

LEATHERHEAD
& DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



PROCEEDINGS VOL 5 No 4
1991

SECRETARIAL NOTES

The following Lectures and Visits were arranged during 1991:

January 18th	Lecture: 'Dorking Town', by Mrs V. Ettlinger.
February 15th	Lecture: 'The Lovelace Family of East Horsley', by Stephen Tudsbury-Turner.
March 15th	The 44th Annual General Meeting, followed by Lecture: 'Bygone Oxshott', by Ernest Crossland.
April 13th	Afternoon visit to Juniper Hall Field Centre, by invitation of John Bebbington, Director of Studies.
April 19th	Lecture: 'History of Croydon Airport', by John King.
May 18th	Visit to Portchester and Fishbourne, led by Derek Renn and Ernest Crossland.
June 12th	Visit to Dolmetsch Musical Instrument Works, Haslemere, and to Selborne, led by Alan Gillies.
July 31st	Visit to St John's School, Leatherhead, led by the Rev. Martin Francis, Deputy Head, and Jack Stuttard, School Librarian.
September 21st	"Walk" round Bourne Hall area of Ewell, led by Ian West of Nonsuch Antiquarian Society.
October 18th	Dallaway Lecture: 'Ashtead: Village to Suburb', by Alan A. Jackson, F.R.S.A.
November 15th	Lecture: 'London's Bridges', by Charles Abdy, of Nonsuch Antiquarian Society.
December 13th	Christmas Miscellany: Members' contributions. Organised by Gordon Knowles.

Number 3 of Volume 5 of the Proceedings was issued during the year.

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Letherhead Institute, 15th March 1991

The Report of the Executive Committee and the Accounts for the year 1990 were adopted and approved. Officers of the Society are shown below.

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1991

<i>President:</i>	S. E. D. FORTESCUE
<i>Past President:</i>	J. G. W. LEWARNE
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	DR D. F. RENN, F.S.A.; L. A. SMITH, M.B.E.
<i>Chairman:</i>	LINDA HEATH
<i>Secretary/Membership Secretary:</i>	JOYCE FULLER
<i>Treasurer:</i>	C. V. M. LATHAM
<i>Editor:</i>	J. C. STUTTARD
<i>Museum Curator:</i>	D. BRUCE
<i>Museum Treasurer:</i>	J. R. BULL
<i>Sales Secretary:</i>	G. HAYWARD
<i>Archaeology Secretary:</i>	E. A. CROSSLAND
<i>Lecture Secretary:</i>	N. H. WEST, M.B.E.
<i>Librarian:</i>	F. KIRBY
<i>Record Secretary:</i>	J. R. CLUBE, O.B.E.
<i>Committee Members:</i>	D. B. ELLIS; H. G. KNOWLES; J. W. MIDDLEMAS

Leatherhead and District Local History Society

PROCEEDINGS

Vol. 5, No. 4

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OCCASIONAL NOTES

QUEEN ELIZABETH I AT LEATHERHEAD: A LOCAL QUADRICENTENARY

On 3rd August 1991 it was 400 years to the day since Leatherhead was honoured with a visit by Queen Elizabeth I. She came here at the invitation of Edmund Tylney with whom she dined at the building then standing on the site of The Mansion in Church Street. This was Tylney's home in Leatherhead. He had an important position at Court as Master of the Revels to the Queen, and later to James I, from 1579 to his death in 1610. Great Queen Street (High Street) and Little Queen Street (Church Street) appear on old Leatherhead maps and it is believed that these names were given to honour the royal visit to Leatherhead in 1591.

R. A. LEVER

A JOHN WESLEY CELEBRATION

John Wesley visited Leatherhead on 23rd February 1791 and preached his last sermon here, in the old Kingston House at the top of Bull Hill. He died in London only a week later. The bicentenary of this visit was celebrated in late February this year with services at the Methodist Church and with Wesley exhibitions in the Church Hall and at the Thorndike Theatre. Excerpts from his life, taken from the play 'Highways Ablaze' by John Disley, were performed in the church and in the open air at the Swan Centre.

J. C. STUTTARD

CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION TAKES OVER ASHTEAD COMMON

An historic event took place on 29th April 1991 under which the protection of the 500 acre Ashtead Common was officially transferred to the Corporation of the City of London. To mark this occasion the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Alexander Graham, G.B.E., J. P., Derek Balls of the Corporation of London and Richard Tring, Chairman of the Mole Valley District Council each planted an oak sapling. The site chosen was north of Woodfield Road opposite the level crossing.

