

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter 2/78

June 1978

Dear Member,

Our "summer" letter begins with a few words from our Chairman, Mr. S.E.D. Fortescue:-

"The restoration of Hampton Cottage has been uppermost in my thoughts for the past year and although the generosity of members and some of the public has been magnificent, a final push is necessary if the project is to be completed free of debt - another £4,000 is needed.

"Messrs. Peter How and Ken Beddoe have gathered a team of members who are doing splendid work, but they need the financial backing of the rest of us to buy the materials to finish the job.

"Several money raising activities are in hand. I am organising an Auction Sale. About 30 lots have already been donated. I must have another 60 or so. Have you a saleable item stored in your loft or boxroom? Please telephone me at Leatherhead 72847."

HAMPTON COTTAGE FINANCE In order that bills could be paid some members generously advanced money, with the result that we are now strictly "in the red". However, we have reached the stage at which apart from installing electricity, most of the work can be finished by volunteers. It is necessary for the roof to be finished completely, floors strengthened upstairs and the porch built before the electric wiring can be installed. This can then be followed by plastering and ground floor covering and then clearing and interior decorating. We must begin again in earnest to raise the money, firstly to take us out of debt (about £500), and then to have the cash to pay the electricians and the floor specialists. This brings us to the next fund raising venture:-

THE TANNERS' MARATHON This is a tough, up hill and down dale, thirty mile walk organised by the Youth Hostels Association. It takes place every year on the first Sunday in July - this year 2nd July - and the start and finish are at Fetcham Grove. The organiser of this walk, Alan Blatchford, has kindly given us permission to make use of his facilities in order to raise money by the sponsoring method. We have some walkers who are prepared to treat this walk as symbolic of effort to complete the museum. Will you in turn make a similar symbolic effort by collecting ten sponsors on the sheet attached? If each member produces an average of £6 from each sheet of ten names the museum fund would benefit by nearly £2,000. This is surely worth a little effort. Full instructions are on the attached form".

COFFEE MORNINGS (OR EVENINGS!) These are always useful fund-raisers and we thank those who have already put in much time, effort and thought to the preparation of these informal meetings. Apart from producing finance for Hampton Cottage they often produce new members and the Society obtains valuable publicity.

MOLE VALLEY EVENING INSTITUTE There will again be a series of ten lectures in the autumn with the theme this year of Local History as a pastime. Further details will appear eventually in the Mole Valley Educational programme and also in the next Newsletter which is to be sent out early in September. The fees for this course will be donated to the Hampton Cottage restoration fund.

ASSTEAD - A VILLAGE TRANSFORMED As promised in our last Newsletter, an errata list is enclosed so that members may correct their copy of the first edition. We have ample stocks of the second edition and members requiring copies for themselves may still buy these at £2.50 each if called for. The price outside the Society is £2.95.

THE DAME, THE PRISON AND THE PEWTEER by G.J.Gollin, M.A., C.Eng. about the Manor of Little Asstead, is still available at 50p each but stocks are diminishing.

DESCRIPTIVE LEAFLET OF OLD LEATHERHEAD the reprint of this available at 6p each but orders by post should enclose a reply paid foolscap envelope (7p).

THE PROCEEDINGS, BACK NUMBERS Specially favourable rates can be offered where several numbers are required.

A HISTORY OF LEATHERHEAD Our Chairman, Mr. Fortescue, would be interested in hearing from any person who would like to play a part in preparing this much-needed history.

SUBSCRIPTIONS We thank those members who have written to apologise for not noticing that they were still paying subs at the old rate. There are still a number who have not altered their banker's orders to the correct subscription of £2. Some members were astonished that they were amongst these, especially after so many reminders. Have you checked your payment or banker's order? This is the last reminder for 1978, and earlier, subscriptions. Newsletters etc. cannot be sent after this to former members whose 1978 subs remain unpaid.  
 Membership Sec. Mrs. C. Barrett, The Glen, Guildford Road, Gt. Bookham.  
 Treasurer: Mr. H. Mears, Beverley, The Glade, Gt. Bookham.

ARCHAEOLOGY - ASHTEAD MEDIAEVAL MANOR HOUSE From a copy of a sketch by J.S. Cotman, Mr. G.J. Gollin has been able to locate accurately the site of the old house close to St. Giles's Church (see map, Proceedings Vol.2, p.123) and to show that the building was apparently still standing in 1799. It is probable that the stratigraphy of the site has not been disturbed since demolition and Mr. D.G. Bird, County Archaeological Officer, has recommended that it should be made a scheduled site.

LEATHERHEAD TOWN CENTRE As the time for a start on work on the Town Centre development draws near, plans are being made for possible rescue excavations and trial trenching.

PROGRAMME NOTES It is pleasing to record that there has been encouraging support for our two coach outings this year. We spent a most pleasant Sunday afternoon in Windsor in the company of Mr. Raymond South, who, notwithstanding much competition from tourists, aircraft and an enormous number of coaches, led us on an interesting walk round part of the Royal Borough.

