

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter 77/2

July 1977

Dear Member,

In the Leatherhead district we are surrounded on all sides by greenery so that in the areas furthest from the centre the lush growth is almost to be compared with the scenes described in Thomas Hardy's "Woodlanders." How fortunate we are to live amongst such growth and how dull it must seem when the sun does not shine on those who are hemmed in by city streets. Most of the skeletons of the vanquished elms are being removed and, although their demise is regrettable, in many places their loss is not noticeable because of Nature's growth and the new vistas opened up.

In our Society we have experienced steady growth and an excellent suggestion was made at the Annual General Meeting that, with an additional 150 members, the Society could continue to publish material in the familiar form of our Proceedings without continually raising the subscription. We are much indebted to those members who have introduced new students of history to the Society by talking about our projects and activities. This is by far the best means of expansion because, whilst advertising might produce the necessary influx, we do need members who are likely to support us for a long time. Those who have enjoyed our programme and the results of our researches, and others who have found deep satisfaction in becoming more involved with the objects of the Society, are the potential publicity agents who can bring us additional members by listening to chance remarks or by seizing opportunities to "blow our trumpet." An extra Newsletter is enclosed which we hope each member will pass on to a likely enthusiast.

30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. This was attended by 77 members and Mr. Fortescue announced that Mr. J.G.W.Lewarne had accepted the distinction of President of the Society, whilst Mr. F.B.Benger, F.S.A., and Mr. D.F.Renn, F.S.A., were pleased to become Vice Presidents.

The Officers and Committee elected for 1977 are given below:-

Chairman	S.E.D.Fortescue	Hon. Secretary	G.Hayward
Hon. Treasurer	H. Mears	Asst.Hon. Treasurer	J.R.Bull
Hon. Programme Sec.	E. Barnwell	Hon. Editor	F.B.Benger, F.S.A.
Hon. Membership Sec.	Mrs. C. Barrett	Hon. Records Sec.	D. Bruce
Hon. Sales Sec.	Mrs. B. Haynes	Hon. Publicity Sec.	Miss S. Hind
Hon. Auditor	A.H. Kirkby	Hon. Library Sec.	J.R. Gilbert

Co-opted at Committee Meeting, 20th April 1977: R.A. Lever, M. Snellgrove

KEEPING IN TOUCH. An Index to Volume 3 of the Proceedings is being prepared by Miss S. Burrough. A leaflet about headley and Mickleham should reach the printers shortly. To cover future running costs, it has been suggested that a "Friends of the Leatherhead Museum" group be formed.

OCCASIONAL PAPER No. 2 "The Dame, The Prisoner and The Pewterer" by G.J.Gollin, M.A., C.Eng., has now been received from the printers. It relates to the Manor of Little Ashtead 1671 - 1851. Mr. Gollin is a member of our Society and lives at Ashtead.

Mary Knightley, the daughter of a wealthy citizen of Kingston upon Thames, married Aquila Wyke, Governor of Westminster Abbey Gatehouse prison. When her second husband, Sir Edward Broughton, died she became Governor and inherited his estates in North Wales. Eventually, these, together with the estates in Kingston, Leatherhead and Ashtead, owned by her brother Sir Robert Knightly, became the property of the London pewterer, Aquila Dackombe, direct descendant of her daughter Mary Wyke. The Ashtead estate included the Old Court and the White House farm, the Manor of Lower Ashtead.

Only 200 copies are available for sale to members and therefore early ordering is advisable. The price is 65 pence but to encourage a quick return of the outlay the first 100 copies are on sale at 50 pence. Orders please, including quarto size stamped (7p) addressed envelope to S.E.D.Fortescue, 58 The Mount, Fetcham, or Mrs. Haynes, Sans Nom, Fir Tree Road, Leatherhead.

BOOKHAM TRAIL LEAFLETS. These are still available at 5 pence each, as also are a few Ashtead and Fetcham leaflets. They are obtainable from Mrs. B. Haynes, Sans Nom, Fir Tree Road, Leatherhead. Stamped addressed envelope please.

