

SURREY HISTORY



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SURREY HISTORY

Vol. 2

No. 5

Advisory Committee

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Cover Illustration: The White Lion, Cobham, c.1900 (see 'A. J. Munby in Surrey').

Tailpieces: Extracts from William Cobbett's Rural Rides of journeys through Surrey in the 1820s. 'The William Cobbett Society' can be contacted through Farnham Museum, West Street, Farnham, Surrey.

Editor: R. O. Chalkley

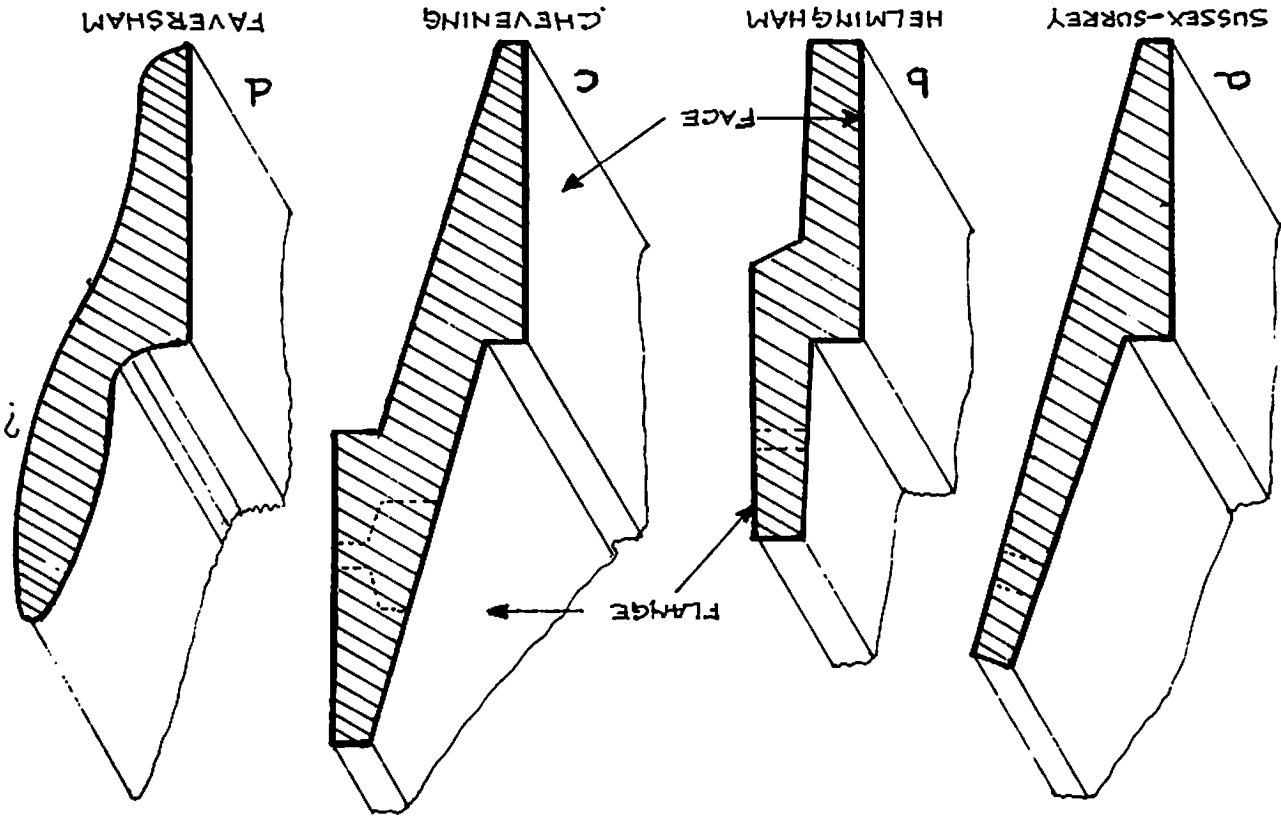
Editorial Assistant: Sheila Burrough



PHILLIMORE

Fig. 1. Profiles of some types of Mathematical Tiles. Type 'a' seems the most common and its use is widely spread.

M. EXWOOD
1981



MATHEMATICAL TILES IN SURREY

Maurice Exwood and Ian J. West

Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey)

'Mathematical Tile . . . : A flanged tile, so made as to present when hung a vertical face which in appearance is scarcely distinguishable from brickwork in place of which it was much used for weather facing . . . '.

Christopher Hussey, *English Country Houses*¹

Introduction

Hussey's definition makes it clear that a Mathematical Tile was intended to imitate brickwork. They were used in the 18th and 19th centuries for a variety of reasons, in a variety of circumstances, mainly in an area S.E. of a line from Dorset to the Wash, and in a few cases elsewhere.

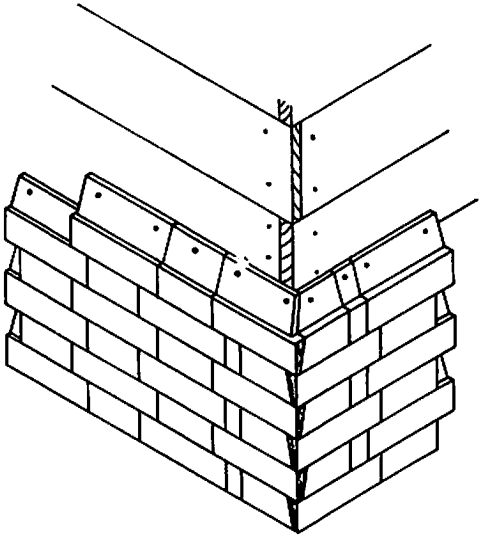
Sometimes their use was based on practical considerations: a timberframed building with wattle and daub infill, or brick-nogging between shrinking timbers could be a draughty and badly-insulated place. Covering the framing with M. tiles (as we will here call them) on a bed of mortar either direct or on planks, would keep out the water, greatly add to the comfort, as well as providing a measure of fire protection. Badly-weathered stonework, or porous brickwork could similarly be improved, without the need for timber planks.

However, in most of the cases where an existing building was so clad, only the front was treated (and often only part of the front) leaving the sides and rear unprotected, or these might be weatherboarded or plastered.

So clearly fashion was as important a consideration as common sense, if not more so. Brickwork became fashionable in the 17th century, after Tudor kings and their courtiers had accepted bricks as a suitable building material for palaces and castles such as Tattershall, Herstmonceux and Hampton Court. Legislation following the Great Fire of London helped greatly to popularise brick, and although the 1667 Building Act applied only to the London area (up to five miles from the City Gates), the examples of fine brick houses there made the material acceptable, indeed desirable, elsewhere.² So to keep up with the Joneses one had to show brick, and many a timberframed house was fronted with a brick wall, leaving sides and backs largely as they were, and many examples can be seen today in that state.

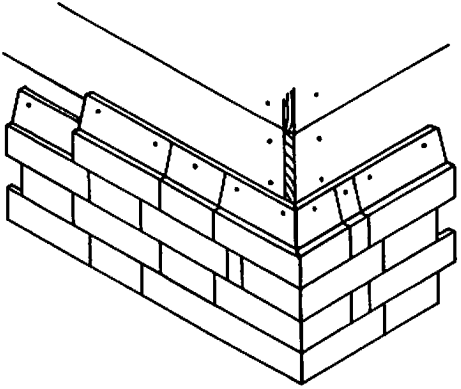
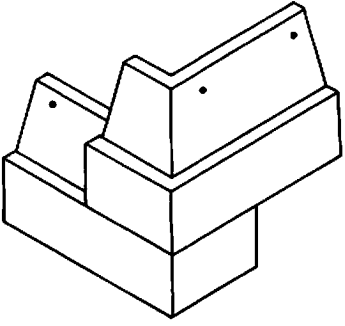
But then practical considerations came in again: fronting a house in brick would usually need 9 ins. of space (4½ in. half-brick fronting walls may exist, but are certainly rare) and many houses bordered directly on the highway. To encroach by 9 ins. was pushing one's luck, but one might get away with 2 ins. or less, needed for M. tiling on boards. This may have been the cheaper solution, because one needed usually twice as many bricks as M. tiles.³

After 1756, when Burlington's protégé, Isaac Ware,⁴ declared red bricks as 'disagreeable' and 'fiery', grey and later 'white' bricks became the high fashion. So even if you had a red brick house, to keep up with the people next door, you might have to make a change. But local clays could not always produce the 'white' bricks



ALTERNATE ANGLES

CORNER TILES



MITRED CORNER.

Fig. 2. Three ways in which corners are turned using Mathematical Tiles.

(in practice these were buff or grey) so you might have to import, from say Exbury in the New Forest, where Mr. Wood was able to produce 'white' bricks and tiles. Also tiles were cheaper to transport than bricks: in 1799 Soane⁵ added 10s. per thousand to the Exbury kiln price to get the 'in the river' price but for bricks he had to add £1 per thousand. So this was another inducement to use M. tiles instead of bricks.

Weight was another practical consideration. Often the M. tiles are only on upper storeys or round projecting bays. Bricks would be too heavy but the timber structure could stand M. tiles. In Sussex many houses used tile covering on upper floor bays at the time of construction.⁶ In Kent, Terence Paul Smith found many cases on previously jettied buildings, when brickwork is often used on the ground floor.⁷ Examples of these are also known in other countries. Frank Kelsall has established that in at least two cases, M. tiles were used around 1780, after liardet cement had failed.⁸

This may be an acceptable summary of the various circumstances *why* M. tiles were used, the *where* is more difficult to explain: of the 700-odd existing buildings we know about at present, clad with M. tiles, about half are in Sussex, one third in Kent, 5 per cent in Surrey, just over 4 per cent in each of Hampshire and Wiltshire and the remaining 4 per cent scattered over East Anglia, Lincolnshire, Berkshire and London. There are a very few N.E. of a line Dorset to the Wash. This distribution pattern does not fit with, say, that of timber-framed houses: we know of only one in Essex, none in Hertfordshire, the West Midlands and the Welsh border counties. Neither does it fit with the distribution of bricks: none in Bedfordshire, Warwickshire or Staffordshire, three counties where brick was important in the 19th century. The search for M. tile buildings is obviously not complete, but further finds are more likely in areas where we already know of many.

The only possible explanation for this odd distribution pattern, is that they became adopted in a few localities and spread out from there: Canterbury and Faversham in Kent, Brighton and Lewes in Sussex, Salisbury in Wiltshire, Ewell and Epsom in Surrey. R. G. Martin relates their prevalence in Brighton and other Sussex resort towns to the meteoric population growth in these in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. M. tile fronts on timber frames gave a cheap but fashionable answer to the accommodation problem.⁶

Mathematical tiles are referred to by many different names, such as: brick, geometrical, mechanical, rebate, wall and weather tile. The only names for which documentary evidence has so far been found in contemporary records⁹ are:

- brick tiles, in the Althorp records in 1787
- mathematical tiles, in three separate cases in the 18th century and various 19th century architectural dictionaries
- Hampshire (weather) tiles, used by Humphrey Repton when referring to Marine Pavilion, Brighton.

Christopher Hussey¹ used the name 'Rebate tile' which he based on its use in the Althorp records, but in the 1963 edition of his book he withdraws this claim, which is not confirmed by other authors who had access to Althorp records.

