

Chairman
Mrs L Heath
5 St John's Avenue
Leatherhead KT22 7HT
Leatherhead 372603

Treasurer
E G Marsh
Chandelle
Orestan Lane
Effingham KT24 5SN
Bookham 53433

Secretary
Miss J Fuller
6 Siddons House
Howard Close
Ashtead KT21 1DY
Ashtead 277876

NEWSLETTER 4/89

November 1989

LAWRIE SMITH

In recognition of Lawrie Smith's eight years of Chairmanship, the Committee invited him to become a Vice-President of the Society. They are very pleased to say that he has accepted this invitation.

He becomes only the fifth Vice-President since the inception of the Society in 1947. The first was Mr J G W Lewarne from 1973 until 1977, when he became President. Two Vice-Presidents were then appointed: Mr F B Benger (who died in 1984), and Dr D F Renn, our present Editor. Mr S E D Fortescue was Vice-President from 1983 until 1988 when he became President following Mr Lewarne's resignation.

RALPH HUME

Many of you will already have heard that, sadly, Ralph Hume died in August; our heartfelt sympathy goes to Mrs Hume and her family.

Ralph helped the Society, the Museum and the "Friends of the Leatherhead Museum" in many ways. He made copies for our records of old photographs of Leatherhead and district, and slides for the use of our lecturers. He was much involved in the restoration of Hampton Cottage, and long after the main work had been completed, he continued, with Geoff Hayward, to construct dwarf brick walls and pave the garden with York stone. He acted as "House-manager" of Hampton Cottage, keeping an eye on the electrical and water supply systems, particularly in the winter, frequently visiting the cottage to check that all was well and secure. In addition he organised the Saturday rota of Stewards and served on the Museum Committee for many years, where his common sense approach was most salutary.

The "Friends of the Leatherhead Museum" were glad to have him as a Committee member and he helped to make the various "Bygone" evenings (the money-raising events in support of the Museum) the great success they were.

Ralph will indeed be greatly missed.

Mrs Hume has asked us to pass on her thanks and those of her family, for all the help and support so many of you have given to them.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING : Friday, 16 December 1989

At the request of the Charity Commissioners, we have been asked to hold a Special General Meeting to pass a minute amendment to the Rules as approved at the Special General Meeting in April 1989.

They have asked that the words ".. or one tenth of the membership, whichever is the greater" be removed from the end of Rule 4(a) and inserted instead in Rule 4(c) at the end of Line 1.

Hopefully this meeting will take only a few minutes so it will be held at 8pm on Friday, 16 December 1989, before the Christmas Miscellany. Copies of the Rules will be available at the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

We have pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

<u>Ashtead</u> Meshiea, Mrs Y Water house, Mr & Mrs P	<u>Bookham</u> Turner, O Russ	<u>Leatherhead</u> Eaton, Rev D Luff, Mr & Mrs O A
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We now have a membership of 357 made up of:

Single membership	183	
Husband & Wife	164	(82 pairs)
Honorary	10	
Juniors	Nil	
	<u>357</u>	

1990 SUBSCRIPTIONS

This is the last 1989 Newsletter, so may we remind you that 1990 subscriptions (£5 single, £7-50 Husband & Wife, £1 Junior 18 years and under) are due on 1 January 1990. A payment slip is enclosed.

If you are, or would like to be, a "Friend of the Leatherhead Museum", 1990 subscriptions of £1 per person are also due on 1 January. These can be paid with your Society subscription: only one cheque is necessary payable to the Society. The "Friends" subscriptions are passed on in bulk by the Society Treasurer. New "Friends" are most welcome: their subscriptions help to run and maintain the Museum.

At their AGM in June this year, the "Friends" introduced Life Membership at a minimum subscription of £20. The "Friends" have already been honoured to welcome their first two Life Members - Mr- & Mrs G J Gollin - and they are hoping for many more.

PROGRAMMES

All meetings are held at 7.30 for 8pm in the Dixon Hall of Leatherhead Institute. The entry fee of 20p for members, 50p for non-members, includes coffee which is available before the meeting.

FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER - Christmas Miscellany (Preceded by Special General Meeting)

Our annual evening of short topics - serious and not-so-serious - presented by members. If you have something you could contribute, Dr Derek Renn would be glad to hear from you on Bookham 54880, as he is organising the evening. We need as wide a variety of subjects as possible.

FRIDAY 12 JANUARY 1990 (Second Friday of the month): Producing a Local History - talk by Edwina Vardey, the Editor of "A History of Leatherhead". She will tell us a little of the time-consuming hard work and frustration involved in producing a local history, as well as the interest, humour and satisfaction in such a project.

FRIDAY, 16 FEBRUARY - The Society's Slides of Leatherhead, presented by Linda Heath.

