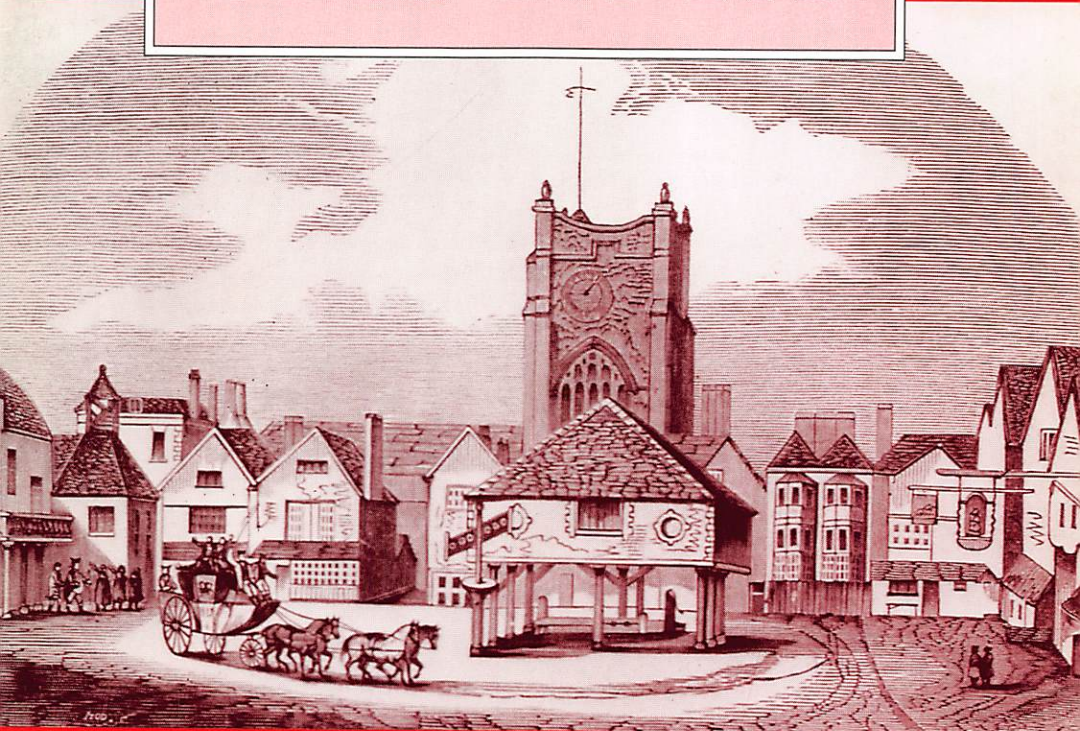


SURREY HISTORY



The Poll Tax of 1380 for Shere and Gomshall

Mountain Dew on Hunters Dale

The Excise Officers and their Duties in Kingston upon Thames,
1643-1803

Back Numbers of Surrey History

Accessions of Records to Surrey History Centre in 2000

VOLUME VI NUMBER 3

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SURREY HISTORY
VOLUME VI NUMBER 3

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THE POLL TAX OF 1380 FOR SHERE AND GOMSHALL (NOW PARISH OF SHERE)

Ann Noyes

The Poll Tax document was examined during research by the Shere, Gomshall and Peaslake Local History Society into settlement in the village of Shere, part of the Surrey Archaeological Society's Millennium Project.

The list of names of Shere and Gomshall residents who paid the poll tax in 1380 survives in the Public Record Office,¹ (detail in Fig.1). It is written on both sides of a parchment roll about 75 cm long and 25 cm wide, allowing for three columns of names on each face. It

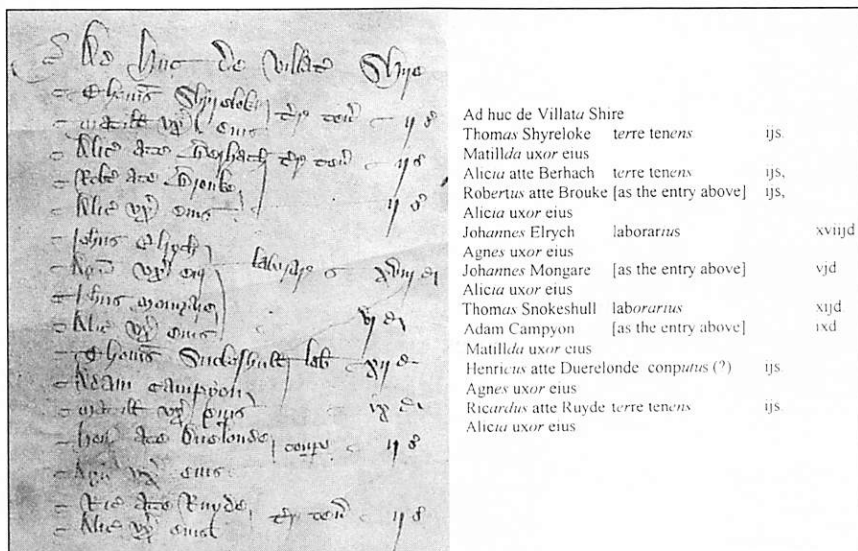


Fig. 1 1380 Poll Tax for Shere and Gomshall (Shire and Gumshulve). PRO E179/184/29

provides an astonishing amount of information and at the same time, raises questions which are hard to answer. There is one of the lucky ones; the only 1380 poll tax records which survive for Surrey are for villis in the hundreds of Godalming, Wotton and Blackheath and two segments for Southwark. There are no detailed lists surviving for the earlier poll taxes of 1377 and 1379.²

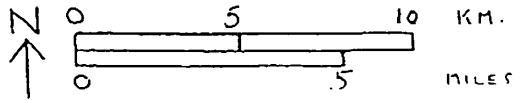
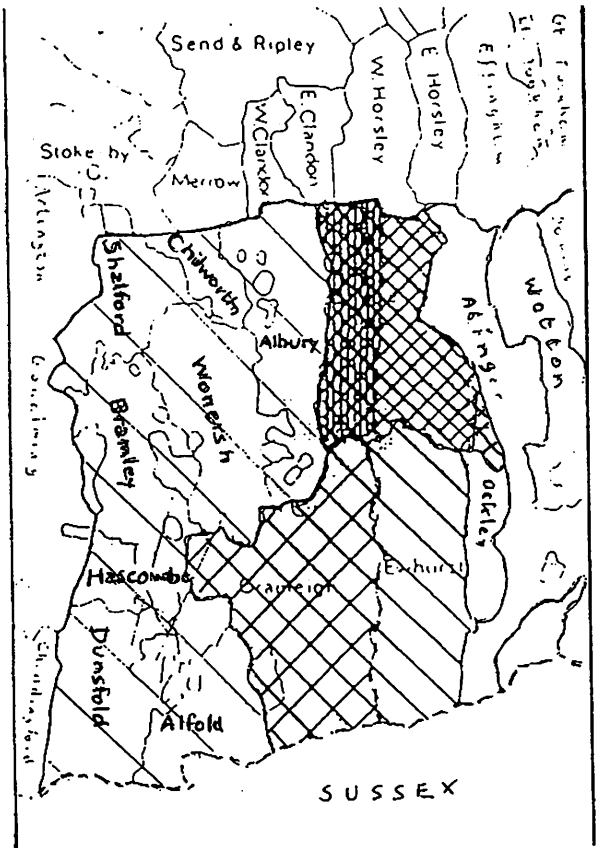
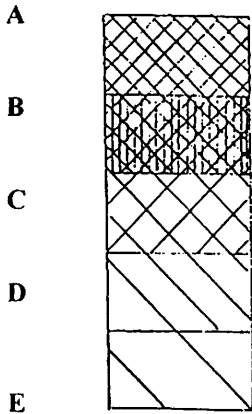
Background to the Tax

The 1380 Poll Tax was designed to raise the sum of 100,000 marks (£66,666 13s. 4d., one mark = 13s.4d.)³ in order to pursue the war in France. This intermittent conflict, later known as the Hundred Years War, started in 1337 and achieved great success for the English at Crécy ten years later. A truce was established with the Treaty of Brétigny in 1360 but hostilities started again in 1369. War needs money, and Edward III had also been fighting the Scots. One accepted and proven method of taxation was the Lay Subsidy, first exacted in 1181, later known as 'the fifteenths and tenths'. This was a tax on a person's moveable items, standardised at one tenth for town dwellers and one fifteenth for country dwellers.⁴ A fixed assessment had been made in 1334 and remained unchanged, but since then the Black Death of 1349 and subsequent outbreaks of plague had made the assessment obsolete. It was therefore decided to experiment with taxes based on people, rather than property. There were three poll taxes in the period from 1377 to 1380, latterly to finance the ambitious schemes of John of Gaunt,⁵ who exercised great power during the minority of Richard II from 1377. The first tax was levied at 4d. a head and was reasonably successful but in 1380, the aim being to raise three times as much money, the tax was levied at 12d. a head, the equivalent of the wage for four days' harvesting. It was the effect of this tax, together with the harsh measures taken against evasion, which was one of the main causes of the Peasants' Revolt in the spring of 1381.⁶

The Poll Tax for Shere and Gomshall

What became the one parish of Shere and Gomshall is on the eastern edge of the Hundred of Blackheath. In the Domesday survey of 1086 the two villis are recorded separately; their land extended to the

**The
Hundred of Blackheath
In the
County of Surrey**



- A** Gomshall
- B** Shere
- C** Cranleigh
- D** Ewhurst
- E** Other parishes in the Hundred of Blackheath

- A + B** present parish of Shere
- A + D** vill of Gomshall in 1380
- B + C** vill of Shere in 1380

Map 1 The vills of Shere and Gomshall in 1380, in relation to present parish boundaries.

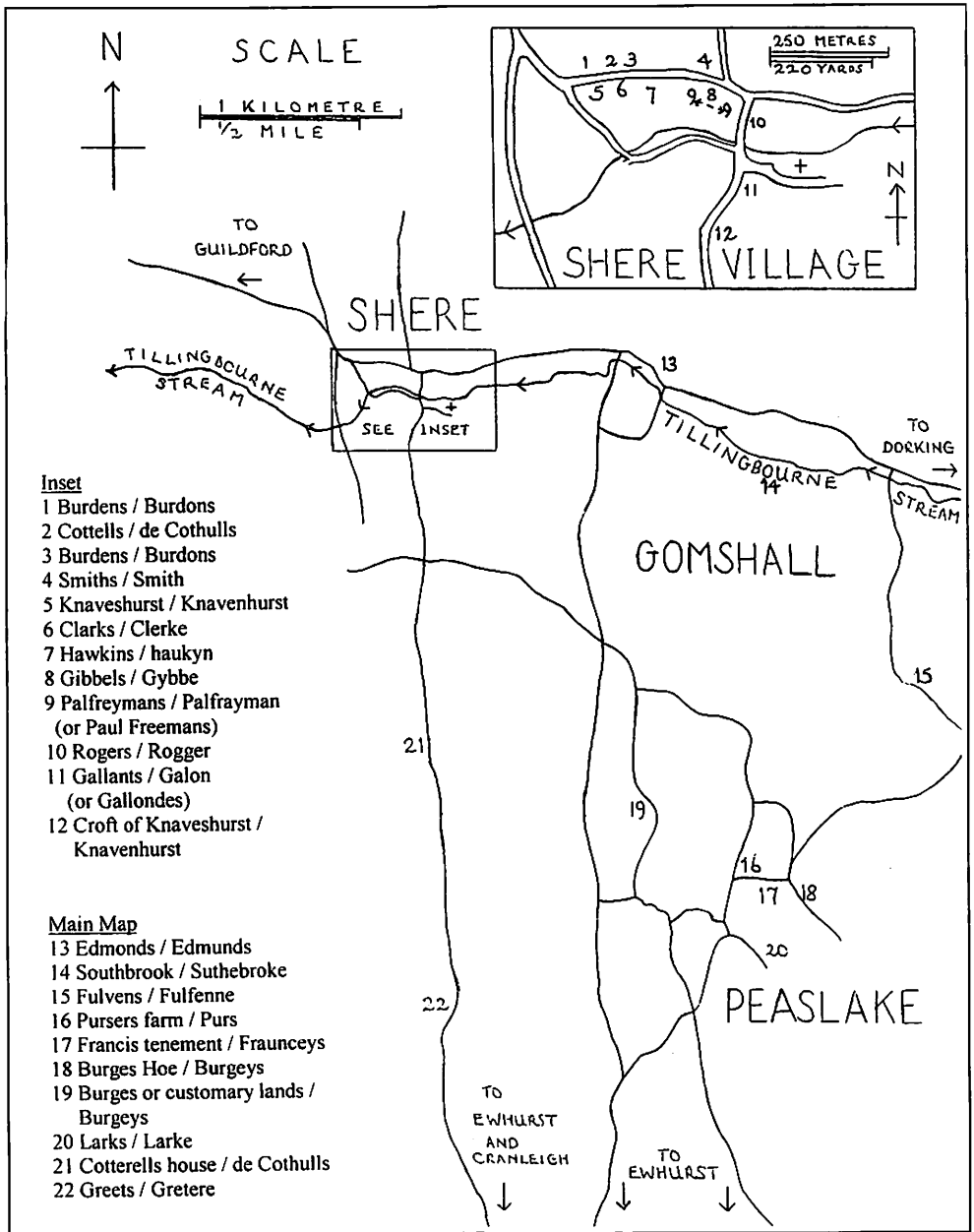
Sussex border, thus including what later became the parishes of Cranleigh and Ewhurst.⁷ In 1380 that area was included with the 'Villata de Shire' and the 'Villata de Gumshulve'. By 1380 the manors of both Shere and Gomshall had been divided. In each place there were now two main manors and some smaller ones. The manor of Shere Vachery & Cranley (this was the spelling used until the middle of the 19th century), was held by James, second Earl of Ormond; the manor later known as Shere Eborum by Phillipa, wife of Edmund, Earl of March. This explains why there are two properties named 'Burdens' within a hundred metres on the map; there is one in each manor. (see Map 1) Gomshall Tower Hill was held in trust for the Abbey and Royal Free Chapel of St Mary of Graces near the Tower of London. Gomshall Netley had been given by Henry III to the Cistercian Abbey of Lettley (Netley) in the county of Southampton in 1239.⁸ The Abbey was named Laetus Locus, the happy place, later spelt Lettley. After the dissolution it became known as Netley from the nearby village.⁹ In 1245, Roger de Clere, then lord of the manor of Shere Vachery and Cranley, sold 100 acres of land in that manor to the Abbey. This was on the southern slopes of the North Downs, contiguous with the Netley manor.

