

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter 1/77

March 1977

Dear Member,

Please note, first of all, a change of date for the Annual General Meeting which will now be held on Friday 18th March 1977 at the Council Offices, Bull Hill, Leatherhead, by courtesy of Mole Valley District Council.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Thirtieth Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Leatherhead, at 8.00 p.m. for 8.15 p.m. on Friday 18th March 1977 with the following Agenda:-

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (copy enclosed).
2. Matters arising therefrom.
3. Presentation of the Executive Committee's Report (copy enclosed).
4. Presentation of the Accounts to 31st December 1976 (copy enclosed).
5. Election of Officers and Committee for 1977.
6. Any other business.

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 16th March 1977, and should state:- (a) the name of the Nominee; (b) the names of the Proposer and Secunder, and (c) that the Nominee has expressed his or her willingness to serve if elected.

By circulating the Minutes of the last A.G.M. we shall save time at the forthcoming General Meeting and have more of the evening for general discussion. So much has happened during 1976 there may be many questions to answer which we hope will amplify information already given to members regarding our activities.

PROGRAMME NEWS

- Friday, April 22nd Lecture at the Red Cross Hall at 8 p.m. "Through Ireland by water and some lost towns", by Mr. L.A. Edwards, one of our Ashtead members. Mr. Edwards is well known for his connections with the Inland Waterways Association, for his famous guide book to the waterways and to our members for his beautiful slides of canal and river scenery.
- Saturday, May 14th Visit at 2.30 p.m. to Betchworth House by courtesy of Major-General E.H. Goulbourne. Numbers are limited to 30 and thus we can only admit members.
- Saturday, June 11th Visit by coach to Stratford upon Avon, leaving Leatherhead at 8.00 a.m. Cost per seat is £3.25. There will be the usual additional picking up points at Great Bookham, Fetcham and Ashtead.
- Saturday, July 2nd A walk through the village of Shere. Our guide will be a member of the Shere and Gomshall Local History Society. The meeting place will be in the car park of the Shere Village Hall, near the recreation ground, at 2.30 p.m.
- Saturday, July 23rd Annual General Meeting of Surrey Local History Council at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street, Egham, at 2.00 p.m. After the A.G.M., a visit to the local museum, tea, a walk round Egham Church and visit to Holloway College Art Gallery. Finish 5 p.m. Some of our members have been to these meetings in previous years and as a result we have no hesitation in recommending that a strong contingent from our Society should be present.
- August and September We are hoping to arrange a walk through Guildford and a visit to Pains Hill, Cobham. Details will be given in the next Newsletter.

Friday October 14th The Dallaway lecture at 8 p.m. in the hall of the City of London Freeman's School, Ashtead Park. The lecture will be on some aspects of the history of gardening in England and will be illustrated. This is to be given by Dr. John Harvey, FSA, FRSL, FSG., Consultant Architect to Winchester College and a member of our Society.

November Lecture at the Red Cross Hall to be arranged.

Saturday 26th November Symposium at Dorking Halls, subject 'Brewing and Inns in Surrey'. Here is a subject of interest to all, as it takes us back in history as far as you can wish to go. The research for such a subject must be considerable and in these days of intensive home wine making and brewing there must be something of interest for everyone.

December The Leatherhead Miscellany at the Red Cross Hall; short talks etc. by members.

In respect of the local visits the Society has incurred expenses in previous years which will not be any less in the current year. As no charge is usually made for a local visit and because the Society's funds are not increasing, it is proposed to make an administration charge of 10 pence per member per local visit. This will be collected from participating members at the time of the visit but no charge will be made for children.

A booking form for the events of May and June is attached to the Newsletter. No booking form is required for the July event.

