

# LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter 3/76

November 1976

Dear Member,

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING AT RED CROSS HALL, OAKS CLOSE,  
LEATHERHEAD at 7.45 p.m., 8th DECEMBER 1976

The purpose of this Special Meeting is to receive and approve the report of the Museum sub-Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee, on the acquisition of Hampton Cottage as a museum. In the early stages the sub-Committee explored various avenues of raising the purchase money quickly, but it became apparent that there was no alternative but to take the more difficult road of raising finance by an appeal. We hope all members have now received a letter on this subject.

We are justifiably pleased with the response from members and many others outside the Society, which in less than three months has raised over £3,200. A decision to purchase the building was made by the Committee not on this result alone, but together with another factor which will be explained in more detail by the Chairman at the Special General Meeting.

The Committee feel that the, now very real, prospect of a museum in central Leatherhead is the culmination of a very successful year for the Society, and that members will now have scope for participation in a very wide range of activities associated with local history. In addition, the appeal campaign has been productive of a flow of new members such as the Society has not experienced before. For a Society operating with volunteers in spare time this is surely noteworthy.

Not unnaturally, because of the wide field of education combined with pleasure that the Society can now offer, we hope that the members present will signify their approval to the following Resolution:-

THAT IT IS DESIRABLE to establish a Museum to house and exhibit the articles of antiquarian interest already in the possession of this Society and any further such articles as the Society shall hereafter acquire, and for that purpose GEOFFREY HAYWARD of Ypriana, Cobham Road, Fetcham; DAVID BRUCE of 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham, and JOHN RAMSAY BULL of 98 Woodfield Lane, Ashted, hereinafter called the Trustees shall be provided with funds out of moneys raisable by the Society for the purpose upon Trust to lay out the same on the purchase in their names of Hampton Cottage, Church Street, Leatherhead; the putting of the same into proper repair and adapting the same for use as a Museum for the purposes aforesaid under the name of THE LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM TRUST.

THAT APPLICATION BE MADE to the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales to register the Trust as a Charity, to formulate a scheme for the management and administration of the Trust and for an order vesting the legal estate in Hampton Cottage in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands.

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THE MISCELLANY. After the Special General Meeting will follow the similar pattern of previous years because we have not heard any dissenting voices on the form of this pre-Christmas gathering. This time of the year, however, being the Society's thirtieth birthday, we plan to include some food with perhaps coffee, for a change, and if any member feels able to bring along a few light snacks to swell the fare, please contact Mrs. C. Barrett of The Glen, Guildford Road, Great Bookham, Tel. Bookham 52937.

PROGRAMME FOR 1977. Following an analysis of support for the coach outings during 1976, the Programme sub-Committee decided that for the present we should concentrate on one good trip during 1977 and then review the situation again in due course. This may disappoint some members but we would ask for their support in this decision particularly as a number of interesting local visits are being arranged.

Our Programme Secretary, Mrs. C. Barrett, refreshed by her visit to Canada, has so far laid on the following:-

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14th Lecture entitled "The Origins of Leatherhead" by John Blair.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18th A talk on the history of Stoke D'Abernon by the Reverend H.L. Waterson, Rector of St. Mary's Church, Stoke D'Abernon.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25th Annual General Meeting. This will be held at the Council Chamber, Bull Hill, Leatherhead, at 8 p.m. by courtesy of Mole Valley District Council.

The January and February meetings will be held at the Red Cross Hall, Oaks Close, Leatherhead, at 8 p.m. Parking in the Randalls Road car park is still free at that time of the day.

For the remainder of the year the programme is being prepared and will include for May a visit to Betchworth House, a June coach trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, and the Dallaway lecture on October 14th by Dr. John Harvey, F.S.A.

The February Newsletter will contain full details and we thank Mrs. Cicely Barrett for maintaining the standard we have all become accustomed to expect.

