

Send & Ripley History Society



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WANNOCK GARDENS,
POLEGATE

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THE CREATION AND
RESTORATION OF
PAINSHILL GARDENS

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GARDENER OF
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The ruined abbey,
Painshill Park

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

It's been a little over a year since our lives changed so significantly. I think that most of us, certainly within the average age group of our membership, are not yet convinced that life is going to return to what we knew as normal in the foreseeable future. Along with many of you I have had my two jobs; comforting, but not yet convincing me that I should change the behaviour I have become used to over the past year. Hopefully though we'll manage a Society outing or two this summer. It is also gratifying to see that despite the travails of the past year we have lost few members and, more surprisingly, few advertisers, to whom I am very grateful.

These are strange times in more ways than one: whilst the UK recorded the warmest March day for 53 years with a temperature of 24.5C, April had the third lowest average UK minimum temperature for the month since records began in 1884. Despite the low temperatures and daily frosts, much of the UK basked in sunshine throughout April but the dry and frosty conditions provided challenges for the country's gardeners.

The results of local elections are coming in as I write. Interestingly, although the country has seen a strong and widespread swing in favour of the Conservatives they have lost 10 of their 57 seats on Surrey County Council whilst

only just retaining a majority. Our member Colin Cross (Residents for Guildford and Villages) gained one of these Tory seats (he will also continue to represent Lovelace ward on Guildford Borough Council) and the Guildford Greenbelt Group candidate won the contest for the vacant Send parish seat on GBC. I am certain that these results are due to strong local feeling against the new development plans for our part of the county. Congratulations Colin. The Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan was also approved.

Finally, please do take a look at Museum News on page 34 and let us have your thoughts on options for the museum.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th June 2021.

Authors of illustrated articles should submit high resolution (300 DPI or higher) jpgs to the editor by email to ensure best reproduction in the journal, but no more than 20MB in any one email

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LETTERS

PETER SMITHERS, GODALMING, WRITES:

I would like to point out an inaccuracy in Journal 276. Alan Cooper's article 'Enny' Pullen, *The Send Butcher* reproduces material originally assembled by Jane Bartlett in the 1990s. On page 9 Jane states 'Jean's mother finally closed the shop in 1950...'

In 1952 the shop was still open and being run by Peter Pullen. In that year, at age 13 (the youngest you could start a job at), I worked there Saturday mornings and one evening a week as a delivery boy, cycling around the surrounding area on a trades bike and remember well the lorries that would arrive and unload huge blocks of ice to the shop (we lived opposite). I worked there for about a year earning five shillings a week until I was 'headhunted' by Tuckers, the butcher in Old Woking, who paid me 10 shillings a week for Saturday morning and 2 evenings! I'm not really sure when it finally closed.

MARALYN WONG (NÉE WOOD), FARNBOROUGH, WRITES:

I found Journal 276 (January 2021) very interesting.

With reference to Tony Milton's article about the 1st Ripley Cubs: I also went to camp at Middleton on Sea in 1957 as a member of the 1st Ripley Brownies. I still have one of the blanket pins used for making my sleeping bag as well as the blanket, which now has Brownie and Guide badges stitched on it. Brown Owl, Mrs Robins, and the other adults slept on the stage in the hall. My memories are of playing games on the beach but also that one of the Brownies in my six was ill one night with a grumbling appendix, but I couldn't wake Brown Owl because she had recently had a baby (baby went to camp too) and we had been told not to disturb her, so no sleep for me that night.

With reference to the article on Polesden Lane: my grandparents, Frank and Lou Wood, and their three children, Peggy, Wally (my father) and Peter, moved from Woking to South View in the 1930s. They did not have a bathroom, as stated in the article, but only a toilet in a brick outhouse attached to the kitchen. All washing was done at the kitchen sink. Many years later a bath was installed in a partitioned part of the kitchen. My grandfather grew cornflowers which my mother Joan

helped to pick and I spent my school summer holidays at South View on the allotment. Grandad kept chickens and he sold eggs from a stall at the front of the property. I (and many others) crowded into Mr Jarman's front room to watch the Queen's coronation on his tiny TV screen in 1953. My father Wally had a printing press in a shed on the allotment where he printed letter headings and wedding invitations for local people.

MARK GREEN WRITES:

I am desperately seeking any information and looking for pictures that were taken in the early 1970s through to 1976 (or later) of a lively character in the Ripley area. This was my grandfather whom I unfortunately never met. Indeed, my mother never knew her father, Mr Anthony Cooper, who owned Cooper's Antiques - we believe up to 1975. He then sold his shop to a lovely lady called Heather Denham and was a regular in his local pub, the Talbot. I would greatly appreciate help in finding any information regarding this very important issue for both my mother and me.

Cameron Brown writes: We have been able to send Mark a photo from our archives showing the shop in the 1970s. Ditz and I used to make antique-hunting trips to Ripley in those days and fondly remember Cooper's. Do any of you have any other photos?



Cooper's, probably in the 1970s ©SRHS

40 YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

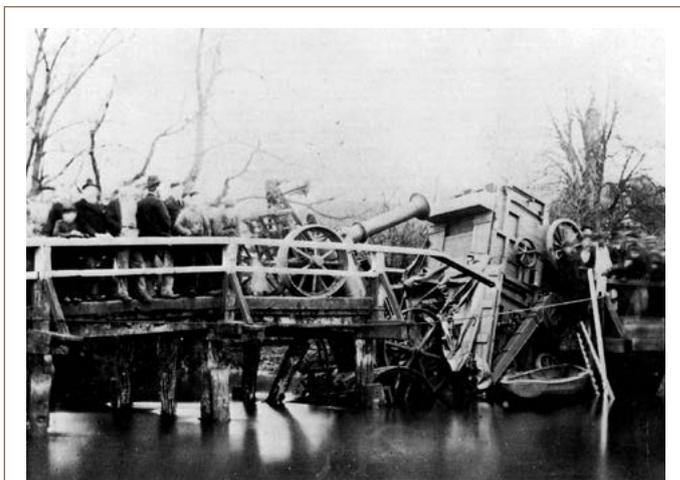
Articles in Newsletters 37 of February/March and 39 of July/August 1981 by Mr G Mileham looked at the history of the Broadmead bridge in Old Woking and I have obtained further information from Iain Wakeford's website.¹ This is the bridge over the Wey in Old Woking, directly north of Cartbridge, so very important locally.

Mr Mileham's first article seems to have been an appeal to members for more information about the history of this crossing. He wrote: 'The timber bridge on the the River Wey on the Old Woking to Send road was the property of Lord Onslow until 1914 when it was taken over by the Guildford Rural District Council with a view to its reconstruction, to comply with the standard necessary for the (then) modern traffic requirements. The old bridge, described as 'a quaint old structure', was constructed entirely of timber and was only 11 feet 6 inches wide, with no provision for pedestrians, so the Surveyor for the Guildford Rural District Council was instructed to obtain designs for a new structure.

The scheme submitted by Mouchel & Partners was selected and provided for a reinforced concrete arch bridge with a clear span of 50 feet and 22 feet width between parapets. This was not only an improvement from the road traffic point of view, but the new arch caused no obstruction to the flow of the river, particularly in times of flood, whereas the many timber supports of the old bridge impeded the flow considerably. During excavations for the new bridge abutments a large number



The pontoon bridge that was erected to rescue the traction engine in 1872 (or 73) ©SRHS



The traction engine which has crashed through the bridge, 1872 (or 73) ©SRHS

of old timber piles was found below the bed of the river, which were presumably remains of a previous bridge, and these were estimated to be at least 300 years old.

The new bridge was tested officially in March 1915. Three steamrollers, one of 10 tons and two of 12 tons, were used in various combinations as test loads and the deflections at the sides and centre of the bridge measured. These ranged between 1/64th and 5/64ths of an inch.'

The author ended his article by mentioning briefly that it was possible that the bridge had had to be rebuilt as the result of an accident involving a traction engine which had broken clean through the old timber bridge – but he did not know when this had happened. Mr G Mileham clearly elicited some responses as he added in his second article: 'The accident occurred on 15th January 1873 [but see below – possibly 1872] and is recorded in Edward Ryde's diary (entry for Friday, 17th January), and in the 4th Earl of Onslow's *Clandon Estate History 1870–1883* as follows:

'On the 15th January a traction engine belonging to a Mr. Miskin was crossing the bridge on the River Wey adjoining Woking village when it broke down the bridge. The engine and threshing machine following it falling in through the centre of the bridge. It remained fixed in the shape of the letter V. Three men, Keene, Bird and Darling were killed. The Jury returned a verdict that the deceased met their deaths from the breaking of Broadmead bridge

while in charge of a traction engine, and after hearing the evidence of Mr. Smallpiece, they are of the opinion that the bridge was not safe even for ordinary traffic.

During the temporary interruption caused by the breaking of the bridge, a pontoon was erected by Engineers from Aldershot, and after this event notices, in accordance with the Locomotive Act, were affixed to all Manorial Bridges. £120 was spent in repairing Broadmead Bridge.’

It is interesting to note that in 1873 this timber bridge had probably been in existence for some 50 years and after it was repaired it continued in use for another 42 years until replaced by the present concrete bridge in 1915.’

I can add this additional information, courtesy of our well-known local historian Ian Wakeford:

‘In January 1872, following a horrific accident when a traction engine pulling a threshing machine fell through Broadmead Bridge at Old Woking, an inquest heard of the poor state of the bridge. Mr William Smallpiece, a surveyor of 7, Greys Inn Place, London, who inspected the bridge at the time, stated that it ‘may have been constructed to the rules of art, but not to the rules of science’ and it was so unsafe that it was ‘not fit for a load of corn to cross’, let alone the traction engine and threshing machine that had caused the bridge to collapse.

The bridge was a simple wooden cart bridge of six spans, each span varying in length from 7ft 8in up to 9ft and being made up of three ten-inch square wooden piles driven into the river bed and then connected by numerous supports carrying planks of wooden decking much like a trestle table. Apparently it had been constructed ‘about fifty years before by a Mr Carman and his sons’, and was ‘thoroughly repaired’ in 1851 with little more done since. Obviously when it was built it was only used for the occasional horse-drawn cart or carriage, but fifty years later was evidently carrying much heavier loads despite the fact that the wooden piles had ‘wasted around water level’ over the intervening years. Mr Smallpiece estimated that originally the bridge could have carried about five tons, but a couple of years before the accident short spurs had been added in places, which ‘were too short and had been bolted to the wasted piles at their weakest points’.

Mr Appleby (an agent for Lord Onslow, the owner of the bridge) stated at the inquest that he had at one stage instructed a builder to repair the bridge if he saw anything wrong with it, the result of which was that a hole in the decking had been replaced, but no other inspection below the deck was carried out. Whoever was responsible for the repairs (or lack thereof), it is clear that nobody was that



Mending Broadmead Bridge, 1915 ©SRHS

concerned, as one local farmer told the coroner that just seven weeks before the accident he had taken his 12 ton traction engine across the bridge (and presumably back again), without any thought that it might collapse.

Even after the tragic accident little appears to have been done. A temporary bridge was in place for a short time before Lord Onslow invested £120 in patching up the wooden bridge and so it remained in use for nearly forty years.’

¹ Iain Wakeford <http://heritagewalks.org/>

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COACH OUTING TO WANNOCK GARDENS, POLEGATE, EAST SUSSEX

ALAN COOPER



The coach party group photograph

Front row l-r: Roly Elliott, Rita Welford, Brian Romp, Raymond Sutherland, Terry Elliott

Second row l-r: Olive Elliott, Dawes (?), Connie Hampton, Janet Dawes, Granny Elliott, Les Romp, Dots Romp, Patricia Cooper, Alice Charman, Dorothy Elliott, Ian Sutherland

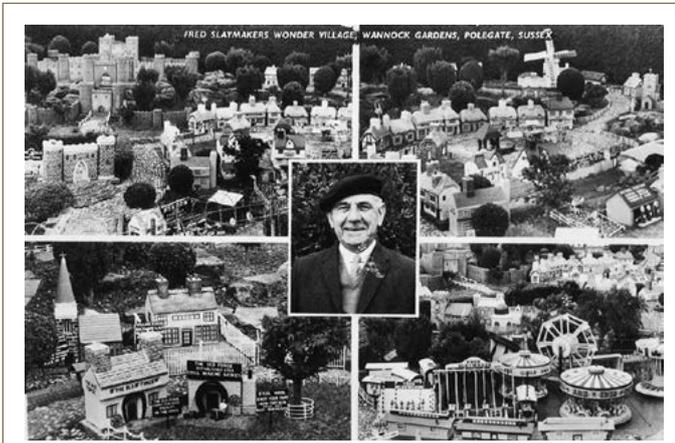
Third row l-r: Alec Elliott, Roy Welford, Mrs Welford, Jim Welford, Mrs Sutherland, Mrs Hazelden, Mr Hazelden, Jack Charman, Edward Cooper

Back row l-r: Unknown, Lionel Perry, Richard Elliott, Mr Sutherland, Thomas Cooper, Percy Elliott

Some time ago, SRHS member Celia Mappes (née Baker) who, in her youth, before marrying and moving to Germany, lived next door to my late grandmother Alice Charman, very kindly sent me a photo of a locally-organized coach trip to Wannock Gardens, Polegate, in East Sussex. Upon arrival, group photographs could be arranged and it would appear that different sizes were made available to purchase. I now have one each of three sizes, the other two coming from my late parents and grandparents. There are five of my relatives in the photo. The coach is believed to have been provided by Bland's Garage, High Street, Ripley and on this occasion, the majority of visitors were Ockham residents. It took place circa 1955.

