



PRESIDENT: J Scott McCracken BA FSA MIFA

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

BULLETIN NO. 135

SEPTEMBER 2000



**PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER**



**Saturday 9 September 2.30pm**

**River Wandle walk**

A Millennium event, led by **Eric Montague**, exploring part of the western bounds of Mitcham, from Merton Abbey Mills to Morden Hall Park. Meet at the Wheelhouse, Merton Abbey Mills.

**Thursday 12 October 7.30pm**

**Merton Civic Centre**

**David Harrison: 'Jack Dimmer VC'**

The **Evelyn Jowett Memorial Lecture** for 2000 honours the memory of a Merton hero of the first World War. We welcome back David Harrison, a well-known local historian, who led a 'Mysterious Wimbledon' walk for us in May this year.

**Saturday 4 November 2.30pm**

**Snuff Mill Centre**

**Annual General Meeting (see page 16)**

After the business part of the meeting is concluded there will be a members' presentation of selected items from workshop meetings.

**Saturday 2 December 2.30pm**

**Snuff Mill Centre**

**'Merton, Mitcham and Morden 1000 Years Ago'**

A Millennium occasion. What do we know, and what can we conjecture, about our area in the year 1000 AD? Several speakers, from among our members.

*There will also be a short slide presentation about Oxford by members Pat and Ray Kilsby, linked with the visit they are offering us next year (see page xx).*

**Tuesday 12 December**

**British Library, guided tour**

Meet at 2.25, for tour at 2.30, in the paved courtyard of the Library at 96 Euston Road. Nearest station St Pancras. Numbers needed ahead of time.

Cost £4/£3. Coffee shop and restaurant available.

(For the Snuff Mill Centre drivers should park in the Morden Hall Garden Centre car-park and take the path across the bridge; go through the gateway towards Morden Cottage.



Buses 118, 157, 164)



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

## MYSTERIOUS WIMBLEDON

Thirteen adults and a baby joined David Harrison for this 'walk of History and Mystery' on 20 May. Our starting point was the *Dog and Fox*, formerly *The Sign of My Lord's Arms*, where horses are still to be seen, even if the market garden and bowling alley of Edward Winchester's tenancy have passed from memory. Opposite stands *The Brewery Tap*, though the brewery it served was burnt down and replaced in 1890, rather appropriately, by the fire station, now in private occupation. Further along the road, the *Rose and Crown* was formerly *The Sign of the Rose*, the Crown perhaps being added in celebration of Charles II's restoration in 1660.

Eagle House, an early 17th-century mansion, was built for Robert Bell, a merchant with the East India Company. The dress shop with the wrought-iron frontage was formerly the dairy, while Mason's Yard has preserved a common feature of yesteryear, the yard with workshop concealed behind the house fronting the road. Similarly, a glimpse of a timber-framed building beyond the gates adjoining Claremont House, round the corner, indicates another area hidden from the public gaze.

Moving on to Rushmere, which provided rushes for roofing, flooring and lighting, we heard of the 17th-century Puritan occupation of witch-hunting. If a villager's pig died, or other calamity fell, the blame was often levelled at the weakest member of the community. The elderly widow with a squint or wart or gammy leg would be brought here by the mob, accused of witchcraft and thrown into the pond - no ducking stool for Wimbledon! If she floated she was deemed guilty and stoned to death; if she drowned she was belatedly declared innocent.

Other tales followed, of highwayman Jerry Abershawe, who turned to crime in his teens in the 1790s. He was finally captured after killing a Bow Street Runner and, following his trial, was hanged at the Surrey gibbet, opposite the present Oval tube station. His body was then hung in chains at Tibbett's Corner, one of his earlier haunts, where it was observed by Prime Minister William Pitt on one of his many visits to Wimbledon, and recorded in his diary.

Wimbledon was also the scene of many of the duels among the ruling classes. Pitt himself fought a duel against the MP for Southwark in 1798, both men firing twice and missing both times. Another Prime Minister, Wellington, fought a duel in Battersea Park. The last duel here was in 1840, when the Earl of Cardigan, later to find fame at Balaclava, wounded his opponent and was arrested by Wimbledon's village constable and brought before Wandsworth magistrates. Refusing to recognise their jurisdiction, he was tried before the House of Lords but was acquitted on a technicality.

In the Georgian period, Wimbledon had a high proportion of inns and beerhouses. *The Rising Sun*, now a private house, was popular among the labouring classes from nearby Workhouse Lane, but was considered to lower the tone of the area and was closed down by the authorities. *The Fox and Grapes* in Camp Road catered for a wider clientele around 1787, being both a tea and gin shop. In the 19th century it housed the changing rooms of Wimbledon Football Club, a far cry from the facilities of the present day. *The Crooked Billet* may have been the home of Walter Cromwell, who was a brewer and aleseller in the area as well as blacksmith. His son Thomas rose to become Earl of Essex and lord of the manor of Wimbledon until he lost his head and Henry VIII's favour.

Our walk took us past Cannizaro House, Chester House, Kings College School, Southside House and Gothic Lodge, each with its own tales to be told. We were especially fortunate to be able to visit the courtyard belonging to the former stables of Lauriston House, William Wilberforce's home. They have been converted into two private dwellings, and the owner of one of them was on our walk. At the other end of Lauriston Road was the house built for the father of Robert Graves, who spent his childhood here.

Another mystery is how Dick Turpin and his horse Black Bess managed to frequent *The Swan*, even though it was built several decades after he was hanged. Following the 'back doubles' to Sunnyside Place we were faced with an unusual piece of pavement architecture, an Edwardian prototype electricity transformer station, which unfortunately never worked! It is now owned and maintained by Merton Council.

David's vast store of local knowledge and his inimitable style made this walk both informative and entertaining. He will be talking to the Society at the Evelyn Jowett lecture in October. Meanwhile he organises a wide range of walks and talks relating to the local area and to London through the ages.



**Peter Hopkins**

## VISIT TO OLD BATTERSEA HOUSE ON 13 JUNE 2000

One quiet Sunday morning over 40 years ago, I remember trying to find my way to Old Battersea House to meet my daughter's godmother on a visit from Dublin, as a relative of hers was living in the house at the time. I knew nothing of its history, but thought what a delightful Queen Anne style house it was.

So, all these years later, I was most interested to be able to go on a visit with the Society. The house was built in 1699 on Tudor foundations and may have been designed by Sir Christopher Wren, but this is not well substantiated. It was owned by various families, and was at one time a college, but in 1930 was bought by the local council, who wanted to demolish it. Colonel Charles Stirling saved the house and became its tenant, with his wife, whose sister was Evelyn De Morgan. They owned many paintings by her and ceramics made by her husband William, along with furniture from the Jacobean era and the William Morris circle. All these they brought to the house. Before she died, Mrs Stirling formed the De Morgan Foundation and bequeathed the collection to it.

By 1970 the house was greatly in need of restoration and this was undertaken by Malcolm S. Forbes, an American publisher, who obtained a lease from the local authority. The family still make it their London base. They own a large collection of Victorian paintings and these were brought to the house in 1975. In 1982 the Forbes Foundation moved back into the house. They show the collections to the public, encourage interest in the arts and grant awards to students. Some De Morgan ceramics are to be seen, but the main collection is in Cardiff.

Evelyn De Morgan was the daughter of a QC and determined to become a painter, which was not a usual ambition for an aristocratic young lady of the time, but apparently her parents were supportive and encouraged her, and allowed her to travel to Italy. She studied at the Slade School, and regularly exhibited at the Grosvenor Gallery, which was then quite "way out". Roddam Spencer Stanhope was her uncle and influenced her work. She depicted a wide range of subjects - classical, allegorical and mythological, but also issues of her day. She was also greatly influenced by the Italian Renaissance and the Pre-Raphaelites, but she was not so well known as many of the artists belonging to this group. In those days she was probably overshadowed by the men, and she did not in fact sell many works. Partly this was due to her sister Mrs Stirling obtaining a very large number of them. Many of the paintings have an ethereal, fairy-like quality, but the draughtsmanship is always excellent. They are imaginative and full of vibrant colour.

