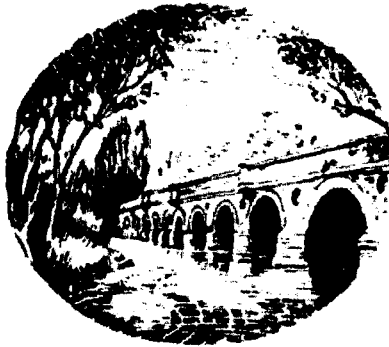


LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



November 1997

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, LEATHERHEAD Surrey KT22 8DP

Tel: 01372 386348

Registered Charity No. 802409

CHAIRMAN

Peter A. Tarplee
01372 452301

SECRETARY

Thelma Lucas
01372 844345

TREASURER

Peter E. Starling
01372 273092

The Society meets on the 3rd Friday of the month in at the Letherhead Institute from September to May. For details see programme in this issue.

1998 Membership Subscriptions

Ordinary £9.00
Joint Husband & Wife £13.00
Junior (under 18) £1.00

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Jack Barker

01372 458469

The Museum is open from April until Christmas at the following times :

Thursday 1:00 - 4:00
Friday 10:00 - 1:00
Saturday 10:00 - 4:00

MUSEUM CURATOR

Janet Goldsmith

01372 277611

The Library is open from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and the first Saturday in the month or by arrangement with the Librarian.

LIBRARIAN

Gwen Hoad

01372 273934

The Records are available for study by arrangement.

RECORDS SECRETARY

Brian Godfrey

01372 454654

The Newsletter is published quarterly.

Copy for the February issue should reach the Society's Office by 17 January 1988.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Anthony Gordon

01372 458180

As you can see there are some additions to the Newsletter. On the inside of the cover we have added some useful information including opening times and telephone numbers. Also there are the subscription rates for 1998 and this is an opportunity to remind those members who pay by standing order that **now** is the time to increase the amount payable if you have not already done so.

You should find with this newsletter one of the new information leaflets which we are placing the Museum and local libraries. Please do not keep it to yourself! Pass it on to a non-member who you think could be interested in the Society. If you know several people to give one to then so much the better - additional leaflets will be available from the Museum and at the Friday Meetings.

LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM

Members may have noticed in the local press and public notices a planning application regarding Hampton Cottage. The application is in respect of a new and a replacement notice board for the Museum. In order to improve the public awareness of the Society and of the Museum the Committee hope to replace the existing board and provide another one which will be more apparent to passers by.

Depending on the response from our local authority we hope to have the boards in place before the Museum opens next year. *Peter Tarplee*

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

We are very pleased that Thelma Lucas, Secretary of the Society, has agreed to be co-opted to the Friends' Committee. This is very welcome news but it still leaves us one vacancy to be filled. Is there anyone who would like to join us? If you are a Steward at the Museum you should find an invitation to the Stewards' Party in Friday 12 December at 6pm., enclosed with this Newsletter. Please let us know if you did not receive one. Again, our apologies to anyone who did not receive notification of the AGM. Joyce has left a very big hole which is only gradually being filled.

Janet Goldsmith

JOHN READ

John Reid, one of our oldest and most long-standing members died at the end of September. John and his wife Mollie moved from Fetcham to Tenterden a number of years ago, but John continued to take a keen interest in the doings of our Society almost up to the end, and often used to telephone Joyce Fuller for a chat. Several years ago he arranged a visit for us to travel on the local steam railway from Tenterden station and also a tour of the Tenterden Museum which we all thoroughly enjoyed. He and John Lewarne were competing to see which of them was the oldest member of the Society, and at that time John Lewarne was. However, I think that John Read at the age of 92 was able to claim this distinction after Lewarne's death. His other great love was cricket, and he had, as his obituary notice in the Telegraph said, "A good innings". He will be much missed by all who knew him .

Linda Heath

DUKE AND OCKENDEN

In the last issue of the Newsletter Mandy Rice-Oxley wrote a piece about Duke and Ockenden, the well-known borers and plumbers of Littlehampton, who had connections with our museum building, Hampton Cottage.

Duke and Ockenden installed a number of water pumps driven by wind engines under the trade name 'Dando'. One of these was installed by the footpath leading from Moorhurst Lane, close to Holmwood station and this has recently been dismantled by members of the Surrey Industrial History Group (with the permission and co-operation of the owner).

The wind pump will be transported to the Rural Life Centre at Tilford where it will be restored and re-erected as a museum exhibit.

Peter Tarplee

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE RECORDS

Since the Society was founded, we have acquired various documents - both copies and originals - and now have about

1600 hand-written, printed or typed documents;

2000 photographs, pictures and postcards;

400 maps and plans;

also parish magazines, newspaper articles and note books;

which relate to Leatherhead or one of the adjacent parishes of Ashted, Great & Little Bookham and Fetcham.

