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NEWSLETTER 3/89

August 1989

MR J G W LEWARNE

On Mr Lewarne's retirement from the Presidency, the Society were very pleased to present him with a book as a small "thank you" for all his many years of service. Our new President, Mr S E D Fortescue, has received the following letter from him:

"Will you be good enough to convey my grateful thanks to fellow members of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society for the kind gift of the book on the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles which will be a constant reminder of more than 42 years' association with the Society.

I trust the Society will go from strength to strength in the years to come.

I should like to thank so many members for their friendship and many acts of kindness, and what better way of conveying this wish than to express my thoughts to you as President of the Society. Thank you!"

We wish Mr Lewarne happiness and good health in his "retirement". If he ever feels able to attend one of our events, he can be assured of a very warm welcome.

It is particularly apt that the following paragraph under the heading "Long Service in Leatherhead" appeared in the May 1989 issue of Local History News produced by the British Association for Local History:

"One of the older local history, as opposed to county history, societies must be the Leatherhead & District Local History Society which recently held its 42nd Annual General Meeting....."

As he said in his letter, Mr Lewarne has been with the Society for all its 42 years.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined us over the last few months:

Ashtead  
Bouchard, B E  
Edmonston, Mr & Mrs J C  
Hiscock, J R  
Strachan, Mr & Mrs A C

Bookham  
Beech, A MacE  
Dyos, Mr & Mrs F C  
Johnston, Mr & Mrs F C  
McLeod, Mr & Mrs A A J

Fetcham  
Cooper, Mr & Mrs R A  
Hardy, Mrs J W  
McKinley, Mrs S

Leatherhead  
Whapham, C J

Mickleham  
Evans, M Th

MUSEUM NEWS - From David Bruce

#### Ralph Hume

Stewards - and members generally - will be aware that Ralph Hume is very ill indeed and is confined to bed. As a result he is very bored and would welcome visits from his friends. However, he has his ups and downs and it would be advisable to telephone first to make sure that he feels

like seeing someone. His telephone is Leatherhead 374520, and his address is 8 Highlands Avenue, Leatherhead.

We all send our best wishes to him.

#### Museum Furniture

At present the Stewards sit at a small table which has served us well for the last ten years. However, it has only one shallow drawer and it has been suggested that a small size cabinet with more ample drawer space would be more useful. In view of the limited space available in the front room of Hampton Cottage, the cabinet would need to have roughly the same dimensions as the present table, that is, 29" high, 36" long and 18" wide. Before we venture into the second hand furniture market, we wondered whether any member has a suitable cabinet "surplus to requirements", or knows of anyone who may have such an item for disposal. If so, the Museum Curator would be very pleased to hear from you: David Bruce, Bookham 58722.

#### PROCEEDINGS - From Geoff Hayward

Most issues of Proceedings up to 1986 are still available at 50p a copy. However, a special drive is being made to clear these stocks, particularly at outside events where they are always in demand.

Any member who needs back copies of Proceedings should therefore buy them quickly before they all disappear. Contact Geoff Hayward on Leatherhead 372674 : he will be pleased to help with queries and supply any copies required.

#### ARCHAEOLOGY - From Ernest Crossland

Three members of the Society have helped the Surrey County Council archeology team in the further exploration of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at the Goblin Works/Esso site at Ermyn Way, Ashted. Ten more burials were found, very similar to those found in 1985 - some in well-cut graves with the head to the south, others in shallow scrapes in the ground with several bodies apparently thrown in without ceremony. One skeleton had been decapitated and the skull buried upside-down with the top of the head towards the neck. This person had a knife by the waist (probably on a belt) with a bronze pin nearby. Another bronze pin was found by the right shoulder; both were very well preserved. These artefacts with the body suggest that the decapitation does not signify an execution though others where the head had been severed and the hands appeared to have been tied together, do seem to have been criminals as they were not in well-cut graves. Many of the skeletons were in poor condition with only the limb bones surviving, probably due to the area having been cultivated; acid from fertilisers would have destroyed the less robust bones such as the vertebrae and the pelvis.

The work has now been completed and the bones removed for examination in a laboratory to ascertain age at death, sex and any illnesses during life which can be identified from scars on the remains. As with the previous bodies found, the teeth were in good condition apart from being worn down due to grit in the stone-ground flour.

The style of the grave goods show these people to have been Anglo-Saxons and the burial of the objects indicate that they were pagan. This would date the burials to around 600 AD.

