

LEATHERHEAD
& DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



PROCEEDINGS VOL 7 N^o 2
2008

SECRETARIAL NOTES

The following Lectures, Visits and Walks were arranged during 2008:

January 18th	Lecture: 'John Evelyn and his passion for Gardens' by Beryl Saich
February 15th	Lecture: 'The Great British Seaside' by Brian Bloice
March 11th	Joint visit with the Friends of Leatherhead Museum to Dorking Museum and Caves arranged by Fred Meynen
March 28th	Lecture: 'Early Cycling on the Surrey Roads' by Les Bowerman
April 18th	The Society's 61st Annual General Meeting followed by the lecture 'Monks Green Farm, Fetcham' by Derek Banham
May 3rd	Guided walk through Bookham Village led by Derek Renn
May 16th	Lecture: 'The Homewood, Esher' by David Scott
June 18th	Visit to Cherkley Court and Gardens arranged by Fred Meynen
July 23rd	Visit to Horsham Museum with a guided walk around the town arranged by John Wettern
September 19th	Lecture: 'Wayneffete Tower, Esher' by Penny Rainbow
October 17th	Lecture: 'Excavations at the Ashtead Roman Villa and Tile Works, 2008' by Dr David Bird
November 21st	Lecture: 'Brooklands and the Hurricane Aircraft' by Brian Hennegan

Members of the Society also led walks around the District, and gave talks to various groups and organizations, during the year.

Number 1 of Volume 7 of the *Proceedings* was issued in February 2008.

61ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Letherhead Institute, 18th April 2008

The Report of the Executive Committee and the Accounts for the year 2007 were adopted.

The Officers and Committee members elected to serve until the next AGM are shown below.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2008–2009

<i>President</i>	<i>GORDON KNOWLES</i>
<i>Past Presidents</i>	<i>STEPHEN FORTESCUE, DEREK RENN, LINDA HEATH</i>
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Leatherhead and District Local History Society

PROCEEDINGS

Vol. 7, No. 2

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AN END TO THE SAGA OF LITTLE ASHTEAD “MANOR”?

By BRIAN BOUCHARD

So much has been written already about “The Manor of Little Ashtead”, notably in Howard Davies’ detailed examination of its origins¹, that one hesitates before adding more to the debate. Additional, apparently fresh, information has, however, come to light that might be of some interest.

As a re-introduction, a parcel land within Ashtead’s manorial estate had been held by Merton Abbey from earlier than 1291 but, in 1296, the demesne contained “...a Capital Messuage, garden, dove house and closes...”² and does not seem to have been divided. Transcripts of Court Rolls from the beginning of the sixteenth century itemise fines in default of Suit of Court [to attend and give judgement] imposed on the Prior of Merton and described as “...*pro manerio suo inter Ledred and Asshestede...*” compared with others charged to the Prior of Reigate “...*pro terris suis in Asshestede...*”³ The different wording implies that the former estate had greater importance but Manning and Bray considered *Little Ashtead* or *Priors Farm* as no more than a farm called the “Manor of Ashtead”⁴.

The word “Manor”, derived from Latin *manerium*, may indeed be used as referring alternatively to:-

- a) the seat of a nobleman landowner, manor house or hall, otherwise
- b) a landed estate coupled with the right of the lord of the manor to hold a manor court and exercise jurisdiction over his tenants.

At the dissolution of the Monasteries, in 1538, Merton Abbey’s lands passed to the Crown but the supposed (little) manor seems to have been sold on before 1543 because it appears in a Rent Roll⁵, for that date from Ashtead Manor accounts in the hands of William King, being described as “*Whitehouse & 30 acres*”, subject to a quit rent of 6/4d. When a survey was conducted in the reign of Edward VI (circa 1550) William King’s holdings as a “free tenant” included “One tenement called *Paynes and Fowlers* otherwise *le Whitehouse* with divers lands, meadows, pastures,...” — 30 acres⁶.

That estate appears to have been returned to Royal hands because, in 1556, Queen Mary is reported to have granted “... the Lordship and Manor late belonging to the Monastery of Merton (to Ann Duchess of Somerset)” for her life. [The source document, indicated to be unreliable in another respect, could represent a beginning of the myth that there was more than one “lordship”.] It may be inferred that *Little Ashtead* was comprised in the sale of the reversion of the manor site and demesne lands to Henry Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel, during 1563 and in the “remainder” settled by Henry on Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, 1st September 1570. On the latter’s attainder, 1572, his holding reverted to the Queen to become merged into the superior interest⁸. She, on 10 July 1578, awarded *Little Ashtead* with various other estates to Robert Newdigate and Arthur Fountain, as Trustees, before it was conveyed to Francis Newdigate⁹.

Francis, a Gentleman Usher to the Duke of Somerset, had been incarcerated with him and Lady Anne in the Tower of London. Edward Somerset was executed in January 1552, for felony, but his widow remained a prisoner until released on the instructions of “her friend” Queen Mary during 1553. Soon afterwards, she took Francis Newdigate as her second husband and protector, “not so much of her person as of her property”¹⁰.

Francis died 26 January 1581/2, without issue, leaving everything he owned to the Duchess of Somerset, disappointing a nephew, John Newdigate, who had anticipated a legacy to provide for his own children. The dispute that arose led to legal arbitration in the course of which the property mentioned as *Little Ashfield* (sic) in Francis' will¹¹ descended to Henry Newdegate, one of John's sons by his second wife, Mary Smith. That property was eventually sold off as shown by an indenture of bargain and sale, dated 17 June 1602, between Henry Newdegate, of Hampton, Middlesex, and George Cole, of Petersham, Surrey, which records a transfer of the manor of Ashstead, otherwise called *Little Ashtead* or the *Pryors Farm* for a payment of £500. Shorn of much legal verbiage, this deed simply transferred rights once held by "the late Monastery of Marton [Merton]" which had been contained in a grant by Queen Elizabeth, bearing the Great Seal of England, dated, at Gorhambury, 10 July 1578¹². Since no additional acreage was specified, one can only assume that an increase from 30 to 190 in the Lawrence terrier of 1656 resulted from subsequent acquisitions by Mr Cole.

The reference to Henry Newdigate as "of Hampton" [in a process of outlawry¹³ against him, 1616, described as "alias Lord Henry Newdigate of Hampton Court"!] related to his residence there in the *Newe Howse* on another substantial copyhold estate that, again, had devolved to him from his great-uncle Francis via his father, John¹⁴. Some reference books suggest that Henry's interment had taken place at St. Mary's, Hampton, following his death on 8 May 1629 but this is not supported by the record of "Buryalls" for that parish and the claim seems to be based erroneously upon a memorial inscription in the church. Whilst Registers for the time do not survive, a Latin inscription *hic sepultus fuit* on Henry's memorial in St Giles', Ashtead, seems more likely to be correct, although the tablet there was not in fact erected by his widow, Mary née Haslerigg of Theddingworth, but was commissioned by a great-nephew, Sir Richard Newdigate, second baronet, (1644 – 1709) in 1693 from Grinling Gibbons¹⁵ who had been engaged primarily to create a monument in Harefield church to Mary Newdigate née Bagot (died 14 September 1692). Digressing a little further, *Qui quidam Henricus magnam Hospilitatem tenuit*, appearing immediately after a reference to Sir John Newdigate of Arbury (1571 – 1610), perhaps suggests that Henry's half-brother had been a grateful recipient of his lavish entertainment. As to evidence of the state of Henry's finances, in 1623/4 he had borrowed £700 in total from William Gresham, with others, which he was expected to repay by set-off in allowing them to "sojourn and board" within his house: this arrangement resulted in breach of contract proceedings in which the value of a goshawk, said to be worth 30 to 40 pounds, was disputed and it was alleged a bad diet had been provided¹⁶.

Edward Darcy, a groom of the Privy Chamber, is known to have acquired the demesne lands of Great Ashtead Manor, by purchase in 1594, but he encountered a claim to them, during 1601, from Henry Newdigate on the grounds that they had been comprised in a sale by Philip, late Earl of Arundel, and William Dixe to Francis Newdigate [rather than Lord Henry Seymour as indicated by surviving evidence]¹⁷.

Darcy resisted the attempt to dispossess him until at least 1606 but, surprisingly, proceedings in Chancery and the Court of Exchequer reveal that Henry Newdigate had managed to take over the property before 1610/18. After Henry's death other members of the family continued to live at Ashtead, probably in the manor house, including John Newdigate (1600 – 1642) around 1632 and Sir Richard Newdigate, first baronet, (1602 – 1678) who, in 1638, was in a position to grant a lease of the demesne lands for a term of 98 years to Lord Maltravers¹⁹ [Henry Frederick Howard, 1608 – 1652, 3rd Earl of Arundel] — leading to John Lawrence's survey which was

completed in September of the same year. Lord Maltravers' Royalist sympathies in the Civil War led to difficulties so that it was Richard Newdigate who held a Court Baron on 13th October 1645 as "tenant of the manor"²⁰.

Returning to *Little Ashted*, throughout the seventeenth century the property in question shows up in records of the Courts Baron as tenanted by various people, including members of the Knightly family, probably by feoffment. Rent Rolls for 1681 & 1696 list Sir Robert Knightly as a free tenant of *Whitehouse* for which a rent [unchanged from 1543, taking into account 2d pannage], of 6/6d was payable²¹. Manning and Bray specify other owners before "...in 1713 (John Knightly) suffered a Recovery of the said manor and farm, the *White House*, a messuage and farm called *Old Court House*, and a capital messuage and land in Ashted..."

On review, it strikes the writer, as it has others, that the original seigneurial homestead ("Stede") could well have been sited at the western end of the domain, closer to the Saxon cemetery off Ermyrn Way, and that the Lord's residence [imagined by Lowther as "...a timber-built Hall with a thatched roof and rather less imposing than a present-day barn] actually stood in the area later named *Old Court* [with reference to an ancient or earlier mansion and former venue for the court baron? In the neighbouring parish, an old manor house was also separated and became a farmhouse called *Epsom Court*]. This with the land associated with Priors Farm possibly represented Laurence of Rouen's endowment of the "capella of Estede" with a virgate [quarter of a hide, commonly taken to measure 30 acres although variable] and, consistent with Howard Davies' conclusions, the chapel is likely to have been established adjacent to what was at that time the manor house. If Merton Abbey acquired the old Hall, before 1291, following the construction of a replacement "big house" for the De Maras, one can understand why it became a titular Manor, from long usage, qualified as *Little Ashted*. Copyholds in the vicinity included *The Vicaridge or Parsonage*. As has been suggested elsewhere, these premises might have been the priest's house for chaplains at the De Mara chantry dedicated to St. Mary. Whether or not the "perpetual" chantry had fallen into disuse as a consequence of the Black Death, Edward VI's Commissioners would not have found it when they investigated St. Giles' in 1547. Curiously, on Sir Robert Howard's purchase of "the manor of Ashted, alias Great Ashted", in 1680, reference was made to the advowson and churches [plural]²².