The gardens themselves were created in the 1930s on the site of a watermill and one of the main attractions was the model village, painstakingly built by Fred Slaymaker over the course of ten years.

Utilising mostly concrete and rubbish, all foraged locally, amongst the more easily recognisable 'recycled' items were tea trays, ash trays, rubbish bin lids, coal scuttles, bicycle parts, right down to humble corks and bottle tops.



Fred Slaymaker's 'Wonder Village'. Fred is pictured centre and the travelling fair bottom right on a five-image postcard dated 1961



Another view of the village with Fred to the rear, wearing his trademark beret

One of the standout miniature attractions was a travelling fair. I could never quite understand why anyone would want to specifically visit a miniature village in Sussex, when we had our own in Ripley. Does anyone remember visiting one or the other – or maybe both?

Fred's idealised tiny world all came tumbling down in the early 1960s – redeveloped – for full-size housing!

Grateful thanks to Richard Elliott (who was present that day) for identifying almost everyone in the group.

Photos, c/o Alan Cooper collection

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THE CREATION AND RESTORATION OF PAINSHILL GARDENS

CAMERON BROWN

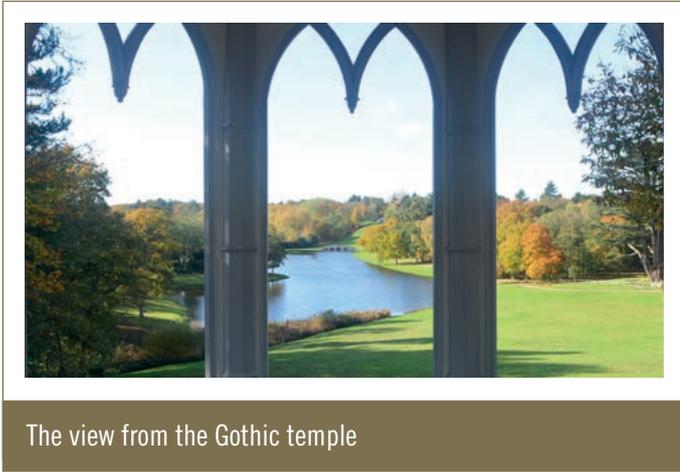


The ruined abbey

On April 20th members enjoyed an online talk by Cherrill Sands, a garden historian with an MA in the conservation of gardens, landscapes and parks from the Architectural Association, London. She has worked at Painshill as a volunteer since 1993, as a member of staff since 2004 and is currently coordinating the archives. She has been a member of Surrey Gardens Trust for over twenty five years and is a former chair. I have distilled this article from her talk and information and photographs on the Painshill website, plus other sources mentioned.

Painshill (known until the past twenty or thirty years as Pains Hill) is an 18th century landscape garden created between 1738 and 1773 by the Hon Charles Hamilton. He was born in Dublin in 1704, the 14th child and youngest son of the 6th Earl Abercorn. He spent most of his life in England, attending Westminster school and Christ Church, Oxford. After

Oxford, like most young aristocrats of the time, he set off on the 'grand tour' of Europe, at the time as much a status symbol as a culturally-enriching few months. As was usual, he returned from his grand tour with an impressive collection of statues and paintings. He travelled frequently, making further tours, and spending much of the decade from 1725 in Italy. In 1734, on the death of his father, he decided to settle in England. In 1738 he acquired the land which was to become Painshill, in Cobham, with a view to concentrating his artistic and design talents in the creation of a magnificent garden, where he could also display at least some of his collection of art and antiquities. It cost him around £8,000 (almost £2 million today) for which he had to take out a loan of £5,000. Cobham was already an expensive location. The basic layout of the gardens took some six years, during which time he also made improvements to the modest villa in which he lived and housed much of his collection.



The view from the Gothic temple

Around this time there was a shift of taste in garden design, away from the classical formality of Versailles or Hampton Court, towards a more informal, pictorial style. This became known as the ‘natural style’ or the ‘English landscape garden’ and the fashion spread around Europe and even across the Atlantic to America. What Hamilton had in mind was the creation of a ‘magical garden’ with ‘living paintings’, using the artefacts he had picked up on his grand tour and the inspiration drawn from the gardens and plants he had seen. He called it his ‘pleasure grounds’.

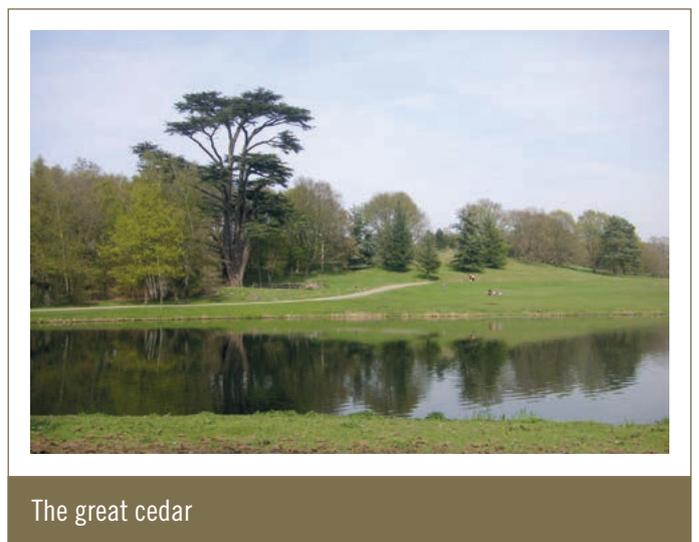
Architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner referred to the English landscape garden as ‘Britain’s greatest contribution to the visual arts’ and Painshill is regarded as one of the foremost and finest of these creations.

The garden had a clear circuit to walk and the visitor was invited to become involved emotionally and to experience a variety of moods as he walked around the ‘living paintings’. For example, the area around the serpentine lake has been compared to a scene painted by Claude Lorrain, while the wilder, western woods are perhaps more like a painting by Salvator Rosa.

After all this work and three decades of welcoming a huge range of distinguished visitors Hamilton ran into financial difficulties and in 1773 was forced to sell Painshill. The landscape was inevitably altered by successive owners but remained largely intact until World War II when it was requisitioned. After the war it fell into disrepair and in 1948 the estate was split up and sold. Some of the land was used for housing and the park's features became overgrown as the gardens reverted to nature.

During the 1960s Cobham historian David Taylor brought Painshill to public awareness through an article in a local newspaper. Later he, together with garden historian Michael Symes, local residents Norman and Beryl Kitz and others, decided to record what was left of Painshill before it was lost forever, and they helped create the Friends of Painshill. This proved successful as over a period of a few years up to 1980 Elmbridge Borough Council bought 158 acres of the original 250-acre estate, bordered along one side by the Mole. With convenient access to the A3 the work of restoring the landscape and its features began. In the following year the Painshill Park Trust was founded as a registered charity with the remit ‘to restore Painshill as nearly as possible to Charles Hamilton's original concept of a landscaped garden for the benefit of the public’ and in 1984 the garden achieved Grade I listed status. Fortunately the history of the estate had been painstakingly researched by Norman and Beryl Kitz and subsequently gathered together in their book *Painshill Park, Hamilton and his Picturesque Landscape* (published in 1984 by Whittet Books). The book is well illustrated and the appendices list, inter alia, prints, paintings and furniture of the estate, all key features to help guide the process of restoration.

The central feature is a 14-acre serpentine lake with several islands and spanned by bridges and a causeway. The water Hamilton needed to create the lake was raised 15 feet above the level of the Mole by a 30-foot diameter water wheel driven by the river itself. A beam engine to power the wheel was added in the 19th century. Hamilton had enhanced the views of hills and lake with woods, avenues and specimen trees (including the ‘great cedar’, thought to now be the largest in Europe) to create vistas and a number of discrete environments which include an amphitheatre,



The great cedar



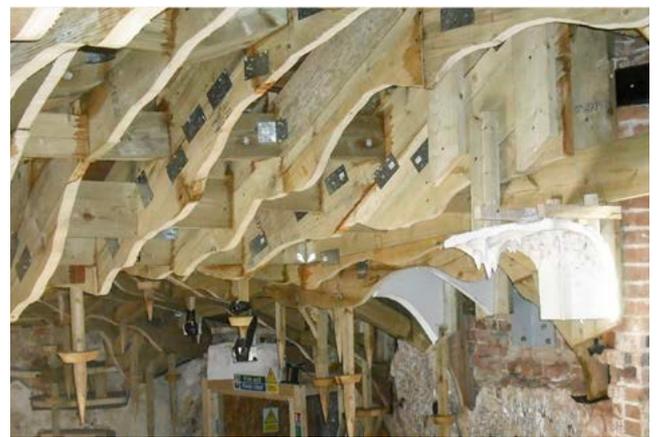
The Turkish tent



Roman temple of Bacchus

a water meadow and an alpine valley. As focal points in the vistas and essential to the character of the park were its 'features' or follies, added mainly between 1758 and 1762, which included Bacchus' temple (designed by Robert Adam), the Gothic tower, the ruined abbey, the hermitage, followed in 1763 by the magnificent crystal grotto. By the 1980s all of these were either derelict, overgrown or completely lost, but by the first decade of the 21st century, with the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, many of them had been returned to their former glory. The hermitage (for which a 'hermit' was once hired on a seven-year contract, but soon dismissed for spending too much of his time in the local hostelry) and the Turkish tent have been recreated; the crystal grotto was restored in 2013, and re-opened by Lady Lucinda Lambton; the Roman temple of Bacchus has been reconstructed, though there is now only a cast of the original statue of Bacchus which it once housed and had been amongst the antiquities bought on Hamilton's Italian tour.

There is, however, still work to be done and the absence of paying visitors during the pandemic has brought progress to a hopefully temporary halt. As I write, a phased reopening has begun.



An early stage in the restoration of the crystal grotto



The Gothic tower



The restored crystal grotto

OBITUARY - ARTHUR ANDREWS (1928-2020) AND BERYL ANDREWS (1925-2021)

HELEN BEST



Arthur and Beryl in 2008

My father, Arthur, was the eldest of four children born to Fred and Maisie Andrews, well-known former residents of Send Marsh (after he stopped commuting to the family business in Fulham Fred worked in Conisbee's in Ripley for many years and had his regular pint of Guinness in the Saddlers Arms. Maisie became very involved with Send Parish Church and the WI). Arthur was born in Fulham and attended school there until he was whisked away to Shebbear College in North Devon at the start of the war. He then studied architecture back in London whilst living above the family butcher's shop in Fulham. Following in his parents' footsteps he attended Barnes Operatic Society where he met Beryl; they were married in 1956 and moved to Horsell in 1958.

Beryl was born in Barnes where she attended school before being evacuated to Tavistock to live with an aunt and uncle. After the war she returned to London to attend secretarial college, finding her first job with the Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA). She spent time bringing up three children and then returned to work at

a solicitors' practice in Woking. She was also a diligent member of the Trinity Methodist Church in Woking.

Arthur was a member of Send Cricket Club from the age of 18, (travelling from London to stay with his parents at the weekends to start with) and was active on and off the field for the next 50-plus years, fulfilling the role of wicket keeper and rising to the rank of president when his playing days were over. He persuaded his family to move from Horsell to Send in 1975 to be nearer the cricket club! Beryl was a great

supporter and was famous for her match-day teas. Arthur was also an active member of Ripley and Send Rotary Club where he spent a year as president, and thoroughly enjoyed organising the children's races at the Ripley Event for many years.

He was a great organiser, supported by Beryl's efficient secretarial skills, and all the societies they were involved with benefited from this.

They both loved to sing, Beryl being a member of the well-known Epworth Choir in Woking for over 40 years and Arthur also singing with them once he'd finished his cricket career.

Despite some ill health they remained fiercely independent in their home in Send before moving to Mayford Grange in 1992, where they took full advantage of all the social facilities until their ailments took hold in the last couple of years.

