



PRESIDENT: J Scott McCracken BA FSA MIFA

VICE PRESIDENTS: Viscountess Hanworth, Lionel Green and William Rudd

BULLETIN NO. 154

CHAIRMAN: Peter Hopkins

JUNE 2005



## PROGRAMME JUNE-SEPTEMBER



**Monday 13 June 11.00 am**

**Apsley House and Wellington Arch**

This visit to two sites connected with the first Duke of Wellington includes tea/coffee/  
biscuits and slide show at the Wellington Arch.

**Please book your place with Sheila.**

Costs £12 (adult), £10 (concession), £7 (English heritage members); pay on the day.

Meet outside Apsley House, which is signposted from Hyde Park Corner Underground station.

**Saturday 9 July**

**Coach outing to Shaw's Corner and Hatfield House**

**Details were enclosed in *Bulletin* No. 153.**

**Telephone Ray with any enquiries.**

**Monday 15 August 11.15 am**

**Visit to City Hall, home of the GLA**

Meet outside City Hall. Nearest station London Bridge.

Admission free, but **please book your place with Sheila.**

**Thursday 15 September 1.30 pm**

**'Pubs of Merton (past and present)'**

A walk led by member **Clive Whichelow**, author of the book on the same subject.

Maximum 25. **Please book with Sheila.**

Meet outside the Leather Bottle, Kingston Road, opposite the Nelson Hospital.

Bus routes 152, 163, 164, K5;

short walk from Merton Park Tramlink stop or Wimbledon Chase station.

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF OUR OCTOBER EVENT

**Wednesday 5 October 7.30 pm**

**St Mary's church, Merton**

**The Evelyn Jowett memorial lecture for 2005**

**'An appreciation of Vice Admiral Horatio Viscount Nelson, Duke of Bronte'**

**Pat and Ray Kilsby** will present their illustrated tribute to a national hero – his public career and his private life.

The church is in Church Path, Merton Park, a short walk from bus routes 152, 163, and 164 or from the Merton Park Tramlink stop.

**SEE PAGE 13 FOR DETAILS OF ANOTHER EVENT TO MARK**

**THE BICENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF LORD NELSON.**

Included with this *Bulletin* is a leaflet describing Nelson's connection with Merton, which we hope will interest our readers. As our contribution to the Nelson Bicentenary the Society is printing 1000 copies of the leaflet for free distribution through the libraries, etc.



**The Society's events are open to the general public, but visits must be booked.**

**You are invited to make a donation to help with the Society's running costs.**



## ‘THE EVOLUTION OF THE ENGLISH MANORIAL SYSTEM’

When Lt Col J W Molyneux-Child asked Lord Onslow, lord of his two local manors, about the history of those manors, he discovered that his lordship held so many manors that he didn't realise that these two were among them. So Lt Col Molyneux-Child offered to buy them!

That was in 1983, and over the next few years he continued his researches, with the help of members of the local historical society. The manorial documents were in Guildford Muniment Room, but the earliest court rolls were in Latin, so he employed a researcher to translate them. The local society then analysed the documents for him, enabling them to discover the principles of manorial administration.

It wasn't long before he decided to reinstate many of the activities that had been dormant for decades. As Surrey President of Macmillan Cancer Relief, he saw the potential for raising funds for the charity. He appointed new manorial officers – stewards, chaplains, beadles, ale-tasters, haywards, pindars, remembrancers and bellmen. Having made these appointments, it was a short step to recreating a manorial court, held in his dining room with liveried footmen for good measure, though it was necessary to follow a script, as the proceedings were no longer the natural outworkings of village life.

It was not difficult to find volunteers for each of these roles, though ale-tasting was the most popular! These normally take place three times a year, though one ale-taster was inclined to try to exercise his authority rather more frequently! The next ale-tasting will be held on 3 November at *The Talbot* in Ripley. Some 200 people usually attend, in 19<sup>th</sup>-century costume, and tickets are now available.

Another popular event is the Beating of the Bounds, normally held every ten years on Rogation Sunday, but now spread over two Sundays. With bands, choirs and Morris dancers, this always attracts good numbers, though they have given up ‘bumping’ the younger attendees to impress upon their memories the location of the boundaries. Instead the cubs and scouts are given willow rods to beat the boundary markers.

In other years they have held a manorial procession in Send Church, again in 19<sup>th</sup>-century costume, and Send Church has also been the starting point for the Blessing of the Fields, again with bands, choirs and Morris dancers performing at the various stopping points.

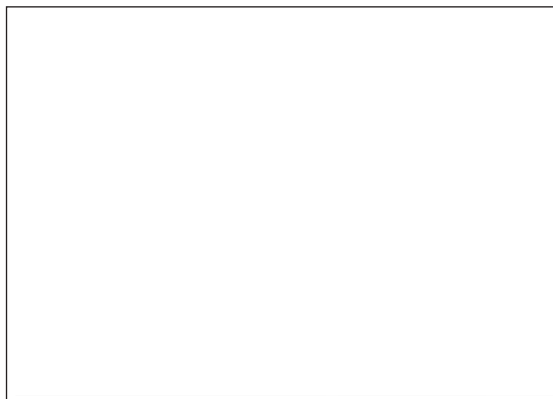
Apart from such ceremonial events, the lord of the manor has little real power today, though Lt Col Molyneux-Child did manage to persuade Surrey County Council to remove excess road signs from the verges, which he claimed formed part of the manorial waste and therefore came under his jurisdiction.

At his talk to our Society in March Lt Col Molyneux-Child traced the origins of the Manorial System to Saxon times, and attempted to identify his two manors with estates mentioned in Domesday Book. Having looked at the range of topics recorded in Domesday Book, he went on to talk about the later manorial records, particularly the court rolls, and the information they contain. Of particular interest is the recording of property transfers, especially the copyhold properties, whereby the tenant received a copy of the entry in the court roll relating to his admission to the property.

Although focussing mainly on his own manors of Dedswell and Papworth, in Send and Ripley, he also attempted to find parallels with the situation in Merton.

However, one link with Merton was not discovered until later. From 1680, until his death in 1701, the office of Steward of the manor of Dedswell was held by John Childe of Guildford, three times mayor of Guildford, and himself a lord of various manors by purchase. Those who attended our trip to Guildford last year will recall visiting Guildford House, now used by Guildford Borough Council as a picture gallery. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century this was Child House, home of John Childe. His younger son Leonard was Steward of Dedswell until his death in 1730.

John was also a copyholder in Merton, holding the property that became Spring House in Kingston Road. Leonard sold it in 1714. Another Merton copyhold – Greenfields, on the site of the later Blakesley House adjoining the Nelson Hospital site between Blakesley Walk and Cannon Hill Lane – was held by members of the family from 1639 but it disappeared from the records after 1737. In 1689 a Leonard Child, probably John's brother, was appointed one of the first trustees of the Rutlish Charity.



*Stewards' Table at the Court Baron of 1 October 1986. The Steward of Dedswell Manor is on the right, the Steward of Papworth Manor is in the centre, and their deputy to the left.*

*The steward presided over the court on behalf of the lord of the manor. Even when resident, the lord seldom presided, as he was often involved in the litigation.*

**Peter Hopkins**

## LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

**Friday 18 March 2005. Seven present. Peter Hopkins in the chair.**

- ◆ **Judith Goodman** had been trying to pursue the 16<sup>th</sup>-century recusant Sir Thomas Tresham in Mitcham [see *Bulletin* No.153 p.7 and page 10 in this issue]. She remarked that it was the first time she had found a mistake in the *Victoria County History* (hollow laughter from others present – LG and PJH!). She had also found brief mentions of other recusants with Mitcham connections [see pages 11-12], and a surprising mention of the wife of Sir Gregory Lovell of Merton Abbey [see page 16].
- ◆ **Sue Mansell** had visited an exhibition of paintings by William Tatton Winter (1855-1928) at Honeywood, Sutton's Heritage Centre, including many Wandle scenes. She had been interested to see an early reference to Green Wrythe Lane as a 'good road' between Carshalton and Merton, though not in good repair.
- ◆ **Madeline Healey** reported that the National Trust at Morden Hall Park, in conjunction with Help the Aged, had held a session to record memories of Mr Hatfeild and of the garden parties with film stars that were held in the late 1940s. Some members of the Hatfeild family had been present.
- ◆ Merton 'Abbey' continues to fascinate **Cyril Maidment**. He told us that David Saxby of MoLAS believes that though there was a well in what became Abbey Road it was not where Heales placed it, in *Records of Merton Priory*. Cyril had photographed the maps in the various 19<sup>th</sup>-century deeds of Merton Abbey held at Surrey History Centre, so that he could make useful comparisons.  
He had also provided Lionel Green with a selection of photographs of the priory site.
- ◆ **Lionel Green** has been asked to revise the guide-book for St Mary, Merton, which is a reprint of the 1968 edition, written by a former vicar, plus three brief headnotes. The feeling of those present was that this was a good opportunity for a complete re-write. Lionel would find out if this would be acceptable.
- ◆ **Peter Hopkins** had been clarifying with Julian Pooley at Surrey History Centre just which versions of the 1805 map/survey of Merton Abbey are held there. He was getting from them a CD of the 1866 colour version.



