



PRESIDENT: vacant

VICE PRESIDENTS: Viscountess Hanworth, Lionel Green and William Rudd

BULLETIN NO. 157

CHAIR: Judith Goodman

MARCH 2006



PROGRAMME MARCH – JUNE 2006



Saturday 18 March 2.30pm

Raynes Park Library Hall

‘St Pancras Station: 1865-2007 – a journey through history’

Roderick Shelton, architect and historic buildings consultant, is the speaker for this illustrated lecture on a remarkable piece of Victorian architecture and engineering.

Raynes Park Library Hall is in Aston Road, close to Raynes Park station, and on or close to bus routes 57, 131, 152, 163, 200 and K5

Saturday 29 April 2.30pm

Morden Baptist Church Hall

‘The London Pleasure Gardens of the Eighteenth Century’

The speaker will be **Michael Symes**, well-known as a writer and lecturer on many aspects of garden history.

Morden Baptist Church is on the corner of Crown Lane and Grasmere Avenue, and is close to the town centre and the Underground station. It is on or near to many bus routes. There is a small car-park.

Thursday 18 May

A Day in Farnham

Meet at Clapham Junction station for the 10.00am train to Farnham. The visit to this attractive and historic town will include a guided walk by a local historian – cost £3 a head. Numbers are restricted. Please contact the Secretary to book a place.

Saturday 24 June 1.45pm

Visit to Royal Hospital Chelsea

The guided tour of this superb and important building, designed mainly by Christopher Wren, will cost £2 a head. Please contact the Secretary to book a place.

COACH TRIP TO HUGHENDEN MANOR ON WEDNESDAY 19 JULY

An information/application form accompanies this Bulletin.

Please note that National Trust members must have their membership cards with them for free entry. Write it in your diary now!



**The Society’s events are open to the general public.
You are invited to make a donation to help with the Society’s running costs.**



MERTON PRIORY – A GLIMPSE OF GREATNESS

Some 50 members and visitors gathered at St John's Church Hall, High Path, on 3 December for Lionel Green's talk and the launch of his long-awaited book. Lionel has been researching Merton Priory for more than 50 years, and has explored every aspect of its history. He has squeezed as much as possible of his knowledge into the book, but the talk could only cover one area – the links which the priory had with the great and (occasionally) the good.

So we observed kings and queens visiting the priory for various reasons – from royal councils to royal sports. We met archbishops and bishops – attending important gatherings or hiding away when in disgrace. We found leading statesmen – both churchmen and laymen – some at the height of their powers, some about to fall. We were introduced to scholars, many of them canons of Merton, who influenced the intellectual life of medieval and Tudor England and beyond. Merton Priory was often at the centre of national and international affairs – political, religious and intellectual.

If you missed Lionel's fascinating talk, don't worry – its all in the book!

The talk was followed by a lively and far-ranging session of questions, and Lionel was able to offer answers and insights in every case.

We are grateful to Lionel for another informative and enjoyable afternoon, and for making available his vast store of knowledge in a form that will give further hours of pleasure and instruction.

Peter Hopkins

BOOK REVIEW

Lionel Green *A Priory Revealed using material relating to Merton Priory*, published by Merton Historical Society in association with Merton Priory Trust, 2005, price £7.50 (£6 to MHS members) plus £1 postage, x + 130pp, many illustrations. ISBN 1 903899 52 4

I first became acquainted (although, unfortunately, not in person) with Lionel Green in 1951 when he contributed four chapters to Evelyn Jowett's *A History of Merton and Morden* "published in connection with local Festival of Britain activities". Two of those chapters were titled 'A Description of Merton Priory' and 'A Monk's Life'. Today, more than half a century later, Lionel has produced a book of his own, devoted entirely to the subject so close to his heart. Lionel's earlier essays were accomplished enough, but the present book is clearly the result of a lifetime's further study and devotion to Merton Priory, and it brings those results together in a form that both the interested public and the specialist will find fascinating. *A Priory Revealed* is the first full-length book about Merton Priory to appear since Alfred Heales published his *Records of Merton Priory* in 1898, and it is appropriate that Lionel has managed to get his work into print in advance of the eagerly awaited definitive report by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on recent excavations on the priory site. Lionel's timely book will serve as an excellent introduction to the technicalities of the excavation report that we can expect from MoLAS.

A Priory Revealed, which bears the subtitle "using material relating to Merton Priory", draws upon a wide range of primary and secondary sources in order to describe, in a most accessible way, the organisation and life of not only Merton Priory, but Augustinian houses elsewhere in the British Isles. However, the focus of attention throughout the book is always on Merton, its buildings; its life; its organisation; its personalities; and the important part played by the priory on the national stage during the Middle Ages. *A Priory Revealed* was clearly written to appeal to a wide readership. The language is easily understood, and technical terms are explained in a glossary, but paradoxically it is this very simplicity of language and sentence structure, frequently resulting in single-sentence 'paragraphs', that breaks up the flow of the narrative. The resulting unevenness is unfortunately reflected in the visual appearance of the page, as the editors (or typesetters) have – unwisely in my view – departed from convention by abandoning indented first lines for new paragraphs and separating paragraphs by double-spacing. One particular editorial problem appears to have been the integration of background information with detail specific to Merton. However the text does improve considerably in both respects as the book progresses.

Surprisingly, but very successfully, Lionel begins with a 'prologue' describing in lively detail the demolition of the priory church and conventual buildings in 1538, following the surrender of the house to Henry VIII's commissioners. These scenes of destruction are followed by an introduction that takes the reader back to the origins of the monastic idea in the early years of the 4th century AD. The story is continued with the foundation of the Augustinian order in the 5th century; its eventual introduction into England; and the foundation by Gilbert

the Norman in 1114 of an Augustinian community at Merton. The first two chapters recount what is known about Gilbert, and subsequent chapters cover such subjects as the priory precinct and its buildings; the Augustinian canons; the office of the prior; the educational rôle of the priory; the monastic day; the internal administration of the priory; the administration of the granges; and the surrender of the priory. Peter Hopkins has contributed an important chapter of the priory's local possessions, which will be of considerable interest to the local historian, based as it is on a good deal of original research. The map (scale not stated!) shows the location and boundaries of these properties with a considerable degree of accuracy. Each of the sections, although quite short, is packed with detailed information, nearly every statement being backed by a reference to its source, necessitating the use of no fewer than 350 footnotes. The practice of numbering the footnotes in one continuous sequence throughout the book is a considerable improvement on that of beginning a new sequence for each chapter, and I would recommend this for all of the Society's publications, especially the ongoing series of *Mitcham Histories* by Eric Montague. The comprehensive index is also an important feature of the book.

Based as it is on a wide range of documentary and printed sources, *A Priory Revealed* repays careful reading and frequent reference to the footnotes. For example, having recently read the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* entry on William Warenne, fifth earl of Surrey, I was particularly interested in Lionel's reference (p.64) to the Pipe Roll of 25 Hen. III, recording the setting up by the king in 1240 of a cross to the earl's memory. Warenne had died in London on the 27th or 28th of May that year, and the cross presumably marked one of the resting-places of the bier on its journey to Lewes Priory where the corpse was buried. The Pipe Roll records that the cross was set up outside the gateway "near the crossroad to Carshalton". Lionel rightly suggests that the gateway would have been in the south-east part of the precinct, but precisely where was the gate, and what was the contemporary road to Carshalton? The site of the gate may well have been on Jacobs Green near the present junction of Liberty Avenue and Christchurch Road. The road to Carshalton may have been Church Road. I would take issue with Lionel's suggestion that the road to which the gateway gave access was a droveway, as I think it unlikely that the earl's funeral cortège would have been allowed to suffer the indignity of traversing a sheep or cattle track. In any case, Lionel's suggested continuation of the Carshalton road on the line of Green Wrythe Lane, or Cannon (sic) Sheephouse Lane as it appears on the 'Arundel Map' of c.1632, is equally problematic, as this was probably never more than a local droveway linking the Merton Priory estate of Maresland, partly in Mitcham and partly in Carshalton, as shown on Peter's map, with the common pastures of the latter township. Droveways are a particular interest of mine, and I have discussed this matter in some detail as an example of the way in which Lionel's meticulous referencing may stimulate and aid further research.

