



PRESIDENT:
VICE PRESIDENT: Judith Goodman
CHAIR: Keith Penny

BULLETIN No. 200

DECEMBER 2016



Liberty Character Dolls (see p.8)

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PROGRAMME DECEMBER 2016 – APRIL 2017

Saturday 10 December 2.30pm **Christ Church Hall, Colliers Wood**
‘Vanished People of the Wandle – the Pre-history of South West London’
*An illustrated talk by **Jon Cotton**, former Curator at the Museum of London*

Saturday 14 January 2017 2.30pm **Christ Church Hall, Colliers Wood**
‘Recent Researches’
Illustrated talks by various members of the Society

Saturday 11 February 2.30pm **Christ Church Hall, Colliers Wood**
‘Thames Road Bridges’
*An illustrated talk by **Richard Fitch** of Carshalton and District HA Society*

Thursday 23 February 12 for 12.30pm **Annual Lunch**
at Taste Restaurant, South Thames College: Merton Campus, London Road, Morden SM4 5QX
See enclosed form

Saturday 11 March 2.30pm **Christ Church Hall, Colliers Wood**
‘Artists, Antiquaries and Collectors:
Illustrations of Surrey collected by Robert Barclay of Bury Hill Dorking c.1800’
*An illustrated talk by **Julian Pooley**, of Surrey History Centre*

Saturday 8 April 2.30pm **Christ Church Hall, Colliers Wood**
‘Mills of the Wandle’
*talk by **Mick Taylor** of The Wandle Industrial Museum*

Christ Church Hall is next to the church, in Christchurch Road, 250m from Colliers Wood Underground station. Limited parking at the hall, but plenty in nearby streets or at the Tandem Centre, 200m south. Buses 152, 200 and 470 pass the door.

Visitors are welcome to attend our talks. Entry £2.

A BULLETIN MILESTONE

We have now reached the 200th issue of our publication. From three stencilled typescript pages in 1965 we have expanded to 16 pages and frequent colour illustrations. As a not too extravagant celebration, a colour spread graces our centre pages. The Editor welcomes contributions about any subject with a local connection, whether they discuss Anglo-Saxon noblemen or today’s pharmacists, archaeological digs or WW2 bombs. He would also welcome volunteers to take notes for a Meeting or Visit Report. Onwards to our third century!

ERIC MONTAGUE

It is with deep regret that we announce the recent death of our Vice President, friend and colleague Eric Montague, at the age of 92. He wrote extensively, particularly on Mitcham, joined our Society in 1965, and served with distinction on our Committee for many years. A fuller appreciation will appear in the March *Bulletin*.

HAVE YOU PAID?

Subscriptions for 2016-17 are now overdue. Please note that this will be the last issue to reach you if we do not receive your payment before the March *Bulletin*. A membership form was enclosed with the September *Bulletin*.

Current rates are: Individual member £10, Additional member in same household £3
 Student member £1, Overseas member £15

Cheques are payable to **Merton Historical Society** and should be sent with completed forms to our Membership Secretary.

Society emails: Members are reminded that the Society now offers an information service to email users, including reminders of Society meetings and visits, and announcements of other events of interest of which notice arrives between issues of the *Bulletin*. To use this service, please send an email to info@mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk. Send another if you wish to cancel.

VISIT TO THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE

On the morning of 15 September we passed through security at Royal Courts of Justice (RCJ) to meet our tour guide, Pat Rowe, a Court Usher who has worked in the RCJ for close on 30 years. She briefed us in Chancellor's Court, where we sat on the counsel benches. These face the judge, senior counsel in the front row and juniors behind them. If solicitors are present they sit in the next row back.



Photos: David Luff

The Building For most of the 19th century the civil courts were spread around London and the Government wished to amalgamate them on one site. Cheap land was required in the centre of London. A site of 5.2 acres (much of it owned by Middlesex County Council) containing 350 dwellings for 3500 people, located on the north side of The Strand, just outside the City, was compulsorily purchased in the mid-1870s. The tenants were evicted and the houses demolished.

A competition was announced to design 12 courtrooms and their associated offices. Eleven architects submitted designs and a relatively unknown architect, George Edmund Street, was chosen. His design is Gothic Revival in style, based upon a large medieval style hall with the courts around it on the upper floor. There is a separate entrance for judges, and separate access to each courtroom for them. Westminster Hall, the original location of the major courts, may have been an inspiration. Bull of Southampton was chosen as builder and work started in 1879. No fewer than 35 million Portland stone blocks were brought in by river and presumably made the final part of their journey on carts. During the construction, more land was compulsorily purchased

and the plan was changed from 12 to 19 courtrooms. Total land cost was £1,450,000 and the construction costs were £600,000. Each courtroom was designed by a different sub-architect, but all except one are of the same size. The exception is the Lord Chancellor's Court, which is twice the size of the others.

Apparently, during construction the stonemasons went on strike. To break the strike, the firm brought in East European stonemasons. This was clearly not a popular move locally, so, for their own security, the East Europeans lived in the basement of the partially constructed building. As a pastime, when not working, they carved decorations on four of the 20 or so columns down there, the others remaining undecorated. Elsewhere, there is a plain column decorating a wall, but it is cut off a couple of feet above the floor. The architect designed it that way so that no one could say that the building was perfect – 'as only God can produce perfection'. Sadly, George Edmund Street died before construction was completed. Queen Victoria opened the new building on 4 December 1882.

The building size has been considerably increased since then. A West Wing was built in 1910 to accommodate the increasing number of divorce proceedings, the Queen's Building was opened in the 1968 to contain 12 Family Courts, and the 11-storey Thomas More building was opened in 1990 and houses Bankruptcy & Companies Courts. More recently, the Rolls Building in Fetter Lane has been occupied. Amazingly, the RCJ now comprise 176 courtrooms and there are 180 judges appointed. It is one of the largest court complexes in Europe.

The 21st century appears to have hit the courtrooms. Those that we saw in the original building are typical Victorian panelled rooms with built-in bookcases full of thick legal tomes, but all courts are wired with digital sound recording equipment that is on continuously, so that shorthand writers are not needed. Each seat has a socket for a laptop computer. Even the judge brings a laptop to record his/her notes, search for precedents and from which to read their considered judgement. The books in the bookcases are rarely used nowadays.

The Courts. There are a number of different groups of courts within the building, each with its own administrative system, its own judges and its own listing of cases.

There are two **Courts of Appeal**. The **Court of Criminal Appeal** is headed by the Lord Chief Justice. It considers appeals to increase or decrease the length of sentences and miscarriages of justice. Prior to 2003, Appeal Court judges could set a prisoner free but since the passing of the Double Jeopardy Act in 2003, they must send the case back to a Crown Court for a re-trial if there is any doubt as to the earlier verdict. The **Court of Civil Appeal** is headed by the Master of the Rolls and the appeals are always based upon interpretation of a point of law.



