

# LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## Chairman

Mr L A Smith, MBE  
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Ashtead  
Ashtead 75466

## Treasurer

Mr H J Mears  
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## Secretary

Miss J Fuller  
2 Siddons House  
Howard Close  
Ashtead  
Ashtead 77876

## NEWSLETTER 2/1981

### ANNUAL MEETING - 13 MARCH 1981

Sixty-eight members attended the Annual Meeting which was taken by the President, Mr J G W Lewarne.

To the Society's very great regret, Mr S E D Fortescue resigned after being Chairman for seven years. Mr Lewarne recalled the Society's many achievements during his years of office, including the acquisition and repair of Hampton Cottage, the steady increase in membership to its present 350, and the publication of the Ashtead History, four Town Trail Leaflets and two Occasional Papers. Mr Fortescue himself had also given an average of 12 lectures a year to a variety of local Societies, as well as writing two books.

However, Mr L A Smith, MBE, had been nominated in his place, and it was with great pleasure that the meeting appointed him. He is well known to members - especially for his work as Clerk of Works for Hampton Cottage.

It is the Executive Committee's privilege to appoint Vice-Presidents, and Mr Smith said the first act of the new Committee would be to appoint Mr Fortescue as one of them.

The rest of the new Committee is as follows:

Treasurer	Mr H J Mears
Assistant Treasurer (responsible for the Museum accounts)	Mr J R Bull
Secretary	Miss J Fuller
Programme Secretary	Mr E S Barnwell
Membership Secretary	Mrs C Barrett
Sales Secretary	Mr G Hayward
Editor	Mr F B Benger
Records Secretary	Mr D Bruce
Librarian	Mr J R Gilbert
Public Relations Secretary	Mr R Winslade
Archaeological Secretary	Mr E S Crossland
Committee Members	(Mr R A Lever (Mr S R C Poulter (Mr N H West, MBE
Co-opted	Mr M A Snellgrove

Mrs M Fuller, who had filled the office of Sales Secretary for several years, had decided to resign. The Society is most grateful to her for all her efforts over the years, and hopes she will enjoy the extra hours of freedom her resignation will give her.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (Mr L A Smith)

At the last Annual Meeting, members decided not to increase the subscription for next year, and while there is no immediate cause for alarm, you will see from the Treasurer's Report below that we are very dependant on voluntary donations.

Other sources of income to which we look for help are the outings and attendance at our lectures by non-members. The visits to private houses which we are able to arrange occasionally, should contribute more to our funds than they have in the past, and we shall be making higher charges for some of them. We shall also be collecting 25p per head from non-members attending our lectures, instead of 10p as at present.

Questions were raised at the Annual Meeting about the cost of printing the Proceedings. We are satisfied that for the quality of the finished product, the cost is reasonable and compares favourably with the cost of printing to the same standard by the off-set litho process.

I hope all members will support the Executive Committee in their efforts to maintain the solvency of the Society while keeping the subscription as low as possible.

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (Mr H J Mears)

It was suggested at the Annual Meeting that a note of how the annual subscription was spent would be of interest to members. The breakdown for 1980 is roughly as follows, assuming that all members paid the full £2 subscription, which was not in fact the case.

	Cost per member	Total cost
	<u>p</u>	<u>£</u>
Postage, stationery and printing (excluding printing the Proceedings)	47	166
Insurance	8	29
Hire of hall for meetings	5	19
Subscriptions to other Societies	4	15
Research expenses (Leatherhead History)	<u>14</u>	<u>50</u>
	78	279
Towards the cost of printing the Proceedings	<u>1.22</u>	<u>430</u>
	<u>£2.00</u>	<u>£709</u>

Actual receipts in respect of members subscriptions for 1980 were £688.

The cost of printing the Proceedings for 1979, paid for and issued to members in 1980, was £822 - £1.83 per copy - and it will be seen, therefore, that to remain solvent we were dependant on donations from members and Local Authorities together with other sources of income such as profits on visits, sales of literature, etc. and bank interest, all of which more than doubled our income.

We also had to find £332 out of our own resources towards the cost of printing the revised edition of the Ashtead History, on top of the loan of £1,000 made to the Society for that purpose. This highlights the need for the Society to build up some reserves to ensure that no worthwhile publication has to be abandoned for lack of finance.

