MERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT: J Scott McCracken BA FSA MIFA

VICE PRESIDENTS: Viscountess Hanworth, Lionel Green and William Rudd

BULLETIN NO. 153 CHAIRMAN: Peter Hopkins **MARCH 2005**

PROGRAMME MARCH–JUNE

Saturday 5 March 2.30pm **Martin Way Methodist Church Hall**

'The Evolution of the English Manorial System'

A fully illustrated talk by **Lieutenant-Colonel J W Molyneux-Child**, himself a lord of the manor. He will relate the story of the English manor from its beginnings, and describe how some ancient traditions are kept alive today.

Martin Way Methodist Church is a 10-minute walk from Morden town centre. It is on bus routes 164 and 413, and there is a car-park.

Saturday 9 April 2.30pm **Mitcham Library Hall**

'Sir Joseph William Bazalgette, engineer to the Metropolitan Board of Works'

Denis Smith will give an illustrated talk on the great Victorian engineer (who lived for many years in Morden and Wimbledon), best known for his design and construction of London's sewers.

Mitcham Library is in London Road and is served by many bus routes. There is a small car-park.

Thursday 26 May 1.30pm **'Pleasure Gardens of Clerkenwell'**

Sheila Miller, one of our members, who has made a special study of this aspect of Clerkenwell's history, will lead us on this walk. Numbers limited to 15. **Please book your place with Sheila**. There is no charge. Meet outside Angel Underground Station.

Monday 13 June 11am **Apsley House and Wellington Arch**

This visit to two sites connected with the first Duke of Wellington includes tea/coffee/biscuits and slide show at the Wellington Arch. **Please book your place with Sheila.**

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

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

Saturday 9 July

Coach outing to Shaw's Corner at Ayot St Lawrence, and Hatfield House

Please see enclosed information sheet and book directly with Ray Kilsby

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

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

'SHERLOCK HOLMES IN STREATHAM'

A large audience at Morden Baptist church on 4 December heard John Brown, a member of both our Society and of the Streatham Society, give an entertaining talk on this initially unlikely subject. But yes, Holmes did go to Streatham, with Watson, and it was *The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet* that took him there. A classic adventure it was too, in which Holmes typically displayed a range of talents – mental ("a very sweet little problem"), thespian (disguise "in the shape of a loafer") and physical ("I clapped a pistol to his head before he could strike"). The story was first published in the *Strand Magazine* for May 1892, with illustrations by the incomparable Sidney Paget..

One of Sidney Paget's illustrations to The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet.

We were given a brief biographical sketch of Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930), in which John reminded us that the author had lived at Norwood for a time, where his house, 12 Tennison Road, bears a GLC blue plaque, and he can be assumed to have known south London reasonably well. Brixton, Norbury and Croydon feature in other stories.

John took us through the *Beryl Coronet*, which concerns, among other characters, Alexander Holder, "senior partner in the second largest private banking concern in the City of London", his son, his niece, a man "without heart or conscience", "one of the highest, noblest and most exalted names in England", and a one-legged greengrocer.

Holder's house in Streatham was called Fairbank, and John went on to explain how, using clues from the story, he had turned detective in an effort to identify the banker and his house in the real Streatham of the time. In his account of his research he painted a picture of a fashionable and fast-growing suburb in the last decades of the 19th century, with its new department store, new library and new town hall. Grandest of local residents was probably sugar magnate Henry Tate at Park Hill, but there were many smaller but substantial mansions. Some even had names beginning with 'Fair', though there was no Fairbank. But John came to the conclusion that William Matthew Coulthurst, senior partner in Coutts & Co, and his house Streatham Lodge, were the closest match to Holmes's client Alexander Holder. The Coulthursts seem to have lived in style, and to have been well thought of locally. There is a large block of flats called Coulthurst Court as a reminder of their presence in Streatham. Sadly, their house, of which no pictures are known, was pulled down a century ago, and, despite his best efforts, John's researches have failed so far to reveal a one-legged greengrocer in the Streatham of the period!

This was an interesting and amusing lecture, which was thoroughly enjoyed by its audience. John Brown has published a fully-illustrated booklet called *Sherlock Holmes in Streatham*, which is obtainable for £3.50 plus postage from Local History Publications.

Judith Goodman

IN BRIEF

- The last talk in a programme put on by the **Merton Multi-Cultural History Group** is called 'The Influence of Indian Design on William Morris'. It will be given by Di Reynolds, Manager of Morden Library, at 7.30pm on Monday 21 March, in the meeting room at Morden Library. All welcome.
- The current exhibition at **Merton Heritage Centre**, The Canons, Madeira Road, Mitcham, is called 'Common Ground' and looks at Mitcham Common, Wimbledon Common and Putney Heath. Admission free. Open Tue/Wed 10-4; Fri/Sat 10-4.30. Tel: 020 8640 9387
- The annual service of **Nones** will be held in the **Chapter House of Merton Priory** on Sunday 1 May 2005 at 3pm. This service recalls the celebration on Ascension Day (3 May)1117 when the canons of Merton entered their new site by the Wandle. All are welcome.
- The second **Wandsworth Heritage Fortnight** takes place from 28 May to 12 June, with exhibitions, walks and talks. Further information on 020 8871 7074 or e-mail wandsworthmuseum@wandsworth.co.uk
- **The National Archives**, Kew, offer Behind the Scenes Tours every Saturday at 11am and 2pm. These are free, but booking is essential. Call 020 8876 3444.

‘THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LONDON UNDERGROUND’

We may complain about the London Underground system, and at times it may seem very antiquated, but it is undeniably a major means of mass transport around the capital. Members and friends of the Society were given an excellent survey of its history and development in a talk by Neil Lloyd at out January meeting.

The Underground system had its origins over 140 years ago, when City solicitor Charles Pearson first suggested an underground railway “to relieve the congestion of London streets”. The scheme which eventually evolved was a steam operated underground railway nearly four miles long between Farringdon Street and Bishop’s Road, Paddington, to link three mainline railway termini, Paddington (Great Western), Euston (London & North Western) and Kings Cross (Great Northern). Roads were dug up and the railway tunnel was constructed by the ‘cut and cover’ principle. Construction commenced in 1860 and was completed very quickly, in two and a half years. The line was built with a mixed gauge, the (now) standard gauge of 4ft 8½in and Brunel’s broad gauge of 7ft 0¼in, both gauges using a common rail on the platform side.

The North Metropolitan Railway was opened on 10 January 1863 and used Great Western broad gauge rolling stock. However there was a disagreement with the GWR, who withdrew its support at short notice on 11 August 1863, and the Metropolitan had to call upon the Great Northern, who provided standard gauge rolling stock. The broad gauge line was subsequently removed.

The North Metropolitan Railway did not go out to the fast developing suburbs of west London, and so, within a couple of years, the Metropolitan District Railway Co. was set up, and a line between South Kensington and Westminster was opened in 1868. It was soon extended eastward to Blackfriars as part of the construction of the Victoria Embankment. To the west, the Metropolitan Railway was extended from Paddington to Hammersmith Broadway, and the District countered by running trains to Richmond (1877) and to Wimbledon (1889). Extensions to the country towns were built, and the Metropolitan Railway was extended from Harrow to Pinner and then to Rickmansworth, and finally to Chesham in 1889.

