

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter 2/71

August 1971

Dear Member,

At a well-attended Annual General Meeting which filled the Council Chamber, kindly put at our disposal by the Leatherhead Urban District Council, many subjects of interest to members were discussed. The Executive Committee's recommendation that the annual subscription should be increased to 75p as from 1.1.72. was fully debated, the Hon. Treasurer outlining the reasons for this move, which included the effects of increases in printing costs and postage, and the possibility that our success in recruiting new members may force us to use a larger and more expensive meeting place in the future, were readily appreciated by members present, and some thought the subscription should go up to £1. However, the general feeling was that 75p was as much as the average member would be prepared to pay at this time, and on a vote the motion was passed unanimously.

Several of our members pay their subscription by Bankers Order, and they are urged to take early action to have their instructions amended in view of the time it seems to take computers to understand alterations of this nature.

The Annual General Meeting elected the following members to the Executive Committee:-

Chairman	D.F.RENN
Hon. Secretary	D.BRUCE
Hon. Records Secretary	
Hon. Editor	F.B.BENGER
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

At a subsequent Executive Committee meeting, Capt. A.W.G.LOWTHER was unanimously re-elected President, and Mr. J.G.W.LEWARNE and Mrs. M.FULLER were co-opted to the Executive Committee.

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To remind members of the programme for the remainder of 1971, brief notes are given below:-

SATURDAY 21st AUGUST. Visit to Loseley House, near Godalming. Members to make own way there, meeting in car park at 3.15 p.m., but lifts will be arranged for those who have specially asked.

SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER. Coach trip to St. Albans. Now is the time to send your 17/- (85p) per person to Mr. Hayward if you have not done so. This will confirm your booking and tickets can then be delivered to you.

TUESDAY 19th OCTOBER. "The Sutton Hoo Excavations" In 1939 the remains of a great Anglo-Saxon ship were found at Sutton Hoo near Ipswich. A burial chamber amidships contained gold jewellery, silver plate, weapons, cauldrons, bowls, duckets, drinking-horns and cups. It was the richest treasure ever dug up in Britain, and for over thirty years research and debate on the discoveries have continued. Mr. C.W.PHILLIPS is uniquely qualified to speak on this ship burial since he led the highly-skilled team that excavated the treasure and he has been closely connected with the later research.

In anticipation of a large proportion of our membership wishing to attend it has been decided to hire the Leatherhead Parish Church Hall. There will be ample room for guests to attend, and it is hoped that members will bring along their friends to this meeting. In view of the extra cost of hiring, it is proposed to take up a silver collection. The talk will begin at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 19th NOVEMBER. "Butterflies and Moths" Talk with slides by R.H.HAYNES Esq., of the DORKING NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY; 8 p.m. at Letherhead Institute.

TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER. "Leatherhead Miscellany" Short talks or slides or display of objects of local interest by members. Please contact Mr. HAYWARD to book your part, however brief, in the evening's programme. Letherhead Institute 8 p.m.

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THE LETHERHEAD INSTITUTE LIBRARY

Many members may not realise that there is an excellent library to the left hand side of the front entrance and many books can be obtained before they reach the public libraries. This is one of the few remaining cultural functions of the Institute, and membership is extremely reasonable at £1. per annum plus one new penny for each book taken out. Call in one Saturday morning when you are shopping and see what it has to offer.

LEARNING HOW TO EXCAVATE

Mr. FRANK PEMBERTON of the NONSUCH & EWELL ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY is planning a crash course for excavators in October at Banstead. The date or dates may by now have been arranged so please pass on your names to Mr. Hayward quickly. We would like to revive this side of our activities especially in view of the motorway threat. Volunteers could be required at short notice in our district and there are many sites waiting to be explored.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

No fixtures yet, and this is partly bound up with the selection of our winter meeting place now that the Institute room has become too small. We hope that we may secure the use of All Saints Parish Church Hall near the Kingston Road roundabout. There should be no shortage of speakers as we have been promised talks by lecturers from other Societies. New members may also look forward to an evening of slides and pictures of Leatherhead and district as it was before the "concrete era."

