

Send & Ripley History Society



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RIPLEY GREEN

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Installing new gates at Pyrford
lock (© Cameron Brown)

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EDITORIAL

CAMERON BROWN

Another two months locked down and another first for our Society. Our 46th AGM, held on Tuesday 16th February 2021 was held on zoom instead of at the village hall. In preparation for the event the 2020 accounts, last year's minutes, the agenda and details of trustees standing for election were emailed and, to ensure that they were not disenfranchised, a letter was also sent to members without internet access, with a summary of the same information. Attendance was, understandably, rather lower than usual, therefore the committee decided to post a recording of the meeting online. If anyone not online would like copies of the reports of the chairman, treasurer and museum curator please let us know.

Despite the travails of 2020 we ended the year in a very satisfactory financial condition and the accounts were approved. Thankfully all trustees standing for re-election received unanimous approval, as did the three new committee members – Angie Richardson, Phil Richardson and Phil Davie.

The formalities were followed by an entertaining and informative presentation by Clare McCann called (rather suitably) *Plagues and Pandemics*, taken from the material she had assembled for the exhibition at the museum, which was unfortunately not open for viewing for the best part of the past year but is now available on youtube.

For future researchers I note that Graham Allen, General Manager of Worplesdon View Care Home, was the first person in Surrey to be vaccinated against Covid-19 on December 8th 2020 by Royal Surrey Matron Laura Treacy. Since then we seem to have done as well as (almost) anyone in the world – and better than most – in rolling out a vaccination programme. As I write it looks like we might be able to hope for a return to something closer to our former lives before very much longer – but we still have no idea when we might have a useable village hall again and continue to look for an alternative temporary venue.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

Contributors are asked to send articles and letters to Cameron Brown at cmb@aappl.com by 15th April 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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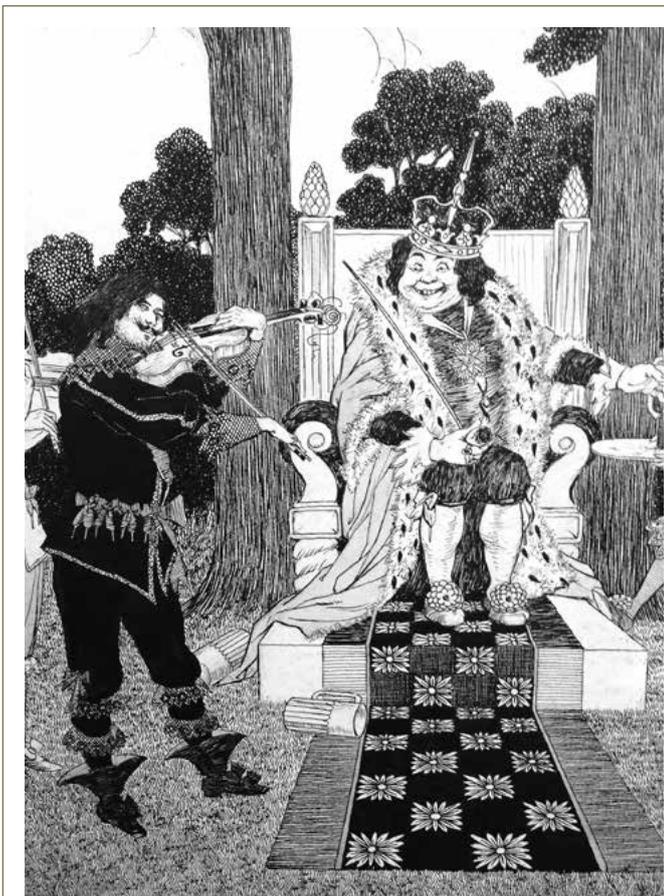
CAMERON BROWN

On 19th January 2021 we had our first Zoom talk of the year, given by Mary Boughton and Jan Messenger, both trustees of the gallery which is located in a dedicated section of the Worplesdon Memorial Hall built in 1956.

The Society visited Worplesden in July 2017 and were given a tour of St Mary's, Worplesden, followed by a visit to the gallery and for many of us a first introduction to the work of Sidney Sime. Those of you who did not go on that visit and who were unable to join the Zoom meeting might want to take a look at the article about our visit in J256/24 or go to the gallery's informative website <http://www.sidneysimegallery.org.uk/index.shtml>. One day you might even be able to visit again...



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40 YEARS AGO

CAMERON BROWN

This article, by Jill Bromley, entitled *Visit to Swallow Tiles Ltd., Cranleigh*, appeared in Newsletter 35 of November 1980. The photos were not included in the initial article and were taken after the closure of the works.

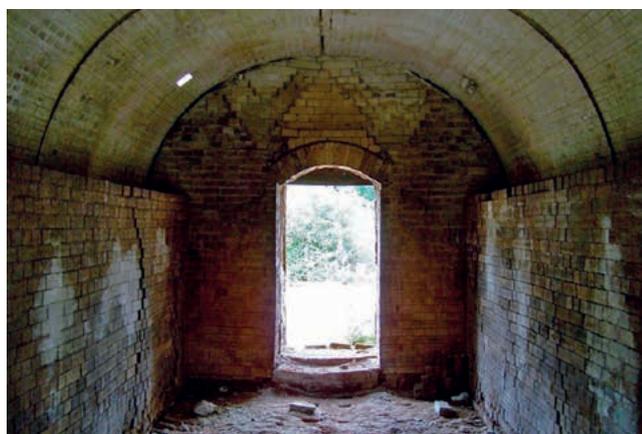
Surrey is renowned for its tile-hung cottages. Many of these were tile-hung in the 18th century to weather-proof the upper storey of timber-framed buildings. Tiles are still manufactured at the Swallow Tile Works near Cranleigh in a similar way to those made centuries ago and, being so made, blend perfectly with the old tiles.

An almost record number of over 50 History Society members were fortunate to visit the works on Saturday, 18th October 1980, by kind permission of Mr Raymond Swallow and were shown around by Mr Pelling, now retired, who had worked for the company for some 50 years.

We were given a most interesting explanation of tile making in the traditional method, starting from the excavation of the Wealden clay and the mixing of the various layers to provide the right balanced consistency. We walked to the quarry where we were shown some clay with fossilised winkle shells which provided us with further interest since not many had seen this before. Whilst we were pleased to see the fossilisation, the tile makers are not, because should a fragment be left in the clay, the tile will be spoiled during firing.

After excavation the clay is loaded into skips which run to the mill on railway lines. Here the clay is pounded and turned and mixed to the right consistency by the addition of water. The clay is eventually squeezed out of a die like toothpaste in a rectangular shape, cut in sections and transported by wheelbarrow to the drying shed where the tiles are made. We were shown a very large piece of machinery which will shortly streamline this operation without detracting from the quality of the final product. Inside the drying shed there are benches all around at each of which was a pile of sand from the Albury sand pit and black manganese; the sand is used to dress the mould and the manganese added to adjust the colour of the tiles. Here we could see the origin of the term “hand made”, since each tile was individually turned out without the aid of machinery. Slices of clay were pressed into a timber mould with the palm of the hand and any surplus rolled off with a beech roller similar to a pastry rolling pin. The two holes in the 6.5" x 10.5" tile are then punched through and the two nibs which support the tile pressed out from the surface. Tiles are then placed twenty to a board for drying. We were told that a skilled tile maker could make at least 160 per hour! The tile size of 6.5" x 10.5" was laid down by a statute of Edward IV in 1477 and tiles have remained virtually the same ever since.

The tiles are flat when made, but given a camber by being dressed on a board. They are then stacked to dry in rows



Inside one of the kilns



A stack of reclaimed brown Swallow tiles



Wheelbarrows had to be pushed, fully-loaded, up the ramp to the drying shed



The derelict kilns showing the ducts taking heat to the drying sheds

with air spaces. The top tiles are moved forward and during a period of 12 – 16 weeks reach a stage of “white” dryness and are then ready for firing. The warmth in the drying sheds is ducted from the waste heat of the kilns. There are many types of tiles made: plain tiles, tile and half tiles, angle tiles, hip tiles, ridge tiles and for vertical tile hanging varieties of shaped tiles to give a patterned effect. All these have special moulds.

After drying, the tiles are taken in barrows to the adjacent brick built kilns, some 26,000 to a kiln. The kiln floor is lined with bricks laid on edge in a zigzag pattern with air spaces between to allow the heat to circulate. The tiles are stacked in rows “nibbed up” to provide a gap between each tile. Fittings go on top of the tiles. When the kiln is full the arched openings are closed with bricks and sand mortar, leaving a spy hole opposite a central tunnel. It is possible to assess the progress of firing through this. Until recently the kilns were fired with steam coal, but now natural gas is blown in from the sides. The heat is gradually applied with sufficient at first just to dry off any

surplus water. The temperature is increased until, for two days, the full heat of 920 – 960 degrees centigrade is given. The firing period is a total of seven days. The kiln is then left to cool for four days before emptying.

After this it was interesting to see the finished product, three shades of tile, dark, medium and red. The character of the tiles is in the non-uniformity of shape, colour and surface texture which gives them an instant weathered appearance when fixed. We felt we should view tiles and tile hanging with greater respect having been privileged to see the skill used in their making.

Cameron Brown adds: In 2007 plans were made to mechanise some stages of production and speed up the drying process. In a press release of that year the company announced: ‘The company has exciting plans for the future. A new factory is essential to the long term survival of Swallow's Tiles. The present methods of handling, drying and firing the tiles are inefficient. The heavy use of energy is not acceptable in the world of modern clay tile production. However, these plans include the retention of the heart of the production method, the hand moulding. The tiles will have exactly the same texture, colours and appearance as the existing traditional product and will continue to be a vital component in the preservation and restoration of our environment.’

Before the plans could be realised, however, a downturn in the housing market forced the 148 year-old firm into administration and the factory closed on 30th April 2008. The works were put up for sale in 2010 and proposals were submitted to reopen the pits, seeking to extract 100,000 tonnes of clay a year (compared to Swallow's 2,000 tonnes) – much to the concern of local residents. The entire site, with the exception of the site office, was razed in 2012 – 13 to make way for a new housing development.



The main factory building after its closure

MORE MEMORIES OF RIPLEY GREEN

ALAN COOPER

Memories of Ripley Green published in J273 of July 2020 has prompted two of our members to submit their own recollections of the Green and growing up in the village. By coincidence, they both share the same grandparents, Enough Smithers and his wife Edith (née Mandeville).

JOAN VINE (NÉE PHILLIPS) RECALLS:

“I lived at no. 2 Greenside along with my sister Ruth, mum and dad (Kitty and John Phillips) and gran and grandad Smithers. Our neighbours being, at no.1, Mrs Jelly, Sis and Dougie, no.3, Mr and Mrs Sink and his brother, no.4, Mr and Mrs Abbott and no. 5, Mr and Mrs Pinnock and daughter Jennifer. We only had a tiny garden so I spent most of my time on the Green, meeting up with my friend Pat Jater and cousins Paula Shoemsmith and Susan Wilkinson.



Side view of Greenside with back gardens hidden by vehicle

We went to school at St Bedes, travelling there and back by coach, then out onto the Green to play and talk about the events of our day. Dad was an electrician and worked on the neon lights at Brighton Aquarium and many of the buildings surrounding Trafalgar Square in London. Locally, he made the fish and chips sign for Surey’s shop.



John Phillips (far right) outside Brighton Aquarium

I’ve always enjoyed cricket and would sit with grandad Enough watching the matches on the pitch less than a ball’s throw away from our front door. Sometimes Pat and I would sit by the sight-screens watching the boys play and if we were lucky, they would let us join in as well. I remember there being Sonny Hill, Dougie Chennell, Peter Weller, Guy Pullen, Ronnie Jones, Eric Clapton, Frank Brown and a young John Spickett.

