LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS VOL 6 NO 4

2000

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SECRETARIAL NOTES

The following Lectures and Visits were arranged during 2000:

January 21st	Lecture: 'Family Life in 19th Century Kingston', by Peter Tilley.
February 18th	Lecture: 'The Conservation of Buildings', by Richard Eckersley.
March 17th	Lecture: 'The History of Bookham Commons', by Ian Swinney.
April 8th	Guided Walk on Bookham Commons led by Ian Swinney.
April 14th	The 53rd Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk on 'Museums', by Alan Pooley
May 13th	Visit to Chatley Heath, led by Gordon Knowles.
May 19th	Lecture: 'The History of Painshill', by Tom Picking, a member of the Painshill Trust.
June 15th	Visit to Painshill Park, led by a member of the Painshill Trust.
June 24th	Visit to Slyfield Manor, courtesy of Mr & Mrs Richards.
August 12th	Guided Walk round Ashtead, led by Howard Davies and Jack Willis.
September 15th	Lecture: 'The Management and Historic Value of Ashtead Common', by Adam Curtis.
October 20th	Dallaway Lecture: 'Leatherhead—Church and Parish', by Linda Heath.
November 17th	Lecture: 'The Surrey History Centre', by Julian Pooley.
December 15th	Christmas Miscellany, arranged by Gordon Knowles.

In addition to the above, Society members have given talks to other Societies. There have also been guided historic walks in Leatherhead and various events were arranged for the Heritage Weekend.

Number 3 of Volume 6 of the *Proceedings* was issued in February 2000.

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Lethered Institute, 14 April 2000

The Report of the Executive Committee and the Accounts for the year 1999 were adopted. The Committee elected to serve until the next AGM and the Officers of the Society are shown below.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2000–2001

President:	DR DEREK RENN, C.B.E., F.S.A.
Past President:	STEPHEN FORTESCUE
Vice President:	LINDA HEATH
Chairman:	PETER TARPLEE
Secretary:	VACANT
Membership Secretary:	JACK BARKER
Treasurer:	JUDITH MILLS
Editor:	JACK STUTTARD
Museum Curator:	VACANT
Treasurer, Museum Trust Fund:	JOHN BULL
Sales Secretary:	VACANT
Archaeology Secretary:	PAULINE HULSE
Lecture Secretary:	GORDON KNOWLES
Librarian:	GWEN HOAD
Records Secretary:	BRIAN GODFREY
Newsletter Editor:	JOHN WETTERN
Committee Member:	TREVOR MARCHINGTON

Leatherhead and District Local History Society

PROCEEDINGS

Vol. 6, No. 4

2000

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OCCASIONAL NOTES

LEATHERHEAD WELCOMES THE MILLENNIUM YEAR, 2000

There were celebrations in the town and at all Leatherhead's churches to mark the beginning of the Millennium Year on 1st January, 2000. On the Millennium Eve the Parish Church held a Watchnight Service with Millennium Candles and the ringing of bells at midnight. There was a Civic and Community Service on Sunday 2nd January and at this the Vicar of Leatherhead, the Rev. David Eaton, wore a fine, beautifully coloured Millennium Cope for the first time. The service was followed by the planting of a commemorative yew-tree sapling in the Church Park Garden nearby.

J.C. STUTTARD

MISS KITCHENER AND THE 'THRIFT' THREE-PENNY PIECE

Miss Frances Madge Kitchener, niece of Lord Kitchener, was an artist and designer of commemorative medals and coins, also versed in the field of heraldry. In the 1930s she had a studio called 'The Little Gallery' at 80, The Street in Ashtead. The writer, when still at school, called at her studio: it was a daunting experience, but she was pleased to discuss heraldry and other matters with someone who had expressed an interest in what she was doing.

A few years later, the family's building firm carried out renovations at 'High Warren', a bungalow in Crampshaw Lane which had been Miss Kitchener's home. In the attic there was a cardboard box containing a slab of white plaster and on its face was the design in relief of a twelve-sided three-penny piece. This must have been a stage in the procedure as Miss Kitchener worked on her 'Thrift' design. The inspiration came to her whilst on holiday in Devon. The plant 'Thrift' or 'Sea Pink' grows happily in sand dunes and rocky places; she believed that it would make an appropriate design for a coin traditionally associated with saving and thrift.

The interesting story of the 'Thrift' design and its development began soon after King George V's death in January 1936. At this time the Royal Mint was considering, inter alia, a new three-penny coin, and Miss Kitchener had already submitted her first 'Thrift' design for the small silver three-penny coin (Fig. 1). She was to modify her design to suit the new nickel-brass pattern (Fig. 2), with its twelve wavy scallops. Her third design (Fig. 3) was altered to be a regular twelve-sided coin.

1 2 3 4

MISS KITCHENER'S ROYAL MINT DESIGNS FOR A THREE-PENNY PIECE, 1936/7.
For a note on the numbers see pp. 78–79. Crown copyright. reproduced with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (extracts taken from *The Proposed Coinage of King Edward VIII* (1973)).

THE MILLENNIUM COPE, WORN BY THE VICAR OF LEATHERHEAD,
THE REV. DAVID EATON, ON SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY, 2000.
Photograph by Frank Haslam.

It was at this stage that it had been found necessary to double the thickness of the coin and it was considered that a dumpy coin called for less delicate treatment of the 'Thrift'. Time was short and the work was therefore entrusted to an artist, Perry Metcalfe, with considerable experience in modelling coinage designs.

So the final pattern was the reworking by Percy Metcalfe of Miss Kitchener's design, (Fig. 4). The date was positioned at the bottom of the coin, the inner circle removed and the 'Thrift'

rearranged into a stylised design.* The coin carried the effigy of King George VI on the obverse and was first circulated in 1937. During its lifetime the twelve-sided three-penny coin carried only one other design, the 'Portcullis' by William Gardner, introduced in 1952.

The fact that the two persons most involved in this story both had close ties with Ashtead is a remarkable coincidence, the more so considering that there is no indication that they ever met.

M. WORSFOLD

* The writer is most grateful for Mrs Joy Hallam's help in providing information on Percy Metcalfe.

PROBABLE IRON AGE SITE AT GIVONS GROVE

Some years ago Stamford Letts of Whitebeams, Downs Way, Givons Grove reported that he had been finding odd shaped flints in his garden which he thought might be fossilised bones. They proved to be the usual flint nodules from the chalk. However, scattered around in the flowerbeds were many fire-crackled flints about the size of a tennis ball or smaller. These were probably used to heat water when pottery did not stand heat very well and hot water was needed to clean skins of fat.

