



PRESIDENT:  
 VICE PRESIDENT: Judith Goodman  
 CHAIR: Keith Penny

BULLETIN No. 209

MARCH 2019



*Cheese labels from The Creameries, part of the collection of Michael Pollock (Memories coming soon). Were all boys such magpies?*

## CONTENTS

<b>Programme March – July 2019</b>	2
<b>Annual Report for 2017–2018 – Keith Penny</b>	3
<b>Local History Workshop:</b>	
<b>30 November 2018:</b> LAARC data; Lodge Farm boundaries; looking for Romans;	
Leach connections in Bookham; Betty Beal engaged; Mary Chambers, early photographer?	4
<b>From Our Postbag – John Pile</b>	5
<b>‘Elys Store’</b>	6
<b>‘From Punch to Warhorse’</b>	7
<b>Members’ Meeting:</b> Shannon Corner; Pillar Boxes & Telephone Kiosks; <i>A Priory Founded</i> ;	
the Thomas brothers	8
<b>Some thoughts on John of Tynemouth – Katie Hawks</b>	10
<b>Archaeology in Merton 2017</b>	12
<b>Recent Books</b>	12, 16
<b>Hawes Bros Department Store in Morden – Norma Cox</b>	13

## PROGRAMME MARCH – JULY 2019

**Saturday 9 March 2.30pm** **St James' Church Hall, Merton**  
**'Local History by Bus: sites and sights from Raynes Park to Pollards Hill'**

An illustrated talk by our Chair, **Keith Penny**

*Please note change of speaker, due to circumstances beyond our control*

**Saturday 13 April 2.30pm** **St James' Church Hall, Merton**  
**'History of Sutton Villages'**

An illustrated talk by local historian **John Phillips**

**No visit is planned for May**

**Thursday 6 June 11am** **A Visit to Merton Priory Chapter House**  
led by **John Hawks**

**Thursday 18 July 11am** **Secret Rivers Exhibition at Museum of London Docklands**  
*Hertsmere Road E14 4AL. This is a free exhibition*

*No need to pre-book, but meet at the museum so that we can go round together  
Dockland Light Railway to West India Quay*

**Note also our Local History Workshops at Wandle Industrial Museum, London Road**  
**2.30pm on Fridays 15 March, 10 May, 21 June 2019. All Members are welcome**

*St James' Church Hall is in Martin Way, next to the church (officially in Beaford Grove). Buses 164 and 413 stop in Martin Way (in both directions) immediately outside. The church has a tiny car park, but parking in adjacent streets is free.*



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

**Wimbledon Community Orchestra** will be playing some classical pieces, and a little popular music, at **St James' Church Hall** at 7.00pm on **Sunday 24 March 2019**. Free entry; a collection will be taken at the end.

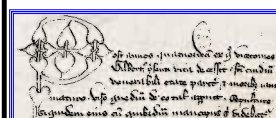
### MEMBERS' MEETING (continued from page 9)

**Keith Penny** gave us a short exposition on our (soon to be) forthcoming publication *A Priory Founded*, a translation into modern English of four 12th-century Latin texts about the foundation of Merton priory and its founder, Gilbert the sheriff (*right*). Not an easy task, as the handwriting is much compressed in a sort of shorthand: something that looks like *ñññ* turns out to be the Latin word '*omnium*' = 'everything'.

**Bea Oliver** showed us a collection of items she and her dog had gathered while walking along the banks of the Pyl Brooks ('future archaeology'). In Morden cemetery she had noted a stone commemorating the poet [Philip] Edward Thomas (d.1917) and his brother Reginald (d.1918). This prompted her to read to us the evocative description of a leisurely cycle ride through part of Merton and Morden in Thomas' *In Pursuit of Spring* (written c.1913), reproduced in *Bulletin* 127, September 1998.

#### A PRIORY FOUNDED

Sheriff Gilbert at Merton



Translated from original documents

MERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2019

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017–2018

Madam Vice President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to present to you my fourth report on the activities of the Society and its committee. This time there are no enforced removals of artefacts or audiences. We have continued to use the hall here at St James, Merton, for our talks, and through the good offices of Alan Martyn and David Luff the initial troubles with audio and visual technologies have mostly been resolved, whilst David has regularly asked for comments from those who attend, with a view to providing the best show that we can. Moreover, though none of our doing, the hall has a new heating system, so looking cold is no longer allowed.

One lesson from this hall is that speakers perhaps need to be more skilled as *performers* than was necessary in the confines of the Christ Church hall. John Hawks, who began our new season, is, of course, an example of what succeeds. The programme of talks has again been varied and interesting, thanks to the efforts of Bea Oliver. Visitors spoke about the coach roads to Brighton, the conservation of Wimbledon Common (a good mix of history and the conservation of heritage) and about the lives (and often the deaths) of recipients of the Victoria Cross who had connections with Merton. Our own members contributed at varying lengths with the listed buildings of Mitcham, other World War One biographies, a local temperance society and the changing fortunes of retailing in Morden, by courtesy of the Bill Rudd slide collection. Outside, we have walked the Wandle with Mick Taylor (again! but another part of it), toured Ham House and Kingston, guided by MHS member Charlotte Morrison, and enjoyed the mix of tradition and modernity that thrives in Kneller Hall, the home of Army music.

Our latest publication is probably the last we shall produce that is related to the First World War, now that all the anniversaries of that dreadful era (except that of the Armistice to be observed tomorrow) have passed. *Our Convict Son* is about a Merton man who was a conscientious objector to conscription – not a subject popular at war memorials, but nevertheless part of the deeply complex history of that war, nationally and locally. Coming shortly, or moderately so, are the accounts of the foundation of Merton Priory written soon after the event, which I think will be well worth reading – don't be put off because they were originally written in Latin – and some reminiscences of boyhood in St Helier before and during the war, which go on to describe the distant world of a gentlemen's outfitter's, something that may chime with our talk after this AGM today. As ever we must thank Peter Hopkins, who continues to manage our publications and to update the website.

In May we had our stall at the very successful Heritage Day at Morden Library. This was another example of the organisational skill of Sarah Gould, and the day is always a good opportunity to meet the public, sell books, and (even) recruit members. We are still asked to give talks elsewhere: I presented pictures of Mitcham and Morden to a church supper club in Morden, and a society in Tooting has asked for speakers, so it is possible that Sindy in her various guises will yet have an evening out.

The February lunch this year will not be at South Thames College: the management there has changed and could not offer a choice that we considered adequate, so we are going to try, more expensively, but not unreasonably so, Gino's Restaurant in the centre of Mitcham, convenient for public transport and car parking. Our new Treasurer, Janet Holdsworth, will be organising it, and details will be in the next *Bulletin*. Sheila Harris, who is today presiding over the teapot, felt it was time to hand over to someone with internet access. We thank Sheila for her meticulous organisation of this event over many years and her necessary pursuit of those neglectful of the stamped addressed envelope.

Last year I invited offers to join our committee and to make some other contributions to the functioning of the Society. I mention this again, not to lament the limited response, but to bring me to my last topic, our future. Last year I reported that the Museum of London was going to accept three skeletons found during excavations. A year later, and the Museum is still going to accept them, so some administrative progress has been made, and at least these items will go to a secure home. Dave Haunton, who edits our ever-brimming *Bulletin*, has recently started the Committee thinking further about what to do with items and papers offered to the Society (often as a consequence of the clearance of a person's effects after death). It is a serious matter for all history societies, and local authorities that run archives are increasingly mean in spirit and money, just when the supply of free private storage is becoming more uncertain, with the aging of members. I don't wish to steal from the forthcoming Treasurer's Report, but your Committee is uncomfortably aware that the subscriptions collected from members no longer cover the basics of what we do: the talks here and the quarterly *Bulletin*. These two matters may well be the substance of the Committee's work during the next year, barring any nasty surprise events. So, a quieter year than some, but one with some increasingly urgent challenges for the future activity of the Society.

