

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No T 802409

Chairman

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NEWSLETTER 4/1990

November 1990

MISS W MEDLAND

We were very sad to learn of the death in May of Miss Winifred Medland - a delightful person who wore her advancing years with charm. She had been a member of the Society for many years and was a regular attendant at our winter lectures where she was a member of the "Coffee Party".

She will be greatly missed.

NEW MEMBERS

These new members are most welcome to the Society:

Mr & Mrs D Burfoot - Fetcham
Mrs Y Hinde-Smith - Leatherhead
Mr & Mrs D Nunn - Leatherhead
Mr A O'Gorman - Epsom

COLLECTION OF INFORMATION - From David Bruce

Part of the function of the Museum, and the raison d'etre of a Local History Society, is the recording of facts concerning people, buildings, natural history, geology, industry, transport etc. to do with the area covered by those organisations.

If anyone reading this item has any such information which they think will be of interest, or knows anyone else who has any, would they please WRITE IT DOWN, with their name, address and telephone number, and hand it to an officer of the Society, or to the Museum, or even pop it through the letter box of the Museum if it is closed.

Please do not be put off by the thought that the information may already be recorded: better that it is received twice than not at all.

INDEX TO VOLUME IV OF THE PROCEEDINGS

The Index to Volume IV of the Proceedings is now available, and your copy will be sent to you with this Newsletter.

We are most grateful to Mr Ken Gravett for setting the typescript for us, thereby saving the Society a great deal of money. Our thanks also to Mr Jack Stuttard, our Editor, who compiled the Index.

VOLUME IV OF THE PROCEEDINGS

The ten issues of Volume IV of the Proceedings plus its Index and Indices of previous volumes, are now on sale for £5 from the Museum or from Geoff Hayward - telephone Leatherhead 372674.

New members, particularly, may find this offer attractive.

MAP OF SURREY

The Society is grateful to Mr W V Seear for the gift of a copy of the John Rocque map of Surrey dated 1770 - a most useful addition to the Society's Records.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL

This Council has asked us to let members know that they have a new address:

Surrey Local History Council
c/o The Guildford Institute of the University of Surrey
Ward Street
Guildford GU1 4LH (No telephone number quoted)

Their Secretary is Mrs G M Crocker

PROGRAMME

Meetings on Fridays in the Dixon Hall of the Leatherhead Institute at 7.30pm for 8pm. Entrance 20p members, 50p non-members, including coffee before the meeting.

- December 14 - Christmas Miscellany, organised by Derek Renn. An evening of short items given by members. If you have anything you can contribute, please get in touch with Derek Renn on Bookham 54880.
- 1991
- January 18 - "The Town of Dorking".
A talk given by Mrs V Ettlinger who is closely associated with the Dorking & Leith Hill Preservation Society and with the Historic Landscape Project. We are also pleased to have her as a member of this Society.
- February 15 - "East Horsley & the Earls of Lovelace"
A talk given by Stephen Tudsbury-Turner, who is Chairman of Horsley Conservation Society and is well-known as a local historian of Horsley Towers and the Lovelace Family. He is a member of the lecturing staff of the North East Surrey College of Technology at Ewell.
- March 15 - Annual General Meeting
All papers for the meeting will be sent out with the February 1991 Newsletter. The AGM will be followed by a talk: details later.

HONORARY TREASURER

When officers are elected at the AGM on 15 March 1991, we shall need a new Treasurer. To the Committee's regret, Edwin Marsh is resigning as he plans to move to Nottingham in June 1991. If we have a volunteer amongst the members, the suggestion is that he/she should work alongside Edwin Marsh from now until the AGM to give a gentle "breaking-in" period.

If you can help, please get in touch with Edwin Marsh on Bookham 53433, or failing him, the Chairman or Secretary would be pleased to hear from you.

ASHE LABORATORIES - From David Bruce

Following my appeal for information in the November 1989 Newsletter, a very useful quantity of documents, including newspaper cuttings, a catalogue of products etc., has come to hand, from which the following has been learned.

The company of A H Young & Sons was founded in 1936 by Cyril Young as a contract manufacturer of chemical products, but he soon realised that the firm was suffering as a result of always appearing at the end of any industrial directory. From his office window in Victoria Street, London, he noticed the road name Ashley Gardens, and decided to change his firm's name to Ashe Laboratories; as well as bringing the firm's name to the head of the lists, it also gave the image of scientific research and development. He also decided that it was more profitable to develop his own brands of products, such as VOLOPEP tablets which were added to car petrol tanks to give greater mileage.