Outside events will include the Weald & Downland Museum, by popular demand, and we would like to explore a place further afield for a change. This might take the form of a town visit such as Bath or Canterbury, or a trip to a place of great beauty such as the village of Milton Abbas and Milton Abbey in Dorset. Whatever the final choice you should not be disappointed, but your views would be appreciated at our next meeting in August. Fetcham may be the place for our next year's walk, and a nature trail is obviously very popular.

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Dr. THORLEY, the organiser of the wonderful Bookham Common walk in June, mentions that the Ecology Section of the LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY meet on Bookham Common the second Sunday of every month for research and recording schemes. If anyone is interested in assisting with this work they will be welcome as members of the above-named Society. Applications can be made to Mrs. A. WARREN, Hon. Secretary, Ecology Section, London Natural History Society, 76 Hazelwood Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex.

The following entry appears in "THE CAR" ROAD BOOK & GUIDE, published by THE CAR ILLUSTRATED LTD., 1913, under the section "Towns with special Speed Limits"-

"Leatherhead. Limit 10 miles per hour on:-

- (1) So much of the main road from Epsom to Guildford (including High Street and part of Bridge Street) as extends from the eastern corner of the Institute to a point on the road situate 120 yards east of Leatherhead Bridge
- (2) Church Street, extending from its junction with High Street to the

The following extracts are taken from "THE NATURAL HISTORY OF ENGLAND, or, a Description of each particular County, in regard to the curious Productions of Nature and Art" by BENJAMIN MARTIN. Printed and sold by W. OWEN, Temple Bar, and by the Author at his House in Fleet-street. MDCCLIX." Mr. S.E.D. Fortescue possesses a copy.

"The River Mole, or Swallow, rises in Darking Hundred, and, after a considerable course, passes by White-hill near Darking. A little beyond this, this River hides itself, or is swallowed up in a Cavern at the Foot of the hill (from whence it is called *thereabout the Swallow. *Camden). This Author also takes Notice of its running under ground for about the Distance of Two Miles, and rising again and spreading itself into a wide Stream, so as to require a Bridge of many Arches to pass over it; and Gibson on Camden takes this for granted, and compares it to the River Anas in Spain, now called Guadiana, running under Ground 10 Miles.

"This Paragraph is here inserted by the Authority of such great Names; but when I went on Purpose to view this unusual Phaenomenon, I could find nothing like it: The River flowed by those Places where it is said to run under Ground, and lost none of its water while I was in that Part of the Country, neither could I see any Reason to believe that the Stream which goes to Leatherhead has its Origin from the Mole. Indeed I was informed by the Gentlemen of Darking that the Waters of the River would at some certain dry Seasons run into the Ground and leave the Channel almost dry; but this does not happen often.

"Bookeham, greater and lesser. In the Church of the former is a Tablet to perpetuate a Charity to the Intention of the Donor, the only Thing of Note.

"Eiffingham, once a considerable Town, now but a Village.

"Fetcham has a fine Seat and Gardens towards Leatherhead. Not far from the Bridge in this Parish, is a Pond made up of several Springs, which boil up into it out of the Sands in such Plenty, as, united in a Stream, at a few Perches Distance drives an undershot Mill. "

LEATHERHEAD OBSERVER, 6th June 1891

A reporter notes: "Canon Utterton (Vicar of Leatherhead) told me the Registers shew that John WESLEY preached in Leatherhead Church and he is not sure that after being debarred from preaching in the Church he did not preach in Leatherhead churchyard.

"The iron chapel and the land on which the chapel stands and which comes up to the street, cost about £650. About one-tenth of this was unpaid until last October."

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT ADVERTISER. 28 February 1903

On and after April 1st next the fast train which now leaves Dorking at 8.38 a.m. will start 3 minutes earlier from that station and will stop at Leatherhead at 8.45 reaching London Bridge at 9.30. (Note: According to the July 1971 time-table the 8.37 a.m. train ex Leatherhead is due to arrive at London Bridge at 9.22 occupying exactly the same time on the journey.)

