



PRESIDENT: Lionel Green

VICE PRESIDENTS: Viscountess Hanworth, Eric Montague and William Rudd

BULLETIN NO. 162

CHAIR: Judith Goodman

JUNE 2007



PROGRAMME JUNE–SEPTEMBER



Saturday 9 June

Guided walk round Cricket Green, Mitcham

Meet **Tony Scott** outside the Vestry Hall at 2.15 for 2.30pm for an informative tour of this picturesque and historic area. No need to book.

The Vestry Hall is on several bus routes and a short walk from Mitcham Tramlink stop.

The Kilsbys' coach trip to Cambridge on 14 July

Waiting list places only available

Sunday 19 August

'From Doublegate to Singlegate'



A walk led by knowledgeable member **Cyril Maidment**, who is also a member of the Wimbledon Society. Meet at South Wimbledon Underground station at 2.15 for 2.30pm.

No need to book.

Thursday 20 September 2pm

Visit to the London Fire Brigade Museum

Cost £3/£2 concession.



LOCAL HISTORY WALK AROUND MERTON PARK – 7 JUNE

On Thursday evening, 7 June, there will be a guided walk around Merton Park, conducted by Clive Whichelow, on behalf of the **John Innes Society**. Clive is also a member of our Society. He has written several booklets and many articles about Merton and Wimbledon, as well as giving talks, and leading walks in the area. Find out more about the history of Merton Park, from Nelson to nursery rhymes, and from film studios to Suffragettes, not to mention the odd ghost!

The walk will start at 7.30pm at the Erridge Road entrance to Merton Park Primary School and will last for about 1½ to 2 hours, finishing at the White Hart in Kingston Road. It is suitable for persons with an average level of mobility and for children over 12. There is a charge of £2 for all attending the walk, payable on the day.

‘THE RIVER WEY NAVIGATION’

There was a full house at the Snuff Mill Centre for this illustrated talk on 17 February by Hugh Compton, whose interest in various forms of transport includes membership of the Parliamentary Waterways Group.

By the mid-17th century the Wey had been used locally for navigation for a considerable time, for the advantages of water-borne transport were most apparent in those days of very poor roads. Various attempts had been made to improve parts of the river, and in 1651 an Act of Parliament was promoted by Sir Richard Weston of Sutton Place, near Guildford, as a result of which a 15-mile navigation with its 13 locks was completed by November 1653, at a cost of £15,000, connecting Guildford with the Thames at Weybridge.

This had commercial advantages for the town of Guildford and other places of industry, but the traffic was chiefly timber, corn and other agricultural products. In 1764 the Godalming Navigation opened, and enabled barges to work a further four miles up river. The heyday came after 1796, when the Basingstoke Canal was linked to the Wey. Eventually, in 1813, an Act of Parliament backed by the Earl of Egremont of Petworth, Sussex, authorised the building of the Wey and Arun Junction Canal, so that in the 19th century it was possible to travel by boat from London to Littlehampton by way of Guildford. At this time coal from the Midlands, brought to London via the Grand Junction Canal, was among the growing variety of goods carried. However, enlightened social concern was expressed, for instance in the 1877 Act, that made the education of the children of canal barge workers compulsory, and other controls were to be imposed, such as the provision of better living spaces on the barges.



The Anchor at Pyrford Lock 1978
Illustration from M Denney Historic Waterways Scenes: London & South-East England Ashbourne (?1970s)

Commercial success was also soon to be challenged by the development of railways, and the canals thereafter declined and many parts fell into decay. Recent decades have seen the revival of use for recreational purposes, and the National Trust's Dapdune Wharf in Guildford is a visitor centre for those who might wish to experience at firsthand some of the intriguing and attractive places shown in the speaker's slides.

Ray Ninnis

PS In reading around the subject a little for this report I found that Ralph Dodd's proposed Grand Surrey Canal of 1799/1800 would have connected Kingston, Epsom and Croydon to the Thames at Rotherhithe *and* would have passed through Mitcham, Morden and Merton. Sadly, it was rejected. **RN**

THE ANNUAL DINNER

This occasion, on 28 February, marked the 56th anniversary of the founding of the Society. As Park Place, our usual venue, was closed for refurbishment we celebrated in an upstairs room at the George, in Morden. While it lacks the architectural dignity of Park Place, the George, in one guise or another, has been a local landmark and convivial meeting-place for centuries. Both food and service we were pleased to find very satisfactory, and the company, of course, was first-rate.

JG

WANDSWORTH MUSEUM

The future of this admired museum has now been secured, by private money. The Hintze Foundation (the Hintze family live in Wandsworth Borough) is setting up a Charitable Trust to manage the museum. The museum's present premises in Garratt Lane will house a new library, as the Council planned, but the museum will now move to the West Hill library building. This it will share with the privately run De Morgan Foundation collection, whose future was also originally threatened by the Council's plans.

JG

‘THE CROYDON, MERSTHAM AND GODSTONE IRON RAILWAY’

Paul Sowan, of Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, spoke to a large audience at St John’s church hall in High Path on 24 March. Well known as a historian of underground Surrey and associated topics, Paul last talked to us, in December 2002, about Reigate stone – its extraction and use. Indeed Reigate stone cropped up (or outcropped?) this time too. Why, he wondered, wasn’t the Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Iron Railway (CMGIR) called the CMGRIR? It was just as much part of the original scheme that it should go to Reigate as to Godstone, forking off to both from Merstham.

The history of transporting materials from Surrey and Sussex to the Thames goes back at least to Roman times. Bricks and tiles of that period made in a kiln excavated in Croydon have been found in London and in Canterbury, and Reigate stone has been uncovered at pre-Boudiccan sites in London. Over the centuries, these southern counties also provided the capital with lime/chalk, fullers earth, Wealden iron and timber. Stone from Surrey was used at Windsor Castle and at the old Westminster Palace. Transport for a long time was mainly by sea, as the easiest way.

Paul is inclined to think that the Surrey Iron Railway, of 1803, was not, as often said, the first public railway in the world. He thinks possibly the second, probably the third – the first being near Wakefield. However it was the one that caught the attention of foreign industrialists. Russian and German visitors came, to scrutinise it and draw maps and diagrams to take back home.

Two years later, in 1805, the CMGIR opened. It closed in 1836, ten years earlier than the SIR. A terminus in Bell Street, Reigate, was the original intention, to serve the local sand mines. But that never happened. The mines presumably had to continue to send their products laboriously by road.

The railway did not go to Godstone either. The deposited plans for this section showed that the intended route would actually, and mysteriously, have avoided the main chalk pits and stone quarries en route, and terminated at Ivy Mill, Godstone, nowhere near Godstone’s stone mines. Why was this? Paul suggested that the fact that members of the Joliffe family, important quarry owners in Merstham, had joined the board was significant. In fact the railway never did go beyond Merstham, and though it connected with the Surrey Iron Railway (SIR) and the Croydon Canal (at what is now Pitlake, in Croydon) none of the three entities making up this network ever really made any money.

However, even the limited length of the railway as built was a more testing and a larger-scale enterprise than the SIR. Some of its trackbed was incorporated into later lines, but CMGIR embankments and cuttings can still be identified at Coulsdon, Hooley and Merstham. Paul showed an excellent selection of maps and plans, views of the railway (including a Hassell watercolour of a bridge at Merstham), and its remains, and many underground shots of the mines and their industrial archaeology. He stressed that research was continually revealing more about this aspect of Surrey’s history, and also reminded us that there are four open days a year at Reigate’s sand mines.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed a stimulating talk by an expert in his field.

Judith Goodman

PS The British Association for Local History has chosen an article in the Bourne Society’s *Local History Records* by Paul Sowan called ‘The Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Iron Railway’ as one of the five winners of its 2007 Publications Awards.

CMGIR remains at Merstham
Drawing by R Oliver in
Industrial Archaeology of
Surrey AIA (1990)



‘MEMORIES OF MITCHAM 1965-1970’

On 21 April members and visitors were treated to an excellent slide show and lecture from the well-known Mitcham historian, a vice chairman of this society, Eric Montague. He is the author of many books and articles on Mitcham, the most recent, still in progress, being the *Mitcham Histories* series. It was appropriate that the event was held in the new Parish Centre just off Church Road, a most historic part of Mitcham.