South of the river, the London & South Western Railway Co. wished to get its passengers from its terminus at Waterloo into the City, and so the Waterloo & City Railway (known in later years as ‘the Drain’!) was opened in 1898. A little earlier, in 1890, the City & South London Railway opened a deep tunnelled line from King William Street to Stockwell, and this was extended southwards to Clapham Common and northwards to Euston in 1900. On 13 September 1926 the City & South London Railway was extended from Clapham Common to Morden, and the ‘West End’ branch came into use, linking from a junction at Kennington to an existing line between the Strand (now Embankment) and Highgate.

Although a number of railway companies combined to form the Underground Electric Railways Co. in 1902, and others formed the London Electric Railway in 1910, all of London’s underground railways came under control of London Passenger Transport Board on 13 April 1933, and the names of the lines as we know them today came into general use.

It is interesting to note that although the Victoria Line came into being in 1968 and the Jubilee Line only a few years ago, each of them used many miles of existing tracks. The last totally new line on the Underground system was the Bakerloo Line, opened in 1907 – nearly a century ago!

Tony Scott

THE MIZENS OF MITCHAM

Groundwork Merton are currently developing an educational project on the Mizen family and the history of market gardening in Mitcham. They aim to work with two primary schools in Mitcham as part of their study of Victorian Britain, and hope to produce resources for use by other local schools and by the wider local community.

A key part of the project will be the recording of Oral Histories, and they are looking for people willing to share their memories. They also need people willing to help with the interviewing, as well as advice from those with experience in this kind of work. Volunteers are also needed for a Steering Group.

If you can help in any way, please contact Mary-Ann Anagnostu at Groundwork Merton, Morden Cottage, Morden Hall Park, Morden Hall Road. This is a project deserving the support of our Society.

FOR SALE

Mrs C Stokes, a former member of the Society, has for sale a copy, in excellent condition, of Heales’s *Records of Merton Priory* (OUP 1898), for which she is asking £25.

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‘BRICKWORK IN SURREY TO 1850’

Ian West, a building surveyor by profession, with a special interest in old buildings, spoke to an enthusiastic audience at Mitcham Library on 5 February. In a chronological survey of the subject he began right at the beginning, telling us that he had been part of the team which excavated the large Roman brickworks at Ashtead. There are Roman bricks incorporated into the fabric of both Ashtead and Bookham churches. After a lapse of many centuries brickmaking began again in England, at first in East Anglia, with technology imported by the 13th century from the Continent.

In Surrey, which, by contrast, had some reasonably good building-stone and plentiful timber, there was no significant brickmaking before the 15th century. Bishop Waynflete’s tower at Farnham Castle has good brickwork of 1470-75. We heard that bricks were normally made on site, so brick buildings would only have been feasible in places where clay was at or near the surface. The work would be done by travelling journeymen. The clay was dug out in the autumn and left to weather in the winter frosts before being moulded into shape and fired in clamps – stacks of green bricks. Inevitably there was uneven firing, resulting in a range of different colours, but these could be put to effective use in patterns.

From the 16th century we were shown views of Sutton Place, which has very good decorative detail in terra cotta, that specialised form of ‘baked earth’ made from extremely fine sieved clay fired to at least 1000°C.

The Whitgift Hospital in Croydon, 1596-7, is a fine, if sober, example of its period. But brick was genuinely smart. It is significant that Ham House, dating originally from *c.*1610, continued to be improved and embellished in brick by the ultra-rich and ultra-fashionable Duke and Duchess of Lauderdale in the 1670s. The Dutch House at Kew, from the 1630s, was the first building in this country to use Flemish bond (though not the first to have Dutch gables!).

Ian also showed us a number of slides of Surrey farmhouses from the 17th century, including Crossways Farm, Abinger, which has very decorative brickwork – though only on the ‘public’ façade - and ‘galleting’, chips of stone pushed into the mortar, a typical Surrey feature. Sometimes, as tastes changed, early brickwork has been concealed by later rendering, as at Coombe Hill farmhouse of 1651-2. Ian admitted that the 17th century was his favourite period for brickwork, especially the exuberant baroque decoration popular then. North Street, Dorking, is a place to see brick mullions and transoms (1635-50), and Godalming High Street has decorative gables and moulded bricks of a little later. He explained that fancy bricks were made in shaped moulds, but further (expensive) detail could be produced by carving.

Three fine buildings from the early 18th century are Epsom’s assembly rooms, rescued from neglect and now a Wetherspoon’s pub, Croydon’s Wrencote and Mitcham’s Eagle House. Well House, Ewell, of the same period, was one of the buildings we were shown that had gauged brickwork. Ian explained how fine quality bricks, smoothed so exactly that scarcely any mortar separates them, are used above windows or to frame a niche – though sometimes this appearance was achieved with a false coating.

He pointed out, with the example of a house in Chobham, how clues to extensions and alterations to a house can be picked up by looking closely at the brickwork

In the 18th century yellow became the fashionable colour for brick. Ashley House in Epsom, for instance, has its front in yellow brick, and its sides in the, by then, less fashionable red. By Regency times red brick was completely out of style. Typical of the date are a row of yellow stock villas in Leatherhead.

Finally, stepping just out of the period of his title, we were shown some Victorian polychromy in the Hautboy at Ockham, a building which also displays rat-trap bonding – that is, Flemish bond but with the bricks laid on edge instead of on bed.

Altogether this talk explored a fascinating subject, and was an encouragement to look at buildings with an alert eye. Perhaps Ian will pay a return visit with the other half of his subject – tiles.

Judith Goodman

THE SMITH TOMB, St MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, MERTON PARK

Mrs Dawn Muirhead, a member of this Society, is co-ordinating fundraising efforts for repairing and conserving this important tomb. She writes:

Resting against the outer walls of the chancel and vestry of St Mary's is the tomb of Merton's other admiral, Rear Admiral Isaac Smith. Smith was a near neighbour of Nelson and Lady Hamilton, but lived on many years after Nelson's death, spending his summers at Abbey Gate House (now demolished) with his brother Charles. Their first cousin once removed, Mrs Elizabeth Cook, widow of navigator James Cook, often stayed with them. Isaac Smith's hatchment hangs in the church alongside those of Nelson and Sir William Hamilton. Mrs Cook paid for the marble monument in the church which commemorates the Smith brothers, their nephew Isaac Cragg Smith, and his wife Caroline (née Wyatt).

Isaac Smith joined the Navy in 1766 aged 13, when he served on Cook's ship *Grenville*, and impressed Cook with his mapping ability in the survey of Newfoundland. He then went on Cook's first and second voyages to the southern hemisphere, between 1768 and 1775. On 28 April 1770, when still only 16, Smith, on the command "You first, Isaac" from Cook, jumped onto the Australian shore, and the Union flag was planted, claiming Australia for King George III, although of course others, such as the buccaneer Dampier, had been before him, mapping other coasts.

Smith later fought in the West Indies and also served in the East India Station. He retired on health grounds in 1807 and died in 1831.

The tomb is now in urgent need of conservation, and St Mary's would be very grateful for donations. Grants have already been received from the Council and from several Trusts. All contributions will be acknowledged. Please send them to St Mary's Treasurer.
Cheques should be made payable to PCC of St Mary's, Merton.

A RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT

Once a year in July Pat and Ray Kilsby organise a day out by coach for Merton Historical Society. These trips cost no more than about £20 or £25, and include a meal. Ray and Pat take care of all payments, such as entry fee to museums etc, and the coach driver's tip. So all we have to do is sit back and enjoy the day out.