SUBSCRIPTION 1977

In the last Newsletter I promised to remind you that to be a practising member of our Society it is necessary to pay the subscription of £2. to Mrs. C. Barrett, The Glen, Guildford Road, Great Bookham, Surrey. At the last check Mrs. Barrett informed me that she was disappointed that only about half our membership had paid the renewal subscription. This does happen every year, and so I wish to make a special plea for intending members to renew their subscription immediately because the annual Proceedings is now in print, and apart from this, there is a lot of excitement awaiting participating members in the shape of things to do in the locality. Whatever you do please make it clear that you are renewing at £2. per head and not at the old rate of £1.25 of over a year ago. We have had problems in deciding whether members tendering 75 pence to make up the subscription are offering it for last year or for this! Please, therefore, renew your subscription promptly while it is still reasonably clear that it is this year you intend to remain a member.

DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

Postage is a major item of expenses with a large membership. In most districts we have willing members to hand deliver our information sheets but we are desperately short in Ashtead. The areas in Ashtead where we would welcome assistance are, (a) each side of Craddocks Avenue to Epsom Road; (b) the other side of Ashtead, i.e. all round Ashtead Park. We need depots in each of these areas at which we can deposit Newsletters etc. for members in these districts. The essential point is speed of delivery because we are usually working to fairly tight deadlines. Volunteers please communicate with G. Hayward, Tel. L'head 72674

IF ONLY YOU HAD ASKED ME A WEEK AGO!

How many times have we heard that, when asking friends for unwanted objects. Always just the thing had been thrown away.

We are therefore giving members plenty of notice that, for the museum, we shall need display cabinets, bookcases, filing cabinets, chairs, tables, light fittings, picture frames, curtains and track, etc., etc. Old glass shop fittings would be ideal. If you have anything of the kind listed above, or other things which you think might be useful in or around the museum, please contact David Bruce, 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham (Bookham 58722).

You will hear more about the museum/local history centre at the A.G.M. but in case you feel out of touch, a great deal of work has been carried out recently to clear away refuse so that when planning permission is obtained, the builders may take over the site without difficulty. Some restoration will have to be undertaken by builders because voluntary work would take too long, being so dependent on precious spare time. However, once major repairs have been carried out we shall be calling for volunteers to clean and decorate the interior, and possibly some of the exterior and this will be announced in due course.

ARCHAEOLOGY

A small exploratory trench has been started inside Hampton Cottage. Space is limited but volunteers to work in relays will be welcome.

Work will probably start early in April to excavate a section through Stane Street, Leatherhead, where it is intersected by the proposed line of the M.25.

OBITUARY

We regret to report the death on New Year's Day, of Mr. Harley Watkins of Downs Cottage, St. Mary's Road, Leatherhead. He joined the Society at our Dallaway lecture in 1976 and he was well known in several waterway societies as a catalyst who generated much enthusiasm for the movement. He was connected with the inland Waterways Association and supported many groups, and his death causes a serious loss to waterway restoration circles in the South. We are pleased that Mr. Watkin's sister continues to represent the family in our Society.

Ypriana,
Cobnam Road,
Fetcham.

G. HAYWARD.
Hon. Secretary.

NOTE Will members please send their booking forms to:
Mr. Eric barnwell, 16 Eastwick Park Avenue, Gt. bookham. bookham 54947

VISIT TO STRATFORD upon AVON ON SATURDAY JUNE 11th 1977, leaving Leatherhead at 8 a.m. Cost per seat £3.25p.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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

Number of seats required.....

I/we wish to participate in the visit to bechworth House on Saturday May 14th 1977. at 2.30 p.m.

*I am/we are able to help with transport Yes No

*I/we require transport *Delete as necessary

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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

Number of MEMBERS.....