With permission, an appeal against a judgement of the Civil Appeal Court may be made to the Supreme Court, sitting in the old Middlesex County Council building in Parliament Square.

The **High Court** has three divisions. The **Chancery Division** deals with bankruptcy, insolvency, wills, contracts and other financial matters. The **Queen's Bench Division**, split into Admiralty and Commercial, deals with medical and accident claims and libel cases and their associated claims for damages. Libel cases are the only cases in the whole Civil Court system where a jury is used (to determine damages upon direction of the judge). Since 2013, the laws of libel now cover social media.

The **Family Division** deals with divorce, child custody, adoption and wards of court. In this Court none of the participants wear formal robes, so as not to intimidate the many children who appear in the court. Appeals from any division of the High Court go to the Court of Civil Appeal.

In our tour most courts were unoccupied, but we did see some in session. The public are admitted to all of the courts except those in the Family Division or if the case involves national security matters.

On our way out, we passed through a small museum showing models in court robes appropriate to their rank. The more senior the judge, the longer their wigs hang down each side of their face – hence the term "big-wig" for a senior person.

Our sincere thanks to Bea Oliver for organising this visit.

Tony Scott

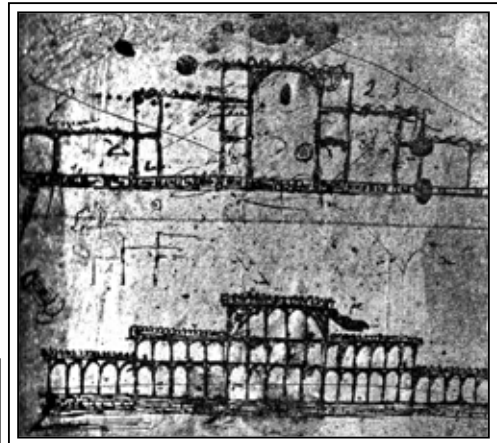
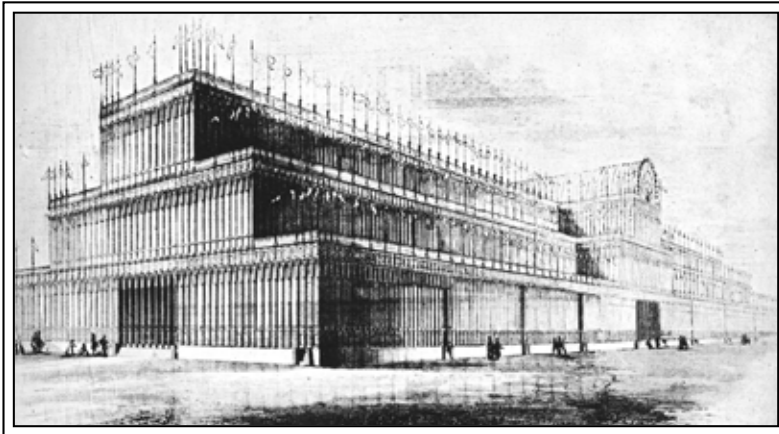
‘HISTORY OF CRYSTAL PALACE’

On Saturday 8 November a modest company gathered to hear Michael Gilbert’s extremely well-illustrated talk on the origin, construction, contents, movement and fate of the Palace.

The **Origin** was due to three people: Prince Albert, who wished to promote British and Imperial science and industry, Henry Cole, an industrialist who suggested the idea of a Great Exhibition in London, and Joseph Paxton, who designed and built the Palace in which to hold the Exhibition.

Cole received a Royal warrant in 1848, set up committees and rules and requested tenders for the building. The rules specified that the building could only be temporary, that it was to be situated on an eight-acre site in fashionable Hyde Park, and that it would open on 1 May 1851. All 233 designs submitted were rejected, after which, on 22 June 1850, I K Brunel submitted one that included all the best bits of the rejects, requiring some ten million bricks – not very temporary!

Paxton was, among many rôles, an experienced gardener, who had designed and built a very large conservatory for the Duke of Devonshire. Musing during a meeting of the Midland Railway Board, he sketched, on a piece of blotting paper (which has been preserved! *right*) a design for a building of glass and cast iron, similar to his conservatory. This was published in the *Illustrated London News* under the heading ‘Crystal Palace’ in July 1850. Paxton was instantly awarded the contract, having already signed huge contracts for iron work and glass (presumably with crossed fingers).



Construction got under way immediately and furiously. Trees on the site had to be removed, but four were spared, to decorate the interior of the Palace. Paxton added a transept (that he called a ‘transit’) to accommodate them. The completed building was 1848 feet long inside, while the 900,000 panes of glass had needed 2500 people to put into place (*left*). There were several glass fountains. Considerable

attention had been paid to detail: for example, the floorboards had gaps between them to allow air circulation from the basement, and all passageways were wide enough for an invalid carriage, or a lady in a crinoline, to move along. Goods for exhibition began to arrive in March 1851, and a grand opening ceremony occurred, as specified, on 1 May 1851, with 40,000 people present.

The **Contents** were to show the vast range of products of Britain and her Empire – at least 100,000 items of art and machinery were on display. The interior was divided into compartments, allocated to trades or countries. India showed a stuffed (African) elephant, but the USA had insufficient goods to fill their area. The bays themselves were elaborately decorated in a variety of schemes – Greek, Roman, Egyptian, etc., some having mosaics of tiny tesserae. (Michael had examples of these.) Normal entry price was one shilling, encouraging some six million visitors to view the Exhibition and Palace before the show closed on 15 October 1851. Prince Albert directed that the £130,000 profit should be used to buy the land on which would be built his projected South Kensington Museums.

One year later, the Palace was still there, but was shortly **moved** bodily to a 200-acre site at Penge Place in Sydenham. The building was extended, water towers added at each end to supply the many fountains in the grounds, and two more transits added. It re-opened on 10 June 1854, as a place for a permanent art exhibition, for which plaster casts were made of masterpieces all over Europe. An exhibition of statues of British monarchs (some now in the Houses of Parliament) competed with concrete models of dinosaurs (most still there), band concerts, three restaurants and sporting contests. Such events continued until 30 November 1936, when a fire started under floorboards where a heating duct had cracked. It was first noticed at 20.05; a BBC outside broadcast from 21.00 gave huge publicity, but despite all the efforts of the fire brigades, ‘Crystal Palace’ burnt to the ground. The only bits to survive were a café and a gents’ toilet, and the water towers, demolished in 1941 for iron scrap.

DH

LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS

Friday 19 August 2016: Six present – David Haunton in the Chair.

- ◆ Peter Hopkins apologised for misleading members at the visit to St Lawrence's church Morden in 2013, when he misidentified the Morden-born sculptor responsible for what has been described as 'the finest monument of the Baroque in England'. Peter promised a more accurate account in a future *Bulletin*.

