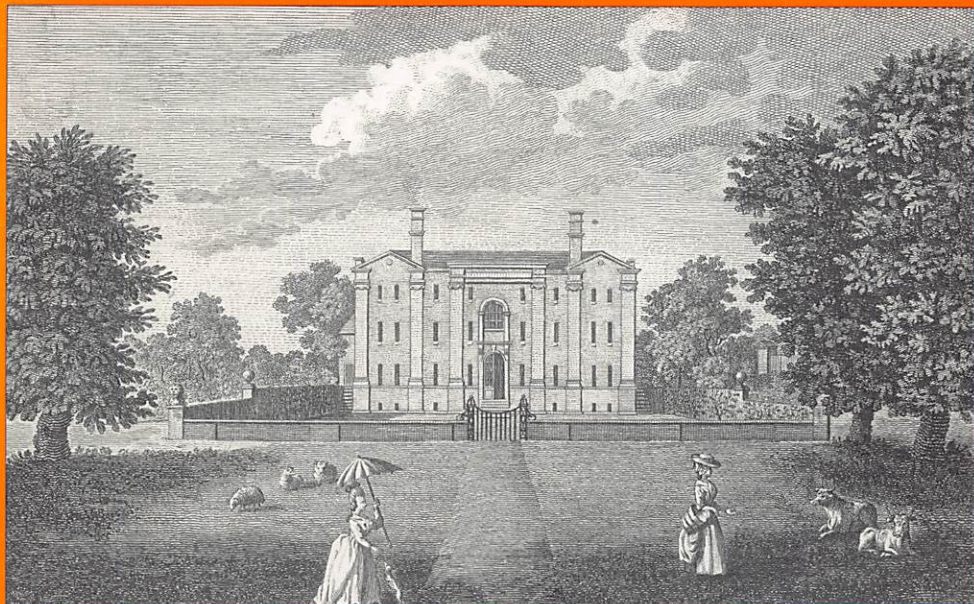


SURREY HISTORY



Sir James Thornhill and Addiscombe Place

The YMCA and Guildford

Some Public Utilities in Surrey: Electricity and Gas

Accessions of Records in Surrey History Centre in 2007

VOLUME VII NUMBER 5

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Cover illustration:

Adscomb, the seat of Lord Hawkesbury. Published by J. Sewell, Cornhill, 1 July 1789. Reproduced by permission of Surrey History Centre (PX/48/5).

SIR JAMES THORNHILL AND ADDISCOMBE PLACE

Jeremy Barker

The career of Sir James Thornhill (1675-1734) was a very remarkable one. Born in Melcombe Regis in Dorset, he chose to make painting his career at a time when native-born Englishmen were very little regarded in that field and at a time when all the major commissions, honours and financial rewards were reserved for those from abroad. Thus it was that Rubens, Van Dyck, Peter Lely, Antonio Verrio and Kneller thrived, but not the struggling English painter. Thornhill broke the mould. He did become rich. He did get the great commissions of the age, most notably the decoration of Greenwich Hospital and the dome of St Paul's Cathedral. He was called upon to decorate the houses of the great, up and down the kingdom – Chatsworth, Blenheim, Roehampton, Hanbury, Wimpole, Sherborne, to name but a few. And he did have honours thrust upon him, being appointed history painter to the king (1718), serjeant-painter (1720), being knighted in 1720 (the first native-born painter to be so), and becoming MP for Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (1722-34) and a Fellow of the Royal Society (1723). In the process he acquired considerable wealth and was even able to repurchase the former family estate in Dorset at Thornhill and build the house anew.

Decisive in making the breakthrough were two early commissions, one for Thomas Foley MP at Stoke Court in Herefordshire, the other for William Draper at Addiscombe Place in Surrey. Thornhill's work at Stoke Court has received a fair bit of attention and the popular wisdom has for long been that it was his first major independent commission and the one that launched him on his career. Addiscombe, on the other hand, has been very little studied and it hasn't helped that it was wantonly destroyed in 1861. It could, however, have been as important in projecting Thornhill on the path to fame and fortune as Stoke Court. In attempting to judge the truth of such a thesis, three questions need to be addressed in the course of this article:

- What was the scale and the subject matter of Thornhill's work at Addiscombe?
- When was it executed?
- What is the significance of William Draper having been his patron?

The House

Sources on Addiscombe Place are few. What there is can mostly be found in the Surrey History Centre at Woking.¹ From these sources an outline history of the house can be pieced together. It was built in 1702-3 by William Draper, son-in-law of John Evelyn, the famous diarist and treasurer of Greenwich Hospital. The architect is said to have been Sir John Vanbrugh and the work was done on a grand scale in brick encased in Portland stone. The house served as a private residence throughout the 18th century, but in 1808 was sold to the East India Company. The Company used it as a military college and it was clearly a very successful and demanding one. There, officers for the Company's army in India were trained. After the Indian Mutiny, however, the company lost its military role and, in 1861, the house was sold to the British Land Company which pulled it down and redeveloped the estate for housing.

The house itself, shown in Fig 1, was certainly an imposing building and James Thornhill's lavish decoration was made to match. Alas, no drawings were made of the paintings and the building was destroyed before any photographic record was made, but there is one very good written description of what was once there. This is in the most comprehensive history of the house, written by Colonel H.M. Vibart and published in 1894. His main interest is made apparent from the dedication:



Fig 1 Adscomb, the seat of Lord Hawkesbury. Published by J. Sewell, Cornhill, 1 July 1789. Reproduced by permission of the Surrey History Centre (PX/48/5).

TO
VICTORIA
EMPRESS OF INDIA
THIS RECORD
OF ADDISCOMBE
WHICH PRODUCED SUCH A NUMBER OF REALLY
GREAT MEN
DISTINGUISHED BY THE SHARE THEY HAD IN
THE CONQUEST AND CONSOLIDATION
OF THE
INDIAN EMPIRE
IS
BY SPECIAL PERMISSION
DEDICATED

Nonetheless, he was no Colonel Blimp, but a man of culture with a strong interest in classical history and mythology. His history of the building falls naturally into two stages. The main focus of his book is the period from 1808, when the house was purchased by the East India Company, up to the time when the military college was closed in 1858. The house, however, had an interesting enough history before that. It was at one time inhabited by Peter the Great on his famous visit to England and was visited frequently by such distinguished people as William Pitt the younger. But from the point of view of this article, its interest and distinction derives from its decoration being undertaken by James Thornhill.

Thornhill's Work at Addiscombe

Edward Croft-Murray, in his ground-breaking volumes on English decorative arts,² has a rather brief entry for Addiscombe:

ADDISCOMBE HOUSE (Surrey) – Architect, Hawksmoor or Vanbrugh (?).

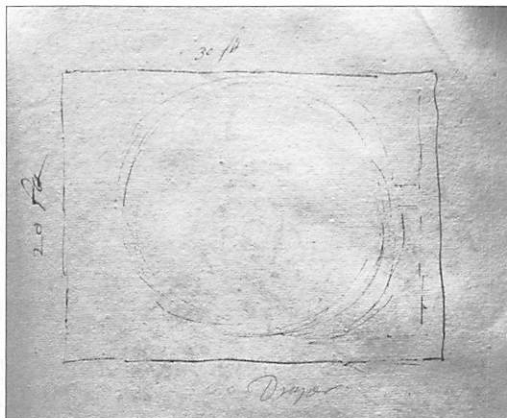
Staircase Hall. *Walls*: Landscapes. *Ceiling*: central medallion, a Bacchic orgy; subsidiary compartments, other mythological subjects.

Saloon. *Ceiling*: central oval, Bacchus & Ariadne; subsidiary panel, Bacchic trophies.

After 1702. Destroyed 1861.

Croft-Murray also lists three drawings associated with Addiscombe in Thornhill's sketchbook, now in the Print Room of the British Museum. These are folios 5v. and 6r. of the sketchbook, showing Bacchus and Ariadne, and 70r., a diagram only, inscribed, 'Draper', which is shown here in Fig 2. He lists one other drawing belonging to Mr Leonard Duke, inscribed, 'Mr Draper's sall: ceiling at Adscomb'.³

Fig 2 Drawing for either the ceiling of the saloon or the staircase, giving measurements and inscribed in Thornhill's hand 'Draper' (Sketchbook, fo.70r.). Photograph by Zoë Barker.



It has not been possible to discover more precisely the subject matter of Mr Duke's drawing. The British Museum catalogue, however, adds folio 6v. as being perhaps for Addiscombe.⁴ It is listed as 'Design for a ceiling with Pagan deities, and at the foot, small groups of figures, including Bacchus and Ariadne; perhaps connected with Addiscombe House' and is shown here as Fig 3.

Croft-Murray does not, however, list among his written sources Colonel Vibart's book, which does, in fact, give a very full description of what was depicted both on the staircase and in the saloon at the top on the walls and ceiling.⁵ It is worth quoting the Colonel in full:

The entrance hall led to the grand staircase by which there was ascent to the saloon, which was very magnificent; the walls and ceilings of the grand staircase and saloon were decorated with paintings by Sir James Thornhill, and finished in a masterly manner. The circular compartment of the ceiling presented the feast of Bacchus. The corners and smaller compartments of the plafond consisted of trophies painted in brown *chiaoscuro*. There were five doors leading out of the saloon, over which were as many allegorical subjects in brown *chiaoscuro* or *mezzotint*. The subject of the one over the folding door was Vertumnus and Pomona; above the door to the left of the fireplace, was Diana visiting Endymion sleeping; over the door to the right of the fireplace was Danaë and the golden shower. The fireplace was chastely embellished with the arms of the East India Company, above which was Britannia leading the goddess of Justice towards our eastern territories, represented under the figure of an elephant.

These last two subjects were of comparatively recent date. Over another door was the God pan surprising the nymph Syrinx.



Fig 3 Drawing described in the British Museum catalogue as 'Design for a ceiling with Pagan deities', possibly the first preliminary drawing for the Marriage of Peleus and Thetis (Sketchbook, fo.6v.). Photograph by Zoë Barker.

Over the remaining door was Flora seated on the ground and reclining against Zephyrus.

There were some landscapes on the walls of the room which were faded, but consisted of heathen temples, aquatic pieces, trees etc., which certainly could not be attributed to Sir James Thornhill.

On the ceiling of the great staircase was an assemblage of gods and goddesses celebrating the festal marriage of Peleus and Thetis – Jupiter held in his hand the apple thrown amongst them by the Goddess Discord, which he was delivering to Mercury, who appeared descending from the ceiling, and in a lower compartment on the side wall of the stairs seen giving the present to the shepherd of Ida. Paris delivers this prize to Venus. The two subjects were in *Chiaoscuro*.

Higher up the staircase there was a young girl caressing an Italian greyhound amidst a profusion of fruit. This and the ceiling were doubtless the work of Sir James Thornhill. Opposite there was a boy with a peacock seen through a colonnade, but inferior to its companion piece. Trophies, busts, statues etc. occupied the remaining spaces.