Evelyn married William De Morgan, who was 12 years older. They had no children. She supported her husband in his work with stained glass and he produced a new lustre for ceramics. Tiles were decorated at the William Morris factory. At first these were simple, stylised flower patterns, but as time went on he was more influenced by Islamic art and then he used rich blue and turquoise glazes, and the designs included carnations, tulips, and palmettes, grotesque and fantastical animals and monsters. The technique required three separate firings and so was very expensive. His factory finally closed in 1907 and William started a new and successful career writing novels.

We were shown three of the principal rooms on the ground floor and longed to see more of the collections upstairs! (Sometimes these are shown by special arrangement.) For me it was a most enjoyable visit, rounding off my first glimpse of the house so long ago.

**Lorna Cowell**

*Evelyn De Morgan: The Dryad 1884-5, from the guidebook to the De Morgan Foundation at Old Battersea House*

## VISIT TO KENSAL GREEN CEMETERY on Saturday 22 July

A visit to a necropolis is not everyone's idea of a jolly outing on a sunny summer Saturday. But the Kensal Green experience was an enjoyable and memorable one for our party of members and friends.

Our knowledgeable guide - all the guides are volunteers and members of the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery - explained how the necropolis movement began. By the early 19th century London's old burial grounds had become scandalously overcrowded, an insult to the dead and a hazard to the living. George Frederick Carden, a young barrister, set up the General Cemetery Company in 1830 and in 1832 an Act of Parliament was passed "for establishing a general cemetery for the interment of the dead in the neighbourhood of the metropolis".

A tract of 55 (later increased to 77) acres of smallholding land was purchased at Kensal Green. The landscaping was probably influenced by Nash's Regent's Park and by the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris. To provide for every persuasion, chapels and consecrated ground for Anglicans and for Dissenters were planned, and an area of unconsecrated ground was also designated. Apart from conventional burial, provision was made for vaults and mausolea, and three sets of catacombs were constructed. H.E.Kendall's Gothic designs won the competition for the buildings, but were put aside in favour of a classical concept, with Doric for the Established Church and Ionic for the Dissenters.

The cemetery opened in January 1833, and the first interment was that of a Margaret Gregory, on the 31st of the month. Almost immediately Kensal Green was a success, helped no doubt by the decision of two of the children of George III to be buried there. And it rapidly became one of the places to visit in London. Distinguished persons as well as fashionable ones chose this handsome new cemetery for their resting-place. We were told that about 800 of its occupants appear in the Dictionary of National Biography. For instance we saw the tombs of Anthony Trollope (very modest), Wilkie Collins, both Brunels, tightrope-walker Blondin, W.H.Smith, Thackeray, Byron's wife, George Cruikshank, Thomas Hood and many others. It was pointed out that some, who had died before 1833, had been re-interred at Kensal Green.

Some of the monuments, and many are superb, are Grade II listed, and work by artists such as William Burges, C.R.Cockerell, Owen Jones and Eric Gill can be seen. Every style seems to be represented, from 'Egyptian' to Art Deco. Some are in a sad state of repair, and it was noticeable how much better granite withstands weather and pollution than does marble, Portland stone or sandstone.

In the Anglican chapel we admired the hydraulic catafalque, restored at huge cost, which was designed to swivel right round at the end of the service, and then, if required, smoothly descend to the catacombs below. We divided into two groups for our tour of these catacombs, which contain 216 separate vaults. Each vault is divided into 'loculi'. The total capacity is about 4,500, of which about 3,000 spaces have been taken up. Many loculi are protected by iron grilles. For this type of burial there is an outer display coffin, often elaborate; a lead case within; and inside that another coffin, which contains the embalmed body. Coffins on supports last better, as the air can circulate all round them. Ultimately however silver studs turn black, and velvet crumbles to dust. The 'best' and most expensive loculi are those at eye-level. In some cases a family purchased an entire vault. In one or two the end of a cul-de-sac is owned privately and gated off. A peculiarity of Kensal Green is that ownership of every plot, or loculus, is freehold. This means that the cemetery company cannot easily intervene with the upkeep (or otherwise) of the burials.

*The Kensal Green catafalque.  
Illustration from The Magazine of the Friends of  
Kensal Green Cemetery March 2000.*

Before adjourning for tea to the Dissenters' Chapel (restored by the Friends) we were able to see the grave of George Parker Bidder QC (son of the great railway engineer), who led the campaign to save Mitcham Common. A handful of us then lingered late to pay our respects to Alexander Hatfeild (whose son purchased the Garths' Morden properties) and some of his family. We nearly got locked in for the night, but 3½ hours had been spent most absorbingly.

Kensal Green Cemetery is still owned by the original company and is still open for burials. These days it is mainly local people who choose this remarkable site for their last resting-place. The cemetery is open every day and there is a guided tour (£4/£3) every Sunday at 2pm regardless of the weather. Kensal Green station is on the Bakerloo Line, and entrance is by the western gate - turn right into the Harrow Road from the station.

**Judith Goodman**



## RAY KILSBY has something to add on **THE ATHLETIC FAME OF MITCHAM**

On reading Tony Scott's article [Bulletin 134 June 2000] I noted the reference to Mrs Dorothy Tyler (née Odam). I am delighted to report that Dorothy, who lives six doors along, beside the green where Pat and I are in Sanderstead, is in good health, still active and a recent broadcaster on radio and TV. This photograph was taken in Barbados on her 80th birthday. Once upon a time she attended Gorringe Park Mixed Infants School, from where she may be remembered by some members.

Dorothy has supplied me with a list of international and other performances by Mitcham AC ladies from 1920 to 1969. I am passing the documents to Bill Rudd, for the Society's collection.

Incidentally Dorothy tells me that Kitty Tilley did not compete in the 1936 Olympics, since there were no shot or discus events for women, although she did compete in the World Games in London, 1934, and European Games in 1938 and 1946.

Sadly, Kathleen Tiffin Dale's husband died in June this year. His father was the Mitcham builder Stanley Dale.

Dorothy's impressive record is as follows:

<b>High Jump</b>			
1936	Olympics	Berlin	Silver, after a jump-off for gold (aged 16)
1938	Empire	Sydney	Gold
1939		Brentwood	World high jump record 5'5.375"
1948	Olympics	London	Silver after jump-off for gold Set Olympic record which stood 12 years
1950	Empire	Auckland	Gold
1952	Olympics	Helsinki	7th
1954	Empire and Commonwealth	Vancouver	Silver
1956	Olympics	Melbourne	Finalist



Dorothy made at least 30 other international appearances between June 1936 and December 1956.

She also competed at international level in long jump, javelin, hurdles, relay and pentathlon (British record-holder), and was a member of many committees, and a referee and judge for field events. From age 33 to 46 she set 14 age world records - undoubtedly a Mitcham celebrity on the world stage.

### **PROPOSED VISIT TO MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD**

**ON SATURDAY 21 JULY 2001**

Ray and Pat Kilsby have most kindly offered to run a coach trip to Oxford on Saturday 21 July 2001, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Society - but only if enough members/guests are interested. A tour of Merton College, including hall, library and chapel, will cost £2.50. Such tours are not normally available. There could be an open-top bus tour of the city; and a booked lunch or evening meal are also possibilities. There will be local pick-ups and set-downs within Merton.

The Kilsbys need to know likely numbers as soon as possible, in order to work out feasibility and costs.

## LIONEL GREEN looks at PLACE-NAMES AS SURNAMES,

with some examples of local interest.

Personal identity in the Middle Ages was by Christian name, and an additional descriptive name only added when found necessary. Most appellations were suggested by the person's appearance or occupation.