Peter had been in email correspondence about another notable man, buried in St Lawrence churchyard, though resident just over the parish boundary in North Cheam. Augustus William Louis Schermuly invented a ship-to-shore rocket line and the pistol rocket life-saving apparatus. Peter had been able to consult Bill Rudd's extensive research files to answer this enquiry, and also to discover the truth about the sculptor.

- ◆ Keith Penny remarked on a comment made at the Society's recent visit to Frederick W Paine in Kingston that, towards the end of WW1, undertakers experienced difficulties in conducting their business. This matched his own researches in Mitcham, where the local authority reported coffins being laid on the surface of low-lying ground at Streatham Park Cemetery in September 1918 and covered with soil from nearby graves. That same year two grave diggers seeking exemption from call-up reported that they had been responsible for 287 interments there in July alone. This seems too early to have been a result of the influenza epidemic, which in Mitcham saw 33 deaths in October and 30 in November. Joyce Bellamy wondered if the earlier high mortality figures related to severely wounded servicemen dying soon after they had returned to this country.

Keith noted two other items reported in local newspapers. During the influenza epidemic, Mitcham Council and volunteers distributed supplies of disinfectant, soup and Bovril to affected households. In 1919 it was announced that Mitcham would receive one captured German machine gun and its ammunition belt as trophies. We wondered what had happened to them – perhaps melted down for the war effort in 1939?

On the subject of WW2, Keith had accompanied Mick Taylor on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Vestry Hall Mitcham. One discovery in the loft was a box of full rolls of tickets (for adult main course and sweet course) and tokens (white for child, black for beverages) used at British Restaurants in Mitcham (right, full-size), which has now been entrusted to Keith on the Society's behalf. This led to discussion on the location of the restaurants (one operated in St Olave's church hall) and how the tickets and tokens were used. Can any readers enlighten us?

Keith also enquired as to the location of the Wimbledon Police Courts in the early 1900s – Queens Road? And he had noticed new green plaques identifying war grave sites and wondered how these were obtained.



- ◆ David Luff had been googling Parnall Aircraft Ltd, who had moved to a vacant plot on the Liberty's site after their Bristol factory was bombed in WW2, manufacturing aircraft components. He had been told by their architect that 14 sites had been considered, but has now discovered that their HQ had long been in Tolworth, conveniently close to the Merton Abbey site. He has also discovered that 65 electronics staff, made redundant by Parnall after the War, set up in business, originally to produce hearing aids, later turning their hand to model engineering. David is also investigating Parnall's links with Frazer-Nash, who produced mobile gun turrets for aircraft. They also had premises at Liberty's and at some stage merged with Parnall.
- ◆ Joyce Bellamy has long been impressed by Merton Borough's many signposted (and numbered) Public Rights of Way (PROW). She was especially delighted that the PROW along the ancient Fieldgate Lane (near the former gasworks), and the formerly derelict land alongside it, have been incorporated into a community orchard and garden including a wildflower meadow, an amenity lawn and raised beds for soft fruits, vegetables, herbs and roses. She was pleased to see that another historic PROW, Church Path, leading from opposite the parish church to London Road, has recently been tidied, with overhanging trees trimmed and the path swept. There are hopes that Cold Blows PROW will benefit if the current Heritage Lottery bid for The Canons goes ahead. And the new Wandle Valley Path, now virtually complete, is a welcome addition to routes in south-west London. (It is a recreational innovation, not a statutory right of way.)

Joyce also commented on local viewpoints and vistas, now being studied in the context of the Wandle Valley Regional Park. Although Mitcham is too low-lying to command magnificent views such as can be seen from Norwood or Streatham Common, there are some vantage points – the Sea Cadets Hall was designed to give a

view across Three Kings Piece, and the veranda of the Cricket Pavilion has excellent sightlines over Cricket Green (another of the Registered Greens). Joyce particularly likes the view from the top of the multi-storey car park near Morrisons, and wishes that the many sites visible from there could be marked in some way.

She had recently been surprised to discover an Ordnance Survey benchmark on the corner of the old Barclays building – and lamented that printed OS maps will soon be a thing of the past.

- ◆ Madeline Healey had known that her father, a bricklayer who had worked for various local building firms including Crouch, Selley and Gosling, had built air raid shelters during WW2, and had assumed these were the Anderson shelters erected in gardens. Recently, however, her niece had told her that, during her GCSE studies on WW2, she had long conversations with Madeline's father, and that he had in fact built community shelters all over London, and had even worked on the Cabinet War Rooms in Whitehall. Madeline reflected sadly on all those unasked questions that would have added to her knowledge – a feeling that many of us share.

Madeline has recently received from her cousin in Ireland plans and architects drawings relating to the land that her great-grandmother Sarah Madeline and her husband Abram Clark acquired to build houses in Crown Road and Queens Road, Morden, opposite the Civic Centre. She has not yet had a chance to examine them thoroughly, but promised to bring them at a later date. She has already shown us sales particulars and plans from the sale of G E Hatfield's estate in 1946 which includes houses connected to her family.

- ◆ David Haunton has received from Joyce Bellamy a list of five memorial plantings in Mitcham, to which he has added two in Merton Park. Madeline mentioned that a plane tree opposite the former Tate Almshouses was planted in memory of her grandfather (*see p.12*). Have we missed any? Are there any in Morden?

At the last workshop Judy Goodman handed Dave a file on Merton's multiple spy and conman known as 'Henry Alexander', 'Colonel Lopez', etc. Born in Australia, he applied in 1918 for a badge for his services as a 'civilian armourer' with the 'WAF Forces' in 1897/8. Not Western Australia, but the West African Field Force, which in 1900 combined with the Royal Nigerian Constabulary Companies to form the West African Frontier Force. With 1000 men and six Maxim machine guns, they attempted to fend off French infiltration of the area between the Niger and the Nile. (In 1917 Henry was noted as an expert on machine guns.) In 1899 he travelled steerage to Buenos Aires on the RMS *Magdalena* – mentioned by Kipling in *Just So Stories* (1902). He died in Worcester Park and Dave checked with Paines if they had a record of his burial; they did not, but suggested he might be in the Jewish cemetery at Golders Green.

In the last *Bulletin*, Paul Featherstone mentioned Seaman's The Chemist in Kingston Road, Merton. Dave was surprised to discover that there were two pharmacies almost opposite each other, presumably because the road divided the communities. Seaman's occupied a new building on the south of the road from 1911 until 2016, when it moved across the road – and across the railway – to face the Nelson Health Centre. No doubt it was the building of the Nelson Hospital in 1911 that had encouraged its setting up. On the north side of the road was Coopers, founded in 1887 in 1 Commerce Terrace, later 93 Kingston Road and now 183. It closed in 1956. Meanwhile another pharmacy had been opened in 1938 opposite Wimbledon Chase Station and called The Chase Chemist. By 1992 it was Mount Elgon Pharmacy, and in 2015 moved into the Nelson Health Centre. Dave is still trying to find what it was called between 1950 and 1992. He was also intrigued that a property in the middle of a terrace should be number one! It turns out that c.1881 Fininley Builders started building the first four shops in the terrace – called Fininley Terrace – adjoining their own larger premises, then added four more beyond their premises – as shown in Dave's modern photograph below. These were swiftly followed by a further three, all seven called Commerce Terrace. At some stage before 1887 two more shops were added adjoining the latter – though apparently not by Fininleys.



