

Leatherhead and District Local History Society

Newsletter 1/73

March 1973

Dear Member,

The Twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting will be held on the 23rd March 1973 at the Council Offices, Bull Hill, Leatherhead, by courtesy of the Leatherhead Urban District Council. Coffee and biscuits will be served to members from 7.45 p.m. It is hoped that the Chairman of the Council, Councillor S.J. Taylor, may be able to attend.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place in the Council Chamber of the Leatherhead Urban District Council at 8.30 p.m. on Friday 23rd March, with the following agenda:-

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last annual General Meeting.
2. Matters arising therefrom.
3. Minutes of the two Special General Meetings held on 9th November 1972.
4. Matters arising from the Special General Meetings
5. Presentation of the Executive Committee's Twenty-sixth Report (copy enclosed).
6. Presentation of the Accounts to 31 December 1972 (copy enclosed).
7. Election of Officers and Committee for 1973
8. Any other business.

Last year's Annual General Meeting was not attended by your present Hon. Secretary, but as I am sure you will all be there to hear the Minutes read, it would be a pity for me to spoil the suspense by releasing the details now.

It is with some regret that I write this, my last, Newsletter, because I have thoroughly enjoyed working with your Committee, writing Newsletters and Minutes and trying to make myself familiar with all the Society's activities. However, my family should come first and the work of Hon. Secretary is encroaching regrettably on my limited spare time. The vacancy for a new Hon. Secretary announced in the last Newsletter still stands and so far nobody has come forward. It is an ideal and interesting job for a retired person because the amount of work is really quite small when averaged out over the year.

OLD NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS & PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

The Committee would be glad to hear from any member who had or knows of any collections of old newspaper cuttings or photographs which might be made available to the Society.

PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S NOTES

It is with pleasure that the Committee records the entry of Mr. Eric S. Barnwell into the field of programming. He has already established himself as a very thorough and reliable assistant and has taken on the lion's share of the 1973 programme.

M.25 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEAM

Members are reminded that if they wish to participate in this scheme in any capacity they should get in touch with Mr. T.H. Massey of 99 Grove Road, Sutton, Tel: 01-642-9877. There is nothing binding on the member - only the usual courtesy of a message when unable to keep an appointment. If the emergency should arise the team will be glad of extra help even if only for one evening or part of a weekend.

RESEARCH GROUP NEWS

Our last Newsletter called for volunteers to join in a research project on the family who built and donated the Letherhead Institute. The Committee are happy to report that we now have a research group again after many years without. Furthermore, the group is already active and much information is being accumulated about this important family who, originating in Cumberland, came via Yorkshire and Birmingham to Leatherhead about 100 years ago. Members will probably have seen a note in the local press about Mrs. Gillespie's discovery of the strong friendship between our Dixon family and the Brontës of Haworth, Yorkshire. Mrs. Gillespie is pursuing a line of literary research into the Brontë family and has come across many references to the Dixon family as a result. Mrs. Gillespie is Secretary and Librarian at the Letherhead Institute and we are indebted to her for her co-operation in the interchange of information about this family. Members should note that small gaps in this team still exists, i.e:

1. Guildford records (Records Office and local newspapers);
2. Kingston records (" ");
3. British Museum (Newspaper section at Colindale, Hendon).

One of the difficulties of research is that access to archives is often only possible during normal business hours. So we are dependent on persons who either work close to the archives or who are retired and occasionally make visits near these places. Offers appreciated from young or old.

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WALKS & TALKS

FRIDAY 9th MARCH, RED CROSS HALL, 8 for 8.15 p.m. A talk, "A simple History of Leatherhead" by Mr. D.F. Renn. Of appeal to new members but this speaker is always worth listening to! This item missed the last Newsletter and so is being repeated in the hope that you will read your Newsletter in time.