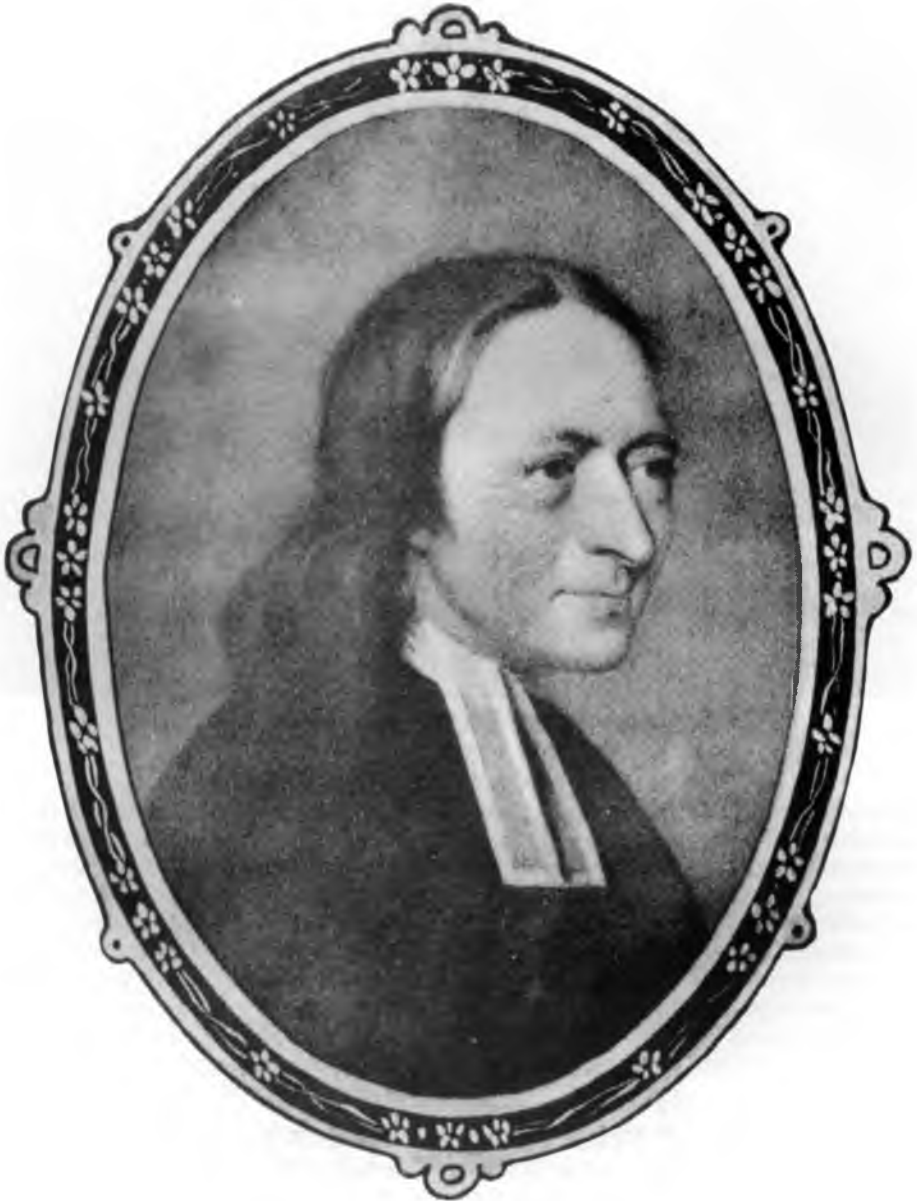
R. A. LEVER

Special thanks are due to the National Maritime Museum, London for allowing the Society to reproduce Michael Dahl's fine portrait of Admiral Sir James Wishart (see p. 109).

Part II of James Edwards' 'Companion from London to Brighthelmstone' (1801) has been held over until next year's *Proceedings*.

Errata: Procs., L.D.L.H.S. 5(3), 1990: p. 74, line 12, for 'Grumditch' read 'Grimditch'; p. 84, line 7 from bottom of page, for 'hands' read 'heads'.

Occasional Paper No. 4, on the Howard Vault at St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham, was published in August this year.



JOHN WESLEY IN HIS MATURITY
by John Russell, R.A.

Painting held by Kingswood School, Bath. Copy supplied by the Rev. Ian Field.

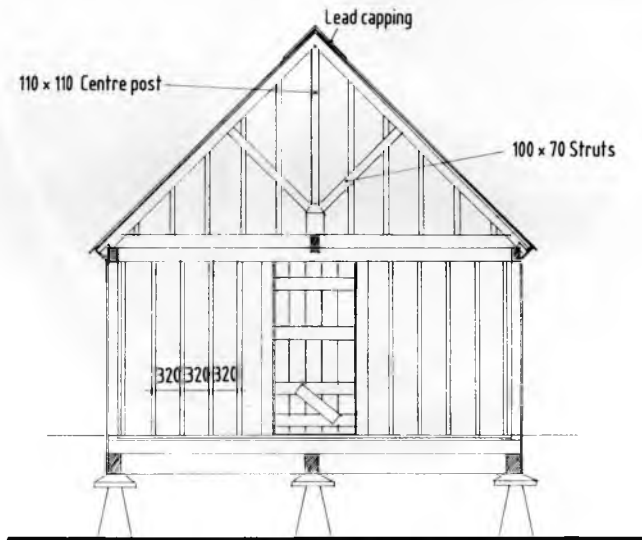
LITTLE BOOKHAM BARN, RESITED AND RESTORED

By S. E. D. FORTESCUE

A small barn at Little Bookham, probably built about 150–200 years ago and perhaps once used as a granary, was last year resited and restored by the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society. The barn is a rare survival of a farm building built on staddle stones ('mushrooms'). It was damaged by a gale in October 1987 and when further damaged by another gale in January 1990 the Countryside Protection Society decided that urgent action was necessary if it was to be preserved.

Before resiting, the barn stood in the Preston House hotel car park. Preston House was formerly occupied by Mrs Hansard as a tenant of the trustees of the Willock-Pollen family. Her head gardener used the barn to store fruit and vegetables. Since there was no use for the barn at the Preston House site, the Manor House School, Little Bookham, offered to provide a new home a few hundred yards away from its original site. Arrangements were then made for the resiting and restoration of the barn.

The barn is a simple timber structure of soft wood, about 14 ft. 6 in. square, with an equal pitched tile roof. The timber framing of granaries with well-trieved patterns of jointing and roof structure continued into the 19th century. Granaries increased in number between the mid 18th and mid 19th centuries, following a more productive and intensive agriculture, but the pattern remained the same, improvements only arising from standardization and prefabrication. The whole structure rests on nine staddle stones equally spaced. The main base is formed out of large dimensioned timbers half jointed at the corners. The new flooring is supported by joists notched into the main frame pieces.



CROSS-SECTION OF THE BARN.
(*W. Larkin.*)



CARPENTERS AND TILERS WORKING ON THE RESITED BARN.
Photograph by Mary Rice-Oxley.

The four panels making up the sides of the barn differ slightly, depending on the number of louvred vents in three sides and the door and vents on the fourth side. The construction of each side is the same, a frame formed out of soft wood with twelve vertical timber studs fixed by cross nailing with two diagonal braces, half jointed from the top downwards to the corners; these give better weight distribution from the roof members and stiffen the panels. The vents in the side panels are of a primitive but effective design consisting of louvres raised by pegs projecting from a vertical rotating wooden rod. The roof structure is formed out of a pair of heavy timbers shaped into a cross by half jointing at the centre. These timbers sit on the side panels at the middle of each panel and the centre where they cross forms the seating for the king post which supports the rafters of the roof. The original carpenters' marks in the main frame are worthy of note.

When the barn was dismantled and taken to the new site it was reconstructed in the traditional manner, taken apart and reassembled in situ, following plans prepared by W. Larkin (see p. 100). The king post was notched and fixed to the cross beams with stout wooden pegs (tree nails). Four diagonal struts, after being tenoned into the main post and similarly fixed with pegs, were nailed to the rafters that carry the roofing battens and tiles. Additional timber braces were fixed at each corner to stiffen the structure at the head level

of the side panels. Since the original tile battens, formed of split ash poles, had deteriorated they had to be replaced with 2 in. by 1 in. sawn soft wood fixed through roofing felt to give better protection.