Peter Hopkins

LIBERTY YULE-TIDE GIFTS 1929-1930

Judy Goodman brought a copy of this catalogue to a Workshop in January 2016 (*Bulletin* 197), and December seems a suitable time to list some of its contents. Since the date of publication in 1929, inflation means that we should multiply the prices by 50 to get a rough idea of what they would be today. This catalogue is not for the poor. You may recall that in Dorothy L Sayers' *Murder must Advertise* (1933) Lord Peter Wimsey, masquerading as an office worker, has a salary of £4 a week.

In the catalogue, Liberty & Co Ltd represent themselves as 'designers and makers of artistic wares and fabrics', of 'Regent St London, W1, and 3 Boulevard des Capucines, Paris'. There is frequent mention of 'specimens of hand-printing from Liberty & Co's own works at Merton Abbey'.

Prices are given in pre-1971 denominations, where 12d = 1s (12 old pence = one shilling) and 20s = £1. In this article we follow the convention of the time by writing 's/d' for prices lower than one pound, and '£.s.d' for higher prices. The curious convention of reckoning in guineas still held occasionally, where 1 guinea = £1.1.0, particularly for the more expensive items.

Liberty Clothing included silk grenadine scarves (*right*), 70 by 20in, in brown, green or blue, at £1.7.6 each, with woollen scarves and hand-printed silk scarves between £1.3.9 and £4.14.6. Shawls in 'Liberty colourings' (*opposite, foot*) were either £2.17.6 or £5.15.6. Silk embroidered kimonos came at £4.0.0 for a particular design, while others could cost up to £30.0.0. On the other hand, silk dressing gowns for men were only five guineas, and hand-printed silk ties and handkerchiefs between 3/11 and a guinea. Ladies jumpers (*opposite, top*) came in hand-printed fabrics at £3.9.6.



The **Jewellery** range was quite extensive. It included precious stones set in platinum

and 18ct white gold rings at four, six or eight guineas, but 'silver jewellery set with stones' cost only one to three guineas. Earrings were definitely expensive: sapphire and diamond sets cost £23.10.0, fire opal sets up to £25, while jade sets would cost you between three guineas and £39.10.0 (the highest price in this catalogue). Presumably the 'precious' has been deliberately omitted from the description of 'stone necklaces' (*left*) in carnelian, topaz, amethyst or jasper, £1.5.0 to six guineas. 'Pearl and stone' necklaces (*right*) featured strings of tiny pearls with larger turquoise, fire opals, amethyst or topaz suspended from them, at five to eight guineas. Mere 'bead neckchains' were mostly less than £1.

Ladies' Accessories included fans and scent sachets at 1/6 to 15/6, and a handbag for £1.1.0

Motor rugs came in ten different colourings (eight reversible) at about five guineas, with heavier ones available at eight guineas.

Toys were represented by a range of stuff and plush animals, 8-12 inches high, at prices between 1/11 and 10/6, while 'character dolls' (*front cover*) came in bright and varied colours, and different sizes.



Everything else – a vast range – could be classed as **Household** fripperies. There were tea cosies and pin cushions (up to a guinea), cushions, table runners and hand tooled leather work (from £1 to four guineas) and calendars (8d to 6/6). A curious fad for ‘old chinese embroidery panelled in leather’ was met by vanity cases, bookmarks, purses, book



racks (*left*), Treasury note cases(!), match cases(!) and so forth, from 5/6 to 21/-, with

larger pieces of ‘old chinese embroidery’ for cushions, etc, at £1.5.0 to ten guineas. You could also buy hand-painted parchment paper, japanese hand-stencilled cotton crape (*sic*), and lots of cushions and table covers and pouffes. Craftsmanship was featured in wood (little boxes and bowls 1/6 to 4/6); in ‘scotch’ glass (bowls, vases, lamps, 10/6 to £2.17.6) and in painted porcelain (a polar bear at 1/6, a kingfisher with a much more elaborate paint scheme at 13/6). There were wrought iron lanterns, japanese dwarf trees and miniature gardens, and bronze garden ornaments (storks and toads).



But the only stuff I would have bought was the powder blue ware from Moorcroft at 1/3 to 8/9 per piece (*some examples below*).

DH



LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS (continued)

Friday 30 Sep 2016: Five present - Peter Hopkins in the Chair

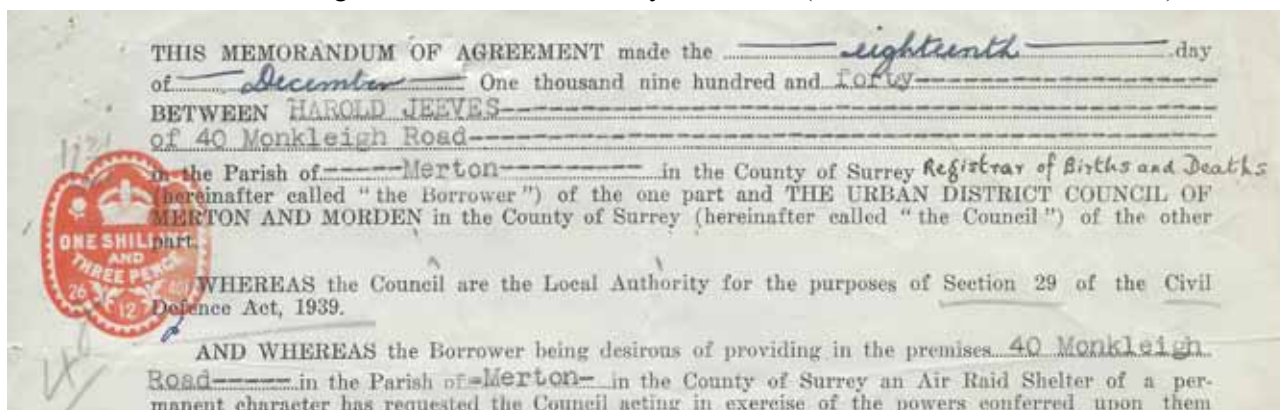
- ◆ **Keith Penny** had found a surprise local history resource on the Borough Council website, <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/statistics/censushistory.htm> – a table of populations of the component parts of the borough as recorded in censuses up to 1961. Those present noticed some of the large leaps in population in Merton 1901–11 (housing in the Raynes Park area) and 1921–31 (new industry around the Kingston By-Pass, as well as new housing), and in Morden 1931–51 (housing following the Underground opening in 1926).

