

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER 1/86

FEBRUARY 1986

Dear Members,

A very happy New Year to you and your families.

NEW FORMAT

You will see that this Newsletter is printed in a new format, one which is already used by many learned Societies.

It has at least two practical benefits: it is a space-saver, so on the same amount of paper (and therefore for the same cost) much more information can be included; and from my point of view, no longer shall I have to waste pointless hours collating and stapling several large sheets to make up 400 copies of the Newsletter. I can spend that time far more constructively in putting together a better Newsletter! Anyway, we hope you approve.

PROGRAMME

First, a message from the Chairman

URGENT

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Members will know, I hope, that since the retirement of Eric Barnwell as Secretary to the Programme Committee, the work has been done by a small band of people, all of whom have other responsibilities in the Society.

I have reluctantly decided that I can no longer continue as leader of this Committee: and we shall be losing another valuable member - John Gilbert - within the next few months, leaving only three people, all of whom are heavily committed in other directions.

If members are to continue to enjoy winter meetings and summer visits, it is essential that the post of Programme Secretary is filled immediately and that at least one other member joins the Programme Committee. We urgently need someone who is willing to help with arranging lectures and/or arranging visits. It is not a one man band but willingness to accept some responsibility for the year's programme is necessary.

Failure to fill these vacancies can only harm the Society, possibly to the extent that many members will feel that their membership is no longer worthwhile.

L A SMITH - Chairman

39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We notified you in the last Newsletter that the AGM will be held in the Small Hall of the Leatherhead Institute, on Friday, 4 April 1986 at 7.45pm for 8pm, and we look forward to seeing as many as possible of you on that evening. The Agenda has some particularly important items on it this year, so please do come to the meeting and express your views on the future of the Society.

The Executive Committee members retire at the AGM; all are willing to stand for re-election.

Nominations for the Committee should reach the Secretary not later than Thursday, 27 March 1986, stating:

1. The name of the nominee
2. The names of the proposer and seconder
3. The office for which he/she is nominated
4. The nominee's expression of willingness to serve if elected.

A set of papers for the meeting is enclosed with this Newsletter.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your subscriptions were due on 1 January 1986. They are coming in well, but we should like to have them as soon as possible. A reminder that they are £4 for individual members, £6 for a "husband and wife" subscription and £1 for Juniors 18 years of age and under. There is, of course, nothing to stop husbands and wives continuing to belong as individual members at £4 each if they so wish.

Our thanks to those members who have included a donation with their subscriptions - and stamps for the delivery of their Proceedings: all of which have been most welcome.

A slip is enclosed for the payment of your subscription if you have not already paid it.

PROGRAMME

Two meetings to be held at 7.45pm for 8pm, Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead:

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH - A talk by Mrs Molly Townsend, the Editor of The William Cobbett Society. She has entitled it "Common Misconceptions about William Cobbett".

Coach visit - This talk is an introduction to a visit by coach organised by The William Cobbett Society and in which they have invited us to participate. This is Mrs Townsend's description of the day:

"The Society's re-run of a Rural Ride will take place on Sunday, 13 July, leaving Farnham at 9am, stopping at Dorking at 10am to pick up those who live in that area, and the coach will return those people to Dorking between 6 and 7pm.

The route will follow Cobbett's ride of 8 August 1823 through the Surrey countryside from Thursley to Reigate (with perhaps a few deviations to other places nearby which he visited on other occasions) though in the reverse direction so that the expedition can end in Farnham.

A ploughman's lunch will be available at an inn at midday and there will be opportunities to visit Cobbett's birthplace and his tomb in Farnham before the day ends with tea and refreshments in the garden of Farnham Museum (or inside if wet).

The cost is £9 which includes the coach fare, lunch and tea. Exact details of where the coach will leave Farnham and Dorking will be sent to those who wish to join the expedition, when arrangements have been finalised with the coach company."

It is planned that those who take part may walk short distances along the route and pick up the coach again at a point further on. However, there is no need to leave the coach at all if you do not want to do any walking.

If you wish to go, would you please complete the enclosed form and return it to the Secretary with your money, as soon as possible. The William Cobbett Society have invited other Societies to join in this expedition as well, and they need to know the numbers they have to accommodate.

When you are considering whether to go or not, do please remember that the coach can only pick you up in Dorking.

FRIDAY, 11 APRIL - "The Gunpowder Works at Chilworth". A talk given by Professor Alan Crocker, who is Professor of Physics at the University of Surrey and Chairman of the Surrey Industrial History Group.

As we have William Cobbett very much in mind at the moment, you may be interested in his comments on the gunpowder works:

"The valley of Chilworth near Guildford, created by a bountiful providence for a scene of innocence and happiness, has been perverted to the most damnable of purposes, the most damnable inventions that ever sprang from the mind of men under the influence of the devil - the making of gunpowder and banknotes."

SUMMER VISITS

Our two summer visits this year are given below:

SATURDAY, 17 MAY - A whole-day visit by coach to St Albans and Hatfield House, organised by Mr & Mrs John Gilbert. Departure time about 9am - picking up points and times will be notified individually. Due back by 7pm. The cost is £7-50 per person which includes coach fare, gratuities and guided tours of St Albans Abbey and Hatfield House. There will be time for lunch at St Albans - there are several restaurants and also open spaces for picnics. There is a tea shop in the grounds of Hatfield House.

A booking slip is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please don't forget to send John Gilbert a stamped addressed envelope as well as the application slip and your money.

SATURDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER - A whole-day visit to Lewes, organised by Mr Alan Gillies. The full details will be in the next Newsletter, but the basic facts are that the cost will be £7-50 per person, and that the start and finish times will be approximately 9am and 8pm.

Mr & Mrs John Gilbert and Alan Gillies have organised day visits for us before. They have always been most interesting, so there is no doubt that you will enjoy these two visits.