TUESDAY 20th MARCH. Visit to Young & Co's Brewery (11.0 a.m. at the Brewery). It is regretted that this visit to an historic brewery cannot be arranged for a weekend due to the necessity of seeing the brewing processes at work. The Ram Brewery is on the banks of the Wandle at Wandsworth and there has been a brewery there since 1675. Hereabouts was also the terminal point of the Surrey Iron Railway. Youngs are a small family brewery, still independent and possibly one of the last in London still using the work of a cooper - for wooden barrels. The number permitted on this visit is 25 only and we have about 14 names already, so if you wish to join in please telephone Leatherhead 72674 as soon as possible. We had hoped to hire a coach but as some of the party wish to go independently the provision of a coach is not possible. The cost of a train journey compared with the coach is on this occasion about the same. Members starting from Leatherhead should catch the 9.19 am train changing at Epsom if necessary for the Victoria train and then alighting at Clapham Junction about 9.59 am. A bus ride or walk of about a mile along St. John's Hill and East Hill to the Town Hall in Wandsworth High Street is all that is necessary to bring you to the area of the Ram Brewery.

After the visit members may wish to take the last opportunity to see the Transport Museum at Clapham Common (closing end of March). It is near Clapham Common Underground station but could probably be reached more easily from Wandsworth by bus.

FRIDAY 13th APRIL, at the Red Cross Hall, 8 for 8.15 p.m. A talk with slides by two of our members, Mr. & Mrs. D.C.Gifford on their experiences during the renovation of the White House (now Crosslands) at Effingham cross roads.

SATURDAY 28th April. Afternoon visit to West Horsley Church and Hatchlands. Meet at West Horsley Church 2.15 pm. Miss S.B.Aston, Keeper of the Church Archives and Church Historian has kindly promised to give us a short talk on the history of the Church. Hatchlands is a National Trust property built by Admiral Boscawen. There will be an admission charge of 10p. for those not already members of the National Trust. Just down the road there is the Norman Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury, the Parish Church of East Clandon. The Rector or Churchwarden will be available to talk to us about the Church. Behind the Church there is a Tithe Barn which is being preserved and at present is stripped showing most of the timber structure.

SATURDAY 12th MAY. Leatherhead Walk and Exhibition. Miss Hind has kindly offered to let us use part of her house at 33 Church Road, Leatherhead, for this Special Event. Meet in front garden of 33 Church Road at 2.30 pm when parties will be taken round part of our Leatherhead Walk, finishing up with a visit to the Parish Church. From 4 pm onwards a cup of tea will be provided by Miss Hind and there will be an exhibition of pictures old and new and other objects of interest. It will also provide an opportunity for members to renew old acquaintances. We would expect to finish by 6.00 pm at the latest. For obvious reasons the number attending must be limited and we will issue tickets to the first 50 applicants sending a stamped-addressed envelope to Mr. E.S. Barnwell, 16 Eastwick Park Avenue, Gt. Bookham.

SATURDAY 19th MAY. Day visit to Canterbury leaving Leatherhead at 8.15 am. We are hoping to arrange for a member of the Canterbury Archaeological Society to show us some of the work carried out recently by the Society. Bring lunch. In the afternoon there will be ample time to visit the Cathedral and then those with enough energy left, the Cathedral precincts abounds with points of historical interest within a small radius. The coach fare is £1.00 and does not include any entrance fees.

SUNDAY 17th JUNE. Visit organised by Mr. M. Snellgrove, to the Wey and Arun Canal leaves Leatherhead at 9.00 am, finishing up at Arundel for tea. Mr. R. Rose, Secretary of the Wey and Arun Canal society has promised to accompany us to several spots along the canal where reclamation work is being carried out by the Society. There are, however, one or two points to note: Sunday has been chosen to give an opportunity to see the reclamation work being carried out. Depending on the weather, the approaches to the sites may be a bit rough. For this reason we are restricting the number to one coach and members are advised to bring some suitable shoes to wear. We hope to arrange for tea to be available at Arundel. Coach fare 85p, does not include tea.

N.B. The book "London's Lost route to the Sea" by P. Vine would provide a useful introduction to read beforehand, it is in the Public Library.

SATURDAY 23rd JUNE. Afternoon walk to Broadmoor, Friday Street, Abinger Common finishing for tea at Grimm's Kitchen, Abinger Hammer. Meet in the car park at the Wotton Hatch Hotel at 2.30 pm. The walk will be led by Mr. W.H.E. Rivett who is an expert on the water courses of the district and whose family once ran the Home Farm at what is now Fetcham Village Hall. It is hoped to see the Motte at Abinger Common and possibly the prehistoric dwelling nearby. The distance involved is about 5 to 6 miles with a few short hills. From Abinger Hammer back to the car park at Wotton Hatch Hotel is about 2 miles and there is a bus service.