(This farmhouse was rebuilt for John Innes's Manor House, which is now part of Rutlish School.)

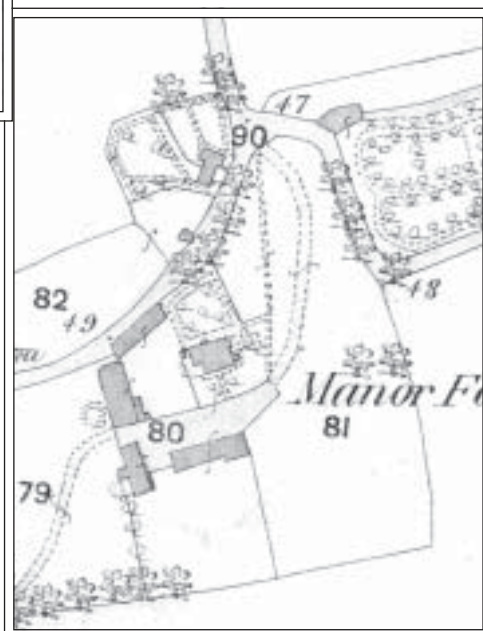
There was then some discussion about possible origins of the kinks in Kingston Road (and the one in Cannon Hill Lane). Early settlements and poor drainage are possibilities. There is also the two parallel roads theory.

**Judith Goodman**

**Dates of next workshops: Fridays 1 July and 19 August  
at 7.30pm at Wandle Industrial Museum.**

**All welcome to attend.**

He had brought along this copy of a watercolour picture of Manor Farm, Watery Lane, Merton, dated 1865 and painted by H G Quartermain. It is thought the original is held by Finch's estate agents. The John Innes Society and the Wimbledon Society both have a colour photograph of the picture. It was possible to relate the buildings shown to those on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1865 (below).



## ‘SIR JOSEPH WILLIAM BAZALGETTE, ENGINEER TO THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS’

A large audience at Mitcham Library hall on 9 April heard an absorbing account of the life and work of one of the great 19<sup>th</sup>-century engineers, by Dr Denis Smith, a civil engineer who has a further degree in the history of technology. He deplored the fact that, compared with, say, the Stephensons and the Brunels, until quite recently Bazalgette’s name had been largely overlooked. In his own lifetime he was famous enough to be depicted in Punch cartoons.

The Bazalgettes (the ‘g’ is soft), like the Brunels, came from France, their roots being in Ardèche. Jean-Louis Bazalgette settled in England in the 1770s and prospered, as a merchant and tailor, enough to be able to lend large sums of money to the Prince of Wales. One of his sons became a commander in the Royal Navy, and was the father of an only son, Joseph William, born in Enfield in 1819. It was his story which was unfolded to us.

At the age of only 17, articled to John MacNeill, who had been Telford’s star pupil, Joseph William was in post as resident engineer for drainage and land reclamation work in Northern Ireland. In 1842, still very young, he set up as a consulting engineer in a Great George Street office. This district, handy for lobbying in the Palace of Westminster, was much favoured by engineers, many of whose projects required parliamentary Acts.

By the middle of the century London’s old drains had become quite inadequate to cope with the sewage of its enormously increased population, and the Thames, source of the city’s drinking water, was also unpleasantly and dangerously contaminated. There had been several outbreaks of cholera, and it was beginning to be understood that this was a waterborne disease. Bazalgette was appointed Engineer (what we would call ‘Chief Engineer’) to the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers, and then to the new Metropolitan Board of Works in 1856. There was indecision and delay in agreeing the best solution to the drains problem, but the famous ‘Great Stink’ of 1858, which even caused Parliament to be suspended, resulted in a Bill being rushed through, which at last gave the Board the powers it needed. The Thames had proved to be the most effective lobbyist of all.

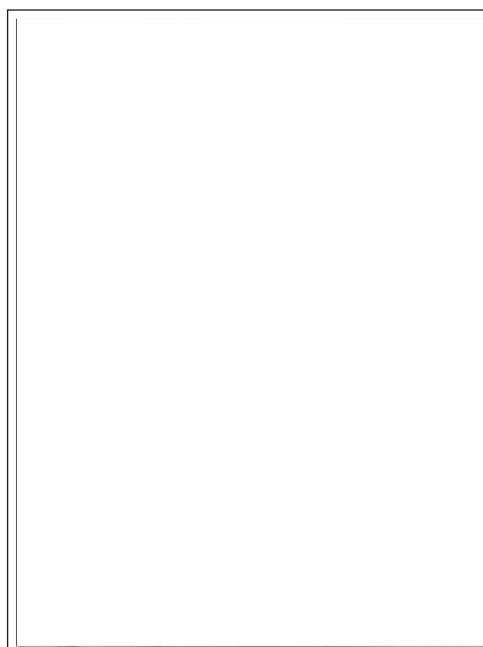
So Bazalgette had the immense job of cleaning up the river, and making London a healthier place. Under him he had three assistant engineers – two for the north side of the Thames, and one for the south. Our speaker pointed out that in the MBW the engineer was the top earner, with the solicitor, the architect and the accountant successively below him, and he suggested that today the rankings would probably be reversed!

*‘A Drop of London Water’ as depicted by John Leech in Punch in 1850, shortly after Charles Dickens had described the condition of the Grand Junction Waterworks at Kew in his journal Household Words.*

Bazalgette decided to lay huge west-to-east ‘intercepting’ sewers on each side of the river, which would take the waste well downstream, where it could be safely released and taken out to sea on the ebb-tide. Beckton on the north side and Crossness on the south, both in marshy unpopulated spots, were the destinations. He also had to build pumping stations at strategic points further up the system, such as those, still to be seen, at Abbey Mills, Pimlico and Deptford.

Every month he had to report progress to the Board. Bazalgette was a brick sewer man, not a pipe sewer man. He insisted on top quality materials and methods, and though the contractors thought his specifications too good, he stood firm. He boldly insisted on the use of Portland cement, not yet employed on such a large scale, and he insisted that each batch should be tested before use. His methods have been vindicated. Today his sewers are in good condition still. His pumping stations are fine buildings, in a variety

*The engine house, Crossness, 1865 (The Builder)*



of styles – Romanesque at Crossness, 18<sup>th</sup>-century French at Pimlico, Moorish/Byzantine at Abbey Mills – built of brick, terra cotta, and wrought- and cast-iron, and equipped with magnificent beam engines painted in brilliant colours.

