

# SURREY HISTORY



VOLUME XXII  
2023



# **SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE**

## **SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

*Chairman:* Gerry Moss, 10 Hurstleigh Drive, Redhill, Surrey RH1 2AA

The Surrey Local History Committee, which is a committee of the Surrey Archaeological Society, exists to foster an interest in the history of Surrey. It does this by encouraging local history societies within the county, by the organisation of meetings, by publication and also by co-operation with other bodies, to discover the past and to maintain the heritage of Surrey, in history, architecture, landscape and archaeology.

The meetings organised by the Committee include a one-day Symposium on a local history theme and a half-day meeting on a more specialised subject. The Committee produces *Surrey History* annually and other booklets from time to time. See below for publication enquires.

Membership of the Surrey Archaeological Society, our parent body, by local history societies, will help the Committee to express with authority the importance of local history in the county. Member societies may exhibit at the symposium and sell their publications there.

Members of Surrey Archaeological Society receive *Surrey History* free as part of their membership entitlement. Alternatively, copies may be purchased from Surrey Archaeological Society, Hackhurst Lane, Abinger Hammer, RH5 6SE. Membership enquires for the Society should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary at Abinger Hammer

Papers for publication in *Surrey History* are welcome and intended authors are invited to consult the editor for advice before proceeding. Enquires should be sent to the Hon. Editor, Surrey History, Surrey Archaeological Society, Hackhurst Lane, Abinger Hammer, RH5 6SE. Tel/fax: 01483 532454.

# SURREY HISTORY VOLUME 22 (2023)

Editor:  
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“To The Manor Born” – Moushill Manor, Milford, Witley . <i>David Taylor, FSA</i> .....	1
Pooley’s Chemist Shops Wimbledon Surrey 1878- 1960: using Family Memories and Electronic Resources <i>Norma Cox and Susan Stanford</i> .....	14
The Tin Tabernacles of Surrey, Part 4: London Boroughs of Lambeth <i>Gerard P Moss</i> .....	23
Accessions Received in Surrey History Centre, 2022 <i>Edited by Michael Page</i> .....	32
Index .....	54

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Surrey Local History Committee desires it to be known that it does not necessarily  
concur with the statements or opinions expressed herein.

Front cover illustration: The Sandhills on the road from the Rookery by H White, 1840s  
(SHC ref 10441/1) (see page 49)

Back cover illustration: detail from ‘A Dream of Surrey’ from *The Rambler*  
(SHC ref 10348/1 pp.27-8) (see page 44)

## About the Authors

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# “To The Manor Born” Moushill Manor, Milford, Witley <sup>1</sup>

*David Taylor, MA, PHD, FSA*

Moushill Manor lies within the hamlet of Moushill which is part of the village of Milford in south-west Surrey between Godalming and Witley. In 1914 J. S Ogilvy, wrote, “There is not a great deal of interest at Milford except the pretty little manor house of Mousehill.”<sup>2</sup> Although greatly enlarged and restored, the core of the house, is a timber-framed, yeoman’s house, dating from the sixteenth century. The house was enlarged and improved in the late eighteenth century. Further improvement and enlargement took place during the nineteenth century, some of which is attributed to the noted architect Augustus Welby Pugin.

In the last century Moushill Manor was divided into two residences – Moushill Court and Moushill Manor. Moushill Manor, which comprises the oldest parts of the building, is now the home of Dame Penelope Keith and her husband Mr Rodney Timson.



**Fig. 1 Moushill Manor, West Elevation**

## **Early Days**

Milford was formerly part of Witley which, until it was by-passed in the 1930s, stood on the old London to Portsmouth Road. The landscape was, and still is, one of wide expanses of heathland. At the end of the nineteenth century neighbouring Thursley Common was “a perfectly wild spot, occupying high ground covered with sand hummocks and tangled heather, and wearing all the characteristics

of mountain scenery.”<sup>3</sup> It was here that the Portsmouth Road passed through “wild and lonely country”, an ideal place for highwaymen and footpads in the eighteenth century when the first mail-coaches passed through. A short distance away is the Devil’s Punch Bowl scene of the brutal murder of a sailor in 1786 now commemorated by a memorial stone placed close to Gibbet Hill where the bodies of his three assailants were eventually hung on public display.

## The Courts and the Shudds

Moushill was recorded as *Mushulle* in 1304 and *Mousesulle* in 1313. The name may simply mean “mouse infested hill”.<sup>4</sup> The manor of Moushill comprised a small area at Moushill, Witley and neighbouring lands in Thursley. The family of Court were the chief landowners there in the 14th century. Robert Court was Lord of the Manor here in the reign of Henry V. In 1426 Robert conveyed all his lands in Witley to his son Thomas.<sup>5</sup> Thomas’s granddaughter Marion married Richard Shudd.

Richard Thomas Shudd (1495-1536) was born in Surrey. In 1510 he married Mary Elizabeth Littleton in Thursley.<sup>6</sup> This Richard Shudd made Moushill Manor his residence and, following his death, his widow re-married to John Stilwell. In 1548 the manor was held by Richard Shudd, son of Richard and Marion.<sup>7</sup> The will of another Richard Shudd, proved in 1614, specifically refers to his two houses Courthall and Moushill together with other lands “Lately purchased of John Fludder”.<sup>8</sup>

Moushill remained in the Shudd family until the seventeenth century when Joan Shudd married her distant cousin John Stilwell of Lower House, Bowlhead Green. Joan was the eldest daughter of Thomas Shudd of Moushill Manor, Milford and Cosford House, Thursley. These two houses were more substantial than Lower House and Joan inherited both of them on the death of her brother. In keeping with the law at the time, Joan’s husband, John Stilwell, became the rightful owner and the new Lord of the Manor.



Fig. 2 An extract from OS Six Inch revised 1895 and published in 1898.



## The Stilwell Family

The Stilwell family had been in the Thursley area for generations. Originally, they were the owners and estate managers at Lower House in Bowlhead Green.<sup>9</sup> The original spelling of the name was “Stylewell” which meant “pure spring” and is said to have come from two springs in Bowlhead Green near Thursley.<sup>10</sup> The name is first recorded in 1235 in the Godalming Court Records where a “Richardus de Stiyelewell” is mentioned. There is a Stilwell family crest with the motto “Hold Fast”.<sup>11</sup> There was another branch of the Stilwell family in the Dorking area. The Shudds and the Stilwells appear to have been quite prolific and owned a number of properties. Their chief residence was Cosford in Thursley and an engraving in Manning & Bray’s *History of Surrey* (based on a drawing by G. Shephard) refers to “The Vale of Cosford. The Ancient Residence of the Shudds and the Stilwells.” A number of Stilwell graves can still be seen in the churchyard at Thursley.



**Fig. 3 “The Vale of Cosford. The Ancient Residence of the Shudds and the Stilwells”**  
From Manning & Bray’s *History of Surrey* Vol II, facing page 52

John Stilwell, the son of John and Joan Shudd gave his estate at Cosford in Thursley and the manor of Moushill to John, his eldest son.<sup>12</sup> The estate connected with the manor of Moushill was given to Edmund, his second son (1670-1714).<sup>13</sup> Edmund married Mary Whittington and they had a son, another John (1726-1788) who married Mary Fielder (1721-1762).

The male line of the Stilwells moved from Cosford House to Moushill Manor in the early 1700s.<sup>14</sup>

## The Eighteenth Century

Moushill Manor remained in the hands of the Stilwell family throughout the eighteenth century. It is not clear whether they always lived at the property although a list of Surrey's "Jury-Qualified Freeholders" places John Stillwell (sic) Yeoman" at the top of the list for Witley in 1772 and, in 1781, the Witley Land Tax records "Mr John Stillwell (sic) as the owner and occupier of "Mousehill Farm". This would have been John Stilwell senior (1736-1788).



**Fig. 4 Stilwell graves in Thursley church yard**

Moushill was inherited by Stilwell's son, another John (d. 1834), who, a year after his father's death, insured all his property in Milford with the Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance Company.<sup>15</sup> The insurance record describes Stilwell as a Farmer and his "dwellinghouse" which is presumably Moushill Manor, was insured for £250 and the "household goods therein" for £100. In addition to his house and its contents, Stilwell insured various outbuildings which included a total of three barns and their contents, a stable, and a granary.

The insurance policy also included a nearby farmhouse which was then occupied by Thomas Strudwick, John Street, and John Strudwick who were all described as "labourers" and were probably employed by Stilwell. Nearby were two more barns. Stilwell's property portfolio also included a number of other nearby cottages, barns, "timber and thatched" stables and the "ricks & stacks in the Rickyard". The total value of the properties for insurance purposes was £1,300 which today would be nearly £800,000.



John Stilwell junior's finances received an unexpected boost in 1791 when he inherited a valuable estate in Chiddingfold from his uncle John Fielder who had shot himself in a fit of insanity.<sup>16</sup> Stilwell wasted no time in making the most of his new wealth and in 1792 and 1793 he sold off most of the standing timber at Chiddingfold.<sup>17</sup> He retained his late uncle's property until 1815 when he sold it for £2087.10s.<sup>18</sup> It was undoubtedly Stilwell's inheritance that allowed him to make the improvements at Moushill Manor commented on by Edward Brayley.<sup>19</sup> Stilwell's house was recorded in a watercolour by the topographical artist John Hassell.<sup>20</sup>



**Fig. 5 “Witley, Moushill court house, residence of Mr Stilwell” J. Hassell 1822.  
SHC 4348/3/51/1. This view shows the east elevation.**

In 1821, Stilwell sold Moushill Manor and other neighbouring properties to Viscount Midleton of nearby Peper Harrow, of whom more later, and made his home in Thursley where he died in 1834. A copy of his will survives in the National Archives.<sup>21</sup> At the time of making his will (a lengthy document with three codicils) in 1830 Stilwell was living in Thursley.

### **The Midletons of Peper Harrow**

The Midletons originated from Cork and the Midleton title was created in 1717 for Alan Brodrick, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland and former Speaker of the Irish House of Commons. He was created Baron Bodrick of Midleton in the County of Cork in 1715 having purchased the Peper Harrow estate two years earlier. It was his grandson George, 3rd Viscount who commissioned Capability Brown to landscape the site and Sir William Chambers to build the stables and coachyard,

and then, in 1765, to replace the original mansion.<sup>22</sup> The 4th Viscount, was created Baron Brodrick of Peper Harrow, Surrey in 1796.<sup>23</sup> Although now separated by the busy A3, Peper Harrow is only a few miles from Milford and, in 1821, the 5th Viscount purchased Moushall Manor and other properties and land in Milford and Thursley from the Stilwell family.<sup>24</sup>

As mentioned earlier, Milford was originally with the parish of Witley which has an ancient chapel of ease at Thursley. The two churches were three miles apart and, until 1837, one clergyman held services in both churches on Sundays but, in that year, the Rev. John Chandler, who was both patron and incumbent of the living, appointed a curate to Thursley and built a chapel at Milford. In 1842 the 5th Viscount Midleton proposed to make Milford a separate parish, under his own patronage, endowed with the tithes of around two thousand acres to be assigned to it, and supplemented by a further rent change on Midleton's lands. Chandler was to receive compensation for the value of lost tithes and a further £1,000. Midleton's nephew, Arthur Thomas, who was living in Moushill House as his uncle's tenant was the curate at Milford.<sup>25</sup> Unfortunately Thomas fell out with his uncle.<sup>26</sup>



**Fig. 6 Moushill Manor (west elevation) from the engraving by Thomas Allom.**  
**Brayley's *History of Surrey*, Vol V, p.257.**

## **A W N Pugin**

In the early 1840s Viscount Midleton employed the noted architect Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin (1812-1852) to design a group of farm buildings at Peper Harrow. These included a barn, a gatehouse and a well. Midleton was a member

of the Cambridge Camden Society, a learned architectural society founded in 1839 to promote “the study of Gothic Architecture and Ecclesiastical Antiques.” The Society advocated a return to a medieval style of church architecture in England. Pugin is now best remembered for his pioneering role in the Gothic Revival style that culminated in designing the interior of the Palace of Westminster.<sup>27</sup>

In addition to the work at Peper Harrow and on his estates in Ireland, Midleton also considered a complete rebuilding of Moushill Manor by Pugin for use as a parsonage. Pugin wrote to Midleton, “the house at Mousehill (sic) is more than a cottage – it is a small house - & a comfortable one into the bargain.”<sup>28</sup> In the event, Midleton opted for alterations to the old house that were carried out by a local man, Charles Bowler.<sup>29</sup>

It is not clear how much work was undertaken by Pugin at this time but an engraving of the house by Thomas Allom shows it as a *cottage orné* with decorative barge boarding which are very much in the Surrey vernacular style.<sup>30</sup>

The wonderful fireplace at Moushill was designed by Pugin. It carries the date 1643 but, in fact, this was originally 1843 until it was carefully altered by a later owner who wanted to prove the historic provenance of the house.<sup>31</sup>



Fig. 7 Fireplace designed by Pugin

Pugin also submitted designs for some of the furniture in the property.<sup>32</sup> In July 1844 Pugin submitted a final balance of commission on Farm building & also for Moushill cottage but not including carpenter’s work.”<sup>33</sup>

In 1848 Viscount Midleton, tragically committed suicide by asphyxiating himself with fumes from a charcoal brazier at Peper Harrow whilst in a state of unsound

mind. His suicide may have resulted from him becoming extremely depressed after his wife left him in 1847.<sup>34</sup> The coroner commented that he had always “considered his lordship an eccentric man, of very wayward disposition.”<sup>35</sup>

The 5th Viscount died childless and the title passed to his cousin Charles Midleton (1791-1863) who became the 6th Viscount.<sup>36</sup>

The 1851 census records the Rev Henry Gardiner, Curate of St John’s, Milford, as living at Moushill Manor with his unmarried sister Mary Ann who kept house for him. They lived modestly and employed a Gardener, a Cook and a House Maid. After Gardiner moved out in 1853 a notice was placed in the local press advertising the sale of their “Household Furniture and Effects.” These included “a well-made 6ft mahogany pedestal sideboard”, a dining table, chairs and other domestic items. Also included in the sale were dairy and brewing utensils, a dog cart, “two rave carts”, chaffcutter, and “garden engine”.<sup>37</sup>

Henry Gardiner appears to have been succeeded at Moushill Manor by Rev W. H. Lucas.<sup>38</sup>

### **Tenants of Moushill Manor**

In the middle of the nineteenth century Moushill Manor ceased to be a clergy house and was let to a succession of tenants until it was finally sold out of the Peper Harrow estate.