Geoffrey Gollin wrote about William Chippindall as the "Last Lord of Little Ashted Manor"²³, mentioning that he had been a solicitor with offices at 56 Great Queen's (sic) Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, who purchased the manorial rights of Little Ashted in 1820. A recently located document²⁴ has revealed that, by 1838, William Chippindall had gone to Brussels to reside with his son, Robert John, a merchant. In consideration of two payments aggregated at only fifteen shillings, recognition that the father had been provided for a time past with board and lodging by Robert and an undertaking to provide support for the remainder of his life, William conveyed to his son a package of assets which included "All that Manor or Lordship or reputed Manor or Lordship of Ashted, otherwise Asted..." Gollin assumed there would be title deeds to the manorial rights but such formal documentation, or any real privileges, seems to have been non-existent. Since the transaction comprised a three-stall stable and coach house in the New Yard, Great Queen Street, (on land later to be used as part of the site for Freemason's Hall and Tavern), the alleged feudal rights are unlikely to have been regarded by the parties as having substance or any true value at that stage. Unless, therefore, it can be established that the supposed lordship was devised in his lifetime or bequeathed by Will of Robert John Chippindall one must assume any claim expired with him.

In conclusion, one cannot do better than repeat the words of Mr J. E. Smith published in *Ashtead Parish Magazine* for July 1902²⁵: “Nothing has been found, in the course of a somewhat extensive research, to show that the usual manorial rights, customs and privileges ever attached to the estate: no records in the Court Rolls seem to indicate it; but of its antiquity there can be no doubt”.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Barry Cox who, independently, had recognised the significance of *Old Court's* name and of that property's location in the topography. Having been privileged with details of his other ideas about *Little Ashtead*, this article is, in part, a response to questions posed. I am also grateful to John Sheaf, a Trustee of Twickenham Museum, for permission to use a photograph from his private collection as well as for a pointer to references in the literature about Newdigates in Hampton. Ann Williams made helpful suggestions for improvement of the text.

Much background information about members of the Newdigate family is available from *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* in articles written by Dr. Vivienne Larminie as research editor for the 17th century. Her book, *Wealth, kinship and culture; the seventeenth century Newdigates of Arbury and their world* (Boydell and Brewer for the Royal Historical Society, 1995), and a piece, *Marriage and the family: the example of the seventeenth century Newdigates*, in *Midland History* (University of Birmingham, V.9, 1984) offer valuable insights.

NOTES

- 1 Davies, H. J., 1999, The Manor of Ashtead, Part II, 1189–1296. *Proc. L. & D. L.H. Soc.* **6**, 3, 67–70.
2003. Ashtead chapel & church in the 12th & 13th centuries and the origins of Little Ashtead Manor. *Proc. L. & D. L.H. Soc.* **6**, 7, 179–184.
- 2 Manning, O. and Bray, W., 1804–1814, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey*, p.626
- 3 L & D LHS Archives, AW 507
- 4 Manning and Bray, Op. cit. p.630
- 5 L & D LHS Archives, AW 507
- 6 - :- - :-
- 7 Manning and Bray, Op. cit. p.628
- 8 - :- - :-
- 9 Manning and Bray, Op. cit. p.630
- 10 *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1845, Female biographies of English History. p. 380.
- 11 - :- - :-
- 12 Senate House Library, University of London, GB 0096 MS 652
- 13 National Archives E44 / 327
- 14 Garside, Bernard, 1953, Lanes and fields of Hampton during the seventeenth century Betham, Rev. William, 1803, *The Baronetage of England etc.*, Vol. III. The Latin inscription on Henry Newdigate's "tomb" in St Mary's Church, Hampton, as reported, was very similar to the one to be found on a tablet at Ashtead but made no mention of a brother or wife: - "MS Henrici Newdigate,

- Arm., quondam hujus Mancosi [interpreted by the compiler as 'manor'], Dom; Filii secundo geniti Johannis Newdigate de Arbury, in com. Warw. Militis, Qui quidem Henricus magnam hospitalitatem tenuit. Improlis ob. An. Aetatis suae 48, A.D. 1629. Newdigate was not, in truth, Lord of the manor which had been subsumed by the "Honour of Hampton Court" belonging to the Crown by statute CAP.V 31 Hen, VIII
- 15 Lowther, A.W.G., 1966, Henry Newdigate, Lord of the Manor of "Little Ashtead", *Proc. L. & D. L.H. Soc.* 2, 10, p. 283
Jackson, A. A. (Ed), 1977, *Ashtead, a village transformed*, p124.
 - 16 National Archives E134 / 22 Jas.I /East 21 & E134 /22 Jas. I /Trin. 2.
 - 17 Victoria County History, 1911, *A History of the County of Surrey*, Vol. 3, Ashtead, fn. 50 Chan. Proc. Eliz. Nn. 3, no. 31.
 - 18 Nottinghamshire archives DD / 4P /25 / 2.
National Archives E 134 / 7Jas. / Mich.11 & E133 /42 / 42.
 - 19 Lever, R. A., 1980, A recent accession of Ashtead manorial documents. *Proc. L. & D. L. H. Soc.* 4, 4, p. 105.
Surrey History Centre, SHS 2614.
 - 20 L. & D. LHS Archives, AW 507.
 - 21 - :- - :- -
 - 22 Lever, R. A., 1980, A recent accession of Ashtead manorial documents. *Proc. L. & D. L.H. Soc.* 4, 4, p.106.
 - 23 Gollin, G. J., 1983, William Chippindall, Last Lord of Little Ashtead Manor. *Proc L. & D. L. H. Soc.* 4, 4, p191.
 - 24 Library and Museum of Freemasonry FMH D / 17
 - 25 L & D LHS Library

THE DARCY FAMILY IN ASHTEAD DURING THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES: A TALE INVOLVING TREASON, ATTAINDER, RE-DISTRIBUTION OF LAND, AND MONOPOLIES

By BRIAN BOUCHARD

Members of the Darcy family may be found mentioned in the various histories of Ashtead but this article is intended to draw the pieces together in a wider, national context.

As with so many other things, a momentous starting point for the narrative is a decision by Henry VIII to close the monasteries progressively and expropriate their assets. Not only was the populace confused and angered by what was happening but, in 1536, there were uprisings, particularly one in Yorkshire which became known as “The Pilgrimage of Grace”¹, headed by priests and characterized as a “crusade”. Greatly outnumbered by insurgents, some of the king’s forces retired to Pontefract Castle which was commanded by a veteran soldier, Thomas Darcy (1st Baron Darcy of Temple Hurst, b. circa 1467), but he claimed a lack of sufficient armaments for defence and sided with the rebels. Subsequently, the Duke of Norfolk negotiated peace on terms that most of the demands would be conceded and a free pardon granted to all involved in the insurrection who dispersed quietly. Henry VIII had different ideas and issued an order during January 1537 about what should happen to those who had taken part in the rebellion: “Cause such dreadful executions upon a good number of the inhabitants, hanging them on trees, quartering them and setting the quarters in every town, as shall be a fearful warning”. Aristocrats also suffered vengeance including Lord Darcy who, convicted of high treason on a charge of, *inter alia*, giving up Pontefract Castle “with indecent haste”, was ejected from the Order of the Garter and taken to the block at Tower Hill, 30 June 1537, before his severed head was exhibited on the southern entry to London Bridge. The king denied Thomas’ last request for his body to be laid to rest beside his second wife, Edith, in the church of The Observant Friars in Greenwich, of whom he had been a benefactor, partly because the Order had itself come under attack from Henry VIII.²

His younger son, Sir Arthur Darcy (who married Mary, daughter of Sir Nicholas Carew, at Beddington between 1531 & 1535), had no great expectations by way of inheritance but ingratiated himself with Thomas Cromwell, to gain appointment notwithstanding his father’s behaviour, and helped to pacify the North. Arthur has been described as a “wheeler-dealer, a man about whom there was always a whiff of sharp practice”³: this assessment certainly seems to be borne out by the peculiar way in which he took possession of Sawley Abbey from the rebels and then induced Henry VIII to sell the monastery to him in fee simple, according to Letters patent of 1538, “by the authority of Parliament lately dissolved and suppressed with all houses and edifices situate and built upon and within the same and all and singular demesne lands aforesaid ... and also the Lordships or Manors of Staynforth Langclif and Stanton (and Gisbourne) with the appurtenances etc...”⁴. Edward VI became King of England in 1547 but government had been entrusted to his uncle, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset. until the latter fell from power in 1549. Sir Arthur Darcy was appointed Constable of the Tower of London from 31 October 1551⁵ shortly after the imprisonment there of the former Lord Protector with his wife, Anne, Duchess of Somerset, and his Steward/ Gentleman Usher, Francis Newdigate. Edward Seymour’s execution took place on 26 January 1552 but his widow’s incarceration (and Sir Arthur Darcy’s term of office as Lieutenant of the Tower) continued until the accession of Queen Mary in 1553. Sir Arthur Darcy died in 1561 and his remains were interred in a family

vault at St Botolph's without Aldgate where may be found a memorial inscription⁶:

"Here lyeth Thomas Lord Darcy of the North, and sometime of the Order of the Garter. Sir Nicholas Carew, Knt., sometime of the Garter. Lady Elizabeth Carew, Daughter to Sir Francis Brian, Knt. And Sir Arthur Darcy, Knt., younger Son to the abovenamed Lord Darcy. And Lady Mary his dear Wife, Daughter to Sir Nicholas Carew, Knt., who had ten Sons and five daughters. Here lye Charles, William and Philip, Mary and Ursula, Sons and Daughters to the said Sir Arthur, and Mary his Wife; whose souls God take to his infinite Mercy. Amen"

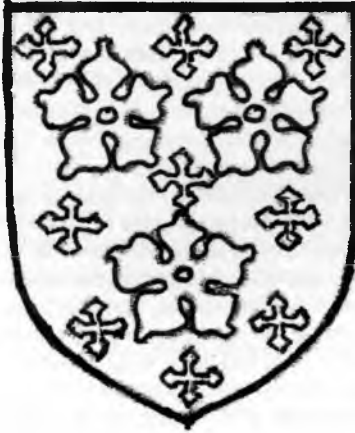


Fig. 1. Arms of the Darcy family. Azure, crusilly and three cinqfoils argent.

Sir Arthur Darcy's will, dated 16 September 1560⁷, left property to seven surviving sons of whom Edward received the manors of Stainforth, Underbergh and Arneforth.