Mitcham was administratively a parish within Croydon Rural District until it became an Urban District in its own right in 1915, at which time the population was about 30,000. In 1934 it achieved borough status. The Local Government Act of 1964 brought into being, on 1 April 1965, the London Borough of Merton, removing the whole area from Surrey County Council jurisdiction, and making it part of Greater London.

In 1965 Mitcham as a borough had a public library, three local newspapers and two swimming pools (an open-air pool in Wandle Park and an indoor pool in London Road). There were plans to build a new town hall in the grounds of Mitcham Court, which had been acquired by the council in 1939. Mitcham had large council estates at Phipps Bridge, Pollards Hill and even at Tadworth, and smaller estates in London Road (Glebe Court), Armfield Crescent and Laburnum Road. All local government activities were controlled by the borough except for education and the main highways, which were county responsibilities.

Eric explained that the new council embarked upon a programme of clearance of older properties and re-development, and his lecture showed many slides of properties that were demolished in 1965-1970. He began with the Christchurch Road area, showing the railway bridge and the Tandem works, which have both gone. Two old properties have, strangely enough, been demolished and rebuilt as replicas – Millers Mead cottages in Colliers Wood High Street in about 1968, and 70 Christchurch Road in about 1965.

In the middle of Mitcham Common a windmill had been built in 1808 on land owned by James Moore, the lord of the manor. It operated until struck by lightning *c.* 1880. The substantial Mill House was used in 1965 as a changing room for the numerous football pitches adjacent to it on the Common. The Croydon end of the Common was ‘landscaped’ using clay dug out during construction at Pollards Hill in the 1970s. The pitches have gone and the Mill House is now a pub/restaurant.

In 1965 Mitcham station was served by trains on the Wimbledon-West Croydon line. The station building with the arched entrance in London Road was sold fairly soon after that date and is now the attractive Station Court. The railway closed on 31 May 1997, to be replaced by Croydon Tramlink on 30 May 2000. The coal order office on the railway bridge closed in the 1960s, but the building remained with a succession of small office users until demolished during Tramlink works. Just along London Road towards the town centre, the Congregational church has been replaced by the houses of Linden Place. In the other direction, the brewery which produced Mitcham Ales between about 1820 and 1910 has been demolished. Most of the site is used for open storage, but The Beeches was built on the site of the brewer’s house. Rose Nursery, a weatherboard house in Tramway Path, has been replaced by two houses.



The Tandem Works, Christchurch Road May 1974



Site of Tamworth Farm, Figges Marsh June 1967

In Streatham Road, Pascall’s sweet factory was still open in 1965, but within about ten years it closed and the site was redeveloped as Mitcham Industrial Estate.

The area around the Cricket Green may appear to be relatively unchanged since 1965, but a new building, Brook Court, has appeared next to Mitcham Court, and a considerable amount of sheltered housing has been built onto the back of Sibford. SS Peter & Paul Catholic school was substantially rebuilt in 1975.

A number of other areas of the old Borough of Mitcham were covered in Eric Montague’s enjoyable lecture, but there is not space enough to mention more.

Tony Scott

‘HOMAGE TO ALL HEROES: COPENHAGEN 1801’

This was the title given to an event in Great Yarmouth on 31 March organised by the 1805 Club. The highlight was the unveiling of the first memorial in the United Kingdom to all those who took part in the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801. The plaque, inscribed in English and Danish, has been installed in the Middlegate Gardens next to the Norfolk Nelson Museum. It has been funded by the 1805 Club, the Royal Navy, the Royal Naval Museum, the Society for Nautical Research and the Nelson Society.

We watched a procession of very smart and well-drilled sea cadets from all over Norfolk, with their excellent band, in attendance on the Mayor of Yarmouth, the Lord Lieutenant of the county and the Danish Defence Attaché to the UK. He it was who did the unveiling. And though there has always been some bitterness in Denmark about this perhaps unnecessary, and certainly bloody, battle, the atmosphere of the occasion was one of warm friendship and respect.

There was then a lively lecture on the battle – it was the one in which Nelson ‘turned a blind eye’ – by a distinguished Danish naval historian, and the day was rounded off with a civic dinner in the very grand Assembly Room at the town hall. After the speeches and toasts there was a raffle draw, for which I turned out to have the lucky number! The prize was a climb the next day for two persons up Yarmouth’s restored Nelson’s Monument.

This graceful structure predates the completion of the Trafalgar Square column by 30 years. It was funded by the people of Norfolk and designed by Norfolk-born William Wilkins (architect of the National Gallery). Nelson was always proud to be a Norfolk man. Fife sandstone, brought by sea, faces the locally made brick core of a Doric column, which supports a drum, six Coade stone caryatids in the form of Victories, each holding a laurel wreath, and a globe on which stands Britannia, who clasps a trident and an olive branch. The 217 easy-rising steps within take you up to the level of the caryatids’ feet, and quite daunting ladies they are when close to and looming over you. Down below, each side of the square pedestal bears the name of one of Nelson’s great battles – Cape St Vincent, the Nile, Copenhagen and Trafalgar – and above is inscribed the name of his ship at the time. From the top of the steps the view, of sea, town and the Broads, is tremendous (so is the wind!).

By the end of last century the monument had fallen into a sad state of decay. The huge cost of restoring it for the Nelson Bicentenary in 2005 was borne mainly by the Heritage Lottery Fund, who stipulated that it should be open to visitors to climb for just eight days last year and eight days this year. Two at a time, with a guide, is all there is room for, and you have to pre-book. As recipients of special permission to climb it Mike and I felt very fortunate, and we thoroughly enjoyed our unexpected treat.

Information/bookings: www.nelsonmonument.org.uk or 01493 850698



*Nelson's Monument at
Great Yarmouth
photo: J Goodman 2007*

JG

THE WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY

Readers have probably heard about the threat to the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. Waltham Forest Borough Council intends to reduce the opening hours, rewrite job descriptions, including making the curator also responsible for the borough's other museum, and cut staffing and cleaning costs. This important museum, in a childhood home of Morris, is known and visited by scholars and admirers of Morris's work and ideas from all over the world as well as by local people. The fine collection of artefacts is complemented by documents, photographs and an excellent library of books by and about Morris. The staff are knowledgeable and helpful. There have been public meetings and (well-behaved) demonstrations against the proposals. By the time this *Bulletin* is out a decision may have been made. Even so, please write in support of the Museum and what it stands for to

Councillor Naz Sarkar

and

Councillor Clyde Loakes

Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture

Leader London Borough of Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest Town Hall

Waltham Forest Town Hall

Forest Road

Forest Road

London E17 4JF

London E17 4JF

JG

LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS

Friday 16 March, evening meeting, Peter Hopkins in the chair

- ◆ **Bill Rudd** had considered further the Time Team account of their research into the Liberty Print Works at Merton Abbey Mills. In particular, in the Wandle they had found brick foundations of support walls to two platforms projecting into the river. These they took to be landing stages. Bill could not accept this, since there were no boats on the river and therefore no need for landing stages. He agreed the stages were real enough and could be seen on maps earlier than the 1894 one. He thought their function was to facilitate the drawing of water in heavy buckets for use in the works [see page 8].

Bill also brought a sales leaflet on the substantial new Barratt development, Waverley Apartments, on the former Masters of Morden site in Green Lane, beside St Helier station.

- ◆ **Cyril Maidment** showed a photo taken about 100 years ago of the priory wall by the Pickle ditch, scanned from an old quarter-plate glass negative. Similar ones were well known, and some were used in Lionel's book on the priory. Since that section of the wall still exists he had attempted a 'then and now' picture, but this was not possible due to the dense vegetation shielding the wall. However he did succeed in taking a section of the wall with a new 'Sainsbury's' sign towering above it.

The Geoffrey Wilson article on trams was greatly appreciated. The changeover point was in High Street, Tooting, not Colliers Wood.

