

PRESIDENT: J Scott McCracken BA FSA MIFA

VICE PRESIDENTS: Viscountess Hanworth, Arthur Turner, Lionel Green and William Rudd

BULLETIN NO. 130

JUNE 1999



PROGRAMME JUNE-SEPTEMBER



Saturday 26 June 2 pm

Carshalton House, Water Tower and grounds

Andrew Skelton

Following his December lecture to the Society Andrew Skelton has kindly agreed to take us on a guided tour of these outstanding buildings and their setting. The cost is £3 for the tour with teas available at £2 per head. All proceeds go to Carshalton Water Tower Trust. Please let Sheila Harris know at least a week ahead of time if you are coming, and if you will be having tea. Meet outside the Water Tower in West Street at 1.45 for 2.

There may be some parking spaces in Honeywood Walk. Otherwise drivers can park off the High Street and walk via the ponds, Honeywood Walk and Festival Walk to West Street, opposite the Water Tower. Cross with care!

Bus routes 127, 157 alight in North Street; 154 alight at *Windsor Castle*.

Thursday 8 July 11.30am

Tour of 'Big Ben' Clock Tower

Numbers are limited on this tour, kindly arranged by Siobhain McDonagh MP, and participants should be able to cope with a lot of steps! Reserve your place by telephoning Sheila Harri

Tuesday 3 August 7pm

Visit to St Mary's church, Wimbledon

Richard Milward

Wimbledon's distinguished historian (and member of our Society) will be our guide to the history, architecture and fittings of St Mary the Virgin, the senior parish church of Wimbledon.

The church is off Arthur Road, Wimbledon. Nearest bus routes: 93 and 200.

Saturday 25 September 2.30 pm **A Second Mitcham Pub Walk**

Dr Tony Scott

Tony Scott's enjoyable guided tour in Mitcham in September 1996 by no means covered all Mitcham's pubs of historical interest, and he has agreed to introduce us to some more. The afternoon is likely to include sampling!

Meet at the Clocktower, Fair Green. Buses, 118, 152, 200



The Society's events are open to the general public, unless otherwise stated.



PETER D. HARRIS

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of one of our best known members, Peter David Harris, who died on 19th May at St Helier Hospital, after a long illness.

Peter and Sheila, who were both teachers, came to Merton from Cheshire in the mid-1960s, settling first in north Mitcham, then in Tamworth Lane, and finally in Cannon Hill Lane. Peter cut his archaeological teeth digging Roman sites at Chester, but once in Merton it was the Wandle and its industries which caught, and held, his attention, to become one of his main interests. This is not to overlook Peter's other activities. His work with the handicapped included organising and conducting a band. He was for many years a member of Merton Scientific Society, and of Merton Arts Council, chairing the latter for some years, and he received a Mayor's award for services to the community.

As a member of Merton Historical Society he served on the Committee for many years, and was Chairman from 1987 to 1989. Always ready to give talks on the Wandle, illustrated from his own extensive collection of slides, or to perform a more back-room role as salesman of the Society's publications, Peter was a familiar figure at our meetings. Displays at the Wandle Industrial Museum, of which he was a trustee, owe much to his artistic ability, for Peter was an artist of considerable talent. Who can have failed to be impressed by his oil paintings portraying the Creation of the Universe, which were exhibited at the Wimbledon Library gallery, and at several Merton churches? It is to Peter's artistic skill that our Society owes a special debt of gratitude, for it is his sketches, used to illustrate our series of booklets on the Wandle, which have contributed so greatly to their success. Peter's departure will leave a gap in our lives which will be very difficult to fill, but his memory will endure, as will his legacy to local studies.

E.N.M.

From Our Postbag

An interesting letter has been received from Jeremy Harte of the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, in which he writes:

“The *Gentleman's Magazine* 1762 page 599 reports on the death of a man found strangled at Mitcham on 21 December of that year. He had stolen a sheep and tied its hindlegs together, then put the hobbled legs over his forehead to carry it away. Just as he was climbing a gate, the sheep began to struggle and the rope was pulled downwards, round his neck; so that the next day he was found dead on one side of the gate, with the sheep hanging down on the other.

“You may have recognised this as a common story, usually told of old stones called the Hangman's Stones or something similar, where the unlucky sheepstealer was supposed to have sat down to rest. O G S Crawford wrote a paper on the theme; so did the archaeological folklorist Leslie Grinsell, though the stones are seldom if ever archaeological features.

“You might suppose that the tragic story at Mitcham, reported in a widely read journal, had been the inspiration for these stories. But there are several versions of the tale known to have existed before 1762; the earliest are from the 1640s.

“Or is it possible that the story is an elaborate leg-pull, some resident of Mitcham having passed off the traditional story as one that had just happened in their locality, and the editor was taken in?

“Or it may be an outrageous coincidence - life imitating art.

“Clearly it would be of great interest to find if anyone did die in the manner suggested, at Mitcham on 21 December 1762. Do you know of any sources which could help determine this?”

As far as we are aware the accident was not recorded in Mitcham vestry minutes, but there may have been an inquest, and there might be an entry in the death register or in the churchwardens' accounts for 1762, which will now be at the new Surrey History Centre at Woking. Does any member feel like pursuing the enquiry?

We have received an enquiry from Mr L D Maunders of Letchworth Garden City, Herts, who is researching his family history. Mr Maunders' grandfather, Charles Frederick Maunders is understood to have worked for 'Propherts', a firm of Mitcham market gardeners, early this century. The family lived at 2 Bordergate Cottages and 14a Inglemere Road. If any of our readers has any information, perhaps they would care to contact Mr Maunders.

E N Montague

LIONEL GREEN speculates about the MONASTIC GLASS OF MERTON

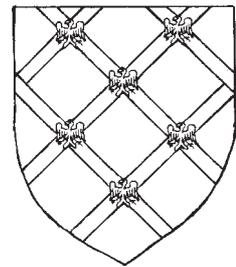
It would seem that there is no known glass in existence that was once part of the important priory of Merton. The Augustinian canons were noted for their churches with windows of stained glass¹, affording a 'visual aid' not only in the church, but in the cloisters and other conventual buildings.

There are many examples of monastic glass finding its way to neighbouring churches. In the church of St Anthony, Cartmel Fells, is some good medieval English and Flemish glass which came from the cloister and claustral buildings of Cartmel (Augustinian) Priory. Other glass from this priory is in St Martin's church, Windermere.

The east window of Morden church contains glass taken from the pre-1636 church which, according to unfounded tradition, came from Merton Priory. It contained stories from the Old Testament, including Jonah and the whale, and Abraham's sacrifice. Large quantities of broken glass were unearthed during excavations at Merton Priory in 1988. These were located at the south end of the infirmary hall, which suggests that a large window existed, allowing much of God's light to enter the sick-quarters of the Priory.

Glass in Merton parish church

Some ancient glass exists in Merton Church, consisting of two armorial shields and other small pieces. One shows the Royal Arms of Henry IV (c.1410), depicting the three golden lilies of France on a blue field quartered with the three golden leopards of England on a red field. The other shield shows the arms of Merton Priory, a blue fret of six interlaced bars on a field of gold. At each crossing is a silver eagle with outspread wings. The glass is in a window high up in the north aisle and was placed there in 1910. Tracing a possible history of this glass, there is an entry in the parish magazine for March 1891 that "Mr Quartermain has kindly presented to the Vestry ... a leaded fretwork containing pieces of old glass which were in one of the chancel windows ..." This would seem to agree with the statement in Manning and Bray (1804)² that "the arms of England and those of the Priory [are] in the chancel window". In 1792 Daniel Lysons³ confirms that "in the chancel window are some remains of painted glass, amongst which are to be seen the arms of England, and those of the priory of Merton ...".