The 1861 census records the property as then being occupied by the Misses Mary and Louisa Dacres. These two sisters had been born in Aldenham, Herefordshire and were probably the daughters of James Dacres, a Captain in the Royal Navy. They were described as “Fundholders” which meant they lived by independent means. They employed a Cook, a House Maid, a Lady’s Maid, and a Kitchen Maid and her husband both of whom were only sixteen years old.

Under the Misses Dacres Moushill Manor became the centre for the all events usually associated with a small rural community such as Milford. In September 1862, the local “cottager’s annual flower and vegetable show” was held in the grounds. This event was graced by the presence of Lord Midleton and the Rev. Chandler, vicar of Witley.<sup>39</sup> This appears to have been an annual event at Moushill Manor and, in 1865, it was reported how the Misses Dacres “have in a practical means sown their desire for the welfare of their humbler neighbours.”<sup>40</sup> Those attending this event were entertained by the band of the 2nd Surrey Militia whose “excellent music was the admiration of all present.”<sup>41</sup> Two years later, in 1867, it was reported of the show that “A better *focale* for a floral horticultural exhibition could hardly be conceived. Here were erected four tents, all of which contained objects worthy of inspection.” The report continues with a long list of the distinguished visitors to this event led, once again, by Viscount Midleton.<sup>42</sup>

## Henry Woodyer

The Royal Institute of British Architects holds three drawings and plans, dated 1868, showing for substantial enlargement and improvement of Moushill Manor that included the addition of “domestic offices” such as a Housekeeper’s Room and a Butler’s Bedroom together with a Kitchen, Scullery, Larder, Dairy and a “School & Dining Room.”<sup>43</sup> Presumably by this time, the Misses Dacre had



**Fig. 8 Henry Woodyer’s designs for Moushill Manor 1868.**  
East and west elevations. RIBA PB373/9(1-8)

left the property. The architect was Henry Woodyer (1816-1896). Born in Guildford, the son of a successful and highly respected surgeon who owned Allen House in the Upper High Street, Woodyer was a pupil of William Butterfield and a disciple of Pugin.

After the enlargement of the property the next known tenant of Moushill Manor was a Mr R Courage who continued the tradition of holding the Witley and Milford Cottager’s Show in the grounds. In 1871 it was reported in the local press that, “The day was fortunately one of rich autumn beauty and a large and highly fashionable company honoured the show with their presence.” The prizes were distributed by Lord Middleton who made a lengthy speech extolling the virtues of the show and the hard work of the local villagers. “A man who avoided slovenliness and untidiness, and kept a decent front to the world, was as a rule the man who rejoiced in a tidy garden.” His speech was accompanied by large cheering from the assembled tenants and villagers.<sup>44</sup>

In 1874 the *Dundee Courier* carried an article headed “UNFORTUNATE END OF A REGIMENTAL PET.” The regimental “pet” was a deer which had been presented to the 7th Highlanders by Queen Victoria. It had been loaned to Mr Courage at Moushill Manor. Unfortunately, it escaped into the grounds of a neighbour, William Cattley of Northbrook who, on seeing the deer considered it “fine game for his gun” and shot it.<sup>45</sup>

This “Mr Courage” was Robert Michell Courage (1855-1887) a member of the



great brewing family. The 1881 census records him at Moushill Manor with his younger brother Harold. Neither were married. When Robert died of a “fever” at the young age of 32, his estate was worth £12,000, which today would be nearly £1,500,000. Their father, also Robert, had a country house at Snowdenham Hall, in nearby Bramley.

### **“The Surrey Scotland”**

By the second half of the nineteenth century, following the coming of the railway and, later, the motor car, Surrey attracted those who wished to live in the country but with reasonable access to London. In 1895 it was reported:

Milford might justly be called the Surrey Scotland. As it is only an hour by rail from London, it follows obviously that the hundreds of thousands of metropolitan holiday-makers utterly ignore its existence. In a few years from this we shall probably have personally conducted tours to the North Pole and to the South Pole, and English men and women in search of change will, no doubt, travel you these distant places by the score.

Milford and Moushill are two villages so intimately connected with each other that even the “oldest inhabitant” is unable to decide which is Moushill and which is Milford. This matters, however, little, for neither possesses in itself any material charm. But being, as it were, the gates to the Paradise of Pines they attain an importance which they would otherwise not have. Within an hour from Waterloo and ten minutes’ drive from Milford station, there is a tract of common land some hundreds of feet above the level of the sea which extends for miles. This is covered with silvery pines and violet heather. Taking Milford for a centre, it is no exaggeration to say that there is scarcely any enclosed land within ten miles. It seems, then, inconceivable that so lovely a district should be comparatively so much neglected as it is.”<sup>46</sup>

### **The Kinglakes and Faircloughs**

Perhaps it was the appeal of “Surrey Scotland” that brought the next tenant to Moushill Manor in the closing years of the nineteenth century. He was Robert Alexander Kinglake, a barrister and distinguished oarsman. Kinglake became heavily involved in local affairs serving on the Hambledon Board of Guardians and the Rural District Council. He married Mary Sybil and the couple had two sons and a daughter. After his death in 1915 his widow continued to live at the property. The 1901 census records the Kinglake family at Moushill Manor. Their lifestyle at Moushill necessitated the employment of a cook, a parlour maid, a lady’s maid, a kitchen maid, a housemaid and a groom. It seems probably that it was Kinglake who added the gracious drawing room on the southern end of Moushill Manor.

Following tradition, Kinglake and his wife continued to use the house as a centre for village activity. In addition to the annual garden shows, they also hosted a



temperance gathering there in 1888. This event was attended by the local vicar and about three hundred parishioners. Following the obligatory speeches, the guests were entertained by the Moushill Band.<sup>47</sup> In 1906 a sudden destructive storm hit the Guildford area and killed two people. It was reported that there was hardly a tree standing at Moushill.<sup>48</sup>



Fig. 9 An early 20th century postcard view of Mouse Hill Manor. Godalming Museum.

In 1907 the Kinglakes' daughter, Mary married Major Charles Fairclough (sometimes spelt Fairtclough) of Catteshall Manor, Godalming and the couple had two sons. After her husband died, Mary married Colonel R. G. Hayes of Munstead, Godalming. Mrs Hayes, as she became, always took a great interest in local affairs and when she died In June 1939 her passing was declared a "great loss" to Milford. Her obituary stated that she had inherited from her parents a desire to serve the community. A "staunch member of the local branch of the Conservative Association", Mrs Hayes had also been President of the Surrey Needlework Guild and a member of the committee of the Milford Nursing Association. In her younger days she had been a keen horsewoman.<sup>49</sup>

Moushill Manor remained a part of the Peper Harrow estate until the middle years of the last century estate was sold by the Middleton family. It was presumably about this time that the property was divided into two and passed through a number of hands until it was purchased by Dame Penelope and her husband in 1978.

## Footnote:

In June 2023 the author had the pleasure of taking Mr Newcombe Stillwell of Boston, USA, a descendant of the Stilwells of Thursley to visit Moushill Manor at the kind invitation of Dame Penelope and her husband.



**Fig. 10 Mr Newcombe Stillwell (Centre) with Dame Penelope Keith and Mr Rodney Timson at Moushall Manor**

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1 The spelling of Mousehill is inconsistent across time and documentation, and might appear as Moushill/Mousehill, Moushall/Mouse Hill. In this article the modern spelling is used unless in direct quotation from a documentary source.

2 J. S. Ogilvy, *A Pilgrimage In Surrey*, 1914.

3 C. G. Harper, *The Portsmouth Road: The Sailors' Highway*. (1895).

4 A. Mawer and F.M. Stenton (eds) *English Place-Name Society. Vol. XI. The Place Names of Surrey* (1934).

5 Add. Chart. (B.M.), 27741.

6 <http://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/GQ68-8JV/richard-thoas-shudd-1497-1536>.

7 Misc. Bks (Land Rev.)vol. 190, fol. 132.

8 DW/PA/7/9 ff.58r-61r; DW/PA5/1614/105.

9 Guy Singer, *Tales from a Country Churchyard. St Michael and All Angels*, Thursley, 2022.

10 At least one of these springs can still be seen in Bowlhead Green.

11 Stilwellhistory.uk/wp/thursley-stilwells/

12 The Hearth Tax 1664 Lady Day for Thursley and Witley is in bad condition (and hearth numbers illegible) but there is a John Stilwell in each of these parishes plus another Stilwell name for Thursley; and a Thomas Shudd in Thursley.

- 13 E. W. Brayley, FSA, *A Topographical History of Surrey* (1850). Vol V, p. 257.
- 14 Many of the Stilwells are buried in Thursley churchyard. They can be seen to the left of the entrance porch and include John Stilwell, “late of Moushill in the Parish of Witley, who died 17th July 1788, aged 62 years; and of Mary his wife, who died the 23rd Novr. 1762, aged 41 years.”. Sadly, many of the inscriptions recorded by Manning & Bray are no longer legible.
- 15 London Metropolitan Archives. CLC/B/192/F/001/MS11936/359/553737.
- 16 *Northampton Mercury*, 18 June 1791.
- 17 *Hampshire Chronicle*, 5 March 1792& *Reading Mercury*, 4 March 1793.
- 18 West Sussex Record Office, Mitford/1648,1649.
- 19 Brayley’s *Surrey*, Vol V, p. 257.
- 20 SHC4348/3/51/1.
- 21 The National Archives. PROB 11/1839/140.
- 22 SHC G145/3/7.
- 23 [Wikipedia.org/wiki/Viscount\\_Midleton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viscount_Midleton).
- 24 Records of the Midleton family’s estate at Moushill are in the Surrey History Centre. G145/3/1/12.
- 25 Information kindly supplied by Mike Page, County Archivist, Surrey History Centre.
- 26 SHC G145/Box38/3.
- 27 For more on Pugin see Rosemary Hill, *God’s Architect. Pugin and the Building of Romantic Britain* Allen Lane (2007).
- 28 A W Pugin to Lord Midleton, 5 Jan 1843.
- 29 G. J. Hyland, *The Architectural Works of A W N Pugin* (2014). SHC21/9/1843. In 1843 Pugin wrote to Midleton, “I certify that C. Bowler has duly performed to such of the work at Moushill house as to entitle him to a further payment of one hundred pounds.”
- 30 Brayley, *Surrey* Vol V, opposite page 257.
- 31 SHC 145/3/7/2.,
- 32 SHC GMR1248/33/7. 4 June 1843? Pugin’s designs were for “an old table & one pair of carved oak chairs.
- 33 SHC GMR 145/39/1.
- 34 Commenting on Midleton’s death, Pugin wrote, “I thought he would come to a miserable end.” Pugin to Rev James Hornby, 13 November 1848, Cheshire County Record Office, P158/4296/30/81.
- 35 *The Hampshire Advertiser*, 11 November 1848.
- 36 *London Evening Standard*, 19 April 1849.
- 37 *The Hampshire Chronicle*, 23 April 1853.
- 38 *John Bull*, 21 May 1853 contained an announcement of the birth of a daughter to the wife of Rev W H Lucas at Moushill Manor.
- 39 *West Surrey Times*, 20 September 1862.
- 40 *Sussex Advertiser*, 19 September 1865.
- 41 *Aldershot Military Gazette*, 16 September 1865.
- 42 *Surrey Advertiser*, 14 September 1867.
- 43 RIBA PB373/9/1,2,3.
- 44 *West Surrey Times*, 9 September 1871.
- 45 *Dundee Courier*, 23 September 1874.
- 46 *Truth*, 5 September 1895.
- 47 *Surrey Advertiser*, 25 June 1888.
- 48 *West Surrey Times*, 4 August 1906.
- 49 *Surrey Advertiser*, 5 July 1939.

# Pooley's Chemist Shops Wimbledon Surrey 1878- 1960: using Family Memories and Electronic Resources.

*Norma Cox and Susan Stanforth*

This article looks at the chemists and chemist assistants who worked in the two Pooley's chemist shops in Wimbledon from 1878-1960. In 2018 Norma Cox published a short article with Stuart Anderson about the emergence of chemists' shops in Wimbledon during the Victorian era. <https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bshp/ph/2018/00000048/00000002/art00004?crawler=true>. One shop mentioned was Pooley's Chemist shop at 36 High Street in Wimbledon. In May 2021 Norma Cox was contacted by Susan Stanforth, the daughter of a previous manager of Pooleys Chemist named Mr William James Vale, who had run that shop between 1940 and 1947. Susan had information about Wimbledon and her father's work there. As research in 2021 was difficult due to the covid pandemic, Susan offered to research the people connected with the Pooley business using the online genealogical resource <https://www.findmypast.co.uk>. Additional data came from P Greenwood and E Janovski of Wimbledon museum who supplied information from <https://www.ancestry.co.uk>.

## Introduction

The first Pooleys Chemist shop in Wimbledon run by Mr John Dingley Stephens Pooley was at 15 Hill Road, Wimbledon. The second chemist shop run by him was at 36 High Street. He ran both shops at the same time and lived above the premises in Hill Road.



Fig. 1 36 High Street, Wimbledon, Norma Cox 2021

The double-fronted building at 36 High Street is today a fashion clothes shop called Matches (see Figure 1). This shop is in a parade of buildings some of which date from 1775.<sup>1</sup> Many people remember Pooley's Chemists shop with the intriguing glass carboys full of coloured liquid in each of the bay windows.<sup>2</sup> The building was said to have been the Doctor's Surgery in Wimbledon which opened in 1825.<sup>3</sup> The first chemist to work and live at 36 High Street, before Pooley, was Charles Bland in the year 1860.<sup>4</sup> Charles Bland was followed by chemist Joseph Phillips Mellin in 1862.<sup>5</sup> Mr Mellin, his wife, his son and a chemist's assistant named George Carrell who came from Australia, had lived at 36 High Street in 1881.<sup>6</sup> Ten years later in 1891 Mr J D S Pooley was also listed at the 36 High Street premises.<sup>7</sup> The Pooley's Chemist shop at 15 Hill Road has gone today and the site is now part of the recently closed Argos store in Wimbledon. It is seen in Figure 2.



