

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter 1975/2

June 1975

Dear Member,

The summer letter tends to be shorter and more in the form of an interim report than the March and late Autumn issues. This is true of 1975 which finds us all as busy as ever at this busy time of the year. It is our hope that the following notes will clarify any unfinished business of the previous Newsletters and keep members as near up to date as possible on our affairs.

Attendance was good at the Annual General Meeting held in the Leatherhead Council Chamber on the 21st March. Mr. J.G.W. Lewarne, our Vice-President, took the chair and although much was discussed, the meeting closed in good time at 9.30 p.m. approximately.

The Officers of the Society for the year to March 1976 are now:-

Vice-President	J.G.W. Lewarne
Chairman	S.E.D. Fortescue
Hon. Editor	F.B. Bengier
Hon. Treasurer	J.R. Bull
hon. Secretary	G. Hayward
hon. Programme Secretary	T.R.M. Hume - succeeded by Mrs.C.Barrett
Hon. Records Secretary	D. Bruce
hon. Membership Secretary	Mrs. M. Fuller
hon. Publicity Secretary	Miss S. Hind
Hon. Librarian	J.R. Gilbert
Committee Members	W. Millar, S.R.C. Poulter, Mrs. M. Rice-Oxley

The addresses of the above are all in the local telephone directory (for Miss Hind, see Leatherhead School of Music). It will be seen that the only alterations from last year are the change of Programme Secretary and the arrival of Mrs. Rice-Oxley as a Committee member in place of Mr. Morris Snellgrove, who nevertheless was co-opted with Mr. R.A.Lever to the Committee at the first meeting after the A.G.M.

Our thanks go to all the Committee who have worked hard, and we are particularly grateful to Mr. Ralph Hume for filling the important position of Programme Secretary. Sad to say that just as he was getting his teeth into the field of programming he had the call from his employers to transfer to Liverpool, where he now rubs shoulders with the "long-haired lovers" and the denizens of Knotty Ash.

Although we had some misgivings about finding yet another Programme Secretary we were due for a surprise. At the Programme Sub-Committee meeting there were some guests - one of whom, Mrs. C. Barrett - volunteered before the evening was out. She was speedily elected and will be assisted by her husband. The address of the new Programme Secretary is: The Glen, Guildford Road, Great Bookham. Tel. Bookham 52937. We are very grateful - please give her your support.

The remainder of the Programme for this year is detailed below in brief although the majority of the events were shown in the last Newsletter:-

- Sunday 15th June Arun Valley coach trip led by Mr. Snellgrove.
- Saturday 19th July Steventon, Berkshire, coach trip led by Mrs. Parry. Leaves Leatherhead 9.00 a.m.
- Saturday 9th Aug. Walk in Effingham, leaders Mrs. Rice-Oxley and Miss M. O'Connor. Meet at Effingham Parish Church 2.30 p.m.
- Saturday 20th Sept. All day visit to Glastonbury & Wells, leaving Leatherhead 8.00 a.m. Coach fare £2.00. Organiser G. Hayward.

Friday 10th Oct.
8.00 p.m.

The Dallaway lecture is to be held at the City of London Freeman's School, Ashtead Park, Ashtead, by kind permission of the Head Master. The subject will be "Great Castles of Southern England" by the writer and authority on castles, our own D.F. Renn, F.S.A. This lecture is open to the public and will be illustrated with slides.

Friday 14th Nov.
8.00 p.m.

At Red Cross Hall. Talk with slides by Miss Joan Harding, F.S.A. on "The Development of Farmhouse & Cottage in Surrey. Miss Harding is a member of our Society and an authority on half-timbered domestic buildings.

Friday 5th Dec.
8.00 p.m.

At Red Cross Hall. The Leatherhead Miscellany.

The Programme for 1976 is now being formulated.

Keeping in Touch

The Ashtead "walk round" leaflet of the village antiquities now in course of preparation; the acquisition of Estate Agents' photographs of properties sold in the district; the progress of the Ashtead History; the formation of a sales team to see that our publications are constantly available to the public; Phoenix Assurance Company's fire mark at Little Bookham, were matters of interest discussed at recent Committee meetings.

We are sorry to report the death of a member of long standing, Dr. Jeffrey Murray Robertson of Fir Tree Road, Leatherhead.

The Symposium of the Surrey Local history Council at Dorking Halls will be on Saturday 11th October and the subject is "Change under the Tudors."

The Annual General Meeting of Surrey Local history Council is to be held in Blechingley Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. on the 19th July 1975. All interested members and their friends are invited and there will be an opportunity to visit some antiquities in Blechingley and Penéll. Tea at South Park, Blechingley, by kind invitation of Uvedale Lambert, Esq.

Exhibition and Publicity Sub-Committee. A small sub-committee was set up to produce the Architectural Heritage Year exhibition, which appears to have been well received. The Society is receiving many requests for displays and exhibitions from outside organisations, and we have the occasional opportunity of using shop windows and space in the library for exhibitions. It has been suggested that a more permanent sub-committee be formed to discuss, plan and stage displays and exhibitions, and also give our various publications the widest publicity. Will anyone interested in joining such a sub-committee please contact the Hon. Records Secretary, 7 Fox Lane, Lt. Bookham, Tel. Bkham 58722.

Archaeology and history of Leatherhead. Work on the trial trench near Gravel Hill will be ending shortly, having produced little evidence of occupation before the last century, apart from a flint flake and a few small pottery sherds ranging from early to late mediaeval. It is hoped that further work will be started later in the summer in an area due for re-development, and it is hoped that more members will be able to join us.

In Manning & Bray's "History of Surrey" the county court is said to have been held at Leatherhead in the 13th century, yet archaeological evidence of early Leatherhead is confined to chance finds of mediaeval pottery found in the High Street in 1954. Was the earliest occupation in the neighbourhood of the Church, as might be expected, or near Gravel Hill as some records may suggest, or around Church Walk/Elm Road, discussed by Derek Renn as ancient thoroughfares in an earlier Newsletter?

Wishing you pleasant weather and relaxation on your holidays and much enjoyment from our future Programme.

'Ypriana'
Cobham Road,
Fetcham.

G. HAYWARD.
Hon. Secretary