

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Past President J G W Lewarne

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NEWSLETTER 2/89

May 1989

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING: 15 APRIL 1989

The Charity Commissioners have asked for certain amendments to the Society's Rules before our application for charitable status can be considered. These alterations were approved by the Special General Meeting. Our application can now go forward and we hope to be granted charitable status in the near future.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 15 APRIL 1989

We were glad to have our new President, Mr S E D Fortescue, to take this meeting. Unfortunately the Chairman, Mr L A Smith, was in hospital and could not therefore attend the meeting. Members sent their good wishes to him for a speedy return to health.

The business of the meeting went well. The Executive Committee report and the accounts were accepted, and it was decided that no increase in subscription was necessary in 1990. There are major changes in the Committee. Mr Smith is resigning as Chairman and Mrs Linda Heath will replace him, though she is not able to take over until 1 July 1989 - Mr Smith will continue until then. Most of the previous Committee were re-elected, but in addition we at last have a Record Secretary - Mr J R Clube. We also have two new Committee members - Mr D B Ellis and Mr J W Middlemas, Mr Middlemas having been co-opted by the Committee. They are all most welcome. (The Secretary has a feeling that Linda Heath will be the Society's first Lady Chairman - is she right?)

Mr Fortescue, on behalf of the Society, thanked both Mr Lewarne, our President until the end of 1988, and Mr Smith for their contribution to the success of the Society. In particular, during his last year of chairmanship, Mr Smith had overseen the successful publication of "A History of Leatherhead".

We wish both Mr Lewarne and Mr Smith a happy "retirement". Small presentations are being made to both of them.

After the AGM, members enjoyed a most interesting illustrated talk by Mrs Erica Wilkinson on Pains Hill Park, Cobham, prior to our visit there in August, details of which are in this Newsletter. Having a talk after the AGM seems to have been a popular idea, so we shall repeat the experiment next year.

MR R A LEVER

A member of the Committee for many years and one of our experts on Ashtead, Mr R A Lever was recently very ill and has had to resign from the Committee.

However, he is now feeling much better and we send him our good wishes for a complete recovery, and our thanks for all the work he has done for the Society.

"A HISTORY OF LEATHERHEAD"

The book has been such a success that it is practically sold out and the Society has made a profit in spite of a selling price that some considered too low. We are particularly grateful to the Esso Group who guaranteed us up to a sum of £3000 if sales were not as expected. We have not had to ask them to honour their guarantee, but most generously they have made a donation to us of £1250.

Obviously in a history of this sort, extra facts (and a few corrections) can always be discovered. We should be glad if members would send any comments they may have to the Editor: Mrs Edwina Vardey, The White Cottage, 33 Lower Road, Fetcham KT22 9EL, as it is hoped eventually to publish a sheet of comments and amendments.

INDEX TO VOLUME IV OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Mr Jack Stuttard prepared this Index some time ago, but its publication was held up whilst all available finance was used for the Leatherhead History. Now that the financial position is clear, the Index is being produced - with apologies to Jack Stuttard for having had to delay its publication for quite a while, particularly after his quick and expert production of it.

1989 SUBSCRIPTIONS

There are still over 40 subscriptions unpaid. Hopefully these members will rejoin and a personal reminder to those concerned is enclosed with their Newsletters.

PROGRAMME

We have 3 more visits this summer, one in each month of June, July and August. Details are given below and a booking form is enclosed.

SATURDAY, 17 JUNE - Visit to Orford and Framlingham, Suffolk

These are two historic and interesting little villages with the remains of their Norman castles, from each of which there are fantastic views over the sea and the landscape. There is a combined guide book of the castles written for English Heritage by Dr D F Renn, our Vice-President and Editor, who will lead us on short "town walks" of Orford and Framlingham.

It is planned to arrive at Orford at 11.30am, finish there with a picnic lunch and leave at 2pm to arrive at Framlingham about 3pm. We leave about 4.30pm, back home by 7.30pm approximately.

