

# SURREY HISTORY

FILE NO. 731.

WIMBORNE AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP.



Charles Green, Head Gardener to William Wilson Sanders of Reigate  
Powder Mills of Surrey  
Epsom Rectors: Famous and Infamous  
The Guildford Mayor's Work Fund and the Opening of the Guildford  
Lido, Stoke Park  
New Material for Surrey Historians

*Julian Pooley*  
*Glenys & Alan Crocker*  
*Juliette W. Jaques*

*Mary Mackey*  
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Papers for publication in *Surrey History* are welcome and intending authors are invited to consult the Hon. Editor for advice before proceeding. To assist in setting the journal, articles must be typed clearly, with minimum errors, in double spacing and with a wide margin on the left hand side. They should be sent to the Hon. Editor, c/o Surrey Record Office, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2DN. Please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope.

# SURREY HISTORY

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Fig. 1. Charles Green, Head Gardener to William Wilson Saunders of Reigate.

# CHARLES GREEN, HEAD GARDENER TO WILLIAM WILSON SAUNDERS OF REIGATE

*Julian Pooley  
Surrey Record Office*

In May 1990 Surrey Record Office was presented with a small nineteenth-century photograph of a gardener, which had been found in a junk shop. The print is undated, but pencil annotation on the reverse identifies the subject as 'Mr. Green, Head Gardener to Mr. Willson-Saunders of Reigate, Surrey'. It was not at first expected that much more could be learned about either the photograph or the two people whose names were on the back of it; but attempts to do so have met with surprising success, and illustrate the sort of information which can be obtained from even the most unpromising historical source. The purpose of this article is, therefore, to present the results of research that has been undertaken in the course of preparing a list of the photograph for use in the Record Office searchroom.

The fact that the image of the photograph is held on an albumen print enables us to date the photograph to the 1860s. This date is also suggested by the fern which the gardener is holding, as ferns were the object of considerable interest in horticultural circles between c.1855 and c.1865. It is possible that Green's employer in Reigate, William Wilson Saunders (1809-1879), was also keen on ferns. He had moved to the town from Wandsworth in 1857 and was building up an extensive collection of plants at his home at Hillfield. Although by profession an underwriter at Lloyds, Saunders was already well known as a prominent entomologist and botanist. He had become a member of the Linnean Society as early as 1833, and served as Treasurer from 1861 to 1873. He was also an original member of the Entomological Society, of which he was President in 1841 to 1842 and again in 1856 to 1857. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1853 and of the Zoological Society in 1861. It is also possible that he was responsible for introducing his Head Gardener to the Royal Horticultural Society, for he was deeply involved with that body, serving as its vice president.

Saunders was also active within Reigate. He served as a Justice of the Peace and in 1857, the same year that he moved into the area, he founded the Holmesdale Natural History Club, serving as president from its commencement until his retirement to Worthing in 1874. He was also responsible for landscaping the public garden at Reigate castle. Under the direction of Charles Green, Saunders own garden at Hillfield became one of the most extensive botanical collections then seen in a private garden.

A closer examination of the photograph had, therefore, provided a significant amount of information about the employer of the gardener; but more was needed relating to the subject of the picture, Mr. Green himself. A

letter to the librarian of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, requesting information about records relating to Saunders received a helpful response, but included the far more useful information that there was an obituary of his gardener Charles Green, in *The Garden*, volume 30, for the year 1886. The obituary appears on page 530 and is followed by a letter about Green on page 554. These references are the key to our understanding of the subject of the picture.

The first point of interest is that Saunders was not Green's first employer. This privilege had gone to William Borrer (1782-1862) of Henfield in Sussex. Borrer was a keen botanist who travelled widely throughout Britain in an attempt to collect and propagate as many British and hardy exotic plants as he could obtain. According to his notice in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, at one time his garden at Henfield contained some 6,600 species. It is not clear at which time Charles Green left Henfield for his post with Saunders at Reigate, but the letter from his friend 'H.E.' which is printed in *The Garden*, tells us that after serving as head gardener to Saunders, Green turned his hand to the nursery business, running his own establishment in Reigate. The transience of this venture tells us much about Charles Green, for he seems to have been unable to part with the plants upon which he lavished such care and attention. 'Of all plant growers that I have ever known,' wrote Green's friend, '[he] seemed to me to individualise and love his flowers with an affection I have never seen equalled'. It is tempting to see this sentiment reflected in the photograph.

Green soon tired of the nursery business and took employment with Sir George Macleay (1809-1891) at Pendell Court, Blechingley. Macleay had achieved fame as an Australian explorer and statesman. He had spent his childhood in London, but in 1826 went to Australia to join his father Alexander Macleay (1767-1848), who was Colonial Secretary for New South Wales. Three years later he accompanied C. Sturt on an expedition to South Australia. Between c.1843 and 1846 he served as Speaker of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, and created a garden of native plants at his house at Brownlow Hill, near Sydney. He returned to England in 1859 and settled at Pendell Court, where he built up one of the richest collections of plants in Europe.

Charles Green served Macleay until a few years before his death in 1886. The Census Enumerator's returns for Blechingley show that he and his wife, Emily, were still in Macleay's employment in 1881, and provide us with a few further details about the subject of the photograph. Green was fifty-five in 1881, which would suggest that he was born in c.1826. His place of birth is given as Lewes, Sussex, not far from Henfield, where he had obtained his first job with William Borrer. His wife, Emily, had been born at Shipley, near Henfield in c.1828. Green's obituary shows that he was well known in the gardening world, both through his employment by three prominent botanists and by his membership of the Royal Horticultural Society. He attended the meetings of the Society frequently, taking with him examples of the plants he had grown at Hillfield and Pendell; and he gained respect for his ability to generate enthusiasm and popularity for species of plants which had fallen out of fashion. His obituary notices in *The Garden* attribute his success to the personal attention that he showed to each plant in his care, and this is illustrated by his failure to manage his own nursery business. As the

photograph suggests, the Head Gardener preferred to tend the botanical collections of his employers than produce plants for commercial sale.

### **Acknowledgements**

I am grateful to Gillian M. Goudge of the Royal Horticultural Society and Leonore E. Thompson, Assistant Librarian at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for their help in providing me with references to sources relating to Charles Green and his employers.

### **References**

The photograph is held by Surrey Record Office under the reference 3770. For further information relating to the three employers of Charles Green, see the *Dictionary of National Biography*, (London, 22 vols. 1885-1901) and Ray Desmond, *Dictionary of British and Irish Botanists and Horticulturalists*, (London, 1977). There is a photograph of William Wilson Saunders on page 4 of *Holmesdale Natural History Club - 125 Years, 1857-1982*, (Reigate, 1982). The obituary of Charles Green will be found in *The Garden*, (the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society), vol. 30, (1886), pp.530 and 554.

# GUNPOWDER MILLS OF SURREY

*Glenys and Alan Crocker*  
*Surrey Industrial History Group*

## Introduction

The earliest known water-powered gunpowder mill in Britain was established at Rotherhithe, in the historic county of Surrey, in the first half of the sixteenth century. The industry soon spread to other parts of the County and continued to the end of the First World War, when the factory at Chilworth closed. During this period of nearly four hundred years there were at least fifteen gunpowder manufacturing centres in the historic county of Surrey (Fig. 1. and Table 1). In the British Isles there were in all about eighty sites

**TABLE 1: SURREY GUNPOWDER MANUFACTURING SITES**

Rotherhithe	TQ 3580	c. 1543 - 1600 + ?
Rotherhithe, Crengre	TQ 3479	1554/5
Tolworth (a)	TQ 2166	1560? - 1606/7
Abinger	TQ 1147	c. 1589 - 1620s?
Wotton	TQ 1247	c. 1579 - by 1625
Shere (b)	TQ 0748?	late 16th./early 17th. century
Godstone	TQ 3651	c. 1589 - 1636
Thorpe (c)	TQ 0267?	1625
Chilworth	TQ 0347	1626 - 1920
Southwark	TQ 3280	1630s
Carshalton	TQ 2866	1650 - 1711 + ?
East Molesey, Lower	TQ 1568	c. 1652 - by 1676
East Molesey, Upper	TQ 1468	c. 1652 - 1779
Wimbledon (d)	TQ 2672	by 1666 - 1729 + ?
Worcester Park (a)	TQ 2166	1720 - c.1865
Balham	TQ 2974	after 1701 - by 1723
Ewell	TQ 2164	c.1750s - 1875
Abinger Hammer	TQ 1047	1789 - 1791
Stanwell (e)	TQ 0374	by 1791 - 1875?

### Notes:

(a) Tolworth and Worcester Park mills were on the same site. The earlier mills were also known as Long Ditton and the later as Malden mills.

(b) Referred to by John Evelyn, the diarist, as 'below Shere'. No further details known.

(c) Perhaps on site of later corn mill. See Ref. 13.

(d) Also known as Wandsworth mills.

(e) In Middlesex until 1965. 'Lower Mill Farm' on modern maps.



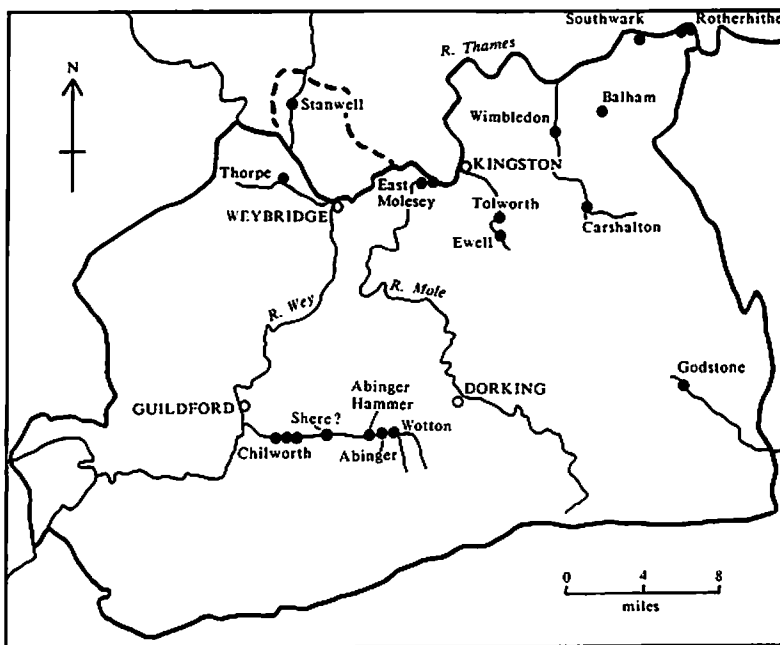


Fig. 1. Location Map of the Gunpowder Mill Sites in Surrey (black symbols), together with the principal towns (white symbols) mentioned in the text.

where gunpowder was made so it is clear that Surrey played a major role in the industry. However before describing this role a brief summary will first be given of the manufacturing processes.

Gunpowder, or 'black powder' as it is also known, is an intimate mixture of saltpetre, charcoal and sulphur, generally in the proportions 75: 15: 10. In the early period the saltpetre or nitre was obtained from pigeon droppings and other organic refuse which was collected from dovecotes and sheds all over the country. Later the saltpetre was imported from India where deposits occur naturally. The charcoal was at first produced locally in clamps (Fig.2), the favoured wood being willow, alder and especially alder buckthorn, known as the 'gunpowder maker's dogwood'. However in the late eighteenth century a method of producing superior charcoal in iron cylinders or retorts was developed and this was soon adopted by the gunpowder manufacturers. The final ingredient, sulphur or brimstone, was imported from volcanic regions such as Sicily and Naples.

In medieval times gunpowder was made by hand on the battlefield or in castles by grinding the three raw materials together with a mortar and pestle. The resulting mechanical mixture, known as serpentine powder, had the disadvantage that it soon separated into its component parts and became useless. It was then discovered that, if the mixture was first moistened, then



Fig. 2. Three Stages in the Traditional Method of Making Charcoal in clamps, as illustrated in John Evelyn's *Sylva*. (Courtesy of Surrey Archaeological Society).

incorporated by being pounded by stamps for several hours to produce a cake of material, and finally broken up into small particles, a much more powerful, reliable and consistent propellant was obtained. This was called 'corn powder', to indicate that it was in granular form. Stamps were operated by water or animal power as was much of the other equipment at the mills. This included sieves in which the mill cake was corned, screens which removed any very explosive fine dust, and rotating barrels in which the corned powder was polished or glazed.

In the eighteenth century stamps were gradually replaced by edge runner mills, in which two vertical circular stones about four feet in diameter rolled over a gunpowder charge contained in a large circular pan (Figs. 3,4). These were associated with presses which compacted the resulting mill cake into hard sheets. Corning sieves were later replaced by machines with cogged gunmetal rollers. The final stage of the manufacturing process was to dry the glazed powder, at first in 'gloom stoves' heated by fires and later in stoves heated by steam pipes. All the equipment was designed to avoid sparks and hence the risk of explosions. In addition the danger buildings were well separated and screened with trees and protective earthworks so that an explosion in one was unlikely to spread to others. Accidents inevitably occurred however, as shown in Appendix 1, which lists known explosions in Surrey powder mills.

In the late nineteenth century a new form of gunpowder, known as 'brown' or 'cocoa' powder, was introduced in which the charcoal was made from straw rather than wood. This produced less smoke than the conventional black powder. However by this time successful and safer modern explosives such as dynamite and cordite were being developed and gunpowder manufacture declined. After the First World War the industry was rationalised and many of

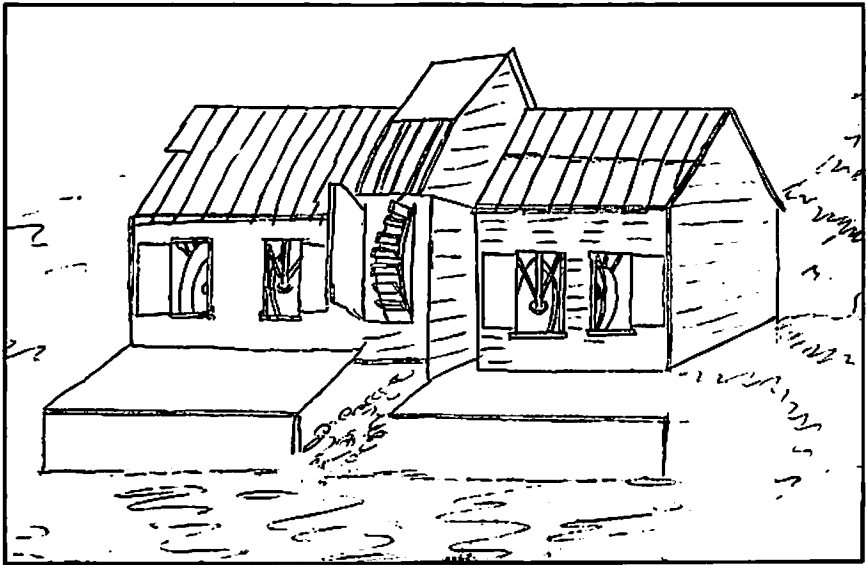


Fig. 3. Drawing dated 1798 of a typical pair of Gunpowder Incorporating Mills, powered by a central waterwheel. (From a manuscript booklet in the authors' possession).

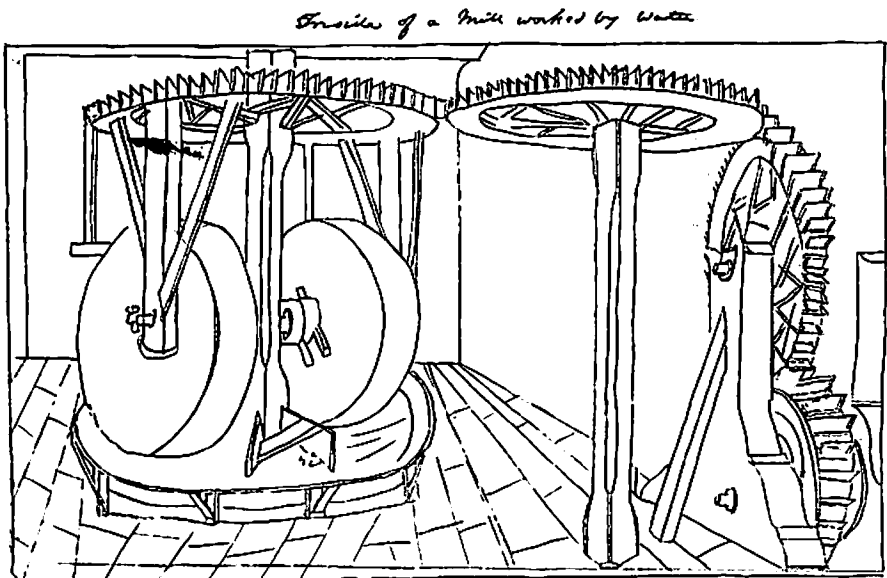


Fig. 4. Drawing of 1798 of a water-powered Gunpowder Incorporating Mill, showing its pair of edge-runner stones and associated gearing. (From a manuscript booklet in the authors' possession).

the mills closed. However some gunpowder was still needed for slate quarrying and specialised uses such as fuses. Nevertheless by the start of the Second World War only two mills survived, both of which were in Scotland. The last of these, the I.C.I. plant on the west coast at Ardeer closed in 1977.<sup>1</sup>

The early history of the gunpowder industry in Surrey is reported in some detail in the *Victoria County History*<sup>2</sup> and articles and booklets have been published on the Chilworth works.<sup>3</sup> There is however no complete account of the manufacture of gunpowder in the County. In recent years there has been considerable interest in the history of the gunpowder industry nationally and a Gunpowder Mills Study Group has been established. This Group has produced a gazetteer of all the known mills in the country, including those in Surrey.<sup>4</sup> The present article gives a more detailed account of these Surrey mills, presented chronologically and including new material.