Unfortunately the MHS cannot fill a coach, and to offset what would otherwise be a loss to the Society, or a cancelled trip, the vacant seats are offered to the Kilsbys' branch of the WEA. A reciprocal event occurred in August 2004 when a number of seats were offered to MHS members, unsold on one of the WEA trips. Nineteen MHS members responded, and saved the day.

These trips are very time-consuming to organise. You need an itinerary that will appeal, and be within an attractive price range. Pat and Ray do the trip they have planned, to note how long it takes, and how accessible, and not too tiring, as some of us are not as young and fit as we were. They try out venues for comfort stops and for the meal. Finally comes the real headache, and that is getting persons onto seats, and at Pat and Ray's prices that means every single seat. Ray also likes to have a reserve list of people who don't mind stepping in at the last minute, as he does a full refund for a no-show.

I can personally recommend Pat and Ray's trips and can guarantee a very enjoyable day out. Also up to now Pat (Ray gives her the credit) has provided perfect weather for us – just how, she keeps tight-lipped about.

David Luff

[The details of this year's trip for the Society are enclosed with this Bulletin.]

LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS

Friday 19 November 2004. Six present. Judith Goodman in the chair.

- **Eric Montague** had been contacted by Nicholas Hart (Wandle Industrial Museum) about alleged proposals for development on the site of the early 18th-century Ravensbury calico-printing works. Enquiries by ENM at the Planning Department of LB Merton had not confirmed this, but he had provided Nicholas with a copy of notes on the site's history. [It was later found that the council proposes to rebuild the derelict café fronting Morden Road to include living accommodation and a doctor's surgery.]
- **Peter Hopkins** distributed copies of pages from the proposed MHS website. He also reported on a manorial workshop held at Woking, and a new manorial documents register. Of considerable potential value to Merton historians were records at the British Library and elsewhere relating to the manor of Morden between *c*.1379 and 1555; to the manors of Ravensbury and of Biggin and Tamworth; Tudor rent rolls for Merton and Morden; and a custumal and and a rental for the manor of Mitcham Canons from the reign of Edward I.

  Peter drew attention to David Bird's recent book *Roman Surrey*, containing references of local interest.
- **Bill Rudd**'s correspondence with Australia and New Zealand descendants of the Howard and Rivers families (calico printers) of Morden and Mitcham continues.
- **Lionel Green** has received several slides of Mitcham and Morden taken by Mike Nethersole in the mid-1960s. Passed to Judith Goodman and ENM. Lionel's *A Priory Revealed* (i.e. Merton Priory) is in preparation for publication. He concluded with a sometimes amusing account of the appointment of a successor to Thurstan, the 12th-century archbishop of York [see pages 15-16].
- **ENM** passed to Wandle Industrial Museum for safekeeping Compass Archaeology's report on their work at Grove Mill, Mitcham, early in 2004.

  A family historian researching the Rosiers (mid-19th-century licensees of the Three Kings pub at Mitcham) has been supplied with copies of illustrations and information, and ENM has contacted Mary-Ann Anagnostu (Groundwork Merton), hoping to provide her with information on herb growers and market gardeners in Mitcham.
- **Judith Goodman** passed round a number of early postcards of local scenes, which she obtained recently from John Gent. They included one of The Grange, Morden, when it was a military hospital. She closed the meeting with an account of Gilliat Edward Hatfeild's attempt in 1916 to regain vacant possession of Ivy Lodge, in Morden Hall Road, to use it as a home for nurses.

E N Montague

Postmarked 1907, the year in which Wimbledon saw its first trams, this view looks up Merton Road.

A LUT tram is swinging round from Merton High Street. It advertises Skewes' store in Wimbledon, as well as Sandown Park Races.

Friday 28 January 2005: Seven present. Cyril Maidment in the chair

- **Cyril Maidment** asked if anyone knew why the Bazalgette family took over the mausoleum in Wimbledon churchyard built for John Anthony Rucker. No one present knew, though possible explanations were discussed.

  Cyril then showed us a number of maps which he has produced. For the Nelson Bicentenary celebrations he has provided a local Nelson Trail, and a full-colour map of Merton Place and its environs. He has also been working on a copy of the 1805 map of the neighbouring Merton Abbey estate. Bill Rudd offered a copy of his transcript of the 1802 Survey of Merton Abbey.

- **Sheila Harris** was intrigued by the illustration of Merton Priory on the Mayor's Christmas card. It is a section of a window installed in 2002 at St John Fisher church in Cannon Hill Lane, Merton. She has obtained the following information from the window's creator, Leslie A Huitson:

  The design brief has been to depict St Thomas Becket in one panel, and to suggest a visualization of Merton Priory (known locally as Merton Abbey) in panel two. St Thomas has important connections with Merton having studied at the priory for many years.

  The overall scheme of the new stained glass is to blend harmoniously with the existing windows (also designed by the artist) and those in the lower panels featuring the Stations of the Cross. An almost medieval approach to the windows has been applied from drawing board to installation, this being pertinent to the life and times of St Thomas and the history of the Priory.

  Saint Thomas is depicted bearing a cross. To the left of the figure is a writing desk, on top of which is an open book suggesting the importance of study both ecclesiastical and secular. The book is inscribed with the words "into your hands O Lord I commend my spirit" these being the Saint's last words as he was brutally murdered in Canterbury Cathedral. The fleur de Lyes which appear in the window are symbols of his French origins and the time spent in France by St Thomas.

  The two coloured windows incorporated within the window have two tiny roundels of glass depicting two angels inscribed with "Laetabitur Justus", as sung at the requiem of the saint. Below the writing desk are images of four swords, an inverted crown, and a branch of twigs; all symbolic of the Knights who murdered St Thomas, and of the subsequent remorse and public penance of King Henry II who unwittingly instigated the deed.

  The Merton Priory panel has been delicately drawn in a medieval style, the perspective attempting to magnify the importance and standing of the once vast and holy construction of Catholic Merton. The inscription is joined by the figures of two monks; the surrounding areas of glass loosely suggesting the outlying rural and monastic environment that was MERTON.

photograph by Sheila Harris

- **Eric Montague** reported on an English Heritage review of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service and the Greater London Sites & Monuments Record. He will keep us informed. Eric had also been able to help Sarah Gould with an enquiry from a former resident of Mitcham, now living in New Zealand.
- Sarah had also asked via **Judith Goodman** for any information about artist Charles Edward Flower, born in Merton in 1871, probably son of Walter Louis Flower of 8 Fairlawn Villas, Kingston Road. Anything known?

  Judy had confirmed, from the baptism registers of St James Piccadilly, that Caroline Smith, commemorated on the Smith monument in St Mary, Merton, was a sister of its sculptor, Richard James Wyatt. She also spoke briefly about the famous recusant Sir Thomas Tresham, who was accused in 1587 of harbouring seminary priests at a house of his in Mitcham.
- **Peter Hopkins** had obtained from the National Archives a copy of a Merton rental dating to 1547-50, which had helped him to identify some elusive properties in Merton. Two documents which the Manorial Documents Register ascribes to the manor of Mitcham Canons were found to relate to other properties. Peter had also been in correspondence with Peter McGow of Croydon, who is researching the history of the various mill sites on the Wandle from previously unused sources. A document of 1595, supplied by Dave Saxby via Cyril Maidment, may provide a clue to the origins of the straight cut which served 'Merton Mill' in Wimbledon.
- **Lionel Green** read a paper on the Knights Templar and their links with Merton (see p.9). He also passed round some possible illustrations for his forthcoming book on Merton Priory.
- **Bill Rudd** has had further correspondence with the descendants of Richard Howard, in Australia and New Zealand. They sent a photograph of Bill by Howard's tomb in Morden churchyard. Bill has also been helping an enquirer whose house in Love Lane, Morden, was hit by a parachute mine in 1941.

