

# LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## Chairman

Mr L A Smith, MBE  
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Glebe Road  
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Ashtead 75466

## Treasurer

Mr H J Mears  
43 The Glade  
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## Secretary

Miss J Fuller  
2 Siddons House  
Howard Close  
Ashtead  
Ashtead 77876

NEWSLETTER 3/81

NOVEMBER 1981

Dear Members

## VICE-PRESIDENTS

At a Special General Meeting held on Friday, 13 November, the rules of the Society were amended to allow the Committee to appoint "A President and Vice-Presidents", thus removing the restriction of being able to appoint two Vice-Presidents only. As a result of this change, the Executive Committee has been able to appoint the Society's past Chairman, Mr Stephen Fortescue, a Vice-President: an appointment which, happily for us, he has accepted. We are very pleased that once more Mr Fortescue holds office in the Society.

## ALAN CHRISTIAN AND JOHN LUDFORD

It is with great regret that we report the death of two of our best known members.

Alan Christian - From Mr L A Smith

News of the death of Alan Christian in October must have come as a great shock to the many members of the Society who knew him, especially to those of us who had the privilege of working with him on the restoration of Hampton Cottage.

Shortly after he retired from his job as an Insurance Surveyor, Alan's eyesight began to fail and it was not possible for him to accept the job of supervising the restoration works, but throughout the whole period from the purchase of the property by the Society until shortly before his death, he was a regular attender, helping the work along in whatever way he could.

Always cheerful and ever helpful, Alan was the person we all looked to for many small services and he kept us all properly organised at all times. His contribution was invaluable, not least of all in the later stages when he advised us on security measures and we feel that we have lost a part of ourselves because he was so much a part of the team.

Our sympathies go out to his widow, Muriel, and to their family.

John Ludford - From Mr J Parry

We had the pleasure of knowing John Ludford since he became a member in 1949. He died in November, aged 65, and our sympathy is extended to his wife, Margaret.

John was born in Leatherhead and attended Dorking Grammar School. During the war he drove an ambulance as a volunteer driver, and took a degree from London University in his spare time. After the war, he joined the firm of Hart Scales & Hodges (Solicitors) in Leatherhead, eventually becoming a Partner of that firm. He was also Clerk of United Charities, which runs almshouses in Church Walk, Leatherhead. Well known and well respected by everyone, he will be very greatly missed.

## JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

A suggestion has been made by a member that, to encourage your people to join the Society, a reduced subscription should be offered to them. The Committee are in favour of this, and have suggested that a subscription of £1 for members under 18 years of age should be introduced, which would entitle them to attend meetings and receive the Newsletter but not the Proceedings. The Society has at present no minimum age requirement but equally it offers no reduced subscription for young members. The Committee would be glad to hear members' views on this, so please contact the Chairman or Secretary and let them know what you feel. If support is substantial, a proposal will be put at the Annual Meeting to change the rules so that a junior subscription can be introduced.

MEMBERSHIP

Mrs C Barrett, the Membership Secretary, gives this information:

Total membership to date	338, made up of:
Fully paid up members	284
Honorary Members	13
Members paying £2 by reason of omitting to amend their Banker's Orders to the new subscription	28
Members paying £1-25 for the same reason	13

We should like to welcome the following new members:

Ashtead

Mrs D Harrison  
Mr P Mackintosh  
Mrs S Seager-Thomas  
Mr J Stansfield

Great Bookham

Mrs G M Alexander  
Miss R C Lock  
Mrs S J Lepine-Smith

Leatherhead

Mr S Fortune  
Mr H Simmons  
Mr R J J Skinner

Fetcham

Mrs H M Pritchard

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1982

This is the last Newsletter in 1981, so may we give you an early reminder that subscriptions will be due on 1 January 1982. As agreed at the Annual Meeting in 1981, the subscription remains at £3 for this year. A remittance slip is attached to help you in sending your cheque to us. If you pay by Banker's Order and are one of the 41 members who have not altered them to the current subscription, PLEASE, PLEASE will you alter them now.

