

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter 1/79

February 1979

Dear Member,

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The thirty second Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Bull Hill, Leatherhead, at 8.00 p.m. for 8.15 p.m. on Friday 16th March 1979 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 1978 (copy enclosed)
5. Election Officers and Committee for 1979.
6. Any other business

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Refreshments available before the A.G.M. from 7.40 p.m.

Committee Members and Officers retire at the Annual General Meeting and whilst most are willing to stand for re-election, three are not continuing, namely Miss S.Hind (Assistant Secretary), W. Millar (Committee Member) and G. Hayward (Secretary). This situation reminds us of the President's words at the last A.G.M. that to be healthy and forward looking the Committee needs a continuous turnover and he offered to encourage aspiring Committee members by instructing and advising them in the background structure of the Society. We are heartened by offers already made to fill positions but as a vacancy or two still remain it would be interesting to have a competitive element at the election. Please send your nominations for the Committee to reach the Secretary not later than the 14th March 1979 and stating:

- a) the name of the Nominee, b) the names of the Proposer and Seconder, and
- c) that the Nominee has expressed his or her willingness to serve if elected.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1979 AGAIN ONLY £2 This was due on the 1st January. Please renew now so that we have a clear indication of our support for this important year. Mrs. C.Barrett of The Glen, Guildford Road, Great Bookham will be pleased to receive your cheques or cash and asks simply that you attach a slip giving your name and address. For those who renew by bankers order please do not be complacent in thinking that renewal is taken care of for you because **THERE ARE STILL 25 MEMBERS WHOSE BANKERS ORDERS REMAIN UNCHANGED AT £1.25.** Regretfully these members are not receiving the Proceedings because £1.25 just does not cover the cost.

We must offer our warm thanks to those members who, in renewing their membership, have added donations either for the Society or the Museum. To date these donations have reached £80. This is truly splendid and a great vote of confidence.

We also welcome the following new members who have joined since 1st January Mr. K.G.M.Bradley, Mr.J.F.G.Butler, Mr. & Mrs.P.Cangley, Miss H.Merlane, Ashted. Mrs.M.A.Brooks, Mrs.S.J.Lepine-Smith, Mr.E.Levermore, Mr.K.Paulton, Mr.& Mrs.J.E. Salmon, and Mr.J.Williamson, Great Bookham. Mrs.J.Iles, Miss K.Watkins and Mr.J.H.Winter, Leatherhead. Miss C.Pugh from the Woodlands Park Residential Education Centre, Stoke D'Abernon.

NOTES AND QUERIES Alan Gillies, one of our members who carries out much painstaking research, is the first to respond to the appeal for copy under this heading. He writes about Barnett Wood Station.

"An interesting problem is posed by the naming on Ordnance Survey maps of the original railway station (LBSCR/LSWR) which served Leatherhead from February 1859 to March 1867 and which was situated just to the East of Kingston Road, where the line terminated. When the line was extended in March 1867, separate stations were opened nearer the centre of Leatherhead by the two companies.

The LSWR terminated at Leatherhead until the opening of the line to Effingham in 1888. Despite the merging of the two Companies, to form part of the Southern Railway from 1923, the stations functioned separately until July 1927, when all services were transferred to the former LBSOR station which still serves the town today.

"One always reads of the railway having been opened to Leatherhead in 1859 and having been extended from there subsequently. Leatherhead is also the name used for the station in Bradshaw's guide, but before and after the extension of the line to Dorking and Horsham in 1867.

"The David and Charles reprint (1969) of Sheet 8, Dorking, of the O.S. "one-inch" series, together with the original electrotypes dating from the late 1850's and 1860's upon which it is based, however, shows the terminus as Barnett Wood Station. There is a subsequent electrotype of Sheet 8, dated 1876, which shows the line extending off the map face, south of Dorking, towards Horsham. This marks each of the two stations in Leatherhead as "station", which suggests that each was known as Leatherhead Station. It is of interest that this map marks and names Barnett Wood Station which, by 1876 had been out of service, certainly for passenger traffic and probably for goods traffic also, for about nine years. Very little is known of the sources of railway information used by the O.S. in the compilation of early maps and it is unfortunate that their early records were lost in the Southampton blitz.

"Whilst Barnett Wood may have been one of the nearest main features of the 19th century landscape and its name has been perpetuated into the 1970's in some local roads, one would have expected the name of the railway station on the map to have agreed with that in Bradshaw, particularly as this is the name which appears to have been used in railway circles.

