

# LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER 3/82

DECEMBER 1982

Dear Member,

As this is the last Newsletter of the year, may I begin by wishing all members and their families a very happy Christmas and the best of everything for the New Year. We hope you will all be well and happy.

## MEMBERSHIP

The total membership of the Society is now 320, made up as follows:

Fully paid up	272
Honorary Members	14
Junior Members	2
Paying £1-25	12
Paying £2	20

We are very pleased to welcome our first two Junior Members, both from Ashtead. They are:

J C Stanton - aged 14  
Elizabeth Gilchrist - aged 12

We also welcome the following new senior members:

<u>Leatherhead</u>	<u>Bookham</u>	<u>Ashtead</u>	<u>Dorking</u>
Miss J E Hind	Mrs A M Cannon	Mr & Mrs C D	Mrs V Ettlinger
Miss K Iles	Mrs J Godfrey	Marsland	

## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1983

May we remind you that subscriptions for 1983 are due on 1 January and that they will be at the increased amount of £4 agreed at the last Annual General Meeting. If you pay by Banker's Order, a form is included with this letter to help you get the new amount registered with your Bank NOW. We still have some members paying £1-25 and others paying £2, and we should be more than grateful if they in particular would sign a new Banker's Order for the current amount.

Junior subscriptions remain at £1.

Money should be sent to the Membership Secretary: Mrs C Barrett, The Glen, Guildford Road, Bookham, or to the Treasurer or Secretary.

## PROGRAMME FOR THE WINTER MONTHS

All lectures are at the Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead, starting at 8pm.

### Friday, 14 January 1983

Mrs Marion Hinton, Heritage Officer of the Kingston-upon-Thames Museum Heritage Centre, will give us an illustrated talk on "The History of the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames", with particular reference to archaeological operations.

### Friday, 25 February

An illustrated talk by Mrs V G Steward of the Holmesdale Society, entitled "Historic Reigate". Hopefully we shall be able to follow this up in the summer with a walk round Reigate. Details later.

### Friday, 15 April

The Annual General Meeting. Details will be given in our next Newsletter.

Friday, 22 April

A lecture by Mr Nigel Coates - "Godalming : A Town in Trust", illustrated on film. Mr Coates is Secretary of the Godalming Trust.

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Mrs Gilbert and her helpers will serve tea and biscuits at each of these talks.

We have several outdoor ventures in mind for the summer and complete details will appear in the next Newsletter. A booking form will be included so that you can reserve your places on them.

SOME NOTES ON PAST MEETINGS

The Dallaway Lecture : 15 October

What a splendid speaker is Miss Joan Harding, who, with scarcely a note, gave a very large audience a most interesting and entertaining lecture on "The Restless House", illustrated with slides and a group of very detailed model houses. We are most grateful to her for a memorable evening.

We also thank the City of London Freemen's School for allowing us the use of their lecture hall once more; and our thanks to the students from the school who acted as car park attendants, stewards and coffee makers : with such a large audience they were kept very busy.

"Leatherhead Hospital" : 19 November

Nearly seventy members attended this meeting and thoroughly enjoyed a most entertaining talk on the history of Leatherhad Hospital, by Dr R Gilbert, one of our members. He journeyed from Bognor, where he now lives, to give us this talk, which he illustrated with many slides and a tape of an amusing musical "ditty" provided by the medical staff of the hospital.

PUBLICATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

We can supply a continuous run of the Proceedings from 1966 to 1981 inclusive. We also have a few left for the years 1951, 1953, 1954 and 1955. These are all offered at 50p each except for the 1980 issue, which is £1, and 1981 (£3).

A Christmas package from this stock may not only be a pleasant surprise for someone, but is as good as a donation to the Society's funds.

Other items for sale are:

- Occasional Paper No 2 - The Manor of Lower Ashtead 50p
- Occasional Paper No 3 - Early Leatherhead £1-00
- Ashtead - a Village Transformed £4 - £3 to members
- People and Places - Great & Little Bookham 3-00
- Life Begins at Eighty - The Spinney School, Bookham 50p
- Leaflets for Ashtead, Bookham, Fetcham & Leatherhead 10p each or four for 30p

These are on sale at the Museum whilst it is still open - otherwise ring Geoff Hayward on Leatherhead 372674.