PROCEEDINGS

Volume 4 No 9 has now been published and is being distributed to those members who have paid their subscriptions for 1986. The next issue will be the final part of Volume 4, and contributions are invited from members. The text should be sent to the Honorary Editor (Dr D F Renn), 7 Burrows Close, Great Bookham, Leatherhead KT23 3HB, not later than 30 June 1986.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE MOLE VALLEY

Our Vice-President Dr Renn, is editing a booklet on the remains of industry of all kinds in the district, and would welcome information on mines and quarries, kilns, ironmaking, food processing, old shops, icehouses, wind and water mills, electricity, gas and water works, roads and transport.

An interim summary list can be obtained from Dr Renn (enclose a large S A E) at 7 Burrows Close, Great Bookham, Leatherhead KT23 3HR.

LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM - From David Bruce

After the usual winter closure, the museum will re-open on Friday, 4 April 1986. It is hoped that last year's Stewards will be able to continue to serve during 1986 - but no doubt some will find it necessary to drop out, so it is essential that new volunteers come forward. All that is required is three hours attendance once a month, so why not join the fifty or so Stewards who man the museum on Friday mornings or Saturdays mornings or afternoons. Experience or local historical knowledge not required (the latter will soon be acquired!) Please contact Joe Parry regarding Fridays (Leatherhead 375359) or Ralph Hume regarding Saturdays (Leatherhead 374520).

Future exhibitions

The planned exhibitions during 1986, co-ordinated by May Cree, include one concerning Domesday Leatherhead, by Ernest Crossland, and another dealing with the coming of the Railway to Leatherhead, by Ralph Hume. Following the excavation of the Saxon cemetery at the Esso site in Ashtead, it may be possible to mount an exhibition bringing together all the known facts regarding the Saxon settlements in the area.

For the last two years we have offered the use of a large part of the museum to outside bodies for them to stage exhibitions of their material. In 1984 we had the Embroiderers Guild, and in 1985 we had the Fire Brigades of Surrey Preservation Trust, both of whom produced fascinating displays. If anyone knows of similar "cultural" organisations whom we could consider approaching for this or future years, please contact the Curator, David Bruce (Bookham 58722).

A Gift handed in at the Museum

During May or June 1985 a Steward accepted from a visitor the gift of a pair of wooden soled, leather clogs, said to have been worn by female workers at the factory of Gillett Stephen Ltd, Merrylands, Great Bookham, during World War II. Unfortunately the Steward did not obtain sufficient information regarding the donor to enable us to get back to him/her to be able to find out valuable additional information. All we know is that the donor was M Barberry (or something similar) who lives in Ashtead. If anyone has a clue to this person's address or can make a guess at it, please phone Bookham 58722.

FRIENDS OF THE LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

The 'Friends' are running a second "Bygone Leatherhead" at the Parish Church Hall, Church Road, Leatherhead, at 8pm on Wednesday, 19 March, with Stephen Fortescue and Freda Crawforth commenting on their slides.

Entry by £1-50 tickets, obtained for cash at Cradlers House (Jewellers) Ltd, High Street, Leatherhead, or by post from Ralph Hume, 8 Highlands Avenue, Leatherhead, cheques payable to "Friends of the Leatherhead Museum".

'Friends' are reminded that their 1986 membership fees of £1 are now due, and should be handed to their Hon Treasurer, Frank Rice-Oxley, at a Society meeting, or sent to him at Sturminster, Effingham Common Road, Effingham.

LEATHERHEAD PHOTOGRAPHERS - By David Bruce

As part of my research into the photographers of bygone Leatherhead, I have been able to trace the daughter-in-law of Albert Warren, and hope that she may still have some of his photographs. His business was taken over by W R Ayling, and I would be interested to receive biographical details of Mr Ayling, and to learn whether he is still living, and if so, his address: and if not, that of any of his surviving relatives.

Incidentally, two early Leatherhead photographers were T Money and H Penny, both of whom had photographs in the "Homeland Handbook of Dorking, Leatherhead & Ashtead", published in 1913, price 1/- net (copy in the Society's library). Information regarding these two gentlemen would also be welcomed.

There also seems to have been a photographer of Ashtead called A Tillett. Any information, please? (Bookham 58722).

SALES - From Geoff Hayward

For the benefit of members who have joined us recently, we can make up a package of consecutive numbers of the Proceedings back to and including the year 1976. For example, a package from the year 1984 back to 1976 would cost £4-50. If the complete package is not required, deductions at 50p per issue can be made.

A limited supply of odd years of the Proceedings is still available for years earlier than 1976, at 50p per copy.

The two Occasional Papers - one on Ashtead, the other on Leatherhead - can be included at 50p and £1 respectively.

A limited number of older "Surrey Histories" are still available at various modest prices.

Some of the very detailed accounts of the finds on the site of Pachiensham Magna (an early manor of Leatherhead) are still available in book form at £2. Please add, say, 25p for postage if the request is not from the Leatherhead general area.

Please telephone Geoff Hayward on Leatherhead 372674 for service.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

This Society have asked us to give you notice of some of their meetings. Our members would be most welcome to attend them.

Tuesday, 15 April - "The Domesday Book through the Ages" - A talk given by Dr E Hallam

Tuesday, 20 May - "Ethelred's Navy" - A talk by Miss M Shipley

Tuesday, 17 June - "The Bedfont Gunpowder Mills" - A talk by Mr P Philo

All to be given at the Heritage Centre, Fairfield West, Kingston-upon-Thames at 8pm.

Saturday, 17 May - Visit to the Domesday Book Exhibition, Public Record Office.

Further details are available from the Publicity Officer - Mr G A W Hickman, 332 Richmond Road, Kingston-upon-Thames KT2 5PP.

PEAK NATIONAL PARK STUDY CENTRE - Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire

We have received the 1986 programme of residential courses and summer holidays to be held at Losehill Hall. Samples of their activities are:

Villages & Churches - A Walking Holiday	2 - 9 August
Archaeology of the Peak District	23 -30 August
Practical Field Archaeology in the Peak District	18 -20 April
Great Houses and Gardens	19 -26 July
	or 30 Aug - 6 Sep
Canals	26 - 30 May
	or 26 May - 1 June

Please contact the Secretary if you are interested in seeing any of the literature, or contact the Principal of the Study Centre, Mr Peter Townsend, on Hope Valley 20373.