PUBLIC RELATIONS SECRETARY

Mr R Winslade, our Public Relations Secretary, has unfortunately had to resign owing to pressure of work and a resulting lack of time. We should like to thank him for his help since his election at the last Annual Meeting.

We are therefore asking if anyone amongst our members would be prepared to take on this job. It involves not only the advertising of coming events, and all this means in distributing posters etc, but also the sending of write-ups of our past events to the press immediately after they have been held, so that our activities are more widely publicised.

Would any volunteers please ring either the Chairman or the Secretary: we shall be very glad to hear from you.

MUSEUM

The successful Ashtead Potters exhibition remained on view until the end of September (even now many examples of their work are on almost permanent display) and has been followed by an exhibition showing by way of many reproductions of old paintings, etchings and photographs, the changes that have occurred in and around St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham - this has been staged by Stephen Fortescue. A brief display, in the middle room, of samples of the Eastwick School, Bookham, projects was followed by the story of the Polesden Lacey Open Air Theatre, and this in turn has now been succeeded by John Blair's "Early Leatherhead", based on his new Occasional Paper.

The Museum will again close for the winter months - that is, from just before Christmas until the beginning of April, and already the exhibitions for next year are being planned and will probably include one of the Natural History of the area. Why not take on the production of one dealing with a local subject that particularly interests you - transport, a stately home, a favourite family? Or a local craft or industry? Contact David Bruce on Bookham 58722 for help and advice.

STEWARDS FOR THE MUSEUM

Mr Ralph Hume - 8 Highlands Avenue, Leatherhead, telephone Leatherhead 74520 - is now organising the Stewards for Hampton Cottage. There is a great shortage of them, partly due to the fact that some of the original Stewards had worked at the Museum for a long time and have asked for a break. Mr Hume has appealed for at least six more volunteers to be on duty on either Saturdays - mornings from

10am to 1pm, afternoons from 1pm to 4pm - or on Thursdays, mornings only. The Secretary herself has been on duty on the third afternoon of each month for over two years. She can vouch for the time being spent in a most interesting and enjoyable way - meeting members of the Society and visitors (many of them children fascinated by the cottage and its exhibitions). Please do contact Mr Hume if you can spare a little time to help at the Museum - the hours there pass very quickly.

#### PROGRAMME NOTES

Mr E S Barnwell, our Programme Secretary, has again produced an interesting and varied programme for the next few months. All meetings at Leatherhead Red Cross Hall.

#### Friday, 15 January 1982

A talk by Mrs O Poulter entitled "IRONS THROUGH THE AGES": an original subject. It is hoped that Mr & Mrs Poulter will bring along some of their extensive collection of Flat-irons of all shapes and sizes, and will show the rest on slides. (Ladies - when you have seen some of these irons, you will be so thankful for your modern electric steam irons! JF)

#### Friday, 12 February 1982

An illustrated lecture entitled "SURREY'S BARN HERITAGE", to be given by Mrs J Morgan of Little Bookham. Mrs Morgan has made a detailed study of Barns in the district.

#### Friday, 19 March 1981

A return visit by Mr L W D Lloyd of Esher: this time to give an illustrated lecture on the RIVER WEY. His last lecture on the River Mole was much enjoyed - in fact we had a record attendance at the Red Cross Hall, so come early.

#### Saturday, 27 March 1982

A visit to BRIDGEFOOT FARM, RIPLEY, by kind permission of the owners, Mr & Mrs D Berliand. Bridgefoot Farm, a Jacobean Farmhouse c.1630, is situated just before Ripley Village (coming from Leatherhead) on the right hand side of the bridge over the stream. Meet at the farm at 2.30pm. Limited to first 30 applicants. Booking form attached to this Newsletter

#### Friday, 23 April 1982

An illustrated lecture by Mr J Sykes of Oxshott about EASTER ISLAND. Mr Sykes is a much-travelled gentleman with a keen interest in history and geography. Easter Island is of course a bit of a mystery, and although not exactly local history, nevertheless promises to be a most interesting event.