Most of the garden was planted with ornamental bushes but there was one small area which had been prepared for planting potatoes and at one end of the trench an inspection trench one metre square was dug. The topsoil down to the bedrock chalk had been thoroughly turned over in the process of gardening so there was no stratification. A small flint flake, 1 cm x 2 cm, was found below the surface with evidence of working along one short edge. A dozen pieces of unabraded pottery were found (6 cm down and scattered), none larger than roughly 2 cm square. They were a brownish/grey colour with flint-grogging, typical Iron Age pottery.

The site is on the south facing slope of the spur of chalk that runs from east to west towards the Mole Valley and is similar to the siting of the Iron Age and Roman site on Mickleham Down overlooking Juniper Hall, examined by S. S. Frere and N. A. Hogg in 1943. Not far away to the east on Leatherhead Down there is a group of round Barrows shown by aerial photography (see *Procs LDLHS,* 1957, p. 5 and map).

It is possible that this pottery at Givons Grove came from another barrow and was broken up when the area was brought into cultivation or when the houses were built between the wars. The sherds were all from the body of the pot (no pieces of rim or base) and there are no indications of the pot having been a kitchen utensil. On the other hand the presence of many cracked flints suggests that there was an occupation site in the area.

E.A. CROSSLAND

The Society supported the publication and distribution this year of Bill Culley's book *'Bookham in the Twentieth Century.'*

Errata: Procs LDLHS 6 (3) 1999: Secretarial Notes: for 'Marcy' read 'March'; War Memorial Plaques, p. 54 for '1983' read '1974'; Leatherhead Gas Company, p. 64 for '1950' read '1850', for 82s-4d read 8s-4d, p. 66 (line 4), for 'moved to Elm Bank nearby' read 'was demolished'.

LEATHERHEAD CHURCH AND PARISH FROM THE 17TH TO THE 19TH CENTURY

By LINDA HEATH

Nowadays, it is almost impossible for us to realise the tremendous influence which the church had on people in earlier times—not just in religious belief and in education, but in all aspects of life. Indeed, it would not be going too far to say that up to the end of the 19th century the church fulfilled the functions of both County Council, and local town or borough Council. The people who carried out these duties were the members of the Church Vestry. They were elected every year and consisted of the Vicar, (ex-officio) two Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, Overseers of the Highways, and other representatives of the parish. They were responsible for providing poor relief, maintenance of the highways, law and order, education, health care for the poor, and a fire service. Leatherhead Parish Church is very fortunate in possessing nearly all the Vestry Minutes from 1818 onwards and some from the 17th and 18th centuries. These provide a vivid image of parish life and activities throughout this period.

Church Maintenance

The Vestry normally met once a month and one of their main tasks was maintaining the church building. Little had been done during the troublesome years of the Civil War and Commonwealth, but from then on the Vestry was much concerned with maintenance.

Their Minutes show that in November 1695 an assessment was made for church repairs, nearly 90 people being listed with amounts rated for each to pay. A few years later, in October 1701, it was agreed that the body of the church and the two aisles should be ceiled—in other words, a ceiling made by covering over the roof rafters. By 1766 the tower was in such a ruinous state that the Vestry decided to apply white stucco over it, giving it rather a curious appearance for over 100 years. The stone steps leading up to the ringing chamber in the tower were so worn by 1781 that they were covered in oak by Benjamin Simmons, a carpenter and leading light of the bell-ringers, who carved his name on the top step in 1787 where it can still be seen.

The Victorian 'Restorations' of the church in 1873–4 and 1891 are well documented—details of these can be found in the Society's 'History of Leatherhead' edited by Edwina Vardey (1988) and elsewhere. Much less has been recorded about one in 1839 when the Vestry ordered that the church was to be re-paved; the walls cleaned and coloured; (whitewashed) the elliptical arch in the chancel to be removed; new pews to be painted; twenty chairs bought for the middle aisle; and an inscription to be placed in 'some conspicuous place' recording the gift of £200 from a Mr Craig. They stipulated the cost of each item but, even allowing for Mr Craig's gift, the Vestry still had to find another £116 which was a very large amount in those days.

Overseers of the Poor

The Vestry was responsible for administering relief to those unable to support themselves—an early form of Social Welfare. The people who carried this out were the Overseers of the Poor who were men of prime importance on the Vestry. They had to raise rates for the relief of the poor and submit their accounts at the end of each year; and they had to pay out of their own pockets for anything not authorised by the Vestry. They could be fined for refusing to take office, but it was regarded as a status symbol, and was usually undertaken by tradesmen or craftsmen rather than gentry. Part of the money for the poor came from Charitable Bequests—

INTERIOR OF LEATHERHEAD PARISH CHURCH, 1829.
From a water-colour by Edward Hassell in the Stonehill Collection, Leatherhead Public Library.

in Leatherhead, the most significant of the 17th century bequests were from John Skeet, Henry Smith and Edward Hudson. However, the money was chiefly raised by a Poor Rate. All owners of property were rated by where they lived, and this determined the amount that they should contribute to poor relief. It is interesting to look at the various rates that were set by the Leatherhead Vestry each year for supporting the poor. Very often it was about 6d in the £ but in 1808 it was 3/6 and rose to 4/6 in 1814 and the highest ever was in 1818 when it rose to 5/-.

Only people belonging to the parish were eligible for relief, so a large part of an Overseer's time was spent in checking to see if people coming from elsewhere were likely to become a financial burden on the parish and if so, trying to get them removed back to the parish they had come from. Needless to say, this was easier said than done, so vagrants were often given a penny to move on. It was a sort of a permanent 'pass the parcel'. In 1695 the Vestry Minutes record that a woman who had given birth in the church porch was given 2/- to move on—an all too common occurrence.

Being poor and unable to support oneself carried a terrible stigma. In 1721 and again in 1751 the Vestry ordered 'No poor to be relieved without they have the badge on'. This was a badge with L.P. for Leatherhead Parish on it which had to be prominently displayed on the left arm at all times and was regarded as a great humiliation. In 1722 there is a rather macabre reference to the distribution of bread to the poor: 'It is ordered that William Machin should have the loaf of bread that the Widow King, now dead, had.'

By 1770 there were so many poor in the parish that the Vestry ordered that application should be made 'to some neighbouring parish' to take some of the poor from Leatherhead into their workhouse. Another rather dreadful situation arose in 1795 when the Vestry decided to hand over several children to a Mr Watson in Herts. to work in his silk mill in return for a weekly payment by him of 1/6 for each child, if the parents were unable to match this sum. By 1819 the situation was so desperate that the Vestry ordered that six men with staves should be placed at each entrance to the village to prevent people from 'cogging' or begging. (Presumably one man at each entrance.) It is a measure of how serious the problem of vagrancy was that the Vestry members were forced to threaten physical violence to paupers coming in to beg for money.

The problem was that by the end of the 18th century the old Poor Law system was breaking down because there were too many able-bodied men willing to work but unable to support themselves and their families on the wages offered. Hitherto, most of the poor on relief had been those unable to work, and looking after them was seen as an obligation, albeit an irksome one. Parishes found themselves unable to cope with the numbers needing relief, and instead of realising that the underlying cause was that men were not being offered a living wage, the men were seen as feckless and as a threat to law and order.