"I would be very interested to know whether there is any evidence of local usage of the name Barnett Wood Station or if members can suggest reasons for its use on the map."

Here is a thought provoking query which could bring some facts to light in our next Newsletter. Over to the members now!

Neighbouring Societies History does not remain tidily within boundaries and for a number of years we have been receiving Newsletters from across the frontiers. These Newsletters from nearby Local History Societies often mentioned our projects, publications and programme and we learn in this way of their own ventures.

The Nonsuch Antiquarian Society has formed the Ewell Tower Preservation Trust which has raised several thousand pounds to restore the old church tower which stands alone in the churchyard at St. Mary's, Ewell.

The Esher District Local History Society has about 270 members and has carried out much research into local history, which appears in print in their Newsletters. The Royston Pike Lectures at St. George's Hall, Esher, are now a regular public event.

The Local History Group of the Dorking & Leith Hill District Preservation Society has prepared a book on R. Vaughan Williams which will be available in April at 80 pence. This Group also manages the South Street caves.

Some of our members also belong to one or more neighbouring societies and for those interested the following information is given:-

Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, Hon. Treasurer, L. Le Mottee, Esq., Little Rising, Ermyrn Way, Leatherhead (Ordinary member £1, Family £1.50, Student 50pence)

Esher District Local History Society, E. Royston Pike, Esq., 14 Hinckley Drive, Esher (£1.)

Dorking & Leith Hill District Preservation Society, The Secretary, The Dorking Museum, West Street, Dorking. Membership: Minimum of 25 pence plus minimum of 25 pence to belong to the Local History Group.

The Ockham Local History Society is another neighbour with about 70 members, and the Horsleys are in their area of research. The membership subscription is likely to be revised shortly but particulars of this Society can be obtained from Mrs. A. Watson, Well Cottage, Hatchford End, Cobham, Surrey.

Clay Tobacco Pipes Mr. David Higgins of the Dorking Local History Group, is making a study of pipes or fragments found in this area. He would be pleased to examine any collections or random finds to help his research. His address is High Bank, Mill Hill Lane, Brockham Green, Betchworth, Tel. Betchworth 3326.

Surrey History There has been a small response from our members to the appeal to save this publication, which was described in our last Newsletter. The Secretary is waiting for a stock from the publishers to fulfil the orders he has received, so please do not delay any longer to place a firm order. Surrey History costs only 50 pence if it can be delivered in the Leatherhead area.

Our Publications These are now in the care of Mrs. M. Fuller of 4 Alexander Godley Close, Ashted. Mrs. Fuller also kindly displays these publications for the purpose of sale at our meetings.

Preparation of a History of Leatherhead A team has been formed and there is no limit to the number participating. Valuable experience can be gained by the amateur and all offers of help should be directed to Mrs. L.G. Vardey, The White Cottage, Lower Road, Fetcham.

Collections of Local Photographs The Surrey Local History Council have endorsed the view, expressed by our member Alan Gillies, at our last A.G.M., that local societies should undertake comprehensive surveys of existing collections of photographs of potential historic value, covering date, source, location of negatives, availability, etc. In addition, local societies should be encouraged to undertake photographic surveys of their areas, possibly on a cyclic basis, to record the changing aspects of local life.

WORK IN PROGRESS Another worthwhile suggestion made by Alan Gillies is that we should bring out into the light of day by means of the Newsletter, details of work in hand, or projected, on all aspects of history. We will be following up this idea in our next Newsletter because the details already known would make this letter too long. Please let us have news of your projects. This may avoid duplication of effort and also assist cross-fertilisation of ideas.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR 1979

FRIDAY 16th MARCH The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Leatherhead at 8 p.m. by courtesy of the Mole Valley District Council.
FRIDAY 20th APRIL Lecture by Mr. T.R. Moore, Headmaster of Fetcham Middle School on New Methods of Scientific Dating of Ancient Historic Events and Periods. In the Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead, at 8 p.m.

SATURDAY 19th MAY Whole day visit to Kenilworth and Warwick Castles under the guidance of Derek Renn, F.S.A., leaving Leatherhead at 8 a.m. The cost will be £3.50 each.

SATURDAY 16th JUNE Whole day visit to Peterborough Cathedral, Fotheringhay (where Mary Queen of Scots was executed) and Stamford under the guidance of Morris Snellgrove. The cost will be £3.50 per person, Leave Leatherhead 8 am.

