

Leatherhead and District Local History Society

Newsletter 2/76

July 1976

Dear Member,

Once again we had a full house in the Council Chamber, Leatherhead, for our Annual General Meeting on Friday 26th March. During the evening we were able to hear a talk given by Viscountess Hanworth and Dr. Moss on the fieldwork project centred on the Mole Valley and the adjoining downland. At the end of the meeting a number of members volunteered to assist with the project.

We heartily congratulate our Editor, F.B.Benger, on becoming an F.S.A. at the A.G.M. and the presentation was made by Hugh Thompson, the Assistant Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, who had come to Leatherhead specially to join us, and to treat us to a short history of his Society.

The Officers and Committee elected for 1976 are the same as for 1975 with the addition of Mrs. B. Haynes as Sales Secretary. For convenience the names are given below:-

Chairman:	S.E.D.Fortescue	Hon. Secretary:.	G.Hayward
Hon. Treasurer	J.R.Bull	Hon. Editor:	F.B.Benger
Hon. Programme Sec:	Mrs.C.Barrett	Hon. Records Sec:	D.Bruce
Hon. Membership Sec:	Mrs.M.Fuller	Hon. Publicity Sec:	Miss S.Hind
Hon. Sales Sec:	Mrs.B.Haynes	Hon. Librarian:	J.R.Gilbert
Committee Members:	W.Millar, S.R.C.Poulter, Mrs. Rice-Oxley.		
(Co-opted) "	R.A.Lever, M. Snellgrove.		
Hon. Auditor	A.H.Kirkby.		

The Society's publicity campaign through its exhibitions and sale of printed matter and through the personal recommendations of members, is resulting in a steady flow of enquiries for membership. The additional subscriptions coming in as a result will help to pay for the printing of the Society's publications which is as much as we can expect to be able to do, apart from covering small running expenses and hire of hall charges.

LEATHERHEAD HERITAGE CENTRE AND MUSEUM

It is only when we attempt to find a permanent home for the Society's present and future exhibits that we realise how far short of our ideals we fall in terms of finance. Members will have read in the local papers that the Society has an opportunity of acquiring a small but interesting 17th century timber frame building in a central position in the town (Hampton Cottage, Church Street) which would serve admirably as a museum or, in more popular parlance, a Heritage Centre. A small sub-committee has been formed to consider ways and means of raising the necessary money and it would welcome additional members who would assist in making known our appeal, either to individuals or to the Leatherhead area residents as a whole. In connection with the appeal it is proposed that letters or leaflets would be delivered by hand to as many houses in the area as possible. Anyone who is able to assist with the appeal should contact our Chairman, Mr.S.E.D.Fortescue, High Point, The Mount, Fetcham, Tel: L'head 72647, as early as possible because we have not much time left to secure the property and the organising of the appeal must proceed rapidly.

It will be appreciated that, as and when a building is obtained, many other tasks would face members of the Society. For some members and their friends these tasks would be a labour of love because there would be great satisfaction in seeing and taking part in the restoration and redecoration of a seventeenth century building. This would be followed by the mounting of ever changing displays and the identification and cataloguing of finds and donated material. Then the Centre would need stewards or guides. There is something to interest everyone, and volunteers when giving their names to Mr. Fortescue would assist greatly if they could mention the capacity in which they could help.

PROGRAMME NEWS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1976

We regret that, due to lack of support, it has been necessary to cancel the visit to Jane Austen's house and Farnham on July 17th, and to Guildford on August 14th. Monies already paid will be refunded as soon as possible.

Sat. 18th Sept. Visit to Dorset, leaving Leatherhead 8 a.m. Cost £2.60 each.
 Sat. 2nd Oct. Second visit to West Horsley Place by kind permission of the
 Duchess of Roxburghe. Members who will be taking part in
 this visit have been notified. There is still a waiting list.
 The party will be led by Mr. David Bruce. Tickets will reach
 members a week before the event.

Fri. 15th Oct. Dallaway Lecture, entitled Aerial Photography & Archaeology,
 to be given by Mr. John Hampton, F.S.A., at the City of London
 Freeman's School, Ashted, at 8 p.m.

Wed. 10th Nov. Lecture on the Society's Records by Mr. David Bruce, our
 Records Secretary, at the Red Cross Hall, Leatherhead, 8 p.m.

Wed. 8th Dec. Leatherhead Miscellany, at the Red Cross Hall, 8 p.m.

Reminders

Sun. 1st Aug. Annual General Meeting of the Surrey Local History Council at
 Haslemere Museum at 2.30 p.m.

July & August Juniper Hall Field Centre Courses.

Sat. 16th Oct. Symposium at Dorking halls (all day) Subject - Surrey Gardens.

The ruined castle (Norman) of Pendragon in Westmorland is owned by one of
 our members and she and her husband (a farmer) would be glad to show it to any
 members when in that district. We are grateful to Mrs. Juliet C. Frankland
 (nee Brown) for this opportunity, and her address is: Bowberhead, Ravenstone_dale,
 Kirkby Stephen, Westmorland, CA 17 4NL.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION MEETING

A number of members interested in the development of archaeological activities
 took part in a discussion meeting on 24th June. We were very pleased to have as
 guests Viscountess Hanworth, Chairman of the Surrey Archaeological Society
 Excavations Committee, and Mr. David Bird, County Archaeological Officer.

Subjects discussed included sites of potential interest in Leatherhead town
 in the light of John Blair's discussion paper and other sites associated with
 future road developments such as the M.25 and the Young Street improvements;
 also fieldwork in the Mole Valley/Downs area. It is hoped that it may be
 possible to run a 'training Dig' in the autumn. A further informal meeting has
 been fixed for 5th August. Anyone interested who missed the first meeting should
 get in touch with S.R.C.Poulter (Tel: L'head 74773).

KEEPING IN TOUCH

At a recent Committee meeting, Mr. W. Millar, who has served on the Committee
 since the A.G.M. of 1967, and has been a member of the Society for many years, was
 made an Honorary Member. He had just celebrated his 80th birthday and the
 Committee agreed unanimously that this was a fitting time to confer the honour and
 an opportunity to thank Mr. Millar for his enthusiastic services.

Other matters lately discussed in Committee were:- The increasing cost of
 printing; the additional work load created by the number of members who renewed
 their subscription but at the old rate of £1.25; a descriptive leaflet for Headley
 and Mickleham; ways and means of acquiring a building in Leatherhead for a museum.

The Newsletter is short but this is normal for the time of the year. It is
 hoped that all essential information is here. The Proceedings naturally fulfils
 the object of recording original research by its contributors, but we would
 welcome short items about local history for the Newsletter even though these may
 have been published elsewhere.

Much remains to be accomplished but for most of us the time arrives to lay
 down our tasks and enjoy a refreshing break. To all interested in the Society I
 wish a pleasant holiday.

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 Tel: Leatherhead 72674

G. HAYWARD
 Hon. Secretary