

Leatherhead and District Local History Society

Newsletter 2/74

July 1974

Dear Member,

There was a very full attendance at the Annual General Meeting which was held at the Council Offices only two days before Leatherhead Urban District Council ceased to exist. The meeting ran very smoothly under the chairmanship of our Vice-President, Mr. J.G.W.Lewarne. As you probably knew, Mr.D.F.Renn, our Society's chairman for many years, felt that this was the time for a change, and we have been extremely fortunate in securing Mr. S.E.D.Fortescue, a founder-member and chairman of The Leatherhead & District Countryside Preservation Society, to take his place. There was also no crisis this year over the post of Honorary Secretary and our thanks are due to Mr. D.Bruce for so ably acting as caretaker Secretary for the past year as well as caring for the records. For some years now another well-known founder-member had been asking your new Hon. Secretary to consider taking over this duty but the answer had always been that time to gain experience was needed and that we must not allow the programming side to fall to pieces. We have Mr. E.S.Barnwell to thank for providing the answer to this problem and you will agree that he and his sub-Committee have served us well.

When Mr. F.A.Stokes gave up his post as Hon. Treasurer at the end of last year, Mr.J.R.Bull was persuaded to take over and we are extremely grateful to both for their services. Mr. Bull is the printer of our Newsletters which owe their looks to his presentation of the material.

Whilst thanking Derek F.Renn for his long service as our chairman, we also owe much to our Editor, Mr. F.Benger, who for many years has produced "The Proceedings", the 1973 edition of which should now be in your hands. Lastly, but no less important, thanks to the other Committee members for performing so well their diverse duties and for the benefit of their advice.

The Officers of the Society for the year to March 1975 are now:-

J.G.W.Lewarne	Vice-President	S.E.D.Fortescue	Chairman
F.B.Benger	Hon. Editor	J.R.Bull	Hon. Treasurer
G.Hayward	Hon. Secretary	E.S.Barnwell	Hon. Programme Sec.
D.Bruce	Hon. Records Secretary	Mrs. M.Fuller	Hon. Membership Sec.
Miss S.Hind	Hon. Publicity Secy.	J.R.Gilbert	Hon. Librarian

W.Millar, S.R.C.Poulter, M.A.Shellgrove - Committee Members.

The addresses of the above are all in the local telephone directory.

For those members who may think that we have completed our knowledge of the district or that nothing much happened here centuries ago, here are a few items taken from just one series of volumes published over a hundred years ago. The items in these volumes are shortened versions of actual documents preserved in the Public Records Office. The volumes are entitled "Calendar of State Papers (Domestic)".

February 24th 1580 - Leatherhead. Justices of Surrey to the Council. (Evidence that Leatherhead was then the County Town?). Certifying their doings in putting in readiness the 3,000 men required of them for the defence of landing places in Kent, Sussex and Southampton; but the number of able men in the county amount only to 2,005, as appears by their last certificate.

July 4th 1637 - Lord Lieutenant and Justices of the Peace for Surrey to the Council. According to your order for payment of money for the visited people in Southwark all the moneys of these parts have been collected long since, only the parish of Ashstead (spelt thus) whose moneys had likewise been paid in if John Bragg of the same parish had not been defaultive, as appears by certificate of the constable enclosed.(Seal with crest on this document)

July 1637 - Return by James Styles, constable of Ashtead, Surrey, that John Bragg of that parish, denied to pay 13d. assessed towards relief of the poor visited people of Southwark.

August 2nd 1637. London. Officers of the Navy to Nicholas. Having sent our warrants for George Sheires, for refusing the carriage of ship-timber according to the Council order, the enclosed certificate from the sheriff of Surrey and the messengers'

affidavit herein sent will acquaint you with his behaviour, wherewith we entreat you to acquaint the Lords. Enclosed,

1. Certificate of Sir Anthony Vincent. Edmund Barker, one of the messengers, coming on the 13th July to George Sheires of Great Bookham, Surrey, charged him to obey a warrant of the Officers of the Navy, and to go with him to the said officers. Sheires refused, saying he had no horse that he could ride, and also refused to use Barker's horse, but in conclusion it was agreed that Barker should go that night to Leatherhead, and that Sheires would call upon him the morning following by seven of the clock, and so both ride together to Chatham. Sheires threatened to question Barker for the execution of this service. Stoke, 14th July 1637.

