

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter 2/79

June 1979

Dear Member,

The Thirty second Annual General Meeting of our Society was held on 16 March 1979 and despite the appalling weather, typical of last winter, 43 intrepid members turned up. It was at this meeting that I was elected your new Hon. Secretary to replace Mr G. Hayward, who had felt it necessary to resign owing to pressure of work and family commitments. This, therefore, is my first Newsletter, and before I write anything else I must acknowledge with many thanks all the help and kindness shown to me by the members of the Executive Committee. They have given me a great welcome, and although I am grateful to each member of the Committee, I must especially mention Mr Hayward, Mr Fortescue, Mr Bruce and Mrs Barratt, who particularly have eased the way for me to take over the job of Hon. Secretary. We are very glad still to have Geof. Hayward as one of the Trustees of the Museum, and I know that his interest in the Society remains as keen as ever. Two other members who did not seek re-election at the A.G.M. were Mr Millar and Miss Hind, but the Society is fortunate in having Mrs Gillespie as assistant Hon. Secretary, who is doing most valuable work, though for the time being she is not a member of the Executive Committee. For convenience I am attaching a list of the present officers of the Society.

It is with much regret that I have to record the death of Mr Millar, and the following tribute is offered on behalf of the Society by Mr S.E.D. Fortescue:

The Society has many valued friends who have given their support over a great number of years. Mr William Millar, who died on 23 March 1979, was one of these. Mr Millar joined the Society soon after its formation in 1946 and he and Mrs Millar, as well as their two daughters in the earlier years, regularly attended and contributed to the Society's meetings. Mr Millar became a member of the Committee some years ago, and on his 80th birthday was made an Honorary Member. He was most knowledgeable on wind-mills, on which subject he lectured, besides giving freely of his professional ability as a solicitor, particularly in the recent formation of the Hampton Cottage Trust. Mr Millar will be missed, and our sympathy goes to Mrs Millar who, we hope, will continue to join in the Society's activities.

I am also sorry to report that our Hon. Treasurer, Mr H.J. Mears, is facing a spell in hospital, but to him we send good wishes for a speedy recovery.

**MEMBERSHIP** There are still some members who have not renewed their subscriptions for this year, and these should now be sent as soon as possible to Mrs C. Barratt, Hon. Membership Secretary, The Glen, Guildford Road, Great Bookham, by those wishing to remain members. Happily, we have to welcome a number of new members who have recently joined the Society:

<u>Leatherhead</u>	Mr R. Starr Miss J.M. Edwards	Miss M.S. Peake	Mr D. Nicol
<u>Great Bookham</u>	Mr C.M. Haskins Mr L. Gossard Mrs E. Brion	Mr H.G. Hunt Mrs J.H. Wells	Mr Staff Mr E.L.C. Hawker
<u>Little Bookham</u>	Mr V.E. Ashford	Miss N.H. Kidston	Miss Falconer
<u>Ashted</u>	Mrs C. Weller Mr P. Rendle	Mr & Mrs P. Wall	Mrs E. Langton
<u>Fetcham</u>	Mr J.A. Wall Mrs M. Lamberth Mr A.L. Bartels	Mr A.W. Dean Mr & Mrs D.W.E. Banham Mrs E.J. Herriott	Mrs S.M. Hall Mrs P. Day Mr A. Pooley

Miss H. Everard of Leatherhead and Mrs J. Ransom of Great Bookham are old members who have rejoined.

It sometimes takes time to get to know people when first joining a Society, and I would be delighted if the above new members, or, indeed, any others, would make themselves known to me, and I will do my best to introduce them around. There is so much going on in this Society that the participation of each and every member is encouraged. Volunteers are

needed in non-specific areas as well as designated jobs in the Museum and/or Leatherhead History. Really, everyone is welcome - for example, we are anxious to get a rota going to make and serve the tea at our evening meetings. At present it invariably falls on the same people to do this, which means that they always miss part of every meeting! Please volunteer. It might be appropriate at this point to mention that visitors, introduced by a member, are also most welcome at our meetings, at a charge of 10p. each. This charge does not apply at the Dallaway Lecture (this year on 10 October) which is open to the public and on which occasion a collection is taken.

**DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS** Although the financial position of the Society is in a healthy state, as those members who attended the A.G.M. will already be aware, financial limitations do restrict our activities, and donations and contributions of any kind are always most gratefully received. In this respect there are several people whom we would like publicly to thank: Miss Hind, a member for many years and until recently on the Executive Committee, has most generously advanced £1,000 to facilitate publications by the Society (excluding the annual Proceedings and Index) relating to the Society's work and local interest; the Mole Valley District Council have this year given us a £50 grant; as a result of a gift of silver from Mrs Barbara Oldershaw £87 has been raised at auction for the Museum; Dr Phillips has donated items to the Museum; Mr Coleridge books for the Library; while Mr G. Marsh, assisted by his son, is presenting a set of photographs of Leatherhead buildings, taken before demolition to make way for the new town centre. There must be other benefactors, and I apologise for any omissions.