The cost will be £8-50 ordinary rate; £8 OAPs; and £6-75 for English Heritage members, which will include entrance to the castles and all gratuities. Pick-up times are:

Bookham	8.10am	-	The Parish Church
Fetcham	8.20	-	Junction of Lower Road and The Street
Leatherhead	8.25	-	Leret Way, bus stop opposite Swan Centre
Ashtead	8.30	-	By "Sweet Things", The Street

SATURDAY, 15 JULY - Visit to Squerryes Court, Westerham, and Finchcocks Museum of Music, Goudhurst, Kent

Squerryes Court is a William and Mary manor house, built in 1681, and has been the home of the Warde family since 1735. The present Mr & Mrs Warde are opening the house specially for us; they will give us coffee on arrival and then take us round the house which has Old Master paintings, furniture, tapestries and china collected in the 18th century. There is a formal garden, lake and walks, and we may have picnic lunch in the grounds if we wish. Ploughman's lunch at £2-50 can be arranged at Squerryes with prior notice - please indicate on the booking form if you would like this and include £2-50 per lunch.

We leave at 1pm for Finchcocks in Goudhurst, which is a Georgian manor house named after the family who lived on the site in the 13th century, the present house being built in 1725 for Edward Bathurst. It is in lovely grounds with views across the parkland, farmland and hoggardens of Kent.

In 1970 the house was acquired by pianist Richard Burnett and it now houses his magnificent collection of historical keyboard instruments.

A guided tour has been arranged to start at 2pm, when there will be a chance to hear some of the instruments played. There are also exhibitions, a shop and a restaurant. We shall leave about 4.30pm and be home around 6pm.

The cost of the visit is £10 including entrance fees, coffee and gratuities. Pick-up times are:

Bookham	9.15am by the Parish Church
Fetcham	9.25 - Junction of Lower Road and The Street
Leatherhead	9.30 - Leret Way: bus stop opposite the Swan Centre
Ashtead	9.35 - By 'Sweet Things', The Street

SUNDAY, 13 AUGUST - Visit to Painshill Park, Cobham

Following the talk given to us by Mrs Erica Wilkinson on 15 April, a visit to Painshill Park has been arranged for Sunday, 13 August, with a limit of 30 people, using their own transport. A guided tour will be made in two groups of 15, starting at 2.30pm. Please be there early so that we can start on time. The entrance to Painshill is very narrow and coming from Cobham village, is on the left just over the river bridge. If you find yourself on the intersection, you've missed it! The cost is £2 (no reduction for senior citizens in party bookings). Stout footwear is essential.

PUTTENHAM & WANBOROUGH WALK - SUNDAY, 7 MAY

The Local History Society of Puttenham & Wanborough made us most welcome on this Walk and had gone to a great deal of trouble to make our visit interesting. The Secretary, David Inglesant, took us round Puttenham - and we were grateful to two residents who allowed us to swarm all over their unusual and beautiful little house which had started life in Tudor times and been much altered and added to over the centuries. We were then escorted by Miss Gillian Drew to the church at Wanborough, where the Chairman of the History Society, Mr Jock Weaver, told us about the history of the area, and Miss Drew told us about the church itself - one of the plaques in it commemorates the SOE agents who were trained in Wanborough during the war, before being dropped behind the enemy lines, many of them never to return.

At the end of the afternoon, three lady members gave us a sumptuous tea in the village hall. Never has tea been so welcome on a very hot afternoon!

Our thanks to everyone involved in planning the visit.

SHOREHAM VISIT - OCTOBER 1988

We saw one very unusual house in Puttenham. Lawrie Smith has written the following note about an unusual bungalow seen during the Shoreham visit last October:

"During the 1920s it became the fashion, particularly among the artistic professions, to have a small week-end beach hut/bungalow on Shoreham beach, many of which were old railway carriages. Over the years most of these disappeared. However, a few survived and it was a very desirable residence with all mod cons, using two such carriages, which we visited.