Our recently retired Records Secretary, Roddy Clube, established the present Records Index which classifies the documents according to parish, type of document and subject. Because of the quantity of material and storage problems, it is presently managed by seven parish archivists - one for Ashted, one for the Bookhams, two (documents and maps/photographs) for Fetcham and three (documents, maps and photographs) for Leatherhead. Subsequent articles in the Newsletter will describe the material managed by each archivist and how it can be accessed. The overall management is still co-ordinated through the Records Secretary.

A copy of the Records Index can be found at the Letherhead Institute in the Library. It can be seen during the library opening hours; it is contained in the two ring binders on the bottom shelf above the cupboard on the right opposite the door. The Society has plans to computerise the Index to make it more accessible and easier to search.

In the next Newsletter, Jack Willis - the Ashted archivist - will describe the Ashted archives and how to access them. If you have any problem finding out if the Society has any records relating to your own specific interests, please let me know.

Brian Godfrey

ANY OLD PHOTOGRAPHS?

Last year Linda Heath produced, for the Society, a book in the Archive Photograph series of old photographs of Leatherhead. The Society is considering preparing a similar book which will cover the surrounding villages.

Our archives contain a large number of suitable images but, in order to get as good a selection as possible for this book, we are appealing for suitable photographs for this publication. We are particularly short of pictures of events and occasions as well as of groups of people.

If any member has any old photographs or postcards which they would be willing to lend us for consideration for inclusion in this book they are invited to let Linda or me know. We would not be sending your material in the post but would have it copied if we decide to use it.

Peter Tarplee

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Some members are not aware of what resources our library holds, so at the risk of boring some of you, I will summarise our most valuable assets.

- 1) An almost complete set of Surrey Archaeological Society's Collections which are invaluable for the many articles which they contain on Surrey local history and, of course, archaeology. Also many of that Society's Research Volumes about specific sites.
- 2) Surrey Record Society's publications for the researcher.
- 3) Manning & Bray's *History & Antiquities of the County of Surrey* in 3 vols, 1809.
- 4) Brayley's *Topographical History of Surrey* in 5 vols, 1850.
- 5) *The Victoria History of the County of Surrey* in 4 vols, 1902-1914.
- 6) Street directories of Leatherhead & district which cover many years between 1890 and 1972.
- 7) Leatherhead Parish Magazines between 1880 and 1944 but with some gaps, and Ashted Parish Magazines 1887-1910. These reported many events not necessarily just within the Church but in the area at large.
- 8) Books providing background reading on archaeology, local history, social history and reference books & guides to help the local historian.
- 9) A large collection of general books on Surrey: history, topography, industrial archaeology, family history etc..
- 10) Almost anything published on Leatherhead, Bookham, Ashted or Fetcham which the Society has been able to acquire, or has published itself.
- 11) Finally, many works written by local authors or biographies of people with a local connection.
- 12) The scope is quite large, though owing to restrictions of space and budget, priority has to be given to works on our local area, but the library has acquired many valuable works on our neighboring areas of Surrey through generous donations and bequests.

New additions to the library include the following :

NATIONAL & GENERAL TOPICS - Local History

HEY, David , ed - The Oxford Companion to Local History. OUP, 1996

SURREY - Archaeology

WHIMSTER, D.C. - The Archaeology Surrey. Methuen, 1931.

SURREY - Buildings & Conservation

BLATCH, Mervyn - The Churches of Surrey. Phillimore, 1997.

WARREN, John, ed - Wealden Buildings: studies in the timber-framed tradition of building in Kent, Sussex and Surrey. Coach Pubns. Horsham, 1990

SURREY - History

BRANDON, Peter - A History of Surrey. Phillimore, 1977

SURREY - Records

WEBB, Cliff - 7 Research Aids pub. by the West Surrey Family History Society, nos. 5,9,11,29,32,34,& 35.

SURREY - Social History & Transport

ALEXANDER, Matthew - Tales of old Surrey. Countryside Books, 1987.

JENNINGS, Trevor S. - A short history of Surrey Bells and ringing customs. Privately pub., 1974

MITCHELL, Vic & SMITH, Keith - Epsom to Horsham. Middleton Press, 1986 (Southern Main Lines)

These and all books in the Society's Library are housed within the Institute Library room, and may be borrowed or referred to during the LCA Library's opening hours - Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and the first Saturday in the month, 10am to 12.30pm or by special arrangement with Gwen Hoad (01372 273934). A library catalogue and a card index of books on Surrey, are available in the room, which indicate the approximate location of each item, but reference books in the locked cupboards may not normally be taken away. Don't forget your LDLHS Membership Card when you go!

Gwen Hoad

BASEMENT DISCOVERIES

Whilst sorting and cleaning the artefacts in the Priory basement preparatory to cataloguing them several misplaced items have been found.