CHARTING THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SURREY POLICE FORCE THROUGH EXTRACTS FROM *A HUNDRED YEARS OF THE SURREY CONSTABULARY 1851-1951*

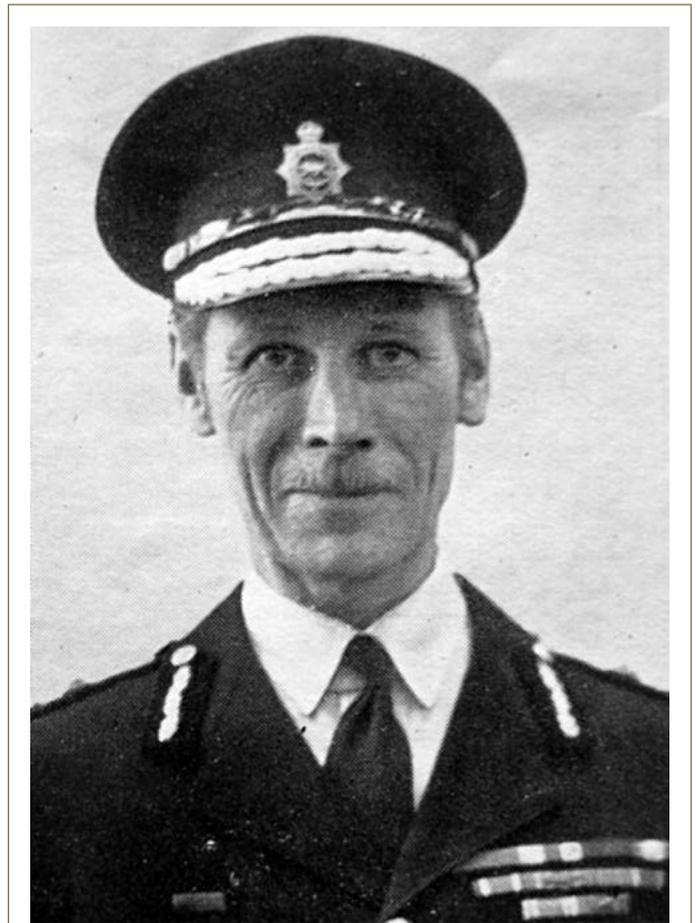
PART THREE
DITZ BROWN

Part one of this article, published in J276, concluded with Chief Constable Captain Hasting's retirement on 31st August 1899 whilst part two, published in J277, finished with his successor Chief Constable Captain Sant's retirement on 18th December 1930. As before I have arranged the transcribed entries from this commemorative booklet about Surrey constabulary's early years chronologically and, wherever I quote directly from it, I use inverted commas.

1930

On 28th July Major Geoffrey Nicholson, MC, at thirty-five years of age, was appointed out of 133 applicants and took over as Chief Constable of Surrey on 19th December. 'His first General Order was to wish his men a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If, in choosing a new Chief Constable, the Surrey Standing Joint Committee aimed at appointing a man of the same moral and mental calibre as Captain Sant, but as different as possible from him in every other characteristic, then they well and truly hit the mark ... Major Nicholson, with an imagination full of new ideas, always looking for new ground to break, was a restless pioneer for the future ... his day rarely ended before 8 p.m.' He 'read every report without exception ... and every final report showing the result of police enquiries. He soon realised that his crime problem was the housebreaker who, living in London, made a quick journey to the residential areas of Surrey ... it was obvious to him that police enquiries to catch this type of criminal had to be made almost inclusively in London ... and was granted five additional Sergeants who soon became known as detective Sergeants and they formed the nucleus of what is now known as the Surrey C.I.D.'

'The new Road Traffic Act helped the police with the traffic problem' and 'the Ministry of Transport subsidised five police patrol cars and eleven motorcycles for the Force ... and in addition five Austin Seven cars were purchased for the use of enquiry Sergeants.'



Major G Nicholson, CBE, MC 1930–1946

'Between 1930 and 1950 the Surrey Police were called upon to deal with several murders which attracted nationwide attention and in most cases the culprits suffered the supreme penalty'. Details were not given as the authors of the booklet were sensitive to the fact that, as not enough time had elapsed, they were 'liable to cause pain if published'.

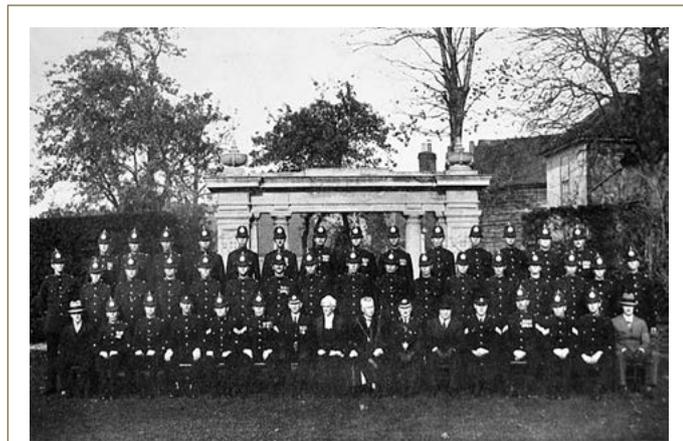
1932

'Major Nicholson instituted in a small way a department at Headquarters for the study and collation of

information relating to crime, scientific aids to detection and photography. This department he called the Crime Bureau, a name which has stuck ever since ... now much enlarged, it covers all crime, finger-prints, photography and alien registration.'

'When Major Nicholson became Chief Constable he did his best to encourage organised games in the Force, and owing to his initiative, a Sports Association was founded.'

'In the latter years of his service when a Cricket XI frequently played as representing the Force, Captain Sant thought that official colours should be adopted. To follow the lead of the Surrey County Cricket Club chocolate was chosen as a ground colour and, finally, in 1932, Captain Sant and Major Nicholson agreed that narrow continuous silver and blue stripes should run across the chocolate ground. Captain Sant fixed the measurements and devised the Surrey Constabulary tie, which from that time has been worn by members of the Force, the Old Comrades Association, and, with modification, the Special Constabulary.'



Guildford Borough Police, 1933 including the Mayor (Alderman Harvey) and the Chief Constable (Mr Oliver)

1934

Major Nicholson was convinced that 'good housing of the constables was important ... the provision of 200 houses at a cost of £150,000 between 1934 and 1937 added greatly both to the comfort and efficiency of the Force.'

1936

'The Headquarters building, which had not been extended since 1854, was enlarged at a cost of £11,000

and a garage for motor maintenance work was erected at Ladymead, Guildford.'

'As the chances of war grew greater more effort was made to see that if and when it came the police should be ready. Every member of the Regular Force underwent training in air raid precautions, likewise the Special Constabulary.'

1937



Major Nicholson's 1937 Christmas card

Further research resulted in the find of a Christmas card which illustrates what a charming man Major Nicholson must have been. The text reads:

Guildford

24th December 1937

To All Ranks

Wishing you all a Merry Xmas a Happy and Successful New Year.

It is again my privilege to be able to say it is my good fortune to have served for another year in the Surrey Constabulary; which now brings me up to seven years service in this Force.

It is said that the first seven years are the worst and after that every seventh year. For my part "the worst" has been most pleasant. I hope and believe it has been such for you. Anyhow let us look forward to more years of Happy Association and Achievement.

Good Luck to you all and with this wish goes out my thanks for your loyalty and willingness over the past years.

G Nicholson

Chief Constable of Surrey

1938

‘To augment the strength of the Force during the war, an auxiliary body known as the Police War Reserve had been set up on a national pattern. The First Police Reserve, composed of retired policemen, was enrolled in 1938’.

1939

‘In May 1939, a special department known as the Emergency Department was set up to deal with all matters falling on the police in connection with preparation for war ... and ‘the “E” Department was soon ready to meet the peculiar difficulties which were already arising’. In September 1939 ‘the declaration of war, therefore, found the Surrey Constabulary well prepared ... Although nothing could relieve the man on the beat from his share of the work, such matters as evacuation, air raids, unexploded bombs and military movements, all came within the sphere of the “E” Department which functioned with great success throughout the war.’

‘The immediate special work thrust upon the police by the declaration of war was enormous ... all leave was stopped ... The arrest and checking of aliens, the guarding of vulnerable points, the posting of proclamations, registration of billets, enforcement of blackout lighting regulations, were by no means all the jobs which fell like an avalanche during those first few hectic days: whilst over all loomed the prospect of enemy air raids. The Police War Reserve and the First Police Reserve were called to duty.’

‘Major Nicholson was appointed County Controller, and during the first year of war he did great service in that capacity. Finding, however, that this, coupled with his responsibilities as Chief Constable, was too much, he gave up the Controllership at the end of 1940.’

1940

‘Reliable and hitherto confident British citizens suddenly became worried by suspicion and rumour: some gave the police highly useful information, but more often than not they were victims of Dame Rumour at her worst. The time taken by the police in sifting “wheat from chaff” at this period, if it could be calculated, would be amazing. One report stated that at the back of a row of houses certain thumps resembling Morse Code signals could be heard at night. Next a constable heard these thumps for himself; a police cordon was stealthily formed the following evening and, closing in on a garden shed, the officers discovered a large rabbit stamping on the floor of

his hutch. The inhabitants of a village became convinced that one of their number, who had a German name, was a spy and had his cellar packed with firearms. The local Superintendent knew better, but gradually getting doubtful he eventually raided the house which he found had no cellar. Most policemen have a strong sense of humour and, serious as was the time, the early summer of 1940 gave them many a laugh.’

‘At the end of May a national appeal was made for men to join the Local Defence Volunteers, later called the Home Guard. Enrolment was carried out at Police Stations ... a typical instance of the value of the police as the “handyman” service of the nation.’

‘On 30th June the first enemy bomb fell in the Surrey Police area. The Battle of Britain through August and September brought the first serious casualties from enemy action and, on 4th September, the worst incident in the Police District during the war; Vickers Works near Weybridge were bombed, causing eighty-three deaths and injuries to over four hundred people. The enemy planes did not all escape from this raid: one was brought down near Shere and an airman who bailed out was captured by a Special Constable at Ripley.’

‘Surrey stood in a peculiar position with regard to the threat of invasion ... the coast of Kent and Sussex was the nearest and likeliest landing point for the Germans in France. Surrey therefore was a reserve area and the County was crammed with troops, chiefly Canadian. The presence of thousands of troops naturally raised special problems for the police, but to the great credit of these soldiers very little trouble was experienced. Hundreds of pedal cycles certainly got misplaced, but in a policeman’s vocabulary such comparatively trivial matters are not a crime, and the modern Canadian soldier made for himself a reputation for good behaviour almost equal to his name as a gallant fighter.’

1942

‘By the middle years of the war many women were temporarily employed in police offices and issued with uniform. They were the W.A.P.C. (Women’s Auxiliary Police Corps) and were first appointed in Surrey in January 1942.’

1943

‘A Police Concert Party was formed ... known as “Copperdrome” ... and visited many villages as well as army camps and hospitals in Surrey, where it met with invariable success.’ They raised a lot of money and ‘the

Widows' and Orphans' Fund has, in particular, received great financial help'.

During WWII the Special Constabulary once again gave 'valuable service. Long hours were spent in training and arduous beat duty after the ordinary day's work was done, very often in areas affected by bombing. On more than one occasion Police Stations were manned by Specials ... on all occasions their conduct gave proof of their high value as a reserve to be called upon in time of great emergency.'

'One point in particular should be remembered about leadership of Special Constables. Their service is voluntary, there is no rigid disciplinary code to which they must adhere, they receive no pay or material reward, therefore they can only be held together as a useful organised unit by a carefully nurtured spirit of unselfish service to the community ... By law the Chief Constable of a county is responsible for control of the Special Constabulary' and 'Major Nicholson took great pains to satisfy himself of the potential value of the Special Constabulary and often expressed his great appreciation and confidence.'

1944

'Miss Margery Urquart, a Sergeant in the Special Branch of the Metropolitan Police, was appointed the first woman Inspector in the Surrey Constabulary.'

1946

'Miss Urquart was succeeded as an Inspector by Miss Catherine Mackenzie ... there has never been much doubt in the minds of modern police officers that police women can do a lot in preventative and detective work when working in plain clothes. Patrol work, however, is now well within their sphere and they carry out a good deal of such duty in uniform.

It has long been argued that a woman in uniform and with authority can by moral suasion do a lot that a man cannot do; especially amongst young women and girls. Some go so far as to hint that the presence of a woman constable in the Garden of Eden might have saved humanity a lot of trouble.

As with the men the greatest difficulty of all is recruitment. Young women apparently do not find the Police Service very attractive.'

'Major Nicholson, who, in 1944, had been made a C.B.E. for his services to Surrey, had decided on medical advice to retire after nearly sixteen years of hard conscientious

work as Chief Constable ... Frankness and good faith were his outstanding qualities whilst his propensity for making witty remarks during serious discussions will long be remembered by many. He loved a good joke and, to the amusement of his subordinates, was always ready to testify to the medicinal value of a special kind of cocktail. He was extremely interested in the possibilities of science as an aid in crime detection and a chance for experiment in this direction was never allowed to slip.

To the older men the changes and innovations that he introduced were staggering. They realised in particular "that the time for the filling up of forms had come" and they did not take readily to forms. Not even the Chief Constable, however, could have realised that they were having good practice in what was later to become a compulsory national pastime!

He always sought to preserve, rather than destroy, the old framework and traditions of the Force left by his predecessor. With his last years came the test of war, and through those exacting times he had the satisfaction of seeing the Surrey Constabulary always more than equal to its task.

His service ceased on 30th November, 1946' and in his last General Order he expressed his grateful thanks to all for 'the unvaried loyalty, support and good comradeship' shown to him.

On 1st December 1946 'The vacancy for the Chief Constable was filled by the appointment of Mr. Joseph Simpson, O.B.E., aged thirty-seven years.

On taking over the Force Mr. Simpson had to face the Police Act of 1946' by which 'Guildford and Reigate Borough Police Forces were finally merged into the Surrey Constabulary ... Under the Act the Surrey Constabulary lost to the Metropolitan Police the parishes of Esher, Cobham, Stoke D'Abernon, Walton-on-the-Hill, Kingswood, Chipstead and parts of the parish of Coulsdon and Epsom & Ewell Urban District ... Leatherhead became part of the Dorking Division ... The Surrey Constabulary, however, gained the parish of Warlingham.'