SUNDAY 15th JULY. Afternoon visit to Godalming by coach leaving Leatherhead 2 p.m. A member of the Borough's Library and Museum Committee has given detailed advice on the most interesting places to visit and we are hoping to arrange for the Museum to be opened for a short time especially for us. Thereafter it is proposed to return to Guildford along the Wey which, given a fine day, will be most pleasant. For those who do not wish to walk, the coach will convey them back to Guildford to await arrival of the walkers, and what better place to wait? Coach fare 75p. including museum fee. We had hoped to visit Charterhouse but the Museum is being refurbished and will not be open again until November. We have decided therefore to hold this in reserve as a future prospect.

SATURDAY 4th AUGUST. A Walk in Historical Ashted including the Church. Meet 2.30 pm. outside St. Giles Church.

SATURDAY 18th AUGUST. Day visit to Crich Tramway Museum etc., and Cromford, Derbyshire. Leaving Leatherhead 8.00 a.m. Bring lunch. The Tramway Museum is in a quarry once worked in by Geo. Stephenson and is now being put to effective use by the Tramway Museum Society. For older people nostalgic, but for the young possibly a new experience to ride on a tram. In addition there is an interesting Norman Church and a Tower above the quarry with a beacon light standing 950ft. above sea level. Cromford had much association with Richard Arkwright and is his burial place. Here is also the Cromford Canal

and the Cromford and High Peak Railway. For those with industrial archaeological leanings there will be much to see of interest in this district not to mention the Derbyshire Peak countryside. This could be a fairly long but well worthwhile trip. Coach fare £1.50p, no charge at the museum except for rides.

SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER. Day visit to Bath, leaving Leatherhead 8.00 am. We shall publish fuller details in the next newsletter. Fare £1.25p.

SATURDAY 29th SEPTEMBER. An afternoon round Mickleham and district under the guidance of Miss E.F.M. Strudwick. Meet outside the Church, 2.30 pm.

FRIDAY 19th OCTOBER. The Dalloway Lecture. Public meeting at the school hall at St. John's School, Leatherhead, by kind permission of the Headmaster, starting at 8 pm. Mr. L.A. Edwards of Ashted, a writer of books on canals and for many years Secretary of the Inland Waterways Association, will speak on "Canals, Midlands and Northern England" illustrated by some of his collection of colour slides. As on previous occasions a silver collection will be taken and the proceeds will be devoted to a fund which will benefit canal restoration projects.

NOVEMBER. Talk illustrated with a film on Bees and Beekeeping, by Mrs. Furness of Ewell. Date and venue will be announced in the next Newsletter.

FRIDAY 7th DECEMBER. Leatherhead Miscellany.

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COACH OUTINGS

Members are requested to complete and return the tear-off slips in respect of each outing they wish to attend. It should however be understood that the cost of each outing must be paid not less than one month before the date of the event and that no refund can be made unless the person concerned can sell the ticket or the ticket can be used for anyone else on the Reserve list. Members are also asked to make a diary note of the event and also the last date for payment as regretfully we will have to delete names of unpaid applicants one month before the event so that the size of the coach may be booked accurately. This is particularly important in the summer period of heavy demand for coaches. These slips should be returned to:-

E.S. BARKWELL, 16 Eastwick Park Avenue, Gt. Bookham. Tel: 54947
or to any of our Booking Agents.

NOTICE The Surrey Naturalists' Trust is holding another Nature Trail early in July at Nower Wood. At the time of going to press no definite information of the route etc., was available but we will pass on any news of the event as and when received.

2 Hazel way,
Fetcham, Leatherhead,
Tel: Bookham 54806.

A.M. EDWARDS
HON. SECRETARY.

Leatherhead and District Local History Society

President - Capt. A.W.G. LOWTHER, F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A.
(Died 9th December 1972)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

for the Year ending 31st December 1972

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Committee has pleasure in presenting its twenty-sixth Report.

