

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



November, 2003

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 802409

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CHAIRMAN

Peter A. Tarplee

01372 452301

SECRETARY

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01372 372146

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Norma Robertson

01372 453795

The Society meets on the third Friday of the month at the Letherhead Institute from

September to May. For details see programme in this issue.

2003 Membership Subscriptions

Ordinary.....£12.00

Associate.....£5.00

Junior (under 18)..... £1.00

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Jenny Morris

01372 362524

The Museum is open at the following times: -

Thursdays and Fridays 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Saturdays 10.0 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

CURATOR

Graham Evans

01372 386348

The Library at The Letherhead Institute is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. It is no longer open on Saturdays.

Exceptionally, arrangements may be made to use it at other times by applying to the Librarian.

LIBRARIAN

Gwen Hoad

01372 273934

The Records are available for study by arrangement.

RECORDS SECRETARY

Brian Godfrey

01372 454654

Lectures . Co-ordination of the Society's lecture and visits programme and L & D L H S speakers for local societies.

PROGRAMME & LECTURE SECRETARY

Vacancy

The Newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November

Copy for the November 2003 edition should be sent to my address by 3rd November, 2003.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Peter Wall, 8 The Renmans, Ashted, KT21 1PH. Tel. 01372 277690

The Friends of Leatherhead Museum support the Society's work on behalf of the Museum

SECRETARY

Thelma Lucas

01372 844345

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

With the particular timing of our *Newsletter* publication dates I am both welcoming members back to our meetings after the summer break as well as wishing you all a happy Christmas!

During the summer the museum has been extremely successful and we must thank our curator Graham Evans not only for the excellent display on the *Titanic* but for getting so much publicity for it. We had good attendances at the museum during Heritage Weekend and I never know why so many local people choose to come on that weekend when we are crowded and ignore the museum during the rest of the year. I suppose it indicates the power of publicity and also the concept of Heritage Weekends is still popular. On behalf of the Heritage organising committee I would like to thank all members who helped with any of the activities over the weekend whether by giving talks, leading walks or stewarding at the museum or other properties.

Last time I referred to the low response to my request for replies concerning the Executive Committee's proposal for the Society to hold an Annual Dinner. The committee considered the response at their last meeting and did, in fact, agree to go ahead with holding a dinner. Fred Meynen is organising this and you will find full details elsewhere in this issue. I very much hope that as many people as possible are able to come to this function, it will be nice to get together socially as well as at meetings or working parties.

The museum continues to progress. The Trustees have had the outside of the building decorated which not only improves its appearance but should help to preserve its structure. Also we have obtained some more new display cabinets. These came from the Army Medical Services Museum at Ash Vale and were surplus to their requirements. They offered them to us and a group of members hired a van and collected the new cabinets which are now in place in the middle room upstairs.

One other improvement which is in hand is the re-laying of the paving in the garden. This is very uneven and in some places positively dangerous and it is hoped that by the time that this *Newsletter* is published this work will also be completed. The Society is grateful to the Friends of the museum for a large financial contribution towards the cost of this work.

Peter Tarplee

**SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

This will be held at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall on Saturday 21st February 2004. The full and varied programme includes the following talks:

The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Surrey.
The Prehistoric Site at Ashford Remand Centre.
The Development of a Prehistoric and Roman landscape at Hengrove Farm, Staines.

Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Southwark.
The Surrey Dendrochronology Project
The Industries of Ashted.
Bronze Age Political Economies along the River Thames.
A Brief History of Archaeological Work in Surrey.

There will also be displays of other work by groups (including L&DLHS) and individuals which may be viewed during the various breaks throughout the day as well as the usual presentation of the Margary Awards and the talks by the Young Archaeologists. The programme starts at 10.00 am, with coffee being served from 9.30 am, and the symposium closes at 5.00 pm.

Tickets and full details are available from Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX, telephone; 01483 532454. The cost is £6.00 for SyAS members in advance and £8.00 for non-members and on the door.

Peter Tarplee

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Dating from the days when the seats of the landed gentry were given prominence in topographical writing comes this extract from "Tourists' Guide to the County of Surrey" by G Phillips Bevan published by Edward Stanford in 1887. It comes from the section devoted to road excursions ie by foot or horse-drawn omnibus with connections to railway stations indicated.