It would seem that the owners of the property, Mr & Mrs Page, were expecting a party of half a dozen or so historians. The look on their faces when over 30 people disembarked from a large coach was interesting to behold. However, their welcome was warm and in we all trooped after having gazed in astonishment at the outside flanks.

The bungalow consisted of two old, probably pre-1914, first class London, Brighton & South Coast Railway carriages set some ten feet apart end on to the road, covered at some time with plaster board. The space in between them had been covered in and a gabled front end erected to form an entrance hall and at first glance the edifice looked like a very ordinary bungalow. And that is what the owner thought when he bought it for demolition and erection of a modern dwelling.

When he stripped off the outer covering he discovered that his ordinary looking bungalow was in fact the solid mahogany coachwork, complete with gold lettering, brass door and window fittings, of two first class railway carriages in very good condition. So instead of demolition he spent almost as much on restoration as he would have done on a new bungalow but what he now has is an almost unique house of great charm where one cooks, bathes and sleeps in first class style and lounges in the ample space in between. The outside gives the impression that one can enter the dwelling from any one of several spanking looking carriage doors, still replete with all fittings."

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Visits have been arranged to Ordnance Survey HQ, Southampton, on Wednesday, 12 July, and to Lancing and Shoreham-by-Sea on Tuesday, 1 August. The latter will be a re-run of this Society's visit of last year. It is hoped to visit Poole on Friday, 1 June 1990. Non-members are welcome on such trips. Initial enquiries to Alan Gillies - Ashted 274616 - please.

"FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

The "Friends" are holding their Annual General Meeting at 8pm on Thursday, 22 June 1989, in Room G6 of Leatherhead Institute. It is hoped to see anyone interested in supporting the Museum.

The meeting will be followed by a "Museum Miscellany" of some of the interesting items given to the Museum recently, and also short talks by anyone with a good story to tell.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE FOR 1989

President	S E D Fortescue, 56 The Mount, Fetcham KT22 9EA	L 372847
Past-President	J G W Lewarne, 69 Cobham Road, Fetcham KT22 9HT	L 372736
Vice-President & Editor	Dr D F Renn, FSA, 7 Burrows Close, Gt Bookham KT23 3HB	B 54880
Chairman to 30.6.89	L A Smith, MBE, Hazeldene, Glebe Road, Ashted KT21 2NT	A 275466
Chairman from 1.7.89	Mrs L Heath, 5 St John's Avenue, Leatherhead KT22 7HT	L 372603
Secretary/Member- ship Secretary	Miss J Fuller, 6 Siddons House, Howard Close, Ashted KT21 1DY	A 277876
Treasurer	E Marsh, Chandelle, Orestan Lane, Effingham KT24 5SN	B 53433
Museum Curator	D Bruce, 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham KT23 3AT	B 58722
Museum Treasurer	J R Bull, 98 Woodfield Lane, Ashted KT21 2DP	A 272800
Sales Secretary	G Hayward, Ypriana, 173B Cobham Road, Fetcham KT22 9JE	L 372674
Archaeology Sec- retary	E Crossland, ISO, Oldberrow, 13 Clockhouse Mead, Oxshott KT22 ORW	O 842589
Lecture Secretary	N H West, MBE, 2 Beech Close, Effingham KT24 5PQ	B 54979
Librarian	F Kirby, 12 Highlands Avenue, Leatherhead KT22 8NN	L 376859
Record Secretary	J R Clube, St Gerrans, Leatherhead Road, Gt Bookham KT23 4RR	B 53145
Committee Members	D B Ellis, 23 Kingscroft Road, Leatherhead KT22 7BU	L 372509
	J W Middlemas, 10 Highlands Avenue, Leatherhead KT22 8NN	L 374035

NON-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Programme	Sub-Committee: Contact the Secretary	A 277876
Press Officer	R P Johnson, 27 The Garstons, Great Bookham KT23 3DT	B 54196