1947

'The merger took place on 1st April 1947, the Force once more being known as the Surrey Constabulary; and from 1st July 1947, the uniforms, in every detail, became the same throughout the whole Force.'

'The Sports Association [whose last meeting had been in 1939] was reorganised ... and caters for every sport or game that appeals to the policeman, both indoors and out.'

1948

'In the Olympic Torch Relay of July, 1948, the Surrey Constabulary was represented by Police Constable K.W. Botting, who carried the torch from Brookwood to Bisley Common. This torch he subsequently had converted into a most handsome trophy to be competed for in a Cross Country race run on a Divisional team basis.'

'Bloodhounds were officially introduced into the Surrey Constabulary in 1936, but it is doubted whether they, or the officer responsible for handling them, were ever given sufficient scope for their potentialities. At the beginning of the war they faded away, but early in early 1948 it became apparent that dogs should be given a further trial ... Surrey were fortunate in obtaining the services of Police Constable (now Sergeant) H. Darbyshire of the Metropolitan Police who had trained and competed with Alsatis in Working Trials as an amateur for many years. He brought with him to Surrey a fine old imported German Alsatian bitch, Anna, with her young son, the now successful Working Trial Champion Loki. On this nucleus the existing dog section was formed' which was 'built up and has done some very creditable work, not only in catching criminals but also in finding missing persons and abandoned articles.'

1949

'War and post-war problems had greatly increased Headquarters work ... The old but extended Headquarters of 1854 had become much too small for a modern Police Force ... and at last Mount Browne, in Sandy Lane, Guildford was purchased and altered for use as Headquarters ... It was occupied in July and, by coincidence, on the removal to Mount Browne, the



Opening of the County Police Headquarters at Mount Browne, 1949, by the Home Secretary, The Rt Hon Chuter Ede MP



The memorial tablet, designed by George Field

Wireless Scheme was brought into being, on 7th August, 1949' with 'the control room at Mount Browne. The system exists for the purpose of providing police service to the public as quickly as possible, no matter for what reason, and it has already been highly successful. It also serves the Surrey County Fire Brigade and gives efficient two-way cover over the whole of the geographical County.'

Mount Browne was 'formally opened by the Home Secretary, the Right Hon. J. Chuter Ede, M.P., on 23rd September 1949.'

'The playing field at Mount Browne, which has been provided by the Standing Joint Committee, is a fine example of the change in official outlook on the policeman's need for recreational facilities.'

A memorial a tablet in bronze was purchased, again by voluntary subscriptions, and was designed by George Field to 'match the one erected in 1919 to honour the men of the Force who fell in the 1914-1918 War ... Many pensioners of the Force attended in addition to a parade of serving officers' when, 'on 6th December 1949, in a ceremony conducted by the Bishop of Guildford ... a Memorial Tablet bearing the names of the twenty-two members of the Force who lost their lives with the Fighting Services during the years 1939-1945, was unveiled at Mount Browne by Major Nicholson.'

WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER



Here is a postcard of a very well-known building in Ripley, only it's viewed from the rear. Where is it and what is its name?

ANSWER TO J277 WHERE IS IT?

The new scout hut next to the old fire station in Rose Lane, Ripley



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RIPLEY FIRE BRIGADE IN ACTION

ALAN COOPER

Anita Jackman (née Weller) recently showed me three photographs of firemen outside the *Jovial Sailor*, but knew nothing at all about them. My initial inquiries drew a blank but finally the mystery was solved. SRHS member Tony Milton recognized one person (Bob Brown) whose son Bob Brown jnr is known to his friend Mick Biard. Mick contacted Bob jnr and he has very kindly identified those in the photos. It is always satisfying to put names to faces, however convoluted the journey to do so might be. But why were the photos taken in the first place? Close inspection indicates much hilarity, as a team of seven firemen and three policemen fearlessly tackle a fire within a hollow tree stump.

Around the time these photos were taken, the fire brigade was controlled by the county and county borough councils, Surrey being organized into three divisions. In 1951 Ripley station was recorded as C division, C21.

This then prompted Tony to ‘have a dig’ and he came up with a pamphlet detailing the *Rules, Conditions of Service and Regulations of Ripley & District Fire Brigade Association* inscribed to his uncle, Herbert William James Milton (1910-1991), once a Ripley fireman and original owner of the pamphlet.

SRHS member Wilf McCoy recalled an amusing incident from his youth: ‘There was great rivalry between the Ripley fire brigade (part-timers) and those at Guildford. When there was a fire, usually on the Common at Wisley,¹ it was a race to get there first. I remember the Brewers being in it and George Robbins from the International Stores was the leader. Mr Goodman’s bell at Ryde House school would be rung to summon the firemen and we would all go out to watch.

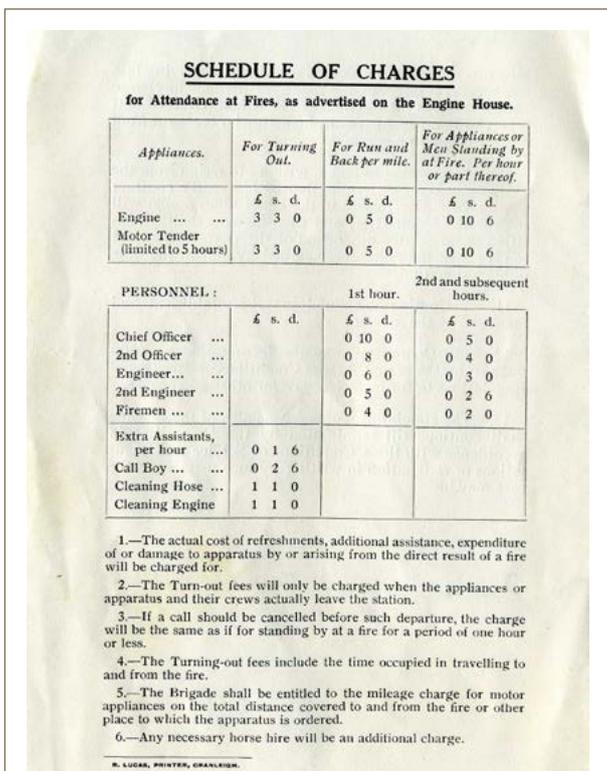


Top: The team of seven firemen called out to ‘the blaze’.
l-r: Harry Hacker (understood to be the Chief Fire Officer at the time), Bob Brewer, Tom (or Stan) Goodman, Peter Giles, Bert Hacker, Bob Brown and Stan Plowman

Middle: Whilst a police Sergeant and two of his men look on, an unknown fireman appears to be extinguishing a fire in a hollowed-out tree stump, much to the amusement of his onlooking colleagues.

l-r: Firemen Bob Brown, Stan Plowman, Harry Hacker and Peter Giles. Note also, the *Jovial Sailor* in the background advertising Watney’s Ales

Bottom: More smiling faces as the fire is finally extinguished



A section of the rule book detailing the 'Schedule of Charges' for 'Attendance at Fires'. These charges were also made available to view on a cast iron plaque attached to the outer wall of the engine house in Rose Lane

They jumped on their bikes, peddling like fury to get to the fire station and aboard the engine, determined to beat 'Guildford' to the fire. I remember one day watching 'Ripley' hurtle down Rose Lane, straight out right onto the main road just as 'Guildford' came along. There was nearly a collision and 'Guildford' ended up facing the trees to the side of the old forge, well and truly carved off the road.'

Unable to identify the fire service vehicle, I eventually contacted Paul Measday of the Fire Brigades of Surrey Preservation Trust who immediately identified it as an Austin K2 hose reel tender which had been converted from an auxiliary towing vehicle constructed circa 1941/2. These ATV's were built in their thousands for the purpose of towing trailer pumps. Originally it would have been painted grey.

Firemen photos outside the Jovial Sailor courtesy Anita Jackman collection
 Ripley and District Fire Brigade Association Rulebook courtesy Tony Milton collection

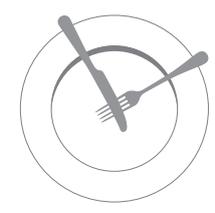
Thanks to Tony Milton, Mick Biard and Bob Brown jnr for identifying the fireman and finally, many thanks to Paul Measday of the Fire Brigades of Surrey Preservation Trust for his invaluable help in identifying the vehicle. Anyone with an interest in fire brigade history should visit the website <https://firebrigadesofsurreypreservationtrust.webs.com> where details of the Trust and its museum in Reigate may be viewed

¹ One can but speculate as to how many of the frequent fires on Wisley Common were started deliberately by a 'carelessly' flicked cigarette end on the way home from work hoping to instigate a callout ...



Time to savour

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theclockhouserestaurant.co.uk THE CLOCK HOUSE

THE WESTONS OF OCKHAM

GILLIAN LACHELIN

The Westons of Ockham (a different family from the Westons of Sutton Place) are known to have been living in Ockham at the end of the fourteenth century. They played a significant part in Ockham life in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, with Henry Weston becoming Lord of the Manor in 1621.

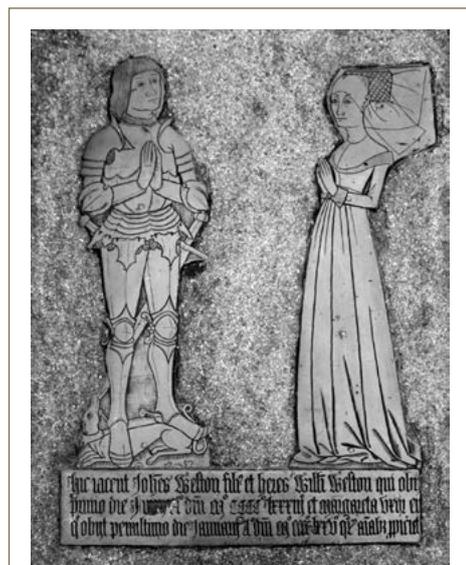


Weston arms in All Saints' Church Ockham

Their arms, (a chevron or between three lions heads erased argent) can be seen in All Saints' Church Ockham.

In 1406 John Weston of Ockham was involved in a case relating to property in Send, Ockham, Cobham and East Horsley against John Tuerslee and his wife Alice. His name is also mentioned in several of the court rolls of the East Horsley manor of the Priory of Christ Church Canterbury, between 1410 and 1421, in relation to lands in Ockham and to noxious ditches.

John's property in Ockham passed to his cousin William Weston, who was the grandfather of the John Weston depicted in the brass on the south side of the altar in All Saints' who died in June 1483, and his wife Margaret (daughter of John Metford of Ockham) who died in January 1475. He wears armour consisting of breast plate, shoulder and elbow pieces, cuisses and greaves and a collar of mail; a dog lies at his feet. She has a flowing gown and a butterfly head-dress.

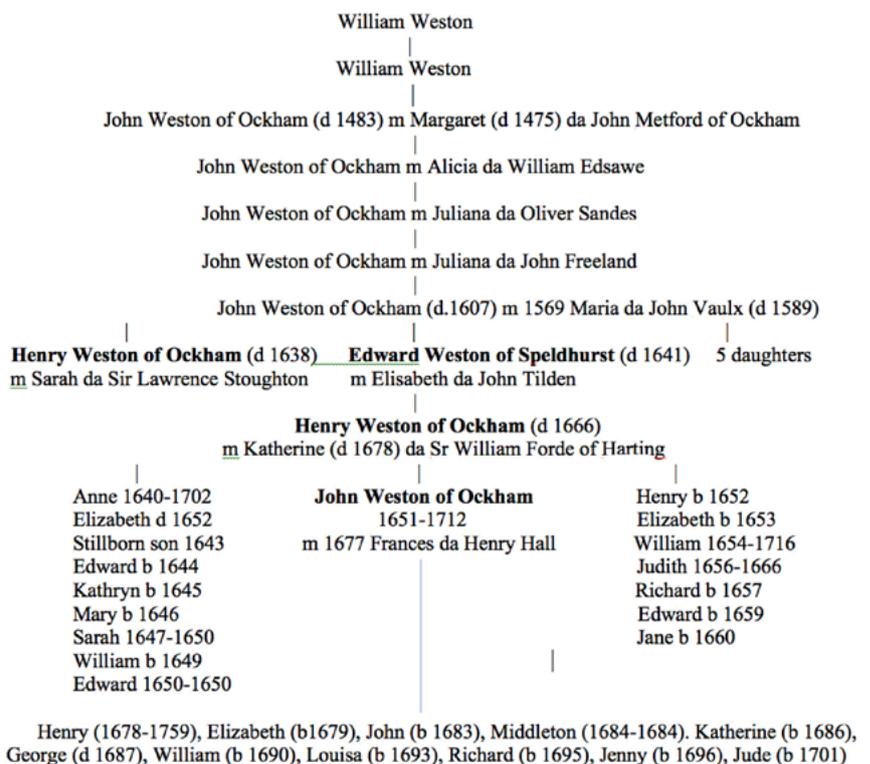


15th century brass of John & Margaret Weston

Family Tree of the Westons of Ockham

Lords of the Manor of Ockham in bold

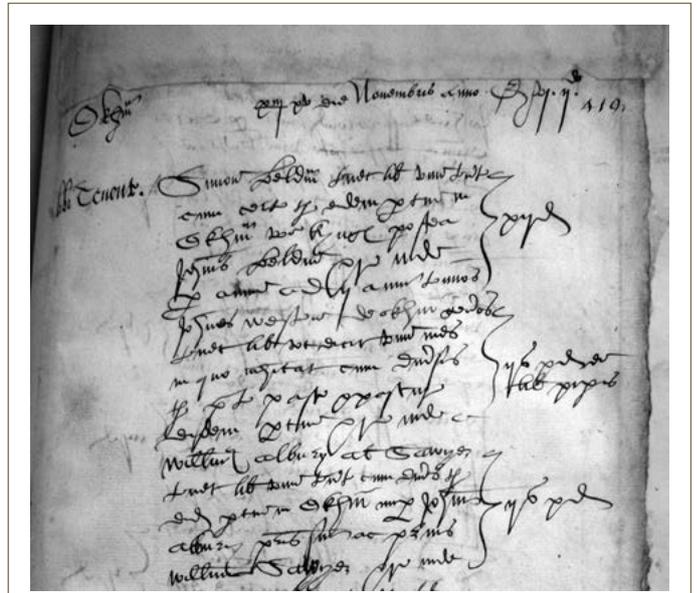
b=baptised; **m**=married; **d**=died; **da**=daughter



Family Tree of the Westons of Ockham

Between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries the main form of personal taxation in England was through the 'lay subsidies', so called because the clergy were taxed separately. It was levied on income from lands and movable goods. In the lay subsidies of 1546 John Weston senior was clearly the wealthiest person in Ockham, contributing £3 in the first payment and £40 in the second, more than anyone else in Ockham and Wisley; his son John paid £7 altogether.