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for the year ended 31st December 1976

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Executive Committee for 1976 were:-

Chairman	S.E.D.Fortescue	Hon. Secretary	G. Hayward
Hon. Treasurer	J.R.Bull	Hon. Editor	F.B.Benger
Hon. Programme Sec.	Mrs. C.Barrett	Hon. Records Sec.	D. Bruce
Hon. Membership Sec.	Mrs. M. Fuller	Hon. Publicity Sec.	Miss S.Hind
Hon. Sales Sec.	Mrs. B.Haynes	Hon. Librarian	J.R.Gilbert
Committee Members:	W.Millar, S.R.C.Poulter, Mrs. M.Rice-Oxley		
(co-opted) "	M. Snellgrove, R.A.Lever		
Hon. Auditor	A.H.Kirkby		

Membership. At 31st December 1976 the membership of the Society was made up of 263 ordinary members (there were 246 in 1975) and 11 Honorary members. The subscription was £2. per annum. It is regretted that 30 members have only paid £1.25 being the amount of the subscription for the previous year.

Programme. The Dallaway Lecture was given by Mr. John Hampton F.S.A. on "Aerial Photography and Archaeology" at the City of London Freeman's School by kind permission of the Headmaster Mr. M.J.Kemp; one of our members, and nearly 300 persons attended. The summer visits to Lacock, Wilts; Ashwell, Herts, and to Dorset, and particularly the two visits to West Horsley, were popular. The lectures on "Transport" by our Vice-President, "Getting to the Roots of the Family Tree" by Miss E.M.Tillman, "Local History" by Mr. Norman Nail of the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, and on the Society's Records by Mr. David Bruce, were exceptionally well attended and particularly the Leatherhead Miscellany when members celebrated the Society's 30th Birthday.

Publications. The series of Town Leaflets continued with the publication of that on Fetcham. There is a small stock of Ashtead and Fetcham leaflets in hand. The Leatherhead Leaflet is out of stock. The Society's Occasional Paper No. 1 on "Discovering Leatherhead" by Mr. John Blair was issued free to members and the balance of the printing was sold out almost as soon as it was on the market. The Proceedings Vol. 3 No. 9 comprised 56 pages, twice the normal number, contained the second part of the original work of Mr. John Blair on the Early Manorial Records of Leatherhead. The "Ashtead History" Sub-committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. R.A.Lever has nearly completed the compilation of the whole volume and it is now in the hands of Mr. A.A.C. Jackson for editing. It is hoped to publish by the end of 1977.

Excavations. Further work was carried out at the "Ice-house", Lower Road, Great Bookham, but unfortunately the specialist team working within the well were unable to complete the excavation and negotiations were opened for a team organised by Dr. Crocker of Surrey University to continue the work in 1977. It has since been ascertained that it is not an ice-house but a well of unusual size. A training dig was carried out in the Autumn at Egham on a mixed archaeological site and several members gained valuable experience. A preliminary survey was made of a section of Stane Street, Leatherhead, with a view to a trial excavation being done in 1977.

Exhibition. The Exhibition and Records Sub-committee attended the symposium on Surrey Gardens at Dorking Halls with a display of photographs of historical and fine trees of the District, and a small section was devoted to the Bookham and Fetcham Garden Society to commemorate its centenary.

Photographs. The Society has continued to increase its collection and in particular is indebted to Messrs. Osenton Lamden & Co. and Messrs. Porter & Smart who have given numerous photographs of local buildings and a very valuable collection is being made.

Local History Centre/Museum. Your Committee has for many years considered the desirability of having somewhere to store, process and exhibit the accessions of the Society and when Hampton Cottage, Church Street, Leatherhead, an early 17th Century building, came onto the market it seemed an opportunity not to be lost. Your Committee after much consideration as to the financial implications formed a sub-committee to explore the possibility of raising money for the purchase and restoration of the building and its conversion to a Local History Centre/Museum. A generous resident of Leatherhead loaned the Society £7,500 interest free for twenty years and the initial appeal for money produced over £4,000 by the end of the year. The property was purchased for £7,600, and the sum of £960 was set aside as a sinking fund which, with interest, will repay the loan in twenty years time. Mr. W.E.Larkin, ARLBA, was appointed architect and he is preparing plans for the restoration and conversion. As the Society does not have the power to hold property the Leatherhead Museum Trust was formed for this purpose and Mr. Bruce, Mr. Hayward and Mr. Bull have been appointed Trustees, but answerable to the Society. Working parties have been investigating the structure, under the direction of the Architect, and have cleared the building and garden ready for the builders to commence.