These events started from suggestions made by two of our members. Please give some thought to next year's programme possibilities and let us have your suggestions as well.

Saturday 19th August Walk round Fetcham led by John Lewarne and Geoffrey Hayward. Meet at 2.30 pm in front of Fetcham Church. Mr. Fortescue has kindly offered us tea at High Point, The Mount. To assist in catering etc., please complete and return the attached slip.

Sunday 17th September A walk round Kingston-upon-Thames led by Mr. Ian West of the Kingston Archaeological Society. Meet outside Woolworths, Kingston, 2.30 pm

Friday 13th October. The Dallaway Lecture at 8 pm at the City of London Freemen's School, Ashted Park; the Speaker this year will be Dr. A.G. Crocker, a Physicist and Lecturer at Guildford University. His subject will be "Industrial Archaeology with emphasis on Surrey".

Friday 17th November At the Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead at 8 pm, an illustrated talk "Local History - a Personal View" by Mr. E. Royston Pike who is President of the Esher District Local History Society.

Friday 8th December The Leatherhead Miscellany. Once again we should like to hear later on from members who can give us short talks on anything relating to Local history.

The Programme is an important part of our activities and is repeated for the rest of the year for the benefit of new members and a reminder to others.

ASHTEAD - A VILLAGE TRANSFORMED: ERRATA AND ADDENDA

Page and line

- 36:31 should read "...framed manor house was described by John Evelyn in 1694 as a 'meane.....'"
- 49:7 insert semi-colon after "corselet" delete rest of paragraph and substitute; "This was the complete half armour for one pikeman."
- 51:MAP r.h.side alter "Mr. John Pepys" to "Mr John Peeps(Pepys)"
- 76 the total of the bill reproduced should be: "£129.14s0d."
- 82 caption to fig.8 should read:"Ashtead Park house(south front) as built..."
- 85:23 "puils should read "pupils"
- 92:4-5 delete: "a new house between the junction of Ottways Lane and Leatherhead Road (now Timber Lodge)"
- 103:10-11 should read:.....opposite Panons Mead is now called Linketty House. Around 1930....."
- 111:23 should read: "...was near Chaney's refreshment premises...."
- 112:MAP Alter: "Ashtead Gap" (near top left hand corner) to "Epsom Gap"  
alter: "Brewers Inn" (centre) to "Brewery Inn"
- 115:NOTE alter: "1936" to "1836"
- 117:11 alter: "1924" to "1824"
- 129: sideheading to read: "Nonconformism"
- 151:10 alter to read:  
"Daniel Dackombe Calcott Bottom west of present Goblin Works 25 2 9"
- 151:16 after "(two plots)" figures should read: " 11 3 6 "
- 155:38-39 alter to read: "were 60 in 1831; in 1841....respectively 300,255 and 300 people."
- 163:24 correct spelling of "octogenarians".
- 174 Fig.25 delete: "LDLIS Collection)".
- 180:last "G.T.Linford" should read "C.T Linford".
- 181:26 delete "(north of Barnett Wood Lane)" insert: "(near the Mole at Leatherhead)"
- 181:39 "Glantowey" should read "Glantowy"
- 184: delete "demolished"after no.37  
No.45 should read "Elmfield Lodge"
- 185:map Insert symbol for parish church (for position see map on page 112)
- 192:15 "1860" should read "1870"
- 199:25 "10 May 1848" should read "10 May 1847"
- 201:24 correct spelling of "especially".
- 223:12-14 the two "Smith" entries should be placed in correct alphabetical order after "Slator".

Please advise The Editor (Alan A.Jackson, 71 Overdale, Ashtead) if you know of further errors or omissions.

LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM TRUST APPEAL TO YOU TO SPONSOR A WALKER FROM THE FOLLOWING

who will attempt to complete a tough course of 30 miles (The Tanners' Marathon organised by the Youth Hostels Association). The walk takes place on the 2nd July 1978 and is over Surrey Hills and countryside:

Walkers:- S.E.D. Fortesque, G. Hayward, P. Ashwell, all from Fetcham.

The object is to raise money to complete the restoration of Hampton Cottage and enable the Trust to open the Centre free of debt. It is impracticable to ask interested persons to come and fix a tile, plaster a square foot of wall or lay a yard of electric cable but it is possible to treat the walk as symbolic of effort for the museum. The walkers are prepared to endure the heat of July and the stiffness that will inevitably follow a 30 mile walk. Please add your effort by including your name as a sponsor and obtain a full sheet of names of sponsors. Several thousand pounds are required but simple individual target is to produce at least £6 from each sheet of ten names.

Those persons who receive or take one of these forms and leave an address will be notified officially of the distance covered by walkers. The results will be shown on Hampton Cottage and also notified to members of The History Society. When you know the result of the walk, please then begin to collect the money according to the distance walked and send or take it as soon as convenient to our Walk Treasurer:- Mrs. H.Rogers, 24 Kingston Road, Leatherhead. Your efforts will be appreciated.