**Keith Penny, Chair, Merton Historical Society**

## LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

**Friday 30 November 2018. Six present – Keith Penny in the chair**

- ◆ When **Rosemary Turner** went with Keith to collect some boxes from LAARC she was surprised how limited the information was on the boxes. When Rosemary is working with Carshalton Archaeology, as well as a standardised way to set out the detailed information, they have to comply with specified bags, boxes, labels and even the type of pen used to write on the labels.

Peter had scanned some more of Bill Rudd's slides and emailed Rosemary photographs relating to the area which was previously Lodge Farm. When Bill took the photos, 1974/5, the area was Morden Recreation Ground. Some of his photos are labelled trees, relating to field boundaries. Rosemary is going to work out where in the park the photos were taken, so that she can try to link them to Lodge Farm field boundaries. One of the photographs shows the number of trees that were removed from the area known as the bird sanctuary to make room for an adventure playground. Another photo shows that there was already one in the park and it is not known why so much destruction was needed to build another.

- ◆ **Christine Pittman** has been an enthusiastic volunteer digger, mostly Roman and medieval, but has now re-directed her energies to recording and writing up excavations. She had volunteered to help David Bird, one-time Surrey Archaeological Officer, to extend and write up his notes on Romans in Surrey, and he had directed her to us (among others) as 'useful people' to ask for assistance. Christine was showered with suggestions as where to look, with the hope that she may eventually be able to produce for us a map of all Roman locations in Merton. It appears we were helpful, as Christine joined the Society there and then.
- ◆ **Judith Goodman** had some literary ideas: she had wondered if her Mr and Mrs Leach (of *Coal and Calico* fame), after they retired from Merton to Bookham, had ever met Jane Austen there, as the vicar was her godfather, and she is on record as staying at the vicarage. Furthermore, the house taken by the Leaches had previously been the home of Fanny Burney (1752-1830) and her husband, who had moved only a little way away. We wonder again, did Jane ever meet Fanny? Incidentally, Samuel Crisp (?1706-1783), a close friend of the Burney family, was the gentleman Fanny referred to as 'Daddy'. He had Merton connections, as he was a great-great-grandson of Ro(w)land Wilson, who took over the Merton Grange estates in 1624. Samuel inherited some of Wilson's original Merton holdings, but apparently sold them.

- ◆ **David Haunton** Checking over the Betty Beal documents used for the article in *Bulletin* 207, Dave discovered a tiny, previously overlooked, slip of paper, tucked between pages of Betty's wartime diary. Clipped from a local paper, it was a personal advertisement: 'MRS BEAL, 195 Tudor-drive, Morden, has pleasure in announcing the engagement of her youngest daughter, Betty, to Keith, elder son of Mr and Mrs H C Bucksey, 40 Durnsford-rd, Wimbledon.' There is no date, but we now know that the Beal family (George, Ethel and Betty) had moved to Tudor Drive by June 1948. The notice must have been placed in the newspaper between the deaths of George in 1952, and of Ethel in 1957. This photo (*right*) dates from c.1948 and shows Betty, Keith and young Barfoots (one niece and twin nephews). Dave suspects that it was taken at the 17 Botsford Road address mentioned in *Bulletin* 207. This is where the Barfoot family lived until 1951, after they came back from Prestatyn, Robin's mother mysteriously saying she 'would rather face Hitler's bombs than the Welsh!' Robin does not recall if Betty ever lived there permanently, though she and her sister Joan often appeared at the house with American and Canadian servicemen.



Alas, it appears that Keith Bucksey did not in fact marry Betty Beal. Robin Barfoot can only guess that he 'didn't measure up, financially and/or socially'. (He shifted his attentions to Margaret Ivy Reed, (married 1964, died 1984) and then Eileen D Higgins (married 1988, when he was 60). He died, still married to Eileen, in 1997.) Betty stayed on in the house in Tudor Drive, frequently sharing with two or three people, until 1979, when she retired and moved to Coniston Close, with Keith Jackson, and then in 1996 to 74 Westway, where she lived with Reg Sadler for some 13 years. After he died she continued to live in the house until she moved into the Lodore Nursing Home in Sutton, where she died in October 2014.

- ◆ **Keith Penny** liked the drawing of Mitcham County Grammar School in *Bulletin* 208, and plans to investigate the architects employed by Surrey County Education Committee, and their school designs, in the period up to 1965. This will be complicated by the numerous name changes to which schools seem to be subject.

- ◆ **Peter Hopkins** had received an enquiry from Rose Teanby, a historian of early women photographers, about Morden resident Mary Chambers (née Barrett), wife of Lancelot Chambers. She designed the replacement glass (1828) for the east window of St Lawrence’s church. Peter responded with, of course, copies of his two recent *Bulletin* articles, noting that Lancelot was a churchwarden, so it is difficult to tell whether he was paying the bills on his own behalf or that of the parish. Peter also sent her the text of a memorial inscription in the church to Lancelot, Mary and two of their three children, and residency information, as follows.

The family first appear in the Morden land tax records, which show that from 1780 to 1803 or 1804 Christopher Chambers was leasing from the manor of Morden ‘Chambers Farm’, later known as Hill House on the corner of Central Road and Epsom Road, Morden, where The Sanctuary now occupies the house site. The valuation increased from £90 to £135 in 1804. From 1805 to 1817 the occupier was Frances Chambers, presumably Christopher’s widow. Lancelot occupied the property from 1818, and is the occupier listed in the 1837/38 Tithe Apportionment as holding the lands only, the mansion then being in the hands of the lord of the manor. Lancelot had purchased the freehold estate in Central Road, Morden, later known as Hazelwood, in 1836, holding it until his death, when it was sold, so he was presumably living here. (Christopher had also leased one of the two Morden farms within the neighbouring manor of Ravensbury in 1787.)

Rose responded that she did not know of the church inscription, and that it omits a third child – Rosamund Elizabeth, baptised 10 January 1808. She had traced Lancelot’s marriage to Mary in October 1802 with John Francis arriving in March 1803. (Yes.. you do the maths!) Rose has found a letter from Mary Chambers written five days after William Henry Fox Talbot explained his new invention of photogenic drawing to the Royal Society, which marked the birth of photography. The letter is in reply to the Royal Society Vice President John William Lubbock, with whom she is on very friendly terms. Rose suspects their paths may have crossed via the Royal Society of Arts. This correspondence may mean that Mary was one of the first women ever to take a photograph! She clearly knew Fox Talbot.

To which Peter replied that the Lubbock connection could have been local, as John William Lubbock purchased the neighbouring Mitcham Grove estate in 1828, and also leased the adjoining part of the Ravensbury Manor estate. The house was demolished soon after his death, when his son inherited the estate.

**David Haunton**

**Dates of next Workshops: Fridays 15 March, 10 May, 21 June 2019.  
2.30pm at Wandle Industrial Museum. All are welcome.**

### **FROM OUR POSTBAG: JOHN PILE answers a BUS QUESTION**

Mr Hodgins’ photo of the line of buses thought to be on Derby Day 1937 (*Bulletin* 208, p.9) was a challenge I couldn’t resist. The clue is that the road is obviously recently built, as it cuts through an earlier street pattern, though that cannot be much older. I recalled that in the immediate post-war years the Sutton bypass was used by London Transport buses taking racegoers to and from Epsom. The buses in the photo appear to be parked on St Dunstan’s Hill, Cheam, to return to Tattenham Corner to pick up passengers after the race meeting, either on Derby Day or The Oaks day. The part of the A217 shown in the photo is between Abbotts Road at the top and Westfield Road at the bottom of the photo. The prominent house on Westfield Road is no.15 and the middle one of the three bungalows on St Dunstan’s Hill is no.54. The map is slightly reduced from OS 1:1,250 Sheet TQ 2464 NE.