Edward Darcy (b. 1543 as Sir Arthur's 3rd son) was admitted to Inner Temple, November 1561, after matriculating from Trinity College, Cambridge⁸, and followed his forebears to Court becoming Groom of the Privy Chamber to Queen Elizabeth. His uncle, Sir Francis Carew, had been granted Epsom Manor⁹ (forfeited to the Crown following the attainder of Sir Nicholas Carew K.G.), by Queen Mary, in tail male with reversion to the Queen and her successors. Since Sir Francis Carew did not marry, the reversion of this estate was granted to Edward Darcy in 1589, possession eventually passing to him when the former died, 1611.

Reportedly¹⁰, Edward Darcy became an agent for Francis Walsingham [Secretary of State and Queen Elizabeth 1st's spymaster], was Special Ambassador to Anjou, 1583, and served as an attaché to "William the Silent", Prince of Orange, before the prince was murdered in 1584. On 27 January 1586, Darcy was rewarded for his loyalty in the form of a grant of ParkHall / Curdworth & Minworth Manor¹¹ which had been forfeited to the Crown following the execution of Edward Arden: he had been hung drawn and quartered for implication in the "Throgmorton Plot" of 1583. Arden's son¹² subsequently initiated a series of Court cases on the basis that all the property except Curdworth & Minworth had been entailed following a settlement on his marriage in 1573. Darcy countered by inducing King James 1 to give him a fresh grant embracing all the real estate in dispute, but this manoeuvre did not avoid a court order for restitution of half the land to Robert Arden. Spitefully, Edward Darcy then arranged for all the ancient trees growing on that part, called Berwood, to be cut down before the site was returned as swampy waste. Eventually, the area became known as Castle Vale, Birmingham, and was used to build one of the largest post-war social housing estates in Europe.

In 1594, Edward Darcy had purchased the Ashtead manor house with the demesne lands from John Ballet, citizen and goldsmith of London, for himself, wife Elizabeth (nee Ashley) and heirs at a cost of £2133¹³ — perhaps funded by selling off his land in Yorkshire from the manors, previously mentioned, of Stainforth, Underbergh and Arneforth, before he disposed of the residual manorial rights there on a lease for 500 years from 1595. The following year, as

another sign of Royal favour, Elizabeth I granted the Lordship of Great or Magna Ashtead to Elizabeth Darcy and her sons Robert & Christopher Darcy for their lives. As outlined elsewhere, however, Henry Newdigate laid claim to the site and demesne lands and inexplicably succeeded with his cause in Chancery. Sir Edward Darcy, having been knighted on 23 April 1603, was given the use of Dartford Priory for life in 1606¹⁴.

Throughout the final third of Queen Elizabeth I's reign, there developed, as a money-making exercise, the use of the royal prerogative to licence monopolies. Edward Darcy sought one in 1588, to make and export pelts and skins, and became proprietor of at least three others:-

a) By investing £500 to obtain Letters Patent¹⁵, for the shorter of his life or 20 years, to Search and Seal all Leather in England as provided in the statute for Shoe-leather, and to set up an inspection hall at Smithfield by the end of 1592. An ensuing dispute with the City of London resulted in "Mr Darcie" assaulting Sir George Barnes during a conference at the Lord Mayor's house in March 1592; by 1595, the wives of certain Leathersellers were complaining that they had been imprisoned and of "the great extremity offered unto them by Mr Edward Darcie, in the pursuit of his Patent". Eventually the matter was taken to the House of Lords where, after twelve months, judgement was given by the Attorney General. Although Darcy's patent was cancelled, the Leathersellers and City of London were ordered to pay the Crown compensation amounting to £4,500

b) On 13 June 1588, the Queen had granted licence to Ralph Bowes to manufacture, import and sell all playing cards to be marketed in England. These rights were passed on, about 1598, to Edward Darcy who re-registered title with the Stationers Company on 3 November 1600. Having discovered that a haberdasher, T. Allein, was making and selling cards himself, Darcy sued but lost, in what has become known as "The Case of Monopolies"¹⁶, on the grounds that a grant of exclusive rights to produce any article was improper.

&

c) The sole importation and exporting of cork also adjudged a prohibited monopoly.

Basilikon Doron, meaning royal gift, originally written by James VI of Scotland for the guidance of his eldest son, Henry Frederick Stuart, was republished in London on the king's accession to the throne of England as James I. John Newdigate of Arbury (1571–1610) was one of many who wrote to congratulate the monarch on his wisdom and to encourage reform, inveighing against many things including the loathsome parasites who bought monopolies from the Crown and proceeded to use them to fleece the defenceless. In this, one may detect a further indication of the existence of bad blood between members of the Newdigate and Darcy families. Time and again, Edward Darcy, described as "avid", seems to have been unlucky and disadvantaged financially by these ventures but the Crown looked after its own interests at least until the issues led ultimately to the Statute of Monopolies in 1623 (21 Ja.1 c.3), as a basis for patent law.

Returning to the subject of property holding in Ashtead, a minute of a Court Baron held on 4 October 1602¹⁷ reveals that William and Judith Kyng, his wife, had been admitted to James Kyng's copyholds; a messuage and pastures, *Pondesfield*, *Broadhaies*, & *Pitters*, plus a tenement called *Blakes* and a croft with 6 acres known as *Swallowes*. They immediately attempted to surrender all those premises to Edward Darcy but encountered a complaint from John Brown and Abired Richbell. Following negotiations and a quitclaim, however, Edward Darcy gained admission for himself, his heirs and assigns. Since this event was after Henry Newdigate had initiated his claim against the Darcys for "recovery" of the manor house site with demesne lands,

in 1601, it is unclear why Edward Darcy went ahead to acquire adjoining copyholds: was he simply confident of success in defence and only enlarging his estate or intent upon retaining a foothold in Ashtead should matters turn out badly? During 1605¹⁸, James I granted the manor [Lordship] of Ashtead to Thomas, Earl of Arundel, which indicates that the life interest granted to Elizabeth Darcy, and her sons, had reverted to the Crown earlier. Interestingly, on April Fool's Day 1606¹⁹, Sir Edward Darcy and his spouse were given permission to lease the manor house and demesne lands to Alexander Rediche and Robert Darcy (the eldest son) because the latter was pledged to marry Grace Rediche, Alexander's elder daughter, with a provision for the lease to pass down to her and her heirs after the demise of her prospective husband. This does suggest that, at that date, title to the estate was still considered to be sound. In the event, the Darcys' case failed and they retained only the copyholds running north with plots on both sides of Hilders Lane from *Blakes Close* (recently "Headmaster's House") through *Perrycroft* to *Swallows*. A deed (mentioned above as relating primarily to Curdworth, Minworth etc in Warwickshire) executed on 3 May 1609 also purported to give "the same Sir Edward Darcy, Knt., and Sir Robert Darcy, Knt., his son and heir, and Dame Grace, wife of the said Sir Robert, the manor of Ashtead, co. Surr.,...to hold to Sir Edward Darcy for life with remainder to Sir Robert Darcy and Grace Darcy and the heirs and assigns of Sir Robert Darcy,..." Since Great or Magna Ashtead had previously been granted to the Earl of Arundel, this provision would appear to have been *ultra vires*: in fact, subsequent Courts Baron continued to name Anne, dowager Countess of Arundel as Lady of the Manor.

No record of Robert Darcy's marriage has been traced (although the listing of a gift by Henry, Prince of Wales, on 4 November 1605, of a gold cup and cover at the christening of Sir Robert Darcy's "chylde" suggests it could have been at least a year earlier than the betrothal mentioned in the lease of 1606) and, because the Ashtead estate proposed as a dowry was taken over by Newdigate, one cannot say where he set up home with his bride, Grace. By 1609²⁰, Sutton manor had been conveyed to him by his father but this property was held in trust for the term of Sir Francis Carew's life which resulted in reversion of the real estate not coming to Sir Robert Darcy until Carew died, 16 May 1611. Coulsdon (*in tail male*) and Epsom manors descended to Robert's father, Sir Edward Darcy, but the latter himself expired in 1612. His interment took place during the hours of darkness in the chancel of St. Botolph's without Aldgate where a memorial tablet²¹ survives bearing the words:

"Here lyeth Sir Edward Darcy, Knt., third Son of Sir Arthur Darcy, Knt., Of the Privy Chamber to the late Queen Elizabeth. He married the Daughter of Thomas Asteley, Esq., by whom he had fifteen Children. Sir

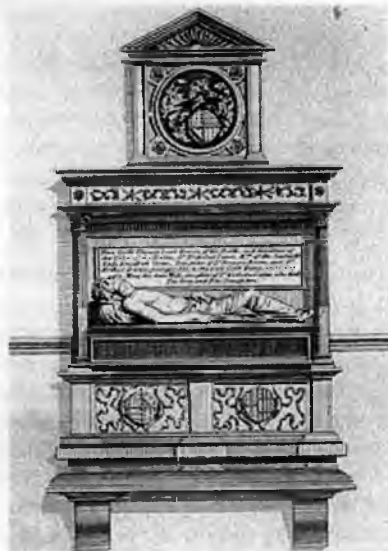


Fig. 2. Lord Darcy's monument, from Smith's Antiquities of London, 1791. (Courtesy Westminster City Archive and Motco Enterprises Ltd.) In Some Account of London, 1813, Thomas Pennant describes the figure as Thomas, Lord Darcie, knight of the Garter, "representing him asleep, with a shroud wrapped round him, his face, breast and arms naked".

Robert Darcy, Knt., his eldest Son, caused him to be buried in this Vault amongst his Ancestors, according to his Desire. He died at his House called Dartford Place in Kent, Octob. 28. Anno Dom. 1612. He being 69 Years old."

In addition to Coulsdon & Epsom, Robert inherited Curdworth & Minworth²². Dartford Place was also acquired by purchase in the following year²³. Grace Darcy who was, with her younger sister, co-heiress of Alexander Redish(e), otherwise Rediche²⁴, gained Newhall, Derbyshire, following his demise in 1613 resulting in her family becoming spoilt for choice of residences.