Poor House and Work House

The saddest of all situations for the destitute was undoubtedly the Work House. Originally, the place where people were sent when they were unable to work was the Poor House or Alms House. It was after the Poor Law Amendment Act in 1834 that the Poor House became more generally known as the House of Industry and conditions became much harsher. In fact, conditions were deliberately made as harsh and unpleasant as possible to discourage people from going there and being a drain on the parish resources. The basic principle was that conditions should be made less favourable than the worst conditions and lowest wages offered for employment.

In Leatherhead the first bequest for obtaining a Poor House was in 1642 from Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham, of The Mansion. He died suddenly just after the outbreak of the Civil War and left £50 to buy a Poor House, but his Will was not proved until 1679. With this bequest and another one for £20 the Vestry was then able to buy a house in Bridge Street next to the Running Horse, which served as a Poor House or Alms House for over 100 years. On 8 November 1749 a committee was formed for taking premises to make a Work House 'for the support and employment of the poor'. They considered this for a long time, as it was not until 1808—over 50 years later—that they finally sold the Alms House for £455 and so at last were able to erect a purpose-built Work House. This was in the Kingston Road opposite Leatherhead Common. It stood more or less where Dilston Road begins now, though the area was all fields then, and the grounds where they grew their produce ran alongside the Kingston Road to where Fairs Road is now.

One of the greatest hardships of the Leatherhead Work House was introduced in 1820 when the Vestry resolved to separate men and women both by day and by night, except at their meals, according to the discretion of the Governor. In 1829 they set up thirteen rules for the regulation of the inmates of what they still referred to as the Poor House. One of the rules gives all the exact food and quantities for each person for all their meals—differences being made for men, women and children. As can be imagined, their rations were very frugal indeed, both in quantity and variety. Their hours of work were 6 am–5 pm in summer and 7 am–6 pm in winter with breakfast at 8 am, dinner at 1 pm and supper at 7 pm. In 1835 there came a decision which in some ways seems the cruellest of all. This was that 'All women having bastards subsequent to

the New Poor Law should not be admitted to the Poor House' and, even worse, those there were to be turned out.

The Work House was demolished when the railway was extended to Dorking in 1867 and the new bridge built over the railway, so that Cleeve Road could be constructed for access from that side of the Kingston Road. After this, people were then sent to the Union Work House in Epsom which was much bigger and even more institutional.

Overseers of the Highways

Overseers of the Highways were elected annually and, like the Overseers of the Poor, received no payment for their labours. Their job was to raise money for the maintenance of the roads and, above all, of the bridges which were vital for communication.

In the Vestry Minutes there are several references to highway matters and, in particular, to the Leatherhead bridge which always needed a lot of maintenance. In 1610 Edmund Tylney of The Mansion left £100 for the repair of the bridge and there are references to its upkeep throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1760 it was ordered that 'if any person not belonging to Leatherhead or Fetcham desires to go over the bridge they may have the liberty on payment of 10/6d a year, finding their own Keys toward the repair of same; 5/- if belonging to either of the parishes'.

In 1774 the Vestry Minutes record that 'It is agreed to give up the stone bridge to the Justices of the Peace for the county of Surrey; to make the same a free and open bridge free of all tolls and other expenses to this parish'. Evidently this did not happen immediately, as in September 1778 the Vestry decreed that anyone with keys to the bridge who had not paid their dues before 10th October would find that new locks had been put on the bars and that no carriages would be allowed over except in times of flood. However, soon afterwards it became the responsibility of paid surveyors, which released the Vestry from the continual expense of having to maintain the bridge. This must have been a great relief to them and, in the end, benefited everyone as in 1783 the bridge was almost entirely rebuilt by the surveyor George Gwilt.

From the 1840s until the end of the nineteenth century the Overseers of the Highways were also concerned with street lighting until this too was taken over by the county.

Law and Order

Law and Order also played its part in Vestry matters. Apart from anything else, they had to build and maintain a lock-up for offenders and to appoint a Constable. Like the Overseers of the Poor and of the Highways, the Constable was elected for one year and received no remuneration or compensation for loss of earnings. His duties were almost more onerous than the others were—he was responsible for the stocks and the lock-up and had to take offenders to the Quarter Sessions; he was also responsible for weights and measures and supervising all alehouses.

On 16th October 1726 the Vestry ordered 'that a Cage shall be built at the charge of the parish with leave from my Lady Effingham, at the back side of Thomas Page's, it being in her Ladyship's Manor.' A somewhat cryptic entry follows: 'Ordered that a blankett be bought to cover old Thomas Benge'—presumably one of the many in need, but whether in the 'cage' or not is not clear.

The Constable also had to raise the militia in time of war. In 1795 Leatherhead was required to provide two seamen for the Navy, and John Ragge and Daniel Windsor were paid six guineas each to enlist. The following year Leatherhead and Epsom were ordered to provide a total of six more men, but it looks as if Leatherhead was unable to provide any more, as in 1805 the Vestry was fined £44.1.8d for 'failing to raise men for the defence of the realm'.

Some idea of the importance of the post of Constable can be gained by the following complaint in 1844 that one of the constables, 'Mr Emery had been up till a late hour playing at cards at The Running Horse' and also of misconduct during the Fair. Two months later he was given a stern warning that if it happened again he would be debarred from office. He was in fact a policeman—the only one of the six Constables, but in spite of his misdemeanours, he was nominated again the following month.

In 1849 eight Constables were nominated, of whom one was a policeman. A paid Constable was to be appointed at £65 pa. and Mr Chitty and Mr Marter were elected Superintendents of Police, but two years later, in 1851, the County Police force took over and the Vestry was no longer responsible for law and order.

Education

Another responsibility of the Vestry was education of the poor. There is a record of a Charity School in Leatherhead established as early as 1596 for ten boys. This school was almost certainly held in the church tower and there is ample evidence for this in the number of boys' names carved on the walls there in the 17th century—often with the dates as well! In 1725 David White left a bequest for educating boys at the 'free school' in Leatherhead, and in 1797 John Lucas left

LEATHERHEAD PARISH CHURCH, 1858.
Society Collection.

the interest from £400 stock for the same. The interest from these two bequests paid the schoolmaster's salary of £16p.a. In 1815 Trustees were appointed to administer these Charities and they reported that the money 'was paid to Mr Green, a schoolmaster of the parish, for instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, ten poor boyse thereof, who are apprenticed as vacancies occur, by the Vicar and Trustees'.

In 1838 the Vicar, Benjamin Chapman, set up a Church of England boys' school in Highlands Road and one for girls the following year in the same building. By 1848 this building also housed an Infants' School. These schools were run by boards of governors appointed by the church and Vicar, which then relieved the Vestry of this obligation.

