



PRESIDENT: J Scott McCracken BA FSA MIFA

VICE PRESIDENTS: Viscountess Hanworth, Lionel Green and William Rudd

BULLETIN NO. 143

CHAIRMAN: Lionel Green

SEPTEMBER 2002



PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER



Saturday 28 September 2.30pm **Visit to Reigate Priory**

A visit arranged to follow up Audrey Ward's talk to the Society last December. The Priory is in Bell Street, Reigate. There is an hourly bus from Sutton, or travel by shared cars.
£2 a head

Saturday 12 October 2.30pm **'Merton and Morden - Then and Now'** **Snuff Mill Environmental Centre**

This year's Evelyn Jowett Memorial Lecture is a presentation by member **David Roe**, with **Judith Goodman**, of past and present views of a variety of sites in Merton and Morden. Some scenes have changed completely, though there are some surprising survivals. Illustrated using two projectors.

Saturday 2 November 2.30pm **52nd Annual General Meeting (see page 16)** **Snuff Mill Environmental Centre**

After the business part of the meeting member **Don Fleming** will give an illustrated talk:
'Elizabeth I - the Early Years'

(The Snuff Mill Centre, in Morden Hall Park, is on bus routes 93,118,157 and 164. Drivers use the garden centre car-park. Take the path across the bridge; go through the gateway and turn right. The Snuff Mill is straight ahead.)

Saturday 7 December 2.30pm **'The Upper or Fair Green, Mitcham'** **The Canons, Madeira Road, Mitcham**

In this illustrated lecture, another in his series of Mitcham studies, member **Eric Montague** turns his attention to the Upper Green. Once a meeting-point of roads from surrounding Saxon settlements, it has had a long and picturesque history.



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



THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851

A large audience came to hear Richard Milward at the Snuff Mill on 23 February. He reminded us he last spoke to us there in 1997, and we gave him a warm welcome on his return.

The concept of the Exhibition was first promoted by Prince Albert, who wanted to popularise English art and design. The idea was realised by Sir Henry Cole (1808-82), a civil servant who had written guide books of Hampton Court and the National Gallery, and Joseph Paxton, gardener at Chatsworth, who was also a businessman.

A Royal Commission was formed, which included Robert Stephenson. The president was Prince Albert.

The building was begun in June 1850 and the Exhibition opened in May 1851.

One MP, Mr Sibthorpe, who feared trees would be chopped down, spoiling Hyde Park, was reassured when a transept was built to contain the trees from damage in September 1850.

The building was named 'The Crystal Palace' by *Punch* magazine.

You could not see everything in one day, so most people bought a season ticket. A businessman arranged special train services from York, Birmingham etc and accommodation in London. His name was Thomas Cook - and thus began 'Cook's Tours'. 165,000 travelled on the Midland Railway alone.

It changed some things for ever. 'Leisure time' was born. 45,000 people visited on a Monday, but the most popular - and expensive - day was Saturday.

There were different entrance charges depending on which days you went, but it was not cheap. Few of the working classes could afford it.

There had been Chartist riots in 1848 and a fear of rebellion was in the air. Forty policemen were on duty at all times.

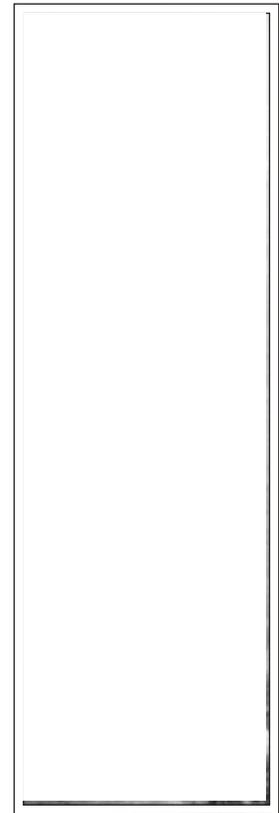
William Morris and John Ruskin were only two of many who opposed the Exhibition.

It was transferred to Sydenham and re-opened there in June 1854, and was used for concerts and other events until it burnt down in 1936. Some of our members sang there, and some witnessed its burning-down, which was seen from miles around.

Richard showed us some very interesting photographs also, and gave us an entertaining afternoon for which we are most grateful.

Don Fleming

(This report was inadvertently omitted from the previous Bulletin – our apologies to speaker and reviewer. JG)



A solution to the problem of what to do with the Crystal Palace at the end of the 1851 Exhibition without taking up too much space in Hyde Park. An architect, C Burton, proposed standing it on its end to form a 1000-ft tower. From F Barker & R Hyde London As It Might Have Been, J Murray, London 1982

MERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION

AT THE HERITAGE CENTRE, THE CANONS 30 APRIL TO 2 JUNE

I visited it one morning when it would be quiet so that I could browse. I enjoyed being welcomed by the photographs of various past activities of the Society, which included archaeological digs, outings and our 50th Anniversary Dinner last year. I cannot be the only person to have happy memories stimulated, but, more important, the photographs showed the social activities of MHS members. On entering the main exhibition area surely no-one could miss the large display case in the corner. A splash of colour and familiar lettering proclaimed Carter's Tested Seeds, and I recalled looking from the train window for the first glimpse of the clock and Carter's colourful display of flowers. There were also items from Gutteridge's corn chandlers in Mitcham - including an old account book. At that stage I just wanted some large bunches of lavender!

Maps, old implements, a model of Merton Priory, notes on William Morris and others were all on display. I had forgotten that there are still SEVEN horse troughs in the Borough. All of the photographs were excellent – the shops of Morden being very interesting. Finally a large collection of MHS publications were shown, including some now out-of-print.

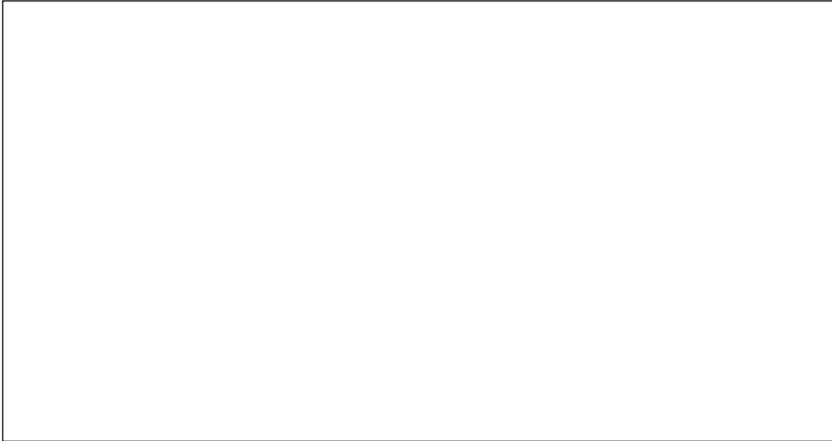
The variety of the subject material demonstrated the diversity of our interests, also that much historical material is well within living memory. Thank you, Bill and your team, for setting it up.

Audrey Thomas

ZEPPELIN LED

Twenty members of the Society were transported back to the 1930s for a whole afternoon on 14 June. We arrived at Britain's premier pre-war aerodrome at Croydon for a flight of fancy. We passed under the glass canopy which once displayed the golden wings emblem (now kept inside), and entered the Booking Hall. With very little imagination needed we saw the bookstall in one corner and the post office in the other and sat on the benches as the well-dressed would have done while they said fond farewells to intrepid travellers.