Fig. 2 15 Hill Road, Wimbledon, Norma Cox 2021

### John Dingley Stephens Pooley

John Dingley Stephens Pooley was born in Linkinhorne, Cornwall in 1848.<sup>8</sup> His father was Richard Pooley and his mother was Catherine Dingley Stephens and they married in 1845.<sup>9</sup> John Dingley Stephens Pooley married Elizabeth Evans in 1877 at St. Mary's parish church in Wimbledon. The bridegroom gave his age as 29 years and his occupation as chemist. The bride was 20 years old.<sup>10</sup> Elizabeth's father, Joseph Evans, was a builder.<sup>11</sup> John Dingley Stephens Pooley had passed the Minor examination of the Pharmaceutical Society on 22 June 1876, becoming a practising chemist and druggist.<sup>12</sup> Between 1878 and 1880 Mr J D S Pooley and his wife lived at 2 The Pavement in Wimbledon, which was close to 15 Hill Road.<sup>13</sup> In 1881 they were living at 15 Hill Road with a live-in servant.<sup>14</sup> In 1887 their address was still 15 Hill Road Wimbledon and he was shown as a chemist<sup>15</sup>

An advert in the *Surrey Advertiser* for 17 November 1888 showed that Mrs Pooley had advertised for a general servant and the address was 15 Hill Road.<sup>16</sup> The 1891 census shows the Pooleys still living at 15 Hill Road, along with Thomas Evans, brother of Elizabeth Pooley, a man of independent means and Francis H Blinell,



assistant chemist.<sup>17</sup> *Kelly's Directory* lists both 15 Hill Road and 36 High Street as Pooley's business addresses in 1891 and shows that between then and 1894 the former was also their residence. The 1891 electoral register shows that J D S Pooley leased a house at 2 The Pavement and qualified to vote through ownership of a property in Dalkeith Road in Winchester.

In 1901 he retired to Dingley, West Cliff Road Bournemouth with his wife and one servant.<sup>18</sup> J D S Pooley was not working but living on his own means.<sup>19</sup> The Bournemouth address was also recorded for him in 1903 as a shareholder of the Great Western Railway as he had inherited GWR shares.<sup>20</sup> The 1907 Electoral Register showed that he was listed as leaseholder of 15 Hill Road Wimbledon.<sup>21</sup> In 1909-10 the company Pooley & Co chemists had been formed.<sup>22</sup>

John died at Dingley, Westcliffe Road on 4 April 1926.<sup>23</sup> Probate was granted to his widow Elizabeth on 8 May 1926 and he left £8807 17s 10d. When Elizabeth died she left her estate to nephews and nieces suggesting that she and her husband did not have any children.<sup>24</sup> The names of the chemists' shops at 15 Hill Road Wimbledon and at 36 High Street still continued as Pooleys.

### **Chemists and Chemists assistants in the Pooley shops**

In 1901 Charles Tapp, chemist's manager, and Frederick Davies, chemist's assistant, were both living at 36 High Street, Wimbledon either above the shop or in part of the premises above the shop.<sup>25</sup>

The addresses of the company Pooley and Co Chemists were shown as 15 Hill Road Wimbledon and 36 High Street Wimbledon until 1911 when the census listed Edwin Dawber aged 40 as chemist manager at 15 Hill Road Wimbledon with his wife Mary aged 45 and Frederick Blackburn Hinchliffe aged 23, a chemist's assistant who also lived at the 15 Hill Road address.<sup>26</sup> The two Pooley shops remained until 1919 when they were sold from Mr W R Wheeler, who also owned the shop at 36 High Street, to Edwin Dawber.<sup>27</sup> Edwin Dawber worked as the chemist of Pooley's Chemist at 15 Hill Road Wimbledon for 23 years and he died on the 18 June 1934 at Wimbledon's Cottage Hospital.<sup>28</sup> In 1936 the expired lease passed to Harry S Fenton of 14 Worple Road Wimbledon.<sup>29</sup> Pooleys Chemist 15 Hill Road Wimbledon was no longer listed in the trade directories after 1936 and the business was not listed in the 1937 Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists, Chemists and Druggists and Registered Premises.<sup>30</sup> From 1938 the shop at 36 High Street was called Pooley & Co under J W Arthur.<sup>31</sup> From 1911 James William Arthur and Harold A Roberts, both chemists assistants, were living at 36 High Street Wimbledon.<sup>32</sup> In the 1939 Register, compiled on 29 September to assist in the production of identity cards in preparation for the war, Harold A Roberts who was born in 1878 was still there. He was unmarried and gave his occupation as pharmacist and chemist.<sup>33</sup>

In the 1940's the pharmacist and manager at Pooleys Chemist 36 High Street was William James Vale who had qualified as a pharmacist and become a member of



the Pharmaceutical Society in 1926.<sup>34</sup> He lived above the shop.<sup>35</sup> Shortly after taking over the job he met a young woman who would later become his wife.<sup>36</sup> She was working as a live-in nanny to the Rawlins family at Stonecourt, Westside Wimbledon Common.<sup>37</sup> The Rawlins were customers of Pooley's Chemist and the young nanny was sent to Pooley's to buy baby food.<sup>38</sup> William married the nanny in June 1943 and they lived above the shop until late 1946, when they bought their own business in Sussex.<sup>39</sup> Letters written by William to his future wife before their marriage, give details of when she went away with the Rawlins family, these letters are still owned by her daughter Susan and they give a "fascinating insight into wartime life in that corner of the country".<sup>40</sup> Throughout the war, the work of chemist shops at home in Britain was necessary to safeguard the health of the people. Mr Vale had qualified in 1926 when he was probably 21 years old and would have been about 35 years of age by 1940 and being in his thirties he would have been eligible for conscription. He later told his daughter that he was in a reserved occupation. When he needed a day off locum cover was provided by a Mr Roach.<sup>41</sup> A business card used by William at this time is shown in Figure 3. It is dated by a message on the reverse written by William to Susan's mother. During wartime in Wimbledon her father William had fire watching duties.<sup>42</sup>



**Fig. 3 Pooley's Business Card Permission of Susan Stanforth**

Pharmacies with more than one branch required a responsible pharmacist to be in charge of each operating premises, and each company with a retail pharmacy had to employ a Superintendent Pharmacist.<sup>43</sup> In the 1950 Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists, Chemists and Druggists and Registered Premises for Pooley's & Co (Chemist) Ltd, this post was filled by Marjorie Hale.<sup>44</sup> The registered address of Pooley & Co (Chemist) Ltd at this time was at Jetwells, a listed Grade II Regency building at Camelford in Cornwall.<sup>45</sup> By 1955 the Registered Office for

the company, handling all of its business matters was 265 The Strand London.<sup>46</sup> Marjorie Hale was also listed at 36 High Street in Wimbledon. In the 1960 Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists, Chemists and Druggists and Registered Premises Pooley's & Co (Chemist) Ltd still had a Superintendent Pharmacist named Marjorie Hale and by 1960 she had become a director of the company.<sup>47</sup> This was the last year that Pooley & Co (Chemists) Ltd was listed in the Registers of the Pharmaceutical Society.<sup>48</sup>

The September 1959 issue of *Motif 3* the art magazine contained an illustration of Pooley's Chemist shop-front at 36 High Street Wimbledon by the designer and illustrator John Griffiths. The image is in a vivid purple colour, and although it has not been reproduced here for copyright reasons, it can be seen online.<sup>49</sup> Griffiths had commented that "the chemist manager of Pooley's had apologised for the few jars in the window as some had been damaged in the war". He also stated that he was invited inside the building to view two seventeenth century black fireplaces which were up-stairs. The fireplaces had reliefs on them, one showing a hunting scene and the other Solomon's Judgement. Mr Griffiths also saw some Italian Herb jars at the Pooleys Chemist

## For all Medicinal and Toilet Requisites



# POOLEY & CO.

36 HIGH STREET  
WIMBLEDON COMMON

TELEPHONE - - WIMBLEDON 5282 & 5283

Fig. 4 Pooley's shop 36 High Street, Wimbledon,  
1940 Kelly's Directory

shop.<sup>50</sup> In 2009 Susan and her husband visited Wimbledon in order to see where her parents had met and spent their first years together. She was unable to see much of the house named Stonecourt, as it was behind high security gates. The shop at 36 High Street had become an Italian restaurant. Susan and her husband had their lunch there, and their table was on the first floor. It must have felt strange to be sitting in what was her parents' dining room.<sup>51</sup>

## Conclusion

The two Pooley's chemist shops in Wimbledon were successful. The shops employed chemists and chemist's assistants and the latter could sit the Pharmaceutical Society's Minor Examination to become associate members of the Pharmaceutical Society but they could not vote.<sup>52</sup> Their role varied from dispensary junior through to the person who ran a pharmacy and extracted teeth.<sup>53</sup>

In 1936 when the lease of the shop at 15 Hill Road lapsed and business ceased, there was no mention of any Pooleys Chemists in the 1937 Register but in 1938 the shop at 36 High Street was back in the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists, Chemists and Druggists and Registered Premises. Interestingly there were three other pharmacies in Hill Road Wimbledon in 1938, these were Boots at number 27, W Bowden (1937) W Bowden (Representative of) 1938 onwards at number 62 and at number 14 Taylors (Cash Chemists) London Ltd 1937 onwards.<sup>54</sup>

The Pooley's Chemist business-card dated 1941 showed that Pooley and Co had become a limited company which meant that the business was doing very well. The business card also had the information 'est 1825' on it, which was the same year given in the *Motif 3* description for the doctor's address at 36 High Street. The first chemist at 36 High Street was C Bland in 1860 and this date was the same year that the doctor's practice began at 35 High Street next door to number 36.<sup>55</sup>

The coloured glass carboys in the windows of 36 High Street Wimbledon were well known. A black and white photograph of the shop front showing the carboys, obtained from Kelly's Wimbledon Directory 1940 is seen in Figure 4.<sup>56</sup> Chemists' carboys were the established hallmark of a respectable and trusted chemist.

Recording memories ensures that history is not lost and this really matters because it allows the history to be studied later on. When the shop at 36 High Street closed in 1960 it brought to an end eighty-two years of the Pooley name and one hundred years of pharmaceutical and local history at that Wimbledon address.

## Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Mrs Susan Stanforth for her permission to record details of her memories about her parents Mr and Mrs W Vale. Susan also gave the information from <https://www.findmypast.co.uk> . She obtained copies of the Wills of Mr and Mrs J D S Pooley.

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Thanks are due to the Library of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for information from the Registers of Pharmaceutical Chemists, Chemists and Druggists and Registered Premises. Also for the information on copyright.

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31 From 1938 the shop at 36 High Street was under J W Arthur. Library of Royal Pharmaceutical Society. 2021

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37 The young woman worked at Stonecourt as nanny to Rawlins family. Stanforth, Susan. 2021

38 The nanny shopped in Pooleys for baby food. Stanforth, Susan. 2021

39 W J Vale married the nanny and they lived above the shop at 36 High Street until February 1947. Stanforth, Susan. 2021

40 Mr Vale's letters to his future wife. Stanforth, Susan. 2021

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# The Tin Tabernacles of Surrey

## Part 4: London Borough of Lambeth

*Gerard P Moss*

The tin tabernacles of the modern county of Surrey, the outer London Boroughs formerly in Surrey, and London Borough of Wandsworth have been published.<sup>1</sup> This part covers the Borough of Lambeth.

Tin tabernacles were first manufactured in about 1850 and the first London one south of the river Thames was in Lambeth (Emmanuel Church, William Street). The absence of any iron churches or chapels in the northern part of the borough and apart from one erected in 1892 in the district of Southwark reflects the earlier dense population of these areas in the first half of the nineteenth century.

There are a number of notable examples in Lambeth. When Reuben Torrey and Charles Alexander on their second evangelistic mission had a session in Brixton the church must be one of the largest ever constructed. It held a congregation of 6000 and a choir of 2000. Another significant church was originally Immanuel church in Hetherington Road that was probably the last surviving iron church in Greater London formerly Surrey. It was demolished in 2021. The loss of a Wesleyan iron church in Thurlow Park Road by fire in 1877 was recorded very widely in newspapers across all of Great Britain. So far 96 reports have been noted.

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### **BRIXTON**

A mission church of St John's Church Brixton was erected in 1867 in St John's Road, presumably as a temporary measure to relieve pressure on space in the existing St John's Church. (TQ 313 758)

Gresham Road/Barrington Road iron Baptist Church was erected in 1869 in the narrow site between the two roads. It was destroyed by fire in 1895 and replaced by a permanent church. (TQ 315 755)

Milton Road Methodist iron chapel was erected in 1869. It follows a house church in Dulwich Road that started in 1836. The iron chapel was replaced by a permanent building in Railton Road, in 1874. (TQ 316 746)

St Catherine Mission Church was erected in Gresham Road in 1869. It closed in 1902 and was demolished to be replaced in 1908 by Brixton Fire Station. (TQ 315 756)



An application to add an extension to Wynne Road iron Baptist Chapel was made in 1870. No information has been found on when the original iron building was erected. It was replaced by a permanent church, opened in 1889. (TQ 311 762)

St Paul's iron church was erected in Allardyce Street in 1874. It was variously described as holding 850 and 1200 persons. In 1878 the iron church was put up for auction but presumably did not sell as it remained empty and it was bought and reopened as the parochial hall in 1882. It was replaced by a permanent building in Santley Street in 1881. (TQ 305 753)

An iron church, fittings and effects were advertised for sale by auction in 1877. It was located in Sudbourne Road but it is not clear that this where it had previously been located

The Primitive Methodist Immanuel Church in Hetherington Road was erected in 1882. The church was for some time still referred to by the old name of the road, Kelloway Road. It was given temporary planning permission that was renewed for a further two years in 1890. Although it implies that then the iron church should be replaced in fact it remained. In 1962 it was sold to the Bible Truth Church of God. Finally it was demolished in 2021, the last surviving tin tabernacle in Lambeth, and probably in London south of the river Thames. (TQ 301 752)

A planning application in 1891 for a temporary iron and wood church on the east side of Brixton Hill and west of Josephine Avenue was approved but it not clear if the church was ever erected.