The Merton Historical Society is once again to be congratulated on its excellent record of publication at reasonable cost. *A Priory Revealed* is very well illustrated, with more than 60 photographs, maps, and line drawings. The definition of most of the photographs, both early and recent, is remarkable, given that they are printed on the same paper as the text. I have a personal tendency to judge local history publications by the number of maps they contain – the more the better, and by this standard the present volume rates highly! However, I do not feel that the idea of superimposing small reproductions of early 20th-century photographs of the priory wall on a fuzzy reproduction of an extract from the first edition (c.1870) 25-inch OS map was a particularly happy one. The map itself, which is evidently the one used by Heales and overprinted with the precinct wall (a fact, incidentally, that is not acknowledged) would have been far more useful in its original form. I would recommend the interested reader who does not possess *Records of Merton Priory* to obtain Alan Godfrey's reduced scale reproduction of the 1894 edition of the 25-inch map, London Sheet 142. This covers the same area, but does not show the precinct wall.

This is an excellent book of which the author and everyone else concerned can be proud, and I am sure that it will prove very popular. I would advise anyone with an interest in Merton Priory to purchase a copy without delay, as I know from bitter experience that hesitation in obtaining locally published books with short print runs so often results in disappointment. Local societies have to think very carefully before ordering reprints.

John Pile

*One of a set of three or more broken
14th-century floor tiles, discovered
from the chapter house site in 1976. These
seem to be part of a chain of dancers.
(Reproduced by courtesy of J Scott McCracken)*

A Priory Revealed is available at our monthly meetings, or from our publications secretary, 57 Templecombe Way, Morden, Surrey SM4 4JF (+ £1 p&p)

JOHN PILE contributes a note on

MITCHAM AND SOME ROMAN CATHOLIC RECUSANT FAMILIES

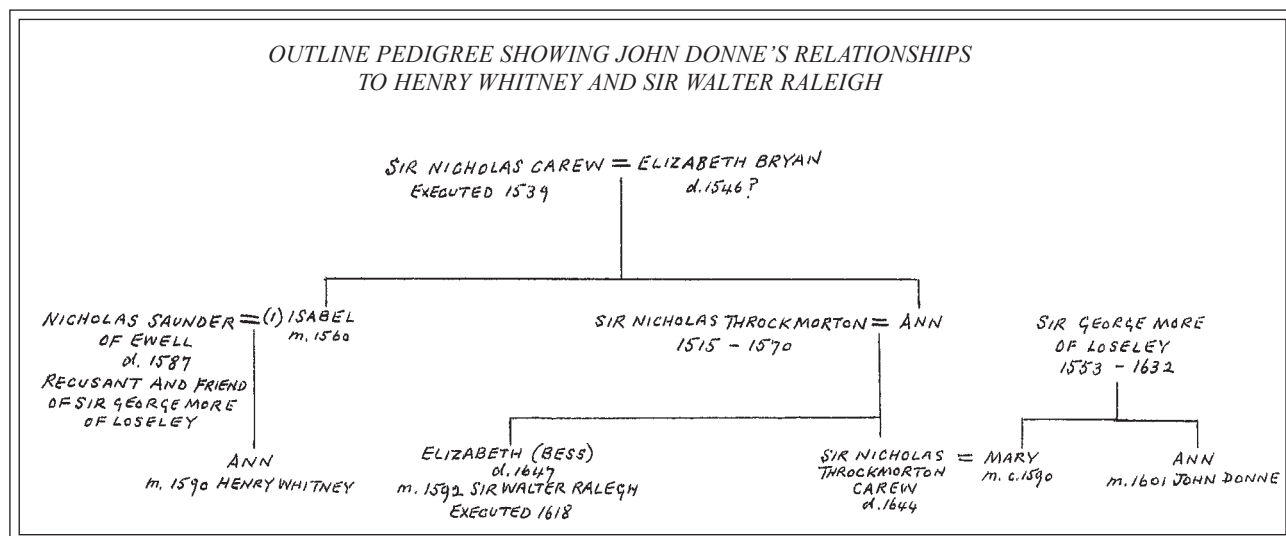
Judith Goodman last year drew attention to the fact that Mitcham appears to have been a significant centre of Roman Catholic recusancy in the late 16th century.¹

A recusant was one who refused to attend Church of England services when such attendance was a legal requirement. Consequently there could be Protestant as well as Roman Catholic recusants, but the term is more usually applied to those who adhered to the 'Old Faith' and acknowledged the supremacy of the pope rather than the English head of state, and had been convicted and entered on the Recusancy Rolls. Despite its separation from Rome, the Anglican Church remained Catholic in the sense that it maintained an essentially unbroken tradition from pre-Reformation times, and it is customary to speak of Roman Catholic rather than Catholic recusancy during the period under consideration.

Although John Donne (1573-1631) is not known to have been a recusant, he had a Roman Catholic upbringing and his sympathies almost certainly lay in that direction during his period of residence in Mitcham from 1605 to 1611, between three and four years after his clandestine marriage in 1601 to the 17-year-old Ann, daughter of Sir George More of Loseley Park near Guildford. Sir George was initially furious about the marriage, and he had Donne committed to the Fleet Prison. However Donne was soon released and eventually reconciled with his father-in-law, possibly through the intervention of Ann's cousin Francis Wolley, who had given the couple room in his house at Pyrford during the first years of their marriage. John Donne's period at Mitcham is said to have been one of the most productive for his writing and research.² Robert Bald refers to Donne's "spirituality climaxing at Mitcham in anguish and despair of his own salvation"³ and Dennis Flynn suggests that his private devotions at Mitcham were "essentially Catholic".⁴

Among the Donnes' neighbours in Mitcham were their friend Sir Julius Caesar Adelmare,⁵ and, possibly, the Whitneys, who would also have been known to the Donnes. Henry Whitney, the lord of the manor of Biggin and Tamworth, had married in 1590 Anne, who is almost certainly to be identified with the daughter of Nicholas Saunder of Ewell, a prominent recusant whose name appeared in the Diocesan Return of Recusants of 1577.⁶ Moreover, Nicholas Saunder was a close friend of Donne's father-in-law.⁷ Henry Whitney's mother, also Ann, was the daughter of Robert Wilford, and, I believe, the Ann Whitney who was convicted for recusancy on 13 February 1587/88 and fined for three months' recusancy from 25 March 1587 (Exchequer Pipe Roll for 1587/88).⁸ The Whitneys sold the manor of Biggin and Tamworth in 1603 to John Caryll of Warnham in Sussex,⁹ a member of another family well known for its steadfast adherence to the Old Faith.¹⁰ Remarkably there is also a family link between John Donne and the Whitneys – Donne's sister-in-law Mary More married Sir Nicholas Throckmorton Carew, the son of Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, whose wife Ann Carew was the sister of Isabel Carew, the wife of Nicholas Saunder.

Also owning property, and probably residing in Mitcham at this time, was Sir Walter Raleigh, whose wife was Sir Nicholas Throckmorton Carew's sister Elizabeth. Elizabeth (Bess) Throckmorton, Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth, had married Raleigh in secret in 1592, much to the displeasure of her royal mistress.¹¹ Raleigh's property in Mitcham was probably the jointure of his wife, whose family had succeeded the Carews as owners of the manor of Mitcham.¹² The family connection between John Donne and Sir Walter Raleigh was that his wife's sister Mary was sister-in-law to Sir Walter's wife.



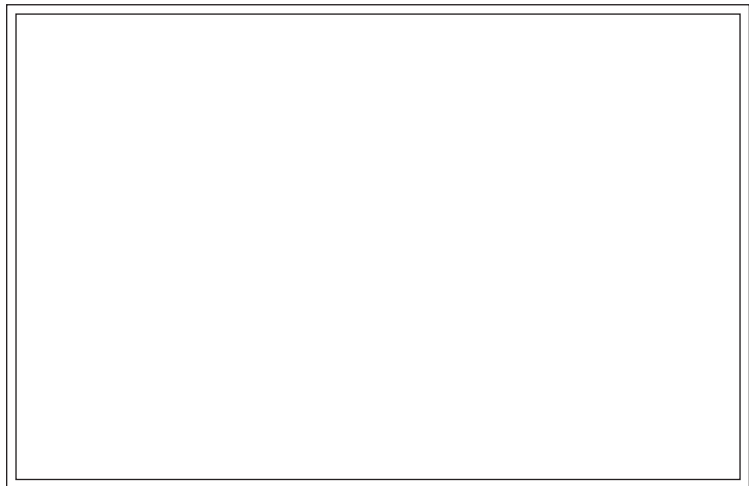
It is clear that quite limited research in published materials may reveal unsuspected and often significant links between some of the apparently unrelated figures that appear within the pages of such well-used sources as the *Victoria County History of Surrey*. This is particularly true for those figures associated with the Roman Catholic faith in Mitcham during the late 16th and early 17th centuries, when active family and friendship networks were of vital importance in sustaining proscribed religious activity. Although personal documents such as private letters and diaries may be rare, a knowledge of relationships may be gained that will help us to understand the extent and quality of the social interaction that undoubtedly occurred between certain of the inhabitants of Mitcham during this period.