No lords of the manors were resident at the time of the assessment, and Robert Sekyngton, rector of St James, Shere, was not included in the assessment, which was for the laity only. The early lords of the manor of Shere had their capital mansion at Vacherie in Cranley. They did not leave there for Tower Hill, Gomshall until the middle of the sixteenth century.¹⁰

Shere and Gomshall stretch from the crest of chalk North Downs through the fertile valley of the Tillingbourne to the greensand of the Hurtwood and, at this time, included the clay land of the Weald between the top of the green-sand ridge and the Sussex border. This gave a variety of soils: there was sheep grazing on the chalk slopes, meadow and pasture in the valley, arable on the dip slope of the greensand, fuel and pannage in the woods of the Hurtwood.

Population

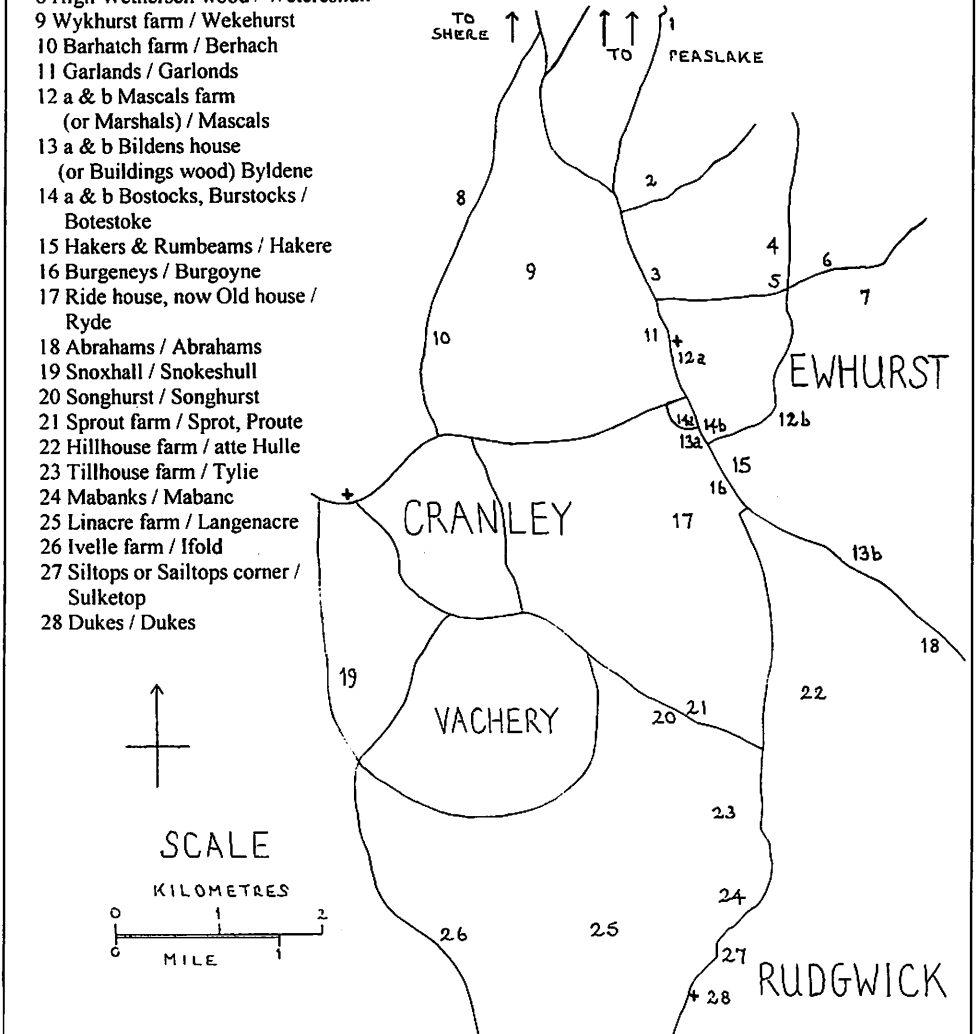
At this poll tax, payment was extracted from all lay members of the community of age 15 and over. Numbers are stated at the end of



Map 2 Shere, Gomshall and Peaslake to show position of properties which relate to family names in 1380.

- 1 Coverwood / Coverworth
- 2 Isemongers farm / Ysmongar
- 3 High Edser, Edsawe / Eggeshawe
- 4 Princes hill / Prins
- 5 Richedell green / Rychedell
- 6 Coophurst farm / Cooper
- 7 Cobbetts farm / Cobet
- 8 High Wethersell wood / Wetereshull
- 9 Wykhurst farm / Wekehurst
- 10 Barhatch farm / Berhach
- 11 Garlands / Garlonds
- 12 a & b Mascals farm
(or Marshals) / Mascals
- 13 a & b Bildens house
(or Buildings wood) Byldene
- 14 a & b Bostocks, Burstocks /
Botestoke
- 15 Hakers & Rumbeams / Hakere
- 16 Burgeneys / Burgoyne
- 17 Ride house, now Old house /
Ryde
- 18 Abrahams / Abrahams
- 19 Snoxhall / Snokeshull
- 20 Songhurst / Songhurst
- 21 Sprout farm / Sprot, Proute
- 22 Hillhouse farm / atte Hulle
- 23 Tillhouse farm / Tylie
- 24 Mabanks / Mabanc
- 25 Linacre farm / Langenacre
- 26 Ivelle farm / Ifold
- 27 Siltops or Sailtops corner /
Sulketop
- 28 Dukes / Dukes

Maps 2 and 3 are of different scales, as shown.
The three arrows indicate the point at which they join.



Map 3 Ewhurst, Cranleigh and part of Rudgwick to show position of properties which relate to family names in 1380.

Table 1
Population Structure

	Shere	Gomshall	Total
Couples	(54)108	(87)174	(141) 282
Single men	27	36	63
Single Women	25	34	59
Sons 15 & over	3	13	16
Daughters 15 & over	3	10	13
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> 166	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> 267	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> 433

each list, there were 166 names in Shere and 267 in Gomshall, 433 for the two together. It would be good if this figure could be relied on to give an estimate of total population size, but there are two uncertainties. One is the number of children under fifteen; the other is that in the country as a whole there is a record of widespread evasion of payment.¹¹ The poll tax gives the names of 141 married men who would be householders and 63 single men, who may or may not have been. This compares with the Lay Subsidy Return of 1332 when 198 names of householders were recorded.¹² These two figures suggest that the villages had survived the ravages of the Black Death of 1349 and subsequent outbreaks in 1361, 1369 and 1375. It is interesting that Gomshall has a larger population than Shere, although Shere, with its church, might be thought to be the more important settlement. Might this be because the Cistercians, renowned for their expertise in sheep rearing, were exploiting their land in Gomshall and developing the woollen trade?

The Names

Family names and first names are recorded (for example, see Fig.1 p.130). For a couple, the husband's two names are given, and below them the first name of his wife and the words 'uxor eius'. The few children of 15 and over are given their first names and classed as 'filius' or 'filia eorundem'. There are 54 couples in Shere, and 87 in Gomshall. Shere lists 71 different family names, Gomshall 108 (see Table 1).

It is particularly interesting that some family names are familiar today as names of properties in the villages, suggesting settlement on a specific site at a time before any of the old houses now standing were built (see Map p.134). There are seven such names in Shere and nine in Gomshall and Peaslake. The names of de Cothulls, Gybbe and Smith are on the Gomshall list, but are associated with property names in Shere. This gives a total of 18 names relating to 22 property sites in the parish.

The analysis of first names shows that John is by far the most popular name for the men, (23 in Shere, 47 in Gomshall), followed by William (13 and 25) see Table 2. The more unusual ones, occurring once in each village, are Galfridus (Geoffrey) and Hugo. For the women, Alice occurs most frequently, (17 and 30), followed by Agnes in Shere and Johanna in Gomshall (13 and 23). To counteract the majority of plain names there are two each of Felicia, Cecilia and Dionisia and one each of Gracia, Sybilla, Petronella and Tyffane (see Table 3, p.138).

Table 2
First Names (Men)

Men's names	Shere	Gomshall	Total
Johannes (John)	23	47	70
Willelmus (William)	13	25	38
Walterus (Walter)	10	11	21
Thomas (Thomas)	6	14	20
Ricardus (Richard)	8	12	20
Robertus (Robert)	8	7	15
Henricus (Henry)	5	4	9
Adam (Adam)	3	5	8
Radolphus (Ralph)	1	3	4
Gilbertus (Gilbert)	0	4	4
Simon (Simon)	3	0	3
Rogerus (Roger)	2	0	2
Hugo (Hugo)	1	1	2
Galfridus (Geoffrey)	1	1	2
Eduardus (Edward)	0	2	2
Nicholaus (Nicholas)	1	0	1
Reginald (Reginald)	0	1	1

Table 3
First Names (Women)

Women's Names	Shere	Gomshall	Total
Alicia (Alice)	17	30	47
Agnes (Agnes)	13	22	35
Johanna (Joanna/Joan)	10	23	33
Matilda (Matilda)	10	8	18
Margeria (Margery)	5	12	17
Isabell (Isabel)	8	6	14
Julianna (Julia/Gillian)	3	8	11
Benedicta (Benedicta)	3	1	4
Emma (Emma)	3	1	4
Marianna (Marion)	1	3	4
Letitia (Letitia)	1	2	3
Christina (Christine)	1	1	2
Felicia (Felicity)	1	1	2
Thomasina (Thomasina)	1	1	2
Dionisia (Denise)	1	1	2
Editha (Edith)	0	2	2
Cecilia (Cecilia)	0	2	2
Clemens (Clemence)	0	2	2
Tyffane (Tyffany)	1	0	1
Constantia (Constance)	1	0	1
Waltel ?	1	0	1
Ena /Eva (Eve)	0	1	1
Gracia (Grace)	0	1	1
Petronilla (Petronella)	0	1	1
Sibilla (Sybil)	0	1	1
Anna (Anna/Anne)	0	1	1

Occupations

The occupations are given in Latin beside the names although there are some blanks (4 in Shere and 2 in Gomshall). (See Table 4.) The occupations give an indication of a community engaged in agriculture and active in the woollen trade. Taking Shere and Gomshall together, the occupation or status occurring most frequently is 'terre tenens', or land holder. Fifty-seven men and one woman are styled thus, and are presumed to be holding land freely of the Lord of the Manor. There are 46 men who are called 'laborarius'; these would be paid labourers. The next largest group is that of the 37 women 'filatrices',

the spinners or 'spinsters'. This is an interesting group as they are assessed to pay tax in their own right, are not aligned with parents, and are presumably unmarried. How and where did they live? Did young women come from other parishes, prior to marriage, knowing there was work to be had, and lodge with a family? They are not listed in a bloc; the name of one filatrix may follow a married couple, perhaps lodging with them. There are 23 spinners' surnames (four occurring twice), which do not match with single men or married couples, seven which do. Might these be young women from labouring families unable to provide a marriage portion, who were working to make marriage possible for themselves and avoid becoming permanent 'spinsters'. Did Guildford clothiers organise the labour supply? There is a ratio of just over three spinners to one weaver in the combined

Table 4
Occupations

Occupation		Shere	Gomshall	Total
terre tenens	land holder	23	34	57
laborarius	labourer	23	23	46
filatrix	spinster (spinner)	16	21	37
serviens	servant (male)	2	14	16
serviens	servant (female)	6	12	18
sissor (cissor)	tailor	5	11	16
textor	weaver	3	9	12
carnifex	butcher	3	7	10
buscator	woodman	2	5	7
faber	smith	1	5	6
brasiator	brewer	5	0	5
sutor	cobbler	3	1	4
pelliparius	pelterer	3	0	3
fullator	fuller	2	1	3
carbonarius	charcoal burner	2	1	3
carpenter	carpenter	0	3	3
rotarius	wheelwright	1	1	2
molendarius	miller	1	1	2
?camercarius	chamberlain	0	2	2
conputus	assessor	1	0	1
pistor	baker	0	1	1
?coliare	harness maker	0	1	1
piscator	fisherman	0	1	1

villages (37 to 12), but many of the wives must also have been spinning as they went about their daily tasks. I am told by a local weaver that the ratio should be five to one.¹³ This was some 200 years before the invention of the spinning wheel.