**Fig. 2 Bible Truth Church of God, Heatherington Road, 2018**

Arodene Road Baptist Church, also called Raleigh Park Baptist Church, was erected in 1892 holding 500 persons. (TQ 308 745)

An iron building baptist church was erected in Harold Street (now Lilford Road west of the railway) in 1896. It was located next to Hyde & Co, Bird Food

manufactory. No further record of this building has been found other than a mention in a 1903 directory. (TQ 320 764)

The second Torrey and Alexander Mission to England in 1905 started in the Albert Hall where there were crowds of up to 12000. They then moved to Brixton. These services were held in possibly the biggest iron church. It was on the site being prepared to build Brixton Town Hall at the junction of Brixton Hill and Acre Lane. The General Purposes Committee agreed to let the site for four months



Fig. 3 inside Torrey and Alexander Mission building, inside



Fig. 4 Torrey and Alexander Mission, outside

from February 1905 at a rent of £125 per month. The building cost £4000 and held a choir of 2000 with a congregation of 6000. The church opened in April and was used for nearly two months with average afternoon services for 3000 and was usually completely full of an evening. There were no services on a Friday. The mission cost £500 per week. Torrey and Alexander then moved on to another iron building erected on the Aldwich/Strand site that held 6000 persons. In August 1905 the Brixton building was sold and re-erected on Woodbridge Hill, Guildford for an expansion of the Dennis motor company. (TQ 309 751)

### **CLAPHAM (see also Wandsworth)**

In 1865 an iron church, 14 x 34 ft, was obtained for Trinity Congregational Church from one that was previously at Cambridge Heath, Hackney. It was re-erected in Queen's Place, just off Wandsworth Road, filing a site up to the backs of houses in Crichton Street. These roads no longer exist. The site is roughly between St Rule Street and Westbury Street. In 1892 it was put up for sale to clear the site. Grafton hall was built on the site. (TQ 292 762)

An iron chapel was approved for two years in Carfax Square in 1876. It was probably the Plymouth Brethren meeting house in the Square known as Carfax Square Hall. (TQ 296 752)

The Rev D.M. Cameron ran the Union Tabernacle with a congregation of 300 in a tent at the end of Pensbury Road, probably at the end of the rail goods yard. In 1886 they moved to an iron mission building holding 1000 in Wandsworth Road close to Brayburn Avenue. A more permanent church was started in 1911. (TQ 293 762)

### **DULWICH (To be continued under Southwark)**

The Iron Wesleyan Chapel on Thurlow Park Road was probably erected in 1872. It was completely destroyed by fire in the early hours of 8 December 1877. This fire was widely reported in newspapers (96 reports located so far from all over Great Britain and Ireland). The exact location of the chapel has not been identified but it is tempting to correlate it with an iron chapel on the South side of Thurlow Park Road and New Road recorded in 1872 in the *Proceedings of the Metropolitan Board of Works*. This is probably Court Road and may be the site later used by the St Cuthbert's Presbyterian Church (see below). The Wesleyan Chapel was replaced in 1879 by a permanent church in Norwood Road opposite Tulse Hill Station. (TQ 321 729)

All Saints iron church was erected in Croxted Road in 1878 on a temporary basis. Its retention was granted in 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1889 and 1891. A permanent church was erected in Rosedale Road and opened in 1891. The iron church continued in use as the parish room. It was sold in 1911. (TQ 325 732)

Tulse Hill Presbyterian Church was an iron church erected at the corner of



Thurlow Park Road and Court Road (now Elmcourt Road) in 1892. Previously they had applied to erect an iron chapel on this site there in 1883. At this date Court Road had not yet been named. The church was dedicated to St Cuthbert. Initially the planning procedure restricted its to being replaced by the end of two years it was eventually replaced by a permanent building in 1902. (TQ 321 729)

## **KENNINGTON**

Holy Trinity iron Church was erected in South Island Place in 1870 for a Canadian minister, Rev Dr R A Carden, who had qualified in the United States. One of his first sermons was on disestablishment of the Church of England, an arrangement he was used to in Canada. This resulted in the Rector of Kennington refusing to sanction its use and the Bishop to licence the church. In 1872 Rev Dr Carden was arrested and prosecuted by the Charity Organisation Society for appealing for a number of fictitious causes with no evidence they were genuine. He was convicted to nine months in Wandsworth goal. However he was released six months later on health grounds. In 1874 the church and contents was seized by the sheriff's office for debt. Dr Carden was forced to leave the area and eight months later was sentenced at the Old Bailey to seven years penal servitude for forging and offering cheques and orders. Meanwhile the church continued with various ministers. In 1874 the church was rented by a congregational church while the congregation were waiting for a more commodious home. Attempts were made to reopen it in 1882 as an Anglican church but the rector of Kennington still refused even though the bishop was willing. In 1882 it seems to have been a Baptist Mission Room. The iron church was demolished in 1889. The site was taken over for a Plymouth Brethren Mission Room and recorded in directories from 1895 and was last recorded in Kelly's Directory of 1903 (not in the 1905 directory). (TQ 312 772)

## **LAMBETH**

In 1857 permission was granted for an iron church at the corner of Saunders Street (no longer exists) and Union Street (now Fitzalan Street). No further evidence has been found that this church was actually erected. It is probable that there was a change of mind and the church was erected in William Street, see below.

Emmanuel Church was erected in 1857 in William Street (became Distin Street but now no longer exists). It was the first iron church erected in London south of the Thames and was replaced by a brick building in about 1869. (TQ 312 788)

The iron church, Emmanuel church (see above) was moved when a permanent church was built on the site in William Street. was re-erected in Tracey Street (the street built 1870, off William Street) in 1877. This is shown on a 1939 map as Emmanuel Church Room or Tracey Street Mission Room on the corner of Tracey Street and Distin Street. (TQ 312 787)



## **NORWOOD (see also under Croydon)**

Christchurch iron church was erected in Gipsy Hill opposite Camden Hill Road in 1862. The church held up to 500 parishioners and was sold in 1866 when replaced by a permanent building a little further along Gipsy Hill. (TQ 334 709)

St Luke's Church was built as a "commissioner's church" in 1823-24. It was located at the junction between Knights Hill and Norwood High Street. In 1871-72 there were extensive alterations. An iron church holding 1000 was bought in 1870 from St John's Church, Croydon (see Part 2 of the Tin Tabernacles of Surrey) for services during the building work. In 1871 permission was not granted for continued use of the iron church. (TQ 320 721)

In 1871 St Margaret's iron church holding 200 persons was erected on land between Hamilton Road and Rosedale Road. It was provided by the Surrey Church Building Association. The membership of the church was restricted to Hamilton Road residents, excluding the more wealthy residents to the North. In 1872 the vicar of St Luke's paid for the Surrey Church Building Association to remove it. This was probably linked to a dispute between the vicar and Rev Phillips of St Margaret's church over the position of chaplain to Norwood Cemetery. (TQ 326 721)

Emmanuel iron church holding 1000 people was erected on a site in Hamilton Road (now Clive Road) at the junction with another part of Hamilton Road (now Carnac Street) in 1872. Its main entrance was in South Croxted Road. The iron church was previously used by St Luke's church during its restoration (see above). A permanent church on the site was opened in 1877. (TQ 329 720)

Gipsy Road Baptist chapel erected about 1874, and was destroyed by fire in 1877. Its exact location is not clear but is probably at the junction with Rommany Road and after the fire a permanent building was built 1881-2 in Gipsy Road opposite Hamilton Road. (TQ 329 715)

In 1893 Lansdowne Evangelical Free Church erected an Iron Hall costing £900 in Lansdowne Hill at the junction with Canterbury Grove seating about 1000 persons. In 1907 the hall was replaced by a permanent building. (TQ 319 723)

## **STOCKWELL**

All Saints iron church was erected in Priory Grove in 1874. It held 1000 persons. The iron church was replaced by a permanent building in Devonshire Road (road no longer exists) in 1878. The old church, with access to Priory Road (now Lansdowne Road), then became All Saints Institute or Priory Grove Institute. It remained in use until 1978. (TQ 301 768)

St Augustine's Independent Chapel, was a congregational chapel erected in 1875 at the corner of Clapham Rise (now Clapham Road) and Jefferies Road. It is unusual to be dedicated to a saint. In 1882 it was taken over as a chapel at ease

of All Saints Church. A permanent replacement was built in 1899. (TQ 303 763)  
A congregational iron church was erected in Wandsworth Road and described as opposite Priory Road (now part of Lansdowne Way). The earliest record found is in 1880 but the 25" OS map surveyed in 1869 shows a temporary chapel on the site. It was known as Priory Congregational Church. The Springfield Hall methodist church was built on the site and opened in 1902. (TQ 299 770)

There was an application to the Metropolitan of Works in 1888 for an iron Mission Hall in Wandsworth Road opposite Thorne Street (now Thornecroft Street). It was refused. However an iron building holding 400 people was erected there for a Railway Mission Hall with mentions from 1892 to 1899. To add to a confusing picture the 25 inch map, surveyed 1893, shows two mission halls opposite Thorne Street. (TQ 300 772)

### **STREATHAM (see also under Wandsworth)**

All Saints iron church was erected in Sunnyhill Road opposite Wellfield Road, in 1865 as a chapel at ease of St Leonard's Church. In about 1897 it was replaced by a permanent building. (TQ 303 719)

St Peter and St Paul's church was erected in Leigham Court Road in 1865 and was replaced 1890 by a new church on the other side of the road. The vestry behind the church was also an iron building. (TQ 312 720)

A site for a baptist iron church was purchased by a local farmer, Caleb Higgs. It was located between Natal Road and Lewin Road and erected in 1874. Known as the Caleb Higgs Chapel it was replaced in 1877 by a brick building but the old building continued in use as a schoolroom. (TQ 299 710)

St Anslem's iron church was erected in Madeira Road at the junction with Oakdale Road in 1882 and replaced in 1885. The new church built initially over the iron church. (TQ303 715)

An iron church was erected, probably 1881, for a Wesleyan Church in Streatham High Road. In 1883 it was replaced by a permanent building. The iron church was sold to Wortley Road Baptist Church, Croydon. (see under Croydon churches in Part 2) (TQ 301 714)

An iron chapel for the Providence Strict Baptist church was erected in Hambro Road in 1884 between Natal Road and Ferrers Road. It was replaced by a brick building in 1892. (TQ 298 710)

Congregational church started briefly in an iron building in Gleneldon Road in 1885. Its exact location in the road is not known. (ca TQ 302 716)

St Thomas's iron church was erected on the corner of Telford Avenue and Thornton Avenue in 1885 and replaced by a permanent church in 1901 on a site

further along Telford Avenue. (TQ 300 731)

St Margaret's iron church was erected in Barcombe Avenue in 1895 and replaced in 1899 by a permanent brick church. The iron church was previously used by All Saints church Wimbledon (see Merton churches in Part 2) and sold in 1895. (TQ 308 728)

## **TULSE HILL**

St Matthias church, Upper Tulse Hill Road was erected in 1881 and replaced in 1894 by a permanent church on the site. (TQ 306 738)

St John the Evangelist church, Guernsey Grove, was erected in 1905 and replaced in 1911 by the present church. (TQ 321 739)

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## **Acknowledgements**

The staff at Lambeth Archives; Jon Newman.

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# ACCESSIONS RECEIVED IN SURREY HISTORY CENTRE, 2022

*Edited by Michael Page, County Archivist*

During the course of 2022 we took in 192 accessions of records from external depositors and donors and County Council departments. Some accessions comprised no more than a single document or photograph, others had to be measured in crates; increasing numbers consisted of digital files. Sadly only a handful can be mentioned in this article, but we are extremely grateful to all those who have helped to secure Surrey's documentary heritage for future generations.

## **Surrey Estates**

We have made some notable additions to the records in our care of some of Surrey's most significant landed families.

A fine map of Hall Place Estate in Shackleford, deposited in 2016 but only catalogued this year, provides an illuminating picture of a mid 18th century 'modern mansion' with its surrounding lands (SHC ref 9678). The map was deposited with us by the archivist at Aldro School which now stands on the site; the house itself was pulled down after the 4th Viscount Midleton acquired the estate in 1797 in order to enlarge his park.

Hall Place estate of around 98 acres was substantially acquired by Edward Garthwaite in 1745 from the Wyatt family, owners since the early 17th century. By or before 1754, Garthwaite, a slave owner with plantations in Jamaica, had undertaken to rebuild the house on quite a grand scale and 1797 sale particulars describe 'a capital, regular, substantial modern mansion...a complete residence for a family of distinction', a 'kitchen garden enclosed by lofty walls', 'plantations and walks', and a succession of fish ponds 'appearing from the mansion to be one continued sheet of water of great length'. In December 1780, the estate was conveyed to trustees to the use of Edward Garthwaite's son John Douce Garthwaite, who had fallen repeatedly into debt and being without estates of his own. After Edward's death in November 1781, John Douce Garthwaite and his trustees immediately conveyed the estate to Charles Goring and it went through two more changes of ownership before being sold to Midleton. The parchment map is finely executed and beautifully coloured though has suffered some damp damage, obscuring its date (perhaps 1752 or 1772) and the surveyor's name (possibly John Middleton or John Willcock). It depicts a large house with gardens and grounds, fields, and woods (apparently depicts actual location of trees on field boundaries as well), recording field numbers (the associated key is not held with the map) and owners of abuttals. The main part of the estate lay between Shackleford Heath and Compton on the south and east, and Wordle Common on the west, with Puttenham beyond the map on the north. An inset depicts two fields and three strips lying between Gatwick Common and the River Wey. The house

with what appear to be formal gardens, an avenue and pleasure grounds, flanks the highway through Shackleford.