## The Sixteenth and early Seventeenth Centuries

### *Rotherhithe*

Gunpowder mills were established at Rotherhithe by the 1540s and a powder maker named Richard Neede was still recorded there in 1600, although by then the main centres of production were further removed from London. A powder mill on the east side of Rotherhithe was operated in the sixteenth century by the Lee family, which is recorded as dealing in saltpetre from the 1520s onwards. In 1535-6 Henry VIII required the Abbot of Bermondsey to lease land to Thomas Lee and although this was not done Lee proceeded to build premises on the site under the king's direction. The mill had been operating for twenty years in 1563 when, following Thomas's death, his son Francis took a lease for a further 21 years. The property then comprised a tenement and mill with adjacent buildings, a wharf opposite and a large pond called 'the Gonpowder myll ponde' with watercourses leading to the mill. In 1562 Francis Lee appears to have been in partnership with Bryan Hogge and Robert Thomas, with whom he tendered to supply the government. He was appointed one of four master gunners in the Tower of London in 1566 and was still gunpowder maker to the Queen in 1578.<sup>5</sup>

It was recorded in 1554-5 that Henry Reve had erected a powder mill on a parcel of pasture at Rotherhithe called the Crenge, to which he had no just title, the land having formerly belonged to Bermondsey Abbey. Also Reve was accused of weakening the banks against the mill by the flow of water through the floodgates and sluices and of blocking a common highway. The location of the Crenge has not been established but the site was clearly distinct from that occupied by Thomas Lee and indeed two mill sites have been identified in Rotherhithe.<sup>6</sup> Both were tide mills, operated by storing water from the incoming tide and releasing it to turn water wheels when the tide receded.

### *The Evelyns: 1560-1636*

At the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth I both gunpowder and saltpetre for

its manufacture were imported into England, in particular from Antwerp. Since this was unsatisfactory in the new political situation the government took steps to secure better supplies at home. In 1561 instructions for obtaining saltpetre from collected manure were purchased from a German captain, Gerrard Honrick, for the sum of £ 300.<sup>7</sup> George Evelyn may have been setting up mills in Surrey at about this time. His grandson John Evelyn, the diarist, claimed in his introductory letter in Aubrey's *Natural History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey*<sup>8</sup> that his ancestors introduced the invention of the gunpowder mill into England. Although this is inaccurate, the family tradition may indicate that the Evelyns played some significant role in the development of the industry. Clear references to their powder mills have not been found before 1588 but George Evelyn began acquiring land in the Tolworth area in 1560 when, together with Thomas Reve, he was granted the Rectory of Ewell. Reve may have been related to Henry Reve, the gunpowder maker who had experienced problems at Rotherhithe. Evelyn also acquired the manor of Tolworth in 1561 and that of Long Ditton in 1567. The site of the Evelyn family's first mills was probably on the Hogsmill River at Tolworth, on the boundaries between the parish of Malden and the former parish of Cuddington and a detached part of the parish of Long Ditton. The works were variously known as Tolworth, Long Ditton, Malden and Worcester Park mill and were some 3 km. downstream from the later Ewell powder mills.<sup>9</sup>

The supply of gunpowder was still unsatisfactory when the Spanish Armada attempted to invade in 1588. It was therefore resolved to appoint manufacturers by Royal letters patent. In 1589 the government contracted with George Evelyn, his son John and Richard Hill, granting them a licence for eleven years to dig and obtain saltpetre and to manufacture gunpowder. Richard Hill, who was described as a gentleman of Shere and who had a partner George Constable, operated independently at Abinger in the Tillingbourne valley, on the site later known as Elwix Mill. This had been partially converted to a copper mill by 1622. Under James I the system of appointments of gunpowder makers developed into a Crown monopoly. Separate commissioners were appointed to obtain saltpetre and gunpowder and from 1621 these duties were in the hands of the Admiralty. The king's saltpetre store was originally at Southwark but another is recorded at Kingston by 1619.<sup>12</sup>

From 1607 to 1617 the gunpowder monopoly was held by the Earl of Worcester, keeper of Nonsuch Park, who subcontracted the manufacture to the Evelyns. Their mills at Tolworth probably closed in 1606-7 when the site was incorporated into the park. However they had also established powder mills on the Wotton estate in the Tillingbourne valley and at the manor of Godstone, which George Evelyn acquired in 1579 and 1589 respectively. John Evelyn, in Aubrey's *History*, refers to mills near his grandfather's house and 'below Shere' and sites near Wotton House have been identified. The mills were closed by Richard Evelyn, the youngest son of George, sometime before 1625. Those at Godstone were operated by George Evelyn's sons John and Robert, who held the monopoly until 1636 when it was granted to the makers at Chilworth.<sup>11</sup> During the period of the monopoly, some illegal manufacture was carried on, for instance at Bankside in Southwark. Also some additional licences to manufacture gunpowder were granted, for example to certain Bristol makers and in particular to the East India Company.<sup>12</sup>

### *The East India Company and the early history of the Chilworth mills: 1625-1641*

In 1625 the East India Company set up mills 'in the skirts of Windsor Forest' at Thorpe, to manufacture gunpowder for its own use. This venture into powder making was appropriate since the Company was engaged in importing saltpetre from India. The mills were soon ordered to be stopped because of disturbance to the deer and new mills were established at Chilworth in 1626.<sup>13</sup>

The project at Chilworth was fraught with disaster, partly because of explosions but mainly through mismanagement of the watercourses. This caused protracted disputes with the landlords, the Randylls of Chilworth manor. The physical legacy of these problems can be seen in the unusual form of the original mill pond at Chilworth, which was dammed on both the downstream and upstream ends in order to prevent water backing up the valley and flooding hop grounds.<sup>14</sup> The East India Company relinquished the mills by 1635 but their powder maker, Edward Collins, continued there and received a government contract. He died shortly afterwards and was succeeded by his son George who, together with Samuel Cordwell, was granted the Crown monopoly in 1636 in place of John Evelyn of Godstone. Cordwell continued to operate the mills until his death in 1648. It is recorded that powder was carried by carts from Chilworth to Hamhew near Weybridge, to be sent down the Thames to the Tower of London.<sup>15</sup>

### **The Civil War, the Commonwealth and the Dutch and French Wars**

The gunpowder monopoly was abolished by the Long Parliament in 1641, after which several new mills were established in Surrey and other locations on the periphery of London. Charles II on his restoration in 1660 recreated the office of sole gunpowder maker and gave the patent to Daniel O'Neale, who delegated his authority to several manufacturers. In 1664 however, after O'Neale's death, the king abolished the office of sole powder maker and placed the business of contracting for gunpowder in the hands of the Ordnance Office.<sup>16</sup> Demand for gunpowder fluctuated considerably during the period of the Dutch Wars (1652-4, 1665-7 and 1672-4) and the wars with France between 1688 and the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

### *Chilworth*

Surrey was strongly Parliamentary in the Civil War under the leadership of Sir Richard Onslow of Clandon. He took control of the Militia depot and saltpetre house at Kingston and the powder mills at Chilworth<sup>17</sup> and powder was delivered to a magazine at Weybridge.<sup>18</sup> The Chilworth mills were the only ones operating in Surrey in the 1640s but others, in particular in the Lea valley of Essex, were also supplying the Parliamentary side.<sup>19</sup> The Royalists set up powder mills as required, converting existing corn and fulling mills for the purpose, examples being at Oxford,<sup>20</sup> Lichfield<sup>21</sup> and Hereford.<sup>22</sup>

After Samuel Cordwell's death in 1648 his brother Robert continued as the

powdermaker at Chilworth until he died in 1651. Vincent Randyll, the owner of Chilworth manor, petitioned to supply the Admiralty himself in 1653-4 and in the following year was associated with George Duncombe and John Woodroff. He continued at the Chilworth works until his death in 1673.<sup>23</sup> Meanwhile a major gunpowder maker, Josias Dewye, who was based in London, operated at Chilworth probably for ten years beginning in 1651, after making a false start in 1650 at the Temple Mills, Leyton.<sup>24</sup> It therefore appears likely that the Chilworth works comprised more than one entity by this time. Vincent Randyll probably operated on the original East India Company's site at the modern Blacksmith Lane, which is marked as the Lower Works on Seller's map of Surrey of c.1680 (Fig. 5). Dewye probably built mills farther up the valley, at one or both of the sites marked by Seller as the Middle and Upper Works.

Dewye moved to Carshalton in 1661 and by the late 1670s the Chilworth mills were said to be in a ruinous state. Sir Polycarpus Wharton, who had mills on the River Lea at Clapton and Enfield<sup>25</sup> and first supplied powder to the Ordnance in 1673, was then directed to take a lease at Chilworth and invested heavily in repairing and extending the works so that they became the largest in the kingdom. Gunpowder makers were faced with formidable problems. In addition to wide fluctuations in demand and frequent accidents which destroyed uninsurable plant, they suffered from the conduct of the government, which wished to ensure sufficient capacity for wartime needs but was reluctant to pay its bills. Wharton found himself in a debtors' prison for his pains. The details of his 'hard case' are well known for they were publicised in a broadsheet which was reprinted by John Aubrey in his *History of the county*. After this episode the Chilworth mills contracted, the Upper Works closing and the Lower Works being converted to paper mills in 1704.<sup>26</sup>

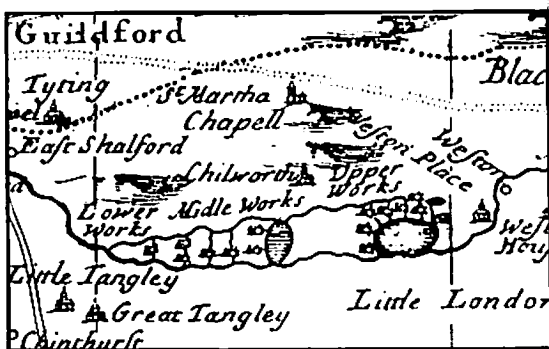


Fig. 5. The Lower, Middle and Upper Works at the Chilworth Gunpowder site, as represented on Seller's Map of Surrey of c. 1680 (enlarged by 40%). (Courtesy of Surrey Archaeological Society)

### Carshalton

The mills on the Wandle at Carshalton (Fig. 6) which Josias Dewye purchased in 1661 had been operated by a consortium of incompetent gunpowder makers who had supplied powder of such poor quality during the First Dutch War that the Admiralty Commissioners had held an inquiry into the matter. William Mollins, who had converted the former brazil (dyewood) mills to gunpowder manufacture in about 1650, had lost his contract and his associates had been unable to improve their performance and decided to sell out. An inventory made at the time of the sale (Fig. 7) lists corning, boiling and stove

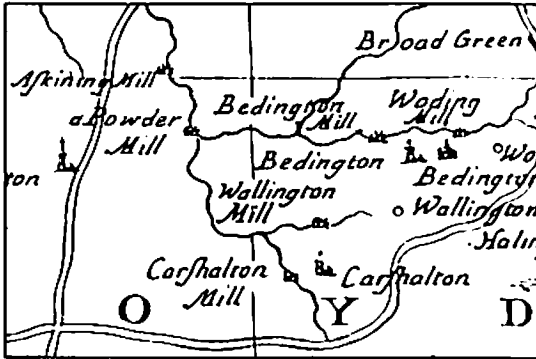


Fig. 6. The Powder Mill at Carshalton as represented on Seller's Map of Surrey of c. 1680 (enlarged by 40%). (Courtesy of Surrey Archaeological Society).

houses and three trough mills.<sup>27</sup> The term 'trough mill' was an alternative name for a stamp mill, the 'trough' being the housing for the mortars.<sup>28</sup> Josias Dewye, whose product had been by far the best of those

tested at the time of the Admiralty inquiry, prospered at Carshalton and remained there until his death in 1698. He was the largest supplier to the Ordnance in 1665 and is recorded shipping powder to the colonies in 1672. His nephew John Dewye supplied the ordnance between 1703 and 1711 but this is the last reference to the Carshalton powder mills and they probably did not long survive the end of the French Wars in 1713. When records resume in 1740 they had been converted to copper mills.<sup>29</sup>

#### East Molesey and Wimbledon (Wandsworth)

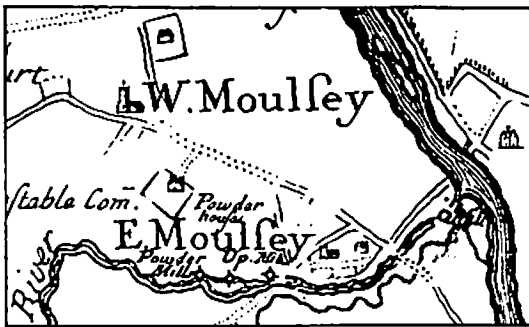


Fig. 8. The Powder House and Upper Powder Mill at East Molesey as represented on Senex's Map of Surrey of 1729 (enlarged by 40%). (Courtesy of Surrey Archaeological Society).

The powder mills at East Molesey were set up in the early 1650s, during the First Dutch War, by John Samyne who also operated mills at

Walthamstow, where he began making gunpowder during the Civil War. He occupied two sites at East Molesey, known as the Lower (Sterte) Mill, which ceased making gunpowder by 1676, and the Upper Mill (Fig. 8), which remained a powder mill until the 1770s. Samyne had a persistent but chequered career, in which he suffered from the financial problems typical of suppliers to the government, as well as from a serious accident at his mills in 1669 and opposition from local inhabitants. He was unable to hand on a successful business to his son Peter, who in 1676 leased the mills to James Clarke, lord of the manor of Molesey Matham.<sup>30</sup> James Clarke appears to have contracted out the gunpowder business for in 1687 Sir Peter Rich, the



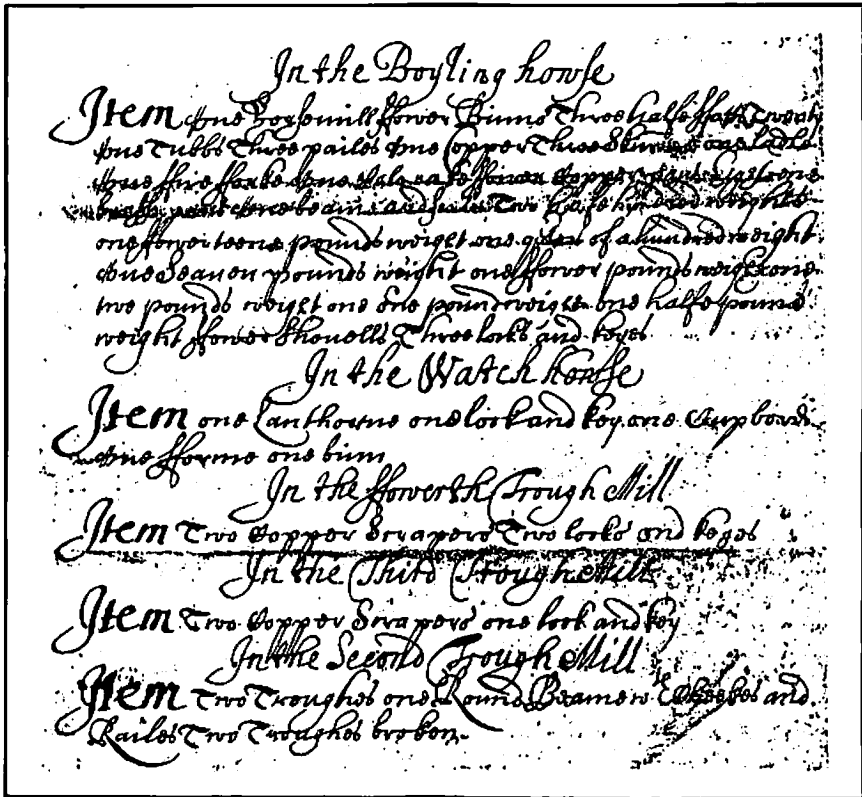


Fig. 7. Part of an inventory of the Carshalton Gunpowder mills prepared in 1661. It reads:

In the Boiling house

Item one horsemill, four bins, three half vats, twenty one tubs, three pails, one copper, three skimmers, one ladle, one fire fork, one coal rake, four copper pans, eighteen brass pans, one beam and scales, two half hundred weights, one fourteen pound weight, one quarter of a hundred weight, one seven pound weight, one four pound weight, one two pound weight, one one pound weight, one half pound weight, four shovels, three locks and keys.

In the Watch house

Item one lantern, one lock and key, one cupboard, one form, one bin.

In the fourth Trough Mill

Item two copper scrapers, two locks and keys.

In the third Trough Mill

Item two copper scrapers, one lock and key.

In the second Trough Mill

Item two troughs, one round beam with cheeks and rails, two troughs broken.  
(Courtesy of Surrey Record Office, SRO 212/9/3).

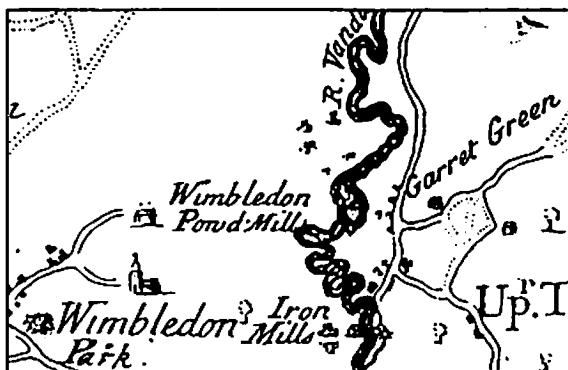


Fig. 9. The Wimbledon (Wandsworth) Powder Mill as represented on Senex's Map of Surrey of 1729 (enlarged 40%). (Courtesy of Surrey Archaeological Society).

second largest supplier to the ordnance after Sir Polycarpus Wharton, was operating at both Wandsworth and Molesey.<sup>31</sup> Powder mills are first recorded on the Wandle, on the boundary between Wandsworth and Wimbledon, in 1666. The site, which is marked on John Senex's map of Surrey of 1729 (Fig. 9), was probably in the vicinity of the modern Summerley Street, just upstream from that of the later Garratt oil mills.<sup>32</sup> It is not known when gunpowder manufacture ceased there. The powder mills appear on Bowen's county map of 1753, which may however have been derived from Senex.