This glass could have been provided by the Priory in the 15th century. This would seem to be a more acceptable explanation than that it appeared at the time of the dissolution of the Priory.

Glass in Carshalton church

About 1148 Faramus de Boulogne provided a church at Carshalton and gave the advowson to Merton Priory. The chancel was similar to that at Merton, dating from early in the 13th century, with lancet windows. In the British Library is the manuscript collection⁴ of Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald 1609-13, which contains a reference to some armorial glass in Carshalton church.

"These stand in the great east chauncell windowe. Three shields follow in a row, from left to right bearing (1) France and England quarterly within a bordure compony arg and vert (2) France and England quarterly (3) Or fretty with eagles arg at the crossings of the fret, for Merton Priory."

The three shields fit in with a triple lancet arrangement of the east window and the later 15th-century triple-light window which was blocked up in 1811⁵. Vincent's Visitation of Surrey 1623 refers to "several coats which were formerly in a window of the north aisle belonging to families of Burley, Sarnesfield and Earls of Somerset". Lysons refers to the same glass in the windows of the north aisle which had been present "before the alterations when the aisles were raised in brick"⁶. No mention is made of glass in the chancel east window.

There is no record of architectural changes in the 17th century, but many took place early in the 18th century. The incumbent in the latter part of the 17th century was John Nelme who held Beddington in plurality with Carshalton from 1684. He died in 1703 and was buried at Beddington⁷. The parish registers had not been kept properly and his successor began a new register in 1703. This was William Helliars, who was instituted on 15 November 1703, and immediately changes took place. The south aisle of the original church was altered to accommodate the Scawen family chapel, and in 1725/6 changes to the north aisle involved the blocking of the east window of the north aisle for the Fellows monument and chapel⁸.

Could this church also have been presented with glass showing the arms of the priory in the 15th century, or is there the possibility that the Carshalton glass found its way to Merton?

1 F M Powicke - introduction to W Daniel *The Life of Alfred* 1950 p lxxii 2 Manning & Bray *The History & Antiquities of Surrey* Vol 1 1804 p 259

3 D Lysons *The Environs of London* 1792 Vol 1 p 346

5 A C Skelton in *Sy Arch.* 30 (1906) p 18

7 Manning and Bray *op cit* Vol 2 1806 p 533f

4 BL Lansdowne MS 874 fo.129

6 D Lysons *op cit* p 1299 - PAGE 3

8 A C Skelton *op cit* p 3

LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOP REPORTS

Friday 5 March 1999. Ian Aldridge in the chair. Six members present.

- ◆ **Bill Rudd**, motivated by having seen a photograph of a Merton & Morden WW2 Civil Defence ambulance in the Bulletin of December 1998, made the trek to the new Surrey History Centre at Woking, but found their wartime records for Merton & Morden UDC somewhat sparse. Bill still has a notebook he kept whilst serving as a messenger in the early 1940s. This contains locations, telephone numbers and districts covered of all the ARP Warden posts, and at the request of the S.H.C. he will provide a transcription.

Bill's researches into Morden shops have disclosed the extraordinary absence of a comprehensive history of occupation of Crown House in the 1960s, before its conversion to a Civic Centre. He has supplied details to the Heritage Officer.

From local newspapers of the mid-1930s Bill has extracted fascinating and nostalgic accounts of children's annual trips to Littlehamptom, arranged by the local Labour Party and Co-operative Society. Highly organised, supported by local traders, these involved fleets of up to 35 coaches, carrying well over 1,000 children for a day at the seaside. He also unearthed details of entertainments (some by Harry Tate & son) given at the (then) newly opened St Helier Memorial Hall & Community Centre.

- ◆ **Ian Aldridge** would also be visiting the S.H.C., to borrow Merton Parish Church's vestry book, dating back to c.1840, needed for the forthcoming annual church meeting. He would bring it to the next workshop meeting before returning it to Woking. Ian reported that repairs will shortly be carried out to the tomb of Rear-Admiral Isaac Smith, who as a midshipman accompanied Captain James Cook to the South Seas, and in 1770 was the first Englishman to set foot on Australia.
- ◆ **Judith Goodman** had received a letter from John Pleydell (b.1922), now of Cheshire, outlining a fascinating piece of social history, involving the Shotter and Pleydell families, who, like many of humble backgrounds, were to benefit greatly from the Education Act of 1870. George William Shotter, born in 1867, served his apprenticeship as a blacksmith with Lampert's, ironmongers of Merton, before establishing his own business in Nelson Grove Road. All his children were educated at Merton Schools, three of his daughters becoming schoolteachers. In 1894 George stood for Merton parish council in the first-ever elections, and topped the poll! *Punch* rather unkindly satirised him as the blacksmith-councillor, but George, by this time living in a superior house, had come far. Daughter Ann married a fellow Merton schoolteacher, Harry Pleydell. Discharged on medical grounds from the Army in 1915, Harry secured the headship of Caterham Valley Board School, and it is his son who has supplied Judith with some interesting family photographs. We hope Judith will find time to tell the whole story soon, perhaps as a Local History Note.
- ◆ **ENM** reported meeting Roger Reid from North Epping, New South Wales, on a brief visit to the UK, hoping to discover something about an ancestor, a 19-year-old gardener's boy from Mitcham, who in 1829 was sentenced to seven years deportation at Quarter Sessions for stealing geese. The lad survived, and a promise has been given to try to find a little more about him and the family he left behind.

A revised set of Notes for Five Guided Walks along the Wandle has been completed and bound. A copy has been deposited at the Wandle Industrial Museum,

A manuscript account of the beating of the bounds of Mitcham in 1833, compiled by Edwin Chart and seen in 1967 whilst it was in the care of the London Borough of Merton, has gone missing. Fortunately a transcription was made at the time, and it is intended to reproduce this as a Local History Note or booklet, with annotated map.

- ◆ On a recent visit to St Albans **Peter Hopkins** noted the similarity between the abbey gatehouse there (of which he showed a postcard) and that of Merton, demolished in 1906. Peter also produced a recently acquired copy of West Surrey Family History Society's *A List of Surrey Feet of Fines 1558-1602*, containing valuable clues to the later history of the estate in Mitcham and Morden conveyed by William Mareys to the perpetual vicars of the two parishes in 1362. Portions of this holding (it seems to have included part of Ravensbury Park and Poulter Park) can be shown, through documents now held by Sutton's Heritage Service, to have been incorporated in Batts Farm off the Bishopsford Road, which featured in the sale of Henry Hoare's Mitcham Grove estate in 1828.
- ◆ Once again, **Lionel Green** drew from his immense store of information on Merton Priory, this time to give a brief account of exchanges of land in the west country between the Pomeroyes and Merton Priory during the 12th century. We hope to learn more from an article in a future Bulletin.

Correspondence with a reader of Lionel's *Railways of Merton* had highlighted the (apparently) idiosyncratic course of the 'tube' line between Morden and South Wimbledon stations.

On a recent visit to the National Portrait Gallery Lionel had used a new facility for students to obtain copies of portraits held by the Gallery, and showed a print purchased of Gerlach Flicke's painting of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. Finally, using a 1958 aerial photograph of part of the Borough, Lionel showed how the boundary between the medieval parishes of Merton and Morden could still be traced quite clearly, having been perpetuated in modern property boundaries.

E.N.M.

Friday 7 May 1999. Bill Rudd in the chair Five members present

- ◆ **Peter Hopkins** reported on a Workshop on interpreting Latin manorial documents, which he and Eric Montague attended at Surrey History Centre. It was organised by Surrey Archaeological Society as part of its Millennium Project. Peter has been trying to make sense of the earlier Merton manorial court rolls (dating from 1485 to 1666) for the past two years, and has just completed his first draft of a summary.