Peter Hopkins

Dates of next workshops: Fridays 18 March and 13 May at 7.30pm at Wandle Industrial Museum. All are welcome to attend.

TOM KELLEY, who gave us in December 2003 a lively talk on 'Merton in Wartime', describes his

RETURN TO 's-HERTOGENBOSCH, OCTOBER 2004

In October 1944 I was in the 53rd Welsh Division. We had advanced to the river opposite Arnhem, attempting to relieve the 1st Airborne Division. As a result of the failure to take the bridge, we were in a very narrow corridor, which we had to enlarge. Our divisional task was to attack the city of 's-Hertogenbosch, and this started on 22 October, my 20th birthday. My uncle worked for the publication *Blighty*, and he sent me a bundle of copies, bound together, about an inch thick, which arrived just as we set out. I put them in the front of my battle dress, as armour, and to read later. My regiment, the 1st Oxf. & Bucks. Lt. Infty., were to clear the woods surrounding the town. The battle lasted until 27 October.

The 53rd Div. Association has returned annually to commemorate the battle, but this October, the 60th anniversary, was the first time I have gone back, and the first time I have actually been into the town. My wife and I went over Monday to Saturday to join about 80 Liberators, as we were described, and their companions. We had four busy days, starting with a boat trip on the canals. These are 500 years old, but have been renovated in the years to 1985. When someone wanted a house they erected a bridge over the canal and built the house on it. We were given badges with our names on them, and 'Liberator', which were passports to the city.

Our coach took us to various memorials, then to lunch in the Town Hall, in the evening to a large church for a concert with the local choir and the Chepstow Male Voice Choir. It was crowded. The next morning we were in the cathedral, once again packed with veterans and local people. The children came to the altar with a poppy cross for each of the 144 soldiers killed, as their names were read out. *A Requiem for World War II*, which had been composed by a local woman, was sung in English, followed by *Going Home*. We were clapped by the standing audience as we left to walk to the Town Hall, through crowds of clapping people, many of whom wanted to shake hands. Each of us was given two separate red roses and a flower arrangement. When we got to the Town Hall there was another lunch, and we were given copies of the local paper, containing individual pictures of each of us. All of this appeared on Dutch TV and TV Wales. To a service in a war cemetery, where many of our dead were buried, a photo opportunity for a book being written about the battle, then an evening at Heineken's brewery, unlimited food and drink. I had three glasses of orange juice. Then a sing-song.

Friday to a War Museum, and in the evening a splendid concert, with wartime songs and newsreel of the liberation. We were each presented with a medal. Much of these events I have recorded on my camcorder. A woman in the party had come from Australia, and wanted to meet someone who knew how her father was killed when she was 19 months old. He was our commanding officer, and I had seen him a few minutes before he was shot.

A most memorable but exhausting time.

IN MEMORY

Audrey Thomas

We were very sad to learn that Audrey Thomas, who had been a loyal and active member for many years, died suddenly, on 28 December. She joined the Committee for the first time in 1970, and, after serving as Honorary Treasurer for three years in the 1980s, she was in the chair for two years. Then, following the death of her husband, she took on his job as editor of the *Bulletin* for a time. Finally in 1993-4 she held the fort again as Honorary Treasurer. Audrey, a professional librarian, was very well-informed, and had a lively mind. Those who heard her delightful talk on the Furzedown Estate after our last AGM will remember her infectious enthusiasm for one of her favourite subjects. Audrey had a brisk tongue, but a kind heart, and I particularly recall the warm welcome she gave to new members.

Bill Sole

Cecil ('Bill') Sole died just before Christmas. He had been a member for many years, and served on the Committee for a while in the 1990s. Bill used to be our representative on LAMAS, and also inaugurated the post of Membership Secretary. Although he had not attended events for some years we remember his past support with gratitude.

JG

LIONEL GREEN tells the story of the KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

This was an international and military order arising out of the Crusades. The Templars amassed great wealth and became international bankers. Henry II gave them sufficient money to pay for 200 knights for a year in the Holy Land in expiation for Becket's murder.

At the beginning of the 14th century king Philippe IV of France found the Templars arrogant and unruly but rich. He decided to join the order as a postulant but was rejected. In 1303 and 1304 two popes mysteriously died (Boniface VIII and Benedict XI). King Philippe was successful in securing the election of his own candidate, the archbishop of Bordeaux, to the papacy and he became Clement V in 1305.

In 1306 the newly elected pope asked the prior of Merton and the archdeacon of old St Paul's, London, to settle a dispute involving the Knights Templar and the monks of Sele priory (near Upper Beeding, Sussex) "who murmured concerning certain possessions, tithes, returns and other things".[1] The pope's commissioners, the prior and archdeacon, duly summoned the prior and monks of Sele to appear before them. It was agreed that Sele would not claim tithes of the parish of Shipley and that if a monk of Sele performed divine service in the chapel of Shipley called Cnappe (Knebb), he would pay obventions (occasional dues) to Shipley church and receive six shillings (30p) from the Templars. "The respective seals of the commissioners and the signature of the parties were set thereto".[2] One wonders why the pope was involved.

In 1306 in both London and Paris there were murmurs about the Templars' alleged vices and infidelity. King Philippe issued sealed and secret orders to his seneschals throughout France, which were to be opened simultaneously and implemented at dawn on Friday 13 October 1307. All Templars in France were seized and placed under arrest by the king's men, and their goods confiscated. In Paris and other parts of France knights were burned at the stake.

In England and Wales in 1308, there were 165 Templars – six knights, 41 chaplains and 118 sergeant-commoners (mostly former knights). Their gross annual revenue was £4,720. In Surrey they owned the manors of Caterham, Merrow(one third), Temple Elfold and Wychyflet in Southwark.[3]

On 20 December 1307 the sheriffs of England were instructed by Letters Close to arrest all members of the Order "on the Wednesday next after Epiphany in the morning" (8 January 1308), and to take inventories of their possessions.[4] In September 1308 Walter de Geddinges, sheriff of Surrey, held an inquisition at Guildford before John de Foxly.[5] Templars were sent to the castles of London, Lincoln, York and Dublin.

Judicial papal enquiries began in London on Monday 20 October 1309. The inquisitors included three Frenchmen plus the pope's French chaplain. The enquiry elicited nothing derogatory, and the Grand Master of the Templars in England refused to admit to any crimes. He was kept in the Tower "confined with double irons",[6] but did not long survive this treatment. Six Templars were convicted in July 1311, but given light sentences and sent to monasteries as a penance.

In 1311 pope Clement held a church council in Vienne, south of Lyons. On 8 September the prior of Merton wrote to him stating that three canons from Thornton, Cirencester and Waltham would be his proctors at the council.[7] This met on 1 October and demanded the suppression of the Order of Knights Templar. This was officially dissolved by a bull published 15 August 1312 and their possessions confiscated. The papal bull was never proclaimed in Scotland and many French Templars made their way there and fought for Scotland in 1314, helping to defeat the English at Bannockburn.