In the 1548 *Survey of Manors* in Surrey John Weston paid rent of 11lb of pepper and two shillings and ten pence for a house, divers meadows and pasture as a free tenant and nine shillings and sixpence halfpenny for a tenement and lands called Maundefields, as a copy tenant. It is interesting to think of a rent of one red rose and a penny being paid by John Williams for a toft (plot of land behind a building) and 30 acres. At the time of his death in 1548 Weston held a considerable amount of property in Ockham and also in other parts of Surrey and in Sussex.



From the original copy of the 1548 *Survey of Surrey Manors* (National Archives)

FROM RICHARD BLOXAM'S TRANSCRIPT OF THE 1548 SURVEY OF SURREY MANORS

Free tenants:

John Weston Esq for house, divers meadows and pasture	11lb pepper and 2s 10d
William Sawyer for a tenement and divers lands	2s 10d
Robert Fuller for a tenement and 2 acres	1s 4d
Matthew Kellett for a tenement called Boltons and one called Smythes	1s 2d
Simon Beldam for a tenement called Kynges and certain lands	1s
John Norton Esq of Tysted (Hants) for one tenement and divers lands	10d
John Freland of Uptons for one tenement and divers lands belonging to Bachelors	6d
John Freland of Bridgend for 2 closes called Rydons (10 acres)	4d
Thomas Freland for one close called Fureryde (3 acres)	2d
Robert Stynte (by charter of John Bouchier) half an acre called Blodhawse, lying between land called Edwards on the east and the King's way from the hill called Gileshill on the west and north and Hoppers on the south	2d
John Williams for a toft and certain lands (30 acres) called Nortons	1 red rose and 1d

Copy tenants:

John Weston gent. for a tenement and lands called Maundefeldes	9s 6½d
Philip at Ley for messuage and virgate – Wodes and for Colyers	9s 1d
William Knyght Stynte a cottage called Neles with croft and a field – Balfeld and another croft called Gossherns and a field – Brokefeld and meadow in La Mede	6s ½d
John Freland for a tenement called Kneppes	4s 6½d
Lawrence Taillour for a tenement called Jowpes	4s 6½d

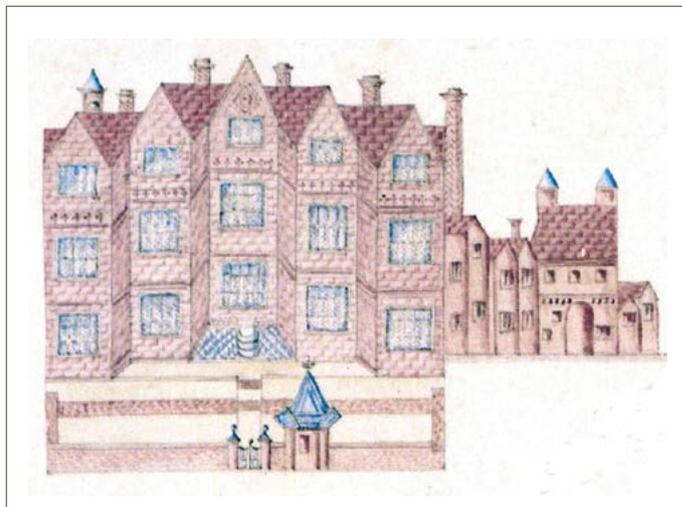
In the reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I all men aged 16 to 60 were liable for military service, armed with their own weapons and armour according to their income, and ‘muster rolls’ were drawn up. In 1596 John Weston of Ockham, ‘general servant in the household of the Earl of Lincoln’ was required to find ‘one almain (light armour, created in Germany, with overlapping plates and sliding rivets), one haquebutte (muzzle-loaded firearm) and one archer’ (Craig T *Surrey Musters* Surrey Record Society).

In 1609 Henry Weston, the great great great grandson of the John Weston represented by the brass, was responsible for the longest length of fencing (125 feet) round the church, indicating that he was the wealthiest parishioner. The custom whereby parishioners were responsible for the upkeep of the church fence, in lengths proportional to the acreage of their holdings, was widespread at that time. The total length of the fence was between 530 and 540 feet.

The Weston family had owned the Manor of Papworth (Papercourt) in the fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries but in 1431 Thomas Slyfelde became Lord of the Manor. The Slyfeldes remained Lords of the Manor of Papworth until Henry Weston purchased the manor from Edmund Slyfelde in 1612. In 1621 Henry Weston bought the Manor of Ockham from Sir Richard Weston of Sutton Place who sold it in order to finance his Wey navigation scheme. This meant that for the first time the Lordship of the Manor of Ockham was in the hands of a family who were resident in Ockham (and had been for at least two centuries).

The Manor of Ockham consisted of the western part of Ockham parish, with the eastern part being the so called Ockham tithing of East Horsley Manor. In 1883 some land which had been part of Wisley and some from West Horsley was added to Ockham parish, by the Local Government Board, changing the outline shape of the parish from a rather scraggy bird to that of a plump bird.

Henry Weston married Sarah, daughter of Laurence Stoughton. He built a large house (Mr Weston’s house at



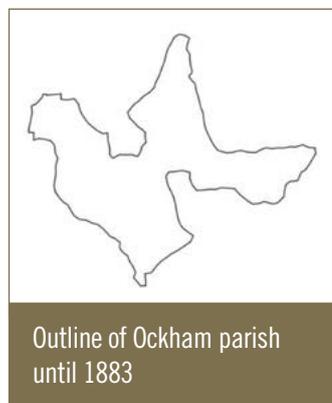
Mr Weston’s house

Poolhead) which in due course probably looked much like the house on the 1706 *Survey of the Manor of Ockham*, on the site now known as Ockham Park. He died suddenly in July 1638 aged 63, without issue, when returning from the Assizes and was buried at All Saints’. There is a memorial tablet on the left of the vestry door commemorating him and three of his nephew Henry’s children – Edward (who died young), Sara and Edward, who were buried with him at All Saints.

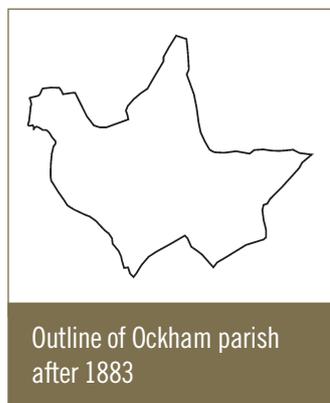
At the time of Henry Weston’s death he held the Manor of Ockham, with its site and demesne lands, the water mill and the advowson (the right to appoint a priest) of the parish church of Ockham. In addition he held two messuages, two gardens and two orchards, 30 acres of land, 20 of pasture and four of wood and other land and properties in Ockham and neighbouring parishes. He also held the Manor of Papworth and land and properties in London, Sussex and elsewhere and the advowson of Speldhurst in Kent.

His brother, the Reverend Edward Weston, who was rector of Speldhurst from 1609 to 1640, was found to be his heir. Edward had three children – Henry, John and Elizabeth; he died in 1641 and was buried at Speldhurst. His younger son John succeeded him as rector of Speldhurst in 1641.

Edward was succeeded as Lord of the Manor of Ockham by his son Henry who married Katherine, daughter of Sir William Forde of Harting in Sussex. They had seventeen children between 1640 and 1660. The first two (Anne and Elizabeth) were baptised at St Mary and St Gabriel, Harting, and the baptisms of all the other fourteen live-born children are recorded in the *Ockham Parish Register of Baptisms* (of which there is a copy in All Saints’.



Outline of Ockham parish until 1883



Outline of Ockham parish after 1883

The period from 1640 to 1660 was one of the most turbulent times in British history. Local allegiance to the king or to Parliament in the Civil Wars (1642–1651) usually depended on the opinion of leading figures in the community. Most of Surrey supported Parliament and the Westons of Ockham were Parliamentarians and active associates of Sir Richard Onslow of Clandon, known as the Red Fox of Surrey.

A letter written by Sir Richard Onslow in September 1643 warned the garrison at Farnham that Royalist troops had been seen at Knaphill, Leatherhead and near Guildford. In November 1643 Sir Richard Onslow and Henry Weston were named in a declaration of the Lords and Commons in which it was stated that ‘certain well affected persons should be given power to raise forces of horse and foote to suppress all such as are raised to levy war against the Parliament and to destroy his majesty’s good subjects’. The burials of two soldiers in the autumn and winter of 1643/44 recorded in the Ockham Parish Register may relate to the build-up of forces in Farnham, as some soldiers would have passed through Ockham on their way there.

Opinion changed as the war dragged on and the burdens it caused began to be resented. In 1648 *The Humble Petition of the Knights, Gentlemen, Citizens, Freeholders and Inhabitants of the County of Surrey and the Borough of Southwark* to both Houses of Parliament (Surrey History Centre) stated that ‘our soules desire and consciences do groan first that his Majesty may forthwith be established in his Throne according to the Splendor of his Royall Ancestors’; that there should be a return to law and order and that the war should end.’ Unfortunately the war resumed and Charles I was beheaded in 1649. The Commonwealth persisted until the monarchy was reinstated with the accession of Charles II in 1660. The Restoration was widely welcomed as a return to normality. Like Sir Richard Onslow, Henry Weston would have made his peace with the incoming administration. He was High Sheriff of Surrey from 1660–1661.

In 1662 an Act for establishing ‘an additional Revenue upon his Majestie, Charles II, his heires and successors for the better support of his and their Crown and Dignity’ was passed (Meekings CAF *Surrey Hearth Tax* Surrey Record Society). The Cavalier Parliament wanted to place the administration of government on a satisfactory financial basis by ensuring that the constant revenue of the Crown should amount to £1,200,000 a year. The tax imposed is usually known as the hearth tax. Each hearth was taxed at the rate of two shillings a year payable in



Sir Richard Onslow (Clandon Park)

two instalments. It was abolished in 1689 by William and Mary as a concession to encourage popular support for the new regime, having been ‘not only a great oppression to the Poorer sort but a Badge of Slavery upon the whole People exposing every man’s house to be entered into and searched at pleasure by persons unknown to him’.

According to the hearth tax records Henry Weston’s house in Ockham Park had 17 hearths in 1662, far more than anyone else, for which he was taxed 17 shillings at Michaelmas 1662. By 1664 he had reduced the number of hearths to 16. He died in 1666 and his wife Katherine died in 1678; they were both buried at Ockham.

From Henry the manor passed to his oldest living son John who was born in 1651. He studied at Christ Church Oxford and married Frances Hall in 1677. They had 10 children who were baptised in All Saints’ Church between 1678 and 1701 and another son, George, was buried there in 1687. John was made a Justice of the Peace in 1680, was an MP and served as receiver of taxes for Surrey under Queen Anne.

In the *Register of the Overseers of the Poor for Ockham 1706–1735*, a lovely little book which can still be seen at the

Surrey History Centre, John Weston is at the top of the list for 1706. He paid two pounds seven shillings and ten pence for the relief of the poor for the six months from March 25th 1706, more than anyone else.