PROGRAMME NEWS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1977 - contributed by Mr. Barnwell

We regret that due to lack of support it was necessary to cancel the visit to Stratford on Avon on 11th June. Possibly this was due to the date chosen being too close to the Jubilee celebrations. On the other hand if the place chosen or even the coach cost were contributing factors, we should like to be told and would welcome your opinions and suggestions for the type of outings which would be of most interest for the future.

Saturday
17th September

A walk through the centre of Guildford. Mr. G.H. Underwood, a resident of Guildford, will be our guide. The meeting place will be outside the Grammar School (old building) at 2.30 pm sharp. The itinerary will embrace the Grammar School and Abbots Hospital, extending to the Castle and St. Mary's Church, and will take about one and a half hours to two hours. Mr. Underwood has an extremely wide knowledge of historical Guildford and an opportunity for a visit is long overdue.

Friday
14th October

The Dallaway Lecture at 8 p.m. at the City of London Freeman's School, Ashtead Park. The Lecturer will be Dr. John Harvey, FSA, FRSL, FSG, a member of our Society. His subject will be some aspects of the history of Gardening and will be illustrated.

Friday
18th November

At the Red Cross Hall at 8 p.m. An illustrated talk by Mr. R. Wykes of the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society on the River Thames with particular reference to Egham and Runnymede and district. Mr. Wykes is Chairman of the Egham Society and this promises to be a most interesting and informative talk.

Friday
2nd December

The Leatherhead Miscellany at the Red Cross Hall at 8 pm. We should like to hear later on from members who can give us short talks, etc. on anything appertaining to our local history.

REMINDERS

The Annual General Meeting of the Surrey Local History Council at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street, Egham, at 2.00 pm on Saturday 23rd July. Afterwards there will be an opportunity of visiting, with guides, the local museum, Egham Church and Holloway College Art Gallery. Tea will also be provided. It is hoped that a strong contingent from our Society will be present. Our President, Mr. J.G.W. Lewarne is a member of the Executive Committee of the Surrey Local History Council.

The Symposium of the Surrey Local History Council at Dorking Halls, Saturday 26th November and the subject is "Brewing and Inns in Surrey" which undoubtedly will prove to be a most interesting theme.

BETCHWORTH HOUSE. Due to the need to restrict the size of the party which visited Betchworth House in May a number of members had to be disappointed. We are pleased to say that Major-General E.H. Goulbourn has kindly agreed to a further visit on Saturday 10th September at 2.30 pm. Will members who are interested please complete the Booking form below (attaching a 7p stamp please) and return as soon as possible to the Programme Secretary.

OTHER EVENTS

Bank Holiday 27th, 28th & 29th August, Grand Transport Extravaganza at the Tramway Museum, Crich near Matlock, Derbyshire. Rides on trams on a route over one mile; 200 historic cars, buses, lorries, motorcycles, 25 steam engines; flying aircraft displays, hot air balloons, old time fairground, brass bands and organs, rides on a stage coach or a Paris bus, Jubilee display of vehicles current in 1952. Adults £1., Children 25p. As members will know from our coach trip it is possible to have a good day out at Crich by making use of the M.1. and turning off at junction 26 or 27. Perhaps anyone thinking of going could let Mr. Barnwell know as it might be useful for information, etc.

The Navy also has displays in the Dockyard and harbour trips at Portsmouth on August Bank Holiday.

Autumn/Winter 1977/1978 Mole Valley Adult Education service will be organising 10 lectures at Therfield School on Monday evenings on the subject of the History and Antiquities of the Leatherhead district. It is expected that enrolment for the series will cost about £6. but any member who would like to participate will be contributing indirectly to the Museum fund because the lecturers from our Society (four) have kindly agreed to donate their fees. The course starts in late September and anyone interested should first contact the undersigned.