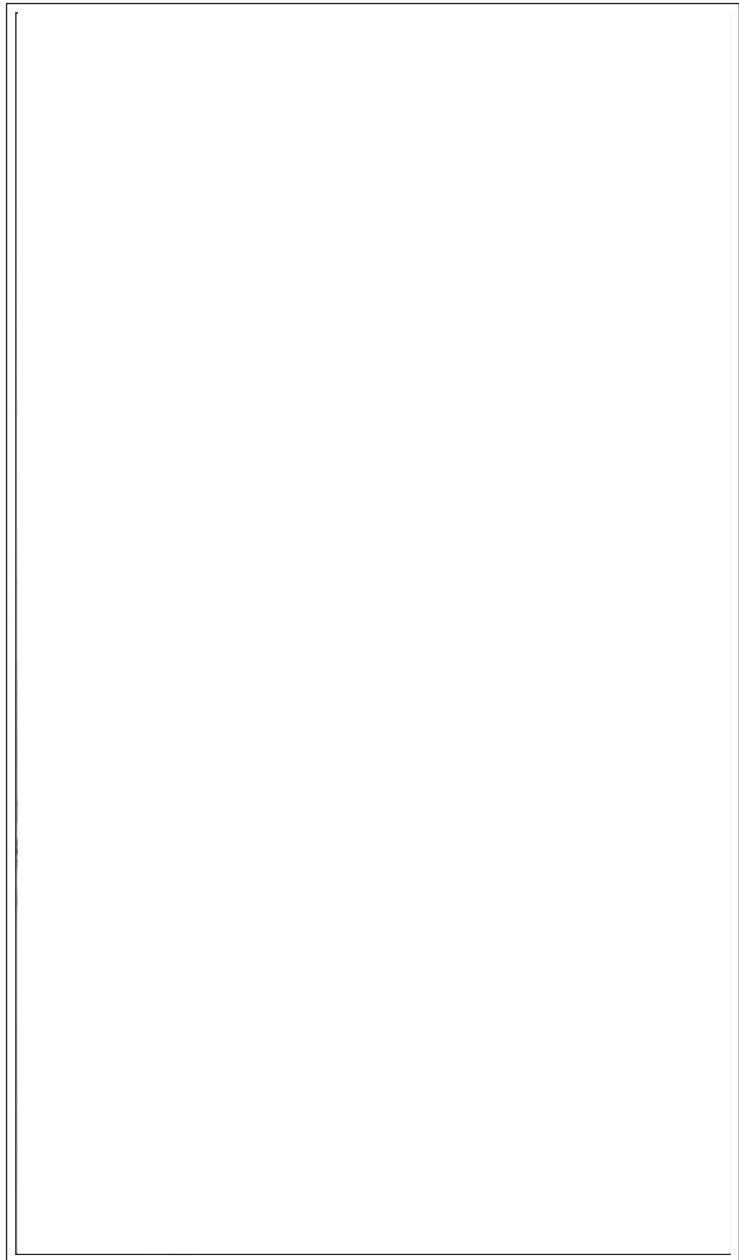
Beside the Thames the sewers were laid under and behind new embankments, named after the sovereign and her consort. This undertaking reclaimed useful land on both sides of the river, but deprived the Inns of Court of access to the river. “Oh, Public Good, what private wrongs are committed in their name!” mourned one of their members.

Bazalgette completed the sewers in 1865, all 83 miles (133km) of them, and 100 square miles (260 sq km) of land had been drained. He finished the embankments in 1874, when he was knighted. His last big project was to modernise the 12 Thames bridges, building new ones at Putney and, with his son Edward, Battersea. He even submitted a design for the Tower crossing, but his curved ramp at the northern end was unacceptable.

As well as being a brilliant engineer Bazalgette was patient, diplomatic and persistent. He was very short and, when young, slight, and he is difficult to spot in photographs of crowds on grand occasions, though his distinctive mutton-chop whiskers aid identification. His wife Maria seems to have remained in the background of his life. The couple had ten children and they lived many years in Morden before moving ‘up the hill’ to Wimbledon and a large house called St Mary’s, close to the church, with 20 acres (8ha) of land. Bazalgette died in 1891. Neither house survives, but there are Bazalgette graves at Morden and a stately monument in Wimbledon churchyard. The office he used when carrying out his major work was at No.1 Greek Street, Soho, which is still there.

Dr Smith had some excellent illustrations, including contemporary photographs, cartoons, and pictures from the *Illustrated London News*, as well as maps and tables. He also showed a photograph he took a few years ago of a sludge vessel operating in Ireland (when such things were still allowed) that was called *Sir Joseph William Bazalgette*.

This was a most enjoyable and interesting lecture, appreciated by its audience.



*Bazalgette c.1865 (Thames Water plc)*

**Judith Goodman**

### **A postscript to John Pile’s account of working at Young & Co (Westminster) Ltd**

I have received a telephone call from one of the daughters of the late Joshua Brown, director of Young’s, who was very pleased to see John Pile’s article in the last issue of the *Bulletin*, which was passed to her by a friend. She still lives, in her 90s, in the Merton Park house where the 16-year-old John was interviewed, and she told me that her father made the iron gates at the front and the side of the house. She also told me that Young’s had built stables at both Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, and also for the Lascelles – presumably the present Earl of Harewood. Joshua Brown died in 1964, of leukaemia.

**JG**



LIONEL GREEN has been considering the layout of the early work at Merton priory.

## MEASURE FOR MEASURE

Question. Where is a foot only  $11\frac{11}{16}$  inches? Answer. At Merton priory.

Early 12th-century buildings in England were often set out in Norman feet, which were smaller than imperial feet. This is the same size as this A4 paper you are now reading, that is 297mm.

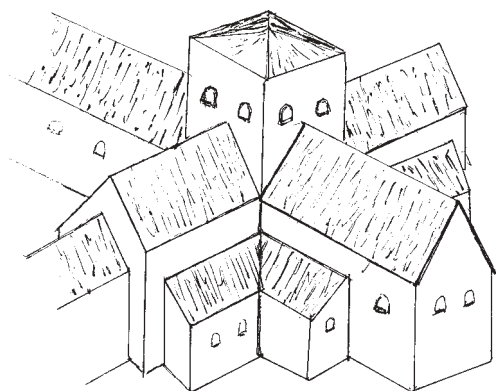
It would appear that Merton priory was measured in Norman feet, with a layout consisting of squares of 40 Norman feet, or roughly 12 metres. The master-mason must have set out on the ground a simple grid of lines which determined where the walls were to be built.

I outlined this proposition in an article written 30 years ago and published in volume 71 of *Surrey Archaeological Society's Collections*.<sup>1</sup> Since that time extensive archaeological excavations by the Museum of London Archaeological Services and others have confirmed the building foundations of the church, and the use of Norman feet.

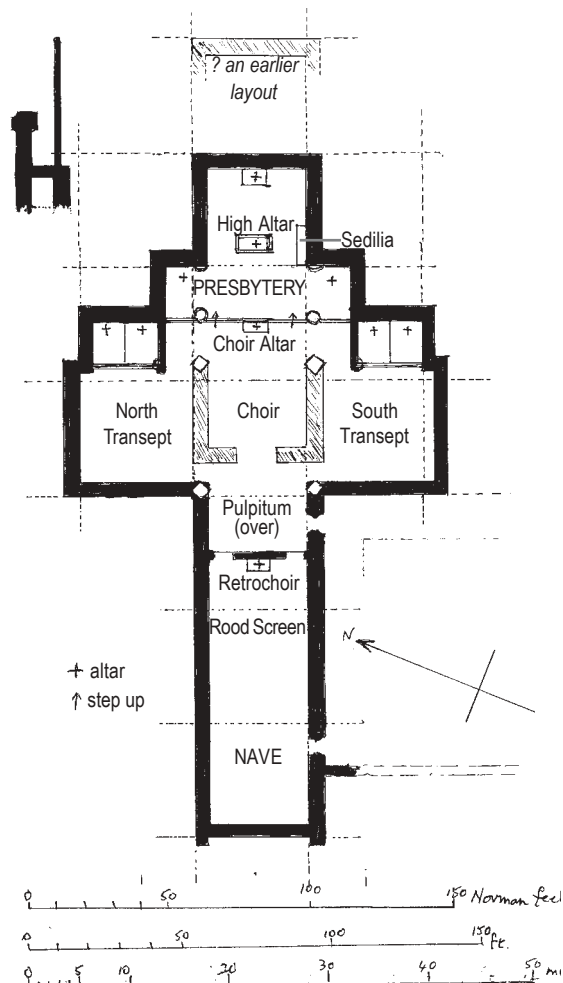
The plan suggests a square-ended chancel or presbytery with short aisles on either side. There were transepts north and south, and the choir was probably at the crossing. The nave had no aisles. This follows the layout of many Augustinian priory churches of the period.

Measurements were from one wall face to another face on the same side. That is, north side to another north side, or east side to another east side. They were not centre to centre, although it resulted in the same measurement. The mason set out the first line along the axis east to west, followed by another set out at right angles, corresponding to the east wall of the transepts.<sup>2</sup>

In March 1125 Gilbert the sheriff, founder of the priory, laid the first stone of the church. Footings prepared before the ceremonial laying suggest that building preparations began in the previous summer. Unfortunately Gilbert died only four months later in 1125, and, without the founder's support, work was hindered. To some, the project was too costly and too ambitious, and work was destroyed "except part of the front and the foundations, where the sheriff had laid the first stone and the prior had set the second stone".<sup>3</sup> The founder would have had a say in the design because he was providing the resources. Thereafter the canons were free to build, alter, pull down or rebuild as inclination prompted and means allowed. This was not unusual.