MEMBERS

Our members are our most valuable asset, but I have left mention of them until almost the last to get in as many "welcomes" as possible to new members. This is being typed on 5 February, and up to now the following "partners" of existing members have joined us:

<u>Ashtead</u>	<u>Leatherhead</u>	<u>The Bookhams</u>	<u>Fetcham</u>
Mr H J Davies	Mrs P J Calnan	Mrs D Bruce	Mrs G Austin
Mrs S R Green	Mrs H W Cawston	Mrs H G Knowles	Mrs G F Crellin
Mrs R A Lever	Mr E W J Crawforth*	Mrs W E Larkin	Mrs A C Eldridge
<u>Effingham</u>	Lady Hoole	Mr E J Morgan	Mr R Penfold
Mrs E G Marsh	Mrs A B Leach	<u>Oxshott</u>	
<u>Epsom</u>	Mrs P C Morgan	Mrs C B Pringle	
Mrs L J Gorton	Mrs D M Williams		
Mrs C R Wright			

*This gives the Crawforth family 100% membership: Mr & Mrs Crawforth, and their daughters Elaine & Linette, who are both Junior members

We have a number of "first time" members. Firstly, we welcome Mrs M Cherry, the new Head of the Woodville County Middle School; she holds an Honorary Membership on behalf of the school, which has done much to help us with our storage and other problems.

We also welcome the following new members:

<u>Ashtead</u>	<u>Leatherhead</u>	<u>Fetcham</u>	<u>Bookham</u>
Mrs A C Everett	Mr R V Coombes	Mr & Mrs R G Romero	Mr & Mrs D B Yandell
Mr & Mrs D L Payne	Mr & Mrs J Stapleton		
Mr & Mrs V Quaglieni	Mrs M Stone	<u>Effingham</u>	
Mr & Mrs R W Tucker	Mrs J Taylor	Mr & Mrs J C Wallis	

EARLY SCHOOL DAYS - Some reminiscences from the Rev Ralph Mann

The notes written by Mr Ralph Mann and which we published in the last Newsletter, have created a lot of interest. Here are some more paragraphs from his notes, this time describing his early school days. Mr Mann is writing of events 50 - 54 years ago, but his story gives a strange feeling of events much further back in history. How everything has changed!

"Although Fetcham School was so close to us across the fields, and the playtime sound, as well as the school bell, could be plainly heard before The Ballands was built, I never went there. Perhaps because my Father always taught in Local Education Authority Schools; he chose not to send me to one. Instead, in September 1932, I began my school career at Miss Hewlins' School in Bridge Street, Leatherhead. Miss Hewlins was a little old lady with black button boots and she was assisted by a younger teacher called Miss Townsend, of whom the only recollection I have - and I can guarantee its accuracy - is that she taught us (and I

was aged five still) about the Repeal of the Corn Laws. Indeed, the only thing I can remember learning at that tender age was the Repeal of the Corn Laws, although it was not until I was an undergraduate eighteen years later that I discovered what the Repeal of the Corn Laws was.

I suppose that we also must have learned the rudiments of reading and writing; we certainly wrote on slates with slate pencils, and an essential item of equipment was a dirty, damp, smelly rag with which we wiped the slate clean. I must belong to the very last generation to have learned to write on a slate. Today, broken pieces of slate pencil found in one's garden have the status of archaeological discovery. The school room, which faced on to the street, was not large (it looks even smaller today - the Manager of the Halifax Building Society has it as an office), and was heated by an open fire behind a large wire fire-guard. Miss Hewlins, who appeared often to have been impecunious, was not always able to maintain a very large fire in the cold weather; at such times we were all taken out into a cobbled back yard where he held onto each other's waists and ran round the yard in a game called 'trains' until we were warm enough to resume work with the slate pencils.

Convinced, I suppose, that Miss Hewlins' school was not entirely satisfactory, in the spring of 1933 I (was) transferred to Mrs Rivett's Home Farm School, in The Street, Fetcham. The years I spent there were, without a doubt, the happiest of my school days. I walked to and from school along the Lower Road to The Saltbox and down The Street, passing on the way the Fetcham Village School with the "rough" boys with whom I did not play and of whom I was more than a little scared. Home Farm was a delightful Georgian brick house, set well back from the road, with a long wooden barn and stables on the left side. Over the doorway grew a beautiful red fuchsia. Inside, our classroom was on the right, and the Rivetts' parlour was on the left. Their kitchen was at the back, opening into the farmyard, and behind it there was a duckpond, vegetable garden, and a little lawn. Mrs Rivett taught us; Mr Rivett was the farmer; the two Rivett children - Billy and Evelyn - were in the school, and there was an old gentleman whom I took to be Mr Rivett's Father. At first there were only six or seven of us there, but there may have been a dozen or more by the time I left at the end of 1935. Mrs Rivett was an excellent teacher, who in retrospect seems to have been gifted in almost every direction. I can remember the thrill of delight at finding one of her beautiful coloured chalk drawings waiting for us on the blackboard; the fun of singing children's songs to her accompaniment on the piano; the enjoyment of reading, modelling in plasticine, painting, and the long sunny hours in the garden and the farm. When the Queen Mary was launched, Mr Rivett fixed up a radio loud-speaker in the classroom so that we could hear the ceremony - my first experience of audio-visual aids.