One incongruous item was the Tiger Moth aircraft suspended from the ceiling and partly hiding the fine original glass dome. Passing along the corridor leading to customs examination we were allowed access to the control tower, and observed navigational aids for pre-war flying. The twin towers of the Crystal Palace, and the Beddington sewage treatment works were useful, but perhaps more beneficial was the navigational radio beacon at Mitcham. Each wall within the control room was helpfully labelled (for the operators) 'north', 'south', 'east' or 'west'. We were surprised to find the large clock faces on the outside of the control tower still in place.



A Handley Page HP 42 biplane in front of the central tower at Croydon. (John Gent Collection)

So what has this got to do with Zeppelin? It was the advent of the zeppelin airships over London in 1915 that gave rise to Croydon aerodrome. The scale of civilian casualties caused the War Office to panic, and three airfields were designated to protect the citizens of London. A military airfield was built at Plough Lane, Waddon, in January 1916, with an adjoining factory to construct aeroplanes. In fact the aircraft at that time were not able to reach the height of the airships and were of little effect. A further airfield was made to the east, to become

Croydon aerodrome. Immediately the war ended the factory was closed and the Aircraft Disposal Company was set up to disperse thousands of aircraft parts. In 1920 the two airfields were combined and regular civilian flights began, leading to the formation of Imperial Airways in 1924. Four years later the existing airport buildings were erected, serving the airliners throughout the 1930s - which is where we came in.

Post-war development around an airport without proper runways caused the demise of Croydon Airport (an airport is a 'port' and handles international flights, while an aerodrome only handles internal ones), which closed with a last flight to Rotterdam in September 1959.

Sincere thanks go to the Croydon Airport Society and its chairman Mr Frank Anderson for a memorable visit.

Lionel Green

DOROTHY TYLER MBE

Dorothy Tyler (née Odam) was created an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) at an investiture at Buckingham Palace on 28 May. The Prince of Wales presented her with the honour. Dorothy, now a very fit octogenarian, was one of a remarkable generation of Mitcham athletes (see Bulletins 134 and 135) and an all-time national star of the sport.



VISIT TO ST LAWRENCE CHURCH AND MORDEN PARK

A large group of members and visitors met Bill Rudd on the morning of 23 May outside St Lawrence. In a brief introduction he pointed out that there may have been a small wooden Saxon church on the site. When that was replaced by a stone building is conjectural. The first reference to the parish being organised as a rectory dates from 1205.

There was a substantial refurbishment of the church in 1635/6. Although the western tower was probably completely rebuilt, the main part of the building was simply refaced with brick, in first Flemish and then, mainly, English bond. Within this facing is contained the medieval church. Nave and chancel are in one, and there is no screen. The windows are mid-14th-century in style, but the glass is mainly 19th- and 20th-century, though the east window has some from the 17th century.

The gallery at the west end dates from 1792 and was built to accommodate the children of the Sunday School, which had been founded a year earlier. The present pews are modern, replacing box ones that once supported candles (probably later converted to oil lighting). Warmth, once provided by a central stove, is now by gas-heated water-pipes in channels.

Mrs Elizabeth Gardiner (*d.* 1719), one of the Garths, gave the pulpit, which was once a three-decker, and the communion rail. She has a fine monument carved with drapery, a Corinthian aedicule and a skull as *amemento mori*. There are also good monuments to the Leheup and Jones families and some tablets to the Garths. Commemorated by their hatchments are members of the Hatfeild, Garth, Tritton, Ridge, Conway and Hoare families.

Bill told us that the churchyard was cleared in 1970, at which point a large number of gravestones and monuments were removed, though he was able to record many of the inscriptions. There are a few handsome surviving tombs, however, including those for some Mauvillains and Rutters (families of Wandle industrialists), some Bazalgettes (though Sir Joseph himself is buried in Wimbledon - see Bulletin No.142), and the founder of the Bishop's Move removals company.

A badly-timed cloudburst meant that at this point the party had to thank Bill hurriedly for his knowledgeable account of St Lawrence and adjourn to the George for shelter and other creature comforts.

JG

At 2.30pm we made our way to the late 18th-century mansion in Morden Park, where Mr William Rudd graciously received us in the Green Room, formerly the lower drawing-room. He explained that, for security reasons, we had to be counted, (there were 21 of us), and pointed out that there were some rooms, the former dining-room at the front of the house, and the library, adjoining the Green Room, that were now used as offices and were not open to the public. Otherwise we were allowed to see the whole house. However, he stressed that the house had undergone considerable remodelling to suit its present use, and that it would be difficult to envisage the original layout of the house by looking at the present rooms. The servants' quarters at the back of the house had been completely redesigned to enable wedding parties to have suitable access to the three main rooms, but this section of the house had already undergone major restructuring during the first century of its existence.

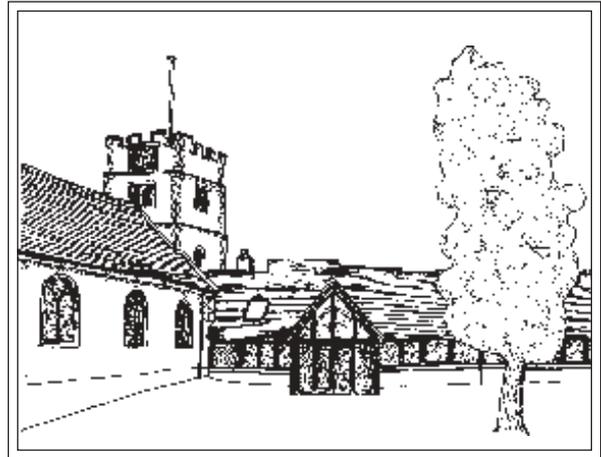
In order to understand better the original layout of the house, Bill took us around the outside of the house. This view also enabled us to see the westward (rear) extension of the house, undertaken before the earliest large-scale Ordnance Survey maps were produced in the 1860s. Later additions, notably a weather-boarded construction providing servants' bedrooms, over the principal drawing-room, and successive extensions in the south-west corner, had been removed during the recent renovations.

The house had been empty since 1985 and a photographic display in the room over the former library showed the terrible state that it was in before it was converted for use as a Register Office. It has now been restored, if not to its former glory, then to a very high standard. We must be thankful that such an important building has been saved.

Our thanks are due to Bill for guiding us around this historic site, and to the Senior Registrar and her staff for allowing us access.

For those who missed the visit, the house will be open to the public during the Open House weekend 21-22 September, by which time the Society's new book on Morden Park, a thorough revision of Miss Jowett's 1977 publication, should be available.

Peter Hopkins



VISIT TO PARHAM HOUSE, NEAR PULBOROUGH, WEST SUSSEX

We were fortunate in having excellent weather for our coach-trip to Parham (pronounced ‘Parrum’, not ‘Paarum’), kindly and efficiently organised by Pat and Ray Kilsby on 13 July. And so were the stallholders at the annual Garden Weekend event there, whose plants and gardening equipment would not have looked so tempting in the rain. Yes, there were crowds of visitors, but the house was relatively peaceful and the grounds big enough for all. Parham, which is built mainly of grey local stone and is roofed with Horsham ‘slabs’, is essentially Elizabethan, the foundation stone having been laid in 1577, with some 20th-century restoration in the same spirit. It is not unlike Loseley, though a little later. Its principal view is of the swell of the South Downs, less than a mile away, with nothing between but the little church of St Peter. (Once there was a cluster of cottages too, but, in the ruthless manner of landowners, they and their occupants were swept away in the 18th century - to improve the outlook.) E-plan in shape, with lots of gables and some immense windows, Parham has its main façade, unusually, to the south, though the entrance was moved to the north side *c.* 1700. Its principal rooms receive plenty of light. There is a great hall and a long gallery, but the other important rooms have lost much of their 16th-century character, having been altered with changing fashions. The gallery’s ceiling was painted with trailing foliage in the 1960s by Oliver Messel, but is still traditionally hung with family portraits and other paintings. Among its furniture is a ponderous partners’ desk, rather surprisingly designed by George Jack for Morris & Co early last century. Somehow I don’t think William Morris would have liked it.