*Conjectural perspective view of Merton priory church from the south-east (1130-1154)*



*Plan of Merton priory  
Twelfth-century layout in squares of 40 Norman feet*

The first stone church was completed in the early 1130s, for the record says: "Finally after fifteen years, the monastic structures were peacefully constructed with the aid of the faithful at different times according to their will and means".<sup>4</sup>

It will be noted that foundations exist to the east of the church, which are within the 40-foot grid. Could this have been the site of the east front built by Gilbert and the first canons?

This design would have been based on the previous timber church, with a square-ended termination and a gabled roof, which was probably covered with wooden shingles.

On both sides of the presbytery was a short aisle which provided additional side chapels, and assisted with the

Sunday processions around the high altar. The windows were small and admitted little light, but above the high-arched crossing was a 'lantern tower' which gave additional downward light with a lofty view upwards. From the outside it gave rise to a pleasurable feature.

### Dover priory

In 1131 archbishop Corbeil, a former Augustinian canon, began to build a new church of St Martin at a location outside the town of Dover, intending it to be for the institution of canons regular. It was a sumptuous structure built of creamy-yellow Caen limestone, and Henry I granted Corbeil a quarry at Caen, Normandy, which also took the name of St Martin. The stone could be transported by barge from Caen, on the river Orne, across the Channel to Dover.

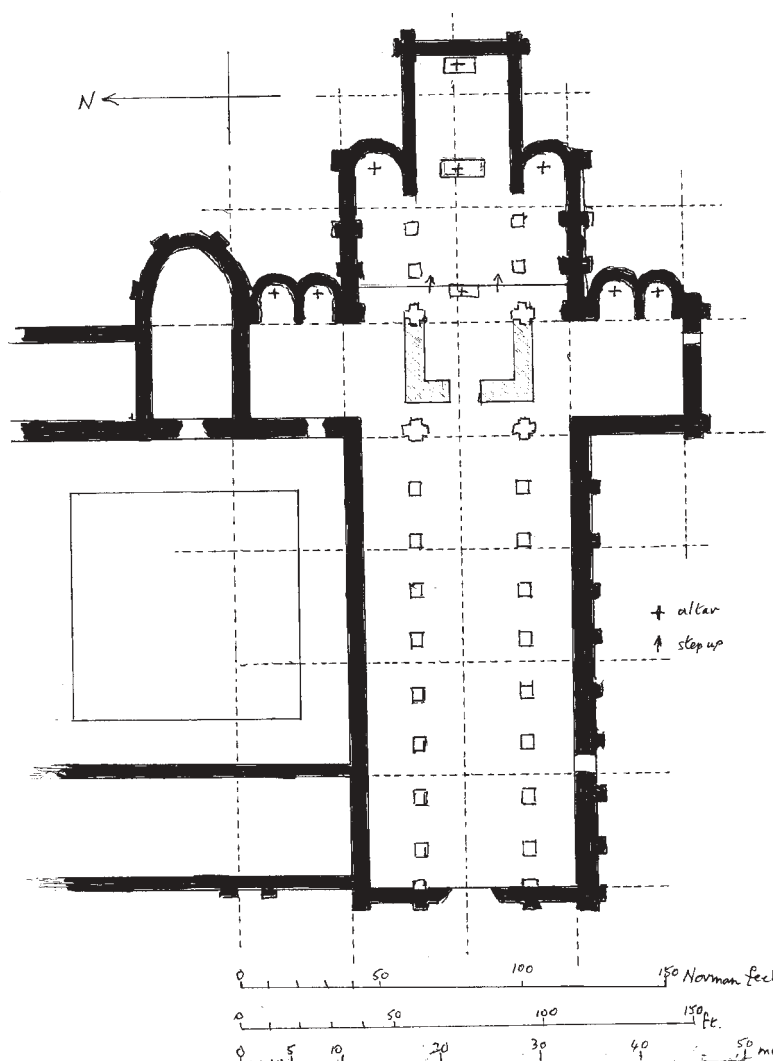
In 1123 archbishop Corbeil requested canons from Merton to assist in the foundation of St Gregory's priory at Canterbury and would have known about Gilbert's plans at Merton. The archbishop's new priory at Dover was similar in style, with a square-ended eastern termination, and was set out within a grid of 40 Norman feet. It differed in that the side chapels contained eastern apses for the altars, and the nave had aisles. The cloister and associated buildings were to the north.

By 1135 the 'new work' at Dover had been completed, and the archbishop requested canons from Merton to be introduced, to follow the rule of St Augustine. They were duly inducted early in 1136, but the sub-prior of Canterbury protested that the church belonged to his monastery. The bishops who had inducted the canons then asked them to return home to Merton, whilst they sought guidance. Dover priory thereafter followed the Benedictine tradition.<sup>5</sup>

The design of a monastic church had to meet requirements for daily worship, with choir stalls where the regular canonical 'hours' could be sung, chapels for celebrating mass, and space for liturgical processions. All canons were priests, and as masses had to be said by each priest between the hours of daybreak and noon, at least ten side altars would have been required for a community of about 30 canons.

Processions were a form of worship with singing of joyful hymns and psalms to show respect to the Almighty. They also enabled the canons to have exercise and a change in routine. They began at the west end of the nave and the station made at the rood screen. The brethren processed either side of the nave altar into the retrochoir, and reunited to enter the choir under the pulpitum.<sup>6</sup> All continued to the high altar, where each bowed in turn, and returned to the choir stalls.

Between the high altar and the choir stalls was the choir altar, which was used for the morrow mass at about 9.00 am in the summer months. Space in front of the high altar was provided for prostrations.



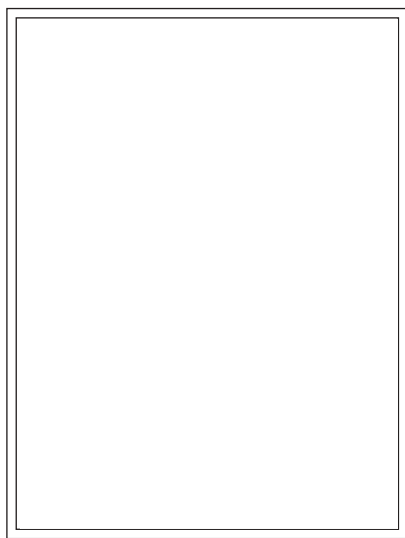
*Priory of St Mary and St Martin, Dover  
Built 1131-1135 for canons from Merton priory but claimed as  
belonging to the monastery of Canterbury  
Layout within a grid of 40 Norman feet (11.911 metres)*

- 1 L Green *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 71 (1977) pp.95-100
- 2 The setting-out of the monastic plan would have been prepared on plaster of Paris (partly dehydrated gypsum) floors near the workshops. Foundations discovered at Merton north of the high altar may be of the tracing house.
- 3 M L Colker *Studia Monastica* 12 (1970) pp.245, 263
- 4 *Ibid.* p.251; A Heales *Records of Merton Priory* 1898 pp.3, 4
- 5 For further information on the Dover episode see L Green *Daughter Houses of Merton Priory* MHS (2002) pp 24, 26.
- 6 The siting of church furniture (choir stalls, rood screen etc.) in the attached plans are the author's suppositions.

## 200 YEARS AGO JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 1805

### NELSON AT SEA

In June 1805 Horatio Viscount Nelson, Vice-Admiral of the White, was at sea in the West Indies on board the *Victory*. Since the summer of 1803 he had been occupied in the tedious and frustrating work of blockading the main part of the French fleet at Toulon. Then, in May, he had learned that his opposite number, the wily French Admiral Pierre Villeneuve, had not only escaped from Toulon with his ships, through the British blockade, but was out in the Atlantic. Nelson and Villeneuve had been adversaries in the Battle of the Nile, and Villeneuve must have been keen to avenge that humiliating defeat, in which he had captained the *Guillaume Tell*, one of the only two French ships to get away from Aboukir Bay.



*Admiral Pierre-Charles-Jean-Baptiste-  
Silvestre Villeneuve*

Villeneuve had been joined by the Spanish fleet under Admiral Dom Frederico Gravina. Napoleon's plan was for Villeneuve and Gravina to sail across the Atlantic to a rendezvous at Martinique with more French ships under Vice-Admiral Honoré Ganteaume, who was still penned in at Brest. The combined French-Spanish fleet would then head for the Channel.