**Fig. 1. Detail of map of Hall Place, showing house and formal gardens (SHC ref 9678/1)**

One of the largest estates in east Surrey was the Marden Park estate, established by the wealthy London scrivener Sir Robert Clayton (d.1707) and extended by his descendants until in 1761 it stretched across 10,675 acres in Godstone, Betchingley, Warlingham, Tandridge and Chaldon. We already hold substantial collections relating to the estate and family and we were delighted to be able to purchase through the generosity of the Surrey History Trust and Mrs Jenny King a survey of the entire estate drawn up in 1872 (SHC ref 10362). For each plot within the constituent parts of the estate is recorded name, land use, number and quantity on the tithe map and number and quantity on the Ordnance Survey map and a plan is included for each portion. The names of tenants are not given. The survey was prepared by Charles Goodwyn of Goodwyn and Sons, surveyors, Granville Chambers, Portman Square, London, for Sir William Robert Clayton, 6th Bart. Clayton inherited the baronetcy in 1842 and died in 1914. In 1872 he married Aimee Gertrude Mackenzie of Fawley Court, Bucks, near Harleyford where the Claytons lived from 1799, letting out their Marden Park estate. Goodwyn appears not to have been paid for the work as, according to a note at the end of book, he completed it at his own 'sole expense and time, and no part of it has been borne by Sir W[illiam] R[obert] C[layton]'. It therefore belongs exclusively to me'. Clayton sold off parts of the estate piecemeal, a process recorded in this volume. In 1907 he sold the remaining Clayton estates in Surrey to Sir Walpole Lloyd Greenwell, a prominent London stockbroker, who had been leasing Marden Park since 1890.



A welcome addition to the records of Great Tangley Manor, Wondersh, arrived from France from a former owner of the east section of the manor house (SHC ref 10449). The depositor was returning to the United States, and offered us some impressive photographs, sale particulars and plans of the house that he had amassed. It should be mentioned that Great Tangley Manor was divided into two after the Second World War but has since been reconciled as one dwelling and at the time of writing is on the market.

Pevsner describes the timber-framed building of Great Tangley Manor as: 'a hall house, probably 15th century, with a large open truss inside with crown-post. But the front is dated 1582 on four brackets finely carved with strapwork and belongs to the reconstruction by John Caryll [Carrill] who inherited in 1575.' Late 19th century additions to the house were made by Philip Webb for its owner, the delightfully-named Wickham Flower, London solicitor and committee member of the SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings). The house, under his ownership, appeared in a special '*Country Life*' feature in 1898, a copy of which is held at Surrey History Centre.

Among the photographs (dating from the 1880s) of the house interior and exterior is a view of the section of Great Tangley Manor's 'Saxon wall' which may have been part of the original farmhouse that occupied the site. There is also a photograph of the Beam Room showing the elaborately carved wooden poster bed that is thought to date from the sixteenth century. A visitors book gives a flavour of the great and the good who crossed Great Tangley's threshold between 1906 and 1933, and includes King George V, Queen Mary and Princess Mary who visited the house in March 1913.

### **Educating Surrey**

The Gordon Boys' Home at West End, Woking, was founded as the national memorial to General Charles Gordon (1833-1885) who was killed at Khartoum, Sudan, in January 1885. A committee including Lieutenant General Sir George Higginson and the Hon. Hallam Tennyson was formed with the plan of establishing a home for poor boys, and royal



**Fig. 2. Photograph of the carved wooden bed in the Beam Room at Great Tangley Manor, c.1900 (SHC ref 10449/3/6)**

patronage was secured. Initially the Home was based at Fort Wallington near Fareham, Hampshire, moving to the present site in December 1887. At that time the conditions of admission were that the candidate should be aged from 14 to 16, be in the opinion of the committee poor and unprovided for, 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.

In the early years the boys came from all over the country and the school kept a file of papers relating to the admission of each boy. A large further batch of these files was deposited with us in 2022 (SHC ref 8201), containing details of all those entering the Home up to 1916. The details given in the files include name; date of application for admission; date of birth; names, addresses and occupations of parents; details of other children in the family; details of person recommending the boy; medical certificate; details of any offences and punishments while at the school; description and report on leaving and some details of subsequent history. Also deposited was a scrapbook of 'Daily Arrowe' newspapers for the World Scout Jamboree at Birkenhead in 1929, with a photograph and article about the Gordon Boys' Home music band.

In 1957 Stewart Dobbin, headmaster of Hale County Primary School, near Farnham, visited Sacramento, California, on a school exchange programme, and met J Martin 'Mike' Weber who, in 1949, had joined the Sacramento County Office of Education as an educational consultant, with special emphasis on the sciences. Weber's archives held at the Center for Sacramento History reveal that his interests in educational exchanges included a long association with the Japanese American Student Exchange and Conference program. Amongst his papers was a scrapbook entitled 'Our World' and produced by the children of Class III at the Hale school, which was created at Weber's suggestion after Mr Dobbin returned to Hale, and then sent to him. The scrapbook was returned to us in 2022 by Kim Hayden, senior archivist at the Center for Sacramento History, along with the letter from Stewart Dobbin to Martin Weber, enclosing the scrapbook, in which he wrote 'they are nine year olds and the work (except of course for some of the photographs) is entirely their own'.

The scrapbook from 1959 (SHC ref 10337/1) contains cheerful and amusing accounts written by the children about the village and their school, and is illustrated with photographs and drawings of school life. The photographs include the school buildings and garden; children in groups and engaged in activities including sports (netball, football, boxing, gymnastics), country dancing and Morris dancing, plays, music and singing; and the caretaker Mr Harrington.

Inevitably in the children's writing, school dinners featured: 'For dinner today we had roast beef, roast potatoes, tomatoes and cabbage, for pudding we had fruit salad. As they are such nice dinners we are not allowed to leave them'. The school

nature club had ‘budgies and tropical fish’ and ‘if the budgies are overcrowded the pupils buy them’. The caretaker, Mr Harrington, ‘sees the children across the road after school and before school and at dinner time. He puts the tables and forms out for dinner. He clears up accidents. He mends things that are broken. He keeps the school clean and does the boilers and he helps us when we are in trouble’. There was a school trip to the ‘very old and antique’ Castle Theatre in Farnham. School films included a coloured cartoon called ‘How to catch a cold’, played on the school’s own projector. St Mark’s church was said to be ‘very warm’ with some books ‘all about Jesus’.

Cuttings show that the local newspaper took an interest and it even led to publicity on the BBC television programme ‘Town and Around’, a nightly five-minute slot for regional news, on which the Hale school children and the scrapbook appeared.



Fig. 3. The cover of the Hale School scrapbook (SHC ref 10337/1)

## Disability history

The deposit in Surrey History Centre, cataloguing and packaging of the records of The Grange Centre for People with Disabilities, based in Bookham, was made possible with a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund awarded to the charity in 2017 (SHC ref 10343). Founded in 1925 as the School of Stitchery and Lace by Miss Julia Sweet (1881-1942), it provided employment for disabled and invalid women and girls, enabling them to lead independent and useful lives. In 1938, the school relocated from Leicester to The Grange, a large house in Bookham, where it remains today.

Miss Sweet, the daughter of a clergyman, had previously worked in partnership with Catherine Campbell Channer, a renowned expert in the field of lacemaking and founder of a lace school in Northampton. In the years following the First World War, the two women organised arts and crafts exhibitions and sales across the country, with most of the crafts being produced by elderly and infirm women and disabled soldiers working from home. Their business partnership was dissolved in 1926 around the time of the formation of Miss Sweet's School of Stitchery and Lace in Leicester. From the 1930s, the School enjoyed the royal patronage of Queen Mary and later Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, who purchased its lace and embroidery goods. Princess Alice became a patron of the school in 1953. Today, the royal connection continues with Princess Alice's son, Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, now a patron of the charity.

In 1972, The School of Stitchery and Lace officially changed its name to The Grange, marking the start of a transition away from needlework training and a move towards providing a variety of support, skills and accommodation for people with learning disabilities. Although a far cry from its needlework days, the charity's aim remains the same: to inspire independence and ensure people with disabilities live fulfilling lives.

The archive includes minutes and annual reports, newsletters and a wealth of publicity material including a DVD of 'The Story of the Grange' narrated by Joanna Lumley in 2015. Photographs show the students at work and play, and there are also samples of the intricate needlework and lacework produced over the years. A large file of correspondence with the royal households documents royal patronage over the decades and there is also a letter from FLOTUS Eleanor Roosevelt who purchased goods from the School in 1957.



**Fig. 4. Publicity photographs of Ruth Stringer and Miss Clark working on a tapestry at The School of Stitchery and Lace, c.1960s (SHC ref 10343/15/37)**

## **Diverse Surrey**

We are always seeking to expand our collections to ensure all the diverse communities within the county are represented. Reflective of this endeavour is a small but precious collection of papers and photographs of Gulzar Waljee



(née Shivji), a young woman of Gujarati ethnicity, who, in April 1959, arrived in London from a small town in Tanga, Tanzania (then Tanganyika), to train as a nurse and midwife as part of a British Council funded opportunity (SHC ref Z/748). She was just one of thousands of young men and women who, from the 1940s, left India, Pakistan and other South Asian communities to answer the call to help build the newly founded National Health Service.

We were first alerted to Gulzar's story through our connections with The Migration Museum, who featured her in their 'Heart of the Nation' National Health Service (NHS) Exhibition (see their website <https://heartofthenation.migrationmuseum.org/arrival/>). We were able to contact Gulzar and she agreed to add a narrative of her story and photographs of her time at Guildford to our archives and help us create a feature on a much-needed theme page for 'South Asian history in Surrey' for the Exploring Surrey's Past website <https://www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/themes/subjects/diversity/south-asian-history-in-surrey/gulzar-waljee/>. Part of how we develop our collections is very much about looking at the different ways people can contribute their stories. Not everyone wants to part with their treasured documents, and they may have a story to tell which isn't captured in the formal record. Being flexible in our approach is key to adding a range of formats to the archives and securing important personal testimonies.

Once at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford, Gulzar completed compulsory Primary Training at nursing school before being permitted to work on the hospital wards. The shifts were exhausting and at first her lack of spoken English caused her difficulties: "I often stood in the sluice crying but there was no question of going back to Tanga. My elder brother, Abdul, had warned me



**Fig. 5.** Gulzar Waljee (nee Shivji) as a qualified State Registered Nurse (SRN), outside the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, 1962 (SHC ref Z/748/2, courtesy of Gulzar Waljee)



not to come back as other members of our family's future lay on my hands". She persisted and relaxed on her days off by taking the bus to Milford and Godalming and learning ballroom dancing. She recalls that while the people were then very conservative, she "never felt not wanted or discriminated [against]" and the patients on the wards loved her. After 3 years, Gulzar passed her exams and left Guildford in 1962 to study midwifery. In 1963, by the time she was 23 years old, she was a State Registered Nurse and a State Registered Midwife. Gulzar had a 30-year career in nursing and midwifery.

We have also taken in records of the Gypsy Traveller Communities Forum (SHC ref 10379), founded in 1996 to create opportunities for dialogue between Traveller communities and public agencies including the police, charities, interested individuals and organisations such as Surrey Community Action and Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum, with a view to increase knowledge and understanding of Traveller culture, reduce misunderstandings and prejudice and address the problems faced by the Traveller community within Surrey. The records, which we hope to add to in future years, include the constitution of the forum, 2011, minutes, 2017-2022, and newsletters, articles and other writings reflecting the life and concerns of the community.

## **Surrey at Work**

Perhaps the most significant Surrey manufacturing company represented in our 2022 accessions is Redland Tiles, formerly the Redhill Tile Company Ltd. The first concrete tiles made by the company were produced in November 1919 in a sand pit at Doods Road, Reigate, and some can still be seen on buildings throughout the south of England. Due to its success the business moved to larger premises at Kingsfield Works in Redhill, and registered its name as The Redhill Tile Company Ltd. By the 1940s the company had tileworks throughout the UK. In 1946 the company changed its name to Redland Tiles, and began to invest overseas, first in South Africa and Australia and then in 1953 in partnership with Braas and Co, Germany. At home Redland diversified into other products, notably aggregates and bricks. It also expanded its business operations significantly in the UK, Europe, North America and Asia in areas such as concrete pipes, sand and gravel extraction, ready mixed concrete production and road engineering services. The company acquired Steetley plc, a major competitor in the bricks market, in 1992. In 1997 the company was bought by Lafarge, a French industrial company, specialising in cement, construction aggregates and concrete.

The Redland archive project began in June 1993 with the intention of writing a book for the company's 75th anniversary. The project was led by Malcolm Davison, who was then Redland Group publications editor and editor of 'Redland News', with the support of the company chairman Sir Colin Corness, and was concluded in October 1997. Research was carried out by trawling back issues of Redland News and Redland Record, locating information in libraries and museums, and conducting extensive interviews with many former employees. The scale of the project and timescales meant that the decision was taken to abandon

the aim of producing a book, and instead an illustrated 75th anniversary edition of Redland News was produced, which contained an account of the growth of the company and a selection of anecdotes. Another valuable outcome of the project was a Who's Who of Redland, with over 200 biographies of directors and senior staff.

The digital files created by the project between 1993 and 1997 were deposited by Malcolm Davison in 2022 (SHC ref 10381). The archive contains both the files in their original software formats and newer versions created by Malcolm Davison in 2019 using up to date Word and Excel formats.

Following the acquisition of Redland by Lafarge in 1997, the Redland photographic library, paper files and early publicity material was transferred to Lafarge in Paris, France, and is now held with the Lafarge archives in the Archives nationales du monde du travail (ANMT) in Roubaix, France (ref. ark:/60879/1026448).