2. Affidavit of Edmund Barker. States the above facts more minutely, and with various additional particulars. Sheires in the first place refused to obey the warrant because he was the King's servant. Instead of performing his promise to ride with Barker from Leatherhead, Sheires left home that morning an hour earlier, and rode to Chatham another way without giving the officer any notice. On Barker's return to Chatham he found Sheires had been there, but was gone away to London, and Barker has been since unable to meet with him. Sworn 17th July 1637.

July 18th 1639 - Fetcham. Dr. Thomas Turner to Sec. Windebank. This week I waited on Sir Francis Stydolfe, who desires to be resolved from you what course you mean to take touching the close adjoining your house; whether you propose to accept a lease or no. He is ready to make good the bargain either way, viz., for seven or twenty one years, or if you like to let it alone, he leaves you to your freedom. The first half-year's rent must be 15L., and after that 20L every half year. My wife and myself are earnestly importuned by our boy's nurse to desire your favour and help in a matter which concerns her very much. She is in danger to lose house and land, even all that she is worth, merely by a circumstantial defect in law, if yet it can be proved. I enclose the case. Now her request is that you would write your letters to Baron Weston, if you have any interest in him, that when this matter shall come before him at the assizes at Dorking, he would afford all lawful favour to Richard Blundell and his tenant Joseph Seaman, against William Weller and John Ede.

P.S. We live in hope to see, if not your honour, which we should much rejoice in, my lady and some of her company at our Little Fetcham.

Finally - we know that the Saxons trod these parts because Leatherhead is mentioned in King Alfred's will, but from another Anglo-Saxon will of a certain Brihtric and Aelfswith (his wife) made between 973 and 987 A.D. there is mention of a Godwine of Fetcham - see D. Whitelock, "Anglo-Saxon Wills" - Cambridge 1930.

These extracts alone offer scope for further research and all members can be of great assistance to the Society in taking notes for passing to the Hon. Records Secretary whenever they are reading books which contain references to the district however scant the information. The information must of course include the title and date of the book, the author and if possible the publisher.

The Old Quarry, Ashtead. Some members will remember the visit laid on for Sunday afternoon the 7th April which due to the lack of a Newsletter at this time could only be announced at the last two meetings. Mr. S.R.C. Poulter reports that the excavations come to an end this month. The work, directed by Messrs. Frank Pemberton and Dick Temple of Nonsuch Antiquarian Society and by Mr. James Barfoot has provided an opportunity for newcomers to gain experience. Several members of our Society availed themselves of this opportunity but a large proportion of the effort on the "dig" came from non-members. Some of these were fairly local - others have come from as far afield as Leith Hill, West Norwood and Feltham. It is possible that our members have been reluctant to join in through lack of time rather than lack of interest; this may also explain the small numbers taking part in "A25" activities, such as documentary research and hedgerow surveying. However, if enough people can manage even half a day, some weekends, useful work can be done. Anyone interested in archaeological or historical work on this scale should ring Mr. S.R.C. Poulter at Leatherhead 74773. Some exploratory sections across the line of Roman roads in this area are being planned and one has already taken place through the Ashtead Villa spur from Stane Street (near Rendick's Nursery). For details contact Mr. Frank Pemberton (01-669-5621),

Mr. James Barfoot writes as follows on the excavations at the Old Quarry:-
"Excavation at the Old Quarry, The Warren, Ashtead, has continued each weekend since February 9th with volunteers drawn from a very wide area. An exploratory section was made in the terrace south of the house revealing the residual remains of an oval pit cut into the bedrock, two metres from the quarry edge. A second pit, north of the

first, was located when the section was extended. This second pit appears larger than the first and has yielded the first pottery fragments to be found together with fire-cracked flints and a worked flint blade. However, early nineteenth century pipe stems were also recovered from another part of this pit at the same level as the Iron age pottery sherds. These pits would have been at least 4.9 metres deep when measured from the probable original land surface. Iron age pottery has also been recovered from the top-soil in the garden together with some late Mediaeval sherds. The pits would at the moment appear to be the residual remains of eighteenth to early nineteenth century chalk wells or deneholes left after late nineteenth century quarrying had produced the present terrace, the multiperiod artifacts being introduced when the pits were back-filled. Further sections were being dug between the house and the road to trace the source of the Iron Age sherds.