"After visiting Stoke, cross the Mole to Slyfield Farm, the old manor house of the Slyfields, who flourished here until the seventeenth century. About 1/2 mile further on, the road bifurcates at the entrance to Fetcham Common. The one on L. leads to Fetcham, which lies about 1/2 mile further E. Fetcham church, standing within the grounds of Mr Hanbury's pretty park, is of considerable antiquity (early Norman), and some of the work is probably Roman. The road to Bookham skirts the west side of Eastwick Park (Hedworth Barclay), the village street running from hence to the Leatherhead and Guildford road. (Omnibus from Bookham to Leatherhead). Great Bookham church is of Norman date, and an inscription on the chancel wall states that it was built by John de Rutherwyke, Abbot of Chertsey, the same who erected the chancel at Egham. There are good brasses also in this church, of the Slyfields and the Shiers, to whom the former bequeathed that property. In the Slyfield chapel are the busts of Robert and Elizabeth Shiers, seventeenth century, who were great benefactors to Exeter College, Oxford. There are some others in the full-blown style of the eighteenth century, together with several memorial windows to Lord Raglan, the Duchess of Beaufort, etc. Crossing the Guildford road, and passing rt. Bookham Grove (Lord Downe), the pedestrian emerges on to some unenclosed, though cultivated ground. Very extensive views are obtained of St George's Hill, the country between this and Esher, Wimbledon, and the heights of the Crystal Palace, etc. On rt. is Polesden (Sir Walter Farqhar), where Sheridan once lived. At the summit of the hill the lane abruptly descends, and at the bottom is one of the entrance lodges to Denbies. (Permission is given to enter, except on Sundays.) Further on is a lane (rt.) which breasts the hill to Ranmore Common; but it is an equally pretty walk keeping straight on, passing the ruins of an ancient chapel, and also Camilla Lacey, where Mme D'Arblay

(Miss Burney) lived and wrote her novels. At the end of the road is the Box Hill station (LBSC)."

This book comes from the bequest to the Society of books formerly belonging to the late G J Gollin and is on restricted issue.

Recent additions to the library are :—

SURREY - Walks

McNEILL, Nigel - *"Walks in Mole Valley"*. Mole Valley Leisure Services. 2002.

SURREY - Individual Towns and Villages

BOOKHAM

POULTON, Keith - *"Out-migration from Bookham (Surrey) 1871-1881"*. [A university thesis and unpublished.]

LEATHERHEAD - Directories which include Leatherhead & district.

KELLY'S, pub - Directory of Epsom, Leatherhead & District 1934 & 1940. [NB these are in a fragile condition and must be handled with care.]

All the above are housed (along with the books in the Society's Library) within the Letherhead Institute Library room.

The library is accessible to our members only when the L.C.A. library is open to its members, but not on Saturdays (see details on the inside cover of this Newsletter).

It is most important that you show your current L&DLHS membership card to the librarian on duty when you use the library. Any queries should be addressed by telephone to the Librarian and not to whoever is on duty in the library, unless of course, you know them to be L&DLHS members and can help. *Gwen Hoad*

ANNUAL DINNER

The Society is holding a dinner on Friday 23rd January 2004; 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm at the Bookham Grange Hotel, Bookham Common. We hope this will

become an annual event as it will be a good opportunity for members, spouses and partners to meet in a relaxed environment and enjoy each others company.

The meal will have three courses and includes coffee, the cost being £20 per person. A cash bar is available and seating will be at table for six people.

To reserve a place please fill in the enclosed form and return this to me. We look forward to seeing you there!

Fred Meynen

THE LEATHERHEAD CENSUS PROJECT

The work of transferring the local census records on to computer, covering not only Leatherhead but Ashted, Fetcham and Bookham, is progressing well. Most of the original returns are now on a computer database and these are now being checked for accuracy.

A new source of information about Leatherhead's population is now being obtained. This comes about through the availability to us of St Mary's church parish records from which details of births, marriages and deaths can be copied. All these will help, in conjunction with the census data, to build up a *history* of families living in the area from 1841 to around 1900.

