

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President: Mr J G W Lewarne

Chairman

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Ashtead 77876

NEWSLETTER 2/85

MRS M RUBY and MR S G NASH - From Mr J G W Lewarne

It is with deep regret that the deaths are reported of two of our long standing members.

MRS MARION RUBY was the widow of Mr A T Ruby, who was associated with the foundation of the Society in 1946. He was Honorary Secretary for twelve years and in 1959 he became Chairman, a position he held until his death in 1968. Mrs Ruby, who supported her husband throughout, was a lady of great charm. She was ^{inclined} ~~interested~~ towards the arts, particularly in the field of music, in which she was an accomplished pianist.

MR S G NASH was also an early member of the Society and displayed great enthusiasm both in excavation work and documentary research. He was responsible for the discovery of the Bell Lane site in Fetcham. After his marriage, he moved to Somerset where he did good work with the Somerset Archaeological Society. However, he never lost interest in the Leatherhead area or the Society, and frequently communicated with the writer, contributing reminiscences of the district and pictures and other items for the Museum. He never recovered from the death of his wife in 1983, which was a very severe blow to him.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : Friday, 29 March 1985

This meeting was a very "quiet" affair attended by only 46 members. All the reports presented to the meeting were accepted by those present. Immediately before the AGM a Special General Meeting approved in principle the introduction of a "Husband & Wife" subscription, entitling both partners to all rights of membership but to one set of papers only. At the AGM the subscriptions were agreed. The ordinary one will remain at £4 in 1986, and the new double subscription will be £6. This new subscription has already encouraged more members to join, and it should help to stop the slow but steady annual decrease in membership.

The following Committee was elected:

Chairman	- Mr L A Smith, MBE	Programme Secretary	- No appointment
Secretary & Membership Secretary	- Miss J Fuller	Sales Secretary	- Mr G Hayward
Treasurer	- Mr H J Mears	Library Secretary	- Mr J R Gilbert
Museum Treasurer	- Mr J R Bull	Archaeology Secretary	- Mr E A Crossland
Museum Curator	- Mr D Bruce	Lecture Secretary	- Mr N H West, MBE
Editor	- Dr D F Renn, FSA	Committee Members:	
Record Secretary	- Mr E Marsh		- Mr R A Lever, ED, BSc, FLS
			- Mr S R C Poulter

A list of their names and addresses is enclosed for your retention.

As you will see, we still have no-one to help us plan the Society's lectures and visits. If any are to be arranged, presumably the small Sub-Committee consisting of members from the Executive Committee which has been trying to cope, will have to continue to do so: but this results in too few people trying to do too many things, with the irritations and omissions that can result. By the attendance we get at all our

events, members obviously enjoy them. So, out of our 200 members, isn't there SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE, who will help us to arrange them? If you can just organise one lecture or one visit we should be delighted to hear from you.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 27 JULY - Visit to Stoke D'Abernon Manor

This visit, to be led by Mr L A Smith, was quickly filled. Please let the Secretary know if you have booked and then find you cannot come - there are still one or two members on the waiting list.

SATURDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER - Visit to Horsley Towers

Horsley Towers, once the home of the Lovelace family, is now the Training Establishment of the Electricity Council. The Principal of the Establishment is Mr H G Knowles, whom we are pleased to have as one of our members, and he has volunteered to conduct us round parts of the house. Please meet at 2.30pm outside the house. The entrance is a little way down Ockham Road South (not through the 'Fortified Gate' near the garage). A booking form is enclosed: the party will be restricted to 35 and a charge of 50p per person will be made.

SUNDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER - 'Walk' for Juniors only

Mr Crossland will take another 'Walk' round the Leatherhead area for Junior members, with a route as different as possible from last year's. It will be on Sunday, 22 September and will leave the Museum at 2pm IF the weather is not too appalling: if it is, Mr Crossland has other plans up his sleeve.

If you would like to take part, please get in touch with Mr Crossland. His address is Oldberrow, 13 Clockhouse Mead, Oxshott, telephone Oxshott 2589. You and as many of your friends as you like to bring are most welcome - but definitely NO senior members.

FRIDAY, 18 OCTOBER - The Dallaway Lecture

This lecture will be given by Mr J C Mervyn Blatch, who will talk on "Great Cathedrals in Europe". He is an authority on churches and cathedrals and has published books on the subject.

The venue is the Lecture Hall of the City of London Freeman's School in Ashted Park, by kind permission of the Headmaster, Mr Kemp. Coffee will be served at 7.45pm before the meeting which will start at 8.15pm. Questions will follow directly after the lecture.