Two of the spinners may help to explain an apparent omission; there are no widows specified as such. Alicia atte Berhach, terre tenens, is likely to be a widow, inheriting her husband's status; Alicia Coverworth, filatrix, has a servant. Johanna Lorens, filatrix, has a daughter of 15 or over, so perhaps the widows are to be found among the single women.

The occupations directly related to an agricultural community are as follows:- a miller in each half of the parish, and for the whole parish five brewers, one baker, six smiths, seven woodmen, two wheelwrights, four cobblers, two thatchers, three carpenters, ten butchers or slaughterers, and one fisherman. One missing occupation is that of shepherd; the paid labourers must have taken on this task. There are 16 male servants and 18 female and one 'Joh' who could be either, but has been included in the number of males. There is one word which could be 'coliare'; perhaps a collar- or harness-maker or it may be another word for a charcoal burner; two 'carbonarii' are mentioned. For the skills directly related to the woollen trade, apart from the 37 spinners, there are 11 weavers, three fullers, three pelterers (perhaps a better translation might be skimmers or tanners), and no fewer than 15 tailors. Were some of these journeyman-tailors, based in the villages, who took their skills round the county?

This would seem to represent a thriving community, although it raises several questions. Was one of the mills dedicated to fulling, at that date? Fulling mills have been recorded from the late 13th century but not known to have been in the Tillingbourne valley.¹⁴ Was the wool that was spun solely from local sheep, or was some brought in? Where was the market for the cloth woven by the weavers and the garments made up by the tailors? What sort of cloth and garments were they making? The poll tax document is not designed to give the answers.

The compiler of the document had a few lapses in the use of Latin to describe the occupations, in particular with the tailors. John

Table 5
Money paid (or assessed to pay)

Amount	Shere	Gomshall	Total
vjs. 6s.	1	0	1
vs. 5s.	0	1	1
iiijs. 4s.	5	3	8
iijs.vjd 3/6	0	2	2
iijs. 3s.	2	8	10
ijs.vjd 2/6	8	14	22
ijs. 2s.	28	50	78
xxd. 1/8	3	0	3
xviijd 1/6	5	7	12
xijd. 1s.	28	53	81
ixd. 9d.	1	0	1
viijd. 8d.	0	1	1
vjd. 6d.	13	25	38
iiiijd 4d.	13	0	13
Totals (£1 = 20s. = 240d.)	£7.19.1	£12.19.8	£20.18.9

Bouery and Hugo Taylor are ‘sissors’ (tailors) but Robert Taylor is a ‘cissor’ while Thomas Eggare is a ‘taylor’. And Richard Smith is a ‘faber’ (smith), Thomas Cartere is a ‘carnifex’ (butcher) but Walter Garlond is a ‘bucher’. At that period men surely engaged in more than one occupation, according to need and the season of the year.

The Assessment (Table 5)

A jury or panel of assessors would have been established to compile a list with a description of the people from its own knowledge.¹⁵ The total parish sum of 12 pence a head of the population could then be broken down and applied according to the person’s ability to pay.¹⁶ This may explain why there are differences between Shere and Gomshall; they each had their own local jury. The lists show variations in payment from six shillings to four pence. Walter Langenacre, a land holder, is the only person to pay six shillings and William de Cothulles five shillings. The majority are assessed to pay either two

shillings or 12 pence, with a sizeable proportion paying sixpence, and 13 people in Shere (but none in Gomshall) paying fourpence. Those styled 'laborarius' do not routinely have a low figure beside their names; 13 out of the 45 are assessed at two shillings. An analysis of the assessments for craftsmen does not mark them out as a distinct category. According to my reckoning, the total amount of money set against the 433 names is £20 18s.9d. This sum divided by 433 works out at 11.6d., not far removed from the 12d. per head which was required.

Conclusion

It has given me enormous pleasure to handle the original document at the PRO and to puzzle over its contents from a colour photograph at home. It has increased our knowledge of Shere in the fourteenth century by giving a good indication of population size, and the stated occupations show not only the agricultural structure one would expect, but also the strength of the textile industry. Finding family names from 1380 which relate directly to property sites in the villages is an unexpected boost for our study of settlement patterns. The charm of some of the women's names is an added delight. The questions and uncertainties which the document raises remain to be addressed.

* * * * *

Acknowledgements

I have had invaluable help with the Latin and the palaeography from Isabel Sullivan at the Surrey History Centre, but uncertainties remain, and any inaccuracies and mistakes are mine.

I am grateful to Dr David Robinson and Christopher Constable for reading an earlier draft and suggesting improvements and for Chris's prompt answers to questions. Thanks are also due to Shirley Corke for very helpful criticism and to members of our local Society for interest and support.

Notes

1. PRO E179/184/29.
2. Information supplied by PRO, available at Surrey History Centre.
3. EB Fryde *Peasants and Landlords in Later Medieval England* Alan Sutton Publishing (1996) p.43.
4. John Richardson *The Local Historian's Encyclopaedia* Historical Publications (1989) p.48.
5. E.B. Fryde, *op. cit.* p.5.
6. *Ibid* p. 45.
7. John Morris and Sara Wood eds. *Domesday Book 3 (Surrey)* Phillimore (1975) p.30c.
8. Rev. Owen Manning and William Bray *The History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* Vol I (1804) pp.508-511.
9. H. Arthur Doubleday and William Page eds. *Victoria County History of Hampshire* Vol II (1903) pp.146 -149.
10. Manning and Bray *op. cit.* p.536.
11. M McKisack 'The Fourteenth Century 1307-1399' in *The Oxford History of England* OUP (1959) p.407.
12. Surrey Taxation Returns Fifteenths and Tenths Part (A) The 1332 Assessment. *Surrey Record Society* Vol XI No XVIII (1923) pp.27-31.
13. Conversation with Tony Reid, weaver, of Shere.
14. HE Malden ed. *Victoria County History of Surrey* Vol II (1905) p.342.
15. CC Dyer 'Power and Conflict in the Medieval English Village' in Della Hooke ed. *Medieval Villages* Oxford University Committee for Archaeology (1985) p.28.
16. McKisack *op. cit.* p.406.

MOUNTAIN DEW ON HUNTERS DALE

Dorothy Davis
Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society

Many swathes of open land in Surrey have become residential in the past 100 to 150 years. This, on the contrary, is the story of a smallholding that disappeared in the early years of the 20th century and remains in 2001 an undeveloped corner of Virginia Water. (NGR: SU 995693)

The basic research resources for this piece were found in the Egham Museum, which is part of one of Surrey's Local History Forums. The forums were created to bring copies of local history records to as wide a readership as possible. The starting point for the research was the 'Survey of the Parish of Egham' made in 1790 by William Crosley: copies of the map and its key are in the museum. The original map is in the care of the Sidney Oliver Charitable Settlement, while the key was discovered in the British Museum.¹

One of the intriguing aspects of the smallholding was the name of one of its inclosures: Hunters Dale. To most inhabitants of Virginia Water, Huntersdale is a 19th-century mansion, built in 1874 on land to the north west of the smallholding under discussion. In the 1960s Royal Holloway College, University of London, purchased the lease of the residence for the use of its Botany Department;² in 2001 the Institute for Environmental Studies is housed there.

An index of Parliamentary Surveys of the Manor of Egham revealed that a variation of the name was even older than 1790 and connected to yet another neighbouring location. The survey of 1650 described 'a piece of moorish ground called Huntingdale' of 12 acres, bounded on the east by Rutherwick Great Wood, on the west by

heath land, on the north by Fursey Close and on the south by other inclosures. It had been granted by Elizabeth I as part of the site of the Manor of Egham to Sir Francis Stidolf. A particularly useful note added that the piece of land had recently changed its name to Dell Field Woods.³

A comparison with the 1790 map shows Dell Field Woods, still leasehold of the Manor of Egham and with its 1650 boundary markers still recognisable, had become 'Bells' and expanded to 20 acres. On its immediate west, however, was a small inclosure, almost certainly an encroachment on the waste, of about three and a half acres. One of its fields had adopted the redundant name, Hunters Dale.

The smallholding was in the freehold possession of Andrew Mackason, the Egham butcher, who was in process of becoming one of Egham's largest landowners. Being the owner of a town house and shop on Egham Street as well as other properties, he certainly did not live in a cottage on the edge of Egham Common. The key to the 1790 map, unfortunately, gives no clue to the identity of his tenant, but the plot is finely drawn, as if showing beds, and one section is described as 'Buildings, Gardens and Orchards'.

The Inclosure Award of 1817 charted the carving up of neighbouring Egham Common but had no need to list tenants. It was not until 1841 with the appearance of Egham's Tithe Map and first detailed census that names of tenants were revealed. In fact by 1841 there were two cottages on the site; the original cottage, the one further east, was by then set in only half an acre of land; the rest of the property and a new cottage in a more central position was occupied, as might be expected, by a gardener, Edward Harper. Ten years later Mrs. Letitia Harper was still pursuing her late husband's trade with the help of her son, George, gardener and seedsman, and a garden labourer, Richard Viner.

Within a few years the Harpers had left and were succeeded at the smallholding by Stephen Green. He only remained there for two years but more is known about him than any other tenant. As well as working the gardens and orchards and taking his produce to various markets, Green took advantage of the isolated nature of his cottage to illegally produce and sell alcoholic liquors. The story of his

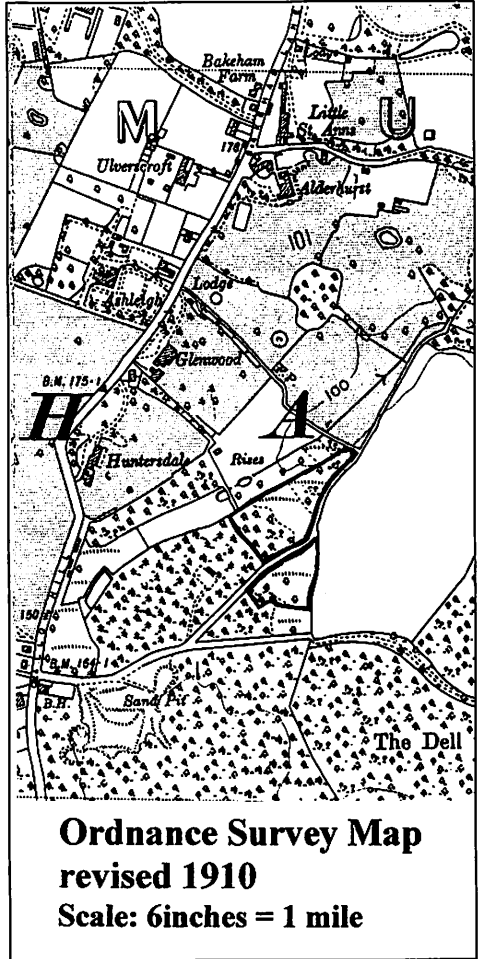
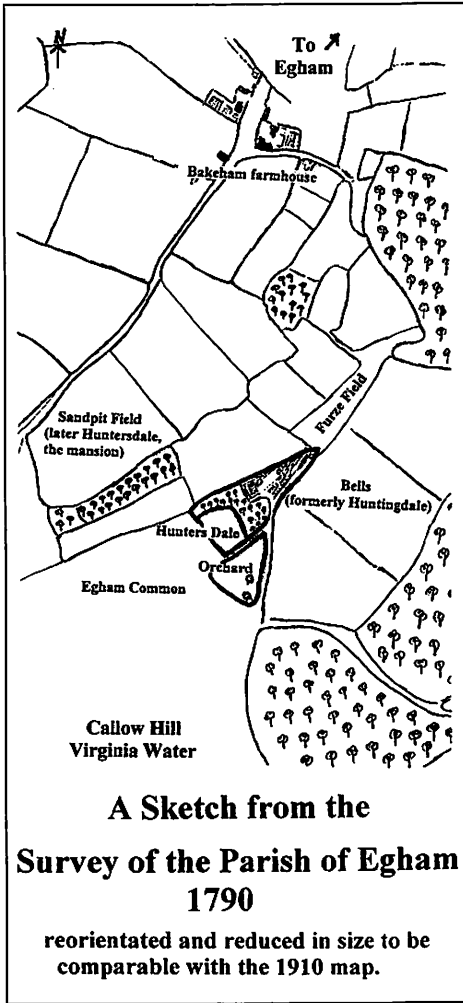


Fig. 1

misdeemeanour, its discovery and punishment was told in the *Windsor & Eton Express* in August 1856.⁴ This newspaper, founded in 1812, is a valuable source of background information for Surrey as well as Berkshire historians.