The end of the year was marred by the death of our President, Captain Lowther. He chaired the Inaugural General Meeting in 1947 and his report on the excavations of "The Mounts" Patchesham Park filled a substantial part of the first issue of the Society's Proceedings.

Mr. J.G.W. Lewarne was elected Vice-President during the year.

1. Membership

AS far as we can judge, the membership of the Society is the same as last year, around 350.

2. Lectures and Visits

The following were arranged:-

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| 11th January | Lecture on Air Photography by Mr. J.W. Hampton, F.S.A. |
| 27th January | Visit to the Kingston Records Office by kind permission of Miss M. Gollancz, M.A. |
| 8th February | Lecture on the History of Civil Defence by Mr. C.H. Bowles |
| 16th March | Slides of old Leatherhead and district shown by Mr. Lewarne |
| 24th March | The 25th Annual General Meeting |
| 11th April | Lecture on the History of Esher by Mr. E. Royston Pike |
| 15th April | Visit to Waynefleete Tower by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. F.H. Winand, and St. George's Parish Church, Esher. |
| 13th May | Coach trip to the Kennet and Avon Canal, Leader Mr. Hayward |
| 16th May | Lecture on Field Walking for Archaeology by Miss W. Phillips |
| 10th June | Visit to Slyfield House, Slyfield Farm and Stoke D'Abernon Church by kind permission of Sir Ronald Harris, Mr. R.O. Richards and the Vicar and Churchwardens. |
| 24th June | Coach trip to the Canal Museum at Stoke Bruerne and Brixworth and Earls Barton Churches, Leader Mr. Hayward. |
| 8th July | Surrey Naturalists' Trust's Nature Trail on Ranmore Common (not visited due to torrential rain) |
| 22nd July | Coach trip to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, nr. Chichester, Leader Mr. Hayward. |
| 19th August | A walk in the historical parts of Fetcham led by Mr. Lewarne |
| 16th September | Coach trip to historical Portsmouth with guides provided by the Portsmouth Historical Association. |

- 30th September Visit to Norbury Park, House and Gardens by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. P. Spencer
- 19th October Public Meeting. Lecture on "Historic Churches of England" by Mr. Lawrence E. Jones, Hon. Lecturer for the Historic Churches Preservation Trust.
- 9th November Two Special General Meetings to amend the Society's Rules. Lecture "Wild Orchids of Britain" by Mr. H.W. WOOLGAR and Mr. H. VOUSDEN of the Holmesdale Society.
- 1st December Leatherhead Miscellany. Items by members: Messrs. Poulter, Fortescue, Bruce, Edwards, Hayward, Barnwell, Blair and Renn.

The Committee would like to thank the lecturers and leaders for providing such an interesting and varied programme.

3. Proceedings

Volume 3 No. 5 (1971) was issued in April. Many back numbers of the Proceedings are still available, but some numbers are out of print and the Committee wishes to obtain copies (by gift or purchase) to satisfy continued demand.

4. Committee

The Committee for 1972 were:-

Chairman	D.F. Renn, F.S.A.
Hon. Secretary	D. Bruce (until May) A.M. Edwards (Co-opted May)
Hon Treasurer	F.A. Stokes
Hon. Editor	F.B. Bengier
Hon. Programme Secretary	G. Hayward (assisted by E. Barnwell from September)
Hon. Records Secretary	D. Bruce
Hon. Members Secretary	Mrs. M. Fuller
Hon. Publicity Secretary	Miss S. Hind
Committee Members	J.R. Bull, S.E.D. Fortescue, W. Millar, S.R.C. Poulter (Co-opted) J.R. Gilbert (Co-opted)
Hon. Auditor	A.H. Kirkby

The Officers and Members of the Committee retire at the Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election. Nominations for all Officers and three Committee Members, giving the name of the Nominee, Proposer and Seconder and Nominee's consent should reach the Hon. Secretary not later than two days before the Annual General Meeting.

5. Accounts

A statement of Receipts and Payments for 1972 is attached. The Committee acknowledges with gratitude the grants received from the Leatherhead Urban District Council and the Surrey County Council Education Committee. It is also grateful to those members who have made donations. The Committee also wishes to thank the Hon. Auditor, Mr. A.H. Kirkby, for his services.