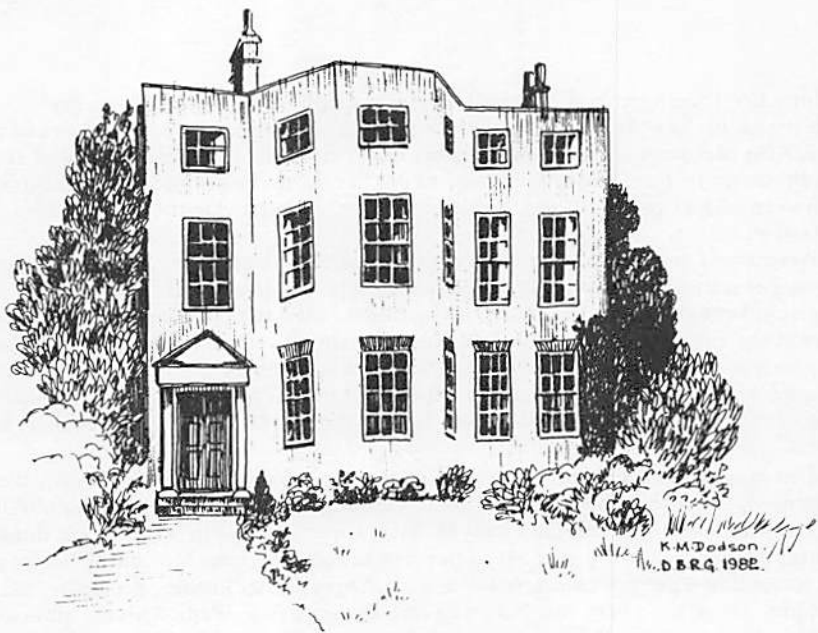


Fig. 3. Spring House, Ewell, c.1730. Example of use of Mathematical Tiles in original construction.

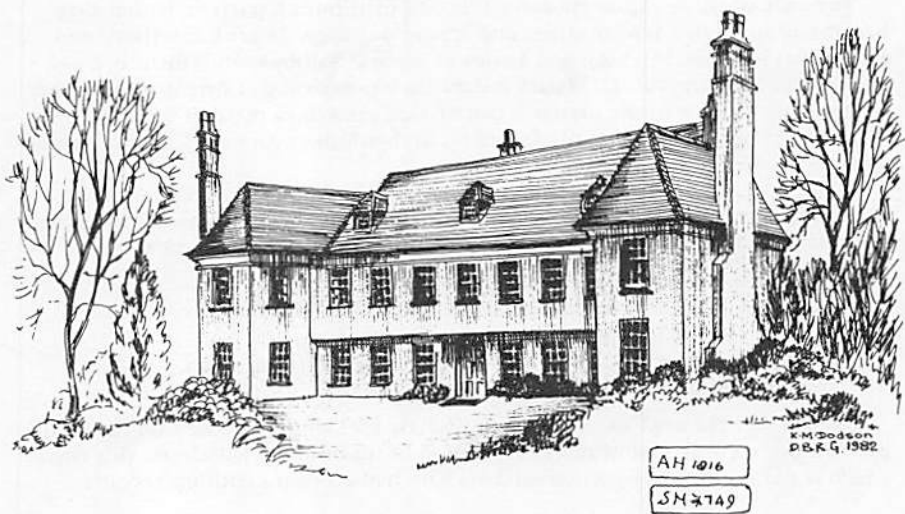


Fig. 4. Shepperton Rectory. Tudor timberframed house refaced early 18th century using Mathematical Tiles. Initialled and dated tiles shown below.

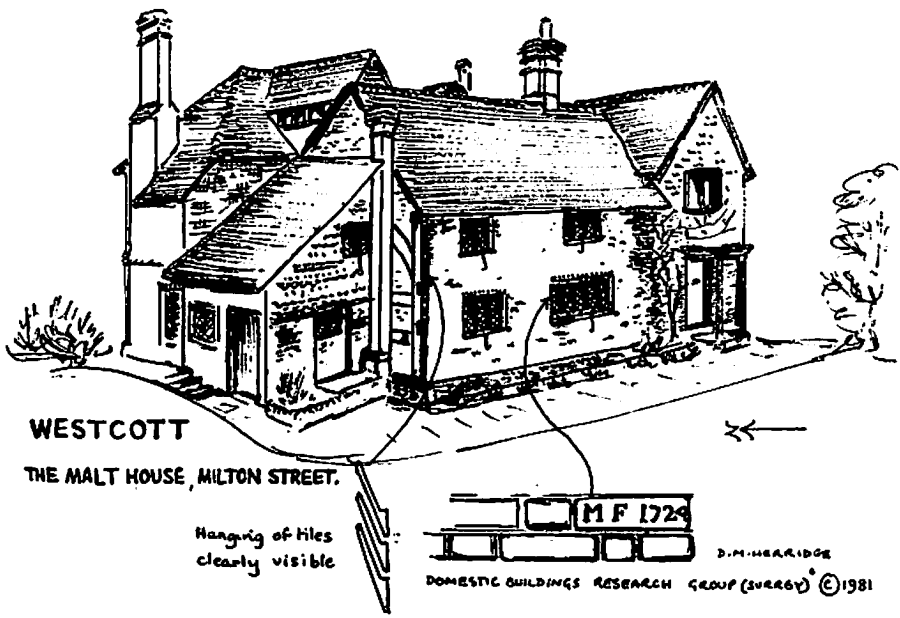


Fig. 5. Dated Mathematical Tile, Westcott, Surrey.

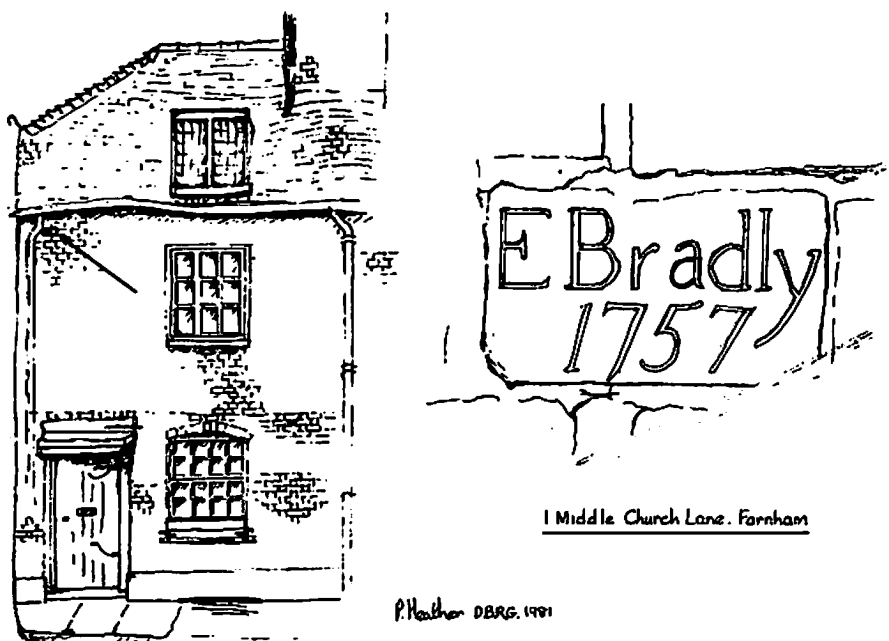


Fig. 6. Dated Mathematical Tile, Farnham, Surrey.

Hampshire is sometimes quoted as the birthplace of M. tiles. Tiles from there were certainly used in different parts of the country: on 'Sloane Place', Henry Holland's own house in Chelsea (1777-8), Drury Lane Theatre, London (1794),⁸ Marine Pavilion, Brighton (1786-7) and very likely on Garrick's Villa, Hampton (1780).

The term 'Southampton tiles' (used in an obituary notice in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for July 1783) would very likely refer to M. tiles. Yet Hampshire is not rich in M. tiles now.

The importance of Mathematical Tiles in Surrey

After Sussex and Kent, Surrey comes a very poor third, as seen above, yet to the student of the history of M. tiles the county is of importance. Of the 41 known examples (post 1974 boundaries), 15 were or are in the Borough of Epsom and Ewell (including three houses in Epsom demolished in the last two decades). The remainder are scattered thinly over the County, without any further evidence of a centre. In some 22 cases they were used to re-face an earlier timber-framed building, in 10 cases their use is of a minor nature on part of the building only, usually upper storeys. There are four houses in Ewell alone where tiles were used at original construction, one in High Street, two in Church Street, both late 18th-century houses, fronting direct on the highway. In these the front facade was clad and the front part of some flank walls. Where the tiles turn the corner, angle tiles were used, a technique common in Epsom and Ewell, but rare in Sussex and Kent. The remainder of the flank and rear are weatherboarded. Cost saving is the likely consideration here compared with 9 in. brickwork which would have needed twice as many bricks as tiles. (These facades are in Flemish bond, but two headers were produced by snapping a stretcher in two along a line scored on the face before baking.) Two good facing bricks cost nearly twice as much as one tile and since the rest of the house needed a timber frame, money may have been saved.

The fourth house is a rarity indeed: Spring House, Spring Street, Ewell, a fine three-storey timberframed house standing in its own grounds, erected about 1730, is clad on all floors on all four walls with red M. tiles. The front facade has a splay bay and there the tiles at the angles and corners are carefully mitred and rubbed to fit, which made the illusion of brickwork convincing. Evidently angle tiles had not yet arrived around 1730, for contrary to the houses referred to in Church Street, this much more sophisticated gentleman's residence used 'alternate angle' construction at the corners of the main walls, whereby tiles on alternate courses run through to the return face. There is evidence that this feature arose as a repair and that originally these corners were also mitred. The tiles are fixed on soft wood horizontal boarding on a bed of mortar.

On a three-storey house of quality, if brickwork were used, external walls would have been at least 1½ bricks thick and although some of these could have been cheap 'place' bricks, cost saving may well have been the consideration here to choose tiles instead of bricks.

Another, so far unique, feature of M. tiles in Surrey are the two cases of dated M. tiles.

The Malt House at Westcott is a good example of an earlier timberframed building of which the street side was clad in M. tiles; one of these is clearly marked M.F.1724. This inscribing was almost certainly done in the leather stage, before firing. We do not know whether the initials refer to the man who made the tiles or to the owner, who paid for the work. The 1724 date is supported by the analysis of the development of the house. This dated tile was discovered by members of the Domestic Building Research Group (Surrey) some years ago.

The second dated tile occurs on a house in Middle Church Lane, Farnham, which is part of a row of terraced cottages. Only Nos. 1 and 2 have M. tiles on the first storey, the remainder and the ground floor being brick fronted. At the top under the eaves is a tile which is neatly inscribed E. Bradley 1757. So far a person by that name has not been traced in local records, possibly it refers to a maker outside the parish. Further information would be most valuable.

Only two further cases of M. tiles are known in Farnham, both are minor usage over gateways.¹⁰

A schedule of known buildings in Surrey with M. tiles is in Appendix I.

The Origins of the Mathematical Tile

It does not yet seem possible to establish with any certainty where and when M. tiles originated. John Archibald,¹¹ who in 1934 mentioned M. tiles in Kent has often been quoted as dating them from 1725 to 1850, but he produced no evidence for this statement.

It has been suggested that they may have originated in the Epsom area and that 'West Hill House', Epsom, built around 1690, had M. tiles from the start, making this the earliest known use of them. However, a careful 'post mortem' on this house seems to have established that the M. tiles to be seen until 1979 were part of an extension of about 1790. See Appendix II.

The earliest acceptable date so far found recording their use is c. 1716 for Nunwell House, Brading, Isle of Wight. Doubt has been thrown on this early date but Aspinall-Oglander¹² quotes this year when money was inherited by the wife of Sir William Oglander, the 3rd Baronet, which enabled rebuilding including the cladding of the southern facade in red brick tiles over earlier stonework. The date is accepted by Marcus Binney,¹³ as c. 1720, and he refers to the similarity of the new doorcase, with a datable one at Kingston Bagpuize (Oxon. ex Berks.) in support for this date.

The next firmly-datable use is the Malt House, Westcott, Surrey (referred to earlier) which carries a date of 1724 and there does not seem any reason to doubt this date for the tiling.

Spring House, Ewell (also mentioned earlier) is dated by local historians as c. 1730, and without doubt was clad with M. tiles when built, making this not only a unique building structurally but a very early example of M. tiles.

Other early examples are Farnham 1757 (see above) and a probable 1754 in Salisbury, Wilts.¹⁴

The great majority of M. tile buildings, however, date from the period 1780-1810, when they were also used on a number of great houses, some to be seen today.