- ◆ **Madeline Healey** spoke of her Uncle John, a colourful character, the brother of her father. He was a member of the crew of the WW1 submarine M Class, the M-1, launched 9 July 1917. This class comprised a big submarine, 100m long, constructed solely to carry a massive 12-inch gun, intended to prey on merchant ships at a distance that would make retaliation by torpedo very unlikely. The Royal Navy decided, after all, not to use it in the war for fear of the Germans' copying it – Britain being far more dependent on vulnerable merchant shipping. On 12 November 1925 the M-1 was lost with all 69 hands off Start Point in Devon. The captain came from Carshalton. Uncle John, Able Seaman Sales, happened to be on compassionate leave due to the death of his mother. His home was Laurel Villa in Lewis Road, Mitcham.

- ◆ **Judith Goodman** had looked at some recently acquired auction sales particulars at Surrey History Centre:
SP/3646, 18 March 1846, seven newly built houses, two with shop fronts, possibly opposite the *Six Bells*.
SP/3647, 29 August 1873, a four-acre strip of land, previously Merton 'Poor's Wood', covering the northern end of the 'Apostles', roughly from Grand Drive to Vernon Avenue.

SP/3651, 16 September 1874, 13 freehold cottages in Wandle Bank, Wimbledon

Lot 1, the first six houses in Wandle Bank, known as Wandle Terrace

Lot 3, the next five houses in Wandle Bank, known as 1-5 Bank Buildings, and including an "important and valuable" artesian well

Lot 2, the next two houses in Wandle Bank, known as 6 and 7 Bank Buildings

SP/3652, 17 May 1878, five freehold cottages in Wandle Bank (these were Lot 3 above)

SP/3653, 26 April 1910, Mr Hilliard's fishmonger's at 40 High Street, Merton

SP/3654, 8 July 1863

Lot 1, the *Victory* public house, Single Gate (Colliers Wood) together with a bowling green and garden. The Single Gate of the turnpike is shown on the map.

Lot 2, 2 High Street, Merton (later to become a post office, and then destroyed in the Blitz).

Lots 3, 4 and 5, three freehold houses (4, 6 and 8 High Street, Merton, built in 1790 by James Perry, and still standing in 2007).

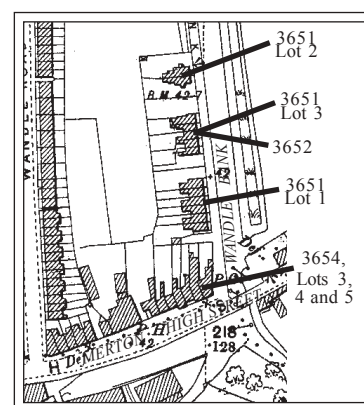
Lot 6 was a small plot behind these four houses, with a 68-foot frontage along Wandle Bank.

- ◆ **Peter Hopkins** reported two more Surrey History Centre accessions of local interest:

- Papers relating to Herbert Hickox, who, 100 years ago in Haydons Road, Wimbledon, had developed and used equipment for 'While You Wait' photographs, and
- A still book from the Batsworth Road, Mitcham, works of the herbal oil distillery of W J Bush and Co.

Peter also gave an update on his Medieval Morden project. He has compiled a list of some 120 officials of Westminster Abbey mentioned in the Morden account rolls. He also described how the Abbey managed its manor of Morden and, in detail, how much the manor had to pay for this management.

Cyril Maidment



Reduced extract from 1894 OS map, showing the locations of some of the properties

Friday 11 May, afternoon meeting. Six present, Cyril Maidment in the chair.

- ◆ Westminster Abbey Muniment Room have provided **Peter Hopkins** with digital photographs of documents in their possession relating to Morden. The images are mostly very clear, and as many of them have also been copied into the cartulary Peter hopes not to have too much difficulty transcribing them for translation. They deal with, for instance, land transactions, farming of tithes and appointment of clergy. Peter also told us that Morden's mill was constructed at Aldenham, Herts, in 1312/13 and transported on 45 carts to Morden.

- ◆ **Lionel Green** spoke about the founding of Holyrood by King David of Scotland. His mother, St Margaret, had brought back from the Holy Land a casket said to contain a fragment of the Holy Cross (or Rood). David invited Alwin, canon of Merton and his own trusted adviser and chaplain, to bring some colleagues from Merton and set up a monastery in Edinburgh to house the relic. Lionel tells the story in full in his *Daughter Houses of Merton Priory* MHS (2002).

Lionel had brought along a 50-year-old photograph of a MHS 'summer ramble' group.



- ◆ **Cyril Maidment** had been reading Emma Lazarus's article 'A Day in Surrey with William Morris' published in *The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine* 32 (1886) 388-397. He admired the writing, and the illustrations, but was especially struck by the sentence beginning: 'Some thirty years ago there still remained a piece of the old [priory] buildings ... on the adjoining property of Mr. Littler ...'. This he takes to refer to the remains of the chapel which stood just north of the 'Colour House' at Merton Abbey Mills, and which would have been used in connection with the priory's 'guest house' on the other bank of the Wandle. He believes this passage means that a remnant of the chapel still existed in the 1850s. Edward Walford, who was writing in 1883/4, also refers to 'a window of the old chapel' surviving a quarter of a century before.

*MHS members on a summer ramble to North Holmwood on 2 June 1957
Evelyn Jowett is on the right of the 2nd row from the back. Next to her is Lionel's first wife, Dorothy, and Lionel is on the right at the rear. Mike Nethersole, still a member, is on the left of the back row. His sister Joan is in front of Miss Jowett.
Mike's wife Hilary is somewhere at the front – perhaps she will enlighten us.*

Cyril had photographed the surviving eastern stretch of precinct wall from the same angle as a view of about 100 years ago – when it did not have a supermarket as backdrop.

- ◆ **Rosemary Turner** was hoping to get down to a serious study of the Hoares, especially the Morden connection, using material about them from the Internet.

- ◆ The meanings of two terms connected with madder dyeing had been eluding **Judith Goodman**, in her work on the Leach/Bennett calico printing family. She had finally found them in a treatise on madder by Robert Chenciner published in 2000. Even in this exhaustive study they did not appear in the index. 'Crops' and 'Umberoes' – both in various spellings – were the two best and most expensive grades of madder, after roasting and grinding.

In the same book was a reference to madder ovens seen at Mitcham in 1773. Were these John Arbuthnot's? She also told the meeting that John Leach's house at Bookham, when he retired from Merton Abbey, had been previously the home of novelist, playwright, diarist and ex-member of the royal household, Fanny Burney, and her French émigré husband.

She had also found a reference to a "James Lee of Merton Abbey Flax-mills" who obtained a patent in 1812, for preparing hemp and flax, without the process of steeping and dew-retting.

Judith Goodman

**The next workshops will be at Wandle Industrial Museum on Friday 29 June at 7.30pm
and Friday 31 August at 2.30pm. All are welcome.**