We happened to be fortunate enough to have a television and our friends and family all crowded into the front room to watch the Queen’s coronation in 1953. July was always a month to look forward to as Benson’s funfair arrived in the village. Pocket money was saved and spent on rides such as ‘the gallopers’ and on stalls playing roll-a-penny, hoopla, darts and shoot-the-duck – and all for the chance of winning – a goldfish!”

AUDREY SMITHERS ALSO HAS FOND MEMORIES OF NO.2 AND THE GREEN:

“I always looked forward to Sunday afternoons, when I would accompany mum, dad and brother Peter to visit grandparents Enough and Edith, dad’s sister Kitty, her husband John, and their daughters Joan and Ruth. Sometimes gran’s sister Ada and husband Ken would join us, travelling from Brentford on their trusty motorbike and sidecar. There was always a wonderful gathering and somehow, we were all well fed, often returning home with



Royal Horticultural Society long service medal awarded for 50 years of service



1920s Ripley football team
 Back row, l-r: N Taylor, C Milton, Tom Smithers (Audrey's father), J Hyde, W Smithers, D Clarke
 Front row, l-r: P Jelly, B Knight, B Brown, F Pullen, J Ploughman

an array of home-grown vegetables from the allotment. Grandad Enough loved cricket and by sitting upstairs had a grandstand view of the local matches.

Dad played both football and cricket for the village. I've listened to many a tale of 'moonlight football', but it was cricket that he loved the most and in one game hit a six over the main road and into the Talbot!

He was first selected to play cricket for Ripley in September 1926 and in 1927, against a Pyrford XI, took 3 wickets for 4 runs. This was followed in July by 4 wickets for 17 runs against a club from Woolwich. His best figures came in August 1929 when playing against Mr G Baker's XI he recorded 10 wickets for 11 runs over two innings. Tom retired from the game in 1930.

He first met my mother on the Green at Ripley Fair and married in December 1929. Sixty years later, they received a telegramme from the Queen congratulating them on their diamond wedding.

On bonfire nights we always ended up at Greenside, excitedly lighting our sparklers in the open fire in the front room before rushing outside to trace circles in the air. On 28th July 2013, the Smithers and Mandeville 'clans' met for a picnic on the Green and well over 40 members of the extended families enjoyed a lovely summer's afternoon and everywhere, cries of 'do you remember when....' rang out

loud and clear. Grandad worked at Wisley Gardens for over 50 years, walking over the Green via Ockham Mill and then back again. In July 1954, his long and devoted service to the Royal Horticultural Society was recognised by the award of a gold watch, presented by no less than the Queen Mother.

Come late afternoon, gran would look for him returning through the fuzzies, a cup of tea would be made and by the time he stepped through the door the said cup was 'just right for drinking'.

Yes, happy memories indeed".

Photos courtesy Joan Vine and Audrey Smithers



Enough Smithers receiving a gold watch from the Queen Mother in 1954

WEST HORSLEY PLACE: THE STORY OF A HOUSE AND ITS FUTURE

JUNE DAVEY



West Horsley Place

This is a précis of a zoom talk given by June Davey in November 2020.

West Horsley Place has exceptional historic and architectural significance. It has belonged to nine different families over the centuries, occasionally linked by marriage and inheritance through the female line.

In 2014 Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe, owner of West Horsley Place since 1967, died, and on 9th July of that year Bamber Gascoigne, her nephew [and well-known TV broadcaster, historian and author] learned to his surprise – as the Duchess had never discussed it with him – that he was to inherit the house and 380 acre estate. He had visited the house many times, but only really knew the rooms on the ground floor. There were many surprises, delights and shocks in store, when Bamber and his wife Christina visited and explored the 40 or so rooms – many neglected – in the manor house.

Externally the lovely red brick façade has given the house an ageless aspect but the building is on Historic England's 'At Risk' register. After a survey of the Grade I listed property and eight Grade II listed outbuildings, a sum of around £10 million was named as the cost of restoration work.

The Gascoignes decided to set up a charity – the Mary Roxburghe Trust – with a mission to restore the house, outbuildings and estate and place them at the heart of the local community as a vibrant centre for the performing and visual arts, and teaching of crafts. Bamber and Christina, with incredible generosity, gifted the house, its contents and the entire estate to the Trust, including the proceeds from sale of the most valuable items, which were auctioned in 2015. Planning consent from Guildford Borough Council for change of use of the site was granted in November 2017. An intensive programme is now under way to protect and maintain the historic fabric of the buildings, as well as to convert the barn complex and 18th century stables into

flexible educational and arts spaces as well as craft studios. Bamber and Christina's generous gesture has given the Trust enough funds to make a start on this massive project but current funds will not cover the entire cost of restoring the buildings and estate and launching cultural activities. In March 2020, the name was changed to West Horsley Place Trust, as Bamber felt this was now more appropriate.

Arts, crafts and other skills will be taught in the house, barns and stables. History will also be at the heart of the Trust's mission, helping visitors to engage with the historic significance of the site, and its rich tapestry of illustrious owners and visitors. The performance arts will be central to West Horsley Place's new lease of life, with the estate becoming a venue for concerts, theatre events, poetry recitals and more. The performing arts aspect of the Trusts' mission was kick-started with an unexpected overture.

In May 2015, Wasfi Kani, who, in 1998 had founded Grange Park Opera, a summer festival in Hampshire, was looking for a new performance setting for the company. It was felt that West Horsley Place would be the perfect setting for an opera house. Bamber and Christina agreed. Planning permission for a new 750-seat theatre was granted in spring 2016, with building commencing immediately in the 'home pitties,' a wooded area directly north of West Horsley Place's walled orchard. Grange Park Opera are a tenant of West Horsley Place Trust: they built the Theatre in the Woods and have a lease and licence to use it for 99 years.

The design for the Theatre in the Woods was based on La Scala, Milan: a classic horseshoe auditorium and is clad with red brick, which with time will mellow to match the bricks of the walled gardens. The first, very successful summer opera season was in 2017.



The Theatre in the Woods opera house

A significant attraction of West Horsley Place is its rich history. The house and its garden mark the place where the village of Horselege – West Horsley – originated. There would have been a cluster of Saxon thatched huts around the dwelling of their Thane. We have documentary evidence of a Saxon Duke, Aelfred, living in Horselege, and also of a Dane named Thored, who built the stone church of St Mary around 1030. The Domesday Book tells us that the manor was held in 1066 by Britxi, or Beorhtsige in the Saxon tongue: he held other manors and was related to King Harold by marriage, was deprived of his manors by William of Normandy, but survived the conquest and was at the Norman court in 1068.

DE WINDSOR 1066-1271

William gave the manor of West Horsley to Walter FitzOtha, and also appointed him Constable of Windsor when the family chose the name 'de Windsor.' The next four owners of the manor were all named Sir Hugh de Windsor; the most historically significant for manor and church, was the second Sir Hugh, from around 1197 to 1220. He extended the chancel of St Mary's Church and commissioned the wall murals and stained glass windows, as well as adding font and parish chest, all of which remain in the church today. Sadly, the fourth Sir Hugh lost his mind and had to be sectioned. His home would surely have been close to the site of the present house. The de Windsors owned considerable lands in the neighbourhood. The daughter of the fourth Sir Hugh married Sir Ralph de Berners, and this family's long ownership of the manor, 1271-1441, commenced.

DE BERNERS 1271-1441

At the beginning of the de Berners' long tenure, the family had the major task of rebuilding the roof of St Mary's Church, as it was rotten. There is a fine tomb in the church, thought to be that of Ralph de Berners, circa 1377. But perhaps the most interesting member of the family was James de Berners (1361-1388). He is commemorated in a stained glass window in St Mary's.

He lost his parents in infancy and was a ward, first of the Earl and Countess of Hereford, and then the Black Prince. Upon the Prince's death he became a ward of court. He was about five years older than the young king Richard II (son of the Black Prince) and the two boys became very close. According to parliamentary and county sources, James was a bright young man: he became a Royal Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, and Member of Parliament. In 1383, he was struck

by lightning and temporarily blinded – he made a pilgrimage to Walsingham, and fully recovered his sight. This was a time of court intrigue: the king was young and the Lords Appellant were vying for power. They resented the brotherly relationship which certain young men who had been wards of court had with the king. There was a treason case against the Earl of Suffolk and the Earl of Oxford, and other court members were unjustly – and conveniently – accused: all were favourites of the young king. This included James – ‘a lustie younge man’ who was executed on 12th May 1388: the charge was ‘exploiting the king.’ He was buried in the Chapel of St John at Westminster. His estates were confiscated and the Lords Appellant left his widow, Anne, with no means of support. But Richard ultimately – bravely – intervened, insisting that she remain at West Horsley Place.



The earliest parts of the present mansion – with massive timbers and fine crown posts are probably a legacy of the de Berners period, recent timber dating placing them at 1425, though this style of masonry stretched right over the medieval period. Recent discoveries in the oldest part of the house, where visitors’ facilities are added, revealed a medieval jetty 15th century fireplace and other details.

BOURCHIER 1441-1536

In 1441, Margery de Berners, granddaughter of James, and owner of West Horsley Place, married Sir John Bouchier, later Baron Berners, great grandson of Edward III. His brother was the Archbishop of Canterbury who had crowned Richard III in 1483. A son of this marriage, Humphrey, was killed at the Battle of Barnet (1471) and a chapel to his memory was built onto the chantry at St Mary’s. Another son died at Bosworth Field.

The grandson, John Bouchier, aged eight, inherited estate and title. He was brought up at court, and became close to the young Henry VIII. John was both scholar and soldier, and became

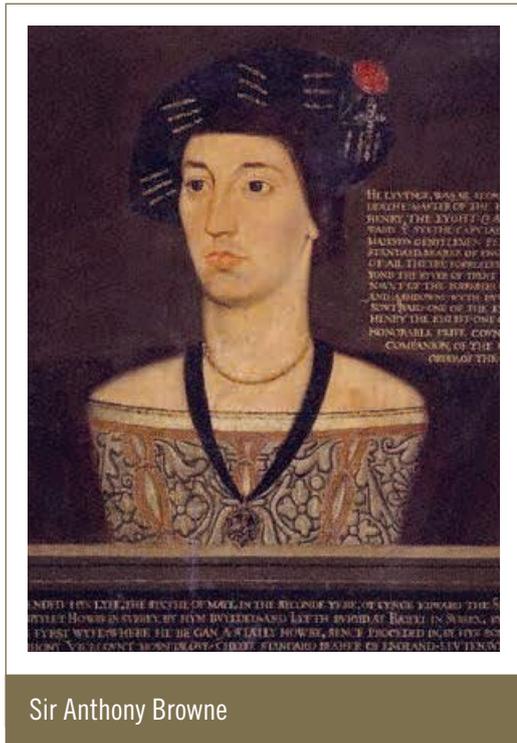
Chancellor of the Exchequer for life, attending the famous Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520. His wife was Catherine Howard, daughter of the Duke of Norfolk. It is thought that the great hall may have been rebuilt by the Bouchiers, and fine linenfold panelling installed. But John borrowed heavily from Henry VIII and was still very much in debt when he died in 1532. Henry seized other manors owned by John, leaving his widow only West Horsley Place, which was mortgaged to the king. Upon Catherine’s death, he seized that also, leaving the two daughters Margery and Joan to fend for themselves.

COURTENAY 1536-1539

Henry VIII gave West Horsley Place to another favourite, a young cousin, Henry Courtenay, Marquis of Exeter. He was a member of the king’s inner circle and an influential advisor. Courtenay and his wife, Gertrude Blount were Catholics, but the Marquis nevertheless assisted Henry in his attempts to divorce Catherine of Aragon.