According to the custom of Ashtead manor, the copyholds should have devolved on Sir Edward Darcy's demise to the youngest son, Carew, but he surrendered them to Sir Robert Darcy and obtained permission to let at a Court Baron²⁵ in 1617. There had been difficulties over administration of Sir Edward's estate that had not been resolved before Sir Robert, who had been Usher of the Bedchamber to Henry Frederick Stuart, Prince of Wales (and, following the elder prince's demise in 1612, to the future King Charles), died about the end of March 1618 and the task passed to another brother, Christopher. [Sir Robert Darcy, "who departed this mortall life at Bermondsey House in Southwark" has a final claim to fame with a report on his autopsy contained in William Harvey's *Circulation of Blood*: "...about the middle period of life (aged around 36!) ...the wall of the left ventricle of the heart (had) ruptured..." His burial, in the chancel of St Botolph without Aldgate took place during the night of 4 April 1618]

Sir Robert Darcy's son and heir, Edward, had been born in 1610 [baptised 10 February 1609/10 at St Ann's, Blackfriars] but "The Lady Grace Darcy, widow," succeeded as copyhold tenant for life of the land in Ashtead. A terrier²⁶ to John Lawrence's map of 1638 shows that she continued to possess a house in a five acre plot on Farm Lane, together with the following:-

Blakes	2a. 2r. 1p.	Broadfield	7a. 3r. 10p.
Bramley	6a. 1r. 18p.	Jealous Meadow	5a. 0r. 0p.
Broadhurst	4a. 3r. 7p.	(2 plots)	3a. 1r. 10p.
Pawnsfield	5a. 3r. 9p.	Sheep House Field	6a. 1r. 8p.
Petters	5a. 1r. 36p.	Swallows Hay	1a. 0r. 10p.
Piggots	2a. 0r. 38p.		

to a total of 106 acres although her main home appears to have been maintained at Sutton. On 10 April 1640, an attorney appeared to represent Lady Grace Darcy and her son and heir, Edward, at a Court Baron²⁷ in order to surrender Blakes, with some other land, to Lord Mowbray & Maltravers and to grant a right of way to the manor house. At the next court, held 3 May 1641, Dame Grace was reported to have died: she had, in fact, been buried at St Ann's, Blackfriars, the previous 24 April. Most of her residual estate had been willed to two unmarried daughters, Elizabeth and Mary.

Her son, Edward, only 8 when his father died, was then placed under royal wardship but faced further attempted predation by Henry Newdigate as evidenced by a case against the latter and co-defendants John Somers and James Matthews over "incroachments upon the warde's Manor of Ebbisham in two several parcels of ground thene called Nutshambles" (alleged to have been within Ashtead manor), which was heard on 19 June 1628 only to be referred for trial by jury at the next Surrey Assizes. Having gained control of the various manors on reaching his majority, he married, aged 22, Elizabeth Evelyn (the 18 year old daughter of Richard Evelyn of Wotton) at St. Anne's, Blackfriars, on 25 October 1632, to become the brother in law of John

Evelyn, “the Diarist”. In a memoir of the event, which had taken place when he was aged only 12, Evelyn wrote²⁸: “My eldest sister was married to Edward Darcy, Esq., who little deserved such an excellent person, a woman of so rare virtue. I was not present at the nuptials.” There is an explanation for the tone of bitterness: a child, also called Elizabeth, arrived on 2 June 1634 but her mother died 15 December 1634 and “was followed to the grave” by the infant. In relation to these events, John Evelyn observed that Darcy “was the worst of men” and wrote a note to John Aubrey, suggesting that “...he ruined both himself and Estate by his dissolute life...”

Edward Darcy of Newhall, Derbyshire and Dartford Place, Kent, remarried (circa 1640) Elizabeth Stanhope, a daughter of the 1st Earl of Chesterfield, by whom he had four daughters³⁰. Little is known about the life of Lady Elizabeth Darcy although she featured among other aristocratic women in a scurrilous and polemic pamphlet, *Newes from the New Exchange, or the commonwealth of ladies drawn to the life in their several characters and concernments*, attributed to the Republican writer Henry Neville, which was “Printed in the year of women without Grace 1650”. She was also the addressee, as a “cousin german”, of an epigram containing obscure classical references - penned by Sir Aston Cockayne (1608–1684), a somewhat derided poet. Another by that author, “To my honoured kinsman, Mr Edward Darcy”, comments on an extravagant lifestyle:-

“Repair your house at *Newhall*, and hast down,
And leave the noise of this expenceful Town;
You here deprive your self of many a good
To be enjoy’d by Countrey-solitude.
Pretend not want of Companie; For I
Will waite upon you oft, that live thereby.
You may reply you better would; I grant it:
Keep a good house there, and you need not want it.”

On his mother’s demise, 1641, Edward was mentioned in the Will with an injunction that a debt of £300, for which Dame Grace stood surety, should be repaid and not accepted as a charge on the deceased’s estate. During 1659, this individual [rather than his grandfather, Sir Edward, as suggested by Manning & Bray¹³] conveyed Epsom manor³¹ to Anne Mynne (widow of George Mynne of Woodcote who had died in 1648), mother in law of Richard Evelyn (diarist John’s younger brother), allegedly because Darcy was “a headstrong and wilful man who as a result of gambling was forced to sell” that property. Before 1663, Edward Darcy seems to have concluded that he would not obtain a male heir in which case both Sutton³² and Coulsdon manors would revert to the Crown in due course. Anticipating such an eventuality, the holdings were surrendered to Charles II, presumably raising money to meet Darcy’s further needs. The King was then in a position to re-grant those estates to Jerome, Earl of Portland for other valuable payment. After it was reported, at a Court Baron³³ held 21 September 1669, that Darcy had died it was found that he had not left a Will. Administration of the intestate’s estate, which appears to have begun in March 1670, resulted in a quarter of the manor of Curdworth & Minworth³⁴ being passed to each child. However, determination of the residue evidently became protracted because in Ashtead, for example, “the co-heirs of Ed. Darcy Esq.” continued to be listed as copyhold tenants in a rent roll for 1681³⁵. At a Court Baron held 14 September 35 Chas. II (1683) there were surrenders by William Barnes of Curdworth, Sir Erasmus Phillips and Thomas Millward (who, respectively, had married Edward Darcy’s daughters Elizabeth, Katherine & Anne) and The Lady Dorothea Rokeby, nee

Dorothy Darcy, widow of Sir William Rokeby: thereafter the Darcy copyholds were acquired by Sir Robert Howard to be submerged in his manorial estate.

Only a distant reflection of the family's presence in the Parish remains with the naming of Darcy Road on a post-WW II development of land that had once formed part of the Great Meadow.

NOTES

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- 2 Page, W. (Ed.), 1926, *A history of the County of Kent*, p. 194, The Observant Friars of Greenwich.
- 3 Hoyle, R. W., 2001, Op. cit.. p.79
- 4 Langcliffe Millenium Project and Langcliffe Local History Group, 2000.
- 5 Nichols, J.G. (Ed.), 1848, *The Diary of Henry Machyn: Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London (1550-1563)*, pp. Xiv–XIX.
- 6 Strype, J., 1720, *A survey of the cities of London and Westminste*, p. 16. "This Thomas Lord Darcy, and Sir Nicholas Carew (who was Master of the King's Horse) were both beheaded on the Tower Hill: The former because he was one (howsoever constrained thereto by the Rebels) of the Commotion in Yorkshire; who opposed the Alienation of the Abby Lands by K. Henry VIII. Anno 1536. — The second for being of Council with Henry (Courtney) Marquis of Exeter, and Henry Poole Lord Mountague. Who were indicted and found guilty of High Treason for contriving to maintain, promote, and advance, one Reginald Poole, late Dean of Exeter, a great Enemy to the King, then beyond the Sea, and to deprive the King, and set up the said Poole in his Room. Anno 1539.

Sir Arthur Darcy, here mentioned, was first buried in the new Abby of Eastminster, where he deceas'd; for what reason he was removed is not related: most likely on the account of this being the burial Place of his Ancestors. See Weaver's ancient funeral Monuments, Printed in 1635. p. 426: See also Stow's Annals." [Eastminster was St Mary of the Graces suppressed 1539 and granted to Sir Arthur Darcy, subsequently pulled down for a storehouse/victualling yard to be built on the site east of Tower Hill]
- 7 Langcliffe Millenium Project and Langcliffe Local History Group, 2000.
- 8 Richardson, D. & Everington, K.G., 2005, *Magna Carta Ancestry: A study in Colonial and Medieval Families*.
- 9 Malden, H.E., (Ed.), 1911, *A history of the County of Surrey*. Vol. 3, pp. 271–278.
- 10 Wilson, R., 2004, *Secret Shakespeare: Studies in Theatre, Religion and Resistance*. p. 105.
- 11 Salzman, L. F., (Ed) , 1947, *A history of the County of Warwick*. Vol. 4, pp. 60–67. Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Copy Letters Patent 3 May 7 Jas.1 (1609)
- 12 Bateson, G., 2005, *A history of Castle Vale*.
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- 14 Richardson, D. & Everington, K.G., 2004, *Plantaganet Ancestry: A study in colonial and Medieval families*.

- 15 Strype, J., 1720, Op. cit., pp. 205–207, also British Library, Lansdowne Papers La.74, 40–62.
- 16 Darcy v. Allein, 1602, Trinity Term, 44, Eliz.1, Kings Bench.
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- 18 Manning, O., & Bray, W., Op. cit., p. 629. Letters Patent 6 June, 2 Jas. 1(1605)
- 19 Ibid p. 630.
- 20 Malden, H.E., (Ed.), 1912, *A history of the County of Surrey*, Volume 4, pp.243–246
- 21 Strype, J.,1720, Op. cit, p.16.
- 22 Salzman, L. F., 1947,Op. cit.
- 23 Halsted, E., 1797, *The history and topographical survey of the County of Kent*, pp. 286–328.
- 24 Farrer, W., & Brownhill, J., (Eds.) 1911, *A history of the County of Lancaster*, Vol.4, pp. 326–329.
- 25 L. & D. LHS. Archives AW 507
- 26 Lever, R. A., 1986, *A cartographical survey of the area*. Proc. L & D L.H. Soc, V 4, No. 10.
- 27 L & D LHS., Archives AW 507
- 28 Evelyn, J. pub. 1818, *Diary*, p 7.
- 30 Salzman, L. F., (Ed), 1947, Op. cit.
- 31 Manning, O. & Bray, W., 1804–1814, Op. cit., p. 611.
- 32 Malden, H. E., (Ed.), 1912, Op. cit.
- 33 L. & D. LHS. Archives , AW 507.
- 34 Salzman, L.F., (Ed.), 1947, Op. cit.
- 35 Jackson, A. A., (Ed.), 1977, *Ashtead, A Village Transformed*, pp. 55/56. L & D L.H. Soc.

A CASE OF ALLEGED HOOLIGANISM AND RIOTOUS ASSEMBLY ON THE STREETS OF ASSTEAD

By BRIAN BOUCHARD

At the beginning of April 2008, the Society's esteemed archivist for Ashtead produced, unsolicited, a selection of material which he thought could merit re-examination. One's eye was caught by a paper¹, bearing the intriguing title "Riots in Ashtead in the Early Seventeenth Century", which was found to be a transcript of a Petition & Joint Answer from Court of Star Chamber Proceedings (temp Jas. 1) previously assumed by A.W. G. Lowther², mistakenly, to have related to Henry Newdigate's possession of "Little Ashtead Manor", a property actually sold off to George Cole of Petersham on 17 June 1602.