Treasurer's Report. A Statement of Income and Expenditure for 1976 is attached. It is regretted that the Mole Valley District Council has intimated that a grant will not be given in 1977, and it may be necessary to raise the subscription next year to cover the loss of the grant and the increased cost of printing.

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MINUTES of the 29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, held on 26th March 1976, in the Council Offices, Bull Hill, Leatherhead

Seventy members attended.

Mr. J.G.W.Lewarne took the chair as Vice-President of the Society and the meeting began at 8.15 p.m. Apologies were received from the Chairman of the Local Council, L.F.I.Wolters, Mrs. M.Salaman and Miss Dutnall. Mr. H.Thompson was introduced as Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries and, after giving a short description of the Society and its Charter, he said he had come to our meeting with great pleasure to confer the honour of F.S.A. on our Editor, Mr. F.B.Benger. Mr. Benger's qualifications had been described to members of the Society of Antiquaries at a special meeting during which he was elected. Following the applause, Mr. Lewarne mentioned that members could obtain various publications, including "Surrey History", after the meeting.

The notice concerning the Annual General Meeting was then read, followed by the Minutes of the previous A.G.M. held on 21st March 1975.

A proposal was made by Mr. R.Snow, seconded by Mr. J.Blair, that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of that meeting, this being agreed unanimously. The Chairman then signed the Minutes.

Matters arising. A query was raised as to the significance of the title Acting Honorary Treasurer and Mr. J.R.Bull explained that he had volunteered to fill the gap caused by the departure of the previous Honorary Treasurer, but only until a person could be found to fill the position more permanently. Mr. Bull added that he is heavily committed both with family matters and also with other Associations

Executive Committee's Report. Mr. Fortescue thanked the Committee for their work during 1975 and mentioned that the Report had already been circularised to members. He referred to Mrs. Barrett as a new member of the Committee who deserved praise for her efficient handling of the programme of events.

The publications side had been very busy and had included "Discovering Early Leatherhead" which was then on sale to non-members at 45 pence. Mrs.

B. Haynes was looking after the sales, and Mr. D. Bruce had created much interest with his team on the exhibition side. The lectures had been of a good standard.

Mr. Fortescue referred to the distinguished visitors, Lady Hanworth and Mr. H. Thompson, who had made the journey to Leatherhead to address us, and also Dr. Moss, one of our members from Reigate, who was also to talk to us on the subject of the chalk downland on the line of the future motorway. The Society's future activities should alant more towards archaeology because there were now innumerable tasks for us in this direction.

Mr. Fortescue continued by mentioning the excellent library in the care of Mr. J. Gilbert, and also the fact that the subscription had increased to £2. because of higher costs, mainly printing.

Mr. D.F. Renn referred to John Blair's monograph and its programme of investigation and excavation. He thought that a committee should be set up to plan the action necessary. Mr. Fortescue said that he hoped that the new Executive Committee would see the formation of an Excavations Sub-committee.

Mr. T.E.C. Walker moved that the Executive Committee's Report be accepted. This was seconded by Mr. S.R.C. Poulter and passed unanimously.

The Accounts. These were again presented by Mr. J.R. Bull who said that finances were strained badly in 1975 and expenses had exceeded income. The cost of printing the Proceedings escalated by 25% to £648. He hoped that the subscription would not have to rise continuously. He thanked the honorary Auditor for his excellent work on the accounts.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Alderman Farmer and seconded by Mr. D.F. Renn and the motion was passed unanimously.