The rolls record the proceedings of two courts, the View of Frankpledge, which dealt with community matters, and the Court Baron, dealing with manorial freehold and copyhold properties. They include reports from community officials - tithingmen, constables and aletasters, who were elected at the courts. Bakers, brewers, alesellers, butchers, millers, and tanners were regularly fined, an early form of licencing. Various misdemeanors were dealt with, such as assaults and affrays, scolds, hedge breaking, and illicit games - John Bredcock had a bowling alley in his garden in 1519, which attracted men and women of ill repute! Public nuisances were dealt with - scouring of ditches, pruning of trees overhanging the highways, cleaning up the highways (incidentally provided a wealth of topographical detail). Regulations were passed concerning animals - common rights, licencing of pigs, control of geese and ducks, and keeping track of strays.

The reports of the Court Baron included lists of all who owed homage for their property to the lord of the manor, and also recorded the transfer of copyhold properties - enabling us to follow the history of many of the properties in the 'ville' of Merton.

- ◆ **Ian Aldridge** brought along the Merton Vestry Book, started in 1834 and still in use. It is kept at the Surrey History Centre, but the parish borrow it back each year to record the annual meetings. The book is very large and very heavy - about 4 inches thick - and has to be handled with care. This and its predecessor, started in 1733, will be among the records on display at the Open Day at St Mary's Church Merton on Saturday 19th September. The Vestry Books record the election of Church Wardens and the accounts for poor relief and parish charities. They followed a regular format - it was very much 'business as usual', and took no notice of national or international events. For example, Ian was surprised to find no mention of the death of Nelson, a friend of the then incumbent. However, there are occasional poignant entries which give an insight into social life. When a well-loved vicar died suddenly, a page of testimonials was included, as was a copy of the letter of thanks written by his widow.

- ◆ **Brenda and Victor Beard** are trying to trace the history of their cottage in Watermead Lane off Middleton Road, which dates from the beginning of the 19th century. Roman pottery has been found in the garden.

Victor is currently doing a degree course in Archaeology at Surrey University and is hoping to do a project on nearby Beddington Park.

- ◆ **Bill Rudd** recounted his own discoveries of Roman pottery some years ago in his garden and the surrounding area, especially on the site of the former scout hut replaced in 1977 by Jubilee Hall.

Bill also reported on a request he has recently had from the BBC regarding the early years of a local celebrity. It wasn't for 'This is Your Life' but Bill doesn't want details published yet. More details in a future issue!

P.J.H

Future dates:- Fridays 25 June and 20 August - 7.30pm at the Wandle Industrial Museum

All are welcome.

THE ROMAN SOLDIER: AN EVENING WITH JOHN EAGLE

The former Morden Library meeting room in Morden Road, sitting as it does on or very close to the former route of Stane Street, made an ideal venue for our February guest speaker John Eagle's talk on the Roman Soldier.

John came suitably dressed for the occasion, and as such did not require the use of slides to illustrate his talk.

The soldiers back in Roman Europe were held in very high esteem, and you had to obtain a letter of introduction to join their ranks. Once accepted, you signed on for 25 years, and so long as it was not a period of continual war, you had a very enjoyable career. All ranks left with a pension, and if you had learnt a trade while in the service you could be re-employed as a contractor to the army. Also, if you were not already a Roman citizen, then on leaving the army you and family would automatically become citizens.

Most images, if not all, I can recall of Roman soldiers have them very scantily dressed, but as we were shown they did have clothing for even the hardest winter up on Hadrian's Wall. They even eventually took to wearing a sort of trousers, though these were the garments of the Barbarians.

John modelled many of the different items of equipment, such as the elaborate headgear and helmets, and the various sorts of armour, and demonstrated how the different types of weapons were used. Many weapons were intended to maim rather than kill, so as to hinder one's enemy, who was forced to come to assist fallen comrades. Wars have always been bloody affairs, but they did tend to be more hands-on back in Roman times!

All journeys were made on foot for most ranks, and a soldier carried all his own equipment and weapons. At night these would be laid out precisely, so that even in complete darkness they could easily be found.

Over the years there were many changes to armour and weapons. As the weapons became more deadly so the armour had to become more elaborate, to protect the wearer. The Romans did not use gunpowder, although I would have thought that it would have been known to them, and neither was the bow and arrow in use to the same deadly effect that it was during the Middle Ages, by English armies.

The Roman army was a very professional body, and they received the best medical care of the day.

John has a great knowledge of the Romans, and his expertise is being used in a forthcoming film, due on our cinema screens very soon. The story might not be correct, but I can assure you the costumes and battle scenes will be!

David Luff

John Eagle (left) in full rig, with Mike Harding, a guinea pig from the audience. photo: *Wimbledon News* 5 March 1999



A VISIT TO ARCHBISHOP WHITGIFT'S HOSPITAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY, CROYDON

On Saturday 15 May Glenys Shepherd met about 20 of our members and friends in Croydon's bustling and clamorous North End, and directed us through a gated archway into the peace of John Whitgift's Tudor quadrangle. Glenys is the warden, and lives with her husband in a flat on the premises. There are 16 flats (two are double) for the brothers and sisters of the community. The original requirements for admission are still normally observed. Applicants must be, or have been, long-term residents of Croydon, Lambeth or Canterbury and must be communicant members of the Church of England. Priority is given to those in need. Any who have something more than the state pension to live on pay a graded sum towards running costs. Residents no longer receive a weekly 'stipend' of meat, bread and fuel, but every Friday at 10 o'clock the chapel bell is rung, and each is presented with a small sum of money, as a token of the old arrangement.

Whitgift often stayed at the archiepiscopal 'country' palace at Croydon, so, though he came from Grimsby, it is not surprising that he chose the Surrey town as the site for the hospital and school he wished to found. His formal application to Queen Elizabeth to do so was as formally agreed, with modifications. These two handsome documents are on display in the audience chamber. The Hospital was built in 1596-9 for 16 men and 16 women, with a school adjacent. Today the Whitgift Foundation includes two schools for boys and, since 1993, the Old Palace School for Girls, as well as the Hospital, and Whitgift House (1988) at Haling Park for the infirm elderly. The Foundation's headquarters are in the Hospital.

The common room, where most social gatherings take place, at present does double duty as the chapel, while work is done to the walls in the latter. The windows incorporate interesting heraldic glass. In the audience chamber above, which has fine original panelling, is a portrait of Whitgift, a 1595 edition of the Great Bible of 1539 and one of three splendid old chests belonging to the Hospital.

Another portrait of Whitgift hangs in the tiny chapel, as well as a charmingly painted wooden board of 1600 which displays his favourite sayings, from Proverbs and from the Saints. There is also an unusual Ten Commandments board, with a Hebrew inscription.

Below ground the Hospital is supported on oak tree-trunks. The thick double brick walls are in-filled with rubble, and the oak-framed windows have stone surrounds and hoodmoulds. This sturdy building has shrugged off German bombs as well as threats of demolition for road-widening, and, unlike many other almshouses, still fulfils its original purpose. Its appearance has hardly changed in over 400 years, despite major restoration in 1860 (funded by sales of Foundation land to railway companies) and modern refurbishment. Discreet secondary glazing in the outer windows muffles the noise from the street within the flats, but within the quadrangle there have been concerts by London Mozart Players.

An enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide, Glenys is also the author of *A Peep Through the Gates*, an anecdotal account of the Hospital and its history, which was produced in 1996, the 400th year of the Foundation.