We shall recoup our £332 in due course out of sales of the Ashtead History and we have already paid £700 of the loan, but the figures above do emphasise the importance of donations from members who can afford more than the minimum annual subscription.

To help maximise our income, the Executive Committee have agreed to close our bank deposit account, which is paying 9% interest, and to open a National Savings Investment Account, which will pay 13%.

MEMBERSHIP - From the Membership Secretary, Mrs C Barrett

Membership to date is 308, made up as follows:

Fully paid up members	253
Members paying £2 by reason of omitting to amend their Bankers Order when subscriptions were raised to £3 on 1 January 1981	31
Members paying £1-25 for the same reason. (Subscriptions were raised to £2 in 1971!)	12
Honorary Members	<u>12</u>
	<u>308</u>

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Leatherhead

Mrs K Beddoe

Mr J Cunningham

Great Bookham

Mr T L Roworth

Fetcham

Mrs Griffin

Ashtead

Mr C J Brown

Parson's Mead School

Mr G O J Smewing

Mrs B H Wilks

Once again, may we particularly thank those members who included a donation, either to the Society or the Museum, when paying their subscriptions.

#### LECTURE SECRETARY

The Executive Committee have decided to rationalise the arrangements for meeting requests for speakers from the Society on local history subjects. Mr N H West (2 Beech Close, Effingham - telephone Bookham 54979) has been appointed Lecture Secretary. He will maintain a panel of speakers on which to draw when requests are received.

Mr West will also start to build up a library of slides which can be made available to speakers to illustrate lectures. In this connection, he will be glad to arrange for the copying of any suitable slides which members would be willing to release for a short period.

#### EXCAVATIONS IN THE GARDEN OF HAMPTON COTTAGE

The new Archaeological Secretary, Mr E Crossland, has sent us the following report on his excavations in the garden of Hampton Cottage.

"So far the work done has been confined to the examination of the exterior of the well and a small trench taken out from the well towards the end of the garden. The latter revealed an electric cable, the trench for which has destroyed part of the infilling of chalk rubble around the well itself.

Towards the back of the garden there appears to have been a shed of some kind, as there was the corner of a concrete base at the end of the trench. This was at a depth of 2 feet below the present garden level. Stratification showed that the level has been raised several times in the last century. The filling above the concrete base yielded a number of cut nails (used in flooring), several pieces of electrical apparatus and part of a small glass accumulator. These suggest that the shed may have been connected with the occupation of the cottage by F A Hollis, since he is known to have undertaken the charging of accumulators in the early days of radio. This too could explain the electric cable. Further examination of this area is not possible as it adjoins the flower bed along the northern side of the garden. One other find, however, was a large spanner (19") of the kind used by engineers. This may be a relic from the time of occupation by the Ockenden family; it is certainly not the tool of a radio enthusiast!"

#### PROGRAMME NOTES - From the Programme Secretary (Mr E S Barnwell)

Here is the programme for the remainder of the year.

#### SATURDAY, 4 JULY

We have had a good response to the proposal to re-visit Selborne using our own transport. I understand that parking space is very limited, and would suggest 'doubling up' as much as possible with other members. It would be a good idea to get there early in view of the parking problem. Those who requested transport will be contacted in due course.

#### IMPORTANT.

#### CHANGE OF DATE

Unfortunately, due to other pressing matters, the organisers have not been able properly to arrange the Effingham Walk and so it has been decided to postpone this event until SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER, which is still a good time for an outside event - we shall probably get better weather then. Meet as before - outside the Church at 2.30 pm.

#### SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

We are still open for bookings for the all-day visit to COLCHESTER and CASTLE HEDINGHAM under the guidance of Derek Renn-

#### FRIDAY, 16 OCTOBER

The Annual Dallaway Lecture will be held at 8pm in the Assembly Hall of the City of Freeman's School, Ashted, by kind permission of the Headmaster. The speaker will be VISCOUNTESS HANWORTH and her subject, illustrated with slides, will be "THE PRESENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE OF SURREY IN THE ROMAN PERIOD".

