

# Leatherhead and District Local History Society

Newsletter 1/76

March 1976

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 26th March 1976, at the Council Offices, Bull Hill, Leatherhead, by courtesy of Mole Valley District Council. Coffee and biscuits will be served to members from 7.45 to 8.15 p.m.

## NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Leatherhead, at 8.15 p.m. on Friday 26th March 1976 with the following Agenda:-

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
2. Matters arising therefrom
3. Presentation of the Executive Committee's Report (copy enclosed)
4. Presentation of the Accounts to 31st December 1975 (copy enclosed)
5. Election of Officers and Committee for 1976
6. Any other business

After the formal business is completed, Lady Hanworth, Chairman of the Excavations Committee of the Surrey Archaeological Society, will discuss the long term field work project centred on the Mole Valley and the associated downland. This project is intended to be launched by a week's training course at the Juniper Hall Field Studies Centre in August.

We are always supported in strength at these annual Meetings and may we hope to see in addition this year some member friends who for various reasons have not been able to appear regularly at our lectures and visits. As the formal business does not usually take up much time, there should be ample scope for free discussion.

TOWN LEAFLETS. Some members may not be aware that in addition to the Leatherhead leaflet we now have a supply of the Ashtead walk in similar format. The leaflets will be on sale at 5 pence each at our meetings, or can be obtained from Mrs. Brenda Haynes of "Sans Nom," Fir Tree Road, Leatherhead. We feel fairly confident that the Fetcham leaflet will be available by the date of the A.G.M.

KEEPING-IN-TOUCH. A few items of interest discussed in Committee since the last Newsletter were:- Life membership, covenants of subscriptions and other classes of membership; progress with the History of Ashtead; the purchase of a screen for the projection of slides; local sites suitable for excavation.

THE PROCEEDINGS. As we hope to issue this Newsletter and the Occasional Paper by John Blair with the 1975 Proceedings, those who only receive a Newsletter and the Occasional Paper should check that their 1976 subscription (£2.00) has been paid.

BRICK TILES (or MATHEMATICAL TILES) In the course of Miss Joan Harding's recent talk to the Society entitled "The Development of Farmhouse and Cottage in Surrey" she mentioned mathematical tiles. These are tiles usually hung on the outside walls of timber frame houses, so designed that the exposed face resembles a brick, it being possible to point or fill in the gaps so that the deception is almost complete. Such tiles were manufactured from the early eighteenth century onwards, and the oldest known dated example is 1724. Miss Harding was able to illustrate the effect with a slide of the upper storeys of a row of shops in Dorking High Street, but neither Miss Harding nor her audience could think of an example in our own area.

THE DOMESTIC BUILDINGS RESEARCH GROUP (SURREY) is preparing a report on Brick Tiles in Surrey, and our members are asked to advise the Hon. Records Secretary, 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham (Tel. Bookham 58722) of any building in our area where brick tiles are used, even if in only a small quantity, such as blocking up a window, and he will pass on the information.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 1st August 1976 at Haslemere Museum at 2.30 p.m. Members and their friends can attend. After the formal business there will be a talk on the museum followed by a walk round. Tea will be available and there is a large public car park near. The Council's Symposium at Dorking Halls this year is to be on Saturday 16th October. The subject is "The History of Surrey Gardens."

FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL. The following are some details of the interesting programme of courses to be held this summer at the Juniper Hall Field Centre. Further details can be obtained from our Hon. Secretary, Tel. Leatherhead 72674:

Amateur Botanists' Week, 23-30 June; Rocks, Fossils & Scenery, 19-23 July; Landscape & Flower Painting 26-30 July; Exploring the Countryside 30 July-1 August; Unfamiliar Animals, 2-6 August; Conservation & Nature Reserves, 2-6 August; Recording Farmhouses & Cottages 9-13 August (Miss Joan Harding); Patterns & Form in Animals 13-15 August; Trees & Woodland 9-13 August; What can a River Tell, 9-13 August; Garden Natural History, 13-15 August; The Badger & Other Animals, 16-20 August; Know your Village Better 16-20 August; Late Summer Flowers, 16-20 August; London's Countryside, 20-22 August. Archaeology & Landscape, 23-30 August; Bird Ecology 27 Aug. - 1 September.