Unfortunately there is no precise indication as to the size of the areas painted but clearly the work was a major undertaking. Had Croft-Murray seen this description, he might have added three other drawings from the sketchbook as being connected with Addiscombe. They show Danaë



Fig 4 Probable preliminary drawing for 'The Meeting of Vertumnus and Pomona' (Sketchbook, fo.88r.). Photograph by Zoë Barker.

he was engaged at Stoke Court at the time. It would have needed very careful planning and some months to complete. All the indications are that we have here a young artist already very confident of his ability and keen to rise to any artistic challenge. Moreover, Addiscombe's geographic position near London and Draper's wide connections in the City would have made it very likely that it would have been seen by a substantial number

(16a. recto), Jupiter giving the Apple of Discord to Mercury (19v.), Zephyr and Flora (29v.) and Vertumnus and Pomona (88r.), which is shown in Fig 4.

It would seem that Croft-Murray erred in describing the staircase ceiling as a Bacchic orgy, when in fact it was a banquet of the gods on the occasion of the marriage of Peleus and Thetis. Fig 3 could well be a preliminary drawing for this. It is typical of an early working of a subject by Thornhill, very rough and ready and not easy to decipher, but most of the elements required for that particular event appear to be there,⁶ with the notable exception of the presentation by Neptune of the two immortal horses, Balius and Xanthus, that would one day drive the chariot of Achilles, the future son of the marriage.

Discussion

Addiscombe was a major commission and one that would have required Thornhill to have had in place a considerable team of assistants in support, all the more so if, as seems probable,

of wealthy, potential patrons. In short, there is no doubting how important this commission was in establishing Thornhill's reputation.

Given the paucity of written evidence and complete absence of accounts, it is not possible to give a firm date to the work and its relationship, chronologically, to Stoke Court. But we do know that the latter was ready for decoration on 3 March 1704 for we have Isaac Bayley's letter of that date to Foley:

Mr. Thornhill showed me your letter, that ... all rooms would be ready in a short Time, and you expected me down the latter end of April. So when upon your first command will not fail to wait on you.⁷

Thus it seems fair to assume that Stoke was decorated in 1704-5, before Thornhill departed to work at Chatsworth. As regards Addiscombe, we know from John Evelyn's diary that Addiscombe Place and its estate was left to William Draper in 1700. On 27 June 1702, Evelyn recorded:

I went to Wotton with my Family for the rest of the Summer, whither came my son-in-law Draper with his family to stay with us as Adscome being New building, so as my family was now above 30.⁸

On 11 July 1703, Evelyn wrote:

I was so well recovered, that a few days after, I adventured to go (in coach) as far as Anscome 16 miles to Wotton, to see my son-in-Law's new house, the Outsides to the Covering being so excellent Brickwork, cased with Portland stone with the Pilasters, Windows and Contrivement within, that I pronounce it, in all the good points and solid Architecture, to be one of the very best Gent: House in all Surry, when finished, to which God give his Blessing.⁹

It does seem very likely that Addiscombe was ready for decoration in 1704, as was Stoke Court. The preliminary drawings of Bacchic scenes that Croft-Murray suggests were for Addiscombe come very early in the sketchbook (folios 5 and 6), though that for Danaë is on 16, Zephyrus and Flora on 29, Jupiter and the Apple of Discord on 9 and that of the oval that was probably the saloon is on 70r.). On the other hand, those for Stoke are on folios 27, 28, 30, 31 and 32 and those for the canvas paintings are on 63 and 64. Such evidence is not conclusive, for Thornhill did not use his sketchbook in a consistent manner. However, the fact that the two drawings for the Bacchic scenes, which Croft-Murray suggests were for Addiscombe (though not perhaps used), come so near the beginning of the book would appear to suggest, at the very least, that painter and patron were in discussion very early on.

More than that, there are very striking similarities between the two commissions, indicating that they were conceived at the same time. Both of

course include the staircase and a major public room. Both include colonnades, both depict classical scenes taken from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, both are bestrewn with trophies, festoons and putti. Perhaps more significantly, both have landscapes on the lower part of the walls of the public room – the hall in Stoke and the saloon in Addiscombe. Colonel Vibart's description of the latter's lost landscapes could as well be those by Isaac Bayley at Stoke for which, happily, we do have a photographic record, and it is probable that both were executed by him. Both also include the 'brown chiaoscuro' that was referred to by Lady Emily Foley in her description of the decoration over the fireplace in the Hall at Stoke.¹⁰ Both, again, have paintings from classical mythology over each of the doors. All this seems to have been very much part of Thornhill's repertoire at this stage of his career. It should be added that there was also at least one identical choice of subject matter – Diana regarding the sleeping Endymion.

What conclusions can be drawn from all this? The first is that it was a major commission for Thornhill. It was, too, an independent one – he was no longer working under others. It included a very substantial area on the walls and ceilings of both the staircase and the saloon and must have earned him a tidy sum which, at the stage his career had reached, must have been particularly welcome. Nor could this have been achieved unless he already had at his disposal an accomplished team of assistants. In this respect, one wonders if he might still have been working in co-operation with Thomas Highmore, to whom he had been apprenticed from 1689-96 and who, be it remembered, was also from Dorset and was a distant cousin whom Thornhill was to succeed as serjeant-painter in 1720.

In short, the evidence all points to Addiscombe having been a very early commission. While it is not possible to be precise about dates, the work there must surely have been under discussion and executed around the same time as that at Stoke Court. Thus, it is no longer safe to conclude that Stoke Court was Thornhill's first major and independent commission, but rather one of two contemporaneous ones.

Secondly, Addiscombe was important for Thornhill for the contacts that it gave him. His patron here, William Draper, in 1703 succeeded his father-in-law, John Evelyn, as treasurer to Greenwich Hospital, a position he retained until 1715. This was surely crucial for Thornhill's burgeoning career and especially as regards the commission to paint Greenwich. Indeed a whole network of contacts emerges at this time. Draper had been involved in Greenwich since 1696. William Cavendish, first Duke of Devonshire, was likewise on the Commission for Greenwich (and would therefore have worked with Draper) and he was to employ Thornhill at Chatsworth after Stoke Court and Addiscombe. Sir James Bateman, too, was involved in Greenwich and he owned estates at Shobdon in Herefordshire, near Foley's estate at Stoke Edith, and is very likely to have seen Thornhill's accomplishments there. Given such contacts, it is hardly surprising that in 1707 Thornhill

was given the commission to paint the Lower Hall at Greenwich (according to Sir Richard Steele, he was first proposed by Bateman, who was also first benefactor)¹¹ and later both the Upper Hall and the Cupola over the entrance.

It is pertinent to end by quoting an artist from later in the century to show how the value of such contacts did not diminish with time. It was James Northcote, a pupil of Sir Joshua Reynolds, who said, in discussing how disorganised the profession of painting was, that 'who has the greatest acquaintance, whatever his abilities, is sure to get the most money'. Happily for him, Thornhill had both the ability and the acquaintances.

Notes and References

1. These include: Brogue, D., *Topographic History of Surrey* (London, 1850); Lysons, D., *The Environs of London 1792-8*, Supplement 1 (1811); Vibart, Col. H.M., *Addiscombe and its Heroes and Men of Note* (London, Archibald Constable & Co., 1894); Walford, E., *Greater London, a Narrative of its History, its People and its Places* (London, Cassell & Co., 1882). The author would like to express his heartfelt thanks to Miriam Farr for the willing, erudite and enthusiastic assistance she offered him on his visit to the Surrey History Centre.
2. Croft-Murray, E., *English Decorative Arts 1537-1837* (London, Country Life Ltd, 1962), Vol.1, p.266.
3. *Ibid*; BM 1884-7-26-46: Sketchbook of James Thornhill.
4. British Museum Catalogue p.26: 1884-7-26-40(6), verso.
5. Vibart, ref.1, pp.12-13.
6. It was at this wedding, which took place on Mount Pelion in the presence of the gods, that the Muses sang and also Eris (Discord) threw the golden apple among the guests with the message that it was for whoever was the most beautiful between Minerva, Juno and Venus. It was Jupiter who then asked Paris to make the judgement.
7. Herefordshire Record Office, E12/1/8: Foley Archive.
8. E.S. de Beer (ed.), *The Diary of John Evelyn* (Oxford University Press, 1959), Vol. 5, pp.1,058-9.
9. *Ibid*, p.1,085.
10. Herefordshire Record Office, E12/ iv/76: Foley Archive, 'The Red Notebook', p.28.
11. Croft-Murray, ref. 2, p.209.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to express his thanks and appreciation of the assistance given by the staff of the Surrey History Centre and for permission to reproduce the picture of Addiscombe House and would also like to thank the British Museum Print Room for permission to reproduce pictures from Thornhill's sketchbook.

THE YMCA AND GUILDFORD

HELEN CHAPMAN DAVIES

George Williams, Founder of the YMCA

The Young Men's Christian Association, or YMCA, was founded in 1844 by George Williams, a draper of London, whose portrait is shown in Fig 1. George Williams was born on 11 October 1821, the youngest of the seven surviving sons of Amos and Elizabeth Williams. His father was a tenant (or yeoman) farmer on Lord Caernarvon's estate at Dulverton in Somerset. George was born into the rural middle class and began his education by attending an elementary school in Dulverton, followed by a private school called Gloyns in Tiverton, Devon. He left school at the age of 13 to work on the family farm but two years later, in 1836, went to be apprenticed to Henry William Holmes, the leading draper in Bridgwater, Somerset, who employed a staff of thirty. The following year George Williams was converted to evangelical Christianity, joining the Zion Congregational Church in Bridgwater where his employer also worshipped. Two years later, in 1839, George Williams became a teetotaler.

George Williams' father, Amos, died in 1841. At about that time Holmes relinquished direct control of his drapery business in Bridgwater, so George Williams moved to London to join the drapery department of Hitchcock & Rogers at 72 St Paul's Churchyard in the City. Three years later he was described by an associate as 'the most important man in the company.' By then he was buyer and manager of the drapery department, one of the largest of the company's 12 departments. Working hours were six days a week from 7am until 9pm, the staff having to stay on for a further two hours, cleaning and readying the various departments for the next day, before finally being released at 11pm. In 1843 Mr Hitchcock told the Metropolitan Drapers' Association (the forerunner of the Early Closing Association) that he intended to bring forward winter closing to 7pm. Later he instituted a Saturday afternoon holiday for staff.

George Williams was deeply concerned about the welfare and spiritual wellbeing of his fellow workers. The company employed 140 young men who were lodged in unpleasant, cramped conditions in the company's warehouses and could easily fall prey to the local drinking and gambling taverns. George Williams started a Bible study and prayer meeting group in a room at 72 St Paul's Churchyard, shown in Fig 2, which rapidly grew into a regular gathering, with young men from other companies

attending. These meetings culminated in the founding of a society on 6 June 1844 called the Young Men's Christian Association.

On 9 June 1853 George Williams married George Hitchcock's eldest surviving daughter, Helen, and was taken into partnership. When Hitchcock died in 1863 George Williams became sole proprietor of the company. Two of his family connections are worthy of mention. His son, Albert, a solicitor, married the daughter of John Mason Cook, the travel operator. His nephew, John Williams, married the only child of Matthew Hodder, whose publishing house of Hodder & Stoughton was at 27 Paternoster Row until 1906.