Taking first acceptable statements of fact, Sir Robert Darcy (misspelled Dacrie in the script) had been a feudal tenant of "one messuage and diverse lands & tenements with appurtenances" [the Darcy copyhold estate] in Ashtead. On the 14 June 1615 Sir Robert demised real property to Ric. Fuller and his assigns for a term of 21 years. From 1 October 1621, Fuller granted use of 27 acres of the land, for a term of 9 years, to Wm. Hill but on 1 November 1621 the latter transferred his interest to Henry Newdigate. Newdigate was "seized of the demesnes of Ashtead, containing a capital messuage and 750 acres", having dispossessed Edward Darcy. The seigneur was, however, Anne, dowager Countess of Arundel, holding a life interest with reversion to her son, Thomas Howard. The Lady of the Manor had approved a scheme, implemented in December 1619, "with consent of the greater proportion of the tenants, freeholders, farmers and inhabitants of the town and manor of Ashtead" for a ditch to be made and gates set up on the west side and other parts of the Common ["Waste"] to exclude the neighbouring towns and others who had no right of common there. [In effect, creating an enclosure which became known as "Little (or Lower) Common" within the "Forest"]

One then turns to Newdigate's Petition and Joint Answers on behalf of Augustine Otway, Rob. Hiller, Tho. White, Jas. Cooke, Dan Peter and John Fray, representing many others who had become involved in the affair. These documents tell conflicting stories.

Henry Newdigate's allegations implicated Raphe (Ralph?) Clowser, "a man of small worth of riotous behaviour" who lived on Leatherhead Common which adjoined the Lower Common on its west side and whose house lay near the boundary fence. It is possible to identify Clowser's home with reasonable certainty,

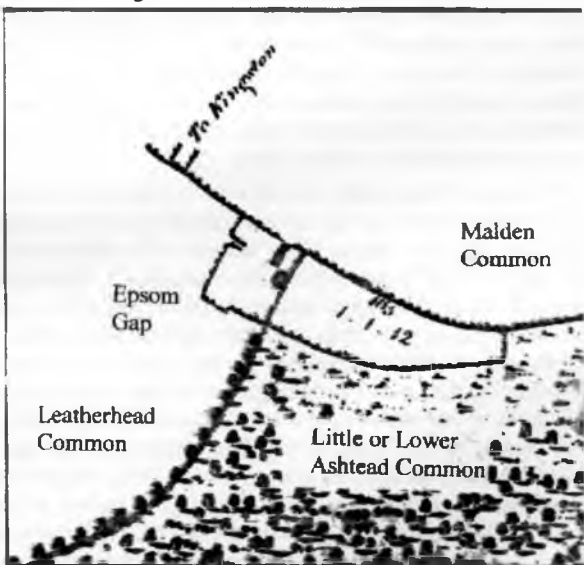


Fig. 1. Map showing the location of Raphe Clowser's house

from the map produced following Wyburd's Survey in 1802, as a structure just over the border, associated with a plot of 1a 1r 12p, in the extreme north west corner of Ashtead Parish. This was the location, in 1450, of "an hawthorn where stood a cross of old time at which cross both the processions of Leatherhead and Ashtead were wont to say their gospels in rogation days" — a point listed in the statement of the bounds of Ashtead on John Lawrence's map of 1638 as "Maldin Common Corner" In the early Ordnance Surveys the property is represented beside the NW entry to Ashtead Woods now known as "Epsom Gap" with "Ashtead Gap" to the south; presumably, these "gaps" remain as reminders of where gates once allowed passage through the fence under consideration.

In outline, Newdigate's version of events was that inhabitants of Ashtead had, "being much displeased" with restrictions placed on their "former practice of (pasturing) undue multitudes of sheep, beasts, dogs & horses", assembled at Raphe Clowser's house on Leatherhead Common during the night and confederated "to digge up and cast down the said Fence and to cutte in pieces the said gates so set up by (Newdigate)" around Ashtead's Lower Common. Further, they drove "great flocks of sheep and lambs and all their herds of horses, beasts, hogs and other commonable cattle" there and on to the other commons, including the West Field (a substantial part of, or alternative name for, the South Field) to "eat up growing corn and grain "greene, unripe, unharvested, unsevered and uninned ". On 3 September 1623, whilst the owners were at home, Newdigate contrived to get some of the livestock impounded but when these actions were discovered the animals were forcibly released. As the controversy continued, inhabitants gathered together in opposition to the actions of Newdigate's men — led by Augustine Otway but involving his own wife Elizabeth and servant, Ann Lee, Wm. Page, with his wife Marie and servant, also called Marie, Tho. White, Jas Westwood, Jas. Cooke, Mrs Anne Cooke, Jeff. Otway, John Otway, George Lambert (Augustine Otway's son in law), John Fraie, with his wife, Jane, Daniel Peter, Mrs Jane Peter, Tho. Mathewe & Isabel , his wife, Rob. Hiller, his sister, Frances Hiller, Ric. Otway and "diverse others" — as a "riotous assembly in the streets of Ashtead". Newdigate's shepherd, Nicholas Glassington, Thomas Deacon and other servants were reported to have been physically abused and, when their master came "casually through the West Field a hawking", he and his supporters were chased away to cries of "Rogues & Rascals & Jackanapes" coupled with threats of bodily harm.

The names listed earlier include a roll call of some of the most worthy inhabitants at that time. On 16 February 1624, joint answers to the charges were produced on behalf of six representatives that seem to offer a more likely statement of circumstances. It was asserted that, following the demise of Sir Robert Darcy, the complainant (Newdigate) held no land in the West Field carrying any right to "intercommon" with the rest of the tenants there whilst his deal with Wm. Hill had been no more than a device to get his whole flock on to that land to the prejudice of the defendants. It was remarked: "By his greatness and power he has used all the said common belonging to the tenants and brings in and feeds his whole flock of sheep there numbering 400 which eat up and stench the Lower Common and West Field and Church Field where he has no right but on his demesnes there". "The complainant acting contrary to custom for three weeks at least before Michaelmas put into (West Field) and North Field his whole flock of folded sheep (without entitlement) for he has not one furrow of land in the same". Augustine Otway with others had driven the animals towards the high way using "a little dogge" (rather than the "dogs and mastiffs" claimed to have been employed to intimidate the shepherd and kill some of the sheep).

The judgement does not appear to have survived but nor is there any evidence of the common people having been placed under restraint. A Court Roll in 1641 mentions William Hiller as having tenure of a Virgate outside the fence, lying in the Common Fields and called "Le Little Common".

NOTES

- 1 L & D LHS Archives AX 1157, National Archives STAC 8/220/8
- 2 Lowther, A. W. G., 1966, Henry Newdigate, Lord of the Manor of "Little Ashtead". *Proc. L & D LHS* 2, 10, 285

THOMAS TYERS OF HOWARD HOUSE, ASHTEAD

By BRIAN BOUCHARD

Thomas Tyers was the eldest son of Jonathan Tyers (1702–1767), about whom much has already been written¹⁻⁵. Jonathan obtained a lease of Spring Gardens, which he developed into the fashionable resort of Vauxhall Gardens and, from 1734, he owned a private estate at Denbies, Dorking. His son “Tom” Tyers (born 1724) occupied apartments in Southampton Street, Covent Garden but spent much time at a country retreat in Ashtead. There was some confusion over the location of his villa, but it has been finally identified⁶ as *Howard House*, also known as *The Cottage* or *The Cot*, which once stood on the south side of Parkers Hill, opposite *Ashtead Lodge*. Tom’s motto was *nulla dies sine linea* (No new day without new writing), and it is believed that the following anonymous poem could have come from his hand.

ASHTEAD COT.*

TIR'D with the noise and smoke of town,
Its crowded streets and sumptuous fare,
To Ashted Cot we oft steal down :
Who wish for Peace may find her there.

There stretch the ample prospects wide,
Fields, woods, down, hills and spires appear ;
The tempting walk, the grateful ride,
Invite thro' all the varied year.

Or there, or no where can be found,
Health, ever rosy, ever gay ;
Content there tills his narrow ground,
And sings the toils of life away.

No foreign dainties glitter there ;
Yet rural plenty there is known :
The home-rear'd poultry's oft your fare,
And mutton fed on Banked Down.

The garden, hemm'd in little space,
Is glad its herbs and fruits to send :
Ne'er is forgot the thankful grace,
Nor wine to toast the absent friend.

Nor Party's voice, nor Faction's roar,
Their baleful influence there have shed ;
Ill-nature never op'd the door,
Nor Spleen once dar'd to fiew her head.

Yet books their moral store display,
And social wit and chat go round ;
The muse there tunes her rustic lay,
And Leisure loves th' enchanted ground,

Tho' Pride on humble scenes looks down,
And longs in pomp to pass the hours,
There are, who gladly quit the town,
For tranquil joys in Ashted bew'rs.

* A villa belonging to T— T——, Esq. Ashted is a small village between Epsom and Leatherhead, in Surrey.

NOTES

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2. Boswell, J., 1807, *The Life of Samuel Johnson*
3. Lowther, A.W.G., 1960, *Proc. L&D LHS* 2, 4, 121–122
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5. Lever, R. A., 1986, ———, 4, 10, 289
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THE LIFFORDS AND SKILTONS OF ASHTEAD

By GWEN HOAD

To celebrate Kenneth Arthur Lifford's recent 90th birthday, Janice Hammond and I thought it appropriate to give an account of his own life story and those of some of his ancestors.

Kenneth has lived all his life in the same house in Gladstone Road, Ashtead, apart from during his war service. He was born in the house on October 5th 1918, the last of six children after Fred, Elsie, Reg, Kathleen and Bert, all of whom predeceased him.

His father, Frederick Thomas, was born in 4 Booth's Cottages, Leatherhead, and later lived in Magazine Place. He was a gardener, and at one time worked for Miss Jessie Elliston, headmistress of Parson's Mead School. (Miss Elliston had started her school in Woodfield Lane in 1897, but in 1904 took over Parson's Mead, then a private house, for her school.) Ken's brothers Fred and Reg, and sisters Elsie and Kathleen, lived with their parents in what was virtually a tin hut in the grounds of the school. It was alongside Ottways Lane and to the left of the entrance to the school, and was pulled down in the mid 1960s. When Kathleen was born, Miss Elliston said "That's enough, time to move on". She must have thought that their home was now too overcrowded.

In 1911 the Lifford family moved to 9 Connaught Villas (as they were then called) in Gladstone Road. Bert was born there in 1913, and Ken followed five years later. After leaving Parson's Mead, Ken's father worked as a gardener at various large houses in the area, including for a Mr Thompson who moved to Wimbledon Hill from Leatherhead, where Fred still worked occasionally.

Ken's grandfather, also Frederick, was a gardener at *The Priory*, owned at the time by A.H.Tritton, JP. One foggy evening as he was crossing Gimcrack Hill on foot to go to light the fires in *The Priory's* greenhouses, he was knocked down by a bus on its way to Dorking, and killed; he was 66.