Thomas Becket's father, Gilbert, who came from Rouen, was probably given the nickname "beak" because of his appearance. Thomas himself was tall, with an aquiline nose, and the Norman/French for a small bird was *becquet*.

On 23 May 1162 Becket was elected archbishop of Canterbury at Westminster Abbey, and came to Merton to become an Augustinian canon and to choose his confessor.<sup>1</sup> Up to this time he had been referred to as Thomas of London because he was born at Cheapside, and continued to use that name even when he became archbishop. But officially he was now Thomas of Canterbury, and there are still many churches dedicated to Saint Thomas of Canterbury.

The use of the preposition 'of' (de) with a surname suggests a provenance i.e. a place-name.

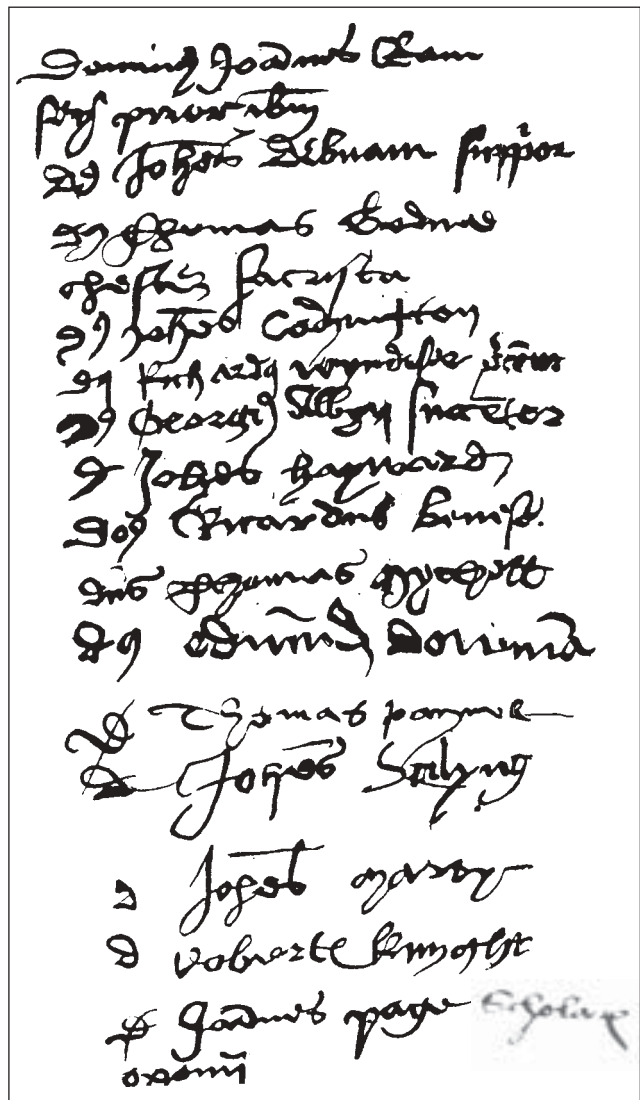
Hubert de Burgh [see previous Bulletin] was of Norman/Irish descent and had a family surname, being the son of Sir Reyner de Burgh of North Tuddenham, Norfolk. There is no connection therefore with the place-name of Burgh in Surrey, which is recorded in the Domesday survey as *Berge*.<sup>2</sup> This would have been derived from *beorg*, meaning 'barrow' of which several are known in the area.

In 1215 many barons opposed King John, including William de Mowbray, who lost his estates in England including Banstead. Hubert de Burgh used his influence for Mowbray to recover them, and as a reward was given the manor of Banstead in 1217. He eventually retired there in 1234 and died there in 1243. There is a possibility that the spelling of the place-name 'Burgh' in Surrey may have changed because of the statesman, as this spelling first appeared in 1237.

Walter de Merton, when employed by the priors of Merton, took the name of his birthplace - de Basing,<sup>3</sup> but in 1236, when appointed attorney to Prior Henry Basing he took the name of Merton because of his close association with the priory, and no doubt to avoid confusion with the prior's name. He founded Merton College in 1264 as a corporate body under a warden - the first in the country.

William Longe, who had a surname, decided to be known as William of Wykeham, as he was born at Wickham, Hants. As bishop of Winchester he assisted in setting up the Good Parliament of 1373, which passed laws on the regulation of trade and the protection of subjects against injustice. The feudal baronage, led by John of Gaunt (he was born at Ghent), was jealous of the riches of the church and despised bishops who acted as statesmen. On the dissolution of Parliament in July 1376, John of Gaunt reversed all measures, and William of Wykeham was removed with other prelates. He was accused of embezzlement and misgovernment and deprived of his income. He was also forbidden to come within 20 miles of the royal court. He had to leave his palace at Southwark in December 1376, and lodged at Merton priory.

When it was realised that Merton was only eight miles from Westminster, William moved to Newark priory, and finally to Waverley abbey. On the accession of Richard II in June 1377, William was pardoned, and obtained a papal bull for the endowment of a new college at Winchester in 1378. In the following year he issued a charter of foundation for New College, Oxford.



Signatures to the Surrender of Merton Priory  
16 April 1338

Another resident with a respected surname was Thomas, son of John Munday who became sheriff of London in 1514 and Lord Mayor in 1522. When Thomas professed as a canon of Merton priory about 1502,<sup>4</sup> he chose the name Wandsworth, presumably his birthplace. He spent some years in the 1520s at the Inns of Court in London in order to gain legal qualifications and returned to the priory, where he became cellarer,<sup>5</sup> and was elected prior of Bodmin in 1534. At Bodmin he was known as Thomas Munday.

By the beginning of the 16th century it became the custom to use an alias to avoid confusion with similar place-names. Following the dissolution of the monasteries, the government had to compile lists of thousands of monks and canons in order to settle the pension which was to be paid to each. The lists can be found in the Letters and Papers - Foreign and Domestic of Henry VIII (which were printed between 1862 and 1910).

At Forde Abbey, Devon (now Dorset) the following place-names appear, with chosen aliases:-

Thomas Charde	Chard, Somerset	abbot	d.1541	Tybbes
William Sherneborne	Sherborne, Dorset			Rede
Richard Exmester	Exminster, Devon			Were
John Brydgewater	Bridgwater, Somerset			Stone
Robert Ylmester	Ilminster, Somerset			Roose
Ellys Olescum	Awliscombe, Devon			Potter
Thomas Stafforde	Stafford, Staffs			Bate
William Wynsor	Windsor, Berks			Hyde
William Denyngton	Dennington, Suffolk			Wylshire
Richard Kingsbury	Kingsbury Episcopi, Somerset			Sherman

At Southwark, Surrey:-

Bartholomew Linstead	Lunsted, Kent	prior	d.>1556	Fowle
Thomas London	London			Hendon
Stephen London	London			Byssater

At Bermondsey, Surrey:-

Robert Warton	Warton, ?Lancs	abbot <sup>6</sup>	d.1557	Purefoy, Parfew
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At Tandridge, Surrey:-

John Lyngfeld	Lingfield, Surrey	prior		Huntley
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At Merton, Surrey (complete list of canons at Dissolution):-

John Ramsey	Ramsay, ?Essex	prior	d.1558	Bowlle
John Debnam	-	sub-prior	d.c1558	-
Thomas Godme'chester	Godmanchester, Cambs	refectory/sacristan		Colson
John Codyngton	Cuddington, Surrey	sacristan	d.1569	Mansell or Mantill
Richard Wyndesore	Windsor, Berks	precentor		Todde
George Albyn	St Albans, Herts	succentor	d.1557	Curson
John Hayward	-	-		-
Richard Benese	-		d.1546	-
Thomas Mychell	-	-		-
Edmund Downam	Downham, Cambs	precentor	d.1568	Honybee
Thomas Paynell	-		d.1563/4	-
John Salyng	Selling, Kent		d.1570	Greenwood
John Martyn	Merton, Surrey			Meryvale
Robert Knycht	-		d.?1575	-
John Page	-	scholar		

#### Notes:

1. He chose Robert the sub-prior, who was probably a fellow-student at Merton, for he later wrote a biography of Thomas and clearly had knowledge of his early days. He described Becket as a bright and intelligent pupil, but one who was lazy and preferred games to study.
2. John Morris *Domesday Book: Surrey* 1975 5.24
3. The Merton Cartulary records him as witness in 1230/1 - "Walter the clerk of Basing" (fol. cxvii 95v).
4. A.Heales *The Records of Merton Priory* Oxford 1898 pp.311-2
5. Surrey Wills No.105 2 Sept.1533, Thomas as witness
6. Elected bishop of St Asaph in 1536, but retained abbacy until the Dissolution.