Election of Officers & Committee for 1976

During the year Mr. T. Hume, the Programme Secretary, had moved away and Mrs. C. Barrett had offered to serve in his place. In addition, Mrs. B. Haynes had returned to the Committee to act as Hon. Sales Secretary. With these two changes, the Executive Committee of the previous year were otherwise willing to continue to serve the Society. Mrs. Quinnell then proposed and Mr. Martin King seconded the motion that the Executive Committee be re-elected with the inclusion of the new Committee members, Mrs. C. Barrett and Mrs. B. Haynes. This was carried without dissent, as also was the motion proposed by Mr. D. Bruce and seconded by Mr. D.F. Renn, that the Honorary Auditor be re-elected. The Executive Committee is thus as follows:-

Chairman	S.E.D. Fortescue	Hon. Secretary	G. Hayward
Hon. Treasurer	J.R. Bull	Hon. Editor	F.B. Benger
Hon. Programme Sec.	Mrs. C. Barrett	Hon. Records Sec.	D. Bruce
Hon. Membership "	Mrs. M. Fuller	Hon. Publicity Sec.	Miss S. Hind
Hon. Sales Sec.	Mrs. B. Haynes	Hon. Librarian	J.R. Gilbert
Committee Members:	W. Millar, S.R.C. Poulter, Mrs. M. Rice-Oxley		
Co-opted Members	R.A. Lever, M. Snellgrove		
Hon. Auditor	A.H. Kirkby		

Mr. Lewarne wished to thank all the hard working Committee members. Before the talks began he reminded members that the Leatherhead Society were staging an exhibition in the old National Provincial bank building on the new Leatherhead Leisure Centre, and this was to be held on Saturday, 27th March.

Lady Hanworth then gave a talk about Surrey Archaeological Society's scheme called Mole Valley and Downland Scheme. The background to this was the formation in 1971 of a motorway group for rescue archaeology. Mr. Hugh Thompson championed a re-think about the idea because otherwise all the available energy would be directed into motorway archaeology whereas the spending of available money should be planned. The appointment of David Bird as County Archaeological Officer was a great step forward. Work was being carried out by Scott McCracken, David Longley and Martin O'Connell in concert with a survey of historic towns including Leatherhead and Dorking.

The Department of the Environment is very strict over the disbursement of money for excavation so great reliance must be placed on local societies and the use of amateurs. Research is to be centered on downs and villages in our neighbourhood because it is conveniently reached by all members of Surrey Archaeological Society.

Dr. Moss, from Reigate then referred to the background work done by J. Blair and the saving in time resulting from this research. He mentioned that the chalklands were fairly heavily populated and thus the motorway would restrict future research because it would occupy part of the open downland space remaining. It is important for survey work to cover the motorway approach roads as well. The dry summer of 1975 had made the aerial survey work very effective but the time had now come to carry out excavation with the hope of locating prehistoric and early settlement patterns. The signs of field systems in the area are beginning to disappear and we should be concerned with recording all the evidence carefully - not just reporting things verbally. The line of the Roman Road (Stane Street) has been found to be not completely as shown on the map.

The area of research for us to explore is very much up to us. He suggests as a southern boundary the North Downs, the Leatherhead Downs on the west, Mickleham and the motorway in the centre and the A217 on the east. Headley and Walton-on-the-Hill need studying badly. All periods of archaeology are to be included. The priorities are: up-dating of survey maps, field work, hedge dating (motorways destroy hedges as well as farmers). Juniper Hall Field Centre might take over field work to a limited extent.

After the talks there were a number of comments and questions by members, such as the location of Thirty Acre Barn. Mr. Gillies suggested sixth formers taking geography could be trained in field work. He also wished to know the scale of the aerial photographs taken by John Hampton's team.