Surrey History - A long-standing member of our Society has for a number of years purchased ten current Surrey History booklets and donated them to us for sale. In this way he not only helps the Society, but endeavours to perpetuate the publication of this excellent journal. The current issue can be purchased at the Museum for £1 (shop price £1-25). Geoff Hayward now has a stock of back numbers of Surrey History, except for the first one. These are at various prices from 50p to £1. Please ring him at Leatherhead 372674 to order, or call at Ypriana, 173b Cobham Road, Fetcham (week-ends only).

MATHEMATICAL TILES

We have been fortunate in being able to borrow from Mr Maurice Exwood of the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, his exhibition entitled "Mathematical Tiles - A Georgian Masquerade". Well illustrated with maps and photographs of examples of this construction in Ewell and Epsom it also includes many specimens of individual tiles from many parts of the country. Just recently we have become aware of our only so far discovered example of a building partly hung with these mock-brick

tiles in our area, namely Cannons Court, Fetcham. Surrey County Council, the owners, are seeking to replace them with modern tiles - our Vice-President, Derek Renn, is in correspondence with them regarding the matter. The exhibition will stay at the Museum only until Christmas, and the chance to become acquainted with this interesting architectural oddity should not be missed.

#### ART EXHIBITION AND SALE AT HAMPTON COTTAGE

Vernon Wildgoose, whose layout of the Society's displays at the Surrey Symposium etc, is greatly admired, has also organised the Bookham/Fetcham Art Group 81 for skilled and learner artists, which meets regularly at the Old Barn Hall, Bookham. We have invited his Club to exhibit and sell their work at the Museum, and the paintings which it is hoped will consist mainly of local scenes, will be on display until just before Christmas. It is planned that Hampton Cottage will be opened more frequently than usual, perhaps even daily during that period - details from Vernon Wildgoose on Leatherhead 374222. Needless to say, the Hon Curator has arranged with Vernon that a commission on sales will be paid to the Museum, so here is your chance to encourage the Arts, decorate your home and support the Museum - all at one and the same time.

#### MUSEUM STEWARDS

The Society wishes to thank the two Chief Stewards, Messrs Hume and Parry, and their enthusiastic bands of Stewards for their invaluable assistance, for without their collective support the Museum would not be able to open. The last day of regular opening this year will be Saturday, 18 December, and the Museum will re-open on Friday, 8 April 1983. It is hoped that all the present Stewards will continue the good work next year, and that they will be joined by anyone who can give three hours once a month either on Friday or Saturday morning, or on Saturday afternoon.

#### MUSEUM PROGRAMME FOR 1983

When Hampton Cottage reopens in 1983, Messrs Renn and Crossland plan to stage an exhibition on "The Mounts" archaeological excavations undertaken by this Society, together with the Surrey Archaeological Society in 1947-1949. The site was identified as that of the thirteenth century manor house of Pachesham Magna and extensive reports appeared in the early issues of the Proceedings. Recently Derek Renn has reviewed the evidence in the light of up-to-date knowledge and his findings will be published shortly by the Surrey Archaeological Society, but no doubt the exhibition will reflect any discoveries he has made.

Other exhibitions will be prepared - any suggestions? Please ring David Bruce on Bookham 58722.

#### THE "FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM"

The date of the Dinner/Lecture planned for 1983 has been fixed for Tuesday 19 April 1983, at the Old Barn Hall, Great Bookham. Stephen Fortescue (Leatherhead 372847) is still waiting to hear from potential helpers and it is hoped that members will not wait for the "press gang" before they volunteer their services. Bookham, awake!

#### GOING ON HOLIDAY?

Society member John Read found himself with a lifetime's collection of guidebooks to stately homes, churches, Roman villas, etc, and suggested they might form the basis of a service to members if they collection was made available at the Museum. To this end, he has provided a suitable book in which they are housed, divided into the various counties. Roberta McNulty has recently added a considerable number of other guide books to the collection which is now quite comprehensive. Before going on holiday, members are invited to dip into the box and borrow any of the booklets that interests them - it has been suggested that when doing so they might like to pop a small donation into one of the collection boxes to be found in the Museum.

Yours sincerely  
Joyce Fuller - Secretary