Ken's mother, Amy Skilton, was born in 1875. She was probably born where she lived as a baby, in one of the pair of railwaymen's cottages called *Howard's Crossing Cottages*, just inside the Ashtead boundary and west of The Wells, right beside the railway line. Her father, William Skilton, was a railway maintenance worker or "fettler". Amy's mother was Eliza Jane Corbet before her marriage. Before the railway came, there was a track across the Common on which the Hon. Mary Howard could travel from Ashtead Park but, when the railway was built, a crossing over it was provided. This became known as Howard's Crossing, and a crossing-keeper was originally housed there. These cottages were still occupied in the late 1950s, their only access being via a footpath from the top of Craddocks Avenue. Today a large electricity sub-station occupies the site.

The Skilton family was very large, there being fifteen children eventually, and Amy was number six. They were also very poor and needed assistance. It was the local doctor who paid the fee of about a penny a week so that Amy could attend St Giles' School. As an older girl, she was a pupil teacher there but, when she was 16 or 17 years old, she was transferred to teach at Malden Rushett School. The schoolroom was next to the *Star* public house in the Chessington Road. For seven years she walked to the school and back every day, from her home in Ashtead, down Green Lane, across the railway and over the Common, in all weathers, a distance of at least two miles each way. She left the school in 1897, having been much thought of.

Amy's family lived at various addresses in Ashtead. In 1881, when she was six years old, they occupied what used to be the old Ashtead workhouse in Epsom Road near Farm Lane. In the 1891 census their address was *Chitty's Cottages* in Woodfield Lane; at that time, Amy was 16 years old and already working as a teacher. Later, they also lived in Glebe Road and Crampshaw Lane. Opposite their home in Crampshaw Lane was a field where one of Amy's brothers would dig up mangelwurzels so that their mother could make a vegetable stew in a large pot. Amy bought the other vegetables, tobacco for her father and something for her mother, all out of one shilling.

Amy's mother, Ken's maternal grandmother, Eliza Jane Corbet, was living with the Corbet family in no. 2 *Elm Cottage* on the Woodfield in 1851 and 1861. (This was the same cottage that the Stones were living in later on¹.) In the past, Ashtead was such a tight-knit community that such family connections are common.

Ken himself went to the council school in Barnett Wood Lane, which opened in 1911. Stan Paul and Eddy Harris (who I have already mentioned in earlier papers^{2,3}) were there at the same time, and stayed there until they were 11 years old. Ken fondly remembers the caretaker, Billy Smith, who lived at 84 Barnett Wood Lane, nearly opposite the school, and who would play football with the boys. Some of the children would, until they were 11, go for one day a week to Leatherhead Central School, the boys to do carpentry and the girls to do cookery. When they were 11, they all went to the senior school, which became known as Leatherhead Central School in 1926. It was previously called the Senior Mixed Council School and was situated where Woodville School (now Trinity) is today. Ken walked along Barnett Wood Lane to get there, like so many Therfield pupils do now. He says that he was not entitled to a travel allowance, unlike children living in Taylor Road. During his last year at the Central School, Ken did nothing but art, at which he was very good, winning awards from the Royal Drawing Society. Examples of his watercolours, and drawings of local scenes, adorn the walls of his home.

One of Ken's memories of old Ashtead was of seeing James Weller of Woodfield Farm taking his cows to the field in Green Lane, where prefabs were later built; James knew every cow by its name. Another memory from the 1920s or early 1930s was of seeing vagrants stopping at the Hon. Mary Howard Memorial Fountain near the corner of The Marld, for a drink of water. They would be on their way to the Spike at Epsom Union Workhouse, after walking from the Spike in Guildford. ("Spike" was a slang term for a doss-house or night hostel for the homeless. It had its origins in the spike or tool used in the past to unravel oakum, or old rope, which was used in shipbuilding to make seams watertight, or in the building trade for the same purpose.) The Epsom workhouse was on the site of the modern Epsom Hospital. A separate ward with 60 beds provided vagrants with a night's board and lodging, for which they were expected to do some work. It seems to have been still operating until the end of the 1920s, when the hospital became established.

Ken and his brothers Reg and Bert, along with Stan Paul, were all in St George's Church choir, Ken from the age of eight until his voice broke at 16. When Ken left school at 14, he went to work with his brother Fred, who had a boot and shoe repairing business in Wallington. He cycled there and back for several years. Harry Astridge lived opposite the Liffords in Gladstone Road and had a business on the Woodfield repairing boots and shoes, and Ken's brother Fred had gone to work there for a time when he left school at 14.

Ken's brother Bert taught him to drive, and he practiced on the field next to the Peace Memorial Hall, where the car-park is now. He was one of the first drivers to take a test. In 1939, at the

age of 21, Ken joined the army and was sent to Bovington Camp, where there was a training school for tank drivers. He became a tank instructor there and, during his last two or three years, travelled a lot with a group of instructors, even as far as Scotland. He was discharged from the army in 1946.

Back in "civvy street", Harry Astridge introduced Ken to Wilf Harding, who had a boot and shoe repairing business at 19 Bridge Street, Leatherhead. From about 1953 he ran his own business in the same trade, at 16 Caen Wood Road, when Thomas Westing gave it up; the workshop was in the garden. Ken's brother Fred, who had been in the Fire Service during the war and was a bus driver after it, came to help Ken in his spare time. But, by 1960, trade had become very bad, with only half the number of customers he had before, so Ken decided to give it up. Now his driving skills again came in handy, and he went to work for Richmonds in Epsom (now Epsom Coaches). He worked there for 24 years, eight years as a coach driver and the rest in the office until he retired. His very neat handwriting was an asset in the office.

Ken married Margaret Barrett in 1960, and they have two daughters, Sarah and Alison, and two grandsons, Matthew and James.

I would like to acknowledge the help I have had from Janice and Les Hammond, and the hospitality I have had from Ken and Margaret Lifford.

NOTES

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2. Hoad, G. 2004 James Weller—farmer of Ashted. *Proc. L. & D. LHS* 6, 216–221.
3. Hoad, G. 2005 The enigma of Duke's Hall, Ashted. *Proc. L. & D. LHS* 6, 248–251.

WHERE WAS LEATHERHEAD'S EARLY CHURCH?

By GEOFFREY HAYWARD

Since W.J. Blair's learned and interesting article "The origins of Leatherhead Parish Church"¹, as far as I know we do not seem to have made any advance towards discovering a site in the old Leatherhead vill area. After that article was written, a great motorway (the M25) has carved its way through the fringe of the area near *Rowhurst* without much evidence of anything historical having been found in the resultant excavations.

Leatherhead can be taken back to King Alfred's Will (879–888) as a royal vill, being one of five in Surrey². It also had an ancient and important church known by the 10th century as one of the "old minsters" founded in the early days of English Christianity³. (A minster church supported a "team ministry" — a group of priests who served large territories, equivalent in size to several later parishes⁴.) Evidence suggests that this lost royal centre was Pachenesham⁵. Churches were beginning to be established in the area from the 7th century (e.g. Stoke D'Abernon, c. 676) and, unless as in rare cases Roman materials were used, the early Saxon churches could be mostly of timber construction.

A rough date of around 1080 is suggested for the present Leatherhead church, as begun possibly a few years earlier to serve Thorncroft manor, and sited in a commanding position at the top of Gimcrack Hill⁶. Similar churches, associated with a manor are at Fetcham, Bookham, Mickleham and Stoke D'Abernon. All of these were built close to their manor, but they were not minster churches. Thus, as we know that Pachenesham Manor had a private chapel (St Margaret's) in 1328⁷, it seems logical to assume that a busy centre such as a minster church would not have to be positioned close to the manor unless access and communications were good.

As Saxon pagans were still around in the 6th and 7th centuries (evidenced by burials in Ermyng Way⁸), we seem to be left with a gap of about 300 years before present Leatherhead church was built. Certainly Pachenesham seems to have been well established before Thorncroft, as the bulk of Leatherhead's town centre tenements were attached to Pachenesham, and its lord held the market rights⁹. A minster church in the area, with roving priests attached to it, suggests that it would have been sited in a place of easy access from various directions. Perhaps Pachenesham vill looked very different from its present appearance in those days. We are told that there was much more dense woodland a thousand or more years ago and, although we saw in 1968 what the river Mole could do, there must have been much more water around when Pachenesham was a lively manor on the hill above the floodplain, and there is a reference to "waterlogged ground" at Pachenesham¹⁰. Perhaps there was better access to the area from the higher ground to the north of *The Mounds*.

If nothing can be discovered from a study of this area, I have a feeling that a close watch should be kept on any modern development of the area on the fringe of Pachenesham Manor territory — i.e. Gravel Hill and the old *Kingston House* site close to what is known as The Borough¹¹. An example of another village with a Borough or Burh is Holwell in Dorset, and it is interesting that the parish church is located there. In Saxon times, a burh was a fortified post, and others such as Milborne Port, Ilchester and Long Burton existed near Holwell. In Dorset, places whose names contained the word 'minster' were located on a river e.g. Sturminster Newton, Sturminster Marshall and Wimborne Minster.

At Leatherhead there is the river Mole, which flows past Pachenesham near *The Mounds*, but also lies on the fringe of the later more populated area known as Leatherhead. Here, at a

well-used river-crossing where the Harroway is believed to have been used at least as far back as c.1800 B.C.¹² there would seem to be a likely spot for a church, close to a fortified position and with good communication in many directions. Such an early church, possibly of timber, would still have been within the Pachenesham boundary. Perhaps the minster influence began to wane in the Leatherhead area when communications with London (e.g. Southwark) improved, as it was only 20 miles away¹³. For instance, how far apart were minsters in other parts of the country? What was the nearest minster to Leatherhead in the days of a thriving Pachenesham manor, apart from London?

The Borough at Leatherhead is a fascinating area because we know that the market was held there, and in many towns and large villages in Britain the church is frequently to be found at such a location. It is worth noting that, at the Borough, there once stood *Kingston House*; when this was demolished in 1933¹⁴, many tokens and coins, a plague pipe and an oak cross were found¹⁵, apparently well away from the old house. The Leatherhead & District Local History Society did not exist in those days, but it is possible that the Surrey Archaeological Society may have shown an interest.

On a lighter note, which a former President (John Lewarne) would have appreciated, could I suggest that the winners of the current Great Sock Raffle should put on their ex Time Team socks and do some surveying of the area! Once having established a likely location for the old church, perhaps the Time Team itself could be invited to carry out one of their thorough investigations!