The 50th anniversary of the YMCA in 1894 saw national recognition for the movement and George Williams received a knighthood from Queen Victoria. By then world membership of the YMCA had reached half a million. George Williams died on 6 November 1905 at the *Victoria and Albert Hotel* in Torquay and he was buried on 14 November in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral. The Williams' family home at 13 Russell Square in London was given to the National Council of the YMCA to use as its headquarters.

The Young Men's Christian Association

The period in which the YMCA was founded was the age of the industrial revolution, steam power, the rapid expansion of the railways and the British Empire. But it was also the age of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 and the horrors of the workhouse; poverty and destitution in town and countryside; chronic overcrowding in slum dwellings; disease-ridden, insanitary living

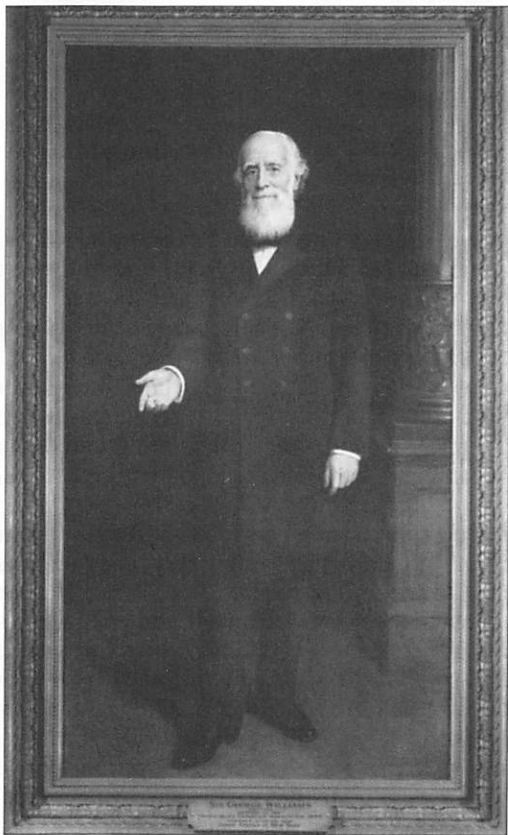


Fig 1 Sir George Williams (1821-1905), after a portrait by John Collier RA hanging in London Centre YMCA, 112 Great Russell Street, London.

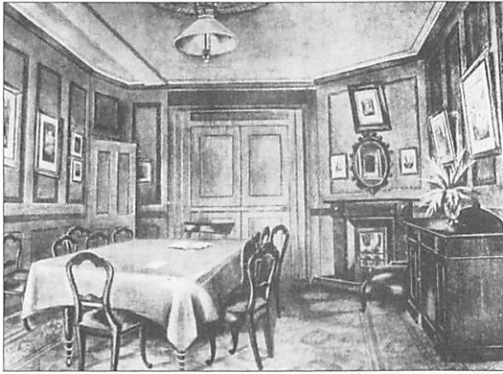


Fig 2 The room at 72 St Paul's Churchyard, London, where the YMCA was founded. From an undated, unattributed illustration in *George Williams in Context. A Portrait of the Founder of the YMCA*, by Clyde Binfield (Sheffield Academic Press, 1994, p.50).

conditions; long and arduous working conditions and the ravages of alcohol and the gin palaces. Throughout the 1800s winters were extremely severe; in January 1881 snow was piled up ten feet high in London's Oxford Street. A series of poor summers brought agricultural disaster. Towns and cities saw an influx of young men and women from the rural countryside in search of employment.

It was soon realised that the YMCA needed to address the concerns of the whole person if it was to respond to the needs of the mind, body and spirit of

young men. Soon public lectures and education classes were added to the programme. Compulsory schooling did not come into force until 1870 and the YMCA quickly recognised the eagerness of young people to improve their education. A YMCA certificate in English was a close equivalent in those days to a modern GCSE qualification. While most people who joined the YMCA were active Christians, the movement also welcomed young men who were not necessarily Christians but were 'of good moral character'. They could pay a fee to use the facilities but had no voting rights and so became associate members as opposed to full members. In 1851 the YMCA opened its first gymnasium in London, marking a move to provide facilities for personal fitness. In 1855 the Young Women's Christian Association was founded, following similar principles to those of the YMCA.

With the influence of the intense religious spirit of the Congregational Church, the YMCA evolved and expanded, spreading rapidly both at home and abroad. Only seven years after the founding of the YMCA in England, an American YMCA was founded in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1851. The Great Exhibition of 1851 at the Crystal Palace in London was a showcase of British engineering and industry that attracted visitors from all over the world. It gave the YMCA the opportunity of distributing information leaflets, which were to help develop links with other countries. In 1855 the YMCA staged its first international conference in Paris. Delegates from 16 countries attended the conference, representing 350 YMCA movements, and that same year they went on to form the World Alliance of YMCAs. In 1881, at the 9th International Conference in London, an international emblem was approved

(Fig 3). Ten years later, in 1891, an American named Dr Luther Gulick created the red triangle which was to become the international symbol of the movement, the three sides of the triangle represent the essential unity of body, mind and spirit. The Young Men's Christian Association comprises a vast family of autonomous associations, allowing each to be independent, flexible, innovative and responsive to local community needs. Each local YMCA is affiliated to the regional structure and then to the national YMCA. Each national YMCA is in turn affiliated to the World Alliance of YMCAs.

With the outbreak of the First World War, the British YMCA extended its work across the Channel to support the troops. They raised money to purchase over 600 large portable huts which could be erected wherever the troops were, providing the soldiers with food and drink as well as free writing paper and envelopes. Often the huts were staffed by women volunteers, who played an integral part in the war effort and an important role in offering pastoral support to the troops. Thousands of volunteers worked for the YMCA, putting their own lives at risk; several hundred lost their lives, and 12 were awarded the Victoria Cross in honour of their war service. In 1921 a complete window in Westminster Abbey was dedicated to the work of the YMCA during the Great War. The huts were brought back to England at the end of the war and were used to provide a network of community clubs, known as 'Red Triangle Clubs', which provided recreational facilities and reading rooms, particularly for unemployed young men. The YMCA instituted a massive education programme for soldiers, work that was eventually taken on by the Army itself, which became the Army Education Corps.

On 11 November 1921 the first official British Legion Poppy Day was held. However, the introduction of the poppy goes back to 1918 when an American YMCA volunteer worker in New York named Moina Michael started wearing a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance. As a result of her campaigning, the poppy was accepted as the USA's national emblem of remembrance in 1920. A French woman, Mme Guerin, then began to sell hand-made poppies to raise money for war-torn France, sending French women to England to sell poppies. She came to London to meet with Earl Haig and as a result the British Legion adopted the poppy in 1921. In Canada, too, the first poppies were worn in 1921.



Fig 3 The emblem of the World Alliance of YMCAs. From *YMCAs Working Together*, by David Myles (London, Tetrahedron Press, May 1998, p.10).

Guildford YMCA

The Congregational movement was instrumental in the rapid spread of the YMCA and it was a small Congregational Chapel that was the first home to the one in Guildford.

Prior to the Toleration Act of 1689 it was illegal to assemble and worship in any way other than that of the Church of England. However, groups of people with nonconformist religious beliefs had been active in secret since the end of the 17th century in Guildford. Religious spies would report on nonconformist gatherings and, in 1680, a group of 188 people were indicted for meeting in a warehouse in Artington of which John Horsnaille was the tenant. Among the congregation were some 30 eminent men and women, including James Smallpeice, whose family had been connected with the town for 400 years, and Lady Elizabeth Stoughton, wife of Sir Nicholas Stoughton. The preacher was imprisoned and the others fined. The informers received half of the fine monies. It was the Toleration Act of 1689 that finally allowed the establishment of nonconformist places of worship, such that by the mid-1800s there were a number of chapels and churches in the town – Baptist, Congregational, Wesleyan Methodist, Primitive Methodist, Bethel-Particular, Unitarian and later the Plymouth Brethren.

Immediately following the Toleration Act of 1689, that same John Horsnaille set up a wooden Congregational Chapel in Black Horse Lane in Guildford. His widow sold the chapel in 1723 to the trustees of the Congregational Church movement, which had been founded in the meantime. However, the popular minister of the chapel left in 1728 and attendance subsequently declined. Eventually the chapel was being used as a poultry shed and store, the contents of which had to be removed so that services could be held. Finally the old chapel was demolished and a new building was assembled on the site. The new and revitalised Congregational Chapel opened in June 1802. Attendance became so great that a vestry, a rear gallery and then side galleries had to be added to the chapel to accommodate the numbers of people. In the 1820s Black Horse Lane was renamed Chapel Street, reflecting the presence of the Congregational Chapel. However, over the following 60 years the chapel gradually deteriorated, finally being referred to as gloomy, with an 'uninviting exterior and an extremely disagreeable entrance'. In addition, property in the immediate vicinity had greatly deteriorated. In 1861 the new minister, the Reverend Hart, made it a condition of his acceptance of his post that a new building should be erected in a better part of town. Thus an empty site was purchased in North Street and in September 1863 the new Congregational Church, shown in Fig 4, was opened.

The old Congregational Chapel was rebuilt in 1868, becoming known as the Mission Hall and Sunday School, shown in Fig 5. However, with the growth of the Sunday School movement came the need for more spacious accommodation, while it was also seen as inconvenient having



Fig 4 View of Congregational Church in North Street situated between the County and Borough Halls and Methodist Church. Courtesy of David Rose.

the Sunday Schools so far removed from the new Congregational Church in North Street. A property comprising a house and rear garden adjoining the Congregational Church was purchased on 26 September 1883. The Congregational Halls were built on the site and opened on 10 September 1884, affording accommodation over three floors. This included a lecture room, classrooms, a library and meeting rooms for the YMCA and YWCA, with kitchen and sanitary facilities in the basement.

There is no record of when the YMCA was first established in Guildford. However, the diaries of a young man named Charles Candlin tell us a lot about his role as a secretary of the Guildford YMCA Committee and about meetings and activities in the old chapel, including its very popular Sunday School. In 1870, at the age of 19, he came to live and work in Guildford for William Henry Vickridge, china and glass merchant. The Vickridge premises were at 26 High Street, formerly the *Crown Hotel*, once one of Guildford's premier coaching inns. That building has since been re-numbered 151 High Street and is home to the NatWest Bank. The entrance to the bank corresponds to the archway through which coaches passed to the stabling behind the building. From Charles Candlin's diaries it is clear that by 1870 the YMCA was firmly established in Guildford, suggesting that the movement had already been present in the town for some years.

