

Dear Member,

We approach the season of goodwill, which leads me to wonder whether the rest of the year should inevitably consist of seasons of strife and "bad blood" between people who change miraculously at Christmas time. This is certainly not true of our membership for, whilst our primary purpose is the portrayal of local history, we do succeed in gathering together a really friendly group.

The point about this is to pass a great vote of thanks to the members for their support their subscriptions and suggestions, their donations to the Museum fund and the Society, their ready help with exhibitions and publications, for "all weather" working on excavation sites. This includes members of the Society in distant parts who keep in touch with us. A special vote of thanks also to the members who have recently lectured in the Evening Institute series and have contributed about £74 to the Museum fund by forgoing their fees. It is fitting also to thank the Committee for all their hard work. Finally, if anyone would like to become a helper in any way, the Secretary will gladly supply information.

PUBLICATIONS. The Ashtead History has been an instant success - 2,000 copies have been printed and over half have been sold already. We are deeply indebted to Mrs. & Mr. L.A. Edwards and Mr. M.J. Kemp and scholars of the City of London Freeman's School as well as the Ashtead literary team and the Editor Alan A. Jackson, for making this possible. A leaflet is enclosed for members and as this letter reaches you so close to the deadline for the concessionary purchase price, we have arranged for the book to be available for members calling at the following addresses:-

ASHTEAD: Miss L.F. STAINER, 15 Craddocks Avenue, Tel. Ashtead 72705.

LEATHERHEAD: Miss S. Hind, School of Music, 33 Church Road, Tel. L'head 72645

FETCHAM: G. Hayward, Ypiana (next to 175 Cobham Road) Tel. L'head 72674.

BOOKHAM: E.S. BARNWELL, 16 Eastwick Park Avenue, Tel. Bookham 54947.

Personal callers can avoid the postal charge and secure the book at the pre-publication price of £2.50, but please identify yourselves by completing the order form on the leaflet. At these addresses members and friends can also buy:

1. Descriptive leaflets of the antiquities of Leatherhead, Fetcham and the Bookhams at 5 pence each.
2. Occasional Paper No. 2. "The Dame, The Prisoner and the Pewterer" by G.J. GOLLIN, a revealing and scholarly history of the Manor of Little Ashtead, price 50 pence.
3. "Life Begins at Eighty" by Dorothy Joce, a fascinating account of the setting up of a private preparatory school at The Spinney, Great Bookham, with references to wartime Leatherhead. An 80 page book for 50 pence.
4. The Society's Proceedings, some back numbers available at £1. each.

HAMPTON COTTAGE. Problems have been overcome from time to time and work is forging ahead at last. Electrical installation is taking place and Rentokil are kindly giving the timber work their skilled attention. The building survived the recent gales and already we can see that the restored appearance is going to add much character to Church Street.

The restoration fund, so strenuously built up by earlier appeals is now diminishing fast and if any member has been holding back to see how the project will go, we do urge them to come to our aid now because we are reaching the vital stage of restoring the roof. We anticipated that timber will need replacement because of weather damage, but the work must go on before any damage is done to the newly restored parts below. Naturally, outright donations are more useful but if anyone is willing to lend money, free of interest, for a short period we shall be glad to hear from you. Can we hope that by the time of the next Newsletter we will be asking for volunteers to prepare the building for occupation as a local history centre?

A leaflet is enclosed for your earnest attention and also the following:

1. A White Elephant and Jumble Sale will be held in February 1978, if you have anything for collection please ring Mrs. Mary Rice-Oxley, Bookham 53285.
2. An Auction Sale in the Spring of 1978. We aim to have at least 100 lots so please donate your surplus furniture, pictures, trinkets, and telephone D. Bruce B'ham 58722 to make arrangements for collection and storage.

PROCEEDINGS - the next issue should be available in February 1978.

THE COMMITTEE - it is regretted that in the last Newsletter the names of three Committee Members were omitted. These are: W.Millar, S.R.C.Poulter, Mrs. M.Rice-Oxley.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1978 - The amount is unchanged at £2 and is due 1st January. We invite you to begin renewing now to boost the Society's funds. If you have missed an issue of the Proceedings through forgetting to renew, here is your chance to put this right. Please enclose a slip of paper bearing your name and address and make it clear for which year your remittance applies. New members please note we do not send acknowledgments but in February or early March you will receive your Proceedings as well as future Newsletters. Please send your subscriptions to Mrs. C. Barrett, The Glen, Guildford Road, Great Bookham, Surrey.

STOP PRESS - We have just seen, through the local newspaper, that we are to receive a grant of £50 and we are most appreciative of this assistance from the Mole Valley District Council. Our thanks also to those Councillors amongst our membership who may have made this possible through their knowledge of our activities.

ARCHIVES - through the watchful eye of Mrs. R.J.Corteen we have received an 1821 edition of "Etchings of Views in the Vicarage of Letherhead" by Harriet Dallaway and an 1839 edition of "The River Mole or Emlyn Stream." These were rescued from unwanted goods during a household removal in the district.

OBITUARY - We have been advised of the death of Mrs. Grimes on 17th April 1977. She was the widow of Sydney N. Grimes who served most conscientiously on the early committees of the Society and who worked closely with our late President, Captain Anthony Lowther.

HISTORICAL NOTE BY Mr. J.A. FARMER, D.L. "I remember in 1918 finding one of our bombers, returning to England, crashed in the field where the (Goblin) factory stands. The pilot was I believe badly injured and taken to Leatherhead Cottage Hospital. I am ashamed to say I removed, with the help of a friend, the elaborate compass as a souvenir, but when my father saw it he was very angry and took it to the Police Station. Everyone else was "pinching" souvenirs so I thought why should not I also. I expect we both remember the narrow lane to Ashted and in my mind's eye I can still see a large covey of partridges flying across the stubble field at the top of which the factory now stands." Mr. Farmer has added the information that the bomber was chalk-marked on its fuselage with its mission and the date thereof.

PROGRAMME NOTES FOR 1978. So far the following events have been arranged:-

FRIDAY 20th JANUARY. An illustrated talk on "PAINS HILL" by Mr. N.Kitz, O.B.E. M.Sc(Eng) M.I.E.E. F.B.C.S.

FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY A talk by Mr. D.Renn, F.S.A. on "THE EXCAVATIONS AT THE MOUNTS, FACHESSHAM."

The above events will be held at the Red Cross Hall, Oaks Close at 8 p.m. Please use the Council Car Park (free in the evening) in Randals Road opposite.

The suggested 1978 programme includes a visit to Windsor led by Mr. Raymond South, an authority on Windsor; an all day visit to the Suffolk villages of Clare, Long Melford and Lavenham; an afternoon visit to Claremount School, Esher and a Sunday afternoon walk round Kingston on Thames, leader Mr. Ian West of Kingston archaeological Society. We might also revisit some of our own local villages. Full details will appear in the next Newsletter. We welcome suggestions and even criticisms.

Best wishes for Christmas and may the New Year fulfil all our hopes,

Ypriana,
Cobham Road,
Fetcham.
Tel. L'head 72674

G. HAYWARD
Hon. Secretary