Private visits to the Hospital can be arranged. Tel: 0181 688 1733.

After this enjoyable visit some members went on to the Lifetimes Museum at Croydon Clocktower in Katharine Street, which is a lively permanent exhibition about life in Croydon over the centuries. Visitors are encouraged to touch some of the exhibits; children can dress up; and there are interactive quizzes to do (not too successfully in this case!).



*Illustration from
Walford's
'Greater London'
(1883)*

THE CANONS HOUSE AND ITS SETTING

An illustrated lecture by Eric Montague on Saturday 13 March

Eric Montague explained that his talk had been structured as a walk around the grounds of the Canons house and the immediate surrounding properties; all of these had evidently been enclosed from the Mitcham parish waste, or common land.

The southern and largest portion of the present house (in which we sat) was built about 1680 by John Odway, who had obtained a building lease from John Cranmer, lord of the manor. In 1679 Cranmer had married his first wife, Dorothea Gilbert, daughter of a London merchant, and the couple may have intended to make The Canons their future country home. Unfortunately Dorothea died in 1680/1, and their new house, until the 1760s, was to be occupied by tenants of the Cranmers. Several slides showed both remaining original features and the many alterations that have been carried out during the 300 years since it was built.

It seems that the “parcel of Ground called Cannons (heretofore ‘The Grove’)” or the “Manor House called the Parsonage” was indeed the actual parsonage (until a new parsonage was built on the site of the present vicarage in Church Road immediately before the rebuilding of The Canons itself). This structure had possibly been erected by the canons of the Priory of St Mary Overy, Southwark, to whom the land had been given by the village assembly or folkmoot of Mitcham. Whether this grant of land out of the large holdings of the de Redvers family received formal consent is uncertain, as the gift may have occurred during the civil war in Stephen’s reign, when the usual administrative controls had, perhaps, lapsed.

Near the house, by the side of the canons’ carp pond, stands the one remaining complete structure of pre-Dissolution times, the rectangular dovecot of Reigate stone, clunch and thin red ‘Tudor’ bricks. Inside are between 500 and 600 pigeon-holes, and we were shown a marvellously clear slide of the date 1511 in Roman numerals cut in the exterior west wall (but now almost illegible).

Other, long-destroyed, features of the grounds include a large timber barn, possibly dating from Southwark Priory’s tenure of the estate, which stood to the north of the present house in the area now occupied by modern structures, including those of the leisure centre.

The walled garden with its inscribed tablet dated 1761, immediately north-east of the house, together with other enclosures and structures which have not survived, would have provided favourable conditions for the growing of exotic fruits.

Another inscription stone, dated 1816, is still inserted in the wall which Esther Maria Cranmer built about the time she purchased the adjacent Park Place, to the east, and which she let to tenants.

It was Esther Maria’s son, the

Reverend Richard Cranmer, who erected the obelisk, one of the more eye-catching historic features of Mitcham, which stands at the junction of Madeira and Cranmer Roads. Nearby in Madeira Road is the lodge of about 1860, from whence a drive once elegantly curved towards The Canons’ front door.



Just across Cranmer Road, and a little to the south, is the Wilson Hospital, a still extant monument to Sir Isaac Wilson's great benefactions in Mitcham. But the site is that of the Rectory, where the Cranmers sometimes resided during the extensive periods in which The Canons was let. Here it was possible to compare an early 19th-century engraving after Hassell of "Mitcham Villa or the Rectory" (another example of alternative names for one property) with a photograph from the same viewpoint of about 1910. Another old photograph showed the great barn, evidently part of the Rectory farm (also known as The Cranmers). This stood on the site nearby of Cranmer Middle School. Was this the barn that stored Robert Cranmer's corn and hay, that, as recorded back in the 1660s, two Mitcham men stood accused of stealing? The status of this property as the residence of the lord of the manor was impressed on the landscape by an approach avenue crossing what is now Cranmer Green, so that the line of this is still followed by King George VI Avenue.

Among other slides were some from Edwardian postcards, evocative of a lost Elysium, with horses and cattle grazing on or near Cranmer Green, and Monty's own views of other open spaces and structures in the vicinity, taken in the 1960s and 1970s. One of the very last visual images presented was George Scharf's 1819 view of 'Mitcham Common showing the road running along the west side', in which, though not one structure shown in it now stands, we were able to 'place' the viewpoint: just opposite the present entrance to Park Place, looking towards the Three Kings Pond, with the site of the present *Windmill* pub in the middle of the view.

In addition to this splendidly conducted and illustrated 'walk', the audience of 40 or more members and friends were able physically to see the house and grounds in delightful spring sunshine; and, as the speaker urged, also to visit the art exhibition then being held in other rooms of the house (so being able also to see the late 17th-century staircase and other interesting features of the interior).

After the less favourable conditions affecting its preservation in the recent past, it may be that the art exhibition is an indication of the future recreational use of this historic house (the basement of which has, for some years, housed the Merton Heritage Centre, and where some of the audience also took the opportunity to see the current exhibition on Merton in the 1960s). The full, fascinating story of The Canons is told in the new publication by the speaker, *The Canons, Mitcham*, just published by the Society.

Ray Ninnis



Photographs from the new book .

NELSON AT MERTON

Some 40 members and visitors enjoyed Judy Goodman's talk at Merton Local Studies Centre in April. As we have come to expect from Judy, the subject was very thoroughly researched, and many oft-repeated myths were shot down.

Using slides of contemporary portraits, and extracts from Nelson's letters (which Emma omitted to destroy), Judy introduced us to the main characters - Nelson, his wife Fanny, Sir William Hamilton and his wife Emma. We heard of their backgrounds and personalities, of how Nelson met the Hamiltons in Naples, and of the complex relationship between the three of them - the *tria juncta in uno* as Emma called them, from the motto of the Order of the Bath, of which both men were members.

Emma seems to have successfully concealed her pregnancy, though veiled comments on her size appeared in the newspapers, and twin girls were born on 29 January 1801. Horatia was smuggled out of the Hamilton's Piccadilly home to be brought up by a Mrs Gibson in Marylebone. Her sister, later christened Emma Hamilton, was sent to the Foundling Hospital and is lost to history. Nelson, on board his ship at Torbay, heard the news on 1 February, but was told that the second baby had died. Sir William seems to have turned a blind eye to these events, as did Nelson to his Commander-in-Chief's signal off Copenhagen two months later.

After Copenhagen, Nelson spent a few months with the Hamiltons, including holidays at Burford Bridge, near Boxhill, and at Staines. He soon discovered that living at Sir William's house in Piccadilly was not ideal, and decided to buy 'a little farm' where the three could live in privacy, and with the appearance of utmost propriety. At last Emma found the perfect property, Merton Place.

*Part of a
sketch of
Merton
Place by
Thomas
Baxter
who
stayed
there after
Nelson's
death.*



This was not the first property that Nelson had owned, having previously bought a house called Roundwood near Ipswich, which his wife had used briefly, though he had not even spent one night there.

The architect selected to survey the property (believed to have been Samuel Pepys Cockerell, best known for the tower of St Anne's Church, Soho), considered Merton Place to have been "... altogether the worst place under all its circumstances that I ever saw pretending to suit a Gentleman's family." However, Nelson was not to be dissuaded, and arrived at Merton at 8am on 23 October 1801, a few weeks after the Hamiltons. Nelson's 14 year-old niece, Charlotte Nelson, at school in Chelsea, had been sent for the previous day, and much of the detail comes from her letters.