SATURDAY 21st JULY Afternoon visit to the Weald & Downland Museum, Singleton, leaving Leatherhead at 1.00 p.m. We aim to have tea at Midhurst. The cost will be £1.90 per person. Booking slips for the above outings are attached. The costs quoted cover Gratuities but do not include Entrance Fees.

DALLAWAY LECTURE Our 1979 Dallaway Lecture will be given by Mr. Peter Marsden F.S.A. at 8 p.m. on WEDNESDAY 10th OCTOBER at the City of London Freeman's School Hall, Ashted, by kind permission of the Headmaster. Mr. Marsden will lecture on HISTORIC TREASURE WRECKS.

Please return booking slips for the outings as soon as possible to.
 E.S. Barnwell, 16 Eastwick Park Avenue, Great Bookham, Tel. Bookham 54947.

LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM Restoration of Hampton Cottage has progressed so far, thanks to the efforts of Peter How, Ken Beddoe and their gallant band of workers, that limited opening of the building to the public is now within sight. At first, only the lower front room will be available, but additional rooms will be used as soon as they are completed. The days and hours of opening will depend very largely on the number of members who volunteer to act as stewards. It has been suggested that for the time being only Wednesdays and Saturdays should be used, with three two-hour shifts from, say, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. However, to enable a monthly rota to be established, with two people in attendance at any one time, and allowing for emergency absences and holidays, at least 80 names are required. A recent check on those who have indicated their willingness to serve has resulted in a list of some thirty names. If any members wishing to

do their share, have not been approached within the last six months, will they please phone D.Bruce, Bookham 58722. This is getting urgent, so please don't delay. A meeting of stewards will be arranged to ensure that all will understand what is expected of them.

Exhibitions and 'coffee mornings' in aid of the Leatherhead Museum:-

3rd March, Baptist Church Hall, Lower Road, Gt. Bookham, 10.00 a.m.- 12.30.

5th May, Village Hall, The Street, Fetcham, 10.00 - 12.30.

(note change of date of Fetcham exhibition) Tell all your friends.

ARCHAEOLOGY Two events organised by Surrey Archaeological Society:-

SATURDAY 24th MARCH 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 'Processing Workshop'

Discussion on methods of sampling and analysis of materials such as pollen, soil, bone etc; also on storage of records and objects in Surrey Museums, in Committee Room 2, Sutton Central Library.

SATURDAY 26th MAY Symposium of Surrey Archaeologists. Reports of recent excavations and exhibitions and displays and publications by local groups and societies, at Dorking Halls.

Further information from S.R.C.Poulter, Bookham 58844.

OTHER EVENTS

1st March, Lecture by Lt. Col. C.Wylie, "The Ascent of Everest".

15th March, Lecture by E.Royston Pike on "Esher old Church".

Both at King George's Hall, Esher, 8.00. Admission free.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL

28th July 1979, Annual General Meeting at 2.15 p.m. in the Parish Hall, Leatherhead followed by the "Leatherhead Walk", visit to the Museum and Church. Afternoon tea after the walk. Members welcome.

1st December 1979, Symposium at the Dorking Halls, whole day. The Subject will be "Surrey Rivers and Waterways."

TREASURER'S REPORT A Statement of Finances for the year 1978 is attached.

As will be seen, we are pleased to report that our Income exceeded Expenditure again this year thanks in part to an increase in membership but mainly to the sales of the Ashtead History publication which have now covered the initial production costs as shown on the back of the Statement.

We are grateful to Mole Valley District Council for making a Grant in 1978 after a lapse in 1977, and trust that Surrey County Council will do the same for us this year after a lapse last year.

The fact that work is about to begin on a Leatherhead History will necessitate considerable funds being available for its eventual production, bearing in mind that the costs of the Ashtead History printing alone were in excess of £4,000

We regret to note for the third year in succession, despite our reminders, that there are still 25 Bankers Orders for the old subscription rate of £1.25. We are aware, However, that in some instances respective Banks have been notified to increase the subscription but have failed to carry out instructions.

30th JUNE 1979 Sir Ronald and Lady Harris, and Mrs. Jean Richards have kindly arranged to open the gardens of Slyfield Farm House and Slyfield House from 2.30 p.m. Small groups will also be conducted over Slyfield House. Entrance charges in aid of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for the Disabled: Gardens & Great Barn 50p, Slyfield House 75p. Car parking free.