The original tiles were preserved and re-used but had to be supplemented owing to past loss through breakage. The extra tiles were of the same type. The four hips of the original roof were of half flower-pot type, but were not recoverable and had to be replaced with bonnet hip tiles bedded in mortar. The external ship-lap boarding was completely replaced with new material as was the inner lining.

Another addition to the building was the ramp. This was a typical feature of granaries and was an extra precaution against vermin infestation by rats, mice and squirrels. Two methods of access were used for barns on staddle stones, either a ramp, which would be hoisted by ropes to a vertical position against the door, or by removeable steps. Although there were no remains of a ramp or steps to the unrestored barn, a bearing by the door was the clue that the access had been by ramp.



THE BARN RESTORED.
Photograph by Linda Heath.

The barn was completed on 28th October 1990 by the Chairman of the Mole Valley District Council, Richard Tring, driving home the final wooden peg. The President of the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society, James Farmer, D.L., together with its Chairman, Duncan Nowson, and some 80 members and well-wishers attended the ceremony.

The barn remains the property of the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society, but the Manor House School will use it as a base for ecological studies.

Acknowledgements

The writer is indebted to David Heath for the technical information set out above. He also acted as Clerk of the Works.

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT 'HOME GUARD' IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

By J. R. CLUBE

IN 1793, after the first effects of the French revolution had passed, a French declaration of war on England brought with it a serious possibility of invasion. In order to provide a measure of defence against French troops who might have eluded British forces, the Government set up a kind of 'Home Guard' organisation under which towns and villages were encouraged to establish local 'Armed Associations' financed and equipped from their own resources. These Associations were of a basic nature and it became clear that they would not be good enough for the purpose envisaged.

As a preliminary to establishing more effective units the Defence of the Realm Act was passed in 1798,¹ and under the title 'Posse Comitatus' (County Resources) a survey of all males in the country was made. This was followed by the formation of 'Volunteer Infantry' (V.I.) units and the cavalry equivalent, 'Yeomanry'. These units were organised on lines similar to the Militia, and when their equipment and organisation reached a certain standard their services were accepted by the War Office, and they became eligible for governmental, financial and other support.

Specific reference to the national emergency is made in the Leatherhead Parish Vestry minutes of 17 June 1798, when it was 'agreed by the inhabitants that in case of actual invasion they were ready to assist Government with Waggon, Carts and Horses and proper Persons to conduct the same to the utmost of what may be found . . .'²

Peace was signed with France in 1802, but war broke out again in 1803. The threat of invasion now became real. Napoleon was planning to land 150,000 troops in England; harbours in and near Boulogne were expanded or newly built; boats were assembled; and exercises of embarking and landing were carried out. In July 1803 the Government ordered yet another survey of the male population under Defence Acts—specifically 'Levée en masse'. All men between 17 and 55 were to be listed. There was an implied threat in this census 'Volunteer or you will be conscripted' The Parish Constable's report for Mickleham, the only one from the area to survive, shows that of a total of 105 men all told, 65 were already Volunteers, others being exempted for reasons of health; or serving in the Militia by substitution; or being members of the clergy.³

At the same time each County was told how many men it had to find: for Surrey the figure was 1,781. An assessment of deficiencies was made in 1805 and fines apportioned accordingly.⁴ Leatherhead was to be fined £44.1/8; Ashted £1.15; Fetcham £1.13/4; Great

Bookham £4.6/8; Little Bookham £-.18/4 and Mickleham £5.15. These fines 'for not having raised the men for the Permanent Additional Forces of the Realm' were considered by the Leatherhead Parish Council under the Rev. James Dallaway on 24 March 1805. It was decided that occupiers of houses rated at less than £5 per annum; V.I. members and Yeomanry volunteers; and 'all persons serving personally or by substitution' would be exempted from contributing to the fines, and the remainder would pay a rate of 4½d. in the pound. In the event the fines were never collected since the Act imposing them was soon repealed.

The Defence Acts of 1803 which had ordered the 'Levée en Masse' also directed that the V.I. should no longer be used merely in local defence but should be placed under central military control to make them more effective. They were organized into Battalions and Brigades, and as the years passed they became a large and efficient force.

The Surrey V.I. and Yeomanry were organised into 8 Brigades in 1804:⁵

1st Bde Clapham	2n Bde Richmond	3rd Bde Kingston upon Thames
4th Bde Epsom	5th Bde Croydon	6th Bde Guildford
7th Bde Godstone	8th Bde Croydon or Epsom	

Leatherhead, Ashtead and Mickleham were part of 4th Bde.

4th Bde	Alarm Post—Epsom	Strength	
		Infantry	Cavalry
1st Battalion	Epsom	220	
	Carshalton	120	
	Ashtead	80	
	Ewell	60	
		<hr/>	
		480	
2nd Battalion	Betchworth	200	
	Mickleham	50	
	Leatherhead	120	
	Surrey Yeomanry, 2 Troops		50
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		370	50

(There were no separate Companies for Fetcham or the Bookhams.)

In the event of invasion Companies were to report to Brigade Alarm posts and be placed under central command. The feared invasion did not take place and, despite the enormous effort in building up these forces, they were disbanded as soon as it was decided that the danger had passed. Ashtead was disbanded 24 March 1808; Mickleham 3 May 1807; and Leatherhead 24 June 1810.

The Annual Paylists for all Surrey units from their embodiment in 1803 to their disbandment are available at the Public Record Office, Kew. They give the names of all ranks.⁶

In 1803 *Leatherhead* had two companies with 8 Officers, 6 Sergeants, 2 Corporals and 76 Privates. The Officers were:

Capt. John R. Whitefoord
Lt Thomas Cockburn
Ensign George Cooper
Surgeon, John Ayres

Capt. Richard Boulton
Lt Bartholomew Chitty
Ensign Thomas Stone
Chaplain, Rev. Richard Hardy

Many of these names can be identified in Vestry Minutes, Parish Registers, the Army List, and the Universal Directory for 1798. The Commander, John Rousselet Whitefoord, was a 'Lessee of the Great Tithes' which gave him a right to a pew in the parsonage section of the church. Other officers serving on parish committees were Bartholomew Chitty a tanner, George Cooper a farmer, Thomas Stone a maltster and brewer (b. 1776) and Richard Boulton (b. 1777) the son of Henry Boulton, Lord of the Manor of Thorncroft.