One English Templar, Stephen de Stapelbrigg, was delivered to Merton priory to do penance in 1312 whilst the king ordered Henry de Cobham, keeper of the Templars' lands in Surrey, to provide a maintenance allowance of fourpence (2p) per day.[8] At his examination on 23 June 1311, Stapelbrigg stated that he had been made to spit upon the cross and to deny the Saviour and the Virgin.[9] Later, he escaped from Merton and was re-arrested at Salisbury. He was sent to London where he was examined in 1319 and finally sent to Christchurch priory, Hampshire (now Dorset) to do penance.

In the 1320s another Templar, Thomas Totty (or Tolly) was sent to end his days at Merton.[10]

After Edward II had taken his pick, he transferred their possessions in 1323 to the Knights Hospitaller of St John.

1 A Heales *Records of Merton Priory* OUP 1898 p.197
2 Heales p.198
3 Bermondsey priory held the superior rights. *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 16 (1901) p.561
4 Close Roll Cal. pp.14,49; *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 22 (1909) pp.156/7
5 *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 22 (1909) p.157
6 *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 9 (1857) p.274
7 Heales p.207
8 Heales p.212; *VCH* 2 p.98
9 *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 9 (1857) p.272
10 *VCH* 2 p.98; Bull of pope John XXII

JOHN PILE recalls LIFE AT YOUNG & COMPANY (WESTMINSTER) LTD, MERTON ABBEY, IN THE 1950s

I cannot recall how I got to hear, exactly 50 years ago, in the winter of 1954, that Young & Company (Westminster) Limited required a junior draughtsman, but, having been working for an air-conditioning company in Queen Anne's Gate for little more than a year, I decided, at the tender age of 17, that I had had enough of rush-hour travel on the Tube from Morden to St James's Park, and it would be much nicer to cycle the two miles to work when the weather permitted. I applied for the position at Young's, and I was asked to attend an interview with Mr Brown, one of the directors of the company, at his home in Stratton Road, off Kenley Road, in Merton.

Joshua Brown was a formal, but genial, man of between 60 and 70 years of age. He was a lively man: upright and quite short, having short grey hair and a bristly grey moustache. Invariably dressed in a brown tweed three-piece suit and brown brogue shoes, Mr Brown possessed the appearance of a country landowner rather than a director of a small engineering works in Merton. This impression was supported by the sight, in his small study, of several fox-hunting directories together with other evidence of rural interests. I liked Mr Brown, and I was pleased to be offered the position by letter a few days later.

The contrast between the modern appearance and bustling efficiency of the Carrier Engineering Company in Queen Anne's Gate and the faded splendour of Young & Company's premises in High Path, Merton, could hardly have been greater. According to the company's letter-head, the business had been established in 1875, presumably in Westminster, and it had moved to SW19 in the early 1920s. A letter from Young's was received by Merton and Morden Urban District Council on 21 July 1919 when the company was seeking to buy land at the junction of Abbey Road and High Path on which to build its new offices and workshops. These premises subsequently occupied a narrow wedge of land between High Path and the single-track railway loop-line between Wimbledon and Tooting Junction. This line, like Young's, has now gone, and has been replaced by Merantun Way. I cannot now be certain, but I believe that goods dispatched from Young's by rail were taken to Merton Abbey station.

The Young's buildings consisted of an office block constructed from asbestos sheets above a range of showrooms built with breezeblocks and covered with roughcast. Adjoining these to the west were the single-storey workshops with a small office for the works manager, an open-fronted forge, and storage racks for the stock-in-trade, mostly galvanized steel tubes and a variety of steel sections. The exterior of the offices was distinctive both for its appearance of 'timber-framing', which was constructed from flat strips of wood fastened over the joins in the asbestos cladding, and for the window running the length of the internal gallery that gave access to the various offices inside the building. The expanse of glass was obviously a temptation for children to throw stones, and all the windows were covered with wire mesh guards.

Bird's eye view of Young's works, from an undated catalogue (?1929) (courtesy Merton Library Service)

The ground floor showroom was carefully designed to display the complete range of Young's products illustrated in their catalogue of cowhouse, piggery and stable fittings; and even the showroom windows were of the metal 'hopper' type used to illuminate and ventilate the various types of buildings. For many years Young's had been leaders in their field, and even during the first decade of post-war Britain they had few serious rivals. The equipment offered by Young's in the 1950s had changed very little in design or quality since the end of the Great War, and the malleable iron castings, produced by a foundry at Halstead in Essex, continued to be made from the same wooden 'patterns'. There was an important reason why Young's had few competitors at this time. During the war years, British farmers had been given every encouragement by the government to produce as much of the nation's food as possible, but there was little money or raw materials available to replace farm equipment that was not regarded as essential, and this situation changed only gradually after 1947. Slowly, as

The Site of Young's Cowhouse and Stable Works at Merton Abbey, from the 1:1250 Ordnance Survey map 1952 (courtesy Merton Library Service)

circumstances improved, landowners and tenant farmers began to invest in new and replacement equipment, but fashions and practices were changing, and some of the equipment that had been pioneered by Young's, and had formed the basis of their business, was becoming outmoded. Young's continued to receive orders – some of them quite substantial – for their standard cowhouse fittings, but the anticipated post-war boom failed to materialize. Despite the post-war popularity of pig-keeping, particularly with ex-servicemen eager to find a lucrative career in 'Civvy Street', sales of piggery equipment never picked up. 'Horsiculture' had not yet arrived, and orders for stable equipment were rare indeed. In order to survive, Young's clearly had to diversify.

During my time at Young's, the total workforce remained at between ten and twelve, and this number was divided between the office and the workshop. There were four of us in the upstairs offices. The office manager was Ted Tomlin, and he and an office-boy worked in the main office at the back of the building, overlooking the railway line, where, twice a day, as I recollect, their routine was enlivened by the appearance of a heavy goods train hauled by a steam locomotive. At that time there was very little building to the south, between the railway and Morden Hall Park, except the Lombard Road factory estate. To the south-east, an avenue of lime trees partially hid Liberty's works, and the corrugated bleaching grounds still showed clearly through the rough grass. The scene was almost rural. Inside the principal office, the space in front of the long window overlooking the railway line was occupied by a long, high, wooden desk with a sloping top made from thick dark oak boards. The flat top at the back of the desk was fitted with two horizontal brass rails running the length of the desk and supported on short brass columns. This was a shelf on which ledgers were once rested. There were about six sections to the desk, each with a hinged lid, but these had long since ceased to accommodate pens, rulers and blotting-paper, and they now held drills, files, welding-rods, saw blades, and many other items deemed too valuable to be kept in the workshop. The modern occupants of the main office might occasionally be reminded of its former life by the persistence of cylindrical ebony rulers, heavy glass inkwells, a notepaper-embossing press, and other such office bygones.

The desk I have described came from the company's Westminster office, when its customers included the like of the top-hatted gentleman farmer depicted on the front cover of the catalogue against the background of his Victorian model farm. In the 1950s Young's supported but one lady secretary-cum-ledger-clerk, from Richmond, who still used a steel pen and red and blue-black inks to enter the details and value of the orders into large half-leather-bound ledgers. The secretary's office, which was the warmest room in the building, adjoined an unheated room in which the ledgers were stored on stout wooden shelves. Those ledgers went back to the origins of the company, and their contents would have told the story and charted the fortunes of the firm over a period of some 80 years. Unfortunately I never had the opportunity to look at them in any detail.