### The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

In the eighteenth century the distribution of the gunpowder industry began to change. It was originally concentrated in south-east England, being determined by military and naval needs, but later reflected the additional demands of trade and the mining and quarrying industries. These had begun to use gunpowder for blasting in the late seventeenth century. In the 1720s the first of a group of mills was established in north Somerset to supply the Bristol slave trade and the local coal mines. Developments followed near Liverpool in the 1750s, in the Lake District from 1760 onwards and in Midlothian and County Cork in the 1790s. In the nineteenth century the industry spread successively to Cornwall, Derbyshire, Wales, the west of Scotland, Yorkshire and Devon. Few manufacturers specialised exclusively in powder for particular markets however. Mills in the Lake District, for example, produced some powder for military and sporting use whilst those in Surrey sold some to the 'Africa trade' and to mines. The Ordnance Office continued to be supplied by private contractors but in 1759-60 the government itself purchased the Faversham mills, followed by the Waltham Abbey mills in 1787 and those at Ballincollig in County Cork in 1804. After the Napoleonic Wars Faversham and Ballincollig were sold back to private firms but Waltham Abbey remained in government hands.<sup>33</sup>

Advances in technology and in safety procedures were made in the

eighteenth century. Stamp mills were replaced by edge runner mills, and were in general made illegal under an Act of 1772, which regulated the making, keeping and carriage of gunpowder. A more scientific approach to manufacture was adopted towards the end of the eighteenth century, particularly in the government factories under the direction of William Congreve. More rigorous safety standards, supported by a system of inspection and inquiry into accidents, were eventually instituted by the Explosives Act of 1875.<sup>34</sup>

The Surrey gunpowder industry, which had been of major national importance in the seventeenth century, contracted during much of the eighteenth. The mills at Carshalton and Wimbledon probably closed in the first half of the century, leaving the Middle Works at Chilworth and the Upper Mills at East Molesey active. However the industry was re-established at Worcester Park, on the site of the early Tolworth mills, in 1720, and new powder mills were set up at Ewell by the 1750s. Also Surrey was an important producer of charcoal for the gunpowder industry as a whole. It was stated in the 1750s that Smith & Son of Guildford 'made coal for most of the powder in England' and Messrs. Young of Dorking supplied charcoal to the government factories in the 1790s.<sup>35</sup>

There were also several minor developments in the county. A horse-powered gunpowder mill was active sometime between 1701 and 1723 at Balham House and was probably associated with the Walton family which ran the Waltham Abbey powder mills.<sup>36</sup> In the early 1790s an attempt was made by John Wheatley of Epsom, William Hitchener of Thames Ditton and John Hunter of Kingston upon Thames to establish new powder mills at Abinger Hammer. Substantial building work, of which traces survive, was carried out, but permission was refused.<sup>37</sup> The project was therefore abandoned and Hitchener and Hunter, together with John Merricks of Kingston, left to establish the gunpowder industry in Scotland, setting up their works in 1794 on the Stobsmill site at Gorebridge, Midlothian.<sup>38</sup> Also in the late eighteenth century a powder mill was established at Stanwell Moor, in the part of Middlesex which was incorporated into Surrey in 1965. This was operated by Edmund Hill, whose main works were at Hounslow and who from 1796 to 1810 owned Chilworth manor. Together with the Hounslow mills, Stanwell was taken over in 1820 by Curtis's & Harvey, who were to become the largest private gunpowder manufacturers in Britain. It was a small plant, probably operated in conjunction with the main Hounslow mills. Evidence for its date of closure is contradictory. Directories show that it became a snuff mill between 1874 and 1878, which suggests that it did not survive the passing of the 1875 Explosives Act.<sup>39</sup>

### *East Molesey*

In the early eighteenth century the East Molesey gunpowder mills were operated by Robert Stiles but by 1728 were leased to Robert Norman, who was joined and then succeeded by his son James. Susannah Norman, James's widow, was in partnership with Thomas Sutton in 1763<sup>40</sup> but in 1767 she married Beaumont Hotham who then formed a partnership with Sutton. It appears that Hotham and Sutton had acquired an interest in the mills before the death of Robert Norman in 1757 and had invested in new buildings and

plant. They proceeded to acquire the two Molesey manors (Matham and Prior) and in 1780 demolished the powder mills and incorporated the site into a private park. The land has remained in private use and only the water-courses of the mills remain. The decision to demolish the works may have been based on a desire to build a distinguished residence or it may have been influenced by a fatal explosion in 1779 and by restrictions imposed by the 1772 Act. Although the partners ceased manufacturing, Sutton evidently retained an interest in the gunpowder trade for Holden's *Directory* of 1791 lists the gunpowder office of Norman and Sutton at 33 Walbrook, London.<sup>41</sup>

### *Worcester Park*

There is no record of gunpowder having been made at Tolworth mill on the Hogsmill River from the beginning of the seventeenth century, when it was incorporated into Nonsuch Park, until 1720, when it was leased by William Taylor. He built a new gunpowder works, usually known as Malden or

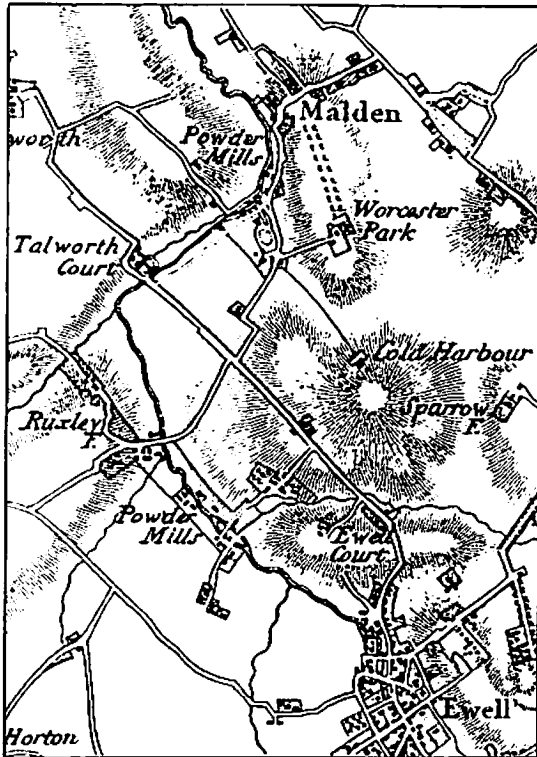


Fig. 10. The Worcester Park or Malden Powder Mills, on the site of the earlier Tolworth Powder Mills, and the Ewell Powder Mills, as represented on the One-inch Ordnance Survey Map of Surrey of 1816, (enlarged 40%). (Courtesy of Surrey Archaeological Society).

Worcester Park Mill, on either side of the river (Fig. 10). This must have been very successful as in 1750 Taylor was able to purchase the freehold of much of the Park including the site of the mill.<sup>42</sup> Much of the available information on the works comes from reports of accidents, as indicated in Appendix 1. These show that the Taylor Family were still at the works in 1849, but that by 1854 the mills had been leased to Curtis's & Harvey of Hounslow.

The great civil engineer John Smeaton designed a bottom-driven incorporating mill, powered by a 9 ft. diameter, 6 ft. wide overshot waterwheel, for the mills in 1771 (Fig. 11) and a new type of stove, heated by steam, in 1772.<sup>43</sup> However the mills are probably best known for Holman Hunt's Pre-Raphaelite picture 'The Light of the World', painted in 1851-3 when he was staying at Worcester Park Farm.<sup>44</sup> It shows Christ knocking at the door of a disused hut belonging to Taylor's works. Hunt referred to 'the dragging pulsation of the powder mills down in the vale below' as he worked on his painting.<sup>45</sup>

The mills probably closed shortly before 1865 when the land was sold in connection with the development of the new Worcester Park suburb of London.<sup>46</sup> A new corn mill was built on part of the site in 1874 but this burned down in 1891 and was used later for other industries. Much of the area was cleared in 1950 but an incorporating mill bedstone survives in the front garden of 'Old Mill Cottage', adjacent to the former corn mill.<sup>47</sup>

## *Ewell*

Although George Evelyn and Thomas Reve were granted the Rectory of Ewell in 1560, there is no evidence of there being a powder mill at Ewell until the mid-eighteenth century. It seems likely that Alexander Bridges, together with a partner, Jonathan Eade, established the mill shortly before his second son Thomas was born at Ewell in 1754. He, his sons Alexander, Robert and John and his grandson Henry, operated the mill until 1861, when Henry died.<sup>48</sup> As at Worcester Park, reports of explosions provide much information about the works, and Ewell suffered many such incidents, as listed in Appendix 1. The works also appear on several maps, including the Ordnance Survey map of 1816 (Fig. 10). They are first shown on Rocque's county map of the 1760s on which they are labelled 'Ewel Powder Mills'. The enclosure map of 1802 shows Upper and Lower Mill complexes and labels the 'coleing' (charcoal) house, corning house and the stove. The most detailed map available however is the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1866 which marks the incorporating mills, corning house, dusting house, watch house and powder magazine, in addition to a steam engine house.

After the death of Sir Henry Bridges, the mills were leased to John Carr Sharpe, who at different times was in partnership with Adams and Davy.<sup>49</sup> Sharpe was born at Brechin and was a member of the Free Church of Scotland, which evidently caused some friction in the local community. For example, after the funeral in 1863 of two men killed in an explosion, the vicar recorded that 'Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe attended . . . he has seriously thought of opening a chapel here. He is opposed to the payment of Church Rates, and is disposed to give trouble. It may be that this event *may* in God's hands *prevent* or at least *delay* his purpose. I believe He will overrule this terrible event to the salvation of souls'. According to local tradition Ewell gunpowder was used

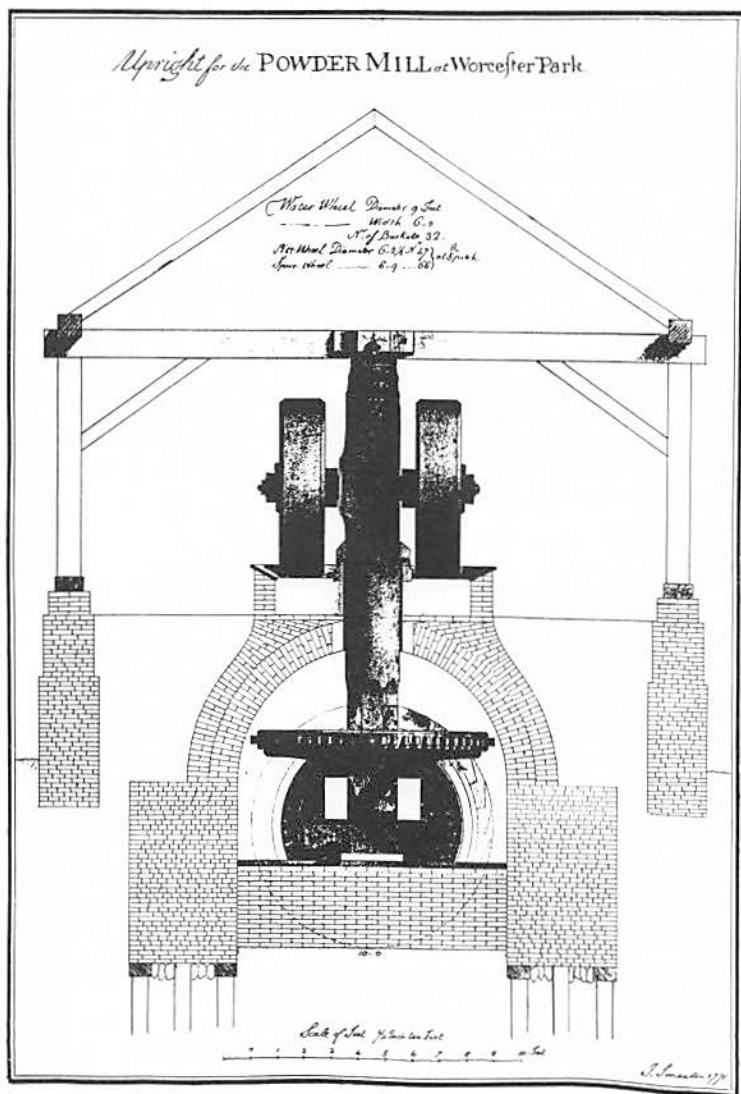


Fig. 11. John Smeaton's 1771 Design for a bottom-driven, water-powered incorporating mill at the Worcester Park Powder Mills. (Some fine lines on the original drawing have been retouched for this reduced reproduction). (Courtesy of The Royal Society of London).

in the American Civil War (1861-5) and, because of its poor quality, caused the French to lose the Franco-German war of 1870. At the time of the 1871 census the works employed 156 hands. The mills closed in 1875, the date of the Explosives Act whereby additional restrictions were imposed on gunpowder makers, probably making the Ewell mills uneconomic to operate.<sup>50</sup>



**Fig. 12. Photograph of a Corning House at the Ewell Gunpowder Mills, taken after the works had closed. (Courtesy of Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell).**

The Bridges family lived at Beddington House, six miles east of Ewell,<sup>51</sup> and it is interesting that after the mills closed some of the edge runners are said to have been used at Beddington snuff mill. The Sharpes lived at Avenue House, now known as Ewell Court and occupied by a public library, which is only about 300 yards from the former mills. Figure 12 shows a photograph of a corning house, taken some time after the closure of the works. In the twentieth century all traces of buildings have been removed by landscaping and rechannelling of the river. Half an edge-runner is visible on the site and another is embedded in a garden path in Church Street. A sandstone edge-runner said to come from the site has been mounted near some tennis courts in the adjacent St. George's Field.<sup>52</sup>

### *Chilworth, 1704-1885*

Morgan Randyll, son of Vincent Randyll who was proprietor of the mills in the 1650s and 1660s, sold Chilworth manor in 1720 to Richard Houlditch, a director of the South Sea Company. His estate was sold following the Company's crash and purchased by Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, who had a detailed survey carried out in 1728. This shows a breached mill-dam and a series of derelict water-wheel channels at Postford Pond, the site of Sir Polycarpus Wharton's Upper Mills. Four incorporating mills are shown at the Middle Works, and the site of the Lower Works is occupied by the Great and Little paper mills. Adjoining these however are the premises for processing saltpetre, the stove, the cooperage and other workshops associated with the gunpowder mills.<sup>53</sup>

By the time of this survey and until the 1750s, the Chilworth mills were worked by powder makers based at Faversham. Francis Grueber, a member of a Huguenot family which was operating at Faversham by 1701, took a lease of the Chilworth mills by 1716.<sup>54</sup> Francis Grueber was succeeded at Faversham by his son of the same name, who became bankrupt by 1745. In the 1740s Thomas Pearse and William Stevens were at Faversham<sup>55</sup> and in 1753 they formed a new partnership, together with Benjamin Pryce, to run mills at both Faversham and Chilworth for a term of ten years. The partners had an office in Cornhill, London and a fourth share of a magazine at Barking Creek. Besides contracting with the Ordnance Office they clearly supplied powder to the triangular slave trade with West Africa and the Americas, since they also had a magazine at Liverpool.<sup>56</sup>

Benjamin Pryce sold the Faversham mills to the Ordnance Board in 1759 and difficulties ensued because his legal title to the estates had not been clarified. It is apparent from resulting correspondence that Pryce had some business connection with the proprietors of the Chilworth mills in 1759 and later. These were Edward Pryce (who had no clear family relationship with Benjamin) in 1759 and Isaac Dent, with whom Edward was in partnership for a period up to 1770.<sup>57</sup> The Chilworth mills appear to have passed through a difficult phase at this time. Several explosions are recorded, as shown in Appendix 1, including one in 1763 which was alleged to have caused the tower of St. Martha's Church to collapse.<sup>58</sup> In 1765 the mills were not in working order and in 1770 Edward Pryce was bankrupt.<sup>59</sup>

Isaac Dent continued alone from 1770 until he died in 1790, leaving the



mills to William Tinkler. A good deal is known about the day-to-day running of the business at this time for one of Tinkler's letterbooks survives, containing copies of correspondence from his London office from March 1790 to March 1791. Much of this deals with shipments up and down the Wey Navigation and with orders from customers, who included many individuals buying small quantities of powder for sport, a mining company, a major distributor in Scotland and the Africa trade.<sup>60</sup> William Tinkler evidently prospered during the Napoleonic Wars for in 1813 he purchased Chilworth manor. This had been inherited from the Duchess of Marlborough by the Spencer family and had been purchased in 1796 by Edmund Hill, the powder maker of Hounslow who also owned the Stanwell mills. In 1819 Tinkler leased the Chilworth mills to John Sharp whose family, including his brother Thomas and son Samuel, continued to operate them until 1881, trading as J.T. & S. Sharp. It was in 1822 that William Cobbett rode past the site and wrote his celebrated passage about the iniquity of gunpowder and banknote paper being manufactured in the valley.<sup>61</sup> Output of gunpowder was low in the 1830s and 1840s but increased during the Crimean War and grew steadily until the 1880s. During this period the Sharp family began to extend the mills further up the valley and by 1864 had installed steam engines.<sup>62</sup>

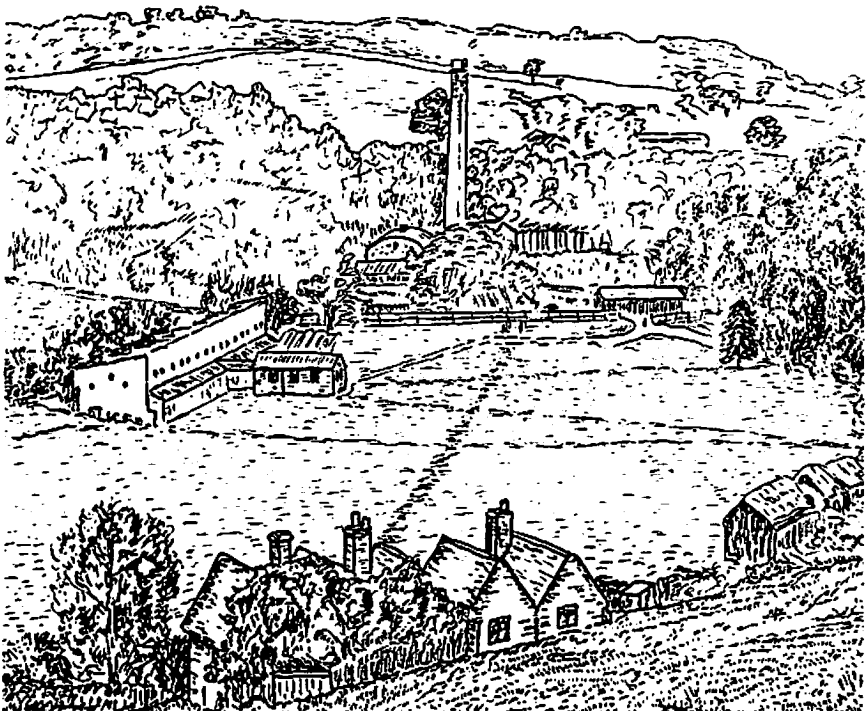


Fig. 13. Drawing of Part of the Chilworth Gunpowder Works based on a photograph of about 1900. The view is towards the south west from behind Longfrey, which was occupied by the foreman and other workers at the factory. (Drawing by Alan Crocker).