It would seem that the police were aware that Hersham, Walton and Sunbury markets were being used for the sale of 'Mountain Dew', as the newspaper described the illegal substance. At Chertsey

fair Green had recently bought a pony to pull his cart in place of an old donkey and this growing prosperity had not gone unnoticed at the markets. A man from Sunbury offered to give information on the subject for a reward, but the police were hot on the trail themselves.

On the morning of 14 August 1856, therefore, PC King presented himself at Green's cottage. Mary Green, Stephen's wife, was mending stockings at the time and said that her husband had gone to Sunbury. The constable, as an excuse to gain entry, said that he was investigating the theft of a bundle of clothes and had to search the house. A noise in an adjoining room—attributed by Mrs. Green to the cat!—gave the constable the opportunity he needed and he forced the door open to be confronted by Green, armed with a long knife. Mary and Stephen Green, 78 and 66 years of age respectively, were told that they were under arrest and that resistance was useless. Arrangements had been made that a search of the premises would take place in the presence of an excise man. Such a person had been waiting at the Rose beer house, only a few hundred yards away and quickly made his appearance. In an adjoining room the constable and the excise man found an illicit still not only in working order but also in production—most illegal distillers worked by night! The still was confiscated as well as the malt awaiting processing and the 'whiskey' already made which was considerably above proof. The authorities also seized 'an ingenious contrivance of gutta percha⁵ for wearing round the body'. It was this contraption that enabled Green to carry about two gallons of spirits for sale at the markets.

That same evening Mary and Stephen Green were brought before the local magistrate, Joseph Dobinson at his home, Egham Lodge, next to Great Fosters. As the Greens could not pay the hefty fine of £30 each⁶ they were sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour. Their daughter, said to be only 22 and out with the pony and cart selling greens, was warned not to go home and diverted to Sunbury.

There is a tantalising final sentence in the newspaper article, which hints at the identity of one of the unknown earlier tenants. It states that the Hunters Dale cottage was notorious in former years for a

similar fraud on the revenue, perpetuated by ‘a Scotch woman called Blackie’.

It was clear that Green had not been able to earn an honest living from a smallholding of only three acres and any further attempt to run a commercial market garden there was abandoned. In subsequent years agricultural labourers who worked at neighbouring farms occupied the cottages. By 1871 this trend was even more pronounced with three unmarried farm workers lodging with a family called Truswell in the larger cottage.

By this time, however, the farms themselves were under threat. Egham and Virginia Water, being only 20 or so miles from London and from 1856 easily accessible by train from the capital, began to attract a new style of landowner. In March 1867 the *Windsor & Eton Express* reported that William Ventris Field QC had purchased Bakeham Farm, then consisting of about 200 acres and including a large quantity of timber, for £1,800. Field, later a High Court judge and Baron Field of Bakeham, planned to build a mansion for himself on part of the farm and sell off land to others to do likewise.

One of these purchasers was Henry, later Lord Thring, KBC and Parliamentary Counsel. He acquired some 23 acres of land from William Field and immediately built a gardener’s cottage on the site so that the pleasure ground could be established while the mansion, Aldershurst, was built. His gardener was Henry Smith, who remained at the gardener’s cottage at Aldershurst for about 18 years.

In about 1874 George Parkinson, a London dentist, also bought 23 acres from Field. His plot was just to the north west of the old smallholding and he called the mansion he built there, Huntersdale—the third location to bear the name. As there was little danger of anyone confusing a gentleman’s residence with a labourer’s tenement, the two names, as the rate books and census returns record, ran in tandem for a few years. Somewhat surprisingly, considering the lack of skill and status of his neighbours, the tenant of the smaller cottage from about 1881 to 1893 was George Smith, an ‘Engineer on Private Yacht’. His previous experience had presumably been on river boats as all his children had been born at Thames-side locations. He had probably come to landlocked Hunters Dale to maintain the yachts

and miniature frigates the royal family kept on the lake at Virginia Water, less than a mile away.

In about 1882 the last of Andrew Mackason's direct descendants died and his remaining land was sold. Henry Thring of Aldershurst bought the three and a half acres of old Hunters Dale and, when the larger of the two cottages became available on the departure of the last of the Truswells, he moved his gardener, Henry Smith, into it, together with the coachman and groom as lodgers. The cottages continued to house Aldershurst workers as required for the next eight or nine years until first one, then the other fell empty. In 1902 both cottages were demolished.

The outline of the plots of the old smallholding can still be seen on the 1910 OS map. A recent search of the site revealed only a small pile of bricks, long covered in undergrowth, and an abundance of stinging nettles.

References and Acknowledgements

Maps, rate books and copies of the census returns for Egham and Virginia Water have been used throughout and the author is indebted to the Trustees of the Egham Museum Trust for making these resources freely available.

1. The key was listed at the British Museum as MS. 23906: it is now in the British Library. John Hardaker, Trustee of the Sidney Oliver Charitable Settlement and of the Egham Museum, discovered the key at the British Museum and enabled copies of both the key and the map to be made for the then Surrey Record Office and the Egham Museum. John Hardaker, as Trustee of the Sidney Oliver Charitable Settlement, may be contacted at the Egham Museum.
2. 'History of the RHC Botany Department, 1893-1985' by John D Dodge. Published by the Botany Department (1985).
3. PRO CRES 39/30.
4. *Windsor & Eton Express*, 23 August 1856, page 3, col.5: British Library microfilm in Slough Library. The author is grateful to her husband, Ron Davis, for discovering such a gem of a story in his trawls through the newspapers.
5. 'Gutta percha' is a substance that closely resembles rubber and was formerly used for the manufacture of hosepipes and bottles.
6. Thirty pounds was roughly equivalent to a labourer's annual pay in the 1850s. Twelve shillings a week was said to be 'the going rate locally' (PRO CRES 4/3).

THE EXCISE OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES IN KINGSTON UPON THAMES, 1643-1803

John Pink

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Officers administering the Excise duties were based in Kingston for well over 300 years. They came in 1643 when Parliament, as a temporary measure, put taxes on beer, spirits and other products to help pay its army during the Civil War. The Excisemen (titled Inland Revenue Officers from 1849 to 1909 and Officers of Customs and Excise thereafter) moved from Kingston in 1986.

At various times, nearly all of Kingston's staple trades and industries were under revenue control—some visited and checked daily by the Officers. These activities included brewing, malting, distilling, candle making, tanning and brick making; added to which the Excise, again at various times, administered the hearth tax, a tax on the hiring of post horses, entertainments duty and purchase tax. That is not the complete list; there were many more duties!

A full record of the excise in Kingston does not exist. The Excise invariably operated from rented premises (often a room in an inn during the early years) and moved fairly frequently. It was not practice to preserve old documents when moving.

Most historians would be interested to examine old Excise records. They are indicators of industry, trade, social class, and non-compliance with the law. Unfortunately, records are fragmentary and scarce before about 1850. Records which do exist consist of orders issued by the Commissioners to their staff, and a few reports made to the Commissioners. However, these can be supplemented by staff lists, records of offences, local trade directories, newspaper reports and the recollections of those who remember the recent past.

Early Days

Taxation in some form extends so far back in human society that no reliable date can be given to its start. However, for an English market town, such as Kingston, one type of tax—the Excise duties—began on 22 July 1643. The duties, introduced by Parliament to help pay for its army to fight Charles I, were on consumer goods; initially, ale, beer (i.e. ale plus hops), ‘strong waters’ (spirits), cider and soap. Needless to say the duties were unpopular, doubly so for the many inhabitants of Kingston who were royalists. The duty on beer was particularly unwelcome as weak beer (called ‘small’ beer) was the staple drink of most people. The Parliamentarians, possibly influenced by Oliver Cromwell, who was the son of a brewster, did however know better than to tax home brewing and the Excise regulations applied only to those who brewed for sale.

Very little information has survived to show how the first Excise Commissioners recruited a nationwide staff to collect and control the new duty, but offices were set up in all market towns and were open each weekday for the various Excise traders to attend to make their weekly declarations on oath and pay duty on the goods produced. The offices were normally situated in inns, where a room was set aside to conduct the Excise business.¹ There are entries in the Excise Commissioners minute books² showing that several inns in Kingston market place, namely, the *Sun*, the *Castle* and the *Lion and Lamb* (which exists today as the *Druid’s Head*), rented rooms to the Excise at various times, up to about 1855.

Kingston’s Brewers

Brewing in Kingston has been traced back to early Tudor times, and there is evidence that Kingston had at least one brewery in 1643. ‘One of the town’s oldest breweries was being run by the Rowles (later Rowlls) family at least as early as 1600.’³

Thus a representative from Rowles Brewery, other brewers in the town, plus the victuallers (i.e. the keepers of inns, taverns and alehouses) who brewed for sale in their establishments, made their way to the Excise Office, situated in or just off the Market Place, to declare at least some of the beer that they had brewed and to

pay duty. They would have been issued with receipts for the amount paid.

The Tax Burden and Control Increased

With the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 most people felt that the unpopular Excise should go. However, despite the lapsing of some duties, for example the duty on salt, others were introduced. Duty was put on liquid tea, coffee and cocoa when made up for sale. These duties were aimed at London's 'Coffee House' society rather than the inhabitants of a market town, but the citizens of Kingston would have noticed the introduction of a duty of one shilling a barrel on vinegar when made by a common brewer. In addition the duty on beer was raised to two shillings a barrel on beer priced above six shillings, and six pence a barrel on other beers.

In the absence of any scientific method of testing the strength of beer to distinguish between small beer and strong beer, the Officers were allowed 'to taste the drink upon any brewer's dray or in his cellar'.⁴ In Kingston, as in other market towns, the Officers had to visit breweries three times a day with not less than four hours between visits. Despite this high degree of supervision there were numerous frauds, secret brewings, dilutions, adulterations, illicit pipes pumping beer to unentered casks and collusion between brewers and Officers.

The Hearth Tax

In 1662, two years after the revamping of the Excise, Charles II had another unpleasant surprise for his subjects. This was the Hearth Tax. The Speaker of the House of Commons introduced it as follows:

All houses in his kingdom, which are not worth to yearly value below twenty shillings and not inhabited by Almsmen must pay unto your Majesty, your heirs and successors, two shillings yearly for every chimney-hearth, forever.⁵

The tax did not last forever (it was abolished in 1689) but it was even more unpopular than the Excise! The main reason was that the law empowered officials, known as 'chimney watchers', to enter houses

to check on the number of houses within. This infuriated the better-off who owned property.

During the early years of the tax it was administered by local government dignitaries. In Kingston, collection of the tax for the town centre was in the hands of a Headborough (a civic rank) called Henry Hammond. The entry under his name reads:

Hearths (for taxing) 51 (of which)
The Vicaridge howse's 10 - never paid ⁶

It is not known if the vicar, presumably of All Saints Church, couldn't pay, wouldn't pay, or didn't have to pay.

The Excise took some responsibility for the Hearth Tax from 1684, but it is not recorded how successful they were in collecting it in Kingston.

Reorganisation

As a result of low tax yields and high 'management' fees, Charles II took the collection of the Excise away from the private sector 'farmers' in 1683 and placed it under a new Board of Commissioners. This prompted some reorganisation and the Country Excise (i.e. the Excise outside London) was divided into areas called Collections. These areas were loosely based on county boundaries. Kingston was in a Collection made up of Middlesex and Surrey. Each Collection was headed by a Collector, with a number of districts under the control of Supervisors. The Officers—or Gaugers (Gagers) as they were still called—were based in market towns, with some of the larger towns having more than one Officer. Peaks of work could be dealt with by drafting in assistant Officers. An area controlled within a town was called a 'division' and the country outside was called an 'out-ride' or just 'ride'.

Kingston's First Excise Officer Discovered on Record

In 1692 an Excise staff list was drawn up for the Middlesex and Surrey Collection. Kingston's Officer was Henry Gough with an annual salary of £50. The Collector was William Hornsby with a salary of £120. It is not known where he was based.

Pupils

To make tax collection more efficient, a system of training new entrants to the Excise was introduced. Instruction was undertaken by the older and more experienced Officers who were allowed to charge each pupil 30 shillings for instruction in the art of gauging. At a meeting in October 1695, the Commissioners authorised the following minute:⁷ ‘That Roger Blundell have leave to be instructed by James Storer, Officer of Kingston upon Thames.’