By the time Nelson had discovered Villeneuve's movements he was already a month behind him, and moreover he had only half the enemy's strength in ships. Despite this he set off in pursuit, only to spend a frustrating few weeks chasing report and rumour from anchorage to anchorage in the Caribbean, without result. Meanwhile, however, all had not gone well with the French and the Spanish, as Ganteaume had failed to break out of Brest. Finally Villeneuve heard that Nelson was following him, and despite Napoleon's orders dashed back across the Atlantic, and took refuge at Ferrol, at the north-west tip of Spain, on 31 July, having been only slightly delayed by an indeterminate encounter with Sir Robert Calder's blockading squadron.

Nelson, however, had reached Spain before the French ships, heading for Cape St Vincent, in case Villeneuve's destination was Cadiz. He set foot in Gibraltar on 20 July, having then been at sea in *Victory* only ten days less than two years – how the ground must have heaved beneath his feet! He then headed for home, anchoring at Spithead on 18 August, and anxious about his reception by his countrymen. "It had been mortifying", he wrote to Lady Hamilton, "not being able to get at the enemy". In the event, however, his superiors approved his conduct of the chase, while deploring his wretched luck, and the British public hailed him with affection and respect.



*from O Warner Trafalgar Pan Books, London 1966 (1st ed. 1959)*



## NELSON AT MERTON

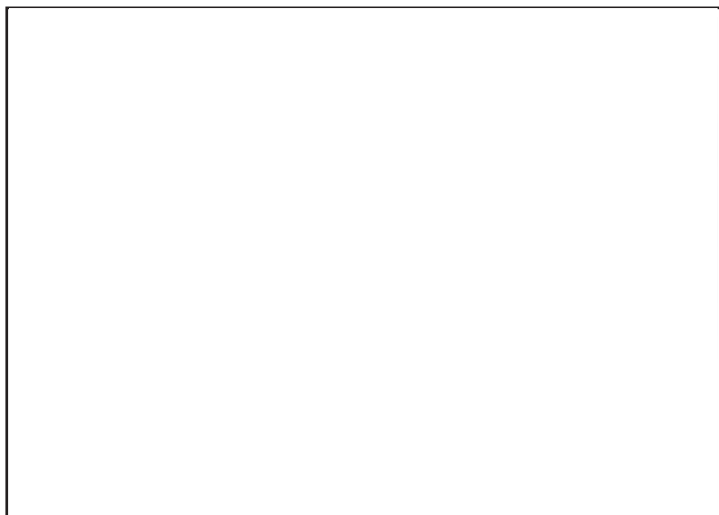
Nelson had at once sent word to his lover Emma Hamilton that he would be with her shortly at Merton. All the time at sea he had liked to think of her in that much-loved peaceful setting, with their daughter Horatia, now four years old, with her. Unfortunately Emma preferred fun and company to quiet domesticity. While her mother Mrs Cadogan looked after affairs at Merton Place, and supervised the decorating and improvements that Emma enjoyed planning, Emma herself had been having a good time in town, and Horatia was still boarded out most of the time. When she learned that Nelson was back in England, Emma hastily collected Horatia, summoned Nelson's brother and his sister Susannah, with their families, and rushed to Merton, arriving in the evening on 19 August. She was just in time. Nelson drove through the night, and reached his 'dear Merton' at 6 o'clock the next morning, the 20<sup>th</sup>, to a rapturous welcome. He was delighted with his lively little daughter, who was already starting to play the piano and could speak a few words of French and Italian.

The days that followed were divided between official business and private occasions. On the next Sunday, 25 August, the whole party went to St Mary's church, where the parson was Revd Thomas Lancaster, a good friend of the Merton Place household. Even little Horatia went to the afternoon service for children.

On Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> Mr Feldborg, a Danish historian (he wrote as 'J A Andersen'), called by arrangement at Merton Place to present Nelson with a copy of his account of the Battle of Copenhagen. He found the house "a very elegant structure". Its owner, in "an uniform, emblazoned with different orders of knighthood", received him "with the utmost condescension" and embarrassed him by insisting on paying him for the book before showing him the staircase walls "adorned with prints of his battles". Emma was responsible for the improvements to the house and its decoration. She had installed two large bay windows in the east façade, creating a handsome entrance front, refurnished the bedrooms and added dressing-rooms. There was even a water-closet. She had hung the walls of the principal rooms not only with prints but with portraits of herself and of Nelson, and many mirrors.



*The north front of Merton Place, with an idealised family group, 1804*



*Nelson's visiting card*

On visits to London, to attend at the Admiralty or the Colonial Office (Castlereagh, the Secretary of State for War was also in charge of the Colonies), Nelson was recognised and mobbed wherever he went. Crowds would wait outside government buildings, even shops, to cheer him and touch the skirt of his coat as he emerged. At home it was a relief to play the country gentleman surrounded by friends and family, to walk about and admire his estate and to play with his small daughter. Meanwhile, on 20 August, the French and Spanish fleets had reached Cadiz. Though Napoleon would soon abandon his dream of invading England, he remained determined on a decisive naval victory.

On 1 September Nelson had an interview with Prime Minister William Pitt. Only a combination of all available British squadrons could overcome the enemy's force. But who should lead them? Nelson expressed his willingness to serve under Collingwood, but Pitt said, "You must take command". "I am ready now", responded Nelson.

**Judith Goodman**

## SOME NOTES ON SIR THOMAS TRESHAM AND OTHER RECUSANTS IN MITCHAM

Eric Montague in his book on Lower Green West, records that “there were complaints in 1587 against the presence of seminary priests in Sir Thomas Tresham’s house in Mitcham”.<sup>1</sup> His source was the *Victoria County History of Surrey*, which gives three references for the information in this paragraph.<sup>2</sup> The first is to the *Calendar of State Papers Domestic Series Elizabeth 1581-90*<sup>3</sup> page 393, which notes on 5 March 1587 (actually 1588 New Style):

“Names of such seminary priests as have been at **Sir Tho. Tresham’s at Mitcham** and with **Mr. Talbott** since Easter last, as Edmond the Jesuit, Parry *alias* Morgan, now prisoner in the Clink, and others.”

The second reference is to *Acts of the Privy Council AD 1588-1589*<sup>4</sup> page 393. However the *VCH* compilers have erred here (presumably accidentally repeating the page number of the previous reference). Probably page 362 was meant, for on that page we learn that on 29 November 1588 the Star Chamber sent

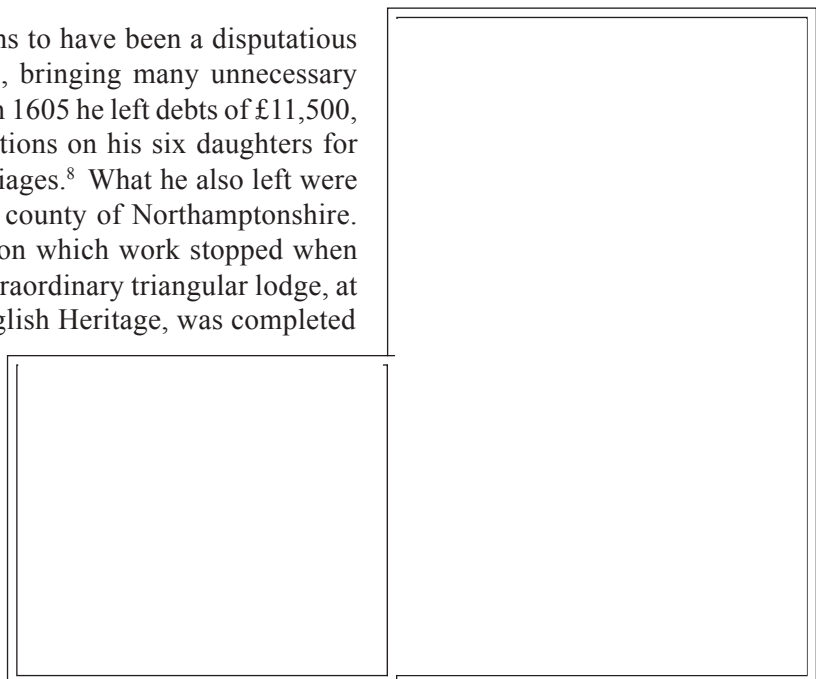
“A letter unto Richard Arkinstall, esquire, Warden of Ealy Castle, that whereas **Sir Thomas Tressame**, knight, had made protestacion of his alleageance and duty to her Majestie, and suite had ben made to their Lordships for his enlargement in respecte he was fallen into some sicknes thorough his restraint of libertie, he was required to take bonds of him for his apparence so soone as he should be hable before their Lordships, and thereupon to see hym sett at libertie; the said letter to be his sufficient discharge in that behalfe.”