## ‘ELYS STORE’

Following our AGM on Saturday 10 November 2018, Mike Norman-Smith gave an appreciative audience an engaging talk on the history of the Wimbledon department store.

Elys store is largely the result of the efforts of three generations of the same family. The founder, Joseph Bird Ely (named for the *Bird in Hand* pub kept by his father in Halstead, Essex), walked to London at age 16, to work in a drapery in Camberwell. With the experience thus gained in the retail trade, on 19 May 1876 he opened a small tailoring, haberdashery and drapery shop in Alexandra Road, opposite the site of today’s Argos. He chose the site after noting the station and counting the ‘footfall’ of 20 persons passing in an hour. At first the staff comprised three people – himself, his wife, and an assistant. After 10 years of successful trading, Joseph moved to larger premises across the road, to the corner of Worple Road (*right*). The coming of the trams in 1907 saw some real growth, bringing in custom from New



*Courtesy LB Merton*

Malden and Raynes Park. Joseph even persuaded conductors to shout ‘Elys corner!’ before the tram stopped outside the store. He died in 1910, a prominent citizen, with some 20 to 30 horse-drawn cabs attending his funeral.

Joseph’s eldest son, Bernard, grew up to take over the reins from the 1920s until his death in 1957, celebrating the 50th anniversary in 1926 with a banquet. Elys grew steadily, becoming a Limited Company during 1936, and raising enough money from shareholders to put up a new shop front. During Bernard’s time in charge the range of goods increased to include sports goods. A colour catalogue appeared in 1938, and the staff grew from 40 to more than 200. Their employment conditions were good, and included three-year indentures for new starters, and a staff canteen for all (*left*, © *Elys Ltd*). He was a kindly and philanthropic man, supporting more than 500 appeals by local residents on their rating assessments.

The next Ely, Vernon, learned much about the retail trade by spending time as a floorwalker at Selfridges. He had ideas that did not always work out – there was the customer approval system, which was abused and abandoned – but he did introduce a successful furniture department. During his time some members of staff became well known, including the long-serving Mr Kersey, in charge of Maintenance, whose hobby was building toy thatched cottages, and the formidable Miss C M Cook, Counting House Manager, who publicly upbraided Vernon when he forgot to renew the store’s insurance. During WW2 Vernon accounted AVM ‘Stuffey’ Dowding as a friend. He went to Delhi for several years’ war service, but returned to rejoin Elys. He became a board member in 1948, and was essentially in charge of the store for the next 30 years. He started the expansion into adjoining vacant properties in the 60s and in 1966 as a new priority converted a vacant post office in Epsom as an outside branch (*right*). The Wimbledon store underwent a major rebuild and increased its range to more than 100 departments. Vernon had many outside interests, resulting in the award of an OBE in 1990.

NB, Elys is still expanding physically – as at January 2019 they are taking over Ryman’s premises.

*Elys of Epsom (formerly Wheelers), 1953, after rebuilding.*  
© Elys Ltd

## ‘FROM PUNCH TO WARHORSE’

On Saturday 8 December, Dr Chris Abbott gave us a delightful pre-Christmas afternoon with his talk about puppets, bringing some of his own extensive collection for our inspection. This report can select only a few points from a wide-ranging presentation. Puppets may be classified as: String, as marionettes; Hand or Glove, using one hand; or Rod, an Asian tradition imposing slow and stately movement. Asia is also home to the Shadow tradition, where coloured puppets are viewed directly from one side by the male audience, while the female audience views the show from the other side, looking at the shadows cast on a screen between them, and thus only see the story in black and white. Chris showed us one (*right*).



St Simeon 'el Salo' is the patron saint of puppeteers; he was an austere 4th–5th century Syrian hermit of strange behaviour. 'Salus' means 'crazy', and he is always shown with a traditional glove puppet, made to mock himself (*lef*). The earliest European illustration is in a twelfth-century German book, showing the figure of a knight moved by a rope or rods, while a glove puppet is mentioned by Chaucer. Early puppet plays were used as a teaching aid, especially by the Spanish and Italian churches, who permitted them to continue even when human plays were stopped.



Photos by David Haunton

The traditional English puppet show is of course Punch and Judy (*right*), with its links to pantomime and ventriloquism. The first English mention is in Pepys' diary for 9 May 1662, of an 'Italian puppet play' with several characters, 'one called Punchinello, prettier than the others'. This was a performance of string puppets, though the use of glove puppets shown from a booth soon became normal. There is always only one person in the booth so only two characters may be shown at a time. Regular scripts for the action are still in print, some dating from the 19th century (others appeared even earlier). Mayhew interviewed puppeteers in 1851 and documented the methods



of trick voice production, such as speaking with a whistle in the mouth, or with a 'swazzle' in the roof of the mouth. Punch himself is a hand puppet but has wooden legs, demonstrating his beginnings as a marionette: his head is mobile, but there are two hand grips for further movement. The head is wooden, usually of pear wood to withstand the physical bashing it receives during a performance. The story is flexible – originally Punch got away with killing everyone, in a scurrilous story for adults, sometimes with additional characters such as Joey the clown (named after Grimaldi), the Devil, or a Ghost. The original Joan became Judy, a Force of Evil or even Mrs Thatcher. Now the tale has declined to a children's entertainment, with very few practitioners (Chris knows of only those in Weymouth, Swanage and Weston Super Mare).

Victorian times saw the advent of the toy paper theatre ('penny plain, tuppence coloured'), still on sale at Pollocks toy shop and museum. Families such as the Wildings and the Clowes developed travelling marionette shows in the 19th century, but the Clowes family puppets are now in the V&A. By the mid-20th century only one family was still practising, documented in *An East Anglian Odyssey* by Chris Abbott (2007, The Friends of Wisbech and Fenland Museum). Post-War the firm of Pelham made some eight million toy puppets of various types in the 1940s, -50s and -60s, using recycled wartime materials.

Television gave puppets a new lease of life – Muffin the Mule dates from 1934, on TV 1946-56. *Watch with Mother* brought us Andy Pandy in 1950 (only 26 episodes), Bill and Ben, Rag Tag and Bobtail, and the Woodentops. Sooty arrived in 1948 and still appears in theatres. The later Muppets and Kermit are both glove and rod handled. Audrey, the plant in the *Little Shop of Horrors*, is a frequent pantomime character. Modern puppetry appears in satire (*Spitting Image*) and drama (*Warhorse*), while theatres include the Little Angel Theatre in Dagmar Passage. Chris reckons that Paul Zerdin, of Merton, is one of the most famous and eminent puppeteers.

## MEMBERS' MEETING

On Saturday 12 January several members gave us short talks, which have been drastically summarised here.

**Norma Cox** had a look at **Shannon Limited** at **Shannon Corner**. This is not really a corner, but the area around the extended junction of Burlington Road, Bushey Road and the Kingston Bypass. The name comes from the Shannon Typewriter Company, founded 1882, which may have established the first factory in what is now an area of light industry. The Ordnance Survey map for 1883 shows the roads, but with no sign of factories. Later maps are similar until 1935, which has the name, while in 1936 the factory building appeared (*below centre, courtesy Judy Goodman*), north of Burlington Road, west of the Kingston Bypass, opposite the Odeon cinema. It remained Shannon's until 1960, after which it was used by Decca to make pressings, until it was demolished in 1985.



Shannon's was quite successful as a business: it had a Head Office as well as two factories, and exhibited at trade fairs. It developed two special products (*left, right*) but was taken over by Twinlock in 1973, with a last appearance in 1975. Losses forced the sale of the site to B&Q, who subsequently built a flagship store there, with advanced features such as a wind turbine and a rainwater recovery system.

