

# LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 2/87

MAY 1987

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 15 APRIL 1987

We were very pleased to have our AGM in the Large Hall at the Institute. Its comfort and good acoustics were very much appreciated and a request was almost unanimously made by those members present, for all the winter lectures to be held there. That has now been arranged and we are most grateful to the Leatherhead Community Association for agreeing a concessionary hire charge for all its affiliated members for Friday evenings until April 1988.

The Society's new Committee is in fact exactly the same as previously, except that we no longer have a Librarian on the Committee. Mr Liam Sumpston (Leatherhead 372760) has taken on that position whilst retaining his responsibility for organising the stewards for the libraries of the Society and the Institute. No Programme Secretary was appointed: but there is now a very active Sub-Committee consisting of Mrs Audrey Elmer, Geoff Hayward, Mrs Linda Heath, Steve Poulter and Derek Renn, their activities being co-ordinated by the Secretary. A list of the names and addresses of the Committee is enclosed.

The subscription for 1988 was considered, taking into account the finances of the Society as presented by the Treasurer. It was decided to increase subscriptions to £5 for Ordinary Members and £7-50 for Joint Husband & Wife membership, leaving the Juniors at £1. Part of this increase is specifically to pay postage on ALL Newsletters as from the February 1988 issue. There has been some difficulty in delivering them by hand (particularly in one area) in spite of devoted help by the volunteer deliverers. We hope they will bear with us and deliver the remaining 1987 issues. The Proceedings will continue to be distributed at meetings.

Before the business of the AGM began, the President, Mr J G W Lewarne, addressed the members, reminding them that history is an on-going thing. One of Mr Lewarne's hopes was that more of our winter lectures would deal with the Parishes with which the Society is mainly concerned. The Programme Sub-Committee has taken note and will do its best to comply.

Proceedings - The Editor, Dr D F Renn, apologised for the very late issue of the 1986 Proceedings, due entirely to delays in printing. Copies will be distributed as soon as possible to all members whose 1987 subscriptions have been paid.

## 1987 SUBSCRIPTIONS

There are still many subscriptions outstanding for 1987. A personal reminder is enclosed to those who have not yet renewed their membership: we hope all of you will do so. A remittance slip is attached to the reminder.

## MEMBERSHIP

Renewed subscriptions always bring to notice the wide area over which our membership is spread.

Apart from the members in "our" areas of Ashted, Bookham, Effingham, Fetcham and Leatherhead, we have members fairly locally in Cobham, Dorking, Epsom, Ewell, Headley (near Epsom), Mickleham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon. Other members further afield are in:

Betchworth - Bishops Stortford, Herts - Buxted, E Sussex - Crawley, Sussex - Cullen, Banffshire - East Horsley - Frome, Somerset - Holloway, London N7 - Horsham, W Sussex - Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria - Mapperley, Nottingham - New Malden - Redhill - Rugby, Warwickshire - South Croydon - Tadworth - Wallington.

And furthest away of all is Mr S C Maynard in Victoria, Australia.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We have great pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

Ashtead	Fetcham	Leatherhead
Mrs L Thatcher	Mr D Dawson	Mrs D Dodds
	Mr & Mrs G Powell	Mr & Mrs A Fry
		Mr & Mrs T Hole

#### FUTURE PROGRAMME

##### URGENT!! - WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 1987 - VISIT TO LEATHERHEAD WATER WORKS

Last year we had a talk by Mr W A Bryan of East Surrey Water Works. Apart from a most interesting talk, he gave details of the charity "Water Aid" which is bringing fresh and safe water supplies to communities in under-developed countries.

Mr Bryan has now arranged for us a visit to the Water Works, meeting there at 7pm on Wednesday, 10 June. A brief tour of the pumping station will be followed by a tour round the new treatment works, finishing with coffee at approximately 8.30pm.

There are quite a few stairways and walk-ways, some of which have open treads - therefore please wear appropriate shoes - definitely no high heels!

The party will be restricted to 36 with three engineers guiding parties of 12 people. A booking form is enclosed: we are sorry the notice of this visit is so short. On this occasion a charge of £1 each will be made, all of which will be handed over to the "Water Aid" charity as a "thank-you" for both the talk and the visit. Your cheques should therefore be made out to "Water Aid" and they will all be forwarded to Mr Bryan together.

##### SATURDAY, 18 JULY 1987 - LEATHERHEAD "WALK"

Mr Stephen Fortescue will lead members on a "Walk" round some of the interesting places in Leatherhead. Meet at the Museum at 2.30pm. The walk will finish at the Museum, where it is hoped a cup of tea will be waiting.

##### SUNDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 1987 - VISIT TO DORKING

The Curator of Dorking Museum, Mr Walker, is leading a "Walk" round Dorking of approximately one hour, after which he will open the Museum specially for us.

Meet outside Dorking Halls at 2.30pm.

The cost of this visit will be 50p and a booking form is enclosed. There will be an entry charge to the Museum of 20p each: please pay this yourself on the day.

We are most grateful to Mr Walker for arranging this afternoon visit.