**LIONEL GREEN must have been watching television. He calls his article on one of today's essential services**

## IT'S GOOD TO TALK

“Mr Watson, come here, I want you.” These words are thought to have heralded the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell in 1875. But the telephone is much older than this. The name derives from the Greek - *tele* (far) and *phone* (sound), and was used in the late 17th century to describe the string telephone which we made in our youth. In the mid-19th century a German professor Philip Reis created a rudimentary electric telephone. He covered a hollowed-out beer barrel bung with sausage skin to make a diaphragm, to which was attached a strip of platinum to provide a make-and-break electrical circuit. A knitting needle attached to a violin acted as a sound box. The bung contraption, receiving the sound, marked the beginning of the electric telephone. Bell discovered that if two membrane receivers were connected electrically, a sound wave would cause the first to vibrate and induce a voltage in an electromagnetic coil that would cause the second receiver to vibrate in a similar way. This was the system used by Bell in 1865, which he patented in America in 1876.

The first telephone exchange in London was set up in 1879 at Coleman Street, and in the following year the United Telephone Company was formed. At this time telephones were used mainly for business, and thus only available during business hours. These were 9.0 am to 7.0 pm Monday to Friday, and 9.0 am to 5.0 pm on Saturday. An exception was made at Westminster, which remained open for 24 hours for the benefit of MPs. The first London subscribers to a telephone system were issued with numbers alone, but in 1895 the number was prefixed with the name of the exchange controlling that area. The Bank of England did not find it necessary to install a telephone until 1902.



What is now the borough of Merton was served by two exchanges - at Wimbledon and Mitcham - but both were housed at the post office in Compton Road, Wimbledon, which opened on 1 May 1908.<sup>1</sup> By 1916 there 1,418 subscribers.

Experiments with an automatic exchange began as early as 1912, at Epsom. “Automatic” meant that no operator was spoken to. Subscribers now had four numbers, so that numbering commenced at 1000. Tones advised if the number ‘phoned was available, engaged or unobtainable. In London the first three letters of the exchange were used, and the telephone dial incorporated letters with numbers. Thus a new verb was introduced into the language ‘to dial’.

On 11th September 1929 the Mitcham exchange was transferred to a new building at 22 The Parade, Mitcham, and converted to automatic working.

In the 1930s new lines were installed at a rate of 1000 lines each week in London, with a new exchange opened every few months. By 1932 there were 226 exchanges in London, of which 45 were automatic, and in that year 27 exchanges were built in new buildings, all designed by the Office of Works architects.<sup>2</sup> One of these was opened at 203 Kingston Road on the Merton/Wimbledon boundary, and came into operation at 1.30pm on Wednesday 14 September 1932, when 1950 subscribers were switched from Wimbledon to Merton. It was built with a capacity of 10,000 lines.<sup>3</sup> The suggestion that the new automatic exchange should be named Merton Abbey was not accepted, nor any other local name. No doubt the one chosen, LIBerty, derived from the Liberty works at Merton Abbey, whose telephone number became LIBerty 2444.

The General Post Office (GPO) now had to find pronounceable names that would fit into the new telephone system. Most main-line London railway stations fitted in well: VICtoria, PADddington, WATerloo and EUSton. AMBassador in west London served many of the embassies. ABBey was a natural for Westminster, although ABBey 1234 was allocated to London Transport Enquiries. HEADquarters was reserved for the GPO.



The amalgamation of letters with numbers on the dial caused some problems. Dialling SUTton transmitted the same signal as PUTney, so Sutton was given two new exchanges - VIGilant and FAIrlands. STReatham was equivalent to PURley, so the latter became UPLands, because the exchange was on Purley Downs.

Also accommodated at the Merton (LIBerty) exchange was the auto/manual switchboard for DERwent exchange, from 15 January 1936, and that of MALden from 26 July 1939. A new exchange was planned for Wimbledon, and a site purchased in Homefield Road in August 1936.

After World War II a new unit was added to the LIBerty exchange on 15 March 1954, and given the name CHerrywood. The BT archives contain a note: "The choice of name is arbitrary, being convenient to the Director system. No name of local significance being suitable". But the name refers to ancient woodland on the Merton/Morden boundary.

In 1964 an exchange called FOUntains was added to STReatham, and on 32 January 1965 DERwent was transferred to VIGilant (Sutton) and MALden to KINGston.

The list of usable names was finite, and All Figure Numbering (AFN) took place between March 1966 and October 1967, as all London exchange names were converted to three-figure numbers. London's best remembered number, WHItehall 1212 for Scotland Yard, was no more! LIBerty became 542, CHerrywood 540, MITcham 648, with an additional 640 from 6 March 1967. The auto/manual exchanges at LIBerty and MITcham were transferred to Balham on 9 December 1967. Thus all subscribers reverted to the arrangements before 1895, with numbers only.

More recently, London numbers have been prefixed with an additional 01, then 071 and 081, followed by 0171 and 0181. In April 2000 this was changed again, to (020) 7 and (020) 8.

1. Except where other sources are given, all dates are taken, with grateful thanks, from BT Archives, 268-70 High Holborn.
2. *The Times* 2 September 1932 p.10
3. *The Times* 14 September 1932 p.12

### WE ARE SORRY ...

We hope we shall not need to run a regular column of corrections, as several of the broadsheet papers now do, but there are a few matters to put straight.

Firstly, the by-line of the fine account of the life and career of Anne Hallam in Bulletin No.134 disappeared between one computer and another. It was by **Ray Ninnis**, to whom many apologies. It was not Ray who drew attention to this omission, though he would like readers to note that the *whole* inscription on her Mitcham tomb is in a combination of Roman and italic lettering, and not as he described.

Arthur made an unauthorised appearance in Eric Montague's article on the Vikings in Surrey. It should have course have been Alfred who was Aethelred's brother in the second paragraph; and in the second line of the same passage the date should be 870.

Please amend your Bulletins accordingly.