Further analysis can be found at <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>, a site that also provides extracts from local surveys or topographical descriptions. For Mitcham the site quotes from John Marius Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales c.1870*: buildings mentioned included the Eagle House Lunatic Asylum. The transactions that brought Eagle House into Poor Law control are detailed in *Mitcham Histories* 14, p.7. Peter wondered if there had been some confusion between St George in the East and St George, Southwark, both of which are mentioned. According to Wilson, there were 51 inmates at the 1861 Census, though now not all the sheets are extant, at least not on *Ancestry*. In charge was William Budd, a discharged sergeant and Chelsea Pensioner; inmates were from assorted trades, but several occupations were marked 'N[ot].K[nown]', presumably because the persons concerned did not themselves know, or could not explain.

- ◆ **Dave Haunton** had found in a *Genealogists Magazine* from 1992, an entry in a Wimbledon register referring to a baptism in Merton Church 30 June 1723. The baby was born in Merton but the parents were travellers. Justice Meriton physically prevented them from having the baby baptised one Sunday, so that she could not claim settlement later under the Poor Law. However, she was baptised quietly a few days later, by the same vicar, who was in charge of both churches. It is unclear exactly where this occurred.

Dave had contacted the Museum of Design in Plastic regarding the British Restaurant tokens that Keith had been given. The museum didn't have any examples of such tokens, so Dave and Keith had sent some to them. In the 1942 directive from the Ministry of Food he had found rules for the production of the tokens, to replace paper tokens. There was to be a variety of colours to represent different courses. Our local ones were white, black and brown (a third type we belatedly found) and did not comply with the rules. Dave was trying to find out where they could have been made. Lines Bros was one candidate.

- ◆ **Gay Usher's** deeds for her house in Monkleigh Road include papers dated 1940 showing a Mr Jeeves obtaining a loan of £40 from the council to build an air raid shelter (*see p.15 and detail below*). Keith and Rosemary knew of examples of these in neighbouring gardens. Rosemary's neighbour had just had theirs demolished and she was glad that she had been away at the time (because of the continual noise).



- ◆ **Judith Goodman** has always kept items of interest from local newspapers. She recently came across a cutting from the *Wimbledon Guardian* dated 19 March 2002. It was an obituary for Terri Carol, 25 May 1914 to 31 January 2002, a music hall performer, who died aged 87. She was a paper tearer and bridged the gap between television variety and the re-emergence of the variety theatre, and became a symbol of the resurrected Hackney Empire. She always referred to people as sweetie or darling and stunned audiences old and new with her skill. The article states that she always appeared 'coiffured and magnificently gowned'. The paper tearing was accompanied by a patter delivered as asides, one of which was 'give me a bit more pension and I wouldn't have to do this bloody thing'. Out of a flurry of paper she would produce ships, palm trees, lace doilies and steering wheels, sometimes involving audience participation. Her performance ended with her 30ft-tall paper ladder.

She was the daughter of a music hall paper tearer and was born Ivy Rosina Victoria Morse, in a Mitcham funeral parlour. She was educated at a convent school until the age of nine. Her father taught her the paper tearing art and took her on a world tour with Sir Harry Lauder. By the age of 12 she had circumnavigated the world twice. She played in Toyko, and did seven shows a day at Radio City New York. Her career peaked in wartime and she was described by the *Daily Mirror* as the pluckiest girl in showbusiness. She performed with her baby in a crib, in the care of a stagehand in the wings. She performed with Buster Keaton, Carmen Miranda, Phil Silvers, Lena Horne, Max Miller and Laurel and Hardy. At one time she lived in Park Lane with a maid. Terri was married 3 times and her final marriage ended in the mid-1950s, about the same time as the decline of the music hall. She worked for a short time in the civil service Ancient Monuments department. After a short disastrous visit to one of her daughters in South Africa she returned to London penniless and moved into sheltered housing in Croydon. When the Hackney Empire was reopened in the 1980 she appeared in *The Good Old Days* and following that appeared on *Wogan*, *Friday Night Live*, *Barrymore*, *the Generation Game* and the Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal. She toured the variety circuit in London and went back to Japan to appear on TV. She performed for the Eurythmics in Nice and at Tina Turner's 50th birthday party. Terri retired officially aged 80 when arthritis made it too difficult for her to tear paper. At the time of her death she was still planning to perform at the reopening of the Empire's main auditorium.

- ◆ **Peter Hopkins** had photographed the early 18th-century memorials in St Lawrence church because he wondered if they could have been by Morden-born sculptor Richard Crutcher, who produced the famous Clayton memorial at Bletchingley. He had taken close ups of the cherub's heads. It was decided that they were typical of the period and without a signature could not be attributed to that sculptor. (An article is forthcoming.)

Peter had visited TNA and looked at a 1579 lease of a moated dovehouse at Merton, which he hoped would prove to be a precursor of Nelson's Merton Place. He had previously found 17th-century records of the dovehouse. It had enough detail to convince Peter that Merton Place was built within the old dovehouse moat. The lease E367/1030 was to Dorothy Lovell, recently widowed second wife of Sir Gregory Lovell, Elizabeth I's 'cofferer' or household treasurer.

Lovell had obtained a lease of Merton priory's precinct by marriage to his first wife and it was subsequently renewed several times. On his death an efficient county surveyor discovered that Lovell had been occupying some additional small properties on the periphery of the precinct estate, for which no rent had been paid. The document included details of these additional lands.

The location of this moated property on former roadside waste south of the High Street perfectly fits that of Merton Place, formerly called Moat House Farm. Peter had already traced the descent of the property to Rowland Wilson, whose grandson is known to have sold the site on which the Moat House Farm was to be built, but he held several properties in the area, so this is final proof.

A decade ago Peter had suggested that Dorothy Lovell married three times and ended her days as Dorothy Crosse, whose 1623 Will refers to Merton Abbey. Peter downloaded her Will and discovered that he had been correct. She left bequests to her Lovell sons and grandsons and asked for burial 'in a tomb already prepared for me at Martin Abbey'. She is included on the Lovell monument in St Mary's Merton Park. As both Dorothy Lovell and Dorothy Crosse she had been indicted for recusancy and in her will she commended her 'soule into the hands of God my maker hoping by the merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ my Saviour, and at the intercession of the glorious company of Angells and Saints in heaven to be made partaker of life everlasting'. Such intercession of the saints would have been unacceptable during the reign of Elizabeth, but presumably the situation had changed by 1623.