Sgt John Ede was a baker, William Nettlefold a butcher, Thomas Cole a carrier and James Constable a wheelwright. Other tradesmen identified are James Chandler, baker; Abraham Hayes, victualler; William Lipscomb, carpenter; and John Lloyd, sadler and carrier.

Although the paper strength was 120 only 92 men were listed in 1803. The Commander certified that the other members had been omitted from the list because they had never attended a drill since enrolling. In 1810 Capt. Whitefoord was the only officer still serving, and total strength was 92 in all.

In 1803 *Ashtead* had one officer only—Capt. Charles Monro. He was replaced in 1804 by William Sadlier Bruere as Ensign and later Captain. The second officer was Richard Charrington, Ensign. W. S. Bruere held the lease of Merry Hall, Ashtead in the 1790s.⁷ He then married Harriet Boulton daughter of Henry Boulton and his wife Juliana. The Vestry Book shows that in 1808 Bruere was permitted to make an alteration to the road to the Downs in front of his house provided that he built a fence alongside an adjoining field belonging to John Whitefoord.

Others named included Sgt William King, a farmer who lived on the Beckford estate of Mitchells in the 1780s and who purchased land in the Northlands estate. He occupied West Farm in 1801. Also Jeremiah Daniel, his wife Mary, and John Craddock a shopkeeper.

The *Mickleham* company, in 1803, comprised 3 Officers, 3 Sergeants, 3 Corporals and 41 Privates. It is not surprising that the Commander was Capt. William Lock, son of the owner of Norbury Park. This is described in the contemporary Universal Directory as being the 'beautiful seat of William Lock, Esq' in Bookham. The Lock family was highly respected and played a significant part in the social life of the area. Capt. Lock himself had considerable artistic talent and was a member of the committee set up to design a memorial to Lord Nelson in the Guildhall.⁸

Sir Arthur Bryant has described the invasion fever which swept the country in 1803.⁹ Several persons were arrested because they looked like Napoleon, and holiday-makers looking at ships were detained as spies. Throughout the summer men drilled in town squares and on village greens, and by the autumn 340,000 had joined the Volunteer Associations. These Volunteers, many inadequately armed, represented the whole nation 'each man

determined to sacrifice his all'. On 29 September the Volunteers were under orders to march at one hour's notice, and in January 1804 it was still thought the French might come. But British naval power tipped the scales and the invasion threat receded with time.

It may seem unrealistic to compare 1940 and 1803, but some similarity between the Home Guard and the Volunteer Infantry can be seen. Both were mobilised with great speed, and both suffered from shortages of supplies and arms at the outset. But both developed with time into efficient military organisations. Nevertheless it was surely just as well that neither was called upon to put its training into practice against the regular forces of an invader.

NOTES

1. 38 Geo III, c. 27; R. P. Berry, *History of the Formation and Development of the Volunteer Infantry, 1794–1874* (1903), p. 61; J. Gibson and M. Medlycott, *Militia Lists and Musters* (1990); National Army Museum, 'The Road to Waterloo'.
2. Leatherhead Vestry Minutes, S.R.O., Kingston.
3. S.R.O., Guildford, PSH/MIC/38/4.
4. R. Offor, 'A Surrey Military Assessment for 1805', *S.A.C.*, 1952, pp. 60–5.
5. H. C. Cardew-Rendle, 'Surrey Volunteers', *Notes & Queries*, 1935, pp. 129–31.
6. P.R.O., Kew: WO 13/4560 & 4556.
7. G. Gollin, *Bygone Ashted* (1987), p. 119.
8. Duchess of Sermoneta, *The Locks of Norbury Park* (1940), p. 227.
9. Sir Arthur Bryant, *The Years of Victory* (1975), pp. 63–5, 70–1, 75.

ADMIRAL SIR JAMES WISHART (1659–1723)

By D. B. ELLIS

AT the east end of the north wall of Leatherhead Parish Church there is a monument to Admiral Sir James Wishart (1659–1723). It bears a long inscription, the only one in the church which is entirely in Latin. At the top is Wishart's coat of arms; on each side of the inscription are carved anchors, guns and other nautical and military symbols; and at the bottom there is a representation of a contemporary warship.

Wishart, a Scotsman by birth, joined the cause of William of Orange, later King William III, and saw service at sea during his reign and that of his successor, Queen Anne. He had a distinguished naval career, holding the ranks of Rear-Admiral of the Blue and Admiral of the White during the War of the Spanish Succession (1702–13), late in life becoming one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean (see portrait on p. 109).

Inscription on the Wishart Monument (Translated from the Latin)

'Beneath this place are buried the remains of James Wishart, a most illustrious man. Descended from an ancient Scottish family, he migrated to Holland in early youth. He crossed to England in command of a company with that great Prince of Orange, later King William III, to free the English churches and laws from Roman superstition and tyranny. Later devoting himself entirely to service at sea, he fulfilled the duties of a ship's captain under the King of most illustrious memory with such constant skill in naval affairs, such



MONUMENT TO ADMIRAL SIR JAMES WISHART
IN LEATHERHEAD PARISH CHURCH
Photograph by Elizabeth Ellis.

loyalty, such courage and good fortune that he never surrendered, either to the seas or to the enemy, any ship to which he was commissioned either as officer or as commander. If he was not honoured by King William as he was by his successor, that is to be attributed to the premature death of the King, whose opinion of him was fully equal to his deserts. But what William left unfinished was completed by Her Serene Majesty Queen Anne of blessed memory. The distinction of capturing or firing French and Spanish ships in the port of Vigo was chiefly his, though having been sent elsewhere he had no part whatever in the disaster. The Queen appointed him Rear-Admiral of the Blue; then, on his return from successfully escorting Charles III to Barcelona, and after the victory won over the French at Malaga, where he had command of a flagship, she knighted him. Later she appointed him as naval member of the Council of her most illustrious husband George, Prince of Denmark, Lord High Admiral of England. On his death she appointed Wishart one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and Admiral of the Blue Fleet, and finally Admiral of the White and Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean. Struggling long against ill-health, he preserved the same courage and constancy which he had shown in prosperity, and triumphed over death with the same intrepid spirit with which he had shown his contempt of the enemy. He died on 31st May 1723 at the age of 64. William Wishart, Principal of Edinburgh University, gave instructions for this monument to be erected to the memory of a most dear brother who had served his country so well.'

(This translation is the writer's own. An inaccurate version is given in Brayley's *Topographical History of Surrey*, 1850.)