I soon made friends with the other children. My closest friend and companion in those days was Billy Rivett, a quiet, dreamy, but intelligent boy, for whom I had the greatest respect and affection. Among the girls, Sheila Davey was my closest friend. She lived in a bungalow called Dunromin on the Bookham side of Marden Hill, and we later knew her father well when he became our local window-cleaner. Her aunt, Miss Rose Davey, lived very near us at Mewunda on the Cobham Road, and there she taught me the rudiments of piano-playing. Another close friend was Daphne Prisma of Kingsclere, Kennel Lane, whom I once promised to marry when we were in the back garden at Home Farm: a promise that was not forgotten when I was Best Man at her marriage to Jack West in Fetcham Church on 1 September 1951. At the time, however, I was more impressed with Daphne's alleged prowess in swallowing three thermometers and still surviving. Audrey Trethowan I was to meet again years later at Dorking County School; she lived on the Lower Road, also on the far side of Marden Hill. The biggest girl in the school was June Madge, who established her authority over the rest of us. June Riley from the Bell Inn was the source of the more entertaining stories. This was the period when the Old Bell Inn was being demolished to be replaced by the new building on the same site. June asserted as a fact that the old building had been held together only by the wallpaper; I believed her. Michael Lockyer and Gary Andrews from The Ridgeway completed the school in our first year.

In our second year, new children joined the school. I can remember Ena Cooper, the niece of Mrs Jesty of Normanhurst in the Cobham Road, whose husband worked in Mould's in Leatherhead, selling small pieces of ironmongery from the counter just inside the door to the right. Despite a rather mournful appearance, Mr Jesty was unfailingly helpful and efficient, and for many years we counted Mr & Mrs Jesty among our friends. Another new-comer was Michael Oxborrow; his father was a fishmonger in Leatherhead.

There always seemed to be so much to do; I never remember being bored. There were conkers to play in the autumn - some people kept them from one year to another, or baked them in the oven to make them harder. Marbles were played at Easter-time, and could be bought in Miller's stores. I had a little bag of very special glass marbles that had allegedly come from India; some boys had big marbles called Alleys. The game we played was always a direct contest between two marbles: I threw mine some distance ahead; he threw his and tried to hit mine; we continued to play alternately until a marble was hit, whereupon it became the property of the victor. My parents, who were scrupulous, were always a little afraid that this was a form of gambling, but consoled themselves that there was an element of skill involved. If a marble rolled into an awkward position, it was always possible for the other player to demand 'Bomb'ums', which enabled him to drop his marble vertically from eye level. Of course, you could always get in first with 'Bags-no-bomb'ums'. If the two marbles were uncomfortably close, the more vulnerable owner could gain protection by demanding 'Flick'ums', which involved considerably greater skill. The great yo-yo craze started a little later than this. And then there were butterfly and birds' egg collecting. We all had our butterfly nets, and mangled the poor creatures by squashing their heads before 'mounting' them. I am appalled by the cruelty and destructiveness of this activity when I look back. The ponds on Bookham Common and Fetcham Millpond were treasure stores of aquatic life that could be brought home to die in jam-jars.

Much of my life seems to have been outdoors. Early in the morning, I soon learned to distinguish the strange sound - half whistle, half sigh - of the flight of swans overhead. Cows were kept in the fields on the far side of the Cobham Road, and could be heard lowing in the morning. And whenever we could, we went for country walks. I do not for one moment regret that we did not have a car, or that I did not have a bicycle until I was fourteen. Children who grow up accustomed to travel everywhere in a car have no idea of the delight of discovering the world on foot. Our favourite walks took us up the Mount or the Ridgeway and over the Upper Road (Guildford Road) on to the Downs. The valley between Bocket's Farm and Roreing House Farm was a particular favourite, and beyond Roreing House Farm were the stretches of woodland which took one to Norbury Park: magnificent in early summer, with wide fields of bluebells amongst the beeches. We knew every path on Bookham Common, especially from Mark Oak Gate across to Bookham Station, and we enjoyed making our way from Fetcham across Fetcham Common, thick with hazel-nut trees - to Kennel Lane - a muddy bridle path with only a few houses near the Lower Road. Another favourite haunt was the weir at Fetcham Splash, also approached by a muddy track, with a delightful wooden footbridge leading to the island

The year 1932 must have been a vintage one for the Repeal of the Corn Laws. Compared with Mr Mann I was very advanced in age - seven years - when its mysteries were unravelled to me that same year. I understood not a word: 'peel' to me meant apples and oranges, and how one could 're-peel' them I could not imagine. And whatever kind of fruit was a cornlaw anyway?

Yours sincerely,

Joyce Fuller

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The 39th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Small Hall of the Leatherhead Institute at 8pm on Friday, 4 April 1986.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 27 March 1985
(copy enclosed)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Special General Meeting
4. Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting held on 27 March 1985
(copy enclosed)
5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting
6. Presentation of the Executive Committee's Report for the year 1985
(copy enclosed)
7. Presentation of the Society's Accounts for the year ended
31 December 1985 (copy enclosed)
8. Report of the Leatherhead Museum Accounts for the year ended
30 November 1985 (copy enclosed)
9. Future policy regarding the Society's Proceedings (note enclosed)
10. Venues for winter meetings (note enclosed)
11. Review of subscription for 1986
12. Election of Officers and Committee for 1986
13. Appointment of Honorary Auditor
14. Any other business

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PAPER

Agenda Item 2

Minutes of Special General Meeting held at 8pm on Wednesday, 27 March 1985, at Wesley House, Leatherhead

PRESENT: Mr J G W Lewarne President
 Mr L A Smith, MBE Chairman
 46 members of the
 Society

The meeting had before it a proposal that the rules of the Society should be amended to include as from 1 January 1986 a joint husband and wife membership. This had been requested by members over a long period. The Executive Committee's intention was that this membership should be at the rate of one and a half subscriptions, would carry the right to two votes but only one copy of the Proceedings and of each Newsletter. The introduction of this membership would involve an initial loss in revenue if all married couples opted to take this form of membership, which, however, they need not do. It was hoped that the reduced subscription would encourage more people to join.

Mr Lewarne reminded the meetings that the price per copy of the Proceedings could increase if the combined membership meant a substantially reduced print order.