- 1 Merton Historical Society *Bulletin* **154** (June 2005)
- 2 D Colclough, 'John Donne' in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2004)
- 3 R C Bald *John Donne: a life* (ed. W Milgate) Oxford (1970)
- 4 D Flynn, 'Donne's Catholicism II' in *Recusant History* **13** (1975)
- 5 E N Montague and W A Turner, 'The Residence of Sir Julius Caesar Adelmare in Mitcham' in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* **67** (1970) pp.87-94
- 6 *Catholic Record Society* **12** (1921)
- 7 *Surrey Archaeological Collections* **54** (1955) p.98
- 8 *Catholic Record Society* **71** (1986)
- 9 *Victoria County History of Surrey* **4** (1912) p.231
- 10 R B Manning *Religion and Society in Elizabethan Sussex* Leicester (1969) pp.250-252
- 11 R Michell *The Carews of Beddington Sutton* (1981) pp.56-58
- 12 *Victoria County History of Surrey* **4** (1912) 229.

‘LUDLOWS AND PENFOLDS – THE STORY OF THE LETTER BOX’

Maximum capacity was reached once again at the Snuff Mill Environmental Centre for the Society's January meeting. This was a talk by Neil Lloyd on letter boxes, and members remembered his stimulating and amusing talk on London's Underground railways exactly a year earlier. We anticipated another engrossing experience, and were not disappointed.

The first letter box was introduced in Jersey in 1852 and claimed to be invented by Anthony Trollope. In the following year they were provided in Guernsey and in England. Boxes then appeared in various shapes and sizes. The first box in London was set up in Ludgate Circus in December 1854, which was a squat metal box surmounted with a boss. Some of the public believed it was a stove provided at the expense of the parish. A pillar box at Rochdale has a lamppost rising from the cap. The oldest box in England still in use is an octagonal example at Carlisle.



The first London letter box

In 1866 J W Penfold designed a hexagonal box, and the present cast-iron cylinder in red, with its milled edge convex cap, dates from 1879.

In order to save both space and costs, wall boxes in brickwork were introduced in 1857. Later, lamp boxes were introduced. They were fastened to a lamppost or telegraph pole. Another variant was the wooden bracket box (the Ludlow) for use under cover. At Llandrindod Wells railway station is an example in the open, but an elaborate pitched roof covering has now been provided for it.

All examples were suitably illustrated with excellent slides, and Neil's ability to describe locations in the local accent was appreciated.

PS. A survey of letter boxes in the Leatherhead district was undertaken from October 2002 to June 2003, and the list revealed boxes from all reigns from Victoria, including Edward VIII.

Lionel Green

[Would this be something the Society could undertake – a survey of letter boxes in Merton, Mitcham and Morden? – Ed.]

‘SIR RICHARD HOTHAM AT BOGNOR: ONE MAN’S DREAM’

I suspect that many of us did not know much about Sir Richard Hotham, except perhaps that he had a road named after him in South Wimbledon. So, what was his dream? He loved the seaside and wanted others as wealthy as himself to enjoy it too. So, at Bognor, he decided to build lavish houses for them, with the wealth he had acquired from the East India Company. Many, many years later, Billy Butlin had the same dreams – but he built wooden chalets for the less well-off to be able to afford these delights too.

Sylvia Endacott, a local historian from Bognor, told us that at 62 Sir Richard moved to Bognor, which at that time consisted of just a few cottages and fishermen’s huts. He had considered Hayling Island, but thought this too remote. First he stayed with a friend of his called Captain Blanchard. There was good limey soil, ideal for building, so he bought a great deal of land, for £6000. Most of the town would be built on his land.

On 18 January 1787 he laid the foundation stone for the first public bathing place, and ceremonies still take place in the town on this date. He built a large house for himself, now called Hotham Park House, said to be based on his house in Merton, which later became famous as the home of Nelson and the Hamiltons. This new house had an imposing clock-tower, which housed a clock especially made for him in London. It is still working today. The house stands in the middle of an impressive park, which also includes an icehouse, and has its own chapel.

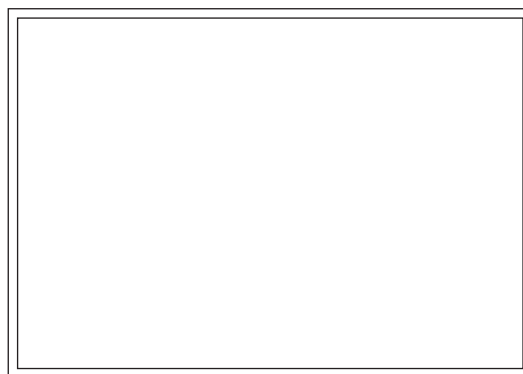
Many very large buildings followed. It is interesting to note that much of the gravel used came from Wimbledon Common, taken there by barge. Sir Richard knew Brighton and wanted his buildings to rival the prestigious ones there. East Row was 142ft in length. The central section had a dome and was in the middle of a crescent. (Many of these large buildings have been turned into retirement flats or have been used as schools or by the University of Chichester.) There was once a move for Bognor to be renamed ‘Hothamton’. Sir Richard died on 14 March 1791, and his grave is in the churchyard of South Bersted. It states that he was “the founder of Bognor”, and a wreath-laying ceremony takes place each year on 18 January.

Within five years of his death the Crescent was built. A map of 1817 still showed a lot of fields, and part of the coast was washed away. A coaching house called ‘The William Hardwick’ was there in 1820, and has since been refurbished. The great change came with the advent of train travel. This brought Sunday visitors to Bognor, often 2500-3000 in the summer. Bathing machines appeared, and later a pier. Sir Richard had always longed for a royal connection for Bognor, as Brighton had enjoyed. He got it, slightly, when a Bowes-Lyon was connected with the building of the pier. In the 1800s fine Regency houses contained large families, who came for the summer season. Then later King George V came to convalesce in Craigweil House, and so Bognor got the coveted ‘Regis’ to its name. Wouldn’t Sir Richard have been pleased! In 1944 the Council took the park over, and it became known as Hotham Park. A trust now helps to keep it going. Hotham Park House itself is now private flats.

Sylvia Endacott was an entertaining and relaxed speaker. We all enjoyed her knowledge and enthusiasm for Bognor and its history, which so much involved one of Merton’s prominent former residents. South Wimbledon Community Association’s Centre in Haydons Road, which was the venue, stands on land once owned by Hotham.

PS I have come across an article in a file in the parish office at St Mary’s, Merton, which gave more information about Sir Richard, before he went to Bognor, which may be of interest.

He was born in York in 1722, moved to London and was apprenticed to a hatter. In 1743 he married Frances Atkinson – probably his boss’s daughter – and they had a son, who only lived for one day. He set up business in Lincoln’s Inn as a hatter and hosier and seems to have become prosperous. His wife died in 1760, but he was married again quite soon, to Barbara Huddart. About this time he joined the East India Company and made a lot more money fitting out their ships. In 1764 he bought Moat Farm, south of Merton High Street. The property had been built c.1750 and he proceeded to improve it. He renamed it Merton Place. He took part in local affairs and bought more land in the area, and went on to build a new house, which he called Merton Grove (though it was in Wimbledon), which stood where Cecil Road is now. After his second wife died, in 1777, he became an MP for Southwark, and served for four years. At this time he decided to sell Merton Place and move to Bognor. So, the story was continued in our lecture on 11 February.



Hotham Park House, Bognor (from Bognor Regis: a brief guide to places of interest Bognor Regis Local History Society 1981)

Lorna Cowell

LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS

Friday 9 December 2005. Five present. Judith Goodman in the chair.