**Charlotte Morrison** investigated the separate histories of pillar boxes and telephone kiosks. Before the introduction of **Pillar Boxes** in the UK, one took outgoing mail to the nearest letter-receiving house or post office, where the Royal Mail coach would stop to pick up and set down mails and passengers. Anthony Trollope (the author, then a General Post Office official) noticed that in Europe locked cast-iron pillar boxes were placed in convenient locations with regular collection times. Trollope first introduced this efficient scheme to the Channel Islands in 1852, and pillar boxes emerged on the mainland the following year. By 1860, over 2,000 boxes were established: by the 1890s, this had increased to 33,500. Until 1859, when a design was standardised, local foundries were contracted to both manufacture and paint pillar boxes, so they varied by region. Many of the earliest boxes were painted green, but were repainted the famous 'pillar box red' by 1884 to increase visibility. The country's oldest remaining example, with its vertical letter slot, is in Holwell, near Sherborne in Dorset, installed in 1853 (*below, left*). Note that every pillar box ever made has a unique key, meaning a postman has to carry a large bunch.

The most famous early design is the 1866 hexagonal Penfold, named for John Penfold, the architect who designed it (*below, second from left*, Beeches Avenue, Carshalton). It introduced the VR cypher, which was omitted by the 'Anonymous' box of 1879 (*below, second from right*, Kingston Road). This was replaced in 1887, when the words 'Post Office' were added. About 6 per cent of UK boxes have the ER VII cypher, which also introduced the crown. The main change is the posting slot in the door to stop mail getting caught up in the top. The aperture was now rainproof, and this same design has continued to the present day. Mysteriously there is no 'V' in George V's cypher. Perhaps 15 Edward VIII boxes still exist in London, while George VI's time is notable only for some changes to the design of lamp boxes, which are attached to lampposts or even embedded in a wall. The current 'National Standard K' box was designed in 1978 by Tony Gibbs. Modern materials





were studied but cast iron remains the best choice for durability. The cipher is recessed, so the boxes can be rolled without damage. More than half the UK's 115,000 boxes bear the EIR cypher (*foot of page 8, right*). Division into First and Second Class mail slots dates from 1968, while rebranding from 'Post Office' to 'Royal Mail' occurred in 1991.

**Telephone Kiosks:** Following the 1868 Telegraph Act the General Post Office (GPO) gradually absorbed most of the private public telephone companies in Britain. By 1912 there were just the GPO and two others: the States Telephone Department in Guernsey and Kingston upon Hull Corporation. Telephone kiosks were in a variety of styles, varying from simple wooden 'sentry' boxes to ornamental octagonal domed kiosks. The GPO began to standardise its networks, and looked for a single design of national kiosk. The outbreak of the First World War stalled these plans. When it finally appeared in 1921 the lineage of the K1 Mk 234 was clear ('K' for 'Kiosk') (*below, left*). The K1 followed the earlier designs with its traditional appearance, based on the 'Birmingham' kiosk. However, it appeared outdated in 1920s Britain, and was unpopular with local authorities: the Metropolitan Boroughs of central London were particularly hostile. The K1 Mk 234 was installed in very small numbers and the GPO re-worked its design, producing the K1 Mk 235. Between 1925 and 1980 about 73,000 kiosks were installed in the UK, of which the K6 was by far the most prolific at about 70,000.

The K2 kiosk was Britain's first red Telephone Box, the result of a 1924 design competition, won by architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The colour red for these kiosks was not originally all that popular and in many places the Post Office was forced to adopt a different colour to tone in with local conditions. They have appeared in yellow, black, blue, green and grey. The K2 was introduced in 1926 and over the next nine years some 1,700 examples were installed, mostly in London. Its design features many influences of classical architecture, as shown in the tomb of Sir John Soane (*below, second from left*).

The K3 kiosk was introduced in 1929. It was again designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, based on his K2 design, but with less classical architectural styling. Though some 12,000 examples were installed by 1935, K3 kiosks are now very rare. The K4 kiosk was designed by the Engineering Department of the GPO, expanded from the K2 to include a post box and stamp machine. It was half as big again as the K2 kiosk, and was only introduced in limited numbers. The K5 appears to have been lost forever. Only a small number were manufactured, and no trace of these remains. The K6 was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the coronation of King George V in 1935: compare K2 and K6 (*below, second from right*). Some 60,000 examples were installed across Britain, of which over 11,000 remain. Many communities are now using a redundant K6 adapted to house an automated external defibrillator (AED) with spoken prompts to provide guidance to an untrained operator, which can be vital in remote, rural locations. The K7 was a revolutionary design and radical in the use of materials, but the GPO was unconvinced by it, so it never went into final production. The K8 was the final GPO design, a replacement for the K6, which never matched the success of the K6. Some 11,000 examples were installed across Britain, but only 54 surviving K8s have been identified.

In 1985 the recently privatised British Telecom (BT) announced a modernisation of the telephone network. BT's first kiosk, the KX100 (*below, right*), was the most commonly installed variant of a new series, introduced at a rate of 5,000 a year. Yet even the number of these kiosks has reduced with the rise in mobile phone ownership.

*(continued on page 2)*

*photos by Charlotte Morrison*



**KATIE HAWKS** has been pondering

## **SOME THOUGHTS ON JOHN OF TYNEMOUTH**

In 1228, a Merton priory deed records:

“Be it known that the whole of our Chapter by unanimous consent and will, filled with Charity, and at the petition of Master Thomas de Tinemwe, have granted and given to John de Tinemwe, Clerk, for sixteen complete years, two marks per annum for studying in the Schools in England, paid at the term from the feast of St. Michael 10s., at the Nativity 10s., and at Easter half a mark. In Eastertime and autumn, or other times if the said John wishes to reside in the House within the sixteen years, we will receive him and give him an allowance as one of our own, and provide him with requisite clothing. If it happen within the said term that the said John wishes to go abroad for study, we will give him an exhibition of three marks for a whole year.”<sup>1</sup>

Forty years ago, Gareth Morgan wrote a short article on this entry, noting the bequest of law books that went with John:

“The legal books, *Decreta* and *Decretales*, of Master Thomas of Tinemwe, with all his legal texts, after the said Master Thomas of Tinemwe no longer wishes to use them, shall be given to the said John for all his life; provided that he swear an oath that he will not let them pass from him, and will keep them faithfully for his own use. And should it come about that he wishes to go from us or depart, he shall restore these books in their entirety to the House of Merton, and, as the Chapter of Merton sees fit, they shall be handed over under the same conditions to some good poor scholar who is diligent in his learning; and as long as they last, the said books are to be kept in this way on the same conditions.”<sup>2</sup>

Morgan noted, also, that 1228 was a good time to be a legal scholar, as Gratian’s *Decretum* was shortly to become the *Corpus Juris Canonici* (ie. *Body of Canon Law*).

Several things are of interest here. First of all, who were these ‘de Tinemwes’, and how did John come to be at Merton priory? Secondly, we may presume that John studied at Oxford or Cambridge; did he also teach there? In which case, was there any further relationship between Merton priory and Oxford or Cambridge? And finally, given the very specific bequest of books, can we infer that Merton had a reputation for legal scholarship?

### **Thomas and John de Tinemwe**

‘Tinemwe’, not an English-sounding name, is also spelled ‘Tinemue’ or Tynemue’. It is, in fact, Tynemouth.<sup>3</sup> A John of Tynemouth (d.1221) was a canon lawyer, and former student at Oxford.<sup>4</sup> He was by the late 1190s in the household of Archbishop Hubert Walter. Before becoming archbishop, Hubert Walter had taken on the habit of Merton priory, so we already have a link, however weak, between a clerk of Tynemouth and Merton. Clearly, however, he is not our John, who entered the priory in 1228. As medieval toponyms are only an indicator of place of origin, and not familial relationship, this John of Tynemouth could have had absolutely no connection with our John of Tynemouth whatever.

