

Newsletter 3/71

December 1971

Dear Member,

As another year nears its close, your Committee has pleasure in detailing below next year's programme. Once again our Programme Secretary, Mr. Hayward, has worked wonders in arranging a series of lectures and visits, many the result of suggestions received from members, covering a wide range of interests. Our 1971 meetings were well supported, so much so that our room at the Letherhead Institute has been, on occasions, uncomfortably crowded. We are therefore transferring our indoor activities to a larger hall, starting with the first few meetings in 1972, which will be held at the All Saints Church Hall, Kingston Road, Leatherhead. In the Autumn we may try other halls in Leatherhead, and from time to time we will be using Letherhead Institute for smaller gatherings.

It is therefore most important that members note in their diaries the venue as well as the date of future meetings.

One of the highlights of the 1971 programme was the public lecture on the Sutton Hoo Excavations given by Mr. C.W. Phillips, at which we had an attendance of over 200. This has encouraged your Committee to consider repeating the experiment next autumn, and we would welcome suggestions of suitable subjects (Historical, Archaeological, etc.) with a broad popular appeal, with the name of a speaker of standing who lectures in that field.

It was also gratifying that over 50 new members joined the Society during 1971, and we hope that they have found their membership worthwhile. If they have any criticisms we would be pleased to hear them, so that we can see whether our shortcomings can be rectified. Our pleasure in welcoming new members is dimmed somewhat by the loss of old members and friends, some of whom have died, others have moved from the district and others for one reason or another find that they are unable to maintain their membership. A number just fade away, some no doubt through oversight, and to those we would say "If you haven't received your copy of the Proceedings Vol. 3 No. 4, 1970, it is because you have not yet paid your 1971 subscription."

The next issue of the Proceedings is presently with the printers, as is also the Index to Vol 2., and these will be ready for distribution to 1972 members from about the middle of February.

1972 Programme

So many suggestions have been received (and for these we are very grateful) that it is apparent that we shall accumulate a stock pile which might continue to increase unless we try to fit in a few more visits and talks. To this end the following programme is either already laid on or is being completed.

The lectures begin at 8.15 p.m. unless otherwise shown. Those members using the All Saints car park and who do not wish to hurry away after the lecture are asked to close up tightly behind other cars in order to obtain maximum advantage from the space. The garage forecourt opposite can be used after close of business.

TUESDAY 11th JANUARY. At All Saints Church Hall, Kingston Road, Leatherhead. Mr. J.N.HAMPTON, M.A. of the Surrey Archaeological Society on Air Photography with slides.

THURSDAY 27th JANUARY. A visit to Kingston Records Office by kind permission of Miss M.GOLLANCZ who will show items of local interest. Meet main door of County Hall, Kingston at 7.15 to 7.30 p.m. The earlier time is necessary because the office must be cleared by 8.30 p.m. For those working in London it is suggested they might like to go straight to Kingston and possibly other

members arriving by car could offer lifts back to Leatherhead. This is an opportunity to see records which are normally only available during business hours. Miss Gollancz would like to know how many are likely to be there so please let the Programme Secretary know as soon as you read this item.

TUESDAY 8th February at All Saints Church Hall - a talk by Leatherhead's former Civil Defence Officer, Mr. C.H.BOWLES, on the history of Civil Defence with special reference to Leatherhead in the war years and the town's coat of arms.

THURSDAY 16th MARCH at the Letherhead Institute. Slides of old Leatherhead and District shown by our former Secretary, Mr. J.G.W.LEWARNE. This is an extra item during the month of the A.G.M. and is mainly for new members or for those who have missed the showing on other occasions

Late MARCH. The A.G.M., date and venue in next Newsletter.

TUESDAY 11th APRIL at All Saints Church Hall. Talk with slides - "A ramble through the local history of Esher" by Mr. E.ROYSTON PIKE, President of the Esher Local History Society and a writer of historical works.

A Saturday afternoon in late APRIL. Following the talk above it is hoped to arrange a visit to Waynefleete Tower, Esher. Date and meeting place in next Newsletter.

An evening in early MAY at the Letherhead Institute. A talk on preparation for excavation and fieldwork specially for those of our members who wish to assist with any necessary emergency operations if the motorway excavations reveal anything of interest. We shall be directly concerned in keeping an eye on several miles of motorway passing through our district.

SATURDAY 20th MAY. Coach trip to Avebury, Wilts, to see the Stone Avenue (megaliths), Avebury Circle (neolithic), Avebury Museum, Avebury Manor House and garden, St. James's Church, returning via Silbury Hill (Bronze Age mound - largest in Europe) and Crofton on the edge of Savernake Forest where, if the date is suitable, we hope to see the steam pumping engines (1801-3) which are beam engines recently put in order in the engine house on the Kennet and Avon Canal. We hope to include in our future programme a talk on Industrial Archaeology which rightly forms part of our local history. Full details of this trip in our next Newsletter.

SATURDAY 24th JUNE. Apart from keeping members informed of any Nature Trail laid on by other organisations around this date, we hope to arrange for the 24th June either (1) a visit to Slyfield House and Stoke D'Abernon Church, or (2) a trip (all day) by passenger-carrying canal narrow boat down our nearest canal, the Wey Navigation which was opened in 1653. The latter trip would depend on availability of canal craft and cost and would include coach transport to New Haw lock and return coach transport from Guildford or Godalming.

SATURDAY 22nd JULY. Coach trip to Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, near Chichester, Sussex. Afternoon trip beginning 2 p.m. Members may also have time to visit the medieval church at Singleton.