Notes on the monument

Above the inscription is Wishart's coat of arms: Argent three piles gules. Crest, an eagle displayed issuant or. His motto, which is not included, was 'Mercy is my desire'. The naval equipment round the sides includes a flintlock musket and pistol, bugles, a drum, pikes, a boarding axe, a naval sword and navigational instruments like a cross-staff, astrolabe and quadrant. There are also military armour, weaponry and colours. Beneath the inscription are the words 'Stanton & Horsnaile, London'. Edward Stanton (1681–1734) and Christopher Horsnaile (fl. 1700–42), masons, were jointly responsible for a number of important church monuments and were for many years masons to Westminster Abbey. The carving below the inscription is of a 50-gun ship around 1700 (see illustration on cover iv).

William Wishart (1660–1729), the Admiral's brother, who commissioned the monument, studied theology at the University of Utrecht; was briefly imprisoned in 1684–5 on a charge of denying the King's authority; ordained into the Church of Scotland, 1688; five times Moderator of the Assembly of the Church of Scotland; Principal of Edinburgh University 1716–29. Like his brother, he had connections with Holland and opposed the Stuart cause.

Admiral Wishart's Career

To 1702

An outline of Wishart's career is given in the *Dictionary of National Biography* which draws heavily on the *Biographia Navalis* published by John Charnock in 1795. The first mention of him is as captain of the *Pearl* in 1689, and in the following year he commanded the *Mary* galley which accompanied trading convoys between England and the Baltic. He was in charge of the 50-gun ship *Oxford* at the battle of Barfleur in 1692, when the combined



ADMIRAL SIR JAMES WISHART
BY MICHAEL DAHL.
National Maritime Museum, London.

fleets of England and Holland decisively defeated the French fleet and so put an end to the hopes of James II, who was supported by the French, of regaining the English throne. In 1695, Wishart served for the first time under Admiral Sir George Rooke, and later commanded the 80-gun ship *Dorsetshire*.* He held other commands during the period of uneasy peace which ended with the outbreak of the War of the Spanish Succession in 1702, early in the reign of Queen Anne.

After 1702

In the early years of the War of the Spanish Succession, when rival claimants from France and the Holy Roman Empire sought the vacant throne, Wishart played a notable role in the war at sea, taking part in the action at Vigo, when he was again serving under Admiral Sir George Rooke. A Spanish treasure fleet, escorted by some French ships, had put into Vigo Bay. In a daring action Rooke broke through a boom which had been placed across the harbour mouth, destroyed many of the enemy ships and seized a large part of the treasure. The inscription on Wishart's monument seems to imply that he had no responsibility for Rooke's failure to take Cadiz, shortly before the action at Vigo. Indeed it was not long after this that he was appointed Rear-Admiral of the Blue. There were at that time three squadrons in the Navy, Red, White and Blue, which occupied respectively the centre, van and rear positions. Each squadron was itself subdivided into centre, van and rear divisions, these being commanded respectively by an Admiral, a Vice-Admiral and a Rear-Admiral. Thus, the highest rank in the Navy was that of Admiral of the Red (also known as Admiral of the Fleet); the lowest rank of Admiral status was Rear-Admiral of the Blue. By his new appointment Wishart became one of the nine most senior officers in the Navy. This promotion was perhaps connected with the responsibility which now fell to him of escorting one of the claimants to the Spanish throne, the Archduke Charles, who had come to England from Holland, to Barcelona where a faction favourable to his cause was ready to receive him as King Charles III.

Further action at sea followed in 1704 when the English fleet captured Gibraltar from the Spanish, an event of considerable historic interest, for Gibraltar has been a British naval base ever since. The Spanish and French were determined to recapture it and expel the allied fleet from the Mediterranean. Wishart was in command of a flagship when the two sides met off Malaga. It was an indecisive engagement, but the English retained Gibraltar and maintained their presence in the Mediterranean.

As for Wishart's later career, he was knighted soon after the Malaga engagement, became a member of Prince George's Council in 1708 and one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in 1710. He was promoted to be Admiral of the Blue in 1708 and Admiral of the White in 1713, on his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean. But now that peace had been declared this was a position of responsibility rather than one calling for notable action. From 1710 to 1715 he was M.P. for Portsmouth, a seat often taken by naval men and previously held by his old chief, Admiral Rooke. Charnock quotes Rooke's opinion of Wishart which perhaps sums up his career: 'This great commander having observed in Wishart all the qualities necessary to form a good officer, as well as a constant

* Contemporary models of a 50-gun and a 80-gun ship can be seen at the National Maritime Museum, London. Such models were required by the Admiralty for examination and discussion before the ships could be built.

attention to render these virtues conspicuous, conceived for him the strongest love and attachment, which the worthy conduct of the latter proved not to have been in the smallest degree misplaced.'

Admiral Wishart and Leatherhead

The notable quality of Admiral Sir James Wishart's monument in the parish church might suggest that he was a person of some importance in Leatherhead in his later years, but definite evidence for his connection with the town is surprisingly scanty. Indeed, the *Dictionary of National Biography* states 'His later years seem to have been passed at an estate which he had purchased with his own and his wife's money, near Bedale in Yorkshire'. Wishart was, however, known to have been a lessee of Ashtead House in 1710–13' and of Leatherhead Rectory in 1712, but he let the Rectory to an under-tenant and did not live there himself.' Some evidence that he had close connections with Leatherhead is provided by an entry in the Vestry Book dated 19th May 1723:

'It is agreed by the Parishioners that a pew (*sic*) given by the Hon. Sir James Wishart to the parish of Leathered be sett up against the East Window in the Chancell att ye parish charge.'

The date of this entry was in fact only a few days before Wishart's death on 31st May, and his burial is recorded in the Parish Registers as having taken place on 5th June; it also says that he was 'of Chelsea in Middlesex', indicating that he was not resident in Leatherhead at the time of his death. The pew was probably removed at the time of the church's restoration in 1824–5, but it is pleasing to note that the monument remains very near to the site of the pew. Whatever the facts may have been—and the relevant records, like many others, may have been lost beyond recall—both pew and monument seem to indicate Wishart's affection for both a town and a church which he must have known well in the years before his death.

NOTES

1. G. J. Gollin, 'Ashtead Farm & Ashtead House', *Procs.* L.D.L.H.S., 4(8), 1984, p. 232.
2. F. Bastian, 'Leatherhead Families of the 17th Century: Rogers of the Rectory', *Procs.* L.D.L.H.S., 2(4), 1960, p. 109.