LOCAL HISTORY. The following article has been published in "The London Recusant" and was written by one of our members, and is reproduced here by kind permission of the Editor of that journal. "The London Recusant" is published twice yearly and can be obtained for a subscription of £1 through the Editor, Mr. E. S. Worrall, 21 Merryhills Drive, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7NS. The journal covers the Catholic history of London in its widest sense, the metropolitan area, the Home Counties, the modern dioceses of Westminster and Southwark, the London District of the 18th century Vicars Apostolic and recusant historical problems.

"BURIED FAR FROM HOME : MARY JERNINGHAM  
by John Topliss

"But what a string of churches it is, upon the twelve miles of Surrey roadway; nine villages, each with its grey-walled building and the cool whiteness of the arches, aisles and chancels." (1)

In the description of the road from Guildford to Leatherhead, Mr. Eric Parker naturally included the church at Great Bookham and the few among the monuments and inscriptions that he found interesting. He did not, however, consider worthy of note a ledger in the north aisle where

"Here lyeth Mary Jernegan wife of Henry Jernegan of Cossey in ye County of Norfolke, Barronnett, daughter of Benedict Hall of High Meadowe in the County of Gloucester Esq. whoe died the 30th April, Anno D'ni 1653, leaving him two sonnes and one daughter. Deus meus et omnia." (2)

She was buried on 1st May, the day following her death. (3)

The mother of Mary Jerningham was Anne Winter, daughter of Sir Edward Winter of Lidney and Lady Anne Somerset, and through her mother and maternal grandmother descended from Blessed Margaret Pole, niece of King Edward IV, martyred on 27th May 1541. Anne Hall (nee Winter) after her husband's death, retired to the Benedictine Convent of Our Lady of Consolation at Cambrai where another daughter was abbess. The estates of the Hall family passed, when the heiress Benedicta Maria Theresa Hall married Thomas Gage, into the hands of the Gage family. The son of Thomas and Benedicta, born 1st January 1718 "having renou ed the religion of his forefathers" was created Baron Gage of Firle in the county of Sussex. (4)

Sir Henry Jerningham, the second baronet of Painswick, Gloucester and of Costessy, died on the 6th October 1680 and was succeeded by his second son, Francis. His grandson married Mary Plowden, who was descended, as was her husband, from Bl. Margaret Pole and also traced her descent from St. Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel and Bl. William Howard, Viscount Stafford.

The Jerningham estates were situated in Painswick, Gloucestershire, until sold by Sir William Jerningham (5) and Costessy near Norwich, and Great Bookham

in Surrey is far from either. The notable families in the Parish of Great Bookham in the 17th century were the Howards of Effingham at Eastwick who retained that estate until early in the 19th century, Sir Charles Howard being the owner from 1651 until his death in 1672, the Slyfields who had inter-married with the Weston's of West Clandon and Sutton Place, and the Shiers. Robert Shiers, a bencher of the Inner Temple, died in 1668. His wife, Elizabeth, was a member of the Weld family, several of whom were prominent lawyers during that century.

Sir William Jerningham, great-grandson of Henry Jerningham and Mary Hall, married the Hon. Frances Dillon, whose letters to and from her daughter Charlotte comprise the greater part of the Jerningham Letters, that delightful picture of English Catholic life in the fourth quarter of the 18th and first of the 19th centuries. Sir William resolved to erect a chapel at Costessy. It was new in 1809 and of the fashionable gothic design. Dr. Milner arrived on the 17th August 1809 to dedicate the building. (6). Among the visitors to the chapel was the Duke of Sussex, son of George III. "The Chapel he was delighted with, spoke much of it as Architectural and of the beautiful painted glass." (7) This glass provides a further link, even if tenuous, between the Jerninghams and Great Bookham.