## The New Factory at Chilworth

After the passing of the new Explosives Act in 1875 the Chilworth gunpowder factory was the only one in Surrey and it was soon to undergo dramatic changes. As bigger guns, requiring larger charges of gunpowder, were continually being developed, the problem of the smoke generated on firing became more serious. This problem was partially overcome by a new form of gunpowder called brown or 'cocoa' powder, which used brown charcoal made from straw. This had been developed in Germany by J. N. Heidemann and Max von Duttenhofer and was being made by the Vereinigte Rheinisch-Westphälische Pulverfabriken. The British authorities took up the invention and the Chilworth Gunpowder Company was formed in 1885 as a subsidiary of the German company in order to make brown powder. The joint managing directors were C. Marcus Westfield, who had purchased the Chilworth mills from the Sharp family in 1881, and Edward Kraftmeier, a German settled in England, who later became naturalised as Edward Kay.<sup>63</sup> The works were soon extended up the valley to Lockner Lane and beyond and five miles of tramway built to a standard German gauge of 800 mm. This was linked to Chilworth and Albury railway station in 1888.<sup>64</sup>

The Chilworth company was selected to represent the gunpowder industry in *Wyman's Commercial Encyclopaedia* for 1888. This was because it was the most modern in Britain, having been almost entirely rebuilt since 1885 to become one of the leading gunpowder mills in the world. The article is illustrated by a view of the Chilworth works looking down from near St. Martha's church. This shows a large number of isolated buildings linked by the tramway, and three chimney shafts nearly 150 ft high which were attached to boilers working twelve steam engines developing up to 100 hp. each. There were also water turbines and waterwheels. Over 300 people were employed, many being army reservists and old soldiers. The factory's chief products were black and brown powder compressed into hexagonal prisms to control the rate of burning. There was also a large home and export trade in all the normal kinds of powder including sporting and blasting powders.<sup>65</sup> A view of part of the works erected during this phase is shown in figure 13.

However an even more significant technological development was about to affect the Chilworth company. This was the development in 1889 of the propellant cordite or smokeless powder, which is a mixture of nitrocellulose, or guncotton, and nitroglycerine, the main constituent of dynamite. In the same year Chilworth became part of a General Pooling Agreement made between four German companies and the Nobel Dynamite Trust.<sup>66</sup> In 1891 the Company showed dummy samples of its new smokeless powder at the Royal Naval Exhibition. A year later a new cordite factory was opened on the north bank of the Tillingbourne east of Lockner Lane.<sup>67</sup>

Despite the production at Chilworth of cordite and other modern explosives and propellants, the Company continued to produce the traditional black powder and the new brown powder. Indeed an explosion at the black-powder corning house in 1901, in which six men lost their lives, is the worst accident on record at Chilworth.<sup>68</sup> It was in that year that Vickers acquired a 40 per cent interest in the Company as part of a trading agreement.<sup>69</sup> In 1909, the mills were said to be producing 'all classes of propellant smokeless powder for military and sporting purposes, and Gunpowder ordinarily so-called'. There

were 143 buildings, steam engines totalling 1500 hp., water power of about 100 hp. and over 300 employees.<sup>70</sup> A photograph from this period, showing the transport of powder in punts on the millstream, is shown in figure 14.

During the First World War the Company became wholly British owned and a second cordite factory was built by the Admiralty on the south side of the river, opposite the 1892 development. The workforce expanded and many women were employed in the cordite factories. Local people have provided interesting information and memorabilia about their own and their parents' experiences at the mills during this period. The most common story is about the stray Zeppelin which dropped ten bombs between Guildford and Shalford in 1915 and which was incorrectly thought to be looking for the factory.<sup>71</sup> After the war the leading companies merged into Explosives Trades Ltd. which became Nobel Industries Ltd. in 1920. This itself merged into I.C.I. in 1926. As part of this rationalisation the Chilworth works closed in 1920.<sup>72</sup>

Chilworth has the most substantial remains of any of the Surrey gunpowder sites including over twenty edge runner stones, a bed stone of an 1860s steam-powered mill, a row of cement-rendered incorporating-mill buildings of the 1880s and several raw materials processing buildings. A detailed field guide to these remains is available.<sup>73</sup>



Fig. 14. Photograph of 1913, showing Punts used for transport of Gunpowder on the Millstream at Chilworth. (Courtesy of Bert Hammond).

## Appendix I: LIST OF EXPLOSIONS AT SURREY GUNPOWDER MILLS

Abbreviations: *Alm* - Almanac; *Gaz* - Gazette; *GM* - Gentleman's Magazine; *J* - Journal; *PC* - Private Communication; *PP* - Parliamentary Papers; *PR* - Parish Registers; *Sx (Wkly) Adv* - *Sussex (Weekly) Advertiser*.

### Chilworth

c.1626	3 mills blown up soon after opening	Brandon, 82 (11)
c.1670	5 mills blown up in six months	Aubrey, 4, 56 (74)
1755	body blown over nearby paper mill	<i>Oxford Gaz</i> , 27 Oct.
1763	St Martha's church damaged	<i>VCH</i> , 3, 104-6 (58)
1778	mills blown up, 3 killed	<i>Sx Adv</i> , 26 Oct.
1780	2 or more killed	Wonersh PR, burials
1845	50 lb. of unfinished powder, little damage	<i>Sx Adv</i> , 1 Apr.
1864	press house, 30 cwt. powder, 2 killed	<i>Times</i> , 6 Aug., 9c
	owner's letter, no serious delays expected	<i>Times</i> , 8 Aug., 6c
1864	40 lb. of powder in engine mill, 1 hurt	<i>Sx Adv</i> , 15 Nov.
1864	barge on Godalming Navigation, 2 killed	Crocker, 12 (62)
1874	3 August, powder mills, 2 killed	<i>Godalming Alm</i> 1875
1879	press house, 2 killed	PP 1878/9, 16, 377
1883	incorporating mill	PP 1884, 17, 67g
1887	incorporating mill, 0 killed	Warner, 140 (3)
1901	tram & corning house, 6 killed	Warner, 131 (3)

### East Molesey

1655	explosions reported in 5 of mills	Baker, 7 (30)
1669	fire, £1,800 of gunpowder destroyed	Greenwood, 23 (41)
1706	explosion, 1 killed	Greenwood, 24 (41)
1739	mills containing 500 barrels, no damage!	<i>Ipswich J</i> , 26 May
1754	dust house, about 30 barrels, 1 killed	<i>GM</i> , 19 Oct, 481
1771	1 mill blew up, 3 killed	<i>GM</i> , 19 Aug, 423
1779	Sept., explosion, mills closed, 1 killed	Greenwood, 23 (41)

### Ewell

1757	mills, 'earthquake in London', 1 killed	<i>GM</i> , 18 July, 335
1768	mills blown up, 5 killed	<i>GM</i> , 25 May, 245
1783	mills blown up, felt over 12 miles away	<i>GM</i> , 21 Oct, 891
1791	powder mills, 4 killed	Lackington (75)
1812	blast felt at Horsham, 2 killed	<i>Sx Wkly Adv</i> , 17 Feb.
1827	incorporating mill, 0 killed	<i>Times</i> , 30 Mar.
1844	roof of mill blown off, 0 killed	<i>Times</i> , 26 June, 7d
1844	mill utterly destroyed, heard 2 miles away	<i>Times</i> , 30 Aug., 6f
1845	roof of mill blown off, 0 killed	<i>Times</i> , 27 Mar., 4f
1863	corning house on 15 April, 3 killed	Nonsuch Ant. Soc. (48)
1865	press house, 2 killed	<i>Times</i> , 25 Sept., 9f
		<i>Times</i> , 26 Sept., 10e
1871	third explosion in 8 months, 0 killed	<i>Times</i> , 25 Feb., 12c
1871	storage shed for barrels, 0 killed	<i>Times</i> , 20 Nov., 6c

## Shere

c.1600 woman's head knocked off while spinning Evelyn's letter (8)

## Wotton

c.1600 huge beam broken in Wotton House Evelyn's letter (8)

## Worcester Park

1741	sparks from bricklayer's trowel, 2 killed	<i>Ipswich J</i> , 14 Mar.
1742	stove & magazine, 'earthquake', 0 killed	<i>GM</i> , 2 Jan., 49
1760	mill, £ 700 damage, 0 killed	<i>GM</i> , 3 Dec., 591
1843	Explosion at mills	Rowland Baker, PC
1849	timber of mill blown to atoms, 2 killed	<i>Sx Adv</i> , 21 Aug.
1854	mills closed after explosion	Dent, 218 (42)

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to References listed below.

## Appendix 2: LIST OF SURREY GUNPOWDER MAKERS

Abbreviations: Ab - Abinger; AH - Abinger Hammer; Ba - Balham; Ca - Carshalton; Ch - Chilworth; Ew - Ewell; EM - East Molesey; Go - Godstone; Ro - Rotherhithe; So - Southwark; St - Stanwell; Th - Thorpe; To - Tolworth; Wi - Wimbledon; Wo - Wotton; WP - Worcester Park.

Adams & Co, Sharpe: Ew 1862  
Bouvier, Otto: Ch 1893-1906  
Bridges, Alexander Snr.: Ew 1754-81  
Bridges, Alexander Jnr.: Ew 1781-98  
Bridges, Henry: Ew 1802-61  
Bridges, John: Ew 1798-1802  
Bridges, Robert: Ew 1781-98  
Bromell, George: Ab 1595  
Clarke, James: EM 1676  
Collins, Edward: Ch 1635  
Collins, George: Ch 1636  
Constable, George: Ab 1589  
Cordwell, Robert: Ch 1648-51  
Cordwell, Samuel: Ch 1636-48  
Curtis's & Harvey: St 1820-75 ? ;  
WP 1854-65  
Davy, Messrs. Sharpe &: Ew 1865-7  
Dent, Isaac: Ch 1766-90  
Dewye, John: Ca 1698-1711  
Dewye, Josias: Ch 1651-61; Ca 1661-98  
Duncombe, George: Ch 1655-6  
Duttenhofer, Max von: Ch 1885-

Eade, Jonathan: Ew 1754-81  
East India Co: Th 1625; Ch 1626-35  
Evelyn, George: To 1561-1603;  
Wo 1579-1603; Go 1589-1603  
Evelyn, John: To 1589-1607; Wo 1589-99;  
Go 1603-36  
Evelyn, Richard: Wo 1625  
Evelyn, Robert: Wo 1599; Go -1636  
Fossan, Bartholomew: Ca 1661  
Fossan, Lewis: Ca 1650s  
Fossan, Thomas: Ca 1657  
Grueber, Francis: Ch 1716-45  
Heidemann, J. N.: Ch 1885-1913  
Hill, Edmund: St 1791; Ch 1796-1810  
Hitchener, William: AH 1789-91  
Hogge, Brian: Ro 1562-3  
Hotham, Beaumont: EM 1767-80  
Hunter, John: AH 1789-91  
Jarvis, John: Ca 1650s  
Kraftmeier, Edward: Ch 1885-  
Lee, Francis: Ro 1562-78  
Lee, Thomas: Ro 1535-63

Mollins, William: Ca 1650s  
 Neede, Richard: Ro 1600  
 Norman, James: EM 1754-62  
 Norman, Robert: EM 1728-57  
 Norman, Susannah: EM 1763-77  
 Pearce, Thomas: Ch 1753  
 Pepper, John: Ca 1650s  
 Pryce, Benjamin: Ch 1753  
 Pryce, Edward: Ch 1759-70  
 Randyll, Vincent: Ch 1653-73  
 Reve, Henry: Ro 1554-5  
 Reve Thomas: To 1561  
 Rich, Peter: EM 1687; Wi 1687  
 Richardson, Abel: Ca 1650s  
 Samyne, John: EM 1653-76  
 Samyne, Peter: EM 1676  
 Sharp John: Ch 1819-  
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 Sharp, Thomas: Ch 1819-  
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## Postscript

In writing the above paper on 'Gunpowder Mills of Surrey', we have relied heavily on information generously provided by local and industrial historians in Surrey and elsewhere. If readers have further information on the gunpowder industry in Surrey we would be grateful if they would contact us c/o. the Surrey Local History Council, Guildford Institute of the University of Surrey, Ward Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4LH. As members of the Gunpowder Mills Study Group, which was founded in 1986 to study the history and archaeology of the industry in Britain and overseas, we would also welcome information on any aspect of gunpowder manufacture anywhere in the world. The logo. of the Group, reproduced below, is based on a pair of water-powered, granite, incorporating mills at Kennall Vale in Cornwall.

*Glensys and Alan Crocker*



**Gunpowder Mills Study Group**



# GODSTONE RECTORS: FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS

*Juliette W. Jaques*

Glebe House, Godstone, in its elegant setting, takes us back to the world of the eighteenth century. It can be approached by Leigh Place Lane or by the footpath through the Godstone churchyard and is situated on slightly elevated ground behind Church Lane.<sup>1</sup> It is now a private house but was the Godstone rectory. The modern name, Glebe House, appropriately denotes its long attachment to the church. The present building dates from 1795 when the parsonage, having fallen into utter disrepair, had to be rebuilt. This circumstance was due to the neglect of the rector, John Kidgell, who like many of the clergy in the eighteenth century, was an absentee incumbent.

## The Black Sheep

John Kidgell was baptised on 28th. April 1722 at St. Mary Woolnoth, London. He was educated at Winchester and Hertford College, Oxford. According to the *Dictionary of National Biography*: 'he was a man of some talent, but dissolute and dishonest. James Douglas, Earl of March and Ruglen (afterwards the well-known Duke of Queensberry), appropriately appointed him his chaplain.' In May 1762 he was instituted to the rectory of Godstone and in June following to Horne nearby. However he habitually neglected his duty and lived as a man about town under the auspices of the Earl of March. In this company he became deeply embroiled in the political intrigues against John Wilkes, an interesting figure of the day.

John Wilkes's part in affairs is noted in all standard histories of the eighteenth century. Wilkes entered Parliament as member for Aylesbury in 1757 and was again returned at the general election of 1761. He was disappointed in his hopes of gaining advancement and attributed his lack of success to the opposition of Lord Bute whose policies he deplored. So, in June 1762 he established a paper called the *North Briton* attacking Lord Bute and later, in the same journal, the politics of Bute's successor, Lord Grenville. The famous supplementary number, No. 45 of the *North Briton*, contained such caustic criticism that it was proclaimed in Parliament to be 'a false, scandalous and seditious libel'. This and the publishing by Wilkes of a few copies of an obscene *Essay on Woman* written by his friend Potter, a son of the Archbishop of Canterbury no less, in parody of Pope's *Essay on Man* led to Wilkes's prosecution and temporary expulsion from the House of Commons. He was later re-instated.

Our rector, John Kidgell, had a hand in these events as is recorded by Horace Walpole in his *Memoirs of the Reign of George III*: 'There was one Kidgell, a dainty priggish parson, much in vogue among the old ladies for his

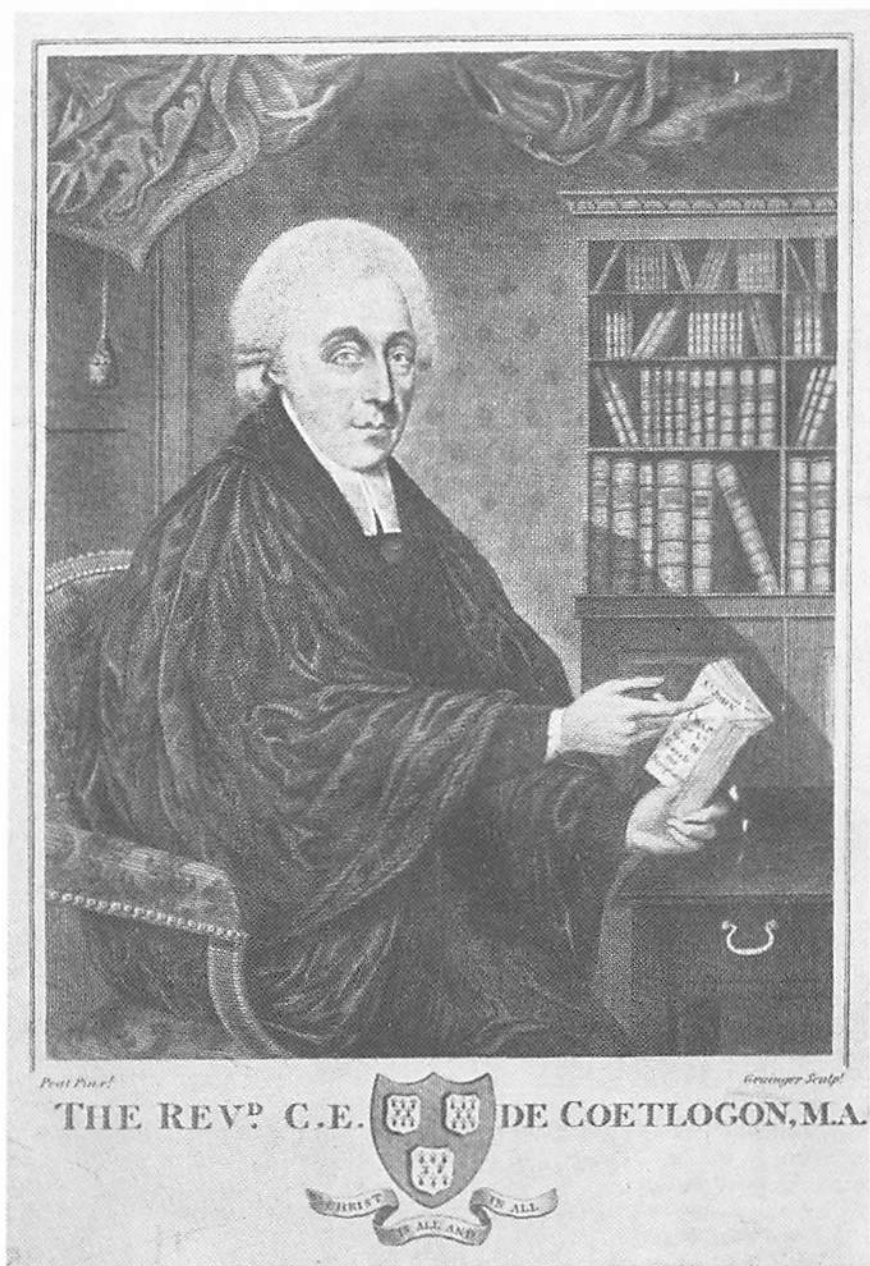


Fig. 1. Charles Edward de Coetlogon, Rector of Godstone, 1794-1821.

gossiping and quaint sermons and chaplain to the Scotch Earl of March.' Walpole then relates how Kidgell egged on by his patron, Lord March, who was supported by Lord Bute and Lord Sandwich, suborned one of Wilkes's printers and obtained a copy of the *Essay on Woman* which was subsequently used to try and discredit Wilkes. However the attempt miscarried and Walpole continues: 'the plot so hopefully laid to blow up Wilkes, and ruin him in the estimation of all the decent and the grave, had, at least in the latter respect, scarce any effect at all. The treachery was so gross and scandalous, so revengeful, and so totally unconnected with the political conduct of Wilkes, and the instruments so despicable, odious, or in whom any pretensions to decency, sanctimony, or faith were so preposterous that, losing all sight of the scandal contained in the poem, the whole world almost united in crying out against the informers.... Kidgell, the jackall, published so precise, affected and hypocritic an account of the transaction, that he, who might have escaped in the gloom of the treachery, completely blasted his own reputation; and falling into debt, was according to the fate of inferior tools, abandoned by his masters, and forced to fly his country'.<sup>2</sup>

In June 1766, the churchwarden of Horne instituted proceedings in the Court of Arches against Kidgell for non residence but the case was dismissed on a technicality. We hear no more of Kidgell until February 1794 when in Bonn, Germany, a citation was served on him to appear before the Judge of the Commissary of Surrey, whereupon he signed a resignation.<sup>3</sup> It would be interesting to know whether during all the intervening time Kidgell drew the stipends from his Godstone and Horne incumbencies. Meanwhile for some thirty years the spiritual welfare of his parishioners was presumably cared for by humble and impoverished curates.