BILL RUDD explains

THE MYSTERY BUILDINGS

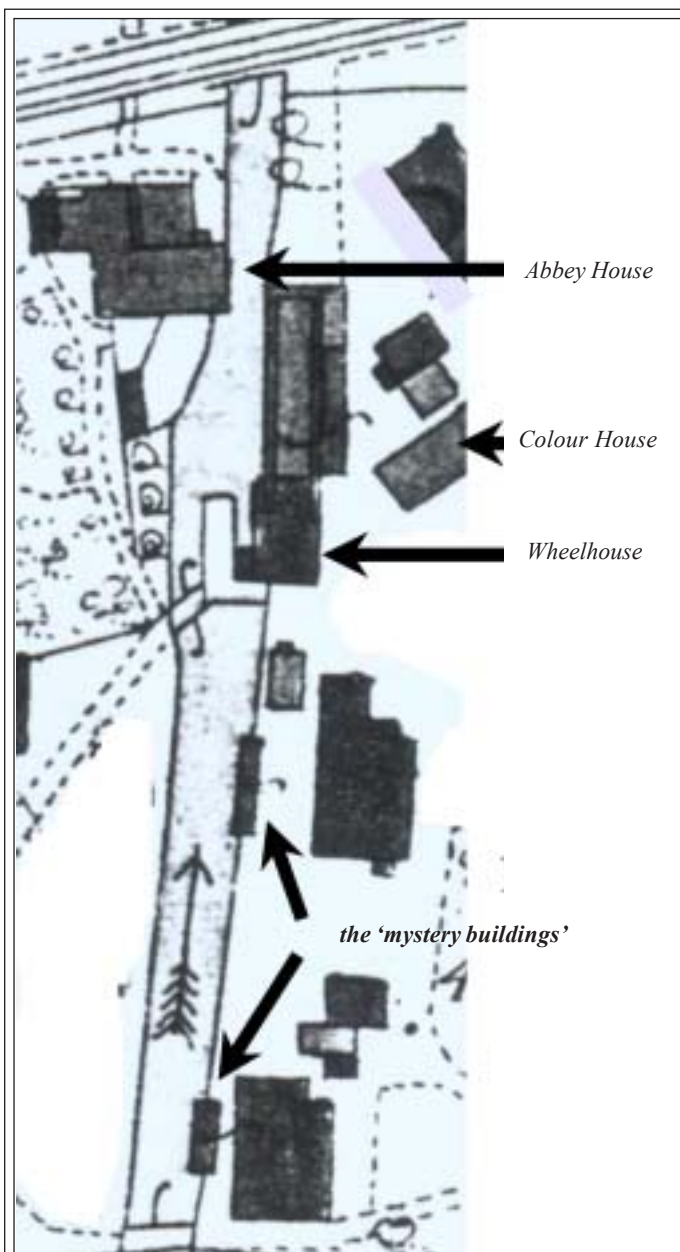
When I wrote my account of *Liberty Print Works – Wartime Remembrances*¹ I illustrated it with some post-war photographs I had taken. I added an outline of the buildings on the back page. This was done by taking a photocopy of the site as shown on the post-war Ordnance Survey map, as it showed the air raid shelters. A stencil clear copy was made, and a photocopy taken in which the buildings were numbered and other details. Peter Hopkins added a list of names of the buildings and enclosed the plan in a neat border.

Out of interest I took a photocopy of the site as it was in the 19th century when it was Littler's. Most of the wooden buildings could be identified for whatever purposes they were used for. But there were two buildings, small, long, which overlapped the east bank of the river. What was their purpose? Then I suddenly realised I had a possible answer.

In my booklet I said that the first thing I did on arrival at the works as a tierer was to get a bucket of water from the river for the printer to wash his blocks. A little perilous, as it meant lifting a now heavy bucket on a hooked rod over the stone ledge. The Littler tierers must have had the same job. What better than to have a covered platform, possibly with some support?

And it was the brick foundation of a support wall of the northernmost building that Time Team found. Not a dock or wharf! The river is non-navigable – except for the antics of a few canoeists. The buildings might well have been used for washing purposes while the wheelhouse was being rebuilt.

1. W J Rudd *Liberty Print Works – Wartime Remembrances* MHS Local History Notes – No.8 (1994), obtainable from the Publications Officer, Peter Hopkins, 57 Templecombe Way, Morden, SM4 4JF



Enlarged and annotated extract from 25-inch OS map of 1865

IN BRIEF

- ◆ The current exhibition, till 24 June, at the excellent Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road E2, (020 7739 9893) is called **Home and Garden part 3 (1914-1960)** and happens to feature a painting by Merton's Harry Bush called *December Sunshine*, from 1925, on loan from the Museum of London, which depicts the view from the back of his house in Queensland Avenue.
- ◆ Lambeth Local History Forum is again putting on a **Festival of Heritage Walks in South London** from May to October. Telephone Lambeth Archives Department on 020 7926 6076 for a leaflet.
- ◆ **Wandsworth Museum**, 11 Garratt Lane, has an exhibition till 1 July about keeping clean in earlier times; from 14 July to 23 September *Just the Job* will look at working lives and how they changed as the area that is now Wandsworth Borough became more industrialised; and from 14 August to 23 September you can see, and shed a tear at, *Last Orders: Memories of Young's Brewery*.
- ◆ On that subject, **Wandle Industrial Museum** will be paying their own tribute to south London's last major brewery, when they launch their new exhibition about Young's on 16 June. Tel: 020 8648 0127 for information.
- ◆ And don't forget the **Wandle Festival** on Sunday 24 June. See the local press for details.

DAVID ROE looks at the early post-war scene locally:

MERTON, MORDEN AND MITCHAM IN 1947

This article tries to paint a picture of life in Merton, Morden and Mitcham 60 years ago, based on reports, articles and letters in the local press. Newsprint restrictions meant that local papers were limited to eight pages (broadsheet). Even so they still gave plenty of space to reporting cases of very petty crime (by today's standards) – such as minor thefts, being drunk and disorderly, and failing to have lights on bicycles or to renew dog licences. However the main news was of the difficulties of the time. Britain suffered in the first three months of 1947 from one of the coldest winters on record: 'The Big Freeze'. This was followed by a thaw, heavy rain, gales and floods. Rationing was still in full swing, and there was a housing shortage, with delays in the repair of buildings damaged by bombing and in the construction of new houses.

The cold winter

In early March a pedestrian was seen crossing the ice-covered St Helier Avenue on his hands and knees to avoid a fall – not to be attempted today! The outdoor toilets at many local schools were



Getting ice off the road in Morden

frozen and unusable, and a temperature of 33°F – just above freezing – was reported inside one school. Power cuts meant that much industrial production in the area ceased in February. Thousands queued with wheelbarrows and hand-carts for coal and coke at the Wandsworth Gas Company's depot in Western Road, Mitcham. Some blamed the "selfish" miners – since nationalisation of the coal industry on 1 January they could no longer be forced to work long periods of overtime at low pay. Sometimes the producers blamed the consumers. Mr Tyler of the local coal office said, "When coal is delivered there is a great temptation to start using it ... the poorer classes of the public are the worst offenders". One of the Wandsworth Gas Company's adverts in the local press made reference to the latest addition to its fleet of colliers – the diesel-engined *Mitcham*, which was then the largest ship to navigate 20 London bridges going up the Thames.

Politics

A letter in March from a "Standard Socialist" advocated true socialism – abolishing private property, establishing a classless society, with no need for wages and the monetary system, "and mankind henceforth will be master of himself and the overlord of Nature". However, the problems of the time meant that there was growing disillusionment with the ruling Labour government that had swept to power after the war, and in April Labour lost control of Merton and Morden Council. There were letters bemoaning the increasing intrusion of party politics into local government: "What has happened to the men who before the war controlled our local affairs through their own judgement and convictions – and not by what they were told from Labour and Tory headquarters in London?" There was much debate about whether Ratepayers' Association and Independent candidates were really Conservatives in disguise, and later in the year a lack of co-operation amongst their opponents helped Labour to hold Mitcham Council, although with a much reduced majority.

Food and other shortages

The *Mitcham News and Mercury* stated that no other borough had taken all its recreation grounds for cultivation in wartime, as Mitcham had done. However, despite a waiting list, many allotments were unused owing to lack of security of tenure. Sixty acres of Mitcham Common were still turned over to the growing of potatoes, which were harvested in September with the help of land girls. However, the crop had been depleted by theft – one court case saw two men convicted of stealing four tons of potatoes. A letter in the *Wimbledon Borough News* (which covered Merton and Morden also) complained about smells from the premises of the Trafalgar Pig Club on allotments at 129 Merton High Street. The activities of the club, which was formed in 1941, were stoutly defended in a response from its chairman.

There were pleas in the local press to cut down on smoking – not for health reasons, but to save money that would be better spent on food. A reader wrote to suggest that to reduce imports from the USA tobacco should be grown in Mitcham, which had “similar soil to Hampshire where it was grown on a large scale”. An advert on behalf of the British film industry (competing with Hollywood) showed the actress Margaret Lockwood saying, “We can’t grow tobacco but we can make films”.

Clothing was rationed, as well as food. A letter in the local press came from a parent who wished to thank a gentleman on Cannon Hill Common who “so very kindly tore his handkerchief in half to bind up the arm and leg of my small son who had cut himself. This act is all the more appreciated owing to handkerchiefs being half a coupon each and so very difficult to obtain these days, and the fact that this was a new one.”

Housing

In February it was reported that the population of Merton and Morden was 75,185, but there were 3,599 families on the waiting list for housing, and construction was in progress for only 454 houses and flats. In February squatters moved into 57 huts on the wartime gun-site on Mitcham Common. Later 17 families moved in as squatters at the unoccupied prisoner-of-war camp on the Prince George’s playing fields in Bushey Road, Raynes Park. This had originally been an Anti-Aircraft gun-site, and then it housed German prisoners of war, who, according to an article in May, “were finally moved out several weeks ago”. The response of the War Department, the site owners, was to immediately make the rest of the huts uninhabitable.