The above seems to indicate that M. tiles probably first appeared in the Isle of Wight or the New Forest. Certainly by the second half of the 18th century there had developed an exporting business from the New Forest, used by well-known architects. But before then they were made locally in N.E. Surrey. We can only hope that further research will enable us in future to date this fascinating material more closely.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors acknowledge gratefully the work of the contributors at the Symposium on Mathematical Tiles (held in Ewell on 14 November 1981 under the Chairmanship of Alec Clifton-Taylor) which has been used in this paper. Also the permission of the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) to reproduce illustrations and extracts from their reports.

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2. Summerson, John, *Georgian London*, 1945.
3. The relative costs of M. tiles and bricks is developed in: Exwood, Maurice, 'Mathematical Tiles', *Vernacular Architecture*, 12, p. 48 (1981).
4. Ware, Isaac, *Complete Body of Architecture*, 1756. This became a standard work of the period.
5. From a MS note at the Sir John Soane museum, quoted at the 'Mathematical Tile Symposium' at Ewell, 14 November 1981.
6. Information given at the 'Mathematical Tile Symposium' by R. G. Martin and E. W. O'Shea.
7. Information given at the Symposium by Terence Paul Smith.
8. Information given at the Symposium by Neil Burton and Frank Kelsall.
9. Information given at the Symposium by several speakers. See also *Vernacular Architecture*, 1981, (as 3 above).
10. Information given at the Symposium by E. W. Godsil, who drew attention to the dated M. tile in Farnham.
11. Archibald, John, *Kentish Architecture as influenced by Geology*, Ramsgate, 1934.
12. Aspinall-Oglander, Cecil, *Nunwell Symphony*, 1945.
13. Binney, Marcus, *Country Life*, 19 February 1976.
14. Information given at the Symposium by N. J. Moore.

APPENDIX I

Schedule of Buildings with Mathematical Tiles in Surrey

Abbreviations: Colour: B = buff, O = orange, R = red, W = white, P = painted
 Bond: F = Flemish, H = Header, S = Stretcher
 D = demolished, A = altered (no M. tiles now visible)
 T.F. = timberframed, L.H./R.H. = left- right-hand side
 G.R. = National Grid reference to nearest 100m.

Address	G.R.	Colour	Bond	Remarks
BETCHWORTH More Place	TQ 215498	OR	F	Refacing T.F. wing at rear
CAPEL Bennet's Castle	TQ 176408	OR	F	Mitred corners. Refacing two sides from below ground floor windows to parapet top
Chestnut House, The Street	TQ 176405	R	F	Edges round windows exposed front, R.H. and part of L.H.
CHARLWOOD Charlwood House	TQ 263398	?	?	17th century T.F., front covered later with M. tiles, covered in 20th century with mock T.F.
DORKING 48-50 High Street	TQ 164493	R	F	Refacing T.F. front coverboards at edge
86-88 High Street	TQ 165494	P	F	First storey front to parapet top
96 South Street	TQ 163492	P-OR	F	Edge rendered. First storey L.H. wall over brickwork
11 West Street	TQ 163493	P	F	Bays between Grd. Fl. and first storey windows
Cotmandene Almshouses	TQ 169455	R	F	Edge exposed; over S. facade of E. block covering brick and stonework
EPSOM 'The Cedars' Church Street	TQ 212606	OR	F	Side wall, to reduce window opening
D 'Pitt Place' Church Street	TQ 215604	OR	F	Over brickwork
A Stone House Church Street	TQ 214606	?	?	On T.F., tiles later rendered
West Gate House Chalk Lane	TQ 207599	OR	F	Edge exposed; at rear elevation, over brickwork

continued

Address	G.R.	Colour	Bond	Remarks
D 115 High Street	TQ 207607	?	?	On T.F. later covered by plain tiles
D 'Whitmores' Dorking Road	TQ 201598	OR	?	M tiles found amongst demolition debris
A West Hill House West Hill	TQ 203609	OR	F	Edge rendered, some angle tiles front and rear 2nd storey, part 1st storey E. wing
<i>EWELL</i>				
2 Church Street	TQ 220626	OR	F	Angle tiles. Original facing to front and part flank on T.F.
4 Church Street	TQ 220626	OR	F	Angle tiles. Original facing to front and part L.H. flank. Band of W tiles near top
6/8 Church Street	TQ 221627	OR	F	Angle tiles; refacing earlier T.F.
'The Old House' Epsom Road	TQ 219621	OR	F	Edge rendered; refacing part R.H. side
26 High Street	TQ 220626	OR	F	Cover board L.H. side; refacing front of earlier T.F.
32 High Street	TQ 220626	P	F	Alternate angles. Original facing to front and part R.H. flank
D 1-3 Plough Road	TQ 208629	R	?	Original facing to front of T.F., later encased in brickwork
Spring House Spring Street	TQ 219627	OR	F	Mitred angles and later alternate angles. Original cladding on all elevations on 3-storey T.F.
<i>FARNHAM</i>				
1-2 Lower Church Lane	SU 839468	R	H	Dated tile: E. Bradly 1757. 1st storey above brick Grd. floor.
89 West Street	SU 835467	R	F	Part rear wall on T.F.
39 West Street	SU 835466	R	F & S	Side and rear over archway
<i>FETCHAM</i>				
Canons Court	TQ 153564	R	F	Original house probably clad on all 4 sides with M. tiles. Now only S. and part of E. elevation
<i>FRENTHAM</i>				
St Austins	SU 840418	W	?	On T.F. wing 1st storey
<i>FOREST GREEN</i>				
Gosterwood Manor Farm	TQ 131407	R	?	Small area S.E. corner Gr. fl. possibly covering bread oven

Address	G.R.	Colour	Bond	Remarks
GUILDFORD				
D 48 High Street				
Guildford House, 155 High Street	TQ 998495	R	H	Mitred angles refacing T.F. wing at rear
Parson's Hospital Stoke Road	TQ 998501	R	S	M. tiles on S. elevation over 1796 brickwork. Probably weatherproofing
HASLEMERE				
Half Moon House, 10 High Street	SU 905327	OR	F	Edges exposed. Refacing N. front of T.F.
LINGFIELD				
1 & 3 Goodwins Cottages	TQ 386394	R	F	Front edge coverboards. Part of side wall. 'Snap-headers'
MICKLEHAM				
The Running Horses	TQ 170534	P	F	Coverboards at edges. Cladding front of T.F.
A Norbury Park	TQ 160537	B		Part of S. front, now removed
SHEPERTON				
The Rectory	TQ 077666	OR	F	Alternate angles. Refacing in early 18th century, earlier T.F.
SOUTH HOLMWOOD				
Vigo Farm	TQ 171444	R	F	On S. facade of E. wing between Gr. Fl. and 1st storey window
WESTCOTT				
Malthouse Cottage Milton Street	TQ 149486	OR	F	Dated tile: M.F. 1724, refronting earlier T.F.
WEST HORSLEY				
West Horsley Place	TQ 089529	OR	F	On timber framed rear N.W. wing
WOTTON				
Wotton House	TQ 121470	OR + Brown Glazed	S	Edges rendered. Tiles on small area over brick- work
Tanhurst, Leith Hill	TQ 128429	R	F	S. wall M. tiles over original brick. Whole house painted white

APPENDIX II

Extract of report No. 2722 of the Domestic Building Research Group (Surrey)
February 1982

EPSOM: West Hill House, West Hill. N.G.R. TQ 20256090

A late 17th-century gentleman's house, much added to and altered in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Demolished in 1978 except for a Victorian part and rebuilt so as to reproduce the main facade of the original house.

Development

Phase I: It seems that the 17th-century building was brickbuilt of five bays, U-shaped with a forecourt to the N. facing the gardens and Pound Lane. The central entrance hall and the E. part had a basement, the central S. part of which was vaulted. This house was very likely of 2 storeys with an attic with dormers to the S., gabled E. and W. walls under under a steep tiled roof. The bricks were yellow and blue stocks from local clay.

The stairs between 1st and 2nd storey may have remained in the original position during later alterations and the ballusters could have been original. The stairs between ground and 1st storey were moved into new extensions in later years.

Phase II: c.1785 this house was refronted, and possibly the main entrance was then moved to the S. front, re-using the 17th-century doorcase, which was in situ in 1978, and a full 2nd storey added by placing a timber wallplate and studwork on top of the S. and N. walls, boarded with 6 x 1 in. horizontal planking, covered with red mathematical tiles on the outside and lath and plaster on the inside. (A reconstruction of a section of this work using recovered materials from the old house can now be seen in the Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell). The E. and W. gable walls were raised and the whole topped with a new slate roof of very low pitch.

It seems unlikely that this 2nd storey was in existence and covered in mathematical tiles prior to the 1785 refronting because this would mean that the tiling would have been set back to the extent of the added brickwork, which was not the case.

On the N. side, mathematical tiling covered the rear and internal sides of the two winglets forming the forecourt. That on the E. winglet remained in situ until demolition and corner tiles were found from the N.W. corner of this winglet. This tends to confirm dating of the tiling, since corner tiles were not known in the district until late 18th century. These tiles are the same in size, colour and texture as those on houses in Church Street, Ewell (225 x 67 mm.). On the latter many tiles seem to have been replaced in later years but those on the 1st storey of 8 Church Street show the same kind of flaking as tiles from West Hill House. These tiles and those in Church Street, Ewell, vary a little in size from those of the earlier 'Spring House', Ewell (230 x 64 mm.) and appear to be of a different texture.

It seems reasonable to assume that the tiles on 'West Hill House' were made in the same works as those on the Church Street houses and in the same period.

REMINISCENCES OF REIGATE IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THIS CENTURY

Collated by *Vera Steward*

Holmesdale Natural History Club, Reigate

The reminiscences given in this article are those of Miss Marjorie Cordell, who was aged 80 years in 1976, the year in which they were written down.

Miss Cordell was born in the Borough of Reigate, trained as an Elementary School teacher in London, and spent most of her career teaching in the Borough in Holmesdale Road Junior School. She now lives with her sister in Blackborough Road, Reigate.

* * * * *

Health

For many years the East Surrey Hospital was the only hospital in the district and was known as 'the Cottage Hospital' as the first and main part was once a house. There was an Isolation Hospital at Whitebushes, Redhill. Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were serious illnesses and were frowned upon and almost considered a disgrace! A special tatty old ambulance was used—really a van, sealed like a covered wagon, with doors at the back and usually black in colour. As soon as the disease was confirmed and the patient rushed off to the 'Isolation Hospital', the house was temporarily sealed. The bedroom was stripped of all curtains, carpets and bedding, and taken away in the 'fever' van to be fumigated; the bedroom was also fumigated. Anyone who had been in contact with the patient, especially the Mother, had to have a bath and complete change of clothing; their things were also fumigated and then two days later everything was returned—this time in a different white canvas-sided van.

The Doctor called either on horseback, horse-drawn trap or cycle, but by 1903 some of the doctors started using motor cars.

Babies were not born in hospitals in those days, the poorer people were helped by the District Nurse or 'mother-gamp'; while the better off had a Maternity Nurse who usually lived in for 2 to 3 weeks for a confinement, arriving a few days before the expected birth. Pregnant women did not appear much in public and took their exercise mostly in the evenings after dark.

St Anne's was a home for orphans and children needing care. During the War, the Foundling Hospital from London was housed there. It is now a home for geriatrics.

Vagrants were accommodated at 'common lodging' houses, e.g. in Grove Road, Redhill, or at the Poor Law Institute or Workhouse on the Common, (now the Redhill General). They were given food and a little money in return for domestic duties, and sent on to the next workhouse which was at Epsom, often calling at

houses *en route*—begging. The usual route was over Wray Common and up Wray Lane. These were travelling vagrants as distinct from the local ones who plied locally, street singing or begging.

Transport

Horses were the thing, carriages for the rich and hansom cabs for the others. Buses were drawn by horses up until 1913; one ran from the top of the town, i.e. the *Red Cross* public house to Redhill Station; it had solid tyres and an open top; Wickens ran these. Then later they became motor buses.

There were also Van der Bilt's coach and team of horses which changed the horses at the old 'White Hart' in Bell Street, *en route* for Brighton, or up to the Derby.

The roadmen were kept busy keeping the streets clean, each had his own daily round, even the tradesmen had horse-drawn vehicles waiting in the street.