On the other hand, Thomas of Tynemouth clearly did have some sort of relationship to our John. Morgan, not unreasonably, presumed that Thomas was John’s father, given the generosity of the bequest. But Thomas is described as ‘magister’, an appellation indicating a university degree and clerical orders. This Thomas also bequeathed money to the priory to pay for a (secular) chaplain, presumably to pray for his soul. This chaplain was ‘our beloved’ Sir Richard de Bandon, and he was to receive ‘the corrody of a canon and two marks per annum.’<sup>5</sup> A search for a Thomas de Tynemue of about the right period finds one that was witness to a charter of the Bishop of St Andrews before 1250; the connection is only toponymic, and he is not likely to be any relation, let alone the same person; neither is the Thomas de Tinemue who occurs as a benefactor to Durham Cathedral.<sup>6</sup> But an intriguing mention is from W S Gibson’s *History of the Monastery Founded at Tynemouth*:

“John [of Hertford] elected Abbat of S. Alban’s A.D.1235, called to a council with the monks of his convent, Richard Mores, Prior of Dunstable, and Thomas of Thinemue, Canon of Meriton, masters of fame in Canon and Civil Law, who had presided at Bologna and other places.”<sup>7</sup>

Dunstable is near St Albans. Tynemouth priory was a daughter house of St Albans, although Thomas’ connection with it, if any, may have lapsed, for he was by then a canon of Merton (a different order). Presumably John’s reason for calling Thomas and Richard to his council was because he needed legal advice – perhaps about the newly-enforced regulation about papal confirmation.<sup>8</sup> Richard de Morins (or Mores) was prior of Dunstable from 1202, but he was one of the greatest English canonists of the period. He had also been a canon of Merton. The extract calls ‘Thomas of Thinemue, Canon of Meriton [i.e. Merton]’ a ‘master of fame in Canon and Civil Law’ as well. This Thomas must be our Thomas.

## Canon law and the canons of Merton

Richard de Morins was a lawyer who studied at Paris and Bologna, teaching law at the latter till the late 1190s.<sup>9</sup> He was back in England in 1198, and could have been lecturing at Oxford. Sometime around then, he became a canon of Merton, before becoming prior of Dunstable, and taking holy orders in September 1202. In 1198, he also became part of Archbishop Hubert Walter's household. That year, Hubert decided that he needed some top legal advice, and persuaded John of Tynemouth and Simon of Southwell to leave Oxford and join his household – alongside Richard de Morins.<sup>10</sup> De Morins was the author of several law books, including his well-known *Apparatus*.

Charles Lewis suggested that perhaps Richard had been lecturing at Oxford with John of Tynemouth and Simon of Southwell when they were poached by Hubert Walter. But if Richard became a canon of Merton about then, it is just possible that Hubert Walter acquired him from there, and not Oxford. Another possibility must be considered, however – that Hubert persuaded the priory to take Richard as a canon in order that he might be elected prior of Dunstable. Evidence for either may come from Thomas de Tinemue.

The 1235 St Albans entry describes not just Richard but Thomas, 'Canon of Meriton', as 'masters of fame in Canon and Civil Law.' If so, he was not so famous a canon lawyer as to be courted by Hubert: but perhaps an Augustinian canon could not be part of a noble household – in which case, this would suggest that Richard became a canon following his association with Hubert. We have therefore, two possibilities. The first is that Merton priory itself may have been a centre for canon law studies, where Thomas was a teacher and student. Richard, on his return from Bologna, took orders at Merton, whence he joined Hubert's household and then became prior of Dunstable, keeping up an acquaintance with Thomas. The second is that Richard returned from Bologna, joined Hubert's household, wished to join the Augustinians, and was introduced by Hubert to Merton – possibly knowing Thomas already. In either case, we have a connection between Merton and the study of canon/ Roman law in the early thirteenth century.<sup>11</sup>

Thomas de Tinemue seems, therefore, to have been a canon of Merton and a canon lawyer. John de Tinemue was not Thomas' son, but his student. This makes much more sense of the line 'the legal books, *Decreta* and *Decretales*, of Master Thomas of Tinemwe, with all his legal texts, after the said Master Thomas of Tinemwe no longer wishes to use them, shall be given to the said John for all his life.' It would also make perfect sense of John's having to give the books back to the priory when he had finished with them: being a canon's books, they were the priory's books. If Thomas had been a contemporary of Richard de Morins, then he could well have died sometime during the 1240s (Richard died in 1242); the appointment of a chaplain could therefore have been on his death.

John of Tynemouth could perhaps be identified with the author of the Euclidian *De curvis superficiebus*, which was cited by Robert Grosseteste in the early 1230s. Wilbur Knorr<sup>12</sup> suggested that this John was also the 'John of London' that Roger Bacon mentioned in his *Opus Tertium* as being one of the best mathematicians of his generation. In another book, the *Communia Mathematica*, Roger mentions a 'master John Bandoun', linking his name with Robert Grosseteste and Adam Marsh as good mathematics teachers. Knorr proposed that all three Johns were, in fact, one. However, George Molland was rather sceptical about this conflation.<sup>13</sup> John of Tynemouth could well have been also called John of London. However, they could equally have been two entirely separate people. According to M R James, John of London was at some point a monk of St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, to which he gave a large number of books and manuscripts, chiefly on astronomy and mathematics. Knorr notes an astronomer John of London in Paris in 1246.<sup>14</sup> The John of London who became a monk at Canterbury could have been the John of London in Paris: the former left books on maths and astronomy; the latter was an astronomer.

Neither of these Johns is likely to be our John of Tynemouth, however: he was at an Augustinian priory, not a Benedictine, and although there was the possibility of his going overseas to study, that was for law, and not astronomy. Moreover, our John would not have been called 'of London' – if not 'of Tynemouth', he would have been 'of Merton'. However, our John could have been John Bandoun: Thomas de Tinemue left money to employ Richard de Bandon as a chaplain; he and John could have been related. If John of Tynemouth is indeed our John, perhaps mathematics, rather than law, was his first, although not his only, love – he would not have been the only polymath around at the time. John de Tynemue appears as a witness in several deeds (Cart. 251 and Cart. 266, 1230s-1240s), suggesting some sort of residency at Merton, even if only between Oxford or Cambridge terms.<sup>15</sup> It could be that John of Tynemouth was, like Thomas of Tynemouth, a Merton canon; in any case, he was a clerk who spent 16 years attached to Merton in pursuit of legal studies; it could also be that he followed in something of a tradition of canon law studies, and possibly pursued mathematical studies as well.

## Merton priory: a centre for law studies?

If Thomas of Tynemouth were both a Merton canon and a canon lawyer, and Richard de Morins too, and John of Tynemouth a clerical law student after them, then we have the real possibility of Merton as a place for studying and teaching law.<sup>16</sup> And we have some candidates for the books in Merton's library. One of those books, the *Decreta*, was probably Gratian's *Decretum*. The *Decretales* is more of a mystery, for 1228 was too early for Gregory IX's *Decretals*.<sup>17</sup> The *Decretales* could have been a gloss on the *Decretum*, or, more likely, a compilation of decretals since Gratian. It might even have been one of Richard de Morins' books, and it would be nice to think that the priory library also contained his *Apparatus*, *Generalia*, *Distinctiones decretorum*, and *Ordo iudicarius*.