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Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful for information provided by the Edinburgh University Library, the National Maritime Museum, London, the Portsmouth City Record Office and the Surrey Record Office. Alan Doerr, Elizabeth Ellis and Gwen Hoad were particularly helpful with the photography, and for other help thanks are due to Roddy Clube, Linda Heath, and Alexandra Wedgwood.

STEWARDS' LETTERS TO COL. HOWARD OF ASHTEAD PARK, 1823-5 and 1833-4

By R. A. LEVER

THE letters to Col. Howard from his stewards and a bailiff cover a wide spectrum of life in Ashtead during the early 19th century. Col. Fulk Greville Howard (1773-1846) acted as Lord of the Manor of Ashtead on his marriage to the heiress Mary Howard (1785-1877). In addition to his parliamentary duties as M.P. for Castle Rising in Norfolk, he also paid regular visits to two of his other properties at Elford in Staffordshire and Levens in Westmorland. In order to be kept informed of the current position at Ashtead Park during his unavoidable absences, Col. Howard had to rely on reports from his stewards. These were John Richardson followed by his son Joseph, who with the bailiff, John Hislop, wrote regular letters. The surviving correspondence, from 1823-5 and 1833-4, is held at the Surrey Record Office, Kingston (203/28) from which the following extracts are taken. Besides the routine accounts of crop prospects, sales of produce and the weather, the stewards also dealt with outbreaks of disease, the standard of singing of the St Giles parish church choir, cricket practice by the manor house staff and the changes of tenants of three inns.

All the letters were addressed from Ashtead Park Farm and were sent under parliamentary postal franking. They are arranged here chronologically, with a short note on their contents and from whom they came. J.H., J.R., Jos R. respectively stand for John Hislop, John Richardson and Joseph Richardson. There are no replies at S.R.O. from Col. Howard to these letters.

LETTERS, 1823-5

14 July 1823 (J.H.): to Grosvenor Square (Col. Howard's town house). Two pines (pineapples), two melons, 28 peaches and nectarines and six bunches of grapes (packed in bran) have been sent by coach to Levens. Soaking rain and smart showers have well saturated the earth and 'with warmth should produce rapid vegetation'

16 Aug. 1823 (J.H.): to Grosvenor Square. Apricots and grapes ripening much later owing to cold summer. Corn looks well and promises abundance, if well harvested; ripening of wheat just begun. Vine border in front of hothouse, a very laborious job—2,400 sq. ft. of earth removed. He asks if an earthworm powder should be bought at 10s.-6d.; when watered it brings worms to the soil surface where they die. Observations on the daily weather from 1-16 Aug. with thermometer readings at 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Two fine looking pineapples sent (to Levens)—the return of both crowns is asked for. 'The worst crop of melons I have ever had in my life'.

27 Sept. 1823 (J.H.): to Grosvenor Square. Request to send a remarkably fine Black Jamaican pineapple to the next show of the Horticultural Society. The earlier lot of grapes was much admired for their size and regularity. Proposal to tie vines to rafters by wire instead of by nailing—the former will cost only £5. Greenhouse staging completed. Prices at fruit market extremely low owing to a glut. Temperature readings given for second half of Aug. to 27 Sept.

19 Dec. 1823 (J.R.): to Levens. A violent hurricane of wind on Wednesday, three large trees in Park blown down, lights (glass panes) carried off from hothouse opposite the melon ground, glass and frames broken: cost £15-20. Tiles stripped from farm buildings. Sudden death of Watts, late gardener.

24 Dec. 1823 (J.H.): to Levens. 'A tempestuous wind on 17th blew five top lights off the hothouse; buttons to be used from now on.' Temperatures from 8-24 Dec. tabled.

30 Jan. 1824 (J.R.): to Elford, Lichfield. Your tenant, Chandler, at 'Haunch of Venison' inn, dangerously ill through his son's misconduct at Epsom. Old wheats, 40s. per quarter, new wheat in proportion, best barley 36 to 40s. per quarter, and other grain high in proportion.

7 Feb. 1824 (J.H.): to Levens. Apology for delay in writing due to his wife having had a daughter two weeks earlier. Asks if 50 to 100 strong potted Irish ivy may be grown as an experiment on the steep, naked banks in the chalk pit, and to make a bank of violets there as they flower better and grow quicker than on flat ground. This would certainly please Mrs Howard. He hopes he 'has not been too rash' in procuring six strong knives for the men who can only do poor work with the other ones used.

15 Feb. 1824 (J.R.): to Elford. Thanks for 'a most noble fish and gift of venison.' Mr Mitchell wishes to give up the 'Leg of Mutton' and become a tenant of Weston Farm. Our markets have received a check and all sacks of grain are considerably lower than last week.

24 Feb. 1824 (J.R.): to Elford. Ploughing and spring sowing, wet weather has caused a little delay. Market again becoming flat with reduction in price of all grain.

24 Feb. 1824 (J.H.): to Elford. Temperatures from 8-24 Feb. The quality of the vines is good. Hislop says he has been elected to the Horticultural Society.

18 April 1824 (J.H.): to Grosvenor Square. Includes a sketch of a section of the greenhouse at a scale of ½ in. to 1 ft., showing it to have been 16 ft. high with hinged upper and lower windows; the inside length is given as 86 ft. An underlined note states that the bricks must be bespoke before they are made, so an order is urgent. Note: This greenhouse had later to be removed to make way for the conservatory built by Thomas Lucas, who was Lord of the Manor from 1879 to 1889, and became a baronet.

20 April 1824 (J.R.): to Grosvenor Square. Receipt of £1,090 for 'half-notes' i.e. rents for the first half of the year.

9 Oct. 1824 (J.R.): to Grosvenor Square. A driver, Henry Williams, has just delivered 200 Derbyshire sheep which appear to have been carefully driven. His expenses are: 11 days on the road, 5s. per day; keep for sheep and toll gates, £10-8s.; cost of 200 sheep at 18s. each, £180.

6 Dec 1824 (J.R.): to Elford. £210 rent for New Purchase Farm is considered too dear by Mr Agate who offers £185.

16 Dec 1824 (J.R.): to Elford. Mr Agate offers £190 rent: 'he does not exactly comprehend the land drainage.'

(Gap of one year in the letters.)

8 Dec 1825 (J.R.): to Levens. Repairs by Rev. W. L. Broadrick* to house are £83-11s.-5d. Six horses have arrived from Elford and appear likely to be useful. Ploughing going on; a company of men are draining the low grounds (probably the Marsh, near the Rye). A hurricane of wind has blown down another of the mount trees and others in the Park.