ANNUAL DALLAWAY LECTURE - FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 1987

This lecture will be in the Large Hall of Letherhead Institute at 8.15pm on Friday, 16 October 1987. We are very pleased to welcome as our speaker Mr J E Bebbington, Warden & Director of Studies at Juniper Hall Field Centre, who will give an illustrated talk on "Wild Flowers and Butterflies of the North Downs". Coffee will be available between 7.45pm and 8.15pm.

A silver collection will be made as in past years, and coffee will be 20p a cup on this occasion.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Painshill Park, Esher

On the public open days which started on Wednesday, 29 April 1987, anyone who arrives at the Park on a Wednesday afternoon prompt at 2pm will enjoy a guided walk including light refreshments. (Last occasion of the season will be 28 October.) The Park entrance is on the A245 adjacent to Cobham Bridge on the River Mole. Tickets are £2 for adults, £1-50 OAPs and £1 children. These will be sold at the gate together with brochures. Car-parking is limited. The Park is still in the process of restoration, so facilities are primitive. Take stout shoes and be prepared for a walk taking two hours.

The Mayne Collection of Farming Bygones, Weir Mead Farm, Wheelers Lane, Brockham, telephone Betchworth 2094.

This collection will be open from 2 - 5.30pm on Bank Holidays Sunday and Monday, May 24 and 25, and August 30 and 31.

The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester

Opening arrangements for this year are:

1 April - 31 October

1 November - 31 March 1988

11am - 5pm every day

11am - 4pm on Wednesdays,  
Sundays & Bank Holidays

Admission charges are £2 for adults, £1-50 for OAPs and £1 for children.

During this spring the timber frame of a 17th century house from Reigate High has been erected.

"OF GOOD REPORT"

The Society is publishing a booklet written by Mrs Linda Heath and called "Of Good Report". This is a history of schools in Leatherhead from earliest times, though it is chiefly about the Church of England Schools from 1837 onwards.

The Booklet is now at the printers and will hopefully be available at the end of May, price £3-50. It can be obtained through the Society, the Museum and Mrs Heath herself (Leatherhead 372603).

SURREY MUSEUMS COUNCIL

A pamphlet has been produced by Surrey Museums Council giving details of all the many Museums in Surrey. A copy of the pamphlet is enclosed.

### SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL

The Surrey Local History Council have asked their Member Societies to give publicity to their publication "Surrey History" and a leaflet is enclosed.

### SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

We are trying to build up a complete collection and if any member has any of the following volumes which he no longer requires, we should be most grateful if he would donate them to the Society:

Volumes dated 1855 to 1908. Subsequent to that date,  
Volumes 1 - 15, 17 - 22, 24 - 26, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36 and 40.

Volumes may be left with any Committee member, or they may be left at the Leatherhead Institute Library on Tuesday or Friday afternoons or on Thursday mornings. They may also be left at the Museum on Friday mornings or on Saturdays from April to December.

### THE TROUBLE WITH HAMPTON COTTAGE - From David Bruce

A common problem with all centuries-old buildings adjacent to a road, is that whilst the road is frequently repaired and improved with added layers of hard surfacing - stone, gravel, tarmac, concrete - the building sits stolidly on its foundations (if any). The result is of course that the road surface level gets higher relative to the interior floor level of the building, with all the accompanying problems of damp penetration of the walls. When Hampton Cottage was purchased, Mole Valley stipulated that foundations, concrete floors and a damp-proof course had to be installed. This was duly done, but it was found that the damp-proof course level was below ground level, particularly towards the front of the house nearest the road.

There were at least two alternatives. Either we could lower the level of the side path and front garden to a point two brick heights below the damp proof course (and this might still be done with the side pathway, although before doing so, the depth of the water supply pipe would need to be checked, and kept buried sufficiently deep to avoid the water freezing in cold weather) although this could result in an unsightly "pit" in the front garden which could be dangerous and subject to the collection of stagnant rainwater. Or the levels of the path and garden could be left as they were, and gullies built to take the immediate ground level to the regulation two-brick depth below the damp-proof course. The second alternative was adopted, but it is found, particularly in the front garden, that the gullies end up as receptacles of all the leaves, sweet packets, beer cans, plastic bags etc in our part of Leatherhead, and clearing out the gullies has become a fairly frequent and very unpleasant task for someone.

To alleviate the problem it was decided to purchase cast iron grids (somewhat similar to the hot air grids seen in many churches) to cover at least the front garden gullies. These things are not cheap, and the five required cost, including VAT, £46. However, the Friends of the Leatherhead Museum have generously paid this bill. Luckily for the Museum, Ernest Armstrong has offered to make such adjustments to their size as may be necessary (as always, nothing ever quite fits the space that it is required to fill) and it is hoped that as soon as they are installed, at least one "Trouble with Hampton Cottage" will have been solved.