## JOHN PILE, stimulated by Eric Montague's piece in the last Bulletin, has responded with his thoughts on SAXON MERTON

Without re-opening the debate about the identity of *Merantun* (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle *sub anno* 755 [757]) and *Meretun* [*Mæredun*] (ASC *sub anno* 871 [870]), it should be pointed out, before another myth becomes too deeply rooted in Merton's folklore, that any association of the probable Saxon graves described by J. Edwards in his *Companion from London to Brighthelmston* (1801)<sup>1</sup> with the 'Battle of Meretun' must be firmly rejected on the grounds that spears, swords, "and other *exuviae* of a battle" are found almost exclusively in pagan graves. The practice of burying weapons with the dead had died out completely within half a century of the conversion of the *Suthrige* to Christianity around 650 AD, and by the 9th century the Church had established complete control over the burial of the dead and its rites.<sup>2</sup>

Although the suggestion that these or any other graves containing weapons could be connected with the Battle of Meretun must be dismissed, the discovery of the graves has important implications for the Saxon settlement of Merton. That the graves recorded by Edwards were Saxon cannot be doubted, as the Saxons were the only people known to have buried weapons with their dead males, not as relics of battle, but as indicators of social status. Burials were usually grouped in cemeteries which lay close to the settlements they served. Pagan burials "to the west of the Wandle" therefore suggest a nearby settlement of the period 5th to 7th century, probably contemporary with the settlement of 50-100 people implied by the size of the cemetery at Morden Road, Mitcham.<sup>3</sup>

The Merton burials were discovered in the late 18th century, and Edwards' reference is tantalizingly vague as to the exact site. W.H. Chamberlain records further burials of Saxon date in Merton and offers a precise location for their discovery: "In the year 1882 Mr. Harding, while digging in the garden of the rear of these cottages, unearthed some ancient spearheads, Saxon coins, and what appeared to be human remains. These he found at a depth of four feet. Dr Bates acquired the spearheads and the author the coins. It is believed that a battle was fought near here between the Saxons and the Danes"<sup>4</sup> The cottages in question are the row of six, now numbered 15-25 in Church Path, then numbers 1-6 Church Row, but numbered sometimes west-east and sometimes east-west. According to *Trim's Wimbledon & Merton Directory* for 1881 Mr C. Harding was at No.2. The 1881 census lists seven families in the six cottages, and places Charles Harding, 28-year-old carpenter and joiner at No.6. Both numbers are likely to refer to the present No.17. Although Chamberlain may have been mistaken about their connection with a battle, there can be little doubt that the burials were Saxon. What is particularly interesting is the close proximity of the graves to the parish church of St Mary, which is reputed to have been built by Gilbert the Knight in 1114 to replace an earlier one - no doubt of Saxon date - recorded in Domesday Book (1086).<sup>5</sup>

John Morris, in his gazetteer of Anglo-Saxon Surrey, records a single find of a late 5th or early 6th century cast bronze saucer brooch from Merton, but he does not mention any of the burials.<sup>6</sup> The exact find-spot of the brooch, which is now in the British Museum, is not stated, except that it was "on Stane Street, one mile north-west of Mitcham and 5 miles north-west of Croydon" and lay within the grid square TQ 25 69. If this location is accurate, it would place the find-spot in the north-west corner of Morden Hall Park, as this is the only place where the line of Stane Street intersects this grid square.<sup>7</sup> Morris suggests that the brooch may be a stray find from the Mitcham cemetery, but he offers no reason for this belief. The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) Reference Number 030669 states erroneously that the grid square TQ 25 69 lies "nowhere near" Stane Street, and, by implication, throws even more uncertainty on the provenance of the brooch than may be justified.

The evidence, if it is to be relied on, suggests a pagan Saxon origin for settlement around St Mary's church, dating from the 7th century at the latest. This close proximity of pagan burials to a later Saxon church is paralleled in several other parishes in north-east Surrey. In Mitcham, a large and extensive cemetery of 5th- and 6th-century date lay about 500m to the south of the parish church, or considerably closer, if a bronze bowl found c.1867 on the site of Vicarage Gardens was a grave-good.<sup>8</sup> At Beddington a Saxon cemetery was situated about 500m north-east of the site of the parish church, and at Croydon, a Saxon cemetery has been found 600m south-east of the parish church. These local examples of apparent continuity of occupation from pagan Saxon to medieval times run counter to the current received wisdom that settlement nucleation from early Saxon dispersed farmsteads occurred around 900, perhaps for greater security during a period of Danish raids, eg Della Hooke (1998).<sup>9</sup> It may be, however, that the examples cited happen to be the focal settlements on which the late Saxon nucleation was directed. It has also been suggested that the large cemeteries may have served a dispersed population,<sup>10</sup> but this model does not accommodate those cases where more than one cemetery has been found in close proximity. At Coulsdon, for example, cemeteries at Farthing Down and Cane Hill are less than 1km apart and face each other across a dry valley, both being within the same medieval parish.

Eric Montague refers to Bishop Denewulf's well-known letter to King Edward of c.900<sup>11</sup> concerning the bishop's estate at Beddington, which, he says, had been "recently stripped bare by heathen men". This letter has been published in a convenient translation by Dorothy Whitelock.<sup>12</sup> Incidentally, Beddington, Surrey, is occasionally confused with Bedhampton, Hampshire (also a Winchester manor), and a recently published guide-book to Bedhampton parish church offers bishop Denewulf's letter as evidence for Danish raids along the Hampshire coast, an assertion that has been repeated uncritically in successive guide-books for at least a century!

It should not be assumed that because someone named Swein is recorded in Domesday Book he is necessarily Danish or of Danish parentage despite the fact that the name is indisputably of Scandinavian origin. The Old Norse word *sveinn* 'boy', 'servant', was adopted into the Old English language at an early stage and has survived in the compounds 'boatswain' and 'coxswain' to the present day, so that Robert le Sweyn, recorded in a Westminster Abbey document of 1296, is more likely to have been an English servant or swineherd than a Danish settler. In his study of the personal names in the Winton Domesday (c.1110 and 1148), Olof von Feilitzen found that out of a total of 318 different personal names listed in 1148 7.3% were of Scandinavian origin, but many of these were common in both pre- and post-Conquest Normandy, and those found in Winchester in the 12th century may well have come from this source.<sup>13</sup> Also, it was the prestige of certain Continental names that often led fathers to give them to their children regardless of their personal origins. It should be remembered that there were five high-profile and aristocratic Sweins active in England during the 11th century who would have been admirable models for name-giving.<sup>14</sup>

The presence in the Merton area of place-names of Scandinavian origin requires a different explanation. Biggin in Mitcham, first recorded in a documentary source of 1301, and "landes called Biggyngge" in Croydon, recorded in 1493, are late and fall within the Middle English period of language development. The word *bigging* 'a building' was ultimately derived from Old Norse *byggja* 'to build',<sup>15</sup> and the occurrence of Biggin in Mitcham and Croydon, "unusually far south" as they may be, need occasion no surprise as, by the time it is found in Surrey, it was a well-established word in the standard Middle English vocabulary.<sup>16</sup>

The fact is that neither the personal name nor the place-name evidence supports the idea that there was any appreciable Scandinavian presence in north-east Surrey beyond the possibility that a few isolated individuals or families had settled here. As C.W.Phillips has pointed out: "place-names showing Scandinavian influence diminish progressively in the area between the borders of Norfolk and Suffolk south-westwards towards London, but there is good evidence of Scandinavian custom here, and Domesday Book shows that many of the leading men in this area were of Scandinavian origin in 1086".<sup>17</sup> However, it should be added that the possession of an estate in Domesday Book does not imply residence, particularly among those of higher social standing.

If the search for evidence of Scandinavian presence is widened to include archaeological sites and artifacts, account must be taken, as Eric Montague rightly says, of the half-dozen or so finds - particularly swords - of the Viking period from the Thames and its tributaries from Staines to the River Lea. Such finds are generally interpreted as votive offerings, although it is possible that they originally accompanied a late survival of a form of water-burial.<sup>18</sup> But the question remains as to whether the weapons were deposited by Scandinavians or by Saxons who may have acquired them on the battlefield. The Viking sword found in an old channel of the Thames at Chertsey in 1981, and mentioned by Eric Montague in his article, is a good example of this class of find.<sup>19</sup> Perhaps, as with the grave-goods found with Saxon burials, these Viking Age finds should be related to nearby settlements rather than to battles or river-crossings, but the question arises as to why comparable material is rarely found on land-based sites in this area.

The problem of Scandinavian settlement in north-east Surrey clearly requires further consideration, and useful progress might well be made by correlating the various categories of the rather scanty evidence already available, although it is felt that despite the new insights this may provide, it is unlikely that the current impression of minimal Scandinavian influence will require much revision. Perhaps any traces of pre-Alfredian Scandinavian settlement that may have existed south of the Thames disappeared when the area was saturated with a predominantly Saxon culture. Neither place-names nor distinctive archaeological evidence has survived in any significant quantity, but this is not surprising, given that in the Danelaw itself "the various excavations in deserted medieval village sites have not yet been successful in showing a clearly Scandinavian phase in any site examined".<sup>20</sup> It is possible that our local Scandinavians are equally archaeologically invisible.