Over a period of a few weeks James Storer would have taken his pupil Roger Blundell to visit the brewers and the other revenue traders in Kingston to instruct him in the technicalities of gauging and the paperwork necessary to collect the Excise duties.

Malt Duty

1697 produced a new duty, that on malt (i.e. barley or other grain prepared for brewing or distilling). It was an imposition on Kingston’s flourishing malting industry which had grown up alongside brewing. Celia Fiennes noted, ‘in the 1690s Kingston was a great market for corne ... great quantities of corne and malt were sold’.⁸ The duty was in effect an extra tax on the brewers and a new tax on home brewers. Because grain can be moved quickly and is hard to identify, malting was a difficult process for the Excise Officers to control. It was a seasonal trade and there were times when the Commissioners authorised extra Officers to be posted to Kingston to cope with peaks of work.⁹

The Role of Excise Officekeepers

The Officekeepers played an important part in the Excise organisation. They were appointed by the Commissioners on a Collector’s recommendation and held a Deputation instead of an Officer’s Commission. They were mostly inn-keepers who rented rooms to the Excise. A room served two purposes, first it was the point where traders lodged their entries (declarations as to where and when something liable to duty was going to be produced) and secondly, it was the place where the Collector ‘sat’ at regular intervals to receive the duty money.



Fig. 2 The Grain and Malt Area in Kingston Market Place in the 18th century (Kingston Museum and Heritage Service K1-52).

Details of Kingston's Officekeepers are scarce until the middle of the 18th century. From then on their names run in a chain to the middle of the 19th century: John and Mary Picketts (*Lion and Lamb*), Elizabeth Belchier (*Castle*), Walter Williams (*Lion and Lamb*), James Cook (*Castle*), Richard Portman (*Sun*), James Thompson (*Castle and Sun*), William Russell (*Sun*) and George Bond (*Sun*).

Tanning

Kingston, with good supplies of bark and proximity to the river had established a prosperous tanning industry by the 15th century. In 1711 an Excise duty of 15 per cent was placed on hides dressed, tanned or tawed (made into white leather). Hides were defined as the skin of a buffalo, elk, horse, mare, gelding, steer, cow or other large

animal. Cattle would have been slaughtered in the town and their skins sent to the tannery or tanneries by the river. Officers were instructed by the Commissioners to visit the tanners daily and 'at uncertain times, the better to discover any foul practice'. Hides were pricked with a hammer to mark them duty paid. Some Officers complained of 'stampers elbow', an early example of Repetitive Strain Injury!

The Press Gang

Kingston does not come readily to mind as a place where a man could be pressed into the Navy with the Excise acting as paymaster. However, Kingston's Bailiffs' Minute Book for 1706 records that:

Edward Beacher, a lad of 17 years of age taken by John Hammond, High Constable of Kingston and John Banford, Headborough there, having worked five years on ye river of Thames adjudged an able-bodied seaman fit to serve Her Majestie at sea ordered to be sent to ye conductor of ye county to go on board Her Majestie's Fleet.¹⁰

From the start of the press gangs the government required the Excise (and Customs at the ports) to finance their work. Assuming that the regulations were followed for the pressing of Edward Beacher; a Collector in Kingston paid 12 pence as imprest money, six pence per day to maintain him 'til sufficient number be gotten together'; and eight pence per day when he was marching to the place of embarkation.

The Officers were instructed to ensure that 'no decrepid crazie or unhealthy men were taken but such that are young and healthy with able bodies fit for service'. A Kingston diarist recorded that the press gang was active in 1776 and as many as '1,800 men were pressed about London', over two days.¹¹

Transfer of Officers

To counter Officers being corrupted or exploiting their position in some way, the Commissioners' policy, which lasted well into the 19th century, was to transfer Officers from one District to another every four or five years.

Officiating

Another tactic used by the Commissioners to guard against malpractice was to put officiators of the same grade into a District to cover vacancies. They would rarely use temporary promotion within a District. A Commissioner's minute dated 6 July 1719 illustrates this: 'John Hone Supervisor of Kingston District being indisposed ordered that Mr Corry, Examiner, officiate for him during his indisposition'.¹² (An Examiner was a qualified Supervisor waiting for a fixed post.)

1721—A Kingston Maltster Prosecuted

A Maltster, Thomas Hall, was prosecuted and convicted before the Kingston magistrates for an offence against the Excise laws on 13 July 1721. It is not known what the exact offence was but as a result of the conviction the Kingston justices ordered that the Excise Officers 'levy a fine of £70 and to this end seize the malt making utensils, goods and chattels of Thomas Hall'.¹³ In today's money the fine would have been thousands of pounds.

Safeguarding the Money Collected

One of the main problems faced by the Excise Collectors during the 1700s was safeguarding the duty collected on their Rounds. Although they were normally armed with pistols, and were attended by a Clerk or Supernumerary to carry the money bag or portmanteau they were frequently attacked and robbed by highwaymen and in one instance a Collector was murdered. The situation became so serious that they were expressly forbidden by the Board to ride between dusk and dawn. This was not so much for their protection as to ensure that they were aware in which Hundred they had been robbed, because each of these Divisions was responsible for recompensing travellers for any money stolen within its bounds.¹⁴

Even if Collectors managed to arrive safely to their base they had the further complication of sending money to the Head Office in London. Since the early days of the Excise, Collectors had been encouraged to use Bills of Exchange. Frequently they were forced to resort to Bills from merchants whose businesses failed before clearance

of the Bill, or from drovers or itinerant traders who sometimes absconded without clearing the Bill in London.¹⁵

From Kingston to London

Kingston to the City of London is about thirteen miles. It is not known what problems a Collector in Kingston actually experienced in transferring money to the Excise Head Office. The turnpike road to Southwark was completed in 1718 and there was regular traffic along it, but part of the route was over Kingston Hill—‘an area infested with highwaymen’.¹⁶ Some of them—the most infamous being Jerry Abershaw who operated from the *Bald Faced Stag* in Kingston Vale—were operating as late as 1795. The Collector’s problem of money transfer might have been finally solved when Kingston’s first bank opened in the Market Place in about 1790.

Duty Collection and Fairs

As a general rule Officers were forbidden to pick up duty from traders. Their job was mainly to assess and verify duty. Duty had to be paid to the Collector. A Commissioners’ Order sent to Collectors in 1746 outlines some of their concerns about duty collection (and their Officers!) and reveals an interesting exception to the general rule which would have been relevant in Kingston.

Officers ... are ordered not to receive Duty from any Person whatsoever except for By Drinks*, nor bring any Persons Money to the Collector nor take up any arrears between Rounds without Directions in Writing signed by their respective Collectors. Collectors ... are directed to caution traders against paying Duty to Officers, and to acquaint them if they do, and Officers go off therewith, they must pay the same again to the Collector. The Commissioners observe that many Officers have lately received considerable Sums of Traders money on the pretence of carrying the same to the Sitting and have absconded therewith, therefore the Commissioners order ... and acquaint you that if any Collector Connives at any Officer receiving Duty except as above mentioned on any Pretence Whatsoever such Collector will incur the Displeasure of the Board ...¹⁷

* By Drinks was the exception to the rule, and was about beer sold at fairs by By-brewers. A By-brewer was a person other than a licensed brewer who was allowed to brew beer and, on payment of duty, to sell beer at fairs. This type of brewer would brew when a fair was nearby, or he might be an itinerant brewer. Large amounts of beer were sold at fairs and the Commissioners were anxious, despite the risk of the Officers going off with the duty, to collect the tax. They therefore instructed the Officers to seek out the By-brewers and collect the duty on the beer they sold.

‘Kingston had three annual fairs which brought people flocking to the Town in their thousands.’¹⁸ The oldest of these dated from 1256 and was held on 3 November for seven days. Edward III granted the town an eight-day fair in the Whitsun week, and the third fair (granted by Philip and Mary in 1556) was held on the feast day of St Mary Magdalene and the day after in July. Thus for at least seventeen days a year the Kingston Excise Officers would have been in and around the fairs collecting duty on beer from the By-brewers. The Collector’s view of this—bearing in mind the risk of Officers absconding with, or remitting only part of, the money—is not known.

Duty on Silver Plate

From 5 July 1756 owners or keepers of silver plate had to pay an annual Excise duty. The rate was five shillings for every 100 ounces to a maximum duty of £10 a year. Church plate was exempted.

The duty was aimed largely at silver teaspoons which were rapidly coming into use. The tax was difficult to administer, since its control depended mainly upon servants informing on their masters. The Commissioners wrote to all persons suspected of owning articles of plate which had not been declared.¹⁹

There is no evidence that they wrote to anyone in Kingston, but John Wesley, the Methodist minister, received an enquiry. His reply was crisp, ‘I have two spoons in London and two spoons in Bristol, which I have at present and I shall buy no more, while so many around me want bread’.

In Kingston the volume of paperwork that went with this duty, plus that for the carriage duty, caused the Collector, Mr. Whinfield, to write to the Commissioners, to request a larger rented room for the Kingston Excise Office. The Commissioners decision was:

that the Supervisor have leave to take a room as proposed and that he be allowed £7.10s.0d per annum for the rent thereof to commence the 10th day of October next.²⁰

The flow of money from the silver plate duty must have been considerable. All Collectors had to increase their Security with the Commissioners by £500—about four years' salary.²¹

Candle Making

During the 1760s two trades started on a commercial scale in Kingston—tallow chandling and distilling. Both of these attracted Excise duties and the controls that went with them.

Robert Ranyard began a tallow candle making business in 1762. The site of his activity adjoined the *Castle Inn* in the Market Place and the workshops later extended down to the River Thames.²²

Tallow chandlers were under close revenue control.

They had to notify the Excise before starting a course of candle-making and were limited to prescribed hours of working. All the manufacturing vessels were locked by Crown locks, which meant that the Officer was compelled to attend early in the morning and late at night to lock and unlock the vessels.²³

Control did not end at the manufacturing stage. All sellers of candles had to be licensed. Persons who made their own candles did not escape duty. They had to pay a candle duty of one shilling a year for each person in their household.

Where there was substantial candlemaking, an Officer would specialise in that type of control and be a 'Candles Officer'. It is not known if Ranyard provided enough work for one Officer in 1762 but in 1789 one of Kingston's three Officer posts was listed as 'Candles'.²⁴

Distilling

James Raven, Supervisor of the Kingston District, informed the Commissioners on 3 January 1767 that,

Mr Stevens had erected a Distill House at Kingston wherein he intends working in a week or ten days time and that it will be impossible to give the necessary attendance thereon for the security of the revenue without a proper Distillery Officer be fixt there for that purpose.²⁵

The Collector Mr. Whinfield underwrote his request and the Commissioners ordered that a Mr. Pritchard, an experienced Distillery Officer at Brentford, be fixed at Kingston to control Mr. Stevens' new distillery.

Two years later the controlling Officer was John Tomkins. He wrote to the Commissioners requesting that he be paid rent for using part of his house 'near to the Malt Distill House' in which to keep books and accounts. The Commissioners granted his request allowing him £4 per annum rent plus 'a chauldron and a half of coals and 24 pounds of candles'.²⁶

Cider

A duty was put on cider when the Excise started, but in 1763 the government decided to raise the rate of duty to match approximately that on beer, and 'furthermore to extend it to include cider made in the house. The head of each household being required to declare all the members of the family over the age of eight and to pay five shillings per person as an Excise Licence'.²⁷ The 'Cyder' Bill was introduced in 1763 and prompted fierce opposition, mainly from the cider producing counties in the west of the country. The proposal to tax cider made in the home was dropped. Lord Bute, author of the Bill, had to resign but the cider duty remained.

Cider was made in Surrey from apples not suitable to sell in the markets. It is not known how the cider duty was controlled in the Kingston District, but in 1764 Surrey's Collector, Edward Whinfield, recommended to the Commissioners 'that there should be two Cyder Officers for Surrey'.²⁸

Kingston's Excisemen and Officekeepers in the 1760s

References to the Kingston Excise in the Commissioners' Minutes become more frequent during this decade, viz:

26th August 1760

John Picketts Office Keeper of Kingston being dead, ordered that Mary Picketts his widow be Office Keeper in his stead as proposed by Mr Whinfield by his letter 20th inst.²⁹

21st October 1762

Ordered that Alexander Gunn Supervisor of Kingston District be Collector Northumberland.³⁰

6th December 1763

Ordered that Richard Walker be Supervisor Kingston District.³¹

21st March 1764

Mary Picketts Office keeper at Kingston being dead, ordered that Elizabeth Belchier at the sign of the Castle be Office Keeper there, as Mr Whinfield proposes.³²

18th March 1765

James Raven Supervisor Kingston being ill by his letter 17th inst order William Hooper Examiner as officiator for him.³³

(The Commissioners moved quickly to appoint officiators—a letter reported sickness one day and they made a posting the next)

20th September 1765

Mrs Belchier Office Keeper at the sign of the Castle being about to leave business and the House being sold, ordered that Peter Picketts at the sign of the Lion and Lamb be Officekeeper in her stead as proposed by Mr Whinfield.³⁴

8th May 1769

Edward Whinfield Collector Surrey being ill as by the letter 7th inst ordered [*illegible*] as officiator.³⁵

3rd June 1769

James Raven Supervisor Kingston be appointed to Clerk of the Diaries.
[*A post in Head Office*].³⁶

23rd October 1769

Peter Picketts having left off public business ordered Walter Williams who has taken the same House to be Office Keeper in his stead as proposed by Mr Richardson Supernumerary Collector.³⁷

The Early 1770s

Figure 5 shows Kingston Market Place in about 1770 which prompts the following observations:

A hundred yards or so beyond All Saints Church tower Mr Westrop, Supervisor, and Mr Piper, Officer, had their homes in Wood Street. Just off to the left of the picture was the Castle Inn. James Cook, the landlord kept the Excise Office there.³⁸ The gentry would have visited it to pay their carriage and silver plate annual licence duties. The Collector for Surrey, Thomas Burston who succeeded the sick Edward Whinfield,³⁹ would have crossed the Market Place in his carriage on the way to a 'Sitting' at some other market town in his Collection accompanied by his Clerk and a Supernumerary. They would have been armed.