MUSEUM STEWARDS - From David Bruce

We are sorry to learn that two of our faithful Friday morning stewards, Miss Pat Smith and Mr Alf Bailey, have decided that they can no longer continue to do their monthly turn on the rota, due to pressure from their various other commitments. This is, of course, inevitable, and therefore we must have a continual flow of new volunteers to plug the gaps when they occur. Anyone able and willing to give us three hours of their time over a month (or even more infrequently) are urged to contact Joe Parry (Leatherhead 375359) in respect of the Friday morning rota, or Ralph Hume (Leatherhead 374520) in respect of the two Saturday rotas. Meanwhile, thanks, Pat and Alf, for all your help - we hope you found it interesting and worthwhile.

FUTURE DISPLAYS IN THE MUSEUM

Stephen Poulter is preparing an exhibition concerning the River Mole Swallow Holes, which it is hoped will go on display in June. This will be followed in September by an exhibition concerning the Schools of Leatherhead and Ashted, staged by Mrs May Cree and Mrs Linda Heath. This display will act as a useful backdrop to the forthcoming Society publication "Of Good Report", the story of the Leatherhead Schools, written by Linda Heath, which will, of course, be on sale in the Museum.

J S SMITH, CYCLE MANUFACTURER, OF BOOKHAM

In conversation with Les Bowerman, who spoke to the Society recently on "Early Cycling in Surrey", he mentioned a Mr J S Smith who manufactured the "Invincible" bicycle somewhere near Waterloo, London, in the late nineteenth century. The interesting point is that Mr Smith is supposed to have lived in Bookham, but we have no mention of this gentleman in our Records. If anyone can supply further details regarding his residence in Bookham, or his work-place in London, will they please let David Bruce (Bookham 58722) know.

MRS RONALD GREVILLE'S GOD-DAUGHTER

Members may have read the obituary of Sonia Cubitt in the newspapers on 19 August 1986.

Sonia was the youngest daughter of Mrs George Keppel, a "favourite" of Edward VII, and a frequent fellow-guest of his at Polesden Lacey. Mrs Greville was god-mother to Sonia Keppel and she was not pleased when Sonia became engaged to a son of Lord Ashcombe who lived at Denbies. In his book "Great Hostesses" (Constable, 1982) Brian Masters recounts the visit Mrs Greville paid Denbies, and, refusing to leave her Rolls-Royce, forced Lord Ashcombe to come out from the house to see what she wanted. "I only called to tell you that I do not consider that your son is good enough for my god-daughter" she declared, and was driven straight back to Polesden Lacey, leaving his Lordship fuming on the drive. However, her mission was unsuccessful, and Sonia became Mrs Ronald Cubitt.

SUNDRY FACTS FOR THE RECORDS - From David Bruce

The following items concerning a Fetcham Mill borehole, contained in an article entitled "Lower Chalk of South-East England" by William James Kennedy, in Vol 80 1969 Part 4 of Proceedings of the Geologists Association (pages 489/490) may not seem very important in themselves, but who can say

whether or not they might be a valuable clue for some future researcher in 50 or 100 years time!

"..... the recent Fetcham Mill borehole (TQ 15815650), however, penetrated 198ft (= 60m approx) of Lower Chalk (Gray, 1964)."

Dealing with the fossils of the Upper Greensand, there is the following:

"More detailed records are given (in Gray 1964), by Casey, who records ammonites suggesting the substuderi sub-zone in the Fetcham Mill bore. Pleurohoplites subvarious Spath is recorded from 43ft 10in (= 13m) below the lowest occurrence of Schloenbachia, Lepthoplites cf pseudoplanus Spath an inch (2.5cm) lower, and Callihoplites cf tetragonus (Seeley) 12ft (= 4cm) lower still, in the top of the Gault."

"At Fetcham Mill there is thus no less than 52ft 4in (16m) of Upper Greensand and some Gault of dispar Zone age, of which the upper 41ft (13m) is younger than part at least of the substuderi sub-zone."

"At Fetcham Mill, the Geological Survey record 5ft 11in (1.9m) of 'Choritic Marl'."

This is the sort of material concerning our area that one comes across in the most unlikely of places, and judging by the almost complete lack of input by most of our 300 or so members over the last eighteen years to my knowledge, they are totally disregarded and probably thereby lost for ever. This is one field in which every member could play an important role in helping to make our Records even more complete. One new fact recorded could lead another member to add twenty more on the same or similar subject.

Incidentally, the volume of "Proceedings of the Geologists Association" mentioned above was picked up at a jumble sale.

#### DIPLOMA / MA IN REGIONAL HISTORY

Brighton Polytechnic - Department of Humanities - have sent us 20 copies of their syllabus of the course routes to a diploma or MA in Regional History.

Please ask the Secretary for a copy of the Syllabus if you are interested.

### RULES OF THE SOCIETY

The Rules of the Society have not been circulated to members for some time. Copies are being prepared and will be circulated, in a future Newsletter, to all our present members. They will be given to new members as and when they join.

### NEWSLETTERS

Last year was the first in which the Society produced four Newsletters instead of the customary three. Their publication dates were in the nature of an experiment, but henceforth they will be published in February, May, August and December of each year.