

# LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 802409

## Chairman

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

## Treasurer

C V M Latham  
1 The Knoll  
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Leatherhead 372055

## Secretary

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

NEWSLETTER 2/91

MAY 1991

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 15 MARCH 1991

The Society's AGM, held at Leatherhead Institute on Friday, 15 March 1991, was attended by 66 members. The President, Mr S E D Fortescue, took the Chair. Thanks were expressed to all those who had contributed to the Society's success over the past year. Mr Fortescue also congratulated the new Editor, Mr J C Stuttard, on the quality of the last issue of the Proceedings.

All the previous year's Committee were willing to continue for a further year, with the exception of the Treasurer, Edwin Marsh, who will shortly be leaving the area to live in Nottingham. Mr Chris Latham was willing to stand in his place, and he was cordially welcomed. A full list of the new Committee is enclosed for your retention.

Our thanks to Edwin Marsh for all his work over the four years that he was Treasurer, and best wishes to him and Mrs Marsh for their happiness in their new home.

Again this year the AGM was followed by a speaker: Ernest Crossland gave us a most interesting talk on "Bygone Oxshott".

## SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM JANUARY 1992

The subscription to the Society is reviewed at the AGM every year. Owing to steep increases in costs, particularly of printing, the Committee regretfully asked for increases in subscription to £6 single (at present £5), and £9 Husband & Wife (£7-50). These increases were agreed by those present at the AGM and will take effect on 1 January 1992. There will be no increase in the Junior subscription of £1.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members.

### Ashted

Elliot, Mr & Mrs W V A  
Pruden, Mr & Mrs A  
Wadey, Mr & Mrs J

### Bookham

Lillywhite, Mrs A  
Wright, Mr & Mrs H

### Leatherhead

Comer, Mrs O  
Dean, A R  
Latham, Mr & Mrs C V M  
St John's School

### Other areas

Reynolds, Mrs M B - Headley  
Webb, C R - Weybridge

## FIRE-MARKS IN OUR AREA - From David Ellis

When fire insurance was introduced towards the end of the 17th century, the insurance companies produced metal plates which were affixed to the buildings insured by them. These fire-marks, as they are called, have the company's device and a number indicating the policy relating to the building. They represent some of the earliest examples of advertising, and they are of

particular interest to local historians because many of the insurance records survive, and thus it is possible to obtain information about a property at the time that the insurance was effected. Such records are held today by the large companies which eventually took over the small ones founded in the early years of fire insurance, or are held in County Record Offices. Some companies, including the Sun Alliance and the Commercial Union, have lodged their records at the Guildhall Library in London.

Some fire-marks show the company's emblem only and not the policy number: these are strictly known as "plates". Such a plate, issued by the Sun Fire Office, can be seen on the front wall of No 19 Barnett Wood Lane, Leatherhead.

The majority of the fire-marks to be seen on buildings today date from the 18th century or early 19th century. It would be of interest to compile a list of the fire-marks still to be seen on buildings in Ashted, Bookham, Fetcham and Leatherhead. Any member who knows of any local fire-marks or plates is invited to send the details to me, and I will publish a list in a future number of the Society's Newsletter: David Ellis, 23 Kingscroft Road, Leatherhead.

#### GENEALOGISTS MAGAZINE

Mr J R Clube has a virtually complete set of "Genealogists Magazines" from 1972 to date, which he will gladly give to anyone who would like them. He also has many numbers of the "Essex Family Historian". Please get in touch with him on Bookham 453145 if you are interested.

#### THE QUAKER TAPESTRY

Guildford Borough Council are holding a "Quaker Tapestry Exhibition" at Gallery 90, Ward Street, Guildford between 1 and 29 June 1991.

Inspiration for the Quaker Tapestry which was begun in 1981, came from the Bayeux Tapestry and like that tapestry is in three sections. Over 2000 Quakers at home and overseas have contributed to its embroidery. It tells the story of the Quakers and their many activities and professions from 1643 to 1986.

Gallery 90 is open Monday - Friday 10am - 4.30pm, and on Saturdays from 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30 - 4.30pm. Admission is free. For further details please contact the Curator, Miss I C Rhodes, on Guildford (0483) 444741.

#### PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE - Visit to Dolmetsch Musical Instruments Factory, Haslemere, and to Selborne

This is another of Alan Gillies carefully planned day visits.