1. Quoted By E.N.Montague 'The Impact of Scandinavian Raids ...' *Merton Historical Society Bulletin* 134 (June 2000) pp.13-15

2. D.Brown *Anglo-Saxon England* (1978) p.29

3. H.F.Bidder and J.Morris 'The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Mitcham' *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 56 (1959) p.128

4. W.H.Chamberlain *Reminiscences of Old Merton* (1925) p.38

5. P.Hopkins' report 'Eighth Evelyn Jowett Memorial Lecture - 21st October 1998: History of St Mary's Church, Merton, by Graham Hawkes' *Merton Historical Society Bulletin* 128 (Dec 1998) pp.12-13

6. J.Morris 'Anglo-Saxon Surrey' *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 56 (1959) p.143
7. C.E.(‘Bill’) Sole ‘Stane Street in Greater London’ *Merton Historical Society Bulletin* 132 (Dec 1999) p.11. The accompanying map shows this very clearly.
8. Bidder and Morris *op.cit.* p.75
9. D.Hooke *The Landscape of Anglo-Saxon England* (1998) ch.6
10. E.N.Montague *The Archaeology of Mitcham* (1992) p.29
11. P.H.Sawyer *Anglo-Saxon Charters* (1968) No.1444
12. D.Whitelock *English Historical Documents* 1 (1955) 501, Doc.No.101. Later editions of *EHD* omit this document.
13. O.v.Feilitzen ‘The personal names and bynames of the Winton Domesday’ M.Biddle (ed.) *Winchester in the Middle Ages* (1976) pp.143-229
14. F.M.Stenton *Anglo-Saxon England* 3rd edition (1971) index
15. J.E.B.Gover *et al. The Place-Names of Surrey* (1934) pp.51-52; A.H.Smith *English Place-Name Elements* pt.1 (1956) p.35
16. J.A.Simpson and E.S.C.Weiner *The Oxford English Dictionary* 2nd edition (1989)
17. C.W.Phillips, Ordnance Survey Map *Britain before the Norman Conquest* (1973) pp.11-12
18. S.Denison ‘Burial in water “normal rite” for 1,000 years’ *British Archaeology* 53 (June 2000) p.4: R.Poulton ‘Saxon Surrey’ *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540* ed. J.and D.G.Bird (1987) p.201
19. K.East *et al.* ‘A Viking sword found at Chertsey’ *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 76 (1985) pp.1-9
20. Phillips *op cit.* p.10

## **PETER HOPKINS has been reading about a prominent Anglo-Norman family with links with Mitcham:- THE MAUDUIT LORDS OF MITCHAM**

When Merton Priory was dissolved in 1538, it held several estates in Mitcham, the largest being the manor of Biggin and Tamworth. As C A F Meekings has pointed out, “The circumstances whereby Merton priory obtained its manor at Mitcham are not known but it would seem to have been by gift from the Mauduits, a baronial family the head of whose honor was at Hanslope, co. Bucks.”<sup>1</sup>

I recently came across a reference to two studies of the Mauduit family and their lands by Emma Mason,<sup>2</sup> which I obtained through the Inter-Library Loans system. In 1086 the first William Mauduit was a tenant-in-chief in Hampshire, and also held land in Winchester, the capital of the Anglo-Norman realm, and in Rouen, the capital of Normandy, as well as half a fee at Weston in Berkshire held from Abingdon Abbey. He held one of the chamberlainships of the exchequer, an important position at the centre of the royal bureaucracy. His eldest son, Robert I, succeeded him as chamberlain, but died with Henry I’s heir and other notables of the kingdom when the White Ship sank in 1120. His daughter’s husband inherited his chamberlainship, but his younger brother, William II, was also appointed a chamberlain. William II obtained the barony of Hanslope in Buckinghamshire following his marriage to the daughter of Michael of Hanslope, another member of Henry I’s administration, and with it lands in Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, later adding lands in Rutland. The family continued to prosper, his son, William III (chamberlain c.1158-1194), marrying a daughter of the earl of Huntingdon and Northampton, Simon II de Luz, and thereby gaining lands in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. However, when his wife’s brother died, William did not inherit the earldom, nor did he retain these lands. During the reign of Henry II, Westminster replaced Winchester as the hub of the English financial administration, and William III began to buy properties around the Abbey. His son, Robert II (chamberlain 1194-1222), continued to buy properties in Westminster, and also in Mitcham and South Streatham.

Robert’s son, William IV (chamberlain 1222-1257), inherited lands in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire following the death of his maternal grandfather in 1223. He had also received the manor of Walton in Warwickshire on his marriage to Alice, daughter of the late earl of Warwick, Waleran of Newburgh, shortly after her father’s death in 1203/4. Walton was some distance from his other lands, so he granted it to a colleague, Simon de Walton, who later became a royal justice and ultimately Bishop of Norwich. However, the Newburgh marriage did prove profitable in the long run, as in 1263 William and Alice’s son, William V (chamberlain 1257-1268), inherited the earldom of Warwick. William V died in 1268 and, as he left no children, the earldom passed to his nephew, William de Beauchamp IV, in whose family it remained until 1449.

A description of the royal household at the death of Henry I in 1135 can be found in the *Constitutio Domus Regis*, of which two copies survive. It lists all the members of the royal household, ranging from officers of the first rank to scullions. It records their daily pay, their allowance of bread and wine, and of candles. William Mauduit II, the chamberlain in charge of the *camera curie* or privy purse department, received 14 pence a day, and always took his meals in the household. He received one thick candle and 12 pieces of candle, and had two or three sumpter horses with their allowances.<sup>3</sup>



*Arms of William Mauduit Earl of Warwick, from John Speed's map of 'The Counti of Warwick' (1630). The two bars are red on a silver background*



Like William II, both William III and Robert II performed their duties in person, but by the time of William IV much of the routine work was carried out by his knights and clerks. William V paid his senior clerk in permanent residence at the Exchequer at least £5 a year.<sup>4</sup> Although the family did not enjoy great landed wealth before 1263, its members were in constant touch with men of influence at the exchequer and among the royal justices.<sup>5</sup>

William III was personally responsible for the transport of bullion across England and to the Continent. In addition to supervising treasure-convoys, he was authorised to make payments to a wide variety of royal servants and charities. He sat in on the audits of the exchequer, usually, but not necessarily, at Westminster. He also shared important legal functions with other barons of the exchequer, attending councils, and acting as an itinerant justice. William III served as sheriff of Rutland from 1179-1188 and again in 1190. He also succeeded his father as castellan of Rockingham, just over the Northamptonshire border, an office that he held for life. His younger brothers also made their way in the service of Henry II, Robert supervising building operations at the royal palace of Clarendon in Wiltshire from 1176-1187. He was castellan of Salisbury from 1177-8 and sheriff of Wiltshire between 1179 and 1187.<sup>6</sup>

The chamberlains were always on the move, and made full use of their various properties. Robert II's mansion-house by Longditch in Westminster, where he lived when the exchequer was in session, included a private chapel, under licence from the abbot of Westminster, William Postard (1195-1200).<sup>7</sup>

Robert Mauduit II also acquired a half-virgate and a moiety of a tenement in South Streatham from Ralf son of Alward,<sup>8</sup> and various lands and tenements in Mitcham which the compiler of the Beauchamp Cartulary did not consider worth recording in detail. He did, however, record that Robert also received licence from the Prior of Southwark, who held the church of Mitcham, to have a chapel in his *curia* or mansion house at Mitcham,<sup>9</sup> suggesting that Robert and his family were often resident at Mitcham in the opening years of the 13th century. In 1201/1202 Robert Mauduit and Ernald de Mecham sold to Gilbert de Bovenay<sup>10</sup> a freehold property in Mitcham which Ernald had obtained from Gilbert de Waleton and John his brother in 1199.<sup>11</sup> The involvement of Robert suggests that the Waletons had held the property from him. Over the next 30 years we come across several other members of the Walton family holding their property in Mitcham from the Mauduit overlords.<sup>12</sup>

In 1206/7, Robert gained yet another property in Mitcham, when William, son of Robert Jud, parker of Hanslope in Buckinghamshire, granted him the tenement in Mitcham which he had inherited from William Bataille.<sup>13</sup> (Bataille had been Robert's attorney in Michaelmas 1206 in a suit against Ernald's widow, Felice.<sup>14</sup> The Mauduits had held the barony of Hanslope since c.1131.)