Emma's mother, Mrs 'Cadogan', who had run the diplomatic household in Naples, slipped into the role of châtelaine cum companion to Emma at Merton. The housekeeper was Dame Francis, while Marianna did the cooking. Emma had two maids, Fatima, whom Nelson had brought from Egypt, and Julia. He may also have taken over his late uncle's black butler, the elderly James Price. Nelson's personal servant was Tom Allen, whose wife was the dairy maid. The head gardener was Thomas Cribb, whose wife was Ann.

Sir William Hamilton had to leave his French cook at Piccadilly, but his Italian valet stayed with him, as did his secretary, Francis Oliver, who seems to have fulfilled a similar role for Nelson.

Nelson's nieces and nephews were frequent visitors, as were their families. His father visited once, but died in April 1802. Various naval friends, including the Duke of Clarence, were entertained, mostly without their wives, but the household was not considered a respectable one. Of their neighbours, their social circle included the Newtons and the Halfhides, calico-printers living between Merton Place and the Wandle; Abraham Goldsmid, a Jewish financier living at Morden Lodge with his family; James Perry, proprietor and editor of the *Morning Chronicle*, living at Wandlebank House where he also ran the local corn mill; Dr Parrott of Mitcham; and the local parson, Thomas Lancaster, who also ran a school in Wimbledon, later called Nelson House Academy (the present Eagle House).

Life was hectic at Merton Place, especially for Sir William Hamilton, who complained that there were "seldom less than 12 to 14 at table, those varying considerably". After Sir William's death in April 1803, Emma spent much of her time at her London house, as Nelson was away at sea again. However, in April 1804, Merton Place was host to 80 to supper to celebrate Emma's 40th birthday, with dancing till 6 am. (She had borne Nelson another daughter in January 1804, who died soon after birth). Charlotte (now 18), writes of another brief overnight stay at Merton, when she and Emma attended a ball at Lady Rush's house in Wimbledon (Belvedere House), but the doors of Wimbledon Park House, home of 2nd Earl Spencer, former First Lord of the Admiralty, remained closed to them, as did the doors of Abbey Gate House, Merton, home of another naval man, Captain, later Rear-Admiral, Isaac Smith and his brother, Charles Smith. The tales told about Emma performing her famous 'attitudes' at another Wimbledon property, Southside House, can be discounted.

Nelson returned to Merton at 6am on Tuesday 20 August 1805, a few hours after Emma, who had collected Horatia *en route*. He spent the next 25 days making the most of 'Paradise Merton', enjoying happy days with his brother and sister and their families, admiring the alterations that Emma had made to the house and the grounds (and settling the outstanding accounts), as well as finalising his plans.

On 13 September 1805 Nelson left Merton for the last time. He wrote in his last journal:-

Friday night at half past Ten drove from dear dear Merton where I left all which I hold dear in this World to go and serve my King & Country May the Great God whom I adore enable me to fullfill the expectations of my Country and if it is His good pleasure that I should return my thanks will never cease being offered up to the throne of His Mercy, If it is His good providence to cut short my days upon Earth I bow with the greatest submission relying that He will protect those so dear to me that I may leave behind. His will will be done amen amen amen.

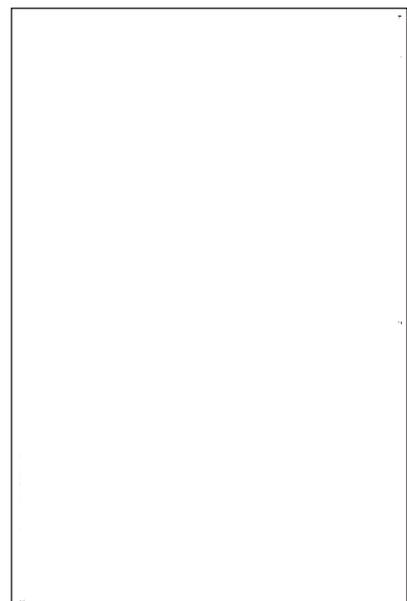
The news of his death reached Emma early on 6 November as she lay in bed at Merton. She sat up, screamed, fell back and lay without speaking or weeping for ten hours.

Prostrated by grief and shock, she was also beset by financial difficulties. In theory she was well provided for, by both her husband and her lover, but her extravagance continued unabated. Nelson had left her Merton Place with 70 acres selected from the estate. She tried to keep on two establishments, Merton Place and her London house in Clarges Street, and she entertained in both. In 1808 she was forced to put Merton Place up for sale, but could not find a buyer. Finally Abraham Goldsmid and a group of friends bought the estate from her to enable her to start to pay off her debts.

Emma's mother died in 1810, and Abraham Goldsmid killed himself shortly after. Nelson's family had turned from her; she was rescued from debtors' prison by other friends. Emma's excellent health began to fail, and she finally died in poverty at Calais, Horatia at her side, on 15 January 1815, aged 49.

Horatia, who always refused to believe Emma was her mother, married a clergyman and had a long and contented life, dying at Pinner in 1881, aged 80. Fanny Nelson was awarded a government pension for life of £2000. She died in 1831 aged 73.

Thank you Judy for a fascinating evening!



*The opening entry in
Nelson's last diary*

Peter Hopkins

JOHN PILE, a member of the Society, who lives near Havant in Hampshire, is well known as a local historian. He has a theory about

THE ORIGINS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF FLITWICK, MORDEN COMMON

Forty-five years ago, whilst at school in Morden, I started to collect material for a history of the parish. In addition to compiling extracts from books and articles and making notes from documentary sources, I began to annotate a copy of the first edition 6 inches to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map of the area. More recently, as a result of reading Judith Goodman's book *Merton and Morden: a pictorial history*, published by Phillimore in 1995, I decided to take a fresh look at my schoolboy notes. Although I moved away from Morden a few years after leaving school I have maintained an active interest in local history, so I was curious to discover whether, in the light of subsequent experience, my old notes would yield any further secrets.

Looking at the annotated map, I was interested to find that I had written "Flitwick Cottage" against a house on Morden Common. Before the 20th-century development had begun, Flitwick Cottage had originally occupied a square plot of land enclosed from the common (GR TQ 236666). The site of the cottage lies on the east side of Garth Road, about 800 yards from its junction with London Road at Pylford Bridge.

Unfortunately I have no clear recollection of the house as I saw it in the 1950s, and, upon recent enquiry, Peter Hopkins told me that he had no knowledge of Flitwick in Morden. However, I now know that Flitwick also occurs as a minor place-name in Wiltshire, and according to A H Smith *English Place-Name Elements* 1956 pt.1 p177, the first part of the name is derived from Old English (*ge*)*flit*, meaning 'a dispute', used in place-names of land in disputed ownership or lordship, and usually occurs - as in Morden - close to parish boundaries. The Old English *wic*, which has a range of related meanings, of which 'a dwelling place; a farm, particularly a dairy-farm' are the most likely in the present context.

Morden Common, on which Flitwick Cottage stood, was once part of mediaeval Sparrowfield, a very extensive area of common pasture intercommoned, or shared, by a number of surrounding townships. As was often the case in these circumstances, the township boundaries, where they crossed the common, were ill-defined, a situation which led to frequent disputes, particularly in times of increasing population pressure. The boundary between Nether Cheam (North Cheam) and Morden where it crossed Sparrowfield was the subject of one such dispute which came to a head in the reign of Edward VI, when a commission was appointed to enquire into the conflicting claims of the two parties (PRO Ref.No. MPB25). The name Flitwick, therefore, appears to have preserved a memory of the fact that its site was once disputed territory, although its subsequent history shows that Morden's claim ultimately prevailed.