Although we have an active team of computer owners helping with this work, a few more volunteers would be an asset. The task of entering data is very simple and well explained. Further information can be obtained by ringing John Wettern on 01372 459277 or by email: address johnwettern@btinternet.com.

John Wettern

METAL DETECTOR SURVEY AT BOCKETTS FARM, FETCHAM

One of the frequently expressed wishes of detectorists is for opportunities to help with archaeological work. The possibility of carrying out a survey using detectors was discussed at meetings of the Archaeological Research Committee

but was delayed until the appointment of a Finds Liaison Officer. Efforts for access were concentrated on Bocketts Farm, because the land is owned by Surrey County Council and had already been the focus of a field walking survey that the proposed detecting survey could augment.

The chosen field lies on high ground to the south of the Leatherhead to Guildford road centred on TQ 149 547, and showed several features on aerial photographs. These included a circular enclosure, possibly a barrow ditch, several linear features, including a probable trackway and remains of an earlier field system. In addition, field walking had recovered Roman pottery and coins.

The detecting survey took place during Friday afternoon and Saturday, June 20th and 21st in hot sunny weather. Thirty detectorists took part and in all some 8-9000m² were surveyed, about a third of the available area, resulting in the recovery of more than 400 objects, the findspots of all of which were plotted.

The earlier datable objects were a fragment of a mid 1st century Colchester brooch and a 2nd century lozenge-shaped plate brooch with an enamelled central panel. Other Roman finds included a zoomorphic knife terminal, a stud and up to nine coins of 3rd and 4th century date, mainly Barbarous Radiates, where they could be identified. There is then a notable gap of over one thousand years before visible activity commences with a medieval spur buckle and a late medieval purse frame fragment inscribed (O)MNIPOTENTEM (Almighty). Early post-medieval finds were few, but included a solitary hammered sixpence of Queen Elizabeth 1st, dated 1567. Notable amongst the greater quantity of more recent material were military buttons, which comprised 96 General Service issue, two New Zealand forces and two Grenadiers. Other recent material included 28 coins and tokens, 69 buttons, 2kg of lead, harness buckles, a few bag seals, a Jew's harp, an 1840 silver fourpence made into a love token and inscribed Ida, a New Cross Greyhound Stadium token..... and a toy tractor.

The survey shed no light on the interpretation of the circular enclosure and, except for a single sherd of ?Iron Age date, no evidence for prehistory. There is evidence for sporadic activity throughout the Roman period that, with the material recovered earlier, suggests settlement on the site or nearby. Saxon

activity is absent and this is perhaps surprising in view of the nearby Hawks Hill cemetery. Similarly, the lack of medieval material is odd in view of the visible proximity of the town of Leatherhead. Strikingly absent also were 17th century traders' tokens and animal belts. The military material could relate to D-Day mustering.

Despite the rather meagre archaeological interest it was felt that the survey was well worthwhile as it brought together many people of disparate interests. This was a useful bridge-building exercise as well as an advertisement for the Portable Antiquities Scheme and for this Society.

I should like to thank, in particular, David and Audrey Graham who undertook the somewhat gruelling survey work.

Article re-printed from the September edition of the Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin with their kind consent.

AFTER 'TITANIC'

One of the most successful exhibitions ever put on at the museum has closed. This was entitled "*Titanic: The Leatherhead Connection*". It presented a collection of mementos, photographs, press cuttings and letters telling the story of the tragic sinking of the liner Titanic and the fate of the Collyers, a family from Leatherhead, who were on board. There was also displayed a splendid model of the mighty ship.

Visitors came not only from our area but from far afield and there was much praise for the way the information was presented: details of the ship, contemporary pictures, press coverage of its maiden voyage and of the disastrous collision: finally, personal letters and documents covering the story of the family before, during and after the sinking. Several visitors came to the museum after the exhibition had closed expressing deep disappointment at having missed the chance to see it.

As a result, the museum has published a 16 page A4 '*souvenir*' containing replicas of many of the documents that were on display. As a preface Alun Roberts has contributed an article telling the story of the Collyer family and describing the fateful voyage of the Titanic. This is on sale to callers at the museum, price £2.00. For those unable to call please send a cheque made out to Leatherhead and District Local History Society for £2.60 to cover postage and packing, addressed to Leatherhead Museum, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP.