Then there was the lamp lighter. As the streets were lit by Gas Lamps, at dusk he went along—often on a bicycle—carrying a long pole with a hook on the end which pulled a little chain which turned the light on. At daylight he again did his round pulling them out.

Street Scenes

Street singers would stand at the curb—cap in hand—singing a popular hymn or song, others would sing, then bang on the door and ask for 'a penny please lady'. Others—vagrants really—would knock on doors begging for food or drink.

Barrel organs were pushed around, stopping outside houses or pubs playing, then sometimes knocking at doors asking for money. Some had a little monkey sitting on top.

The scissor or knife grinders went along the streets chanting 'scissors to grind—scissors to grind'.

The rag and bone man also went around chanting 'any Rags or Bones'. Rags were bought for 1d a pound. Jam jars were also collected for 3d or even 6d for a big number and you got a windmill in exchange.

Water carts were another thing to be seen on the streets, they went up one side and down the other, drawn by a horse, not only to clean the streets but also to keep down the dust, before the days of tarmac roads. It was a large oblong iron tank on wheels with a spray at the rear. Small boys used to follow in its wake to enjoy the water spray!

From time to time the 'colporteur' would tour the houses hoping to 'spread-the-gospel' and sell religious tracts.

Shopping

Deliveries were made by most of the food shops and all by horse-drawn carts—the butcher, baker, grocer, oil-man (paraffin) and milkman, who had their set times and days for collecting orders and delivering the goods. The milk came in large churns fixed to the cart—from these he filled large cans, ¼-pint, ½-pint or pint. Jugs too were classified in these sizes and some houses left them out on their door-steps to be filled.



Fig. 1. 1920s motor bus outside *Red Cross* public house, High St., Reigate.



Fig. 2. Van der Bilt coach outside old *White Hart*, Bell St., Reigate, c. 1894.

The muffin-man would walk around the roads balancing a tray on his head shaking a little bell to announce his whereabouts.

Pawnbrokers—when people were very hard up they went to a pawnbroker to raise money on any article of value that they had—jewellery, clothes, watches, hoping to be able to 'redeem' them at the end of the week when they were paid. Three golden balls (brass) hung over the shop window to let people know. There was one in Redhill, Brighton Road.

Clay pipes were smoked by the old men and labourers. Children could buy them for 1d to use for blowing bubbles. It was a great occupation for them to have a bowl of soap suds and blow bubbles.

Butchers and Fishmongers had horse-drawn carts which looked like enormous shallow boxes on wheels with doors at the rear. Scales were carried to weigh the fish or meat, which was cut to the customer's requirements.

Industries

The Brewery of Mellersh & Neal was situated just behind and to the south of the High Street, the offices being at No. 19—now a shoe shop and the National Westminster Bank. The Brewery had an artesian well of pure water, the buildings being reached by a cobbled path with narrow-gauge railway lines to take the heavy barrels of beer, etc., to be loaded on to the horse-drawn drays. (These are still visible to this day.) All the town was filled with the aroma of the freshly-brewed beer on brewing days.

There were several forges in the Borough—only one now remains in West Street, but there used to be one in Bell Street next to the Priory car park entrance. It was a great attraction to people of all ages to see the sparks flying as the Blacksmith shaped the shoe in his fire and banged it into shape, and then fitted it to the horse's hoof.

The most famous brickfield was W. Brown's in Meadvale Woodhatch area. The site is now covered by a school and community centre. The pond nearby is now shrinking and all overgrown.

Entertainments

A great occupation for children was bowling hoops along the pavements, iron ones with an iron stick for the boys and wooden ones for the girls. If an iron one broke, the Blacksmith would mend it for 1d. The iron sticks had a hook on the end which gave more control.

The Town Brass Band often played in the Market Place on Saturday afternoons, sometimes in the Castle Grounds, also on Redhill Common. Band contests were also held.

Fairs were a great excitement; near Christmas time there was a Cattle Fair on Reigate Heath (on 12 December) with a street Fair all down the High Street from the *Red Cross* to the Market Place (on the north side only). All kinds of goods like candy floss were sold. There were lots of colourful stalls with glittering lights, so it was especially attractive in the evening. It only lasted for one day.

Empire Day was celebrated on 24 May and was a half holiday for school children. After school in the morning they were taken up to the top of the Castle Grounds for an Empire Day Service.



Fig. 3. Bell St., Reigate, in 1930, showing milk delivery cart with churn.

Fig. 4. Bell St. smithy before 1914, now rebuilt as a shop.



Customs

Funerals—the Undertaker's hearse was drawn by two black horses, a high vehicle like an oblong glass box on wheels. Two men sat on top in the front, under their seat was a baby's coffin—also a glass case. Standing on the steps at the rear were two or four bearers. When a funeral was in progress the Church bell was tolled—groups of three rings for a man, one for a woman. As the cortège neared the Church there was continuous tolling for the age of the deceased.

Ladies' clothing was very different to nowadays. Skirts were long just clearing the ground, the hems were edged with 'brush binding' to avoid friction on the hem, and were nearly always in dull colours. Older women wore a bonnet and if a widow, had long black streamers down the back at least to the waist. After six months of mourning, they were shortened to half length and dispensed with after a year. Men wore caps or bowler hats and if going to 'business' in London, carried a rolled umbrella.

Cattle were grazed on the Commons, the owner of Wray Mill House was granted the right to graze there. A dairy—Denny's Dairy, Redhill—had the right to graze on Redhill Common and every morning and evening the cattle were driven up the main Brighton Road to be milked at the shop in Brighton Road.

A Great Occasion

Another thing in Redhill was the great day the Lady Globe Walker—Madame Florence—passed through Merstham, Redhill, on her way to Brighton. That was in July 1903; she spent the night at the *Somers Arms*, Mill Street, Redhill (now a block of Council flats).



Fig. 5. Madame Florence, the Lady Globe Walker, passed through Redhill at 8.30 a.m. on Thursday 18 July 1903 on her journey from London to Brighton. Several people alive today remember seeing her pass.

A. J. MUNBY IN SURREY

David C. Taylor

Esher District Local History Society

A. J. Munby, barrister, poet and social worker, was born in Yorkshire in 1828. His great interest in life was people, particularly the working classes and, more especially, working-class women. This unusual preoccupation eventually led to his secret marriage to a maid of all work, which, when it became public knowledge on his death in 1910, caused a minor sensation.

Munby had a wide circle of friends which included many of the leading literary and artistic people of the time such as D. G. Rossetti and John Ruskin. He served on the Council of the Working Men's College in London which had been founded by the Christian Socialist, F. D. Maurice.

In accordance with the terms of Munby's will, his diaries, poems and other papers were left to the library of Trinity College, Cambridge, with the stipulation that they should not be opened before June 1950. When they were opened, their historical value was immediately recognised and Derek Hudson eventually produced his excellent book *Munby—Man of Two Worlds*, which should be read for a fuller understanding of Munby's life and interests.

In 1878 Munby settled at Wheelers Farm, Pyrford, and died there in 1910. He is buried at Pyrford church. Munby's links with Surrey had begun some thirteen years before he settled in Pyrford, during an excursion into the Surrey countryside.

Munby's journals provide a marvellous picture of the social life and customs of the middle of the 19th century and must rank the author alongside that other great diarist of the period, the Rev. Francis Kilvert.

It is the earlier journals that give the fullest account of Munby's day-to-day life, and these include the visits to Surrey made in 1861 and 1863 and two further visits in 1864. The later diaries give only brief notes on a weekly basis in a handwriting that is difficult to decipher, but even here can be found further descriptions of Surrey, particularly of the countryside around his Pyrford home.

Munby's journals and diaries must be read in full to capture the atmosphere and feeling of the period which he managed to record in an unusually detailed and sensitive manner.

For our county they are a unique record of part of its social history and it is hoped that this article might encourage a fuller study by those whose interests are in the various places and subjects which Munby covers. The writer is arranging for copies of the 1861, 1863 and 1864 journal entries for Surrey to be lodged at the Surrey Record Office at Kingston.

In 1861 Munby made an excursion into Surrey and walked from Leatherhead to Teddington through Stoke D'Abernon, Cobham, Esher, East Molesey and Hampton Court. He stayed the night in Cobham which he found to be 'thoroughly rural and picturesque but not antique'. He noted the 'old fashioned mill with a large under-

shot wheel in full play' and the 'mill race, a long quiet strip of water broadening out beyond the weir into a pretty view with old red houses on one side and willows on the other, and the church spire in the midst'. This view had been painted by the Pre-Raphaelite artist R. Spencer Stanhope, who lived in Cobham at this time, in the picture he entitled 'The Mill Pond'.

After an encounter with the custodian of the local reading rooms and the only qualified *female* letter carrier in the country, Munby continued to the *White Lion* where he ordered tea and then walked back to view the parish church. A revivalist meeting was in progress in the barn at Pypports, an old house near the church, and the anti-evangelical Munby dismisses this as 'an howling match'.

Following 'an excellent meal' at the *White Lion* in 'an upper room looking down the broad village street where groups were lounging in the pleasant idleness that ends the week's work', Munby spent the evening in the bar with local tradesmen and farmers and talked of 'the harvest, and cricketing, and volunteers, and of the old coaching days'. The landlady's sister remarked to Munby that 'the Cobham people were stuck up and divided, there was no getting a companion: the tradesmen's daughters thought they were something and look down upon you, quite'.

The next day Munby set off along the old Portsmouth Road through Esher—'a sunny pleasant village, not apparently remarkable. The church bells of a new church gave the last charm to the morning as I walked through, and turning to the left across a common, passed under the railway and into the shady lanes that lead to Molesey'.

On his way, Munby noticed men collecting bullrushes to sell in London. He crossed the Mole—'a languid willow bound stream, full of fish' to East Molesey which he said had been spoilt by 'cockney houses and people'.

In May 1863, Munby made his first visit to Ripley to stay with his friend Lane who had a house on the green. He fell in love with the surrounding countryside and later wrote of 'the freshness and quiet, and the sense of infinitude—of absolute blessedness and boundless glory, that the remote heaths and meadows of the Wey can give'.

Ripley 'lies picturesquely hither and thither, and is thoroughly rural and quiet . . . there were many young men playing cricket on the green; and old men leaning on the rails looking on and smoking their evening pipe. And for background there was the soft saffron glow of after sunset burning behind a screen of feathery trees'.

During this visit Munby met Mr. Bowyer, the miller at Ockham Mill, 'a young man of substantial means and good position'. Munby found him in 'a snug parlour furnished simply but like a drawing room. A manly good looking fellow in rough shooting coat and with an equally worthy brother also a miller, at Guildford'. This is followed by a splendid description of the miller's home and family, both on this and on a later visit.

Munby mentions the threat to Ripley Green from the projected scheme to bring the railway line through the village. He describes this as 'pitiful' and refers to 'the state of passionate alarm in which one lives as to all beautiful things near London; fearing every moment that they may be lost forever'.

Whilst in Ripley, Munby made his first visit to Pyrford—‘a little hamlet, three or four farms and a few cottages lie prettily scattered about a gravel bank on top of which stands the church in a nest of trees. We entered the village through the farm of one Farmer Napper . . . a wizened man, kindly and unpretending, speaking a sort of Surrey dialect, which is only Surrey by virtue of its ‘ai’ and ‘oo’.

Munby was to return to Pyrford church, and its view over the Wey meadows, many times. In 1864 he attended morning service at the church and left the description of which the following is part:

‘The bell ceased and we all passed in. My wideawake and grey shooting coat did not seem to any one out of place in church: the portly church warden himself (Miller Bayley of Newark Mill) in whose pew I sat, was thus clothed and except the parson’s ladies and one farmer’s family—and all these were dressed simply enough—there was, I think, not a man or woman in this building whose clothes had in them any trace of the fashions of the day. The congregation probably numbered some fifty persons. . . The school and the poorer folk filled the free seats, which are stout ancient benches near the door. . . I noticed that there was no squire’s pew, no squire’s family nor servants: nothing that is, to shame the dress and manners of the rustics . . . and they were devout and orderly from beginning to end: and as for music, there was a choir of grown up farming lads and farming lasses. . . The young curate prayed and read, & the people responded and sang their hymns; the gaunt old vicar (Rev. Henry Hughes) sat in his surplice.’