#### FRIDAY, 13 NOVEMBER

An illustrated lecture entitled "A LOOK AT THE SURREY IRON RAILWAY, WITH A SHORT HISTORY" will be presented by Mr E W J CRAWFORTH. Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead, at 8 pm.

Before the evening's programme begins, there will be a Special General Meeting to change Rule 5 of the Society's rules to read:

"The appointment of a President and Vice Presidents shall rest with the Executive Committee".

The present wording of this rule is:

"The appointment of a President (and not more than two Vice Presidents) shall rest with the Executive Committee".

This change will allow the appointment of more than the present number of two Vice Presidents.

FRIDAY, 4 DECEMBER

THE LEATHERHEAD MISCELLANY at the Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead at 8 pm. As usual we should like to hear from members who could give short talks etc., on anything connected with local history. In particular we should like to have the opportunity of seeing some of the slides taken on the Farnham/Basingstoke Canal visit.

FRIDAY, 15 JANUARY 1982

A talk by Mrs O Poulter entitled "IRONS THROUGH THE AGES" - an original subject. The Poulterers have a fantastic collection of Flat-irons of all ages, shapes and sizes. It is hoped they will bring some along and the rest will be shown on slides. At the Red Cross Hall at 8pm.

If you have any queries, please contact the Programme Secretary, Mr E S Barnwell, 16 Eastwick Park Avenue, Great Bookham, telephone Bookham 54947.

Evening Lectures - A PS from the Secretary

The evening lectures at the Red Cross Hall would not be complete without the cup of tea we enjoy at the interval - but unless we can find a volunteer to take charge of organising the actual supplies and the physical making of the tea, we shall have to do without it. Is there someone - lady or gentleman - who would be kind enough to take this job on? Mr Barnwell will explain what is involved, and he looks forward to hearing from you on Bookham 54947.

LIBRARY

This Newsletter includes a list of the books in the Society's library, which has now been moved to the Museum. Books are available for reference by visitors, and in the case of members of the Society, for borrowing, on application to the Society's Librarian, Mr J R Gilbert, 34 Greenacres, Great Bookham, telephone Bookham 54950. A few books are not available for borrowing because their condition makes it undesirable for them to be carried about.

JUNIPER HALL FIELD CENTRE, DORKING

An arrangement has been made under which members of the Society have free access to the Library facilities at Juniper Hall. All that is required is a telephone call to the Centre - Dorking 883849 - to ensure that no conference or meeting is in progress in the Library, and proof of membership of the Society. Any member wishing to use the Library will be given a letter by the Secretary - Miss J Fuller, 2 Siddons House, Howard Close, Ashted, telephone Ashted 77876 - confirming membership.

Mr J R Gilbert has a list of the books available for reference at the Centre.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE Notes from the Sales Secretary

Many of the Society's publications, and those produced by other bodies, are on sale at the Museum. These are as follows:

Four Town Trail Leaflets - Ashted, Leatherhead, Fetcham and The Bookhams.  
Price 10p each, or 30p for the set of four towns

Occasional Paper No. 2 - The Manor of Little Ashted. Price 50p

Proceedings - Many past Editions in stock. Price 50p

Ashted - A Village Transformed. Price £3 to members, £4 to non-members

Spinney School, Bookham (or Life Begins at 80). Price 50p

Surrey History, Volume II, No. I. Price 50p

Proceedings, Volume 4, No.4, Price £2-75 including postage (UK only) to non-members, or as extra copies to members.

Indexes for Volume I and Volume II of the Proceedings are available free to members.

Covers for the Proceedings, large enough to hold a complete volume, are also available, price 30p

The main stocks of all these publications are held by the Sales Secretary, Mr G Hayward, Ypriana, Cobham Road, Fetcham, telephone Leatherhead 72674. If you have any difficulty in obtaining the publications you require, please contact Mr Hayward.

#### LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

Since the re-opening of the Museum in the beginning of April, three exhibitions have been on display. The most spectacular is no doubt that dealing with the Ashtead Potters 1923-1935, produced by Mrs A Elmer, with display work by Mr V Wildgoose. About 40 examples of Ashtead Pottery are on show, many of the pieces being owned by the Society, whilst others are on loan for the exhibition. The other displays concern the Ashtead Roman Villa (staged by Mr D Renn) and the history of the Ashtead Woods (Mr R A Lever). These exhibitions will remain until the end of June, when they will probably be replaced by others - for example, it is possible that Eastwick School, Bookham, will exhibit their "Victorian" project, including dolls, "newspapers" etc.