The two following lectures will be given at the Red Cross Hall, Oaks Close, Leatherhead. Coffee will be served at 7.45pm and the lecture start at 8.15pm. During coffee any necessary items about the Society or its activities will be announced.

FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER - "The City of London"

This talk will be given by Mr Geoffrey Gollin, who needs no introduction to members. He is a regular contributor to the Proceedings and brings great knowledge and enthusiasm to all his lectures.

FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER - "Christmas Miscellany"

Our annual evening of short talks by our members themselves. If you can contribute an item to this evening, please get in touch with the Chairman, Mr L A Smith, on Ashted 75466. We need as wide a range of subjects as possible.

Mrs Gilbert, who organises the coffee for all our meetings, will be looking for donations of mince pies to go with the coffee.

THE LIBRARY - From Mr J R Gilbert

The Society's Library has been transferred from the Museum to a room in the Leatherhead Institute (first door on the left as you enter by the front door).

Our Library shares a room with Leatherhead Institute library and both are open as follows:

Tuesdays - 2.30pm to 5pm
Thursdays - 10am to 12.30pm
~~FRIDAYS~~ ~~Saturdays~~ - 2.30pm to 5pm

The Society's Library has been augmented by a number of books generously bequeathed by our late Editor, Frank Benger, and by other books kindly donated by his Executors.

In consideration of the space made available for the Society's library at the Institute, members of the Society are acting as stewards for both libraries in the above periods. At present all the stewarding is being done by light of the Society's members. Any other member who would like to help is invited to get in touch with the Society's Librarian, Mr J R Gilbert, telephone Bookham 54956.

Mr Liam Sumption is in charge of these stewards once they have volunteered, and is responsible for working out a roster to fit in with their convenience and the needs of the libraries. He is managing well with the people he has, but the more volunteers there are the less time each of us will have to give to it. It is very interesting and if you find you have time on your hands during your duty period, there is always a good book to read!

Book repair

Some of our books are sadly in need of repair or rebinding, either of which would be very expensive if done professionally.

Have we a member who is able to do this kind of work, or knows someone who can, who would be willing to help us, Alternatively, would any member or group of members be willing to adopt a book and raise the money needed for professional repair.

If so, please contact Mr J R Gilbert, Bookham 54956, who will gladly provide further information.

MUSEUM - From David Bruce

Opening in April after the usual winter closure, the Museum had as its main display, maps and texts expounding Dr John Blair's theories concerning the origins of the early layout of the centre of Leatherhead and its subsequent development. This was followed at the end of June by a splendid display by the Fire Brigades of Surrey Preservation Trust which took over most of the building for two weekends. Now there is an extensive exhibition by May Cree on the history of Leatherhead's pubs, past and present, which will fill most of the wallspace of the ground floor. Mrs Cree gallantly visited every pub, and has been able to borrow several items of interest. The exhibition will be on show for about three months.

Other activities of note concerned two presentations; firstly a garden seat in memory of Chris Slingsby who had been Secretary of the Bookham & Fetcham WEA, and keenly interested in local history; and the other, the steering wheel of Donald Campbell's record-breaking Bluebird, given by his daughter Gina Campbell. The wheel, splendidly mounted with photographs and text by Lewis Vardey, is to be seen in the middle room upstairs. Both presentations, which received press coverage, took place in the garden, thanks to the efforts of Geoff Hayward and his team who worked mightily to get the dwarf brick walls built, and the York stone paving laid in time. All is now neat and tidy, although a few square yards of paving is still missing - this will have to be bought if we are not given the odd bits of York stone by our members or the public. Thanks are also due to all those who gave plants to enliven the new flower beds.

CECIL PIKE

It is with great regret that we record the death in May 1985 of Cecil Pike, one of the band of retired gentlemen who took over the final restoration of Hampton Cottage when the professional builder had completed the main structure. Cecil willingly and cheerfully turned his hand to any task allotted to him, but in particular he constructed the small wall that encloses the light front garden.

A HEAD GARDENER NEEDED

Now that the rear garden is finally set out, we need someone who would like to take on the mantle of "Head Gardener". They would not necessarily be expected to do all the work themselves, but at least follow the overall plan agreed with the Museum Committee and co-ordinate the work of other helpers to that end. For example, the plants should, one would think, need to be of a "cottage garden" type with herbs and aromatic flowers of a neat habit. Anyone interested in being "Head Gardener" or "Assistant Gardener" - please contact the Hon Curator, David Bruce, Bookham 58722, or leave a note at the Museum.