**PROCEEDINGS** The Society has been hit by industrial troubles in the printing trade, hence the non-appearance of the 1979 Proceedings as yet. We now anticipate production and distribution in the early autumn.

**PUBLICATIONS** Other publications are held by Mrs M. Fuller, 4 Alexander Godley Close, Ashtead, and the following may be obtained from her, subject to availability, which varies from time to time, though most items are in stock:

- |   |                                |         |
|---|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Ashtead, A Village Transformed           | members                        | £2.50p. |
|   | non-members                    | £2.95p. |
|   | + post & packing               | 35p.    |
| 2. Proceedings of the Society Vol.4 No. 1   |                                | £1.25p. |
| 3. Proceedings of the Society Vol.3 No.10   |                                | £1.00p. |
| 4. Proceedings of the Society Vol.3 No. 9   |                                | 50p.    |
|   | and earlier numbers            |         |
| 5. Occasional Paper No. 1                   |                                | 50p.    |
| Discovering Early Leatherhead by John Blair |                                |         |
| a preliminary survey 1976                   |                                |         |
| 6. Occasional Paper No. 2                   |                                | 50p.    |
| The Dame, The Prisoner and The Pewterer     |                                |         |
| by G.J. Gollin, M.A., C.Eng.                |                                |         |
| 7. Life Begins at Eighty by Dorothy Joce    |                                | 50p.    |
| (The Spinney School, Bookham)               |                                |         |
| 8. Leaflets - What to look at in Ashtead    | each                           | 10p.    |
|   | What to look at in Bookham     |         |
|   | What to look at in Fetcham     |         |
|   | What to look at in Leatherhead |         |
| 9. Surrey History                           |                                | 50p.    |

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for No. 8.

**FUTURE PROGRAMME FOR 1979** Before setting out the future programme, I must mention the Bookham and Fetcham Coffee Mornings, which were held recently. These were both very successful, attracting large numbers and resulting in some profit for the Society's funds from the sale of refreshments, plants and publications (entrance was free). Additionally, several new members joined the Society then and there.

**SATURDAY, 21 JULY** A few places are still available for the afternoon visit by coach to the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton, near Chichester, Sussex, leaving Leatherhead at 1 p.m. We aim to have tea at Midhurst. The main purpose of this open air museum is to rescue good examples of vernacular architecture, i.e. humbler buildings, such as farmhouses and small town and village houses, which are threatened with destruction, and

and trades of the region are also shown, as well as exhibits of the social history of rural life in south east England. The form attached to the last Newsletter may be used and the cost, including fare and gratuities, but not entrance fee, is £1.90 per person. Applications, with SAE, should be sent to the Hon. Programme Secretary, Mr E.S. Barnwell, 16 Eastwick Park Avenue, Great Bookham, but PLEASE make cheques payable to THE LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, and not to individuals.

AUGUST 2nd (Thursday evening) Visit to Thorncroft Manor, by kind permission of Howard Humphreys & Partners, Consulting Engineers. The pattern is similar to visits to other former mansions in that only twenty members can be shown round. Therefore the party will comprise the 20 members whose reply paid envelopes are first received by Mr Barnwell, address as above. Details will then be sent of the time to meet.

SATURDAY, 22nd SEPTEMBER A walk round Ewell village under the guidance of Mr Ian J. West, which will include a visit to the Ewell Tower. Mr West is Chairman of the Ewell Tower Preservation Trust, a project being carried out under the auspices of the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society. Meet at the Bourne Hall Museum at 2.30 p.m. Please give this event your full support.

SATURDAY, 6th OCTOBER Afternoon walk round Ashted under the guidance of Mr R. A. Lever, who has carefully updated the route. The last occasion the Society arranged a walk in Ashted was in October 1973 and following the publication of the Ashted History it is high time we renewed our acquaintance with Ashted on foot. Meet outside St. Giles' Church at 2.30 pm. Advance copies of the itinerary are available in return for a SAE from Mr Barnwell.

WEDNESDAY, 10th OCTOBER The Annual Dallaway Lecture at the City of London Freeman's School, Ashted Park, by kind permission of the Headmaster, at 8 p.m. The speaker will be Peter Marsden, F.S.A., and his subject "Historic Treasure Wrecks". Mr Marsden is an authority on this subject and his talk, illustrated by slides, should be most colourful and entertaining.