In 1884 the YMCA moved to its new meeting room in the Congregational Halls in North Street. Subsequently, however, there followed something of an odyssey for Guildford YMCA. In 1910 it moved to a corrugated iron hall

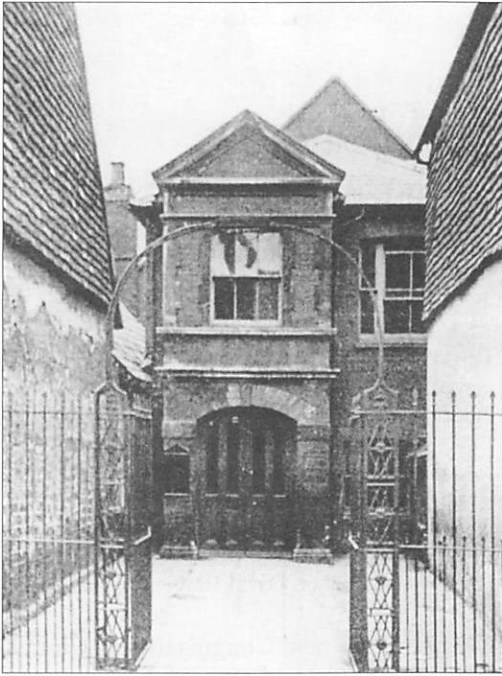


Fig 5 The Congregational Chapel, or Mission Hall as it was also called, in Chapel Street (renamed Centenary Hall in 1902). It is believed this picture would have been taken after the 1868 reconstruction and before remodelling of the building in 1912. From the Local Studies Collection of the Guildford Institute.

in Woodbridge Road where it remained until 1914. This hall seems to have been adjacent to 19 Woodbridge Road and was recorded as the anonymous gift of two ladies. In addition to the hall, the YMCA also had committee and administrative offices at Onslow Chambers in Bridge Street from January 1911 until 1914.

November 1914 saw the formal opening of premises leased above 143 High Street, next to J. Sainsbury, Provision Merchant (Fig 6). This accommodation included a fine lounge, a billiard room with full-size table, a smaller games room, a committee room, a secretary's office and private accommodation for the secretary and caretaker. During the First World War, Mr Sainsbury allowed the YMCA to erect a recreation hut rent-free in the grounds to the rear of the building for the use of soldiers. It could hold up to 450 persons and there the soldiers could meet and

relax, get food and refreshments, with concerts and entertainment organised. The hut – one of the Red Triangle Clubs – was allowed to remain until 1925.

The lease on the property at 143 High Street expired at the end of 1927. In preparation for the move, the YMCA purchased a block of premises comprising the Old Masonic Hall, 15a and 15b Commercial Road, and property to the rear of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 5a Onslow Street. These premises were sold in 1940 to Messrs Friary Holroyd & Healy's brewery.

From 1940 to 1945 the YMCA leased premises at 86 High Street, which in 2008 corresponds to 7 High Street, a building between the *George Abbot* public house and a shop on the corner of Park Street. From 1945 until 1952 the Association rented a hut to the rear of 6 Wellington Place, Woodbridge Road (Fig 7). It bought 6 Wellington Place in 1952, staying until 1968, when the block of buildings was purchased by Guildford Borough Council for

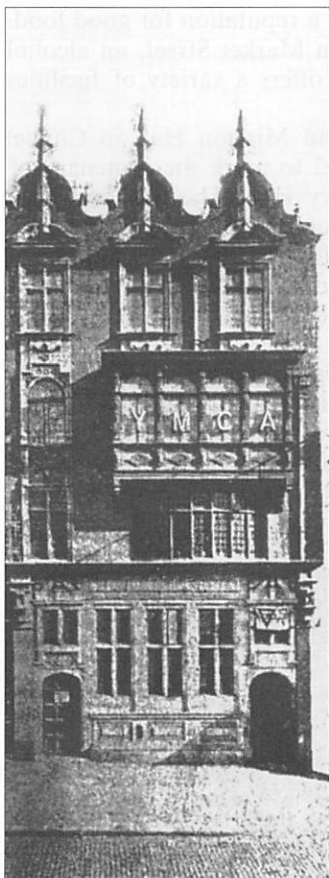


Fig 6 (Above) The YMCA's premises at 143 High Street, next to J. Sainsbury. From the Local Studies collection of the Guildford Institute.

Fig 7 Wellington Place, Woodbridge Road. The YMCA centre was at Number 6, the sixth building from the left in the picture, with the street light showing above it. Courtesy of John Sutton/David Rose.

demolition and redevelopment. That site is now occupied by the Police Station.

The sale allowed the YMCA to buy Ash Cottage in Wharf Road, which was demolished, and a purpose-built hostel was erected on the site. The opening ceremony took place on 29 January 1969 and the hostel became known as Midway House, which is shown in Fig 8. Wherever its premises were located, the Association had provided a library and reading rooms, which would be open every evening from 6pm until 10pm, also a games room with board games such as chess and draughts, and table tennis. It would hold educational classes, prayer meetings and Bible classes, it had a football club and later organised a theatre group and outings. But until Midway House opened the YMCA had no hostel accommodation for young people in Guildford.

Nevertheless it was clear the hostel was nowhere near large enough and Guildford YMCA had a vision of establishing much bigger premises able to offer far more accommodation and a wider range of facilities to young people. Twenty years later that vision became a reality with the opening in September 1989 of the Y Centre in Bridge Street, shown in Fig 9, which offered 120 well-appointed single rooms. Its Forum Restaurant



was opened to the public in 1990 and has built a reputation for good food. In May 1998 came the launch of Plantation in Market Street, an alcohol and drug-free venue for teenagers, which also offers a variety of facilities and activities aimed at helping young people.

As for the old Congregational Chapel and Mission Hall in Chapel Street, a meeting had taken place in June 1902 to mark the centenary of its rebuilding, when it was renamed Centenary Hall. The hall had been remodelled in 1912 and had subsequently become a general-purpose hall. For some time it was used as the headquarters for the Boy Scout movement in Guildford, and from about 1971 was part of the Guildford School of Acting. Finally the hall stood empty for decades until it was refurbished and re-opened in 2004 as a restaurant.

From its humble beginnings in a small Congregational Chapel over 135 years ago, and with a number of moves to various premises, Guildford YMCA now has three permanent centres: the Y Centre on Bridge Street, Midway House in Wharf Road and Plantation in Market Street. Its inspirational work in helping to develop the mind, body and spirit continues to light the way for young people along the path to a better life.



Fig 8 Midway House, Wharf Road, opened in 1969. Courtesy of Guildford YMCA.



Fig 9 Guildford YMCA, Bridge Street, opened in 1989, known as the Y Centre. Courtesy of Guildford YMCA.

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Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Guildford YMCA for Figs 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9; David Rose for Fig 4; John Sutton and David Rose for Fig 7, and the Guildford Institute for Figs 5 and 6.

Leatherhead Gas and Lighting -----Company-----

Offices and Showrooms:
North Street, LEATHERHEAD.

- Gas Lighting.**— The Incandescent Bumer gives the cheapest and best light: where artistic effect is desired the inverted pattern is recommended.
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Residents of Leatherhead, Ashtead and Mickleham, have you considered how you can

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IF YOUR GAS ENGINE IS ALWAYS BRBAKING DOWN,*

The Leatherhead Electricity Co., Ltd.,
BRIDGE ST.. LEATHERHEAD.

Fig 1 Two early advertisements from a Leatherhead local directory of 1909. (Courtesy of Leatherhead and District Local History Society.)

SOME PUBLIC UTILITIES IN SURREY: ELECTRICITY AND GAS

Peter Tarplee

This paper is based on the second part of a talk entitled 'Some public utilities in Surrey around 100 years ago', given at the 25th Anniversary meeting of the Surrey Industrial History Group held at Dorking on 8 October 2005. The first part, on water supply, was published in *Surrey History* Volume VII Number 4.

Advertisements for competing utility companies, supplying gas and electricity, are shown in Fig 1 as they appeared in a local directory for Leatherhead in 1909.

Electricity

Fifty years after Faraday's discovery of electromagnetic induction in 1831, Surrey had the honour of having the first public electricity supply in Britain. This was in Godalming, using a water-driven generator at Westbrook Mill. There has been a lot of misinformation about Godalming and what it was first to achieve. In fact, the plaque in the High Street is inaccurate as it refers to the town having the first electric street lighting, which it did not. Some electrical 'firsts' are therefore listed below:

- 1878 First demonstration of electrical street lighting: Thames Embankment, London.
- 1878 First house to be lit by electricity produced by water power using arc lights: Cragside, Northumberland. Followed by incandescent lamps in 1880.
- 1881 First supply to be made available to the public: Godalming.
- 1881 First supply to be taken by the public: Godalming.
- 1881 First supply intended to be permanent rather than experimental: Godalming.
- 1882 First steam-powered supply: Holborn Viaduct, London. This also supplied the first church to be lit by electricity (using 170 lamps): The City Temple.
- 1882 First actual, viable, permanent supply: Brighton, Sussex.
- 1887 First continuous (24 hour) supply: Brighton.
- 1890 First town in Britain to have its streets wholly lit by electricity using incandescent filament lamps: Weybridge, Surrey.

As with all utilities, large houses and factories often had their own plant, but the present article is more concerned with systems for the general public. It does, however, refer to the Ferry Works at Thames Ditton. Willans and Robinson moved there in 1880 to build yachts and launches as well as the steam engines to power them. These marine steam engines were high-speed machines that were ideal for direct coupling to dynamos so they immediately had a new market. It was in 1884 that Willans claimed that Ferry Works was the first factory in the world to be entirely lit by electricity. When the company moved to Rugby in 1902, having outgrown the Thames Ditton site, about 65 per cent of the electric power throughout the country was generated by a Willans central-valve steam engine manufactured in Thames Ditton.

Details of public electricity undertakings in modern Surrey are summarised in the following table.

Godalming's first supply in 1881 lasted only for three years as the generating station closed in 1884. It was to be a further eight years before the town again had a public supply. In 1882, a year after the Godalming enterprise, the Electric Lighting Act was passed which enabled the Board of Trade to authorise the supply of electricity by any local authority, company or person and to grant powers to install a system of supply, including powers to break up streets. Licences, which could not be granted without the consent of the local authority, were to be for periods of not more than seven years, although they could be renewed. Alternatively, the Board of



Fig 2 Weybridge's first power station.

<i>Station</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Started</i>	<i>Closed</i>	<i>Initial installed capacity (kW)</i>	<i>Final installed capacity (kW)</i>	<i>Survival of building (1999)</i>
CATERHAM	85, Croydon Rd	1903	1924	88	180	
DORKING	Station Road	1904	1939	180	1,000	YES
EGHAM	164, High Street	1905	1912	'sufficient to light several hundred lamps'		YES
EGHAM	The Causeway	1912	1924	188	680	
EPSOM	Depot Road	1902	1954	220	2,050	
FARNHAM	East Street	1912	1954	180	530	
GODALMING	Westbrook Mill	1881	1884	4.5	4.5	
GODALMING	Borough Road	1902	1949	380	600	YES
GUILDFORD	Onslow Street	1896	1913	60	750	
GUILDFORD	Onslow Street extension	1913	1927	1,100	1,610	YES
GUILDFORD	Woodbridge Road	1927	1968	7,500	11,250	
HINDHEAD	Tower Road	1901	1953	38	925	YES
LEATHERHEAD	Bridge Street	1902	1941	75	2,210	
REIGATE	Wray Common Road	1901	1936	230	2,742	YES
WEYBRIDGE	Church Walk	1890	1896	70	70	YES
WEYBRIDGE	Thames Street	1902	1922	180	780	
WOKING	Board School Road	1890	1959	40	7,000	

Table 1 Power stations in the modern administrative county of Surrey, showing installed capacity and surviving buildings (from *Surrey's Industrial Past*, SIHG, 1999).