#### Annual General Meeting

It has been decided to hold the Annual General Meeting a little later next year and a provisional date of 16 April has been arranged. Formal confirmation of this, and the venue, will be given in the next Newsletter.

#### Forthcoming Attractions

We are delighted to announce that Miss Joan Harding, who needs no introduction, has consented to present our 1982 Dallaway Lecture next October. More about this later.

We have several excursions in mind for the summer months, including an all day visit to Portsmouth. Our Programme Committee is working on these and full details will appear in the next Newsletter. Meanwhile if anyone has any ideas for further visits (or criticisms of any kind) now is the time to speak. Telephone Mr E S Barnwell, Bookham 54947.

#### PUBLICATIONS - From Geoffrey Hayward

To receive the last issue of the Proceedings of the Society, it is necessary that the member's full subscription of £3 has been paid for 1981. If any non-member wishes to buy a copy, the price is £2-75.

Although some gaps exist, we have large stocks of earlier Proceedings which now sell at only 50 pence each. A golden opportunity is presented to members to acquire earlier numbers with a view to building up a complete set back to 1947. The Sales Secretary - Geoffrey Hayward, Ypriana, Cobham Road, Fetcham, telephone Leatherhead 72674 - would like to hear from members who would be interested in having a photo copy of Proceedings which are no longer in stock. It should be possible to make these available at cost, so please place an order.

John Blair's Occasional Paper No.3 "The Early Town of Leatherhead", is available to members at £1, non-members at £1-20. Every member should have one of these before stocks begin to be depleted by outside sales.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

Our Archaeological Secretary, Mr E A Crossland, has been very busy recently, both in Hampton Cottage and around. He has sent us the following report:

### "Hampton Cottage Garden

The two trenches on the outside of the well have now been filled and John Wall informed. He has undertaken to tell Mr Wicks, so that the paving stones can be laid. When that has been done and a firm foundation put around the top of the well, I shall be able to arrange for lifting gear to be erected in preparation for digging out the rest of the filling.

As a result of my membership of the Surrey Archaeological Society's Excavation Liaison Committee, I have been in contact with Reg Wood, who is in effect the SAS well expert. He has seen the well and thinks it could be contemporary with the cottage. If he is not using it himself, he may be able to let me have some gear for working inside the well. In any case he will advise me on how to proceed and will probably assist with the digging.

Also through the SAS ELC, I have sent to John Janaway of Godalming, samples of the beer bottle pieces from the filling, as he has considerable knowledge of the bottle manufacturing industry and may be able to date the bottles for me. Tentatively he agrees with me that this is likely to be the end of the 19th century.

In December I am to visit a retired building worker with a lifetime experience of well digging and repair.

Another item may be of interest to members - not, however, from a source within the Society's area, though near by. When walking through Sheepleas, West Horsley, earlier this year, I found on the footpath a worked flint which has been established as a Neolithic end scraper. The find spot is approximately one kilometre due west of a flint working floor excavated by Commander Todd in 1949 and reported in SAC Vol. 51, page 142, and Vol. 52, Page 11. (Incidentally, the index to Volumes 39 to 66 wrongly describe the site as a Neolithic flint MINE, due no doubt to the report also describing the excavation at the same time of an adjacent medieval flint mine.) Perhaps the tool could be put on exhibition in the Museum until such time as we can show flint tools from within our area."

Mr Crossland has also been doing some interesting research at Givons Grove, in a property belonging to Mr Letts, the garden of which is bounded on the east side by a public footpath from Mickleham to Leatherhead. Mr Crossland will be returning to this site a little later, and we hope then to have a full report of his findings.