John Wettern

Visit to the Rural Life Centre at Tilford on 9th August 2003

Twenty history Society members and Friends of Leatherhead Museum braved the hottest day of the year to visit the Rural Life Centre, which fortunately is in a beautiful woodland setting which enabled us to keep relatively cool.

We all enjoyed stepping back in time and in many instances taking a nostalgic look into the past.

This interesting museum has a wide variety of attractions which include a chapel, a village hall and a cricket pavilion. Many of the buildings from surrounding Surrey villages were heading for demolition but instead have been painstakingly dismantled and rebuilt at the Rural Life Centre. This work is mainly carried out by the band of volunteers called '*The Rustics*', and their role is vital to the continued success of the Centre as these members have many craft skills to offer.

This is a living museum, and the village hall is still used by local people, and services and weddings have been held in the chapel. There is also an arboretum with a hundred tree species from around the world.

The café serves delicious meals as well as snacks and drinks which can be enjoyed in the open air or inside the café.

So if any Members are looking for an interesting day out whilst not travelling too far I am sure you will not be disappointed.

This was incidentally the first time that the History Society and the Friends of the Museum have joined forces on a visit.

Joy Parsons

GUIDED WALK ROUND RIPLEY

On Saturday 6th September about 15 of us met outside the Ripley & Send History Society Museum to go on a guided walk round the village, led by Les Bowerman. There were a few clouds, but the sun was shining as we set off, yet within minutes the sky went black and torrential rain fell! While we were standing huddled under our brollies, Les told us all about what a popular place Ripley had been for cyclists at the end of the 19th and early 20th century. Fortunately, the rain stopped after about 10 or 15 minutes and the sun shone all the time after that.

Les then took us a little way down the Pyrford road and showed us some interesting cottages (one row had been the Parish Poorhouse) and other buildings, including the little Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, one of the two fire 'stations' and the former Stansfields' Mineral Water factory. We then walked across the common, with cricket on the green, to the far end of the village, saw Elm Tree House (partly timber framed of 1675) which was Mrs Gall's 'Seminary for Young Ladies' in Victorian times and then we walked back along the High Street, finishing up outside the parish church. There are quite a number of pubs along the High Street, but there used to be many more, as of course it is the old Portsmouth Road and there were plenty of sailors coming up from Portsmouth. Even nowadays, nobody is likely to die of thirst in Ripley!

We returned to the Museum. Les' wife, Ann, had prepared most welcome cups of tea and biscuits for us and we looked round some very interesting exhibits in the tiny little Museum (a nineteen thirties mock Tudor building formerly a bank in the village) before returning home after a most enjoyable afternoon.

Linda Heath

REPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE SOCIETY Sir Christopher Wren

Dennis Ashbourne, a retired Chartered Architect and town planner, talking about 'Sir Christopher Wren - Our Great English Architect' had a large audience engrossed for well over an hour at our September meeting. Wren inherited his father's scientific interests and demonstrated remarkable and varied talents from an early age - he was Professor of Astronomy at Gresham College, London and at Oxford and a founder member of the Royal Society before he was aged thirty. His first architectural commission was to design the chapel of Pembroke College, Cambridge for his uncle. The next year he designed the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford on the lines of a Roman theatre, but with a ceiling and a roof. The features of galleries and clear glass, allowing everyone in the audience to both hear and see well, he carried over into his churches. The next year was Wren's only foreign trip, to meet Bernini in Paris. He was an excellent leader of men, practical and yet pragmatic, willing to abandon ideas and alter designs.

After the Great Fire, Wren rapidly produced a radical plan for the rebuilding of London. Unfortunately his idea for straight roads of three standard widths and churches on corner sites was too late, since piecemeal restoration had already begun. Of the 87 parish churches burnt down, 52 were rebuilt from the proceeds of an increased tax on coal. Their fittings, however, had to be replaced by the parish funds, supported by the livery companies. Wren designed each church differently, often to fit into a very small site, managing to make them a focal point in a narrow alley with a steeple or spire.

