

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President : J G W Lewarne

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NEWSLETTER 3/87

AUGUST 1987

RULES OF THE SOCIETY

As promised, a copy of the Rules of the Society is enclosed for your retention. The Rules are dated May 1985, this being the last date on which any alteration was made in them.

MR S C MAYNARD

It is with much regret that we report the death earlier this summer of Mr S C Maynard. He had been a member of the Society since its inception and he and Mrs Maynard attended many events before they emigrated to Australia to be near their two daughters and their families. He retained his membership and continued to take a great interest in all the Society's affairs. He has asked that his complete set of Proceedings be returned to the Society - a most welcome and valuable gift as some of the early issues are missing from our official sets.

We send our sympathy and best wishes to Mrs Maynard and her family.

VISITS

Since the last Newsletter, the Society has made two visits. The first was to the American Community School, Cobham, where two senior students took us on a guided tour and explained the history of the beautiful 18th century mansion, Heywood Manor, now in the middle of the school complex. They also told us stories of some of its more colourful owners.

The mansion now houses the very young children. Congratulations to them on keeping it looking lovely and spotless - there was not a sticky finger-mark to be seen.

The second visit was to Leatherhead Waterworks and the new Treatment Plant, by invitation of Mr W A Bryan who gave such an interesting talk last winter. The visit was fully booked and Mr Bryan and two of his colleagues gave us a long and enthralling guided tour, which ended with a most welcome cup of coffee. The booking fees and donations from members who could not attend enabled us to hand £46 to Mr Bryan for the Water Aid charity.

Our thanks to everyone who made these visits such a success.

LEATHERHEAD WALK - Saturday, 20 July

Mr Fortescue took a party of 16 members on a "river" walk of Leatherhead this time. The walk coincided with the official opening of the refurbished large hall at the Institute which we were invited to visit. We were given tea and talks on the Institute by Mr F Kirby and the Project Manager of the work, Mr A Scott. Our thanks to them, and to Mr Fortescue for leading us.

1987 PROGRAMME

DORKING "WALK" - Sunday, 20 September

There are still places available on this "walk", details of which were given in the last Newsletter.

LECTURES

All lectures this season will be at 7.45pm for 8pm and will be held in the large hall of the Letherhead Institute, which we hope will be a popular move. Except for the Dallaway Lecture, a charge will be made of 20p to members and 50p to non-members - inclusive of coffee in both cases.

DALLAWAY LECTURE - Friday, 16 October

This year's speaker is Mr John Bebbington, the Warden and Director of Studies of the Juniper Hall Field Centre. His subject will be "Wild Flowers and Butterflies of the North Downs" and will be illustrated with his own slides.

May we remind you that this meeting is open to the public. We have decided not to issue tickets because of the work it would make for you and the Committee - so can we suggest that members come early to make sure of a good seat. Coffee will be available from 7.45pm until the start of the lecture at 8.15pm.

As usual a collection will be made at the end of the evening to help cover the expenses.

FRIDAY, 13 NOVEMBER - "Roman Religion and Villas in Surrey"

Dr John Gower will give the lecture which had to be cancelled last winter due to the appalling snow. We hope for better luck this time (in spite of the date).

FRIDAY, 11 DECEMBER - Christmas Miscellany

The ever-popular "Christmas Miscellany" will be co-ordinated by Dr D F Renn, who is hoping for a record number of speakers this year. Please contact him at 7 Burrow Close, Gt Bookham, telephone Bookham 54880, if you are able to contribute to the success of the evening.

SURREY ROMAN VILLA GROUP

The Society has been invited to join a coach outing on Saturday, 19 September organised by the Surrey Roman Villa Group of the Surrey Archaeological Society. This outing is to "The Lunt" and Coventry. There will be a guided tour of the partially reconstructed Lunt Roman Fort and Roman Army Museum at Baginton, nr Coventry in the morning. Lunch - picnic, restaurant or pub - in Coventry. The afternoon in Coventry will be for independent visiting to places of interest, eg Cathedral, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, 14th century Whitefriars, the restored medieval Spon Street, St Mary's medieval Guildhall, Tudor almshouses, and the Museum of British Road Transport.

The coach will start from Dorking Halls at 8.30 am with a pick-up at Guildford Railway Station at 9am. Cost £6-75 (£6-50 OAPs) to include coach fare, driver's gratuity and admission and guide charges at The Lunt. Optional cream tea in Coventry £1-50. For booking forms please contact Mr L Le Mottee, Little Rising Ermyrn Way, Leatherhead KT22 8TW, telephone Ashted 74107.