I worked alone in a small office – the drawing office – that overlooked the yard of a works that produced coloured light bulbs. It was my job to provide the drawings that accompanied the quotations – showing Young's equipment as it would appear when installed on the customer's premises. Usually, however, one of the many standard drawings, finely executed in Indian ink on blue linen many years earlier, could be utilized for this purpose. The most interesting work I was given was to design and make detailed drawings of new equipment, from which the foundry could make the patterns for the castings, or the workshop could fabricate the designs in mild steel. One of the lines that Young's had developed successfully some years before I arrived was tubular steel pedestrian guard railing, with panels sometimes filled with either welded or woven wire mesh. Many examples of guard railing, with the distinctive tee-clamp and elbow castings bearing the name '**YOUNG**' in relief, could be seen in towns all over the country. I have said that Young's had to diversify in order to survive in the post-war years, and this involved the fabrication, sometimes from clients' own drawings, sometimes from our own designs, of a wide range of builders' ironwork, as well as steel sinks for hotel and works kitchens. In addition to drawing, I was often given the job of preparing estimates, especially for the fabricated work, and this involved calculating the quantities of materials required, and consulting the works manager as to the estimated time for production. It was always of great interest to me to compare the estimated time with the actual time taken on some of these jobs, as unforeseen problems would sometimes result in a loss. This was always a very real danger when taking on new and unfamiliar work.

The other rooms above the showrooms included the Board Room. This was relatively well, but not extravagantly, furnished. It had a large Persian carpet on the floor, a roll-top desk, and a large table in the centre of the room, used only when the two directors met, probably no more than four times a year. The other director was a lady who lived at Coulsdon, I believe, and on board meeting days it was Ted's job to go off in a large, somewhat ancient, car to fetch her. I remember once the office boy telling Ted about the advantages of 'modern' cars that were smarter, cheaper to run, and more reliable! Mr Brown would also arrive, on board meeting days, at about the same time as the lady director, and after the meeting, at about noon, they would go off together to lunch, as I supposed. Mr Brown sometimes appeared at the offices by himself, occasionally to discuss ideas for new equipment, for which he would ask me to produce the working drawings. Very infrequently Mr Brown and I visited a customer together, usually one of the wealthier clients on his farm in Berkshire or Sussex, but most farm visits were for the purpose of measuring-up, and these were generally made in the company of Ted.

One of the rooms contained big brown paper parcels of catalogues. The 'large catalogue' was a well-produced book printed on art paper and bound in stiff board covers. This contained comprehensive details and illustrations of the complete range of Young's farm equipment including the cowhouse equipment, and the piggery and stable fittings. A thinner catalogue excluded the stable fittings, and this was the one most frequently sent to prospective customers, although it was in the process of being superseded by a more up-to-date booklet in paper covers listing only the more popular items. The half-tone blocks from which the catalogue illustrations had been printed were also kept, and these were occasionally re-used to illustrate advertisements in the magazine of the Country Gentlemen's Association, and trade journals such as *Dairy Farmer* and *Farmer and Stockbreeder*. Half-tone blocks were expensive to produce, and when new illustrations were needed the preliminary art-work was done in the drawing office. The blocks for these line illustrations were called 'zincos', being made on zinc plates by an acid etching process.

The print-room equipment at Young's was positively primitive compared with the continuous dyeline machine I had been accustomed to at Carrier's, which produced prints with black or blue lines on a white background. The old-fashioned blueprint process still in use at Young's produced copies with white lines on a blue background. The machine was most definitely an antique. It consisted of a large vertical cast-iron-framed glass cylinder about 2ft in diameter and 4ft 6in tall, down the centre of which descended a carbon arc lamp whose speed was regulated by a butterfly governor mounted on the wall. Light sensitive paper was placed over the drawing that had been made on translucent tracing paper or linen, and both were secured against the outer surface of the cylinder, and exposed to the light of the arc lamp. The image was fixed by washing the print in a large, shallow zinc-lined bath of cold water. The blueprint was then hung over a rack to dry.

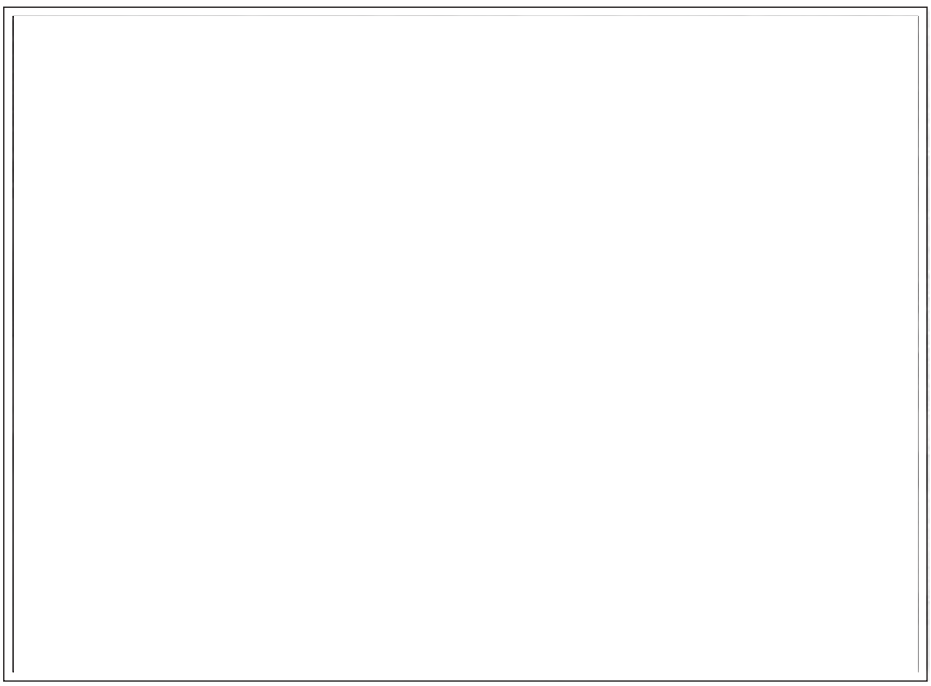
In accordance with long-established tradition, the workshop started an hour before the office staff arrived at 9 am and continued until 5 or 5.30, the office having closed at 4.30. Will Tomlin, Ted's brother, managed the workshop and, considering the almost complete absence of modern machinery, even by 1950s standards, and the Victorian office methods, the pair ran the day-to-day business of the firm with commendable efficiency. Working conditions in both office and workshop were poor, even by the rather bleak standards of the day. During the winter, when the only source of heat in the main workshop was a single coke-burning Tortoise stove in the middle of the floor, the cold could become intolerable, and although the stove might glow from top to

bottom with a dull red heat, those working only a few yards from it would receive very little benefit and would be obliged to come up closer every now and then to warm up. The favourite job in cold weather was blacksmithing, when the iron was heated on a hand-operated forge. Winter in the office was not much more comfortable. There was little, if any, insulation in the building construction, and the only heat was from radiant electric fires, relics, one suspected, of the company's earliest days in Merton.