Tresham, born in 1543, had inherited estates in Northamptonshire at the age of three. He had grown up conservative in religion, though this did not prevent his appointment as Sheriff of Northamptonshire in 1573, or his being knighted by Queen Elizabeth two years later. However in 1580 he was at last received into the Roman Catholic church.<sup>5</sup> In the same year he received the Jesuit Edmund Campion (1540-81) in a house of his at Hoxton.<sup>5</sup> Hoxton was then a place where the rich built themselves houses in pleasantly rural surroundings, not too far from the court – a place not unlike Mitcham, in fact. In 1581 Tresham was taken before the Privy Council and the Star Chamber, after Campion’s capture.<sup>5</sup> He refused to give answers under oath that might incriminate him, and as a result brought upon himself, for the rest of his life, a succession of fines and spells of imprisonment, in the Fleet, or, as we have seen, at Ely Castle. At the very least his movements were restricted from then on. However, he did not cease to conduct his affairs provocatively, for, in August 1584 there was a

“Report of the search made at Hoggesden [Hoxton] by order from Her Majesty and the Council by Mr. Justice Smith and others, for the apprehension of priests and Papists. Inmates in **Sir Thomas Tresame’s** house, popish relics, and papistical books.”<sup>6</sup>

In December 1588 he wrote to Lord Burghley, thanking him for his influence in releasing him and his fellow prisoners from imprisonment at Ely.<sup>7</sup>

Tresham, though brave and loyal, seems to have been a disputatious man, and certainly not a cautious one, bringing many unnecessary problems upon himself. When he died in 1605 he left debts of £11,500, mainly as a result of settling large portions on his six daughters for whom he had arranged ambitious marriages.<sup>8</sup> What he also left were two remarkable buildings in his home county of Northamptonshire. Lyveden New Bield (National Trust), on which work stopped when he died, remains unfinished, but the extraordinary triangular lodge, at Rushton nearby, now in the care of English Heritage, was completed about ten years earlier. Both buildings are rich in religious symbolism. The New Bield is cross-shaped, and ornamented with the chi-ro sign, the IHS, representations of the instruments of the passion and a number of inscriptions relating to Christ and the Virgin Mary. The Rushton triangular lodge is a complex allegory in stone of the Trinity, its entire architecture and ornament being based on the number 3.



*Rushton Triangular Lodge (Illustration from English Heritage Guide)*

*Basement plan*

*Section A–B*

Only three months after Tresham's death his erratic son and heir Francis was executed for his involvement in the Gunpowder Plot.

Where Tresham's Mitcham house was we do not know, nor why he owned one here. Nor is there any evidence that he used it personally. But it is interesting to know that such a picturesque character had a local connection.

As it happens the standard biography, for many years, of Edmund Campion, Jesuit and martyr, was published in 1867 by Richard Simpson, one-time vicar of Mitcham, who resigned his living in 1846 to enter the Roman Catholic church.<sup>9</sup>

The *VCH* paragraph quoted above states that both Mitcham and Cheam were Roman Catholic centres in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (the third reference is untraceable as it stands). There must be a lot more to learn about this. The Fromonds of Cheam, who also held Hall Place, Mitcham, are quoted as being on the list of recusants, and the *VCH* also mentions a John Talbot (probably the 'Mr Talbot' bracketed with Tresham above) and a John Leedes in connection with Mitcham. The references I have found are the following:

On 3 June 1587

"... by the commaundement of the Lord Chancelour and Mr. Secretarie Wallsingham, it is here recorded that whereas **John Talbot**, of Grafton in countie Wigorn. [Worcestershire], esquire, standeth bounde in v<sup>cl</sup><sup>i</sup> to her Majestie to abide at the house of one **Henrie Whitney** of Mycham in the countie of Surrie, and not to departe or goe out of two miles circuite or distaunce of the house of the said Whitney; now for certain good respectes from henceforth it shalbe lawfull, notwithstandinge the abovesaid bande, for the said John Talbotte, over and besides the libertie of the place and circuite abovesaid, to keepe, abide, or frequent in or aboute the Citie or surburbes of London without impeachment or any danger, and to goe and passe betwixt th' abovesaid places at his will and pleasure; and moreover that it shalbe lawfull for the saide John Talbot to take his journey into the cuntry to sett in order his thinges, so that he returne againe at or before the tenth of September next ensuyinge the date hereof; provided allwaies that the said John Talbot after his returne out of the cuntry after the said tenth day of September shalbe forthcomminge at Whitney's house abovesaid or at ——— house in London, whensoever it shall please the Lordes to call for him.

"And it is further ordred by th'authoritie abovesaid that the said bande of v<sup>cl</sup><sup>li</sup> shalbe cancelled and made voide, and an other made in lieu thereof in the like summe, with the condicions sett downe in the order next above written."<sup>10</sup>

Henry Whitney, who was entrusted with the supervision of Talbot's movements, was lord of the manor of Biggin and Tamworth,<sup>11</sup> and no doubt regarded as trustworthy. According to the *Catholic Encyclopaedia* Talbot, whose dates are given as 1535(?)–1607(?), was imprisoned or confined a number of times as a recusant. As with Tresham, he found himself at Ely for a time. Talbot was the second son of Sir John Talbot of Grafton in Worcestershire. One of his own sons became a Catholic priest and the ninth earl of Shrewsbury.

On 7 July 1589 the Privy Council ordered that

"... humble suite having ben made to their Lordships by **John Leedes** of the countie of Sussex, esquire, that he might have libertie to repaire from the towne of Micham into the cuntry for a certaine time to dispose of his affaires, which were by reason of his absence greatly disordered, their Lordships having graunted him licence to reside in the cuntry for the better dispatch of his business untill the xv<sup>th</sup> daie of the next Michaellmas Tearme, he is therefore required to take bondes of him to her Majestie's use to returne againe to the said towne of Micham the said xv<sup>th</sup> daie of the said Terme, and then not to exceede the circuite of six miles from the saide towne, and to carrie and behave himselfe dutifullie and obedientlie towards her Majestie, her estate and presente gouvernemente at all times hereafter, according to the tennour and true meaning of his late submission signed with his owne hand."<sup>12</sup>

These restrictions were headed "A bond relaxed".

It may be that John Leedes, as the *VCH* suggests, had at least a property in Mitcham, even if he was "of the countie of Sussex". It would be interesting to know more of him.

On 7 July 1589 the Privy Council dispatched, under the heading “A Recusant released on bail”

“A letter to Mr. Bedle, Register to the High Commissioners, to take bondes of **William Tirwright** for his returne to the house of one **Mistres Rutland** in Micham in the county of Surrey, and to enjoy onelie the libertie of six miles circuite about the said house and not to exceed the said compasse, after the first daie of the next Tearme, and for his good demeanure and well cariage of himselfe towards her Highenes’ estate and presente gouvernemente, according to the forme and tennour of his late submission signed with his owne hand.”

“Mistres Rutland” was Dorothy Rutland, the widowed owner of Jenkingranger, Colliers Wood, the property which later became Colliers Wood House.<sup>13</sup> Incidentally the *VCH* mistakenly says that it was John Leedes who was required to stay under Dorothy Rutland’s supervision.

As yet we have no further information about John Talbot, John Leedes, or William Tirwright. Another name in this connection is that of **John Mush** [alias Ratcliffe], whose dates were 1552-1612. John Pile has kindly sent me a print-out of the entry on Mush from the on-line *Oxford DNB*. He was a Roman Catholic priest and author, of the anti-Jesuit faction, and became the confessor of Margaret Clitherow of York, who was martyred in 1586. In the following year Mush was said to be in Mitcham.

There is clearly much more to be discovered about recusants and recusancy in Mitcham.