"OF GOOD REPORT"

The recently-published book "Of Good Report" by Mrs Linda Heath, tells the story of Leatherhead Schools through the centuries. The book can be obtained, price £3-50, from Mrs Heath (telephone Leatherhead 372603), the Leatherhead Museum and the Library at the Leatherhead Institute.

PUBLICATIONS

For the benefit of new members - we have limited stocks of older Proceedings going back about 12 years. These are worth buying at the low cost of 50p each, before we run out.

With reference to the leaflet on "Surrey History" in the last Newsletter, the Sales Secretary has a few older issues available, some costing as little as 50p each, others more recent at £1. These are becoming difficult to obtain.

Please contact Geoff Hayward on Leatherhead 372674 if you find you are short of some of our publications or those of kindred Societies.

SOME EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY MEMORIES OF LEATHERHEAD - Recorded by Mrs Mary Rice-Oxley

Mr Gilbert Grantham was born in Leatherhead early in this century. These memories of the town at that time are from a conversation with him.

He was born in North Street, where his parents lived and owned a furniture and upholstery shop on the site opposite the War Memorial. The house was large, with seven bedrooms, the front of the house being pulled down when the shop was built. On the opposite side of the road were the barns of Sweech House Farm, and wooden cottages further up the hill towards Bull Hill. These were removed when the War Memorial was built.

There were two walls in their garden, which extended to Elm House to the north (later replaced by the New Bull Hotel) and parallel to Bridge Street beyond Chitty's Row, behind Venthams. Under their house the cellars had arched brick ceilings. A large brick round-headed drain ran from Gravel Hill directly through Grantham's land to the river, into which it discharged.

At one time a scheme was discussed to make The Mole navigable for pleasure boats by building a weir at Cobham. Leatherhead Mill at the south side of the bridge was not working in Mr Grantham's time, but he used to swim in the pool in the barn by the mill. This had a tiled roof, but below that the sides were open. The water was very cold and the charge was one penny a swim. When the ford over the river was chained off, Mr Grantham raised objections, but unfortunately to no avail. Before this horses and carts could travel up river from the bridge by way of the islands and over the Shell Bridge at Thorncroft to avoid using Gimcrack Hill. Trout were caught from the river bank on the north side of the bridge.

The sign of Eleanour Runnyngge, until recently outside the Running Horse in Bridge Street, is not the original. Mr Grantham's father periodically refurbished the sign but it disappeared from the inn and so a copy had to be made.

On the opposite side of Bridge Street, on the present site of the small car park behind the shops, were stables. These were used by Mr Bonnett, the smith. The Rope Walk, running along the backs of the properties on

the south side of Bridge Street, was no longer used for making rope, although Mr Grantham remembers a painting of it by his father.

Miss Moore of the Swan Hotel was a great friend of the actress Ellen Terry, who often stayed there. On New Year's Eve, the townspeople danced in the streets and on New Year's Day a dance was held in the Swan. On one occasion, while Mr Davey was landlord, a party of revellers took the plaster statues which stood round the ballroom. These were found the next morning placed at intervals on both sides of the High Street!

Mr Vanderbilt, the millionaire, had a coach and four which ran from London to Boxhill, stopping at the Swan. This was after the regular coach service had ceased to run. At the next stop, the Running Horse at Mickleham, a small boy always came out to meet the coach, blowing a toy horn. Mr Vanderbilt had a small coach horn engraved for him as a surprise, and presented it to him in a special case.

Mould's, the ironmongers, had a fire on their premises on 11 January 1908. Luckily it did not spread to the gunpowder they sold, which was stored in the basement. The shop was called 'Mould's - the Little Dustpan'. The Fire Brigade, whose engine was kept under the Clock Tower in North Street, had fire drill and tested their hoses on Saturday evenings in the road by the Clock Tower. The road was then still gravelled.

Mr Grantham has heard of the custom of putting cabbage stalks round the door of the house of a pregnant bride on her wedding day.

The Operatic Society used the room under the Victoria Hall in the High Street for its rehearsals, or, alternatively, the Institute. Mr & Mrs Grantham were members of the Operatic Society for many years. Just after World War One 'Merrie England' was performed by the Operatic Society outdoors at Randall's Park. Because the weather was unsettled Mr Henderson of Randall's Park booked the Victoria Hall for a week at his own expense. Mr Grantham remembers the Hendersons as 'delightful people'.