A couple of workshops ago Peter had mentioned being asked by archaeologist Steve Nelson about the references to Walter Potter and other Cheam potters in Morden's medieval records, for a forthcoming article in *SyAC*. In the current volume, Clive Orton has an article on the discoveries at Whitehall Cheam and acknowledges our contributions about these potters. John Pile, who is one of the *SyAC* editors, is trying to identify whether these potters lived in East or West Cheam. The Morden records say East Cheam, the estate in Cheam held by the archbishop of Canterbury, but while Peter was at TNA he looked at some court rolls catalogued as West Cheam and he spotted references to Walter Potter there. Although these court rolls only call the estate 'Cheam' they include other manors belonging to Christ Church Canterbury, including Merstham, so it must be West Cheam. Probably the potters held properties within both manors.

Rosemary Turner

**Dates of next Workshops: Fridays 13 January, 3 March 2017
2.30pm at Wandle Industrial Museum. All are welcome.**

A collaborative effort has resulted in

A LIST OF COMMEMORATIVE PLANTINGS

Joyce Bellamy was surprised and a little shocked to find that Merton Planning Department did not know of the Dunblane Memorial Tree (see *Bulletin* 198), and set out to discover and publicise what other commemorative plantings the Borough holds.

Joyce Bellamy found:

The Dunblane Memorial Tree is located on the edge of the pavement in a small grassed area on the south side of the junction where Upper Green West meets Western Road, Raleigh Gardens, London Road and Holborn Way. It is a thriving Rowan (Mountain Ash, *Sorbus aucuparia*), protected by a wire guard, and carries a plaque saying 'In memory of the tragedy of Dunblane from the families of Bond and Liberty Schools'. A few months ago, on the twentieth anniversary of the shooting in 1996, some floral tributes appeared, tied to the wire guard. The Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Roses are planted in a raised bed at 'Jubilee Corner', near the junction of London Road and Cricket Green (road), close to the Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee Water Trough. There is no special signage on the rose bed.

An Oak tree (*Quercus* sp.) is located in the centre of a mini-roundabout at the junction of the Park Place access drive and Commonsides West. A plaque states 'Planted by the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Slim Flegg, on 26th November 1992 in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the Throne'.

The Native Black Poplar adjacent to Three Kings Pond is protected by a tree guard. A plaque explains that this 'Black Poplar (*Populus nigra betulifolia*) planted in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012. Similar trees, generously donated by Roger Jefcoate CBE have been planted in every London Borough.'

One of a series of Olive trees (*Olea europaea*) planted in the grounds of the Canons in anticipation of climate change has a plaque recording that it was 'Planted by the Worshipful the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Geraldine Stanford, in commemoration of the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade – May 2007. "The Past we Inherit, the Future we Build"'

Madeline Healey recalls:

A London Plane tree (*Platanus x hispanica*) was planted c.1963 in memory of her grandfather William Williams (bailiff of Morden Hall) in front of the Mary Tate Almshouses on Cricket Green, Mitcham. Unsigned memorials to her family in Morden Hall Park include two Small-leaved Lime trees (*Tilia cordata*) for 'Jack and Doll' Williams near the Stable Block, a Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) in the lawn in front of the Hall, again for her grandfather, while a pink Horse Chestnut and a Copper Beech for other family members have both now gone.

The John Innes Society (Desé Child, David Cowie, Alison Cousins, Judy Goodman) contribute:

A fine Swamp Cypress tree (*Taxodium distichum*) was planted in memory of Jill Hutchins, a former John Innes Committee member, in the Church Lane Playing Field. The isolated tree straight ahead of the gate, already standing 20 feet high, it is the second attempt at planting (c.2000), as the first failed. This one is a bit more robust (*right*).

A Magnolia tree (*Magnolia* 'Yellow Lantern') in John Innes Park, a few yards west of the pond, was planted in memory of Lyn Clayton. He was a founder of John Innes Society and for a long period a Committee member. A plaque gives the horticultural details and the following inscription:

'In loving memory of / LYN CLAYTON / 1939-2012 / We have planted this tree in honour of you / for all that you did and all that you knew. / Each leaf represents a person you have met / Friendships developed and promises kept'

John Innes Roses were planted by the Society in a circular bed in the south west corner of John Innes Park to commemorate the park itself. A relatively large plaque is inscribed 'This rose bed is planted with the John Innes rose / developed by Peter Beales Roses and kindly presented / by the John Innes Centre in Norwich to mark the / centenary of the opening of John Innes Park / The rose bed was unveiled on 1 August 2009 by Karin Forbes, Deputy Mayor of Merton'

The rose bed also holds a small carved wooden plaque inscribed 'IN MEMORIAM / JOAN BILK / 1933-2010'.

Two circular Flower Beds, about half-way down the length of Kendor Gardens, were dedicated in July 2014 to the memory of Police Sergeant Ian Harman, our local 'bobby'. They are planted with various perennials, among which Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantia*) predominates. A small plaque in one of the beds reads 'In Memory of / P S Ian Harman / Planting by / The John Innes Society'



Ted Higgins OBE, decided to mark his 100th birthday by arranging for a planting. ‘Ted’s Trees’ are the twelve new trees planted in 2015 in the John Innes Recreation Ground, to screen Rutlish School. The row comprises four Japanese Cherries (*Prunus* ‘Shirotae’), four Cypress Oaks (*Quercus fastigiata*) and then another four Japanese Cherries.

The large Purple Beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica*, probably ‘Dawyk Purple’) in the middle of St Mary’s Churchyard was planted for Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Hazel Abbott weighs in with:

The Cherry tree (*Prunus subhirtella autumnalis* ‘Alba’) in St Mary’s Churchyard, is not protected by a guard; its plaque reads ‘To Celebrate / The Diamond Jubilee / H.M. Queen Elizabeth II / 2012’.

David Haunton notes:

Two adjacent Rose trees (*Rosa sp.*) (neither protected by a guard) within circular flower beds near the entrance to John Innes Park, planted twelve months apart. The plaque for the first reads:

‘Holocaust Memorial Day / January 25th 2004 / In memory of all victims of genocide, / atrocities and crimes against humanity / REMEMBERING THE PAST / REMEMBERING FOR THE FUTURE’

while that for the second records:

‘London Borough of Merton / HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE / 30th January 2005 / In memory of all victims of genocide, / atrocities and crimes against humanity / REMEMBERING THE PAST / REMEMBERING FOR THE FUTURE’

And a nearly defunct Rose in a circular bed near the western end of the sunken area of Mostyn Gardens, where a worn inscription records ‘Rose Planted by / Mayor of Merton / Cllr Linda Kirby / To mark the 50th Anniversary / of U.N. Universal Declaration / of Human Rights / 10th Dec. 1998’

GILL HUMFREY looks at a family legend

‘MY GRANDFATHER WAS NELSON’S GARDEN BOY’

‘My grandfather was Nelson’s garden boy’. This was my grandmother’s confident assertion every time I talked to her about our family history. It was a puzzle. I knew of no gardeners among us and anyway our family was firmly rooted in Surrey and surely Nelson came from Norfolk? I checked my grandmother’s grandparents – a half-Italian manservant and a Kingston washerwoman on her mother’s side; on her father’s side an ordinary working class couple born and bred in Surrey – Henry Ladd and Emma Cribb. True, Henry was a gardener of sorts, but he was born in 1803, far too late for him to have worked for Nelson anywhere.