There are many interesting paintings throughout the house, including portraits by Lely, Kneller, Gainsborough and Reynolds, and a charming kangaroo by Stubbs, and there is an important collection of needlework.

The tiny church, which stands on the south lawn, is 16th-century in origin, but was remodelled *c.* 1825 in Gothick style and has hardly changed since. There are box pews for the main congregation, but the north transept, which is the squire’s pew, is nicely cushioned and carpeted and has a cosy fireplace and its own door.

The house is surrounded by a large deer-park, separated by a ha-ha from the pleasure grounds. In the four acres of walled gardens there are vegetable plots, an orchard, herbaceous and shrub borders, formal hedges, arbours and many wall-trained plants. A delightful miniature house for children to play in was built into the wall at one corner in the 1920s.

After Parham we briefly visited Goring-by-Sea where the Catholic church has a reduced version of the Sistine Chapel ceiling paintings laboriously reproduced on its own ceiling by a parishioner. Interesting rather than beautiful, perhaps.

An agreeably scenic route home brought us to Park Place, Mitcham, where some of us then stayed for dinner. All arranged efficiently by the Kilsbys, to whom many thanks for a most successful day.

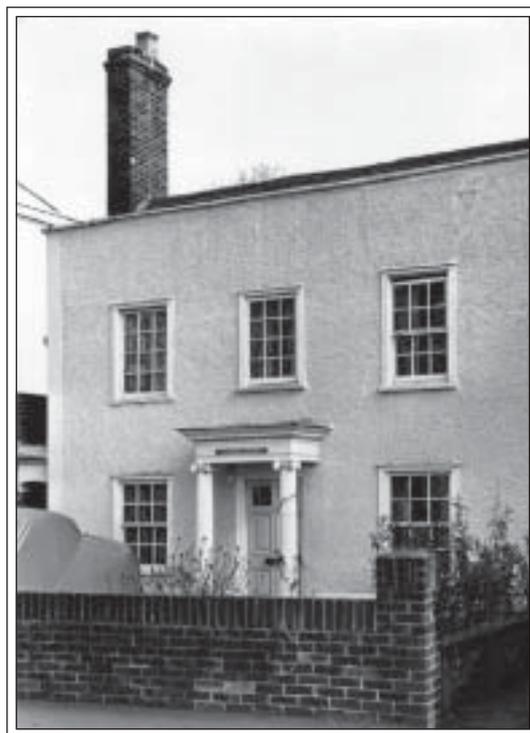
Judith Goodman

CHESTNUT COTTAGE, 9 CRICKET GREEN, MITCHAM

An interesting discovery was made recently which adds somewhat to the little we know about the early history of this house in the Cricket Green Conservation Area. An excavation made in the back garden by workmen repairing a service pipe exposed the top of a brick-lined well, partly under the northern corner of the building. It had been loosely filled with rubble before the cottage was extended, possibly in the mid-19th century. From what could be seen of the brickwork the well appeared to be of 18th-century date, and its position suggests it had probably once been in the backyard of the original dwelling, which forms the front half of today’s Chestnut Cottage. Since the wall lies partly under the present structure it was too dangerous to remove any of the filling to examine the interior, and the well has now been covered over again.

Shallow wells provided the principal source of water for domestic purposes before the arrival of mains water some 150 years ago. Many of these wells are marked on the early large-scale OS maps.

Eric Montague



‘A SALUTE TO NELSON AND THE HAMILTONS’

On the evening of Saturday July 20th 2002 Vice Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson and Dame Emma Hamilton were graciously pleased to be present at a *Fête Champêtre*, a Concert and a Fireworks display in and adjacent to the Church of St Mary the Virgin at Merton.

Sea chanties, performed by three sturdy Mariners, whose fine voices belied their rough appearance, entertained the Picnickers in the Glebe Field, while the Admiral and his fair Companion strolled among their Guests and condescended to converse with them on sundry subjects. (Your reporter looked in vain for Sir William, but the old Gentleman is somewhat frail these days, and may have been recruiting his strength indoors - perhaps with a sip of a Restorative.)

A Peal of Bells summoned all to the church, where the well-known Master of Ceremonies Mr Richard Baker (who himself once served in this country's glorious Navy) presided over the Proceedings. Songs, from *Haul Away the Bowline* and *The Battle of the Nile* to *The Old Superb* and *Rule Britannia*, performed by a Soprano, a Tenor and a Bass Baritone, with Pianoforte accompaniment, alternated with Readings, mainly from Diaries and Letters written by the Hero and by the charming and gracious Lady whose Pure Friendship with him is so well known.

Afterwards all present, while partaking of liquid Refreshments, were treated to a most ingenious and impressive Display of the Fire-work Maker's Art outdoors in the field adjoining. The Great Man must have felt the Battle of the Nile most strikingly recalled to him. The blowing-up of *L'Orient* herself can hardly have been a more astonishing and awful Spectacle.

This event marked the start of 'Nelson's Tour 2002' which is a series of happenings to commemorate the tour undertaken by Nelson and the Hamiltons to Wales and the Midlands 200 years ago. The 'Tour' is just one part of the run-up to October 2005, when the bicentenary of Trafalgar will be celebrated. The organisers are the Official Nelson Commemoration Committee, who are drawn from the main museums, societies and foundations concerned with the Nelson heritage. For further information about the ONCC and 2005 contact Colin White, Chairman ONCC, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 (023 8312 8525 or CWhite@nmm.ac.uk)

JG

From **LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL FORUM's** Archaeology Report February-April 2002
MERTON

176-188 London Road, Mitcham

PCA Ltd, Evaluation

Prior to the demolition of the buildings on the site, a standing building survey was conducted on the Swan Inn Public House, 178 London Road. The evaluation comprised four trenches, 10m x 2m, and 8m x 2m. A 10th-12th century roadside ditch was the earliest feature excavated, and ran across the eastern limits of the site. A possible 10th-12th century wall foundation, composed of a plinth of large flint nodules overlain with green sandstone blocks, overlay the ditch, representing building activity along London Road. Cutting this wall was a large 13th /14th century pit containing domestic waste. A pit, dating between 1580 and 1700, cut the natural layers in Trench 1 suggesting that this area was to the rear of properties fronting London Road. Another pit contained pottery dating to between 1740 and 1880. A brick drain dating to between 1700 and 1900 may have been associated with the Swan Inn.

Land at Love Lane, Mitcham

AOC Archaeology Group, Evaluation

The evaluation revealed no archaeological features.

LAMAS 37th LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The London & Middlesex Archaeological Society's conference for 2002 will take place on 16 November in the Museum of London Lecture Theatre from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Called *Buying & Selling in Metropolitan London*, topics covered by speakers will include department stores, luxury shopping, groceries and distance shopping from 1200 to the present day. Application forms for tickets from Local History Conference. £5 for non-members of LAMAS, but two members from this Society can attend for £4 each.

DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

“When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life.”

Twenty-one members agreed with that statement when we visited the good Doctor's house at 17 Gough Square, London EC4 on Saturday 10 August 2002.

One approaches the square through short, narrow alleys from Fleet Street, with Chancery Lane just round the corner. We were stepping into history.

The house is at one end of this small square, built in 1700.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) lived here from 1748 to 1759, when he moved to another house in the vicinity. It was here he wrote *The Rambler* and *A Dictionary of the English Language*, which was a mammoth task covering nine years.