Within short walking distance of the Market Place there would have been traders under close Excise control, including the Rowles family, brewing in Brook Street, Mr Stevens distilling, and Mr Ranyard making candles in Thames Street. Maltsters and tanners would have frequented the Market Place, all familiar with the Excisemen visiting their places of work.

Auction Duty

To pay for its armies abroad, the Government devised new taxes. One of these was an Excise duty on auction sales. In 1777 it imposed a duty, to be paid by the auctioneer, on the purchase money of an auction at the rate of six pence in the pound on personal effects, and three pence in the pound on other property. To ensure that auctioneers



Fig. 3 Kingston Market Place in c.1770. An engraving after Grose (Kingston Museum and Heritage Service K1-3231).

were brought under Excise control they had to take out an annual licence costing £1 in London and five shillings elsewhere. Trade directories do not appear to have been compiled before 1794. For that time one auctioneer is listed, a John Finch, but his address in the town is not given.

Post Horse Duty

In 1779 a duty was imposed on the hiring of horses to travel post; i.e. hiring horses to go one or more stages along a post road with the traveller either on horseback or using a chaise. Kingston was an important posting town. It was on the 'High Road from London to Portsmouth' (a phrase used when the *Griffin*, a posting inn, was put up for sale in 1835).⁴⁰ Travelling by post, from one staging inn to the next, is described in *A Gentleman's Tour 1776*. The traveller proceeded



Fig. 4 Cartoon entitled 'Free Born Britain'.

from the *George* (Portsmouth) to London via the *Swan* (Chichester), the *Spread Eagle* (Midhurst), the *White Horse* (Haslemere), the *White Hart* (Guildford) and the *Sun* (Kingston). In 1776 the journey was free of duty but three years later there was a duty of one penny per mile on horses let for posting. Hiring for other purposes, such as pleasure riding, was exempt.

The duty was controlled by the Stamp Office. There was a complicated system of ticket issue and collection intended to provide secure accounting control. Collection was put out to tender in 1787 but evasion became rife and serious forms of corruption were widespread. In 1836 the Excise took control of the duty.

Kingston All Saints Parish Registers

From the registers, up to and including 1800, three Excisemen can be identified. Thomas Piper, Officer, was buried on 17 June 1782. Thomas Burston, Collector for Surrey, was buried on 14 May 1785 and William Boyd, also a Surrey Collector, was buried on 1 March 1795. Their headstones are nowhere to be seen in the churchyard.

There is a mention of an Exciseman living near the church in 1784. In that year, the *Old Nag's Head* in Church Street had two tenants, one of whom was an Exciseman.

Excise Duty on Bricks and Tiles

In 1784 William Pitt imposed an Excise duty on bricks and tiles to pay the interest on debts incurred by the American war. The duty was two shillings and six pence per 1,000 bricks and three shillings per 1,000 for plain tiles (higher rates for other types).

With a hundred years' experience of issuing orders for new duties, the Commissioners wrote to the Collectors on 21 August 1784 giving directions on how the tax should be organised. The makers of bricks and tiles had to give notice in writing to their nearest Excise Office of all their places of work. The Officers had to survey every brickmaker at least once a day and twice when 'the operations of handling and removing of the kiln clamp or oven are going forward at the same time and even oftener if the Revenue requires it'.⁴¹

The Bryant and Greenwood map (1822/3) of Surrey shows two brickworks in the Kingston area but there is evidence that there were brickworks in the area well before that time. The Cleave's Almshouses were constructed in 1668 from locally made bricks in Norbiton. It is likely that the Kingston Ride Officer had at least one brickworks to survey when the tax was introduced. The duty continued until 1850. Much of Surbiton was built with duty paid bricks and tiles made locally.

The 1789 Reorganisation of the Excise

Early in 1788 the Commissioners decided to rationalise the staffing of the Excise. After 'a careful enquiry by persons of skill and integrity', about 750 Officers were made redundant, approximately a quarter of the total Excise staff. This saving was achieved mainly by enlarging the Officers' areas.

The Commissioners' Minute Secretary detailed every Collection, Station and Officer outside London.⁴² This is a valuable 'snapshot' record for any study of the Excise. The staffing of Kingston was as follows:

1 st Division	Richard Dawson
2 nd Division	Samuel Eastaugh
3 rd Division	John Frosler
Ride	Charles Lee

Kingston's Ride Officer

Charles Lee, Kingston's Ride Officer in 1789, has not left us his job description but Robert Burns, the Ride Officer for Dumfries in that year, wrote as follows: 'Five days a week, or four at least, I must be on horseback and frequently ride thirty or forty miles as I return; besides four different kinds of book-keeping to post every day.'

The area covered by a Ride Officer usually adjoined territory controlled by other Ride Officers to give the Excise a national coverage. Adjacent to the Kingston Ride was Joseph Asquith's Leatherhead Ride and Thomas Dearle's Cheam Ride. Charles Lee may not have covered such a large area as Robert Burns but he probably rode at least twenty miles a day. He would have delivered his records to John Coates his Supervisor who lived in Kingston.⁴³

Despite their long hours in the saddle, from 1789 until 1807 Ride Officers were paid £5 a year less than Division Officers, e.g. in 1789 Ride Officers received £60, Division Officers £65.

William Reader, Kingston 1st Division. 'The Revenue is not Safe in his Care'

This Officer transferred to Kingston in 1790. By the end of the year he was in trouble. William Boyd, the Surrey Collector, and John Coates, Supervisor, reported him to the Commissioners. The Commissioners minuted as follows:

William Reader Officer of Kingston 1st Division discovered by his Supervisor intoxicated with liquor; having in numerous instances entered Surveys on the specimens of various traders, which are not inserted in the books and been much wider in his surveys on others than he ought to have been, whereby many opportunities of securing gages were lost and to set forward changes, and having for several days together performed his business in the most irregular manner, whereby the whole was thrown into great confusion as by an extract of the 3rd Round

Diary of John Coates Supervisor and the Collector having reported thereon, that the said Reader performs the business in a very careless manner, and that the Revenue is not safe under his care.

Ordered that he be discharged; that Stephen Shoemith, Officer Portsmouth 3rd Division Hants Collection succeed him at his own request.⁴⁴

A Duty on Shops (1785-1789)

The cartoon in Figure 6 shows many of the taxes that financed the wars of this time. Among the duties was an assessed tax on shops. It was imposed on every shop except bakers' shops. In Kingston, some of the shops taxed would have been in Cook Row on the eastern side of the Market Place. Reputedly there were food shops there from medieval times (hence the name). The tax was lifted in 1789 and today (2001) the only food shop remaining in that part of the Market Place is a baker.

1795—A Year in Kingston

In 1795 Britain was at war with France, it cost 13 shillings (plus duty) to hire a self drive post-chaise and pair of horses to travel from Kingston to London and the *Universal British Directory* was compiled. This publication covered most towns and villages in Britain listing their principal inhabitants by class, profession or trade. It is a mine of useful information. The Kingston traders (and Excisemen) are shown in Figure 7, p.170.

The Excisemen

William Boyd is listed as 'Collector of Excise'. He was in charge of the Surrey Collection. Although Mr Boyd lived in Kingston, he spent much of his time on his Rounds visiting other market towns as far apart as Croydon, Brentford and Reigate.

William Boyd was active for most of 1794, but on 4 December he wrote to the Commissioners saying that he was sick. A Board's minute dated the following day appointed an officiator for him. The next entry in the Board's Minute Book relating to him reads, 'William Boyd being dead by letter 22nd February 1795 ordered that Edward

TRADERS.

Allen Thomas, *Plasterer*
 Ansell Jas. *Viñualler, (Adam & Eve)*
 Ayliffe —, *Pastry-cook*
 Ayliff W. *Viñualler, (3 Jolly Butchers)*
 Baker John, *Grocer, and Agent to the
 Sun Fire-office*
 Bartlett William, *Viñualler, (Ship)*
 Bateman William, *Smith*
 Benham and Strange, *Stationers and
 Printers*
 Bennett William, *Butcher*
 Bently —, *Academy*
 Birch William, *Taylor*
 Bishop Robert, *Viñualler, (Ram)*
 Blakosley Nathaniel, *Carrier*
 Boulton Francis, *Wheelwright*
 Boulton J. *Cheese-monger*
 Bowes George, *Cabinet-maker and Un-
 dertaker*
 Box John, *Shoemaker*
 Bowd William, *Collector of Excise*
 Brewiter Henry, *Academy*
 Burnup Tho. *Milliner and Perfumer*
 Bush —, *Butcher*
 Bushell Thomas, *Taylor*
 Eye Henry, *Carrier and Leather-cutter*
 Biewood and Son, *Painters & Glaziers*
 Campen Francis, *Viñualler, (Dolphin)*
 Carter Benjamin, *Butcher*
 Chadwick —, *Viñualler*
 Chandler —, *Butcher*
 Chandler —, *Musician*
 Chantler Bennett, *Baker*
 Cherington —, *Coach-master*
 Cherington J. *Viñualler, (Lion & Lamb)*
 Clark —, *Collar-maker*
 Clark George, *Bricklayer*
 Clark John, *Pawnbroker*
 Clarkson and Knight, *Drapers, and
 Agents to the Phoenix Fire-office*
 Clarkson Richard, *Linca-drauer*
 Coates John, *Supervisor of Excise*
 Collins R. *Viñualler, (Two Brewers)*
 Cook —, *Watch-maker*
 Cook Juines, *Post-office and Innkeeper,
 (Castle)*
 Cowley William, *Grocer*
 Dangersfield Jacob, *Broker*
 Davis George, *Maltster*
 Dawson E. *Midwife*
 Dean David, *Cheese-monger*
 Durbin John, *Viñualler, (Three Tuns)*
 Edmonds and Co. *Drapers*

Edwards —, *Baner*
 Elcock William, *Pork-shop*
 Elin James, *Salesman*
 Emms James, *Pattern-maker*
 Ensom Jas. *Viñualler, (Wheat-sheaf)*
 Eying William, *Grocer*
 Farbrather H. *Burr-laver*
 Filb Wm. *Viñualler, (King's Arms)*
 Finch John, *Auctioneer*
 Finch Joseph, *Ironmonger*
 Forth James, *Distiller*
 French William, *Baker*
 Fricker Jonathan, *Broker*
 Garners —, *Milliner*
 Gatchous —, *Innkeeper, (Golden Lion)*
 Giles —, *Viñualler, (Queen's Head)*
 Goldring Thomas, *Gun-maker*
 Goymon Abraham, *Cheese-monger*
 Grimes M. *Lady's Boarding-school*
 Grover Thomas, *Innkeeper, (Bull)*
 Hales Jus. *Paalterer*
 Hall William, *Hair-dresser*
 Harrison Richard, *Corn-chandler*
 Hayes Jn. *Innkeeper, (Rose & Crown)*
 Hedgecock Daniel, *Fishmonger*
 Hedger Jane, *Chandler*
 Heraman —, *Taylor*
 Hind James, *Viñualler, (3 Jolly Sailors)*
 Hind John, *Maltster*
 Hopeword and Son, *Cheese-mongers*
 Hopewood Mary, *Grocer & Tea-dealer*
 Jarney John, *Clothes and Shoe-shop*
 Jolly John, *Clothes-shop*
 Kitby James, *Hat-manufacturer*
 Longhurst H. *Clock and Watch-maker*
 Ladds —, *Wholesale Grocer*
 Lawrant —, *Academy*
 Ledger Mary, *Grocer*
 Lee —, *Brewer*
 Lemon Richard, *Butcher*
 Lockpenner John, *Butcher*
 Longhurst —, *Coach-maker*
 Longhurst John, *Watch-maker*
 Longhurst Thomas, *Turner*
 Looker —, *Salesman*
 Mackrill Jos. *Woolstapler*
 Marks J. *Bricklayer*
 Marston Richard, *Viñualler*
 May G. *Viñualler, (Three Compasses)*
 Merchant N. *Staffordshire-warehouse*
 Mitchellson —, *Seedsman*
 Morgan —, *Hair-dresser*
 Morris William, *Maltster*
 Mundy Thomas, *Cutler*
 Nicholas Windsor, *Ironmonger*
 Palmer John, *Grocer*
 Parker Mrs. *Boarding-school*
 Parker Charles, *Copper-smith*