Health

The Vestry members were responsible, in a rudimentary way, for health matters in the parish. In 1723 a woman with smallpox was given money to 'get her off'—in other words, out of the parish. This, no doubt, was a bargain for Leatherhead but hard on the next parish!

This could only be done to someone not belonging to the parish, but the Vestry did make arrangements to isolate infectious parishioners. The first reference to this was in 1747 when the Vestry resolved to rent a 'Pest House' from a John Coulton 'to put in any person with the Small Pox or any other distemper', though it is not known where this was. They also had to arrange for the insane to be taken somewhere if there was nobody to look after them. In 1819 it was ordered that 'Elizabeth Smith, a pauper of the parish who was insane, be removed to Hoxton.' In 1821 a Mr Evans was nominated to attend the sick poor people at a salary of £30 p.a. to be paid by the Vestry. There was to be no charge for medicines.

Fire Engine Service

The provision of a fire engine service was for a long period the concern of the Vestry. In 1795 they ordered the west door of the church in the tower to be widened to admit the 'Fire Engine and Bucketts etc.' and for many years the fire engine was housed in the church tower. In 1820 it was ordered that a board should be placed in a conspicuous position stating that people living outside the parish who requested the fire engine had to pay £10. The following year they rented a building from Mr Charles Roberts to be known as the Engine House at a rent of £3.3s. p.a. Mr James Roberts, a local decorator, was to be paid £2.2s. p.a. for keeping the engine painted and in good repair. This building was probably somewhere in North Street, but in 1852 they resolved to build an engine house on the site of the lock-up which was in front of where the War Memorial is now. Because it had a clock on it the engine house became known as the clock tower and was built in 1859 at a cost of £50 and £14 for a new engine. It remained the engine house until 1926 when a new one was built by the river to house the first motor fire engine and the old clock tower was demolished in the early 1950's.

Conclusion

From all this, it will be seen that during the second half of the 19th century, the various duties of the Vestry were being taken over by local authorities. In 1894 all civil functions carried out by the Vestry were transferred by Act of Parliament to local councils, so from that time onwards the Vestry was concerned only with church matters and its direct influence on the parish gradually diminished.

This article is taken from the Dallaway Lecture on 20th October 2000.

THE COTTAGE IN ASHTEAD WHERE WHITTAKER LIVED

By H. J. DAVIES

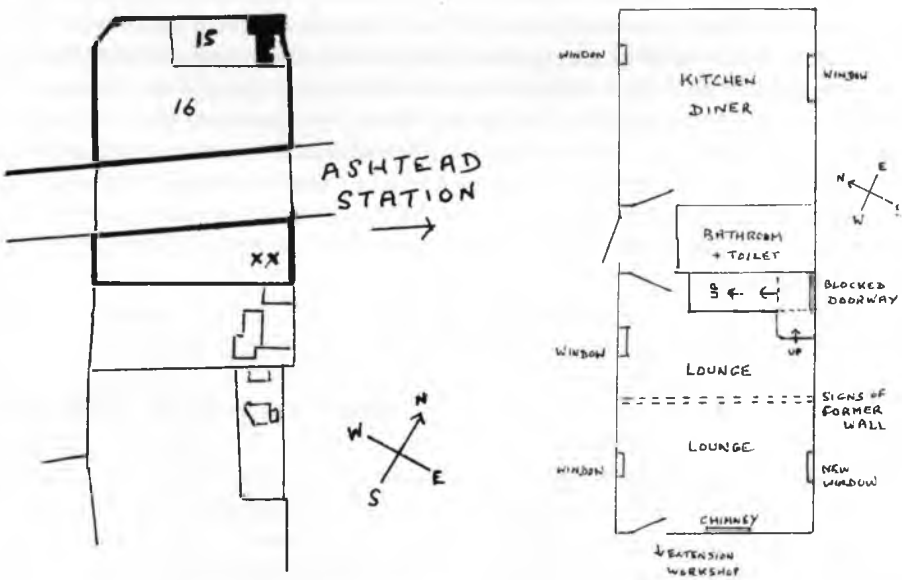
MANY readers will have visited the semi-detached cottages from Ashtead at the Downland Museum which bear the name of Whittaker. Former residents of these cottages cannot say when they were given the name Whittakers. They stood on ground facing the south side of the railway some 150 yards on the Leatherhead side of Ashtead station. Details about them, one of two former pairs, are to be found at the Downland Museum. Full details of their construction can be found in that Museum's Magazine Vol. 8 No. 17 of March 1997. For their history as 'Whittaker's Cottages' and in particular the 'railway connection', the best account is in the Magazine of March 1998, an article by Richard Harris to which I contributed on behalf of our Society. However, Whittaker never lived in the cottages named after him; they were built on part of his former smallholding.

Briefly, the first pair of cottages were built about 1867, eight years after the building of the railway. They stood in a former paddock of just over one-acre which had been the property of the Epsom and Leatherhead Railway Company from 1856. This Company had bought the land from the former Portsmouth Railway Company, formerly held by the Direct London & Portsmouth Company. The latter had bought the land from a tenant of the Manor of Ashtead, namely Richard Whittaker, a transaction recorded in the Ashtead Manorial roll for 1849.[1] Hence the origin of their name! He did not live to see the railways built or the cottages. Provision was made for his widow, Elizabeth, and Sarah Whittaker, to live in his former cottage north of the railway on part of the one acre plot until Elizabeth's death at an annual rent of 5 shillings.[2] She did not stay long but is found in 1861 living in Bridge Street, Leatherhead and died soon after.[3] The land north of the railway was bought in 1860 by Frederick Felton, a baker, who developed the site as a bakery where he lived and worked with his wife and others. He died prematurely and left his wife and another Felton relative to run the bakery for many years. Subsequently by 1891 the Feltons had left the bakery; their house facing the Common was occupied by Mr Lambton who lived 'on his means' with 8 others in his household.[4] It was then known as Woodfield House. Later the site became used as a restaurant and as a pleasure centre for the many visiting parties of schoolchildren from London with its own helter-skelter. We do not know who profited from the building of the future 'Whittaker's Cottages' on the other side of the railway but it is most likely it was the Feltons.

Various maps and plans show the footprint of the original cottage in which the Whittaker family had lived at the other end of his acre plot. They cover the period from 1855 to the present day. The same footprint can be found in the tithe map of 1839 and the Wyburd Survey map of 1802. Most significantly it can also be clearly distinguished on a good copy of the Lawrence Map of 1638.[5] It is therefore in essence one of Ashtead's few old cottages. It stands at the present day facing the Common between the railway line and the corner of Links Road. A conveyance of 1880 between Francis Larkin Soames and William Henry Goodwin, both developers, in the deeds of the house belonging to the present owner, state that the cottage was formerly part of Caen Farm, the old Ashtead farm that stood on or near the site of Caenwood House off Ashtead Woods Road. It is shown as one of two detached cottages about 75 yards apart.