Each room in the house has its own atmosphere, and each is a delight, from the ground-floor parlour to the second-floor library and bedroom.

He was never wealthy, as he had between five and seven people living in and was always entertaining others.

Many 'names' of the 18th century were visitors: David Garrick, actor, Joshua Reynolds, painter, Fanny Burney, writer, and Mrs Montague, leader of the 'Blue Stockings', were just a few.

Miss Asher, our guide, was so informative and told us so many stories, that after an hour her voice gave up.

There is a very interesting video with two actors portraying Johnson and Boswell walking around the house. This had a surreal effect on me as I thought I might bump into them as I entered a room.

A word of caution.

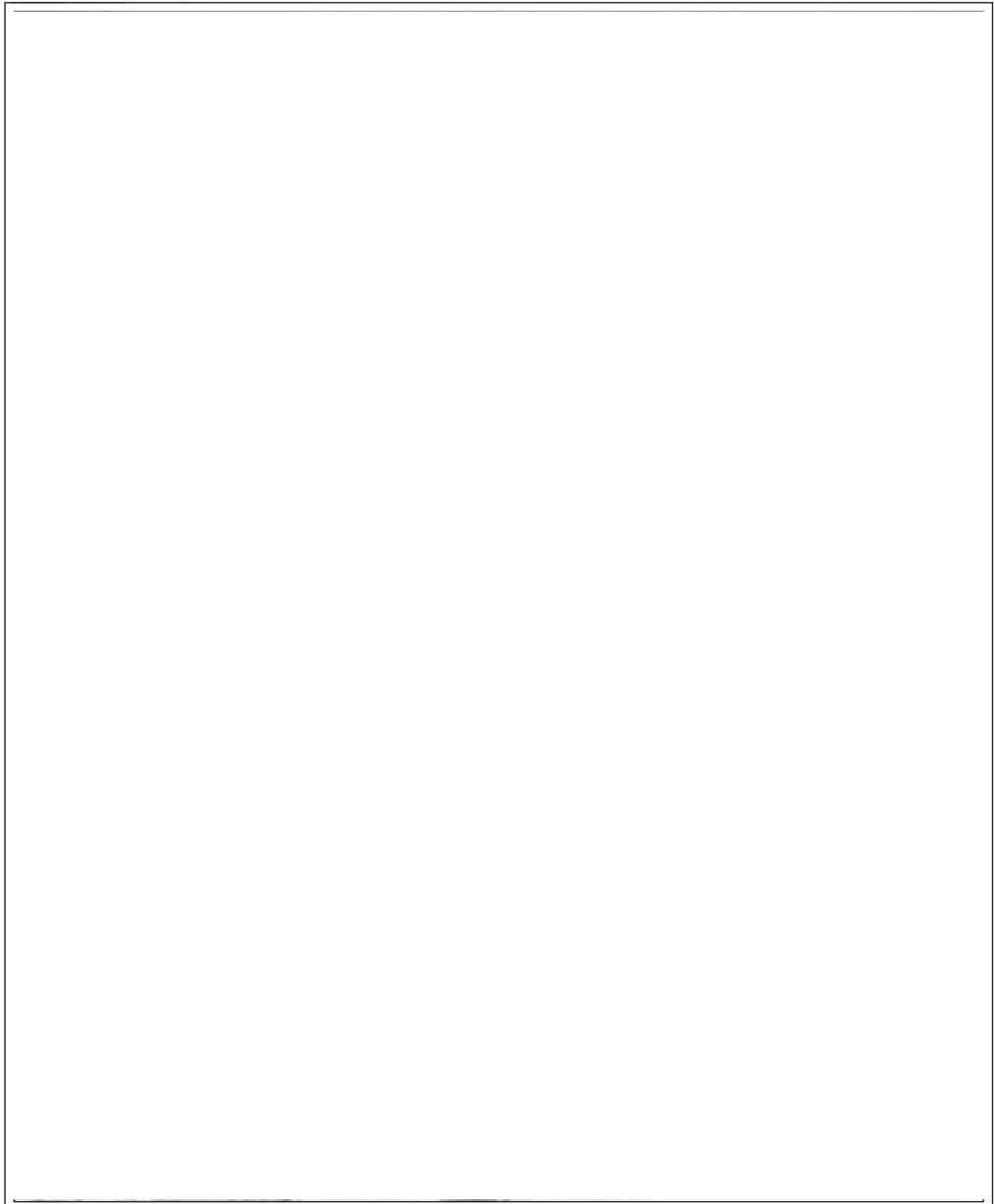
There are many stairs to climb, but in the rooms there are chairs. The banisters and door-knobs are authentic, so you are literally in touch with history!

The house was not only full of people but also books and cats. Two of his favourite cats were Hodge and Lily. In Gough Square there is a statue of Hodge, sitting on the Dictionary with two oyster shells by his paws. This statue has been there three years and is still the latest statue in the City of London.

After two hours in the serenity of the house, getting on a No.11 bus packed with tourists was something of a culture shock.

Don Fleming

No.17 Gough Square in 1881. Watercolour in the Guildhall Library



LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS

Friday 5 July 2002 - 5 members present. Bill Rudd in the chair.

- ◆ It was encouraging to hear from **Bill Rudd** that these Workshop reports are worthwhile. As a result of the report on the May Workshop in the last *Bulletin*, John Pile had passed on to Bill information from the 1881 Census obtained from his genealogist friend, John Cunningham, relating to both the Trendell family of Flitwick Cottage, Morden Common, and the Collinge sisters of Morden Park. Bill has since been able to follow up leads, and obtain the details he has been trying to track down for some time. Buy the new booklet on *Morden Park* to discover more on Isabella and Helena Collinge!
- ◆ **Sheila Harris** has been in contact with Vanessa Bunton, recently appointed as Community Archaeologist by English Heritage to liaise with local societies in the Greater London area. Vanessa has asked to meet our Society to discuss possibilities, and the Workshop on 4 October is being set aside for this purpose. It is to be hoped that many members will want to come to this meeting.

- ◆ **Lionel Green** took a break from Merton Priory to tell us of a possible link between Merton and Dorking, where he is heavily involved with the local museum. A pair of houses, now numbered 113 and 115 South Street, Dorking, built around 1846, incorporate some doors and windows from the late 17th or early 18th century. According to J Attlee, *Reminiscences of Old Dorking* (1912) p.11, these are supposed to have come from "Lord Nelson's house at Merton". The builder, Arthur Dendy of Tower Hill, is said to have "bought a large quantity of doors and windows very cheap". As Merton Place began life as the more modest Moat House Farm, apparently built around 1750, and was demolished by 1823, the story seems hard to credit.

- ◆ **Don Fleming** stayed with Nelson to mention the recent announcement by Sotheby's of the discovery of a trunk full of Nelson artefacts, including a blood-stained purse and letters from Lady Nelson, his wronged wife. Apparently they belonged to descendants of Alexander Davison, Nelson's agent and friend.

Don had recently come across a reference to William Morris in Staffordshire. Morris was a regular visitor to Leek in the 1870s, and left an indelible mark on Leek's fine legacy of arts and architecture.

Finally Don shared an interesting placename discovered on a visit to Matlock in Derbyshire. Shiploades, first mentioned in 1417 and again in 1769 apparently meant "a river crossing for sheep"! The river Derwent is and was very shallow in places, where it passed through Matlock.