### Charles Edward de Coetlogon

In 1794, Charles Edward de Coetlogon succeeded Kidgell as vicar of Godstone. He was the son of the Chevalier Dennis de Coetlogon, M.D., a knight of St. Lazare, member of the Academy of Angers, and author of *An Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences*.<sup>4</sup> The volume was dedicated to Charles Augustus Fouquet de Belleisle, Duke of Gisors in the following terms: 'The arts and sciences have had the complaisance to put an English pen in the hand of a Frenchman to render him capable to express his gratitude to a noble, generous and brave nation with whom he has lived so long, for their hospitality, in communicating to them part of the advantages of his Education, having nothing else worthy of their acceptance.' The name Coetlogon suggests Breton origins and Dennis was perhaps a Huguenot, victim of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685), who sought refuge in England.

His son, Charles Edward, born about 1746, was educated at Christ's Hospital and Cambridge. Soon after his ordination he was appointed assistant chaplain to Martin Madan of the Lock Hospital near Hyde Park Corner. Madan was a lawyer, turned divine, as a result of the impression made upon him by the preaching of Wesley. He was sometimes referred to as a Calvinistic Methodist. He was in close connection with Selina Hastings, Countess of Huntingdon and in correspondence with John Wesley. During his time with Madan at the Lock Hospital, de Coetlogon became known as a popular and eloquent preacher.



Fig. 2. Church of St. Nicholas, Godstone in 1821, from a drawing by John Hassell.

### The Rebuilding of the Rectory

On coming to Godstone in 1794 one of his first tasks was to secure a house for himself since the parsonage had literally fallen into ruins. A document of 1795 emanating from the Archdeaconry of Surrey and now preserved in the Greater London Record Office explains exactly how this happened. It is the plan, for the rebuilding of the rectory, below which are copies of five affidavits.<sup>5</sup> Three of the affidavits are made by James Hewett, a Godstone builder, called in to survey the old Rectory and make a pronouncement on its state, to estimate the cost of a proposed new building and the value of the remains of the old. Of the other two affidavits, one is by John Cole of Oxford Street, London, called upon by Kidgell to collect arrears of tithes and apportion them to those responsible for the rebuilding of the rectory. The other is by de Coetlogon, the new rector, certifying the worth of his office and the necessary outgoings from it. An indenture of 19th. December 1795, also at the Greater London Record Office and contained in the same bundle of documents and under the same reference number as the rebuilding plan, shows that Charles Edward de Coetlogon obtained consent of the Ordinary to take up £408 at interest and Thomas Boone, patron of the living agreed to lend £408 upon a mortgage of the Glebe, tithes, rents and other profits and emoluments of the living for 25 years at 5% per annum.

On coming to Godstone in 1794 de Coetlogon, not only saw to the rebuilding of the rectory but was soon immersed in plans to renovate the church. The Vestry Minutes of Tuesday, 22nd. April 1794 show that the rector was present for the purpose of electing churchwardens and overseers of the poor for the ensuing year and 'to take into consideration and determine

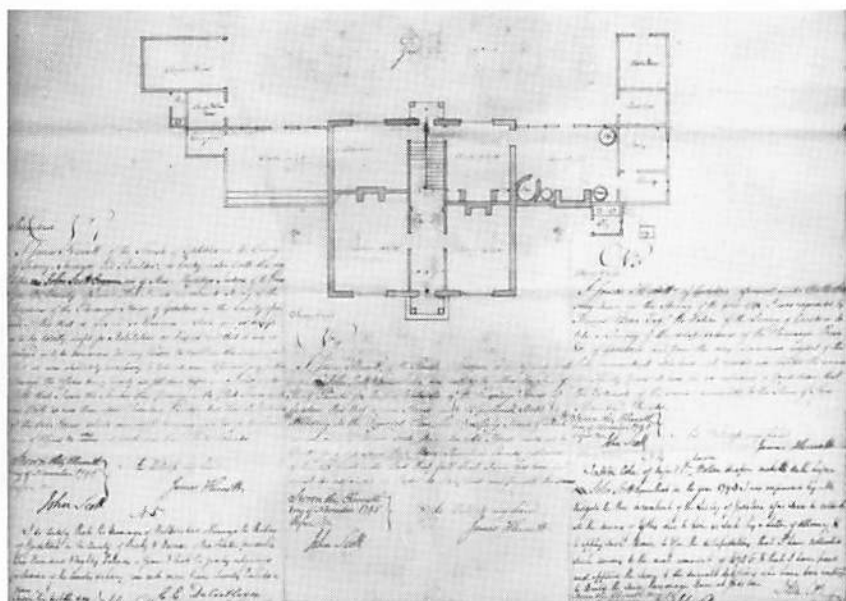


Fig. 3. Godstone Rectory, 1795. The Plan of James Hewett of Godstone, builder and surveyor, for rebuilding the Rectory. The Rectory has a porch and two parlours in front, and kitchen and store-room behind. One wing contains the stable, harness room, chaise house, knife and shoe hole and a privy. The other wing comprises the brewhouse, with copper, oven and well, pantry, coal hole and wood house, with a two-seat privy leading to a 'bog'. Hewett's estimate was for £ 900. (Courtesy of Greater London Record Office).



Fig. 4. Godstone Rectory in 1821, from a drawing by John Hassell.



**Fig. 5. Godstone Rectory about 1910.** Sometime in the nineteenth century an additional storey was added to accommodate the rectors' large families.



**Fig. 6. Godstone Rectory in 1990.** In 1944 the rectory and the glebe land were sold into private hands and **The Homestead** in Bulbeggars Lane purchased for use as a parsonage house, a use that continues to this day. In the fifties the old rectory, now called **Glebe House**, was restored to its two-storey origins and crenellations substituted for the rather bleak parapet.

upon a plan for repairing, repewing, and making such alterations in and about the church and churchyard as shall appear necessary to be done'.<sup>6</sup> For a good many years de Coetlogon was usually present at the vestry meetings and showed himself caring of the needs of the parishioners but towards the end of his life he became so infirm that he was unable to discharge parochial duties. He died in Stamford Street, Blackfriars Road, Southwark on 16th. September 1820 and was buried in Godstone churchyard.

### **The Hoare Rectors**

In 1803 the advowson of Godstone had been sold by the Boone family to Henry Hoare of Mitcham, the banker of Fleet Street, a man well known for the active part he took in supporting the great Church societies and other useful and charitable institutions of the day. Henry Hoare presented to the living of Godstone his son Charles James.

Charles James Hoare, born in London in 1781, was third son of Henry Hoare and Lydia Henrietta, daughter and co-heiress of Isaac Malortie of Hanover and London, merchant. He was educated under the Rev. John Simons of Paul's Cray, Kent and at St. John's College, Cambridge where he gained several honours and later became a fellow. He was ordained in 1804 as curate to Dr. Thomas Rennell, Dean of Winchester and vicar of Alton, Hampshire. In 1807 he was appointed vicar of Blandford Forum, Dorsetshire and stayed there until he removed to the family living of Godstone, which he held for the remainder of his life. In 1829 he became rural dean of South East Ewell, on 10th. November of the same year archdeacon of Winchester and on 2nd. December 1831 a canon residentiary of Winchester cathedral. In November 1847 he was transferred to the archdeaconry of Surrey.

Charles James Hoare, through his family connections, was in touch with the foremost evangelicals of his day. The most famous of such groups was formed at Clapham.<sup>7</sup> The centre of the community was the parish church under John Venn, its rector from 1792-1813. Most of the 'Clapham Sect', as it came to be called, were laymen, distinguished men of various walks of life who devoted much of their time and wealth to religious and philanthropic work. The outstanding member in this society was William Wilberforce who, like other evangelicals such as Hannah More and the Countess of Huntingdon, was concerned at the lack of religion in people of his own class and wrote in favour of revival, though he will always chiefly be remembered as the leader of the anti-slavery movement. Charles James Hoare could count such people among his friends. He was alive to the wider issues of church life such as the defence of the Irish church, the maintenance of cathedral establishments in their integrity and the cause of education. He wrote a number of sermons and papers on such matters some of which were published between 1820 and 1856.

Like many of his fellow Clapham evangelicals Charles James Hoare was conscious of the superiority in birth, wealth and education he possessed and the duty it imposed upon him to exert himself on behalf of the less fortunate members of society. He was interested in the work of the National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church and in 1819 preached three sermons in its support. These were published the



Fig. 7. Charles James Hoare, Rector 1821-1865.

following year under the title: *Thoughts Suited to the Present Crisis*.<sup>8</sup> In the preface he wrote: 'should they [his sermons] appear rather addressed to a higher than to the lowest class of readers, they are so, under the conviction that times like the present impressively demand the attention of the higher orders of society to the grand principles of the Christian faith, as the surest, if not the only method of instilling them into the inferior orders, at once by the force of their example and by the diligent pursuit of those means, which will be felt to be necessary for their instruction.' In the course of his sermons he does not explain exactly what he means by 'the present crisis' but refers to the 'growing threats of public danger and alarm' and says "I am most thankful to God for the public feeling lately called forth, in almost all quarters at the weak attempt of a wretched individual to give currency to the worst and vilest expressions of exploded blasphemy." He was speaking in October and November 1819 and on 16th. August of that year had occurred the so-called 'Peterloo' massacre when in St. Peter's Fields, Manchester, mounted horsemen with drawn swords had been let loose among 80,000 unarmed and closely packed people resulting in the death of eleven individuals and the wounding of 400 others. This event drew protest from all classes of society. The acute



economic distress following the Napoleonic wars had led to widespread discontent. Rioting and disturbances were rife. The government responded with repressive measures which were well known to include the use of informers and even *agents provocateurs*.<sup>9</sup> It was to this situation that Charles James Hoare was probably referring. He was obviously aware of national conditions as they impinged on the lives of ordinary people.

In his own local sphere, it is evident from Godstone Vestry Minutes that the rector attended closely and conscientiously to the needs of his church and parishioners. He was seldom absent from meetings and certainly always present in March when church officers were elected. It is recorded in the minutes of July 1837 that a sexton and beadle were appointed to keep order in the church, churchyard and church paths on Sundays and all suitable occasions at a salary of £5 per annum with an office coat. In September of the same year it was decided that suitable remuneration be given to a Constable and Headborough for suppressing any disorders in the parish street and neighbouring lands. It was also decided at that meeting that arrangements should be made for the warming of the church. Later in his incumbency Charles James Hoare was to oversee the enlargement of both church and churchyard. The Vestry under his direction kept a watchful eye on the running of the workhouse and the relief of the poor. Medical attention as well as nursing care were provided when necessary. There are references to inoculation against smallpox on several occasions. Assistance was given to one or two families to emigrate to the U.S.A.

### The Founding of Godstone School

One event, not mentioned in Vestry minutes but an important one to take place during Charles James Hoare's incumbency, was the founding in 1854 of the school opposite the church. This was done with the help of a grant from the National Society. At the time there was a National school situated at Tandridge for Godstone and the two adjoining parishes of Oxted and Tandridge. But Godstone children had to walk two miles to get there and as the population had risen more places were needed. From its opening the school had its own printing press and advertised the printing of notices, letterheads and bills. In 1867 the school press printed the first Godstone Parish Magazine, thought to have been one of the earliest in the country to appear. It was probably James Samuel Hoare, son of Charles James who introduced the printing press into the school. He is said to have had somewhere in the rectory grounds a press of his own on which he printed religious tracts, for the distribution of which he was obliged to take out a hawker's licence.

In his later years Charles James Hoare took a less active part in church affairs. He had married in 1811 Jane Isabella, only daughter of Richard Holden of Moorgate, Yorkshire. They had seven sons and one daughter. Two of the sons, George Tooker and James Samuel, helped their father with his parochial duties in his declining years. As can be seen from the Vestry minutes, from 1853 onwards James Samuel was generally in the chair and on one or two occasions the two brothers acted jointly. Charles James Hoare resigned his archdeaconry in 1860. He died at Godstone rectory on 15th.



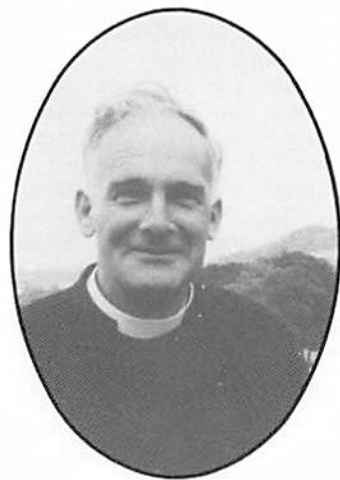
**Fig. 8.** George Tooker Hoare, third son of Charles James, Perpetual Curate of Tandridge 1853-65 and Rector of Godstone 1865-81. The chief event of his incumbency was the complete restoration of the church in 1872-73 by Sir George Gilbert Scott.



**Fig. 9.** James Samuel Hoare, fifth son of Charles James and brother of George Tooker, Curate of Godstone 1851-66 and Rector of Godstone 1881-1903. He married in 1867 Catherine Harriet Turner, the daughter of a neighbour, Charles Hampden Turner of Leigh Place, Godstone.



**Fig. 10.** George Edward Gerard Hoare, nephew of James Samuel and grandson of Charles James, Rector 1903-31.



**Fig. 11.** Kenneth Gerard Hoare, son of Edward Gerard Hoare, Rector of Godstone 1955-65.

January 1865 and was buried in the churchyard. He had been one might say the founder of a Hoare dynasty of rectors. He was to be succeeded by four rectors bearing the name.

The story of the Godstone rectors from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries well illustrates the general development of the Church of England. John Kidgell affords an extreme example of the absenteeism, laxity and corruption of his age. Charles Edward de Coetlogon, while remaining within the Anglican fold, exemplifies the influence of Calvinistic Methodism. Charles James Hoare represents some of the best revivalist tendencies of his day and their emphasis on a practical christianity inseparable from good works. And so what would seem to be purely local history can transcend its limitations and serve to illuminate our national life occasionally in its political aspect, always in its social and economic developments:

#### APPENDIX 1: Godstone Rectors 1762-1965

1762-1794	John Kidgell
1794-1821	Charles Edward de Coetlogon
1821-1865	Charles James Hoare
1865-1881	George Tooker Hoare
1881-1903	James Samuel Hoare
1903-1930	George Edward Hoare
1930-1936	Oswald Andrew Hunt
1936-1945	George Henry Marten
1945-1954	Gilbert Henry Peter Karney
1955-1965	Kenneth Gerard Hoare

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# THE GUILDFORD MAYOR'S WORK FUND AND THE OPENING OF THE GUILDFORD LIDO, STOKE PARK.

*Mary Mackey  
Guildford Muniment Room*

Guildford, like many towns and cities in the country was affected by the economic recession of the 1930s. William Harvey, OBE, MM, JP, (1884-1946), a Guildford businessman was elected to the Borough Council from 1926-1933 and Mayor of Guildford from 1931-1932 and 1932-1933. He was born in Ashford, Kent and educated at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford. In 1919 he founded the department store 'Harveys of Guildford', which after World War II occupied 44/45 High Street, (and is now the Army and Navy Stores). Councillor Harvey from the beginning of his first term of office as Mayor expressed concern about employment. During his first term he made a 'special appeal to employers' to recruit as many staff as possible. When they could not economically retain the whole of their work force, he asked the employers 'to do the best they could to keep them on from the sense of duty and brotherliness'.

The winter of 1932-33 was forecast, according to Harvey, as potentially the worst yet for unemployment. It was at this time, in his second term of office as Mayor, that Harvey devised a scheme to benefit Guildford's 657 unemployed men. He had seen a report showing a record increase in savings certificates bought during the previous twelve months, while at the same time there had been a record number of people out of work. Therefore he introduced the Mayor's Work Fund which was more humane than current economic theories of employment. The Mayor's Work Fund was launched at a banquet at the Lion Hotel, High Street, Guildford on 9th. November 1932. The scheme was based on Harvey's belief that 'our unemployed need work not charity'. The Borough Council backed the Scheme and voted £3,000 towards the fund. Harvey appealed to all Guildfordians to contribute two or three (old) pence in the pound of their income to the fund. The scheme was planned for a four-month period to the end of March 1933. The fund was designed to employ men on various projects under the direct control of the Town Council. Harvey said at the launch: 'Let us give them work, because in these days no man has greater cause for thanksgiving than the fact he is in a job'. His slogan for the Work Fund was 'Every shilling means an hours work'.