The writer has spent a couple of hours looking at the construction of the cottage by kind permission of Mr Challen, the present owner. The accompanying sketch shows the layout of the

WHITTAKER'S COTTAGE, NOW KNOWN AS LINKS CORNER COTTAGE.
Photograph, courtesy Albert Pruden.



Left: Detail is from Terrier of Joint L & SW & LB & SC Railway Companies, PRO/Rail/414/525, p. 134. No. 15 is where Whittaker lived, with extension; 16 was his acre through which the railway was to run. The sign XX has been added to show the future site of 'Whittaker's Cottages'.
Right: Ground plan of Links Corner Cottage in 2000. Scale 2mm: 1ft. Author's sketch, courtesy, A. S. Challen.

present ground floor and its dimensions. The house has three sections, the kitchen diner, the entrance lobby with bathroom and toilet, and the living room. There is also a glass conservatory on the north side. A door from the living room leads into a large workshop, once a garage, with a triangular addition on the north west side. The first floor consists of two bedrooms of roughly equal size back and front. The ceilings are coved to the shape of the roof with a small loft space above. The upper floor rests on mainly 6" x 2" unplaned joists. The staircase rises in two stages from the south side of the lounge and emerges between the two bedrooms. Four steps lead to a platform and a left handed turn.

There are indications in the house of changes over the years. The house is 12 feet wide, a dimension that has not changed and an indication of a long history. The present length is 32 feet, excluding the workshop at the back. The outline of a former wall can be identified at the centre of the back room, the lounge, which may point to an original two bay cottage of some 24 feet in length. The present stairs replaced a steep open stairway which climbed from north to south. The owner told me that the original entry to the upper floor was by ladder.

At the turn of the present staircase there is evidence in the south wall of a former doorway. The deposited plan in the Book of Reference for the Epsom & Leatherhead Railway of 1855 shows clearly an extension on the south side of the cottage, the entrance to which would coincide with the blocked up doorway.[6] The 25" OS map of 1866/67, published in 1877, also shows this extension, forming a T shaped plan. By the time of the 1896 25" OS map the extension has disappeared. In that map there is a long extension added to the western end of the former cottage including part of the area of the present workshop. The same long rear extension is shown in the OS map of 1932 and is remembered by the present owner from his childhood. By 1980 the OS 1:1250 map shows the present outline with a short rear extension with triangular addition and the name 'Links Corner Cottage'.[7]

During the latter part of the 19th century and the early 20th the building was used for other purposes. There was a hoist in the space now occupied by the upstairs east window facing the Common. This would have been used as part of the bakery for bags of flour. Later it was used for hay when horses were stabled on the ground floor! The cottage appears to have returned to use for human habitation soon after the end of the First World War in 1918.

The conclusion of this brief survey is that the present cottage with its unprepossessing exterior is without doubt an old Ashtead cottage and was the cottage in which Whittaker lived. The cottages now in Downland Museum were built nearly twenty years after his death in 1849 but it is not yet known who built them.

NOTES

1. SHC/2703/page 2.
2. PRO RAIL 414/525.
3. Census Abstract 1861, LDLHS Archive. Leatherhead
4. Census Abstracts 1861–1891, LDLHS Archive, Ashtead, Ref. AW185, 137, 186 & 187.
5. LDLHS Ashtead Archive has imperfect copies of original maps.
6. PRO RAIL 414/525.
7. Ordnance Survey extracts, courtesy of R. Harris, Downland Museum, copies also in Ashtead Archive. All approx 1:1250.

BAPTIST MEETING ROOM AT HAMPTON COTTAGE, 1846–58

By A. ROBERTS

FROM 1844 to 1865 Hampton Cottage (which was then called Ormond Cottage and is now the Leatherhead Museum) was occupied by the seedsman and gardener Richard Blake (1787–1865) and his wife Barbara (1799–1872). The couple were devout members of the Particular and Strict Baptist faith and held regular Thursday evening prayer meetings at their home. For Sunday worship they had to walk all the way to Tadworth or Brockham Green, there being no Baptist Church nearer at that time. In 1846 they applied for and were granted a preaching licence for Ormond Cottage and the first sermon preached there was delivered by the Pastor of Tadworth Chapel on Sunday October 18 that year. Meetings continued at the cottage for twelve years, the average attendance being some twenty worshippers. New members were inducted into the faith by the rite of baptism by total immersion, which was either carried out in one of the neighbouring chapels equipped with a baptistry or in a pond at Woodbridge Brickyard, which was owned by Henry Sayers, a member of the group. Sometimes the River Mole was used for this purpose. Entry No. 251 in the 1851 Religious Survey refers to the cottage as a 'dwelling house not exclusively used as a place of worship'.

By 1858 the congregation had outgrown the building and larger premises were engaged at the Literary Institute in North Street, opposite the Independent Chapel. This proved somewhat difficult for visitors to find and the following directions were given: 'It is near the engine house, on which is a clock; before you is H. Moore, Woolstapler, next is A. Blaker, Whitesmith; between these is a gate leading to a garden, in which is a room, withal clean as a new pin'. In 1859 the congregation meeting here was formally established as part of the Strict Baptist Church and a Pastor was appointed.

A need was soon felt for a building of their own and by 1868 enough money had been collected by penny-a-week subscriptions for work on it to begin, all materials and labour being donated by Baptist members. A site in Church Road was purchased from John Humphrey and the new 'Mount Zion' Chapel was opened in 1869. Its first Pastor was James Ockenden, but it is not known if he was related to the Ockenden family who later lived in Hampton Cottage.

After her husband's death Barbara Blake moved to Cavendish Villa in Church Walk, conveniently close to the new Chapel.

There is some evidence that Blake may have lived in Hampton Cottage from as early as 1819. The title deed to the neighbouring property (Devonshire Cottage) refers to Hampton Cottage as being occupied by '—Blake' in that year and the Tithe Assessment of the same year records a Richard Blake occupying a cottage in Lucas Yard at £5 a year which was approximately the value of Hampton Cottage. However, Blake does not appear in the 1841 Census and the records of the Baptist Church indicate that the prayer meetings in Hampton Cottage began in 1844. John Lucas was a wheelwright with premises in the High Street.

NOTES

Apart from the sources mentioned in the text the following were also consulted: R. F. Chambers, *The Strict Baptist Chapels of England: Surrey and Hampshire* (1952); S. F. Paul, *Further History of the Gospel Standard Baptists*, Vol. 5 (1966); Mary Rice-Oxley, *The Story of Hampton Cottage, Leatherhead* (1986).