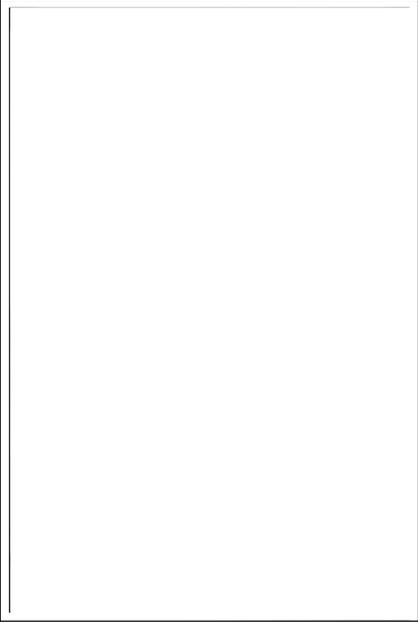
- ◆ **Peter Hopkins** had written to the architects who produced the 1997 report on Morden Park, for permission to use some of their drawings in our new booklet on the property. They not only gave their permission, but sent copies of watercolours in the Guildhall Library. Those by G Yates (see next page), in 1825, were mistakenly labelled 'Morden Hall' and had not come to light when the report was prepared. They show an intermediate stage in the remodelling of the rear of the house. Peter had written to Guildhall Library for permission to include these in the new booklet.



113 and 115, South Street, Dorking

Peter Hopkins

Friday 23 August 2002 - 5 members present. Bill Rudd in the chair.

- ◆ **Sheila Harris** had received a letter from a Mr Creasy of Morden about the commemoration (or lack of) of those from what is now the Borough of Merton who served in the armed forces. (see page 10)
- ◆ **Judith Goodman** had found that the Witt Library (Cortauld Institute) has a file on George Augustus Wallis (1761-1847), a mainly topographical artist born at Merton (see page 5 Bulletin No.142). According to a German catalogue it *was* our Merton (“Merton bei London”). Unfortunately his career was entirely on the Continent, and it is unlikely that any scenes of his native soil will turn up. He did however do a romantic-style self-portrait.


She had also checked the Yates file at the Witt, as there exist various watercolours of local scenes from the early 19th century by a G Yates (for instance, see Page 40 of E N Montague *The Cricket Green*, and the new publication on Morden Park). This *may* be G for Gideon, but, according to a Christies catalogue from 1998, it seems that Gideon Yates is only known to have done views of Lancashire, especially Lancaster. The G Yates who did many views of London Bridge (old and new) and other Thames bridges, including that at Kingston, is thought to be someone else. It looks as if this one is ‘our’ Yates, and we should call him just G Yates. He is likely to remain a shadowy figure!
- ◆ Horatio Nelson was on **Don Fleming**’s mind again and he spoke about an article in *History Today* for August by Colin White, who had found a sketch by Nelson of the battle plan he proposed for Trafalgar. It was among a file of letters from Nelson to his brother William. There was also a list of officers whom he was recommending for promotion.
Nelson (and Colin White) had also appeared on Channel 5 in the Great Heroes series.
- ◆ **Peter Hopkins**, most of whose time has been taken up recently with preparing five publications (see page 10), was able to quote the prices to be charged for them. He had also brought to the meeting a draft triple-fold A4 leaflet for visitors to Morden Park and a set of explanatory posters (A3) to be displayed in each room, the yard and the gardens, at the Open House weekend (21-22 September). Everyone present thought these were excellent.
- ◆ Thanks to help from a postal member (see page 8) and now from Oldham Library Service **Bill Rudd** has tracked down the elusive Collinge sisters and been able to flesh out their background. See the new *Morden Park* booklet for more! (see page 10)

Judith Goodman

Dates of next workshops: Friday 4 October (Vanessa Bunton from English Heritage will be present) and Friday 29 November. Everyone is welcome, member or not. If you have a historical query, why not come and discuss it in a friendly forum?

IN BRIEF

- ◆ **Merton Heritage Centre**’s current exhibition at The Canons looks at the story of the Gypsy connection with our area. Plenty of interesting photographs and artefacts.
- ◆ The Society receives regular mailings from the **Ragged School Museum**, Copperfield Road, London E3. This museum of East End Life is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and the afternoons of first Sundays. (020 8980 6405 or www.raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk)
- ◆ For the Streatham Society’s Local History Group Brian Bloice will be speaking about **Rubber, Silk and Coffee** in Lower Streatham at Woodlawns, 16 Leigham Court Road, SW16 on Monday 7 October at 8pm. Non-members welcome.
- ◆ Those who went on the coachtrip to Merton College, Oxford, may be interested in attending a talk being given by the Archivist, Michael Stansfield, to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, on 2 October at 7.45 for 8pm - ‘**The Surrey Estates of Merton College**’.
- ◆ **Lambeth Archives annual Open Day** is on Saturday 28 September from 10am to 5pm at Minet Library, Knatchbull Road, London SE5 9QY. (020 7926 6076) Admission free. There will be a talks programme and a special display on local industry. Archive staff will be on hand to answer queries. There is a new imaging system called *Landmark*, which can call up many prints and photographs from the collection.

From the postbag:

Jim Creasy of Morden has written to our Hon. Secretary commenting initially on the memorial plaque to J H S Dimmer VC at the Civic Centre - "... truly magnificent, and a fitting testament to a very brave man!"

He goes on:

"... However ... the tribute does say that 'Jack' was Merton's only winner of the VC. Not so - my researches have unearthed two more certainties, and a third debatable one. They are:

"1. George Edward CATES VC, a 2nd lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade, who died 9th March 1917. His home was 221 Kingston Road, Merton. Educated at Rutlish School...

"2. Arthur Stewart King SCARF VC, squadron leader RAF (VR?). Died 20 December 1941 aged 28, of 1 Dunmore Road, Wimbledon. Educated at King's College School, Wimbledon.

"3. Ian Willoughby BAZALGETTE VC. Also a squadron leader. Died 8 August 1944. He was residing 16 Sycamore Road, New Malden at time of death, but was from an old Wimbledon family, and is buried there. Royal Kingston have honoured the man by naming Bazalgette Close and Bazalgette Gardens after him. A rare name and he will surely be related to the Bazalgette who designed London's sewage system in the 19th century [see page 2 Bulletin No.142].

"... Nearly sixty years on, no attempt has been made by Merton to honour the military, and civilian, deaths 1939-45. I now have the names of most and am currently looking into the circumstances of the deaths, also their backgrounds. I have hopes that the names will eventually be displayed in front of Crown House as a focal point on Remembrance Day. I also have a great many Great War deaths on file...

"... The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website is magnificent - that is, when you know of a death! For a fee ... they will programme 'Wimbledon', 'Mitcham', Merton & Morden'..."

(Responses to this letter will be welcome! Deadline for next Bulletin is the first week in November.)

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Three sources for the history of Mitcham have been prepared by the late Steve Turner, former Chairman of East Surrey Family History Society, and an active member of our own Society. The sudden and tragic onset of Motor Neurone Disease prevented Steve from completing the books, and he entrusted them to the Editorial Committee to finish. We are glad to say that he saw the three booklets completed shortly before his death.

Parishioners of Mitcham 1837/38: The Revd Herbert Randolph's Notebook, with introduction by Eric Montague and others.

Mitcham in 1838: A Survey by Messrs Crawter & Smith, with introduction and maps by Peter Hopkins

Mitcham in 1846: The Tithe Apportionment Map transcribed, with introduction and maps, by Peter Hopkins from photocopies supplied by Steve.