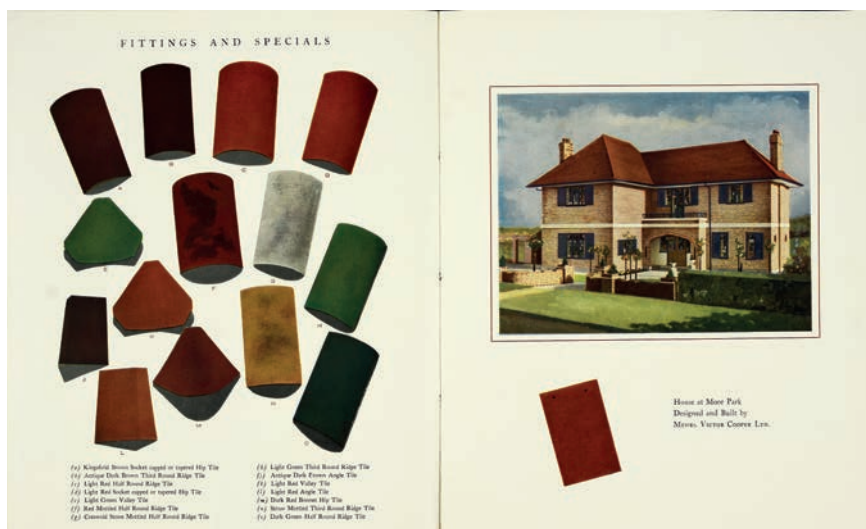


Fig. 6. Redhill Tiles brochure, 1938 (SHC ref 9805/5 pp.6-7)

## Surrey Associations

Onslow Village Residents Association (OVRA) deposited their archive with us (SHC ref 10439) a little over 100 years since the establishment of Onslow Village Ltd, a housing body founded on garden city principles, which purchased farm land to the west of Guildford town from Lord Onslow in 1919. Today OVRA's activities are similar to many such associations, working to promote and protect their locality. However, OVRA's origins are deeply connected with the particular character of Onslow Village and the times and circumstances in which the area developed.

The intention of the Onslow Village company was to create a mix of housing including rental and freehold properties. Much of the planned space was never realised, as the company did not expand as envisaged during the depressed 1930s: the large site included the area later sold and developed as the University of Surrey. From the mid 1920s, most of the development was erected by private builders who purchased plots from the company, and by March 1939, the company owned only 214 out of 900 houses. While the Onslow Village Company supported the establishment of a tenant members committee associated with the management of the Village in 1956, freeholder residents decided that they too needed a voice, and set up the Onslow Village Owner Occupiers Association, soon to be known as Onslow Village Residents Association.

On the decision to dissolve the Onslow Village Ltd company in the early 1980s, OVRA forcefully opposed plans for the sale of undeveloped land and community assets (mainly the village hall) and distribution of the profits to tenant members (the minority of residents) as inequitable and damaging to community life. The village hall was finally purchased by the borough council, with OVRA's undertaking to manage it.

OVRA's archive includes minutes of both the residents' and tenants' associations, correspondence and newspaper cuttings (including covering the controversy of the company sale), and collected records relating to the village and its inhabitants, including photographs and reminiscences collected on a village 'archive day'.

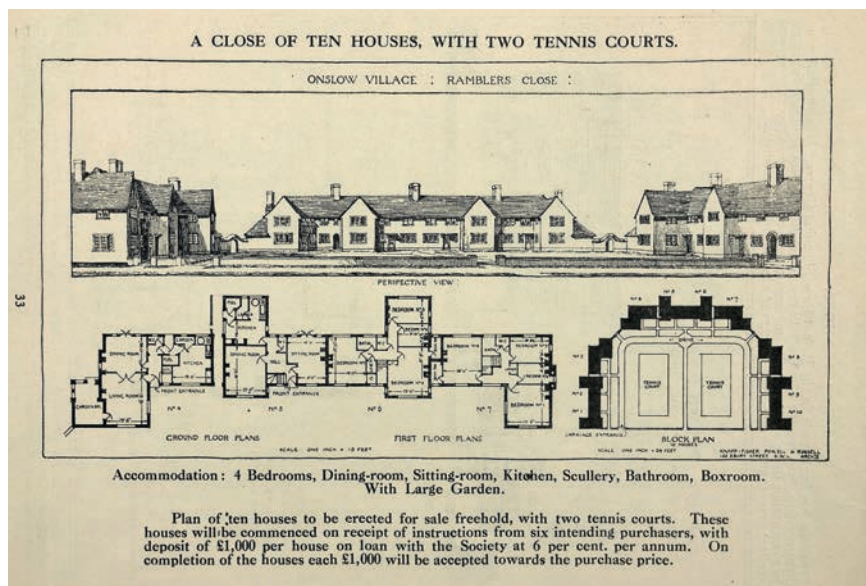


Fig. 7. Onslow Village prospectus, 1921 (SHC ref 10439/3/3 p.33)

The Reigate Society described itself as an independent non-political body founded in 1952 ‘to preserve the natural beauty and worthy architectural features of Reigate, Redhill and Merstham and their neighbourhood; and to endeavour to secure that future developments, whilst fulfilling their utilitarian purpose, shall add to the character of the town’. The Society interested itself in planning applications, highway proposals, conservation areas and the Green Belt, preservation of buildings of architectural or historic interest, tree preservation and giving trees to enhance the landscape, public footpaths and bridleways, and reducing aircraft and traffic noise. The Society gave civic awards for improvements to the local environment, held open meetings on topics of interest, and produced a newsletter and annual report for members.

The records (SHC ref 10389) include minutes of the Council of the Society and its committees, newsletters and annual reports, files relating to significant developments such as the restoration of Reigate Priory, and a significant quantity of publications issued by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and other local bodies relating to town planning and development issues. There is also a good set of photographs documenting historic buildings in the Reigate and Redhill area.

## **Surrey People**

The family of Auriol Earle (1928-2021) were pleased to commemorate their parents’ many decades of contribution to community life and education, by presenting a selection of her papers to the History Centre (SHC ref 10402; some material relating to Guildford Arts was also presented to Surrey University Archives). As an enormously able and versatile person, but a married woman in the mid 20th century, Auriol Earle found there were limited opportunities for paid employment. With a will to do good and get the right thing done, she was nevertheless positioned to serve her community, which she did throughout a long life.

The Earle family moved to Guildford from Ghana in 1961. Eric Earle had worked for the Colonial Education Service, while Auriol, raising their small children, had also founded a nursery school and participated in amateur dramatics. With her university education – relatively unusual for a woman of her time – Auriol was initially keen to join the teaching profession on her return to England, but found that married women were discouraged. She was not to be daunted, but soon directed her energies to new ways of benefitting child development and learning outside the formal classroom. In 1966, she and a friend Pauline Gough founded Guildford Holiday Fun, a scheme to provide affordable holiday activities for local children. The scheme sought to offer a broad range of activities, including sport, swimming, creative arts and music. As a pioneer of its kind, Holiday Fun attracted much favourable publicity including in the national press. Auriol was convinced of the importance of all aspects of play, and long campaigned for improved sports and recreation ground facilities from the 1960s onwards (the skateboard park on Stoke Park in Guildford was among her projects, completed 2012). Correspondence files, newspaper cuttings and programmes illustrate the

work of Auriol and others, and provide an insight into liberal educational thinking in the 1960s and 1970s.

Auriol and Eric Earle were also committed to the success of state educational reform which brought in secondary comprehensive schools to replace the system of grammar schools and secondary moderns. Eric in particular was active in the West Surrey Association for the Advancement of State Education in the early 1960s, which became a branch of the national Campaign for the Advancement of State Education (CASE). The papers document the issues facing Guildford, including the status of the Royal Grammar School (which after a phase as a state grammar school became a fee-paying independent school). General issues were also addressed, including the need to encourage married women returning to or joining teaching, the Plowden reorganisation (relating to the age of transfer from primary to secondary education), single sex schools and the possible adverse affects of the retention of selective schools. Further papers in the Earle archive provide a sample of her work as a Liberal Democrat Councillor on Guildford Borough Council (papers relating to the preservation of the Dennis Bros factory Rodborough Buildings) and as a member of Guildford International Council, which welcomed international residents of the town and shared cultural experience.

One rather delightful addition to our holdings was a copy of volume 6a of *'The Rambler'* magazine, 1912, edited by Miss J M Bruce of Ballyscullion Park, Bellaghy, Co. Derry, and latterly of Chobham (SHC ref 10348). Jean Mariette Isabel Otway Bruce was born in Edinburgh in 1892, the daughter of Colonel Stewart A M Bruce and Helen (née McGregor). In 1916, she married Cyril Gordon Taylor, a poet and journalist, of Heswall, Cheshire, and the couple moved to Quills in Bagshot Road, Chobham, by 1928. Although they divorced in 1931, Jean remained at Quills until her death in 1973. *'The Rambler'* was a handwritten 'amateur magazine of varied contents' which ran for at least ten issues. It was distributed to subscribers who could keep the copy for a maximum of two days (or three nights) before forwarding it to the next person on the address list; any longer and a fine of 6d per day was payable. The magazine was only to be read by those on the list who then had the opportunity to vote for their favourite contributions. The contents included poetry, articles, illustrations and photographs and according to a complimentary review in the *'Belfast News-Letter'* of 5 September 1912, '... the literary contents are very creditable and fully justify their publication'. It is believed that the contributors and subscribers belonged to an early motoring club.

The sub-editor of edition 6a was R J Lunt Roberts, an illustrator whose work later appeared in many publications including *'Punch'* and *'The Humourist'* and some of his illustrations, appear in the magazine. Poetic contributions, often with an illustrated heading include 'Ode to my dog', 'The explicit expletive' and 'A dream of Surrey' and articles and stories are entitled variously 'The great experiment', 'The modern novel', 'The line of life' and 'The affair of the terrace'. At the end of the magazine is a section entitled 'More criticisms of Rambler No III' with reviews of previous contributions. Another section contains 'Open letters' from



subscribers, sometimes with sharp rebukes from the editor and a reiteration of the rules which follow in the next section.

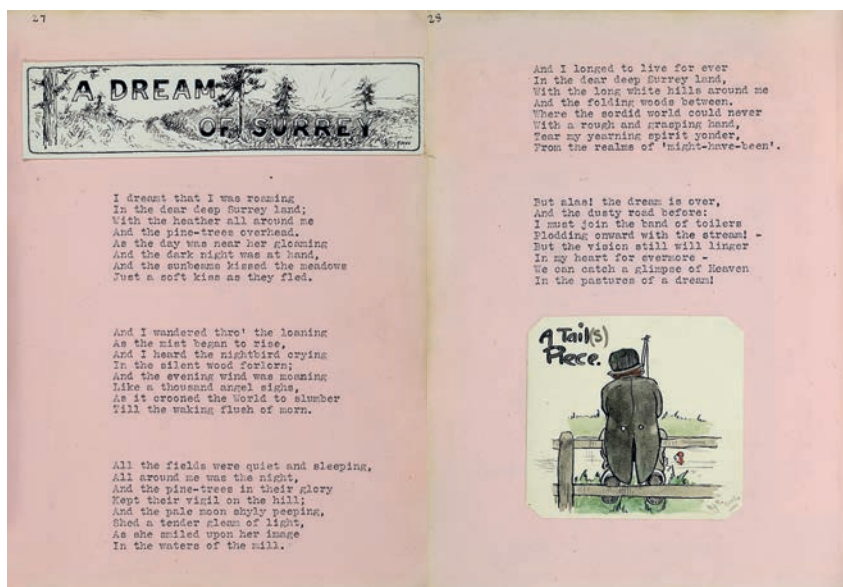


Fig. 8. 'A Dream of Surrey' from *The Rambler* (SHC ref 10348/1 pp.27-8)

We received a small quantity of papers (SHC ref 10407) belonging to WJ Pickering (1866-1963) of Epsom, who was appointed the first County Planning Officer of Surrey. Pickering began his career as a pupil in the highway surveyor's office of Epsom Rural District Council in 1901. By 1930 he was town planning officer in the surveyor's department of Surrey County Council, and in 1943 had distinguished himself for the new role of County Planning officer. Pickering's work has notably and lastingly shaped the landscape of the county. He was responsible for the early metalling of highways, most practically, but he was also instrumental in the identification and preservation of open spaces, and the preservation of ancient buildings. He devised schemes for The North Downs, the Hog's Back, Leith Hill and Mickleham Valley, and helped to save Norbury Park, the Sheepleas and Ockham Common, by securing purchase by Surrey County Council. Pickering's most crucial contribution to Surrey, the preservation of its countryside, is commemorated at the Pickering Plantation at Norbury Park on the North Downs, planted shortly after his death in 1963. His records preserved here document activities closest to Pickering's heart, including study of the built environment. Copies of plans of the earliest modern excavation (1925) of the Ashted Roman Villa complex provide some evidence of the revelation of this site in the late 1920s, when Pickering participated in the dig. A scrapbook of cuttings from architectural publications 'The Builder' and 'Building News', provides useful additions to our holdings of plans of a variety of domestic and other buildings at the turn of the 19th century and the early 20th century,

including winning examples of an amazing variety of architectural competitions, from labourer's cottages to golf clubhouses.

## **Surrey at Prayer**

The most extensive church archive we took in during the year relates to Surbiton Park Congregational Church (SHC ref 10342), the records covering the entire history of the church from its foundation to its closure in 1966. The origins of the church date from 1853 when the Rev Richard Smith, formerly pastor at Halesworth in Suffolk, held services in his newly acquired Surbiton house, with the encouragement of the Rev L H Baynes, pastor of Eden Street church in Kingston, and William Leavers of Union Chapel, Islington. The church grew rapidly and moved into a temporary wooden building in Smith's garden, before a new church was built in Maple Road, opening in 1854. In the next few years a Sunday School, working men's Reading Room and Provident Clothing Society were established. The new church proved too small, so a site was bought at the corner of Maple Road and Grove Road, and a new church designed by Arthur J Phelps, a local architect, opened in 1866.

During the First World War, the back room of the old church was turned into a soldiers' meeting place every evening and the congregation also contributed to local efforts to support refugees. Eight members of the church were killed in the war. During the Second World War, two church members kept watch each every night between 8pm and 6am for bombing raids. In 1944 a V1 rocket fell on nearby Uxbridge Road and the blast blew out the church windows: a church meeting was rudely interrupted, the minutes recording 'At this point the meeting was suddenly brought to an end by the arrival of a flying bomb which exploded in the vicinity ... The meeting became enshrouded in dirt and dust – hence the dirty pages ...'.

Surbiton Park Congregational Church closed and merged with Kingston Congregational Church in 1966 (now Kingston United Reformed Church). The church building, next door in Maple Road, which was in use as the church hall, was converted into flats.