LEATHERHEAD AND FETCHAM, A CENTURY AGO

By J. R. CLUBE

THE year 2000 is a turning point not only for the millennium but for the century as well, and while we cannot easily look back a thousand years, a view of Leatherhead and Fetcham in 1900 is indeed feasible. It is fortunate that the Society's *Proceedings* already contain articles written at the half-century, in the nineteen fifties, by a Mr A. J. Ginger, then an elderly local resident, who had lived in Leatherhead since the 1880s. Another fifty years later, in 2000, his articles about Leatherhead and Fetcham in late Victorian and turn-of-the century days, show an even greater contrast between life then and the present day.[1] Ginger's family came to live in Kingston Road, Leatherhead when he was three years old. He walked over a mile to school in Fetcham every day, first sang as a boy chorister in Fetcham church in 1889, and took his first job at Fetcham Post office shortly before the end of the century.

Ginger was sure that his recollections from his early childhood were very clear. The final fifteen years of the Victorian century saw the passing of the age of leisurely progress, peace, plenty, and fine craftsmanship, and he felt that only those who had experienced those days could appreciate the significance of the change in the way of life. This change was more evident in the rural villages of Fetcham and Bookham than in Leatherhead which had already become a town and where the loss was mainly in the oldest and best buildings.

Leatherhead

Although Ginger's memory was doubtless coloured by youth he described Leatherhead as a neat, picturesque and clean little town, isolated in the countryside, but far from dull. On Saturday nights shops were open late and the streets were packed with people. The town band played frequently, either outside the Duke's Head or by the Town Clock. There was also much street music: German bands, the hurdy gurdy man with his monkey, Italian organ grinders in bright clothes with girls in voluminous skirts. The accordionists Antonio and Marco were great favourites. There were concerts, lectures, amateur theatricals and the Magic Lantern. There were frequent circuses and fairs on the Common, and itinerant showmen would perform at the Town Clock, perhaps with performing bears or with a travelling aquarium.

In those days Leatherhead was prone to dress itself up on the slightest excuse, and especially at Queen Victoria's Jubilees in 1887 and 1897, and with celebrations at every victory in the Boer War (1899–1902). Flags and bunting, gas light and fairy illuminations would decorate the streets and there would be processions, music, and sports in Randall's Park. At the Jubilee celebrations in 1897 the local paper likened Leatherhead to Venice in carnival time. There was no picture palace or cinema but the Victoria Hall, (now marked by a plaque in the High Street) was visited by touring companies with plays such as Uncle Tom's Cabin and East Lynn. There were 'Penny Readings' at the Reading Room in Fetcham, where Ginger and many others got their first introduction to the works of Dickens and other writers.

On working days other sounds than music could be heard. Mr Karn had a wagon works in Kingston Road and a carriage works in Fairfield; and the Ventham carriage shop was located in Bridge Street. Their associated blacksmiths' shops were in continuous operation which meant that the sound of hammer on anvil could be heard all over Leatherhead. Similarly Mr Lloyd the saddler carried on his trade in Bridge Street. Opposite was a slaughter house where pigs were killed. Mr Neate the grocer made his own bacon and killed his piglets in the High Street. Sawyers and brick makers were also active.

LEATHERHEAD HIGH STREET IN 1900.
Society Collection.

In addition to all this bustle and noise the powerful smell of malt and hops at the Swan Brewery permeated the town centre. At the associated cooperage beer casks were piled up and like most Victorian beer the brew was very potent. The status and atmosphere of the Swan Hotel reflected the personality of Emily Moore whose father had owned the hotel since the 1840s. The Swan Yard was full of coaches, and the smell of horses, harness, and tallow candles was pervasive. The Swan was still a stage for four-in-hand coaches which sometimes put up in the yard. As a boy Ginger had befriended an old cabby there who had ridden postilion on chaise horses in pre-railway days. Emily Moore also bred cows which could be seen daily ambling through the High Street and Church Road to grazing at Thorncroft and Downside.

For the wealthier classes in the area there were House parties, balls, hunting, point-to-point, and shooting. The Mid Surrey Fox Hunt, or Stag Hunt, would meet at the Swan. A Great Hunt Ball would be held in the season at the Swan or the Victoria Hall. Church and Chapel had a great influence in Victorian days and Sunday church-going was a general habit. These were the days of Canon Utterton, a dignified patriarchal figure who gathered around himself some talented curates. Ginger remembered particularly Mr Sedgwick, a forceful preacher who packed the church when he gave a sermon.

Fetcham

In contrast to Leatherhead, Fetcham was one of the prettiest villages in the country, and, away from the traffic on the Guildford road, remained quiet and select. In those days the roads belonged to pedestrians as well as horse traffic. Motor or steam vehicles had to be preceded by walking 'flagmen' and Ginger saw many of them. He also remembered the variety of trees, the profusion of birds—and an admonition not to disturb a robin's nest because a robin had touched Christ on the Cross.

The village contained several distinguished-looking mansions inhabited by wealthy people who maintained large staffs of indoor and outdoor servants. Then came a few smaller good class residences, various farmhouses, the schoolhouse and the smithy always busy working on cartwheels, ploughs and shoeing horses. At Mill House the water-mill was still operating. The Splash at River Lane was then a true waterfall of some beauty, and Ginger remembered the weed-cutting at the mill where he was allowed to accompany the men working in their punts. Two charming pubs, the Rising Sun and the Bell Inn, completed the village.

The village pound stood at the junction of Cobham Road with the Street and further along (near the Post Office today) was a horse-pond called Cock Pond favoured by children for skating in winter. The sports of the gentry involved the village as well. Ginger recalled following the hounds over the Lower Road; and the village men and boys acted as beaters to the guns. He particularly enjoyed watching polo matches at the ground on Hawks Hill between the Ridgeway and the coppice near the chalk pit.

Apart from stone breakers working on the roads, farming was the main occupation. The farms were mostly owned by Squire Hankey of Fetcham Park House and let to tenants. Farmer Dodge's Cannon Court Farm was the largest but he was a stern man whom the boys avoided if only because they helped themselves to his produce. Farmer Lang of Home Farm who lived in the house next to the barn (now the Village Hall) was a kindly Scot who wore clothes in the style of a century earlier. It was he who introduced a form of ploughing involving two stationary steam engines pulling a chained plough between them.

Ginger's first job was assistant at Fetcham Post Office which was then located at the School House. The Schoolmaster, Mr Constable, was himself sub-Postmaster. Ginger was responsible for telegrams which were passed on a primitive telephone linking Leatherhead, Fetcham, Bookham and Effingham. Telegrams were delivered by the Schoolmaster's domestic help, or, if she was out, by Ginger himself. No delays were permitted in the service in those days. Much of the traffic was with business houses in the City, but a great many were concerned with betting.

