Executive Committee were very pleased when John Lewarne accepted their invitation to become an Honorary Member of the Society. He was also co-opted onto the Committee.

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CONTINUED OVERLEAF

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

Saturday 25th July

Car ramble visiting places of interest in Surrey. Starting 2 p.m. from the grass verge at the top of Young Street (facing Bookham) and finishing with picnic tea. Drivers follow a set route and the distance covered will be about 70 miles from Fetcham to Fetcham. Names of those interested should be given to Hon. Programme Sec. before 17th July as the event may have to be cancelled if there is insufficient support.

Saturday 15th August

An "Historical Bookham" walk starting at 3 p.m. from Great Bookham Parish Churchyard, under the leadership of Mr. S.E.D. Fortescue. You are invited to a light tea at his home in The Mount, Fetcham, where he has items of interest to show. If members would like to take advantage of this generous offer it is essential for catering purposes that their names should be given to the Hon. Programme Sec. by 25th July. Members are reminded that on these walks they often have the opportunity of seeing things not generally on view to the public

Saturday 12th September

Coach trip to Bodiam, a perfect castle built in 1387. The surrounding lake has been dredged recently. After a sandwich lunch a brief visit to Battle Abbey. The charge for admission is not included in the cost of the trip and members wishing to see the remains of the Abbey will have time to do so - but there is not a great deal to see. However, a short talk about the Abbey will be given on arrival. The party will then move on to Bateman's - a Tudor ironmaster's home, later occupied by Rudyard Kipling. Tea at Tunbridge Wells. Names to Programme Secretary by 29th July with the charge of 20/- per head.

For convenience in connection with these outings a slip is attached.

INDOOR MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT THE LEATHERHEAD INSTITUTE, 8 p.m. for 8.15 p.m.

Friday 23rd October

"Bygone Leatherhead" - a talk by Mr. P.M. Broderick-Hartley of Reigate in which he recalls the Leatherhead of his youth in the early twenties. He will also trace his family history which goes back to 1622, and which has been recorded by successive members ever since.

~~Thursday~~  
Thursday 19th November

The Viscountess Hanworth, F.S.A., will visit us from Ewhurst to talk about the excavation of the Romano-British villa near her home.

Thursday 17th December

A "Leatherhead Miscellany". Short talks by our own members. Members wishing to contribute are welcomed however brief their item may be, and are invited to get in touch with the Programme Sec. by, say, mid-November.

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THE ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE

A series of 24 lectures sponsored by the Workers' Educational Association will be given by Mr. George McHardy, BSc.Econ., and will be held at the County Junior School, Bell Lane, Fetcham, On Wednesdays, 8 p.m. from September 23rd. The lectures will trace the architectural development of the English country house and its setting from medieval times to about 1900. Fee - 45/- (concessions to O.A.Ps). For further details 'phone Mrs. Winslade, W.E.A., Leatherhead 4511.

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NOTICE TO PHOTOGRAPHERS

Our records would be greatly augmented if every member with a camera could spare just one frame for the Society, when they indulge in their annual snapshotting spree. Any view of Leatherhead and District would be welcomed, although a print or transparency of a building or site threatened with "development" would be most valuable.

ASHTREAD POTTERS.

The above were known to have been an ex-servicemen's project founded after the first World War, and was in existence in 1932 at the Victoria Works, High Street, Ashtread. The Pottery staged a stand in the Palace of Industry at the British Empire Exhibition, 1924. By the gift of Mr. D.I. MacFarlane, the Society has come into possession of two plates made at the pottery, and any details of the concern itself, the range of its products and the people connected with it would be appreciated.

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A LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM.

From the very early days of the Society's existence, there has been a desire to see a museum in Leatherhead. In 1948 we made inquiries regarding accommodation in the newly acquired Red House, and again in 1949 we were hoping that room could be found in The Mansion. Since then various buildings have been mentioned and investigated, and at the present time it is planned that four members of the Executive Committee will meet a similar number of Councillors to discuss all aspects of the matter.

However, one of the arguments against a Museum is that, apart from a very good collection of maps, photographs and documents, we do not have in our possession a very impressive array of objects. Understandably, people with objects of local historical interest, even if they would be prepared to present them to the Society for display in a museum, are loth to part with them until such time as a museum is actually established.

In other words, it is a vicious circle - No museum, no objects: No objects, no museum.

In order that the dead-lock may be broken to some extent, members are asked to advise the Hon. Records Secretary, 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham, of any object of local interest which they have reason to believe the owner would be willing to give or loan to the Society once a museum is in being.

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We are indebted to a member, Mrs. A Evans of Little Bookham Street, Great Bookham, for bringing to our attention the following extract from "Forgotten Croydon" by Ronald Bannerman, M.C., F.S.A. (Published by Croydon Times Ltd., 1945):

"1754

On Tuesday the son of a wealthy farmer at Bookham in Surrey was committed to the New Gaol by Joseph Willoughby and John Heathfield Esquires, charged upon the oath of Jeremiah Sippetts of Croydon in Surrey, Farmer, with robbing him on the 28th April in the parish of Caterham in the said County, of 15/-. This young Highwayman has for some time past infested the roads about Croydon, and between that town and London; and sometimes rode a Grey and sometimes a Bay horse. He wears a light duffel surtout Coat, his hat generally flapt before."

The Society would welcome further information about this Eighteenth century juvenile delinquent, and trust that all members are constantly on the lookout for similar references to our area in equally unlikely places.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Letherhead Parish Magazine - June 1887

In as much as there have been many false & exaggerated Reports as to the prevalence of scarlet fever in the parish, it may be well to state the true facts.

There were in the first instance but three cases, one of which we regret to say proved fatal, but the other two were but slight & were at once removed to the London Fever Hospital, where the patients remain, doing as well as possible.

Since the first outbreak there have been slight cases of fever in three other houses, but the patients have been isolated and all are progressing favourably towards recovery.

Extract from Leatherhead Observer, 13 June 1891.

New Wesleyan Church is planned to cost £1,000. Plan is to raise £2,000, the stewardship is vested in Mr. S. Mould of High Street, Leatherhead, who is also Chapel Steward.

Extract from Leatherhead Observer, 1 August 1891.

FRANK BARNEY, whose Father is cooper at the Swan Brewery, fell through a trap in the loft at that Brewery into the Stable necessitating the attention of Dr. POTTS and Dr. HEARNDEN to injured rib and collarbone. He now progresses fairley.

David Bruce,  
Hon. Secretary.

7, Fox Lane,  
Little Bookham.