Trade could grant a Provisional Order for an undertaking, although the local authority could take over the assets after 21 years. This meant that the authority would pay for the plant but not the business. The 1888 Act extended the period after which the purchase right could be exercised to 42 years and required the undertaking to be valued as a going concern. This made it more attractive for people to apply for Provisional Orders.

Another public electricity supply system that was in place in the 19th century was at Weybridge, where a power station was in operation between 1890 and 1896. This was in Church Walk, and the building survives today as cottages and an office, shown in Fig 2. Again, there was a gap of six years after this closed before electricity returned to Weybridge. Woking also had an electricity system in 1890 and this continued to operate without interruption. Woking was unusual in having a public electricity supply before a public gas supply, which came a year or two later and was supplied by the Woking Gas and Water Company.

Other electricity supply systems in Surrey came in the early years of the 20th century, for example, at Egham, which had its first station in 1905 and its second, shown in Fig 3, in 1912. Sometimes the incentive was not to provide street lighting, or even house lighting. For example, in Sutton the power station was built by the South Metropolitan Tramway and Lighting Company, and its purpose was clearly to power the trams that ran between Croydon and Sutton.



Fig 3 Egham's second power station. Courtesy of Amberley Working Museum.

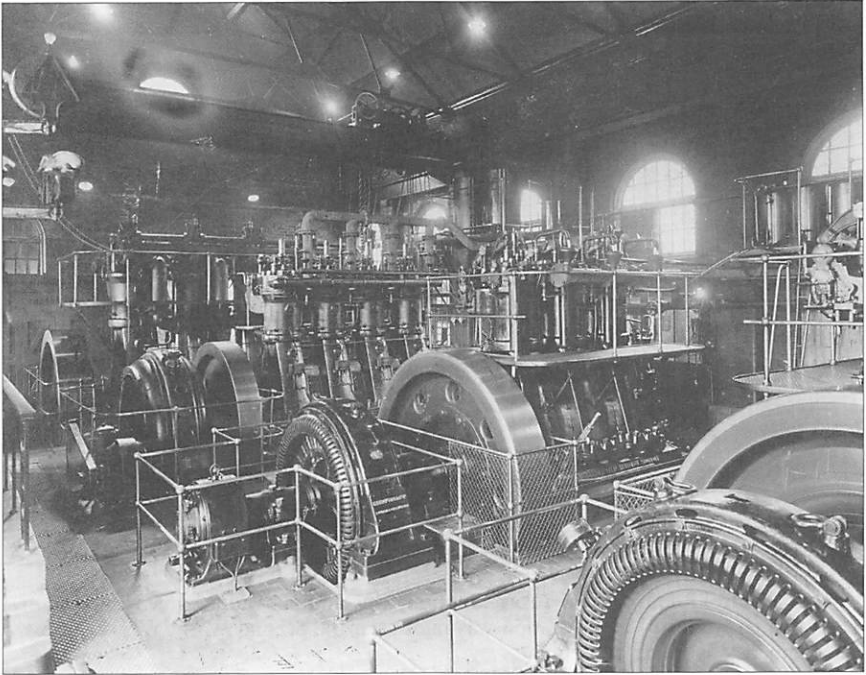


Fig 4 Engine Room, Reigate Power Station. Courtesy of Amberley Working Museum.

In these early days power systems were either direct current (DC) or alternating current (AC). With DC it was often possible for the power station to operate on a two-shift system, by which generating was carried out from 6am to 10pm and the load was carried by batteries at night. The AC system needed 24-hour generation but could use a higher voltage. It therefore suffered fewer problems with voltage-drop in the cables.

Each independent system catered for its own area and there was little co-operation between neighbouring areas until the introduction of Joint Electricity Authorities (JEAs) and then the grid system operated by the Central Electricity Board (CEB), which was formed around 1930. Once the grid system was established, steps could be taken to close down the smaller and less efficient power stations. In the centre of Surrey, for example, there were generating stations at Epsom, Leatherhead, Reigate (Fig 4) and Dorking, each feeding its own network. There was, however, a large (for its time) power station at Croydon and this became a 'selected' station. Its control room is shown in Fig 5. It was connected by a double circuit line, or cables, to Epsom from where a ring ran to Reigate, Dorking and Leatherhead and back to Epsom. This 33kV ring partly comprised the lines that, for some 75 years, could be seen along the slopes of Box Hill or



Fig 5 Control Room, Croydon Power Station. This station became known as Croydon 'A' when Croydon 'B' power station was built after the Second World War. Courtesy of Amberley Working Museum.

through Ashted Common. Many of these lines have disappeared since it was decided, for environmental reasons, to place the circuits underground. As soon as this transmission system was operating the old stations could gradually close down, as shown in Table 1. At the time that Croydon power station was made a 'selected' station, it was given authority to expand and 30 other stations in the London area were closed down. Now, of course, no electricity is generated in Surrey, but a few of the old power station or 'electric light works' buildings do still survive in the 21st century, though not necessarily in use by the electricity industry.

Gas

William Murdoch is said to have given the world's first demonstration of lighting by coal gas in 1792. He made gas by heating coal in an iron retort and passed it through pipes to light his home at Redruth in Cornwall, where he was erecting steam engines for the firm of Boulton and Watt. He returned to their Soho Works in Birmingham and in 1803 lit their premises by gas. By 1805 Boulton and Watt were making and selling gas-lighting plant for other factories and private houses.

The Gas Light and Coke Company was the world's first gas company to supply gas for public use from their works in Horseferry Road, London. In 1813 they supplied the world's first public street lighting on Westminster



Fig 6 Gasworks at King Edward VI School, Witley, photographed during a visit by the South East Region Industrial Archaeology Conference in 1994.

Bridge, which at that time was on the boundary between Surrey and Middlesex. The popularity of gas lighting grew rapidly and by 1830 there were 200 gasworks in the country; by 1850 there were 800. Where there was no public supply many large houses and institutions had their own gasworks, such as Randall's Park in Leatherhead, King Edward VI School in Witley (Fig 6) and Charterhouse School in Godalming.

Leatherhead Gas Company was a typical undertaking. The company opened a gasworks in Kingston Road in 1851 by the site of the future railway station. Until the railway arrived in 1859 coal was brought by road from Epsom. The gas was mainly used for street lighting and the gasworks manager ran the gasworks, handled the accounts and collected the money (all for 25s. per week). He also had to clean, light and extinguish the 33 street lights for which he received an extra £7 per year. By the 1880s there were four regular staff – four stokers in winter and two in summer. In winter the job of one man on the two-man shift was to light each public street lamp and later to go around the town and extinguish them. In the summer, in order to allow a stoker to have some time off, they had to employ an extra hand as a lamplighter. In the early days public lighting was provided only from October to March, and not at all on moonlit nights.

In the early days gasworks were notorious for poor working conditions and poor conditions of employment. In 1889 the Gasworkers' Union was

formed under Will Thorne's leadership. This was the first trade union for non-craft workers and was the forerunner of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, now the GMB.

Dorking Gas Company was incorporated in 1834 to produce lighting for the town. The largest shareholder was Charles Barclay of Bury Hill. The company had a small site near where Dorking Town station was established in 1849. The works were enlarged over the years as the demand for gas grew. In 1928 the Dorking company merged with the larger Redhill company and gas production in Dorking ceased in 1956. Although the works used a lot of coal and exported considerable amounts of coke, and although it was near the railway sidings, there was never a rail connection, meaning that transfer was by horse and cart, and later by lorry. Dorking is one of the declining number of places to retain a gasholder. Another example, at Egham, is shown in Fig 7.

The dates by which various Surrey towns acquired a public gas supply are given in district *Guides* published by the Surrey Industrial History Group, as follows: Egham and Staines – 1832; Farnham – 1834; Godalming – 1836; Epsom and Ewell – 1839; Reigate – 1839; Hampton Court – 1851; Walton-on-Thames – 1869; Chobham – 1869; Cobham – 1870; Woking – 1892 (two years after the coming of electricity to the town). Croydon's first gasworks was opened in 1827, earlier than any of these. At that time there

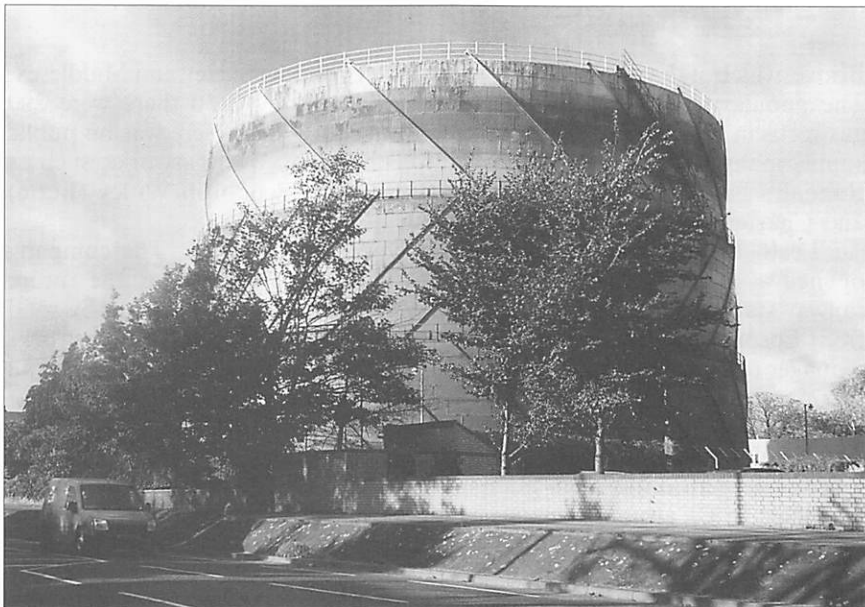


Fig 7 Gasholder at Egham Causeway in 2006. Photograph by Glenys Crocker.

were no gas meters so a large number of inspectors had to be employed to check that consumers had no more appliances than they had declared. The first gasworks was in Surrey Street, but by 1859 there was pressure to move it away from the town centre. A new works was eventually opened in 1867, near Waddon Marsh Lane (now Purley Way), close to the London-Brighton and South Coast Railway, which had opened between Croydon and Wimbledon in 1855. It remained there, with various enlargements, throughout its lifetime.

The growth of gas consumption over this period can be gauged by the figures for Croydon:

1851	10.7 million cu ft
1870	120 million cu ft
1886	340 million cu ft
1902	848 million cu ft
1953	10,000 million cu ft

The range of appliances that used gas is shown in the advertisement for gas in Fig 1. Gas was not, however, popular everywhere in the 19th century as the flames were smoky and smelly and people feared explosions. Also, there was extremely strong opposition from companies that sold whale oil, which was used for lighting. In 1850 Robert Bunsen, a German chemist, invented the Bunsen burner in which coal gas was passed through a fine jet across an air hole through which it could suck air. This meant that gas could be used for heating. In 1885 the invention of the Welsbach mantle, which consisted of a silk or cotton thimble impregnated with thorium oxide, provided a much better light source. Some will remember how difficult it was to fit these mantles without damage.