G. Hayward, Esq.,
Ypriana, Cobham Road,
Fetcham, Leatherhead.
L'head 72674

HON. SECRETARY

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING AT RED CROSS HALL, OAKS CLOSE,
LEATHERHEAD, 17th MARCH 1978 at 8.00 p.m.

Mr. J.G.W.Lewarne, President, took the chair and the meeting began just after 8 p.m. Fifty nine members were present.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to discuss and approve new Rules made necessary by changes in the organisation and scope of the Society. The new Rules had been circulated in the Newsletter. Mr. Lewarne asked for comments and the only response was from Miss S.Burrough who objected to the brackets in Rule 4(d). It was explained that the brackets indicated places where amendments to the previous Rules had taken place.

There being no other comment, Mr.F.Benger, F.S.A., proposed the adoption of the new Rules, as enclosed with Newsletter 1/78, subject to the removal of unnecessary brackets. This was seconded by Mr. J.Bull and agreed by the meeting. There being no other special matters the meeting closed at 8.09.

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY HELD ON 17th MARCH 1978 AT THE RED CROSS HALL, OAKS CLOSE
LEATHERHEAD

Mr.J.G.W.Lewarne, President, took the Chair and the Meeting began at 8.10 p.m., Fifty nine members attended.

The President read apologies from Mrs. Haynes, Mr. Norris, Mr. & Mrs. Wildgoose, Mr. Mountain, Mr. & Mrs. Read, Mrs. Lewarne, Mr. Crossland, Mrs. Quinnell, Mr. & Mrs. Rice-Oxley, Mr. Glyn.

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were not read as they had been circulated with the Newsletter. The following amendments to the Minutes were mentioned and duly corrected:-

1. Miss S.Borrough said that the Index to the last complete volume of the Proceedings would be completed by 1983.
2. Mr.D.F.Renn observed that 'Mr.' should be corrected to Mrs. Haynes.
3. Mr. D.Bruce said that to be correct the co-options should be noted as "co-opted at a subsequent Committee meeting."
4. Miss S.Burrough asked for the superfluous word "appealed" to be deleted from the final paragraph.

There was then a proposal by Mr. J.Bull seconded by Mr.L.Houston that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of that Meeting. This was agreed and they were signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING There were no items under this heading.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr. Lewarne called on Mr. Fortescue to say a few words about the report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Fortescue mentioned briefly the rise in membership by fifty, the strong support of local visits and the popularity of the occasional distant visit. On publications - the Ashtead History was a success but more sales were required to cover the outlay. The Hampton Cottage restoration was making good progress and with the formation of the Leatherhead Museum Trust, the Countryside Protection Society was now a grandparent. The Local History Course of lectures at Therfield School was successful and produced over £70 for the Museum

Mr. Houston mentioned the beneficial effect of the Hampton Cottage project which he felt sure had produced new members and captured the interest of young people.

Mr. D. Bruce delivered a report on the development of a museum of local history at Hampton Cottage and reminded members of the magnificent loan which started it, of Mr. W. Millar's part in the creation of a Charitable Trust whose rules allow for more than the present three Trustees. Mr. Fortescue undertook the mammoth task of addressing a letter and envelopes to 5,000 houses - £,800 had been raised - all kinds of fund raising events had taken place including a swim-in. A local glass centre had donated the glass for the windows and many other local firms had assisted with donations and/or discount facilities. The South of England Building Society, next door, have been long-suffering and patient and he feels they have earned our gratitude. Mr. Bruce continued by reference to Bill Larkin's valuable help in an advisory capacity and whose task of producing tenders for the restoration had merited praise. These tenders were all over £15,000 and had caused us to wonder whether we could hope to complete the work. Mr. R. Woodham had volunteered to undertake the restoration at much lower cost provided he received some assistance from volunteers for unskilled work mainly in the later stages. Mr. Woodham had nevertheless on occasions broken the continuity of the work but this had assisted us in a sense by giving more time for the build up of funds with which to settle his accounts. The local authority had insisted on certain requirements which shaped the pattern of restoration. The ancient wooden mullioned window will be preserved behind glass. The roof timbers in general were not in bad condition and replacement tiles were supplied by Mr. A. Snow. Mr. A. Christian had taken charge of the volunteers from the beginning followed by Mr. P. G. How and they had done meritorious work at the museum and in recruiting volunteers. On museum finance - the income was £6,380, £5,800 donated with £580 from other activities. In addition, interest earned from the bank was £420. Some interest free loans had been received amounting to £2,000. Various items of expenditure were mentioned which included an amount of £960 invested for the purpose of repaying the loan of £7,500, used for the purchase of Hampton Cottage. Cash in hand was £1,450 and Mr. Bruce thought that around £4,000 would be required to finish the work and repay the short term loans. Much work can be done by members to keep costs down. He expressed the feeling that the Museum would be a focal point and a great asset to the Society.