ARCHAEOLOGY - contributed by S.R.C.Poulter

Members of the Society have been assisting every Saturday since the beginning of April in excavating a section through Stane Street, between Headley and Ashted, directed by Lady Rosamund Hanworth for the Surrey Archaeological Society. The base of the Roman Road and a ditch have been uncovered but it seems that most of the metalling had been removed before a mediaeval boundary bank was thrown up over them. Plough marks in the natural chalk have been found that apparently pre-date the road and, just as the work was ending, the remains of a wall, near the edge of the present bridle way, probably built with some of the flint metalling, have been uncovered.

Surrey Archaeological Society excavators are moving on to a hill fort at Hascombe but in addition to this, there can arise the need for volunteer excavators from our own Society for swift action in our district. Please therefore keep in close touch with Mr. S.R.C.Poulter, Tel. L.74773, or G.Hayward, Tel. L.72674.

LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTRE - contributed by D. Bruce.

The plans finally agreed between the sub-committee and the Architect have been passed by County and Mole Valley Councils. Various quotations have been received and after much deliberation, the work has been awarded to a local builder who impressed the committee with his keen interest in the building and the work of the Society - also his terms were favourable.

Work has now begun at the rear to jack up the structure, demolish shoddy repair work and insert new foundations and damp courses where these are presently non-existent. Members will now see exposed much of the wooden frame which unfortunately is in poor condition or missing altogether. The timber floors at ground level, which are not original, will be removed and the ground lowered by about 6" before laying new concrete floors, thus ensuring dry feet and sufficient headroom.

This first phase of the work will fall within our present financial resources, but the subsequent phases will not, so that members are urged to make every endeavour to tap all sources of cash in order that the restoration can be a continuous operation. Mr. Fortescue is leading a fund raising team and all contributions, ideas, suggestions etc. should be sent to him. For example, has anyone an empty shed or garage which would be a collecting centre for waste paper? Have you thought of charging admission to see your mini-stately home, historic treasures and garden? Offers of help concerning building matters - cheap or free materials (urgently required sound oak timber, quite short pieces in some cases could be useful), labour skilled or unskilled (decorating, simple carpentry or skilled joinery, etc.) should be sent to our 'Clerk of the Works', Alan Christian Tel. Bookham 54199.

HEADLEY MANORIAL DOCUMENTS - the following documents are known to exist:-

Surrey Record Office, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames

Rolls

Elizabeth I	12 years	Charles II	6 years
James I	13 years	William & Mary	6 years
Charles I	7 years	Anne	3 years
Commonwealth	2 years	George I	1 year

Books 1634 - 1726. 1726 - 1829 Minute Books 1823 1820 - 1885

National Trust, Polesden Lacey, Dorking

Book 1830 - 1930

The Headley Heath Committee of the National Trust is anxious to find someone willing to transcribe the volume at Polesden and type it out, and would be willing for the Society to have a copy for its records. It would be, of course, desirable to have transcripts of all the rolls and books; though the earlier ones might present difficulties to anyone not accustomed to palaeography. Perhaps some zealous member might wish to make a start with the Polesden volume and if successful, endeavour by degrees to work back to the earlier material at the Surrey Record Office. Mr. Mackworth-Praed, the Honorary Secretary of the Headley Heath Committee would be prepared to give assistance in regard to some local names if these proved to be difficult. Please contact Mr. F.B. Benger at Tel. Leatherhead 72711.

BOOK NEWS - useful present - "Antiquities and Conservation Areas of Surrey" 6th Edition 1976, published by the Surrey County Council. Price: Bound £5.50, Paperback £4.00 Can be ordered at Branch Libraries from County Planning Department, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames.

Hoping that you will not only find time to have a splendid holiday but also to make time to do something wonderful for your Society. So, having had my holiday, I will now contemplate what could be my wonderful achievement of clearing the Secretarial work associated with the great forward strides the Society is making

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Tel. L'head 72674

G. HAYWARD.

Hon. Secretary