Of the view from the churchyard Munby wrote that it was ‘a charming surprise’. He goes on to describe the view of Newark Abbey in great detail and then comments ‘And all this within a few miles, so to say, of London!’

But London was near and Munby thought that ‘at Byfleet the influence of London begins to be felt: there are cottages ornées & villas in the pretty streets, and two or three well-drest men with briefbags were starting on foot for the railway’.

Munby always had an eye for the unusual. For example—‘On Saturday, by the way, we passed a man near Wisley Heath, who was ploughing with a pair of Devonshire oxen’.

In April 1864 Munby was again in Ripley and a few months later he was back in Pyrford for a weekend visit. On the first visit he walked from Weybridge station and describes the beauty of Wisley Common—‘there is not a house in sight, except the little lonely inn by the waterside (The *Hut*) and the distant chimneys of Fox Warren on the hill opposite: there is not a hedge, for the white Portsmouth Road runs fenceless over the moor; and one or two far-off strips of bright green are all there is of cultivated ground. Over all this the sun shone and the cloud shadows played; and only for birds, there was no voice or sound but the low mumbling of a waggon along the road’. The description continues and is reminiscent of Hardy’s description of Egdon Heath in the opening chapter of ‘The Return of the Native’.

During the weekend visit to Ripley, Munby travelled out with the local doctor to Shere. ‘We went round to the East of Ockham Park, by excellent country roads through well timbered undulating district, commonplace after Ripley, but still pretty and retired. Not a few good and picturesque Elizabethan farms and cottages we

passed: & at one the doctor drove in to see a patient, and the farmer or hired man then showed me round his richly blossoming orchard. He was an old man in spruce wideawake and gaiters and clean white Sunday smock frock, & brilliant satin neckerchief. . . Many of these old houses are being pulled down by Lord Lovelace, who builds instead of them places of astounding eccentricity, barbarous to the last degree. . . '.

After crossing the Downs by way of Horsley Heath and Netley Heath where there were views of 'bold moorland country, as wild and lonely as if London were a hundred miles away' they arrived at Shere where 'the doctor pulled up at the village inn—the White Horse, kept by William Farnhall: an ancient hostelry of good repute, with two huge elms before its door'.

'Shere is a very pretty and picturesque village, with *no* new houses—for the Lords of the Manor have a wholesome dread of ugliness—and many timbered and regabled old ones, aptly dotted along the slopes on both sides of a pure and famous trout stream.'

Whilst the doctor made his calls in Shere, Munby explored Albury Park and the two then both returned to Ripley over Newlands Corner. In West Clandon they stopped so that the doctor could visit a sick child. 'The place was a very humble cottage, of one room, absolutely level with the road. The baby lay in its cradle in the midst of the brick floor; a neighbour lifted it up to be examined; and the worn mother, in poor cotton gown & clumsy boots, and her apron at her eyes, came sobbing to the door; for the doctor had said that it must die. . . It was pleasant to see the respect paid to this worthy man along the roads and in the villages that we passed: how the farmers & labourers, and young men taking Sunday walks with their sweethearts, touched their hats to him; how the young women curtsied, though their curtsying was rather of the senseless modern curvilinear kind than of the antique and expressive vertical. Government schools have destroyed the simple art of dropping a curtsy.'

During the course of his 1864 visit to Ripley, Munby recorded a discussion with Miller Bowyer about female labour and, in particular, 'a woman, now living at Brockham in this County, who he has seen working on a farm as a labourer and loading wheat; carrying sack after sack of wheat on her back to the wagon, as a man would. She reaps he says, well with the sickle and is so strong and laborious that she can 'work the men blind' at any kind of farm work. She stands six feet high; and once, when she was in the workhouse, and the porter there spoke of her as no match for himself in strength, she settled the point, and him, by knocking him down on the spot.'

There are a number of references to agricultural workers in this part of the county, particularly the women. On Woking Heath he spoke to a woman whom he found hoeing in a field. 'They had been hoeing carrots, since eight this morning; and had guessed the time to leave off—five o'clock. . . There's many women, she said, and girls too, married and unmarried, that work in the fields about here: hoeing, and concling[?], and reaping with the sickle: she can reap and does. A woman's wage is tencepence a day; a man's twelve shillings a week. Men and women don't work much together: the female labourers will hoe on one side, the male on

the other'. The woman said she often worked alone the whole day and could hoe half an acre a day, or more.

Munby's Journals and Diaries do contain other references to Surrey. He spent his honeymoon in Ockley and there are references to Guildford and Dorking, some of which are reprinted in Derek Hudson's book. It is the things that Munby observed and recorded that are perhaps more valuable to us today than photographs and prints of the period, and the Journals contain something for everyone. For the cycling historian there is a brief reference in 1896 to the cyclists on the Portsmouth Road near Cobham—'young women among them, of whom 3 wore breeches and rode astride'. For the architectural historian, the descriptions of local architecture will be invaluable and the details of the local people will add flesh to what can sometimes be only the bare bones of a local history.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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FURTHER READING

Introduced to Munby's local references by David Taylor some time ago, Send & Ripley History Society has recently published a guidebook to one of the walks centred in their area delightfully recorded by Munby exactly 120 years ago.

The illustrated 45-page booklet has the original text and the Society's commentary on adjacent pages. It is available priced £1.25 plus 25p for post & packing from Tony Medlen, Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking. Dependent upon the response to this first booklet, a further guide or two to Munby's outings in the Ripley area may follow.

Sunday Evening, 23 October, 1825

We set out from Chilworth to-day about noon. This is a little hamlet, lying under the south side of St. Martha's Hill; and on the other side of that hill, a little to the north-west, is the town of Guildford, which (taken with its environs) I, who have seen so many, many towns, think the prettiest, and, taken all together, the most agreeable and most happy-looking that I ever saw in my life. Here are hill and dell in endless variety. Here are the chalk and the sand, vieing with each other in making beautiful scenes. Here is a navigable river and fine meadows. Here are woods and downs. Here is something of everything but *fat marshes* and their skeleton-making *agues*. The vale, all the way down to Chilworth from Reigate, is very delightful.

William Cobbett, *Rural Rides*

NEW MATERIAL FOR SURREY HISTORIANS, 1982

D. B. Robinson

County Archivist, Surrey Record Office

'We had gone to Guildford in July 1865 for 2 or 3 days to take part in a Local Bazaar for the County Hospital and drove over to Pirbright, to the Manor House to call on the Vicar Mr Owston and his wife and to see the Church and house for the first time. We made our way through a tangle of rank grass and weeds across a paddock and through the ill kept garden to the front door, and thought we had never seen a more overgrown and untidy little place. The inside was also very shabby and not clean and hardly furnished with chairs to go round. After a cup of tea, without milk for they drank none, the Owstons took us through the fields to see the Church. The old square wooden pews with ragged baize linings and the damp white washed walls, made us long to be able to help to do some thing to help to make a more worthy and reverent interior, and gave plenty to think of on our return from so neglected a corner of the world. That was the first idea sown in our minds about Pirbright and St Michael's Church'.

This is the opening of the manuscript 'Remembrances of Pirbright' compiled by Katherine Halsey, wife of E. J. Halsey, whose family had been lords of the manor since 1784. The Halseys settled in Pirbright and Mrs. Halsey was able to record in detail the pattern of social life in the village. Until the inclosure of the commons by the War Office in 1878, the cottagers mostly heated their homes by peat burnt on open hearths. The labourers' houses were lit by rush lights 'and many a time I have seen the rushes soaking in a red earthenware pan, before stripping and dipping in the fat. The pig in the corner of the garden became helpful in this later on! Besides providing the 'pig meat' which was the chief meat they had. Except perhaps rabbits from the common—who also were useful in the making of caps for children'. The 'village, the inhabitants and their customs were very rural and quiet and there was still an old-fashioned friendliness and courtesy and a respect for the 'Squire' and his family as between landlord and tenants which seemed very pleasant. Visits to the cottages were kindly received'. The old men still wore the smock and the older women wore 'a black stuff gown and mantle or shawl and a comfortable bonnet tied on'. Mrs. Halsey describes a number of village characters: Ann Searle the dressmaker, 'Butcher' Woods with his flock of geese; Mr. Searle, 'grocer, post-master, carrier and parish clerk was the most important person in the village, and was accused of wearing 'an extra six pen'orth of creak' in his boots as he paced the church aisle on Sunday'. Mr. and Mrs. Woods, who 'lived on the common in a house of their own building below the broom makers [were] most useful in helping in village school feasts and penny readings'.

Mrs. Halsey describes the use of herbs and other traditional remedies—'House-leeks' leaves were pulled off and pounded for wounds and cuts—(unless you used a tuft of cobwebs to staunch the blood!). Cabbage leaves were useful as poultices if

you put them on the *right* side, and as soothers if you reversed the process! She also describes the flowers, plants and animals of the parish. And as for the church? In 1873 'the body of the Church was cleaned, washed and repaired, the old box pews were removed, the floor relaid in wood with stone foot ways, and new pine wood open seats were placed throughout.' Mrs. Halsey's view of Pirbright complements that of Eliza Owsten, the vicar's wife, whose diary for 1875-78 was deposited in Guildford Muniment Room four years ago (Surrey History, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 78-79).

School log books also provide a good insight into Victorian (and later) social life. Those for Abinger Hammer school, for example, show the local clergy and gentry—particularly the Farrers—taking a considerable interest in the school. 'Lady Farrer has provided at her own expense strong slippers for each of the infants to wear during school hours. These slippers are lined with natural wool flannel and they have socks of the same material. Lady Farrer believes much of the late illness in the neighbourhood (among the children) has been caused by sitting in damp boots. The shoes were worn for the first time today'. (12 March 1893.)

Byfleet Cricket Club have deposited Minute Books and other records from 1878 onwards. These throw considerable light on sport and local society in Byfleet in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and include an agreement of 1899 between the captain and T. Rushby of Cobham, in which Rushby was engaged as 'professional groundman' for 1899. He was to receive £1 per week inclusive of everything except travel expenses and 'lunches in matches', and to devote Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to keeping in thorough order and condition the entire cricket field, to play in all matches or umpire as requested by the club 'and generally to render all such services as are usual in the case of a professional cricketer and groundman'. Rushby later played for Surrey. The records also include programmes for the Byfleet cricket week which was a highlight of Byfleet social life in the 1920s. The cricket week in the club's golden jubilee year, 1926, included a cricket match each day, and a gymkhana, 'mysterious motor meander and treasure hunt', dance and carnival.

A number of items relating to the Durdans, Lord Rosebery's home at Epsom, have been deposited. These include photographs taken by Dowager Empress Marie of Russia showing Queen Alexandra, Princess Victoria, Lord and Lady Ripon and others at Durdans. One of the photographs shows Cicero, Lord Rosebery's third Derby winner.

In 1981 I reported our purchase at Sotheby's of charters from the Philipps collection relating to properties in various parts of Surrey (Surrey History, Vol. 2, No. 4, p. 173). A further lot, probably part of the same collection, came up for sale in 1982. These related mainly to properties in Newdigate and Charlwood and to properties owned by the 'de Newdigate' family just over the Sussex boundary in Crawley and Ifield. There were also charters relating to Shere, Ewell, Croydon and Kingston upon Thames and to places in other parts of the country. The earliest of the charters date from the 13th century and the latest from the 15th century. Many of the charters have small but attractive seals in good condition. We have also received from East Sussex Record Office a medieval deed of more than usual

interest. The deed was in fact located among Sussex family records in a Devon parish chest. It is the conveyance of one messuage with one croft called Lytel-redene in Limpsfield on the highway from Limpsfield to Edenbridge 'versus west sicut mete et bunde ibidem dividunt et demonstrant'. The combination of Latin and English in a legal document of this date is most unusual.