It was proposed by Mrs L A Smith, seconded by Mr E A Crossland, that parts of Rule 3 be amended to read:

- 3(a) There should be four classes of Members, viz, Honorary Members, Ordinary Members, Junior Members and Joint Husband and Wife Membership.
- 3(h) Joint Husband and Wife membership carries the right to two votes but only one set of papers and one copy of the Proceedings.
- 3(i) The subscription for Joint Husband and Wife membership shall be such sum as shall be determined at a General Meeting upon notice of the intention to vary the subscription.

Present Rules 3(h) and 3(i) to be renumbered 3(j) and 3(k).

This was agreed by the meeting, with four votes against the proposal.

The rate of the subscription would be decided under Item 7 of the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting immediately after the Special General Meeting.

Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting held at 8.15pm on Wednesday, 27 March 1985, at Wesley House, Leatherhead

PRESENT: Mr J G W Lewarne President
 Mr L A Smith, MBE Chairman
 46 Members of the
 Society

Mr Lewarne welcomed members to the meeting, particularly Mr Morris Snellgrove who was attending for the 38th time in succession.

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, Mr Lewarne mentioned that the Society had lost four members during the year:

Mrs C Barrett Mr J Giuseppi
Mr F Bengier Miss S Hind

all of whom had contributed much to the work of the Society. Mr Bengier had also contributed much to Leatherhead town itself and he would be greatly missed.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Received from Mr & Mrs G Austin, Mr & Mrs E S Barnwell, Mr G Hayward, Miss J Holman, Mr P G How, and Mr & Mrs A E Tims.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Mr J R Bull, seconded by Mr N H West and agreed by the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Index to Volume III of the Proceedings - Mr Gollin asked for the current position on this. Mr Smith said that a galley proof had been received from Dyers and Miss Burroughs was checking this very thoroughly.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Before commencing on the report, Mr Smith said that the Committee were very sad at the loss of the four valuable members who had died during the year. On the suggestion of the President, a Memorial Fund had been set up in memory of Mr Bengier, with the object of financing the publication of uneconomical works, and donations to this fund would be greatly appreciated.

Mr Smith said that 1984 had not been particularly outstanding. He was disappointed that no-one had come forward to act as Programme Secretary; the present arrangements were being made by a small Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee members, who were carrying out these duties as well as their own.

Leatherhead History - Mrs Vardey was trying hard to get in all contributions by Easter, with the intention of publishing in November 1985. A "Coster's Barrow" had been booked in the Swan Centre for 14 December to promote its sale. Volunteers were needed to man the stall.

Records - Mr Edwin Marsh had agreed to take over from Mr David Bruce responsibility for the Society's records. The records were split into four parishes, each with their own archivist, but a Record Secretary was needed to take overall responsibility for the Records.

Arrangements had been made with the Leatherhead Institute for the Society to have space there for the Leatherhead records.

Publicity - No reports of the Society's activities had appeared in the local press lately, although Mrs Charlish was doing her best to get news published.

Mr Frank Rice-Oxley had given to the Society £500 worth of display equipment for which the Society was extremely grateful. This equipment had been used at the Local History Symposium, and at our exhibition on Bookham Church, which was most successful. The exhibition had been designed by Mrs Mary Rice-Oxley with material provided by Mr S E D Fortescue.

Posters - Mrs Richard Quinnell, an art teacher, had offered to produce all the posters needed: a very welcome offer.

Cradlers - This building, which as reported in last year's Minutes, was to have been demolished, is in fact now being preserved.

Finally, Mr Smith thanked all his colleagues on the Executive Committee for their work during the year, and also all the people who helped in so many ways.

Benger Memorial Fund - Mr J A Read said that the obituaries to Mr Benger in The Times and Daily Telegraph, had asked for donations in lieu of funeral flowers to go to the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society, and Mr Read asked if one fund only was not a better idea. Mr Smith said that £100 had been received by the Countryside Protection Society. The whole sum had been used to set up a scheme for an annual competition on an environmental subject, which would be open to children in middle schools in the area. A shield had been purchased, to be known as the Benger Memorial Shield, together with miniatures for retention by the winners.

The Memorial Fund of the History Society had been suggested by the President and would be used, as already stated, for publishing purposes. Quite a few donations had been received but clearly people who had contributed to one fund would not be expected to contribute to the other.

Publicity in Local Papers - Mr Bruce said that the photographs in the "Then and Now" series published in the local press, are from the Society's records and are acknowledged as such in the papers. Requests for copies had been received from readers.

Photographs - Mr J A Farmer asked if the Society had any knowledge of a photograph of Press Forward Lodge taken by Austin Yule, which used to hang in the Institute and is now missing. Nothing was known of its whereabouts, but there was a copy in the Society's records. Mr Smith said he would make enquiries of the Institute Trustees.

Mr Farmer also asked if there was a photograph of the Old Toll Cottage in Epsom in the Records. Mr Bruce confirmed that there was.

The acceptance of the Executive Committee's Report for 1985 was proposed by Mr S R C Poulter, seconded by Dr D Renn, and agreed by the meeting.

5. PRESENTATION OF THE SOCIETY'S ACCOUNTS

Mr Mears said that the accounts again looked out of balance in that no Proceedings had been paid for in 1984, two having been produced in 1983. Grants of nearly £700 had been received towards the publication of Dr W J Blair's "Medieval Documents" in the Proceedings.

Donations - included a sum of £200 from the Executors of Lord Barnby's Estate.

Sale of books - This showed an increase of £100 over 1983, accounted for by the recovery of a bad debt.

Administration - The large increase in this item was accounted for by the purchase at very competitive wholesale prices of large quantities of paper, which would satisfy the Society's needs for several years.

Sheila Hind Fund - Mr Mears said that it had been the intention when the Fund was set up that it should be included in the general finances after Miss Hind's death, and asked authority to do this. Mr Read said that her family were hoping that the use of it will remain as in the past. It was proposed by Mr T E C Walker, seconded by Mr J R Bull, that the fund should be left in its present form. By a majority, the meeting voted in agreement.

Hon Auditor - Mr Mears said he wished to thank the Auditor for his help over the past year.