Each booklet priced £2.95, but available to members at £2.40 at meetings or by post from our Publications Secretary

Add 60p per title for postage

Morden Park

Miss Jowett's booklet on Morden Park, published by this Society in 1977, has long been out of print. Since then further information has come to light, not least during the survey undertaken prior to the recent renovation and conversion of the house for use as Merton's Register Office. This new edition, profusely illustrated with reproductions of original watercolours and prints, architectural drawings and plans, photographs and maps, has been prepared by William Rudd and Peter Hopkins, with considerable assistance from Judith Goodman, Eric Montague and Tony Scott. It has been published on behalf of the Society by Merton Library and Heritage Services. It will be on sale to the public at £3.95, but is available to members at £3, from our Publications Secretary. (Add 60p for postage and packing)

A Mitcham Childhood Remembered 1926-45 is by Pamela Starling, yet another former pupil of Mitcham County School for Girls to allow us to publish her recollections. Full price 50p, members' price 40p. (Postage and packing 25p extra)

BILL RUDD has some reflections on:

THE BIRTH OF A PUBLICATION

Members may wonder how the Society manages a steady stream of publications. Having been involved in a few, I can explain.

It starts with the author, usually a member, who submits, or is persuaded to write, an article. Sometimes a non-member is invited, eg Lilian Grumbridge with *Memories of Lower Morden*. It then goes the rounds of the Publications Sub-Committee, who each comment, suggest etc, and a second draft is produced. This continues until all, including the author, are satisfied with it, when it goes to print, and finishes up on the publications table for sale.

The Society first launched into print in 1967, with a 5" x 7" booklet on The Canons, Mitcham, in minuscule print which needed a magnifying-glass - the result of financial stringency at that time. From 1969 there was a run of 5½" x 8¼" glossy booklets, including in 1976 a larger-print version of *The Canons*, which were well received. The last was in 1983.

All these publications were produced by outside printers. The Society now has its own in-house printer, Peter Hopkins, who produces a wide variety of publications.

The process is not always straightforward. One booklet in particular has needed a whole new approach and is the main subject of this article.

In 1977 the Society published Miss Evelyn Jowett's booklet *Morden Park, Morden*. In November 2000 Morden Park house, substantially refurbished, opened as Merton Register Office. I was able to show the Superintendent Registrar a copy of the original booklet, and it was suggested that a new one would be invaluable, as the answer to numerous enquiries they get.

The suggestion was put to the Society's Committee, and was agreed. The Sub-Committee got to work. An A4 printout was made of the original booklet, and circulated. One suggestion was that the old booklet be scrapped and replaced with a completely new one. I suggested parts of the old one were still valid and should be included, out of respect for Miss Jowett. This was agreed, and the next printout contained those parts, along with new material from research.

Since the house interior had changed considerably over the years, the inclusion of the architects' drawings would give a clearer picture of what it used to be. Extracts from the archaeological report were also to be included, describing the foundations.

The original photographs, by the local newspaper in 1974, could not be found. A new set was commissioned, taken from the original viewpoints, plus extras, by a local qualified photographer. To these were added several from private sources. In addition a number of early coloured drawings of various periods would show any changes in the exterior that may have taken place.



One of Colin Smith's photographs of Morden Park taken for the new book

Only when Miss Jowett's archives were transferred recently from Morden Library to the Society's store were the original photos found, but they were already out-of-date.

The list of occupants has been considerably expanded, and the gaps in the sequence filled. The occupants who did not appear in the 1851 Census were discovered in their London residence, and have been included, as are the two Collinge sisters who were left out of the original booklet because nothing was known. Very intensive research has revealed who they were, the dates and place of birth - Oldham, Lancs, their father and mother, others of the family, and best of all, that their father was a prominent cotton manufacturer, and a JP.

At the time of writing the new booklet is now complete and awaits the printing process. It should be an outstanding success. It is due out in September for the 'Open Weekend' at Morden Park house.

PETER HOPKINS summarises an article in the Newsletter of the Bognor Regis Local History Society on THE TWO WIVES – AND ONE SON – OF SIR RICHARD HOTHAM

Sir Richard Hotham, founder of the resort that became Bognor Regis, was a former owner of Merton Place, famous as the home of Lord Nelson and Emma Hamilton. In the same way that Merton historians gather all the information they can find on Nelson, so Bognor historians collect anything to do with Hotham. So it came about that I received an order for copies of my little book on Merton Place from the Editor of the *Newsletter* of the Bognor Regis Local History Society, Ron Iden. At the same time, Mr Iden sent a copy of *Newsletter* No.45 (August 2001) which included his article on his recent discoveries about Hotham's wives and son.

Richard Hotham, of the parish of St Giles, Westminster, had married Frances Atkinson of Stockton-on-Tees at Chelsea Hospital Chapel on 1 December 1743. He was then 21 years of age, she was '25+'. He came to Merton in 1764, though he also retained a London house.

On Friday 7 February 1777, the London newspaper, *The Morning Post and Daily Advertiser*, carried the following notice:

"On Saturday last died at Brompton, Lady Hotham, wife of Sir Richard Hotham, of Merton Place, Surrey."

Similar reports appeared in other London newspapers and in the *Gentleman's Magazine* and *Annual Register*.

Bognor historians had long been defeated in their efforts to identify the burial place of Frances Hotham in 1777. However, during a recent investigation of the International Genealogical Index (IGI) for London, Mr Iden began to uncover the true facts. First he discovered an entry for John Hotham, son of a Richard and Frances, christened in the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster, on 12 June 1751. As far as anyone had known, Hotham's marriage had been childless, and no offspring are mentioned in his will. A search of the parish registers, held at Westminster City Archives, confirmed the entry: born 11 June 1751, baptised 12 June. Under 13 June, however, both the burial accounts book and the Sexton's Day Book record the burial fees for a John Hotham, no age given, but 'C' for child, address: 'Strand'. It would appear, then that the infant survived only a day or so, although curiously, Mr Iden has yet to find his name in the burial registers proper.

Out of curiosity he checked the St Martin burial register for Frances in 1777. On 8 February was recorded Lady (**Barbara**) Hotham. The Sexton's Day Book confirmed her age as 44. He looked again at the IGI, and turned to the St Martin **marriage** register. On 7 April 1761, Richard Hotham 'of this parish', and Barbara Huddart of the parish of St Margaret, Westminster, were married by licence.

But the picture wasn't complete without finally tracing the death of Frances – now confirmed as Richard's first wife – sometime between her son's birth in 1751 and Hotham's remarriage in 1761. St Martin-in-the-Fields had proved a fruitful source so far, so it was back to the burial register. Two to four burials a day were recorded (1000 a year! Where on earth, or rather under the earth, did they put them all?) He finally found Frances Hotham, buried 14 August 1760, eight months before Hotham's remarriage. No age recorded, but 'W' for adult woman, and the burial account book confirmed 'Church Vt' [vault], £6 14s 6d, address: 'Strand'.

Hotham was knighted in 1769, so it was Barbara who assumed the title of 'Lady Hotham'; Frances had remained Mrs Hotham.

But new discoveries produce fresh 'loose ends'. Lindsay Fleming's 3-volume *History of Pagham in Sussex* (1949) includes the development of Bognor, because Bognor and Bersted were once part of Pagham. Volume 2 (p.548) contains these undated portraits of Sir Richard Hotham and his wife. But which wife is pictured here? Is Mr Hotham under or over 38 years of age.

The caption to Fleming's illustration, *Sir Richard Hotham, 1722-1799, and his Wife*, was probably added by Emery Walker Ltd, who engraved several portraits and maps for the author.

Who was the original artist? Fleming's list of illustrations says merely: 'from miniatures by P.B., formerly in the possession of Richard S. White, friend of Sir Richard'. The National Portrait Gallery hazarded a guess at: 'Peter Brown (flourished 1766–91) who signed PB and, perhaps less likely, a P. Brooke or Brookes, (fl. 1740–49) of whose work there is an example in the Victoria and Albert Museum ... Brown is perhaps more likely on date.' And on date, Mr Iden considers that in the portrait, Hotham's age would be closer to 44 (in 1766) than 27 (in 1749), so Barbara is more likely as the wife in the miniature. The current location of the miniatures is unfortunately not known.