Harvey outlined the scheme at the Mayoral banquet. He said that to ensure that the maximum number of men would be employed, a short working week of 35 hours would be in operation. The men would be paid at the recognised trade-union rate of one shilling per hour, which prevented any exploitation of labour. Every job proposal was to be examined by a Council Committee on the grounds that it was useful work which would eventually have to be done by the Council, if not immediately, at some future date. Harvey was anxious

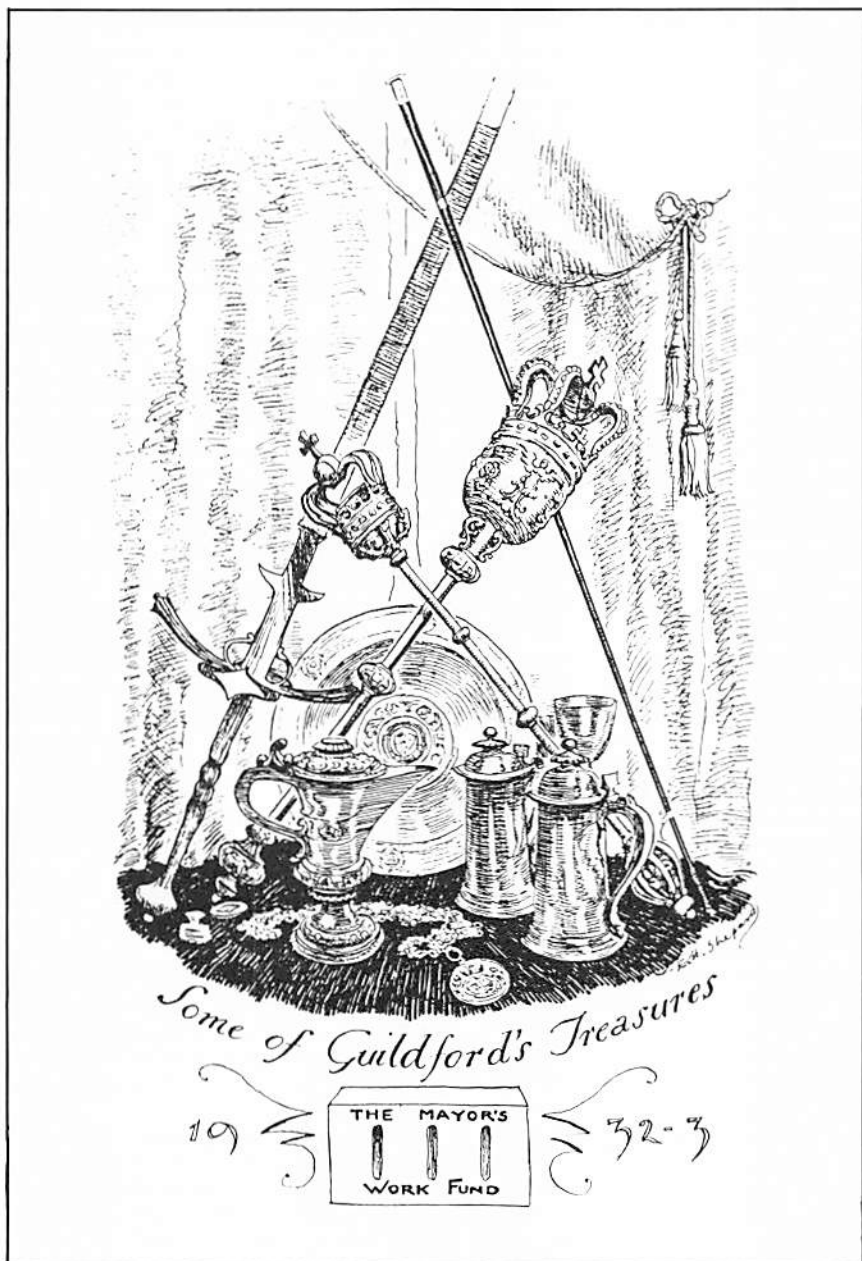


Fig. 1. Ernest H. Shepard's drawing for the Mayor's Christmas card, December 1932. (Courtesy of Surrey Local Studies Library).

to ensure that the work would not be so appealing as to prevent men looking for permanent jobs. The method of ensuring this would be the short working week. The men would be recruited through the Labour Exchange and the Public Assistance Committee. After the announcement of the scheme, the Mayor placed a money box for receiving contributions outside the Guildhall. A letter of appeal was issued by the Mayor to every householder in the Borough outlining his Work Fund scheme. As a businessman Harvey knew there could not be an upturn in employment figures unless confidence in the economy was restored. Harvey emphasised that subscriptions to the fund would not only relieve unemployment but would also circulate the benefits throughout the whole community by generating trade. Harvey advocated 'there is no economy like wise spending'.

The Town Council provided backing for the Mayor's Work Fund by bringing forward postponed or delayed environmental schemes for the Borough. The Council also helped administer the scheme and as we have seen pledged £3,000 towards the fund. The Guildford Work Fund received national coverage. Within a week the fund had raised over £400 and 46 men had begun work. The initial programme included work on the borough parks, gardens, cemeteries and highways. Harvey stated that he was gratified by the fact small employers were finding work for extra men. His objective was to offer every unemployed man in the Borough work before Christmas.

Every week the fund received subscriptions ranging from a few hundred pounds to over £1,000. Harvey emphasised that donations would be divided by the number of weeks to the 31st. March, rather than exhausting the fund in a few weeks by doubling the number of men at work at one time. The scheme continued to receive national coverage and Harvey received a letter of congratulations from the Prince of Wales on 9th. December 1932. Requests for details of the scheme from Mayors and Town Clerks all over the country resulted in the publication of 'The Mayor of Guildford's Work Fund; An outline of the scheme and its organisation....' in four editions. Within a month of the fund being in operation several other towns adopted similar schemes. By February 1933, 220 authorities had written for details of the Mayor's Work Fund. 'Work for Wages' schemes, as they became known, were in operation in 27 areas, including: Worplesdon, Staines, Portsmouth and Bristol.

The operation of the Work Fund was not without criticism. Harvey organised a public meeting in December 1932 to discuss the fund to date and to allow for public discussion. He took this opportunity to answer his critics who suggested that the scheme was a piece of election propaganda. The system of recruitment was clarified; married men with children received priority over others and men with over four children could work longer hours and were not restricted to the 35-hour-a-week limit.

Ernest H. Shephard (1879-1976) a local artist, was commissioned by Harvey to produce a drawing for his official Christmas card. Shephard, an artist with *Punch* magazine, was also famous for his illustrations for the books of A. A. Milne. Shephard's pen and ink sketch of a number of the Borough's silver treasures was reproduced under his instructions by the firm which made the blocks of his sketches for *Punch* so that the finer lines might be preserved. Shephard wrote (on 10th. December 1932) to Harvey: 'I think, I have got practically every thing into the design, which I hope will meet with your

approval'. The inscription on the card reiterated Harvey's doctrine '... with Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a New Year of increasing confidence leading to greater prosperity.'

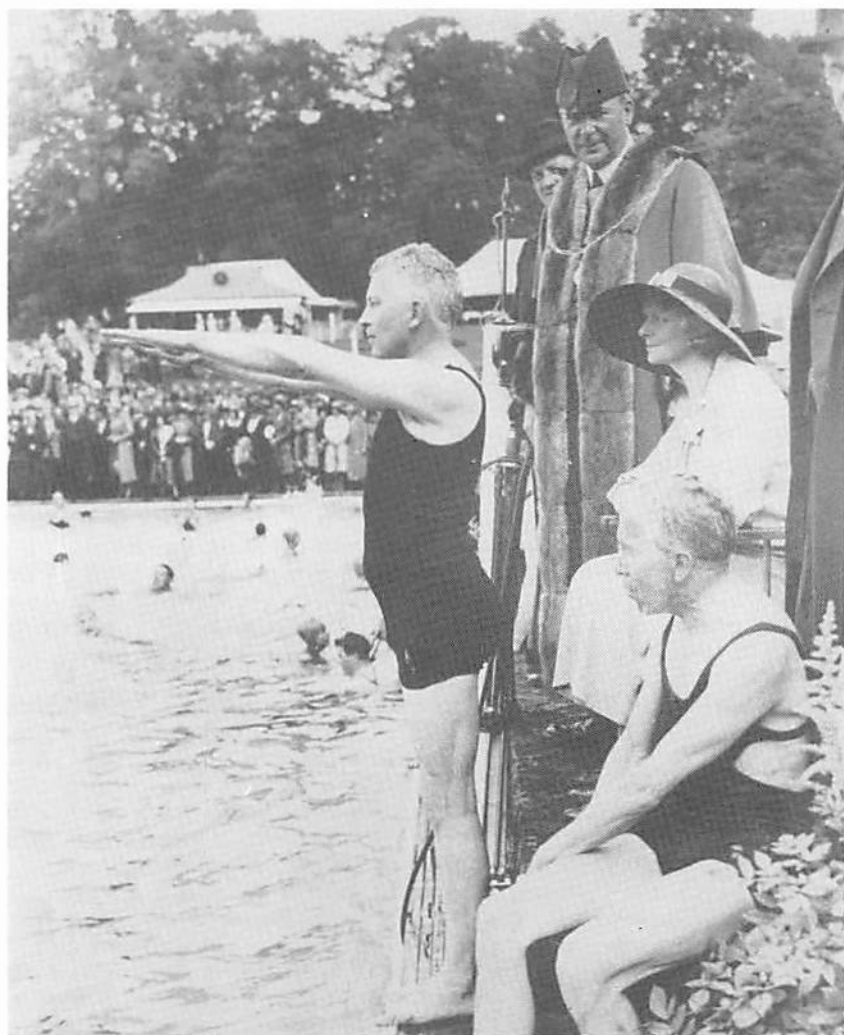
On the week before Christmas the Mayor's work force had doubled to 422 men. Arrangements were made so that the men did not have to work on Boxing Day but would have an opportunity of working over-time at a later date. A total of 463 men were placed during December 1932. One of the Town Council's postponed schemes unearthed as a possible project for the Work Fund was a proposal dating from 1930 to construct an open-air swimming bath and lido at the corner of Stoke Park at the junction of Stoke Road the the by-pass road. The plan had been shelved because of the economic recession. However the proposal was approved without opposition by the Town Council, at a meeting on 20th. December 1932 as a suitable scheme for the Work Fund. The cost was estimated at £13,000; half of which would be met by the Council and the remainder from the Mayor's fund. Apprehension about the plan was initially expressed in a letter from the Rector of St. John's Church, Stoke, the Revd. T.W. Graham, read to the Borough Water Committee at a meeting on 12th. December 1932. He was concerned about the close proximity of the proposed swimming bath to Stoke Church and the risk of disturbance to worshippers in the church. Despite these misgivings, the Committee recommended the proposal to the Council.

By early January 1933, 90 men were working on the Lido project; by the end of the month, with the installation of flood lighting, 120 men were employed on the site, with a double work shift in operation. The swimming pool would measure 165 ft. by 90 ft. and would be set in four and a half acres of landscaped grounds.

As an ex-President of Guildford Rotary Club, Harvey was invited to speak to the Hayward's Heath branch on the progress of the fund on 31st. December 1932. He reported that seven thousand people were now subscribing to the fund, with hundreds giving two pence or more per pound of their income. The Mayor's Work Fund was studied by Rotary International in Chicago and included in a worldwide recommendation to Rotary Clubs as a suitable avenue through which work could be extended to the unemployed.

In January 1933 at Chobham Village Hall, Harvey presided at a meeting in support of the local unemployment fund modelled on the Guildford scheme. He stressed the value of one per cent of income being donated to the funds to ensure an equality of sacrifice by the community. Harvey was also elected to preside at a 'Work for Wages' conference in London in March of that year, attended by representatives of 33 towns and villages. The scheme was such a success that people were reluctant to let it cease at the end of March as planned. However Harvey felt it would be better for the fund to finish; 'by bringing it to a definite end, it would be easier to resuscitate it next year if necessary'.

At the last meeting of the Work Fund Committee it was decided that a maximum of 100 men would be retained on the work of the Lido and the Castle Gardens until mid April. The Mayor appealed for people to hire the remaining unskilled men in the period after the disbandment of the fund (on the same terms of a shilling an hour) for house maintenance, gardening and cleaning jobs. At the end of the scheme 150,500 hours of work had been provided and 590 men employed. The public had subscribed £7,720: with the



**Fig. 2.** The Mayor of Guildford at the opening of the 'Lido, repeating his dive, watched by the Mayoress; 21st. June 1933. (Courtesy of Guildford Muniment Room, reference 1655/2/4)

Borough grant the fund totalled £10,720. Unemployment figures were down to the pre-depression average.

The Guildford Lido was officially opened by the Mayor on 21st. June 1933. It was regarded as a permanent memorial to the Mayor's Work Fund. Six thousand people assembled on the four-and-a-half-acre site to watch the Mayor remove his ceremonial robe and dive into the pool. At the opening Alderman H.E. Smith, Chairman of the Water Committee, described the pool



as 'the best in the South of England if not the whole country'. Its construction had provided employment for 120 men for nearly six months. He revealed that the Mayor's enthusiasm in the project was so infectious that the Public Grounds Committee did not ask to be paid for the ground in Stoke Park. The Mayor in his opening speech showed his great foresight:

'These four and a half acres of pleasure ground appeal to me as something new which will be a feature of the town; we are starting a new era for the generation which is coming along. There is today a new trend - a trend towards out-of-doors and sunworshipping.... This generation is making more use of the sun than others before.... these grounds are a token of what this town thinks about health and fitness and its liabilities to provide for those under its care.'

The opening ceremony of the Lido was reported worldwide including in newspapers such as *The Ceylon Observer*, *The Havana Post* and *The Cape Times*. During the first three weeks of opening 50,000 people were admitted to the Lido and £ 1,300 was taken in at the turnstiles. (Entry was 6d.). William Harvey was awarded the Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honour's List of 1934. On 27th. March 1934 he was conferred as an Honorary Freeman of Guildford 'in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him in the alleviation of unemployment, and as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow members of the Corporation and burgesses of the borough'.

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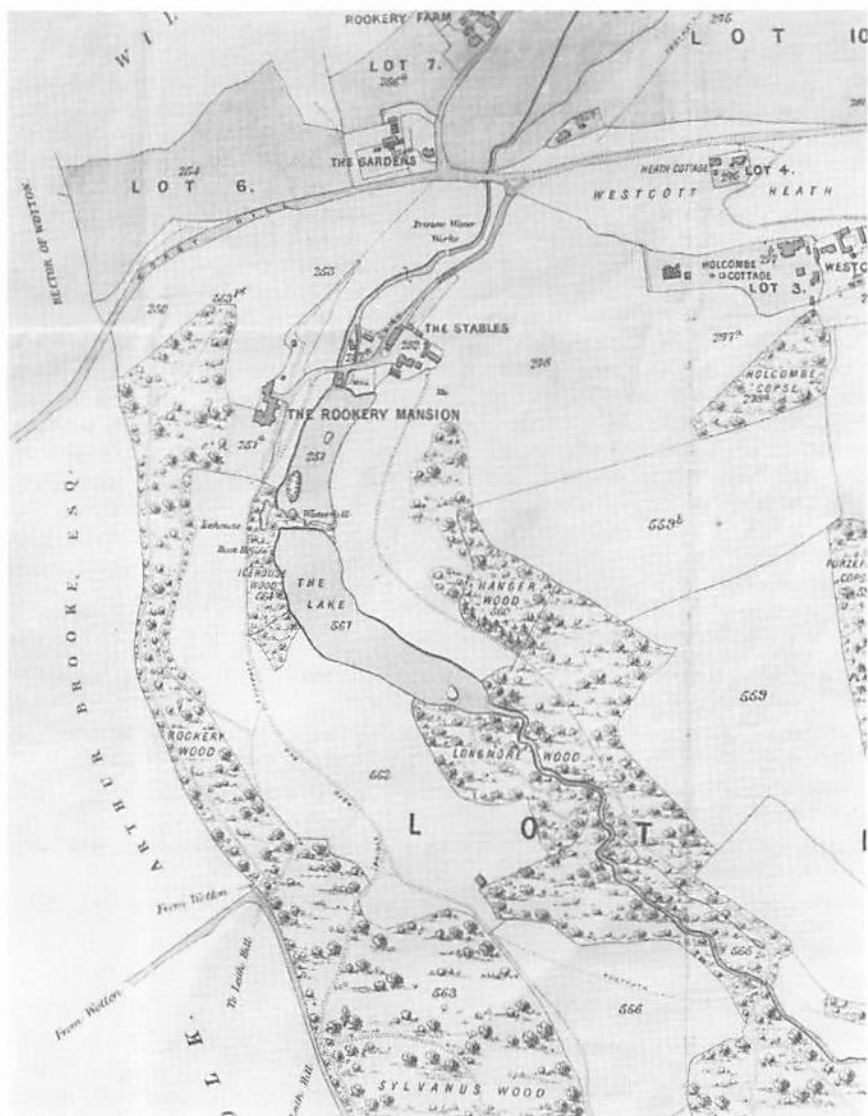


Fig. 1. Rookery Estate, Westcott, sale plan, 1894, showing the Ice House and Boat House near the lake, and the Private Water Works. (SRO 3840)

# NEW MATERIAL FOR SURREY HISTORIANS

Accessions of Records in Surrey Record Office, 1990

*David Robinson*  
*County Archivist*

I have sometimes been asked what will happen when there are no records still to come into the Record Office. My answer is always that history moves forward so that today's current records will, some of them, be tomorrow's historical archives, but also that there is no reduction in the quality or quantity of historical records coming into Surrey Record Office. In a few cases - early parish records for example - the proportion outside record offices is now small, and overall the balance of accruals is probably weighted more than in the past to the last two hundred years, but the influx of records illuminating all aspects of Surrey life from the Middle Ages to the present day continues unabated.

