

Leatherhead and District Local History Society

Newsletter 2/73

June 1973

Dear Member,

As usual the Annual General Meeting, held at the Council Offices on 23rd March, was well attended, and those present took part in the lively discussions which dealt with various aspects of the Society's activities.

The following Officers of the Society were elected:-

D.F. Renn, F.S.A.	Chairman
F.A. Stokes	Hon. Treasurer
F.B. Benger	Hon. Editor
G. Hayward	Hon. Programme Secretary
E.S. Barnwell	Asst. Hon. Programme Secretary
D. Bruce	Hon. Records Secretary
Mrs. M. Fuller	Hon. Membership Secretary
Miss S. Hind	Hon. Publicity Secretary
W. Millar	} Committee Members
S.E.D. Fortescue	
J.R. Bull	

Despite earnest entreaties by the Chairman, no-one offered themselves for the post of Hon. Secretary, the post being vacant following Tony Edwards resignation from that position when he found his other commitments were too great to allow him to continue in office. It was left to the Executive Committee to find someone at the earliest opportunity. This they duly succeeded in doing at their next meeting, but only after much debate and heart-searching. The meeting also re-elected Mr. J.G.W. Lewarne to the position of Vice-President, elected Mr. J.R. Gilbert as Hon. Librarian and co-opted Mr. S.R.C. Poulter and Mr. M.A. Snellgrove, the former to act as co-ordinator in connection with any future archaeological excavations.

KEN DEAN

The Society has lost another of its staunchest supporters through death. Born and bred in the Leatherhead district, Ken helped our Society in many ways. In recent years he set about the task of making a complete record of the inhabitants and appearance of Leatherhead 50 years ago. Members will remember the enthralling talk he gave in January, accompanied by his vast collection of local photographs, and we are very grateful to his family for exhibiting more of his collection at Miss Hind's house in May, as Ken had wished.

A HISTORY OF ASHTEAD

For many years, a group of members led by our late President has been collecting material for an Ashtead History. The papers now need arranging and cataloguing, and members who would like to help should contact Mrs. M. Fuller, 4 Alexander Godley Close, Ashtead.

THE MOUNTS, PACHENESHAM

The final comprehensive report on the excavations of the 12th-14th century manor house site, the major work of the Society's early years, can be completed quickly if members will come forward to help catalogue and draw the pottery finds. Offers of help, please, to D.F. Renn, 7 Burrows Close, Gt. Bookham.

M.25 MOTORWAY

Field walking has been discontinued until land is under plough again. It appears unlikely that work on the section of the Motor way around

Leatherhead will commence within three years. Are any members, historians rather than archaeologists, interested in helping with historical research on land along the proposed M.25 route? The aim is to reduce the risk of missing possible sites by studying indexes, Tithe maps for field names and other possible clues.

Also, help from botanically inclined members with hedge survey work is being sought by the M.25 Working Party of the Surrey Archaeological Society. Please get in touch with S.R.C.Poulter (Leatherhead 74773) if interested in either venture, or wish to be added to the list of members who will be advised of future archaeological excavations. Volunteer members have been notified of an emergency dig at Leigh Hill Obbham where a housing development is proceeding around an Iron Age site.

LARGE SCALE EXCAVATION : VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Work will continue this summer at the Iron Age hill fort of Anstiebury (near Leith Hill) between 9 July and 4 August. Last year's dig showed that the fort had been occupied in Roman times - this year the entrance will be excavated. Please contact F.H.Thompson, M.C., Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0HS.

EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE YEAR, 1975

The Council of Europe has designated 1975 as European Architectural Heritage Year with the object of awakening public interest; protecting and enhancing buildings and areas of architectural or historic interest; conserving the character of old towns and villages; and considering how best ancient buildings can be assured of a role in contemporary society.

Representatives of many aspects of national life, including archaeology, attended a meeting convened by the United Kingdom Council in December 1972, at which the objectives of the campaign were outlined. A central administration is being provided by the Civic Trust and the C.B.A. has already given an assurance of its active support. The Urban Research Committee is planning a series of Seminars on various aspects of urban archaeology with the intention of publishing a monograph in 1975, and the Committees responsible for the Archaeology of Churches and Industrial Monuments will also be considering the form which their contribution might take.

What can the Leatherhead & District Local History Society do?

Two suggestions have been put forward already to your Committee:

- (i) Individual members could 'Adopt' a local building and endeavour to find out all they can about it and its past inhabitants, and
- (ii) The Society should undertake a major research project into all aspects - historical, archaeological, architectural - of one of the most important buildings in our area.

Your comments, suggestions and constructive criticism of these preliminary ideas are invited. Or have you some better suggestions?

HISTORY OF JUNIPER HALL, MICKLEHAM

We have been asked by Mr. Sankey, Warden of the Juniper Hall Field Centre, to help him trace records of the building before, say, 1790, when part of it was a public house known as The Royal Oak. Information to Mrs. Fuller or Mr. Sankey, please.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society were recently instrumental in getting the undermentioned buildings up-graded to Grade II (protected by Statute). This means they cannot be altered without Ministry permission.

12 Rectory Lane, Ashted (Fowlers Cottage)
 18 & 20 Rectory Lane, Ashted.
 Old Pound Cottage, Little Bookham Street.
 Eastwick Cottage, Lower Road, Gt. Bookham.