- ◆ **Peter Hopkins** referred to the kindness of friends. Member John Pile had sent him articles from the new on-line version of the *Dictionary of National Biography*, covering various Tudor worthies connected with Merton and Morden. Peter was also grateful to Bill Rudd for making available to him a transcript of part of the 1802 Survey of the Merton Abbey estate. Peter had made notes some years ago, but Bill's transcript gives all the details, which helps to make sense of the 1805 plan of the estate. A full transcript of the whole survey, now in the Lambeth Archives in Camberwell, is obviously needed.

Finally Peter reported that he had completed his initial translation of the medieval court rolls for the manor of Morden. A lot of work still remains to be done, but Peter had been surprised to discover that many wealthy Londoners held property in both Morden and Merton in the late 15th and early 16th centuries.

- ◆ **Rosemary Turner** had been responding to articles in the local *Guardian* newspaper. She had obtained permission to have the February 2004 article on Mitcham cricket reproduced in the East Surrey Family History Society *Journal*. She had also followed up the newspaper's appeal for information regarding the war memorial at All Saints School, Wimbledon. A member of West Surrey Family History Society has recorded most of the war memorials in Surrey, but unfortunately this was not one of them.
- ◆ **Bill Rudd** has long wondered why so many 'outsiders' were buried at Morden. Some lived just across the parish boundary in Mitcham, such as Henry Hoare of Mitcham Grove, or various members of the Rutter family, famous for snuff milling at Ravensbury. Bill has been investigating the Stanton family, whose six children were baptised at Morden. In 1861 and 1862 the father was recorded in the parish registers as a civil engineer of St Johns Wood. By 1863 the family was living at Wimbledon Hill, and they were still there in 1864. The last two children were born in 1870 and 1871 respectively, when they were living in Mitcham, but Bill cannot find them in the 1871 census for Mitcham. He will try the local directories next.

Moving forward a century, Bill showed a cutting from a local newspaper of April 1976 reporting an attempted 'stick-up' at the NatWest Bank in Crown Lane, Morden. The manager stood by the window, and mouthed "phone the police" to a passer-by, and the two robbers were promptly arrested!

- ◆ **Judith Goodman** had found a treasure at the Nelson exhibition at Merton Heritage Centre – a plan of the Merton Place estate accompanying the sales particulars of 1823. We can now identify the exact position of Nelson's home within the bounds of lot 28 (see pages 8-9).

Further treasures are also on their way. Judy had been contacted by Martin Riley of Woodbridge, Suffolk, who has an archive of family papers relating to the Bennets and the Leaches, textile printers at Merton Abbey, which he would like Judy to edit for publication.

Judy also brought along a transcript of an insurance policy of 1753 detailing the rooms and outbuildings of Growtes, the former copyhold property which became the Tudor manor house of Morden. The transcript had been given to her by the late John Wallace, from a manuscript in the Guildhall Library, London, and will be a useful addition to the information already available.

Judy had also received interesting correspondence from members John Brown of Streatham, on the early days of Streatham cricket (see page 12), and John Pile of Bedhampton, Hampshire, on Hampden William Pratt (1851-1920), who was educated at Morden Hall Academy. Between 1875 and 1878 Pratt was assistant to architect Richard William Drew whose family were property developers in Streatham in the 19th century. Drew also designed several important buildings in the Havant area. Both John himself and Brian Bloice of the Streatham Society are interested to know more about both men.

Peter Hopkins



*Morden Hall, drawn by G A Storey,
also an ex-pupil of Morden Hall*

200 YEARS AGO – MERTON PLACE AFTER NELSON

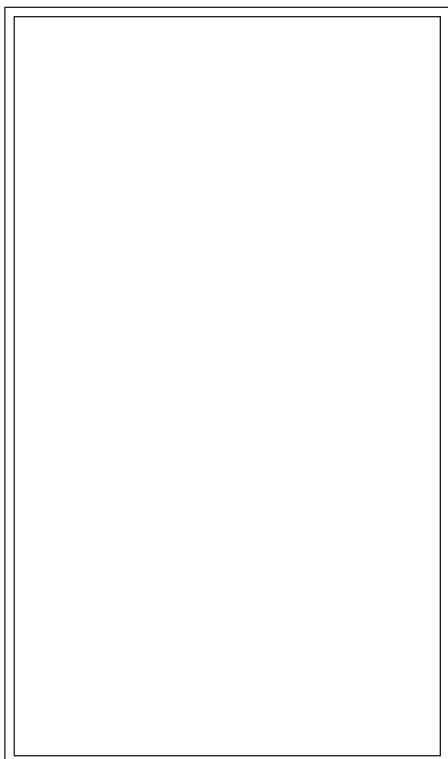
Nelson, in his will, dated 10 May 1803,¹ left Merton Place, the house, to his mistress Lady (Emma) Hamilton, together with up to 70 acres (28ha) of land of her choosing. He had enlarged the Merton Place estate to more than 160 acres (65ha), but there was still money owing on the purchases, and more than half had to be sold. The pieces of land chosen for sale were those which lay north of the present Quicks Road, west of Morden Road and south of the present Nelson Gardens. To the 70 acres left Emma added two more, at the south-east corner of the property, buying them from Nelson's trustees.

However, by 1808, Emma, who spent most of her time and a great deal of money in her house in Mayfair, had run up so many debts that she was compelled to try to dispose of Merton Place. It was offered for sale, with its land, but failed to sell. Quite why is not certain. It could have been because buyers fought shy of a house with both sad and scandalous associations. But it could also have been, as Nelson's surveyor had noted, that the house was badly situated – on flat, damp ground close to a busy road. It was, moreover, close to Merton's industrial quarter, on the Wandle. Nearly 20 years earlier, a traveller to Cromford in Derbyshire, while admiring Arkwright's pioneering mills there, regretted that parts of beautiful rural Derbyshire would soon become "as noisy as Cashalton [*sic*] or Merton in Surrey".²

In the event a group of friends, headed by Abraham Goldsmid of Morden Lodge, rallied round poor Emma, stepped in and bought the estate and advanced her some money to pay the most pressing debts, hoping that it still would sell.

But Merton Place continued unsold. Goldsmid died in 1810, and Emma herself in 1815. Some of the land had been disposed of, but most of the property was still on the market – it was advertised in the *Times* for instance on 22 March 1815:

"A CAPITAL FREEHOLD MANSION and LAND, Surrey.- To be Sold by Private Contract, by Mr. LEONARD, a capital FREEHOLD FAMILY MANSION and Offices, called MERTON PLACE, formerly the residence of Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, very desirably situate at Merton, 7 miles from London, in the county of Surrey; containing five spacious bed chambers, with dressing rooms and water closets, and eight servants' rooms, two large drawing rooms, a dining room, library, and gentleman's dressing room, convenient servants' offices of every description, excellent cellars for wine and beer, detached dairy and ice house, a spacious lawn and pleasure ground, intersected with gravel walks, and a sheet of water, a large kitchen garden and orchard, with green house, &c. a paddock of rich pasture land skirted by extensive shrubbery walks: the whole contains upwards of 22 acres, enclosed with lofty park paling; also three contiguous enclosures of arable land, containing 17 acres, in a fine state of cultivation. To be viewed only with tickets, which, with particulars, may be had of Mr. Leonard, surveyor and valuer of estates, Parson's-Green, Fulham: and at his office in Covent-garden Chambers, where a plan of the estate may be seen."



However it did not sell, and in 1822 Asher Goldsmid, who had inherited the estate from his brother, stipulated in his will that the 31 acres (12.5ha) in Wimbledon and the 17.5 acres (7ha) remaining in Merton were to be put on the market by his trustees. Most of the Wimbledon land however was still owned by the Goldsmid family in the late 1840s.

The last parcel on the Merton side, surrounding the house, was not sold until 16 September 1823.³ The house had been pulled down, having stood empty for 15 years, and the land was offered in 31 lots "adequate for detached villas". The plan accompanying the sales brochure showed a layout of very long narrow plots. Plot 28 was described as

"... 110 Feet in Front, opening behind to a Width of 250 Feet, including the Orchard, which is surrounded by a Plantation, also a small part of the Kitchen Garden as staked out, and the advantage of a portion of the Pond therein.

UPON THIS LOT THE MANSION RECENTLY STOOD.

The lofty Front Wall with Stone Coping to the extent of this Lot, the ornamental Bridge cased with Stone over the Canal, inclining to the Ancient Sloping Lawn, beautifully studded with rare Trees, and the Well will be included in the present Purchase."