Mild steel was virtually the only material used at Young's, and this was supplied by one of the London stockholders. Galvanized mild steel tubing was used for all the cowhouse fittings, including the stalls and yokes, for the stockyard railings, pens and gates, and for the pedestrian guard railing. The tubing was formed to the required shape using a hand-operated hydraulic tube-bender capable of handling material up to two inches in diameter. Mild steel sheet was folded by means of hand-operated machines, and most of the other shaping operations were performed by hand at the bench. The only powered machines that I recollect were a pillar-drill, a saw, and two grinders, one portable and the other mounted on a bench. Considerable quantities of chains were used, purchased directly from the manufacturers, Eliza Tinsley, at Cradley Heath in the West Midlands. Oxy-acetylene cutting and welding could be done in the workshop, the gas cylinders being supplied by the British Oxygen Company nearby. Arc-welding was the more usual method, and an experienced welder was an essential member of the workforce. Most of the equipment and fittings supplied by Young's were galvanized by a specialist company whose lorry called regularly to collect and return the work. Occasionally, parts of a large order that involved, for example, stainless steel or aluminium, might be subcontracted. Young's had no transport of its own, and large, heavy orders were dispatched by hired vehicles. Smaller parcels and sacks of fittings went by goods train. A permanent overhead gantry spanned the access to the works, to which a block-and-tackle was attached when heavy loads had to be lifted.

Young's exhibited at some of the nearer agricultural shows, but the most productive in terms of new orders received was the annual Dairy Show at Olympia. The equipment to be exhibited was taken up in advance by a local removal firm, and two or three men went up to erect the stand and fit the equipment. The stand was generally manned by two of the office staff, often Ted and myself. It was a tedious job, and the slowly passing hours were relieved only by the opportunity to talk to visitors and to wander around the hall looking at the other stands, whilst the other man held the fort.

Any chance to get away from the office was usually welcomed, and eventually it became my job to go to the bank in the High Street on Friday mornings to get the money for the wages. The total weekly payroll for the office and the works probably amounted to little more than £200, but collecting the money was a great responsibility which I took very seriously, being careful to vary my route each week, never returning the same way as my outward journey. Sometimes I went out along Abbey Road and returned along Pincott Road, reversing the direction next week, and so on. Occasionally there were errands to be run, the most common being a trip to Lampert's in Merton High Street [now in Pincott Road] to get some item of ironmongery or tools for the workshop. Once I had to go to Ted's home in Rectory Lane to fetch the briefcase containing his sandwiches.



View of part of showroom at Abbey Road, Merton Abbey (courtesy Merton Library Service)

My career at Young's was interrupted by two years of National Service in the Royal Air Force. Whilst at Carrier's and Young's I had been attending Wimbledon Technical College one day a week, studying for the Ordinary National Certificate in 'Heat Engines', but having completed the course my deferment was at an end. I returned to Young's for a further two years after National Service, but I found the company quite obviously struggling to survive despite attempts to enter other fields of light engineering. It seemed to lack the ideas and leadership necessary to find a way forward when its traditional market was failing. It had been starved of capital investment over a long period, and it lacked the expertise to go forward into the second half of the century, when more sophisticated production and marketing methods would be required in an increasingly competitive market. Young's cowhouse equipment was of the highest quality, and it was made to last, but competitors were appearing whose standards and prices were lower. It is likely that the directors were content to accept a lower level of profit for the remaining life of the company, and finally to realize the value of the land on which it stood. To be realistic, my time at Young's had done little to enhance a career in engineering and I felt that a change of direction was necessary. I said goodbye to Young's in September 1960, when I began training for a new career in teaching.

The Society would be very pleased to receive more reminiscences, of any length, of working for a local business. Such memories are an important part of local history. The editor's address is on page 16.

REVIEW: *The Earthly Paradise* by Peter Whelan, performed at the Almeida Theatre November 2004 – January 2005

The play is set in Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire, in the early 1870s. Present are William Morris, his wife Janey and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Also in the house are the two Morris daughters, unseen. Janey is Gabriel's muse. For three summers Morris goes to Iceland, leaving Gabriel and Janey alone, and in love. This is the essence of the play – nothing more or less.

The first half of the play is mainly long conversations between William and Gabriel. At times the conversations sound more like speeches, and therefore rather artificial. Janey comes on stage but has little to do or say. The play would have had a better balance if Whelan had cut the 'speechifying' and rewritten just some of it for Janey, bringing her centre-stage and a more rounded character.

The second part of the play becomes more emotional between the three. William returns from his third visit to Iceland, with two silver rings, one for Janey and one for Gabriel. "Where's yours?" asks Janey nervously. "They only come in pairs. Put them on", William replies gruffly. The symbolism is all too stark.

Soon after this Gabriel suffers a nervous breakdown. He and William have a violent argument which ends in Gabriel attacking William physically. There is then a reconciliation between Janey and William. It is all pure Victorian melodrama at its best.

A number of things make the play work so well – Whelan's build-up of drama, Robert Delamere's direction, and the set design of Simon Higlett. Rossetti (Alan Cox) is spoilt and petulant. Janey (Saffron Burrows) is tall, slim, dignified, but not ethereal.

Morris, played by Nigel Lindsay, is a whole person, due to his superb and sensitive acting – a genial giant, with a temper like a summer storm. Just one example is Morris alone on stage, his legs apart and his hands clutching his knees, gazing at the floor. Suddenly his face contorts and he starts slapping his head violently, the slaps heard throughout the theatre. He suddenly stops and jumps to his feet, his face calm and controlled. He has made a decision and walks from the stage with confidence. This portrayal of Morris was a joy to see.

Don Fleming

LIONEL GREEN tells the strange story (which has Merton connections) of

THE ARCHBISHOPRIC OF YORK 1139-1154

Thurstan was a successful and energetic archbishop who had welcomed the Cistercians to Yorkshire at Rievaulx and Fountains in 1132. After serving for a quarter of a century he wished to resign in 1139, and had in mind to stand down in favour of his brother Ewan, bishop of Evreux. Thurstan sent Richard, the second abbot of Fountains, to Rome to attend the second Lateran Council and to obtain from Innocent II permission for Ewan's election to the primacy.

Ewan was a good and popular choice, as he was "ranked amongst the most learned men of his day".[1] He had been a favourite of Henry I, and at his death accompanied the king's body from Normandy to Reading in December 1135.

Ewan the elect came to Merton to await the decision of the pope, and took the habit of a canon of Merton, but died on 2 July 1139 "in the college of the canons of Merton where he was buried".[2] England was denied the services of an eminent man as archbishop of York. Seven months later, on 6 February 1140, Thurstan also died, and this is the story of how the Church suffered to find a suitable successor. Although "a small beginning, the strife came to involve almost every person of importance in England, and many on the continent, and lasted in its ramifications for some twenty years".[3]

Waldef prior of Kirkham (Augustinian) was a favoured candidate but was vetoed by king Stephen on political grounds, as he was a stepson of king David of Scotland.[4] Henry de Sully, abbot of Fécamp, was then put forward with the support of the pope's legate Henry of Winchester, but Sully was reluctant to leave his abbey, and Innocent II refused to allow him to hold two offices.