A STRIPED BLAZER

A certain local dramatic society has been given for its "props" basket a splendid City of London Freeman's School blazer, complete with an elaborate breast pocket badge. This they may be willing to pass over to us for our collection, provided we can replace it with one or more equally colourful substitutes. So if anyone has such an article they do not want, either large boy's or man's size, please contact the Hon Curator (Bookham 58722).

REMINDERS OF A BY-GONE AGE

A recent article in another Society's Newsletter, concerning an old corn and seed merchants shop "with various coloured grains and seeds arranged against the window in geometrical patterns, reminiscent of the coloured sand souvenirs from the Isle of Wight", set one wondering whether there were any truly "old fashioned" shops left in the Leatherhead (& District) area. Frequently they are tucked away, and are unnoticed by the passing motorist. If you know of such a shop, workshop or office, which would be worth having recorded before it is sold, gutted and "improved", or knocked down, please leave details in the Museum or phone the Curator (David Bruce) at Bookham 58722.

REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK - From Mr E A Crossland

Several members of the Society attended the Surrey Archaeological Society's Symposium at Dorking, and meetings of that Society's Roman Villas Group. Help has been given to excavations at Dorking to determine the location of the Romano-British settlement possibly adjacent to Stane Street. So far no evidence of structures has been found but pottery and burnt daub show that there must have been occupation near St Martin's Church.

Four members worked over the Easter week-end on the newly discovered Iron Age enclosure at Felday near Holmbury St Mary. Few artefacts have been found but the date is almost certainly the end of the first century BC. From the bottom of the ditch to the top of the inner bank as originally constructed is likely to have been approximately 10 metres and it is still an impressive sight.

The report on the pottery found in the drainage ditch of the M25 near Pebble Lane (Stane Street) has now been received. The Roman grey ware is late 2nd century or early 3rd, similar to that made at Alice Holt near Farnham. The Iron Age material is La Tene style with parallels with produce from the West Hoathly (Sussex) kiln, ie middle to Late Iron Age. There were also burnt clay pieces from triangular loom weights and animal bones from ox, pig and sheep.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

Preliminary notice has been received that the 1985 Symposium will be held at Guildford University on Saturday, 16 November 1985, the theme being "Road, Air and Rail".

Mrs Mary Rice-Oxley is organising our exhibit there and would like to hear from anyone who has relevant material they would be willing to loan for it. Her address is Sturminster, Effingham Common Road, Effingham, telephone Bookham 53285.

From an "audience" point of view, the only information we have about the Symposium at the moment is that tickets will be available in advance from the Surrey Voluntary

Service Council's office at Jenner House, 2 Jenner Road, Guildford; and that it will not be possible to serve coffee!

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

After many years of representing the Society's interests on the Executive Committee of the Surrey Local History Society, Mr J G W Lewarne, our President, has now resigned. Our thanks to him for all his work on our behalf.

We are grateful to Mr E A Crossland, our Archaeology Secretary, for taking over Mr Lewarne's place on the Committee.

VISIT TO THE WEALD & DOWNLAND MUSEUM, SINGLETON, AND TO CHICHESTER

Sunday, 18 May was the most unbelievably beautiful day (at a time when there weren't many of them about) for our visit to the Museum in its lovely setting at Singleton. The number of exhibits of local buildings throughout the ages is increasing all the time and much work was going on whilst we were there. To me the best exhibits were a carpenter's shop containing a large array of tools of a hundred years ago, all in perfect condition; and the most mini school ever - for 10 pupils - and complete with desks, slates and open inkwells.

We had lunch at Singleton, then took the coach to Chichester, where Derek Renn guided us on a walk round the places of interest. After that, tea at the Cathedral was most welcome.

It was a most interesting and enjoyable day, and our thanks to Mr & Mrs John Gilbert for arranging it for us.

'WALK' ROUND FETCHAM - Saturday, 8 June

There was a very good turnout for this walk, which was led and commented on by Mr Lewarne in his usual amusing but very informative fashion. He was assisted by Geoff Hayward who produced photographs and other bits of information just at the right moment.

Our thanks to both Mr Lewarne and Mr Hayward for organising another very successful day.

JOYCE FULLER

BOOKING FORM - VISIT TO HORSLEY TOWERS: 21.9.85

Please reserve _____ places on the visit to Horsley Towers. I enclose 50p for each place.

NAME : _____

ADDRESS: _____

Telephone: _____