The Courtenays lived well at West Horsley Place. Gertrude is credited with designing the Tudor garden with the box hedge. Henry Courtenay loved music, and the house boasted a veritable orchestra of instruments of the period.

There was a singer, William Boothe, and the Marquis had his own fool, William Tremayle. He hosted a magnificent feast of many courses for Henry VIII, including stork; gannet; pullets; quail; gulls; stewed sparrows; larded pheasants – not to mention the meat – and the delicious desserts. The banquet may well have taken place in the Great Hall. But it was not to last. Catholic, aristocratic Courtenay, son of Princess Katherine Plantagenet, was falling foul of powerful, Protestant, plebeian Thomas Cromwell. Cromwell was crafty and persuaded the king that Courtenay was plotting the succession of Princess Mary: this was at the time that the young baby, later Edward VI, had just been born to the king and Jane Seymour. Courtenay was arrested, tried and executed on 9th December 1538. Henry hung on to West Horsley Place for nine years before giving it, only weeks before his death in 1547, to another favourite, Sir Anthony Browne.



Sir Anthony Browne

Sir Anthony Browne, born circa 1500, like Henry Courtenay was a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, Knight of the Garter, and a Catholic. He was one of the few survivors of the

original group of the king's Privy Council. The king knighted Browne in 1523, and gave him Battle Abbey. Sir Anthony had nine children by his first wife Alys Gage.



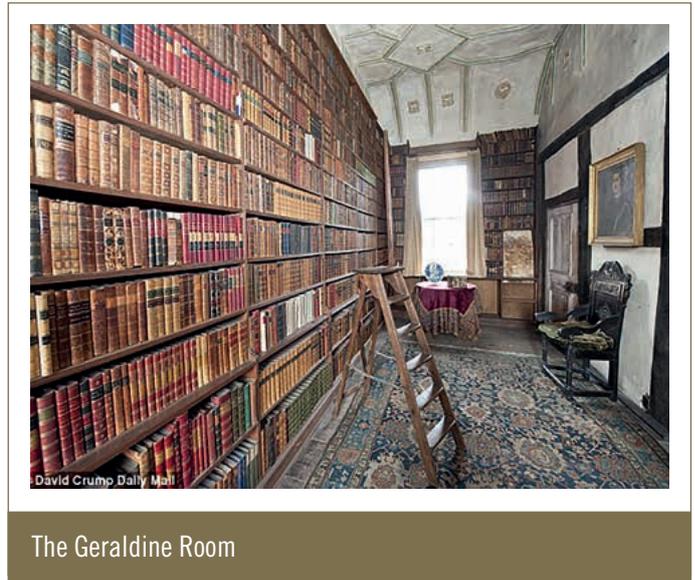
Elizabeth FitzGerald - 'The Fair Geraldine'

when she was fifteen. She was related to the royal family and educated at court with the two princesses, when, aged ten, her childish beauty had caught the eye of poet, Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey.

He was tutor to the young princesses Mary and Elizabeth. After Alys's death, the king gave Sir Anthony the hand of the young Elizabeth FitzGerald – the Fair Geraldine – whom he married in 1543,

He wrote a sonnet to 'The Fair Geraldine', which became famous. It ended:

*'Her beauty of kind, her virtues from above,
Happy is he that can obtain her love.'*



The Geraldine Room

In 1544, a year after the marriage, the king gave Sir Anthony Hatchlands House and the manor of East Clandon. This was followed in 1547 by the gift of West Horsley estate and house.

One of the legacies of this time in West Horsley Place is a Tudor Room – possibly replacing a minstrels' gallery – with a ceiling embellished with plaster low reliefs which carry the initials 'AB' (Anthony Browne) and 'EB' (Elizabeth Browne) and their armorial badges. This ceiling was installed in 1547, and once covered the full expanse of the double-height great hall. This was divided into two floors, probable around 1650, creating a drawing room on the first floor. The original decorated ceiling scheme was still in place in the drawing room in the 1720s, and remained until the 1720s/1730s.

There is a wonderful Tudor staircase and stone kitchen which also survive from this period. Elizabeth had two sons from this marriage, but both died in infancy. In 1548 Sir Anthony died and Elizabeth joined the household of Catherine Parr, renewing her friendship with Princess Elizabeth. Anthony's son by his first wife inherited his estates but gave his stepmother West Horsley Place for her lifetime. He was to become the First Viscount Montague during the reign of Mary Tudor.

In 1552, Elizabeth – the Fair Geraldine – remarried. Her second husband was Edward Fiennes Clinton, Lord High Admiral, and later First Earl of Lincoln.

She was his third wife. The couple spent quality time at West Horsley Place, and in August 1559, Queen Elizabeth visited them. Two special masques were performed for her entitled Shipmen, and Maids of the Country.

Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester was also present. Edward Clinton is said to have built a theatre especially for the occasion. Props and scenery came from the court via the Thames, and then overland from Hampton Court. Master of the Queens Revels, Sir Thomas Cawarden officiated, but somehow broke his leg and died at West Horsley Place from the injury.

'The Fair Geraldine' died in 1590, and her stepson Viscount Montague took possession. A committed Catholic, he was advisor to Queen Mary, but was equally trusted by Queen Elizabeth despite his religion. She visited him at West Horsley Place – then West Horsley House – when he was dying in 1592. His son was not so fortunate: his religion put him in the Tower at the time of the Gunpowder Plot. Intriguingly, Guido Fawkes was in his employ for a while at West Horsley House. There was no evidence of his implication in the Plot and he was released. It was probably around this time that the priests' holes were created in the house.

RALEIGH 1643-1664

West Horsley Place – owned by a Royalist and a Catholic – was seized by the Parliamentarians during the Civil War. It was eventually acquired by Sir Nicholas Throckmorton who left it to his nephew, Carew Raleigh, son of the great Sir Walter.

Carew had been baptised – maybe even born – in the Tower in 1606, when Sir Walter was imprisoned there, and he did not want to be sent back there. He married a wealthy widow from East Horsley, Lady Penelope Ashley and was probably responsible for the magnificent Dutch -influenced brick façade, which gives the house a welcoming warmth. He also added the fine staircase from the Great Hall. He spent some £2,000 on improvements.

After Sir Walter's execution in 1618, Elizabeth (Bess) Throckmorton Raleigh managed to acquire his head which she had embalmed and kept in a 'red leather bag.' She kept the bag with her when she lived with her son at West Horsley Place. After her death, the head remained at the house until Carew sold the property to the Nicholas family and went to London. Sir Walter's head stayed in West Horsley and was interred with Carew's son, another Sir Walter, in St Mary's chantry chapel. According to correspondence, it was last seen by members of the

Nicholas family when they were burying Lady Penelope Nicholas in 1703. This bag has been in the house for centuries and has been dated around the beginning of the 1600s, and more research is being done on its provenance.



The bag in which was kept the embalmed head of the executed Sir Walter Raleigh

NICHOLAS 1664-1749

Sir Edward Nicholas, who bought the house from Carew Raleigh, was Secretary of State for Charles I, but as a Royalist he had followed Charles II into exile. After the Restoration, at the end of his career, Charles had given him a golden handshake of £10,000 and, 'old Secretary Nicholas' as diarist John Evelyn always called him, planned to retire to West Horsley Place and write his memoirs: sadly, he died too soon to achieve this. His son, John, was also in royal service: he has left a precious record of the Great Storm, of the 26th November, 1703: 'Wherein my dear wife was killed in our bed by the fall of a chimney, and I was wonderfully preserved, by God's Providence.' Penelope, his wife, was buried in the chantry chapel at St Mary's Church. Her memorial is beside that of 'old Secretary Nicholas' and the two memorials are possibly the work of Grinling Gibbons. The Nicholas family did extensive work to West Horsley Place, creating a kitchen block, modernising the old mansion and pulling down the 'little rooms and skullery' of the east wing.

The last Nicholas – William – was an innovator and inventor.

He is credited with the serpentine 'crinkle crinkle' wall in the garden. The wall faces south, absorbing the heat of the sun: the curves in the wall gave shelter to special fruit trees, such as peaches and apricots. William wrote a paper about such planting in 1740. Another of his manuscripts

is entitled *The Happiness of the Unmarried*. He never married but fathered an illegitimate daughter, Ann Copperthwaite, to whom he left the estate.

WESTON 1749-1921

Circa 1745, Anne Copperthwaite married Henry Weston of Ockham. When she died, Henry inherited the estate, but died ten years later, leaving a son aged 10, Henry Perkins Weston.

Henry chose to rent out West Horsley Place, spending most of his time in Switzerland, marrying a Swiss heiress, Marianne Bergier De Rovereux and, upon her death, marrying her cousin, Jeanne Marie. The Weston family had a long local history. They had once been considerable landowners, but by the 1740s their fortunes had changed.

Although the house was let to tenants for a good part of their ownership, it is fair to say that the family contributed greatly to the church and village. They were landed gentry rather than courtiers, and various members of the family served as local rector and started a school and charities, as well as actively continuing the patronage of the church. The pattern of the family was customary: first son, the heir, second and third sons, army and church. One younger brother, Charles Weston, who inherited the estate in 1835, was also rector of West Horsley. When he died, the estate passed to the eldest son of Henry Perkins Weston by his second wife. Colonel John Weston served in India, and the house was rented to Henry Currie, son of William Currie of Horsley Manor – now Horsley Towers. When Colonel Weston died, his son, and later his grandson – both were called Henry Macgregor Weston – inherited the West Horsley estate. Henry Macgregor Weston the Second would have liked to live in West Horsley Place, but Henry Currie, nicknamed ‘the Tsar of West Horsley’ was tenant in residence. So Henry Weston built another house in the village, which he named Cranmore, and which is now Cranmore School.

Henry Currie was a formidable character and, though a tenant, acted very much as ‘Lord of the Manor’ of West Horsley. His daughter, Emily Currie, has written about life at West Horsley Place, and tells us that in the 1840s the listed dog kennels were occupied by her father’s deerhounds, Dersy and Dermid. The Currie household

provided bread and soup to the poor of the village when times were hard, and they frequently were. When rising costs and taxes forced Major Charles Weston to sell the estate in 1921, it was bought by Lady Marion Cooper, widow of Sir Alfred Cooper (tea merchant). She sold it to the Marquis and Marchioness of Crewe in 1931. Their daughter, Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe inherited the estate in 1967.

Lord Crewe, (Robert Crewe-Milnes) politician and diplomat, was part of Asquith’s reforming government; Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in the 1890s; Secretary of State for India in 1910, and Ambassador to France in the 1920s. He lost a beloved son by his first wife, who later died: the Marquis then married Peggy Primrose, a society beauty, daughter of the Earl of Rosebery. A son was born, but sadly also died very young, leaving daughter Mary to inherit the estates. The Marquis did much work to the house adding central heating, electricity and water throughout, even to the servants’ attic quarters.

He had a magnificent library, displaying his eclectic literary taste. Both he and his father Richard Moncton Milnes (Lord Houghton) were passionate collectors. The duchess bequeathed the Crewe book collection to the Wren Library, Trinity College, Cambridge. Trinity took 7,500 books from West Horsley Place, but there are still thousands of volumes in the house, which will now remain there.

The stone hall and drawing room were decorated and furnished in the style of the age.

Mary married George Innes-Kerr, 9th Duke of Roxburghe (known to his friends as Bobo) in Westminster Abbey in 1935.

At the Coronation of George VI, Mary carried Queen Elizabeth’s train, and the queen became a lifelong friend. The Roxburghes had no children, which might explain what ensued. In 1953 the Duke, no doubt seeking a divorce, demanded that Mary should leave Floors Castle, the marital home, immediately. She was advised legally to stay, as Scottish law would allow a wife better alimony if she was forced out of the marital home. The Duke sacked all the servants; only a lady’s maid remained. The electricity was cut off and, eventually, the water: then Lord Home (future Prime Minister) intervened; water was restored and her plight tipped the alimony in her favour. Mary did not remarry.