However, by 1218, Robert no longer needed his Mitcham properties. On 4th March 1218 he granted all his lands and tenements in Mitcham, described elsewhere as 3 carucates,<sup>15</sup> to a tenant, William del Teil for an annual quit-rent of 29s 9d.<sup>16</sup> The grant was confirmed by his son William IV.<sup>17</sup> In 1225 William de Walton brought an assize of novel disseisin against William del Teil, but it was disallowed when the charter of 1218 was presented.<sup>18</sup> (William de Walton also held a freehold estate in Lower Morden, which his son gave to Merton Priory.)

William del Teil quitclaimed the land to Robert's son William IV (1222-1257),<sup>19</sup> and it seems likely that this was the estate granted to Merton Priory. Prior Giles (1222-1231) admitted that he and his heirs owed William IV Mauduit and his heirs 29s 9d for the service due for the lands held of him at Mitcham, as well as the scutage on a twelfth of a knight's fee, for which they paid 6d or a pair of gilt spurs at Easter. Each new prior was also to pay the Mauduits as relief a pair of spurs and the usual relief for a twelfth of a fee.<sup>20</sup>

This grant was probably early in Giles's priorship, as a Merton Priory rent-roll<sup>21</sup> from the 1220s includes a payment of 5s. at Michaelmas from William de Walton for his lands at Mitcham. On 8th April 1230 Roger de Waletot (ie Walton) and Alice his wife brought an action of mort d'ancestor against the prior for 44 acres in Mitcham.<sup>22</sup> Giles resigned as prior in 1231, becoming a Cistercian, and his successor, Henry de Basinges, took up the case, calling William de Mauduit to warrent for the land, now described as 46½ acres. Roger and Alice agreed to release their rights on payment to them by William Mauduit of 9 marks.<sup>23</sup>

In 1235 the prior again called William Mauduit to warrent for property described as 80 acres land and 8 acres meadow in Mitcham in an assize of mort d'ancestor brought against them by Hubert, nephew of the late Matthew de Walton.<sup>24</sup> The Waltons still held land in Mitcham in 1247/8 when Amisius de Wauton granted a carucate of land there to Robert, prior of Merton.<sup>25</sup>

The impression is that the Waltons were a particularly litigious family, but this was probably not the case. At the time the only way that interest in land could be conveyed or confirmed was by going through a lengthy judicial process. It may have been that the Waltons were the sitting tenants of the property that the Mauduits had granted to Merton Priory, and needed to have their position clarified in each generation in this way.

The Mauduit properties passed to the Beauchamp earls of Warwick, and yet no reference to them can be found among the Merton Priory records. By 1314/15 the priory was deemed to hold its manor of Mitcham of the honour of Gloucester as a quarter of a knight's fee, and this was the case throughout the 14th century.

However, there is a further link with Mitcham. William Mauduit III's fellow chamberlain was Henry Fitz Gerold, who was succeeded by his brother, Warin. Warin's daughter and heir to the chamberlainship, Margaret, married Baldwin de Reviere or Redvers, Earl of Devon and Wight, and lord of the manor of Vauxhall which included land in Mitcham. Merton Priory held a moiety of Phipps Mill from this manor.

## Notes

- 1 CAF Meekings *The 1235 Surrey Eyre* (Surrey Record Society, 1983) Vol. II, p.481, note 188.
- 2 Emma Mason ed. *Beauchamp Cartulary* (Pipe Roll Society NS 43 1971-72, 1980); Emma Mason 'The Mauduits and their Chamberlainship of the Exchequer' in *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research* Vol. XLIX No. 119 (May 1976)
- 3 Geoffrey H White 'The Household of the Norman Kings' in *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 4th series vol. XXX (1948) pp.127-156.
- 4 Emma Mason (ed) *Beauchamp Cartulary* p.liij.
- 5 Emma Mason 'The Mauduits and their Chamberlainship of the Exchequer' p.2.
- 6 Emma Mason 'The Mauduits and their Chamberlainship of the Exchequer' pp.4-7.
- 7 Emma Mason 'The Mauduits and their Chamberlainship of the Exchequer' App. V.
- 8 Emma Mason (ed) *Beauchamp Cartulary* 208.
- 9 Emma Mason (ed) *Beauchamp Cartulary* 205.
- 10 *Surrey Fines* (Surrey Archaeological Society, 1894) p.4; PRO CP 25(1)/225/2, no. 14.
- 11 *Surrey Fines* (1894) p.5; PRO CP 25 (1), 225/2, no. 26.
- 12 c.f. CAF Meekings *The 1235 Surrey Eyre* Vol. II, p.482, note 188.
- 13 Emma Mason (ed) *Beauchamp Cartulary* 204.
- 14 *Curia Regis Rolls* iv, 214 quoted by Emma Mason (ed) *Beauchamp Cartulary* p.120 note.
- 15 CAF Meekings *The 1235 Surrey Eyre* Vol. II, p.481, note 188, quoting PRO CP 25(1)/225/4, no. 8
- 16 Emma Mason (ed) *Beauchamp Cartulary* 206.
- 17 Emma Mason (ed) *Beauchamp Cartulary* 207.
- 18 CAF Meekings *The 1235 Surrey Eyre* Vol. II, p.481, note 188, quoting PRO JUST 1/863, m.3.
- 19 Emma Mason (ed) *Beauchamp Cartulary* 247.
- 20 CAF Meekings *The 1235 Surrey Eyre* Vol. II, p.481, note 188; quoting Merton Cartulary BL Cotton MS Cleopatra C vii, f. cxvj. v, Cart. 223, which Heales *The Records of Merton Priory* (1898) p.117 misdates 1249-63 and wrongly identifies as Hitcham in Buckinghamshire!
- 21 Merton Cartulary BL Cotton MS Cleopatra C vii, f. cxxv v, Cart. 281 which Heales (*op cit p.111 & App. LXVI\**) misdates to c.1242; see C A F Meekings & P Shearman *Fitznells Cartulary* (Surrey Record Society 1968) p.lii & note 7 on p.clviii.
- 22 Heales *op cit* p.91 quoting Close Rolls 14 Hen III pt. I, m.12;
- 23 Heales *op cit* p.97; C A F Meekings *The 1235 Surrey Eyre* Vol. II, p.481, note 188, quoting PRO C.R.R. XIV no.1728; PRO CP 25(1)/225/8 no.16.
- 24 C A F Meekings *The 1235 Surrey Eyre* Vol. II, p.325 (188), p.349 (268) & notes pp.481-2, 496.
- 25 *VCH Surrey* iv, p.231, quoting Feet of Fines Surrey 32 Hen III no.52.