Many years passed and then I made a breakthrough. A distant cousin, researching his own family in Surrey and knowing of my interest, sent me a copy of Philip Rathbone’s booklet *Paradise Merton* (1973). This showed that Nelson’s home, on land, for the last few years of his life had been in Surrey, at Merton Place. Even better, on the front cover of the booklet was a picture of the house and grounds, showing Lady Hamilton in conversation with the gardener – whose name was Cribb! (right)¹



The same cousin sent me a quotation from Chamberlain’s *Reminiscences of old Merton* (1925) showing that Cribb’s first name was Francis. If only he turned out to be Emma’s father the puzzle was solved.

A visit to the then Surrey Record Office at Kingston confirmed the relationship. The family first appeared in the Wimbledon parish records in 1764 with the baptism of Francis, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Cribb. Seven more children followed. A generation later two more couples raised their families in the same area. The nine children of Thomas and Ann were baptised at Merton between 1797 and 1808. The ten children of Francis and Hannah/Anne were baptised between 1787 and 1808, two at Merton and the rest at Wimbledon. The Cribbs

appear regularly in the Surrey Land Tax records for 1780 – 1832, especially in Merton and Wimbledon. The names used in both families, in particular Thomas, Francis and Elizabeth, make it very probable that they were all descendants of Thomas and Elizabeth and that Thomas junior and Francis were brothers, Thomas having been born before the family arrived in the area. The 1841 census shows that both men were gardeners and suggests that Thomas was a year or two older than Francis.

I had a further stroke of luck when I met the then secretary of the Nelson Society. She showed me pages from the Hamilton and Nelson Papers giving the weekly accounts of the Merton household in 1802 and 1803. These record regular payments for vegetables to 'Mr Cribb'. My friend also gave me a copy of Carola Oman's excellent biography of Nelson² in which the head gardener at Merton is referred to as 'Thomas Cribb' and no mention is made of the supply of vegetables! The author tells the story of Nelson's conversation with his head gardener shortly before the departure for Trafalgar, in which he encouraged 'Thomas Cribb' to call his expected baby either Horatio or Emma. However Thomas called his daughter Mary and it was Francis whose baby was named Emma; both infants were baptised in November 1805.

Nelson's gardener, 'Cribb', turned out to be well documented, as you would expect with an ancestor connected to famous people or events, though obviously the information is presented from the point of view of the famous person not the ancestor! It emerged that 'Cribb' was an important person at Merton Place, officially head-gardener, but effectively works manager with a large staff to support him in carrying out the improvements to the estate planned by Lady Hamilton. However there was some confusion about his first name and it became clear that no-one had realised that there were two Cribbs connected with the Nelson/Hamilton household at Merton. Was it really likely that head gardener Cribb, fully occupied with extensive work on the Merton Place grounds, would have had time to double as a market gardener? It seems that it was Canon Jagger, the vicar of Merton, who first gave rise to the confusion over names in his 1926 booklet *Lord Nelson's Home and Life at Merton*. Considering only his own parish records he assigned the name Thomas to Cribb. Had he looked at the Wimbledon records as well he might have decided differently. It is now certain that, as shown by JG in *Notes on Nelson's Gardener (Bulletin 155, Sept 2005)*, Nelson's gardener was Francis Cribb, my direct ancestor. Interestingly, the employed workman, Francis Cribb, was never dignified by a title, whereas his brother, Thomas, the self-employed tradesman, who supplied Merton Place with vegetables, is always referred to in the household accounts as 'Mr Cribb'.

Sadly, Francis, who had commanded a very good salary while working at Merton Place, died in Croydon Workhouse in 1850 and was buried in Morden on 6 March. He survived his brother Thomas by eight years. His fortunes must have begun to decline after Nelson's death. Lady Hamilton sold Merton Place in 1808 and it was put on the market again in 1815. The house then remained empty until the final sale of the estate and demolition of the house in 1823. Francis's employment probably ceased long before then. His wife Hannah died in Morden in 1827. There are entries in the Morden 1838 tithe apportionment map showing Francis Cribb (*sic*) as tenant of two small gardens and John Crib, almost certainly his son, renting two plots each with house, garden and greenhouse. Francis probably had some support from John as he grew older but the younger man died in February 1850, very shortly before his father, which could explain why 83-year-old Francis ended his life in the workhouse.

The wider family had already spread to neighbouring parishes and there were several gardeners among them. The tithe apportionment maps, Morden 1838, Merton 1844 and Mitcham 1846, supplement the census returns and the Land Tax records. Francis's son, John, was a market gardener in Morden and after John's death in 1850 his widow Susannah, assisted by their son John, carried on the business. Francis's daughter Emma lived in Merton with her jobbing gardener husband, Henry Ladd; his sons, Francis and William, both rented gardens in Merton. William also occupied land in Mitcham. Thomas's son Francis set up as a gardener in Lambeth. And it seems that the name Cribb continued to be associated with market gardeners in the Merton area for many years. Finally, the advent of the internet has made it much easier to begin to establish the origins of the family. It seems almost certain that they came from the village of Drayton in Somerset and were of yeoman stock. If I am right, the original Cribb couple, Thomas and Elizabeth, were married there in 1759 and their first two children, Elizabeth (1760) and Thomas (1762) were born in Drayton before the family moved to Surrey. Elizabeth's father was one Francis Kerry which could explain the frequent use of the name Francis in succeeding generations, especially if an inheritance from him had perhaps helped to establish the family in Surrey. Why did they move? Had they been gardeners in Somerset? Questions still to be answered. But the moral of this story is:

Spread the word about your interests to all who will listen, and always pay heed to Grandma.

- 1 DH adds: This picture is by William Angus, *Merton Place in Surry, the Seat of Admiral Lord Nelson* (1804), engraved after a water-colour by Edward Hawke Locker, for a series of prints *The Seats of Nobility* (1787-c.1815). It was printed in black and white. Alas, the identifications of the people in the picture are figments of Rathbone's imagination, being generic figures of the sort that artists of the time inserted in their pictures to give scale to buildings and monuments.
- 2 *Nelson* by Carola Oman, published by Hodder & Stoughton (1946, 1954) and The Reprint Society (1950)

WW2 PRIVATE AIR-RAID SHELTERS

When member Gay Usher inspected the deeds to her house, recently returned as her mortgage was paid off, she discovered an agreement between the Urban District of Merton and Morden and Mr Harold Jeeves, a previous occupant, for a loan of £40 to cover the provision of an Air-raid Shelter. He was charged interest at 4¼%, with the first of 40 quarterly instalments of £1.4s.9d, rather cruelly, being due on 25th December 1940.