FRIDAY, 16th NOVEMBER In the Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead, at 8 p.m. A talk by Mr James Batley of the Bourne Society on John Hassell's "My Picturesque Ride Round Surrey. 1818".

FRIDAY, 7th DECEMBER The Leatherhead Miscellany at the Red Cross Hall at 8 p.m. We should like to hear later from our members who could give us short talks etc., on anything connected with our own local history.

Other dates which may be of interest to members are:

Saturday, 28th July Annual General Meeting of the Surrey Local History Council 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.

25th September/5th October Natural History Exhibition at Esher in former Council Chamber at Esher Council Offices. The theme is local natural history and paintings, and exhibits will show wild flowers and birds to be found in this area.

Saturday, 27th October One-day conference entitled "Forty Years After" at the University of Surrey, Guildford. The object of the conference is to review the situation at the outbreak of the Second World War in view of material which has become available in the past few years, particularly from the angles of those involved within the first month: Britain, France, Poland, Germany and the Soviet Union. Speakers will include Mr A.J.P. Taylor, and the cost is £3, to include morning coffee and afternoon tea but not lunch. Those wishing to attend may write for application forms to: Dr Roy Douglas, Convenor, Modern History, General Studies Department, University of Surrey, Guildford.

Saturday, 1st December The Surrey Local History Council Symposium for 1979 will be held at Dorking Halls, with the main theme of the meeting being "Surrey Rivers and Waterways". Anyone wishing to help prepare the Society's exhibit on this subject, please contact D. Bruce (Bookham 58722). Helpful suggestions also welcomed.

**LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM** I am advised by David Bruce that by the time this Newsletter is published, first tentative steps towards opening Hampton Cottage to the public will have been taken. Redecoration of the lower front room has been completed, together with the construction of the necessary approach steps from the level of the outside pavement down to the porch. For the time being this one room only will be open, the intention being to explain to interested passers-by our plans for the future, to sell the Society's publications, as well as other material, and also to invite donations to help pay for work still to be completed. To this end the first group of "stewards" have been briefed and the outline of a Saturday rota has been established. At the time of writing the Saturday morning period 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. only has been covered fully, but it is hoped that very quickly the rota for Saturday afternoon 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. will also be completed. Those who have volunteered, but who have not yet been approached, will be contacted shortly. As soon as experience has been gained a weekday opening will also be arranged. Our special thanks continue to go to Peter How, Ken Beddoe and their team of volunteers, for the splendid work they are doing in the bricklaying, plastering and carpentry departments. The Museum Committee seem to be the only people capable of wielding a paintbrush. There must surely be others who would like to volunteer for this work? For further details concerning any aspects of the Museum, please contact D. Bruce, 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham.

**LEATHERHEAD HISTORY** Mrs Edwina Vardey of The White Cottage, Lower Road, Fetcham, Tel. Leatherhead 73061, the Hon. Editor of the projected history, tells me that at last the three year project of a history book of Leatherhead has been launched. We advertised for helpers in the local paper; a poster was placed in the library (to be transferred later to the Museum window) and a very fruitful piece was inserted in the Parish Magazine. Under technical directors Derek Renn and John Blair, the work has been divided into groups covering each historic period. With Stephen Fortescue the Tudor and Stuart groups have already begun their researches. Teresa Vanneck-Murray leads the Georgian group, and Steve Poulter the Victorian and Edwardian. The 20th century section has not yet met and is in need of a leader. Anyone willing to join any of these groups will be very welcome. Mrs Vardey and her daughter hope to set up a unit to record those senior citizens who have early memories of Leatherhead and the resulting tapes will be stored in the archives. We will be pleased for any helpers with this particular project, too. The book itself is visualised as a popular read within a studious book, and a format has already been designed and approved at our last meeting. We hope to meet again on 5 October to discuss progress.

**ARCHAEOLOGY** I have been asked to bring to members' notice an important Resolution which was passed at the 69th Meeting of the Council for British Archaeology concerning Treasure Hunting, the gist of which was that treasure hunting constituted a threat to the country's archaeological heritage, was thus contrary to the national interest and totally at variance with the objectives and practices of archaeology in studying and safeguarding our tangible past for the public good of present and future generations. The Council recognizes that many users of metal detectors are motivated by a genuine interest in the past and its remains and would not knowingly damage those remains. Such people were welcome to join the active membership of British archaeology, but would have to accept the methods and disciplines of archaeology. The Hon. Legal Adviser underlined the importance of the Theft Act in relation to treasure hunting activities, and the President asked members for details of local cases, as the CBA was compiling a central dossier on the subject.