Hop Garden Cottage, Lower Road, Gt. Bookham.
 Barns at Maddox Farm, Lt. Bookham Street.
 Rose Cottage, Lt. Bookham Street.
 The Salt Box, Lower Road, Fetcham.
 Old Forge Cottage and Wistaria Cottage,
 Rectory Lane, Ashtead.
 Burpham, High Street, Gt. Bookham.

DETAILS OF REMAINING PROGRAMME FROM JULY 1973

SUNDAY 15th JULY. Afternoon look around Godalming. Coach leaves Leatherhead at 2 pm and other pick-up points pro rata. Subject to weather conditions being suitable there will be an opportunity for those members so inclined to walk back along the Wey and then pick up the Coach again at Guildford.

ASHTEAD WALK Unfortunately Saturday 4th August has coincided with a busy period for weddings and the absence on holiday of the Rector. Since it is unthinkable that a walk in Ashtead should not include a visit to the Church, it has been decided to postpone the event until early in October (see below).

SATURDAY 18th AUGUST. Day visit to Crich Tramway Museum etc., and Cromford Derbyshire, leaving Leatherhead 8 am. Arrangements are well in hand and the Derbyshire Archaeological Society has been most helpful with information and suggestions about items of Industrial Archaeological interest in the district. It is hoped there will be time to visit the Middleton Top Engine House which contains a Beam Engine built 1829 to haul wagons up a 1 in $8\frac{1}{4}$ incline. The area is part of the Derbyshire High Peak Trail and promises to provide an interesting day's outing. Fare £1.50; 25 bookings to date.

SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER. Day visit to Bath leaving Leatherhead 8 am. This historic City has many places worth visiting apart from the Roman Baths, Pump Room, Assembly Rooms and Abbey. Fare £1.25 (does not include any admission charges); 32 bookings to date.

SATURDAY 29th SEPTEMBER. An afternoon around Mickleham under the guidance of Miss E.F.M. Strudwick. Meet outside Church 2.30 pm.

SATURDAY 13th OCTOBER. Walk around Historical Ashtead (postponed from August). Meet outside Church at 2.30 pm. This is probably the first walk in Ashtead in recent years. There are no doubt a number of members who are well acquainted with Ashtead and from these we would welcome any suggestions and information about points of historical interest in the village. From this it will be possible to build up an itinerary in the same manner as for Leatherhead, Fetcham and the Bookhams.

FRIDAY 19th OCTOBER. The Dallaway lecture at St. John's School, Leatherhead, 8.00 pm. Please publicise this lecture amongst your friends. The subject is "Canals, Midlands & Northern England" by Mr. L.A. Edwards. Some of the proceeds of the silver collection are retained by the Society to help with finances - this is to correct an error in the previous Newsletter.

FRIDAY 9th NOVEMBER at Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead. 8.00 for 8.15 pm. An illustrated talk on Bees and Beekeeping by Mrs. Furness of Ewell.

FRIDAY 7th DECEMBER at the Red Cross Hall, 8 pm. "LEATHERHEAD MISCELLANY" For this yearly event contributions no matter how brief or varied are welcomed. Please let the Hon. Programme Secretary have details as soon as soon as possible.

NOTICE. The Surrey Naturalist Trust is holding another Nature Trail from Monday 2nd July to Sunday 8th July. The trail is open each day 10 am to 3.30 pm (6.30 pm on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday) Admission: Adults 20p, Children 15p. The entrance to the Trail is at Nower Wood which is on the B2033 between Leatherhead Bypass and Headley. There is a small car park. Dogs are not allowed.

PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S NOTES

A message to the Dixon family research team. A meeting of all the team to compare notes and report progress had been planned but had to be shelved due to the onset of gardening activities, holidays, etc. Those of us who have had to break off will, it is hoped, continue again in the early autumn and then we will meet to collate the information and discuss the manner in which the facts will be presented.

Whilst in Poole, Dorset, holidaying the Programme Secretary made a brief contact with the Borough Archivist and was surprised to hear that this large town, population about 100,000 has no local history society. Much excavation is being carried out there by large teams of volunteers who are largely inexperienced, under the wing of a society called the Friends of Poole.

We are thus very lucky to have a history society in our town and it is to be hoped that when the need arises we shall see similar large groups of enthusiastic volunteers uncovering Leatherhead's glorious? past.

We are indebted to Miss Sheila Hind for making available her home for the Saturday afternoon in Leatherhead, and to Mr. Morris Snellgrove for organising the Wey & Arun Canal expedition. Both these ventures were highly successful. High praise is due to Mr. Eric Barnwell who was left to "go it alone" on the visits to West Horsley and Canterbury but nevertheless produced a very interesting programme.

LEATHERHEAD WALKS

The Society is offering to provide guides on walks round Leatherhead to other organisations in the district. It is necessary to have a co-ordinator to publicise this service, receive requests for walks, maintain a register of guides and arrange with them suitable dates for guided walks. Any member interested who would like more information, please contact the Hon. Secretary.

The Hon Records Secretary would be grateful for items of local historical interest from any source. They should be accompanied by a label giving full particulars of the source and the name and address of the owner. 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.

David Bruce,
7 Fox Lane,
Little Bookham,
Bookham 58722

Hon. Secretary