She spent her winters in the Roxburghe apartment in Kensington, and her summers in West Horsley where she was very much part of church and village life.

Photos from West Horsley Place Trust and public domain

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, OCKHAM THROUGH THE LAST MILLENNIUM

GILLIAN LACHELIN



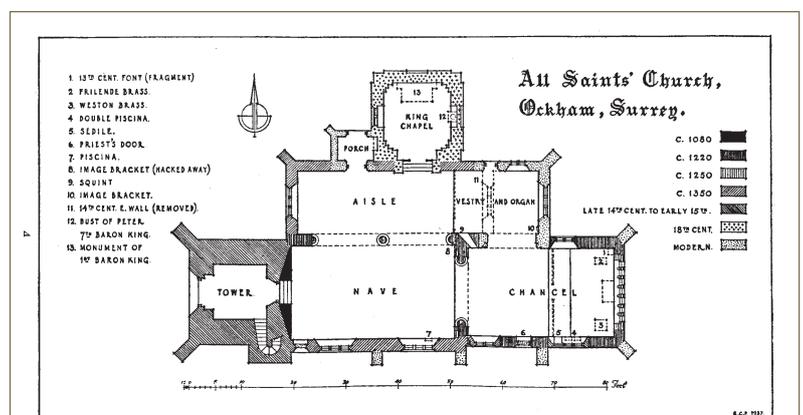
All Saints' Church from the east

There was a church in Ockham at the time of the Domesday survey (1086).

It is not known where it was located but it may well have been on the same site as the present building. A Norman landlord wanting to build a new church on an estate where there was already a Saxon church would have faced a number of pressures to build on the site of the existing building, particularly from the ecclesiastical authorities. There would have been a natural inclination to preserve the colocation of the church with the existing graveyard.

The first Norman church was a simple structure consisting of the present nave and a small chancel similar to the church at Wisley. It is likely that one of the Dammartin lords of the manor, possibly William (c 1150), was

responsible for its construction. The second half of the 12th century was the time of the great rebuilding of Saxon churches in Surrey and the Dammartins are known to have built or rebuilt a number of churches on their estates.



Church plan (approximate dates) from *The Church of All Saints Ockham, Surrey*, Bloxam RN Surrey Archaeological Collections Vol XLV 1937



The east window of All Saints'



The double piscina

The first reference we have to a priest here was when Nicholas of Ockham was described as the priest of Ockham, in a land transaction in about 1160 and we have an almost complete record of the rectors of Ockham from then on.

The chancel was widened c1220 and a three-lancet east window was installed, the bases of which can still be seen on the outside of the east wall. Surviving from this work are the chancel arch, the double piscina and the priest's door into the chancel. A north aisle was added around this time.

These improvements were probably commissioned by the then lord of the manor, James Hansard, who nominated first his clerk and then his son John as rectors. Like many of the other neighbouring churches dating from this time, such as Wisley and Little Bookham, All Saints was built mainly of mortar and flint with inclusions of pudding stone, chalk blocks and other materials. For dressed stonework the builders used Reigate stone. It is not known what roofing material was employed but some remnants of Horsham stone tiles were found on the roof of the nave during recent restoration work and this seems to be the type of roofing material depicted in the earliest known painting of the church (see below).

Traces of wall paintings suggest that in the Middle Ages the interior was

decorated with floral designs. The illustration below is of a watercolour sketch of the 14th century wall painting which was on the chancel arch.

The image niches, now defaced, on either side of the entrance to the chancel have shown traces of colour that indicate that they were also brightly painted.

By the early autumn of 1348 the Black Death had reached Ockham and by April 1349 Ralph Gatesbury, the rector of Ockham was dead, along with dozens of other parish priests and large numbers of their parishioners. By December 1350 more than 300 parish priests in the Winchester diocese (which included Ockham up until the formation of the Guildford diocese in 1927) had died.

Fortunately for Ockham the replacement for Ralph Gatesbury was Walter Freeland, a local man of considerable ability, wealth and influence. A major rebuilding programme was undertaken in the mid 14th century, probably funded by Walter Freeland, who is credited with rebuilding the north aisle to house a chantry chapel, reconstruction of the south wall of the nave and the establishment of a rood loft. The opening high up on the left of the chancel arch provided access to the rood loft. A large crucifix (rood) and two figures (St Mary and St John) were mounted on the beam which is still in place, with the mortice holes for the cross and figures still present.



Sketch (12.5 x 5cm) by E W Tristram 1907 of wall painting (Photographed at the Victoria and Albert Museum)



Possibly Margaret Freeland's image

The image niche from Walter Freeland's chapel, now set in the wall by the organ has below it the representation of a young woman who may have been his daughter Margaret.

Walter Freeland died in 1376 and he is

commemorated by a brass which is now on the north side of the altar. It is probably the earliest priest's brass in Surrey. The brass on the south side of the altar is of John Weston who died in 1483 and his wife Margaret who died in 1475. They were part of an important Ockham family who will be the subject of a future article.

The last major addition to the church in the medieval period was the tower which was built in the early 15th century. With walls more than 5 feet thick it must have been an expensive undertaking. By the end of the Middle Ages the main structural elements of the church – the chancel, nave, north aisle and tower were all in place.

In the 16th century a panelled ceiling of seven canted sides and six bays was erected in the nave. Carved bosses

were placed at each intersection of the mouldings that frame the panels. Those in the three western rows are all five petalled Tudor roses. Traces of paint remaining on the ones that are original showed that they had yellow centres and bright red petals.

The two rows of six bosses to the east of the roses formed the canopy of the rood loft. Each of them is carved with foliage or a formal design on which are set diamond panels bearing devices.

The raguly knot is a variety of the Bouchier knot borne as a badge by John Bouchier Lord Berners, the translator of Froissart's *Chronicles*, who was Lord of the manor of Ockham from 1525-32. The hemp bray is the badge of the Bray family.

The effects of the Reformation in the 16th century were mostly destructive, with the removal of most of the medieval stained glass, images and other interior decorations. However, it was in this period that the church gained its celebrated thirteenth century seven lancet east window, probably from the demolition of a grander ecclesiastical building, possibly Newark priory.

The window was described as 'one of the loveliest features to be found in any village church in England' by Richard Bloxam, the Ripley Court schoolmaster who



15th century brass of John & Margaret Weston



1 Raguly Bouchier knot



3 Hemp-bray



6 Plain Bouchier knot



9 A bird

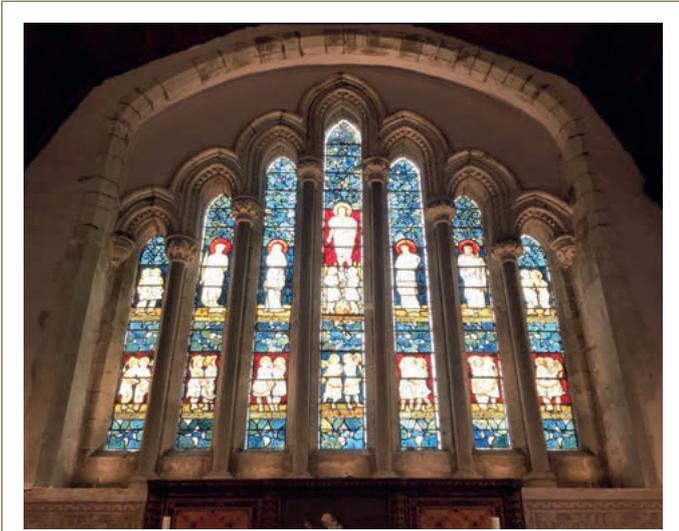


10 The Weston arms



11 A fish trap

A selection of the roof bosses



The thirteenth century seven lancet east window



All Saints' Church 1771, artist unknown

did an immense amount of research on the history of Ockham and who wrote an authoritative booklet on All Saints' Church. The shafts of the window are of marble with stone capitals with different foliage designs.

No major work was done on the church in the 17th century. In 1735 Baroness King requested a faculty to

build a family vault and burial place for the late Lord King, at her own cost. The plan was strongly opposed by the parishioners, mainly on the grounds that family seats would be lost, and Lady King agreed to provide a gallery (see below) at the west end of the nave for extra seating. The King chapel was added on the north side of the north aisle to house the monument of Peter first Baron King of Ockham (died 1734) and his wife Anne (died 1767) by the famous sculptor Rysbrach. Peter King is represented in his robes of office as Lord Chancellor accompanied by the insignia. It is interesting that Rysbrach later executed a statue of John Locke, the philosopher, who was Peter King's cousin and an important influence on him, for Christ Church Oxford in 1757.

The oil painting above is the earliest known picture of All Saints and shows it as it was in 1771, when the south porch and the Horsham stone tiled roofs of the nave and chancel were still as they had been in medieval times. The owner of the painting visited Ockham a few years ago to verify that the painting is indeed of All Saints and allowed us to photograph it. Subsequent research suggests that the unknown artist deliberately copied the style of Canaletto (1697–1768). It is even possible that it is based on a sketch of All Saints by Canaletto himself while he was staying at Ockham Park in 1754 as a guest of his patron and admirer Thomas, 5th Lord King. It was Canaletto's practice to make sketches of attractive landscapes and buildings for later inclusion into capriccios or imaginary landscapes. Experts have identified a number of local scenes incorporated into the seven major paintings, sometimes called the Ockham series, which Lord King commissioned from Canaletto.



Monument of Peter first Baron King and his wife Anne by Rysbrach

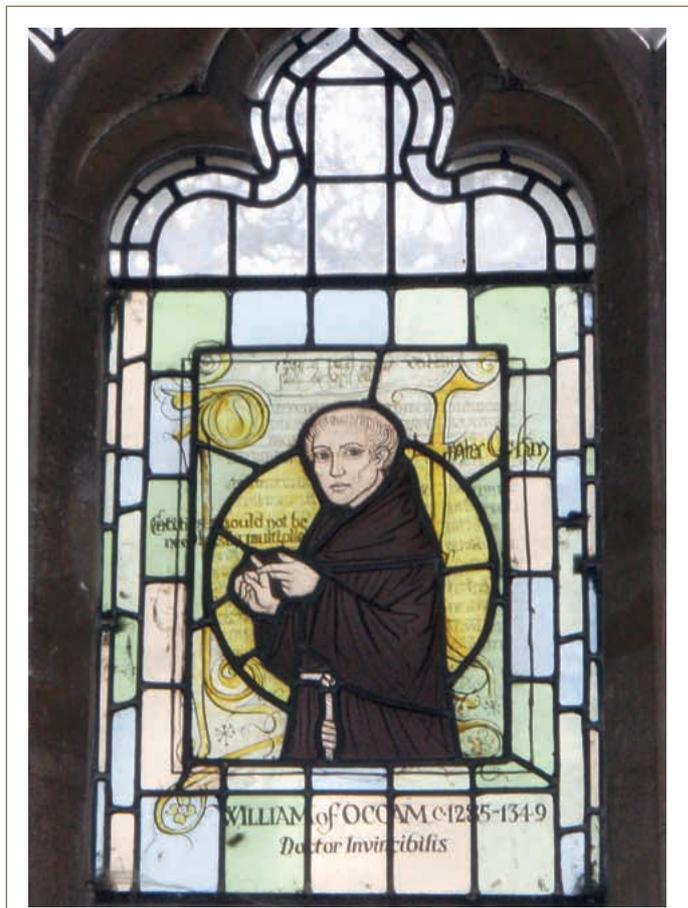


Water colour painting by E Hassell 1829

A painting by E Hassell in 1829 shows the interior of the church with high-sided box pews and a sounding board over the pulpit. There is a view in another Hassell painting looking in the opposite direction showing the gallery high up at the west end approached by a rectangular doorway from the tower staircase. This was later filled in and a small loophole was inserted, through which the bell ringers can observe the progress of a wedding, in order to judge when to start ringing.