Mr. Snellgrove asked whether the building will be a Heritage Centre and Mr. Bruce said that there will be a library, office and research room. He hopes to make it a friendly place where people interested can meet. He visualises inviting local artists to exhibit local views - this would record and display history.

Mr. Gillies suggested that a painting be made of a local scene which would be reproduced in miniature for sale to local householders.

Mr. Bruce then reminded members of the need for volunteers to deliver appeals for the museum in Ashted with the help of Mr. Bull as co-ordinator. He also mentioned the proposed Bookham Gramophone Club fund raising event.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Gillies proposed that the Executive Committee's Report be accepted and this was seconded by Mr. Houston and approved by the Meeting.

The Accounts Mr. Lewarne, in asking Mr. Mears to give a report, mentioned that the museum accounts are not included because they are based on a year ending at the 30th September.

Mr. Mears continued by saying that Museum donations forming part of a membership subscription were recorded separately in the Society's accounts as a temporary arrangement to act as a current account for Museum outgoings.

The actual number of members at the time of preparation of the Accounts is always difficult to assess because of the varied times of renewal of membership but is given for the record as 286.

Donations to the Society were down because of the influence of the Museum Grants were down by £75, lecture fees donated were also less. The charge of ten pence per member collected at the time of a visit helped the administration costs. Fire policy premiums represented two years in one year of account because of a late demand for the first premium. The Ashted History finance has been passed to another account. Bank interest has fluctuated but mostly against us. Printing costs have been less. The expenses of administration were £72 including Public Liability insurance premium of £25. Mr. Mears stressed that surplus should not be interpreted as profit.

Mr. Lewarne then said that he was pleased to hear that lecture fees were still being donated to the Society as this implies that lectures are still in demand and flourishing.

Mr. Gillies asked that the name "Surrey Record Office" in the accounts should be corrected to Surrey Record Society.

Mr. Houston expressed pleasure at the healthy state of finance and recommended the Government to seek our advice on methods of deflation.

Mr. Benger then proposed and Mr. Poulter seconded the motion that the Accounts be adopted. The Meeting approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1978

Mr. Lewarne began by thanking the helpers, which includes Newsletter delivery, and Mr. Snellgrove and the tea makers who all provided valuable backing to the main tasks of the Society. In expressing appreciation of the drive and activity of our Chairman, he mentioned also the importance of a regular turnover of the Committee. He encouraged anyone hovering on the brink to have a chat with him.

The Election took place and the following were elected:-

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROPOSED BY</u>	<u>SECONDED BY</u>
Chairman	S.E.D.FORTESCUE	MR. BRUCE	MR. BULL
Treasurer	H.J.MEARS	MRS. MILLAR	MR. LEVER
Ass. Treasurer (Museum)	J.R.BULL	MR. MEARS	MRS. ELMER
Programme Sec.	E.S.BARNWELL	MR. LEVER	MRS. MEARS
Membership Sec.	Mrs.C.Barrett	MR. MILLAR	MRS. FULLER
SALES SEC.	MRS.M.FULLER	MRS. BULL	MR. POULTER
Secretary	G.HAYWARD	MR.HOW	MRS. BARRETT
Ass. Sec.	MISS S.HIND	MR.BRUCE	MR.POULTER
Editor	F.G.BENGER,F.S.A.	MR.WALKER	MR.BULL
Records Sec.	D.BRUCE	MR.GILLIES	MR.RENN,F.S.A.
Librarian	J.R.GILBERT	MRS.FULLER	MR.BRUCE
Committee Members	(W.MILLAR { S.R.C.POULTER { MRS.M.RICE-OXLEY	({ MR.MEARS {	({ MRS.BULL {
To be co-opted at the next Cttee meeting	(R.A.LEVER { M.A.SNELLGROVE		
Hon. Auditor	A.H.KIRKBY	MR. BULL	MR. BRUCE

The election of the above was approved by the Meeting and during the formalities Mr. Lewarne thanked the Editor, Mr. Benger, for producing such a fine publication.