This presented an interesting question – why did Mr Jeeves need the money? Anderson air-raid shelters were supplied free to households whose income was less than £250 per annum, while higher earners paid a top-up fee of only £7-£10. The 1939 Civil Defence Act allowed local authorities to lend sums to residents ‘upon suitable security’ for building their own permanent air-raid shelters. (The Andersons were classed as temporary structures.) This is what Mr Jeeves chose to do. He had to go through a lot of hoops to get there. He had to have suitable plans drawn up, then he could apply for a loan, get the plans passed by the Borough Surveyor, have the shelter built, get the building certified by the Borough Surveyor as built according to the plans, and not from inferior materials (or mortar that was too weak), and then get his application for a loan finally approved, and the money paid to him. Which he presumably handed on fairly swiftly to the builder, who had been waiting all this time. The Surveyor took his job seriously – one firm was barred from future construction for poor work and misrepresentation (of their influence within the Council). Mr Jeeves and his wife had moved into the house as soon as it was built. Their street, Monkleigh Road, is listed in the 1933 Kelly’s Directory, but with no occupied houses in it, while he appears as a resident in the 1934 Directory, compiled in autumn 1933, along with about 40 others of the first new occupiers.

The security Mr Jeeves offered was looked at by the Council when he first applied – in his case it was essentially a mortgage (perhaps a second one) on his house. He had a responsible job as a junior Registrar (certified to register births and deaths, but not yet qualified to solemnise marriages) and presumably had been satisfactorily paying off any previous mortgage on the house. In other words, he was a fairly substantial citizen, probably earning as much as £9 a week or more. The interest rate on the loan was fixed for the full period – later applicants benefited from a lower rate of 4%, as the Council followed the rate payable on Treasury Bonds, which dropped in mid-December 1940. He was one of some 400 residents of Merton and Morden Urban District who opted to build their own shelter. This is not many out of about 22,000 properties in the District, so presumably represents the ‘aspiring upper crust’ of the population. His loan of £40 is in the middle of the range usually granted by the Council, which was generally £25-£45, though one poor chap was allowed only £12, repayable over only three years, while another was allowed £82, repayable over ten years.

On 25 October 1939 the Council agreed to offer loans, and to publicise this in the press and public notices. By 20 December they had received the first three applications, for £20 or £30 each. By 14 May 1940 only a further four applications had arrived. After Dunkirk, as bombs began falling over southern England, the pace quickened: in the period up to 19 June there were two applications per week. From then until 16 September there were 18 or 19 per week, but, as the full ‘Blitz’ developed, the rate dropped to 12 per week until 13 November, and to seven per week until 12 December. Thereafter there were only one or two per week until 12 February 1941, after which there appear to have been no further applications.

According to National and Council regulations, Mr Jeeves’ shelter will have been a free-standing rectangular surface shelter, not dug in at all, or leaning against the house, built with brick walls between a concrete floor and a concrete roof. Such structures were not allowed to be built across the building line, so were not permitted in front gardens. Gay has identified a very likely site within her small back garden, a three-inch thick concrete slab, 5ft 6in wide by 8ft long, just a few steps from her kitchen door.

Having heard about this, member Vernon ‘Phil’ Phillips volunteered that he still has a private air-raid shelter in his back garden, his half of a double one to serve two houses, and has kindly allowed us to photograph and measure it (*overleaf*). It has 14in-thick brick walls (ie. a brick and a half), which according to Home Guard literature of the time ‘is sufficient protection against small arms – pistol, rifle, and machine-gun – fire’. Useful nowadays. The dividing wall between Phil’s half and his neighbour’s also appears to be 14in thick. When Phil’s son made the hole for the window (there were no windows originally) he was surprised to find that the brickwork was reinforced with mild steel rods, which added considerably to the difficulty of the job. The roof is a reinforced concrete slab, six inches thick, with a downward lip of about two inches deep all round the outside. It slopes down slightly away from the house. There is not much space inside: width is 5ft 6in, length is 6ft exactly. A narrow doorway, 22 inches wide, is set centrally in the wall facing the house.

Roger Thomas, of the Pillbox Study Group, Historic England, has kindly supplied reproductions of a Home Office publication (of May 1939) giving directions and recommended plans for constructing single, double and quadruple ‘domestic surface shelters’. Phil’s double shelter is slightly different from that recommended,

as his doorway is central, rather than to one side. Roger has also supplied some detailed drawings on 'How to reinforce brickwork' with vertically-placed metal bars, and has clarified that local authorities were issued with either Anderson shelters, or with Stanton shelters, an alternative and not very common type. All the authorities now in the London Borough of Merton were issued with Andersons.

Does anyone else have an air-raid shelter lurking in their garden?

DH



Not studies of Phil's rather nice Cotoneaster, but a general picture of the shelter (note narrow door), with a detail of slope of roof



EMMA HAMILTON: SEDUCTION AND CELEBRITY

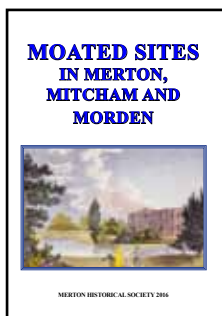
National Maritime Museum: now open

From humble origins, Emma Hamilton rose to national and international fame as a model, performer and interpreter of neo-classical fashion. Within the public mind, however, she is often remembered simply as the mistress of Admiral Lord Nelson. This landmark exhibition recovers Emma from myth and misrepresentation, and reveals her to be an active and influential historical actor in her own right: one of the greatest female lives of her era.

TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM MHS

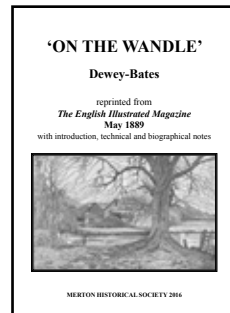
In *Moated Sites in Merton, Mitcham and Morden* Peter Hopkins examines the evidence for nine local sites where the present or former existence of a medieval moat has been suggested. This 48-page A5 booklet has 30 maps and illustrations, and sells at £1.90 (£1.50 to members) plus 55p postage.

'*On the Wandle*' is a reprint from the May 1889 edition of *The English Illustrated Magazine* of an illustrated article by the American artist Dewey Bates (1851–1898). It also includes extensively researched technical and biographical notes by David and Katharina Haunton. We



are grateful to Judith Goodman for making a copy of the magazine available for scanning. This 32-page A5 booklet reproduces the author's 11 original drawings, and sells at £1.25 (£1.00 to members) plus 55p postage.

Buy your copies at a lecture or order from Publications Secretary Peter Hopkins or ring Peter to arrange collection (see contact details on p.3).



Letters and contributions for the *Bulletin* should be sent to the Hon. Editor, by email to editor@mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk. 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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