- 1 British Library Cotton MS Cleopatra C vii f.cxxxij v: Cartulary of Merton Priory charter 294; Alfred Heales, *The Records of Merton Priory* (1898), translates this twice, on pp.90 and 117-8. He also gives a transcript of the Latin text on p.xxxiv. He interprets the prior, who is named merely by the initial 'E', as Eustace (1249-62) but it was in fact, as Peter Hopkins has pointed out, Egidius or Giles (1222-31).
- 2 Gareth Morgan, 'Textbooks in 1228', *The Journal of Library History* 14, no. 1 (1979), p.56.
- 3 See, for example, Matthew Paris' map, <http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item99771.html>. The way the map is laid out suggests a great deal of communication between North and South.
- 4 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_of\\_Tynemouth\\_\(canon\\_lawyer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_Tynemouth_(canon_lawyer))
- 5 British Library Cotton MS Cleopatra C vii f.cxxxij charter 303; Heales, p.118.
- 6 Norman F Shead, 'Compassed about with so Great a Cloud: The Witnesses of Scottish Episcopal Acta before ca.1250', *The Scottish Historical Review*, Vol. 86, No. 222, Part 2 (Oct., 2007), pp. 160, 171; J Stevenson (ed.), *Liber Vitae Ecclesiae Dunelmensis: Nec Non Obituaria Duo Ejusdem Ecclesiae* (London, 1841), p.96.
- 7 W S Gibson, *History of the Monastery Founded at Tynemouth, in the Diocese of Durham*, Volume 2 (1846), p.clxix
- 8 <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/herts/vol4/pp372-416#fnn189>
- 9 Charles E Lewis, 'Ricardus Anglicus: a "Familiaris" of Archbishop Hubert Walter' in *Institute Of Medieval Canon Law: Bulletin* (1966) in *Traditio* 22 (1966), pp.469-71; <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol1/pp371-377>; <http://www.dunstableparish.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/richard-de-morins.pdf>
- 10 Charles E Lewis, 'Canonists And Law Clerks In The Household Of Archbishop Hubert Walter', *Colloquia Germanica* 4 (1970): 192-201.
- 11 The John of Tynemouth (d.1221) who was lecturing in law could have had something to do with Thomas.
- 12 Wilbur Knorr, 'John of Tynemouth alias John of London: Emerging Portrait of a Singular Medieval Mathematician,' *The British Journal for the History of Science*, 23 (no.3, 1990)
- 13 George Molland, 'Roger Bacon's Knowledge of Mathematics', in Jeremiah Hackett (ed.), *Roger Bacon and the Sciences: Commemorative Essays* (Leiden, 1996), p.158.
- 14 *Ibid.*; Knorr, p.309.
- 15 I am grateful to Peter Hopkins for pointing this out.
- 16 The 1228 grant talks of poor scholars having Thomas' books 'so long as they will last,' suggesting well-used textbooks.
- 17 In the Holy Roman Empire, a bishop who was assassinated in 1233 left three books to the cathedral at Chur. These were 'decreta', 'decretales', and 'relationes super his.' Paul B Pixton, *The German Episcopacy and the Implementation of the Decrees of the Fourth Lateran Council 1216-45*, Volume 1215 (Leiden 1995).

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN MERTON 2017

This is summarised from 'London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 2017' as *London Archaeologist* Vol.15 Supplement 2 (2018). Though a number of evaluations occurred, involving trial trenches and/or watching briefs, there is very little to report in the way of archaeological finds for the year.

Trial trenches at 2-6 High Street, Colliers Wood, found only geology, probably relating to the nearby River Graveney, while 2A Valley Gardens, Colliers Wood, yielded 'nothing of archaeological significance'. The *Cricketers' Arms*, 340 London Road, Mitcham, revealed only post-medieval and modern make-up layers, as did 100-102 Morden Road, Mitcham. At the *Queen's Head* public house, 70 The Cricket Green, Mitcham, a large 18th/19th-century pit and chalk foundation might be an earlier phase or an unrecorded outbuilding.

However, two buildings were carefully recorded before their recent demolition or drastic alteration, to Historic Building Recording Level 3 (requiring a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use, including the evidence). These were the swimming pools at Morden Leisure Centre, Morden Park, and Thales Avionics Offices 84-86 Bushey Road, Raynes Park, 'The principal southern elevation, of two storeys and six bays about a central clock tower, is an embodiment of the Art Deco style ...'

## TWO RECENT BOOKS WITH LOCAL LINKS

***Evacuation Stories and Childhood Memories from World War Two*** (2018, Colliers Wood Residents Association, £3-50): Produced by HYPER, the acronym for Heritage, Young People, Elderly Residents, the contents are well summarised by the title and publisher; the interviews were conducted by local teenagers, and these are properly acknowledged within. The photos are from the people being interviewed and the collections of the London Borough of Merton and Colliers Wood Community Centre. Available from Morden Local Studies Centre.

***Vanda Cain Life after Nelson*** Amazon (2016) £8-99: Ms Cain is an art historian and lecturer, specialising in British painting and costume. This is the second of her carefully researched 'Nelsonian' novels, dealing with the final years of the life of Emma Hamilton, in which eight of the chapters are set in Merton Place. The first novel (*The Hamilton Bitch*) is also available in paperback at £8-99. Could someone please review either or both?

NORMA COX has been looking for

## HAWES BROS DEPARTMENT STORE IN MORDEN

At the MHS Workshop on 31 August 2018, the conversation circled for a while around the subject of retailing. There was mention of an assistant's apprenticeship at Elys, the Wimbledon department store, and then a question about Hawes, a department store in Morden, which no longer existed. I had not heard of Hawes before; I was interested in the retail industry, having worked in retail pharmacy, now called community pharmacy, for many years. I therefore decided to find out about Hawes Bros of Morden.

A department store is defined as 'a retail establishment offering a wide range of consumer goods in different product categories known as departments'.<sup>1</sup> Department stores often gave a town or city a sense of identity as many were unique to that place.<sup>2</sup> *Merton Memories* yielded an undated photograph of Hawes department store in Abbotsbury Road, Morden (right).<sup>3</sup> Another internet site said that Hawes department store in Morden used the wire-system until the 1960s.<sup>4</sup> The wire-system was a cash-railway, which was high above the heads of the shoppers and staff and allowed money to reach the cashiers' department. A third site showed that Hawes Brothers (Morden) had been bought by United Drapery Stores and that Hawes was now closed.<sup>5</sup> These three references painted a picture of the Morden store from the past.

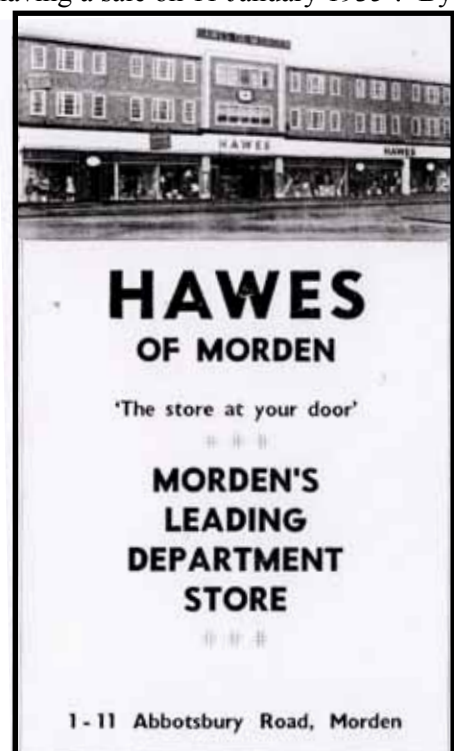


Photo: Courtesy of London Borough of Merton

To find out when Hawes Bros first started in business in Morden, a study of the *Kelly's Directories of Wimbledon, Merton and Morden* for 1925-1930 confirmed that Abbotsbury Road had not been built by 1930. Morden town was in its infancy, for the Underground station was not built until 1926.<sup>6</sup> Today's shops and houses in Morden centre were built in the early 1930s as part of the St Helier Estate. It was this development that 'Transformed Morden from a village to a suburb'. Building work stopped at the beginning of WW2 in 1939 and re-started when the war ended.<sup>7</sup>

