

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter 1/72

March 1972

Dear Member,

The Twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on 24th March 1972 at the Council Offices, Bull Hill, Leatherhead, by courtesy of the Leatherhead Urban District Council. Coffee and biscuits will be served to members before the meeting from 8 p.m. in the Council Members' Room. It is hoped that the Chairman of the Council, Councillor S.J. Taylor, will be able to attend.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twenty-fifth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society will take place in the Council Chamber of the Leatherhead Urban District Council at 8.30 p.m. on Friday, 24th March 1972, with the following Agenda:-

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
2. Matters arising therefrom.
3. Presentation of the Executive Committee's Twenty-fifth Report (copy enclosed).
4. Presentation of the Accounts to 31st December 1971 (copy enclosed).
5. Election of Officers and Committee for 1972.
6. Presidential Address.
7. Any other business.

Last year's Annual General Meeting was very well attended, and concluded with a lively discussion on a number of topics. It is hoped that members will support the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in equal strength, and help turn what can be a formal occasion into an interesting evening. It will be noted that this year we are having a Presidential Address (dealing with Captain Lowther's recollections of bygone Ashtead) which, in the event of his being unable to attend, will be read for him.

F.G. CARRUTHERS, Honorary Member.

With deep regret the death is reported of F.G. Carruthers, B.A. at the advanced age of 94. He was a member of the Society since its early days and took an active part in the Excavation of Padesham in 1947 onwards. He had previously assisted at the excavations at Verulamium under the then Dr. Mortimer Wheeler. He was elected an honorary member of the Society but owing to advancing years was unable to attend meetings for some time. He was a member of the Surrey Archaeological Society and was responsible for the recording of the inscriptions in Richmond churchyard. Older members of the Society will remember him for his charm and bearing reminiscent of a more leisurely age.

EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY WATERCOLOURS OF BOOKHAM

Mr. J.C. Batley, of the Bourne Society, who is compiling a catalogue of the work of John and Edward Hassell, has found a group of their watercolours in the Minet Library at Lambeth. They include exterior and interior views of Gt. Bookham Church, and of the Grove, the Parsonage, Besselgate, Slyfield and a mill, dated 1821-24.

MORE DETAILS OF THE 1972 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND OUTINGS

Members attending the January and February meetings at All Saints Church Hall were favourably impressed by the new meeting place, although we are of course still making bookings at other halls. Our numbers at the last two meetings were, however, below average and we wonder whether some members found the distance from the centre of Leatherhead too much. Our car-owning members have always been most kind and ready to offer lifts, so if distance or inconvenience keep you away from

meetings please get in touch with the hon. Programme Secretary who will try to find a member with transport and a spare seat or two. The provision of tea after the meeting at 2 pence a cup seems to supply a need and after covering costs, we are able to add a few pence to the Society's funds.

TUESDAY 11th APRIL

"A ramble through the local history of Esher" by E. Royston Pike, President of the Esher Local History Society, 8 p.m. for 8.15 p.m. at All Saints Church Hall.

SATURDAY 15th APRIL.

A visit to Maynefleete Tower, Esher, by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Winand. Meet at the Tower in Pelhams Walk, Esher, at 2.45 p.m. Mr. & Mrs. Winand are not making a charge for admission but do ask us to make a contribution to a charity such as Cranstoun - a hostel in Esher for ex-drug addicts, or, say, to Shelter. To reach the Tower: after coming from the Oxshott direction cross over the Portsmouth Road at the traffic lights in Esher and bear sharp left into Lammas Lane and take first turn on the right (Pelhams Walk). Tower is on left at hairpin bend. For good measure we are arranging for a guide from the Esher Local History Society to show us round the Parish Church.

TUESDAY 16th MAY.

At the Letherhead Institute, 8 p.m. a talk with slides by Miss Winifred Phillips, Assistant Secretary of the Royal Archaeological Institute and teacher of archaeology. The meeting is designed for those who are keen to take an active part in field survey work when excavations begin on the M.25 motorway. We shall be needing many helpers for emergency research, survey and excavation, which is being organised on a county-wide basis. Field walking, noting extant monuments and their condition and new sites on the line of the route, checking of references and maps, are only some of the preliminary work. If an excavation has to be organised in a hurry, could you spare even an hour to help? Those who clean the finds, or make the tea are just as important as those who dig! This will be the last chance to discover anything about a wide strip of our area - please let the hon. Secretary know if you can do anything to assist by sending him a card with your name, address and telephone number. Would someone volunteer to co-ordinate our efforts? All you need is a telephone.