A morning visit will be paid to Dolmetsch Musical Instruments, a family business making wood-wind instruments. An introductory talk will give the history of the firm and family, and there will be a tour of the workshops.

The lunch break will be in Haslemere town.

"The Wakes" at Selborne will be visited after lunch. "The Wakes" was the home and garden of the Rev Gilbert White, author of "Natural History of Selborne". There are two period rooms and various museum displays. The house also includes the Oates Memorial Museum, with displays relating to the polar regions and Africa.

Picnicking is allowed in the garden.

A "Cottage Tea" will be taken (hopefully in the garden) at Bush House. Please indicate on the booking form whether you require tea or not.

After tea there will be a guided visit to the 12th century transitional Norman Church of St Mary. The Gilbert White memorial window depicts St Francis of Assissi preaching to the birds. Gilbert White is buried in the churchyard.

The inclusive charge for the day will be £11 with tea or £8-50 without tea. Members are asked to make their own arrangements for lunch. It is planned to leave Selborne at 6pm.

Coach pick-up times are:

Ashtead	- By Ashtead Travel	9.05am
Leatherhead	- Leret Way, by entrance to Day Centre	9.10am
Fetcham	- Lower Road, end of The Street	9.15am
Bookham	- The Crown, opposite the Parish Church	9.20am

Please apply quickly: we need to know the final number so that arrangements can be completed very soon. A booking form is enclosed.

WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY - Visit to St John's School, Leatherhead

The Deputy Headmaster of St John's School, Leatherhead, the Rev Martin Frances, has invited members to visit the school, which has some fine buildings including a chapel and a very large Library. As members may know, our Editor, Jack Stuttard, is the Librarian of St John's School, and he and Mr Frances will take the party round the school.

Please meet at the main entrance to the school at 2.30pm

A charge of £1 will be made, and a booking form is enclosed.

#### WINTER LECTURES

For your diaries - the first winter lectures are on Fridays:

October 18 - Dallaway Lecture

November 15

December 22 - Christmas Miscellany. We need short contributions from as many members as possible for this evening. Start thinking now of something you could present.

#### FESTIVAL OF ARTS

Mole Valley District Council is arranging another Festival of Arts in 1992 and this Society is again planning to include two events in the Festival.

PS - The Secretary is most grateful to all those members who gave her practical help, good wishes and visits during her recent rather long illness. After a holiday in June she will be back "as good as new".

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## OFFICERS & COMMITTEE FOR 1991

President	S E D Fortescue, Crest House, 56 The Mount, Fetcham KT22 9EA	L.372847
Past President	J G W Lewarne, 69 Cobham Road, Fetcham KT22 9HT	L.373736
Vice-Presidents	Dr D F Renn, FSA, 7 Burrows Close, Gt Bookham KT23 3HB	B.454880
	L A Smith, MBE, Hazeldene, Glebe Road, Ashtead KT21 2NT	A.275466
Chairman	Mrs L Heath, 5 St John's Avenue, Leatherhead KT22 7HT	L.372603
Secretary/Membership Secretary	Miss J Fuller, 6 Siddons House, Howard Close, Ashtead KT21 1DY	A.277876
Treasurer	C V M Latham, 1 The Knoll, Leatherhead	L.372055
Archaeology Secretary	E A Crossland, ISO, Oldberrow, 13 Clockhouse Mead, Oxshott KT22 ORW	O.842589
Editor	J C Stuttard, 6 Orchardleigh, St Nicholas Hill, Leatherhead KT22 8NF	L.375787
Lecture Secretary	N H West, MBE, 2 Beech Close, Effingham KT24 5PQ	B.454979
Librarian	F Kirby, 12 Highlands Avenue, Leatherhead KT22 8NF	L.376859
Museum Curator	D. Bruce, 7 Fox Lane, Little Bookham KT23 3AT	B.458722
Museum Treasurer	J R Bull, 98 Woodfield Lane, Ashtead KT21 2DP	A.272800
Record Secretary	J R Clube, St Gerrans, Leatherhead Road, Great Bookham KT23 4RR	B.453145
Sales Secretary	G Hayward, Ypriana, 173B Cobham Road, Fetcham KT22 9JE	L.372674
Committee Members	D B Ellis, 23 Kingscroft Road, Leatherhead KT22 7BU	L.372509
	H G Knowles, 7 Squirrels Green, Great Bookham KT23 3LE	B.458396
	J W Middlemas, 10 Highlands Avenue, Leatherhead KT22 8NN	L.374035

May 1991