By 1935 there was a store at 1-9 Abbotsbury Road. This information came from the files of the late Bill Rudd who recorded that 'On 4 January 1935 at 1-9 Abbotsbury Road there was a store named "Phillips Walk-Around Store", which offered 21 departments on two floors and the store was having a sale on 11 January 1935'.<sup>8</sup> By 1938 further evidence that there was a large store at 1-9 Abbotsbury Road was shown on the large scale Ordnance Survey map, in outline rather than shaded.<sup>9</sup> In addition, the name of Hawes appears in *Kelly's Post Office Directory for Surrey, 1938*, in the Commercial Section.<sup>10</sup> However the Merton and Morden *Official Guide Book* for 1939-40<sup>11</sup> did not mention Hawes Bros. An interesting piece of evidence that Hawes was in business in the years 1942-1944 (ie. during WW2), was seen in the memories of Albert Smith. He had left school in 1942 aged 14, when he started work at Hawes as an assistant in the carpet department; he worked at Hawes until 1944.<sup>12</sup>

Details of Hawes Bros department store were not included in the Merton and Morden *Official Guide Book* for 1948. A collection of other Merton and Morden *Official Guides* and Merton and Morden Chamber of Commerce *Year Books* did give evidence of Hawes Bros. The *Year Books* for 1951-1952, 1953, 1959-60 and 1960-1961 had advertisements for Hawes which provide further evidence of the store's presence in Morden at 1-9 Abbotsbury Road.<sup>13</sup> The size of Hawes' premises increased to 1-11 Abbotsbury Road, as seen in the 1962 *Official Guide Book* advert (right).<sup>14</sup> In the 1964 *Official Guide Book* advert, Hawes premises had increased further to also include 5 London Road.<sup>15</sup>



The adverts in the Merton and Morden Chamber of Commerce *Year Book* from 1964, 1965, 1966-1967, and 1968 show Hawes' address as 1-11 Abbotsbury Road and 5 London Road,<sup>16</sup> while the *Year Books* adverts for 1969, 1972-1973 and 1974-1975 give the address as London Road, Morden, only.<sup>17</sup>

The *Official Guide Book* was published by Merton and Morden Council: the *Year Book* was also published by Merton and Morden Council through the Chamber of Commerce. Hawes Bros was a member of the Chamber, a non-political organisation which published an *Official Directory of Members*. The Chamber's members were the traders and industrialists of Morden and the organisation sought to protect their interests. This Chamber was set up in order to promote the good of the town. The Chamber secured adequate representation of the traders' interests on all local issues, and by having regular meetings of its members it provided a platform for discussion and exchange of views on subjects concerning the trade, business and welfare of the traders and industrialists of Morden. This raised the status and influence of traders in the town.<sup>18</sup>

Goad maps show the size and location of shop sites. A series of Goad maps for Morden for the years 1975-1977 provided further evidence of Hawes presence in the town. These indicated that the Hawes Bros site covered a large area along the North-Eastern parade of shops in Abbotsbury Road and that the business was there up until 1977.<sup>19</sup> A Goad map for 1975 was on display at an exhibition called 'A Century of Change in Lower Morden and Cannon Hill' curated by Peter Hopkins at St Martin's Church, Camborne Road, Morden, in 2017.<sup>20</sup> A similar study of Goad maps from the files of the late Bill Rudd showed the Hawes site was vacant for one year in the late 1970s, while another Goad map for 1982 showed that Hawes Bros was still in business then.<sup>21</sup>

What was it like in Hawes? What products did they sell? Albert Smith recalled that Hawes Bros was on three floors: the ground floor offered haberdashery, linens, gloves, underwear and knitting-wools, the first floor was Ladies Fashion and the second floor was Carpeting. The store had large walk-around display-windows and an arcade at the front.<sup>22</sup> More information about the functioning of Hawes came from posters depicting shopping in Morden in earlier decades; these posters were from Peter Hopkins' exhibition. One poster had conversation bubbles for people to recall their work-place experiences. One worker was a lady called Jeanne who said she was 15 years old when she worked half a day on Saturdays at Hawes Department Store. She said that she worked in the baby clothes and children's clothes department and that she loved it. She spent her first Saturday's wages on a cream puff face powder which she purchased from the Co-op across the road.<sup>23</sup> Jeanne also recalled that the glass-topped counter in the Hawes baby-clothes and children's clothes department had shallow drawers so the baby clothes in the drawers would be displayed and viewed through the glass counter. There was also a cabinet with shallow drawers, which stood behind the assistant's station at the back of the department. This cabinet contained more baby and children's clothes. Jeanne worked at Hawes in 1954.<sup>24</sup>

Further information about the products and services offered by Hawes Bros comes from the adverts in the Merton and Morden *Official Guide Books* and the Merton and Morden Chamber of Commerce *Year Books*.

In the 1951/52 *Year Book* the advert claimed 'Department store for all the family / Always a large selection of Household and Personal requirements / Our Fashion Showrooms and Personal Attention assures your complete satisfaction / Your home furnished throughout with great care and efficiency / Easy payment and club facilities available / Prompt and courteous delivery of purchases / Morden's Shopping Centre' and instructed 'Telephone Mitcham 2956/7.' In the 1953 *Year Book*, the large boxed advert stated 'Hawes Bros Department Store for Variety / Your smallest needs are our concern / For all the family household or personal / Walk around – there is much to interest all / Morden's Shopping Centre'. The advert in the 1959-1960 *Year Book* gave plenty of information – 'Always a large selection of Household and Personal Requisites / Your home furnished throughout with care and efficiency / Easy payments / Personal Credit Accounts and Club Facilities available / Prompt and courteous delivery for all your purchases'.

In the advert contained in the 1962 Merton and Morden *Official Guide*, there is a photograph of the store. The name 'Hawes of Morden' is on the top of the building and the name 'Hawes' is shown twice along the top of the shop frontage. The wording of the advert was simple and more punchy – 'Hawes of Morden / The store at your door / Morden's Leading Department Store' (see page 13). The 1964 Merton and Morden *Official Guide* advert had the same photograph and advertising as in the 1962 edition.<sup>25</sup>

For the 1964 *Year Book*, the advert was very verbose, offering 'Hawes Bros of Morden, Surrey / Invite you to open a personal credit account! / A Sound and Simple Method of Enjoying All your Personal and Household needs while you pay for them / And all at Normal Store Prices / Make your purchases now and open a Personal Credit Account today at / The Store at Your Door.' The advert in the 1968 Merton and Morden *Year Book* had also returned to being more verbose. It had the same advertising wording as the 1962 and 1963 Merton and Morden *Official Guide* which was 'The Store at Your Door' but had these additional words 'Leading Specialists in Carpets and Linoleum / Furniture and Bedding / Curtains and Loose Covers.'

In the 1969, 1972-1973, 1974-1975 *Year Book* adverts, there was a change. The formal boxed advert had been replaced by a large unboxed advert (*right*) which had a sketch of a smiling woman in front of modern furniture on the left-hand side of the advert and three smiling faces of a man, woman and child on the right-hand side of the advert. The advertising wording was up-beat and punchy. ‘Yes! Hawes have the answer to your problems / Bang, up-to-the-minute furniture, all the latest in carpeting, plus the dreamiest in curtains and linens / Go Local – go family shopping at Hawes’.