The local authorities took great pride in those few council housing developments that could be completed. Under the headline “Pollards Hill Goes Gay” there was a report that the first prize in the new Horticultural Society competition had been won by 61 South Lodge Avenue – the first ‘Arcon’ to be completed. Arcons are now a museum piece – they were a particular design of ‘prefab’ bungalow, which at Pollards Hill were built with the assistance of German prisoners of war. The chairman of the Mitcham Housing Committee, in refusing permission for a tenant on the estate to keep his car alongside his bungalow, said, “If a person could afford to own and run a car he could rent a house with a garage”.

Children

It was reported in May that Merton and Morden had the largest child population amongst local authorities in Surrey, and it was still growing. However, the plans of the Nelson Hospital to add a new maternity wing were thwarted by the Minister of Health.

Children were not so mollycoddled in those days. At an open day at Merton Park Primary School there was an exhibition of boxing by the nine- and ten-year-old boys. The headmistress said, “While the boys learn boxing the girls are taught first-aid”. Schools proudly celebrated Empire Day on 24 May with patriotic tableaux, hymns and songs. In July there were the first reports of cases of infantile paralysis (polio), which resulted in fewer children attending the public baths. There was pressure to remove the widely used ‘pig bins’, holding domestic food waste, as they attracted flies which could spread the infection.



Despite the food shortage, there were no signs of malnutrition or ‘size zero’ figures among the beauty contestants at a Wimbledon fair



Squatters at the Bushey Road prisoner-of-war camp

There were no reports in the local press at this time of general problems with bad behaviour by schoolchildren, although there were individual exceptions. For example, a reader complained about boys being allowed to use air guns – in this way he had lost a pigeon flying from the Grove Hotel in Merton – “The bird was worth £20 and has also done valuable war service”.

Religion

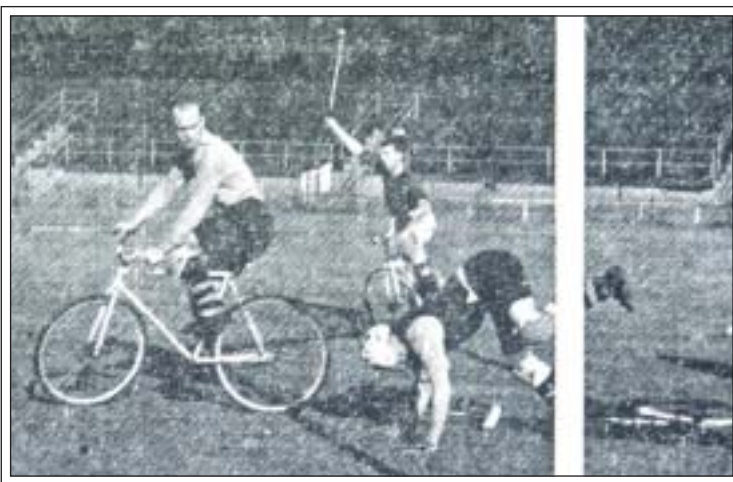
The local press carried adverts for church services, and also frequently published the views of Christians who regretted the decrease in numbers attending church. One reader wrote, “The only thing that can save the country today is the return to God of the great mass of the people”. Another wrote, “The mere desire to have enough money to spend on pleasure is a sure sign of decadence”. In April the local area saw a visit from the national ‘Christian Commando’ campaign – a team of clergy who visited the works canteens, cinemas, pubs and clubs to spread the word. One of the team suggested that any good works (e.g. helping the victims of recent flooding) done by atheists were “the spirit of Jesus Christ working through them, whatever they may call themselves”. Another said that education was not a substitute for God. All that education might do was to educate cleverer devils. At a visit to a Mitcham laundry (described as a “den of unbelief”) the Rev. Trevor Greeves found the going tough, and asked at the end of his visit, “Shall I come again?”. “Yes” was the reply, “we’d like to have this out”.

Industry

There were increasing concerns at the close proximity of industry to housing. In January a reader described Garth Road as “the Black Country of Morden”. Following a public enquiry, Benningas was refused permission to extend their margarine factory in Bond Road, Mitcham. The site had originally been used as a piggery, and then gasworks, and was acquired by Benningas in 1932. On 2 June there was a major fire in Mitcham – “London’s biggest blaze since the Blitz”. In hot weather the Ministry of Supply’s rubber dump in Willow Lane went up in flames. Black smoke spread over London, while 45 fire engines fought the fire. 10,000 tons of tyres and other rubber goods were lost, valued at £20,000. Fortunately there were no casualties, and neighbouring properties survived – the dump would have been larger, but during the coal shortage of the previous winter much of the rubber had been used as fuel in the northern cotton mills.

Sport and recreation

There had been a resumption of sporting activity after the war, and the usual sports were played at local level, although pitches had disappeared owing to the use of the land for allotments or military purposes. In 1947 only five cricket pitches survived on Mitcham Common compared with 24 in use before the war. As today, reports of football in the local press concentrated on Tooting and Mitcham FC and Wimbledon FC, who reached the Amateur Cup Final in 1947. Also reported was the less familiar sport of bicycle polo. It became popular in south London in the 1930s and there had been a ‘Merton Wheelers’ team. In 1947 Tooting BC was one of the top national teams. Their matches were played at Mitcham Stadium, now gone, which was situated where Ormerod Gardens is today, off Sandy Lane.



Bicycle polo at Mitcham Stadium

The papers carried notices of local dances (e.g. Reg Dale’s Merry Makers Dance Band at Merton Public Hall, Kingston Road) and all the programmes of the local cinemas, including the Mitcham Majestic, the Gaumont at Rose Hill and the Morden Odeon. Cinema going was hugely popular at this time, and on 6 September the *Sunday Pictorial* organised a Film Stars Garden Party at Morden Hall Park, attended by a crowd of 20,000. The film stars toured the park in jeeps. The proceeds went to the NSPCC and the Church of England Children’s Society. Saturday morning pictures for children at the cinema were becoming more popular, and some adults thought this inappropriate. As a result Odeon Cinemas offered to host a religious service for children once a month. The first was held at the Morden Odeon on 28 September, attended by 150 children. The cinema manager accompanied the hymns on the organ, while the words were projected onto the screen.

Sources:

Wimbledon Borough News 1947; *Mitcham News and Mercury* 1947; *Mitcham Advertiser* 1947

PETER HOPKINS has been investigating

LANDHOLDING IN MORDEN AROUND THE YEAR 1200

One of the many puzzles that have exercised my mind as I have pursued my studies of Medieval Morden has been the fact that the Westminster Abbey estate at Morden paid out each year, from at least 1283 until at least 1450, the sum of 4s to members of the Kennardesle or Kynnersley family.¹

The Kynnersleys held a 'manor' in Carshalton, and another in Horley. The Carshalton possessions included a block of 64 acres of land in the northwest corner of the ancient parish of Carshalton (but in the 20th century incorporated into Morden parish). This block of land lies on the south-western side of Green Lane between Rosehill and Love Lane, Morden. In the mid-15th century it was known as 'Oldfeld',² in 1496 as 'Kynwardesley Field'³ and in 1733, rather long-windedly, as 'eight several fields, pieces or parcels of inclosed grounds ... in the several fields there called Oldfields'.⁴

Until 1817 a detached piece of land within Morden parish was in the same ownership as the 64 acres in Carshalton. In the 14th century, this piece of land was said to be 'land at Gildenehelde' or 'Gilleneheld';⁵ in the 15th century 'land at Gildonehill',⁶ in the 16th century 'Mr Scott's mede upon the gilden hille' containing 9 acres,⁷ in the 18th century '8 acres called Huntley's Meadow alias Gilton Hills';⁸ in the 19th century '8 acres formerly Huntleys Meadow alias Gilton Hills, now called Gillmore Hill';⁹ and in the 1838 Morden Tithe Apportionment 'Buckles Meadow' of 9 acres 3 roods 30 perches.¹⁰ (Scott and Huntley were successive lords of the manor of Kynnersley, and William Buckland (rather than Buckle) of Mitcham bought the Morden plot in 1817).¹¹

How had this small plot of land in Morden come to be part of a Carshalton manor? And why did the Westminster Abbey estate at Morden pay 4s a year to make use of it?