## PUBLICATIONS

Two books by Dr David Robinson, the County Archivist, have recently been published:

### "Pastors, Parishes and People in Surrey"

This book is published by the Surrey Local History Council and is an expanded version of a paper read by Dr Robinson at last year's Local History Symposium. Its purpose is to give an impression of Christian life and organisation in each period as shown by events that took place in Surrey other than the area of Inner London.

The booklet of 38 pages with 21 illustrations is well worth the published price of £2-95, but is a bargain to members of the Society who may buy it for £2 from the Leatherhead Museum.

### "Surrey Through the Century : 1889 - 1989"

As part of the celebration to mark the centenary of Surrey County Council, Dr Robinson has written a study of the first 100 years of elected County government in Surrey. The book draws on original sources and illustrations from the Council's archives and elsewhere, to trace the history of the Council and the part that members and staff have played, with the people of Surrey, in the development of the modern county.

The publication is priced £2-50 and is available from County Libraries, at events organised by the Council Council, or direct from SCC, Room G9, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames KT1 2DN. Postage 65p extra.

## SURREY RECORD SOCIETY

In order to conserve storage space, the Society is selling its back stock of the following volumes at only £1 each plus postage, while stocks last. Readers will be aware that once out of print, these will attract very high prices in the standard second-hand book market:

- VOL VII Pipe Roll for 1295, Surrey membrane; paperback reprint (1968)
- VOL XV Surrey Manorial Accounts; paperback reprint (1968)
- VOL XIX Surrey Fines 1509 - 1558; paperback reprint (1968)
- VOL XXIII Call Book for the Episcopal Visitations of the Diocese of Winchester, 1581 - 1582; Archd. of Surrey (1956)
- VOL XXIV Guildford Borough Records 1514 - 1546 (1958)
- VOL XXV Wimbeldon Vestry Minutes 1747 - 1788 (1965)
- VOL XXVI Fitznells Cartulary (1968) (covers Ewell and area)
- VOL XXVII Mitcham Settlement Examinations 1784 - 1814 (1973)
- VOL XXVIII Kingston upon Thames Register of Apprentices 1563 - 1703 (1974)
- VOL XXIX Ashley House (Walton on Thames) Building Accounts 1602 - 7  
(1977)
- VOL XXX Deposition Book of Richard Wyatt JP, 1767 - 1776 (1978)

These volumes are obtainable from Mr M E Blackman, 65 Wolsey Drive, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 3BB.

## PAINTINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Some paintings of local interest have appeared in London sale rooms in recent months. At Christies on 13 December 1988, an album of water colour paintings and drawings by John Dibblee Crace (1838 - 1919) was sold. It included a watercolour of Leatherhead Parish Church, which was reproduced in colour in the sale catalogue and in black and white in the Leatherhead Advertiser of 15 December 1988. The artist was a member of the Crace firm of Interior Decorators which was in business in London from 1768 to 1899.

At Sothebys on 8 March 1989 two paintings by John Nost Sartorius (1759-1828) were sold. They had been in the family of Henry Boulton (1752-1828) who was the owner of Thorncroft and Givons Grove (See "A History of Leatherhead", page 122). One of the paintings is of "Henry Boulton with the Surrey Hounds near Leatherhead" and is dated 1792. The tower of Leatherhead church appears in the picture, which shows six riders and seven couples of hounds. Another painting is dated 1788 and shows "Hunters, the property of Henry Boulton, with dogs and a groom in a paddock". A third painting, by Sawrey Gilpin RA (1733-1807), also formerly in the possession of the Boulton family, is dated 1775 and shows "A strawberry roan hunter, the property of Mrs Henry Boulton, tethered to a tree". The paintings were sold for £123,000, £121,000 and £6,600 respectively.

Our member Mr David Ellis has obtained copies of the catalogues of these sales and has presented them to the Society, along with a photograph of the Crace watercolour and a copy of the Leatherhead Advertiser for 15 December 1988.

## PROGRAMME

We need information from our members on what sort of day visit is most appreciated, what distance (travelling time) is acceptable etc, etc. We are asking this because the visit arranged to Orford and Framlingham in Suffolk had to be cancelled for lack of support - a great disappointment as a lot of work had gone into the arrangements and it was the first time for many years (if ever) that we have cancelled anything. The day visit to Squerryes Court and Finchcocks Music Museum was fully booked (it was a delightful day spent in the happy homes of the two families who owned them) and the visit to Painshill Park is over-subscribed..... so what was wrong with Suffolk? Was it something as simple as the long-continuing heat that put you off a 2½ hour coach journey? We have had requests for some visits to be on a week-day rather than a week-end. This we are arranging. Please let the Secretary know your views.