There were no further special reports and Mr. Lewarne continued by mentioning two subjects in which he was interested.

a) GHOSTS - he had not had the excitement of seeing one but would like to because he felt this would be a sure indication of a life hereafter. On local ghosts, there had been four authenticated sightings of ghosts at Windfield House and a nurse at Leatherhead Cottage Hospital had reported strange happenings.

b) The Art of Dowsing - not restricted to water diviners with hazel twigs. In the Cornwall Advertiser recently it was reported that several stone crosses which had been known to exist in earlier times, had disappeared. These were re-discovered by dowsing, whereas they could not be found by archaeological methods. Not everyone can manage dowsing but as those who have attempted it and have felt a response will admit there is no trickery involved.

Mr. Lewarne rounded off these remarks by saying that perhaps some of those present might now be encouraged to say a few words.

Mr. Bruce referred to the exhibition on display which was largely the work of our member Vernon Wildgoose. He would like to hear of any others who have this flair and who could assist.

Mr. Poulter referred to the report on Stane Street given in the last Newsletter - he thought that some of the report was correct but there were some experienced archaeologists at the excavation and the report could have been improved. A mediaeval boundary bank had been cut through and Lady Hanworth felt satisfied that the Roman Road had been found together with some Iron Age plough marks. There would be some preliminary motorway work soon. We have an enthusiastic dowser member and although we are short of manpower (person-power) for digging, we will follow up the clues given eventually.

Mr. Gillies suggested we are not sufficiently aware of the value of photographs. We should look at photography in two ways:- a) by taking as many pictures as possible of old buildings and local scenes; b) by finding out where old photographs of the area may be found, e.g. the public library at Croydon has a large collection of photos of early twentieth century scenes. Are we doing enough to search for these pictures of old Leatherhead and district and to record local scenes before they change or disappear. Pictures should be taken of the backs of buildings as well as the front and from both sides of the road.

Mr. Lewarne referred to the Society's purchase of prints of Frith's before they closed down. To take photos of the district on a continuous basis needs careful planning and it was certain that each print should be dated. Photos have their use also in showing a typical 'Leatherhead' person.

Mr. Bruce thanked Mr. Gillies for his excellent suggestions and urged members to save one photo of their films for the Society. He gave an example of one spot in North Street of which we have several photos taken at different periods, these proving most useful.

Mrs. Fuller mentioned old Leatherhead Guides as a possible source of useful pictures, some of which might be by Friths - they should be compared with our records. She agreed that we must be vigilant and seek out these sources of photos.

Mr. Lever said that Frith's photo plates had been bought by Rothmans who has them at Liverpool.

Mrs. Elmer suggested printing Christmas notelets of Hampton Cottage.

Mr. Snellgrove referred to local artists exhibitions in the Thorndike Theatre - paintings of local buildings. Mr. Lewarne thought that colour photos might be taken of these paintings.

Mr. E.D.K. Taylor said that he has a box of bill heads at the Institute of former Leatherhead tradesmen.

A member suggested having projects at the Museum such as wartime Leatherhead etc. Mr. Bruce said that the Museum is intended to be a constantly changing exhibition centre of all historical subjects. Another member said that she has records of the planting of trees up the Chessington road from funds raised by public subscription after the war.

Mr. Taylor made reference to a tomb in Leatherhead of 1802 as being in memory of an Admiral.

Mr. Lewarne thanked those present for their attention and comments and hoped we might return to the Council Chamber next year.

Mr. Fortescue thanked the President for taking the Chair and for helping us with our problems. He was appreciative also of the work of the two Vice Presidents.

There being no other business, Mr. Lewarne remarked that the Society is in good heart and closed the meeting at 9.38 p.m.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President : J.G.W. LEWARNE
Vice Presidents : F.B. BENDER, F.S.A.
D.F. RENN, F.S.A.

Report of the Executive Committee for the year ended 31st December 1978

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Executive Committee for 1978 was:-

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

Hon. Auditor A.H. Kirkby

MEMBERSHIP At 31st December 1978 membership reached, equalled, our record total of 350, comprising 338 ordinary members and 12 honorary members. This represents an increase of 64 over last year. Owing to this increase membership it has been possible to hold the subscription to £2. for the fourth year in succession. Unfortunately there are 25 members who have not revised Bankers Orders to keep in line with the current subscription.