The king wished to put forward his nephew William Fitzherbert, treasurer of York, "an amiable and generous person, though unused to exertion of any kind".[5] A majority elected him archbishop in January 1141, but the leaders of the newly founded Cistercian houses, who had a programme of reform, were not prepared to co-operate unreservedly with king Stephen or his brother Henry of Winchester, the pope's legate. The priors of Augustinian monasteries in the north also resisted the decision. Robert Biseth, prior of Hexham, was so disgusted that he resigned office and proceeded to Clairvaux to become a novice there.[6] Fitzherbert went to the king at Lincoln for confirmation of the temporalities (lay possessions) of his see, but on 2 February 1141 Stephen was taken prisoner at the battle of Lincoln. All turned to the pope for directions, but Bernard of Clairvaux wrote to him supporting the minority view. The pope refused Fitzherbert the pallium[7] and requested all to appear before him on 7 March 1143. The matter was referred to Henry of Winchester and Robert of Hereford as judge-delegates. This resulted in William Fitzherbert being consecrated archbishop on 26 September 1143. Two days previously Innocent II had died at Rome, and the legateship of Henry of Winchester expired at that date. Bernard of Clairvaux wrote to the new pope Celestine II criticising Henry of Winchester, suggesting that the bishop's protégé, the archbishop of York, was an idol set up in the temple of God,[8] and "an incubus upon the Church, twice intruded into the see, once by the king, now by the legate".[9] William could not exercise full jurisdiction without receiving the pallium, and Celestine died within six months on 8 March 1144. His successor Lucius II was favourable towards Henry of Winchester but did not renew his legateship. He dispatched Imar of Tusculum to England bearing the pallium for William. When he arrived in England, Lucius had died on 15 February 1145, and the legate returned to Rome with the pallium for further instructions.

William proceeded to Rome to ask for the pallium, but Eugenius III, the new pope, decided to suspend him for a time. William was disgusted and decided to join the court of his kinsman Roger, king of Sicily.

Early in 1147 the pope issued letters authorising a fresh election on 24 July. King Stephen, having been denied his choice, nominated a clerk on the staff of Henry, bishop of Winchester. This was Hilary, who had probably studied under Abelard, and was dean of the college of priests at Christchurch (Twynham), Hampshire.

Another candidate was Henry Murdac, the third abbot of Fountains. Both candidates went to Rome, where Eugenius decided in favour of Murdac. The pope consecrated Hilary as bishop of Chichester on 3 August 1147, and Murdac as archbishop on 7 December.

At the Council of Rheims in March 1148 William Fitzherbert was once more declared to be deposed. He returned to England, and stayed with his uncle Henry of Winchester.

Hilary, still dean of Christchurch, in 1149 introduced canons from Merton priory for the college to become an Augustinian priory, the eighth daughter house of Merton.

Bernard of Clairvaux died on 20 August 1153 and the northern province became vacant once more on 14 October 1153 when Murdac died.

William Fitzherbert set out once more for Rome. The pope, now Anastasius IV, was friendly and felt that his appointment would simplify matters both at Rome and in England. William was duly elected archbishop again, and returned to York in May 1154 to claim his seat. We will never know if he would have been an ideal choice, as he died on 8 June 1154, some suggesting that he was poisoned.

The saga ends with a formal letter, written for archbishop Theobald of Canterbury by John of Salisbury, acquainting the new pope Adrian IV with the facts. Did Adrian, a child of the cloister at Merton, ever realise it began at Merton?

PS Miraculous cures were reported at William's tomb behind the high altar at York, and in 1227, after due enquiry, he was canonised by Honorius III.

1 *The Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis* (ed. and trans. M. Chibnall) 1969-80 vi 174/5;
2 *The Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis* (ed. and trans. F Forester) 1853-56 iv 29
3 D Knowles *The Historian and Character and other essays* CUP 1963 p.76; 4 *ibid*. p.80; 5 *ibid*. p.82; 6 *ibid*. p.81;
7 A woollen mantle with pendents front and back, the symbol of authority of a metropolitan; 8 Knowles *op.cit*. p.36; 9 *ibid*. p.87

THE WANDLE IN LITERATURE – an occasional series
3. Three weeks in the life of Leigh Hunt

In his good-humoured autobiography, of which the final version was published in the year of his death, the essayist, editor, journalist and poet Leigh Hunt (1784-1859) wrote of an idyllic summer holiday at Merton when he was a boy of 12 or 13, including a vivid encounter by the Wandle:

"My aunt[1] took a country-house at Merton,[2] in Surrey, where I passed three of the happiest weeks of my life. It was the custom of our school,[3] in those days, to allow us only one set of unbroken holidays during the whole time we were there – I mean, holidays in which we remained away from school by night as well as by day. The period was always in August… I read, walked, had a garden and orchard to run in; and fields that I could have rolled in, to have my will of them.

"My father accompanied me to Wimbledon to see Horne Tooke,[4] who patted me on the head…

"My cousins had the celebrated Dr Callcott[5] for a music-master … When he came down to Merton, he let me ride his horse. What days were those! Instead of being roused against my will by a bell, I jumped up with the lark, and strolled 'out of bounds' …

"My strolls about the fields with a book were full of happiness: only my dress[6] used to get me stared at by the villagers. Walking one day by the little River Wandle, I came upon one of the loveliest girls I ever beheld, standing in the water with bare legs, washing some linen. She turned as she was stooping, and showed a blooming oval face with blue eyes, on either side of which flowed a profusion of flaxen locks. With the exception of the colour of the hair, it was like Raphael's own head turned into a peasant girl's. The eyes were full of gentle astonishment at the sight of me; and mine must have wondered no less. However, I was prepared for such wonders. It was only one of my poetical visions realized, and I expected to find the world full of them. What she thought of my blue skirts and yellow stockings is not so clear. She did not however taunt me with my 'petticoats', as the girls in the streets of London would do, making me blush, as I thought they ought to have done instead. My beauty in the brook was too gentle and diffident; at least I thought so, and my own heart did not contradict me…

"I had no drawback on my felicity at Merton [except missing a friend, and a recurrence of fear of the dark] … Samuel [his aunt's black footman] … had his bed removed accordingly into my room. He used to entertain me at night with stories of Barbados and the Negroes; and in a few days I was reassured and happy.

"It was then … that I fell in love with my cousin Fan… Fanny was a lass of fifteen, with little laughing eyes, and a mouth like a plum. I was then … not more than thirteen, if so old… My cousin was about to be married to a handsome young fellow of three-and-twenty. I thought nothing of this, for nothing could be more innocent than my intentions… I thought everyone must love Fanny Dayrell… It was enough for me to be with her as long as I could; to gaze on her with delight as she floated hither and thither; and to sit on the stiles in the neighbouring fields …"

Judith Goodman

1 Mrs Dayrell, whose home was in the West Indies
2 This was Spring House, an early 18th-century house on the north side of Kingston Road, almost opposite Church Lane. It survived until the 1930s, when it was replaced by a block of flats of the same name. John Wallace's *Spring House* (1996) is a detailed history of buildings and occupants. The previous occupant had been London bookseller James Lackington [see *Bulletin* 149].
3 Hunt was a pupil at Christ's Hospital, then in Newgate Street. He entered in 1791.
4 John Horne Tooke (1736-1812) was a radical politician, who at the time of Hunt's visit, was living at Chester House, Common West Side, Wimbledon. The house survives, and bears a plaque commemorating his residence there. Horne Tooke was also the author of *Diversions of Purley*
5 John Wall Callcott (1766-1821). He was a composer of glees. In 1787 he submitted 100 entries for the annual competition of the Noblemen and Gentlemen's Catch Club. His *Musical Grammar* appeared in 1806.
6 The school was also known as the Bluecoat School, as the boys wore (and still do) long blue coats and yellow stockings.

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.

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