- 1 E N Montague *Mitcham Histories 5: Lower Green West, Mitcham* Merton Historical Society, Merton 2004
- 2 *Victoria County History of Surrey* IV (1912) p.234
- 3 *Calendar of State Papers Domestic Elizabeth 1581-90* Longman’s, London 1865
- 4 Published by HMSO 1897
- 5 *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* Vol X p.315. After being tortured, Campion was executed at Tyburn on 1 December 1581. He was canonised in 1970.
- 6 *Cal. S.P.Dom.Eliz. 1581-90* p.199; and see Janet Wilson ‘A Catalogue of the ‘Unlawful’ books found in John Stow’s study on 21 February 1568/9’ *Recusant History* Vol 20 (1990-91) p.7
- 7 *ibid.* p.568
- 8 *Oxford DNB* Vol 10 OUP 2004 p.316
- 9 See E N Montague *Mitcham Histories 1: The Cricket Green* Merton Historical Society, Merton 2001 p.71; E N Montague *The Canons, Mitcham* Merton Historical Society, Merton 1999 p.18; Tony Scott, ‘The Influence of the Oxford Movement in Mitcham’ *Merton Historical Society Bulletin* 152 (Dec.2004); and *Oxford DNB* Vol 50 OUP 2004 pp.207-8.
- 10 *Acts of the Privy Council of England* Vol XV AD 1587-1588 HMSO London 1897 pp.102-3
- 11 E N Montague *Lower Mitcham* Merton Historical Society 2003 pp.14,19,89
- 12 *Acts of the Privy Council of England* Vol XVII AD 1588-9 HMSO London 1897 pp.348-9
- 13 Information kindly supplied by Eric Montague

**Judith Goodman**

## BOOK REVIEWS

The 27th in our series of Local History Notes is *Sporting Memories of Mitcham in the late 1940s and 1950s* by **David Corns**. The author’s recollections of a sporting boyhood will strike a chord with many readers, though few will probably have managed to participate in and/or watch as much sport as Mr Corns. As a cub and then a scout, at primary and then grammar school, in informal ‘gangs’ and then in clubs, he played football, cricket, rounders and Korfbal, as well as swimming, running and long-jumping. He watched fine cricketers on the Green and world-class athletes at the News of the World ground, and he writes about it all with enthusiasm and total recall. Eight A4 pages, with five photographs and a map. 50p (members 40p) + p&p 25p.

**Eric Montague**’s sixth volume in his Mitcham Histories series is *Mitcham Bridge, The Watermeads and the Wandle Mills*. Other topics covered are the Wandle Fishery and the Mill Cottages, as well as Wandle Grove and Surrey Brewery – both long vanished. Eric has again drawn on his many years of research to give us a detailed, and very readable, picture of this small but important corner of Mitcham. pp.120; many illustrations and five maps. £5.95 (members £4.80) + p&p 80p.

**Eric Montague** has also produced two new Studies in Merton History. No.5 *Mitcham in the Mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century: a Surrey Village under Stress* is a revised version of a diploma thesis, in which, using primary sources where possible, he examines the impact of the Civil War on the semi-rural parish which was Mitcham at the time. Topics discussed include recruitment, taxation, parish administration, social structure and even the property market. pp.40: five pictures and three maps. £2.95 (members £2.40) + p&p 50p.

No.6 is called *Recruitment to the Armed Forces in Mitcham 1522-1815*, and looks at the impact of war and the threat of invasion on Mitcham over a period of 300 years, with particular emphasis on recruitment to the militia. The text is in four chapters, covering the Tudor period, the Stuarts and the Commonwealth, the eighteenth century and, much the longest, the Napoleonic Wars. Eric has used primary sources where they exist, and the booklet includes among its many illustrations reproductions of a variety of documents. pp.40. (Price as No.5.)

Available from Peter Hopkins.

**JG**



## IN BRIEF

- ◆ Look out for **Celebrating Age 2005**, Merton's Festival for the Over-Fifties, 9-24 July, with varied events all over Merton and beyond, many of which will appeal to history lovers. Brochures widely available. Tel: 020 8545 4712 for information.
- ◆ Merton Heritage Centre's current exhibition is **Hearth & Home: Housing in Merton**, on until 23 July. All kinds of living accommodation from Roman villas to 20<sup>th</sup>-century estates. On 9 August an **exhibition about Nelson** will open, as part of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the naval hero's death. The Canons, Madeira Road, Mitcham. Tues/Wed 10.00-4.00, Fri-Sat 10-4.30. Admission free. Tel: 020 8640 9387.
- ◆ This year's **Wandle Valley Festival** takes place on Sunday 12 June. Merton Heritage Centre will be at the Chapterhouse, Merton Abbey Mills, all day, and there will be many other activities all along the river. Tel: 0870 714 0750, or 0870 223 3323, or find out at [www.wandlevalleyfestival.org.uk](http://www.wandlevalleyfestival.org.uk).
- ◆ There is to be a full programme of events for **Wandsworth Heritage Fortnight** from 28 May to 12 June, culminating with the Wandle Valley Festival. Details from Wandsworth Museum, tel: 020 8871 7074.
- ◆ The **Wandle Industrial Museum**'s special Nelson exhibition formally opens on 11 June. Thereafter it is open every Wednesday 1-4pm and the first Sunday of the month 2-5pm. Admission 50p/20p. Vestry Hall Annexe, London Road, Mitcham.
- ◆ The **Upper Norwood Athenæum**, instituted in 1877, whose aims are "to arrange visits to places of antiquarian or historical interest and to promote friendship amongst persons interested in these subjects", needs new members. They have an interesting and varied programme.

### *'Merton & Morden: Past & Present'*

Freelance writer, Sara Goodwins, who has been responsible for studies of Sutton and of Cheam in the series *Britain in Old Photographs*, has now been commissioned to produce a volume on Merton and Morden. She is looking for original unpublished photographs and would be very pleased to hear from any members willing to lend her "photographs with a story attached". Her husband, a photographer, will provide modern views, but he will also copy any photographs loaned to her, so they can be returned to their owners very quickly.

Publication date is August 2005, so time is short!

**Peter Hopkins**

### **The Wimbledon Society, with St Mary's, Merton, and Merton Historical Society has arranged A SPECIAL EVENT TO MARK THE NELSON BICENTENARY**

Date: Monday 12 September

Time: 8.00pm

Place: St Mary the Virgin, Church Path, Merton Park SW19

Title of talk: 'Nelson in his own Words'

Speaker: Dr Colin White, Director of Trafalgar 200 at the National Maritime Museum and leader of the Nelson Letters Project

Colin White is the editor of the recent book *Nelson – the new Letters*, which contains more than 1200 letters written by Nelson that have not been published before. This should be a fascinating lecture, by a real Nelson expert.

Tickets, which must be booked in advance, cost £5. Please fill in and detach the section below and send it with your cheque, payable to the Wimbledon Society, with a stamped addressed envelope.

(If you do not wish to cut into your *Bulletin*, please photocopy or write out the application.)

Please send me ..... ticket(s) at £5 each for the Colin White lecture on 12 September.

I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to the Wimbledon Society.

I enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Tel. No: .....



## ‘TIME’S WINGÈD CHARIOT’?

### **BILL RUDD deploras the undignified passing of a local goods vehicle.**

What is now called the North-East Surrey Crematorium, in Lower Morden Lane, was originally the Battersea New Cemetery, opened more than 110 years ago. It occupies 28ha (70 acres) of the 49ha (120 acres) acquired by the Metropolitan Battersea Council.

Contiguous with it, on the corner of Lower Morden Lane and Grand Drive was Joseph Evans’ monumental mason’s yard. Examples of his work can be seen in local cemeteries, and in St Lawrence’s churchyard. At some point in time it closed down. But one item survived.

We now move forward.

In the early records of our Society there are references to ‘museum pieces’ – looking forwards to a time when a local museum might be established. I knew nothing of this when I joined the Society in 1962. In 1966 I happened to spot a cart marked ‘Monumental Sculptor’ in the yard of Peacock Farm in Lower Morden Lane – and photographed it. Then it disappeared, and I remarked about it to Miss Jowett, who told me it was preserved as a museum piece.

I went to see the Borough Parks department, who had a nursery in Peacock Farm, and explained the situation. They said that the cart had been vandalised and the remains were at one of their depots (I don’t remember which one). I went along to see it and was shocked. Full of apologies, the Parks Department arranged transfer to the Camp Road School, Wimbledon, where the remains were deposited under the school verandah. It was a sorry sight.