Among various land charters copied into the great cartulary at Westminster Abbey known as the Westminster Domesday are two charters relating to a one-virgate freeholding in Morden. Around the end of the 12th century or the beginning of the 13th, Robert Morin granted this virgate to Robert de Claygate at 4s a year. The holding seems to have been a compact unit, and is described in the charter as:

*one virgate of land with pertinents in Morden – namely that virgate which Agmund held, which lies between the land of John son of Peter and the old croft.*¹²

A few years later Robert de Claygate in turn granted this virgate to Westminster Abbey, charging the 4s a year payable to Robert Morin, plus an additional 2d a year payable to Robert de Claygate.¹³

So we have the Abbey holding a property within Morden at 4s a year payable to Robert Morin, some 60 years before the first recorded payment of 4s to the Kennardesle or Kynnersley family. There are no other extant records of the Abbey making annual payments for lands within Morden. Could this be the same property? Was Robert Morin a predecessor of the Kynnersleys in the ownership of this land?

Another clue can be found among the *Records of Merton Priory* collected by Alfred Heales. Merton Priory also had dealings with a member of the Morin family. On 2 February 1196, an agreement was made in the Curia Regis:-

*between the Prior of Merton plaintiff and Gilbert Morin defendant, concerning the whole land which is between first Poeclose and land which Sedmar de Lathorn held between Morden and Walton {?Awlton} ... Namely that the same Gilbert grants to the aforesaid Prior and the convent at the same place all that part of the aforesaid land that is below the road towards the north, which road proceeds from Morden towards Awlton, to hold to the same Prior and the aforesaid convent of the same Gilbert and of his heirs in perpetual alms free and quit from all secular exaction. And the same Prior quitclaims his whole right and claim that he has in all the other part and of the aforesaid land above the aforesaid road towards the south to the same Gilbert and his heirs in perpetuity.*¹⁴

Here we have Gilbert Morin owning land alongside a road leading from Morden to Carshalton. When I drive to Carshalton I usually go along Middleton Road to avoid the Rose Hill roundabout. But before Middleton Road was created in the 20th century, the way from Morden to Carshalton would have been along Green Lane directly into Wrythe Lane (or possibly from Green Lane via Bishopsford Road into Green Wrythe Lane).

What properties did Merton Priory possess in Carshalton? Apart from the parish church, the only properties mentioned in Merton Priory's records at this time are small properties, the large estate known as Mareslond apparently being given to them in the 14th century.¹⁵ But it did possess two large estates within Morden during the medieval period. Hobalds, with 100 acres in Morden and a further 30 acres in each of Merton and Malden, was given to Merton Priory in the 1230s.¹⁶ The North East Surrey Crematorium occupies much of this estate. It is not known when Merton Priory received its other estate in Morden, the 150-acre Spital estate, which occupied the area between Central Road, Green Lane, Farm Road, and Bishopsford Road.

If it was already in possession of the Spital estate in 1196, Merton Priory may well have wanted to add the adjoining 11 acres in Carshalton between the Morden parish boundary and Green Lane to round off the estate. And Gilbert Morin may well have been happy to increase his standing with God by granting them an odd bit of land separated from his other properties by the main road. It was certainly shown as part of the ‘Spital Farm alias The Lodge’ estate in 19th-century estate maps and in the tithe map.¹⁷

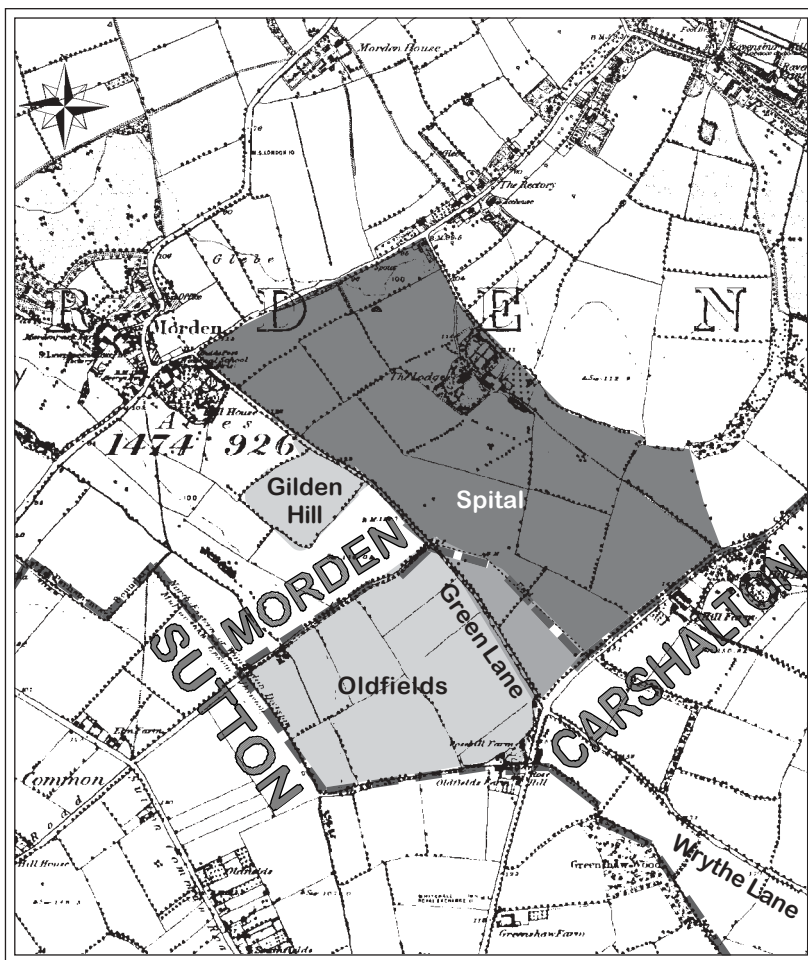
Even the physical geography works. The piece of land released to Merton Priory is described as being ‘below the road towards the north’, and the remainder of the Oldfields as being ‘above the aforesaid road towards the south’. Green Lane runs SE from Love Lane to Rose Hill, so the Spital land would have been to the NE of the road and the Oldfields to the SW. At this point the houses on the NE side of Green Lane *are* slightly below the level of the road, and Canterbury Road slopes down from Green Lane.

However, the suggestion that Merton Priory already held the Spital estate by 1196 wrecks havoc with an earlier theory I held! Around 1220 Westminster Abbey had three large independent freehold estates in Morden. William de Wattune paid 2s a year for 1 virgate, John Ducet paid 3s for 1½ virgates, and Richard de Winnelondune paid 6s 4d for 2½ virgates.¹⁸ William de Wattune’s 1-virgate estate was given to Merton Priory in the 1230s and became the 100-acre Hobalds estate, mentioned above. John Ducet had bought 2¼ virgates from Richard Sakespeye, but Richard’s widow claimed one-third as dower, which she sold to the prior of Westminster in 1220, leaving John Ducet with just 1½ virgates.¹⁹

I had wondered whether Ducet’s 1½ virgates had become the 150-acre Spital estate, and Richard de Winnelondune’s 2½ virgates had become the 250 acres in Morden that formed part of the Ravensbury estate. The ratios match, and one reference to Hobalds comprising a carucate of land, rather than a virgate, adds support to John Blair’s view that compact freehold estates, though assessed in virgates, were much larger than the villein virgate of 20 acres.²⁰

However, if Ducet owned this estate in 1220 and Merton Priory held the Spital estate from 1195, it seems unlikely to have been the same estate. Unless, of course, Ducet had granted the estate to the priory while retaining ownership for the term of his life. Such arrangements are not unknown, but we have no evidence to support such a view in this instance!