Mr. Albert Jeans. We deeply regret to report the death at his home in Leatherhead, of a member well known for his appreciation of the Society's activities and for his good works in other circles.

Mrs. E. How. We were also sorry to hear of the death of the wife of our member Mr. P.G.How. Both were frequent supporters at our lectures and visits, and Mrs. How was Chairman of the local committee of the Church of England Children's Society.

#### PROGRAMME 1976

##### Saturday 13th March

Afternoon visit to St. Paul's Cathedral, leaving Leatherhead at 12.55 p.m. Members taking part in this visit should note that the coach has been re-timed to leave Leatherhead at 12.55 p.m. instead of 13.40p.m. The Registrar of St. Paul's tells us that we should be at the Cathedral by 2 p.m. to allow sufficient time to see the crypt and the galleries before they close at 3.15 p.m.

##### Friday 26th March

Annual General Meeting at the Council Chambers, Leatherhead.

##### Saturday 24th April

Afternoon visit to West Horsley Place, home of the Duchess of Roxburghe, at 2.45 p.m. There has been such an enthusiastic response to this visit that a further visit has been arranged to take place in the early autumn. When the date is agreed a second party of twenty five members will be drawn from names on the present waiting list. Members who applied too late to be included in the first group have been notified accordingly. If you have heard nothing, your application has been accepted and your tickets will reach you a week before the event.

##### Wednesday 28th April, Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead, at 8 p.m.

Lecture on Local History by Mr. Norman Nail, member of the Ewell and Nonsuch Society.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Programme Secretary will be away from home from June 2nd to July 14th. To avoid confusion, bookings for the following visits will be dealt with in their entirety by Mr. Eric Barnwell, to whom we are greatly indebted for his spontaneous offer of help. Mr. Barnwell's address is: 16 Eastwick Park Avenue, Gt. Bookham; Tel. No. Bookham 54947.

The cost of coach hire has increased by approximately 25% since last year which means that it has been necessary to raise the price of seats accordingly. We feel, however, that they are still good value and we look forward to your full participation in the programme, to make it the success of previous years.

### Sunday 23rd May

Visit to Lacock Abbey, Lacock Village and Bath, leaving Leatherhead at 8.00 a.m. Cost per seat £2.75 includes admission to the Abbey at 35p, children 25p (party rates). Lacock Abbey was founded in 1232 by Ela, Countess of Salisbury. It was the home of William Henry Fox Talbot, (1800-1877), the inventor of photography. To commemorate this invention, the National Trust has made available the sixteenth century barn at the gates of the Abbey for a museum. Admission to the museum is 30p, children 14 years and under, 15p. These charges are not included in the fare. Lacock Village has its origins in the wool trade, apparent in the houses, where the rooms were built large and wide to accommodate the looms. The village has been quoted as being "one of the most architecturally distinguished villages in England." Lunch may be obtained at any of the pubs in the village. The Red Lion does quite a good lunch. The George does snacks. If warned well in advance, The Angel does an expensive set lunch. From the Abbey we shall proceed to Bath for tea and a further look at this beautiful city.

### Saturday 19th June

Visit to Ashwell Village, Hertfordshire, leaving Leatherhead at 9.00; cost per seat £1.65. The most northerly in Hertfordshire, this large and beautiful village with its remarkable church is a delight to wander in. It boasts a very successful museum. The founder and present curator is Mr. Sheldrick, an Ashwell boy. We are hoping that Mr. Sheldrick will be available to show us round the museum and it has been said that we may even gather a few suggestions on how to start our own long-projected Leatherhead museum. From Ashwell we shall proceed to Cambridge for tea with enough time to see some of its famous attractions.

### Saturday 17th July

Leaving Leatherhead at 9.00 a.m. we visit Jane Austen's house at Chawton, Hants, with a stop of one hour in Alton en route. Then to Farnham for the afternoon. Cost per seat £1.40. Jane Austen was born at Steventon, in Hampshire, in 1775. She resided in Bath from 1801 to 1805 and in Southampton from then until 1809, when she settled in Chawton. Her novels, Emma and Persuasion, were written at Chawton. She died in 1817 and is buried in Winchester Cathedral. Entrance fee to Jane Austen's house is 25p, not included in the fare. It is suggested that this amount should be collected from members on the coach to save time on arrival at the house. The curator tells us that we may picnic in the garden.