I would like to thank Ron Iden for permitting me to quote at length from his most interesting article. If anyone would like to borrow the *Newsletter* to read the full article, let me know.

**With Mitcham mainly in mind, ERIC MONTAGUE has been putting together some ideas on
THE EVIDENCE OF PLACE-NAMES**

The romance of English place-names has entranced many writers, and their extraordinary diversity and the significance of their geographical distribution has for long attracted the attention of historians. From the *tre-*, *pol-* and *pen-* prefixes of the Cornish south-west, through the ‘combes’ and ‘bartons’ of Devon, the *-ing* suffixes of the Saxon shore, the ‘hams’ and ‘shires’ of middle England to the *-by* and *-thorpe* of Danelaw, there is a pattern which speaks of a complex history of settlement over some 600 years before Domesday. Research over the last century has greatly refined our appreciation of the value of place-names, and has shown how the distribution of specific elements mirrors in a remarkable way the broad picture that has come down to us through documentary sources, and is now emerging in ever more detail from the work of field archaeologists and local historians.¹

To illustrate what can be deduced from a detailed study of place- and, in particular, field-names in a relatively limited area, I propose to take the by no means exceptional example of the former parish and Borough of Mitcham. The fields may now have disappeared beneath houses and factories, but the evidence is still to be found in the maps and other documents held by Merton Local Studies Centre, Surrey History Centre and the Surrey collection in the Lambeth Archives at the Minet Library.

Field-names are a particularly useful source of information for the archaeologist. In Mitcham we have fields named ‘Bery’ and ‘Burfurlong’ mentioned in a 13th-century deed,² the element *burh*, which means a barrow, hinting at a feature long since destroyed. The manor-name of Ravensbury may be in the same category.³ On Mitcham Common the ‘Sundridge Ground’ - a sub-circular area ‘separated’ from the surrounding heath by an ancient bank and ditch - could well have been a prehistoric enclosure, whilst nearby ‘Maiden Hill’ was probably a Bronze Age burial mound. Both disappeared many years ago, but were still conspicuous enough to be marked on early 19th-century maps.⁴

There were two great open fields in Mitcham during the Middle Ages, the East Fields (still surviving as the name of a district), and the West Field, both now built over. There was also a third commonfield, part of which was known as ‘Southfylde Mead’ (an indication that it was permanent wetland pasture) until the 16th century, by which time it was already fenced.⁵ The West Field, its memory preserved in evocative street names such as Westfields Avenue and Fieldgate Lane, remained largely intact until the mid-19th century. Incredibly, headlands and way-baulks from the West Field survive as roads and bridle-ways, whilst housing estates perpetuate the medieval pattern of furlongs and even the individual selions. Place-name evidence shows that piecemeal enclosure of the West Field had actually commenced as early as the 13th century, ‘Battesworth’, or ‘Baetti’s homestead’ being recorded in 1234,² along with ‘Spirchey’ (from the OE *spearr*), an enclosure in a wood, and ‘Inland’ - an intake or assart. Batsworth can still be found on modern maps of Mitcham, as the name of a road and a recreation ground.

In Mitcham the whole of the West Field, which embraced some of the most fertile land in the parish, comprising a rich dark loam, was known as the ‘Blacklands’ until the mid-19th century.⁶ To date, at least three Romano-British habitation sites, one of which included a well, have been identified around the margins of the West Field, and also a burial ground. The frequent association of fields known as Blacklands with Romano-British sites was noted by the late W G Hoskins, and it looks very much as if the Blacklands at Mitcham can be claimed as another example. If so, the historian might well be tempted to wonder if the system of open field cultivation, with its strip holdings, could have originated in agricultural practices already well established before the end of the Roman period.

The character and productivity of land is often disclosed by field-names and, although not exactly adding to the historian’s information (the maps produced by the Geological Survey portray the solid and/or drift geology with great accuracy) the nicknames used by the peasantry, and handed down through the generations, are at least colourful. ‘Stoney Piece’ and ‘Small Profits’ need little explanation, whilst ‘Pudding Field’, ‘Pudding Acre’ and ‘Drag Mire Lane Shot’ - all in Mitcham - were obviously on heavy land. ‘The Roughs’, ‘Firze Field’, ‘Firzey Piece’ and ‘Firsey Close’ were on poor land, typically with a thin acidic topsoil covering gravel.⁷ Relatively recent names like ‘Botany Bay’, ‘America’ and ‘Newfoundland’ all sound like names concocted to emphasise their remoteness from the village centre. Land use can also be deduced from names like ‘Great Wood’, ‘Little Wood’, ‘Pollards Hill’ and ‘Pollards Wood’ - the latter indicating woodland management. Part of the West Field, known as the ‘Hay Furlongs’, was presumably permanent grassland, reserved for the annual fodder crop and subsequent grazing, each ‘stint’ being allocated according to ancient custom. ‘Meads’ abound, as might be expected in a well-watered parish, and were most likely managed as watermeadows, whilst extractive

industries are indicated by 'Gravel pit field' and 'Brickbat field'. The place-name Colliers Wood, and the field 'Collyers Close' - the latter mentioned in a rent roll of 1680⁸ - are both indicative that here, as in the woods to the north of Croydon, charcoal had been manufactured. Field-names like 'Fleming Mead' and 'Flemyng Gate' (*gate* itself is a Norse element) in north Mitcham suggest the settlement of immigrants during the Middle Ages. Were these people from the Low Countries some of the first to use the meadows flanking the Graveney as 'crofting grounds' for the bleaching of textiles? Wetlands were valued for various purposes, including the cultivation of osiers - a Willow Lane exists in Lower Mitcham - and on the tithe map we have 'Gamekeeper's Acre' and 'Gamekeeper's Field', together with 'Old Snipes' and 'Blake's Snipes' ('Squire' Blake was a 19th-century landowner enjoying shooting rights). 'Cranmarsh' and 'Figge's Marsh', at opposite ends of Mitcham, were both at one time undrained common land. 'Marsh' in these instances must have had the literal, obvious, meaning, rather than being derived from 'March', or borderland, as one Victorian writer was tempted to speculate. 'Deadman's Close', in the middle of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery, had been known to contain human remains long before it attracted the archaeologists' attention late in the 19th century, but 'Hell Corner', 'Hanging Field' and 'Hanging Hook', at the crossroads where the parishes of Mitcham and Merton met, stir the imagination. Nothing of significance has been excavated from these fields (they are now covered by industrial buildings), but their prominent location abutting a piece of wasteland by the side of a public highway, outside the precinct walls of Merton priory, suggests that here we may have the site of the gibbet, reported in 1258 to have been erected by the prior.⁹

Land tenure is of course often reflected in the field-names, and 'Beneysfeld' and 'Bennetts Hole Meadow', mentioned in various documents since the 14th century,¹⁰ enshrine the name of an early landowner of whom there is no other record. ('Bennett's Hole', ie 'hollow', from OE *hol* or *holh*, is still marked on OS maps, to the puzzlement of many, for few know the origin of the name.) Glebe Avenue can also be found on modern street maps, and scattered parcels of 'Glebe' on the tithe map remind us of the original endowment of the vicarage, and that the original incumbents would have worked, or 'farmed' (ie leased), glebe land to augment the income of the vicarage. Significantly, much of the glebe lies within the tithing of Mitcham, a part of the parish held of the manor of South Lambeth or Vauxhall, which in the 12th and 13th centuries was in the hands of the de Redvers, earls of Devon and Wight, believed to have founded the parish church of St Peter early in the 12th century.

