

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity No 802409

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NEWSLETTER 4/93

NOVEMBER 1993

NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome to the Society Miss V E Blunden of Epsom, and Mrs I B Elvy of Leatherhead.

1994 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Those present at the 1993 AGM voted in favour of increased subscriptions from 1 January 1994. The rates will therefore be £8 ordinary membership, £12 Husband & Wife, Juniors remaining at £1.

As this is the last Newsletter for 1993, may we remind you that 1994 subscriptions will be due on 1 January. A payment slip is enclosed, and also a Covenant for the Society subscription. For those of you who completed a Covenant last year, the Treasurer has to ask you to complete a new one to cover the increased amount of subscription. The wording we are now able to use will take care of any future increases and never again shall we ask you to complete a new Covenant! A Banker's Order form is also enclosed for those of you who pay by that system.

If you are, or would like to be, a "Friend of the Leatherhead Museum", your subscription of £1 per person can be added to your cheque for the Society subscription - the money will be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Friends. There is also a Life Membership of the Friends of £20 minimum. (There is no Life Membership of the Society.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1994

The 1994 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 15 April 1994. All papers for the meeting will be distributed with the February 1994 Newsletter.

New Committee members are always welcome, and if anyone would like to join the Committee, please tell the Secretary or any Committee member.

A REBUILD OF HAMPTON COTTAGE - from Tony Tuffery

Hampton Cottage, the Society's Museum in Leatherhead, was restored in 1980, but is now about to be rebuilt - as a one-twelfth (Dolls' House) scale model for exhibition. The model will show the timber-framed cottage as it might have been when

first erected about 1670. The timber framework will be only partly infilled to show the basic nature and construction of this kind of building, which should make the model a useful teaching and demonstration item, especially for the younger visitors to the Museum.

The original is built (unusually) of elm, but the model will be in oak and I should like to beg from members any spare remnants of oak they may have around the garage, garden shed or attic! Old cupboard doors, bits of table or shelving etc, too damaged to repair, would be quite suitable for use on the model scale. Offers of pieces of any size would be appreciated. They could be dropped in to Hampton Cottage, or please ring me: Tony Tuffery, Ashtead 278754.

MAINTENANCE OF THE REAL HAMPTON COTTAGE

During January and February, whilst the Museum is closed for the winter, it is hoped to repaint some of the rooms in Hampton Cottage. If you are willing to help with this, please let Janet Goldsmith know on Ashtead 277611, or at the Museum whilst it is still open. The plan of action is not yet complete - which order to do what rooms etc, but Janet would like to know fairly soon who is willing to help so that she can make a plan.

THE LIBRARY ROOM AT THE LEATHERHEAD INSTITUTE

The Trustees of the Leatherhead Institute have been kind enough to allow the Society the use of the Library Room for research or meetings during the afternoons ie about 2pm to 5pm. In order that meetings don't get mixed up together, please ring Joyce Fuller on Leatherhead 386348 and let her know what time you plan to use the room.

PAST LEATHERHEAD TRADES AND INDUSTRIES - No 2. *

Central Electricity Research Laboratories (CERL)

Research connected with the electricity supply industry began officially in the 1930's under the Central Electricity Board. When one of their laboratories at Waddon, Surrey, was damaged during an air raid in 1940, it was replaced by a hut at the CEB Leatherhead sub-station. After nationalisation in 1948 the industry's first permanent laboratories were built on land off Cleeve Road, Leatherhead. Whilst other research laboratories were established to deal with specific subjects, such as Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories, CERL had a wide range of research including boiler corrosion, cooling tower construction, new methods of electricity generation (wind, wave, solar etc) and biological problems including blockage of water intakes by mussels, and the effect of warm water outlets on oyster beds.

These highly prestigious laboratories were lost to Leatherhead in March 1989, in preparation for the privatisation of the

industry. However, this Society was fortunate enough to obtain a complete set of the Central Electricity Generating Board's very well illustrated and detailed publications issued during their stay in Leatherhead. Taking at random an issue of "Achievements in Technology Planning & Research", that of 1984/85 records that at CERL, research involved the effect of pollution on surge arresters; use of fibre optics in the development of turbine efficiency; cooling tower design, using models and a wind tunnel; a mobile laboratory to measure gases in power station plumes; acid rain; electricity fields effect on health and pace-makers; flue gas desulphurisation, and many others

*It is hoped to continue "Past Leatherhead Trades & Industries" as a series. The article on Ashe Laboratories in the November Newsletter of 1990, is No 1 in the series.

RESEARCH

The Society is often asked to help keen researchers gather the knowledge they are seeking. But for sheer enthusiasm, what could beat this:

".....help with my research into the old coach roads from London to Brighton. I have WALKED the lengths of all the routes, including that through Epsom, Leatherhead, Dorking etc. and had an interesting visit to the Leatherhead Museum....."!!!

PROGRAMME

All meetings are held in the Dixon Hall of the Leatherhead Institute at 7.30am for 8pm. Entrance fee 50p members, £1 visitors, including coffee which is available before the meetings.

Friday, 17 December - Christmas Miscellany

Our annual light-hearted evening of members own contributions. Talks of two to ten minutes in length, on any subject, are welcome. Volunteers, please get in touch with Gordon Knowles on Bookham 458396, who is organising the evening. Eileen Smith and her helpers will be serving coffee and mince pies - on this one occasion in an interval during the proceedings. She would be glad to have gifts of mince pies: please let her know on her new Leatherhead telephone number - 372134 - if you are bringing some.

Friday, 21 January 1994 - The Society's collection of slides of Fetcham, presented by Geoff Hayward. The third in our series of evenings of the Society's slides.

Friday, 18 February - "The Village of Wanborough" by Gillian Drew. Miss Drew is a professional Librarian, and is also

Librarian to the Surrey Archaeological Society. Some members will recall our visit to Wanborough with Miss Drew some while back.

Friday, 18 March - "The Royal Palace of Westminster" by David Heath, an architect who knows the Palace well.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL

The 28th Symposium on Local History will be held at the University of Surrey, Guildford, on Saturday, 13 November 1993. The theme is "1000 Years of Royalty in Surrey".

The symposium starts at 10.30am and ends approximately 5.45pm. Tickets can be obtained in advance from Mrs G M Crocker, c/o The Guildford Institute of the University of Surrey, Ward Street, Guildford GU1 4LH, for £9 in advance (the rate for Member Societies), or £10 at the door. Seven first-class speakers are taking part, and the day promises to be an interesting one. This Society will have a display there.

This Newsletter is being typed on one of the few bright, dry days we have had recently, and it seems a far cry from Christmas. But as this is the last Newsletter for 1993, the Committee wishes all members a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year.