Chawton Church, where Jane's mother and sister are buried, is ten minutes walk from the house. The church is in the drive of Chawton House, where her brother Edward lived. This house is not open to the public. The afternoon will be spent in Farnham, famous for its castle, which for centuries was the home of the Bishops of Winchester and later, of the Bishops of Guildford. West Street is full of architectural interest and No.39 is said to be "one of Surrey's most notable Georgian town houses." William Cobbett, the author of 'Rural Rides' was born at the Jolly Farmer Inn.

### Saturday 14th August

Afternoon walk round Guildford, leaving Leatherhead at 13.50, cost per seat £1.00. Listed here are some of the places of interest we hope to visit during our walk through this lovely old town, familiar to us all. The ruined castle, with its Norman Keep and Castle Arch, which houses the museum which is open to the public daily free of charge; St. Mary's Church, Quarry Street, the oldest building in Guildford; Guildhall, with its famous clock and architecture mainly dating from Tudor times; Abbott's Hospital built by George Abbott, Archbishop of Canterbury in 1619. He is buried in Holy Trinity Church opposite. The hospital is open to the public between 11 a.m. and 12 noon, and between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.; Angel Hotel in the High Street. This is an old coaching inn with an ancient crypt. Coaches left from the old paved courtyard. Our last call will be at the Cathedral designed by Sir Edward Maufe. It was begun in 1936 and consecrated in 1961.

### Saturday 18th September

Visit to Dorset, organiser Mr. G. Hayward. Leaving Leatherhead at 8.00 a.m. Cost per seat £2.60. Members and friends who travelled to Glastonbury last year mentioned how much they had enjoyed the brief stop at Shaftesbury en route. As a result, it is thought fitting, on this examination of some places in Dorset, to include a slightly longer stop in Shaftesbury. With this in mind we would like to leave the Leatherhead district around 8 a.m., so the first boarding point will be in Ashted at 7.50 a.m. Here is a brief outline of the day:-

<p>Shaftesbury 10.30 to 11.45 a.m.</p> <p>Cerne Abbas 12.15 to 2.00 p.m.</p> <p>Dorchester 2.15 to 3.15 p.m.</p> <p>Thomas Hardy's birthplace, 3.30 to 4.15 p.m.</p> <p>Milton Abbas 4.45 to 5.30 p.m. (Abbey)</p> <p>Grانborne (Grانborne Chase) 6.00 to 6.45 p.m.</p>	<p>Time to see Gold Hill and the view near the Abbey ruins.</p> <p>Including lunch, picnic or otherwise. Look for the old houses, inns and Abbey Gateway. The museum and other nearby features. National Trust (bring your N.T. membership cards).</p> <p>We shall see the delightful village street of thatched cottages as we leave.</p> <p>After passing through the Georgian town of Blandford Forum we will partake of refreshment at the ancient Fleur de Lys Inn (mentioned in "Tess of the D'Urbervilles") before leaving Dorset for home.</p>
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If, after this introduction to Dorset, members feel that a closer or more detailed inspection is desirable, our Programme Secretary will be delighted to receive your suggestions.

Details of the indoor programme are not yet available but will be described in our next Newsletter of June or July.

Ypriana,  
Cobham Road,  
Leatherhead.

G. HAYWARD  
Hon. Secretary

# Leatherhead and District Local History Society

Vice-President Mr. J.G.W. Lewarne

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1975

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Committee has pleasure in presenting its twenty-ninth Report.

The Committee for 1975 was:-

Chairman:	S.E.D. Fortescue	Hon. Secretary:	G. Hayward
Hon. Treasurer	J.R. Bull	Hon. Editor:	M.P. Senger
Hon. Programme Secretary:	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.A.C. Foulter, Mrs. M. Rice-Oxley		
(Co-opted):	R.A. Lever, M. Snellgrove		
Hon. Auditor:	A.H. Kirkby		

The Officers and Committee Members retire at the Annual General Meeting but are eligible for re-election. Nominations for the Committee should reach the Hon. Secretary not later than 24th March 1976, and should state:- (a) the name of the Nominee; (b) the names of the Proposer and Seconder, and (c) that the Nominee has expressed his or her willingness to serve if elected.