The records include a church record book (including baptism and marriage records, roll of church members and historical account of the church); minutes of church meetings and deacons' meetings; finance, Sunday School, bazaar and building committee minute books; plans and papers relating to the church buildings, including a trust deed; annual accounts; church manuals; monthly magazines and published church histories.

## **Surrey at War**

We have continued to add to our holdings of personal papers of Surrey residents who served during the two World Wars or who enlisted in the two Surrey regiments, the East Surrey Regiment and the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. Alfred Butt, whose letters are held as SHC ref 10458, is an example of the former. He

was the second of four children of Stephen Butt, a railway signalman, and his wife Lucy, who in 1901 were living in a London and South Western Railway Company cottage in Mortlake. By 1911, the Butts had moved to 85 Second Avenue, Mortlake, and only Alfred and Ella of the four children were living at home, Alfred (then aged 22) being described as a decorative designer (furnishing). His letters provide a detailed account of his training at the Cadet School, Gidea Park, Romford, and the Artists Rifles OTC, Hare Hall, Romford, and then at Tollgate Camp, Doverscourt, Essex, with 10th Battalion, the Bedfordshire Regiment. In December 1916, he embarked on HMT Caronia at Devonport, sailing via Durban, South Africa, to Bombay, India, where he arrived in January 1917. Bored in India, in May 1917 he wrote that he had applied to join the Royal Flying Corps as an observer. He was accepted for training by the RFC and left for Aboukir in Egypt, arriving in September. He went missing on 4 January 1918, while with the 113th Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force under Allenby. He lies buried in Jerusalem War Cemetery.

We also received a small cache of letters from Private Alfred Humphreys to his wife Florence, while serving in France with the 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, 1915-1916 (SHC ref ESR/25/HUMP). The letters had been found in a skip in Farnham by Charlotte Cato in 1996 and she returned them to the family in 2018. They were presented to us by Mr David Humphreys, Private Humphreys' eldest living grandson, who had made transcripts of them. Alfred was a fish curer, who in 1911 was living in Lisson Grove, London, with his wife and three daughters. His simple, homely letters, often written on ragged scraps of paper, are full of his concern for his daughters' schooling and his need for cigarettes. He was optimistic that the war would soon be over, writing on 26 June 1916 (his last letter) that 'you must be satisfied with a field service card off of me for a little while as things are getting very lively now out here and perhaps I shall not be able to write a letter. We are just knocking socks out of Fritz now and I expect we will be putting the finishing touch on him now'. He warned Florence that she should be prepared as 'I cannot expect to go on the all time without getting a knock' which proved prophetic as he was killed on the Somme on 21 July 1916 and is commemorated on the Thiepval monument to the missing.

We made a surprise discovery among an unlisted set of minutes of the Surrey County Council Personnel Committee – a number of files kept by Thomas W W Gooderidge, a former Clerk to the County Council, relating to his service as Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion of the Surrey Local Defence Volunteers, with its headquarters at The Technical College, Stoke Park, Guildford, and then as Officer Commanding Headquarters Company, 1st Surrey Zone, Home Guard, which also had its headquarters at the Technical College until April 1941 when it moved to Bears House, Wentworth (SHC ref CC1296).

Gooderidge (1887-1979) was born in Goole, Yorkshire, and trained as a solicitor, moving to Surrey in 1933. In the 1939 register he is recorded as being Assistant Clerk to Surrey County Council. A note from Mr Gooderidge (found with the files) states 'Deposited by Mr T W W Gooderidge (late Clerk of the Council) –

may be required for future reference': presumably he anticipated that at some point, with post-war Europe divided into two hostile camps, a home defence force might need to be raised again.

The files include a set of Zone Orders from the commanding officers Captain E H Tuckwell, M.C., and Major-General Algernon Phillip Yorke Langhorne, C.B. D.S.O. M.C. (1882-1945); company orders issued by Gooderidge as commander of Headquarters Company and a nominal roll of the 1st Battalion, with the names of Council and Technical College staff enrolled in the Headquarters Section as of 6 Jun 1940; lists of commanding officers and company commanders of the other battalions within the Surrey Zone; and an abundance of training literature covering subjects such as the use of arms (including Molotov cocktails), first aid, gas and respirators and first aid. The papers provide an illuminating insight into the demands made on Gooderidge as a Home Guard officer while continuing his daytime role as a 'key man in the Local Government of West Surrey'.

The Staff Captain,  
D Sub-Area,  
Tunbridge Wells.

29th June, 1940.

Can you arrange please to issue the following stores for the construction of Molotov bottles:-

Kerosene - 180 gallons  
Ter. Water gas - 180 gallons.  
Bottles - 2,000 quart.  
Corks - 4,000. 2 per bottle.  
Matches. Fusil. - 72 boxes. At 28 per box for 2,000 bottles.  
Tape. Adhesive, 1 inch - 1,000 feet.  
Wire. Soft. 20 gauge - 3,000 feet.  
Waste. Cotton - 5 stone. A sack full.  
Glass cutters - 14  
Pliers, 8 inch - 14 wire cutting.  
Funnels, 6 inch - 50  
Carriers for 8 bottles - 720. 8 Bombers with 1 carrier  
8 Amm. Car. " 2 "

or

Sacks. Good quality - 720  
Webbing 2 inch - 2880 feet  
Twine.  
Needles, 3in.Carpet.

This material is required for use by the Dorking Company and should be delivered at the Police Station, Dorking.

Parsffin - 150 gallons  
Ter. Water gas - 150 gallons.  
Matches. Fusee flaming - 10,000.  
Tape. Adhesive, 1 inch - 3,750 feet.  
Corks - 5,000.

This material is required for use by the Godalming Company.

The following R.E. store also is required by the Godalming Company for construction of rifle pits and molotov bottle bags for Platoons in the Eastern Command area of the Godalming Company:-

3,000 sandbags

All these stores should be delivered to Lt.Col. The Hon. Stanley Bouverie at High Barn, Hascombe, near Godalming, Surrey.

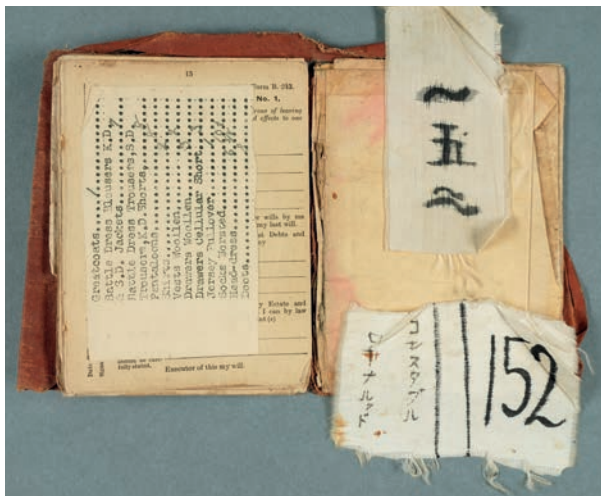
Can notification of the time of despatch of these stores be forwarded to their destinations please.

(Sgd) T.W.W.GOODERIDGE.  
Quartermaster,  
1st Surrey Zone L.D.V.

Fig. 9. Request from Quartermaster Gooderidge for stores to make 'Molotov bottles', 1940 (SHC ref CC1296/4/7)

Two small collections of papers which we added to our Surrey regimental holdings reflect contrasting experiences of the Second World War. Ronald Constable was a factory hand when he enlisted in the East Surrey Regiment at Colchester in 1938. On 15 February 1943, he became a prisoner of war and was forced to labour on the construction of the Burma-Siam Railway, receiving compensation as part of the share of money allocated to the United Kingdom on the sale of the railway. His army book (SHC ref 10445) has, tucked inside it, a scrap of fabric with his POW identity number and Japanese script.

Julius Dubora, a hosiery salesman in Tower Hamlets in 1939, also served with the East Surrey Regiment but was later attached to the 6th Nigerian Regiment and in early 1944 was in India. By May he was on mission to penetrate the jungle in Burma behind Japanese lines as one of the Nigerian Chindits, an elite special operations force. His letters to his wife Bette (SHC ref 10374) contain almost nothing about his active service as he had to remain incommunicado, explained in a standard form letter to Bette. However, with the letters is a map of northern Burma (now Myanmar) printed on silk, indicating, boundaries, railways, telegraphs, roads and canals. Reflecting his pride in his Jewish heritage, there is also a booklet 'The Jews. Some Plain Facts', published by the Trades Advisory Council of British Jewry, which extols the contribution made by Jews to the British war effort.



**Fig. 10. Ronald Constable's identity badge as a POW in a Japanese camp (SHC ref 10445/2/1)**

## Saved by Surrey History Trust

Our support charity the Surrey History Trust, which raises money to fund the purchase of documents coming up for auction, has provided invaluable support in 2022. I have already mentioned the Marden Park estate survey, the purchase of which was part funded by the Trust, but the Trust also purchased for us the items described below.

A diary kept by John Graham Reid of farming activities on Brockhamhurst Farm, Brockham, Betchworth between June 1917 and October 1922 (SHC ref 10370) provides a wealth of information about the management of a downland farm



during and after the First World War. Brockhamhurst Farm formed part of the Deepdene estate and in sale particulars of 1921 for part of the estate was stated to comprise 195 acres, although a letter of 1926 states that it was then 175 acres for which a yearly rent of £82 was paid. As recorded in this diary, it was a mixed farm on which the cultivation of wheat and root vegetables took place alongside the rearing of sheep and cows. The *'Surrey Mirror'* of 12 November 1920 reported the marriage at Christ Church, Brockham of John Graham Reid of Brockhamhurst, elder son of Mr Andrew Reid of 'Lordings', Billingshurst, Sussex, and Miss Lilian Agnes Harman, eldest daughter of John H Harman of Brockham. John Reid's brother Ivie Reid was best man and the diary suggests both brothers were involved in running the farm. The detailed diary is focussed almost entirely on the annual round of farming activities with almost no mention of social or personal concerns. There are numerous references to the daily activities of other members of the family and of other farm workers. Frequent visits to Guildford and Dorking markets to buy or sell are also recorded. At the rear of the diary is a record of the calving dates of the farm's cows between 1919 and 1925.

An anonymous Victorian scrapbook acquired by the Trust includes a series of charming, if somewhat naive watercolours painted in the mid 1840s (SHC ref 10441). A number are of views in the Peak District or the Isle of Wight, but the majority give a seemingly faithful depiction of the landscape in the vicinity of Dorking, including Shootlands Farm, Wotton; the sandhills on the road from the Rookery, Westcott; Dorking church viewed from the sandhills; a view of Westcott looking towards Dorking; Balchins Farm, Westcott; and Tillingbourne Farm. Some of the paintings were signed H White and research is ongoing to identify the artist.



Fig 11: View of Dorking from Westcott by H White, 1840s (SHC ref 10441/1) See also front cover



Other paintings and drawings acquired by the Trust for the Centre, and added to our PX series, included a drawing of a mysterious building entitled 'Guildford Surrey 1824' by A Baas; a grey wash drawing entitled 'Churchyard at Guildford' by John Monro, 1830s, which on closer inspection proved to be Dorking churchyard; a graphite sketch of 'The Old Rectory, Albury', by Alexander Monro, 6 Aug 1835; a drawing of St Mary Magdalene church, Reigate, 19 Jul 1842; a watercolour painting of Send Church by Georgiana Nicholls, c.1847; and a watercolour of a 'House at Badshot Lea, Surrey', by C J Newcome, 1870s.

Finally the Trust also purchased a series of Surrey County Cricket Club illustrated yearbooks published between 1959 and 2014 (SHC ref 10425) which supplement our existing holdings and give a detailed overview of the previous season and the results achieved.

## **Conservation**

Our work on recently acquired archives is complemented by activity to make better available material which has long been preserved at the History Centre. An ongoing programme of conservation repair supported by the More Molyneux family trust enables us to explore documents in the Loseley Manuscripts which have previously been difficult or impossible to handle without damage.

One such is the great book (SHC ref LM/1327/6) of Sir William More (1520-1600), builder of the splendid Tudor house of Loseley which stands today. It was made for More in the early 1570s, using costly materials, yet it was never showy. After about 450 years, it was liver-spotted with mould, scarred with insect damage, with broken sewing and tears to the outer pages. In a sense, the book remained uniquely More's own into the 20th century, since it was kept as he left it, none of his descendants having upcycled the unused pages for their own accounts or memoranda, as has frequently happened to other volumes of the Loseley Manuscripts. During 2021, the calf skin cover with pig skin strap and buckle was removed for separate storage, and each page of French-made paper was cleaned and deacidified. Subsequently, torn pages have been repaired and the text block has been resewn, and the book may now be studied.

The volume appears to provide a complete record of More's property portfolio in south west Surrey and Blackfriars in London. It records not just his worldly attainments: from 1576, the year More was knighted, he has also recorded a pedigree of his immediate family and noted his descendants, their exact times of birth, baptism and godparents. More was a respected royal servant, local landowner and justice of the peace. He seems to have set aside the book in about 1597, perhaps due to ill health in his final years. However, the last entry is a rather stunning record of his final public appointment, somewhat less worthy and more quirky, as the deputy master of the swans for Surrey. The swans' beak marks (cruelly cut into the creatures to record their owners under royal licence) have been drawn into the book, just for the look of it (the volume was surely never taken to a muddy river bank for comparison).