Just to aid your memory, the remainder of the year's programme and other items of interest are:-

Nature Trail week at Nower Wood, Headley - 1st to 7th July.

Saturday 13th July. Coach trip to Ely - leader Mr. M. Snellgrove - calling at (if time permits) the village of Strettham (preaching cross circa 1400, 19th c. tower windmill, engine house with beam engine 1830) and Soham (rare weighing machine 1740, Downfield tower windmill, rebuilt 1890 and church dating back to Norman times).

Sunday 22nd September - visit to Ironbridge, Shropshire. Here the first bridge constructed in cast iron by Abraham Darby has stood since 1778. It is today the site of the Ironbridge Gorge & Coalbrookdale Industrial Museums. Nearby is an open air museum featuring clay working and a working Pottery. There will be an opportunity to visit Buildwas Abbey, about two miles away. This is reckoned to be one of the three finest abbey ruins in England.

It may be a fairly long day but should prove a well worthwhile experience. Coach fare £1.65 per person not including admission fees. Bring substantial packed lunch although there will be a stop en route in each direction.

Saturday afternoon 5th October. Walk in Leith Hill area, leader Mr. G. Clifton, Vice President of the Dorking District Naturalists Society. Meet at 2.30 p.m. at Moss's Wood car park which is just beyond Coldharbour village on the right (approaching from Dorking). We will have a member posted just outside the village to point the way to the car park. Tea should be a little earlier than usual at Grimm's Kitchen, Abinger, to allow time for a circular walk back to the Leith Hill area and the cars. Please let Mr. Barnwell know three weeks beforehand whether or not you wish him to book tea for you.

Saturday afternoon 12th October. The visit to Salpole House, Strawberry Hill in June was most enjoyable but regrettably it was necessary, for practical reasons, to limit the size of the party and a number of members were disappointed. With these in mind we have been fortunate in arranging another visit. Again numbers must be restricted but if those who were unlucky are still interested please advise the Programme Secretary as soon as possible to enable transport arrangements to be made.

Friday 18th October, 8.00 p.m. at the Red Cross Hall. "The Seashore", a Natural History talk with slides by Mrs. Joyce Pope, senior lecturer at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. Mrs. Pope has suggested that members may like to bring any objects they have found relating to the natural history of the seaside for identification.

Saturday 19th October. The Surrey Local History Council is holding a Symposium at Dorking halls. Subject:- Road Transport, turnpike system, early road bridges and transport on the roads.

Friday 15th November. The Dallaway Lecture, open to the public, 8.00 p.m. at St. John's School, Leatherhead, by kind permission of the Headmaster. Subject "European Armour" by Mr. C. Blair of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Department of Metalwork. The hall will hold a large audience and members can with confidence invite as many friends as they wish, especially those who may be interested in joining the Society.

Friday 6th December. The Leatherhead Miscellany. Short talks by members on Leatherhead and district history - offers please to Programme Secretary before you put this Newsletter away. Bring along anything of antiquity, whether identified or not, found in your home or garden in the district.

The programme sub-committee will be meeting early in July to sketch out next year's programme. We believe that we owe our large membership to the fact that we have tried to produce programmes that contain not only variety but the unusual. Some excursions we have not tried yet, such as skin diving for lost Atlantis, but if members would like to put forward suggestions not only for visits but for unusual lectures, the Programme Sub-Committee will consider all the merits and demerits. Above all we must keep in mind the essential feature - quality.

Keeping in Touch. Many matters are discussed in Committee of which members may not otherwise be aware. Here are some topics which have arisen at the last three Committee meetings. Enquiry regarding history of Leatherhead Brewery; donation of

the timber by Mr. M. Snellgrove for the purpose of re-instating a "bedstead" grave head (now rather rare) in a local churchyard; donation made to the Upper Avon Project from the proceeds of the last Dallaway lecture; local conservation areas; European Architectural Heritage Year; purchase of a good slide projector for the Society; visit by St. John's School Archaeological Society to the Old quarry, Ashtead; preparation of a History of Ashtead, Leatherhead and Fetcham; Census returns for Leatherhead, Ashtead and Bookham; Dallaway papers acquired by West Sussex Archives; Mole Valley Coat of Arms; assistance for the Programme Secretary; formation of a Junior Local History Society in the district.