1. Membership. At 31st December 1975 the membership of the Society was 246, made up of 11 Honorary members and 235 Ordinary members.
2. Programme. The lectures and visits during the past year have been notable for their quality and interest and for the large number of members and their friends attending. Perhaps the Ballaway lecture by our past Chairman, Derek Kenn, FSA, on 'Great Castles of Southern England' was the highlight and attended by nearly 300 people.  
  
Mr. Hume, appointed at the 1975 A.G.M. as Hon. Programme Secretary, resigned on being transferred to the North, and Mrs. Cicely Barrett stepped into the breach with her own characteristic flair.
3. Publications. In March 1975 the first of the Town Leaflets (Leatherhead) was published as part of the European Architectural Heritage Year Campaign, and was received enthusiastically. Of the 1,000 copies printed there are approximately 100 in hand. It is understood that this was the first town leaflet to be published in Surrey. Following this success a Town Leaflet for Ashted was published in December last, and the Fetcham Leaflet is in preparation. The sale price of each leaflet is 5 pence or 25 for £1.00.

The Proceedings, Volume 3 No.8 was issued to members during the earlier part of the year, and No. 9 will be ready for members shortly. The very high standard of presentation and content has been maintained, and it is said to be the finest local history society publication in the country.

Your Committee is anxious not to miss any opportunity for excavation afforded by the proposed re-development of Leatherhead Town Centre and Mr. John Blair has written a monograph describing the possible sites. After discussing this scholarly treatise, it was decided to publish an 'Occasional Paper' which will be issued to members, and it is hoped that this will be the first of a series of research papers.

The compilation of the History of Ashted to be published by the Society is progressing. The material collected by our late President, A.W.G. Lowther, ARIBA, FSA, and loaned to the Society by the Society of Antiquaries, is invaluable. It is hoped that the History may be published by the end of 1976.

4. Exhibitions. A very active Exhibitions Sub-Committee, chaired by Mr. David Bruce, was formed in Spring 1975, and exhibitions in connection with the European Architectural Heritage Year were held in Leatherhead, Ashted, Bookham,

and Fetcham, including one at the opening of the Leatherhead Leisure Centre. These exhibitions attracted considerable interest and the Society benefited greatly from the publicity. Mr. Vernon Wildgoose proved a very successful artistic director. Mr. Bruce is also the Society's Archivist and a continual flow of new material is received and indexed by him.

5. Publicity. In November 1975 a Publicity and Sales Sub-Committee was formed to publicise the Society and sell its publications under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Brenda Haynes, a long-standing friend of the Society.
6. Illustration of Lectures. Over many years the lack of our own equipment to project slides has from time to time created problems for the Programme Secretary. This year the Society purchased a screen measuring 8' x 6' and through the generosity of the owner, who made available a projector on indefinite loan, the work of the Programme Secretary has been eased.
7. Excavation. A small excavation was undertaken at Upper Fairfield Road, Leatherhead, under the supervision of Mrs. Angela Calder for the Surrey Archaeological Society and organised by Mr. S.R.C.Poulter. This was reported in full in a recent Newsletter. At the end of the year an excavation of an ice well (?) in Great Bookham was commenced with the assistance of the Surrey Sub-Aqua Club.
8. Photographs. The Society is building up a collection of photographs of contemporary buildings in the district which, if not of great interest at present, could prove priceless in a hundred years from now. Our thanks are due to the friendly co-operation of local Estate Agents, Messrs. Norman & Huggins, Osenton Lamden & Co. and Porter & Smart.
9. The Society's Library has been re-organised by our able Hon. Librarian, Mr. John R.Gilbert and is now more accessible at his home at 34 Greenacres, Gt. Bookham, Surrey; Tel. Bookham 54956. This should not be overlooked by members carrying out research and a list of the books is available from Mr. Gilbert. The list circulated to members with the Newsletter is still reasonably up to date.
10. Subscription. The increase of the Society's activities and publications together with postage have necessitated a raising of the annual subscription to £2.00 as from 1st January 1976. This is regretted but if the Society is to maintain its standards there is no alternative.
11. A Statement of Income and Expenditure for 1975, prepared by our Hon. Treasurer, is attached. We are pleased to say that Surrey County Council continue to give us financial assistance, and to show interest in our activities, whilst Mole Valley District Council, likewise interested and frequently in touch with us, have included a grant to the Society in their 1976/77 estimates, but cannot say that this is definite until the rate for the year has been fixed.

# LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

From the Hon. Treasurer:

## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

	Previous Year	Year Under	
	1974	Report	
	£	1975	
		£	
<u>INCOME:</u>			
Subscriptions	319.75	332.15	(a)
Donations from Members	10.50	21.76	
Grant from Surrey Council Council	25.00	25.00	
Grant from Mole Valley District Council	50.00	Nil	(b)
Lecture Fees donated by Members	13.05	21.70	
Sale of Books and Leaflets etc.	40.69	113.01	
Profit on Visits and Functions	45.61	43.57	
Interest from Trustee Savings Bank	1.72	Nil	
Interest from Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	42.47	42.04	
	£548.79	£599.23	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Printing of "Proceedings" etc.	278.00	514.18	(c)
Expenses of Administration of Society	40.46	80.88	
General Disbursements:			
e.g. Purchase of			
Projector Screen etc.	43.51	39.97	
Subscriptions to:-			
Surrey Record Society	2.00	2.00	
British Council for			
Archaeology	4.50	Nil	
Surrey Archaeological Society	2.00	5.00	
Surrey Local History Council	Nil	2.10	
Hire of Hall for Lectures	11.75	7.50	
	£382.22	£651.63	
Excess of Income over Expenditure	166.57	Nil	
Excess of Expenditure over Income	Nil	52.40	
Bank Balance at beginning of year	635.06	801.63	
Bank Balance at end of Year	£801.63	£749.23	
Made up as follows:-			
Lloyds Bank - Current A/c.	233.56	139.12	
Lloyds Bank - Deposit A/c.	568.07	610.11	
	£801.63	£749.23	

I certify that the above Statement is in accordance with the Books and Records produced to me and is, in my opinion, Correct.

Date 5th February.... 1976.

Honorary Auditor .....

A.H.Kirkby

Honorary Treasurer .....

J.R.Bull

MEMBERSHIP

There are now 11 Honorary Members of the Society.

Recorded paid-up Members for 1975 - - - - - 235

£

So the Subscription Income from these Members was . . . . . 293.75

(a) Subscription Reconciliation

Deduct

6 Members who paid their 1975 subscription in 1974 . . . 7.50

286.25

Add

Sundry Members who paid part or the whole of their  
1974 subscription in 1975 . . . . . 23.90

11 Members who paid their 1976 subscription in 1975 . . . 22.00

£322.15

(b) The Honorary Secretary has received a letter from the M.V.D.C. indicating that a Grant will be forthcoming but as yet it has not been received.

Liabilities

(c) We anticipate incurring a debt of approximately £500 in respect of the printing of the 1975 edition of the "Proceedings".

Although we have received monies from the sale of the Ashtead Leaflet, the invoice for the printing of the Literature, amounting to £32.94, was not received in time to be entered in the 1975 Account. Consequently this payment will appear in the Accounts for 1976.

BOOKING FORMS

Saturday 18th September, visit to Dorset leaving Leatherhead 8.00 a.m.

Please book.....seats @ £2.60 per person

I enclose £...../+ I undertake to send the appropriate amount one month before the date of the event. /+ delete as necessary.

Please indicate if you require tea at the Fleur de Lys. YES..... NO.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

..... Tel. No.....

Saturday 14th August 1976, afternoon walk round Guildford, leaving Leatherhead 13.50

Please book.....seats @ £1.00 per person

I enclose £...../+ I undertake to send the appropriate amount one month before the date of the event. /+ delete as necessary

Name.....

ADDRESS.....

..... Tel. No.....

Saturday 17th July 1976, visit to Chawton & Farnham leaving Leatherhead at 9.00 a.m.

Please book.....seats at £1.40 per person

I enclose £...../+ I undertake to send the appropriate amount one month before the date of the event. /+ delete as necessary

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Tel. No.....

Saturday 19th June 1976, visit to Ashwell leaving Leatherhead at 9.00 a.m.

Please book.....seats at £1.65 per person

I enclose £...../+ I undertake to send the appropriate amount one month before the date of the event. /+ delete as necessary

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Tel. No.....

Sunday 23rd May 1976 visit to Lacock & Bath leaving Leatherhead at 8.00 a.m.

Please book.....seats at £2.75 per person

I enclose £...../+ I undertake to send the appropriate amount one month before the date of the event. /+ delete as necessary

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Tel. No.....