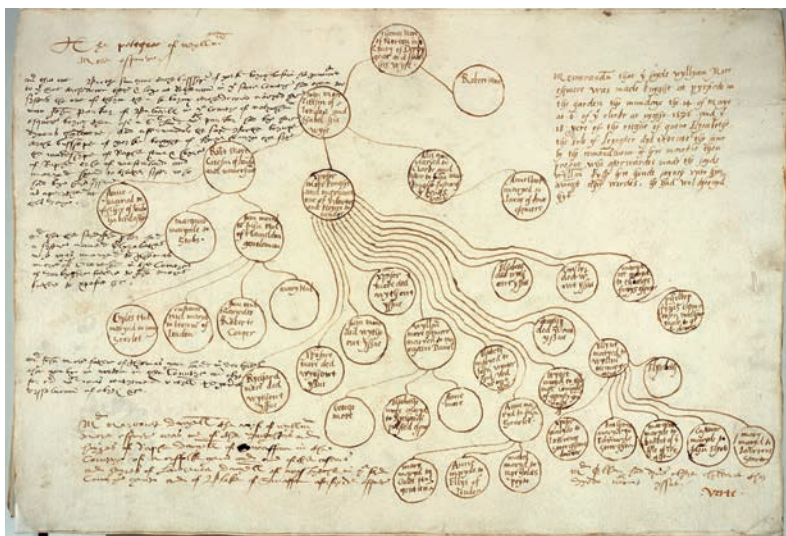


Fig 12: William More's pedigree from his 'great book' (SHC ref LM/1327/6)

## Cataloguing Projects

We benefit from contributions of work from some very knowledgeable and experienced volunteers, who among other tasks provide detailed descriptions of the contents of letters and diaries within our collections to bring out the fascinating detail, often enhancing descriptions in some of our older catalogues which are briefer than they might be.

Dame Ethel Smyth (1858-1944) was a composer, conductor, suffragette and writer who lived in Woking for the most part of her life. Her body of musical work makes her one of the greatest British composers of her era. She was a keen sportswoman, a prolific writer, publishing ten books, mostly memoirs, an ardent supporter of women's suffrage, and she was attracted to other women, including Emmeline Pankhurst and Virginia Woolf. Having obtained a digital copy of Smyth's final unpublished memoir called 'A Fresh Start', from the University of Michigan in 2019, we were more recently given copies of a series of her correspondence, which had remained uncatalogued there (SHC ref Z/711).

Lewis Orchard, Surrey Heritage volunteer and Ethel Smyth expert, has a lifetime's knowledge of her career, and having catalogued 'A Fresh Start' he eagerly agreed to tackle the correspondence. Lewis has done a superb job and we are enormously grateful for his time and knowledgeable insight. The correspondence comprises outgoing letters from Ethel Smyth, primarily addressed to recipients who were involved in the classical music community of the time. Nineteen of the letters are addressed to Professor Sir Donald Tovey, a Scottish composer and conductor and one of Smyth's mentors. They span more than 14 years and give an interesting insight into her musical concerns of the moment, not least Smyth's frustration at

being a woman composer and conductor in a profession where men dominated. She comments on being overlooked as a female conductor purely because of her sex and at Professor Tovey not performing her acclaimed 'Mass in D'. In May 1927, the hurt and frustration are palpable as she writes "It has always pained me dreadfully that you have never touched my stuff, for I have always known that if there is one man in England who knows good music when he sees it, it is you. And so I suppose your eyes never turned my way because of my sex... what other reason c[an] there be? I don't mind this much as regards others - one understands and makes allowance for prejudice. But I did mind if it's you - in the deepest part of my heart I minded." Later letters capture her anguish over her impaired hearing which excluded her from much of the music world for the last decade of her life.

Evidence of Smyth's involvement with the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and the campaign for the vote also features in the papers, with letters to friend and hunger-striker, Lady Constance Lytton, and Marie Brackenbury, a suffragette pavement artist, who at one time lived in Peaslake. It is known that Smyth fell out with Emmeline Pankhurst's daughter, Christabel, and in a letter to Marie Brackenbury, Smyth refers to Christabel's responsibility for the withdrawal of the reissue of Smyth's memoir 'Female Pipings in Eden' (1st edition, withdrawn November 1933, 2nd edition March 1934), a major part of which was devoted to WSPU activities and Emmeline. Smyth claims that she unwittingly infringed copyright by reproducing letters from Emmeline which mentioned her daughters, Sylvia and Christabel, without their permissions. Smyth's opinion of Christabel is clear "She has taken a wrong turn in life - has become really a horrible creature!"

There is also an intriguing letter from Smyth's executor, Lindsay Venn, to Ethel Davidson (Ethel's niece, the second daughter of Alice, Smyth's eldest sister), regarding the disposition of Smyth's papers after her death. He states firstly that if she does not want him to send her Smyth's diaries to read, which date back some 50 years, "I shall probably destroy them". Secondly, he refers to "the book" that Smyth was writing shortly before her death, which was typed out by Longmans, and he proposes to return it to them if Miss Davidson did not wish to keep it. She evidently did not want to keep it as "the book" was the three draft chapters of a book to be titled 'A Fresh Start', the copy of which forms part of SHC ref Z/711. Venn destroyed a significant amount of Smyth's material but fortunately photocopies of five volumes of 'Autograph Diaries', 1918-1942 are held at the British Library.

Mention should also be made of Sheila Doyle's work to improve the catalogue of the correspondence of the Earl and Countess of Onslow (SHC ref G173 various) during their early ownership of Clandon Park, the years of the First World War and immediately after. Correspondence highlighted includes that of Richard, 5th Earl of Onslow while on active service in France, including from the estate manager with reference to Zeppelin damage, concerning women farm workers during the war, Clandon Park War Hospital, nursing, and Lady Onslow's candidacy for West Clandon Parish Council in 1919.

## Index

- Albury: 51  
 Arthur: James William 16  
 Artington: Loseley 51  
 Ashted: Roman Villa 45
- Badshot Lea: 51  
 Bland: Charles 15  
 Bletchingley: 34  
 Blinell: Francis H 15  
 Bookham: Grange Centre for People with Disabilities 37-38, School of Stitchery and Lace 37-38  
 Bower: Charles 7  
 Brixton: Acre Lane 26, Allardyce Street 26, Arodene Road 26, Barrington Road 25, Brixton Hill 26-27, Gresham Road 25, Harold Street 26, Hetherington Road 23, 25-26, Josephine Avenue 26, Milton Road 25, St John's Road 25, Santley Street 26, Sudbourne Road 26, tin tabernacles 23, 25-27, Wynne Road 25  
 Brockham: Brockhamhurst Farm 49-50  
 Brodrick: Arthur Thomas 6, Baron 6  
 Butt: Alfred 46, Ella 47, Lucy 47, Stephen 47
- Caryl: John 35  
 Chaldon: 34  
 Chandler: Rev John 6, 8  
 Chiddingfold: 5  
 Chobham: 44, Bagshot Road 44  
 Clandon: 53, Park 53  
 Clapham: Brayburn Avenue 28, Carfax Square 28, Crichton Street 27, Grafton Hall 28, Pensbury Road 28, Queen's Place 27, St Rule Street 27, tin tabernacles 27-28, Wandsworth Road 27-28  
 Clayton: Sir Robert 34  
 Compton: 33  
 Constable: Ronald 49  
 Courage: Harold 10, Robert Michell 9-10  
 Court: Marion 2, Robert 2, Thomas 2  
 Cox, N and Stanford, S: *Pooley's Chemist Shops Wimbledon Surrey 1878-1960: using Family Memories and Electronic Resources*, 14-22  
 Croydon: Wortley Road 31
- Dacres: Louisa 8, Mary 8  
 Davies: Frederick 16  
 Dawber: Edwin 16  
 Dorking: 3, 50-51  
 Dubora: Julius 49  
 Dulwich: Court Road 28, Croxted Road 28, New Road 28, Norwood Road 28, Rosedale Road 28, Thurlow Park Road 23, 28, tin tabernacles 28
- Earle: Auriol 43-44, Eric 43-44  
 Epsom: 45  
 Evans: Elizabeth 15, Thomas 15
- Fairclough: Major Charles 11  
 Flower: Wickham 35  
 Fludder: John 2
- Gardiner: Mary Ann 8, Rev Henry 8  
 Garthwaite: Edward 33, John Douce 33  
 Godalming: 1, 3, 40, Catteshall Manor 11, Munstead 11  
 Godstone: 34  
 Gooderidge: Thomas W W  
 Goring: Chales 33  
 Greenwell: Sir Walpole Lloyd 34  
 Guildford: 11, 26, 39, 43, 50-51, Dennis Bros 26, 44, Guildford Holiday Fun 43, Onslow Village Residents Association 41-42, Royal Grammar School 44, Royal Surrey County Hospital 39, Stoke Park 43, 47  
 Gypsy Traveller Communities Forum: 40
- Hale: Marjorie 17-18  
 Hale: Hale County Primary School 36  
 Hambledon: 10  
 Harman: John H 50, Lilian Agnes 50  
 Hayes: Colonel R G 11, Mary 11  
 Hinchcliffe: Frederick Blackburn 16  
 Hindhead: Devil's Punch Bowl 2  
 Humphreys: Alfred 47, David 47, Florence 47
- Keith: Dame Penelope 1, 11, 12  
 Kennington: South Island Place 28, tin tabernacles 28-29  
 Kinglake: Mary 11, Mary Sybil 10, Robert Alexander 10  
 Kingston upon Thames: Congregational Church 46
- Lambeth: Distin Street 29, Saunders Street 29, tin tabernacles 29, Tracey Street 29, Union Street 29, William Street 23  
 Lambeth Borough: map of tin tabernacles 24, tin tabernacles 23-32  
 Littleton: Mary Elizabeth 2  
 Lucas: Rev W H 8
- Mellin: Phillips 15  
 Merstham: 43  
 Mickleham: Norbury Park 45  
 Midleton: Charles 8, family 11, Viscount

5-9, 33  
 Milford: 8, 10-11, 40, Moushill Manor 1-13  
 More: Sir William 51-52  
 Mortlake: 47  
 Moss, G P: The tin tabernacles of Surrey.  
 Part 4: London Borough of Lambeth  
 23-32  
  
 Norwood: Camden Hill Road 29,  
 Canterbury rove 30, Gipsy Hill 29,  
 Gipsy Road 30, Hamilton Road 29-  
 30, Knights Hill 29, Lansdowne Hill  
 30, Norwood High Street 29, Rommany  
 Road 30, Rosedale Road 29, South  
 Croxted Road 30, tin tabernacles 29-30  
  
 Ockham: Common 45  
 Onslow: Earl & Countess 53  
  
 Page, M: *Accessions received in Surrey  
 History Centre 2022* 33-53  
 Peaslake: 53  
 Peper Harrow: 5-7, 11  
 Pickering: W J 45  
 Pooley: Elizabeth 16, John Dingley  
 Stephens 14-16, Richard 15  
 Pugin: Augustus Welby 1, 6-7  
 Puttenham: 33  
  
 Redhill: 43, Redhill Tile Company 40,  
 Redland 40-41  
 Reid: Ivie 50, John Graham 49-50  
 Reigate: church 51, Doods Road 40,  
 Reigate Society 43  
 river: Wey 33  
 Roberts: Harold A 16  
  
 Send: church 51  
 Shackleford: Aldro School 33, Gatwick  
 Common 33, Hall Place Estate 33,  
 Wordle Common 33  
 Shudd: family 3, Edmund 3, Joan 2, John 3,  
 Richard 2, Thomas 2  
 Smyth: Dame Ethel 52-53  
 Stanford, S: *see* Cox, N  
 Stevens: Catherine Dingley 15  
 Stillwell: Newcomb 12  
 Stilwell: family 3-4, John 2-5, Newcombe  
 12  
 Stockwell: Clapham Rise 30, Devonshire  
 Road 30, Jefferies Road 30, Priory  
 Grove 30, Thorne Street 30, tin  
 tabernacles 30, Wandsworth Road 30  
 Streatham: Barcombe Avenue 31, Leighton  
 Court Road 31, Hambro Road 31,  
 Gleneldon Road 31, Lewin Road 31,  
 Madeira Road 31, Natal Road 31,  
 Oakdale Road 31, Streatham High Road  
 31, Sunnyhill Road 31, Telford Avenue  
 31, tin tabernacles 31, Wellfield Road  
 31  
 Street: John 4  
 Strudwick: John 4, Thomas 4  
 Surbiton: Grove Road 46, Maple Road 46,  
 Surbiton Park Congregational Church  
 46, Uxbridge Road 46  
 Surrey: County Cricket Club 51, Hogs  
 Back 45, Leith Hill 45, North Downs  
 45, Sheepleas 45, Swans 51  
 Sweet: Julia 37-38  
  
 Tandridge: 34  
 Tapp: Charles 16  
 Taylor, D: *"To the Manor Born" Moushill  
 Manor, Milford, Witley* 1-13  
 Thursley: 1-2, 4-5, Bowlhead Green 3-4,  
 Cosford 3, Cosford House 2  
 Timson: Rodney 1, 12  
 Torrey and Alexander mission: 26-27  
 Tulse Hill: Guernsey Grove 31, tin  
 tabernacles 31, Upper Tulse Hill Road  
 31  
  
 Vale: William James 17  
  
 Waljee: Abdul 39, Gutzar 38-39  
 Warlingham: 34  
 Westcott: 50, Balchins Farm 50,  
 Tillingbourne Farm 50  
 Whittington: Mary 3  
 Wimbledon: 31, High Street 14-16, Hill  
 Road 14-16, Pooley's Chemist Shop  
 14-22, The Pavement 15, Worple Road  
 16  
 Witley: 1-2, 4  
 Woking: 52, Gordon Boys' Home 35  
 Woldingham: Marden Park 34  
 Wonersh: Great Tangley Manor 35  
 Woodyer: Henry 9  
 Wotton: Shootlands Fam 50  
 Wyatt: family 33



## PUBLICATIONS

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:

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

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

*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 Aeronautical & 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 were published for Surrey Local History Council by Phillimore & Co. Ltd. They are available from the Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 1ND. Tel: 01483 518740. Members of the Society are invited to obtain their copies from the Hon. Secretary, Surrey Archaeological Society, Hackhurst Lane, Abinger Hammer, RH5 6SE. Tel/fax: 01483 532454.  
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# CONTENTS

**“To The Manor Born” – Moushill Manor, Milford, Witley**

*David Taylor, FSA* 1

**Pooley’s Chemist Shops Wimbledon Surrey 1878- 1960: using Family Memories and Electronic Resources.**

*Norma Cox and Susan Stanford* 14

**The Tin Tabernacles of Surrey, Part 4: London Boroughs of Lambeth**

*Gerard P Moss* 23

**Accessions Received in Surrey History Centre, 2022**

*Edited by Michael Page* 33