PROGRAMME A varied programme of visits was held throughout the year including Windsor; Claremont House, Esher; the Suffolk villages of Clare, Long Melford and Lavenham, and nearer home walks around Kingston-on-Thames and Fetcham. Lectures were given on Pains Hill, Cobham; The Mounts; Leatherhead; Mr. Royston Pike's personal reminiscences of local history; the ever popular Leatherhead Miscellany and the Dallaway lecture by Dr. Crocker on 'Industrial Archaeology'. The popularity of these events our Programme Secretary finds very rewarding.

HAMPTON COTTAGE January 1978 found the walls of Hampton Cottage basically restored up to eaves level, and with the roof partly stripped. Peter How agreed to act as "clerk of the works" in place of Alan Christian, who had been forced to resign due to ill health, and from May onwards Mr. How, ably assisted by Ken Beddoe and a team of about twelve volunteers whose efforts have been much appreciated, took over the restoration work from the builder. More volunteers, skilled or unskilled, would be welcomed. The hand-made pantiles, each one of slightly different size and profile, gave the roofing team endless trouble and parts of the roof were laid and relaid several times before they were satisfied. The roof timbers had meanwhile been strengthened, and most of the inside walls have been plastered. The porch has been rebuilt, and the basic electric wiring has been installed by Messrs. Buchanan & Curwen. Donations received during the year amounted to £2,200, and interest free loans totalled £2,000. Many money raising events were held by the Society and individual members, the most outstanding being a Sponsored Walk bringing in £450; a jumble sale £360, and an auction sale £150.

Useful display cabinets and other furniture has been given by members and local firms, and it is hoped that the first part of the museum will be open in the Spring, although at first the main object will be to acquaint the Public with our plans for the future and to raise more money to enable us to finish the job. It is estimated that about ~~£4,000~~ £4,000 will be needed to leave the Leatherhead Museum Trust free of immediate debts and short term loans.

ARCHAEOLOGY No archaeological excavations have been made in the Leatherhead area during the year.

A review of documentary history, maps and archaeological finds for the area directly affected by the Town Centre Development plans did not indicate any

positive locations meriting trial trenches other than along the apparent line of the mediaeval street frontage in the High Street, where premises and thoroughfares are in continuous use. As clearances are made in advance of development work, regular observation and, possibly, rescue excavation work will be needed. Close liaison with the County Archaeological Officer is being maintained.

PUBLICATIONS The Proceedings Vol.4 No.1 was issued to members during the year and maintained the usual high standard set by the Editor.

A reprint with corrections of "ASHTEAD - A VILLAGE TRANSFORMED" was made early in the year and it still finds a ready sale. The work of our Librarian and Mr. R.A.Lever in keeping in touch with the shops has been invaluable.

The original printings of the Town Trail leaflets have all been sold and a reprint of the Leatherhead leaflet is available. Arrangements have been made for revising and reprinting the other leaflets.

Mr. G.Gollin's Occasional Paper No.2 "THE DAME, THE PRISON AND THE PEWTERER" continues to sell

The Society still has stocks of "Life begins at Eighty" by Miss D.Joce, a member for many years who died during 1978.

Mrs. Fuller has maintained a sales desk at meetings which has encouraged the sale of the Society's publications.

Your Committee has initiated the research for the production of a History of Leatherhead and a group has been formed under the leadership of Mrs. Vardey.

PUBLIC RELATIONS The Exhibitions Committee led by Mr. Bruce and under the artistic direction of Mr. Wildgoose mounted a display at the Local History Symposium at the Dorking Halls, on "Old Surrey Crafts and Industries." This provided display material for several other exhibitions.

There is a continual demand for lectures for local organisations which has been met and the lecturers have generously donated fees received either to the Society or the Hampton Cottage fund. A new venture has been the production of a "show" which includes three short lectures on local history, an exhibition of some of Mr. Poulter's botanical slides and the making by Mrs. Rice-Oxley of a water souhey, a soup for which this district was famed in the 17th and 18th centuries. This "show" has received acclaim from the women's organisations. The Society was host to 42 members of the Esher Society on their visit to Leatherhead.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A Statement of Finances for the year 1978 is attached.