Major restoration work was undertaken in 1875, largely on the initiative and at the expense of the rector, the Reverend Seymour Neville, at a cost of £2000. When he became rector in 1869 it was clear that All Saints was urgently in need of major repairs. The chancel was close to collapse, the stonework in the rest of the church was in poor condition and the interior needed a great deal of work. His incumbency also coincided with the beginning of the Long Depression which caused widespread unemployment and hardship. Any undertaking that provided employment was welcome. Ockham produced bricks and timber and had a workforce experienced in constructing domestic buildings such as the Lovelace houses which were a feature of the King estates.

The project was put in the hands of Thomas Graham Jackson (who was made a baronet in 1913), a friend of William Morris and a pupil of Sir George Gilbert Scott. Jackson was one of the principal church architects of his generation and a noted designer of stained glass. While he was clearly strongly influenced by Gilbert Scott's style, his work on churches was less elaborate. The chancel roof was removed, the walls restored and a new roof built. The floor was re-laid with a raised area for a new altar.



William of Ockham

The interior of the chancel was completely redecorated with a foliate design on the walls and a copy of the Pieta by Fra Bartolomeo in the Pitti Palace in Florence, painted on slate, was installed behind the altar. The new glass designed by Jackson, in the east window, commemorates the rector's wife and child who died in childbirth.

The east wall of the north aisle was removed and repositioned further east with an opening cut through the north wall of the chancel. This made room for a small vestry and an organ. A new north door and porch were built, the gallery in the nave was removed and all of the internal fittings in the nave were replaced. The pews were made from the old box pews and the panels in front of the front pews are probably from a rood screen, the holes in them allowing children to watch the elevation of the host. It was during this work that many of the older features of the building, such as the piscinas, were rediscovered. In memory of the restoration each parishioner was given a cup, saucer and plate with a representation of the church. In recent years the parishioners of Ockham have been given mugs to commemorate the Queen's Jubilees and the millennium.

The Edwardian inventory of 1553 mentions 'iiii gret bells in the steple, iiii littell small bells and a saunce (sanctus) bell'. Five new bells were cast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1719, apparently recast from the original four great bells. Three of the bells were recast again in the nineteenth century. All of them were reconditioned in 1935 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of George V and a new bell frame was constructed locally by one of the churchwardens (W H Gregory) and his son, leaving space for a sixth bell which was added in 1974.

In 1985 (the 700th anniversary of the probable year of his birth) a stained glass window, designed by Lawrence Lee (the renowned stained glass artist who worked on some of the windows in Coventry Cathedral) was dedicated to William of Ockham (See also J276/12-14). The service was attended by Lord Coggan (former Archbishop of Canterbury), Cormack Murphy-O'Connor (then Bishop of Arundel), Franciscan monks from New York, other clergy and academics, residents of Ockham and many others. A medieval feast was served afterwards in the barn at Slade Farm by people wearing medieval dress.

There are several pieces of medieval stained glass in the chancel and the top tracery light in the south east window of the nave contains a very striking piece of dark blue medieval glass with five stars. Much of the glass in the nave windows was purchased in Flanders by the first Earl of Lovelace.

There are also many monuments in the church, one of the most noteworthy of which relates to Stephen Lushington who was a lifelong opponent of slavery. He also represented Lady Byron in her separation from Lord Byron and Queen Caroline in George IV's divorce proceedings against her. He lived at Ockham Park for 26 years and is buried in All Saints' graveyard.

All Saints' is a beautiful church and it contains much of historical interest of which the above can give only an outline.

Photos by Gillian Lachelin and public domain, or from Gillian's book *Ockham Village*; copies available from Gillian, cost £10, local delivery free (contact g.lachelin@btinternet.com)

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

PART TWO

DITZ BROWN

Part one of this article, published in J276, finished with Chief Constable Captain Hastings's retirement on 31st August 1899. 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 used inverted commas.

1899

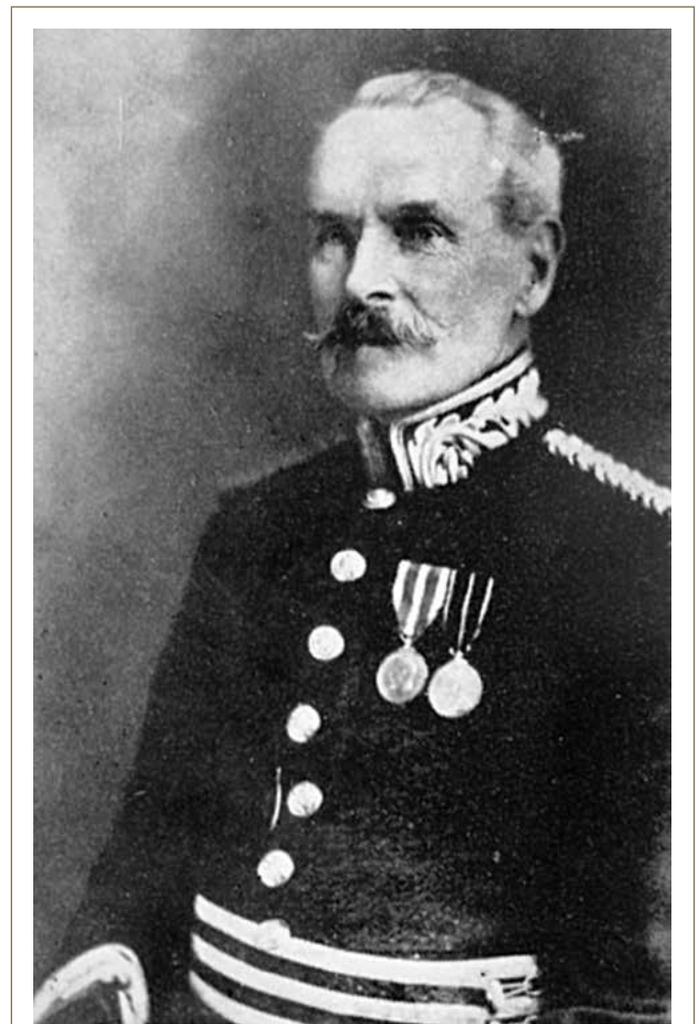
'There is little doubt that Captain Hastings [whose last official appearance at Headquarters was on 31st August 1899] was a very good Chief Constable. He knew what he wanted, but to his regret he could not always get it. He was constantly stating that he could not get the type of men ... because of the low pay and bad conditions of the job.'

There were fifty-one applicants when the Surrey Standing Joint Committee came to elect thirty-six year old Captain ML Sant of the Northumberland Fusiliers (son of James Sant, RA) as his successor. By the time he took over on 1st September 1899 as the next Chief Constable he was commanding 'a Force which was over three times the original size.' By then the organisation 'was running smoothly, but a matter that was soon to cause him concern was the rapid increase in traffic, owing to the proximity of London. Crime, especially housebreaking and burglary, was increasing and continued to increase as improving communications caused Surrey to become a desirable dormitory county'.

'From the beginning of his Chief Constableness Captain Sant made a close study of the methods of criminals. His first General Order was to do with crime. It directed Superintendents to instruct the police constables to call upon the "resident gentry" and principal householders and to caution them against the danger of leaving the windows, particularly of back premises, open or insecurely fastened at night time. Ladders were not to be left outside.' Over 100 years later we still get almost exactly the same warnings – only this time they are delivered as mails into our computers. Apparently 'the

ladder breaker, i.e. the man who breaks in the principal bedroom or bedrooms whilst the family is at dinner by putting a ladder to the first-floor windows, was very much in evidence.'

General Order No.442 brought the first restriction on marriage. It stated: 'In future where a constable applies to me for permission to marry, his application must be accompanied by a recommendation or testimonial



Captain ML Sant, DL, JP 1899-1930

from a clergyman, or some responsible person, who can guarantee the respectability of the woman whom the constable intends to make his wife.’ This, as well as the later condition that ‘no man could be married until he had been four years in the service, or had reached the age of twenty-six’ was ‘removed after the last Great War (1939-1945)’.

1900

In November ‘there was an interesting General Order relating to the identification of criminals. Finger-prints were not yet used for this purpose’ but attention ‘was drawn to the “Metric System” which was then used at the Habitual Criminal Registry at New Scotland Yard. Apparently the measurements were only taken in prison.’

1901

There were many letters from men complaining about the poor pay and ‘the number of hours a man was expected to do, often twelve to fourteen a day’. Although ‘a petition for an increase was being prepared’ the situation was still the same ten years later.

By now ‘cyclists were already established and were beginning to be looked upon as a menace. Motor cars were beginning to make their appearance ... Captain Sant wanted strict enforcement of the law and consequently was constantly under attack by both the cycling and motoring papers, and some of the daily papers as well.’ However, the local press often supported the Chief Constable who ‘kept a scrap-book with cuttings from some of the papers’.

‘On 1st June 1901 the *Surrey Advertiser and County Times* stated that it was ‘time that some of our cycling contemporaries ceased their tirades against the Surrey Police and their supposed cyclophobia ... We do not believe that members of the Surrey Constabulary have an animus against cyclists or motorists.’ The paper remarked on ‘accidents which had befallen people driving horses and carts or carriages, through the thoughtlessness of the motorists.’

A counter-attack followed by the *Daily Mail* on 11th July ‘under the heading “Motorphobia – Surrey Police make war on Automobiles”. Captain Sant apparently said that he would ‘stop them at any cost ... referring to automobilists who love to make a refreshing breeze for themselves in glorious Surrey roads’ but the paper argued that ‘it needs more than twelve miles per hour to make a good breeze.’

However, when the *Daily Mail* further reported that there were plans afoot of Captain Sant wanting to ‘force all autocars to display a big number’ (in part one I mentioned that Captain Hastings had already suggested in 1896 that he thought that an index number should be attached to cars) protests arose not only in England. On 5th November The Irish Wheelman and Automobile Review published ‘under the heading of “The Land of the Free” the following:

“The lengths to which the police are now proceeding in the English County of Surrey in their crusade against motorists is almost beyond belief and beyond exaggeration. It is not too much to say that the slowest speed, the most careful driving, the most overwhelming evidence is no protection whatsoever. They are fined monstrously heavily for practically owning or riding upon a motor-propelled vehicle, and the absurd statements of a constable weigh more with the magistrates than the evidence to the contrary of expert and honourable gentlemen. To defend a case simply insures an increased fine”.



Superintendent Collis driving Godalming Division horse and cart (ca 1902) with his groom PC Saunders

1902

‘Poetry and humour also entered in the attack. In a paper called *Motoring Illustrated* appeared:- “I have a very bad tempered pig, which had such a prejudice against motor-cars that he used to run out and grunt at everyone passed. I named him ‘Surrey Magistrate’. I am now training him to get used to motor-cars. There are not many in this vicinity, but I induced a motorist last week to give the pig some lessons. Every time the pig made a demonstration against the car, I gave him a whack with a stick. Every time he didn’t I gave him a potato. He soon learned to behave himself. Couldn’t you do something like this to the Surrey Magistrate?”

On 14th October Lord Onslow failed to get the Quarter Sessions adopt a resolution that ‘the police, in their efforts to secure the observance of the regulations as to light locomotives on the highways, should devote their attention to preventing danger to passengers and traffic from fast driving motor-cars in villages and popular places and round sharp corners, rather than securing any fixed maximum of speed, regardless of traffic and other conditions.’