## RECORDS

### The Ashtead Family of Aubrey

The Society has received an enquiry regarding the Aubrey family. Volume 1, Number 6 of the Proceedings states on Page 3 that "Work has been done on the histories of the following Ashtead families, and information on them has been collected from various sources: (a) The Aubreys, 1272-1409".

The four other names are not in alphabetical order, so it might be assumed that the Aubrey research ranked highest in the writer's estimation, but unfortunately no trace of this can be found in the Society's records.

Only two other brief mentions of the family are recorded on the Society's index cards. The first refers to John, son of Richard Aubrey of Ehstede, granting 10d annually to the House of Scholars, c.1270 (Merton College Oxford, Calendar of Deeds, Surrey, 655). The second is taken from "Chertsey Cartularies", Surrey Record Society XII, Vol. II, page 2, page 370, and mentions Richard Aubrey, Juror, 1333.

Please advise the Record Secretary (David Bruce, 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham, telephone Bookham 58722) of any information you may have concerning this family, or of the whereabouts of the above-mentioned research documents.

## LEATHERHEAD HISTORY

Mrs Linda Heath, who is researching for the Leatherhead History project, has sent this appeal for information:

"I should be extremely grateful for any information about the following items in connection with the history of the schools in Leatherhead:

1. Any information from anyone who attended or knows anyone connected with the British School, behind the old Congregational Church in North Street, in the rooms used for the Sunday School.
2. Any information from anyone who attended the National School for Boys in Highlands Road; the National School for Girls in Poplar Road; or the Infant

School on Gravel Hill, Upper Fairfield Road.

- 3. Any information on any of the private schools which used to exist in Leatherhead, eg either references to them, or prospectus forms or advertisements.
- 4. Any possible source of information for the assertion in Pigots Dictionary of 1832-1839 that there was a free school in Leatherhead for 10 boys, founded and endowed in 1596. I can find no authority for this anywhere else.

If anyone can help with any of these matters, I should be most grateful."

Mrs Heath's address is: 5 St John's Avenue, Leatherhead, telephone Leatherhead 72603.

LIBRARY

The Librarian, Mr J R Gilbert, has asked if members who own specialist books which they would be willing to loan for short periods to other members asking for them, would let him know. He can then keep a list of "owners" who can be contacted when their particular book is sought. Mr Gilbert's address is 34 Greenacres, Great Bookham, telephone Bookham 54956.

RAILWAYS

Railways have certainly been "in the news" recently.

Members - particularly those who travel by British Rail through Leatherhead Station - will be interested to know that, through the efforts of Mr James, the Stationmaster, Leatherhead Railway Station has been listed as a building of historic interest.

And secondly, at the Society's meeting on 13 November, Mr Crawforth gave a fascinating talk on the Surrey Iron Railway which came into being in 1801. This was the horse-drawn goods train which ran from Wandsworth to Croydon, with a spur line to Hackbridge, and later on through to Merstham and Redhill. To a mere woman, the engineering system for the track looked highly unsafe! But as the train travelled only at the walking pace of a horse, it obviously managed to survive and carry its goods until the winding up of the railway in about 1876. Mr Crawforth's slides to illustrate his lecture must have taken him many years of research and photography - he is indeed a dedicated railwayman.

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May we wish members and their families a very happy Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. At the same time, may we thank all those who have helped us over the past year, in great or small ways. We are most grateful - the Society would not exist without such help.

Joyce Fuller  
November 1981

BOOKING SLIP Please return to E S Barnwell, 16 Eastwick Park Avenue,  
Great Bookham, KT23 3ND

Saturday, 27 March 1982. Afternoon visit to BRIDGEFOOT FARM, RIPLEY

I should like to be included in this visit. I can give lifts/Require transport  
I ENCLOSE STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE (Preferably foolscap)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SUBSCRIPTION REMITTANCE SLIP

To: Mrs C Barrett, The Glen, Guildford Road, Great Bookham  
telephone Bookham 52937

I enclose my subscription of £3 for the year 1982.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_