It should be noted that not only was gas not popular everywhere, but neither was electricity. Supporters of gas argued that burning coal to make steam to drive turbines was wasteful. Only 12-15 per cent of the heat energy consumed was turned into electrical power, whereas the gas-making process was 22 per cent efficient and yielded valuable by-products. Every time a gasworks burned a ton of coal it produced 15,000 cu ft of gas, half a ton of coke, 10 gallons of tar and 25 pounds of chemicals. These could be converted into naphtha, oils, creosote, pitch, benzole, explosives, fertilisers and disinfectants. All one got from burning coal in an electric light works was electricity and some ash of no real use. It was argued that coal, a national heritage, 'should not be wasted on producing a form of energy yet to prove its worth'.

However, the gas industry underwent major changes in the 1960s and 1970s with the conversion to natural gas and the consequent closure of the coal-gas plants. Now the electricity industry uses gas (largely imported) to fire a good proportion of its generating stations.

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ACCESSIONS OF RECORDS IN SURREY HISTORY CENTRE IN 2007

*Margaret Griffiths, Matthew Piggott, Robert Simonson,
Sarah Brown, Isabel Sullivan and Carole Garrard*

In 2007 Surrey History Centre received 276 accessions, excluding transfers from County Council departments. The records came from a great variety of organisations and individuals and we are most grateful to all our depositors for making sure that the records are preserved and made available for research. A summary list of all 2007 accessions is available on our website <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre>, under 'Search for Archives or Books'. What follows is a selection of some of the highlights.

Surrey Rural Life

Surrey's rural past and present is illustrated in a number of significant accessions, in a year in which outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease brought the Surrey countryside unwontedly into the public eye.

Farming

Farming records are not particularly well represented in our collections so we were especially pleased to receive a deposit of a complete set of farming records covering a major part of the 20th century (ref. 8238).

The Okey family farmed several properties in the Oxted and Chelsham area from 1932 to 1990, including Pilgrims Farm, Fairchildes Farm, Chelsham Court Farm and Beech Farm. The farms were worked by Thomas Okey (1888-1975) who was joined in 1949 by his son, also called Thomas (1927-89). They were predominantly used for dairy farming and by selective breeding Thomas Okey built up a herd of pedigree Shorthorn cattle. The collection includes the official herd registers supplied by The Shorthorn Society, recording each breeding cow by name and giving her date of birth, distinguishing marks and parentage, and also details of her calves. Non-pedigree animals are also recorded in separate registers. Entries are cross-referenced and indexed. Cow lactation records, monitoring milk yields following each calving, also form part of the collection.

From the late 1960s the Okeys took part in a cross-breeding scheme, developed by The Shorthorn Society in conjunction with Cambridge University, the purpose of which was to improve the Shorthorn breed. By cross-breeding, particularly with the Dutch Meuse-Rhine-Issel breed, a larger, higher-yielding cow was produced.

Crops were also grown on the farms and the collection includes a cropping record, 1963-83, recording information about crops grown in each named

field on the farms. Of special interest are the farming diaries, kept from 1932-90, which record farm tasks undertaken each day and include notes concerning, for example, quantities of crops sown and harvested, fields ploughed, hay loaded, muck spread, cows calved and vets' visits. The diaries up to 1953 also include a labour and wages account for each week.

Thomas Okey junior died in 1989 and his widow decided to give up the farms. At the dispersal sale of the stock in 1990 there were 250 animals for sale, many of which can be traced back to Thomas Okey senior's original animals: Rose, Poppy and Snowdrop.

In January 2007 we received our first deposit from the National Farmers' Union (ref. 8089). The inaugural meeting of the Union took place in Lincolnshire in December 1908, following acknowledgement that a national, unified strategy was required to promote farmers' interests and concerns more effectively. In the words of its first president, Colin Campbell, 'a local branch in any county was unlikely to carry any weight with any government department or with parliament'. In Surrey, as in other counties, the local branches were created first and the county branch formed later. It appears that Dorking was the first branch to be formed, but whether it was before 1918 (when the minutes commence) remains unclear. The Surrey county branch of the NFU was based at Market Buildings, Guildford, with district branches at Redhill, Dorking, Kingston, Croydon, Chiddingfold, Chertsey and Farnham. The records include various committee minutes from Surrey county branch, including the poultry committee from 1926, pigs committee from 1933 and minutes of the branches in Guildford (1948-66), Farnham (1939-63), and Chiddingfold (1943-63).

Hunting

In May 2007, we were delighted to receive a fascinating collection of original records and research papers relating to the Surrey Union Hunt, 1856-2007 (ref. 8138). The collection was deposited by Mr Julian Womersley of Beare Green, near Dorking, who is himself a member of the Surrey Union Hunt Committee and had accumulated the original records from other Hunt members and compiled the research papers during his research for the book, *The Surrey Union Hunt: Our history unbuttoned* (2007). Although this aspect of country life continues to be controversial, we are especially pleased to hold this collection as we previously held very few records relating to the Union Hunt.

In the first half of the 12th century, King Henry I gave rights to the citizens of London to hunt in Chiltern, Middlesex and Surrey. Records of the various packs that hunted in Surrey from that time until the mid-18th century are scarce, but in 1798 two private packs came together to form the Surrey Union. According to Womersley, there are disparate versions of how the Surrey Union Hunt (SUH) came into being and how it got its name. The orthodox view is that some time during the latter years of the 18th century, 1798 being the generally accepted year, the Union Hunt was

OFFICIAL
RACE CARD

30p



OFFICIAL
RACE CARD

30p

THE SURREY UNION HUNT POINT-TO-POINT RACES

PEPER HAROW (GODALMING)

*(By kind permission of Colin Baker, Esq., Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Fuller
and the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt)*

MONDAY, 1st MAY, 1978

MASTERS

PETER PARKER, Esq., M.F.H. RAYMOND DAVIDSON, Esq., M.F.H.
MICHAEL TAYLOR, Esq., M.F.H.

Stewards—

CAPT. R. D. KENNEDY RICHARD BARLOW, Esq., M.F.H.
NEVILLE CLIFFORD-JONES, Esq. F. RAYMOND STOVOLD, Esq.
SIR JOHN F. PRIDEAUX, C.B.E.

Hon. Secretary—

Mrs. T. BARKER

Hon. Clerk of Course—ALAN BOLT, Esq.

Judge—C. A. BRODIE, Esq.

Starter—MAJ.-GEN. E. H. GOULBURN, D.S.O., D.L.

Assistant Starter—COL. D. B. GIRLING, M.C., T.D., J.P.

Hon. Clerk of the Scales—J. NEWCOMB, Esq.

Hon. Medical Officers—

DR. A. P. DAVIES, T.D., M.B., B.S.
DR. GRAHAM, M.B. DR. A. S. COOPER, L.R.C.P.

Hon. Veterinary Officers—

A. G. BERRY, Esq., M.R.C.V.S. C. LAKIN, Esq., M.R.C.V.S.
MAJOR R. A. CURRER-BRIGGS, M.R.C.V.S.

Farriers—Messrs. R. WEST, G. RANGER

Announcer—JACK ANTHONY, Esq.

Race Reader—JOHN COTTERELL, Esq., T.D.

An Hon. Medical Officer and an Hon. Veterinary Officer and a Farrier
will be in the paddock after each race.

The Committee accept no responsibility for accidents to horses or persons,
who attend these races at their own risk.

Fig 1 Official race card for Surrey Union Hunt point-to-point races at Peper Harow, May 1978 (ref. 8138/5/3/5).

formed by the amalgamation of packs belonging to the Leech family, owners of the Lea Park estate, near Witley, and the Rev. Samuel Man Godschall, of Weston House, Albury. The name of the new Hunt is supposed to have come from this merger. The minutes of the SUH committee and other meetings (1856-1990) and the press cuttings and other records within the collection allow the researcher to chart the rollercoaster ride experienced by the Union Hunt over the years since its formation, particularly during

the 1990s when the future of the SUH was called into question by the pressures of shooting and urbanisation. Well-known Surrey names such as Evelyn and Ashcombe can be spotted when looking through the lists of subscribers, including in the role of Master. For example, Frederick Gordon Dalziel Colman of Nork Park, Epsom Downs, a member of the famous starch and mustard-milling firm from Norfolk, was asked to become a Master in 1904 at the age of twenty-three.

The collection also includes financial records (1870-1965), diaries of finds (1932-40), meet cards, race cards (Fig 1), lists of hounds, events programmes, publications and an 1889 map charting the Union Hunt's 'country' alongside that of neighbouring hunts. Other gems of the collection include diaries of hunting reminiscences (1932-8), corresponding photographs and numerous illustrations, which together conjure up a very atmospheric typical hunting scene.

Environment

We hold a number of archives of local societies who work to preserve the naturally and historically built environment of the county and we were pleased to add to these the archive of the Reigate and Redhill Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society and a small quantity of papers relating to its successor, the Reigate Society (ref. 8099). The focus of much of the work of the R&ROSFPS, founded in 1907, was the preservation of the North Downs from development at Reigate and Colley Hills, which they did primarily by purchase of land on behalf of the National Trust. The society's records include papers dating from 1938-9, relating to campaigns against the possible routes of a 'South Orbital Road', suggested in Sir Charles Bressey's report on highway developments required in the London traffic area in the next 30 years (this would eventually be realised as the M25 motorway).

Surrey's Industrial History

Amongst the records deposited reflecting the various industrial enterprises in Surrey, we purchased an album of photographs of John F. Renshaw and Co. Ltd, marzipan makers of Locks Lane, Mitcham (ref. 8123). The 16 black-and-white photographs record the plant and operations at the works in 1926. The factory, which had been converted from an old laundry, was apparently open to visitors, since one photograph is noted as showing a 'fleet of motor vehicles having discharged visitors for one of our exhibition sessions'. The manufacturing processes are displayed in other photographs: 'dealing with our raw material, 2 cwt bags are elevated one at a time and almonds cleaned, brushed and polished automatically', 'picking out faulty almonds as they pass by after blanching' (Fig 2) and 'refining, roasting and cooling of marzipan prior to packing'. Although John Renshaw died in 1935 his business flourished, diversifying in the 1970s to produce the familiar

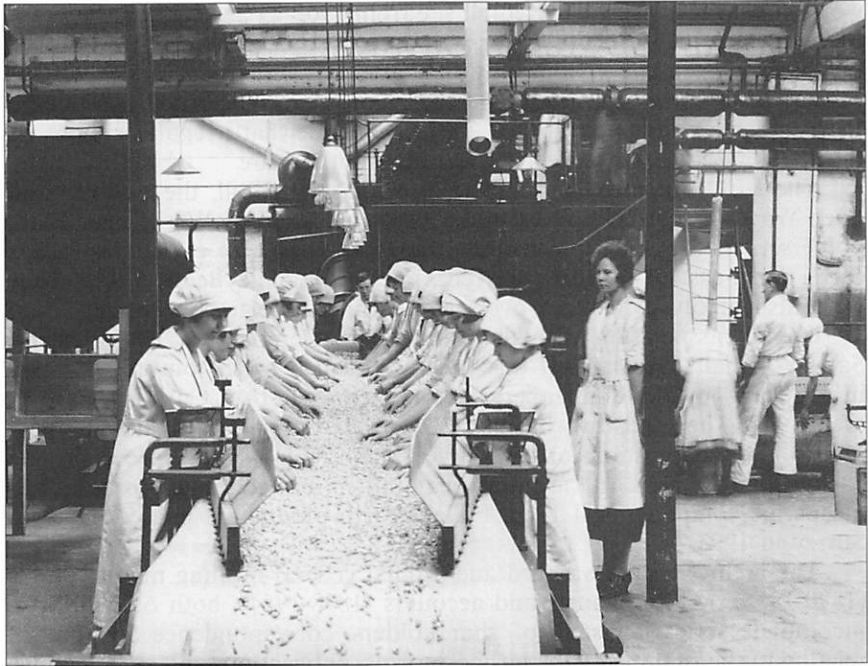


Fig 2 'Picking out faulty almonds' at the marzipan factory of John F. Renshaw and Co. Ltd, Mitcham, 1926 (ref. 8123/1).