NOTES

1. Blair, W.J. 1976 The origins of Leatherhead Parish Church. *Proc. L. & D. L.H.S.*, 3, 323–29.
2. Vardey, E. (ed.) 1988 *History of Leatherhead*, p. 28.
3. *Ibid* p. 29.
4. *Ibid* p. 29.
5. *Ibid* p. 29.
6. *Ibid* p. 34.
7. *Ibid* p. 42.
8. *Ibid* p. 24.
9. *Ibid* p. 38.
10. *Ibid* p. 43.
11. *Ibid* p. 60.
12. *Ibid* p. 18.
13. *Ibid* p. 273.
14. *Ibid* p. 241.
15. *Ibid* p. 143.

WAS LEATHERHEAD EVER THE COUNTY TOWN OF SURREY?

By DEREK RENN

For the Middle Ages, the county town may have been defined as the seat of the royal sheriff where, at above manorial level, taxes and fines were paid and justice was dispensed. Periodically, some of the king's justices toured the whole country 'on eyre' to check for abuses.

The recent publication of the text of the 1258/9 Special Eyre of Surrey and Kent is an opportunity to revisit this question. At the eyre, the men of Woking said that 'the whole county complains that the king, to the great detriment of the whole county, moved the county court to Guildford at one end of the county which was accustomed to be held at Leatherhead in the centre'. The jurors of Wotton made a similar complaint.¹ Allowing for hyperbole (the men of Guildford, for example, weren't made worse off by such a removal), this does suggest that Leatherhead was believed, by some at least, to have been the seat of county justice, if not the county town, at some time previously. This certainly seems to have been the case for the county court shortly before 1223, in 1249 and in 1252, although general business had been done at Guildford in 1179, 1190, 1210 and 1225, assizes had been held there in 1228 and 1232, and gaol delivery from 1246.² In the very first issue of our *Proceedings*³, John Harvey stated that by 1292/3 the manor of Pashesham was held in chief of the king by serjeanty of finding a prison, a pound for beasts distrained for the king's debt, and a bench for the county court when it was wont to be held. He suggested that Leatherhead had been the county town at the time of the original institution of county courts by king Alfred, but the serjeanties were almost certainly obsolete by 1195. The same serjeanties were mentioned in 1235 and 1258.⁴ A later note, probably by the then editor [Frank Benger], brought together notices of some disparate meetings at Leatherhead in the 16th and 17th century; he suggested that the court's removal to Guildford *circa* 1259 was only temporary.⁵

The evidence seems to be against this last supposition. Leatherhead was divided between the two manors of Pashesham and Thorncroft before 1066, and neither was retained by the Conqueror as a royal estate thereafter, although Pashesham passed to the Crown on Odo of Bayeux' disgrace for a century until its gift by King John to Brian *hostarius*.⁶

By contrast, Guildford stands at the head of the Surrey folios of Domesday Book, a royal *villa* with a value and population both at least three times that of Leatherhead, together with mention of fines, jurisdiction and a sheriff. King Henry III stayed at Guildford over sixty times during his long reign (1216–72). He spent a whole fortnight here in 1257 and granted the men of Guildford a charter making the town a centre of royal justice.⁷ The only time that he may have passed through Leatherhead was on 27 February 1217 when, as a child of nine, a few months after his father's death, he was escorted from Chertsey to Lewes, staying overnight at Dorking.⁸ Although Leatherhead stands near the gap cut through the North Downs by the river Mole (just as Guildford does for the Wey), the more usual medieval crossing of the Mole seems to have been at Cobham, the direct route from London to Portsmouth or Winchester. The complaints of 1258/9 were referred to the king, but he does not seem to have changed his decision. Henry III had ordered a hall and chamber for the sheriff (and presumably the county court) to be built in Guildford castle in 1247, and gaol was repaired in 1257. Henry spent much on his palace next to the castle, particularly between 1253 and 1256.⁹ Having the county court next door would have been very convenient; the gaol remained in the great tower of the castle until the early sixteenth century.¹⁰

Being central in the county,¹¹ Leatherhead may have sometimes been used for business as a matter of convenience: the 1235 reference states ‘as often as the county court *should happen to be there held*’ [my italics]. Guildford was of lesser constitutional importance before the Norman conquest: several Saxon kings were crowned at Kingston-upon-Thames in the tenth century. In his doctoral thesis, John Blair has assembled the evidence for Anglo-Saxon minster churches in Surrey.¹² Most lay on or near the county boundary; there was less need towards the centre. Blair puts a slight case for a minster at Stoke by Guildford, and a better one for Pachenesham, the deserted settlement between ‘The Mounds’ moated site and the modern waste transfer station, north-west of modern Leatherhead. I have suggested the field at TQ150578, called Stoney Croft on an 18th century map, as the site of the minster/chapel.¹³

But evidence for a minster does not make one for a county town.

NOTES

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EARLY DAYS OF PUBLIC ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO LEATHERHEAD

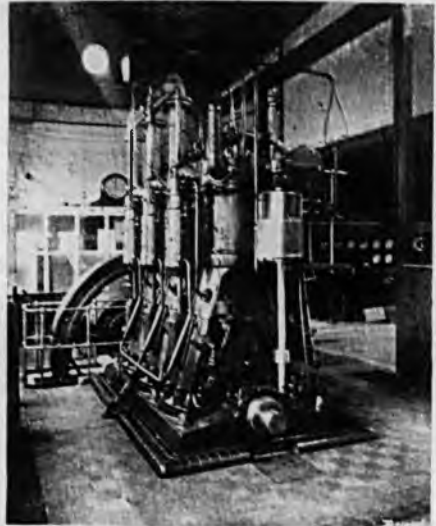
By PETER TARPLEE

Fifty years after Faraday's discovery of electromagnetic induction in 1831 Surrey had the honour of having the first public electricity supply in Britain. This was in Godalming, using a water-driven generator at Westbrook Mill. There is a lot of misinformation given about Godalming and what it was first with; in fact, the plaque in Godalming High Street is inaccurate as it refers to the town as having the first electric street lighting which it did not. I give below some electrical 'firsts' which will put the situation at Leatherhead in context:-

- 1878 – First demonstration of electrical street lighting: Thames Embankment
- 1878 – First house to be lit by electricity produced by water power using arc lights: Cragside, Northumberland. Followed by incandescent lamps in 1880
- 1881 – First supply to be made available to and taken by the public: Godalming
- 1881 – First supply intended to be permanent rather than experimental: Godalming
- 1881 – First theatre to be lit entirely by electricity: Savoy Theatre in the Strand.
- 1882 – First steam-powered supply: Holborn Viaduct. This also supplied the first church to be lit by electricity (using 170 lamps): The City Temple
- 1882 – First actual, viable, permanent supply: Brighton
- 1887 – First continuous (24 hour) supply: Brighton
- 1890 – First town in Britain to have its streets wholly lit by electricity: Weybridge.
- 1902 – First power station built in Leatherhead**

As with all utilities, large houses or factories often had their own plant, for example we have a photograph of the engine house at Polesden Lacey dated 1904 showing their own generators and before the end of the 19th century The Red House and Cherkley Court were lit by electricity from their own generating plant. One of the first houses in Bookham to have electric lighting was Eastwick Park which was powered by batteries charged by a gas engine-

ASHTLEAD, LEATHERHEAD & MICKLEHAM
THE LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT
ELECTRICITY CO. LTD.



One of the four Generators in the Bridge Street Power House

GAS IS NOW TOO DEAR!
Write us for full particulars of our **FREE WIRING** scheme
which enables you to have a electric and cycle
lights in your house **FREE** of any cost.

Advertisement for Leatherhead and District Electricity Co. Ltd. showing "one of the four generators in the Bridge Street Power House".

driven dynamo until around 1935.

I would like to mention one Surrey factory, the Ferry Works at Thames Ditton, which played an important part in the early days of electricity supply. Willans and Robinson moved there in 1880 to build yachts and launches as well as the steam engines to power them. These marine steam engines



Leatherhead Bridge showing the electricity works on the Fetcham side

were high speed machines which were ideal for direct-coupling to dynamos and so they immediately had a new market. It was in 1884 that Willans claimed that Ferry Works was the first factory in the world to be entirely lit by electricity. When the company moved to Rugby in 1902, as they had outgrown the Thames Ditton site, *about 65% of the electric power throughout the country was generated by a Willans central valve steam engine.* An example of these engines is displayed in the Science Museum.

Godalming had its first supply in 1881 but this only lasted for 3 years as the station closed in 1884. It was to be a further 8 years before Godalming again had a public supply. In 1882, a year after the Godalming enterprise, the Electric Lighting Act was passed which enabled the Board of Trade to authorise the supply of electricity by any local authority, company or person and to grant powers to install a system of supply including powers to break up streets. Licences, which could not be granted without the consent of the local authority, were to be for periods of not more than 7 years, although they could be renewed. Alternatively the Board of Trade could grant a Provisional Order for an undertaking although the local authority could take over the assets after 21 years. This meant that the authority would pay for the plant but not the business. The 1888 act extended the period after which the purchase right could be exercised to 42 years and required the undertaking to be valued as a going concern. This made it more attractive for people to apply for Provisional Orders.

Another public electricity supply system in the 19th century was installed at Weybridge where a power station was in operation between 1890 and 1896. This was in Church Walk, and the building survives today as cottages and an office. Again there was a gap of 6 years before electricity returned to Weybridge. Woking had an electricity system in 1890 and this operated without interruption. Interestingly Woking was unusual in having a public electricity supply before a public gas supply. Gas did not come to Woking until a couple of years after electricity. It was supplied by the Woking Gas and Water Company. Other electricity supply systems soon came in the early years of the twentieth century. Sometimes the incentive was not for street lighting, or even house lighting; in Sutton the power station was built by the South Metropolitan Tramway and Lighting Company and clearly their reason was to power the trams which ran

→ THE ←

Leatherhead and District Electricity Co., Ltd.,

SUPPLY
ASHTEAD, LEATHERHEAD AND MICKLEHAM.

DR. GEORGE CARPENTER, M.D., Editor of the "British Journal of Children's Diseases," the well-known authority on child life, remarks in one of his works:—"The air of a nursery cannot be too pure. I therefore do not advise you to have gas in it, as gas in burning gives off quantities of carbonic acid and sulphuretted hydrogen, which vitiate the air. A better light is that of oils. . . . The least objectionable is the light of candles. . . . Two candles produce nearly as much carbonic acid gas as a full-grown man. The flame of a lamp or a gas burner will poison the air with carbonic acid to the same extent as two adults! I wish I dared omit the discussion of gas. Well I know this baneful product, charged with all sorts of lung complaints, poisoning all members both of animal and vegetable kingdom, is respected in all your houses. I must accordingly temporize with you. Do not have gas in the night nursery. . . . The most healthy light that you can use is of course the Electric Light, and if you are so situated that you can obtain it you should lose no time in making arrangements for an electric installation."