The acceptance of the Society's accounts for 1984 was proposed by Mr J R Bull, seconded by Mr R A Lever, and agreed by the meeting.

6. MUSEUM ACCOUNTS

Mr J R Bull presented these accounts for the information of the Society's members.

He said that a loan for five years had been received from a member, which had enabled the Trustees to complete the erection of the toilet and storage building. Investments were being made for final repayment in 1996 of the main loan covering the original purchase of Hampton Cottage.

During the past year expenditure increased because of the building works, giving an excess of expenditure over income of £1,426.

Mr Bull thanked the "Friends of Leatherhead Museum" for all their work and assistance during the year.

Mr Lewarne said that the contribution to the funds made by Mr Fortescue's "Bygone Bookham" and "Bygone Leatherhead" talks was very high, and thanks were due to him for his efforts which had raised to much money for the Museum.

Mr Farmer remarked that the Museum was a wonderful asset to Leatherhead, and it was thanks to Mr Fortescue's hard work in the past that it had been achieved.

It was proposed by Dr D Renn and seconded by Mr R A Lever, that the accounts should be accepted. This was agreed by the meeting.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Mr Mears said that after careful consideration of the Society's financial position, the Executive Committee were recommending that the subscription should remain at £4 for senior members and £1 for juniors. It was also proposed that the subscription for the new joint husband and wife subscription approved at the Special General Meeting held at 8pm on Wednesday, 27 March 1985, should be £6.

It was proposed by Mrs L A Smith, seconded by Mr P White, that these subscriptions should be accepted. This was approved by the meeting, with three members voting against the motion.

8. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1985

It was proposed to separate the duties of the Museum Curator and the Records Secretary. Mr D Bruce was willing to continue as Museum Curator and Mr E Marsh had offered to take over as Record Secretary. Dr D Renn was willing to take over the post of Editor. No prospective Programme Secretary had come forward. The rest of the Committee were willing to continue in their present positions. There being no other nominations, Mr Lewarne suggested that the elections should be taken en bloc. It was proposed by Mrs Gollin and seconded by Mr N H West that the Committee should be so elected. This was agreed by the meeting.

Mrs Gollin said she wished to record her thanks to the Committee for all their work for the Society.

9. APPOINTMENT OF HON AUDITOR

The present Hon Auditor was willing to continue to act. It was proposed, seconded and approved by the meeting that he be asked to continue. The Secretary would write to him.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) York Stone - Mr Bruce appealed for pieces of York stone to complete the paving in the garden of Hampton Cottage.
- (b) Photographs - Mr Bruce asked for any information - names of people, dates etc - on photographs which he displayed at the meeting.
- (c) Nonsuch Antiquarian Society - Mrs Jean West, the Outings Secretary for Nonsuch, had arranged a coach outing to Basingstoke on 8 June 1985, cost £5 to members, £5-20 to non-members. Our Society's members would be welcome.
- (d) Dates at Museum - Mr Smith gave dates for two special events at the Museum:
 - (i) Saturday, April 27 at 3pm - Presentation of the garden seat in memory of Mr Slingsby
 - (ii) Friday, May 17 at 12 noon - Miss Gina Campbell would present a "Blue Bird" steering wheel for display in the Museum.
- (e) Leatherhead Litter Watch - A "Clean Up Leatherhead" Working Party was starting at 9am on Saturday, 30 March 1985 and volunteer helpers were needed. To help off-set the costs, cakes would be sold from a Coster's Barrow in the Leatherhead Centre.
- (f) Bookham Grove - Mr Snellgrove asked for information on building activities at Bookham Grove, as at least two special features had been removed. It was believed that the property was being turned into private flats, retaining the building as nearly as possible in its original form.
- (g) Membership - Mr Gollin asked how the membership figure for 1984 compared with previous years. Mr Mears gave the following figures:

1984	286	+	12	Honorary	+	6	Juniors
1983	302	+	14	Honorary			
1982	310	+	13	Honorary			
1981	328	+	13	Honorary			
1980	352	+	12	Honorary			

which unfortunately showed a gradual but steady decline in membership, a fact which would need to be closely watched.

There being no further business, Mr Lewarne thanked the members present for attending and closed the meeting.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PAPER

Agenda Item 6

Executive Committee Report for the year ended
31 December 1985

Executive Committee for 1985

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

MEMBERSHIP

The number of members as at 31 December 1985 was 299, plus ten Honorary Members and five Juniors, making a total of 314. Sadly, the Society lost two Honorary Members by the death of Mrs A T Ruby and Mr M Snellgrove, tributes to whom appeared in recent Newsletters.

PUBLICATIONS

Sales of the Society's publications and those from other sources continued slowly but steadily throughout the year. A sales table has been manned at each of the Society's events.

Proceedings - Volume 4 No 8 was distributed during the year.

Newsletters - Three Newsletters were distributed during the year.

Leatherhead History - Publication was again delayed, Easter 1987 now being aimed for. Most of the contributions are with the Editor, Mrs Edwina Vardey, and she has approximately 12 months work to do up to publication.

RECORDS

The Society's Record Secretary is Mr E G Marsh and the records are the responsibility of an Archivist for each Parish: that is, Mr L Sumption for Leatherhead; Mr E Gardner for Ashted; Mr G Hayward - Fetcham; Mr D Bruce - the Bookhams.

A new system of indexing the records was introduced during the year, which it is expected will make retrieval much easier.

Photographic records expanded quite considerably, largely due to Mr Ralph Hume's continuing to copy the many interesting old photographs loaned to the Society.

PROGRAMME

A small Sub-Committee of members of the Executive Committee continued to arrange the programme of events in the absence of the Programme Secretary it was hoped to appoint.

An all-day visit was made to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum and to Chichester, organised by Mr & Mrs John Gilbert and led by Dr Derek Renn. Two afternoon visits were made to Horsley Towers (led by Gordon Knowles), and to Stoke D'Abernon Manor and Church (led by Lawrie Smith).