6. Subscriptions

The Subscription was increased to £1.25p at the Special General Meeting on 9th November 1972 by unanimous agreement and fell due on 1st January 1973. Early payment by Bankers Order form issued with the December 1972 Newsletter would be greatly appreciated. Payments please to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F.A. Stokes, Lloyds Bank, North Street, Leatherhead.

7. Archaeological Report

A list of some 60 members interested in forming a team for field walking and emergency digs on the M.25 route (when announced) was started

after the May meeting, and a Sub-Committee headed by Mr. S.R.C.Poulter was formed in September. Members on the list will be kept informed of developments by a messenger network, headed by Mr. T.H.Massey.

An introductory talk on "emergency action" was given in October by Mr. F. Pemberton, and members subsequently joined others from Ewell on "field walks" led by him along the proposed M.25 route between Kingswood and Leatherhead. In addition to inspecting some known sites, the walkers noted several bank-and-ditch formations and found numerous signs of flint working. In particular a number of flint blades were picked up in a knapping area east of Stane Street.

Detailed drawings of shops in Bridge Street, in course of demolition, were made by Mr. W.J.Blair, who exhibited the drawings at the "Miscellany" in December.

8. Museum

The Committee has again asked the Local Council for storage space for museum items but no reply had been received by the end of December. A scale model relief map of the area, presented by the Eastwick Women's Institute, was received with gratitude.

9. The Society staged a very successful exhibition at the Bookham Village Day in the summer. Mr. D. Bruce was responsible for the exhibits, assisted by Mr. S.E.D. Fortescue.

2 Hazel way,
Fetcham, Leatherhead.
Tel: bookham 54806

A.M.EDWARDS.
Hon. Secretary.

In the case of Outings where Coach Travel is not involved it would be of great assistance to the Organisers if you would indicate below the Events you can attend. At the same time would you advise whether transport will be needed and Car Owners please state number of seats available. This would mean that nobody need be prevented from attending through lack of Transport.

Event.	Tick here	No. of persons.	Is Lift required.	Car Owners state seats available.	Tea required
SATURDAY. 28th April. West Horsley/ Hatchlands.					X
Saturday 23rd June. ABINGER WALK.					
Saturday 4th August. Ashtead Walk.					X
Saturday 29th Sept. Mickle ham Walk.					X

COACH OUTINGS.

Please return these Tear-off slips to: E.S. BARNWELL.
16, EASTWICK PARK AVENUE
GREAT BOOKHAM. Tel. 54947.

or any of the following Booking Agents.

Local Agents for bookings. Ashted: Mrs Fuller 4, Alexander Godley Close
Leatherhead : Mrs J. Parry, 58 Kingscroft Road.
Fetcham: Mr G. Hayward, "Ypriana" Cobham Rd.
(almost opposite Shamrock Stores)
Bookham: Mr M.A. Snellgrove, 8 Oakdene Close
Great Bookham.

BATH. 15th September 1973.

(5)
Please book.....Seats at £1.25 per person.

I enclose £...../*I undertake to send the appropriate amount
one month before date of event. (* delete as necessary)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CRICH/CROMFORD. SATURDAY 18th AUGUST 1973.

(4)
Please book.....Seats at £1.50 per person.

I enclose £...../*I undertake to send the appropriate amount
one month before the date of the event. (*delete as necessary)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

GODALMING SUNDAY 15th JULY 1973.

(3)
Please Book..... Seats at 75p per person.

I enclose £...../*I undertake to send the appropriate amount
one month before the date of the event. (* delete as necessary)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

(2) WEY AND ARUN CANAL / ARUNDEL. SUNDAY 17th JUNE.1973.

Please book Seats at 85p. per person.

I enclose £...../* I undertake to send the appropriate amount
one month before the date of the event. (* delete as necessary)

NAME.....

ADDRESS..... TEA REQUIRED.....YES/NO.

(1). CANTERBURY. SATURDAY 19th MAY 1973.

Please book..... Seats at £1.00 per person.

I enclose £...../*I undertake to send the appropriate amount
one month before the date of the event. (*delete as necessary)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....