Parker George, *Plumber*
 Parkhurst Henry, *Fishmonger*
 Parkhurst William, *Basket-maker*
 Parrott John, *Coach-maker*
 Parson —, *Taylor*
 Paveys John, *Shoe-warehouse*
 Perry —, *Viñualler*
 Picton —, *Coal-merchant*
 Portman Richard, *Innkeeper, (Sun)*
 Potter William, *Mangler*
 Ronyard Robert, *Tallow-chandler*
 Reynolds Thomas, *Corn-merchant*
 Rockwell John, *Grocer*
 Rofe and Co. *Coal-merchants*
 Rowe Stephen, *Maltster*
 Rumens John, *Carpenter*
 Sanders William, *Butcher*
 Sarjeant —, *Carpenter*
 Sautler Charles, *Baker*
 Scott William, *Baker*
 Searle Francis, *Corn-chandler*
 Self Henry, *Plumber and Glazier*
 Shoefmith Stephen, *Excise-officer*
 Sidebottom Peter, *Brewer*
 Simons Robert, *Baker*
 Smith —, *Maltster*
 Smith Thomas, *Baker*
 Spung —, *Hat-maker*
 Spearing John, *Butcher*
 Stamp James, *Excise-officer*
 Stephens Josias, *Distiller*
 Strange Thomas, *Clock-maker*
 Strange Wm. *Staffordshire-warehouse*
 Swan Susannah, *Grocer*
 Tallworth —, *Mason*
 Taylor Mary, *Corn-chandler*
 Taylor Thomas, *Grocer*
 Tollemache John, *Carpenter and Un-
 dertaker*
 Vernon George, *Viñualler*
 Walker George, *Breacher-maker*
 Wadbroke George, *Maltster*
 Ward Martin, *Breacher-maker*
 Welch Hugh, *Sadler*
 Wells John, *Basket-maker*
 West Wm. *Viñualler, (Eight Bells)*
 White Timothy, *Viñualler*
 White William, *Butcher*
 Wilkinson George, *Wine-merchant*
 Wilkinson William, *Chandler*
 Wilton Thomas, *Academy*
 Winchester Wm. *Painter and Glazier*
 Winter Mary, *Viñualler, (Black Lion)*
 Wood —, *Distiller*
 Wright Richard, *Viñualler, (Harrow)*
 Yarnold Philip, *Hair-dresser*

Fig. 5 Kingston Traders' Section from the *Universal British Directory* of 1795.

Edwards Collector Hampshire succeed him at his own request.⁴⁵ The parish register for All Saints Church, Kingston records that Boyd was buried there on 1 March 1795. Edward Edwards, the new Surrey Collector, based himself not at Kingston, as many collectors had done, but at Brentford.

In 1795 John Coates was Kingston's Excise Supervisor. He had been in charge of the Kingston District since the general rescheming of 1789. His supervising duties would have taken him outside the town to Hampton, Twickenham, Ham and Richmond—all in the Kingston District. Two Excise Officers are listed, Stephen Shoemith (who replaced William Reeder, the Officer discharged in 1790) and James Stamp. Kingston's Ride Office would have been either James Stamp or an Officer not listed.

The Excise Officekeeper

In 1795, the Excise Officekeeper was James Cook, landlord at the *Castle* in the Market Place. He held the post for 28 years from 1775 until 1803.

Traders who Charged Duty on their Products

These were the brewers (including the victuallers who brewed for sale), the distillers, the maltsters, the tanners and the candle maker. Two names stand out as businesses which continued well into the next century—Robert Ranyard, tallow chandler, and George Wadbrooke, maltster.

Traders who had to take out an Excise Licence

These included all those who had to charge duty on their products, plus the pawnbroker (John Clark), the auctioneer (John Finch), plus the town's three coachmakers, three hairdressers and three hat makers.

Traders who had to put Duty Stamps on their Products

The hat makers and milliners (ladies' hats were taxed) had to apply to the Stamp Office for paper tickets to be pasted or fixed to the lining or inside the crown of the hat. Widespread evasion of the duty included

the offence of removing tickets from old hats and fixing them to others, a fraud that was counteracted in 1797 when a new, more permanent method of stamping was adopted. This consisted of impressing a stamp on the lining material of the hats. Linings had to be sent to the Stamp Office for marking and were to be fixed to hats 'in such a manner that the stamp put thereon shall be and remain visible when and after the same shall have been affixed'.⁴⁶

Gloves and mittens were taxed up to and including 1794 and a stamp had to be fastened to the inside of the right hand glove of every pair sold. There may have been some of these in the town in 1795.

Those who sold hair powder had to fix a duty label to every packet, box, phial or inclosure containing any hair powder.⁴⁷ Perfume was taxed in the same way as hair powder.

Hair Powder Certificate Duty (introduced 1795)—'The Powdering Tax'

The mere act of using hair powder was subject to a tax when 'every person who shall use or wear hair powder of whatsoever materials the same shall be made' had to take out a licence costing £1 1s. 0d. per annum. However, the Act took pity on a father having more than two unmarried daughters by allowing the lot to be licensed for the price of two! A newspaper comment implied that for some the possession of a certificate was a sign of class distinction. 'The Powdering Tax, we believe, will prove quite as productive as it is estimated at, many being already resolved on paying the guinea to appear like their bettermost neighbours.' This certification lasted for a long time but the receipts diminished from £61,000 in 1810 to £1,344 in 1855, reflecting changing social habits. More than 46,000 persons were licensed in 1812, but by 1855 that figure had dropped to 997, most of them footmen. There was a penalty of £20 for wearing hair powder without a licence, although this must have been difficult to enforce!

About 200,000 certificates were issued by the Stamp Office in 1796. A certificate had the name of the hair powder user written on it. No register remains today to indicate which individuals in which towns took out certificates. However, it is likely that a greater number, per head of population, were issued to those living in genteel

Richmond than to those in neighbouring, and much more workaday, Kingston.

Other Goods

From 1784 persons who made candles for their own use were charged duty on the actual quantity of candles made. It is not known how widespread DIY candlemaking was, but it would have probably entailed visits from the Excise. The poor were the hardest hit by the tax on candles.

A range of goods already taxed came into Kingston in 1795 to be sold by traders, for example, cotton fabrics sold by the draper. However for obvious reasons, one trade receives no mention in the *Universal British Directory* of 1795—that of dealing in smuggled goods which was becoming more of a problem with each new duty.

The Present Viewed from the Past

What might the Excisemen of the past think of Kingston today? They would probably rub their eyes in amazement at the quantity and variety of goods on sale, wonder at the lack of manufacturing and admire the ease with which vast amounts of tax flow from the shops, multiple stores and the Bentall Centre to the VAT Collection Point at Southend-on-Sea and then on to the Bank of England for the Treasury to dispose of. However the Excisemen would not be surprised that taxes are still with us. They would be at one with Benjamin Franklin who said, ‘in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.’

Notes

1. Graham Smith, *Something to Declare* p.14.
2. Public Record Office. CUST 47 series.
3. June Sampson, *The Story of Kingston*, Michael Lancet 1972, p.51.
4. H.M. Customs and Excise, *Call to Duty*, 1983, p.7.
5. Quoted in Surrey Record Society XLI, *The Hearth Tax*, p. xi.
6. *Ibid*, p. xcix.
7. Public Record Office. CUST 47/1.
8. *Arcadian Thames*, Barn Elms 1994, p.46.
9. Public Record Office. CUST 47/306.
10. June Sampson, *The Story of Kingston*, p.80.
11. Mr. Spratley's Diary quoted in the *Surrey Comet*, 18 August 1916.
12. Public Record Office. CUST 47/93.

13. Kingston Borough Archives KE 2/24/1-2.
14. Graham Smith, *Something to Declare*, p.28.
15. *Ibid*, p.29.
16. June Sampson, *The Story of Kingston*, p.60.
17. Public Record Office. CUST 43/3.
18. June Sampson, *The Story of Kingston*, p.55.
19. Graham Smith, *Something to Declare*, p.73.
20. Public Record Office. CUST 47/241.
21. *Ibid* CUST 43/2.
22. June Sampson, *All Change*, News Origin Ltd. 1991, p.109.
23. Graham Smith, *Something to Declare*, p.35.
24. Public Record Office. CUST 47/369.
25. *Ibid* CUST 47/257.
26. *Ibid* CUST 47/267.
27. Gordon Smith, *Something to Declare*, p.65.
28. Public Record Office. CUST 47/251.
29. *Ibid* CUST 47/230.
30. *Ibid* CUST 47/237.
31. *Ibid* CUST 47/243.
32. *Ibid* CUST 47/244.
33. *Ibid* CUST 47/249.
34. *Ibid* CUST 47/252.
35. *Ibid* CUST 47/267.
36. *Ibid* CUST 47/267.
37. *Ibid* CUST 47/269.
38. *Ibid* CUST 47/302.
39. *Ibid* CUST 47/280.
40. Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, *Kingston Market Place: Archive Teaching Unit No. 3*, 1977.
41. Public Record Office. CUST 43/4.
42. *Ibid* CUST 47/363.
43. *Ibid* CUST 47/366.
44. *Ibid* CUST 47/371.
45. *Ibid* CUST 47/394.
46. H. Dagnell, *Creating a Good Impression*, p.45.
47. *Ibid*, p.44.

Editor's Note

This article is an extract taken from John Pink's study of the Excise Officers in Kingston from 1643 up until 1973 with the introduction of VAT. Copies of the book, which covers the later period and also contains more background material and illustrations, are available from Kingston Museum.

BACK NUMBERS OF SURREY HISTORY

Tim Everson

Editor

Since this issue is being distributed to Surrey Archaeological Society Members for the first time, I thought that it would be an idea to list all our back numbers with their contents so that members could see our coverage and order copies of articles that interest them. Some of the earliest are naturally in short supply.

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Accessions of Records to Surrey History Centre in 1999 by Michael
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ACCESSION OF RECORDS TO SURREY HISTORY CENTRE IN 2000

Michael Page and Isabel Sullivan

During the course of 2000 Surrey History Centre took in 224 accessions of records: 22 from the County Council and its departments, 202 from other sources. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have helped preserve the county's heritage in this way. A full list of these accessions can be found on our website (<<http://shs.surreycc.gov.uk>>). What follows does no more than give a flavour.

Diaries of Lucy Broadwood

In January 2000, we received the diaries of Lucy Broadwood (1858-1929), a pioneer of the folk song revival and a founder member of the Folk Song Society (ref 6782). This was a particularly welcome addition, as we already held many of Lucy's papers among the enormous archive of the Broadwood family and firm of pianoforte makers, whose family home was at Lyne, near Capel. It was largely through Lucy's efforts that the Folk Song Society was able to preserve so many of the traditional songs she loved.

The 39 diaries cover the period 1882 to 1929, beginning when she was 24 years old and continuing until the day before her death. Lucy was a dedicated diarist, seldom missing a day's entry, and she would often incorporate programmes and press cuttings. The diaries describe her energetic social life in a whirl of music and concerts, private dinner parties, and visits in London and throughout the country. Through them we can trace her development as a performer (especially

as a singer); her folk song collecting; and her friendship and collaboration with Ralph Vaughan Williams, Percy Grainger and other young composers and singers. From 1904 onwards, the diaries record her involvement, as a founder committee member, with the Leith Hill Musical Festival. She also reveals a growing and fashionable interest in the spiritualist and psychic world.

Lucy's social circle encompassed various Surrey families including the Farrers at Abinger Hall, the Vaughan Williams at Leith Hill Place, the Lee Steeres at Ockley, the Evelyns at Wotton; and the Crasters of Craster, Northumberland. She also visited Surrey literary notables including an ailing George Meredith at Box Hill and Alfred, Lord Tennyson, at Haslemere.

Philip Bradley's Fairground Collection

In February 2000, we received by bequest, the papers of Mr. Philip Bradley (1920-1999) of Epsom (ref 6790). Bradley was a passionate fairground enthusiast for over 65 years, compiling a written and photographic record of every fair he visited from 1936 until four months before his death in September 1999. The resulting collection is of national importance, providing an invaluable history of 20th-century funfairs.