One isolated document of considerable interest is a survey by Robert Treswell, Surveyor General of Royal Woods south of the Trent, and Laurence Stoughton of 'The repaires needfull to be forthwith performed at his Majesties Parke at Woking in the Countie of Surrey and of the Towne Bridges and Pounds there' 1609. The work included the making of palings, 'which maye fittest be taken in his Majesties woods called Brooke Wood Timber hill Wood and Birchwood within the Forest of Windsor in the Counte aforesaid and may require by estimate 90 Oakes which to be there falne and topped will cost VIIIId the Tree'. Two cart bridges and a horse bridge over the river at Woking were 'verye needfull to be repaired', together with an animal pound 'greatly in decay', and required 16 loads of timber, involving the felling of 18 trees and costing 32s for the wood, 25s for carriage, £3 for sawing into 4 inch planks, posts, trestles, 'joyse' (joists) and rails, and £8 for the carpenter's and labourers' work.

A customal of the manors of Walton-on-Thames and Walton Leigh includes copies of presentments of customs for both manors in 1725, a perambulation of the boundaries of the manors in 1790, the forms of proclamations and oaths and the charge to the jury and the homage, a copy of an Elizabethan inquisition into the boundaries of Walton Leigh manor, and accounts of moneys received, presumably by the steward, 1764-1786.

Business records deposited last year include a catalogue of Jackman's nurseries, 1904-5. The 80-page catalogue shows the wide range of flowers and trees available at the beginning of the century in a leading nursery. It describes nearly 100 varieties of apple, 50 pears and 30 plums, 400 roses and over 80 clematis, including 16 varieties of the clematis *Jackmanii*. The catalogue also includes photographs of the nurseries and glasshouses and of a horse-drawn 'machine' for the removal of trees: 'by this means an effect can at once be obtained which otherwise would take years to secure, and valuable trees and shrubs prevented from being spoilt, by removal to more suitable sites'. Many records of the firm, including notebooks relating to the breeding of clematis *Jackmanii*, are already in Guildford Muniment Room.

The Guildford printing firm, Billing and Son, have deposited their records in Guildford Muniment Room. Joseph Billing moved his printing firm from Woking to Railway Esplanade, Guildford, in 1856, and the firm worked for many leading publishers, especially religious bodies, including the British and Foreign Bible Society, and educational bodies. It printed the Bible in about 400 different languages. Regrettably many of their oldest records were destroyed in the River Wey flood in 1968, but records including minute books, 1928 onwards, a works journal, 1921-3, and later records including photographs have been deposited.

Three account books of Hall Place Farm, Merrow, 1759-1853, have been deposited. The farm was owned by Abbot's Hospital, Guildford, and occupied by the

Swayne family. The books contain details of the wages paid to a regular workforce of four (in 1804) for sowing, hoeing, weeding, reaping and mowing. There are many payments to women ('dames') for picking stones from the fields. Not the least valuable of the details in these books are the frequent entries giving prices at which corn was sold in Guildford Market. For example, in February 1846 wheat was sold at £17 per load, in March 1847 the price reached £24 4s per load, and in May 1853 had fallen to £10 10s per load. Cartage for other people also occurs frequently: nine loads of gravel from 'Mr Drummond's pit' [at Albury] 1831; many cartloads of the sand from the river, 1883; and 'Mr Fisher, for carting the Booth to the Downs, 17 March 1838'. This last entry presumably relates to horse racing on Merrow Down. An entry in November 1847, 'William Swayne for carriage of 3000 bricks to Stoke Fields', followed by other similar entries shows Thomas Swayne's son William starting his building firm in Guildford. (The records of the building firm are among the most important business records already held in Guildford Muniment Room.)

Important records relating to Blechingley have been deposited through the good offices of Mr Uvedale Lambert. These are records of Pendell Court Estate and include deeds of Coneys, 1694-1811, Kentwyns, 1761-1847, and the manor of Blechingley, including the cricket ground, 1813-1836.

Surrey Land Clubs were founded in 1940 by Miss M. J. Carter of Surbiton who acted as Organiser throughout the War. Miss Carter, Poultry Instructor for the County Council, based her organisation on classes which she had held at Sutton, Surbiton and Guildford during the first half of 1940 and membership was open to all residents over 17 years of age in Surrey and in the parts of Middlesex near to Kingston. The Clubs aimed to help local farmers and market gardeners by providing Saturday afternoon and Sunday, and some evening, labour. They later also ran two 'camps' at Shere and Chertsey. Members—mainly office workers—worked in 'gangs' of six to eight, under a leader, and were paid travelling expenses only. Farmers were asked to pay 'unskilled' rates for their labour, and it was the gang leader's responsibility, as well as transmitting instructions, to collect the wages, pay members' expenses, and forward any surplus to the Treasurer. Jobs were allotted and labour organised at weekly meetings attended by Miss Carter, the Branch Organiser, and the Treasurer. In 1942 a separate branch was formed for Southern Surrey. Annual profits were passed to the Red Cross. The records comprise the minutes of Executive Committee meetings and other circulated papers, posters advertising the clubs and transcripts or drafts of radio broadcasts (including 'In Town Tonight', 7 March 1942, and 'Backs to the Land', 1 July 1944). They include also a volume of press cuttings, a photograph album, including members' own snapshots, and a Ministry of Information sound film 'Start a Land Club', in which Surrey Land Club members were featured. The press cutting volume includes also two obituary notices of Mr. J. H. Mattinson, Surrey Agricultural Education Organiser from 1920 until his death in 1943, and originator in Surrey of the Young Farmers' Club scheme.

The County Education Officer has transferred an interesting file on the arrangements in the Farnham Area to fit school holidays in with the hop-picking season, 1943-1958. This longstanding arrangement was particularly encouraged during the

War and in the immediate post-War period and the file includes a Government poster, 'Harvest 1947', encouraging children to attend school harvest camps. By the 1950s many parents and teachers were increasingly critical of the apparently harmful effect of the arrangement on education during the Autumn term and attempts were made to end the arrangement. A letter from a leading hop-grower in 1954 stressed the continued importance of children's help in hop-picking and commented that the small scale of the fields and the farms of South-West Surrey meant that mechanisation would be slow to replace the use of unskilled labour. The file also includes correspondence of 1950-51 with Kent Education Committee regarding the education of children from East Surrey who went hop-picking in Kent.

No review of Surrey Record Office in 1982 would be complete without paying tribute to Miss G. M. A. Beck, who retired as archivist in charge of Guildford Muniment Room in August, after 21 years' service at the Muniment Room. Miss Beck first worked at Guildford in the early 1950s when she was employed by the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, working chiefly on the Loseley papers. She returned in 1961 as Assistant Archivist and in 1971 when, on the retirement of Dr. E. M. Dance, the County Council took over the Muniment Room from the Borough of Guildford, Miss Beck was appointed Archivist in charge. Local historians throughout Surrey are aware of Miss Beck's great knowledge of records, and local records in particular, which was always at the disposal of searchers using the Muniment Room. They also know her great success in saving records and ensuring their preservation, and the value of the lists she prepared. As advisor on parochial records to the diocese of Guildford, she was active in securing the preservation and deposit of parish records. The records in Guildford Muniment Room are, however, in some cases of world-wide as well as local importance, and the visitors to the Muniment Room, and correspondence to it, came from universities throughout the world. Miss Beck's chief work, the monumental two-volume catalogue of the Loseley papers, is of value to scholars all over the world, but the many other lists she made and the indexes she compiled also remain of permanent value.

In conclusion, I must draw attention to one change which has taken place in 1983: our reduction in opening hours. Many members will be aware of the immense increase in the use of Record Offices in recent years. In Surrey the number of searchers visiting the record office at County Hall, Kingston, has increased more than 50 per cent since 1975: at Guildford Muniment Room they have doubled.

During this period, because of continued constraints on public expenditure, it has not been possible to increase the number of staff to meet these demands. As a result, archivists have been devoting increasing amounts of time to assisting searchers and have had less time to devote to rescue work and to listing records when deposited. It has become necessary therefore to reduce the number of days the two offices are open. This will enable archivists to organize their use of their time more efficiently and will, in particular, give greater flexibility at Guildford Muniment Room where the problem is most acute.

Opening hours are: County Hall (preferably by appointment)
Monday to Wednesday, Friday: 9.30-4.45

CLOSED all day Thursday
Saturday, 2nd and 4th in month, by appointment only,
9.30-12.30

Guildford Muniment Room (by appointment only)
Tuesday to Thursday: 9.30-12.30 and 1.45-4.45
CLOSED all day Monday and Friday
Saturday, 1st and 3rd in month, by appointment only,
9.30-12.30

The reduction is regrettable, but we believe that it is in the interests of the preservation of records in the county, which means in turn the interests of all who use the records.

25th Sept. 1822

This county of Surrey presents to the eye of the traveller a greater contrast than any other county in England. It has some of the very best and some of the worst lands, not only in England, but in the world. We were here upon those of the latter description. For five miles on the road [from Chertsey] towards Guildford the land is a rascally common covered with poor heath, except where the gravel is so near the top as not to suffer even the heath to grow. Here we entered the enclosed lands, which have the gravel at bottom, but a nice light, black mould at top; in which the trees grow very well. Through bye-lanes and bridle-ways we came out into the London road, between Ripley and Guildford, and immediately crossing that road, came on towards a village called Merrow. We came out into the road just mentioned, at the lodge-gates of a Mr. Weston, whose mansion and estate [Sutton Place] have just passed (as to occupancy) into the hands of some new man. At Merrow, where we came into the Epsom road, we found that Mr. Webb Weston, whose mansion and park are a little further on towards London, had just walked out, and left it in possession of another new man.

William Cobbett, *Rural Rides*



Fig. 1. Ordnance Survey map, 1867, showing the sites of the Old and New Epsom Wells. (Courtesy of the Surrey Record Office)

THE WATERS OF EPSOM SPA*

Alex Sakula, MD, FRCP

Emeritus Senior Consultant Physician, Redhill General Hospital

The therapeutic properties of natural mineral waters, for bathing and for drinking, were recognised by the ancient Egyptians, the Greeks and the Romans. The early Christian church believed in the healing properties of the waters taken from holy springs and wells, a belief that declined after the Reformation. Nevertheless, the sixteenth century saw a revival of interest, partly stimulated by the teachings of Paracelsus (1493-1541), such that in 1553 the collective work on balneology *De Balneis* was able to quote 70 authorities (including Galen, Averroes and Maimonides) and to list 200 watering-places.¹⁻³

Spa is a town in Belgium, south-east of Liège in the wooded hills of the Ardennes, and its local mineral springs were known to the Romans, who called them *pouhons*. In 1326 they were rediscovered, and from the 16th century Spa was increasingly frequented, the zenith of its fame being reached in the 18th century, when it was visited by European royalty. Spa gave its name to other watering-places in Europe, and in England was referred to by the upper classes as 'The Spaw'.

The first English books on balneology were written by the Dean of Wells, William Turner (1568)⁴ and by John Jones (1572).⁵ They were able to recommend the warm mineral waters of Bath and Buxton for the treatment of rheumatism, skin diseases and infertility, but at that time the waters were not taken internally. Although Lord North discovered the waters at Tunbridge in 1605, it was Epsom that became the first town in England to be developed as a spa for the drinking of purgative waters for medicinal purposes.

The Rise of Epsom Spa

The medicinal properties of the Epsom waters may first have been observed in Queen Elizabeth's time but, according to Fuller's 'Worthies', it was in 1618 that Henry Wicker, a local farmer, discovered the Epsom well at Flowerdale on Epsom Common, a half-mile west of Epsom village⁶ (Fig. 1). He noticed during the dry summer that a hoof-print in the field remained full of water. He enlarged the depression for the purpose of watering his cattle, but they refused to drink. A 12-foot well was then dug, and the waters from it came to be applied externally for skin diseases as an abstersive (cleanser) and as a vulnerary (ointment) and were found to be useful for healing skin ulcers. Later, in 1630, it was noted that, taken orally, the waters had a purgative effect. The news of this reached the ears of some London physicians, who visited Epsom, confirmed the findings and began to send their patients to Epsom for the cure. The well was pleasantly situated on the edge of the Downs, and the lord of the manor had a wall built around the well and a shed erected to shelter the sick. Epsom now became increasingly frequented by visitors from London, who made the 15-mile journey by coach and horses.⁷

* Reproduced with permission from the Journal of the Royal College of Physicians, Vol. 16, No. 2 (April 1982).