Winter lectures will soon be here again. They will all be held in the Dixon Hall at the Leatherhead Institute at 7.30pm for 8pm - coffee before the meeting - on the THIRD FRIDAY of each month between October and April. But as usual there is an exception to the rule. The January 1990 lecture will be on the SECOND Friday as we have surrendered our regular date to the Samaritans to celebrate their silver anniversary. We will of course remind you in the next Newsletter.

We need some more "coffee-persons" to help serve and wash up the coffee cups. Also we should welcome help in setting out the chairs in the hall at about 7.20pm. At the moment two or three members of the Committee do it every time. Names, please to the Secretary: if we get enough we can arrange a rota. The chairs also have to be cleared away at the end of the meetings, but hopefully those present will give a hand.

We have had a suggestion that some of the lectures should be held in the afternoon rather than the evening, the suggestion regretfully prompted by unwillingness to travel alone at night. Would this appeal to members? The Committee feel it would have to be a week-end afternoon to give working members a chance to attend. No doubt tea could be arranged. (In the early days of the Society some "fixtures" were held on Saturday afternoons at The Bull Hotel. On 9 December 1950, for instance, there was a lantern lecture given by Captain A W G Lowther, FSA, ARIBA, on the excavations at The Mounts, Leatherhead. Proceedings commenced with tea at the Hotel at 4pm sharp, the lecture following at 4.40pm. Admission was by ticket only, price 2s 6d including tea, or 1s 0d for the lecture only. Happy days!)

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THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER - Fetcham "Walk"

Geoff Hayward will take us on a not-too-strenuous "walk" of Fetcham to see some of its more interesting and historic places. Members should meet at 2.30pm sharp at the Parish Church car park, Lower Road entrance, by the telephone box. Geoff is hoping to arrange afternoon tea following the walk.

A booking slip is enclosed, and a charge of 50p is, as usual, being made for this Walk.

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WINTER LECTURES - All at 7.30pm for 8pm in the Dixon Hall, Leatherhead Institute.

FRIDAY, 20 OCTOBER - The Dallaway Lecture

This year's Dallaway Lecture will be given by Dr David Robinson, the County Archivist, who will talk about the County Records, what is in them, how to use them etc, bearing in mind he will have an audience composed of erudite historians well used to researching, through to those who have never researched anything. A formidable task he will no doubt deal with admirably.

This meeting is open to the public: come early to be sure of a seat.

FRIDAY, 17 NOVEMBER - "The Town of Dorchester"

Many of you will remember Steve Poulter who was a member of our Committee until his retirement to Dorchester. He is coming to talk to us about the history of the town, and we can now give very preliminary notice that on THURSDAY, 12 JULY 1990, Steve has arranged for us a most interesting visit there. 1990 is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Hardy and special exhibitions are being staged. A week-day has been chosen, not only to keep our promise to arrange some visits during the week, but also because in this instance certain things can only be viewed during normal working hours.

Those of you unfortunate enough still to be working! - reserve a day's leave for this visit.

FRIDAY, 15 DECEMBER - Christmas Miscellany

Derek Renn - Bookham 54880 - is again organising this. If you can contribute a 5 to 10 minute talk on anything of historical interest, please get in touch with him. We need as wide a variety of subjects as possible.

As you know, for some years Mr Crawford ran a raffle at the Christmas Miscellany, having rounded up a good collection of prizes beforehand. Mr & Mrs Crawford now live in Felpham, Sussex. Is there anyone willing to carry on the tradition? The raffle added a bit of fun to the evening as well as benefitting the Society's funds. The Secretary would be glad to hear from a volunteer.

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Over the years we have taken bookings for visits on the basis that we would only contact you if there was no room left; otherwise, to save work, we have not acknowledged your bookings.

Unfortunately one or two letters have recently gone astray, so as from next season, if you send us a stamped addressed envelope, we will send you confirmation that your letters and cheques have been received. Cheques are not usually paid into the bank until after the visit to which they refer, has taken place.

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

TO: Miss J Fuller, 6 Siddons House, Howard Close, Ashted KT21 1DY  
(Ashted 277876)

FETCHAM WALK: THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1989

Please reserve ..... places at 50p each

NAME:.....

ADDRESS: .....  
.....

TELEPHONE .....

CHEQUES PAYABLE TO-LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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