(Gap of over seven years in the letters.)

LETTERS, 1833-4

10 Jan 1833 (J.H.): to Elford. Repairs are due to the Great Clock—either locally by Huck or by Bramley from London, the former would be cheaper. Hislop asks if the *Pyrocantha* on the front wall of the manor house can be replaced by 'things of more worth and beauty' such as *Chimonanthes fragans* (winter sweet), *Lonicera flexuosa* (pink and white honeysuckle) or *Wistaria consequans*.

8 Feb 1833 (Jos R.): to Elford. Death of Mr Wilson 'from bursting of a blood vessel during a violent fit of retching' (owner of the 'Leg of Mutton'). Bill sent for £80 for fitting up the brewery—the bricks, lime and labour come to only £9-11s.-0d. A functioning brewery would finally put down the nuisance in front of the 'Leg of Mutton'. A Labour Rate has received the sanction of the magistrates: 'We never had so many hands out of employ as last winter.'

21 March 1833 (Jos R.): to Elford. The cottagers of Woodfield much prejudiced against inoculation for smallpox which is not making much further progress in the parish. Active preparation for barley drilling. Late cold winds have checked the wheat, which is blue and rusty in exposed places, also the turnips and vegetation. New Epsom market is inferior to Croydon and Guildford, much to the chagrin of Reigate, Dorking and Kingston. The wives of Ashted folk walk to Epsom on market day so as to buy cheaper butter, cheese and bacon. Richardson thanks the Colonel for the arrival of a very fine cheese. P.S. A labourer named Ottway has caught smallpox at Leatherhead where it has been raging for some time.

1 April 1833 (Jos R.): to All Souls College, Oxford, redirected to Elford. James Nunn wishes to leave the 'Brewery Inn' whose tenancy has been applied for by Evans, 'a person of respectable appearance and address'. Mrs Wilson gives notice to quit the 'Leg of Mutton' on her husband's recent death; a robbery and enlargement of the 'Brewery Inn' opposite. Mr Agate pays £50 collected from various sources for church repairs. Rain has checked sowing for the present but crops forward enough.

8 August 1833 (Jos R.): to Barnstaple and then to Bath. Disposal of a brace of bucks carried out. An old-fashioned wheat harvest has allowed uninterrupted cutting and carting so that little wheat will be unsold by the end of the week. Quality good but the quantity short of last year's owing to loss by tremendous gale at blooming. Stubble is unsightly to farmers but delightful to sportsmen as gives cover to partridges. From coarse samples seen, barley and oats will be short of last year. Turnip prospects not bad. After the expiry of the present day lease, Mr Dackombe will grant a 21-year lease (Daniel Dackcombe owned 61 acres at Tithe Redemption in 1839). The servants take advantage of your absence to improve their skill at cricket. Good coveys of partridges seen with large, strong birds.

* Broadrick was probably closely related to W. J. Brodrick who was Dean of Exeter and Chaplain to Queen Victoria, becoming the 7th Viscount Midleton after his brother's death in 1863.

16 Oct. 1833 (J.H.): to Castle Rising, Norfolk. There was defective heating of the early grapes last spring; if the apparatus is checked and additional pipes added there will be less consumption of fuel. A 60 ft. coping of slate from the garden walls is to be replaced by bricks. £150 credit is asked for to settle last year's fruit account. Weather stormy with heavy rains.

4 Nov. 1833 (Jos R.): to Castle Rising. Wheat drilling is finished and seed out in the land and the earliest sowings are up. Mr Evans is desirous of quitting the 'Haunch of Venison' tenancy of which applied for by Mr Lawrence. The tradesmen's bills for 1832, including a half-year's tax, come to £1316-16s.-3d.

27 Nov. 1833 (Jos R.): to Castle Rising. The bills now stand at £1636-9s.-2d. The wheats are looking gayer now than in some years at the end of April. Foliage in the Park has not lost its summer greenness. Bucks never in finer condition or killed fatter—is it your pleasure to have another sent to Castle Rising? We are at present free from any of the burnings as in other counties (from Luddites). We were never less annoyed from poaching, trespassing or shooting than this season.

21 April 1834 (Jos R.): to Grosvenor Square. Finished the barking (debarking of logs) in the Park, the last oak in hand; the number taken down is 36; we go next to Newton Wood. The end of oats and barley sowing; wheat looking well throughout the parish, except the 75 acres on Ashtead Farm. Ploughs and harrows employed on turning turnips. (All the stock are well.) He begs leave to suggest that David Richardson (son of the parish clerk) be allowed to practise on the organ—the singing is next to a failure being 'of the most wretched kind on Sunday last, nearer to Presto than Adagio.'

25 April 1834 (Jos R.): to Grosvenor Square. The hops were so affected that the brewer was forbidden to use them—even an exchange failed owing to poor quality. He asks permission to get more fattening sheep before replacements from Elford. Mr Harriot of Leatherhead would be a tenant for White House Farm, but he refuses to grow sainfoin on which Richardson insists.

28 April 1834 (Jos R.): to Grosvenor Square. Two horses to be sold at Tattersalls on 12 May. 'It is now raining a steady penetrating shower and most welcome it is.'

24 June 1834 (Jos R.): Mentions the laying of a pipe in a 2 ft. deep channel, through which water was conveyed to Ashtead Park Farm (this still exists near the Epsom boundary west of Wilmerhatch Lane).

As a postscript, it may be recalled that Swete's handbook on Epsom (1860) states that 'peaches and nectarines are brought (at Ashtead Park) to an early ripening and the melony is stocked with the richest kinds'. Fruit cultivation was continued here until the time of Pantia Ralli in the early 1920s.

Acknowledgements

The writer's thanks are due to the staff at the S.R.O. to which this series of Howard documents was presented by Messrs Courbould Rigby in 1966.

For a Few Nights Only!!!

THEATRE, LEATHERHEAD.

By their Majesties Servants,
On WEDNESDAY Evening the 23rd of JULY, 1807,
Will be presented a Favorite Comedy called

She Stoops to Conquer:

Or, The Mistakes of a Night.