Left and above: Sales Particulars of 1823: Merton Local Studies Centre

The detached villas never materialised. Nelson Grove Road and minor roads off it were soon laid out, and terraces of shoddily-built small houses on tiny plots began to appear all over the area, which became known as Nelson's Fields. Ultimately the Smith/Mackrell family of Clapham, owners of the Merton Abbey estate, acquired most of the Merton land once owned by Nelson. In 1905, to mark the centenary of Trafalgar, they gave an acre of this land as a park, Nelson Gardens, and installed a commemorative engraved stone. (On the other side of Morden Road, also on land once owned by the naval hero, his name lives on in that of the Nelson Trading Estate.)

One of the Society's publications, Peter Hopkins' *A History of Lord Nelson's Merton Place* (1998), covers the full story of the estate, with many maps and illustrations. It is essential reading for anyone interested in the story of Nelson at Merton. It costs £2 (£1.60 to members), and is obtainable at Society meetings or by post from Peter Hopkins, Publications Officer, 57 Templecombe Way, Morden, Surrey SM4 4JF. Cheques payable to Merton Historical Society.

Judith Goodman

- 1 The full text of the will, including all the codicils, can be found in Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas *The Dispatches and Letters of Lord Nelson* Vol VII (August 1805-October 1805) Colburn, London 1846 pp.ccxix-ccxi. The modern facsimile reprint of Nicolas by Chatham Publishing, London (1998), is widely available.
- 2 C B Andrews (ed.) *The Torrington Diaries* [Hon. John Byng, later 5th Viscount Torrington] Vol II Eyre & Spottiswoode, London (1935) p.195: entry for Friday 18 June 1790
- 3 Sales particulars: Merton Local Studies Centre

KATE VAUGHAN – AN ORNAMENT TO THE MUSICAL STAGE

In Chamberlain's little book about Merton¹ he wrote a page or so about Gate House in Merton High Street, which once stood on the site later occupied by Wimbledon Palais de Danse. He mentioned some of its occupants, including Admiral Isaac Smith, and a Captain Barber, who, as he put it, was "followed by Colonel Wellesley, a descendant of the 'Iron Duke', and subsequently by Kate Vaughan, the celebrated actress".

As is usually the case with Chamberlain's information, this is accurate - up to a point: interesting but repaying research. Colonel Wellesley was *not* a descendant of the Great Duke, and Kate Vaughan was *not* a subsequent occupier but a simultaneous (though perhaps intermittent) one. They were a couple. In fact they were a married couple.

The *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* devotes more than a page to Kate Vaughan, including a picture of her.² There is no entry for Wellesley, though there is for his father - and, among others of his relatives, for his immortal great-uncle.

Frederick Arthur Wellesley was the third son of Henry Richard Charles Wellesley, the first Earl Cowley, who was the youngest son of Henry Wellesley, a brother of the first, and great, Duke of Wellington. Earl Cowley had served as our ambassador to France. Frederick, born in 1844, reached the rank of colonel in the Coldstream Guards, and held minor diplomatic posts in Vienna and St Petersburg. In 1873 he married a daughter of Lord Augustus Loftus, who divorced him nine years later. Their son became a page to Queen Victoria.

Kate Vaughan, whose real name was the charming one of Catherine Candelin, was born c.1852 in London, the daughter of a theatre musician, and was trained as a dancer, making her debut in 1870 at a music hall. Her career blossomed both as dancer and as a burlesque actress. She pioneered the 'skirt dance', which was a more ladylike forerunner to the can-can, and she delighted audiences at the Gaiety in a long series of musical productions.

Clement Scott wrote of Kate:

"What more charming artist in the expression of 'poetry of motion' has the modern stage ever beheld than Kate Vaughan? ... This light and fragile creature was the first exponent of the petticoat and skirt dance, never in the least degree suggestive, a dance that intervened pleasantly between the rough-and-tumble exhibitions of 'Wiry Sal' and her companions, and the equally objectionable high-kicking and 'splits' of the present time. Petticoats should be respected, not outraged; Kate Vaughan respected them, and made them respected.

"It was ever the greatest of treats to watch Kate Vaughan dance alone, or waltz with her favourite companion Teddy Royce, whirling around as light as a feather, and waving in the air her dainty lace pocket-handkerchief, without which dancing to her seemed impossible. It was one of Kate Vaughan's tantalising tricks to give her audience just enough to make them wish for more. She seemed to say as she valed or pirouetted off the stage, 'If you want to see any more, dear friends, you had better come another evening.' And they did."³

John Hollingshead was another who remarked on her “air of refinement and ... distinct and graceful style of dancing”.⁴

In June 1884 Kate married Wellesley and briefly retired from the stage. Wellesley took a lease on Gate House in December of that year.⁵ He and Kate must have rattled around in that very large house, whose extensive garden to the rear and side included an ornamental canal and gravel walks. Perhaps they did a lot of entertaining. And indeed Hollingshead wrote, “I am indebted to [Kate Vaughan’s] friendship ... and that of the gentleman she married, Colonel the Honourable F. Wellesley, for many days and nights that I shall always remember with pleasure”.⁶



A garden walk at Gate House, postcard c.1900

However Kate soon returned to the stage, dancing at Her Majesty’s in a ballet called *Excelsior*. But then her health seems to have become a problem and she gave up dancing to concentrate on comedy acting, setting up the Vaughan-Conway comedy company with H B Conway. For a few years she was well received in Sheridan’s classic comedies, among others, and then briefly returned to burlesque – but she had lost her old touch. She voyaged to Australia and to South Africa for her health, and Wellesley divorced her in 1897. Finally she returned to South Africa in 1902, opened a theatrical tour in Cape Town, which failed, and died in Johannesburg early in 1903.

The lease of Gate House had passed to Henry Winch QC ten years earlier,⁷ and Frederick Wellesley had moved to Winchfield in Hampshire. He married yet again, more or less within the family this time, for in 1911 Evelyn, widow of the third Duke of Wellington, became his third wife. He reached a ripe old age, living until 1931.

Judith Goodman

1 W H Chamberlain *Reminiscences of Old Merton* Mitchell, Hughes and Clarke, London 1925 pp.17-18

2 *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* 56 OUP 2004 pp.190-1

3 C Scott *The Drama of Yesterday & To-Day* Vol ii Macmillan, London 1899 pp.244-5

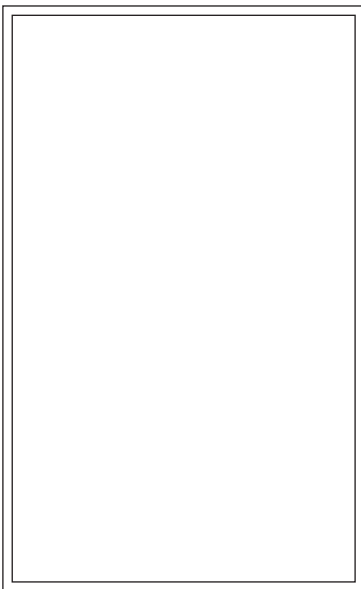
4 J Hollingshead *Gaiety Chronicles* Constable, London 1898 p.336

5 Lease dated 21 January 1885, Surrey History Centre 3057/1/3

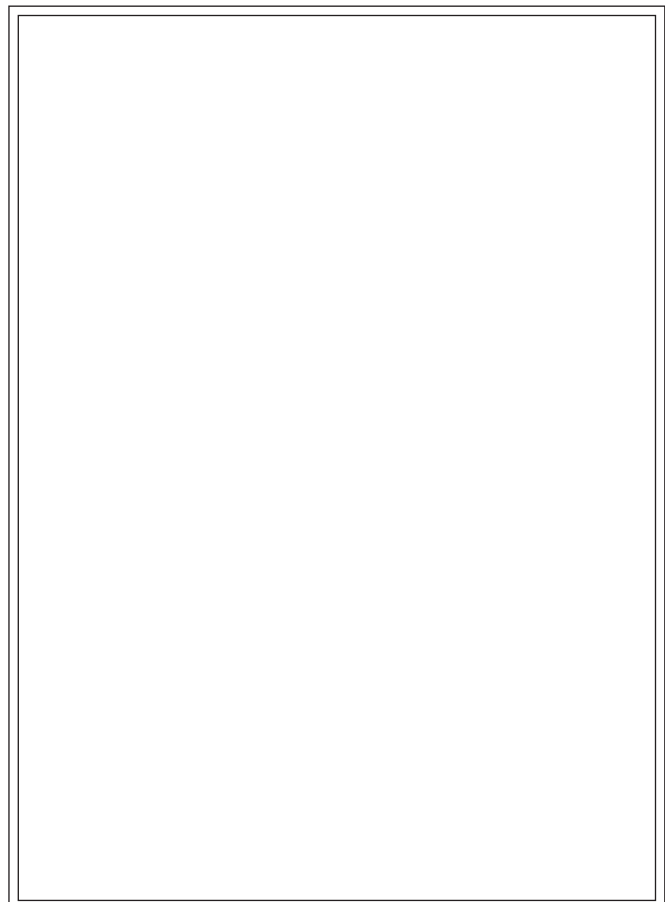
6 Hollingshead *op. cit.* p.339

7 Lease dated 31 May 1893, Surrey History Centre 3057/1/5

Also consulted: various editions of *Burke* and *Debrett*



From The Drama of Yesterday and Today: Kate Vaughan



*From Gaiety Chronicles:
Kate Vaughan is second from the right.*

JOHN W BROWN, a member both of this Society and of its near neighbour, the Streatham Society, has been prompted by Roger Packham's article in the December Bulletin to contribute a note on

CRICKET AT STREATHAM – THE EARLY DAYS

I read with considerable interest Roger Packham's most interesting article on the foundation date of Mitcham cricket in the last issue of the *Bulletin*.