Lady Hanworth said that Juniper Hall had been contacted re use of school children for field work and they were interested. John Blair suggested that our area of search should include the fringes and not just the spring line. He would welcome comments and criticism in connection with his monograph "Discovering Early Leatherhead." Mr. Lewarne referred to the need for an excavation sub-committee and volunteers of all ages. Mr. Elmore mentioned that members of the W.E.A. are very keen on field work. Lady Hanworth said that in Dorking H. Thompson and Martin O'Connell would welcome volunteers for archaeological work, and Mr. Lewarne referred to the cause of our Society's diminished activities in excavations, i.e. the lack of a leader in Archaeology. Lady Hanworth said that David Longley in Dorking might be useful to us for assistance in leadership. Mr. Thompson mentioned the need to record antiquities and old boundaries. Mr. Read referred to the TQ 15 map which at 62½ pence he says is well worth buying. Mr. T.E.C. Walker said that the road (pony track) which goes gently up to the summit of Box Hill needs recording and protecting as it might be Roman. A query was raised as to whether this trail might have been built in connection with the fortifications on Box Hill but Lady Hanworth mentioned a picture which clearly shows the track as in existence before the fortifications.

There being no other discussion, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 p.m., with thanks for the excellent attendance and interesting talks.

Mr. S.A.D. Fortescue then thanked the Chairman for conducting the meeting so ably.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

From the Hon. Treasurer:

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

	Previous Year	Year Under Report
	1975	1976
	£	£
<u>INCOME:</u>		
Subscriptions	332.15	548.25 (a)
Donations from Members	21.76	41.25
Grant from Surrey County Council	25.00	Nil (b)
Grant(s) from Mole Valley District Council	Nil	100.00 (c)
Lecture Fees donated by Members	21.70	23.16
Sale of "Proceedings", Books and Leaflets, etc.	113.01	152.54
Profit on Visits and Functions	43.57	3.08
Interest from Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	42.04	37.30
	£599.23	£905.58
	£599.23	£905.58
<u>EXPENDITURE:</u>		
Printing of "Proceedings" etc.	514.18	866.60 (d)
Expenses of Administration of the Society	80.88	96.75
General Disbursements: e.g. Copying Photographs	39.97	25.73
Subscriptions to:-		
Surrey Record Society	2.00	2.00
British Council for Archaeology	Nil	6.00
Surrey Archaeological Society	5.00	5.00
Surrey Local History Council	2.10	1.05
Hire of Halls for Lectures	7.50	19.00
	£651.63	£1,022.13
	£651.63	£1,022.13
Excess of Income over Expenditure	Nil	Nil
Excess of Expenditure over Income	- 52.40	- 116.55
Bank Balance at beginning of the Year	801.63	749.23
Monies held on behalf of Museum Fund	Nil	41.20
	£749.23	£673.88
	£749.23	£673.88
Made up as follows:-		
Lloyds Bank - Current A/c.	139.12	226.47
Lloyds Bank - Deposit A/c.	610.11	447.41
	£749.23	£673.88
	£749.23	£673.88

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

Date 2... FEBRUARY... 1977

Honorary Auditor

A.H.Kirkby

Honorary Treasurer

J.R.Bull

M E M B E R S H I P

There are now 274 Members of the Society.

Comprising :-	11 Honorary Members	£
	233 Recorded fully paid-up Members	466.00
	30 Members who have only paid part of their subscription.. at the old rate of £1.25 per annum.	37.50

(a) Subscription Reconciliation

Income from the above Members was	503.50
Deduct	
Subs. of 11 Members who paid their 1976 dues in 1975	22.00
	<hr/> 481.50
Add	
Subs. of sundry Members who paid part or the whole of their arrears in 1976.	10.75
Subs. of 28 members who paid their 1977 dues in 1976	56.00
	<hr/> <u>£548.25</u> <hr/>

(b) There has been no indication yet as to whether a Grant will be forthcoming from the S.C.C. for 1976.

(c) This amount comprises the Grant for both 1975 and 1976.

Contracted Liabilities

(d) We anticipate incurring a debt of approximately £500 in respect of the printing of the 1976 edition of the "Proceedings".