One of the main beneficiaries recorded between 1706 and 1724 was Henry Taylor who was born in 1648. He was probably a member of the Taylor family known from the 1548 *Survey of Surrey Manors, Parish Registers, Lay Subsidies and Muster Rolls* to have lived in Ockham from the 16th century or earlier. In the hearth tax of 1662 and that of 1664 Henry's father, William, had one hearth and in 1664 he was exempted from payment because of poverty. Henry Taylor had an allowance varying from 2s to 3s 6d per week and various items of clothing were provided for him each year. In 1706 he had a waistcoat (5s 6d); a pair of breeches (4s 6d); a sheet and a shirt (7s 6d) and a pair of stockings. In other years he sometimes had a coat (13s 11d) or a pair of shoes (4s) or a mixture of the items already mentioned. He died in 1724 and was buried in All Saints' churchyard, being described as a poor man in the Burial Register. The overseers paid for his shroud, for laying him forth (4s) and for his coffin (8s). They paid for bread and beer for the funeral (7s) and received £1 4s 10d for his goods.



Part of page 2 of the Register of the *Overseers of the Poor* 1706-1735 (Surrey History Centre)

TRANSCRIPT OF PART OF PAGE 2 OF *OVERSEERS OF THE POOR OF OCKHAM 1706*

1706 Four penny Rate Ockham A rate made in the parish of Ockham aforesaid for the sum of £15 14s 4d for the necessary relief of the poor of the said parish & it is for six months beginning from the 25th day of March 1706: as followeth

Imp-	£	s	d
John Weston Esq	2	7	10
Henry Hanford * **	1	18	8
Richard Stanton *	13	4	
Henry Freeman *	5	4	
Henry Dawes * **	14	2	
Richard Steevens**	1	8	
Thomas Sayer * **	11	2	
For the Tithes	1	10	0
John Wild	1	4	
Samuel Geylls	6	0	
Daniel Ham	1	6	
John Dawes * **	6	0	
William Hersey **	1	4	
John Nettlefold	1	4	
William Cooper *	9	0	
John Stacy	9	0	
Richard Rountree	6	0	
John Barton * **	2	4	
Edward Mersh **	2	8	
William Jones		8	
Richard Pack * **	9	0	
John Spong * **		8	
Nick: Bullen	1	8	
Robert Elsley		8	
William Steevens		8	
John Weall		8	
	11	2	8

* Churchwarden at some time

** Overseer of the Poor sometime between 1706 and 1735

Unfortunately John Weston became hopelessly in debt and by 1706 he was £13,000 in arrears to the Treasury. In 1698 he mortgaged his house and its lands to John Pollexfen of Wembury in Devon for £2,000 and in 1699 he mortgaged the Ockham estate to John Child of Guildford for £2,000. In 1702 he mortgaged the Manor of Papworth to Anne Holworthy of London for £1,000. He held on to his commission until 1710 when it was revoked and he was imprisoned for debts due to

A BILL for Confirming the Sale of the Estate of John Weston, Esq; in the County of Surry, and Discharging it from the Demands of the Crown.



Whereas John Weston, of Ockham in the County of Surry, Esq; was, in the first Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, appointed Receiver-General, in and for the County of Surry, and Borough of Southwark, of all Sums of Money granted to Her said Majesty by Two Acts of Parliament made in the first Year of Her Majesty, the one Intituled, *An Act for Granting to Her Majesty a Land-Tax for carrying on the War against France and Spain.* And the other Intituled, *An Act for Granting to Her Majesty several Subsidies for carrying on the War against France and Spain.* And for the due Paying and Accounting for all Sums of Money to be by him received, as Receiver-General as aforesaid, became bound by Obligation bearing Date the Four and twentieth Day of April, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Three, together with Thomas Wright, of Langston in the County of Derby, Esq; Robert Cholmley, of London, Merchant; William Weston, of Cobham, Clerk; Joseph Sturt, of Ripley, Gent. and Henry Weston, of Ockham aforesaid, to the Queen's Majesty, in the Penal Sum of Forty Six Thousand Pounds.

Bill announcing the sale of Weston's estate

the Crown amounting to £20,000. Details of his debts and possessions are given in the Bill, the title and first paragraph of which are shown above.

The 1706 *Survey of the Manor of Ockham* was probably prepared with a view to a sale of the Ockham estate to repay these debts. It is the earliest known detailed map of the Ockham area and provides valuable information on the names and pattern of the fields at the time.

John's eldest son Henry sold the manors of Ockham and Papworth, the advowson of the church and other lands to Sir Peter King in 1710 for £18,326, under an Act of Parliament needed to break the entail, in order to liberate his father from prison.

He sold other land and properties to John Coulton for £1,200. Various other parcels of land owned by the Westons in the Ockham tithing were also disposed of about this time. One of John's younger brothers (William) was Rector of Ockham from 1683 until his death in 1716.

Henry Weston inherited Sir William Perkins's estate in Chertsey and in 1747 he married Anne Copperthwaite, the illegitimate daughter of William Nicholas from whom he inherited West Horsley Place. They had two children, a daughter, Anne, and a son, Henry Perkins Weston, who inherited West Horsley Place from him. One of Henry Perkins Weston's sons Charles Henry Samuel Weston, born in 1780, was Rector of West Horsley and Rector of Ockham from 1821 until 1843. He built what is now known as The Old Rectory in Ockham.

Photos public domain, © Gillian Lachlin or from her book *Ockham Village*



The 1706 Survey of the Manor of Ockham

THE SURREY HILLS SOCIETY

CAMERON BROWN

On March 16th 2021 Kenneth Bare gave us a most interesting illustrated talk (via Zoom) on the Surrey Hills Society (SHS). Ken is one of two vice-presidents of SHS, and a former vice-chairman. He joined the newly-formed society in 2008, became part of the management team and offered to put together a presentation which could be given to external groups as a way of promoting the Surrey Hills and the Society. Over the years he has created several talks and given over 120 presentations. What follows is my brief selection of topics covered in the talk, which was much more wide-ranging than I can cover here. I have therefore concentrated on the historical background to the creation of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). My text is derived in large part from SHS's publication *Our Changing Landscape* which I can thoroughly recommend and which is available from www.surreyhillsociety.org/ for just a £2 contribution to p&p.

SHS is an independent charity promoting the enjoyment and protection of the Surrey Hills. It also aims to encourage people who live, work in, or visit the area

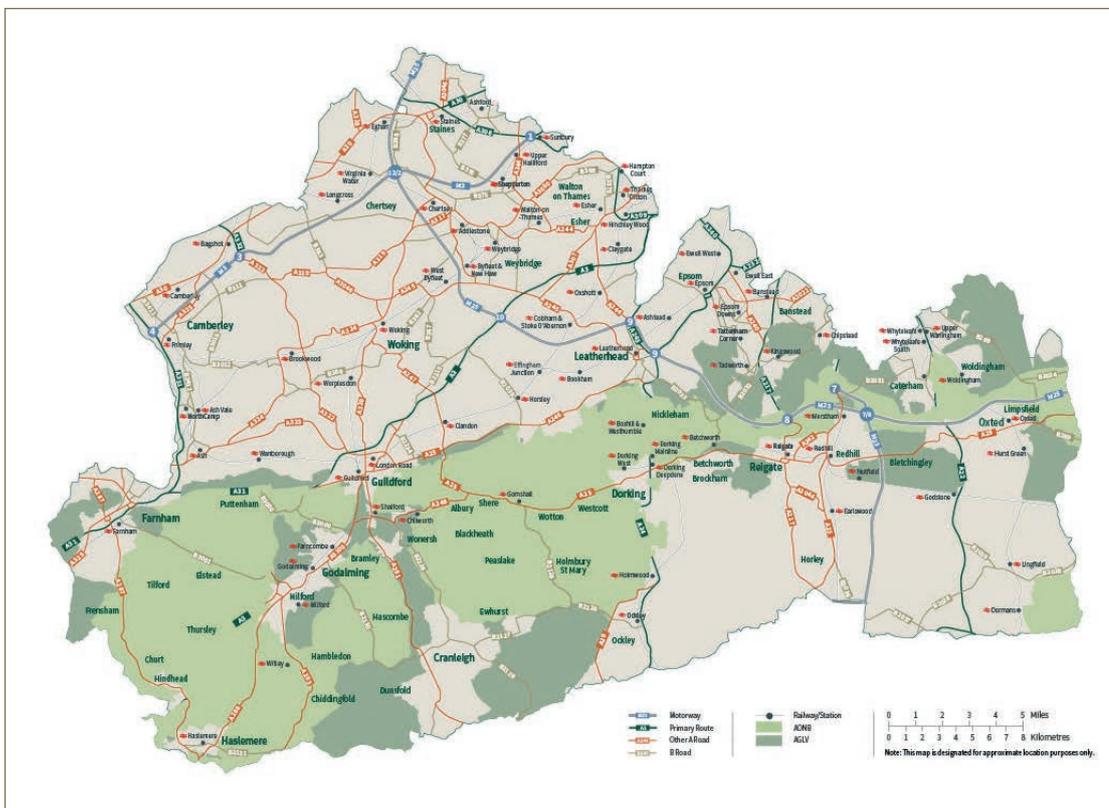
to explore and learn about its special qualities and distinctiveness. The society is run by unpaid volunteers and is a recipient of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Members receive a regular newsletter and access to a variety of activities including walks, talks and member-only events.

AONBs cover around 15% of the UK and are roughly equivalent to National Parks, each area comprising an outstanding landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty is so precious that it is safeguarded in the national interest. The Surrey Hills was one of the first landscapes in the country to be designated an AONB, in 1958, and it covers a quarter of the county, mainly to the south and west.

Although the Surrey Hills is now one of the most wooded AONBs in the country – 40% is wooded – it is still a diverse landscape with hills and valleys, traditional mixed farming, chalk grassland and heathland, sunken lanes, picturesque villages and market towns. The AONB designation affects planning decisions, giving these areas

a much greater level of protection against inappropriate or damaging development. As with the Green Belt designation, there is, however, no guarantee. The SHS itself does not get involved in planning issues.

To understand the reason why the Surrey Hills was granted AONB status it is necessary to look back to a period just after WWI. Even at the end of the 19th century, local agriculture had been in a period of deep decline.



The Surrey Hills AONB is shaded green; map courtesy Surrey Hills Society

However, during WWI, large numbers of agricultural workers across the country undertook military service and many of those who returned to civilian life decided to relocate to urban areas instead of returning to their rural roots. The trend towards urban living, which continues to this day, was noted in the 1920s by a town planner named Sir Patrick Abercrombie. He wrote an article entitled *The Preservation of Rural England* and subsequently became a founder-member of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE – now known as Campaign to Protect Rural England). Abercrombie identified that urban populations tend to spread and to use the surrounding countryside for recreation, residence and occupation further afield (ie commuting). He posed the following question: “Will this inevitable change destroy our countryside or is it possible to preserve its character or even, in places, to create a new type of beauty?”

Early development of this concept was interrupted by WWII but even during that period of upheaval Abercrombie was responsible for a new plan for the redevelopment of London and incorporated his concerns for the protection of rural areas. The National Parks Committee was also at work and in a remarkable bit of regulatory foresight, the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 was developed and enacted. The Act also stated that the National Parks Commission was empowered to designate as AONBs any area in England and Wales that was not a National Park, but was of such outstanding natural beauty that the provisions of the Act should apply. Initially the Commission focused on the creation of the National Parks and it was not until 1955 that work on designation of AONBs commenced, with the Surrey Hills being within the first tranche.

It fell to Surrey County Council to work with the Commission, local councils and other bodies to identify the extent of this new AONB. The process was a difficult one especially in the absence of precedents. The Act had identified that the chief powers which apply to the AONB were for the preservation and enhancement of natural beauty – but where should the boundaries be drawn? Clearly, each council or local group would have had reasons for wanting specific areas to be included or excluded and consensus would have been challenging.

In 1934, harking back to the work of Abercrombie, a book was published entitled *The Surrey Landscape*. Included within it was a map of the county which delineated special areas – particularly within the North Downs and Greensand Hills. It is evident from the similarity of the areas marked on this early map and the boundaries subsequently agreed for the AONB that there was already

strong agreement about the core areas which needed to be included. This map even identifies what it calls ‘fine view points’ including those from the Hog’s Back above the Tillingbourne valley, Box Hill, Reigate Hill and above Titsey. All of these are still recognised as inspiring views and treasured as features of the AONB.

The difficulties came with the detail. For example, a natural boundary line could be drawn along the brow of the Hog’s Back between Guildford and Farnham. However, the views to the north across the Thames Valley were just as special as those from the same point looking south and the view from the north towards the Hog’s Back was also important.

So where to draw the line? A pragmatic approach was finally taken with the boundary line being drawn some distance down the north-facing slope. Similar issues arose along various other boundary sections.

Another decision was whether to include or exclude specific towns and communities. Where the hills had given way to the clay of the Weald natural boundaries occurred and hence excluding these areas was straightforward, but what of those in river valleys such as the Wey and Mole? Should the market towns be excluded?

Each District Council submitted proposals for modifications to a generally accepted core area. In some cases the proposed extensions were agreed with – such as the extension of the boundary to include Chiddingfold and Hambledon parishes. This was acknowledged as giving greater connectivity between the Hindhead and Hascombe sections. In other cases, proposed additions are minuted as ‘sweeping changes’ where ‘there are no very good grounds for inclusion of these areas. The scenery is of no special value in any of them’. In other official notes, specific locations are described as ‘ugly’.