Despite suggesting the reduction in the age of the noble sport in the parish by some 22 years, Mitcham can still claim a long and distinguished history of the game within its boundaries.

I noted with particular interest that the earliest reference to cricket on Mitcham Green dates from 1731. My main area of local history relates to the neighbouring parish of Streatham, where my studies to date have revealed that the earliest reference to the game within its bounds dates from only five years later.

I have a reference to a match to be played on the "White Lion fields at Streatham" on Friday July 9th 1736. This venue was probably located near the White Lion public house, which survives today on Streatham High Road, although subsequently having been rebuilt. It would be fascinating to know if any players from Mitcham took part in this game, but such details are probably now lost in the antiquities of time.

Although cricket was a popular pastime in Streatham in the 18th century, Streatham Cricket Club cannot claim the same antiquity as its near neighbour in Mitcham, having been founded at the Horse and Groom pub in Streatham on Monday May 5th 1806. At that time the club was limited to forty members who each paid an annual subscription of five guineas, thus ensuring that the exclusivity of the group would be limited to the gentry who could afford the membership fee.

On Tuesday January 27th 1807 a meeting was held at the London Tavern to revise the rules of the club and iron out some problems which appear to have occurred during its first season. It would seem that some of the players had been coming late to the crease, as it was decided that those members attending the game after "Half-past Three o'clock by the President's Watch, shall forfeit Half a Crown [12.5p]".

Other members would appear to have adopted a colourful presence before the wicket, leading to the introduction of Rule 15, which states that "Any Gentleman playing in coloured Jackets, Breeches, or Pantaloon, shall be fined Half a Crown; Nankeen or White may be worn at pleasure".

To encourage each player to give of their best, the club decided that each member on the losing side should pay two shillings [10p] into the hands of the Secretary for every game lost.

No mention is made as to what purpose the money accruing from fines should be put, but needless to say the preparation of the pitch and the refreshment of the players would have been considered worthy causes.

For almost eighty years the club played their home fixtures on Streatham Common, where their wicket was roped off to protect the surface of the pitch from the public. The club subsequently moved to their own ground, which occupied a site now covered by Gracefield Gardens, named to commemorate the great cricketer W G Grace, who played there on a number of occasions at the end of the nineteenth century.

[In the first line of Roger Packham's article on page 14 of *Bulletin* No.156 (December 2005) the dates in brackets should of course read "1685-1985". Apologies from the Editor!]

REWCASTLE – A CORRECTION

In Bill Rudd's contribution on Morden's war memorial in the December *Bulletin*, he identified Donald R Rewcastle as the Morden schoolmaster. He now writes:

"Donald R Rewcastle was the son of Joseph Henry and Mrs L C Rewcastle, master and mistress from c.1905 of Morden School. The family lived at the old school house. Joseph Rewcastle also served as assistant overseer and clerk to Morden parish council. The Rewcastles later transferred to the newly-built (1910) school in London Road and moved to a house in Central Road. Joseph Rewcastle later served as rate collector for Merton & Morden Urban District Council."

'WHAT'S IN LONDON'S LIBRARIES'

Do you want to know where to find a library in London with the book you want to consult?

The website www.londonlibraries.org.uk/will can help.

IN BRIEF

- ◆ The late Patrick Loobey, local historian in Wandsworth and famed postcard collector, is being remembered in a special **exhibition at Wandsworth Museum**, which runs until 19 March. Information on 020 8871 7074 or www.wandsworth.gov.uk/museum
- ◆ **William De Morgan and the De Morgan Centre** is the title of a talk by a staff member of the De Morgan Centre to be held by the Streatham Society at Woodlawns, 16 Leigham Court Road SW16 – 8 pm Monday 3 April.
- ◆ A 2-day conference is to be held at Dorking on 22/23 April celebrating **John Evelyn – the Renaissance Man and his Gardens**. Information on 01483 763734 or 020 8393 0381
- ◆ The **LAMAS Annual Conference of London Archaeologists** is on Saturday 25 March in the Museum of London Lecture Theatre 11am–5.20pm. Recent work in Greater London in the morning (John Phillips of Sutton will be speaking about Carew Manor, Beddington), and Roman towns in the afternoon. Cost £5 (£4 to LAMAS members).

FROM MONTY'S POSTBAG

ERIC MONTAGUE keeps a file of 'answers to correspondents' and here is his reply to a researcher interested in place-names with the element *worth*. She was enquiring about '*worths*' in Mitcham. There are two.

Firstly, as a place-name Tamworth is understood to occur in a rental of 1531-2, recording the tenure of three crofts of land in Mitcham by a William Pratt. Gover, Mawer and Stenton [*The Place-Names of Surrey* 1934] see it as “probably a manorial name from the family of John de Tamworth”, and it is said to be listed amongst the Feet of Fines for 1351 and in the Patent Roll of 1354. By implication, there is a link with the Midlands, but I have seen nothing to substantiate this.

Precisely where in Mitcham Pratt's three crofts were situated we don't know, but in the ministers' accounts listing property belonging to the priory of Merton there is reference to the “Firma Man' de Byggying 't Tamworth”. Biggin can be identified with a farmstead in north Mitcham which was rented to tenants in the early 14th century. Its site lay near the late Victorian Gorrington Park House, to the east of Figges Marsh.

The manor of Biggin and Tamworth (to which there are no references before the Dissolution) survived into the early 20th century, and exercised jurisdiction over a swathe of land extending from north Mitcham along the border with Streatham towards Pollards Hill. This probably accounts for the name Tamworth being adopted widely in the 19th century, and we have Tamworth farm, Tamworth House, Tamworth Lane etc. None, however, seems to have existed earlier than the 18th century. I would love to be able to show that Pratt's holding provided the site of what a Victorian writer described as a “very old farmhouse” lying at the heart of the hamlet of Lonesome on the Mitcham side of the boundary with Streatham, but there seems to be no documentary evidence to take it back before the 17th century. The farm was, however, on rich alluvial soil on the banks of the River Graveney, and its lands included strips in the adjoining East Field of Mitcham. The discovery of a Neolithic axehead at Lonesome hints at early cultivation, and the area (so close to the Roman Road passing through Streatham) is a prime candidate for early Saxon settlement.

'Batsworth', an enclosure at the edge of the West Field, or Blacklands, of Mitcham, is mentioned as early as 1229, and it has been suggested the name enshrines the memory of one Baecce or Baetti. As 'Battesworth' it also finds mention in 1234-5 [*The Place-Names of Surrey*]. This is another riverine location, and within half a mile there are several Romano-British sites, plus Stane Street and Mitcham's Dark Age cemetery. As Long and Short Batsworth – two enclosures in the West Field – the name persisted at the time of the tithe survey in 1846/7, and survives today in Batsworth Road. On part of the former Batsworth Road allotments (later occupied by a school) Dennis Turner and I excavated a Romano-British site in the 1960s which produced three inhumations plus occupational debris. Museum of London Archaeology Service have since undertaken further work on the site and uncovered several more inhumations.