Three walks were arranged, one round Fetcham (led by Don Lewarne and Jeff Hayward), and one round the Chaik Lane area of Epsom, led by Mr S Nelson. The third walk planned was for Juniors only, to be led by Ernest Crossland, but unfortunately there were no "takers" and the walk was cancelled. Juniors have been asked to let the Secretary know what activities they would like arranged especially for them.

The Dallaway lecture was given on October 18 by Mr Mervyn Blatch whose subject was "Great Cathedrals of Europe".

Monthly meetings were held throughout the winter, these being:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| January 25 | Illustrated Lecture - "Map-Making in England", given by Peter Ellis |
| February 15 | Illustrated Lecture - "The National Trust", by Lawrie Smith |
| March 15 | Illustrated Lecture - "The Valley of the Mole", by Doris & Edith Mercer |
| April 12 | Illustrated Lecture - "The Story of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for the Disabled", by David Ellis |
| November 15 | Illustrated Lecture - "The City of London", by Geoffrey Gollin |
| December 13 | Christmas Miscellany - Contributions from members |

All were very well attended, particularly the Christmas Miscellany. During 1985 coffee was served before the meetings began so that the lecture and questions could continue without a break.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Lecture Secretary was able to provide speakers to those local organisations which requested them. The Society's collection of slides for the use of speakers continued to increase.

Contributions were made to exhibitions set up by other organisations, including the Surrey Symposium held in Guildford University.

ARCHAEOLOGY

The report from Guildford Museum was received.

The Archaeology Secretary was involved with many local finds during the year, in particular the Anglo-Saxon burial ground discovered on the old "Goblin" site in Ashted.

LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

As in previous years, the Museum opened Fridays and Saturdays from April until Christmas, thanks to the many voluntary stewards, the rota organisers and the ladies who keep the inside of the building clean and tidy.

The main exhibition during the year dealt with the Pubs (past and present) and Breweries (past) of Leatherhead, staged and researched by May Cree with assistance from Mary Rice-Oxley. For two weeks the Fire Brigades of Surrey Preservation Trust was given the use of the Museum for a display, and they staged an impressive collection of equipment, as well as models, documents and photographs.

The Museum staged an exhibition at the Mole Valley Show at the Leatherhead Leisure Centre on May 6, which created much interest.

The work in the garden, building dwarf brick walls and York stone paving, was completed, and enabled the garden to be used for two ceremonies (covered by the press) - the presentation of the Chris Slingsby memorial seat, and the gift of a steering-wheel from the late Donald Campbell's record-breaking "Bluebird", by his daughter Gina Campbell. A further garden seat commemorating the Society's former Editor for many years, the late Frank Bengier, was also placed in the garden. Gilbert Smith agreed to look after the horticultural side, and arranged for the flower beds to be filled with appropriate cottage-garden plants.

According to the Museum accounts for the year ending 30 September 1985, donations received in the museum amounted to £268 and the profit on sales of publications, photographs etc, came to £98.

Thanks are due to the "Friends of the Leatherhead Museum" for purchasing for the Museum an aluminium step-ladder, a 1/2 ton of York stone, and the timber, glass and fittings for two oak display cases (Lawrie Smith made an excellent job of the joinery work).

LIBRARY

Shortly after the last Annual General Meeting, the Society took over responsibility for running the Leatherhead Institute Library. In exchange for this, the Institute provided a number of shelves to house the Society's Library in the same room as its own (Institute, ground floor, first door on left).

The transfer of the Society's Library from Leatherhead Museum to the Institute vacated shelving at the Museum. The Library also has more room in its new home than in its old one.

The Society's Library was considerably enriched during the year by books bequeathed by Mr Frank Benger and others donated by his Executors. Because of the additions it was thought desirable to prepare a new list of its contents and this was circulated with Newsletter 3/85.

As mentioned in Newsletter 2/85, some of the books in the Society's Library are in need of repair or re-binding. To raise money for this purpose a raffle was organised by Mr E Crawforth during the Miscellany on 13 December 1985, raising £24.

Thanks are due to the Stewards of the Institute Library for giving time to this work. Anyone else who is prepared to act as Steward is invited to get in touch Mr Liam Sumption (Leatherhead 373760) who organises the Stewards.

During 1985 the Society's and the Institute's Libraries were open as follows:

	<u>March to November</u>	<u>December</u>
Tuesdays	2.30pm to 5pm	1.30pm to 4pm
Thursdays	10.00am to 12.30pm	10.00am to 12.30pm
Fridays	2.30pm to 5pm	1.30pm to 4pm

The Executive Committee records its thanks to the members of the Society for their interest and continued support.

ANNUAL PROCEEDINGS

Concern over the ever rising cost of the Proceedings, the paucity of material submitted for publication, together with the comments received from members that they do not find the Proceedings very interesting, have led the Executive Committee to examine possible alternatives. It is hoped that the following proposals will find favour with members.

1. The Proceedings should cease to be annual and should be published as and when sufficient suitable material is available to make a worthwhile issue, probably every 18 or 24 months.
2. Articles of general interest should be published in the Newsletter, which is being re-vamped, given a cover and issued, hopefully, quarterly.
3. The Proceedings should be renamed "Leatherhead & District Local History Society Journal" and the programme and other information given on the covers should be published in the Newsletter if it is necessary to record it.
4. The change should take place in 1987, after the issue of Volume 4, No 10 of the present Proceedings.

The alternative would be no change, in which case more members would need to undertake original research and publish the results in the Proceedings; and a rise in the annual subscription would be inevitable.

VENUE FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Complaints have been received from members about the Red Cross Hall as a meeting place and, following enquiries, the following suggestions are put forward by the Executive Committee.

1. If and when the Assembly Hall at the Leatherhead Institute is ready for occupation we transfer most of our meetings there. The cost for a Friday evening is likely to be at least £25, as against £7-50 for the Red Cross Hall. Monday to Thursday evenings are likely to be about £15 and members are asked to express a preference.
2. Some meetings might be held in the new Ashtead Hospital, where accommodation has been offered to us free of charge. Initially one meeting, in January 1987, is suggested there to find out if the venue and accommodation are acceptable to members. If so, say two meetings each winter could be held there and the remainder at the Leatherhead Institute. Again, an evening other than Friday would be most convenient to avoid a clash with Hospital clinics.