The discussions regarding boundaries finally came to a conclusion with the formal recommendations being forwarded to the National Parks Commission for review in 1956. The designation of the Surrey Hills as an AONB was agreed in September 1956 but then had to go through further processes before it became law. Finally, in May 1958, the relevant minister signed the Order and the Surrey Hills became an official Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

CHARLES BAIGENT, GARDENER OF SEND, SURREY

ANGELA BLADON

I am a member of a national society called Family & Community Historical Research Society (FACHRS) – as well as a member of Send and Ripley History Society – and FACHRS run an annual mini research project. Every member is assigned an individual from the 1881 census to research who is local to them and of a different profession each year. Much of the research can be done from home via the internet but many take their research further by visiting their local records office, pandemic permitting. This article is the result of the 2019 mini project on gardeners. Some of the individuals assigned to me in past projects had led me a merry dance – my governess spent her first few years on Ascension Island in the southern Atlantic and my school mistress was born on Jersey!

On first starting to research through census returns, Charles Baigent appeared to be another very elusive individual. According to the 1881 census he was a gardener, with his own family living in the Cartbridge area of Send but with no recorded birth place. His wife, Eliza, was stated as born in Windlesham, Surrey and the first two children in Cove, Hampshire, and Lewisham, Kent, respectively. The three youngest were all born in Send, Surrey.¹

It took a while to find a Charles in the 1871 census. However, I am not sure if it is the correct one. His birth would have been 1853, his birth place was unknown and he was a ‘carter indoor’, employed by a widow farmer in Tilford, Surrey, near Farnham. I subsequently discovered a Charles Baigent born in Farnham in 1853, so dismissed this one. I have still not found the birth of a Charles Baigent to fit with the ages stated on census returns from 1881 to 1911.

I then decided to try the 1891 census to see if that gave a birth place. That was much easier – there he was, with his family in Send at Rookery Cottages with wife Eliza. He was 40 years old – exactly 10 years older than the 1881 census – a jobbing gardener – and his birth place was stated as Windlesham, Surrey. However, this time his wife was recorded as being born in Cove, Hampshire and all his seven children were born in Send, no mention of Lewisham. By checking the baptism records for the village I found details for all ten surviving children from

1873 until 1892. According to the 1911 census one child died, although I have not identified which one. This is not to say they were all born in Send and Ripley.²

Subsequent census returns all have Charles living in the Send area. The 1901 census had his age as 49 (ie born in 1852 rather than 1851, a year younger than the previous two censuses state) and he is now a ‘dairy farmer’. I decided to try the Windlesham baptism records but could only come up with a Charles Baigent born in 1847.³

The next step was to find a marriage between Charles Baigent and Eliza. Both FreeBMD and Ancestry showed a Charles Baigent marrying an Eliza Lyford. FreeBMD states the marriage took place in Woolwich. According to a family tree on Ancestry they married on 7th July 1872 in Charlton (Charlton next Woolwich was an ancient parish in Kent).⁴

Then I tried the 1861 census – nothing. Another Charles Baigent came to light in the 1871 census, resident in Chertsey, Surrey, aged 50, so born in 1821 in Windlesham, and married to Jane. This couple are the parents of the Charles Baigent born in 1847 in Windlesham, but the son, Charles, is not living with his parents in 1871. He would have been 24 years old, so would most likely to have left home well before this census. Where was my Charles Baigent between 1851 and 1872 when he married Eliza in Charlton?

Often, if a male is totally absent from census returns, he may have been in the army. I therefore checked with the Forces War Records website.⁵ There was a Charles Baigent listed for 1861, a private in the 38th (the 1st Staffordshire) Regiment of Foot, regimental number 3698. At the time the regiment was based in Dinapore, India. If this was my Charles, he would have been 14 years old and certainly old enough to enlist.⁶ He married Eliza in the third quarter of 1872 in the Woolwich district, a well-known military town.⁷ Eliza was working as a servant in the 1871 Census in Charlton.⁸ There is another Charles Bagent (spelt without the letter ‘i’) serving in the 1st Battalion 60th (The King's Royal Rifle Corps) Regiment under a different regimental number and with a duty location of Quebec, Canada in the 1871 Army List.

Further searches into Charles's family threw up more questions than answers. I found his grandfather's name, John Baigent through the Windlesham baptismal records for Charles and also the family in the 1841 census for Windlesham, showing John was 50 years old and a labourer, married to Jane. Bearing in mind that in the 1841 census ages were rounded up, this would make his birth date around 1791.⁹ There were two John Baigents baptised in Windlesham around that time. The first, John Eacot Baygent, was baptised 25th July 1790, the son of James and Ann Baygent. The second, John Baigeant, was baptised 14th May 1789, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Baigeant.¹⁰ Sadly no employment details are given for the fathers in the Windlesham registers at this time, therefore either could be the grandfather of my Charles. However, the only marriage I could find was for John Eacot and Jane Campbell, matching the John and Jane of the 1841 census.¹¹ I must therefore surmise that John Eacott is the grandfather of my Charles Baigent. John Eacot (spelt variously with one or two 't's) died aged around 80 years old in Windlesham and his was the last burial in the old churchyard on 17th May 1867.¹² John Eacot must have fallen into bad company as on further investigation I discovered that in 1849 he had been indicted for larceny and receiving stolen goods. He was acquitted on 2nd January under 'No Bill'.¹³

More criminal records came to light on further research, naming one Charles Baigent in 1866, an 18 year old farm labourer as 'feloniously stealing one gun, the property of John Humfry at Windlesham', who was committed for trial on 28th April and taken into custody on 30th April. He was tried on 7th May, found guilty of larceny and received a sentence of '6 calendar months hard labour' at Wandsworth Prison. The dates do fit my Charles but I can't be sure it is the same one as there were a few Charles Baigents born in Windlesham around that time. Could it be that Charles was in the army for the Crimean War, was demobbed and turned to petty crime as a means of sustaining himself? Did he then subsequently turn over a new leaf and try to hide the few years of this 'lapse', giving a false age for subsequent census returns? Who knows.

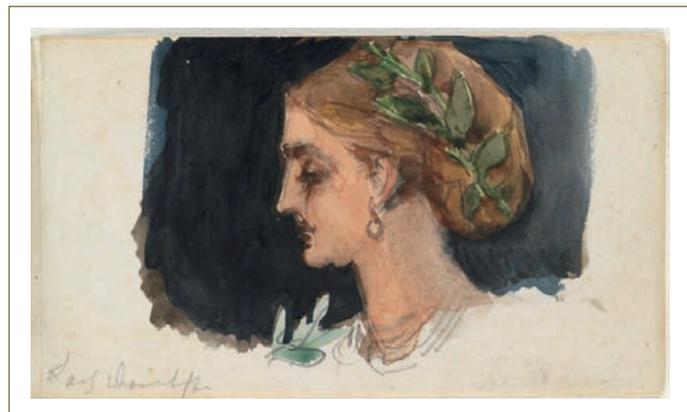
The Baigents seem to have been rooted in Windlesham as there were a great many of them during the 18th and 19th centuries according to various online genealogy sites. I found John Eacot/t Baigent with his wife Jane Campbell. They had at least nine children that I have identified born between 1816 and 1834. Their son, Charles (1820-1892), who was the father of my Charles Baigent, married Jane Smithers and they also had nine

children that I have identified through the Windlesham parish registers, born between 1844 and 1867. However, there is a distinct gap in the births between 1851 and 1858, when another four children were born following that date. Did Charles senior take part in the Crimean War of 1853-1856? I have found reference to a Private Charles Baigent of the 38th Foot 1st Battalion South Staffords in 1857 but no regimental number is given.¹⁴ Is this the father of the one found in India mentioned previously? If so, why did two men from Surrey join a Staffordshire regiment? Or are these red herrings?

I have still not found any reference to my Charles Baigent in the 1861 or 1871 censuses nor the army censuses besides those already mentioned and have little confidence that those refer to my family of Baigents. The only explanations are that either he was abroad with the army (although I would have thought he would appear on the army lists of 1861 and 1871) or he was the Charles imprisoned in 1866 and that he had been in trouble at the time of the two censuses and was just not anywhere where he could be recorded.

I have identified ten children born to Charles and Eliza, namely: Eliza Augusta (1873-1952); Annie (1874-1941); Charles Frederick (1876-1953); Elizabeth (1878-1964); Alice May (1880-1966); Edward (1882-1960); Jessie (1885-1979); George Trevor (1887-1962); Joseph (1889-1978); and William John (1892-1979). Every baptism entry records that Charles was either a gardener or market gardener.¹⁵ The 1911 census states that the couple had ten children, nine living and that one had died.¹⁶ However, I can find no deaths for those listed above prior to 1911. I have identified all ten children as being baptised in Send but, according to FreeBMD, none of them died between the year of their birth and the end of 1911. However, I do have a theory. The oldest child of Charles and Eliza was Eliza Augusta. She appears in the 1881 census with her parents, aged eight, but is absent from the family home on all subsequent censuses. I found an Eliza Baigent in West Sussex aged 29 stating she was a widow with two small children aged four and one in the 1901 census.¹⁷ They were named Dorothy Mills Baigent (b.1896)¹⁸ and Mabel Mills Baigent (b.1899) both born in Reigate, Surrey and indicating that their mother was unmarried. I can find no one on the 1891 Census for Send with the surname Mills, so maybe she met someone outside of the village of that surname. She married one Charles Marshall in Westbourne, West Sussex in 1903 and they subsequently had a couple of children. I can find no previous marriage for Eliza Augusta and must assume that both her daughters were illegitimate.

Could it be that Charles Baigent turned her out of the household when he discovered that she was pregnant and unmarried? She uses her maiden surname in the 1901 census although she states she is a widow. This could be a lie just to make herself look respectable. If this is the case it may be that Charles decided to send her away and considered her dead rather than admit to all and sundry the shame of having an unmarried pregnant daughter, which would explain the ten live births and only nine children surviving in the 1911 census.



Countess Susan Charlotte Wharncliffe (née Lascelles)
by Louisa Anne Beresford. Watercolour and pencil, 1887
Source: NPG D23146(1) © National Portrait Gallery, London
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I then decided to concentrate on Charles's life in Send. According to Local Memories¹⁹ Charles Baigent was a gardener for the Dowager Countess Wharncliffe, who lived in Wood Hill House, Send.

The countess, Susan Charlotte (née Lascelles 1834-1927) married Edward Montagu-Stuart-Wortley-Mackenzie (1827-1899), 3rd Baron Wharncliffe, later 1st Earl (created 15th Jan 1876) of Wharncliffe in 1855. She had an impeccable pedigree, being the daughter of the 3rd Earl of Harewood and his wife, a daughter of the 2nd Marquess of Bath.²⁰ According to the Local Memories, Charles planted a cedar tree in the gardens of Wood Hill and, when his granddaughter, May Baigent, was interviewed by the local history society in the 1980s she stated the tree was still there. Sadly Wood Hill House was demolished many years ago. Whether the cedar tree still stands is not known.

The Countess became a Dowager on the death of her husband in 1899, so presumably Charles was working for her around that time because on the 1901 census he describes himself as a dairy farmer and living at Hillside Farm in Send with nine of his children.²¹ Many people would have more than one job, so it is possible that



Wood Hill House, Send © SRHS

Charles worked for the Dowager Countess whilst also running a farm. Charles was registered in 1894 under the Dairies, Cow-sheds & Milk-Shops Order of 1885 to carry on the trade of a 'Cowkeeper & Milk Seller at Cartbridge'. At the time they lived in Rookery Cottages, Send Road in the Cartbridge area of the village, where Taylor's Laundry was situated. According to May Baigent's memories, Joseph Baigent was born there. Charles leased Stevens Farm from William Hillier, Earl of Onslow, by an agreement dated 28th September 1898 for an annual rent of £44.²² It is believed the farmhouse is still standing and has an estimated value of over £1million today, although most of the fields have now been built upon, with others being the Send recreation ground with tennis courts and a football pitch.

There are various mentions of a soup kitchen in Send around the turn of the 1900s. John Strudwick noted in his memoirs that around this time there was 'grinding poverty and heavy distress' with very little help coming from the many big houses in the village, although a few local rich subscribed to support a local soup kitchen. He states:

'Anyone could sink his pride and could buy soup on a Saturday morning at fourpence a pint. No adult would



Hillside Farmhouse, Sandy Lane, Send © SRHS

be expected to attend, and the children were sent as late as possible. Whilst to be late meant there was a risk of no soup, to be on the tail end of the distribution meant that the soup really had some body in it.’

NAN HOARE REMEMBERED:

‘Mr and Mrs Baigent (Charles and Eliza) used to kill a cow and make soup for the soup kitchen, in her kitchen with a flagged floor. They had to queue up with the big jug from their wash bowl set, 2 days a week.’