The Society gave useful assistance to the Bookham Community Association on the 15th June in providing manpower and material for the purpose of depicting "Bookham Past" during Village Day.

Mr. D.F. Renn is engaged on a study of the objects found at the time of the Society's first excavation and he would welcome assistance for a short time from anyone willing to draw items, mainly pottery. Mr. D. Bruce, Hon. Records Secretary, would likewise welcome assistance, say once a month from any person who would like to help and learn the art of keeping archives in a form in which they can be readily consulted. The latest acquisitions to the Records are:-

The full text of a local folk song "The Poor Murdered Woman" - she was found on Leatherhead Common in 1834. This also includes the music!

Xerox copy of the trust deed of the Bookham Silver Band 1916.

Donation of copies of the Great and Little Bookham census returns of 1871 by a new member Mr. Clarke of Bookham.

Excavations within easy reach. We have details of a number of these through Surrey Archaeological Society and any member wishing to participate should ring G. Hayward at Leatherhead 72674 for information.

From time to time we include in the Newsletter a list of books and magazines for sale which are surplus to our requirements:-

BOOKS

<u>Author, Editor or Publisher</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Price in new pence</u>
Anonymous	The Pauliad, (1863) (Epic Poem)	20
Blegen, C.W.	Troy (1963)	100
British Museum Trustees	Antiquities of Roman Britain (1958)	20
Cantalamessa, G.	Giuseppe Sacconi (in Italian) (1911)	20
Chadwick, J.	The decipherment of Linear B (1958)	50
Childe, V. Gordon	The Dawn of European Civilisation (1957)	125
" " "	New Light on the Most Ancient East (1958)	100
Cole, Sonia	The Prehistory of East Africa (1954)	25
Frere, S.S.	Verulamium Excavation Committee - 4th and 5th Interim Reports	each 20
	Plan of Verulamium (1941)	10
H.M. Stationery Office	The Country Code (1951)	5
Jenkins, F.	Roman Canterbury: Excavations in Lurgate 1946-48	10
"	" " " " 5 Watling St. 1947	10
"	A Roman Tilery - Two Pottery Kilns at Durovernum	10
Kosay, H.Z.	Alacahoyuk (in English)	20
Lloyd, S.	Early Anatolia (1956)	25
Mallowan, M.E.L.	Twenty-five years of Mesopotamian Discovery (1932-	20
Rice, T.T.	The Scythians (1957) 1956)	70
Ryan, L.V.	Roger Ascham (1963)	150
Zeuner, F.E.	The Pleistocene Period (1959)	150

MAGAZINES

Ancient Egypt	: 21 discontinuous parts 1914-1927, £1.50 the set or each	10
Antiquity	: 45 discontinuous parts 1929-1968. £6.00 the set or each	20
Archaeologia	: Volumes 89, 90 and 92. £1.20 the three or each	50
British Archaeological Abstracts	: Volume 1 No. 1	20
Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology	, 6 discontinuous vols. £1.20 or each	25
Council for British Archaeology	: Various reports 40p for six or each	10
" " "	" " " " : Research reports Nos. 5 & 6 each	20

Also various volumes of "History Today", "Meddelanden" from Lunds Universitets Historika Museum, "Science News" and "Strand Magazine" - price on application to Hon. Librarian, J.R.Gilbert, 34 Greenacres, Great Bookham, Tel. Bookham 54956

The books and magazines mentioned above will be held for a period of two months but after this may be sold outside the Society.

In connection with the sale of books and indeed for any transaction with the Society such as membership subscriptions, coach trips etc., all cheques should be made out to the Leatherhead and District Local History Society and not to individual members, to avoid delay.

On the subject of a projector, it would be helpful to have one of our own before the autumn lectures begin. If any member knows of a 35 mm slide projector, not necessarily automatic, of range and power suitable for use in medium-sized halls, please contact Mr. Poulter, Tel. Leatherhead 74773.

"Ypriana",
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G. Hayward,
Hon. Secretary.