In snowy weather there was sledging down Park Rise. The Bradmere Pond was still at the junction of Park Rise and the Kingston Road, and a policeman stood at this junction to prevent any mishaps between vehicles and sledges.

At the Mansion in Church Street Mr Grantham was taken into a small room under the entrance hall. The entrance was under a flagstone in the hall and a tunnel ran from this room to the river. He believes the room was filled in by Mr Reeves at a later date. This is supposed to have been the place where Judge Jeffries hid when visiting his dying daughter who was staying with her Aunt at the Mansion. Mr Grantham was also shown the entrance to a tunnel at the Priory which led to the Church, but he did not actually go into it.

Mr Burnett, the Sexton at the Parish Church, had told him of finding the Rev Coleridge sitting white-faced in the church, having seen a face looking at him from the organ loft. This face has since been seen by others. The occasion of a ghost being seen has already been described by the late Mr Benger in the Proceedings. On that day Mr Burnett was hanging a picture in the church and asked Mr Benger to hold it whilst he went to fetch some tools. Mr Burnett returned to find Mr Benger running from the church, the picture lying broken on the floor. Mr Benger wrote of a figure moving from the north wall of the chancel towards the altar.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RULES



LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

R U L E S

1. NAME

The name of the Society (hereinafter referred to as "the Society") is the LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

2. OBJECTS

Its objects are:

- (a) To institute, promote and encourage the study of local history in all its aspects and
- (b) To encourage the preservation of historic buildings, antiquities and records of the Parishes of Ashted, Leatherhead, Fetcham, Great Bookham and Little Bookham and surrounding districts.
- (c) To publish such material as may be desirable.

3. MEMBERS

- (a) There shall be four classes of Members, viz, Honorary Members, Ordinary Members, Junior Members and Joint Husband & Wife membership.
- (b) Honorary Members shall be such persons as may accept an invitation by the Executive Committee to become Honorary Members of the Society.
- (c) Ordinary Members shall be persons or bodies who wish to support and participate in the work of the Society, who apply and are accepted for membership.
- (d) The subscription for Ordinary Members shall be such sum as shall be determined at a general meeting upon notice of the intention to vary the subscription.
- (e) Junior Members shall be persons under the age of 18 who wish to support and participate in the work of the Society and who apply and are accepted for membership.
- (f) The subscription of Junior Members shall be such sum as the Executive Committee shall decide, not exceeding one half of the subscription payable by Ordinary Members.
- (g) Junior Members shall enjoy all the rights and benefits of membership other than the free issue of the annual Proceedings of the Society.
- (h) Joint Husband and Wife membership carries the right to two votes but only one set of papers and one copy of the Proceedings.
- (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.
- (j) All subscriptions shall become payable on the first January in each year or within one month from the date on which a member is accepted by the Executive Committee, except that those Members joining the Society for the first time after 30 September in any year shall not be expected to pay a further subscription until the January following the next January. Any member who shall fail to pay the due subscription within two months of a request by the Honorary Treasurer so to do shall cease to be a member of the Society.

- (k) The Executive Committee shall have complete discretion in considering any application for or removal from membership and shall not be required to furnish reasons.

4. GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) There shall be a general meeting in every year to receive the Accounts and the Report of the Executive Committee. Such meeting shall be called Annual General Meeting. Special General Meetings shall also be convened whenever directed by the Executive Committee or at the request of at least ten members of the Society.
- (b) The President of the Society shall preside at all meetings. In the absence of the President or of a Vice President then the Chairman of the Society shall preside. If none be present the Members present shall elect some other member of the Society to act as Chairman for that meeting. At all General Meetings the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.
- (c) The quorum necessary for any general meeting shall be ten members (excluding Officers of the Society) personally present. If at any meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the appointed time the meeting if convened at the request of members shall be dissolved, but in any other case it shall stand adjourned to the same day and time in the week following and, if practicable, at the same place. If at such adjourned meeting no quorum is present within half an hour from the appointed time the members present shall form a quorum and may transact the business of the meeting.
- (d) The chairman of the meeting may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn from time to time and from place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than business which might have been transacted at the meeting from which the adjournment took place. Members shall not be entitled to any notice of the adjournment of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.
- (e) A member shall have one vote whether on a show of hands or on a poll. A poll may be demanded by the chairman of the meeting or by any three members personally present. Proxies shall not be allowed.
- (f) Every resolution shall be decided by a simple majority of votes except as provided in Rule 12.

5. PRESIDENT

The appointment of a President and Vice-Presidents shall rest with the Executive Committee.