- 1) 17 aerial photographs of Leatherhead taken by the RAF in the summer of 1944.
- 2) A letter written by Albany F. Major, OBE, FSA., Chairman & Convenor of the Surrey Archaeological Society to A.W.G. Lowther on November 3 1924 about articles which had been sent to the Society apparently referring to Lowther's finds on Ashted Common and also to a pit in a chalk pit which Lowther was examining. The latter is presumably the work by him reported in SyAC 41.93.
- 3) An incomplete copy written in pencil by A.W.G. Lowther's father on November 23 1924 to A.R. Cotton referring to the latter's recent purchase at auction of Ashted Common and asking, on behalf of his son for permission to investigate what the son believed to be the site of a Roman building because of finding quantities of bricks, tiles and urns. These he had shown to Mr. Albany Major who thought that the Society would fund a thorough investigation. A.R. Cotton OBE, FSA later became the Treasurer of the Society. He lived at '*Inward Shaw*' Ashted where Lowther subsequently excavated an Iron Age and Roman village (PLDLHS Vol 2 p. 164).

The items referred to will now be put in the appropriate archives.

Ernest Crossland

NEW LOCAL BOOK

The Surrey Industrial History Group has published over the past few years guides to the industrial history of the county. Its latest guide, which has recently been produced, is '*A Guide to the Industrial History of Epsom & Ewell*' by Peter Wakefield. The book costs £5.50 and copies will be available from local libraries, museums and bookshops. Alternatively copies may be ordered from SIHG, Donard, East Street, Bookham, Leatherhead KT23 4QX. Please make cheques payable to 'SIHG', there is NO additional charge for postage and packing.

With this book the Group has now produced guides for each of the local authority districts and boroughs in the county. Two, covering Elmbridge and Waverley, were in a different format and completely new books for these boroughs will be available in the next few months.

Peter Tarplee

WEA ARCHEOLOGY COURSE

Gordon Knowles, who has tutored several courses on industrial archaeology, will be doing so again in th new year. Under the auspices of the WEA London District, Fetcham and Bookham Branch the course will consist of 10 weekly meetings at the Letherhead Institute on Thursdays 10.00 to 12.00, January 15 to March 26 1998, half term February 19.

The course will NOT be repeating material covered in previous years. The topics will include :-

Extractive Industries Cornish Copper and Yorkshire Alum

The last Spade Mill in N. Ireland

Aircraft Manufacture Short Brothers of Rochester

Howard Hughes and the Spruce Goose

Hermoupolis, the first industrial city in Greece

The Iron & Steel Industry of the Lower Rhineland

20th C IA, The Shredded Wheat factory at Welwyn Garden City

A Railway case study from the English Midlands

Course fee £33.00 Concession (60+) £26.00

Enrolment at first meeting or forms in advance from Mrs. Sylvia Hole, 39 Howard Road, Bookham KT23 4PW(01372 454181) or Joyce Tapping (01737 844937).

Further information on course content and method from Gordon Knowles (01372 458396)

NEXT YEAR'S ARTICLES

This space has been reserved for YOUR contributions to the L&DLHS Newsletter. All the contributions are provided by members so make sure that it isn't a blank space.

PROGRAMME

Lectures

All meetings are held in the Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute at 7.30 pm for 8 pm. Entrance 50p for members and £1 for guests. Coffee is served from 7.30 pm (in the interval in December) and is included.

Friday 19 December - Christmas Miscellany arranged by Gordon Knowles

This year we are going to have a "local literary" theme, and members are invited to produce and or/read excerpts either about the area or about local authors, or both! We have invited members of the Literary Society to join us for this occasion and, as usual, coffee and mince pies will be served in the interval (provided that members remember to bring some mince pies!).

Friday 16 January - The Privy Garden of William III at Hampton Court by Anthony Boulding

Mr. Boulding is the Manager of the Nursery Department at Hampton Court and has given talks to various groups and has been highly recommended to us. We are planning to arrange a visit to the Privy Garden in the Summer.

Friday 20 February - Surrey Defences against Hitler by Chris Shephard

This lecture will be on local World War II defences.

Friday 20 March - The History of London's Dockhands by Lesley Broster

We are planning a visit by coach to the Docklands in the summer. Full details in the February Newsletter.

Friday 17 April - Society A.G.M.

The A.G.M. will be followed by a talk by one of our members. Details of this in the February Newsletter.

Friday 15 May - The History of H.M.S. Warrior by Richard Muir

Visits

Planned visits for the summer include one by coach to the Brighton Pavilion, following the talk by Cynthia Campbell; a half day visit by car to the Privy Garden at Hampton Court; a coach visit to London's Docklands; a half day visit to Shere Village and Museum; and a visit to the Naval Dockyard at Portsmouth, including tours of the Warrior, Mary Rose and Victory. Full details will be published in the February Newsletter.

AND FINALLY...

Linda Heath recently received a communication from Seeboard about a piece of equipment owned by the Society addressed as follows :-

**Mr. Leatherhead and District
Local History Society
c/o Mrs. L. Heath
5 St. John's Avenue, Leatherhead**

It began,

"Dear Mr. Leatherhead and District"

Linda claims she had no idea the gentleman was in her care.