Mr Ashbourne confessed that his favourite Wren church was St Stephen Walbrook, with its Henry Moore 'Camembert' altar. Wren experimented here with one of his parish church domes which culminated in that of St Paul's cathedral. The cathedral took 35 years to rebuild, only starting ten years after the Great Fire, yet Wren lived long enough to visit it regularly for 13 years after that. As well as the churches, Wren redesigned royal palaces at Hampton Court, Whitehall, Kensington, Marlborough House and Winchester. Chelsea Hospital was a smaller version of the Invalides in Paris, with 476 pensioners instead of

4,000 and Greenwich Hospital cleverly incorporated the earlier Queen's House there. Mr Ashbourne reminded us of the many artists and craftsmen whose skills added so much to the results. Wren was dismissed from the Surveyorship of the King's Works after 49 years in the post by political jobbery (his supplanter lasted less than a year).

Derek Renn

"PIGS, PASTURES AND PLEASURES AT POLESDEN LACAY"

There was a full audience at the History Society's meeting on Friday, 17th October, but those present must have wondered what this strange title signified. Our lecturer, Héloïse Collier from the Regional Office of the National Trust provided the answers and in addition she showed a magnificent collection of slides to illustrate her talk. It was about the history of Polesden Lacey from earliest times - not just the house but the estate and its surroundings.

We learnt how Polesden fitted into the Surrey landscape and how its inhabitants led their lives from pre-history up until comparatively recently. Traces of the past have been found in many parts of the property including Neolithic and Roman finds. The topography had an important bearing on the pattern of settlement in this strip running south from the village of Great Bookham. Ranmore, then called South Wood, was a densely wooded area, encroached upon from time to time to yield more land for cultivation or grazing, each slice of cleared woodland being described as an *assart*.

In mediaeval times the commoners brought their pigs to feed on the acorns from the abundant oak trees, a practice called *pannage*. Wood from coppicing and bracken were further products from this part of the estate.

Grazing was strictly controlled and only a certain number of animals were permitted to pass on to the pasture belonging to the property. There were gates or *hatches* staffed by a keeper beside the track. Some of these later developed into farms bearing a name reminiscent of their origin, eg. Tanners Hatch. There are

still traces of the roads which ran through Polesden, most important of which was the one running from Bookham to Dorking. Most of this 'disappeared' when the house was enlarged.

The later history of Polesden could be said to have begun in the reign of Henry VIII when, at the dissolution of the monasteries Bookham ceased to belong to the abbey of Chertsey and a succession of private owners took possession. Mrs Collyer gave an excellent summary of how the estate developed under these various owners. Polesden's heyday was during the life of Mrs Greville in the early years of the last century.

Through her it became a magnet for high society. A golf course, a croquet lawn, tennis courts, stables, gardens and orchards catered for the amusement and pleasure of her many guests. She died in 1942 after which The National Trust became the owners.

By the end of her lecture we now saw how the title "Pigs, Pastures and Pleasure" was a truly valid title for this absorbing and stimulating talk.

John Wettern

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

Support for the museum in its many aspects has continued to occupy the Friends over recent months. Efforts to improve the quality of publicity for the museum resulted in the production of the first ever colour leaflet advertising the attractions to be found for visitors. This was given wide circulation locally and proved so successful that a further supply had to be obtained, financed by the Friends.

Education. It has long been realised that the museum has an important part to play in assisting schools and similar groups of youngsters to cultivate a live interest in history, and particularly, local history. The question, how to go about exploring this was being studied by the Friends over recent years and a lot of background work has been put in

by members of the committee, notably Thelma Lucas and Dr Fred Meynen. The scheme has now taken an important step forward with the production of an information pack intended for presentation to teachers at local schools. With an attractive coloured front cover it contains a statement of the museum's education policy and details about how contact can be made with those able to help further. It encloses copies of some local publications and includes a challenge: "*How much Roman activity was there in our District?*"

Outing. Some of the Friends participated in an enjoyable visit to The Rural Life Centre near Farnham in company with members of the History Society. This is described elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

Stewards. Members will know that a key activity undertaken by the friends is the recruitment, rostering and training of the museum's stewards. As volunteers who freely give their time to fulfill this task everything possible has to be done to maintain their efficiency and to stimulate their enthusiasm. To help achieve this the Friends have recently held an '*updating*' meeting for the stewards which provided a useful opportunity to receive comments and suggestions and to bring them up to date with activities and procedures. Many topics were covered and ideas exchanged. Speakers included: Our guest, Brian Godfrey, explaining how visitor enquiries are dealt with; Gwen Hoad, telling us where our money comes from and what it is used for; Fred Meynen, describing the Education scheme referred to above; our curator, Graham Evans, dealing, amongst other things with efforts to towards recruiting, and, Alan Pooley covering many matters concerned with the running of the museum. One of these was his work of improving the availability of information needed by the stewards.