Volunteers willing to produce an exhibition - on a theme of their choice, occupying one room of the Museum, using Society material if necessary and having the help of Museum and Society officials - would be very welcome and should contact Mr David Bruce, 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham, telephone Bookham 58722.

From time to time the display boards need repainting - or rather, or rather re-emulsifying. The last inch or so left in the bottom of your paint tin, regardless of colour, would be most useful. All contributions can be handed in at Hampton Cottage.

#### Stewarding the Museum

The Museum is open on Thursdays from 10am - 1pm, and on Saturdays, 10am - 4pm, and Stewards usually attend once a month for 3 hours. Some 40 or so members and non-members act as Stewards, many of them having done so for over a year. However, due to other commitments, a few Stewards are finding it necessary to drop out and replacements are required. This is a most interesting job, giving the Stewards an opportunity of meeting the public and other members, and to learn more about Hampton Cottage, the Society and the history of our area. Adequate guidance will be given by the "old hands" and it will be found that the 3 hours pass all too quickly. Volunteers are urgently needed, even if just on an "emergency only" basis. Please telephone David Bruce on Bookham 58722.

#### Friends of the Leatherhead Museum

Membership is now well in excess of 100, and the time has come to call a General Meeting to elect a Committee to take over the running of this very important support to the Museum finances. If anyone would like to help organise this first meeting, would they please telephone David Bruce on Bookham 58722.

#### VISIT TO FARNHAM TOWN AND CASTLE, AND BASINGSTOKE CANAL TRIP

About 50 people enjoyed this day: and even the weather managed to stay fine.

We started from Odiham with a trip along the part of the Basingstoke Canal which the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society has cleared. The County Council's of Surrey and Hampshire bought the stretches of the canal in their counties, after much persuasion from the Canal Society, which is now providing the £625,000 in labour and materials needed to reinstate the canal. The barge in which we "sailed" is owned by the Society whose members manned it and provided us with coffee and drinks on the way.

After lunch in Farnham town, we went to the Castle, now housing the Centre for International Briefing. The guides gave us a most interesting tour of the castle, illustrating how its present use has been fitted so well into the old buildings. Then finally we were met by Mr Godsil and three of his colleagues who are all connected with the Farnham Museum. Each of them took groups round the town giving emphasis to different subjects. We joined the group with the subject of our choice, and after an hour, all met at the Farnham Museum. The museum has a lovely garden and

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there in the summer house, we were served with a very welcome cup of tea, which ended for us a very full and interesting day.

Our thanks to all those who helped to make this day so successful, especially to our Programme Secretary, Mr Barnwell, who arranged it.

1851 CENSUS OF LEATHERHEAD - Notes from Mr Alan Gillies

Further to the note in Newsletter No 2/79, it appears from an initial sample investigation that there is little or no correlation between the occupational structure of Leatherhead as derived from the census abstracts, and from a contemporary directory. This is not altogether surprising and, when verified from a more detailed study, the results could be of significance in the assessment of directory data as source material. Work to date, however, has indicated the great wealth of the census abstract as source material and has suggested various possibilities for studying the history of Leatherhead at the mid-nineteenth century. Alan Gillies - Ashtead 74616 - would be pleased to discuss his plans with anyone who might be interested in assisting with research in this field. In particular, help would be appreciated in preparing data for subsequent stages of analysis.

SECRETARY'S ADDRESS

Would you please note that as from 1 July 1981, the Secretary's address will be:

2 Siddons House  
Howard Close  
Ashtead  
Telephone: Ashtead 77876

Please do not hesitate to write, telephone or call if there is any way in which Miss Fuller can help you. She is also on duty at the Museum on the third Saturday in the month from 1 - 4 pm.

Joyce Fuller  
2 Siddons House  
Howard Close  
Ashtead

15 June 1981

## LEATHERHEAD &amp; DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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