## Maps and Plans

Maps are among the most attractive archive material, and we have been able to acquire a number of interesting examples recently. The oldest is a plan of Allens Farm, or Alan of Warwick's Farm, Burstow. This is undated, but the arms of the Parsons family date it to 1703-59, when the farm was owned successively by Sir John Parsons, his son Sir Humphrey Parsons, and Sir Humphrey's widow, Sarah.

The estate originated as part of 173 acres in Burstow and Horley of which the reversion, together with a messuage and a mill, was granted to Reigate Priory by Alan de Warwick and his wife Emma in September 1334. The purpose of the grant was to provide for two canons to celebrate daily masses for the souls of the grantors and for all the faithful departed. At the time of the Dissolution the estate was still known as Allen of Warwick's, being then tenanted by Thomas Michell. After the suppression of the Priory in July 1536 its lands were first leased to John Marten and then granted to Lord William Howard, afterwards Lord Howard of Effingham, from whom they eventually descended to John Baron Mordaunt of Reigate, who died in 1675. His trustees sold them to Sir John Parsons in 1703. Two strips of land on the north and south edges of the farm are described as 'stoln' (?stolen). Clearly these were not successfully recovered for they did not belong to the farm when the tithe map was produced in 1842.

Another eighteenth-century plan is of Breach Hill Heath and Downside Common in the parish of Cobham. This is by U. Collyer and dates from 1788.

These two areas were included in the Cobham enclosure award of 1795, and it may be that the plan was drawn up with forthcoming enclosure in mind. We already hold extensive documentation relating to the enclosure, including minutes of the commissioners and claims to rights of common and objections to the claims. Chatley Heath Semaphore Tower was later to be built on land at Breach Hill.

We have purchased, with the aid of a grant from the Government Purchase Grant Fund administered by the Victoria and Albert Museum, three plans of Bury Hill estate, south-west of Dorking. The two more interesting of the plans date from 1838 (Bushell and Vine, surveyors) and 1851 (Lansdell, surveyor) and each is at a scale of 3 chains (66 yards) to 1 inch and is roughly 10ft. by 12ft. in size. Bury Hill (or Berry Hill) was built by James Galter in the eighteenth century and purchased in 1812 by Robert Barclay, who improved the mansion and estate and whose family owned the estate for over a century. We already hold deeds and sale particulars for the estate.

Two interesting later maps are ones for the sale of the Rookery estate, Westcott, in 1894, and Kingswood Warren estate in 1906. The Rookery estate formed an arc around the western side of Westcott and was divided into 21 lots. The neighbouring landowners included W. J. Evelyn, Lord Ashcombe and the Duke of Norfolk. The plan shows the lakes on the Pipp Brook which were a feature of the estate. The Kingswood Warren estate of Cosmo Bonsor covered 2,100 acres and included several farms, the advowson of St. Andrew's church, Kingswood, the manor of the liberty of Kingswood and the Station Hotel, Kingswood. The particulars contain a full and detailed description of the house and estate.

### **Parish records**

The initial surveys of parish records under the Church of England Parochial Registers and Records Measure have been completed for parishes in the Diocese of Guildford, and most of the records deposited from parishes in the diocese are additional to previous deposits. This year records have come from Chobham and Valley End, Busbridge, Wrecclesham, Chiddingfold, Shere, Stoke-next-Guildford, Grayshott, Woodham, Guildford St. Nicholas, East Clandon, West Clandon, West Byfleet and Milford.

Surveys of the records of parishes in the diocese of Southwark are still in progress and a number of substantial deposits have been made, notably from Blindley Heath, including registers from 1842, Benhilton All Saints and Belmont St. John. Additional deposits have come from Felbridge, Surbiton Christ Church, Barnes Holy Trinity, Chessington St. Mary and Lingfield.

### **Sunday Observance in Kew**

A volume deposited by St. Anne's, Kew, is of particular interest. It was used by successive ministers to record matters of importance relating to the church and their own rights. It includes details of Pulpits Farm, Essex, and Bovenden Farm, Herts., purchased in 1716 for £360 and in 1762 for £335 respectively with the aid of Queen Anne's Bounty to augment the income of the minister.

Course Hall Museum.

SECOND EDITION.

# SURREY.

About 17 miles from London, 1 mile from Kingswood Station, whence London may be reached in about 40 minutes; 5 miles from Banstead, 4 miles from Reigate, and 5 miles from Epsom and Sutton, whence there are services of fast trains to Victoria and London Bridge by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, and from Epsom to Waterloo by the London and South Western Railway, reaching London in little over half-an-hour.

*Particulars, Plans, Views and Conditions of Sale*

OF THE  
HIGHLY IMPORTANT, MOST ATTRACTIVE AND VALUABLE

*Freehold*

**Residential and Sporting Domain**

DISTINGUISHED AS

**THE KINGSWOOD WARREN ESTATE,**

SITUATE IN THE PARISHES OF

**BANSTEAD and CHIPSTEAD and the Liberty of KINGSWOOD in the Parish of EWELL.**

Extending over an area of about

**2,100 Acres,**

AND COMPRISING A

*Noble well-built Mansion* known as *Kingswood Warren*

Occupying a delightful situation some 500 feet above sea level, and commanding extensive views. Surrounded by beautiful Pleasure Grounds, it is seated in the midst of a well-timbered and undulating Park. It has also attached, productive Fruit and Kitchen Gardens, with a sufficiency of Glass-houses, commodious Stabling, and Electric Plant and Engine House.

THE ESTATE ALSO INCLUDES

The Advowson of St. Andrews, Kingswood,

The Manor or Reputed Manor of the Liberty of Kingswood,

**HIGH-CLASS RESIDENCES,**

Situate on the outskirts of the Property, and not interfering in any way with the residential amenities and rural character thereof.

**The Fully-licensed Hostelry known as "The Station Hotel," Kingswood**

Seven Agricultural Holdings having excellent Homesteads, Numerous Cottages,

SEVERAL FULLY-SECURED GROUND RENTS,

**MANY VALUABLE ENCLOSURES,**

**RIPE FOR IMMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT AS BUILDING LAND.**

The whole producing an actual and estimated income of about

**Per £4,414 Annum.**

Which will be Sold by Auction,

At the Mart, Tokenhouse Yard, near the Bank of England, E.C.,

**On TUESDAY, MAY the 22nd, 1906,**

At TWO o'clock punctually (unless previously disposed of by Private Treaty),

**AS A WHOLE OR IN LOTS.**

Particulars, with Views, Plans and Conditions of Sale, may be obtained of Messrs. STILEMAN & NEATE, Solicitors, 16, Southampton Street, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.; and, with Orders to View of

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Estate Agents, Surveyors and Auctioneers,

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- West Halkin Street, Belgrave Square;
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- 5, Victoria Street, Westminster;

} LONDON.

\* Telephone No. 292 Gerard.

† Edition Quarterly, Ltd., 5, 91, Bride St., E.C.

Fig. 2. Kingswood Warren Sale Particulars, 1906. (SRO 3793)

It includes plans of the layout of the church and lists of pewholders and the pew rents they paid, which were an important part of the minister's income. The minister was concerned to preserve his right to allot the pews: there is a copy of a letter of 1774 from Sir William Chambers, architect of the Orangery, the Pagoda and temples in Kew Gardens, as Comptroller of H.M. Office of Works, seeking on behalf of his clerk of works the seat in the church enjoyed by previous clerks of works, together with a courteous but firm reply by the minister indicating that he could allot a seat but denying that clerks of works at Kew enjoyed a prescriptive right to a particular seat.

The book includes a detailed terrier of Kew church lands, ornaments and charities compiled in 1771 after the division of the large parish of Kingston. There are also copies of the parish register for most of the eighteenth century. The most recent item in the book is a copy of a Royal Proclamation, 1917, for reducing consumption of grain during the War. Returns to an episcopal visitation questionnaire of 1833 are revealing as to the condition of Kew and also of Petersham, which was united as a benefice with Kew:

'Is the Lord's Day duly observed in your Parish? By no means. Want of Room at both churches, particularly at Kew, enables many to say they can get no seats. Many, I am sorry to say, are seen with their jackets and aprons on the Sunday morning and work in their shops and gardens, notwithstanding remonstrances both written and verbal. At Kew, a man from Richmond, named Street, drives his cart with vegetables round the Green, just about the hour of morning service, and at Petersham a shoemaker, named Wallace, keeps his shop always open on a Sunday morning, and works as on other days.

Are there any peculiar obstacles which impede the Progress of Religion in your Parish? Yes - many. Boating Parties and Parties of Pleasure from London come to Kew Gardens on Sundays, which are open from Midsummer to Michaelmas. Hundreds of Persons come to the Star and Garter on Petersham (commonly called Richmond) Hill, by steam or land, and I reckoned no less than 6 sets of Barge Horses standing in Petersham Meadow on Sunday morning last at 10 o'clock a.m.'

### **After the fire: Long Ditton**

At 8.30 am. on Tuesday 5th. June we heard of a fire which had taken place overnight at St. Mary's Church, Long Ditton. This was one of the few ancient parishes in the county not to have deposited its registers and other records in Surrey Record Office. One of our archive conservators immediately went to the church. She found that the vestry was gutted. The records in one safe appeared not to need immediate attention but the records in the other safe, including the sixteenth-century parish registers and seventeenth-century churchwardens' accounts, were damaged, in part through singeing by fire but mainly through water damage. Some volumes which were not in the safe had suffered more seriously. The dangers were that if the records were allowed to remain damp, mould would form and would damage them; if they were dried too quickly, and without separating the pages, the pages might seal together or suffer other damage from the drying process. Also, any handling needed to be done with care to avoid damage. The parish immediately agreed to deposit the

damaged records temporarily so that we could begin the drying process and assess the damage. Our senior conservator and an archivist returned later in the morning to assess in detail the condition of the records in the other safe and to check with our survey list whether items previously seen by us could all be accounted for. These records were also found to need some attention and were temporarily deposited.

Fortunately, actual loss of text was only slight because most of the items were bound volumes. Loose papers would have suffered more seriously. The records, initially only on temporary deposit, were later deposited permanently under the Measure. They include parish registers from 1564, vestry minute books from 1791, overseers' and churchwardens' accounts, 1663-1940, tithe accounts, 1762-1780, and minute books of the National School, 1870-1934. The churchwardens' accounts include lists of parishioners (including named servants as well as heads of households) who contributed 'for the redemption of captives taken by the Turkes.' The tithe book also includes the accounts of Christopher Buckle with William Pennicott, the rector, for expenditure on behalf of Buckle's son:

'15th. May 1762: Young Buckle first came with me from Burgh to Long Ditton

25th. May: Bought for the use of the young Gentleman a case of Instruments necessary in his Arithmetical Exercises 10s. 6d. [also a slate for 1s., paper books 1s., quire of paper 10d.]

14th. August: Pay Mrs. Bell for making 4 shirts 14s.'

The fire reminds us of two lessons. First, records are unique and vulnerable parts of our heritage and need to be kept in secure conditions. Second, being able to meet an emergency without delay pays long-term dividends.

## **Records from Ewell**

We have received transfers of records from two of Surrey's museums. We welcome this co-operation and trust in our ability as specialists to care for documentary material, to relate it to other archives which we hold, and to make it available to researchers under supervision. Transfers of records relating to Epsom and Ewell by Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell, have been particularly important in the past year.

These include Ewell vestry minute books, 1770-1893, overseers' account books, 1759-1833, a charities account book, 1778-1894, accounts and rate books of surveyors of the highway, poor rate and church rate books and a ledger of Ewell Savings Bank, 1869-81. The Ewell vestry meetings were greatly concerned about the running of the workhouse for paupers. In 1786 it was 'resolved that the following poor [nineteen men and women were named] in the workhouse of the said parish should be constantly employed at the Manufactory or Manufactories at the said workhouse such as Carding and Spinning of wool who shall be ordered and kept to work by the Contractor of the House so as to Card and Spin Eighteen pounds per day . . . and if any of the said poor shall refuse to work or idle away their time . . . that Complaint shall be immediately made to the Magistrate, Churchwardens or Overseers.' The minutes also include decisions on the rebuilding of Ewell parish church in 1848. The records are an interesting reminder of the period when parish

church expenses, as well as the roads and the poor, were paid by rate. The vestry regularly levied a church rate of 6d. in the £, and, even after the abolition of compulsory church rates in 1868 by Act of Parliament, they levied a voluntary rate until at least the 1890s., of which they seem to have been able to collect one-half to two-thirds. (Some churchgoers living outside the parish also paid the voluntary rate).

The Museum has also deposited records of C.J.L. Langlands (1823-89), estate and land agent, valuer and builder. These include a ledger which lists expenditure including the booths, stalls and carriage lots on Epsom Downs which Langlands let at the Derby meeting, business and personal expenditure and medical expenses of Langlands' final illness. There is also a volume of the house requirements of clients of his estate agency.

The Museum has also transferred records of Epsom Liberal Club, a small number of account books of local traders - fishmonger, hairdresser and builders' merchant - and minutes, 1862-87, of the managing committee of the 25th. (Epsom) corps, Surrey Rifle Volunteers. The origins of the volunteer movement lay in periodic panics over possible French invasion. In 1859 a government circular was issued authorising Lords Lieutenant to raise volunteer corps. In Surrey, 26 corps were established in the years 1859 to 1862. We already hold records relating to the 5th. (Reigate) corps, 13th. (Guildford) corps and 12th. (Kingston) corps, and the present volume, which includes appointment of officers and committee members, accounts and, from 1870, lists of members, is a useful addition to our holdings.

### **Reed's School, Cobham**

The Governors of Reed's School, Cobham, have deposited the very fine archive of the school. The school began as the London Orphan Asylum, one of several charitable foundations of Revd. Andrew Reed. It was located successively at Clapton, Watford and Cobham. The records include an almost complete series of annual reports from 1815, a good series of minute books from the same date, magazines, photographs and film and audio tape. The school was founded for orphans, and children with only one surviving parent, whose parents had been in respectable circumstances. Two of the earliest pupils were described in the 1819 report:

'Father, who was a Tax Officer, died suddenly of an apoplexy, while the Mother was confined of her sixth child; were respectable; very destitute.'

'No Father; was a Mercer and Draper, under severe losses he put an end to his life; Mother in ill health, with five children wholly dependent; the eldest afflicted with a spinal hurt, were very respectable; very distressed.'

As a later report (1905) stated: 'The Design of this Charity is to impart a good middle-class education to Boys and Girls, and so qualify them to take the same position in life as their parents held.'

Because of the school's changes of location there was some question as to where the records might most appropriately be deposited, but after discussion with the school and other record offices it was agreed that the sensible policy would be to deposit the records in Surrey Record Office, where they could more easily form the basis of a living and growing archive through a continuing policy of deposit of records as these became historical.





Fig. 3. The former Sandroyd School, Cobham, used from 1945 for Reed's School. (SRO 3719)



Fig. 4. Science Lessons at Reed's School, Cobham, 1947. (SRO 3719)



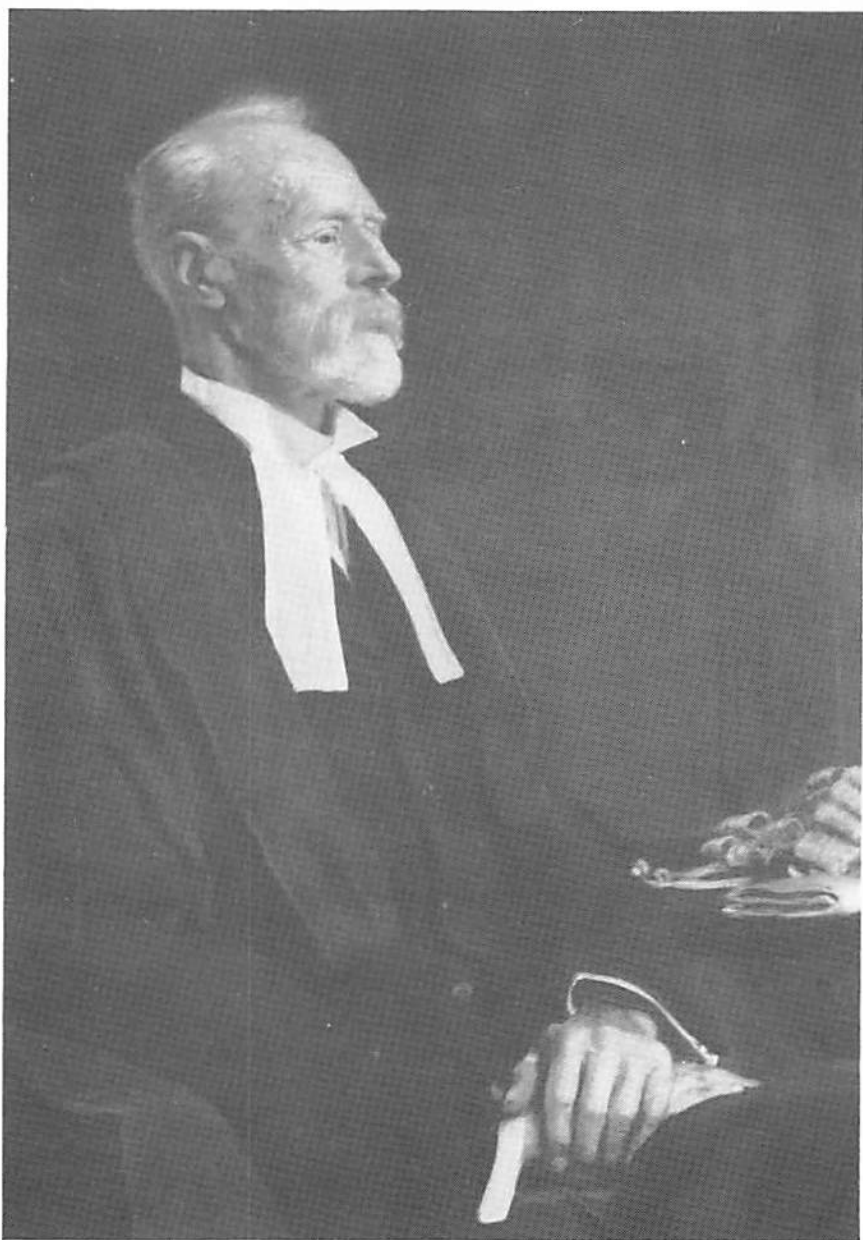
Fig. 5. R. C. Sherriff on the Thames. St. Raphael's Church, Surbiton, is in the background. (SRO 2332)

### R.C. Sherriff and 'Journey's End'

Weybridge Museum has deposited letters of the author R.C. Sherriff, author of 'Journey's End'. These range in date from the 1920s. to the 1950s. and include a number of letters sent to Sherriff at the time of his first success. We already hold some of Sherriff's papers, including early diaries, letters home during the First World War, and programmes and photographs of productions of 'Journey's End', and this deposit supplements them. The Museum has also deposited records of a local butcher and deeds of a house in Walton on Thames.