In the Victorian days of prosperity and plenty it was a source of shame to Ginger even then that there were many poor people, mostly living in Leatherhead Common, who were obliged to walk barefoot, at least in summer. Many engaged in poaching, particularly near Roaring House Farm. But to take a wild rabbit home 'for the pot' was a punishable crime. However, a group of ladies in Fetcham provided and served soup for the poor and school children in the Reading Room during the winter.

With all his happy memories of those days Ginger did not forget the less attractive side of life. There was dust on the road in summer and mud in winter. The sanitary system was vile with no running water or main drainage. Heating and lighting were primitive. The church was lit by candles and cottages by colza-oil lamps. As Ginger remarked, ivy-clad cottages were very picturesque but they were also very damp. Ginger was sufficiently realistic to be grateful for improvement in living and social conditions that the new century brought in. In our turn we have only to look back fifty years or so to realise how much we have gained, and lost, since Ginger wrote his articles.

NOTES

1. For Ginger's articles see *Procs LDLHS*, 1 (2), 1948, pp. 12–16; 1 (3), 1949, pp. 14–18; 1 (7), 1953, pp. 12–18.

THE ICE-HOUSE AT ABINGER HALL

By G. F. STONEHOUSE

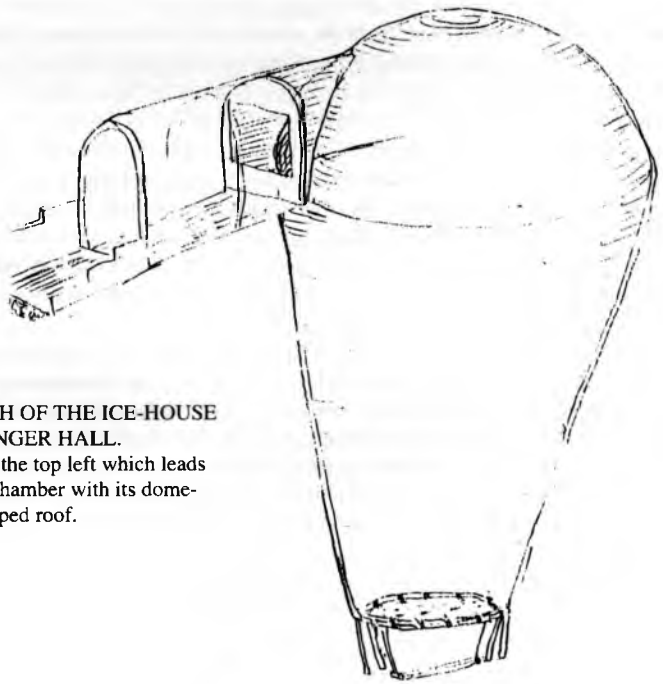
Introduction

THE ice-house at Abinger was recently cleared out, measured and recorded by a small group of local historians. It is built into the north-facing slope of the greensand ridge rising to the south of the Tillingbourne valley and the present A25 Dorking to Guildford Road. The National Trust now own the ice-house but it was at one time part of the Abinger Hall estate. It is first mentioned in Sales Particulars of 1803 and later shown on the O.S. 25 inch map of 1873.

Construction of the ice-house

The ice-house was well preserved and seemed to be structurally sound though filled with rubbish. After complete clearance an entrance pathway was found leading into a tunnel which ended in a wall in which there was a rectangular man-hole giving access to the main chamber where the ice would have been stored. This chamber had a dome-shaped roof and was brick-lined throughout. It had been dug into the greensand and its top covered with an insulating layer of earth.

Near the bottom of the chamber were found traces of cross-members which would have supported the ice. Below this was a sump chamber whose floor was natural greensand which, being porous, would have allowed the melt- and other- water to drain away.



OUTLINE SKETCH OF THE ICE-HOUSE AT ABINGER HALL.
The entrance is at the top left which leads into the conical chamber with its dome-shaped roof.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE ICE-HOUSE AT ABINGER HALL.
Photograph by G. F. Stonehouse.

Some additional details

The tunnel entrance was 3.55 m. (11 ft. 6 in.) long, 1.84 m (6 ft) wide and between 1.84 and 1.94 m (6 ft and 6 ft. 4 in.) high. The tunnel floor was brick-tiled and sloped up at a gradient of about 1 in 30. There were vertically aligned gaps in the brickwork of the walls where the jambs of two doors would have been fitted. It was common practice in ice-houses to have two doors sealing the tunnel, forming an air-lock which would prevent cold air in the chamber being replaced by warm air when ice was removed in summer. About half-way along the tunnel wall the date '1853' was scratched with the letter 'G' nearby. In other places there were scratched parallel lines, possibly tally marks made when ice was either loaded into or removed from the chamber.

The Chamber was conical in shape. From the centre of its dome to the bottom it measured 6.35 m (20 ft. 10 in.); at its widest it was 3.62 m (12 ft) in diameter. The walls sloped down and inward smoothly in straight lines to the bottom where the diameter was 1.6 m (5 ft 3 in). Near to the bottom there were two opposing sets each of five slots which would have supported cross-beams on which the ice would have rested. In one of these slots there was the trimmed end of a piece of timber, presumably the remains of one of these beams.

The lower part of the chamber was nearly cylindrical in shape and contained two parallel, transverse walls at right angles to the supposed alignment of the cross-beams; perhaps the remains of a different ice-supporting system.

The Debris removed contained nothing of historical interest.

NOTES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Working Group was led by Stephen Fortescue and included Emma Corke, Jill Godfrey, Hazel Putland, Pamela and Peter Starling, Geoff Stonehouse and Margaret Tarplee. The valuable support of Mary Rice-Oxley was also appreciated.

The Full Report with drawings, dimensions and photographs has been lodged with: The National Trust, The Surrey Archaeological Society and The Surrey Record Office, Woking. It achieved 2nd Prize in The Margary Award at Surrey Archaeological Society's 1999 Annual Symposium.

In Closing two further points:

1. The group is just finishing a similar project at the ice-house at Juniper Hall, Mickleham.
2. After considerable work both on the ground and in the available literature the group was unable to locate the remains of the ice-house at Polesden Lacey. Any help to find it would be appreciated by the group.

WARTIME DEFENCES: A SECOND LOOK

By T. MARCHINGTON

AFTER the publication of the article on this subject in the 1999 *Proceedings*, it was felt that more should be said about the wartime defences between Box Hill and Ranmore Common, including the 'anti-tank island' of Dorking. Although much field evidence has been demolished, the assistance of wartime residents has made it possible to add further to the picture presented in the previous article.