As will be seen, we are pleased to report that our Income exceeded Expenditure again this year, thanks in part to an increase in membership but mainly to the sales of the Ashtead History publication which have now covered the initial production costs as shown on the back of the Statement.

We are grateful to Mole Valley District Council for making a Grant in 1978 after a lapse in 1977, and trust that Surrey County Council will do the same for us this year after a lapse last year.

The fact that work is about to begin on a Leatherhead History will necessitate considerable funds being available for its eventual production, bearing in mind that the costs of the Ashtead History printing alone were in excess of £4,000.

We regret to note for the third year in succession, despite our reminder that there are still 25 Bankers Orders for the old subscription rate of £1.25p. These members will not receive the Proceedings until the full rate is paid. We are aware, however, that in some instances respective Banks have been notified to increase the subscription but have failed to carry out instructions.

The educational programme for members, the service to the public and the enthusiasm of members and your Committee can only be maintained for the modest subscription of £2. provided the membership continues to increase.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

From the Hon. Treasurer:

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

	Previous 1977	Year Under Report 1978	
INCOME:			
Subscriptions	£521.25	£746.75	(a)
Donations to Society	65.75	53.72	
Donations to Museum Fund	69.39	492.16	(b)
Grant from Surrey County Council	25.00	nil	
Grant from Mole Valley District Council	nil	50.00	
Lecture fees donated by Members	8.00	5.00	
Sales of Ashted History Book	40.00	1,027.88	(c)
Sales of other Literature	147.95	103.09	
Profit from Visits etc.	10.90	40.40	
Collections	20.85	16.50	
Profit on Teas etc.	9.65	2.92	
Interest on Lloyds Bank Deposit A/C	23.80	35.26	
	<u>£942.54</u>	<u>£2,573.68</u>	
EXPENDITURE:			
Printing	656.42	1,359.07	
Expenses of Administration	72.88	97.31	
General Disbursements	20.95	63.13	
Transfer to Museum Fund	nil	426.91	- x
Insurance Premiums for Museum	51.00	40.50	- x
Hire of Hall for Lectures	11.25	18.75	
Subscriptions to:-			
Surrey Record Society	2.00	5.00	
Surrey Archeological Society	5.00	5.00	
Surrey Local History Council	2.00	2.00	
	<u>£821.50</u>	<u>£2,017.67</u>	
Excess of Income over Expenditure	£121.04	£556.01	
of which £500 has been transferred to our Deposit A/C.			
Bank Balance B/F at beginning of year	673.88	794.92	
Income for year	942.54	2,573.68	
	<u>£1,616.42</u>	<u>£3,368.60</u>	
Expenditure for year	821.50	2,017.67	
Balance at Bank at end of year C/F:			
Lloyds Bank - Current A/c	323.71	344.46	
Lloyds Bank - Deposit A/c	471.21	1,006.47	
	<u>£1,616.42</u>	<u>£3,368.60</u>	
The £344.46 C/F in Current A/c comprises:-			
Money held on behalf of Museum	59.59	91.34	- x
Money owing for production of Occ.No 2	26.65	36.77	
Net balance of Society Funds	237.47	216.35	
	<u>£323.71</u>	<u>£344.46</u>	

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

Dated 9th January... 1979

Honorary Auditor.....

Honorary Treasurer.....

69.39 59.59
51.00
110.59
69.39
- 41.20

A.H. Kirkby

492.16 426.91
40.50
41.20
508.61
492.16
- 16.45

59.59 ✓
492.16 ✓
551.75
467.41
84.34

91.34
26.34

426.91
40.50
467.41
91.34
558.75
59.59
- 48.16

H.J. Mears

(a) Subscriptions: The total received in the year comprised:-

Back payments for 1976/7	£5.75
1978 Subscriptions	£631.00
1979 Subs. paid in advance	<u>£110.00</u>
	<u>£746.75</u>

The actual membership being:-

25 Fully paid in 1977 in advance
298 " " " 1978
27 Still having only paid £1.25 each
<u>12 Honorary Members</u>
<u>362</u>

(b) Museum Fund: The £492.16 includes £207.10 raised at the two sales held at Red Cross Hall on 18th February.

(c) Ashted History Book: The £1,027.88 includes £461.53 transferred to our account from the Ashted History Fund with the Midland Bank when that separate fund was closed on 5th April, 1978, in the same month we paid £854 for a second impression and after postage etc. this publication is now showing a profit, which at 31st December, 1978 stood at £166.74.

H.J.Mears.