SATURDAY 19th AUGUST. A walk in the historical part of Fetcham with a visit to the parish church. Leader Mr.J.G.W.LEWARNE. Meet in the church drive at 2.45 p.m.

SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER. Coach trip to Portsmouth. We hope to secure assistance for this trip from the Portsmouth Historical Society so that we can see the older parts of Portsmouth under expert guidance, details in next Newsletter.

A SATURDAY in late SEPTEMBER. A walk to Norbury Park House if permission to view can be obtained. Details in next Newsletter.

OCTOBER. Possible lecture open to the general public as well as members. This depends on negotiations for a speaker. It is hoped to have some news for the next Newsletter.

NOVEMBER. A lecturer from the Holmesdale Natural History Club possibly on the flora or fauna of the locality. Date and venue in the next Newsletter.

DECEMBER. The Leatherhead Miscellany - members' own local interests. Date and venue in next Newsletter.

We are unable as yet to announce the meeting place for the last three meetings as the Committee are not yet firmly decided on the successor to the Institute and we must give All Saints hall a trial run in the first place.

THE GIGANTIC GREAT BOOKHAM FETE

In order to raise funds to improve the church in 1922, a three-day fair was organised involving nearly every family in Great Bookham. Mr. S.E.D. FORTESCUE has written a full account of the event, with contemporary illustrations, and copies may be obtained from him at 22 High Street, Great Bookham, or Hazeldean, Station Road, Leatherhead, price 25p. All profits will go to further improvements to the church.

SURREY RECORD OFFICE, SATURDAY OPENING

For the benefit of searchers unable to visit the Surrey Record Office at County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames, during the week, for an experimental period until the end of March 1972, the Search Room will generally be open on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. This is a restricted service. It is essential, therefore, that names and addresses of searchers and references to documents required be received by Miss M.GOLLANCZ, County Archivist, by letter or telephone (01-546-1050 ext. 179) by noon on the Thursday before the proposed visit.

THE LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAY SOCIETY

The above-mentioned Society, formed ten years ago to study the London Underground System in all its aspects, is endeavouring to compile a register of sources of information, and has requested that should any of our members have the custody or know the whereabouts of any such material, they should send details to their Chairman, Mr. Peter R. DAVIS, 62 Billet Lane, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 1XA.

EXCAVATION IN BANSTEAD

Any member who would like to assist in a small excavation at Banstead during the weekends of January 7/8th and 15/16th, should contact Mr.F.PEMBERTON, 7 Banstead Road, East Ewell, Surrey.

HELP WANTED

Can you spare an hour or so a month to help improve the running of your Society? There are a number of small but important jobs to be done - some of them listed below:-

Controlling the Society's small library.

Manning a sales table at meetings.

Copying photographs and documents of local interest.

Typing manuscript drafts of items of research or borrowed letters, etc.

Indexing the Society's records.

Maintaining an index of photographs, transparencies, paintings etc., owned by members of the Society and others.

Box Office manager for outings, etc.

Creating displays (to publicise the Society or for the Museum)

If you would like further information, please contact the Hon. Secretary.

10 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT IN LEATHERHEAD

The item which appeared in Newsletter 2/71 was incomplete and is now repeated in full:-

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 in the road situate 120 yards east of the Leatherhead Bridge.
- (2) Church Street, extending from its junction with High Street to its junction with Church Lane.
- (3) North Street, extending from its junction with High Street to the Bull Hotel."

OLD BUILDINGS WITHIN FETCHAM CIVIL PARISH

In the last Newsletter we reprinted a list of old buildings etc. in Leatherhead Civil Parish first published by the Society in 1950 - naturally there have been many changes since that date (indeed the list was out-of-date by the time it was printed), and a revised version was printed in 1952 by the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society. The following list of buildings in Fetcham has been taken from the latter publication, with up-to-date amendments by Mr. Lewarne. (A list of amendments to the Leatherhead buildings will be printed in due course.)

FETCHAM Civil Parish

62. Parish Church of St. Mary. Nave, XIth century, with XIIth century South arcade, and early XIVth century North aisle. Chancel, XIIIth century, to which period the north transept also belongs. Tower of various dates.
63. Roaring (or Roreing) House Farm, barn and outbuildings. (Fetcham Downs.) XVIIth century. Brick and half timber. The barn weather-boarded.
64. Fetcham Park House. (Now known as Badingham College.) 1710-1718 and later. The architect was John Talman. It was the home of Arthur Moore, the economist; but his expenditure upon it exceeded his means and he died in 1730 a broken man. A notable feature is the painted hall and staircase by Laguerre.
65. The Salt Box, Lower Road. Mainly XVIIIth century, with some earlier work.
66. The Old Rising Sun, Guildford Road. XVth century. Stone. Formerly of open hall construction, with upper floor inserted. Some of the fine roof braces may be seen on the upper floor.
67. Cobham Road. Orchard Cottage. Mid-XVIIth century. Brick.
68. Cobham Road. Pound Farm House and outbuildings. House XVIth century. Outbuildings XVIIth century. The house timber framed and nogged with brick.
69. Item deleted.
70. The Street. Nos. 75 (Yew Tree Cottage) and 77 (Tea Tree Cottage) (formerly Old Cock Inn). XVIIth century. Brick.
71. The Street. Ballands Hall. Early XIXth century.
72. The Street. Home Farm and outbuildings. XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries. Brick.

Amendments:-

- 67 Orchard Cottage - add "XXth century additions."
- 68 Delete - demolished circa 1960.
- 72 Amend to - "Home Farm XVIIth and XVIIIth century."

David Bruce,
Hon. Secretary

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