Regalice sugarpaste. The Mitcham factory closed in 1991 and production shifted to Liverpool.

Fuller's earth has been extracted in England since Roman times. It is a clay mineral with water-sealing and bonding properties. Originally it was extensively used for cleaning and fulling woollen cloth. In the 20th century it had a wide range of uses, including as a bonding agent in industrial applications and in refining edible oils and fats. Official national production records began in 1854, since when cumulative output has been estimated at 9.3 million tonnes, of which around sixty-five per cent has come from the deposits in the Redhill and Nutfield area.

In 2007 we received the deposit of many of the core business records of the Fuller's Earth Union Limited (FEU), which was formed in 1890 by bringing together a number of small firms who were working fuller's earth at Redhill and Nutfield in Surrey, and south of Bath in Somerset. This was unexpected because many other records had been deposited in 1982 (ref. 2817) following a fire at the company's premises which had badly damaged many records and destroyed others. The new deposit (ref. 8211) was the result of a 'weeding' operation undertaken in 1973 by Derek Oliver,

works manager at the FEU Redhill site from 1965-79 and his son, Richard. Material identified as suitable for writing a company history was removed by Derek Oliver and retained by him after his retirement in 1979. This project never came to fruition and the records were deposited by Richard Oliver after his father's death in 2007. The somewhat irregular actions of the 1970s undoubtedly saved the records from the fire.

The FEU operated the Copyhold Works at Redhill, the Cockley and Park Works at Nutfield and Combe Hay and Midford Works near Bath, Somerset. In the mid-20th century the FEU were also extracting fuller's earth north-east of Maidstone, Kent, and at Clophill, Bedfordshire. They were also involved in three overseas ventures. The first began in about 1931 as an association with the Tannenberg Company at Leopoldshall, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. It was effectively ended by the outbreak of war in 1939 and by the Tannenberg factory being in 'Iron Curtain' territory after 1945. The other two businesses were in Algeria and Spain. In 1954, after a close association for several years, the FEU was taken over by the chemical company, Laporte Industries Limited, but continued to be run as a separate company until 1966. Fuller's earth production finally ceased in Surrey in 1998.

The archive includes board and annual general meeting minute books (1890-1935), annual reports and accounts (1898-1954), both of which are incomplete series, registers of shareholders, correspondence and papers relating to the running of the business, plans, publications and photographs. There are also title deeds of properties acquired by the FEU with a view to extracting the fuller's earth beneath them. These include Cormongers, Nutfield (1756-1950), Hatchers, Nutfield (1520-1779) and Patteson Court, Nutfield (1848-1965), which at one time housed the company offices. The deeds show that fuller's earth extraction was taking place on the Cormongers property in 1822. In 1832 William Lambert of Nutfield agreed to pay 1s. 6d. for each ton of fuller's earth he removed and to fill in holes and level the ground subsequently.

Education in the County

As the archive of the local education authority, we receive a steady intake of records from Surrey's schools, including many which began as church schools during the 19th century; the history of individual institutions, particularly the smaller privately run schools, can be much more elusive. This year was particularly rewarding in this respect.

The Gordon Boys' Home was founded by public subscription and at the express wish of Queen Victoria, as the national memorial to the popular hero General Charles Gordon, following his death at Khartoum, Sudan, in 1885. The original conditions of admission to the Home were that boys should be aged from 14 to 16, be poor and unprovided for in the opinion of the Committee and not have been convicted of crime. Payment, in full

or part, of £22 per year was required for each boy's maintenance, but free admission was given in a number of deserving cases, which could be paid for from the Home's general income. Boys were to be trained to the age of 18 for civil life in Britain or the colonies, or service in the Army, Navy or Mercantile Marine. The first boys admitted were housed at Fort Wallington, near Portsmouth. The Home opened on the current site in 1887, was renamed the Gordon Boys' School in 1943, and is now known as Gordon's School and operates as a partnership between the charitable foundation and Surrey County Council.

The fine archive deposited in 2007 includes minute books of the committees responsible for the running of the Home, annual reports, prospectuses, admission registers (1885-1952), school magazines, registers of subscribers, gifts and bequests and scrapbooks, some relating to the life of General Gordon and the centenary of his death. A file relating to each pupil since 1885 is currently retained at the school. The school also has a small museum of Gordon-related artefacts and a life-size statue of General Gordon on a camel, originally erected in Khartoum, gazes out across the school playing fields.

We already hold a large number of records of the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum, later the Royal Albert School, in Bagshot, so it was with great pleasure that we received a collection of 20th-century photographs of the

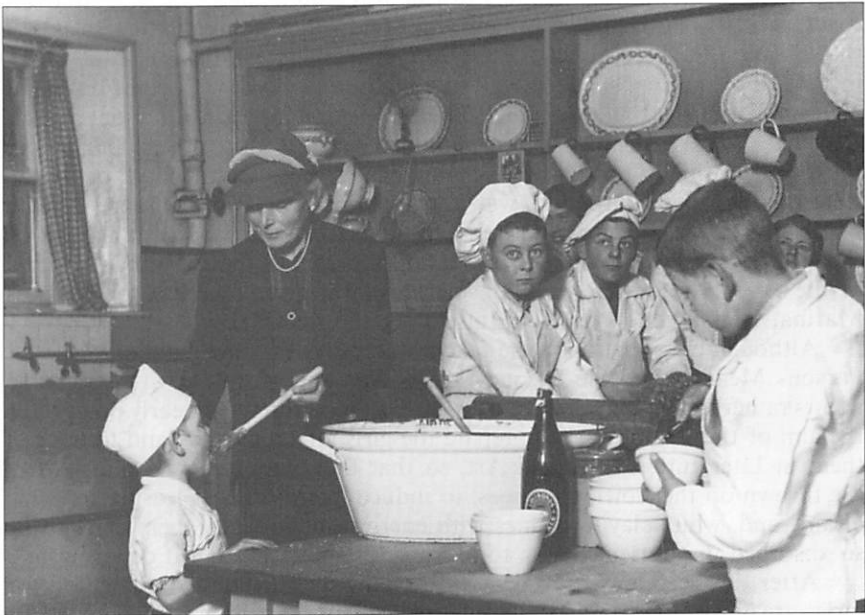


Fig 3 Children in the kitchen at the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum, Bagshot, early 20th century (ref. 8124/2/2).

institution (ref. 8124). The collection was presented by Mrs Mary Paget, widow of William Paget who was superintendent at the home from 1920 to 1941. The photographs show various activities at the home, including theatrical shows, outings, farming and other estate activities and also include views of the buildings. The children are shown in the dormitory, dining hall, kitchen (Fig 3), infirmary, woodwork room and bakery, having a sing-song around a piano in the school hall and in group photographs.

Burstow Preparatory School was based at The Gables, Peeks Lane, and was described in 1929 as being 'for boys between the ages of 7 and 14, where they are prepared for the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, and the Public Schools'. A small collection of legal papers relating to the school (ref. 8160) includes a very full inventory of the contents of the school, providing a detailed picture of the furnishing of the nursery dormitory, ground and long dormitories, master's room, matron's room, servants' rooms, schoolrooms and outbuildings (including accommodation for 'one pony, Tommy'). School books range from '2 dozen Caesar, 2 dozen Shakespeare', through algebra and arithmetic, 500 outline maps, 500 date cards, book keeping and prayer books, to Longfellow's *Hiawatha* and Tennyson's *Marmion*.

Also accessioned in 2007 were the records of Parsons Mead School in Ashted (ref. 8091). The collection largely comprises personal records, apparently kept by Miss Jessie Elliston who founded the school in 1897, together with photographs, programmes and other items relating to life at the school in the second half of the 20th century, after Miss Elliston's death in 1942. The original school was a small 'Home School' with eight boys and girls in Woodfield Lane, Ashted. By 1904 it had moved to Parsons Mead, Ottways Lane, Ashted, where it remained until its closure in 2006. Before the First World War there were about fifty pupils, around half of whom were boarders, and the school was now for girls only. By 1920 there were 72 pupils, 47 of whom were boarders. The school catered for the daughters of the military, the clergy and the professions. Such was the social background of the school that at one time consideration was given to HRH the Princess Marina, later Duchess of Kent, attending the school.

Although examinations were taken, it appears that the main emphasis at Parsons Mead before the Second World War was on music, art and home affairs rather than on academic achievement. According to an early prospectus the aim of the school was 'to prepare the girls for Home Life and to interest them in Literature, Music and Art, so that they may never be dull if they are thrown on their own resources; to induce them to take pleasure in home affairs, and, while playing games with energy, not to allow themselves to be so absorbed in amusements as to lose interest in quiet, useful occupations'.

After the Second World War, with changing attitudes to education for girls, greater emphasis was placed on academic achievement. The 1960s and 1970s saw the school expanding to over 400 pupils, with increasing numbers going on to study at university. A Junior School was established

in the late 1940s to cater for younger girls.

Of special note in the deposit is a collection of school magazines, the ones of 1905-23 being in manuscript form and beautifully hand illustrated (Fig 4). Some of the later printed magazines, in the 1950s and 1960s, have on the cover a representation of the school and grounds by Joan Hassall who was at Parsons Mead from 1919 to 1922. After leaving school Joan went on to become a noted illustrator and wood engraver and designed the invitation for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Also notable are the photographs in the collection. There are a large number of photographs of early pupils, apparently sent to Miss Elliston after the girls had left the school. There is also a very complete series of school photographs, of which many of the earlier ones have a sheet attached, identifying the pupils.