Two of the most memorable statements that came out of the meeting were these: Firstly, the pride that the stewards and Friends took in knowing that everything at the museum was achieved by volunteer effort.

Secondly, a point made in connection with our efforts to find more helpers; that no one who joins needs to have any prior expertise. We all started from scratch and those who join need have no qualms about lack of qualifications.

John Wettern

VOLUNTEER NEEDED AT POLESDEN LACEY

Cathel Moore, the curator for Parks and Landscapes in the National Trust South-East Regional Office, is looking for a volunteer with an interest in the Trust's open landscape areas - such as Headley Common and Box Hill - to look into the early history and development of these open spaces. Anyone interested in such voluntary work in the regional office at Polesden Lacey can find out more from me

Brian Godfrey (Records Secretary)

WINTER PROGRAMME - LECTURES

Lecture meetings are held on **Friday evenings** in the Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute, High Street, *normally** at **8.0 p.m.**, with coffee beforehand at **7.30**.

December 19th. Christmas Miscellany. NB. Please note that talks will start at ***7.30 pm** this year, followed by an interval for mince pies and coffee at about 8.00 pm. The first talk will be given by Derek Renn on progress with his research on pillar boxes. If anyone would like to talk for 10-15 minutes on any aspect of local history which interests them, please contact Linda Heath (tel. 372603) as soon as possible. Please don't leave it until the last minute!. Contributions of mince pies will also be most welcome!

January 16th. 'Arts and Crafts Houses of the Surrey Hills' by Dr Nigel Barker.

A number of remarkable houses, mainly by Edwin Lutyens, were built in Surrey around 1900 in a 'free Tudor' style. Previously Historic Buildings advisor to Surrey County Council, Nigel joined English Heritage in 2001 to advise them on development projects, grant schemes and Lottery funded townscape initiatives in Kent and Sussex.

February 20th. 'Brookwood Cemetery - the answer to a Grave problem' by Mrs Rosemary Hunter.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, many town graveyards were full, so the London Necropolis Company landscaped four square miles of Surrey heathland. The cemetery contains many interesting memorials. As well as being Secretary of the Surrey Archaeological Society, Rosemary is an expert on the Brookwood story; we hope that she will lead us on a visit later in 2004.

Saturday, 21st February. The Surrey Archaeological Research Committee will be holding its annual all-day symposium of talks and displays in the Peace Memorial Hall at Ashted; see the Chairman's item on page 2 of this *Newsletter*. Leaflets will be available at L&DLHS meetings.

March 19th. 'The Plateau Group and its work' by Peter Harp.

The Plateau in question is that around Walton-on-the-Hill, adjoining our area. The Group is researching and excavating sites ranging in date from the Lower Palaeolithic to medieval. Peter is the secretary of the Group and also of the Surrey Archaeological Research Committee (see 21st February above).

April 16th. Annual General Meeting of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society (preliminary notice).

May 21st. Details of this and other events will be included in the February *Newsletter*.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2004

Subscriptions for the calendar year 2004 become due on 1st January next, and enclosed with this Newsletter you will find a subscription renewal form.

Please complete the form and send it with your cheque to me at the address shown on the form, at any time from now.

Please note the new subscription rates :

Ordinary member £12

**Associate Member (resident with an Ordinary
Member) . £5**

Junior Member (under 18 years) £1

You will see that you can pay a subscription to the Friends of Leatherhead Museum at the same time :

If you are a taxpayer and wish the Society to benefit from tax refund under the Gift Aid Scheme please complete the form at the bottom of the renewal form. Last year's declaration will still be effective but, if in doubt, complete the form.

If you pay by standing order you should also receive with this *Newsletter* a form for submission to your bank. Please ensure that you send it as soon as possible, to ensure that the bank pays the new rate on 2nd January 2004.

Jenny Morris, Membership Secretary