Preliminary announcement: A Symposium on local history will be held at the Dorking Halls on Saturday 13th November, from 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., under the auspices of the Surrey Archaeological Society and the Surrey Local History Council. The programme includes Dr. Crowe on "The Wool Trade in Surrey", and Mr. John Charlton on "The Royal Palaces in and around Surrey". Tickets at 35p may be obtained from T.E.C. Walker, Esq., Spring Grove, Water Lane, Cobham, Surrey.

OLD BUILDINGS WITHIN LEATHERHEAD CIVIL PARISH

A report on the sudden disappearance of an old building of worth is a news item we read all too frequently in our newspapers. In Vol.1, No. 4 (1950) of the Proceedings of this Society, a list of buildings selected for their architectural, historical or artistic interest in the Leatherhead Urban District area appeared, and it is felt that that part applying to the civil parish of Leatherhead might usefully be reproduced here to act as a reminder to our present members of the many old and interesting buildings in our midst. Lists of buildings in the other parishes will be reproduced in later Newsletters.

See over/

LEATHERHEAD Civil Parish

- 73. Parish Church of SS. Mary and Nicholas. Late XHth century nave, with XIVth century chancel and transepts. Fine XVth century tower of flint and stone. Numerous monuments of various centuries, and fittings.
- 74. Moated Manor House site (now known as The Mounts) of the Manor House of Pachenesham Magna, of which the earliest occupation period established is circa 1200. The moat dug and house reconstructed 1292/3. Site excavated 1947-1950.
- 75. Stane Street. Roman Road from London to Chichester. Section from Millway to Mickleham Downs.
- 76. Barrows north-east of Cherkley Court, Leatherhead Downs. Part of a series of evidences of early occupation of which other evidences have been observed by aerial observation at Hambledon Wood near Headley Road.
- 77. Bridge over the River Mole. 1783, widened on the south side 1824.
- 78. Bockett's Farm and Great Barn, Norbury Park. The barn, cruciform in plan, is of the late XVIIth or early XVIIIth century. The house early XIXth century.
- 79. Highlands Farm, Headley Road and Barns. The house circa 1800. A fine specimen of a farmhouse of this period. The great barn XVIIIth century, with fine wrought iron weather-vane.
- 80. Barnett Wood Lane. Barnett Wood Farm and outbuildings. XVIIth and XVIIIth century. Brick and timber.
- 81. Bridge Street. No. 26 (New Bridge Restaurant). Early XIXth century.
- 82. Bridge Street. Nos. 28, 40, 32 and 34. Terrace of early XIXth century houses.
- 83. Bridge Street. The Running Horse Public House. XVIth century, possibly earlier in parts. This is the reputed inn of the ale-wife, Eleanor Rimming, who figures in the poem "The Tunning of Eleanor Rimming," by John Skelton, laureate to Henry VIII.
- 84. Bridge Street. No. 3 (Eldridge). Early XIXth century façade.
- 85. Bridge Street. No. 5 (Hughes, chemist). Early XIXth century.
- 86. Bridge Street. No. 15. XVIIIth century.
- 87. Bridge Street. No. 17. XVIIIth century.
- 88. Bridge Street. No. 25. XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries. *To be demolished.*
- 89. Bridge Street. No. 27. XVIIIth century. *To be demolished.*
- 90. Bridge Street. No. 31 (T. J. Leavey & Son). Early XIXth century quasi-Gothic. *saved.*
- 91. Bridge Street. No. 37 (Yardley). Late XVIIIth century.
- 92. Bridge Street. Nos. 39 and 41. XVIIth century.
- 93. Bridge Street. No. 43. Early XIXth century.
- 94. Bull Hill. The Cottage. XVIIth century. Half timber with brick nogging. *bought by local soc. in 1971.*
- 95. Church Road. No. 18. Early XVIIIth century. Framed house, weather-boarded. Later addition to south. The older part a fine specimen.
- 96. Church Road. Nos. 25 and 27. A pair of early XIXth century villas of the "Jane Austen" period. Stucco.
- 97. Church Street. Nos. 1 and 3. No. 1, early XVIIIth century. No. 3, XVIth or XVIIth century, timber framed with brick nogging.