In 1645 Lord North claimed that the Epsom waters were 'first made known by him to the citizens of London and the King's people, the journey to the Spaw being too expensive and inconvenient to sick persons, and great sums being thereby carried out of the Kingdom'.⁸ This was, of course, a reference to the original Spa in Belgium. The earliest written description of the Epsom well was by Abram Booth (1629), who travelled on behalf of the Dutch East India Company. He wrote: 'People coming there took a few glasses of the mentioned water—which has a taste different from ordinary water—after which, walking up and down, these had in our opinion very good effect'.⁹ By 1640 the fame of the Epsom well had spread to Europe and many distinguished persons came to drink the waters. The accommodation and amenities of Epsom were improved to receive these visitors, and by 1648 there was the additional local attraction of horse-racing on the Downs (although it was not until 1780 that the annual Derby horse race was founded).

John Aubrey visited Epsom in 1654. He drank the waters and carried out some experiments, boiling the well waters, which left 'a sediment of flakey Stuff, of colour of Baysalt in loose flakes—as much as filled a Tobacco Box. I gave it to old Dr. W. Harvey, who thought it to be a sort of Nitre; but he spoke at Random. I admire our Physicians, and Virtuoso's here have not been more curious in experiments of it'.¹⁰ In 1670 the diarist John Evelyn came to Epsom for the funeral of his brother, Richard Evelyn, the lord of the manor, who had suffered from bladder-stone, and Evelyn considered that it was caused 'perhaps by his drinking excessively of Epsom water when in full health and that he had no need of them'.¹¹ Samuel Pepys paid two visits to Epsom. On 25 July 1663 (Lord's Day) he found the spa full of people. 'But, Lord! to see how many I met there of citizens that I could not have thought to have seen there; that they ever had it in their heads or purses to go down thither'. There was no accommodation in the town, and Pepys was forced to stay the night in nearby Ashted, 'in a little house we could not stand upright in'. On the following day, he found it 'very pleasant to see how they are there in the morning to drink the waters'. Pepys' second visit was on 14 July 1667, when he 'took horse to Epsom . . . By eight o'clock to the well, where much Company. And to the town, to the King's Head, and hear that my Lord Buckhurst and Nelly are lodged at the next house and Sir Charles Sedley with them, and keep a merry house. Poor girl! I pity her'.¹² Nelly was, of course, Nell Gwynne, the companion of Charles II, who held court at Epsom. The site of the King's Head is now the entrance to a shopping precinct, and the 'next house', formerly Nell Gwynne's cafe, is now a jeweller's shop.

A wash drawing by the Dutch artist, Willem Schellinks in 1662 (now in the National Bibliotek, Vienna) provides a pictorial record of the Epsom wells, and life at the spa at that time is further illustrated by the ballad, 'Merry Newes from Epsom Wells' (1663); the rather indifferent play *Epsom Wells* (1672) by Thomas Shadwell who mentions 'the impertinent ill-bred City wives' who flocked to the well on the downs; as well as the bawdy description in the broadsheet *Flos Ingenii* (1674). On 19 June 1684, the *London Gazette* announced: 'The post will go every day to and fro betwixt London and Epsom during the season [May, June and July] for drinking the waters'.¹³ This was the earliest daily stage-coach outside London.



Fig. 2. Dr. Nehemiah Grew. Engraving of portrait by R. White, 1700. (Courtesy of the Wellcome Trustees)

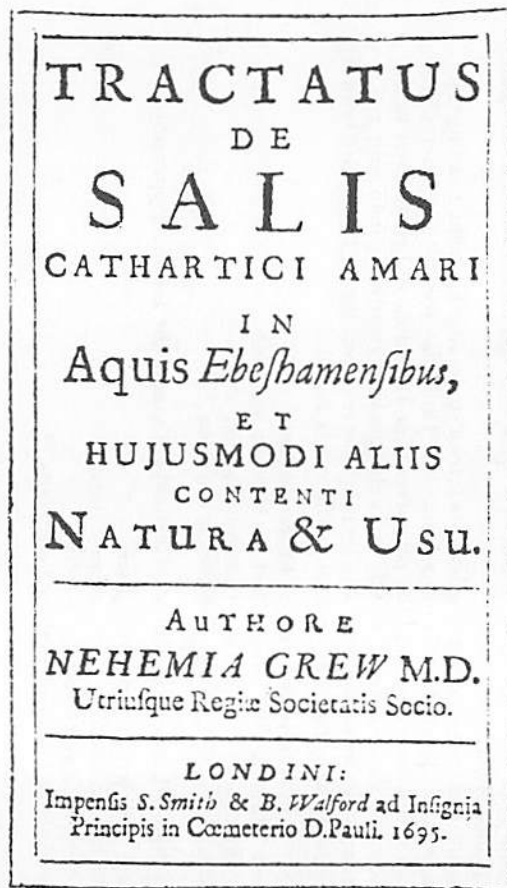


Fig. 3. Title page of Dr. Nehemiah Grew's *Tractatus de Salis Cathartici Amari*, 1695. (Courtesy of the British Library)

By 1707, the buildings at the well had been enlarged by the lord of the manor, John Parkhurst, and assembly rooms were built, containing a ballroom 70 feet long. The ground around the well was encircled by a brick wall and avenues of elms and limes were planted nearby.^{6,14}

During this period, other English spas were also developing, some rivalling the attractions of Epsom. Chief among them were Tunbridge Wells¹⁵ and, later, Cheltenham and Bath. Epsom had the advantage over Tunbridge of being nearer to London, but the chalybeate waters of Tunbridge were reputed to help gout and the stone, diseases of the rich, who therefore were drawn there. The rivalry between Epsom and Tunbridge may be seen in Malcolm's Ballad:

When fashion resolved to raise Epsom to fame,
Poor Tunbridge did nought; but the blind or the lame
Or the sick, or the healthy, 'twas equally one,
By Epsom's assistance their business was done.⁷

And similarly between Epsom and Cheltenham spas in the following epitaph:

Here I lies with my two daughters,
All through drinking Cheltenham waters;
If only We'd stuck to Epsom salts
We shouldn't be lying in these here vaults.¹⁶

Dr. Nehemiah Grew and Epsom Salts

The purgative action of the Epsom waters soon led to a demand for the dried salts obtained by evaporation of the waters from the well. Some early chemical analyses were carried out by Robert Boyle (1685) who sought 'for what salt the Purgative vertue that is found to help them at Epsom . . . do's proceed'.¹⁷

The man whose name is most closely associated with Epsom Salts is Dr. Nehemiah Grew (1641-1712) (Fig. 2). He was born in Coventry, attended Cambridge University, and in 1671 qualified in medicine at Leyden, with an MD dissertation, *Disputatio medico-physica de Liquore Nervoso*. He practised as a physician in London and became FRCP in 1680. His major interest, however, was in botany, and in 1682 he published his magnum opus, *Anatomy of Plants*, which made the first observations on sexual reproduction in plants. He became FRS in 1671, and was Secretary of the Royal Society (then at Gresham College) from 1677 to 1680 during which time he catalogued its museum in his *Museum Regalis Societas* (1681). His other great work, *Cosmologie Sacra* (1701) was more philosophical.¹⁸

In 1679, Grew demonstrated Epsom Salts to the Royal Society,¹⁹ and in 1695 he published in Latin his study of the composition of Epsom Spa waters: *Tractatus de Salis Cathartici Amari in Aquis Ebeshamensibus*,²⁰ in which he produced an analysis of the chemistry and action of Epsom Salts. A contest for the patent rights for the production of Epsom Salts then ensued between Grew and the brothers Francis and George Moulton. Francis Moulton, an apothecary, had Grew's treatise translated from Latin into English and published it in 1697 under Grew's name.²¹ He also advertised the sale of the book and the salts: 'That this Salt is made

and sold in Greater or Lesser Quantities, by Francis Moulst Chymist, at the sign of Glaubers-Head in Watling-street; and this translation at no other place'. Moulst's activities were without Grew's knowledge or permission, and quite unethical. In order to retain his legal rights, Grew published his own English translation of his book²² later in 1697, together with a criticism of Moulst's pirated edition, and in 1698 obtained a Royal Patent (No. 354) for 'The Way of Makeing the Salt of the Purgeing Waters perfectly fine in large quantities and very Cheape, so as to be commonly prescribed and taken as a General Medicine in our Kingdome'. The salts were sold in London by apothecaries at 5s an ounce, and were also exported abroad.

A number of Grew's friends in the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal Society published works in his support—Benjamin Allen (1699)²³ and Josia Peter (1710),²⁴ the latter including a plea by Sir Christopher Wren. The Moulsts tried to resist but were reprimanded by the Lord Chancellor.

Later writings on Epsom Salts by John Brown (1723)²⁵ described how the salts were being extracted from sea water (at Newcastle and Portsmouth), and further experiments on the salts were carried out by Stephen Hales (1751)²⁶ and William Saunders (1805).²⁷

Epsom Spa in its Heyday

Towards the end of the 17th century, Epsom was established as one of the foremost spas in Europe, but the old well now presented problems; it occasionally ran out of water and it was a half-mile from the village of Epsom where the social activities were centred.

In 1690, John Livingston, an apothecary, settled in Epsom. His practice prospered and in 1701 he purchased from Sir John Parsons land in the centre of the town, between the old manor house and the Magpie Inn, in the area known as Shoulder of Mutton Close, situated at the west end of the present High Street. In 1706 he erected a large house with assembly rooms for music and dancing, other rooms for gaming, and shops for milliners and jewellers; he planted a grove and laid down a bowling green.^{28,29} More important, there was already a well, Symonds Well (1696), on the site, but Livingston sank another well, erected a pump and had a pipe conducting the waters to the assembly room, where the waters were drunk. This came to be known as the New Wells, and the opening day was Easter Monday 1707. Nothing was charged for the waters, but the venture was paid for by the sales in the shops and by the various social activities.

By 1708 an active social programme was in full swing—Epsom was 'the Brightelmstone [Brighton] of its day'.¹⁴ New inns were built, the New Tavern being the largest in England at that time. Numbered Hackney coaches and sedan chairs moved to and fro. There were public breakfasts, and music and dancing every evening. In addition, there were sporting activities such as foot racing, wrestling and cock-fighting.³⁰

'The Company' was lured from the Old Well to the New Wells. John Toland (1711) wrote: 'The Old Well, at half a mile's distance from the town, used formally to be the meeting place in the forenoon, but are not at present so much in vogue; the mineral waters (it is said) being found as good within the village, and all

diversions in greater perfection'.³¹ The spa was visited by the nobility, and Queen Anne and Prince George of Denmark came to Epsom to take the waters, while the ladies of the Court attended the balls.

The spirit of the time is well conveyed in the writings of several literary figures who visited the spa. Celia Fiennes (1662-1741), that remarkable 18th-century diarist, wrote in her *Journies* (1711)³² of the spas having replaced the medieval pilgrimages as an excuse for a holiday. With the growth of wealth and excessive leisure among the upper classes, the resultant ennui and hypochondria needed 'a cure at the Spaw'. Celia Fiennes classified the spas by social class: Tunbridge was more Royal, Epsom predominantly middle-class, Hampstead and Dulwich for the poor. The licentiousness she discovered at Epsom Spa led her to describe it as 'the palace of Venus'.