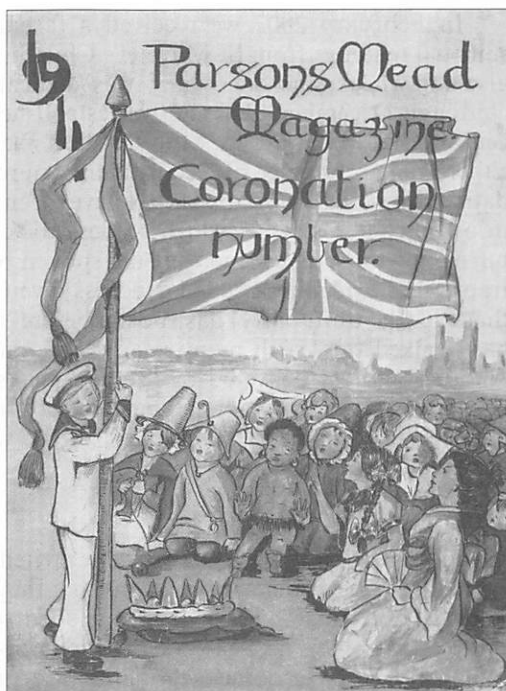


Fig 4 Cover of Parsons Mead school magazine, 1911 (ref. 8091/8/33).

Dark Villages and Spiritual Voices

Several interesting accessions illustrate the activities of religious organisations in the county during the 19th and 20th centuries.

A small pamphlet, comprising the first annual report (1821) of the Good Samaritan Itinerant Society (ref. 8152), may be the only surviving evidence of this small nonconformist missionary group, which was established after 'a few friends visited some dark villages in Surry, and found them utterly destitute of the means of grace'. The Society sought to spread the 'Word of Life' by preaching, sometimes in the open air, opening Sunday Schools and distributing tracts. Five 'destitute' villages were targeted and eventual success reported at Malden (although originally 'gaming, Sabbath-breaking, and almost every kind of vice, was here committed with impunity'), Streatham, Ewell and Hook; Roehampton was abandoned owing to low attendance and the Society's lack of funds.

In February 2007 we received a fascinating series of transcripts of spiritual readings from St Michael's Church, Ewell (ref. 8096). St Michael's, also known as The Sanctuary, was dedicated as a Christian Spiritualist church in December 1955 and was established on the site of a former 17th-century malting house by Mrs Kathleen Warner, following a bequest from Ethel Palmer, founder of a spiritualist church in Stoneleigh. The readings, dating from 1953-62, appear to have been delivered at church meetings in a trance-like state in which readers took on a personality or character outside of themselves, and they are spoken by the third party. One example transcribes a reading headed 'Address given in trance by Kay', and claims that she (the third party) has spoken before 'through this woman' (Kay) and has 'walked this earth many, many times in the last two thousand years'. Another address delivered by 'Tooie' speaks of 'many spirits collected on this planet of earth who, as you look at them, would appear to be dank, almost as insects in their darkness, in the way they fumble day after day, incarnation after incarnation'.

'Strange and Wonderful News'

At the end of August 2007 we were invited to visit the Minet Library in Lambeth to view some Surrey items that they had decided to dispose of. We were delighted to find that these included some very fine 17th- and 18th-century pamphlets as well as 19th- and 20th-century articles from specialist publications. After some negotiation we purchased 39 items. Of special interest was a pamphlet published in 1681 entitled *Strange and wonderful news from Yowel [Ewell] in Surry; giving a true and just account of one Elizabeth Burgiss, who was most strangely bewitched and tortured ...*, which tells of how, after encountering and having words with a local woman in Nonsuch Park, a servant girl, on returning to her master's house, was bombarded with stones which appeared from nowhere. She was later racked with pains from pins in lumps of clay found on her person. The woodcut illustrations from the pamphlet are reproduced in Fig 5.

Other items of interest include, from 1776, *Observations on the case of Miss Butterfield ...*, who the anonymous writer claims has been wrongly charged with the murder of a Mr Scawen of Woodcot Lodge; a pamphlet concerning *The true and genuine trial of Richard Philips for blasphemy and other high crimes and misdemeanors* at Reigate in 1750; and a religious tract, *A warning and visitation to the inhabitants of Godalming* by Henry Gill (1658).

New Light on Old Friends

It is a time of great excitement when we hear of the survival of records which add to and enrich well-loved documentary sources we already hold.

The More Molyneux family of Loseley Park have passed on to our safekeeping a large-scale map of the Loseley estate and its immediate environs, dated 1780, which we can now reunite with the accompanying written survey (ref. LM/2161

and LM/806). The map is rough in execution but supplies us with detail on the local roads, home farm, neighbouring tenant farms, including tenants' names, acreages and land use, to an unmatched level of precision.

A fine series of 13 watercolours of Nutfield by John Hassell (1767-1825) and his son, Edward (1811-52), was deposited by the Rector and Parochial Church Council of Nutfield (ref. 8200). The work of the Hassells in Surrey is well known and this collection adds to our already extensive holdings, many of which were collected by Robert Barclay of Bury Hill near Dorking (ref. 4348). All except one of the Nutfield watercolours are of the church; the majority of these show the interior and one or two show details such as the font or the carving on a pew end. The other watercolour shows an exterior view of Nutfield manor court house 'the residence of Mr Burt' by John Hassell, dated 1821. It depicts a three-storey house with verandah, a pond in the foreground and roofs of other buildings beyond a wall in the background. A very similar view from a slightly different angle, dated 1822, is held in the Barclay Collection (ref. 4348/2/68/1). The collection also includes three early 19th-century monochrome watercolour views of Nutfield by W.T. Haviland, about whom virtually nothing is known.

The Bray archive (ref. G52 and G85, deposited between 1925 and 1976) is a vast and varied estate and family collection distinguished by the inclusion



Fig 5 Woodcut illustrations from the pamphlet, *Strange and wonderful news from Yowel in Surry*, 1681 (ref. 942.2 EWE).

of the papers of William Bray (1736-1832), the solicitor and antiquarian, and co-author of Manning and Bray's *History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* (1804-1814). Bray, a prodigiously industrious man with wide-ranging interests, was still active in his historical researches at the time of his death at the age of ninety-six.

Among Bray's papers held here are a series of 76 diaries covering the period 1756-1832. Recent news of a 'prequel' to this series held in private hands seemed scarcely credible, but we were delighted to confirm, on seeing the volume, that the document was undoubtedly Bray's own, recording a young man's experiences of 1754-5 while he worked as an articled clerk to Mr Martyr of Guildford. A copy of the diary has now been deposited with us (ref. Z/493). More detailed and discursive than all but the 1756 volume, it provides a marvellous insight into Bray's early years, his business and social life in and around Guildford and his sporting, literary and scientific pursuits. Bray has diligently entered monetary receipts and expenses and daily notes on the weather, as well as 'memorandums' on his many doings, both in leisure and professional life, his ills (a tooth drawn at a cost of 1s. at the *White Hart* inn, 3 May 1754), his diet ('supped with Mr Gardner on radishes', 17 May 1754) and his friends. The diary is full of journeys, many miles often on foot, with a formidable schedule of activities. A day trip of Wednesday 4 June 1755 began before 6am, when a party of two post chaises, a chaise and four on horseback left Guildford. They reached Hampton Court at about 9am, to breakfast and view the palace and gardens (in postscript Bray notes the solution to the maze). By midday the party had reached Cobham, where they visited the gardens at Painshill and 'went upon the water at Mr Hamilton's in the boat of his own invention, rowed by wheels'. After an additional visit to General Cornwall's house and garden at Byfleet (Byfleet Manor) they returned home between 9 and 10pm.

From a source which abounds in interest of all kinds, particular attention can be drawn to Bray's references to sporting activity. Bray refers to watching cricket (a match between Ripley and Guildford, at which he drank 2d. worth of cider, 24 June 1754) and enjoyed playing bowls (1 June 1754, 'the Bowling Green was opened nowabouts'). Most notably, for posterity, he and his friends partook of a game he calls 'base ball' on Monday 31 March 1755 at Miss Jeale's: to date this is the earliest known surviving manuscript reference to baseball, and confirms the evidence of other early records that it was a game played by both men and women as a social pastime. This single record of Bray's afternoon outdoors ('cloudy') has broadened interest in the man and his life in 18th-century Guildford to an unprecedented degree, having excited the interest of US documentary film makers over 250 years later.

These are just a few of the very diverse records deposited during the year, reflecting Surrey's past. We continue to welcome offers of donations and deposits of all kinds of records to illustrate Surrey's history and widen the coverage of our holdings.

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The former Surrey Local History Council 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:

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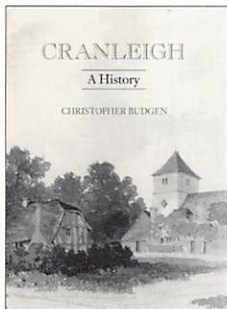
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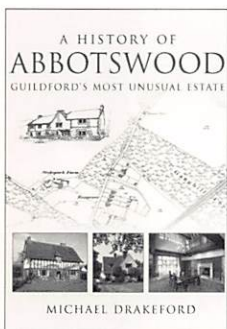


CRANLEIGH A HISTORY

Christopher Budgen

Cranleigh has claimed for some time to be the 'largest village' in England. As long ago as the 1920s, travel writers were dismissing it as a village aping the ways of a town. The tensions between those who saw expansion as a good thing and those concerned at the loss of what Cranleigh village meant to the people who already lived here have been evident for at least a century.

The reasons why Cranleigh survived to grow into the 'largest village in England', while larger settlements nearby did not, are contained in its history. History can attempt to explain, too, why such a burgeoning settlement should thrive away from the main thoroughfares of Surrey.



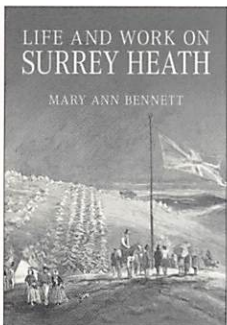
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GUILDFORD'S MOST UNUSUAL ESTATE

Michael Drakeford

Abbotswood is a favoured suburb in Guildford, Surrey. This major new study takes the reader back to Edwardian times, when the estate was still a dream for the developer Alfred G. Taylor and his talented architect, A. Claude Burlingham. The estate became the basis for several more quality developments in north-east Guildford between the two world wars, including the Ganghill Estate, and significant parts of Merron, such as Fairway and three roads off Trodds Lane.

Early features captured on photographs, both historical and contemporary, offer an insight into the homes of the estate. The book explores the very best of suburban architecture. It will fascinate those interested in Guildford's local history and in particular the Arts and Crafts style.



LIFE AND WORK ON SURREY HEATH

Mary Ann Bennett

The area known today as Surrey Heath, formed in 1974, is made up of the villages of Chobham, Bisley, Bagsbot, Windlesham, Sunningdale, Lightwater, West End, Frimley, Frimley Green, Deepcut, Mytchett and Camberley.

This book examines the period during which the use of the heathland harvest changed, from before the 19th century up to the post-enclosure arrival of the army and the nursery trade. It considers the businesses which flourished to meet the needs of those who travelled on the turnpike road, and their subsequent decline with the introduction of the railway, and also features the schools, institutions and large estate that came to the area, along with the industry which grew up around the fir plantations. Beautifully illustrated throughout, it provides the perfect introduction to the history of a unique and special area.

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