The Society has a large collection of slides kept for the use of speakers by our Lecture Secretary, Norman West. Last season we showed some we have of Ashtead. This time Linda Heath has made a selection from those of Leatherhead.

FRIDAY, 16 MARCH - Annual General Meeting + A Speaker

Advance notice that the AGM will be held on this date, a month earlier than usual. All papers for the meeting will be issued with the February Newsletter.

Following the AGM, Dr Derek Renn will talk about the Surrey Historic Landscape Study. He is a member of the Committee organising the project, which is now getting under way.

MUSEUM - From David Bruce

"Literary Leatherhead" is the title of the latest exhibition on show at the Museum.

To be able to include such literary giants as Fanny Burney and Jane Austen, "Leatherhead" has been taken to embrace the surrounding areas. Shakespeare, Anthony Hope ("Prisoner of Zenda") and James Dalloway are also dealt with, along with many others.

Members should make every effort to see this attractively presented exhibition, when they will be surprised by the scope of the many literary connections with the area.

Research was by Peter Calnan, some photographs were taken by Ralph Hume, and the layout and presentation is by Sheila Warner.

WILLIAM SNOW, ARTIST.

We have recently been asked for information regarding William Snow, who in the late Victorian period was an artist of some ability and who illustrated children's books (although it is believed he used an assumed name for this). In the 1880s he lived with his wife and family in Inkerman Terrace, a block of four small cottages now regarded as being part of Church Road, Leatherhead, approached by a very narrow footpath off the short length of road connecting Church Road to Highlands Road by the White House - no doubt few members will even be aware of their existence.

Please let David Bruce know on Bookham 58722 any information you may discover about this past inhabitant of our town, about whom at the moment hardly anything is known.

ASHE LABORATORIES LIMITED

We have been given material concerning the firm of Ashe Laboratories, formerly of Kingston Road, Leatherhead, but who now, as far as we know, are sunk without trace in another firm. Some items are kept with one of Ashe's subsidiaries, Maw's, and according to Kelly's Directory for 1938, Mr Arthur T Maw then lived at Homefield, Fortyfoot Road, Leatherhead.

Again, any information regarding Ashe Laboratories, their products and their subsidiaries, would be welcomed by David Bruce on Bookham 58722.

"A HISTORY OF LEATHERHEAD"

All copies of the first edition of "A History of Leatherhead" have been sold.

However, a reprint (with amendments) is now available and can be bought through the Society, at the Museum and in bookshops, price £10-95.

JOHN FOWLER & THE ASHTEAD BURIAL GUILD

One of our members, Mrs J L Goldsmith has brought to our attention a photograph taken in 1895 of the Ashtead Burial Guild members of the time. They were paid one shilling a man to collect the dead and push them on a four-wheeled bier (much like a handcart) into church for burial. The members in 1895 were G Chitty, George Lisney (Mrs Goldsmith's Great Grandfather), T Goldsmith, J May and John Fowler. They wore top hats, white smocks, black armbands and round their necks, a medallion with a cross and anchor inscription.

John Fowler lived in Fowler's Cottage, Rectory Lane, Ashtead, and the cottage was named after him. He was amongst other things the local undertaker, and Mrs Goldsmith still has the bill for the funeral of her Great Great Grandfather, William Lisney. This states:

Rectory Lane, Ashtead, Epsom, Surrey

Mrs Lisney

Nov^r 1894

To JOHN FOWLER

Builder, Carpenter and Undertaker
Blind Maker
House Decorator, Upholsterer etc

		£	s	d
1894				
Nov ^r 3	To elm coffin, black handles ornaments and nails, plate with inscription, inside lined with swans-down, with superior sheets & ruffles, with attendance	3	7	6
	8 foot grave & bell		12	
	Rectors fee		10	6
	Vergers fee		2	6
	Burial Guild		2	6
			<hr/>	
		£4	15	0

R'cd Nov^r 16th 1894
(Sgd) J Fowler

The story goes that John Fowler was late for his own funeral. He was laid out in his coffin in an upstairs bedroom of Fowler's Cottage, as was the usual practise at that time. However, it was impossible to manoeuvre him down the tiny winding stairs of the cottage without the indignity of standing him on his head or feet, in an upright position. So a window had to be taken out and the coffin lowered to the ground. But all this took time..... and the Burial Guild had to run with the bier to the Church!

"A HISTORY OF ASHTEAD"

May we draw members' attention to the enclosed letter describing a forward project for a new history of Ashtead. We hope for many answers to the appeal for help.

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXCAVATIONS COMMITTEE: ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

This Symposium will be held at Dorking Halls on Saturday, 3 February 1990, doors open at 10am. Tickets in advance £2 from the Society's office: Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX; or £2-50 on the day. Details in the Society's "Bulletin" in due course.

The programme will include reports of recent fieldwork in the County and will feature a review of Saxon Surrey. The Symposium will also include a report on the progress of the Surrey Historic Landscape Study Project.