### 'A Terror and a Tradition'

Thomas Weeding Weeding, 'a terror and a tradition', was the first Deputy Clerk of Surrey County Council and became Clerk himself in 1904, retiring in 1927 at the age of eighty. We hold a large number of deeds of his estate at Malden and notebooks and other papers relating to county business. We have now purchased his letter books for 1876-86 and 1906-28, his justice's note book, 1878-85, and a rent book, 1867-74. The two earlier out-letter books mostly relate to Weeding's estate: the sale and purchase of property, fixing of rents and relations with tenants. The third book, covering 1906-28, also



**Fig. 6.** 'A Terror and a Tradition', Thomas Weeding Weeding, 1847-1929, cyclist, yachtsman and Clerk of Surrey County Council. Painting by William Carter in Surrey County Hall, Kingston upon Thames.

includes letters on personal matters. These include a letter to the Secretary of the Cyclists Touring Club which shows that between 1896 and 1907 Weeding cycled an average of 316 days a year and covered 10,895 miles a year. This includes his daily ride from his home at Addlestone to County Hall and back, but implies vigorous recreational rides as well. There is also a letter of 29th October 1914 to Winston Churchill as First Lord of the Admiralty offering Weeding's services to the Crown for use at sea: 'I have been a yachtsman for upwards of 40 years and for the greater part of that time have personally commanded my yacht. I am acquainted with nearly every port between Valencia Island (Ireland) and Sandhaven (Sweden). I am also a navigator. I am 67 years of age but active and in good health'. He also offered his Malden house as a military hospital. It seems that both offers were refused, but both Weeding's sons were killed in the war. Weeding possessed a forceful turn of phrase. In response to the collector of taxes (who also, it is interesting to note, acted as registrar of births, marriages and deaths) he wrote in 1915: 'In conclusion I may remind you that in my official position I am daily brought into direct communication with the public and if I treated them in the bullying manner that you use towards me I should be ashamed of myself.'

### **Headley Grove Estate, Leatherhead**

Leatherhead and District Local History Society have deposited a good series of deeds of Headley Grove estate from 1704 to 1910. Title deeds are one of the most important evidences of land ownership and use and a series of deeds is particularly valuable for researchers.

### **Burstow and Horley: a mediaeval deed**

Mediaeval deeds are less frequent acquisitions nowadays, but we were recently able to purchase a 1424 deed of confirmation of lands in Burstow and Horley and in Worth (Sussex). Thomas Brigeham and William atte Wode of Burstow granted and confirmed to Richard atte Welle and Joan Hoddlegh his wife 'Semyanes' comprising a messuage, garden and two crofts containing four acres in Burstow, a messuage, garden and two crofts containing two acres in Burstow, and lands, tenements, rents and services in Horley and Worth. 'Semyanes', which lay east of Thunderfield, was presumably west of Burstow village. The other messuage in Burstow lay north and east of the land of Andrew Trendelle, perhaps the modern Triddle's Farm, south of Smallfield Common. It seems probable that this is the final deed of a marriage settlement by which Richard atte Welle provided for his (second?) wife and the children of the marriage. The boundaries of the properties are said to be set out more fully in a charter made 'by us' to Thomas and William, who then conveyed Richard's property back to Richard, Joan and their heirs.

## **The early years of vacuum cleaning**

After the closure of the Goblin works at Leatherhead we received a quantity of records of the company. We have now acquired an interesting volume of testimonials from the early years of the company, and indeed the early years of vacuum cleaning. These testimonials, from 1903 to 1906, come from the wealthy of London and the suburbs, including Earl Cadogan, whose Chelsea House cost £ 130 to clean (more normal was 5 guineas or £ 7 10s.) and as far afield as Castle Boro, Enniscorthy, Ireland (Lady Carew). They came also from the Lighting and Ventilating Department at the Houses of Parliament, the Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum, the Manager of the Empire Palace Theatre, Leicester Square ('the amount of dust removed has demonstrated the great usefulness of the Vacuum process for theatre cleaning') and the Medical Officer of Health of Penarth U.D.C.: 'I have pleasure in stating that I have had the Vacuum Cleaner applied in my home, and that I consider it a valuable addition to hygienic appliances, not only on account of its efficacy, but also because of the protection afforded to the health of the public, by the fact of its collecting the dust, instead of scattering it, as happens when the old method of Spring-cleaning is adopted.' Vacuum cleaning of premises was at this time an occasional event, normally carried out by employees of the manufacturers, although in certain cases it is clear that staff of an institution were being trained to do the work.

## **Postal service at Cobham. 1871-1907**

We have received a postmaster's/mistress's day book for Cobham, 1871-1907. This includes statistics of letters and parcels posted in sample weeks: 5013 letters and 375 postcards, for example, in the week ending 22nd. July 1893. The rear of the book was used as an establishment book, listing the postmen appointed and their salaries (1890s: telegraph messenger 5s. per week; postman 12s. per week). On 10th. May 1895, following complaints of late delivery of letters, the postman was found at 8.55am. 'in the stable yard of the Hut Hotel conversing with two men, 8 letters for Fellside Cottages in his pouch which should have been delivered before the Hut Hotel, and as the 8 letters would not be delivered before 9.20 instead of 8.20 am. I dismissed him.' The replacement was to start from head office at 6.40 am. and arrive at Lower Lodge 7.20 as the authorised time to commence deliveries. Mr. David Taylor, who has deposited many Cobham documents, deposited this one with us.

## **Guildford Savings Bank**

Guildford Provident Society (later, Guildford Savings Bank) was founded at a public meeting on 23rd. April 1816, as part of a movement to encourage the 'poorer classes' to save. Trustee Savings Bank PLC. have deposited minute books from 1816 and some early customer accounts (1816-1825) as part of their policy, agreed with the Association of County Archivists, to deposit records of constituent banks in local record offices so that they can be used in

conjunction with other local sources. Records less than 100 years old which contain confidential information are closed to public inspection but most of the records of the Victorian heyday of these banks are now available.

### **Additions to three major archives**

Three of the most important archives held at Guildford Muniment Room are those of Dennis' works, the Wey Navigation and the Ware family of Tilford. Additions to the archives are made from time to time as new material comes to light.

We have received further important deposits from Dennis Specialist Vehicles. These include a number of films from the 1950s onwards but including a copy of a 1906 film of a visit to Peak Frean's biscuit factory. There are also plans of vehicles and photographic negatives of plans, specification sheets, works production order books and other records. Our extensive holdings of Wey Navigation records have been added to: the National Trust have deposited correspondence of William Stevens and Sons regarding the Navigation, 1931-1979.

The Ware family of Tilford have deposited further papers, including family letters and an eighteenth-century copy of a letter of Philip Doddridge, the eighteenth-century nonconformist divine and hymn-writer, writing from Lisbon. A fund had been raised by friends to enable him to travel to Lisbon to recover his health but he died on 26th. October 1751, shortly after arriving. The letter, which describes his journey and his failing health, was written the day before he died. It is not included in the calendar of Doddridge letters at Dr Williams's Library and we are carrying out further research to try to discover whether we hold the sole surviving copy.

### **The late T.E.C. Walker of Cobham**

Conway Walker was a lifelong student of Surrey history and a founder-member of Surrey Local History Council Executive Committee. He was a member of the Advisory Committee for *Surrey History* and a tireless promoter of it. His executors kindly presented us with a number of books from his library which fill gaps in our reference library. Surrey Local Studies Library has also received books which strengthen their collections.

### **Care of documents**

We are committed to the preservation of documents, and have invested heavily in providing suitable accommodation and suitable containers and packaging for the documents in our care. Local History societies and museums in Surrey hold various kinds of paper items - posters, prints, advertisement and business cards - and photographs. In an attempt to spread understanding of the care of these collections, we hosted the annual Spring seminar of Surrey Local History Council, on the theme, 'Looking After Your Treasures'. Our conservators, Robert Shrigley and Catherine Falvey, spoke on the care of



Fig. 7. Boating at Byfleet! Parvis Road in the 1968 Floods, from records of Surrey County Council Planning Department. (SRO CC547)



Fig. 8. House in Bury St., Guildford, demolished for a car park, 1955. (SRO CC512)



Fig. 9. Eagle Water Mill, Mitcham. (SRO 3720)

paper and photographs respectively, and the Chairman of the Local History Council, Kenneth Gravett, spoke on the processing of photographs for permanence. Two specialist suppliers of materials were present with display stands, showing in particular acid-free papers and boxes. The seminar was well received and is a good example of the specialist assistance we can provide for museums and local history societies in Surrey.

### Looking to the Future

Surrey Record Office, as many local historians will know, has for a long time been short of space both for members of the public and for documents at Kingston and Guildford. There was a similar lack of space for staff to work efficiently. The need for more document storage space and also for staff working space has now been met for the next three or four years by conversion of the Victorian Ewell National School building (1862), more recently called Ewell Grove School Annexe, as additional accommodation, thereby finding a use for a Grade-II listed building and meeting part of our need for accommodation. This does not meet the needs of our searchers, but I hope that forthcoming alterations of accommodation in County Hall, which may be completed by the time this article is in print, will enable us to make additional search-room space available. With a view to the longer term, a feasibility study for a new Surrey Record Office is in progress.



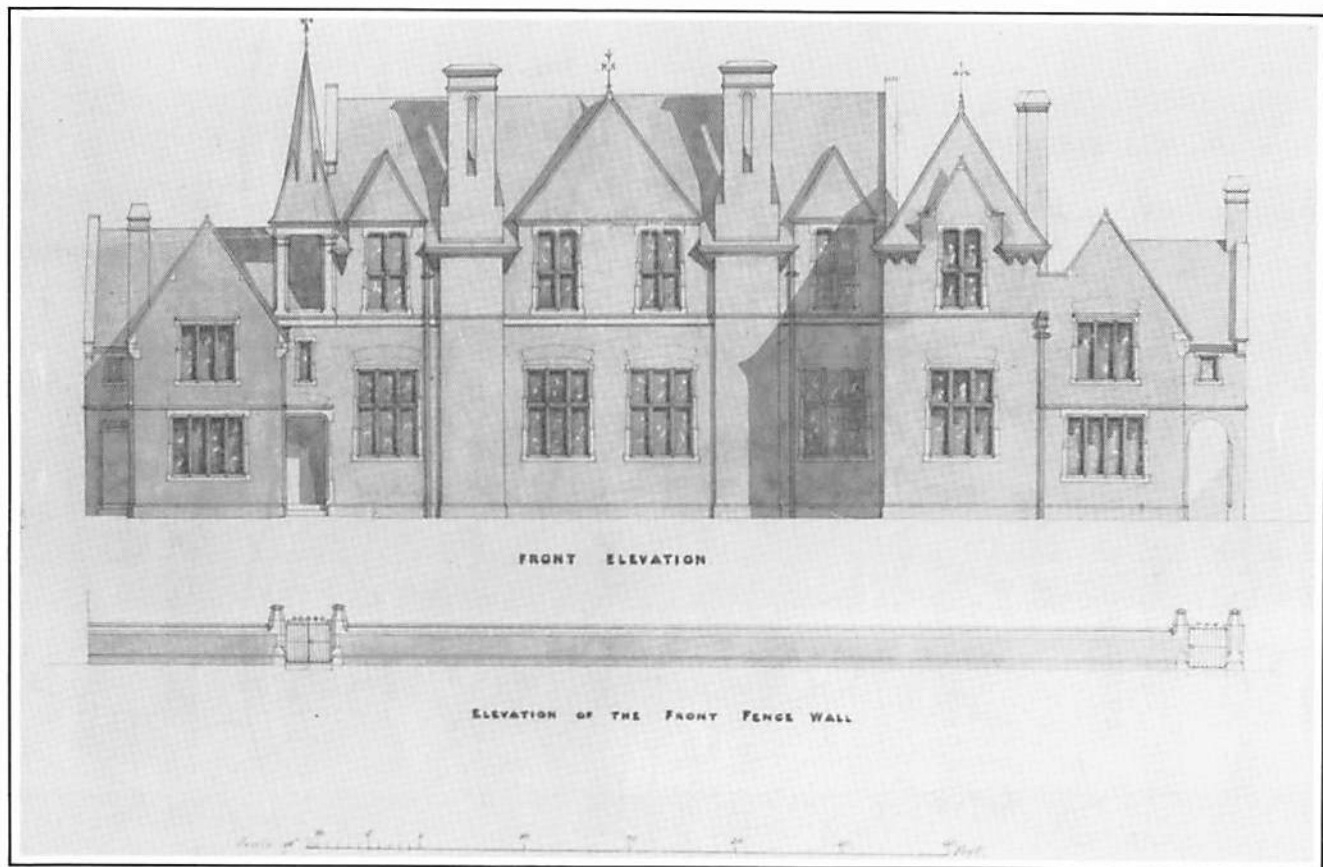


Fig. 10. Ewell National School, April 1860. Architects: Allen, Snooke and Stock. The building has been converted for Surrey Record Office working area and Storage Accommodation.

A. C. KENT, Wine & Spirit Merchant, "Queen Adelaide," West Street, Hastings.

A. C. KENT, Wine & Spirit Merchant, "Queen Adelaide," West Street, Hastings.

# FOOTBALL!

## CENTRAL CRICKET GROUND, HASTINGS.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 29th, 1902.

# GRAND MATCH, SUSSEX V. SURREY

Kick-off 3.30. Admission 6d. Reserved Enclosure 6d. extra.

**SUSSEX.** Colours—Blue and White Stripes.

Right.	J. TICEHURST (Eastbourne.)	Left.
	o	
T. KENNARD (Hastings.)	o	G. SMITH (Hove.)
A. HARLAND (Brighton and Hove Albion.)	o	W. M'ARTHUR (Worthing.)
F. PEGLER (Hastings.)	o	E. G. KING (Eastbourne.)
A. BENEY (Hastings.)	o	J. C. STONE (Brighton Amateurs.)
	o	W. GATES (Shoreham.)
	o	R. M. KING (Horsham.)
	o	
Linesman H. A. Ayling	o	Referee: R. N. COLLINS, S.C.R.A.

Left.	Right	SURREY. Ruby and White.
E. B. WARD (Weybridge.)	A. F. WHITE (Hove.)	C. R. TOOPING (Clapham Rovers.)
E. G. PARTON (East Sheen.)	G. S. BALL (East Sheen.)	F. DISHOP (Weybridge.)
P. BARROET (East Sheen.)	A. J. ORR (East Sheen.)	A. H. BELL (Addlestone.)
E. DALTON (Woking.)	J. W. THOMPSON (Dulwich Hamlets.)	

## KENT'S GAIETY CAFE,

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1, 2, and 3 ALBERT ROAD, HASTINGS.

(Adjoining Pit Entrance Gaiety Theatre).

**Special Hot Luncheons Daily.**

Soup, Fish, Cut from Joint..... | 1/6 each.  
Two Vegetables, Cheese and Bread

FOOTBALL TEAMS CATERED FOR. PLAIN TEAS from 6d.

GURFIELD & PENNELL, PRINTERS, HASTINGS.

3870

Fig. 11. Programme of Sussex v. Surrey football match, 1902. (SRO 3870)

## **Publications**

The Surrey Local History Council has produced *Surrey History* for many years and the majority of the back numbers are still available. In addition the following extra publications are in print:

**Pastors, Parishes and People in Surrey**  
by *David Robinson*  
1989      £ 2.95

**Views of Surrey Churches**  
by *C. T. Cracklow*  
(reprint of 1826 views)  
1979      £ 7.50 (hardback)

**Kingston's Past Rediscovered**  
by *Joan Wakeford*  
1990      £ 6.95  
(published jointly with Kingston upon Thames  
Archaeological Society)

### *In Preparation:*

**Surrey Traditional Cookery**  
compiled by *Daphne Grimm*  
(A book on this subject is being prepared and  
it is hoped that it will be ready before the end of 1991)

These books are published for the Surrey Local History Council by Phillimore & Co., Ltd., of Chichester. They are available from many bookshops in the County. Members are invited to obtain their copies from the Hon. Secretary, c/o The Guildford Institute of the University of Surrey, Ward Street, Guildford, Surrey. GU1 4LH.

OTHER BOOKS OF RELATED INTEREST FROM

# PHILLIMORE

**A HISTORY OF SURREY** by *Peter Brandon*

The standard introduction, in one remarkably comprehensive and concise yet highly readable volume. Profusely illustrated and excellent value.

**DOMESDAY BOOK: SURREY** Gen. Ed. *John Morris*

A volume in the highly acclaimed county-by-county edition, providing the original Latin in parallel text with a brilliant new English translation.

**SURREY INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY** by *Gordon Payne*

This practical little field guide describes more than 200 sites in the county.

**GUILDFORD** by *E. Russell Chamberlin*

A portrait of the town, past and present, by a well known local author.

**A HISTORY OF WOKING** by *Alan Crosby*

A full and well illustrated account of Surrey's largest town.

**FARNHAM IN WAR AND PEACE** by *W. Exbank-Smith*

A full account of the town during and between the world wars.

**ADDINGTON: A HISTORY** by *Frank Warren*

The first history of this Croydon suburb with two Domesday manors.

**HASLEMERE** by *G. R. Rolston*

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**GUILDFORD: A PICTORIAL HISTORY** by *Shirley Corke*

**ASH AND ASH VALE: A PICTORIAL HISTORY** by *Sally Jenkinson*

**BYGONE FARNHAM** by *Jean Parriatt*

**BYGONE CRANLEIGH** by *B. Seymour and M. Warrington*

**BYGONE WOKING** by *Jean Tooke*

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