1904

When new oil lamps were provided the men ‘appeared to be disgruntled with them and wrote to the Police Review about them. They suggested that they be provided with electric lamps like those of the Metropolitan Police. The lamps they had, it was stated, could be blown out without opening the shutter, and also that the heat engendered was so great that they were a source of illness.’ I find this rather difficult to believe as the lamp, which is shown and described in my article *An Edwardian Policeman’s Paraphernalia and Memorabilia in J272*, seemed of such an ingenious design. In any case – electric lamps were never issued to the Force and it took until 1925 for the matter to be settled by paying the men lamp allowance.

1905

‘The Automobile Association was formed and got to work in the interests of motorists’ and several years of friction between the AA and the police followed. It was not unusual for them to end up in front of a magistrate, especially when ‘motor scouts were found warning motorists of the presence of police’ ... ‘when the latter were engaged in timing motors.’

1906

‘An Order was issued forbidding constables to use their bicycles for the purpose of patrolling or attending

conference points. It was never intended that these should be used in the performance of ordinary police duties. Many are the stories told of men riding their bicycles to points well away from their residences and hiding them. The Sergeants, knowing this, would walk back with them to near their residence some three to four miles away, and would then say “Good night, if I were you I would go back for your bicycle in case somebody steals it”.’

1907

‘The Country was shocked by what was called the Croydon poison case. Just previous to this Superintendent Jennings of Godalming [whose great-grandfather was a Bow Street Runner who were the first professional police force, organised in London by magistrate and author Henry Fielding and his half-brother John with government support in 1749], when visiting a friend in London, saw a man painting the friend’s house. The painter, badly in need of a smoke, was given access to the Superintendent’s tobacco pouch, which apparently was large enough for the dual purpose of holding tobacco and making a cushion for the Superintendent to sit on when on watch in lonely places at night. The painter, grateful for a pipe of tobacco, handed the pouch back to the Superintendent with the expression – “What a portmanteau”. Not long afterwards the Croydon case terminated at the Surrey Assizes, Guildford, when a man named Brinkley was sentenced to death. Superintendent Jennings received orders to attend the Assize Court and take charge of Brinkley after the sentence. He took the condemned man to a cell at Headquarters as soon as he had been sentenced; the man sat down on the cell bench and, looking up at the Superintendent, hopefully said: “Have you got your portmanteau with you?” The painter and the poisoner were the same person.’

1912

On 1st January men were first given an allowance for using their own bicycles which ‘could be used to proceed to the Divisional Station for drill, pay or bench.’

‘A remarkable arrest was made by Superintendent Jennings at Haslemere. A clerk had decamped from a bank in Bournemouth with a suitcase containing notes and gold to a value approaching £2,000’. After a tip-off the Superintendent, Sergeant Lightfoot and ‘a few constables went to the edge of Marley Common. By this time darkness had fallen and a search was hopeless, so the Superintendent decided to post his men in a cordon and await the dawn. But having heard that the man suspected had been seen with a woman, and acting on impulse, he

shouted in a falsetto voice: “Reggie, Reggie”. To his utter astonishment the Superintendent then saw a head appear above the gorse not far away. Continuing in the falsetto voice, the Superintendent then chided the stranger for not coming sooner and the man came towards him. Not realising his mistake until too late the man was arrested. He first denied all knowledge of the suitcase, but later divulged that it was deposited in Haslemere, where it was recovered with the notes and gold almost intact. On the way to Godalming Police Station, Superintendent Jennings said to the prisoner: “I expect you are glad the hunt is over?” The man replied: “What would you think of yourself if, after getting away with £2,000 you were ass enough to come to the first damned fool policeman who called you?”.’

1913

‘Suffragettes became a problem and Surrey had three major cases; all of them bomb outrages. The first occurred at 6.10 a.m. on 19th of February 1913 at a house that was being built for Mr. Lloyd George, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, at Walton-on-the-Hill.’

The report goes on to describe in detail how this nail bomb had been built and continues – ‘A motor-car P.8487 was traced’ and ‘on 24th February Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst was arrested in London ... and then taken to Leatherhead Police Station ... Superintendent Coleman in his report, says: “She is being detained in Inspector Tudgay’s sitting-room and I have arranged with Inspector Tudgay to sleep her in one of his bedrooms tonight.” Apparently the Director of Public Prosecutions requested that Mrs. Pankhurst, when in custody, should be treated with due consideration as to her comfort, and such was the interpretation that the Superintendent placed on this. Next day Mrs. Pankhurst appeared at Epsom Petty Sessions ... and allowed bail ... The Superintendent reported that he took Mrs. Pankhurst to court in a motor-car, making her almost without doubt the first person in the Surrey Police area to have been, in official language, “conveyed to court in a motor-car”. The next attack made by the Suffragettes was on the night of 19th/20th March 1913’ when ‘a fire was discovered ... in an unoccupied house in Egham’ and ‘two women ... on bicycles were seen in the vicinity ...

Three pieces of paper were found at the scene carrying the words:- “Votes for Women”, “Stop torturing our comrades in prison” and “By kind permission of Mrs Hobhouse” ... The third attack was made on 30th April... in the lavatory at Oxted Railway Station.’ Personally I don’t quite see why this third bomb was linked to the Suffragettes as the text goes on to say that ‘the damage was comparatively slight. In the urinal was found a gent’s soft felt hat and a pistol’ and that two men (one without a hat) with bicycles were stopped, ‘a police enquiry followed but no person was ever charged’.

1914

Although the Weekly Rest Day Act was passed in 1910 it took until 26th July 1914 to ‘be put into operation’. The Chief Constable wrote that he ‘hopes it will prove a boon to the members of the Force, whilst in no way wishing to curtail amusement or enjoyment’. He ‘would point out that, as evidenced by its title, the intention of the Act is to enable the constables to rest from their labours so as to increase their efficiency, and therefore hopes that this will always be borne in mind, and that the police will do nothing on their rest day which would militate against the object of the Act.’ In emergencies men would be ‘deprived of their day’s rest though’ and he ‘is sure that such deprivation will be accepted in the proper spirit.’

When The Daily News and Leader got hold of this they wrote that ‘it looks very much as though an attempt is made by the Chief Constable of the Surrey Police to dictate to his men how they should spend the weekly day of rest.’ They continued: ‘What does he fear – that his men will use the day for the purpose of getting drunk? The General Order is an impertinence, and shows a want of confidence ... in the good sense of the Surrey Constabulary.’

The Chief Constable was incensed as ‘this paragraph showed that a very serious thing had occurred – a General Order had “leaked”.’ In a confidential note to Superintendents he wrote that he was ‘annoyed and disgusted ... The matter did not quite finish there, for on 11th July a cartoon appeared in another paper (believed to be *John Bull*) showing a policeman reclining in a hammock, smoking a cigar, with a bottle of champagne at the side. It was entitled “Bobby’s Rest Day”, and underneath ran the verse:-

“We humbly venture to suggest

The Surrey Bobby’s weekly rest

Should be employed as per above

To please the Chief they fondly love.”



Surrey Constabulary's emblem on the cover of *100 years of the Surrey Constabulary 1851–1951*

1918

‘Many people wonder how the Lion Passant [a frequent figure in heraldry] came to be the badge worn by all members of the Surrey Constabulary ... It appears that the Superintendents were greatly embarrassed at higher courts by being mistaken for Prison Warders, owing to wearing the Crown on their head-dress, and sometime in 1918 a certain Superintendent, having been continually addressed by a hostile Counsel as “Prison Officer”, went straight, in high dudgeon, from the Assize Court at Guildford to the Chief Constable, who became persuaded that a new badge should be devised. In looking round for an idea Captain Sant examined the official seal of the Surrey County Council, which was designed in about 1890. There he found that the Lion of England appeared in three places, to denote, in the words of the official statement, “Allegiance due to God and to our Country”. Captain Sant decided that the Lion should be adopted as the badge of the Force.’

1919

‘The 1914-18 war made the pay position worse, and, despite the fact that allowances were given, it was indeed a struggle for the majority men to live’ ... The Home Secretary suggested a pay scale ‘operative from 1st October’ which was superseded in 1919 when rent aid was also ‘brought to a satisfactory level.’

A Memorial Tablet was erected ‘in honour of the men of the Force who fell in the 1914-1918 War ... The ceremony was conducted by the Bishop of Guildford, and many pensioners of the Force attended in addition to a parade of serving officers.’

‘Although the Specials, by virtue of an Act of 1673, might be regarded as the oldest of all existing Forces of the police, it is only in comparatively recent times that

they have become an organised body. There appears to be little doubt that they were used in the very early days of the Force, particularly during the riots at Guildford, although no record can be found of them ... The first mention of Special Constables is in 1911 ... in a circular from the home office, which asked that in every Police District there should be a classified register of persons whose service would be available to the community, if any serious emergency should arise ... nothing more was heard of this subject until the beginning of the 1914–18 War, when it was reported in November, 1914, that there were 2,000 Special Constables enrolled in the Constabulary Area, and the committee had sanctioned the provision of truncheons and armlets for them. They did sterling service during the 1914–18 War, and they were thanked at special parades arranged by the Chief Constable in 1919 and released from their obligations. They were allowed to retain their badges, armlets and truncheons.’

‘The first World War had just ended victoriously ... and constables returning to the Force ... eagerly turned their



Memorial tablet purchased by voluntary subscriptions from the Force

thoughts to organised games in the Constabulary. As the summer was approaching, cricket naturally was the first attraction ... Godalming being a small Division joined with Headquarters and ... in early June their first match was played on Shalford Common against the Woking Division ... The Chief Constable ... watched the whole game through and ... in the evening enjoyed a meal and sing-song at "The Seahorse". Captain Sant's great pleasure was obvious to all. He made a speech, gave a toast, and sometime later cancelled an Order of many years standing compelling every member of the Force to make an entry in his weekly journal every time he resorted to a public-house.'

1920

'Football remained taboo ... cricket became firmly established. Such was the Chief Constable's enthusiasm that in 1920 he presented a cup for annual competition between Divisions, and this cup, now called the Sant Cup, is still competed for year by year.'

1921

'No longer did the men have to appear in uniform when off duty, but their right to indulge in any pastime they liked was always in question, and as late as 1921 the Chief Constable let it be known that he would not countenance his men playing football. When a constable playing in defiance of this rule had the misfortune to break his leg, he had to pay all his medical expenses and was informed that it was with the greatest reluctance that the Chief Constable had been persuaded to retain him in the Service. Cricket always seems to have stood in a favoured position in the eye of Captain Sant.'

'It was not until 1921 that an Act was passed establishing the principle that the widow and young children of a deceased police officer should be granted pension and allowances ... the pension was meagre ... very often nearly all this money went in rent.'

1923

'The Special Constables Act, 1923, provides that a permanent Force will continue to function' ... and 'will be equipped with uniform according to the sanction of the Committee and the Home Office ... Closely attached to the Regular Force, the Surrey Special Constabulary ... were probably the first County Special Constables to have been put into complete uniform'.