One of the many problems encountered when using place-names as evidence in local history is that it is usually very difficult, and frequently impossible, to ascertain, even to within a few centuries, when the majority of our place-names were formed. The present problem is to narrow down, as closely as possible, the period when (*ge*)*flit* was a living word and capable of being compounded with *wic* to form a contemporary place-name which would eventually come down to us as 'Flitwick'. Old English (or Anglo-Saxon), in one of its forms, was the predominate tongue in southern England from c.400 to 1100 AD (Richard Coates *The Place-Names of Hampshire* 1989 p7), and all that can be said is that the name was probably coined at some time during this long period. But even if we are unable to be more accurate than this as to when the name was formed, the implications of its origin are of considerable interest. Not only does the name 'Flitwick' imply the existence of Sparrowfield at this early period, but also that the adjacent townships of North Cheam and Morden (Lower Morden?) were in existence and probably growing. Speculation need not stop here. For example, if the common pasture of Sparrowfield were already in existence in Anglo-Saxon times, could it have had an even earlier origin? Current thinking would certainly allow this possibility.

Although I believe I have presented a reasoned case for the origin of Flitwick Cottage in the Sparrowfield boundary dispute of the Middle Ages, I am by no means certain that it is the correct explanation. There are no known records of Flitwick prior to the 19th century such as would place my suggestions on a much surer foundation, and the possibility - suggested by both Judith Goodman and Peter Hopkins in correspondence - that the name may be a late introduction, perhaps from Flitwick in Bedfordshire, remains a strong possibility. Should this, or some other explanation, prove to be the case, I shall at least have had the satisfaction of raising an interesting question. I feel sure that, whatever the true origin of Flitwick Cottage may prove to be, it will be equally interesting and instructive.

FURTHER NOTES ON FLITWICK COTTAGE AND ITS NAME

The contribution from John Pile prompted Judith Goodman to wonder, in a letter to him, why he had not mentioned the Bedfordshire Flitwick [pron. 'Flittik'], for which Ekwall gives quite a different derivation? Here is part of John's reply:

"... The first element [of Flitwick in Bedfordshire], according to E Ekwall *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* 3rd ed. 1947 repr. with corrections 1951 p174, is derived from a dialectical form of OE *fleot* which enabled the modern form *flit* to arise. It is unlikely that similar circumstances would have allowed this to occur in the case of the Morden Flitwick. For example, The Fleet (Thorpe, Surrey), which was 'le Flete' in 1201 (Gover et al. *The Place-Names of Surrey* 1934 p135) did not undergo this change. A H Smith *English Place-Name Elements* pt.1 1956 lists 21 examples of place-names incorporating *fleot*, only two of which: Fletton, Huntingdonshire, and Hunslet, West Riding of Yorkshire, show any similar change."

He went on to say that, in any case, "... [A] reference to Flitton and Flitwick in Bedfordshire in Margaret Gelling's *Place-Names in the Landscape* 1984 p22 ... demolishes Ekwall's argument entirely."

This is the reference from Margaret Gelling:

"Flitton and Flitwick, Bedfordshire, have hitherto been derived from a hypothetical OE *fliet*, a dialect form of *fliot* [estuary, inlet of the sea, small stream]. Flitton, which early spellings show not to be a compound with *tūn*, was considered to be the dative plural of this word. This etymology is not now tenable because of the OE spelling *flittan*, which occurs in the will of the lady Æthelgifu, a document which came to light in 1942 and was published in 1968. The will dates from between 980 and 990, and *flittan* must be accepted as the authentic OE spelling of Flitton. It cannot be a dative plural because the *-um* of that case is regularly preserved in other names in the same document. It appears to be the dative singular of an OE *Flitta* or *Flitte*, for which no etymology can at present be suggested."

In the light of this John would like to believe that, as it is extremely unlikely that Morden's Flitwick could also derive from a hypothetical *Flitta* or *Flitte*, Smith's derivation of Flitwick (Wiltshire) from OE (*ge*)*flit*, 'strife', is unchallenged for Morden's Flitwick.

It remains conceivable that the Pyl Brook could have been the *fleot* from which, along the Ekwall lines, 'Flitwick' was derived. However this idea can probably be rejected, remembering Margaret Gelling's conclusion that there seem to be no instances of a transition from *fleot* to 'flit'.

There is also the serious possibility that the name is a 19th-century importation. John notes that he has had experience of place-names that seem to go underground for long periods, but he would be happier to find some earlier references to the name 'Flitwick' in Morden.

Judith looked in the Local Studies Centre at Morden for mention of Flitwick Cottage. The earliest reference she found was in the Morden electors' list for 1897, where it appears by name as one of seven properties each occupied by a different member of a family called Trendell. The Trendells were connected with the brick and tile works which by that date occupied a site opposite the cottage.

When Garth Road was properly numbered in 1937, by which time two families occupied Flitwick Cottage, it became No.194. Bill Rudd remembers it as one of a pair of bungalows apparently dating from the 1920s. This suggests a rebuilding of the earlier premises, and indeed the shape alters over time in the various maps. The other one of the pair, also occupied by a Trendell in 1897, was called Clifton Cottage. It later became No.196. There is also a Clifton in Bedfordshire - but there are many other Cliftons elsewhere. By the 1970s Flitwick Cottage and its neighbour had been demolished.

Knowing of Bedfordshire's importance in the brick industry, John checked with the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service. Their information was that, though Flitwick had had brickworks as early as 1667, there were none in the 19th century; and that the name Trendell did not appear in the 19th-century censuses or in the will indexes. In two years time the 1901 census should reveal the origin of the Morden Trendells, who seem to have taken over an existing business, which they continued to operate well into the 20th century, as Trendell Brothers.

Meanwhile John has been pursuing a Flitwick in Milford, Surrey, which he happened on quite by chance. This is a new development called Flitwick Grange. From enquiries to Waverley Borough Council he has learnt that the name was taken from a Victorian house which had stood there. The name is not recorded earlier than the 1930s, and seems certainly to have been an import.

Nevertheless the two 16th-century maps (PRO MPB25) which show indisputably that the land later known as Morden Common was disputed territory, claimed by both Morden and Lower Cheam, tempt him to believe that Morden's 'Flitwick' refers to this, or an earlier, dispute.

THE COPYHOLDS ON MORDEN COMMON

Throughout most of its history, Morden has had three main areas of settlement - around the parish church, along Central Road and around Morden Green in Lower Morden. Many, but not all, early copyhold tenements can be located. The cottages on Morden Common **may** date from far back, (though they are not shown on the 16th-century 'plots'), but the earliest definite reference to this site so far discovered is in a Garth rental¹ started in 1728. These entries appear among a list of quit rents due from copyholders:-

<i>Mrs Wood of Epsom</i>	<i>house & orchard on Morden Common</i>	<i>5s</i>	<i>0d</i>
<i>John Howard</i>	<i>(now Mrs Howard)</i>		<i>4d</i>

The 1838 Tithe Apportionment map shows two clusters of cottages on Morden Common. Although the name Flitwick Cottage does not appear in the Tithe Apportionment, its site was in the southernmost cluster (TAM 2-5). Two of these cottages, with gardens and orchards, were owned by William Wood and occupied by Thomas Marchant (TAM 2-3).

The first entry in the rental for Mrs Wood is actually dated 12.10.1758:-

Hannah Wood - for House of her Mother Steward in full for rent due Michaelmas 1758 @ 5s pa £5.

As further entries appear in 1759 and 1760, each for 5s, this payment presumably covered the rents outstanding for the previous 20 years (though the £5 may have included an entry fine). Thus Mrs Steward was paying rent in 1738. Further payments were made in 1770 and 1780, each covering 10 years.

The Land Tax returns show various members of the Wood family as owners from 1804 until the returns ceased in 1832, with Thomas Clark as tenant until 1829 and John Clark in 1831 and 1832.