Savings on the cost of the Proceedings, if approved, might well finance the extra costs of hiring accommodation for the monthly meetings.

The provision of coffee at the Institute might well present a problem but coffee would be available at the Ashtead Hospital at a charge to be agreed between us and the Hospital Administrator.

All the above, of course, presupposes that someone will come forward to help to organise the programme for which the accommodation is required.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 4 APRIL 1986

PAPERS

Agenda Item 7 - Pages 2 and 3

The Society's Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1985

Agenda Item 8 - Page 4

The Leatherhead Museum Accounts for the year ending
30 SEPTEMBER 1985

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

From the Hon. Treasurer:

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1985

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
Subscriptions	£1,143-00	£1,229-00
Donations to Society	346-32	1,097-17
Donations to Frank Benger Fund	-	116-00
Profit on Refreshments	11-50	6-12
Profit on Outings	102-70	66-44
Donations for Museum	8-00	4-00
Sales of Books etc (omitting Occ Paper 3)	248-22	142-78
Interest on National Savings Investment A/c	305-42	428-10
	<u>£2,165-16</u>	<u>£3,089-61</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Printing	£ 5-50	£3,060-78
Administration	618-00	182-00
Donations to Museum	8-00	4-00
Sundry Purchases	57-50	17-93
Lecture Costs	45-00	57-50
Subscriptions to other Societies	31-00	32-00
Sundry Expenses	30-00	11-14
	<u>£ 795-00</u>	<u>£3,365-35</u>
	CREDIT	-
	DEFICIT	£275-74

SHEILA MIND PUBLICATION FUND

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Sales of Occasional Paper No 3	£ 42-00	£ 38-00
Interest on National Savings Investment A/c	142-07	180-01
	<u>£184-07</u>	<u>£218-01</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
NIT	-	-
	<u>£184-07</u>	<u>£218-01</u>

BALANCE SHEET

SOCIETY

	<u>1984</u>		
Total Funds B/f	£2,199-17		£3,622-33
Plus Profit	1,370-16		-
Less Deficit	-		<u>275-74</u>
	<u>£3,569-33</u>		<u>£3,346-59</u>

Add subs paid in advance for next year

£180

£132

Less current subs dealt with in previous account

127

53-00

180

(48-00)

£3,622-33

£3,298-59

SHEILA HIND FUND

Total Funds B/f	1,363-30		1,547-37
Total Profit	<u>184-07</u>		<u>218-01</u>
	<u>1,547-37</u>		<u>1,765-38</u>
	<u>£5,169-70</u>		<u>£5,063-97</u>

Represented by:

Lloyds Bank Current A/c
National Savings Bank
Investment A/c

451-18
4,718-52
£5,169-70

337-34
4,726-63
£5,063-97

I certify that the above statement is in accordance with the books and records produced to me and is, in my opinion, correct.

Dated 29th January 1986

Hon Auditor

B A Kirkby

Hon Treasurer

H J Mears

Membership & Subscriptions for 1985

45 Paid full rate	£4	in 1984		£180
244 Paid full rate	£4	in 1985	£976	
8 (4 couples) paid	£6	in 1985	24	
2 Paid part rate	£2	in 1985	4	
5 Juniors paid	£1	in 1985	5	
Back payments		in 1985	<u>40</u>	
				<u>1,049</u>

304

In addition there are 10 Honorary

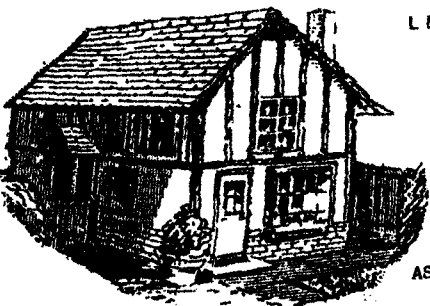
£1,229

Members who have paid in advance for 1986

18 Paid	£4	in 1985	£72
20 (10 couples) paid	£6	in 1985	<u>60</u>
			<u>£132</u>

LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM
AND HERITAGE CENTRE TRUST
Reg. Charity No. 273978.

HAMPTON COTTAGE,
54, CHURCH STREET,
LEATHERHEAD,
SURREY.

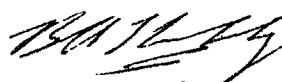


ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1985

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
	£	£
1. General Donations	230. 77	267. 76
2. Museum Improvement Fund - Donations	270. 00	Nil
3. Profit on Sale of Books and Leaflets	105. 00	98. 45
4. Donation from "Friends of Museum"	516. 70	Nil
5. Interest from Investments to meet Loan Repayment	441. 45	512. 21
6. Interest from Bank Deposit Account	92. 85	60. 72
7. Loan	500. 00	Nil
	<u>2,156. 77</u>	<u>939. 14</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
8. Administration	124. 02	134. 02
9. Services charges	153. 09	190. 20
10. Investments	400. 00	455. 75
11. Rebuilding Toilet in Garden	2,669. 80	Nil
12. Renovation of Garden in Hampton Cottage	236. 66	12. 12
	<u>3,583. 57</u>	<u>792. 09</u>
<u>SUMMARY</u>		
13. Bank Balance at the beginning of the year	1,915. 37	488. 57
14. Excess of Income over Expenditure	Nil	147. 05
15. Excess of Expenditure over Income	- 1,426. 80	Nil
16. Bank Balance at end of year	<u>488. 57</u>	<u>635. 62</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I certify that I have made an examination of the books and records of the Trust and that the foregoing Statement is in accordance therewith and is, in my opinion, correct.


Accountant and Auditor
Great Bookham, Surrey.

I declare that the foregoing
Statement of Accounts is correct.


J. R. Bull

Treasurer of the Trust
Date 20 October 1985