The Society had obtained the temporary use of the school hall after Councillor Mrs Iris Derrimen had seen our display at the Merton Borough Show in 1970.

Not long afterwards we had to move to the vacant library department store at Gorringe Park Road. I took with us a representative sample of the remains. These comprised the heavy iron tyres, the stock bonds (the iron bands round the axle boxes), and a selection of spokes from the two different sizes of wheels. We still have them. The photograph shows what we have lost.



*Evans’ cart April 1966 (photo: Bill Rudd)*

## VE DAY CELEBRATIONS 1945

Sixty years ago the residents of Deer Park Gardens celebrated victory in Europe.

*photo courtesy of  
Madeline Healey*



## A ROAD “VERY FARR OUT OF REPAIER”

In *The Bridges and Roads of Mitcham*<sup>1</sup> Eric Montague noted that the Privy Council of Elizabeth I once required Sir Francis Carew, of Beddington, to see to the repair of the Streatham end of Mitcham Lane, and he quoted a passage in Michell's *The Carews of Beddington*.<sup>2</sup> When looking through the index of *Acts of the Privy Council* for other purposes I came across Michell's source, and thought it of enough interest to reproduce in full. Michell, by the way, took great liberties with the wording! The year was 1591.

“A letter to the Lord Lumley [of Cheam], Sir Frauncis Carewe, knight, and others, her Majesty's Justices in the countie of Surrey. Forasmoch as wee are crediblie informed that Micham Lane at the ende neere Stretham ys very farr out of repaier, insomoch as not onlie the townshippes of Micham, Casalton, Bedington, Cheme, Bansted, Woodmasterman, Nonesoch and Yowell in their ordynary passadges towards London are very moche letted and anoyed, but also all other travellers that waies, besides her Majesty's carryadges, which importeth a speedie conveyance, are manie tymes enforced by that meanes to take further and inconvenyenter waies about. Therefore (uppon due consideracion thereof) wee have thought yt meet hereby to will and require you that in anie wyse you take speedie order, chardginge and commaunding all and every the Surveyours of the highe waies in the said townshippes to give you in the names of all the cartes, carryadges and laborers of every of the same severall townshippes, and that they cause and see every of the said cartes, carryadges and laborers, observing the time and turne appointed for everie severall place, to repaier unto the Surveyours of the highe waies at Stretham, and there painefullie and dilligentlie to spend three of the six daies lymytted by the statute for those purposes in repaying of the said decayed lane's ende neere Stretam. Where wee praie you to have a care and regard and to give a straight chardge that no faile be made hereof, as they of every of the said townshippes whoe shall make defaulte will answere before us the contrarie. At &c.”<sup>3</sup>

We can see that the ‘townshippes’ of Merton and Morden were not concerned in the undertaking. On the whole their inhabitants would not have needed to use Mitcham Lane. Their route to London for instance, the present A24, was presumably in better ‘repaier’.

By the highway Act of 1555 the old manorial duty of highway maintenance was transferred to the parish, and “every parishioner for every ploughland in tillage or pasture that he occupied within the parish, and every person keeping a draught (of horses) or plough in the parish, had to provide for four days in the year ‘one wain or cart furnished after the custom of the country ... and also two able men with the same’. Every other householder, cottager and labourer, able to labour and being no hired servant by the year, had either to put in four days’ labour or to send ‘one sufficient labourer in his stead’.”<sup>4</sup> As the text from 1591 makes clear, the statutory days had by then been increased from four to six. This was by an Act of 1563.<sup>4</sup> Some reference books, such as John Richardson's *Local Historian's Encyclopaedia*, give 1691 as the date for the revised figure, but this is incorrect. Six days had been in force for well over a century before the important Act of 1691.

1 E N Montague *The Bridges and Roads of Mitcham* Merton Historical Society, Merton 2000 p.22

2 R Michell *The Carews of Beddington* London Borough of Sutton Libraries and Arts Services 1981 p.52

3 *Acts of the Privy Council* Vol 21 (1591) HMSO 1900 pp.77-8

4 W E Tate *The Parish Chest* (3rd ed.) CUP 1969 (repr. By Phillimore, Chichester 1983) p.243

Judith Goodman

## ADMIRAL SMITH'S TOMB

Much work has already been completed on the tomb at St Mary's, Merton (see previous *Bulletin*). The self-sown buddleia has been removed from it and from its attached neighbour, the Wyatt tomb. Cracks and gaps have been filled and made good, and drainage for surface water has been very much improved. All this is visible, but the main problem arose from within and beneath the tomb, where it abuts against the fabric of the church, and that is still to be dealt with. Apparently the tomb and its surroundings are now to be monitored for a time, in order to assess the nature and scale of seepage.

**Donations are still needed and will be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to PCC of St Mary's, Merton, and sent with a note to say the money is for the Smith tomb repair.**

JG

## TWO NOTES ON THE LOVELLS OF MERTON ABBEY

1. Sir Gregory Lovell of Merton Abbey held the important post of cofferer, or treasurer, to the household of Queen Elizabeth I. As such he would have been expected to conform in matters of religion, and there is no reason to think he did not. However, in 1587 the Privy Council directed

“A letter to Mr. Coffrer [Sir Gregory] and Mr. Levesey [not identified], esquires, that forasmuch as Dorothe Lovell, wife to the said Mr. Coffrer of her Majesties Householde, remaining at this presente at her house at Martin in the countie of Surrey, refused to conforme her selfe in matters of Relligion, and nevertheless for certaine good consideracions was forborne to be restrained of her libertie and permitted to remaine still at her said house, they are required to have dilligent regard and over sight that she should not at anie time resorte to the houses of anie other Recusauntes thereabouts, or suffer anie Jesuites, Seminary Preistes, or others of like disposicion to have acces or conference with her, and that in their Lordships’ names they should require her neither to retaine in her house, as servauntes or otherwise, anie personnes not conformable in Relligion, or to weare or use, either openlie or secreatelie, anie tokens or reliques for shewes of her Religion; and if notwithstanding their advertisement from their Lordships given unto her as aforesaid she should therein offend, then to signifie the same, that their Lordships might take such farther order with her as they should think meete.”<sup>1</sup>

Presumably an important “certaine good consideracion” that protected Dorothy’s liberty was her husband’s value in the good running of the royal household. At this date he was already about 66 and had probably been in his post for a long time. It is likely that Dorothy did indeed behave discreetly thenceforward, for there seem to be no further references to her refusal to “conforme”.

Dorothy (née Greene) was Lovell’s second wife. They were married at Merton, and the marriage produced five sons. As well as his first wife Joane (or Johanna), who was the mother of one son and three daughters, Dorothy is commemorated with Sir Gregory on the Lovell monument in St Mary’s church.

After his death she married at least once more, certainly becoming Dorothy Mastersonn, and possibly ending her days as Dorothy Cross. There is a will, at the Family Records Centre of a Dorothy Cross ‘of Merton Abbey’.<sup>2</sup>

2. In *Bulletin* No.151 (September 2004) we reported that Eric Montague had spotted an article in *The Times* (30 April 2004) about the identification of the sitter in the picture by Holbein which dates from his stay in England in 1526-8 and is known as *The Lady with a Squirrel and a Starling*. According to the *Times* reporter it now seems certain that she was Anne Lovell, wife of Francis (later Sir Francis) Lovell, who inherited estates at East Harling, Norfolk, in 1524. The starling is believed to be a punning reference to East Harling, and the squirrel features in the Lovell coat of arms. Eric couldn’t help wondering if there was a connection with our Sir Gregory.

Well, the inscription on the Lovell monument in St Mary’s tells us that Sir Gregory Lovell was “SECOND SON TO S’R FRANCIS LOVELL OF HARLINGE IN NORF’C”. And Sir Gregory’s coat of arms at the top of the monument displays, in the first quarter, a chevron and three squirrels *sejant* – though I had to use binoculars to see them! Sir Gregory died aged 75 on 15 March 1597 (presumably 1598 New Style), so would have been born in 1522 or 1523. All in all, names, dates and places fit, and it seems very likely that the National Gallery’s *Lady with a Squirrel and a Starling* was the mother of Sir Gregory Lovell of Merton Abbey.

<sup>1</sup> *Acts of the Privy Council* Vol XV 1587-1588 HMSO London 1897 p.400

<sup>2</sup> Information kindly supplied by Peter Hopkins.

**Judith Goodman**

**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.**