- 1 Westminster Abbey Muniments 27285-27375
- 2 *Court Rolls of the Manor of Carshalton* – Surrey Record Society Vol II 51, 53
- 3 *Chertsey Abbey Cartularies* – Surrey Record Society Vol XII 131
- 4 Surrey History Centre K85/2/49
- 5 Westminster Abbey Muniments 27306-19
- 6 Westminster Abbey Muniments 27373-5
- 7 Surrey History Centre K85/3/5
- 8 Surrey History Centre K85/2/49
- 9 Surrey History Centre K80/5/23-4
- 10 *Morden in 1838: The Tithe Apportionment Map* – MHS Local History Notes – 13
- 11 Surrey History Centre K80/5/23-32
- 12 Westminster Abbey Muniments Book 11, fo 170a
- 13 *ibid*
- 14 A Heales *The Records of Merton Priory* App XXX (translation PJ Hopkins)
- 15 *Victoria County History: Surrey* IV, 233
- 16 British Library Add Ch 8139; Westminster Abbey Muniments 9287; CAF Meekings *The 1235 Surrey Eyre* Surrey Record Society Vol XXXII, 481-2, note 188; Westminster Abbey Muniments 1915*; Westminster Abbey Muniments Book 11 fo 169b; Heales *op cit* 101
- 17 eg London Borough of Sutton Archive 2361/2/2 Sales Particulars and map of Henry Hoare’s estates in Mitcham, Carshalton and Morden 1828; Morden Tithe Map 1838 see note 10 above
- 18 British Library Add Ch 8139; Westminster Abbey Muniments 9287
- 19 Westminster Abbey Muniments Book 11, fo 170b-171a
- 20 CAF Meekings *op cit* 481-2, note 188 (a carucate was an alternative term for a hide, normally considered equivalent to 4 virgates); J Blair *Early Medieval Surrey* 71-4



50% reduced extract from the First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Map, with annotations and shading to identify locations mentioned in the text. The suggested location for the land ‘north of the road from Morden to Awlton’ is the mid-grey area between Green Lane and Spital.

LIONEL GREEN traces a benefactor of Merton priory:

FARAMUS OF BOULOGNE (d.1183/4)

About 1145 Faramus of Boulogne gave the church of Carshalton to Merton priory. An important gift by perhaps an important person 'of Boulogne'. This article is about the man and the name, and his relationship to the Crown at the time of king Stephen.

The emergence of the Boulogne family in England can be found in Domesday Book of 1086. The Domesday tenant-in-chief of Carshalton was Geoffrey de Mandeville, and he held three manors in Surrey – Clapham, Carshalton and Wanborough.¹ The entry for Carshalton states that "Wesman holds 6 hides from Geoffrey, son of count Eustace, to whom Geoffrey de Mandeville gave this land, with daughter". This daughter of Geoffrey de Mandeville, daughter-in-law of count Eustace II of Boulogne (d. c. 1088), was none other than the grandmother of Faramus of Boulogne. From the records of gifts of land to the abbey of Bec-Hellouin it is possible to give names of descendants. Geoffrey de Boulogne, son of count Eustace, gave a hide of land in Balham, and his grandson Faramus confirmed the grant "made by his grandfather Geoffrey and his father William". About 1145 Sybil, daughter of Faramus, gave further land to Bec and confirmed that "the land she owned in Balham now belonged to Bec".²

When a later Geoffrey de Mandeville (d. 1144) came into possession of the Surrey manors, a close relationship already existed between him and Faramus. Geoffrey served in the royal household troops and was the hereditary constable of the Tower of London. Later in 1140 he received further honours from Stephen, including the earldom of Essex. Faramus joined the royal household and travelled with the court.

Faramus was said to be a nephew of queen Matilda,³ and for his relationship with the Crown it is necessary to see how Stephen became king. In 1102 when Stephen was about five, his father, the count of Blois, was killed. Stephen was brought up in the household of Henry I together with the king's only legitimate son, prince William. The king was devastated when William was drowned in 1120 in the *White Ship* disaster, and thereafter treated his nephew Stephen as his own son. The king arranged a marriage in 1125 between Stephen and Matilda, daughter of the count Eustace III of Boulogne (d. 1125). This brought to Stephen the whole Flemish county, an English honour and an outstanding lineage.

Henry I died in 1135 and Stephen immediately sailed from Wissant for England to claim the throne. He was rebuffed by the citizens of Dover and Canterbury, but welcomed in London, which accepted him as king. His brother Henry was bishop of Winchester and seized the treasury for the king. Stephen and Matilda were crowned separately at Westminster abbey. Queen Matilda is not to be confused with the empress Matilda, who was a cousin of Stephen and the surviving child of Henry I.

The empress also claimed the throne of England, and in September 1139 landed on the south coast with Robert of Gloucester, an illegitimate son of Henry. She had many supporters in the central and west side of England, but Stephen continued to rule in the east. The deadlock was broken in 1141 when Robert of Gloucester was able to march on Lincoln from the north and take the lightly garrisoned castle, and even capture king Stephen on 2 February. Stephen was taken to Bristol and imprisoned in the castle, but his mercenary force of Flemings, led by William of Ypres, managed to withdraw to London. Faramus was placed in charge of the royal household whilst Stephen was in captivity.³

Geoffrey de Mandeville quickly sought confirmation of his honours from the empress. She realised that she needed his support, and gave him three castles and made him sheriff and justiciar of London, Middlesex and Hertfordshire. On 8 April 1141 the clergy at Winchester elected the empress to be *domina Anglorum*, and plans were made for a ceremonial entry into London. The Londoners were not so enamoured, and the citizens rang the church bells, which to them was a call to arms. It is thanks to the annalist of Merton priory that we know the date – 24 June 1141.⁴ The empress retreated hastily to Oxford, whilst the Londoners entered the lodgings of the 'intruders' and helped to dispose of the prepared feast.

Queen Matilda of Boulogne was keeping up resistance to the empress and demanded the release of Stephen, but to no avail.

At the beginning of August the empress marched her men from Oxford to Winchester, which alarmed bishop Henry, who was wavering in his support for her. She besieged him in his castle, but 1000 men, loyal to Stephen, came down from London and cut off food supplies for the besiegers. William de Ypres burnt Andover, and the empress, in danger of capture, escaped to Ludgershall. Robert of Gloucester fought a rearguard action to save her, but was eventually captured.

Stephen's queen demanded large ransoms for the many magnates who were captured, and Robert was exchanged for Stephen, who was freed on 1 November 1141.

King Stephen's first child was named after his grandfather Eustace, and would have followed Stephen as king. But he was never crowned, and died in 1153. The empress returned to Normandy in 1146, and under the Treaty of Wallingford in 1153 Stephen was recognised as king of England. However Henry of Anjou, the empress's son, born in 1133, was to be heir on the king's death. All foreign mercenaries were banished from England.

About 1149 Stephen's second son William, never destined for the Crown, married Isabella of Warenne and became earl of Surrey. This brought him the county of Norfolk and the honour of Pevensey. With the latter he had "the service of Faramus of Boulogne".⁵ In May 1157 Henry II, now king, took away some Warenne land, including Norwich and Pevensey, but allowed William of Warenne (d.1159) to keep land in Mortain and Boulogne.

In 1153 Faramus of Boulogne was holding Dover castle, probably until Henry became king. William of Warenne gave Faramus Martock, in Somerset, which had been part of the honour of Boulogne.⁶