At an inquisition post mortem conducted in 1263 it was confirmed that Eustace, the 12th prior of Merton, was a free tenant of the deceased Baldwin 'de Insula', earl of Devon and Wight, paying a rent of assize of 20s for "the mill which is called Pippesmoln".¹¹ This was Phipps mill, or Puppemulle', which was almost certainly one of the two mentioned in Domesday. It disappears from the records before the 16th century, and its actual site has been lost, but the name survives in Phipps Bridge, a district of Mitcham. The place-name element *pipp*, meaning a small stream, also occurs at Dorking. In Mitcham it would appear to relate to a watercourse, now culverted in a surface water sewer and largely forgotten, which joins the Wandle above Phipps Bridge itself, where an ancient bridleway crosses the river.

During the 12th century numerous gifts of land in Mitcham and Wickford (Lower Mitcham) were made to the newly founded priories of Merton and St Mary at Southwark. One such grant, involving 'Wihtrichescroft', 'la Holme', 'la Haie' and 'Lestfurlang' - all in Lower Mitcham, was made to Southwark by Richard de Wickford c.1150-1170.¹² This land was to form the nucleus of an estate held by the prior and convent of St Mary until the Dissolution, much of which can still be identified. Wihtrichescroft, which from the pattern of enclosures still visible on the tithe map, and the place-name element 'croft' (OE for a plot of enclosed land) would seem to have been created at the expense of another open-field system, became the site of the 'Chaffe Hawse', later to be known as the 'Rectory House'. This, and a large tithe barn adjoining, were sold with the rest of Southwark priory's Mitcham property in the 16th century. 'Rowcrofts', another enclosure on the estate, contains in its name the OE *Ruh*, or 'rough', a clear indication that it had been formed from the adjoining heathland. 'La Haie' is identifiable with a 'Mowing Ground' comprising part of the Rectory grounds in the early 18th century.¹³

1. The study of place-names is a minefield for the unwary, and efforts to decipher them are not helped by eccentricities of spelling which, one suspects, often reflect attempts to render changing vernacular pronunciation phonetically. Fortunately for the modern student the speculative and sometimes whimsical interpretations one encountered in the works of 18th- and 19th-century antiquaries have been superseded by the results of a more academic approach, and the historian is now able to use with greater confidence an impressive legacy. This applies in particular to those working in the field of local studies.

Readily available standard works today include:

Ekwall, E *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* 4th ed. 1960

Reaney, P H *The Origin of English Place-Names* 1960

Gray, H L *English Field Systems* 1915

Gelling, M *Signposts to the Past* 1978 and *Place-Names in the Landscape* 1984

Field, J *English Field Names: A Dictionary* Alan Sutton 1989 (1972)

The county series of the English Place-Names Society, and, also for the EPNS, Smith, A H *English Place-Name Elements* 1956

The English Place-Names Society produce regular publications.

It is axiomatic in place-name studies that wherever possible resort should be had to the earliest documents available, and that a knowledge of Old English and medieval Latin, as well as an ability to read the scripts used, is invaluable. For the professional historian, or the academician possessing these skills, there is little difficulty. The amateur, immersed in the study of what Hoskins dubbed his "chosen parish", need not be deterred however, for, with caution, the rich heritage to be found in local history records can still be utilised. Deeds and wills, manor court rolls, estate maps and terriers, the registers and maps produced by the tithe commissioners in the mid-19th century, are but a few of the primary sources now readily accessible in the various record offices. Many have been reproduced by county archaeological and record societies.

2. Gray, H L *English Field Systems* 1915 p367, quoting *Pedes Finium* 225-9-30 19 Henry III
3. Bidder, H F and Morris, J 'The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Mitcham', *Surrey Archaeological Collections* LVI (1959) p57
4. Typically, maps produced at the time of the Beddington Inclosure enquiry around 1813. Merton Local Studies Centre
5. London Metropolitan Archives. Transcript of Sewer Roll 1610
6. London Borough of Lambeth Archives, Minet library. "Twelve acres of Blackland" mentioned in deed 2614, and "Ten acres in Common Field called Blacklands" mentioned in a deed of 1690, ref.no.3114. Merton Local Studies Centre, Plan of Estates at Mitcham for Sale by Auction with the Manor of Biggin and Tamworth August 1853
7. Merton Local Studies Centre. Mitcham Tithe Commutation Survey 1846/7
8. Surrey History Centre. Rent Roll of the Manor of Ravensbury 212/9/2
9. Heales, A *Records of Merton Priory* 1898 p135
10. *Calendar of Close Rolls Edward III XI* 302, and Surrey History Centre 599/354 respectively
11. Inquisition post mortem 47 Henry III No.32b
12. British Library MS Add.6040 f.1 No.1 (Transcribed by John Blair - personal communication)
13. Surrey History Centre. Map in James Cranmer's Estate and Memorandum Book, 1717 470/-

THE NORTH MITCHAM MISSION DISTRICT

I am indebted to a kind friend for drawing my attention (very diplomatically, I must stress) to an error on page 108 of my booklet on North Mitcham, where I state that the Links Estate was already part of the Mission District of St Paul, Furzedown, in 1903. It was not, in fact, assigned to St Paul's until 1910.

North Mitcham was developing rapidly at the beginning of the 20th century, but remained a remote part of the parish of Christ Church, Colliers Wood. A mission church (in a prefabricated building) had been established and temporary arrangements made for the new housing estate, but, as my friend comments:

"It was not until January 1910 that it [the Mission District of Furzedown] came into being officially, although the idea was mooted in 1909."

The new mission district then took over responsibility for the families living on the Links Estate.

With the creation of the parish of St Barnabas and the dedication of a fine new church in Gorrington Park Avenue in 1914, North Mitcham residents finally acquired a parish church of their own.

Eric Montague

MERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXCAVATIONS CARRIED OUT 1966-73

Today archaeology has become highly scientific and is best left to the professionals, though there are still the occasional opportunities for local volunteers. Once upon a time however this Society actively 'dug'. Most of the material from the following list of sites (provided by **Eric Montague**) is held in the Society's 'store' at The Canons.

TQ 2673 6918	1966-68	Short Batsworth	Church Road	Mitcham	Romano-British
TQ 2732 6859	1966-68	Hall Place	Lower Green West	Mitcham	Saxo-Norman
TQ 2780 6898	1969	Gutteridge's	29 Upper Green East	Mitcham	Med./18th century
TQ 2772 6895	1971	Durham House	Upper Green West	Mitcham	Mainly 18th century
TQ 2748 6851	1972	346/8 London Road		Mitcham	18th century
TQ 2665 6804	1973	Ravensbury Manor House	Ravensbury Park	Mitcham	Med./18th century

(There was also a Surrey Archaeological Society training excavation on the site of Mitcham Grove in 1974.)

**52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SNUFF MILL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE, MORDEN HALL PARK
SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2002 at 2.30 pm**

AGENDA

- 1 Chairman's welcome. Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the 51st AGM held on 3 November 2001
- 3 Matters arising from the Minutes
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Membership Secretary's Report
- 6 Treasurer's Report: reception and approval of the financial statement for the year 2001-02, 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. TreasurerAppointment of the Hon. Auditor for the coming year
- 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 talk by Don Fleming on the early life of Elizabeth I.

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.

Please bring this copy of the Agenda with you to the AGM.

The MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY reminds members that subscriptions are due on 1 October. The new rates are:

Single member	£7
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 Secretary, or in person at a meeting. Members who pay their subscriptions by Banker's Standing Order are advised to cancel the current standing order and arrange with your bank a new standing order for £7.00 per annum, from 1 October 2002.

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