Defences at the foot of Box Hill

In this area the GHQ Stop-Line depended on the River Mole as an anti-tank ditch. Where the north bank was insufficiently steep, it was faced with chestnut palings and backfilled. The only breach was where a ramp gave access to water for the 80 dairy cows on Boxhill Farm. To prevent the passage of tanks here, 12 massive concrete cylinders were constructed. Pillboxes were built on the north side of the river, two opposite the sewage works and one at each end of Pudden Pond.[1] These have all been demolished but the sites at Pudden Pond have mounds of debris. These two pillboxes could have covered both the river and the main road from Dorking to Reigate. Two more pillboxes stood by the Old Reigate Road, one with a large aperture for an anti-tank gun. These also have been demolished. Two pillboxes survive at the foot of the escarpment west of Brockham Quarries. Boxhill Bridge (now a foot bridge) was a road bridge prior to flood damage in 1968. In 1940 a row of movable anti-tank pyramids stood south of it and 100 yards to the north-west an unprotected gun-mount or holdfast survives.[2] This was for a 6-pounder Hotchkiss anti-tank gun. With the clearance of vegetation this could have covered both Boxhill and Deepdene Bridges. Close by there was an anti-aircraft gun and searchlight during the Blitz.

The River Mole impinges on the North Downs at the foot of Box Hill. Nearby is the fluted concrete pillbox described in the previous article. A long depression in the knoll above it and circular depressions by the woodland edge may have been supporting weapon pits. Confirmation has now been given that the river was barred against the passage of tanks at times of low water by a row of triple cylinders of which a few survive upstream from the Stepping Stones. Close by is the massive rectangular pillbox with another holdfast for a 6-pounder gun, facing west across the Mole Gap.

The Mole Gap

The River Mole flows northwards here and so was of little use for the GHQ Stop-Line. Instead an anti-tank ditch was excavated across almost the whole of the Gap. It stretched from the old chalk pits on Ranmore Road across the present vineyard to the cottages by the railway on Bradley Lane. Although infilled, the probable site of this ditch was identified in the 1950s by a line of surface stones—mistakenly believed at first to be a section of Stane Street.[3] Most sources agree that the ditch did not continue from the cottages to the foot of Box Hill. However, the triple, concrete cylinders which blocked the river there suggest that this was the original intention. The failure to complete the ditch may reflect a change in policy in July, 1940, when General Alan Brooke took charge of Home Forces.[4] Defence of this 500 yard break in the Line would have depended on the rectangular pillbox already referred to, together with several pillboxes in the immediate vicinity of the road. Only one of these survives, 400 yards NNW of the Burford Bridge roundabout.

South of these defences in the Mole Gap stood Dorking, which was designated as an 'anti-tank island' or 'nodal point'.[5] The Home Guard map in Dorking Museum shows the defences in detail. Much of the built-up area was behind a perimeter of barbed wire, inside which two core areas were protected by anti-tank obstacles. These included sand pits and rows of buildings as 'fixed' obstacles, with concrete cylinders and rails in concrete sockets as 'movable' obstacles on roads and railways. One core area centred on the High Street and Reigate Road with the nodal point HQ and the vital arch at the eastern end where the railway crossed the London Road. The second core area was Deepdene House which was the centre that controlled the railway dispersal of forces evacuated from Dunkirk. The junction of Pixham Lane with the Reigate Road was also heavily defended.

Ranmore Common

The anti-tank barrier westwards from the Ranmore Road utilised the Pilgrims' Way 'Trackway' for over a mile. The uphill side of the track was cut into a vertical face which was supported by hurdles anchored to stakes above.[6] The spoil was thrown over the downhill side to create a steep bank there. Although the hurdles have gone, the vertical face and spoil heaps can be traced most of the way to the open downland of Denbies hillside above Landbarn Farm. Here the track was less suitable as a barrier, so an anti-tank ditch was excavated across the scarp face about a third of the way up. Although the ditch was later infilled,[7] its line is suggested by a break of slope and indications of broken ground such as a concentration of rabbit burrows; at the western end a slight bank and ditch feature survives. Beyond this, before the first of the pillboxes along the North Downs Way, only one lane rises up the wooded scarp. This small, sunken lane appears to have been protected by a slit trench.

ANTI-TANK DEFENCES ON BOX HILL FARM.

GUN-MOUNT NEAR BOX HILL BRIDGE.

TRIPLE CYLINDERS BARRING THE RIVER MOLE, 300 YARDS UPSTREAM FROM THE BOX HILL STEPPING STONES.

A second look at these wartime defences has shown that there were fewer weak points in the GHQ Stop-Line than at first appeared. However, the fundamental weakness of linear defence had been shown in France and resulted in the virtual abandonment of the GHQ Stop-Line within a few weeks of its inception. Despite this, it is a remarkable memorial to diligent planning and intense activity.[8] The desperation of the time is shown by the instruction to the farmer at Boxhill Farm that, in the event of an invasion, his 80 cows, 40 pigs, 400 sheep and 6 cart-horses were to be driven northwards to safety or slaughtered. He was issued with solid-ball shotgun cartridges known as 'paratrooper bullets'. Happily, neither these nor other defences were put to the test.

NOTES

1. A marshy hollow in 1940; now a private fishing lake.
2. Such structures are rare, according to Colin Alexander in *Ironside's Line* (1999), p. 73.
3. See a thesis in Dorking Museum by Charles Ross, 'Dorking at War', p. 74, which refers to the Surrey Archaeological Collection, 1958. However, Stephen Fortescue believes the ditch was further up the slope to the north to take advantage of the gradient.
4. Within 3 weeks of his appointment, Brooke ordered work on the GHQ Stop-Line to cease except for work already in hand. (See Colin Alexander, *op. cit.* p. 30). Forces were to concentrate on repelling the enemy at the coast.
5. Although the GHQ Stop-Line became virtually obsolete under Brooke's new strategy, anti-tank islands were considered vitally important in blocking key routes in the event of an enemy break through. Betchworth, Dorking and Shere were listed among Category B anti-tank islands in 1941, reckoned to hold sufficient supplies to resist an enemy for two days. See Colin Alexander, *op. cit.*, pp. 33–34.
6. A Dorking resident, Eric Mansfield, recalls a member of the Pioneer Corps, armed with pick and shovel to construct the barrier, arriving at his house to claim a billet.
7. There were good reasons to reinstate land as soon as the danger of invasion was past. Agricultural land was urgently needed and while occupied by defence structures attracted quarterly payments under the Compensation (Defence) Act, 1939.
8. A detailed list of the location of all sites found in this area is being made available to the Society.

The photographs are all from the author's collection.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Invaluable assistance in locating and interpreting previously unreported structures around Box Hill and Landbarn Farm was provided by Jim Alexander, who lived and farmed at Boxhill Farm until his retirement in 1999. Important information was also supplied by C. J. Compton of Chapel Farm, Stephen Fortescue, Alan Jackson of Dorking Museum, Eric Mansfield and Chris Shepheard of the Surrey Defences Survey.

LEATHERHEAD PARISH CHURCH, 1808, SHOWING THE TOWER COVERED IN WHITE STUCCO.

Published by the Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Printed by Dyer & Son, 32 North Street, Leatherhead, Surrey