The Woods' tenant in 1790 had been Edward Harper, who was presented at the manorial court for making an encroachment upon Morden Common.² It appears that Harper built his own home on land adjoining the Woods' copyhold tenement, as the Land Tax returns show him as an owner, and Richard Poddington as his occupier, in 1804 and 1805. However, this encroachment on the Common does not seem to have been regularised until 1805. In a copy of an entry in the court roll of the manor of Morden dated 30.7.1805, Rev. George Kemble Whatley of Wokingham, Berks, clerk and Ann Whatley of Holty House near East Grinstead, Sussex, widow, were granted licence to inclose waste, and were admitted to '*land formerly 2 pieces (3roods) at Morden Common*'.³ A few months later, on 7.9.1805, the Whatleys surrendered this copyhold property to Jonathan Acres of Morden, carpenter.⁴ Jonathan Acres appears as an owner in the Land Tax returns from 1806-1831, with Richard Bushell as occupier in 1806, John Carpenter in 1807 and George Carpenter from 1808-31. In 1838, the Tithe Apportionment shows Jonathan Acres as owner and William Hitchman and Hills as occupiers of two cottages with gardens (TAM 4-5). In 1861, Henry William Acres of Delaware, Upper Canada, North America, farmer, and Mary Acres of Church St., Camberwell, widow, conveyed to Richard Garth '*a Messuage on Morden Common, occupied by Mrs Hitchman & Mrs Hill*'.⁵ Miss Jowett tells us more about the Acres family in her article on Morden Common, published by MHS as *Local History Notes 4*.

The other cluster of copyhold cottages was nearer the northern end of the Common. According to the Morden manorial court roll for 1732, Nicholas Dollatt had left to his daughter, Rosa, wife of John Howard, '*a messuage/tenement and orchard on Morden Common*'.⁶ The Garth rental records Rose Howard's admittance to the copyhold on 25.5.1732, when she paid an entry fine of £6, and 4 years' quit rent @ 4d due 1732, totalling 1s 4d.¹ Further payments are recorded in 1746, 1754, 1758 and 1761.

Richard Dallett the younger of Merton, son of Rosa's cousin, inherited the '*messuage and orchard on Morden Common*'.⁶ He paid £3 6s 0d as an entry fine on 26.11.1776.¹ The Morden Land Tax returns show that Richard Dallett's copyhold consisted of two properties. He sold one to his tenant, Richard Dearlove, who was admitted to '*a messuage on Morden Common*' in 1790.⁷ Dearlove extended his property, sometimes with permission and sometimes without.² In 1837 he surrendered his copyhold to James Chandler,⁷ who owned three cottages with gardens (TAM 6-8) in 1838. In 1861, James Chandler surrendered '*a messuage on Morden Common*' to the lord of the manor, so that it could become a freehold.⁷

Richard Dallett's other copyhold property had been sold to John Furmeridge by 1788, and he was succeeded by Alexander Ross in the Land Tax returns from 1813. This property was presumably the remaining two cottages and gardens (TAM 9-10), owned by Abraham Clarke in 1838.