During the war, they developed a range of flavourings and food substitutes, and assisted in the production of the new antibiotic, penicillin, by developing a shampoo that would thoroughly clean large quantities of human hair gleaned from the floors of army and civilian hairdressers. From this super clean hair an amino acid cystine was produced which helped to improve the mould cultures of penicillin. After the war, Ashe sold the shampoo to the public under the trade name BANDBOX, and for a time it became a market leader before being swamped by their giant international rivals. The success of the Bandbox shampoos enabled the Kingston Road, Leatherhead, factory to be purchased in 1947. In 1951 they started producing the well-known AMPLEX tablet, based on chlorophyll, claimed to eliminate all breath and body odours; and the range of products widened to include toothpaste, deodorants and mouthwashes.

Apart from developing their own ideas, Ashe took over many smaller, often ailing, firms, such as Sherleys Pet Products, and over the years they acquired and developed such brands as SUCRON, KRUSCHEN, BRONCHIPOX, and their products included such diverse offerings as KARSWOOD PIG POWDERS, LEMSKIN for beautiful hands, SUCRON, a sugar substitute, EADE'S PILLS for gout and SHAVEX shaving cream.

In 1972 Ashe Laboratories was acquired by the great American multinational ITT as an entry into the drug and cosmetic field, and they strengthened Ashe by the purchase of MAWS baby care firm from Norcross in 1973, and in 1977, they added VITAPOINTE, BISKI and SEBBIX SHAMPOOS from Fisons. However, in 1980 ITT sold the enlarged Ashe to the Dutch chemical company AKZO; subsequently Ashe, still operating as a separate entity, acquired PUNCH & JUDY TOOTHPASTE from Reckett & Colman, and SAXIN from the Wellcome Foundation. In 1985, following the merger between the consumer products division of AKZO and Shell (Tamara in the UK) Ashe found themselves responsible for marketing the insecticide brands of COOPERS and VAPONA.

After so many mergers and takeovers, Ashe Consumer Products Limited, as they finally became known, were acquired by Nichols Laboratories, and are in the process of being completely absorbed into that firm.

This is nearly the end of the story. The old Kingston Road factory, Ashetree Works, has now been demolished and a new office block is presently being built, to be known very appropriately as Phoenix House.

Please let David Bruce (Bookham 58722) know of any additional information and connections relevant to the above. Has anyone any old bottles, packets etc of the products mentioned above, skulking in the dim recesses of their medicine cabinets?

THE LEATHERHEAD SWAN

The Museum garden is the new resting-ground of the concrete swan that once stood upon the portico of the old SWAN coaching inn. When the inn was

demolished in 1936, the swan, along with all the other bits and pieces of the building, was sold and has since decorated a garden in Fetcham.

The intervening years had taken their toll, and the swan had sadly lost its head and neck (the bits being carefully retained). Recently its owner, Sheila Warner, gave the swan to the Museum, and Ernest Armstrong kindly arranged for it to be transported to the Museum garden. However, before then, Sheila had been attending classes in sculpture to learn how to recast the head and neck. This has been done and she has repainted the whole swan; it is now a thing of beauty and will be a joy for ever.

"EARLY MEDIEVAL SURREY" - by John Blair

Landholding, Church and Settlement before 1300.

Published by the Surrey Archaeological Society in collaboration with Alan Sutton.

A study of the institutions and the economy in Surrey during the early and central Middle Ages. The many themes discussed have seen much research in the last twenty years; the manorial structure, agrarian growth, field systems, parish churches and the parochial system. The more they are examined the more hidden problems emerge and the less adequate the old generalisations seem. Only the very detailed studies such as this will tell us what was really happening. The author ensures that each institution is set against its historical context and aims to show how systems of lordship, tenure, agriculture, ecclesiastical jurisdiction and pastoral care changed together and affected each other.

216pp illustrated with maps, plans and photographs.

The price will be £25, but members of this Society can order copies for delivery when available at £15 plus £1-50 postage and packing, from Mrs Maureen Roberts, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Quarry Street, Guildford GU1 3 SX. Cheques payable to the SAS. Please mention membership of this Society when ordering.

GREETINGS -

This is the last Newsletter of 1990, so, although it may seem a little premature:

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year
to all our Members and their
Families

COVERS FOR "PROCEEDINGS"

Jack Stuttard has organised a new stock of hard covers that take a whole volume of the Proceedings, plus Index. They have just arrived and are on sale, price £2, at the Museum and through Geoff Hayward (Leatherhead 372674). These covers are a "must" for the safe-keeping of the copies of the Proceedings.

STORAGE SPACE

We are looking for suitable accommodation in which to store articles which cannot be kept permanently in the museum, due to lack of space. This problem is rapidly becoming a matter of urgency. As a temporary measure, the loan of an unused garage or similar weatherproof and secure structure would be greatly appreciated. On a long term basis, we are exploring the various possibilities open to us. One of these would be the gift or purchase of a plot of land on which a building about the size of a large garage could be erected.

If anyone can help in either of these ways or with alternative suggestions, please contact either David Bruce (Bookham 58722) Joyce Fuller (Ashted 277876) Linda Heath (L'head 372603) or any member of the committee.