A visit in 1710 by a German traveller, Von Uffenbach, is of interest. He found the town very busy on account of horse racing. He visited the Old Well and found the water being drunk from 'small nasty stoneware jugs', three pints at a time, three days in succession. The resultant vomiting and purging were very exhausting. He then visited the New Wells in the town: 'The well tastes much like the other', he wrote.³³

Decline of Epsom Spa

By 1715 it was evident that the water of the New Wells was not as effective a purge as that of the Old Well, and the reputation of both declined. Nevertheless, John Livingston was very resourceful and was not put out by this development. In 1715 he purchased the lease of the Old Well and promptly locked it up, and so it remained until his death in 1727. The visitors therefore had no alternative but to drink at the New Wells in the village, and were no longer able to compare the two waters. Many have later written of Livingston as being something of a knave, but there can be little doubt that he contributed a great deal to the success of Epsom Spa in its heyday.¹⁴ In the next few years the popularity of the Spa declined further although in 1720, with the boom of the South Sea Bubble, there was a temporary revival. In 1724 Daniel Defoe confirmed the lessened interest in Epsom Spa as 'very much frequented a few years ago, on account of mineral waters. But its reputation now flagged . . . Too near London for a Journey for the Quality and Gentry, according to the old saying: "Far fetched and dearbought is fittest for the Ladies"'. There is still one house on the spot where a countryman and his wife carry water in bottles to adjacent places. The town, however, begins to be resorted to in the Summer by People of Fortune; and may perhaps in the Revolution of Vogue and Fashion, or Whimsy, be one day, once more, a Shewing or Market-place for the Sex, especially as the new Bridge at Westminster is now finished which will induce the Gentry at the end of the Town to pass over into Surrey, as they may do so without going thro' the whole length, and dirty, or half-paved rattling streets of London'.³⁴

Following the death of Livingston in 1727, the lord of the manor, Mr. Parkhurst, repaired the buildings around the Old Well and reopened it. Nevertheless, visitors from afar failed to patronise it, although local gentry came every Monday in the

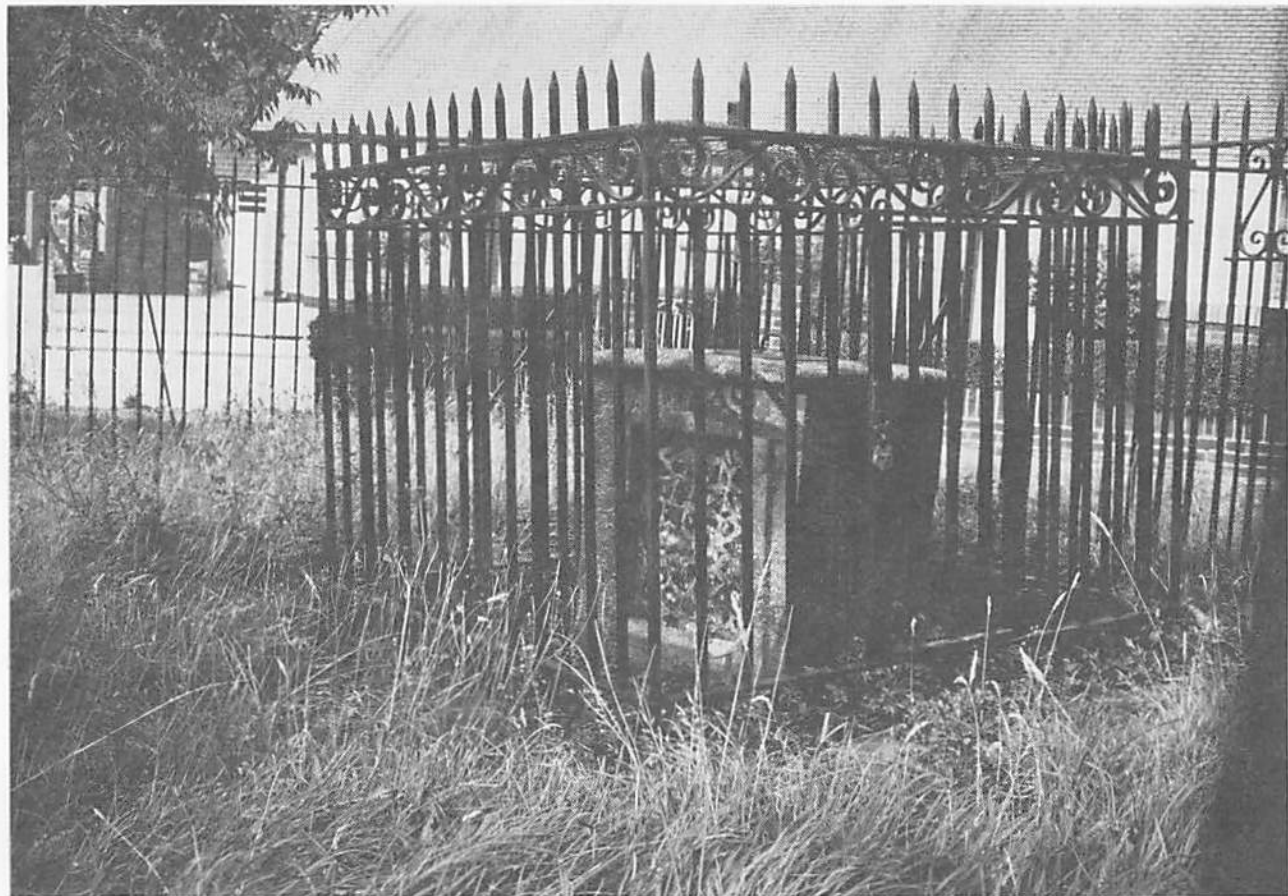


Fig. 4. The Old Epsom Well today. (*Photographed by the author*)

summer for breakfasts, and there was music, dancing and card playing.¹³

By 1753 a further blow—the *coup de grâce*—was struck against Epsom (and other English spas), when Sir Richard Russell pioneered the cult of sea bathing as a health-giving and healing activity. The seaside resorts, such as Brightelmstone (Brighton) took over from the spas as the centres of fashion and social life. From 1760 to 1770, a London anatomist and surgeon, Dr. Dale Ingram, rented the well, prepared Epsom salts from the waters, and once again advocated the use of the mineral waters, but he had little success in restoring the spa. George III and his queen visited Epsom in 1767 but did not take the waters.³⁵

What Remains of Epsom Spa

Modern Epsom is a pleasant, thriving town and the spa has passed into history. No trace remains of the New Wells, which have been built over. In 1804 the buildings at the site of the Old Well were pulled down, and a private house erected, and its successor is a house used at present as a home for mentally handicapped children. A housing estate has been developed in the area around the Old Well, and some streets have been given names, e.g. Wells Road and Spa Drive, that recall the spa's glorious years. The original Old Well may still be seen, situated in a small grass enclosure surrounded by railings. A plaque (Fig. 4) states:

BOROUGH OF EPSOM & EWELL
THE EPSOM WELL
The mediaeval waters
that in the seventeenth century
made Epsom a place of great resort
and its fame known throughout Europe
were drawn from this Well

Acknowledgement

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-

October 27, 1825

From Waverley [near Farnham] we went to Moore Park, once the seat of Sir William Temple, and when I was a very little boy, the seat of a lady, or a Mrs. Temple. Here I showed Richard Mother Ludlum's Hole; but, alas! it is not the enchanting place that I knew it, nor that which Grose describes in his *Antiquities*! The semicircular paling is gone; the basins, to catch the never-ceasing little stream, are gone; the iron cups, fastened by chains, for people to drink out of, are gone; the pavement all broken to pieces; the seats for people to sit on, on both sides of the cave, torn up and gone; the stream that ran down a clean paved channel now making a dirty gutter; and the ground opposite, which was a grove, chiefly of laurels, intersected by closely mowed grass-walks, now become a poor, ragged-looking alder-coppice. Near the mansion, I showed Richard the hill upon which Dean Swift tells us he used to run for exercise, while he was pursuing his studies here; and I would have showed him the garden-seat, under which Sir William Temple's heart was buried, agreeably to his will; but the seat was gone, also the wall at the back of it; and the exquisitely beautiful little lawn in which the seat stood was turned into a parcel of divers-shaped cockney-clumps, planted according to the strictest rules of artificial and refined vulgarity.

William Cobbett, *Rural Rides*

SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP

A. G. Crocker

SIHG came into existence during 1979 following extensive discussions between representatives of many organisations, including Surrey Local History Council, which are concerned with Surrey's industrial past. These discussions were arranged by the former Industrial Archaeology (IA) Committee of the Surrey Archaeological Society (SAS) and in particular at two general meetings, held at the University of Surrey, it was agreed that there was a need for an organisation to further the aims of all IA groups in the County. A Steering Committee was therefore appointed to explore the possibility of setting up a Surrey Industrial Archaeology/History Council. However, in practice it was decided that the interests of IA in Surrey would be met most effectively by establishing SIHG as a specialist group of SAS, but with its own membership and finances. This recommendation was accepted at a meeting of SAS council in June 1979.

Since it was formed SIHG has been involved in a wide range of activities. The biggest practical project which it has tackled, with the Godalming Turbine Group, has been the rescue and conservation of the 1869 Fourneyron water turbine from Catteshall Mill. Through the Group's efforts this massive piece of machinery was scheduled as an Ancient Monument in 1980. It has also rescued other important items of industrial equipment including a horizontal steam engine from Reigate, a gantry crane from East Molesey and a water wheel from Clandon Park. These are at present in store awaiting conservation and hopefully display in a future industrial museum for the County. In collaboration with the University of Surrey, SIHG



arranges courses of IA lectures and associated visits and its members are often invited to give talks to local societies. In addition monthly walks are held at sites of industrial interest. In April 1983 the Group acted as host for the first South East Region Industrial Archaeology Conference (SERIAC) on The Uses of Water, which was very successful.

SIHG publishes four Newsletters each year and in 1984 plans to produce the first issue of a new journal of well-researched papers to be known as 'Surrey Industrial History'. Documentary research, field work and recording are carried out on many sites particularly Surrey mills. An SAS Research Volume on Catteshall Mill has been published and detailed research is currently being done on the Chilworth gunpowder site.* Local IA Guides are being prepared, the first to be published being for Reigate & Banstead District. An account of the 1881 electric light installations at Godalming was prepared for the centenary celebrations. Displays of the Group's work are exhibited annually at the Association for Industrial Archaeology conferences, at the Dorking Symposia and at many other local meetings and shows.

Despite all this activity SIHG is very conscious that many important industrial remains in Surrey are disappearing before they have been adequately researched, recorded and perhaps rescued. It would therefore welcome new members prepared to participate in and support its work. Those interested should contact the Membership Secretary, SIHG, 11 High View Road, Guildford, GU2 5RS.

*See also *Surrey History* Vol. 1, Nos. 3 & 4

November 30, 1822

I came over the high hill on the south of Guildford, and came down to Chilworth, and up the valley to Albury. I noticed, in my first Rural Ride, this beautiful valley, its hangers, its meadows, its hop-gardens, and its ponds. This valley of Chilworth has great variety, and is very pretty; but after seeing Hawkley [near Liss, Hants], every other place loses in point of beauty and interest. This pretty valley of Chilworth has a run of water which comes out of the high hills, and which, occasionally, spreads into a pond; so that there is in fact a series of ponds connected by this run of water. This valley, which seems to have been created by a bountiful providence, as one of the choicest retreats of man; which seems formed for a scene of innocence and happiness, has been, by ungrateful man, so perverted as to make it instrumental in effecting two of the most damnable of purposes; in carrying into execution two of the most damnable inventions that ever sprang from the minds of men under the influence of the devil! namely, the making of *gun-powder* and of *bank-notes*!

William Cobbett, *Rural Rides*

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Abbreviations used

- A.S. Archaeological Society
H.S. History/Historical Society
L.H.S. Local History/Historical Society
N.H.S. Natural History Society
P.S. Preservation Society
c century (after a number)
c. circa (before a number)
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ERRATA

- Vol. 2, No. 3, p. 113, last para. line 3, for 'St Peter's' read 'St James's'.
 Vol. 2, No. 4, p. 156, lines 14 and 15 should read 'Charles Sumner, Bishop of Winchester from 1827 until 1869, concerned himself actively with . . .'.
 Vol. 2, No. 4, p. 170, line 13 should read '. . . set up the Teachers' Bicycle and Tricycle . . .'.
 Vol. 2, No. 4, p. 175, 14th line up. For 'use' read 'us'.
 Vol. 2, No. 4, p. 184, third complete para., delete sentence beginning 'Opposite the entry . . .'.

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