Peter Hopkins

1 Surrey History Centre K 85/8/1

3 Surrey History Centre K 85/2/127

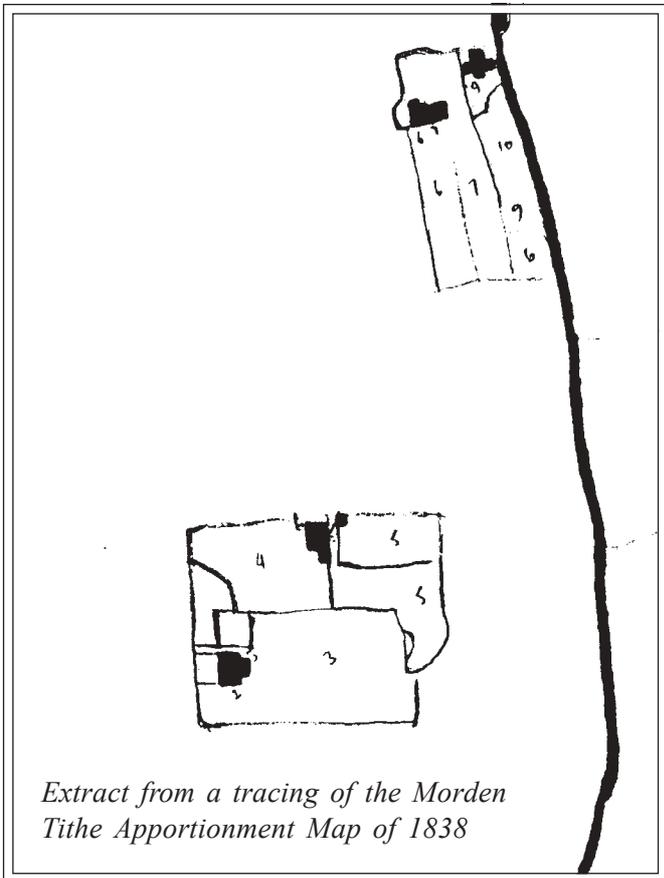
5 Surrey History Centre K 85/2/177

7 Surrey History Centre K 85/1/5

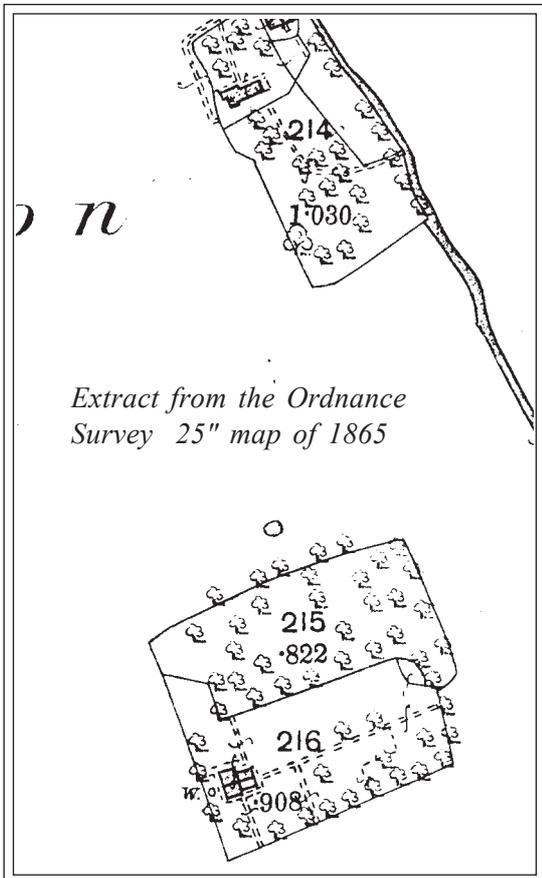
2 Surrey History Centre K 85/1/3

4 Surrey History Centre K 85/2/128

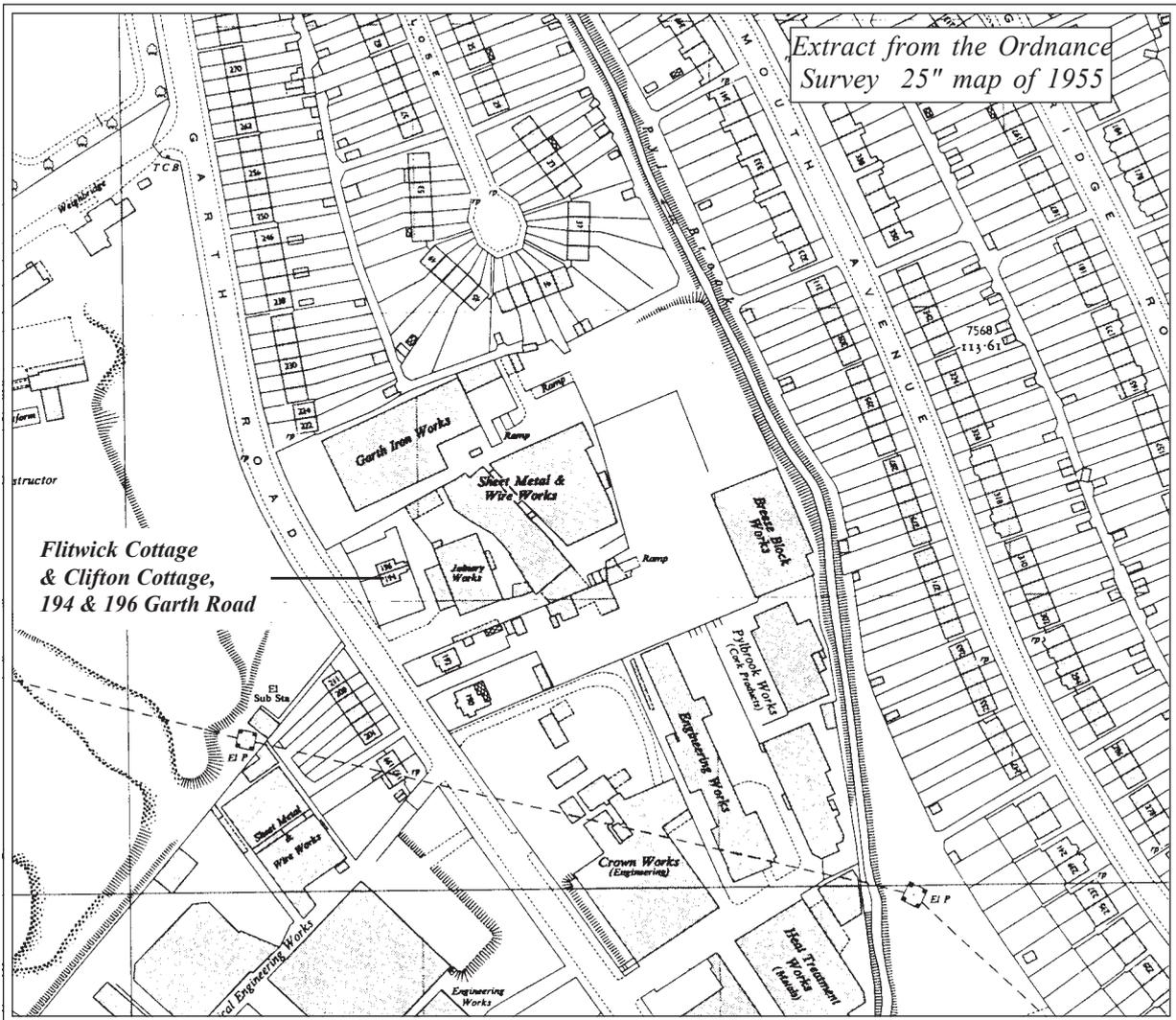
6 Surrey History Centre K 85/1/2



Extract from a tracing of the Morden
Tithing Map of 1838



Extract from the Ordnance
Survey 25" map of 1865



Extract from the Ordnance
Survey 25" map of 1955

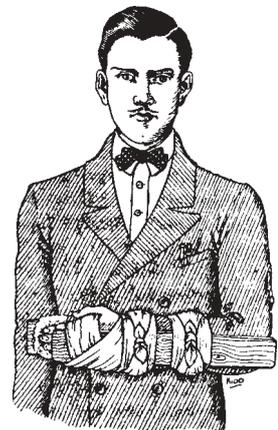
IN BRIEF

- ◆ **Surrey Archaeological Collections** vol 85 (1998) is given over mainly to the archaeology of four Surrey towns - Chertsey, Dorking, Farnham and Godalming. In a separate article Rob Poulton reviews the implications for our knowledge of the county's historic towns, provided by these reports. And Phil Jones attempts a type series of Surrey's medieval pottery. The Society's copy is available for loan, at indoor meetings, or look in your reference library.
- ◆ The Library and the Art Gallery at London's Guildhall offer a new facility called **COLLAGE**. This is an image database of the Art Gallery's entire collection, plus prints, drawings and maps from the Library - about 30,000 items in all. Available for use from 9.30 to 5 Monday to Friday in the Print Room, Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, EC2P 2EJ (0171 332 1839), COLLAGE is also on the Web at: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk.
- ◆ In the February newsletter of the Wimbledon Society Cyril Maidment recommended *Ethel and Ernest*, Raymond Briggs' moving account in pictures of his parents' life at 65 Ashen Grove, Wimbledon Park. Briggs is one of many well-known figures in the arts to have been educated at **Raynes Park County School for Boys**. Robert Robinson and Paul ('Kaleidoscope') Vaughan, who both described it in entertaining autobiographies, are among them, as is food broadcaster/journalist Derek Cooper. Another distinguished alumnus was Professor Tony Tanner, Jane Austen specialist, who died earlier this year.
- ◆ More volunteers are needed at **Wandle Industrial Museum**, with tasks such as helping run the shop and assisting on the Museum stall at fairs. Please telephone Sheila Harris at the Museum on 0181 648 0127.
- ◆ Women's tennis wear from the 1880s to the present day is now on display in a new gallery at **Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum**, in Church Road, Wimbledon. Admission £4/£3. Tel: 0181 946 6131.
- ◆ The current exhibition at Merton Heritage Centre at the Canons is called **Rich Man, Poor Man, Beggarmen, Thief**, and depicts life in medieval Merton. It will be open until 24 July. Ring 0181 640 9387 for further details.
- ◆ The next **History Skills Workshops** offered by Merton Library and Heritage Services on Saturday afternoons at 2.30-3.30pm are as follows:

12 June, Heritage Centre	One foot in the Past: the study of archaeology
10 July, Local Studies Centre	Buildings and Boundaries: learning from maps
21 August, Heritage Centre	Distinguishing Features: the historic landscape

Tel: 0181 545 3239 for details Admission free
- ◆ Norman Plastow leads a walk along **Wimbledon Village High Street** on Saturday 19 June for the Wimbledon Society. Meet at 2.15 for 2.30 in the Wimbledon Society's Museum.
- ◆ **An Introduction to the Work of William Morris** is the title of a meeting at Kelmscott House on Saturday 26 June at 2.15pm. There will be three short talks, on Morris's art, writing and political beliefs, and time for discussion. Tickets £3 (send sae) from Judy Marsden, William Morris Society, Kelmscott House, 26 Upper Mall, Hammersmith, London W6 9TA. Tel: 0181 741 3735
- ◆ Recently I bought for £1 *A Handbook of First Aid & Bandaging* 1948 (first ed. 1941). The authors are Belilios, Mulvany and Armstrong, and there is a copy in the Local Studies Centre. Dr Arthur D Belilios (d.1963) practised in Wimbledon for more than 30 years, and was Hon. Physician at Wimbledon Hospital. His father, Dr David A Belilios, had been medical officer of health for Merton & Morden, and for Wimbledon. Many of the illustrations were originally used at Wimbledon Technical College. (Inside the covers are advertisements for Iodex and Benezdrine, produced by Menley & James of Coldharbour Lane SE5, who would take on the young Paul Vaughan (see above) in 1950 in his first job.)

Fractured Forearm: Treatment before application of sling



Letters and contributions for the bulletin should be sent to the Hon. Editor.
The views expressed in this Bulletin are those of the contributors concerned and not necessarily those of the Society or its Officers.