MERTON'S LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

There are to be local workshop sessions where anyone with an interest in the borough can have their say:

Mitcham	Wednesday 8 March	1.30-3.30pm	Vestry Hall
Morden	Wednesday 15 March	1.30-3.30pm	Baptist Church, Crown Lane
Wimbledon	Thursday 23 March	5.30-7.00pm	Community Centre St George's Road
Colliers Wood	Tuesday 28 March	6.00-8.00pm	Community Centre High Street

We have some back issues of the *Bulletin*, available free of charge at meetings, or at 30p each if posted. Here is a summary of the main stories, excluding reports of meetings and other news items:

June 1995	Bulletin 114	December 1998	Bulletin 128
Stane Street in Historic Surrey	<i>C E Sole</i>	Richard Simpson, Vicar of Mitcham 1844-46	<i>R A M S</i>
September 1995	Bulletin 115	Buildings at risk in Merton	<i>R A M Scott</i>
The Wandle Industrial Museum	<i>P D Harris</i>	Abbeys and/or Priors	<i>L E Green</i>
Lord Monson's Schooldays	<i>E N Montague</i>	Blake's Folly, Long Thornton, Mitcham	<i>E N M</i>
March 1996	Bulletin 117	March 1999	Bulletin 129
Morden Park House: inventory of 1867	<i>J A Goodman</i>	Adrian IV	<i>L E Green</i>
Morris & Co. stained glass in Australia	<i>E N M</i>	Rudd monument in Morden churchyard	<i>W J Rudd</i>
White Cottage, Morden Road Mitcham	<i>E N M</i>	Francis Merritt of Mitcham, victualler	<i>E N Montague</i>
June 1996	Bulletin 118	Policing Old Mitcham	<i>B Brown</i>
Mitcham, South Australia	<i>E N Montague</i>	Flt/Lt R S Cumming	<i>R Potter</i>
The Coronation of Queen Eleanor	<i>P J Hopkins</i>	'The Kennels' Lower Morden	<i>P J Hopkins</i>
Copper Milling in Mitcham	<i>E N Montague</i>	A Peninsular War veteran	<i>E N Montague</i>
Merton Hockey Club	<i>R A M Scott</i>	June 1999	Bulletin 130
September 1996	Bulletin 119	Monastic glass of Merton	<i>L E Green</i>
A "Melancholy Occurrence" at Morden	<i>W J Rudd</i>	Flitwick Cottage, Morden Common	<i>J Pile</i>
An aspect of New Wimbledon	<i>C E Sole</i>	Copyholds on Morden Common	<i>P J Hopkins</i>
St Lawrence Church Morden	<i>W J Rudd</i>	September 1999	Bulletin 131
The Lock Family at Merton: I	<i>L E Green</i>	The man who loved Irises: W R Dykes	<i>J A Goodman</i>
December 1996	Bulletin 120	Local Landlubbers	<i>L E Green</i>
The Unknown Warrior	<i>R A M Scott</i>	Sir Ambrose Crowley (1658-1713)	<i>E N Montague</i>
National Railway Museum, New Delhi	<i>P & R Kilsby</i>	Hamnett Pinhey & Rose Cottage Wimbledon	<i>B Elliott</i>
March 1997	Bulletin 121	December 1999	Bulletin 132
The Lock Family at Merton: II	<i>L E Green</i>	Morden, Nova Scotia	<i>E N Montague</i>
The Blacklands	<i>E N Montague</i>	Taunton Priory, daughter house of Merton	<i>L E Green</i>
June 1997	Bulletin 122	Stane Street in Greater London	<i>C E Sole</i>
John F Renshaw & Co. Ltd of Mitcham	<i>E N M</i>	William De Morgan at Colliers Wood	<i>J A Goodman</i>
"A refrain of dear long ago"	<i>J A Goodman</i>	Wyevale Garden Centre, Lower Morden	<i>P J Hopkins</i>
George Warrington Steevens	<i>J A Goodman</i>	March 2000	Bulletin 133
September 1997	Bulletin 123	Chronology of Merton Priory buildings	<i>L E Green</i>
Mitcham becomes smaller	<i>E N Montague</i>	Thomas Vernon of Mitcham (1781-1846)	<i>E N M</i>
The Lock Family of Merton: III	<i>L E Green</i>	George Frederick Hall (1811-93)	<i>R Reid</i>
December 1997	Bulletin 124	Mitcham Vicarage	<i>E N Montague</i>
Trains to Trams	<i>D Luff</i>	June 2000	Bulletin 134
Esther Maria Cranmer's Recipe Book	<i>E N M</i>	Ann Hallam, actress (1696-1740)	<i>R Ninnis</i>
Joseph Chapman Retter	<i>B Webb</i>	The Athletic Fame of Mitcham	<i>R A M Scott</i>
Bunce's Ditch	<i>E N Montague</i>	Seeking Sanctuary at Merton	<i>L E Green</i>
Admiral Isaac Smith of Abbey Gatehouse	<i>E N M</i>	Before the computer sent the bills	<i>R A M Scott</i>
March 1998	Bulletin 125	The impact of the Scandinavian raids	<i>E N Montague</i>
Admiral Isaac Smith	<i>J A Goodman</i>	September 2000	Bulletin 135
The Lawn, 138 Kingston Road Merton	<i>J A G</i>	Athletic Fame of Mitcham: Dorothy Tyler	<i>R Kilsby</i>
May Day revels in old Mitcham	<i>E N Montague</i>	Place names as surnames	<i>L E Green</i>
George Haité of Mitcham	<i>J A Goodman</i>	It's good to talk	<i>L E Green</i>
The Locks of Merton: IV	<i>L E Green</i>	Saxon Merton	<i>J Pile</i>
June 1998	Bulletin 126	The Mauduit lords of Mitcham	<i>P J Hopkins</i>
Looking at Tramlink	<i>D Luff</i>	December 2000	Bulletin 136
Calwich Priory, Staffordshire	<i>L E Green</i>	Fifty years of Merton Historical Society	<i>L E Green</i>
Dunkirk 1940	<i>R A M Scott</i>	The Scandinavian impact on Surrey	<i>E N Montague</i>
An 1836 murder in Merton	<i>J A Goodman</i>	The Odways or Otways of Mitcham	<i>E N Montague</i>
The archives of St Mary's Merton	<i>L Cowell</i>	Christina Steevens	<i>J A Goodman</i>
September 1998	Bulletin 127	March 2001	Bulletin 137
A Merton murder story	<i>J Pile</i>	The Swan Inn	<i>E N Montague</i>
Merton Copper Mills	<i>P McGow</i>	Mitcham in AD 1000	<i>E N Montague</i>
To Runnymede via Merton	<i>L E Green</i>	Mitcham Home Guard Memorial Plaque	<i>R Turner</i>
Richard Simpson, Vicar of Mitcham 1844-6	<i>E N M</i>	Saxon Merton, or "Battles Long Ago"	<i>J Pile</i>
"In Pursuit of Spring": Edward Thomas	<i>J A G</i>	Merton Priory – 13 th Century Episodes	<i>L E Green</i>
Some Merton Field Names	<i>J A G</i>	The Artists of Queensland Avenue	<i>J A Goodman</i>
Wandle Road Morden 1920s	<i>M Vandervlies</i>		