SATURDAY 13th MAY. (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

Coach trip to Avebury, Wilts, and Crofton on the Kennet and Avon Canal. The change of date is in order to take advantage of seeing the steam engine at work. The Pumping Station was begun in 1800 and the engine we shall see is a Boulton & Watt beam engine of 1812. We leave Leatherhead at 9.00 a.m. and your picking up point and time will be shown on the tickets. If the weather is showery, come prepared, as we hope to leave the coach just before Avebury village to walk down the Stone Avenue.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 10th JUNE.

Visit to Slyfield house, Slyfield Farm and Barn and Stoke D'Abernon Church. Meet in the approach drive to the church to go round the church first at 2.30 p.m.

SATURDAY 24th JUNE

In place of the Wey Canal boat trip, which unfortunately has not materialised, we have arranged a coach trip to the canal museum at Stoke Bruerne, Northants, and will possibly include a visit to either Brixworth or Earls Barton church. The museum is situated at a picturesque canal-side spot and there are outside exhibits, as well as the museum, such as a boat-weighing machine and an early traditional narrow boat. The Boat Inn will also be popular. There are also some 2-hour cruises by narrow boat "Linda" - a trip costs 50p (25p for children). We feel that there would be time for such a cruise as we would probably not move on to the church until about 3 p.m., but in order that we can discover the best trip to do we would like you to indicate on the booking form

whether or not you wish to participate. It is emphasized that the cost of such a trip is not included in the fare for the road journey. For this outing we aim to leave Leatherhead about 9 a.m.

MONDAY 3rd JULY TO SUNDAY 9th JULY

Surrey Naturalists' Trust's Ranmore Nature Trail - see separate leaflet. Go as you please but if you prefer to go round as a group we suggest Saturday afternoon the 8th July, meeting at 2.45 p.m. near start of trail in the car park at the west end of Ranmore Common. If you are going individually please do not tick this item on the booking form.

SATURDAY 22nd JULY

Coach trip to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum leaving Leatherhead at 2 p.m.

SATURDAY 19th AUGUST

A walk in the historical part of Fetcham including the parish church. Rendezvous with Mr. J.G.W. Lewarne in the Fetcham church drive at 2.45 p.m.

SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

Coach trip to historical Portsmouth leaving Leatherhead 9.00 a.m. The Portsmouth Historical Association has kindly offered to guide us round the more interesting parts of the town.

LATE SEPTEMBER VISIT TO NORBURY PARK HOUSE

Permission yet to be secured. We are hopeful and details if "on" will appear in the summer Newsletter.

OCTOBER PUBLIC MEETING

This will be held in the Leatherhead parish hall on Thursday 19th October, and Lawrence E. Jones, Honorary Lecturer of the Historic Churches Preservation trust will show and describe slides in colour of historic churches of Surrey (and possibly others of Southern England). We hope members will give this meeting much publicity - a silver collection as last year will be taken to cover extra cost of hall, etc.

THURSDAY 9th NOVEMBER

We are trying yet another hall for a lecture, with colour slides on "Wild Orchids of Britain" by Mr. H.W. Woolgar, assisted by Mr. H. Vousden, both of The Holmesdale Natural History Club. The meeting place will be the Red Cross Hall near Leatherhead station at the usual time 8 p.m. for 8.15 p.m.

FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER

The Leatherhead Miscellany - by popular request earlier in December than usual. This is members' night with short talks, slides, exhibits and discussions of local interest. Nothing is too small or too short to be accepted. Please book your item as early as possible with the hon. Programme Secretary.

SECONDHAND BOOK SALE

Over the years the Society has accumulated a number of books which have only marginal, if any, interest from a local history standpoint. Storage is always a problem and it has been decided to offer the books for sale, a dozen or so at a time, at the indoor meetings of the Society, commencing with the April meeting. Prices will be clearly marked and first come, first served.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Finally, a reminder that if you have not already done so, you should send your 1972 subscription of 75p to the Hon. Treasurer, c/o Lloyds Bank, North Street, Leatherhead, or to the Hon. Secretary.

David Bruce,
Honorary Secretary

7, Fox Lane,
Little Bookham.
Bookham 5722.

LEATHERHEAD & 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 1971

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

1. Membership

At 31st December 1971 the membership of the Society was 296, a net increase of 19. In this, the twenty-fifth year of the Society, the Committee was very pleased to elect Mr. R.F. Dalton an Honorary Member. Mr. Dalton may be regarded as the 'father' of the Society, it being largely on his suggestion that it was founded in 1946 as an offshoot of the Leatherhead District Countryside Protection Society. Also elected an Honorary Member was Mr. H.L. Meed, whose maps and plans have so greatly enhanced the appearance and reputation of the Proceedings for many years.