'An Order states that bicycles had to be used for all journeys under ten miles, and in the same Order the

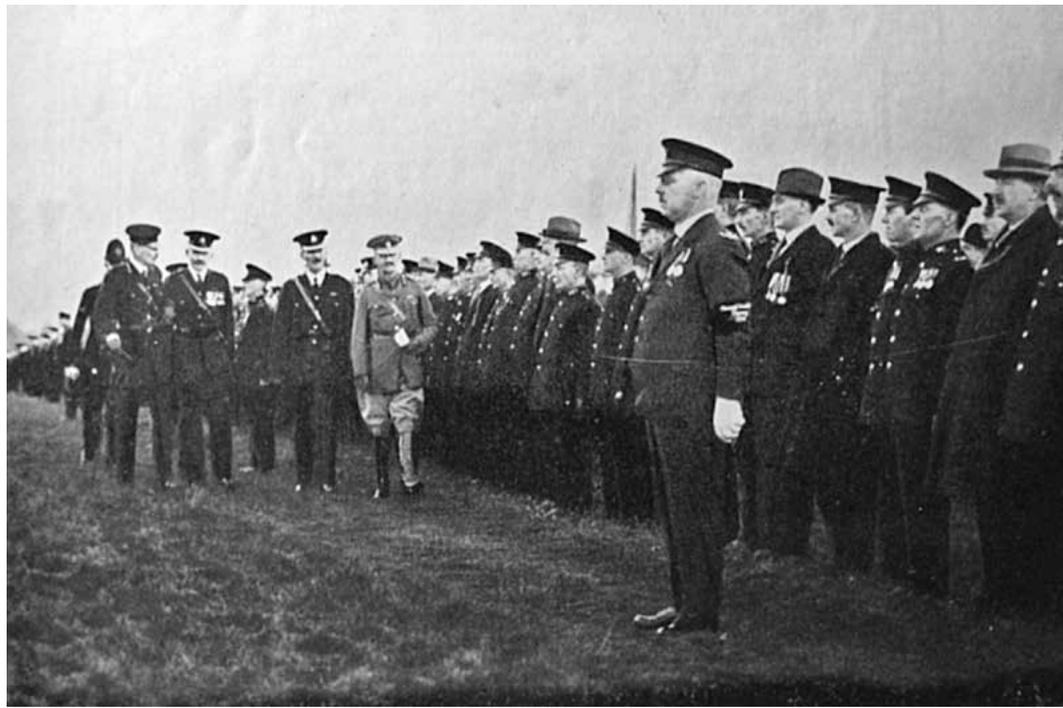
Chief Constable mentioned that the use of bicycles for all purposes had become customary without any ill-effect.'

1924

'Outside the pages of detective fiction it is not often that a criminal is brought to book by a process of pure deduction, based on a single clue found at the scene of crime. Yet such a case did occur in August, 1924, at Send, where for quite a time serious burglaries had been greatly puzzling the police and in particular Police Constable William Elkins, the local man.

Early one morning, however, Elkins was called from his bed to a house that had been burgled. He searched the house for clues and found on the floor in one of the rooms a cigarette-end and a small piece of the inside flap of a match-box – at least that is what he judged the fragment to be, it was no more than 1/2 in. x 1/4 in. in size.

Pursuing his enquiries, the constable later that morning spoke to a young man who had a punt on the River Wey and who, for quite a time, had been living apparently on holiday in a local hotel. Designedly, the constable found himself in need of a match; obligingly, the man handed him his box of "Swan Vestas", not as he thought to light the constable's cigarette, but in reality to get five years' penal servitude, for Police Constable Elkins, on getting possession of the match-box, found that a corner of the flap was missing and, producing his treasured fragment, saw that it fitted exactly. The man was arrested and proved to be a notorious criminal named Anthony St. George. Hundreds of pounds' worth of stolen property was eventually recovered by the police as a result of the arrest, but nevertheless Anthony St. George pleaded not guilty when he was brought to trial at the Surrey Assizes. The Judge, however, handed the match-box to the Jury and they apparently had little difficulty in arriving at a verdict of guilty. The Judge, Sir Rigby Swift, after passing sentence, called for Police Constable Elkins and commended him for his smart work. The constable, now Superintendent Elkins of Dorking, still treasures the match-box and, if cautiously approached, can sometimes be coaxed to talk about this incident of his career which, twenty-six years ago, gained him much publicity and fame in the national Press.'



Inspection of Surrey Special Constabulary at Ranmore Common, 1926, by the Lord-Lieutenant, Lord Ashcombe, CB, accompanied by Captain Sant and Captain Tuckwell

for modern development, and was often heard to say that the greatest curse of modern civilisation was the invention of the internal-combustion engine. He strongly opposed road widening, saying that the straightening of sharp corners would only encourage motorists to drive faster and increase road accidents. In his view the narrow winding Surrey Lanes should remain, since motorists would perform drive slowly along them for fear

1926

Captain Sant expressed his ‘appreciation and sincere gratitude to those citizens of Surrey who acted in the capacity of Special Constables ... during the General Strike.’

‘The Force formed the Surrey Constabulary General Fund for Widows and Orphans, with the prime object of supplementing the pension and allowance of every widow and child of a member or pensioner of the Force ... The General Fund was created by members of the Force and is maintained by their contributions and the generosity of a grateful public.’

An incident which involved Surrey’s Force and made headlines in the national press was that of Agatha Christie’s disappearance in December 1926 which I referred to in my article *An Edwardian Surrey Policeman’s Paraphernalia and Memorabilia* in J272.

1930

‘On 18th December, 1930, after thirty-one years of service, Captain Sant retired ... In outlook and character Captain Sant was a Victorian. He had little sympathy

of breaking their own necks ... The use of the motor vehicle had caused a big increase in crime, as the criminal became motor-minded before the police. The type of criminal also changed. In early days criminals were usually rough-looking men, but the criminal had now become well dressed and, generally speaking, younger.’

Captain Sant ‘had the greatest regard for the direct law of an Act of Parliament, but something approaching contempt for what he called “pettifogging Ministerial regulations”, which he thought served only to embarrass and confuse the policeman and antagonise the public.’

‘One of his old Superintendents once said: “Captain Sant always treats his Superintendents as gentlemen, like himself.” ... He would tell every recruit that he must be unflinchingly truthful; he suffered no man to remain in the Force after telling a second lie.’

‘The Surrey Constabulary Old Comrades Association ... was formed by Captain Sant upon his retirement in 1930. He wanted to create something that would preserve the comradeship of all ranks after their active service as policemen was over. On that tradition the Association has faithfully carried on and every year the members meet at a luncheon, usually held at Guildford.’

PART THREE TO FOLLOW

WHERE IS IT?

ALAN COOPER



A new building under construction – where, when and what was the building once used for?

ANSWER TO J276 WHAT IS IT?

Nobody answered this correctly. They were used for cutting plaster casts from broken limbs.

An advertisement for Pinnock's Coffee House. The background is a blurred interior scene with a lit lamp and a leather chair. A white coffee cup with steam is on the left. The text is overlaid on the image.

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OBITUARY – HANS HERMANN MEYER (1921 – 2021)

JANET WESTON



Hans dressed for Glyndebourne in August 2016

Longstanding Send resident and History Society member Hans Hermann Meyer died on 4th January after a short illness. Hans had lived for more than 62 years in the village where he and his wife Barbara brought up their family and he quietly belonged to various local groups. He was a keen member of the Conservative Association, at one time chairman of both the local Leukaemia Research fundraisers and the residents association. His daughters went to school in Send although he took the headmistress, Stella Perrin, whose voice he claimed could be heard driving past on Send Hill, with a pinch of salt.

His early life was challenging before arriving here as a Jewish refugee. Hans was born in the beautiful Hanseatic town of Lübeck, north Germany, to a wealthy Jewish family. They were founders of the new synagogue and his father Martin was a partner in a prosperous law firm. It was a privileged upbringing, with household staff and holidays nearby in Travemünde and further afield.

Clouds gathered when Hitler came to power in 1933. Life became increasingly difficult and dreams of going to the Sorbonne like his brother, and becoming an architect were squashed when Jewish children were marked down at school. He was an academic child no longer, although he suddenly excelled at PE where the teacher was anti-Nazi. Hans was forced to leave at 15, working in a brush factory to learn a trade. Attempts by the family to leave

were thwarted when the German supposedly arranging this made off with their money.

The family felt increasingly desperate but help was at hand from an unlikely source. Since the First World War his uncle Oscar – a distinguished orthopaedic surgeon – had been having an affair with an opera singer, Jeanne, who was related to the human rights crusader Helen Suzman and the actress Janet Suzman. Through this connection with the Sonnenberg family the Meyers escaped on 1st March 1937, virtually penniless after paying punitive fees again. Before leaving they visited family in the UK seeing crowds at Downing Street during the abdication crisis.

Hans fled with his parents to Israel (then Palestine), continuing education at night school. He worked in metrology at Lod (now Ben Gurion) Airport and saw the likes of General de Gaulle. Life was different, although not safe with shooting in the streets and falling bombs damaging his parents' apartment.

In 1946 he came to England studying mechanical engineering at University College, London. Later he trained in chemical engineering, becoming managing director of the Olefins branch at BP Chemicals. Originally Hans worked in Manchester where he met Barbara at a dance and they married in 1953. Soon he got a job in London and they moved to Surrey with their small daughter Janet (now Janet Weston). Three more daughters were born there including Vivienne who sadly died of Leukaemia at 18 in 1977; Helen died of cancer when she was 52. Janet is a journalist and Felicity a consultant surgeon, and he had seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Barbara and Hans received a telegram from the Queen on their diamond anniversary and loved globetrotting. Hans had always travelled for work – particularly to America, Japan and Europe as well as closer to home in Scotland and Wales. He was one of the youngest surviving cousins in his family and the house was full of continental visitors at weekends. We had holidays at home and abroad, particularly Holland, visiting his sister Käte, a concentration camp survivor who lived to 104. Hans himself liked good food and we would all enjoy Sunday lunch in a restaurant and he continued to travel in extreme old age. This included a Danube cruise

at 97 and to my amazement Norway the next year. A very erudite and knowledgeable man, he was fiercely independent. The day before being taken ill he drove to Little Waitrose Burnt Common for shopping. The last time I saw him he was planning his 100th birthday – to go back to Lübeck where he'd celebrated at 95!

My husband Philip and I had a lovely holiday with Hans in Eastbourne in August which he thoroughly enjoyed, though we persuaded him not to come on the Big Wheel. It reminded him of all the wonderful Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) vacations in the resort and other

happy times and social activities he'd had with the group, including Glyndebourne. Hans was a great music lover and we had organ music by his favourite composers JS Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn and Beethoven at his funeral at Send Parish Church.

CAMERON BROWN WRITES:

I am sorry to also have to report the deaths of former members Geoff Parker, Arthur and Beryl Andrews and John Lake and hope to have their obituaries in the next Journal.

LETTERS

ALAN COOPER WRITES:

In Chris Lee's article on Polesden Lane (J276/18) he mentions a Norcon shelter by the museum and one in Newark Lane. They are, I believe, one and the same. My grandmother rented a property from Graham Rudkin's father and purchased the shelter during the war. When she died Graham was left with the problem of disposing of it. Giving it to the Society saved him the effort of breaking it up when he sold the garden to a developer for 'infilling'.

I had great fun playing in it as a child as I lived opposite. Sadly it has been installed at the museum upside down, with the air vent at the bottom!

BILL PARKHOUSE WRITES FROM LONDON SW2:

We lived in Mitcham and despite boundary changes always considered ourselves as Surrey people. In his younger days in the early 1930s dad had a short spell being a cyclist and ended up at Ripley quite often. Ripley was then a mecca for cyclists.

Although receiving poor wages he always arranged for us to have a holiday every year. During the 1939–45 war all the seaside resorts were closed off and covered in barbed wire.

In 1941, instead of going to the seaside, dad arranged for us to be accommodated in a house in Ripley. At the time I was seven years of age and was the only child. What I can remember is that the house was just off the High Street on the east side. I had a room of my own at the rear of the house with a sloping ceiling. It must have been directly under the roof.

On the first or second day dad took me to a corner shop on the west side of the High St and bought a couple of

fishing rods. I think the shop also sold radios and other items. In recent years I have tried to find both locations, without success. Like everywhere else there have been so many changes.

With the fishing rods we all went to the canal with flasks of tea and sandwiches and had enjoyable days. Whether we caught any fish I cannot recall but I do remember being there and seeing barges being pulled by horses. I cannot remember much more about the holiday but I know we all had a good time. In later years mum and dad often spoke about Ripley and the holiday was not forgotten.