June 2001	Bulletin 138	September 2003	Bulletin 147
Recent Work on Site of Merton Priory	<i>P J Hopkins</i>	G A Storey RA at Morden Hall Academy	<i>J A G</i>
The Industrial School in Mitcham	<i>R A M Scott</i>	A Treasure Map of Merton Priory?	<i>P J Hopkins</i>
Ralph de Cahaigns & Keynes' Beneficence	<i>L E Green</i>	Walter de Merton, 'Clerk of Basingstoke'	<i>R Ninnis</i>
John Donne in Mitcham	<i>E N Montague</i>	Merton Priory: 13 th -Century Church Disputes	<i>L E G</i>
Abraham Goldsmid of Morden Lodge	<i>J A Goodman</i>	Robert de Bethune, Bishop of Hereford	<i>L E Green</i>
The Statute of Merton	<i>L E Green</i>	The Excavation of Bennett's Mill 2002	<i>D Luff</i>
September 2001	Bulletin 139	December 2003	Bulletin 148
The Huguenot Heritage in Mitcham	<i>E N Montague</i>	Morden Hall before Morden Hall!	<i>P J Hopkins</i>
St Olave, Mitcham	<i>R Ninnis</i>	A Personal History of Morden Hall Park	<i>M Healey</i>
Two Mitcham Mysteries	<i>E N Montague</i>	The Destruction of a Priory	<i>L E Green</i>
December 2001	Bulletin 140	Eagle House, Mitcham	<i>R A M Scott</i>
The Pommeroy Beneficence	<i>L E Green</i>	March 2004	Bulletin 149
The Mitcham Virgate	<i>J Pile</i>	Wimbledon's Lord Mayor of London	<i>E Lilley</i>
Rev Henry J Wharton, Vicar of Mitcham	<i>E N M</i>	Charles Greaves of Merton Place & Family	<i>J Latham</i>
Story of No.70 Christchurch Road	<i>E N Montague</i>	John Mantell Canon of Merton Priory	<i>P J Hopkins</i>
A View of London Road Morden c.1760	<i>P J Hopkins</i>	James Lackington	<i>J A Goodman</i>
March 2002	Bulletin 141	Wandle in Literature: Davy's <i>Salmonia</i>	<i>J A Goodman</i>
John Arbuthnot of Mitcham	<i>E N Montague</i>	My Hat! The Medieval Titfer	<i>L E Green</i>
The Mitcham Virgate: comment	<i>E N Montague</i>	Jim Hadland of Manor Farm, Mitcham	<i>J Goodson</i>
In Midst of Life [Merton Priory 1344-56]	<i>L E Green</i>	June 2004	Bulletin 150
The Wandle Navigation	<i>E N Montague</i>	Grove Mill and Crown Mill site, Mitcham	<i>G Potter</i>
Welch's Table-Cloth Printing Works	<i>E N Montague</i>	Access to the Priory	<i>C Maidment</i>
Catherine Gladstone Home, Morden	<i>J A Goodman</i>	The site of the First Abbey Mill	<i>English Heritage</i>
June 2002	Bulletin 142	Edward II and Isabella	<i>L Green</i>
J W Bazalgette in Morden	<i>W J Rudd</i>	Mitcham's Cholera Outbreak in 1866	<i>E N Montague</i>
Sgt P K Walley	<i>J A Goodman</i>	Morris & Co Tapestries, Westminster Abbey	<i>R Turner</i>
Roger of Salisbury and the Augustinians	<i>L E Green</i>	September 2004	Bulletin 151
John Arbuthnot: more facts	<i>J Pile & J A Goodman</i>	The Admiral's Sicilian Patch	<i>L Cowell</i>
The Welch Family	<i>J Welch</i>	The First Wandle Valley Festival	<i>W J Rudd</i>
The Weller Family of Mitcham	<i>J Herbert</i>	John William Godward (1861-1922)	<i>D Bazley</i>
Medieval Field Names in Morden	<i>P J Hopkins</i>	Centenary of John Innes (1829-1904)	<i>J A Goodman</i>
September 2002	Bulletin 143	Tooting Bec	<i>L Green</i>
Chestnut Cottage, Mitcham	<i>E N Montague</i>	December 2004	Bulletin 152
The Birth of a Publication	<i>W J Rudd</i>	The Oxford Movement in Mitcham	<i>R A M Scott</i>
The Two Wives of Sir Richard Hotham	<i>P J Hopkins</i>	A War-time Childhood in Raynes Park	<i>I Lawrence</i>
The Evidence of Place-names (1)	<i>E N Montague</i>	William Nicholson	<i>J A Goodman & R Ninnis</i>
The North Mitcham Mission District	<i>E N Montague</i>	Wandle in Literature: Camden, Drayton, Pope	<i>J A G</i>
December 2002	Bulletin 144	A Conundrum from the Past	<i>L Green</i>
The Evidence of Place-names (2)	<i>E N Montague</i>	Rhodes-Moorhouse and Whalley	<i>J A Goodman</i>
The Pishiobury Ha-ha	<i>W J Rudd</i>	A writing family of Cannon Hill (Edna O'Brien)	<i>J A G</i>
Town and City Wards (1)	<i>D Fleming</i>	March 2005	Bulletin 153
Henry III and Merton Priory 1216-72 (1)	<i>L E Green</i>	Smith Tomb, St Mary's Merton Park	<i>D Muirhead</i>
March 2003	Bulletin 145	Return to 's-Hertogenbosch, Oct 2004	<i>T Kelley</i>
'A Philological Discipline'	<i>J Pile & E N Montague</i>	The Knights Templar	<i>L Green</i>
Town and City Wards (2)	<i>D Fleming</i>	Young & Co, Merton Abbey, in 1950s	<i>J Pile</i>
Henry III and Merton Priory 1216-72 (2)	<i>L E Green</i>	The Archbishopric of York 1139-1154	<i>L Green</i>
Mitcham Windmill Base and Timbers	<i>R A M Scott</i>	Wandle in Literature: Leigh Hunt	<i>J A Goodman</i>
Time Team Comes to Merton	<i>L E Green</i>	June 2005	Bulletin 154
A Job to Dye For	<i>W J Rudd</i>	Measure for Measure	<i>L Green</i>
June 2003	Bulletin 146	200 Years Ago (Nelson): June-Sept 1805	<i>J A G</i>
Missing Piece of Puzzle (Abbey Lodge)	<i>P J Hopkins</i>	Times Winged Chariot – Evans' cart	<i>W J Rudd</i>
Samuel John Tracy	<i>J A Goodman</i>	A Road 'very farr out of repair'	<i>J A Goodman</i>
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THE WANDLE IN LITERATURE – an occasional series

4. Rudyard Kipling

Rudyard Kipling was born in December 1865 in Bombay. He left India at the age of five, when he and his sister Trix were placed by their parents at ‘The House of Desolation’ or ‘Forlorn Lodge’ (its real name was Lorne Lodge) in Southsea. After five years of misery there he spent five happy and formative years in North Devon at United Services College, where the headmaster Cormell Price was an old friend of Kipling’s uncle Edward Burne-Jones, and of William Morris (who was known as ‘Uncle Topsy’ to the young people).

Throughout this period Kipling spent Christmas holidays with the Burne-Jones family at The Grange, North End Road, Fulham. Otherwise, when he was not away at school, he and Trix were looked after at a boarding-house at the end of Kensington High Street near Addison Road. Possibly, during these spells in London he may have taken the opportunity to explore western and south-western London, including, perhaps, crossing the river to the Surrey side.

In 1882 the precocious 16-year-old Kipling returned to India to start work as Assistant Editor on the *Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, and seriously began his career as a writer.

His first published book of verse was *Departmental Ditties and Other Verses*, which appeared in 1886, published by the *Civil and Military Gazette*. It was rapidly reprinted. One of the ‘other verses’ was:

THE MOON OF OTHER DAYS

Beneath the deep verandah’s shade,
When bats begin to fly,
I sit me down and watch – alas
Another evening die.
Blood-red behind the sere *ferash*
She rises through the haze.
Sainted Diana! can that be
The Moon of Other Days!

Ah! shade of little Kitty Smith,
Sweet Saint of Kensington!
Say, was it ever thus at Home
The Moon of August shone,
When arm in arm we wandered long
Through Putney’s evening haze,
And Hammersmith was Heaven beneath
The Moon of Other Days?

But **Wandle**’s stream is Sutlej now,
And Putney’s evening haze
The dust that half a hundred kine
Before my window raise.
Unkempt, unclean, athwart the mist
The seething city looms,
In place of Putney’s golden gorse
The sickly *babul* blooms.

Glare down, old Hecate, through the dust
And bid the pie-dog yell,
Draw from the drain its typhoid germ,
From each bazar its smell;
Yea, suck the fever from the tank
And sap my strength therewith:
Thank Heaven, you show a smiling face
To little Kitty Smith!

The poem had first appeared in another newspaper, the larger and more important *The Pioneer* of Allahabad, on 16 December 1884, when Kipling was still only 18 years old. Very much the effusion of a young writer, it tries to capture the musings and sentimental reveries of a young Londoner transplanted to India. Was this youth Kipling himself? True, there was a young lady he remembered from home – but more with anguish than with fondness. Florence Garrard, slender, pale and indifferent, two years older than he, had fascinated him since he was 14, when she had arrived at Lorne Lodge for a time, but she is an unlikely model for “little Kitty Smith”, who sounds rather more cuddly! I suspect that the poem is a work of imagination only.

I would like to think however that he really did know a gorse-dotted Putney Heath, and surely he could see in his mind’s eye the little Wandle, modest tributary of the medium-sized Thames, as he flattered it by transmuting it into the much, much larger Sutlej, which mingles with the mighty Indus.

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Judith Goodman

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