Tel. No. 6 G.P.O., LEATHERHEAD. Office Hours—9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

GENERATING STATION—
BRIDGE STREET, LEATHERHEAD.

An early advertisement for electricity

By 1915, 450kW of diesel-driven plant had been installed and by 1920 the works contained 5 diesel-driven generators with an installed capacity of 710 kW.

In 1925 a new works was built above the bridge containing a 500kW alternator driven by a Fullager diesel engine. The control of this new machine was from the earlier station from where the earlier sets were operated. By 1928 the demand had increased to such an extent that further generating plant was needed and the first 1,000 kW Fullager set to be installed in the British Isles was erected in the new engine room together with the control panels. This brought the total installed capacity of the two stations up to 2,210 kW and the area of supply was then 54 square miles with 2,880 consumers.

In these early days power systems were either direct current (DC) or alternating current (AC). With DC it was often possible for the power station to operate on a two-shift system in which they generated from 0600 to 2200 hrs and for the load to be carried by batteries at night, whereas the AC system needed 24 hour generation but could use a higher voltage and therefore suffer fewer problems with volt-drop in cables. For example, Epsom power station only generated on a night shift on the nights before race days as the batteries which normally supplied the town could not cope with the additional load provided by the printing works producing race cards.

Each independent system catered for its own area and there was not much co-operation with

between Croydon and Sutton.

Leatherhead's first power station was built in 1902 by the Leatherhead and District Electricity Company Ltd., a company formed under the chairmanship of Panti Ralli of Ashtead Park. The Leatherhead Urban District Council had been granted a Provisional Order for the supply of electricity in 1898 but no attempt was made to furnish a supply until four years later when the Leatherhead and District Electricity Company was granted a principal order for the supply of electricity to the parishes of Leatherhead, Ashtead, Mickleham and a small part of Fetcham as far as the "Rising Sun". The rest of Fetcham was added in 1903. The works was situated just downstream of the town bridge adjacent to the waterworks. The station contained a 75kW diesel-driven generator with lead-acid batteries to absorb peak loads. This DC supply was initially only for Leatherhead but it was soon extended to Ashtead, Mickleham and Fetcham. By 1904 the station had 150 kW of steam-driven plant which was increased to 232kW in 1907. In 1913 the company obtained an order to supply electricity to Cobham, Stoke D'Abernon, the Bookhams and Effingham; in 1925 this was extended to East and West Horsley, East Clandon and part of Chessington, and by 1927 Headley was included.

Leatherhead Gas and Lighting Company.

Offices and Showrooms:
North Street, LEATHERHEAD.

Gas Lighting.— The Incandescent Burner gives the cheapest and best light; where artistic effect is desired the inverted pattern is recommended.

Gas Cookers reduce waste, increase efficiency, save labour, and avoid unnecessary heat and dirt to those engaged in the kitchen.

Gas Fires are the best means of heating rooms used intermittently, as they are always ready and leave no ashes to be cleared away.

Gas Geysers and Boilers are the quickest and best means of obtaining hot water instantaneously.

Gas Engines can be relied upon for all kinds of Power Purposes.

Gas Heaters for Motor Garages, Greenhouses, &c., &c.

Gas Radiators for Entrance Halls, Public Buildings, Shops, &c.

Gas Appliances of every description for the Workshop and Laboratory.

The Company invites inquiries with reference to all kinds of Lighting and Heating.

Residents of Leatherhead, Ashtead and Mickleham, have you considered how you can

Avoid DIRT AND DANGER
SMUTS AND SMELLS ?

BY USING THE ONLY

Perfect Light,

ELECTRIC LIGHT !

Now Cheaper than Gas.

FREE WIRING COMPLETE WITH FITTINGS.

IF YOU HAVE BLACKENED CEILINGS,
IF YOUR GAS ENGINE IS ALWAYS BREAKING DOWN,

APPLY TO—

The Leatherhead Electricity Co., Ltd.,

BRIDGE ST., LEATHERHEAD.

Two advertisements from competing companies in a local guide

neighbouring areas until the introduction of Joint Electricity Authorities (or JEAs) brought about following the Electricity (Supply) Act 1919 and then the grid system operated by the Central Electricity Board (CEB) following the Electricity (Supply) Act of 1926.

The Leatherhead undertaking was absorbed into the London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority in 1930 when bulk supply points were established at Epsom, Leatherhead, Dorking and Reigate all fed from Croydon. The generating stations at these four towns which had each fed its own system could then be gradually closed down and the whole of the demand was fed from the large (for its time) station at Croydon. This became a 'selected' station and it was connected by a double circuit line or cables to Epsom from where a ring ran to Reigate, Dorking, Leatherhead and back to Epsom. Parts of this 33kV ring are the lines which could be seen along the slopes of Box Hill or through Ashtead Common. Many of these lines have recently been undergrounded after about 75 years on environmental grounds. Once this transmission system was operating the old stations at Epsom, Reigate, Leatherhead and Dorking could close down.

With the setting-up of the Central Electricity Board under the 1926 act the electricity supply systems throughout the country could be standardised. At



33kV LINES AT ASHTEAD COMMON

the time there were over 600 electricity supply companies and local authority undertakings and different areas operated at different voltages and frequencies and some DC systems were in being. In fact the last DC consumer in Leatherhead was disconnected by the Chairman of Leatherhead Urban District Council on 25th January 1961.

The secondary (33kV) transmission system known as the Epsom Ring (see above) was completed by



33/11 kV TRANSFORMERS AT BRIDGE STREET

1931 and the originally planned 132 kV system for South Eastern England was completed by 1933. In 1935 in order to feed the 33kV network from a more central point and to increase the capacity of the system it was decided to establish a 132kV transforming station at Leatherhead. This was built in Randalls Farm Lane, adjacent to the railway line, and was connected into the existing 132 kV line between Woking and Wimbledon; it fed into the 33 kV substation on the power station site in Bridge Street by underground cable.

In 1934 the original electricity works was scrapped and the building demolished leaving the site wholly occupied by the waterworks. The 1,500 kW of plant in the new station was surplus to requirements by 1939 and it was dismantled shortly afterwards although the building remained until after its use by Seaboard in the 1990s.

There is, of course, no operational power station in Surrey now, but some old generating buildings, or 'electric light works' remain at Dorking, Egham, Godalming, Guildford, Hindhead, Reigate and Weybridge.

Principal sources

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- 'Incandescent System at Weybridge, by A F Guy, The Electrical Engineer 8th August 1890
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16, 18, 20 AND 22 HIGH STREET, GREAT BOOKHAM

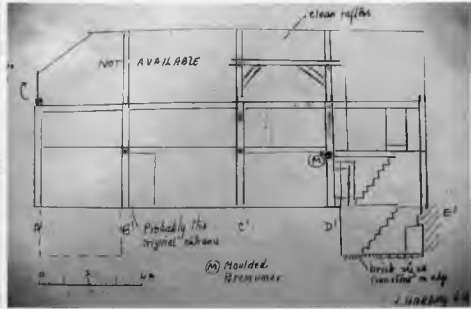
by STEPHEN FORTESCUE

To the south of the *Royal Oak* Public House in the High Street, Great Bookham were four cottages. No. 16 was incorporated in the *Royal Oak*, Nos 18 and 20 are extant, and No. 22 has been converted into a shop and offices. Behind the façade of Nos 18 and 20 lies a wealth of historical interest.

The Saxons settled in Bookham along the ancient valleys, silted up with gravel lying between the Thanet Sands and The Harroway — a well-drained area on which to live, which became the High Street. It was a well thought out planning scheme — a site being reserved for a place of worship at the northern end, with the street running south. Being gregarious, and for safety, the rough wooden dwellings were built along both sides of the High Street. These were gradually superseded by timber-framed dwellings — one of the earliest known in Bookham is *Half Moon Cottage* at Preston Cross. Another is *Victoria Cottage* at the south end of the High Street, which documentary evidence shows was in existence by 1548. Nos 16–22 High Street would appear to have been built at about the same time, judging by their similar construction and form. Both buildings would at that time have been of considerable importance.



16–22 High Street, Great Bookham, as they appear today.



Ground plan of the building, reproduced from the report of the Domestic Buildings Research Group, with their kind permission.

Nos. 16–22 High Street was at one time a single dwelling of four bays. Jowls were used in its construction — the principal vertical posts of oak were square in section except for one face near the bole of the tree; this thickening, known as the jowl, became the top of the post on its inner side. This form of building appears to have been used about 1500–1580. There is a bressumer carrying the wall above it in the north end of the ground floor, which may have been an opening for a fireplace or dais. Again, this indicates a building of 1500–1600, a date-range that conforms to the report of the Domestic Buildings Research Group (report no. 4042, 1990), which suggested a 16th century date.

A cellar under No. 18 has an ironstone floor, the stones of which are set vertically. The walls of the cellar up to about three feet high are of chalk blocks, probably quarried from the quarries on the road from Bagden Hill to Westhumble, as in the cellar at *Victoria Cottage*. The chalk blocks are surmounted by low flint walls on which were laid the sleeper beams. At some time the building was given a façade of brick and new fenestration and, later still, Nos 18, 20 and

22 were converted into three cottages; Nos 18 and 20 are still occupied as dwellings.

The size of the original house suggests that it belonged to a prosperous and important family. It is possible that it was the Manor House before the Manor House was built beside the Church, roughly where *Park View* now is, with entrances through a gatehouse in Lower Road and from Church Road.

Ducks Hole

A track known as Ducks Hole ran from the Lower Road at the east end of the house formerly known as Buggs Farm, and then into Childs Hall Road, on which were four wooden cottages. A photograph of one of these cottages has recently been discovered.



One of the cottages at Ducks Hole.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society has published or compiled a number of books on the local history of the area, and the following are still available (prices include p&p):-

<i>A History of Ashtead</i> , edited by Jack Stuttard, 1995.	£9.99
<i>History of Fetcham</i> , edited by Jack Stuttard, 1998.	£8.95
<i>Bookham in the Twentieth Century</i> , by Bill Culley, 2000.	£6.50
<i>History of Headley</i> , edited by Jack Stuttard, 2001.	£7.95
Archive Photographs Series — <i>Leatherhead</i> , compiled by Linda Heath, 1996.	£12.99
<i>Leatherhead and District. Then and Now</i> , compiled by Linda Heath and Peter Tarplee, 2005.	£12.99
<i>Leatherhead, A History</i> , by Edwina Vardey, 2001.	£15.99
<i>The Swan Leatherhead and its Brewery</i> , by Mary Rice-Oxley 2001.	£5.95
<i>The Inns and Public Houses of Leatherhead and District</i> , by Goff Powell. 2006.	£5.50

Copies may be ordered from the Sales Secretary, L&DLHS,
64, Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP.
Cheques should be made payable to "L&DLHS"