Alan Cooper adds: I can state with the utmost certainty that the shop Bill refers to was Richard Green's hardware shop (sold radios and fishing tackle when I was a boy). The reason Bill couldn't find it is because it burnt down in that most memorable fire in 1969 (J219/6).



Green's in 1955

NEW GATES FOR PYRFORD LOCK

CAMERON BROWN

During February 2021 new downstream gates were installed at Pyrford Lock. The upstream gates were replaced in 2019 (see J270/3). The foreman on both occasions was National Trust (NT) employee Steve Stewart and his team included Martin Batten, Richard Gunner, and Will Lloyd Williams. Steve has worked on inland waterways for 36 years, the last 12 for the NT and lives locally in Potters Lane next to Worsfold Gates lock. The 17th century workshop where gates used to be made is just behind his NT-owned cottage. The NT is currently going through a review because of the financial effects of the pandemic, with NT properties throughout the country closed to visitors but, thankfully open NT areas and countryside are still available for exercise. Access to the Navigation has continued and maintenance work remains as important as ever.

Steve's job is to keep an eye on the upkeep of the whole of the Navigation. Pyrford Lock has been damaged over recent years by being hit by boats. Whilst oak survives almost indefinitely if fully submerged, this is not the case with lock gates; they are always exposed to air on at least one side with the result that the wood rots - this process is exacerbated if it is cracked. Gates used to last around 35 years but these days younger timber is used because of a lack of more mature wood and there are more inexperienced users of the facilities, reducing the life expectancy of a lock gate now closer to 20 years. The



Steve Stewart at Worsfold

gates are built in exactly the same way as they always were, with no reduction in the size of the timbers and the NT tries to ensure that new gates retain the character of the ones being replaced. Having said this, I did



The team (l-r) Martin Batten, Richard Gunner, Will Lloyd Williams

have an interesting conversation with Steve about the timbers. He confirmed that oak was still used for the main structure and elm for the paddles (the part which is raised to let the water enter the lock). "However" he said, "for paddles these days we use Irish elm". Seeing my puzzled look he explained that this is a reconstituted plastic material which actually lasts a lot longer than wood and looks just the same, once painted!

Before the NT took over the Navigation in 1964 it was run as a private commercial enterprise by the Stevens family and it was Harry Stevens who left the Navigation to the NT. At that time lock gates were made in the Worsfold workshop. This ceased some time between 1970 and 1980 when the NT began to buy gates from outside contractors, the most recent being a firm called Hargreaves in Yorkshire.

They made the new upstream gates which were installed at Pyrford in 2019. Shortly after they went out of business and the new suppliers are the Oak Carpentry Company in Liss, Hampshire. The gates were assembled and painted



The new gates brought in by barge



One of the new gates being moved into position using the gantry on rails



The newly-hung gates with the temporary dam still in position



The old gates

in Liss and transported by road to Cartbridge where they were offloaded onto an NT-owned barge, completing their journey to Pyrford in the traditional way. The final fitting and finishing work was carried out by Steve and his team, the job taking around two weeks. The old gates went back on the barge to Worsfold where the useable timber will be recovered for future use.

To change the gates the first task was to erect the purpose-built gantry which can be moved by the team

on rails which they also brought with them and placed on either side of the lock. After this they installed a temporary dam to enable the emptying of the lock and when the old gates were lifted off, the team cleaned up the area and ensured that the fittings were in secure condition to allow the mounting of the new gates. It happened that in this case the collars securing the gates to the bank proved to be slightly loose and had to be remade. The job was undertaken by Burrrows Lea Forge in Shere.

The gates are made slightly too wide so that they can be planed on-site to ensure a 100% watertight fit. I explained in the article in J270 that lock gates follow a design created by Leonardo da Vinci in the late 15th century.

When each pair of gates is closed they meet not in a straight line but at an angle like a chevron pointing upstream and only a slightly higher water-level outside the lock is necessary to squeeze the closed gates securely together. This helps to reduce leakage between them and prevents their being opened until the water has risen to the same level on both sides. If the chamber is not full, the upstream gate is secure; and if the water-level within the lock has not fallen to the same level as the downstream stretch, the bottom gate is secure. This prevents the lock from being accidentally opened at both ends. This final shaping of the gate edges is done on-site. The planed faces of the posts are left unpainted and will darken down very soon. Apparently, the paint on the rest of the gates provides little protection to the oak and the surface is only painted for cosmetic reasons. In a similar vein, the ends of the balance beams (extending from the top centre of the gate onto the towpath and used to open the gates) are painted white for traditional reasons. In the days before public lighting and light pollution they were thus rendered that bit more visible to the canal users out after sunset.



Steve beginning the final planing to ensure a tight fit

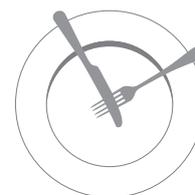


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MORE ON LILLIPUT

JOHN SLATFORD

I first wrote about Lilliput Garden in J129, 25 years ago and the last time in J270 after various additional pieces of information and photographs had surfaced. At times we have wondered about Mr Bonner, the man who started it all. Recently, Janet Tice was researching on Ancestry and by chance she came across further references to Mr Bonner and we now know more about him and where he went to after leaving Ripley.

Russell Bonner was born in 1880, the son of a music teacher. He is recorded in the census of 1901 living with his parents and siblings in West Ham, which was at that time in Essex. By 1911 he was married to Florence, they had a daughter Phyllis, and lived in Ilford, which was also in Essex. He was a teacher of music and the piano.

We know nothing more about him thereafter until he purchased the Portsmouth Road house in Ripley in 1938, nor what brought him here at the age of 58. Maybe he had retired from teaching because his time then seems to have been well occupied with building his models. It came to a halt during the war years but after 1945 the garden was reopened and construction restarted. Society member John Hutson remembers his father helping with the work.

Lilliput Garden was always known as a model village but it was actually a somewhat random collection of well known buildings and landmarks. For example, it featured the old Odeon cinema in Guildford, Piccadilly Circus, Richmond Bridge and a pagoda, probably from Kew Gardens. The only Ripley model, so far as I know, was of Ripley church. There were also many other features, such as a model railway.

By 1956 Bonner was aged 76 and had probably had enough of the hundreds of visitors every year, so he sold up and moved away. We now know that he relocated to Lynton in Devon where his wife died in 1962. Russell also died there in 1968 at the age of 88.

The then new owners of Lilliput were seemingly not interested in the model garden and all would have disappeared soon after.

I am grateful to Janet for bringing all this to my attention and for her permission to produce this short article.

There is a short film of Lilliput on youtube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whz4n0636Xc>

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MUSEUM NEWS

CLARE McCANN

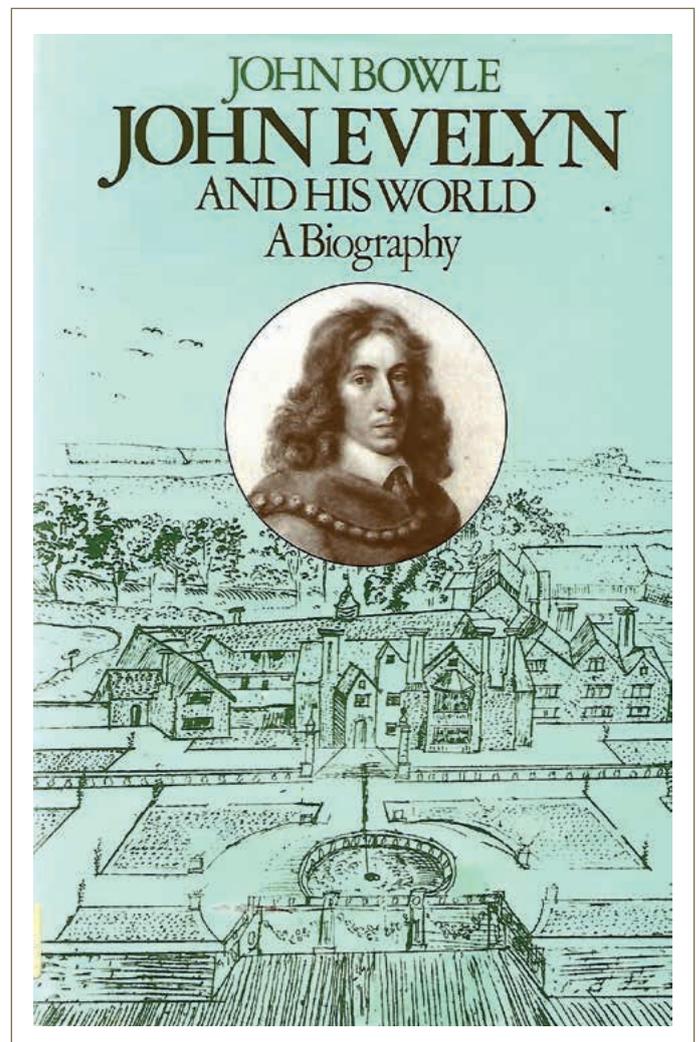
There finally seems to be some light at the end of the pandemic tunnel and although reopening may not be for many weeks, we are starting to think about how and when we can open our doors again. It may have to begin with opening by appointment only to allow for social distancing and cleaning between visits but we are keen to look forward.

As the museum was open for such a short time in 2020 only a few people actually visited the current exhibition of Plagues, Pandemics and Cures, therefore some of the content has been put on line <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHlorp1t-YHJDIZ-nBBQjbQ>. With that in mind I hope to put something new and more upbeat in the museum in the current weeks and this will, in all probability, be a fresh look at local cafés and tearooms. We have acquired a few new images of bygone tearooms since the previous exhibition but also it seems timely as Ripley is rapidly returning to being a refreshment destination, which was the case in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. If you have not spotted it yet, the former Lloyds pharmacy in Ripley is set to reopen as a café.

On a separate note I highlighted a new book in a previous journal about Margaret Beaufort and, as a result, this is now out on loan. Encouraged by this I thought I would mention another biography. This one is of John Evelyn, the diarist, who lived at Wotton and whose son is buried in Send churchyard. Given that the museum is currently shut, if you would like to borrow it I am willing to deliver as long as you are local. We hope before long to have the catalogue of the lending library on the website and you will then be able to browse at your leisure.

My daughter sent me a link to a website which I thought was brilliant. Please take a look. <https://hulleastyorkshistorycalendar.com/> Do you think we could create a similar calendar for our society? Ideally we would have one entry per day with some background information. For example 30th March Eric Patrick Clapton CBE born in Ripley followed by a few lines and a photo.

If you think this might be a fun project to work on then do get in touch as it would be good to form a small team. You might just want to come up with a few ideas for entries or actually research the information. I think we are going to have to go a bit wider than Send and Ripley, including events that had an effect on the area such as the arrival of the railway in Woking, or famous people who have lived locally, as, for instance, Ada Lovelace. To fill the calendar is not going to happen overnight but I think it might be fun to try. Let me know what you think.



MUSEUM, FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

At the time of writing the museum is closed. 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. Outings will be planned once we can anticipate being able to go out together.

DATES	EVENTS
Tuesday 20th April	Cherrill Sands talk: <i>The creation and restoration of Painshill gardens</i>
Tuesday 11th May	Pat Morris talk: <i>The curious world of Walter Potter</i>
Tuesday 22nd June	Outing to Losely Park. <i>Currently a guided tour of the gardens; may include 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		£8.00
Map of WW2 Bomb Sites in Send, Ripley and Pyrford		£2.50
Memories of War and Map of Bomb Sites		£5.00
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		£10.00
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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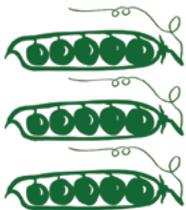
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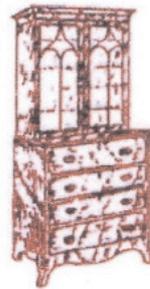
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