- 98. Church Street. No. 17, and cottages Nos. 1 and 2 in close at rear. XVIth and XVIIth centuries.
- 99. Church Street. No. 33 (The Cottage). Perhaps XVIth century, with a fine XVIIIth century brick facade added to street face. A very delightful specimen of blending of periods creating a unified and pleasing whole.
- 100. Church Street. No. 35 (formerly Moss Cottage). Probably XVIth century. Brick with timber frame.
- 101. Church Street. No. 10. Late XVIIIth century, or early XIXth. Brick.
- 102. Church Street. Nos. 24 and 26. XVIth to XVIIIth centuries. Copyhold of Thorncroft Manor from 1500 to 1863, anciently known as Waytes. Note XVIIth century fish scale tiling to north face.
- 103. Church Street. Nos. 28-30. No. 30 mainly XVIIth century. No. 28 used to be glebe holding.
- 104. Church Street. The Mansion. Circa 1739, embodying portions of an older structure, and with later additions. It would seem a fair assumption that the mansion gets its name from having been the manor house of the small manor of Minchin in Leatherhead (see Surrey Record Office, Map 15/10). The Minchin manor (Old English 'myncen' = minchin) belonged until the Reformation to the Nuns of Kilburn. In the XVIIth century the mansion was the residence of Charles Howard, 2nd Earl of Nottingham, son of the great Lord Admiral. He died in 1642 and his widow was living there in 1643 when Royalist bands broke into the house. Later in the XVIIth century the house was the residence of Sir Thomas Bludworth, and it was here that Lord Chancellor Jefferies came in 1689, whilst hunted, to see his dying child and Bludworth's grandchild.
- 105. Dorking Road. Thorncroft Manor House. Built 1766 from designs of Sir Robert Taylor. The lodge is early XIXth century and was designed by a former tenant, Colonel Drinkwater-Bethune, well known as the author of "The Siege of Gibraltar," a military classic.
- 106. Dorking Road. The course of the Mole nearest to Thorncroft House is an artificial cutting made by "Capability" Brown. Between and connecting two islands south of The Priory is a bridge built of flint, ornamented with a carved shell pattern on the keystone, which probably dates from Brown's time.
- 107. Dorking Road. Vale Lodge. XVIIIth century. Brick. The land of Vale Lodge is that anciently attached to the Rectory of Leatherhead, but should not be confused with the Vicarage.
- 108. Gravel Hill. Sweech House (Nos. 2, 4 and 6). XVIth century, the southern wing possibly earlier. Timber frame and brick with some flint. Great centre chimney has mural painting above fireplace on ground floor. Restored 1949-1950.
- 109. Gravel Hill. Nos. 16 and 18. Dated on a plaque 1799. Flint, with brick dressing.
- 110. High Street. Nos. 23 and 25. (Walker and Treanor.) XVIth century. Wooden frame and nogging, covered with rendering.
- 111. High Street. Nos. 27, 29 and 31. (West, Eastman and Gregory.) Late XVIIth or early XVIIIth century. No. 31 with fine pine panelled room on first floor.
- 112. High Street. Nos. 43 and 45. (Maison George and Blue Bird.) XVIth and XVIIth centuries.
- 113. High Street. The Duke's Head Public House. XVIIth century, with XIXth century facade to street.
- *114. High Street. No. 2 (Wakefield). Late XVIIth century. *very fine (7c back wall. Rest seems to be mainly late 18c or 19c.*
- 115. High Street. Nos. 8 and 10. Early XIXth century.
- 116. High Street. No. 24 (Bradmere Cottage). XVIIth or early XVIIIth century. Much altered.
- 117. Kingston Road. Nos. 81 and 83. XVIIIth century, painted weatherboard.
- 118. Kingston Road. Nos. 109 and 111. Circa 1800, painted weatherboard.
- 119. Oxshott Road. "Rowhurst." XVIth and XVIIth centuries. Brick.
- 120. Randalls Road. Patsom Farm. XVIth century. Half timber and brick.
- 121. Randalls Road. Cottage to North of Patsom Farm. Timber frame. Tile hung.
- 122. Randalls Road. Patsom Cottages. Two blocks on west of Stoke Road. XVIth century. Half timber and brick.