WINDSOR WALK-ABOUT. SUNDAY 14th MAY 1978.

Traffic and crowds may make it difficult for me to be heard clearly on this 'conducted tour'. I hope these brief notes will be of assistance.

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From the Coach Park to the River. The River is one of the two reasons for the location of Windsor - the other is the hill on which the Castle is situated. For centuries the Thames was for Windsor both a thoroughfare and a defensive moat.

To the left is Brunel's single-span railway bridge (1849). This carried the Great Western Branch Line from Slough, with its wide sweep to the west of Eton, over the river.

To the right is the Town Bridge, constructed 1822-24. The architect was Charles Hollis and the consultant engineer Thomas Telford. It is a fine example of a cast iron bridge and took the place of the timber bridge which for centuries had joined Windsor and Eton. It could not, however, cope with the volume of modern traffic and was closed in 1970.

The Bridge Approach and the Bridge itself were attractively laid out in 1975 as a part of Windsor's contribution to the European Architectural Heritage Year.

Among the historic buildings in the Bridge Approach (Lower Thames Street) are the Old House Hotel - traditionally associated with Christopher Wren whose father was Dean of Windsor - and the William IV Hotel, partly C17 and one of the 50 or more inns in Windsor which in former days existed mainly for the needs of the garrison and the visitors to the Town and Castle. Beyond, above the almost sheer escarpment, rises the Castle itself.

Turning to the left we come to the old South Western Railway Station (now Windsor and Eton Riverside). Just as the G.W. was resisted for many years by Eton College, so the S.W. was resisted by the Crown (the S.W. eventually paid £60,000 to the Crown for the privilege of crossing the Home Park into Windsor). Note: (1) the original ticket office; (2) the 14 large doors primarily for the use of cavalry; (3) the date (1851) etc., patterned on the exterior walls and (4) the Royal Station with its observation turret.

On the Castle side of the road (over the wall) is the former College of the Naval Knights (built 1799-1802). It is now St. George's School. The Military Knights' houses are in the Lower Ward of the Castle itself.

Back to Thames Street. Here is Bank House, a fine early C19 building associated with Neville Reid's Brewery which occupied the site behind - brewers were often bankers as well.

At one time houses lined the ditch on the Castle side of Thames Street all the way up the hill and round to the Castle Gateway. These were finally cleared in the middle of the C19.

Opposite are many houses and shops which, however modern they may appear at first glance, contain many relics of medieval building. The roofs are often interesting - so look up!

The Curfew Tower at the curve of the hill is the ancient bell-tower of St. George's. Externally it was largely re-built in the C19 and the turret is a copy of one at Carcassonne. Internally it is still substantially the original building.

The next two towers - drum-shaped and not square - are the Garter and Salisbury Towers, built in Henry III's reign. Notice the contrast between the rough-hewn stonework of the C13 and the more finished masonry of the C19.

Opposite again is the grand entrance to the old Great Western Station (now the Central Station) - built on the site of one of Windsor's worst slums. The Hart and Garter Hotel is on the site of the old Hart and Garter Inns - the latter features of course in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. It was here too in Nov 1648 Ireton and the Levellers thrashed out the main lines of the Agreement of the People.

Where the statue of Queen Victoria now stands was the ancient market cross. This was demolished in 1691, but proclamations of new sovereigns are still made at the 'ancient place of Publication!

Note the Guildhall beyond - we shall come back to that.

Castle Hill was at one time one of Windsor's thoroughfares, leading through the Park to the Ferry (and later to the Bridge) at Datchet. Again, although modernised, the buildings retain many earlier features. Note the building where the Windsor Express was founded in 1812. Charles Knight jnr was a leading spirit in the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge and one of the most influential educators of the C19.

Turn right into Church Street. This is probably on the line of Windsor's earliest street - right opposite the main entrance to the Castle. Church Street is full of C16, 17 and 18 houses.

In Church Lane is the Masonic Hall, built in the 1720's, as Windsor's first Free or Charity School.

Passing down St. Albans Street (the Dukes of St. Albans were the descendants of Charles II and Nell Gwyn) we come to Park Street with its distinguished C18 houses. For centuries this was the main road to Staines and London. The road was stopped up in 1850 as part of the 'Improvements' that followed the re-building of the Castle. Now it leads to the Long Walk, with its vista towards the 'Copper Horse'.

Back to the High Street. The Parish Church was built in the 1820s and took the place of the medieval church. The Three Tuns has a history that goes back to the days of the medieval Merchants Guild. Through the Corn Exchange, with its celebrated columns, is the crooked Market House, picturesque but probably not older than the C17.

The Guildhall was built by Thomas Fitz and completed by Christopher Wren between 1687 and 1690 on the site of the previous Market House. If we go upstairs to the Council Chamber, with its royal portraits, I can perhaps say a few things about what can be seen.