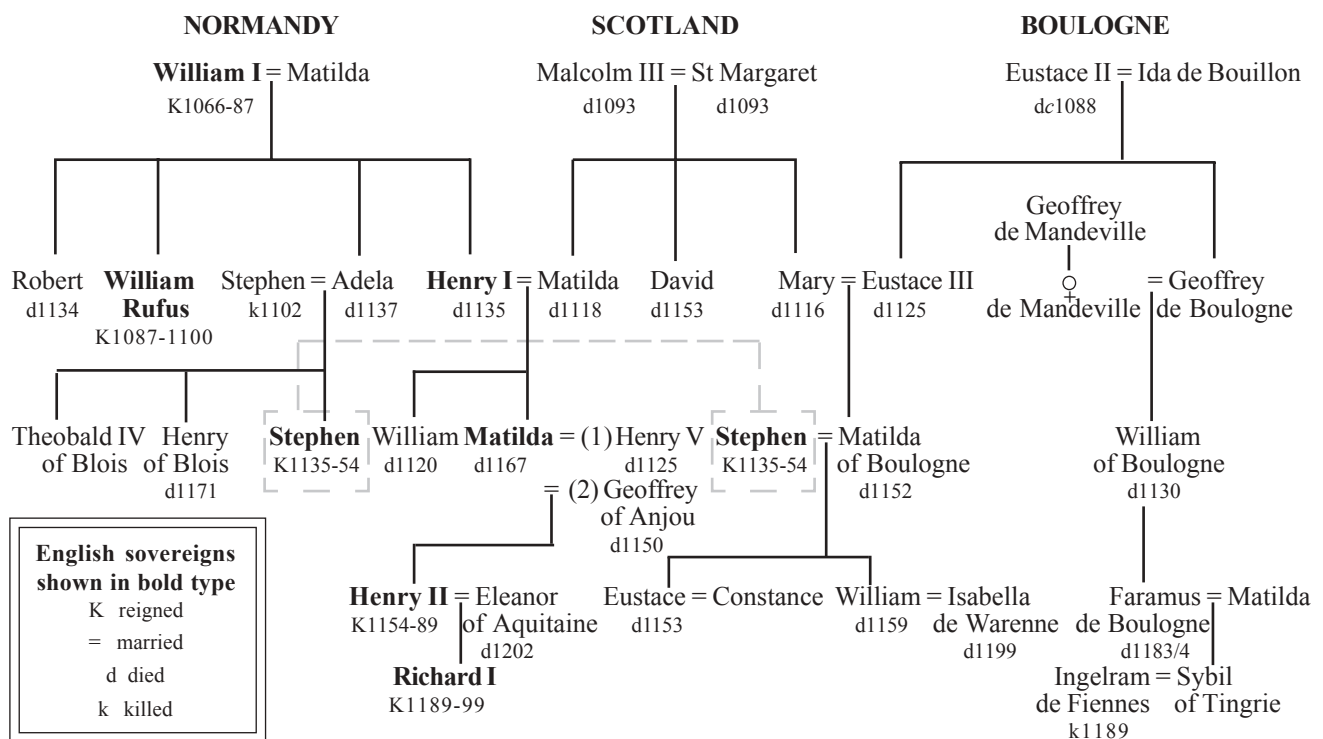
In 1143 king Stephen had arrested Geoffrey de Mandeville and demanded the surrender of his castle. After his release he was killed in battle in the following year. The king seized some of his estates and the Surrey manors were given to Faramus of Boulogne about 1145. He passed on the manors of Clapham and Carshalton to his daughter Sybil, and the manor of Wanborough was given to Waverley abbey. But the church at Carshalton was passed by Faramus to Merton priory, and a house built for the priest about 1148.

The charter of foundation of Faversham abbey, issued in May 1157, was attested by Faramus.⁷ Stephen's queen, Matilda, and Stephen himself had been buried in the abbey in 1152 and 1154 respectively, and no doubt Faramus attended.

In 1157 and 1158 Faramus held the manors of Wendover and Eton. Like many men of power and wealth, he borrowed, from moneylender William Cade, in 1165. In this he was following the example of Merton priory, which borrowed "for the works of the church", but at least the priory offered the vineyard at Sutton as security.⁸

Faramus died in 1183/4,⁹ and Sybil was his sole heir. She had married Ingelram de Fiennes and brought up a son William, who died in 1241. Ingelram was warden of the Cinque Ports and went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He was killed in 1189 at Acon (Acre).

1. *Domesday Book (Surrey)* f.36b (25:1,2,3)
2. W Dugdale *Monasticon Anglicanum* (1846) vi pt.3 pp.1016-7, 1068
3. T Arnold (ed.) *The Historical Works of Symeon of Durham* Rolls Ser. 75 vol.II p.310. "Rexit autem familiam Regis Stephani Willelmus d'Ipre, homo Flandrensis, et Pharamus nepos reginae Matildis, et iste Boloniensis." "Moreover, in the household of king Stephen were William of Ypres from Flanders and Faramus, nephew of queen Matilda, also of Boulogne."
4. Corpus Christi College Camb. MS 59 f.163v (Merton annals) "a London expulsa est in die Sancti Johannis Baptiste"
5. O Manning and W Bray *The History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* (1806) I p.xvi
6. J H Round *Peerage Studies* (1901) p.160
7. J H Round *Geoffrey de Mandeville* (1892) p.147
8. NA Exch. King's Remembrancer Misc. 1/1b line 23; *English Historical Review* 28 (1913) p.223
9. Pipe Roll 30 Hen II 112: The 30th regnal year was from Oct. 1183 to Oct. 1184.



LIONEL GREEN looks at some more connections with Merton priory:

FIFIDE ...

This is a name that occurs, in forms such as Fifehead and Fifield, in Dorset, Essex, Somerset and other counties,¹ and probably refers to a land unit of five hides.

The Anglo-Saxon military organisation was based on a five-hide system, and the *fyrð* (military service required of a thegn) quota was calculated by dividing the number of hides in a *vill* by five.

The customs of the shire for Berkshire appear in the Domesday Survey for that county. 'If the king sent an army anywhere, only one soldier went from five hides, and for his provision and pay, four shillings were given him from each hide for his two months of service.'² This meant that each five-hide unit could supply a fully armed knight for the royal army. The assessment of five-hide districts was made regardless of possession by thegn or peasants.

J H Round in 1888 reassembled villages in Cambridgeshire as recorded in the Domesday Survey, and found that hidages of estates added up to five hides or a multiple of that figure.³ He also found that hidation was fixed independently of area or value.⁴

... and SHELWOOD

Fifide was a holding near the manor of Shelwood, Surrey, a sub-manor of Ewell which was held by Merton priory from 1156 until the Dissolution of the monasteries. The West Sussex Record Office contains a survey of the manor of Shelwood in 1635,⁵ and gives an acreage of 4,156 for 'the lands now and formerly of this manor *ut supra*'. Assuming that a hide was 120 acres, this would equate to approximately 35 hides; or seven fifides.

Fifide and Shelwood appear in association in the Merton Priory Cartulary. Fifide's location is not known, but the name Shelwood survives in Shellwood Manor Farm, Little Shellwood and Shellwood Cross near Leigh, Surrey.

The Saxon thegn, possibly provisioned from fifide, is unknown, but there was certainly a military presence in Ewell. The 12 Saxon burials so far found in Ewell have yielded grave goods of knives, spearheads, shield bosses, rings and brooches.⁶

The tenant of king William was Osbern de Eu who held the manor of Ewell and the manorial church of Leret (Leatherhead) plus 40 acres.⁷ Osbern held the important church of Farnham from the bishop of Winchester,⁸ and also the church at Woking.⁹

The manor of Thorncroft in Leatherhead was held at the Survey by Richard fitzGilbert (de Clare),¹⁰ and the former minster church had probably suffered from the taking of two thirds of the demesne tithe portions by Richard as tenant-in-chief.¹¹ Richard's daughter Rohese married Eudo Dapifer (d.1120), and about 1100 Eudo gave the church at Leatherhead to his newly-founded abbey at Colchester.¹²

Osbern was the son of Osbern, *vicomte* of Eu (d. c. 1058), and related to Eudo Dapifer.

1. O.Manning & W.Bray *The History and Antiquities of Surrey* (1814) I p.453 note x; E Ekwall *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th ed.) Clarendon Press, Oxford (1981)
2. *Domesday Book (Berkshire)* I 56b; *Eng. Hist. Docs.* ii 929
3. P E Dove (ed.) *Domesday Studies* (1888) London pp.119-120
4. J H Round *Feudal England* (1895) p.63
5. Holmes & Campbell – Box 51 (unlisted). I have to thank Mary Day for delving to obtain this information.
6. *Ewell Surrey Archaeological Society Villages Project* (2004) p.31
7. *Domesday Book (Surrey)* I f.30c (1.9)
8. *Domesday Book (Surrey)* I f.31a (3.1)
9. J Blair *Early Medieval Surrey* (1991) Sutton, Stroud, and Surrey Arch. Soc. p.105
10. *Domesday Book (Surrey)* I 35c (19.39)
11. Blair *op. cit.* p.148
12. Blair *op. cit.* p.101; *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 38 (1930) p.204

GOOD NEWS!

The long-awaited MoLAS report on the excavations at Merton priory is due to be launched at the Museum of London as this *Bulletin* goes to press. A local launch at the Chapter House site is planned for 4 July. The book will be available from the Museum of London, if not locally.

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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