"The six lovely panels of XV century Flemish glass were purchased in 1954. (8) Originally adorning a French church, the glass (40 panels in all) were smuggled out of the country and brought to England during the French Revolution. It was then bought for the chapel of Costessy Hall, Norfolk, home of the Jerningham family, one of whom is named on a ledger in the North aisle. After the 1914-18 war the residence was closed down and the glass came on the market. Other panels may be seen in York Minster, Wells and Exeter Cathedrals, Stoke D'Abernon Church, and some are in the United States." (9)

#### REFERENCES

1. Highways & Byways of Surrey by Eric Parker, 1908, p.125
2. History of Surrey by Manning & Bray, Vol. 2, p. 689, records this inscription, 'Jerningham' or 'Jernegan' ?  
Cockayne's Complete Baronetage, Exeter, 1900, Vol. 1, p. 171, states 'it seems as if Sir Henry varied the spelling of the name that this family might be distinguished from the Somerly Jernegans'.  
Blomfields Norfolk, but see also A. Jessop DD and 'Hermendruide' who considers that 'Jerningham was the always correct spelling and Jernigan a colloquialism'.  
Notes & Queries 7th S, vii, 89.
3. Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. 5, 1877, p. 40.
4. Collections, by V. Rev. George Oliver, Dolman 1857, p. 125.
5. Jerningham Letters, 2 Vols. ed. Egerton Castle. 1896. Vol. 2, p.150
6. Op cit. Vol. 1, p. 358.
7. Op cit. Vol. 2, p. 144.
8. Nikolas Pevsner in Buildings of England, Surrey, 1971, p. 263, considers that these look like German work. 'The colouring is unremarkable but the faces are startlingly vivid, Cranach or Grünewald faces.'
9. St. Nicholas Church, Great Bookham by B.G. Skinner, 1971, Dyer & Son, Leatherhead.

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LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM. Apart from finance much assistance will be required, when we can enter the premises, in the form of skills and labour to restore the building combined with the donation, if possible, of reconstruction materials whether in the form of timber, ironmongery, sand and cement, paint, etc., etc. When restoration is complete, help will be required to supplement the existing small team of exhibitors and also to form a team of stewards of the museum during opening days. Please indicate on the subscription reminder slip below the capacity in which you may be able to assist.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1977. At the end of the Newsletter is a subscription reminder slip which should be detached and completed and sent with remittance to Mrs. C. Barrett (of The Glen, Guildford Road, Great Bookham) who has volunteered to look after the membership records. The purpose of this slip is to direct the subscriptions, as far as possible, to one receiving point so that we may have a

readily available day-to-day check on membership of the Society. For those dedicated to payment by Bankers' Order we have no wish to disturb unnecessarily their present arrangements but we would ask members who continue to use this method to check that the amount of debit to their account has been altered to the current rate of £2.00.

Our reason for taking this step, as some members will know, is that it is difficult for the Society to have a readily available daily check on subscriptions paid direct to the Bank, and on a number of occasions members have been reminded unnecessarily. When subscriptions alter in amount the Society has to rely on members to instruct their bank to debit the new figure.

It is our hope that this new arrangement will remove subscription troubles and ensure that the majority of renewals are made closer to the 1st January. As a safeguard a final reminder will appear in the February Newsletter to avoid disappointment of members who would otherwise fail to receive the Proceedings in the Spring. Mrs. M. Fuller is kindly continuing to deal with the despatch of the Proceedings to members.

One additional point is that the word "minimum" is included in relation to the subscription. For many years some members have automatically included a donation with their subscription which has greatly assisted the running of the Society. We are doing our utmost to keep the subscription rate down in order to make joining the Society attractive in relation to what it has to offer, and this is a gentle hint that we will be more than pleased to receive donations.

Finally, in wishing all a pleasant break at Christmas I can also express our gratitude to those who, in a variety of ways, have made this an exciting year for the Society. Although few of us will have been oblivious to the worsening pressure on our incomes, yet it is stimulating to find that members' interest in local history continues unabated and even increases. Perhaps because of the criticism often directed against the modern way of life, we are trying to extract the best from the past and use the knowledge to improve the present. My hope for 1977 is that whatever changes are needed to revitalise Britain will take place quickly and painlessly!

Ypriana,  
Cobham Road,  
Leatherhead,  
Surrey KT22 PJE

Geoffrey Hayward,  
Hon. Secretary.

Tel. Leatherhead 72674