6. OFFICERS

- (a) The Society shall have the following Honorary Officers:

A Chairman, General Secretary, Records Secretary,
Programme Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and Librarian.

The Executive Committee may appoint such other Officers as they deem necessary. The Officers named above shall hold office until the close of the next following Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election.

(b) The Society shall appoint an Honorary Auditor.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) The Chairman, Treasurer, Secretaries, Editor and Librarian.
- (b) Three members of the Society to be elected or re-elected at each Annual General Meeting
- (c) Not more than two persons who may be co-opted by the Executive Committee.
- (d) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee. If he be absent or unwilling to act the Committee shall elect one of their number to act as Chairman for that meeting.

8. POWERS & PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The Executive Committee shall have power to fill any casual vacancy in its numbers from among the membership of the Society. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office until the close of the Annual General Meeting next following but shall be eligible for re-election.
- (b) An Officer or other member of the Executive Committee may be removed from his office at any time by a Resolution of the members at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.
- (c) The business of the Society shall be managed by the Executive Committee who, subject to these Rules, shall exercise all the powers of the Society and do on its behalf all such acts and things as may be done by the Society in order to carry out and further its objects.

9. MINUTES

Minutes shall be kept of all general meetings of the Society and of all meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall cause books of account to be kept recording all receipts and payments. Accounts shall be prepared, audited by the Honorary Auditor and laid before each Annual General Meeting.

10. NOTICES

Subject to Rule 12 at least seven days' notice shall be given to all members of each Annual and Special General Meeting. Notices of lectures and similar activities shall be given at such time and in such manner as the Executive Committee shall determine.

11. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

If upon winding-up or dissolution of the Society there remains any property of any description in the beneficial ownership of the Society the same shall not be distributed among members of the Society but shall be given to the Trustees of the Leatherhead Museum and Heritage Centre for the purposes of the Museum, but if the Museum shall have ceased to exist, then the same shall be given:

- (a) In the case of archives, books and miscellanea, to the Surrey Archaeological Society
- (b) In the case of photographs and records of buildings, to the National Monuments Record, and
- (c) In the case of surplus funds, to the Surrey Archaeological Society or to such charitable object as the members may determine at or before the time of dissolution.

12. ALTERATION OF RULES

These Rules shall be alterable only by a majority of at least two to one of those present and voting at the Special General Meeting of which at least fifteen days notice, specifying the amendment proposed, has been given. No amendment shall be made to the Rules which will cause the Society to cease to be a charity at law.

13. DISTRIBUTION OF RULES

Every member shall receive a copy of these Rules and of all amendments thereto, upon acceptance of membership.



LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE FOR 1987

APPOINTMENT	NAME AND ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
President	J G W Lewarne, 69 Cobham Road, Fetcham KT22 9HT	L 373736
Vice-President	S E D Fortescue, 56 The Mount, Fetcham KT22 9EA	L 372847
Vice-President & Editor	Dr D F Renn, FSA, 7 Burrows Close, Gt Bookham KT23 3MB	B 54880
Chairman	L A Smith, MBE, Hazeldene, Glebe Rd, Ashtead KT21 2NT	A 75466
Secretary & Membership Secretary	Miss J Fuller, 6 Siddons House, Howard Close, Ashtead KT21 1DY	A 77876
Treasurer	H J Mears, Beverley, 43 The Glade, Fetcham KT22 9TB	B 53071
Museum Curator	D Bruce, 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham KT23 3AT	B 58722
Museum Treasurer	J R Bull, 98 Woodfield Lane, Ashtead KT21 2DP	A 72800
Librarian	No appointment made. Enquiries to: L Sumption, 89 Windfield, Epsom Road, Leatherhead	L 373760
Programme Secretary	No appointment made. Enquiries to the Secretary	A 77876
Record Secretary	E Marsh, Chandelle, Orestan Lane, Effingham	B 53433
Sales Secretary	G Hayward, Ypriana, 173B Cobham Road, Fetcham KT22 9JE	L 372674
Archaeology Secretary	E Crossland, ISO, Oldberrow, 13 Clockhouse Mead, Oxshott KT22 ORW	O 2589
Lecture Secretary	N H West, MBE, 2 Beech Close, Effingham KT24 5PQ	B 54979
Committee members	Mrs L Heath, 5 St John's Avenue, Leatherhead KT22 7HT	L 372603
	R A Lever, ED, FLS, 51 Links Road, Ashtead KT21 2HL	A 72895

A = Ashtead B = Bookham L = Leatherhead O = Oxshott

August 1987