The Committee would like to thank those members who returned the questionnaire on the Society's activities, with helpful suggestions, which have been taken into consideration in planning the future.

2. Lectures and Visits

The following were arranged:-

15th January	Lecture "Changes in the bird population of a Surrey oak wood over 20 years" by Dr. G. Beven.
18th February	Lecture "Surrey Records at Kingston" by Miss M. Gollancz.
24th March	Annual General Meeting and Discussion.
23rd April	Lecture "Bygone Leatherhead" by Mr. P.M. Broderick-Hartley.
24th April	Visit - Bourne Hall Museum and archaeological sites in Ewell. Leader: Mr. F.F. Pemberton.
22nd May	Visit: Selborne, The Vyne and Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester). Leaders: Messrs. G. Hayward and D. Bruce.
26th June	Natural History Walk on Bookham Common. Leaders: Dr. A.S. Thorley and members of the London Natural History Society.
24th July	Leatherhead Historical Walk. Leaders: Society members.
21st August	Visit - Loseley House. Leader: G. Hayward.
18th September	Visit - St. Albans. Leaders: Messrs. G. Hayward & Lewarne
19th October	Public Lecture - "The Sutton Hoo Excavations" by Mr. C. W. Phillips, O.B.E.
19th November	Lecture "Butterflies and Moths" by Mr. R.M. Long.
16th December	Leatherhead Historical Miscellany. Contributions by members.

The Committee would like to thank the lecturers and leaders for helping to provide a most interesting and varied programme. The high-light of the year was the October public lecture held in the Leatherhead Parish Hall, at which over 200 members and non-members attended, and the experiment will be repeated in the future when another speaker and subject of wide interest is found. Suggestions for this and other lectures and visits would be welcomed by the Hon. Programme Secretary and his sub-committee (Mrs. M. Fuller, Messrs. D.F. Renn and M. Snellgrove).

3. Proceedings

Members received Volume 3 Number 4 of the proceedings during 1971, and it was generally agreed that the high standard had been maintained. Subscribers to the Proceedings include university libraries not only in this country, but several in the U.S.A. Vol. 3 Number 5 will be ready for distribution shortly, as will be the Index to Vol. 2. Back issues of the Proceedings are available for purchase and members should mention their requirements to the Hon. Secretary. Some numbers are out of print, however, and the Committee wish to obtain copies either by gift or purchase, to satisfy the demand.

4. Committee

The Committee for 1971 were:

Chairman	D.F. Renn, F.S.A.
Hon. Secretary	D. Bruce
Hon. Treasurer	F.A. Stokes
Hon. Editor	F.B. Benger
Hon. Programme Sec.	G. Hayward
Hon. Records Sec.	D. Bruce
Committee Members	W. Millar, S.E.D. Fortescue, J.R. Bull
" "	(co-opted) Mrs.M. Fuller, J.G.W.Lewarne

The Officers and Members of the Committee retire at the A.G.M. and are eligible for re-election. Nominations, giving the name of the Nominee, the names of the Proposer and Seconder and a statement that the Nominee is willing to serve if elected, should reach the Hon. Sec. not later than two days before the Annual General Meeting.

5. Accounts

A Statement of Receipts and Payments for 1971 is enclosed. The Committee acknowledges with gratitude the grants received from the Leatherhead Urban District Council and the Surrey County Council, and those members who have made donations to the Society. The Committee also wishes to thank Mr. A.H. Kirkby for his services as Honorary Auditor.

6. Subscriptions

Members subscriptions, increased from 50p. to 75p. at the 1971 Annual General Meeting, fell due on 1st January 1972. Early payment to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F.A. Stokes, Lloyds Bank, North Street, Leatherhead, would be greatly appreciated.

7. Several additions have been made to the Records of the Society, documents, photographs etc. In particular, the Society purchased some 200 copies of photographs of Leatherhead 1890/1926 from Frith & Co., the Reigate postcard firm. Other photographs from Friths in respect of Bookham were purchased by Mr. Fortescue, Fetcham by Mr. Lewarne and those of Ashted by Mr. Bull.

8. Your Committee were able to investigate Wakefield's shop, through the courtesy of its new owners, prior to alterations. Members of the Society took part in the excavation of Roman sites at Binscombe and Ewell. Individual members undertaking research are asked to inform the Chairman; he may be able to suggest sources of information, and put workers with common interests in touch with one another.

7 Fox Lane,
Little Bookham, Surrey.
Bookham 5722

D. Bruce,
Hon. Secretary.