His interest developed as a teenager and in 1936 he decided he would systematically record his observations about fairgrounds and their rides and equipment and collect newscuttings from local newspapers and the *World's Fair* journal; however his first notebook also records from memory fairs he visited from 1932. Most of the fairgrounds visited were in the Greater London area, although during his summer holidays Bradley spent his days visiting fairs further afield, including in Wales, Somerset, Yorkshire and the Isle of Man. His 44 notebooks are full of fascinating technical and social detail: in 1941 he comments that many showmen's engines were being put to work in demolition in blitzed cities, and in 1942 records that the 'blackout fair' idea had not caught on.

His 30,000 photographs are carefully arranged into general views and by type of ride and vehicle and are meticulously dated and referenced. The photographs are presently unavailable to researchers

as they are undergoing conservation treatment. In future we hope to work closely with the National Fairground Archive at Sheffield University in promoting access to this unique collection.

Sickness and Health in Surrey before the NHS

Further significant deposits relating to hospitals and healthcare in the county before the formation of the National Health Service in 1948 were also received. The Surrey Benevolent Medical Society, whose copy minutes for 1814-1849 have been deposited (ref 6818), met at the Coffee House, Epsom, to report on cases of interest: notably many connected with childbirth, but others more exceptional, such as a case of hydrophobia following a fox bite in 1828. The same deposit includes a copy of the Reigate surgeon Thomas Martin's day book for the Reigate Gilbert Workhouse, documenting operations, childbirth and deaths in the institution, 1805-1815. Charitable dispensaries and hospitals which provided the foundations of many district and cottage hospitals are also represented by accounts of the Reigate Self Supporting Dispensary, 1861-1929, and annual reports and correspondence of Reigate and Redhill Cottage Hospital, later East Surrey Hospital, 1866-1947.

An addition to our rich holdings of Surrey mental institutions is further material from the Royal Earlswood Hospital for the mentally-handicapped (ref 6817), including the sketchbooks of James Henry Pullen (1836-1916), who achieved fame as an 'idiot savant' for his works of art such as the model ship 'The Great Eastern', and the 14ft giant whom he was said to regard as his 'protecting deity'. The sketchbooks are of lesser artistic merit but show Pullen's preoccupation with certain images and phrases, and document his activities in particular years.

A Photographic Archive of Bisley, Woking and Chobham

The photographic archive collected by Arthur Martin and Barrie Burn of Bisley (ref 6791) was donated to the History Centre by their widows. From 1974, privately held photographs and postcards of Bisley, Knaphill, Woking and Chobham had been copied and made into slides for local slide shows. We received 926 slides and 70

additional photographs, documenting buildings and people from the late 19th century to the 1960s.

The full potential of this collection is being realised by the painstaking work of Mr Alan Wardle, from 1948 a resident of Bisley and subsequently Knaphill, who has been researching and cataloguing the photographs, many of which were received unidentified and undated. Mr Wardle has enlisted the help of two elderly life-long residents of Knaphill and a Bisley local historian in his work, and has had considerable success in putting names to places and to faces. For example 515 names have been noted for 44 slides of 1372 previously unidentified Knaphill school teachers and pupils from the turn of the 19th century to c.1926. Mr Wardle's taped interviews and transcripts will be added to the archive on the completion of his project. He is hoping for new volunteers with local knowledge, and hopes his work will stimulate contributions to a further image archive of the area.

Successful Business Ventures and One Failure

There have been several interesting accessions of records of Surrey businesses and industries, particularly welcome as such records are under-represented in our holdings. A wealth of correspondence relating to 27 well and lesser known Surrey brickworks came to us from the papers of Messrs Bennett & Sayer Ltd., a Derbyshire firm of clay working equipment manufacturers, whose records had been rescued by Derby Industrial Museum and then distributed to various record offices around the country (ref 6845). The papers cover the years 1926 to 1958 and demonstrate how the brickworks, many of them family-run, operated throughout World War II, carrying out Ministry of Supply production.

Additional records have also been received of two related businesses: the Monotype Corporation Ltd., Type Designers and Punch Cutters of Salfords, Redhill (refs 6807 and 6901), founded in 1897, which include an interesting collection of in-house magazines and trade photographs; and Unwin Brothers Ltd, Printers and Publishers of Woking (ref 6802), including minutes, accounts, correspondence and architectural drawings of the Woking premises and plant.

An imaginative commercial proposition which came to nothing is documented in correspondence of the Wiltshire solicitor James Crowdy (ref 6824) who acted as solicitor to a scheme to construct a sea water pipeline from Brighton to Kennington Common in 1799. The scheme was prompted by the developing taste for sea bathing for medicinal and recreational purposes and partly inspired by the success of Mr. Lloyd's sea water baths at Newgate Street, London, which were supplied by ship. The pipeline was to run from a bath house and reservoir on the coast via Glovers Hill, Reigate, where reservoirs and engines were to be sited, to further baths at Kennington Common. The invigorating effects of sea water are extolled by John Robinson, one of the backers, who asks that Crowdy inform Robinson's wife that he is already feeling the beneficial effects which 'will do me more good than anything I can possibly have, nay more than Dr. Graham's Celestial Bed [a celebrated London establishment for rejuvenating flagging relationships], and that you don't doubt but I shall arrive with such courage and brightness that a young Robinson will soon make its appearance'. Despite such an endorsement and optimistic predictions of the profits to be made, insufficient subscribers came forward.

The Castle Theatre and Redgrave Theatre, Farnham, 1940-1998

Last autumn we were called in by the Curator of Farnham Museum to survey and collect the administrative records of the Redgrave Theatre, Farnham, which, after 24 years as a producing theatre, finally went dark in 1998. We shall not easily forget the eerie experience of sorting the records in the deserted foyer, whilst all about us were signs of a hasty end to a vibrant working theatre.

The records (ref 6894) relate both to the Redgrave, opened in 1974, and its predecessor, the Castle Theatre, opened in 1939 by the English Classical Players who found themselves stranded in Farnham when war cut short their European tour. Although the production records (programmes, posters and photographs) of both Farnham theatres are currently held by Farnham Museum, the deposit includes a complete run of very full board minutes for Farnham Repertory Co. Ltd., 1948-1996, and Farnham Theatre Productions Ltd, 1996-

1998. In common with earlier deposits from the Thorndike Theatre, Leatherhead (refs 6356 & 6368), and Guildford Theatre Company (ref 5063/2/-), these minutes, and other policy files and reports enable us to trace the turbulent fortunes of post-war English provincial theatre in microcosm and the never-ending battle for funding. Although there is a 30-year closure on the records, they will provide a valuable research resource for future theatre historians.

Although falling outside our timeframe, it seems appropriate to mention here a deposit made in June 2001, namely the production and performance records of Guildford Theatre and the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford, 1946-1999 (ref 7018). Still going strong, the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre has launched many new plays and performers, and the photographs in particular provide a fascinating record of changing fashions in staging and design.

Local Authority Archives

Local Council records, as usual, have figured prominently in our intake. Worthy of particular note are council and committee minutes of Reigate Borough Council from its creation in 1863 until the re-organisation of local government in 1974 (ref 6918). Reigate and Banstead Borough Council have also deposited a wide variety of planning records produced by predecessor authorities (ref 6931), including fine aerial photograph surveys of Charlwood, Gatwick and Horley, 1935 and 1946, Banstead 1946 and 1971, and Reigate and Redhill, 1969; a set of index maps to the pre-war building application plans for Reigate Borough; and Banstead Urban District Council war incident maps showing the locations of bombs, crashed aircraft and rockets between 1940 and 1945.

A deposit by Woking Borough Council surveyor and engineer's department (ref 6788) adds to our picture of the growth of the town, in particular through plans of housing developments: from cottage designs of 1919, early town planning schemes, 1928-1939, to London County Council's designs for the Sheerwater Estate and the huge Goldsworth Park estate of the 1960s and 1970s. Of individual interest are a plan of a proposed West Surrey Light Railway in Woking, 1903, and our only detailed plan of Inkerman Barracks, 1907.



Fig. 1 The London Necropolis Company brochure, 1899.

Brookwood Cemetery, a catalyst for the development of the modern town of Woking, was established on 400 acres at the western edge of a large rural parish in 1854, in response to public health fears at overcrowding in London burial grounds. Further records of the London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company, later the London Necropolis Company (ref 6852), which ran the cemetery, include this promotional brochure. The quoted 'press opinions' of the cemetery, include an assurance from *The Illustrated London News* to its readers that 'a visit to Woking will reconcile it to the feelings of the most fastidious'.

Lucy Broadwood was often a stern critic of the standard of performance at concerts she attended. After attending Gustav Holst's revival of Purcell's *Fairy Queen* at St George's Hall in London, she

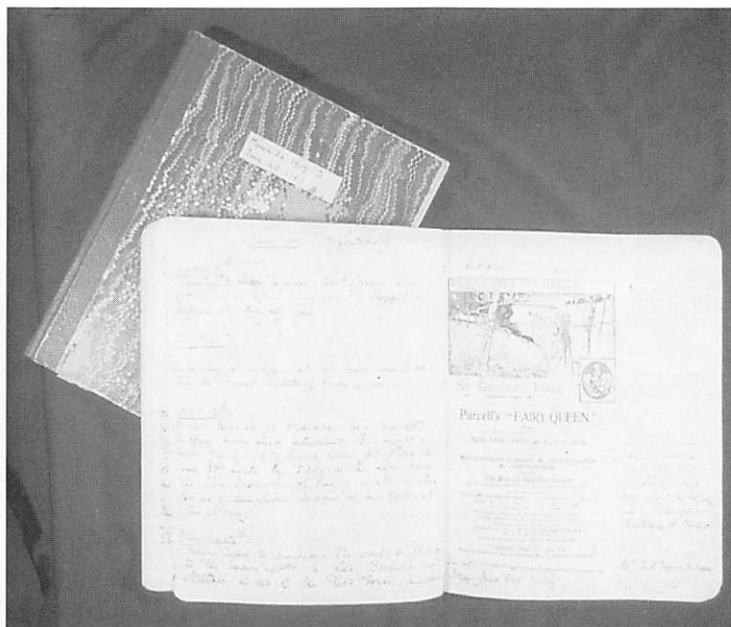


Fig. 2 Lucy Broadwood's diary, 15 June 1901.

Fig. 3 Rickard Brothers' spinner, Blackheath, photographed by Philip Bradley, August 1967. Just one of the 30,000 or so photographs in the Bradley collection, bequeathed to Surrey History Centre.



stuck the beautifully illustrated programme into her diary and observed: 'Evangi Florence and Mr O'Sullivan sang well, Mr S Beel led the strings well. The Purcell Operatic Society was monstrously bad and the tenor also. Saw the original score lost for 200 years and found a fortnight ago in the library of the Royal Academy of Music'.

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)
[Nearly out-of-print—remaining stocks with Kingston Heritage Service]

Old Surrey Receipts and Food for Thought
compiled by Daphne Grimm
1991 £3.95

The Sheriffs of Surrey
by David Burns
1992 £4.95

(Published jointly with the Under Sheriff of Surrey)

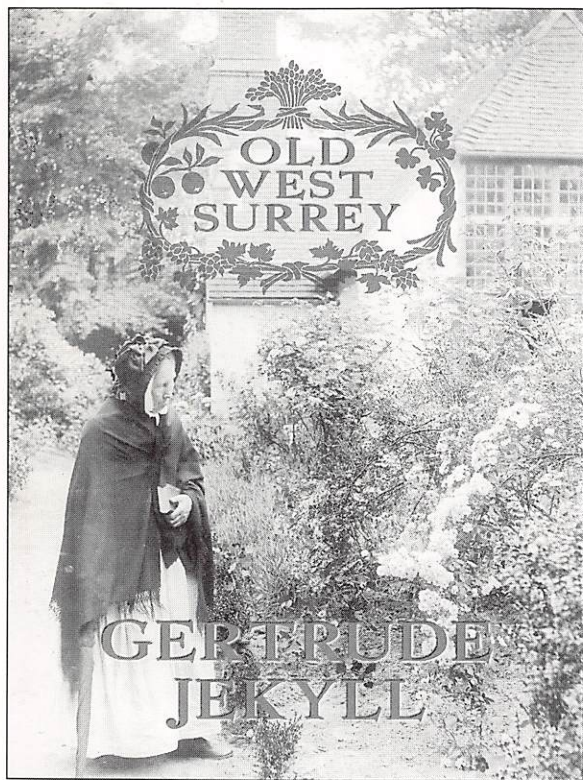
Two Hundred Years of Aeronautics & Aviation in Surrey 1785-1985
by Sir Peter Masefield
1993 £3.95

The Churches of Surrey
by Mervyn Blatch
1997 £30.00 (hardback)

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.



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Famous worldwide for her collaboration with the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, the eminent garden expert wrote in 1904 one of the most enjoyable and informative accounts of rural life in Victorian England. From old cottages and furniture to candlelight, crockery and clothing she described in detail that vanished rustic world. The book was illustrated with 330 of her own photographs, and the original prints have been re-used in this definitive new edition. Its interest is by no means confined to Gertrude Jekyll's home area, around Godalming and Guildford; the book will appeal strongly to social historians, conservationists and collectors everywhere.

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