It is thought that the soup kitchen may have started in the Baigent’s cottage in Send Road (Rookery Cottages) prior to their move to Hillside Farm in 1898. An account of the soup kitchen appears in the *Send Parish Magazine* in May 1891. This states that there was a balance in hand of £3.1s.1d from 1889-90, showing it had been operating at least since then. It also mentions in that issue that the winter of 1890-91 was a very severe and protracted one. At the time there were eleven subscribers to the kitchen fund paying five shillings or more, with a Mr Macleay paying £3. Miss Susan Onslow of Send Grove, Mrs Paulton of Boughton Hall, Mrs Deare of Woodhill and a number of others all contributed £1. Several gave individual amounts of under five shillings each. The accounts also show a receipt of £8.6s.7d. representing 1,999½ quarts of soup sold at 1d per quart, indicating a huge demand in the village. Expenditure consisted of £9.15s.6d to the Surrey Trading Company (the local grocers), £3.1s.7d to J Webb & Sons of Cartbridge (bakers and general stores) and £4.18s.4d to Mrs Baigent (for vegetables, coke and ‘for making’). The magazine also gives dates for 1897 when the soup kitchen would be open, usually in January. In the 1909 issue it announced ‘The soup kitchen is now open two days a week at Mrs Baigent’s, under the kind patronage, as in previous years,

of the Misses Onslow (Wednesdays and Saturdays at 11am)’. The Misses Onslow were the sisters Georgina, Elizabeth and Susan of Send Grove. Annual accounts of the soup kitchen are confirmed in a copy of the churchwardens’ accounts held in Send & Ripley History Society’s Reference Library. In 1899 £6.17s.6d worth of soup was sold. By 1914 only £4.2s.8d worth of soup was sold and it would appear that the soup kitchen ceased with the death of Mrs Baigent in 1914.²³ Charles died six years later in 1920.

Various electoral registers state that Charles was living at Stevens Farm. The farm was known locally by that name after the previous farmers. By the 1907 electoral register Charles Frederick had moved out of the family farm house and was living at 4, Kimberley Cottages, Send Road, Send, having married in 1901. He was a carpenter.²⁴ Interestingly, there is a Frederick Charles Baigent living in 6, Kimberley Cottages, born at Blackheath in 1871 – possibly a relation but I have not investigated.

The very next entry in the register of marriages at Send Church is that of Annie Baigent on 16th January 1902. She married Benjamin Biggs, a coachman in Send. His father, Joseph, was recorded as a gardener. Benjamin was born in the small village of Careby, Stamford, Lincolnshire, around the end of 1874/early 1875.²⁵ The 1881 census shows that Benjamin was the eighth of nine children to widower Joseph Biggs.²⁶ Did the fathers know each other through working in the same place and that is how the couple met?



Annie Baigent. Source: Sarah Kelly family tree on www.ancestry.co.uk

Annie and Benjamin had four children. The first two, Annie Mabel and Edward Charles Redvers, were born in Hartley Wintney, Hants in 1903 and 1905 respectively; the third, Gladys Julia in 1908 and the fourth, Ernest George a year later, both in Ripley.

The 1911 census shows that the couple had four children and that Benjamin is now described as a chimney sweep. They lived at 5, Newark Road.²⁷ Annie was widowed in May 1926.²⁸

Charles and Eliza's fourth child, Elizabeth, was described in the *Local Memories of Send and Ripley* by May Baigent, daughter of the youngest child, William John, as being housekeeper to Mr Spooner at Spooners nursery, located beyond Lancaster Hall towards Cartbridge. Known as Lizzie Baigent, she was well-known around Send as she had a pony and trap and did a milk round, selling the milk produced at Hillside Farm. According to an article written in 1977 by Marjorie Sex, Lizzie 'came round in a float with a churn and a dipper – it was never covered, but never seemed to do anyone any harm'.²⁹ Jack Sweet was also interviewed and mentioned 'Lizzie' and her milk round, as did Irene Whiting (née Giles) and a Mr Cavanagh.³⁰ Alice May Baigent never married and died in 1966, having spent all her life in Send.

Edward Baigent married one Martha Julyan in 1909 in Peterborough.³¹ Interestingly, Martha, like Benjamin Biggs, was also born in Huntingdonshire. She was eight years older than Edward, who was recorded as a carpenter working for a builder. At the time of the 1911 census they had no children and lived at Marholm, Send.³² In 1901 Martha had been a housemaid for Arthur Lancaster in Send Holm.³³ She died in 1948 and Edward died in 1960.

WHEN INTERVIEWED FOR *LOCAL MEMORIES*, REG AND ALBI GILES SAID OF GEORGE TREVOR BAIGENT :

'George Baigent was clever. He played the violin, skated, used to break in other people's horses and ponies for



George Baigent in his garden at 4, Send Barnes Lane © SRHS



Send handbell ringers l-r: G Baigent (captain); E Church; A Perrier; N Fillips; H Pullen; J Friend © SRHS



A page from George's autograph book and drawn by him around 1914 © SRHS

them, cut hair, mended shoes, ran the A.R.P. (instructing on the use of stirrup pumps), beekeeper and his final job, fixing watch straps for a London jeweller.³⁴

George was also a handbell ringer and Pat Roake believed he had a complete set of hand bells. But that was not the end of his talents. George was also believed to have been in the local fire brigade and, according to May Baigent, was a chimney sweep, had an amateur bowling green on his lawn and was an artist.³⁵

Charles' first son, Charles Frederick Baigent, was a carpenter and worked for house builders in the area.³⁶ His second son, Edward, born in 1882, was also a carpenter working for builders.³⁷ George Trevor, Joseph and William John are all described in the 1911 census as farm hands.³⁸ Why Joseph inherited the farm is not known. It may be that George was involved with many other activities as described above and wasn't that interested

in taking over the farm. Whatever the reason, Joseph took on the responsibility of Hillside Farm. He married Charlotte E Heath on 1st October 1921.³⁹

He and Charlotte were still in residence at Hillside Farm in 1961.⁴⁰ Joseph died on 28th December 1978 at the ripe old age of 89.⁴¹

All websites accessed during August 2019

- ¹ 1881 Census RG11/774 f23 p39
- ² 1891 Census RG12/557 f18 p30; Send Baptism Registers SHC/SEN/4/2; 1911 Census RG14 Schedule 94
- ³ 1901 Census RG13/600 f17 p25; Windlesham Baptisms St John the Baptist Church, SHC ref: WIN/3/5
- ⁴ GRO Woolwich 1872 Q3 1d 1259; https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/26989285/person/12523637681/story?_phsrc=EaP13&_phstart=successSource
- ⁵ <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/namesearch/?FirstName=Charles&Surname=Baigent&RecordType=NotSelected&RecordDateStartYear=1700&RecordDateEndYear=2019&Step=1>
- ⁶ <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/records/8552608/private-charles-baigent-british-army-38th-foot-1st-staffordshire/>. This information is taken from TNA WO 12/5225, the 1861 Worldwide Army Census, regarded as a military substitute for the 1861 Census
- ⁷ GRO Marriages Index Woolwich 1872 Q3 1d 1259
- ⁸ 1871 Census RG10/775 f23 p19 for Charlton
- ⁹ Windlesham Baptism Register 1821 St John the Baptist Church SHC/WIN/3/3; 1841 Census HO107/1080 f54 p14
- ¹⁰ Windlesham Baptism Register 1790 for John Eacot SHC/WIN/3/1; Windlesham Baptism Register 1789 for John SHC/WIN/3/1
- ¹¹ Windlesham Marriages Register 1811 for John Eacott and Jane Campbell SHC/WIN/2/2
- ¹² Windlesham Burial Register 1867 for John Eacot SHC/WIN/4/4
- ¹³ Crimes Prisons and Punishment 1849 TNA CCC HO27/089/00196-7; 'No Bill' written in the 'Acquittals' column indicates that the criminal charges alleged therein against a suspect have not been sufficiently supported by the evidence presented before it to warrant his or her criminal prosecution' (<https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/No+Bill>)
- ¹⁴ <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/namesearch/?FirstName=charles&Surname=baigent&RecordType=NotSelected&RecordDateStartYear=1700&RecordDateEndYear=2019&Step=1>
- ¹⁵ Surrey History Centre Send Baptism Register SHC/SEN/4/2
- ¹⁶ 1911 Census RG14/03054/0187/03 Schedule 94
- ¹⁷ 1901 Census RG13/967 f54 p5
- ¹⁸ GRO Birth Register 1896 Q3 2a 172 for Dorothy Mills Baigent
- ¹⁹ SRHS Local Memories. Jane Bartlett (unpublished) – material gathered during the 1980s and held at the Society's Museum in Ripley Village
- ²⁰ <http://www.crafcroftspeerage.co.uk/online/content/wharncliffe1876.htm>
- ²¹ 1901 Census RG13/600 f17 p25
- ²² SRHS J204 p8; SRHS Local Memories p10; Joseph Baigent obituary in SRHS J24 p2
- ²³ SRHS Local Memories p103; SRHS J204 pp 7-10
- ²⁴ www.ancestry.co.uk Electoral Register for Send Ward of Ripley Division p362; Marriage Certificate Send Marriages Register for St Mary's 1901 p180 entry no.360



Joseph Baigent in fireman's uniform with medals, taken post-WWI © SRHS

- ²⁵ GRO Births 1875 Q1 Bourne, Lincs 7a 329; <http://www.wparkinson.com/Churches/C%20photos/Careby.jpg> for image of the parish church
- ²⁶ 1881 Census Careby, Lincs., RG11/3195 f67 p7
- ²⁷ 1911 Census Ripley RG14/03054/0187/03 Schedule 53
- ²⁸ https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/598059/person/6053864163/story?_phsrc=Zra115&_phstart=successSource posted by beau-family for the LifeStory of Benjamin Biggs
- ²⁹ SRHS J13 p2 Notes of a talk given by Marjorie Sex (née Strudwick), a long-term resident of Send
- ³⁰ SRHS Local Memories pp195, 218, 46
- ³¹ GRO Marriages 1909 Q4 Peterborough Vol3b p519
- ³² 1911 Census Ripley RG14/03054/0187/03 Schedule 114
- ³³ 1901 Census Send RG13/600 f8 p7
- ³⁴ SRHS Local Memories p85
- ³⁵ Ibid, pp16, 9
- ³⁶ 1911 Census Send 1911 Census RG14/03054/0187/03 Schedule 124
- ³⁷ 1911 Census Send 1911 Census RG14/03054/0187/03 Schedule 114
- ³⁸ 1911 Census Send 1911 Census RG14/03054/0187/03 Schedule 94
- ³⁹ GRO Marriages 1921 Q4 Guildford Vol2a p229
- ⁴⁰ Surrey Electoral Registers 1832-1962 Send Ward p7
- ⁴¹ GRO Surrey South Western 1978 Q4 Vol17 p1515

MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

As I write this we still seem to be on track to reopen the museum after May 17th and initially it will be by appointment so we can ensure social distancing and clean between visits, which do not have to be on a Saturday at the moment. The plan is to take a fresh look at the history of local cafés and tearooms and hopefully we will involve the present day cafés in some way. The only caveat seems to be the imminent redevelopment of the village hall and we are not sure how easy access will be. I will send out an email once I know more if it means we can't open.

As regards the building works we are pleased to report that the society has been given a grant by the Surrey Museums Partnership for up to £1000 (which we will have to match) for professional help with our plans to revamp the museum and to prepare and submit a grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It is therefore really important that we hear from members about what they would like to see in the museum. For example, what aspects of our local story do you see as most important? Do you want more materials for children? Would you welcome somewhere to research family history?



The Cedar Tea House, which has gone through a number of incarnations © SRHS

Please get in touch with me or any member of the committee. Many thanks. cricketshill@hotmail.com
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MUSEUM, FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS



AT THE TIME OF WRITING THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED BUT WE ARE HOPING THAT WE MIGHT RE-OPEN SOON (SEE MUSEUM NEWS).

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION SEE OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT CLARE McCANN ON 01483 728546.

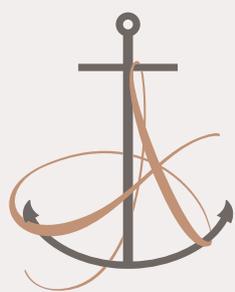
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE MEETINGS WILL BE ON ZOOM WITH A 7.30 START.

DATES	EVENTS
Tuesday 22nd June	Outing to Losely Park. <i>Currently a guided tour of the gardens; may include a house visit (restrictions permitting)</i>
Tuesday 21st September	James Dickinson talk: <i>Margaret Beaufort 'My Lady the King's Mother'</i>

Further details can be obtained from Helena Finden-Browne. helena_findenbrowne@compuserve.com

HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS		
Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life	Reprinted 1998/2006	£10.00
Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send		£1.00
Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley	Reprinted 2004/07	£2.50
The Straight Furrow, by Fred Dixon		£1.50
Ripley and Send – Looking Back	Reprinted 2007	£9.00
A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£2.50
Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2012	£4.00
The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey	Reprinted 2005	£4.00
Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures	New Edition 2017	£5.00
Two Surrey Village Schools – The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools		£10.00
The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey		£2.00
Memories of War		£5.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£6.50
Send and Ripley Walks (revised edition)		£7.50
Newark Priory: Ripley's Romantic Ruin		£5.00
Special Offer: Purchase Newark Priory and St Mary's Ripley		£5.50
Heroes All		£20.00

All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, from Pinnocks Coffee House, Ripley, or via the Society's website www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk



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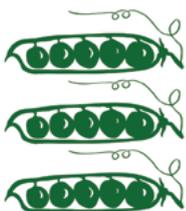
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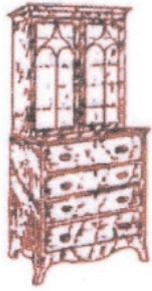
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