The address of Hawes Bros was now London Road, Morden, which implied that the store had been reduced in size, hinting that there was a down-turn in their fortunes. ‘In the 1970s storm clouds were gathering over department stores due to the growth of Trendy clothes shops and shopping-centres which enticed people away from Department stores. There were also out of town retail parks.’<sup>26</sup>

United Drapery Stores had bought Hawes Bros but it is not clear when the purchase took place. United Drapery Stores was a British retail group that dominated the British High Street from the 1950s to the 1980s.<sup>27</sup> It was suggested that ‘Sir Arthur Wheeler promoted the formation of United Drapery Stores from seven London stores, one of which was Hawes’.<sup>28</sup> Sir Arthur Wheeler was a man of working-class origins who became a stock broker. He became very rich and powerful and was a Director of United Drapery Stores.<sup>29</sup> It is difficult to work out how Hawes Bros were involved in the origins of United Drapery Stores in 1927, when their premises at 1-9 Abbotsbury Road were not built until 1935. Another reference stated that United Drapery Stores was founded in 1927 with five department stores in London but by 1931 had grown to 112.<sup>30</sup> There was an increase in the number of department stores by WW2, many of which were situated in the suburbs of large cities. These new department stores were relatively small in size with less than 500 staff.<sup>31</sup>

Major developments by three large companies, to acquire groups of department stores, started in the late 1920s and early 1930s. ‘A large company would acquire control of a number of separate department stores primarily for financial reasons. There would be little or no change made in the trading or buying policies of the individual department stores’. United Drapery Stores worked in this way.<sup>32</sup> The United Drapery Stores business grew by acquiring many department stores. However, in 1983 United Drapery Stores was itself acquired by the Hanson Trust and broken up.<sup>33</sup>

The decline of Hawes Bros of Morden started in the late 1970s and was probably caused by market pressures. This is seen in the *Morden News* 13 July 1979, when the front page stated that ‘Store Giant to try again. Supermarket Giant ASDA seeking planning application approval to build a hypermarket in Merton’s Garth Road’. Also in this newspaper edition, there were aggressive sales adverts for other department stores near to Morden, such as Elys of Wimbledon, Smiths Brothers of Tooting, and Arding and Hobbs of Clapham Junction. There was no advert for Hawes Bros.<sup>34</sup>

The Merton and Morden Chamber of Commerce and Trade *Official Year Book* for 1981-1982 featured a ‘Walkabout Guide to Shops in Our Area’. It showed that no.1 Abbotsbury Road was vacant and in London Road nos. 1-5 were occupied by Wheatlands Ltd, a furniture store.<sup>35</sup> Hawes Bros department store had gone. The photo (*below*) shows the site of the department store today. The Retail Industry today is a very brittle market and traders are feeling the pressure even more with increased business rates and competition from internet shopping. It is no surprise that many well-known High Street names have gone. There is still a lasting affection felt for department stores such as Hawes, which is probably due to nostalgia and happy childhood memories of the days when Hawes and Morden developed together.



Photo: David Haunton, December 2018

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Peter Hopkins for his help with this paper, in particular with the lists of the late Bill Rudd. I would also like to thank the MHS Committee for allowing me to use the as yet unpublished work of Albert A J Smith. And add a special 'Thank-you' to Jeanne Claridge for contacting me with more Hawes information.

- 1 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department\\_store](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_store). Accessed 22 September 2018
- 2 <https://www.express.co.uk>Nov7uk>. Accessed 22 September 2018
- 3 [www.photoarchive/merton.gov.uk/collections/work-and-industry/shops-retail/34275-london-road-morden-junction-at-abbotsbury](http://www.photoarchive/merton.gov.uk/collections/work-and-industry/shops-retail/34275-london-road-morden-junction-at-abbotsbury). Accessed 22 September 2018
- 4 [www.cashrailway.co.uk/locations/eng-surrey.html](http://www.cashrailway.co.uk/locations/eng-surrey.html). Accessed 27 September 2018
- 5 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_department\\_stores\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_department_stores_of_the_United_Kingdom). Accessed 22 September 2018
- 6 An extension of the City and South London Railway was opened in 1926 with a terminus at Morden. See *Kelly's*
- 7 [www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/morden/20th-century-morden](http://www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/morden/20th-century-morden). Accessed 22 September 2018
- 8 List of Morden History compiled by the late Bill Rudd. Held by Peter Hopkins of Merton Historical Society
- 9 OS Map of Morden at 6in to the mile <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101725229> Accessed 27 September 2018
- 10 *Kelly's*
- 11 Published by Merton and Morden Urban District Council, the *Official Guide Books* are available on the open shelves of the Local Studies Library, Morden.
- 12 Albert A J Smith *Memories*, Merton Historical Society (*forthcoming*)
- 13 Merton and Morden Chamber of Commerce *Year Book* 1951-2 p.28; 1953 p.28; 1959-60 p.16; 1960-1 p.17  
The *Year Books* are available on the open shelves of the Local Studies Library, Morden.
- 14 *Official Guide Book* of Merton and Morden 1962 p.44
- 15 *Official Guide Book* of Merton and Morden (*nd*, 1964 or 1965, probably 1964) p.32
- 16 Merton and Morden Chamber of Commerce *Year Book* 1964 p.12; 1965 p.46; 1966-7 p.42; 1968 p.42
- 17 Merton and Morden Chamber of Commerce *Year Book* 1969 p.46; 1972-3 p.4; 1974-5 p.4
- 18 Definition of Merton and Morden Chamber of Commerce, in their *Year Book* 1960-1 p.17
- 19 Goad maps showing Morden shops, 1975-1977 Local Studies Library, Civic Centre, Morden
- 20 1975 Goad map from an Exhibition by Peter Hopkins (2017) 'A Century of Change in Lower Morden and Cannon Hill' [www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/3-a-century-of-change](http://www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/3-a-century-of-change) Accessed 27 September 2018
- 21 Goad maps of Morden shops, 1970s and 1982 from Bill Rudd's Lists. See note 8.
- 22 The 'departments' plan of Hawes Bros in 1942-1944, Albert Smith *Memories*. See note 12.
- 23 Morden Shopping Posters, 'Jeanne's Conversation Bubble'. See note 20.
- 24 More details of Hawes Baby and Children's Clothing Department. Jeanne, *pers comm* 22 September 2018
- 25 *Official Guide Book* of Merton and Morden (*nd*, 1964 or 1965, probably 1964)
- 26 Decline of department stores in the 1970s. See note 2.
- 27 <https://www.revolve.com/page/United-Drapery-Stores>. Accessed 27 September 2018
- 28 Corina, Maurice, *Fine Silks and Oak Counters: Debenhams 1778-1978* (1978, first edition, London, Hutchins Benkins), p.94
- 29 <https://www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/uploads/roundabout-oct-2007.pdf> Accessed 27 September 2018
- 30 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Drapery\\_Stores](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Drapery_Stores) Accessed 27 September 2018
- 31 Jeffery, James B *Retail Trading in Britain 1850-1950*. A study of trends in retailing with special references to the development of Co-operative, multiple shop and department store methods of trading (1954, Cambridge University Press) p.344 Full text. <https://archive.org/stream/retailtrading-in-030623mpb/retailtradingb030623mpb-djvutext>. Accessed 27 September 2018
- 32 Jeffery, James B (*op. cit.*) p.345 Acquisition of small department stores by a large company
- 33 Acquisition of United Drapery Stores by Hanson Trust in 1983 (As note 27)
- 34 *Morden News (Merton Borough News)* Friday 13 July 1979, pp.1-11
- 35 Merton and Morden Chamber of Commerce and Trade *Official Year Book and Directory*, 1981-1982, p.57

## **NEW BOOK: AN A-Z OF WIMBLEDON, A History of the Village and the Town, by Charles Toase (2018, Wimbledon Society Museum Press, £14-50)**

Are you looking for a Wimbledon fact or a Wimbledon date? Look no further, but enquire within. Charles Toase, MHS member and for many years a local Reference Librarian, has scoured almost every issue of the *Wimbledon Boro' News* and a wide variety of other sources to produce this comprehensive survey. The many subject headings include Emigration, Geology, Ghosts, Irish and India Connections, Lakes and Ponds, Pigs, Public Houses, Servants, Sewage and Vineyards. The 58 pictures in the body of the book are an interesting mixture of photographs, advertisements, prints, paintings and drawings. They are fully described in the 'List of Illustrations', but this reviewer was puzzled that the captions below the pictures omit some of their dates, and all of the artists' names. Unexpected discoveries include the Wimbledon Paradox (in international shipping law), the Retaliation League (anti-suffragettes), the 'squashie, cuereso and wislear' in the Spencer's menagerie, and that 1946 was a 'busy year for murderers in Wimbledon' (Haigh, Heath and Ley). Recommended.

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