## IN BRIEF

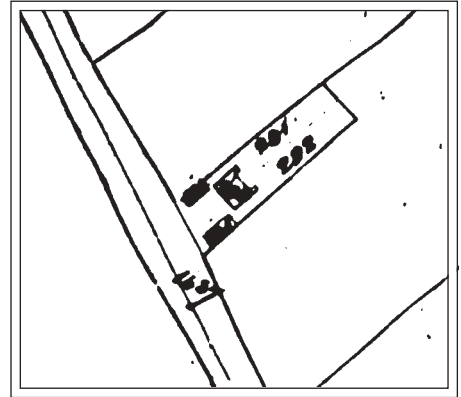
- ◆ Excavation by MoLAS (Museum of London Archaeological service) at the **Merton Priory gatehouse site** (ex-Wimbledon Palais) has revealed fragments of an arch similar to that now at St Mary, Merton, as well as a 13th-century tile kiln - one of the earliest yet found in Surrey. Boundary ditches may be Roman or Saxon.
- ◆ **High Street Londinium**, a major exhibition at the Museum of London until 7 January 2001, transports the visitor back to the via decumana, or main shopping street, of Londinium in 100 AD. Exhibits are based on the latest archaeological finds.
- ◆ **Wimbledon - a Surrey Village in Maps** has been written by Richard Milward and Cyril Maidment (both also members of Merton Historical Society). Using maps from eight different periods, computer enhanced and adjusted for direct comparison, as well as graphs, tables, scene-setting text, and a good index, this is a most effective approach to local history. Highly recommended. £5.95 from Wimbledon Society Museum.
- ◆ A letter in the August edition of *Saga* magazine refers to the use of **Kango electric hammers** in minesweepers during World War II. Kango were in Lombard Road, then in Windsor Avenue, Merton. Do any readers have memories of/information about Kango? Do let us know.
- ◆ 'Out-of-town' members may not know that **Tramlink** finally began service from Wimbledon to Croydon and beyond at noon on 30 May, and is proving very popular.
- ◆ In a *Local Heroes* programme devoted to Yorkshire and shown on 30 May, Adam Hart-Davis celebrated the career of biologist **William Bateson** (coiner of the word 'genetics'), who was born in Whitby. Professor Bateson was the first director of the John Innes Horticultural Institution, in Merton Park.
- ◆ The William Morris Society has published a short article by your editor on **William De Morgan at 'Merton Abbey'** in its Journal Vol XIII No.4 Spring 2000.
- ◆ Peter Hopkins' exhibition on the history of the **West Barnes and Cannon Hill** area, originally produced for a church in Motspur Park, will be at West Barnes Library (8942 2635) from 4th September. The accompanying booklet, for church funds, is on sale at £2, and will be available at MHS meetings or direct from Peter.

## LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

**Friday 14 July 2000:** Peter Hopkins in the chair; five members present and one other sent information.

- ◆ **Stephen Turner** had sent the following extract from the first Mitcham Tithe Survey of 1838 relating to 70 Christchurch Road, the 19th-century weatherboarded cottage dismantled and rebuilt in replica in 1979-80 [see Bulletin No.134 page 12]. The map is from the 1846 Tithe Apportionment Survey.

No	Proprietor	Occupier	Description	a	r	p
291	James Moore	John Pool	Garden	}		
292	James Moore	John Willett	Garden	}		
293	James Moore	George Anderson	Printing Shop	}	0	1
294	James Moore	John Pool	Cottage	}		
295	James Moore	John Willett	Cottage	}		



- ◆ **Bill Rudd** spoke of the Merton Borough Show and Festival in the late 1960s and 1970s. In 1969 the Society had an illuminated stand at the show, which was quite an attraction, and we enrolled 12 new members. Bill still has the plans for this stand, the programme of events, and the local newspaper, which did a front-page spread of the show. This was the occasion on which the photograph discussed at the last workshop was taken [see Bulletin No.134 page 12].
- ◆ **Judith Goodman** told us of the mysterious Mr Dugate who came from a wealthy Norfolk family and travelled extensively, especially in the Middle East. In 1813 he was aboard HMS Hannibal, where he wrote to his friend the publisher John Murray requesting him to despatch some writings by Lord Byron to his (Dugate's) friend, Mrs Roberts of Mitcham, Surrey. An Abraham Dugate had attended the Revd. Mr Robert's Mitcham academy about ten years earlier. Only on the morning of the workshop did Judith receive from Virginia Murray, the archivist at Murray's, two photostat letters written by a Dugate, but with two very different handwritings and signatures. Judith suggested (tongue in cheek) that Mr Dugate may have been doing a Nelson! He is an elusive Mr Dugate, as he is not in the DNB or lesser publications.

Judith also had more to say about local artist Harry Bush, of Queensland Avenue, Merton [see Bulletin No.134 page 12]. The majority of his paintings were of views from the windows of his home. One sold at Christie's a few years ago for £23,000. Mrs Bush was also an artist.

- ◆ **Peter Hopkins** reported on the first stage of the project to arrange for the translation of the medieval documents relating to Morden. Maureen Roberts, a volunteer from Surrey Archaeological Society, has completed the translation of an 'Extent' or valuation of the Manor of Morden taken in 1312. The original is in Cambridge University Library, and a 16th-century transcript is in Surrey History Centre.

Peter also thanked Judith for lending him her copy of Sawyer's *Anglo-Saxon Charters*, which lists and evaluates all known documents of this period. One of these documents is the will of Prince Athelstan, who died in 1014, leaving his estate of Morden to St Peter's monastery, where he was buried. Canon Livermore, in his history of Morden's churches, had understood this to be our Morden, left to St Peter's Westminster, but Sawyer identifies it as Morden in Cambridgeshire, left to St Peter's Old Minster at Winchester. Judith has also photocopied the 19th-century published transcripts of Westminster Abbey's Anglo-Saxon charters relating to our Morden. Although no original charters survive, the 12th-century fabrications were based on a tradition that Morden was among the earliest of the properties given to Westminster, before the abbey was refounded by Dunstan in the reign of Edgar (959-975), and that it was one of the grants confirmed by Edgar in 969.

This was my first workshop visit, which I found so interesting I intend to attend as many as I can.

**Don Fleming**

**Workshop dates: Fridays 20 October and 8 December at 7.30 pm at Wandle Industrial Museum.**

**All are welcome.**

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE SAXONS AND VIKINGS

Scott McCracken, President of our Society, is giving a 2-term course under this title at Merton Adult College, Whatley Avenue SW20. Friday mornings 10-12, beginning 29 September. Tel. 020 8543 9292.

**50TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SNUFF MILL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE, MORDEN HALL PARK  
SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2000 at 2.30 pm**

**AGENDA**

- 1 Chairman's welcome. Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the 49th AGM held on 6 November 1999
- 3 Matters arising from the Minutes
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Membership Secretaries' Report
- 6 Treasurer's Report: reception and approval of the financial statement for the year, copies of which will be available at the meeting
- 7 Election of Officers for the coming year
  - a) Chairman
  - b) Vice Chairman
  - c) Hon. Secretary
  - d) Hon. Treasurer
  - e) Hon. Auditor
- 8 Election of a Committee for the coming year
- 9 Motions of which due notice has been given
- 10 Any other business

At the conclusion of the business part of the Meeting there will be a presentation of selected items from the year's workshop meetings.

NOMINATIONS for Officers and Committee members should reach the Hon. Secretary 14 days before the AGM, though additional nominations may be received at the AGM with the consent of members.

MOTIONS for the AGM must be sent to the Hon. Secretary in writing at least 14 days before the meeting.

**The MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES remind members that subscriptions are due on 1 October.**

Single member	£6
Additional member in same household	£3
Student member	£1

A renewal form is enclosed with this Bulletin. Please complete it and return it with your subscription to the Membership Secretaries or in person at a meeting.

Members who pay their subscriptions by Banker's Standing Order, please ignore the renewal form.

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**MERTON HERITAGE CENTRE**

The Heritage Centre at The Canons, Madeira Road, Mitcham, is now open six days a week:-

Tuesday to Thursday	10am - 4pm
Friday to Saturday	10am - 5pm
Sunday	2pm - 5pm

A new exhibition is due to open on 15 August, and will look at transport in the borough. Admission is free.  
Telephone: 020 8640 9387

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.

*Printed by Peter Hopkins*