Members of our Society wishing to participate in an excavation may be interested to know that Mr N.H. Nail, the Chairman of the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society is conducting a dig every Saturday and Sunday during the summer at Whitehall, Cheam. Volunteers could contact Mr Nail either at the site or on 01-643-6610.

For real enthusiasts the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology is holding an important conference on Post-Medieval Ceramics in Bristol from 20-23 September 1979, cost about £130! Details from S. Nelson, Hon. Secretary, Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, 1 Bridge Road, Epsom.

NOTES AND QUERIES Several members responded to the query regarding Barnett Wood Station, pointing out that 'Barnett Wood' and 'Station' were printed in different styles, the former in italics and the latter in bold type. It would seem therefore that the two features appear in a misleading juxtaposition on the map. Mr Coleridge of Axminster remembers in 1932 having an old building pointed out to him by an elderly man who said it was all that remained of the first Leatherhead station. He recalls that the old South Western Station (up side) looked most attractive in its very wooded surroundings, and so unlike the Brighton side which was very utilitarian. The old South Western Station was taken over by Granthams (now Pimms) the furnishers, for a side of their business which was not popularly known, that of scenery painters and providers. They used the old station to store their scenery and often enough there were special goods wagons there which transported it about the country. Mr Alan Gillies, who initiated the query, believes that the original engine shed of the 1859 station, between the railway and recreation ground, is still in use as a garage. Similar comments have been made by Mr R.J. Thomas and Mr J. Topliss, while Mr Bruce quotes an interesting extract from "Victorian Stations" by Gordon Biddle, published by David & Charles, 1973 (pp 124-5): "Tunbridge Wells was sufficiently important to warrant a clocktower crowned by a pyramidal roof and lantern. A smaller but more elaborate version was opened at Leatherhead in 1867, the turret colourfully embellished with a herringbone frieze. A gaily scalloped canopy on foliated brackets sheltered the frontage and the platforms. The ironwork and decorative touches here, at Dorking North and at Box Hill & West Humble (both also 1867) were the work of Charles H. Driver, who also built the Leicester and Hitchin stations. W. Jacomb Hood was responsible for the overall design. All three stations were exceptionally decorative as a condition under which the Mickleham Valley landowners agreed to see to the railway."

Further enquiries on different matters have been received concerning:

(1) F.R. Parrett, Photographer, of Leatherhead. Information is required about him and also George Gamblen, the subject of one of his photographs. Additionally, we have little or no details concerning the other local photographers, Austin Youell and Albert Warren. A note about the ownership of any photographs by any of these three would be welcome.

(2) Charles Bludworth of Thorncroft was buried at Leatherhead on 7 January 1703/4, but there does not seem to be any monument to him in the church or churchyard. Information is required about his son, Charles, born in 1702.

(3) Information is required concerning the origin of the name Tyrrell in Tyrrell's Wood Golf Club.

(4) An Australian believes one of her forebears was educated at "Morden Academy, Leatherhead", in the early years of last century. Any information?

WORK IN PROGRESS In response to a request made in the last Newsletter, I am now able to detail two or three projects:

Mr Keith Poulton of Great Bookham has been asked by the local Management Committee of Bookham Common to discover what he can of the history of the National Trust land. So far he has studied the maps available at Guildford Museum, and Harvey's article in the London Naturalist has been very informative. A collection of photographs of the Common is also being built up, which Mr Poulton will be pleased to show to the Society.

Mr Alan Gillies, under the title Tanners Trades: Sources for Occupational Structure, intends to use a modern grouping as the basis for an investigation into the occupational structure of Leatherhead in 1851, testing the correlation between data derived from the Census abstracts and from a contemporary Directory. The findings (if suitable) will be applied to a study of the Directory data for the parishes which form the present-day Mole Valley District. The nature and coverage of the Directory data will be analysed in the context of the grouping, whose applicability to 19th century data will be assessed. Problems arising from the nature of the original data and of the grouping will be examined in relation to the Mole Valley figures. Figures relating to Dorking will be studied in greater detail. Suggestions will be made regarding the further use of Directories for historical studies of occupational structure and areas in which further research is needed will be indicated.

Mr Gillies, as a secondary and longer term project would like to undertake the comprehensive cataloguing of unpublished Survey Transport Records and

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of published sources dealing with the history of transport in Surrey. This should include material in the national as well as in local collections. Material could range in type from deposited Parliamentary plans and Company minutes to published books, maps etc. It might be necessary, for practical reasons, to limit the study initially to an area such as the Mole Valley District, although this would probably mitigate against the start of urgently needed work at county level.

I shall be writing some more news in the autumn but meanwhile would like to thank all those who have contributed to this Newsletter and hope that members will enjoy the programme of events so far.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Vracas  
Hon. Secretary