Mr. Hardcastle. Mr. JERROLD,
Sir Charles Marlow, Mr. ASHLEY, — Young Marlow, Mr. LEWIS,
Hastings, Mr. FITZHENRY — Diggory, Mr. RUSSELL,
Tony Lumpkin, Mr. WILKINSON.
Mrs. Hardcastle. Mrs. LEWIS. — Miss Neville, Mrs. JERROLD,
Maid, Miss JERROLD. — Miss Hardcastle, Mrs. INCHBALD.

DOUBLE HORNPIPE BY THE Miss JERROLDs.

A SONG BY MR. RUSSELL.

The whole to conclude with a Musical Entertainment, called, The

REVIEW

Or, The Wags of Windsor.

Deputy Bull, Mr. RUSSELL, — Captain Beaugard, Mr. FITZHENRY,
Charles Williams, Mr. JONES, — Caleb Quotem, Mr. WILKINSON, — John Lump, Mr. LEWIS,
Dubbs, Mr. ASHLEY, — Lobey Mactwotter, Mr. JERROLD,
Grace Gaylove, Mrs. INCHBALD, — Lucy, Mrs. LEWIS,
Martha, Miss JERROLD, — Phoeby Whitethorn, — Mrs. JERROLD.

BOXES, 3s. — SECOND PRICE, 2s. — PIT, 2s. — GALLERY, 1s.

Doors to be Opened at Six, and to begin precisely at Seven o'Clock.

LEATHERHEAD VOLUNTEER BAND WILL ATTEND

LANGLEY, PRINTER, DORKING.

THEATRE-GOING IN LEATHERHEAD: A PLAYBILL OF 1807

By J. R. CLUBE

THE Playbill of 1807 reproduced on p. 116 announces the performance in Leatherhead of Goldsmith's comedy 'She Stoops to Conquer' and is the only evidence so far uncovered of theatrical entertainment here in the Georgian period. Leatherhead was then at best a small town and in reality little more than a village, with a population of 1,100 or so. In the expansion of drama in the 18th century, theatres were built in many market towns; but places such as Leatherhead continued to be served by strolling players in occasional visits. They would perform for a few days in any suitable venue: a large room or hall, or more commonly, a barn. A visiting company would arrange for the distribution of playbills in advance of their visit, and would prepare the stage and auditorium after their arrival. The boxes and pit referred to in the playbill were probably no more than benches placed around the hall, although the gallery sounds somewhat more permanent.

However simple the theatre itself, there is a professional style in the playbill. It is similar in content and presentation to those put out by the best London theatres of the day. An important clue may be 'By Their Majesties Servants', a title used solely by the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, the most prestigious theatre in London. It was the practice at the time for such companies to tour the provinces when the London theatre was closed for the summer.¹ Even so, none of the persons named in the Leatherhead playbill appears in those of Drury Lane. It is known that Samuel Jerrold (1749-1820) was an actor-manager who worked mainly in the provinces; in Jan. 1807 he took lease of a theatre in Sheerness. His second wife Mary (1772-1851) and his daughter, born 1777, are also in the playbill.

The company which acted here may have had some links with Drury Lane through the playwright R. B. Sheridan, who had been the theatre's manager for many years and was then living nearby at Polesden Lacey, his home from 1797 until his death in 1816.² Sheridan was obviously closely connected with Leatherhead and spoke of his pleasure, in 1815, in getting a book from the Leatherhead circulating library. It can only be a matter of conjecture, but one wonders whether Sheridan was influential in bringing the company to Leatherhead. 'She Stoops to Conquer' had received its premiere at Drury Lane in 1773.

The play is believed to have been performed in a large barn on the west side of North Street where the Nationwide Anglia Building Society now stands. There were in this area a number of farm buildings, a bakery and a barn belonging principally to the Ede family. In 1816, when the barn was fitted out as a place of worship for the Congregational Church it was reported to have been 'frequently used by strolling players'.³

The presence of the Leatherhead Volunteer Band was a clear sign of the times.⁴ Britain was threatened with invasion by Napoleon in the 1790s, and more particularly in 1803 and after. In addition to the Militia as a Home Defence force, the Government encouraged the formation of a citizens' army of Volunteer Infantry to provide local defence in case of need. Leatherhead raised two companies of Volunteers and this military band was clearly drawn from its members (see p. 105).

The Society is fortunate to have a copy of this playbill, which was handed anonymously to Hazel Vincent Wallace at the old theatre in the High Street in 1954.⁵ It is as much of value as an historical document as it is a programme of entertainment nearly two hundred years ago. Judging by the programme, the show must have been great fun.

NOTES

1. Dr Janet Birkett, Theatre Museum, London, letter of 13th February 1991.
2. *Polesden Lucey*. National Trust Handbook (1964), p. 5.
3. E. E. Cleal, *The Story of Congregationalism in Surrey* (1908), p. 415.
4. P.R.O. (Kew), WO 13/4560.
5. Society Records, LW 95.

ASHTEAD GREAT AND LITTLE GLIBES

By L. A. Smith

A chance sighting of an area of land described in a deed of 1880 as Great and Little Glibes has disclosed the development of rural Ashtead in the last two decades of the 19th century and the part played in it by firms of solicitors. The Glibes turned out to be part of the former glebe, that is, land vested in and for the benefit of the incumbent of a parish which, subject to certain safeguards, could be sold, exchanged or developed by him. In Ashtead the glebe totalled about 28½ acres, half in the two common fields and the other half in the form of enclosures in various parts of the parish. We are here concerned with three enclosures totalling just over 10 acres south of Marsh Lane (Barnett Wood Lane) and east of Skinners Lane.*

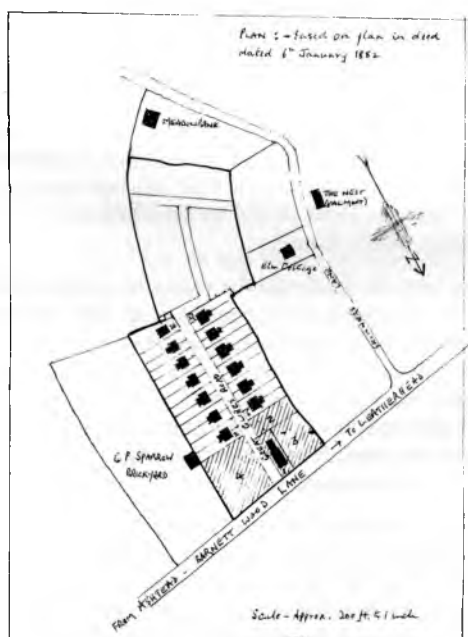
At a meeting of the principal landowners of Ashtead at the 'Leg of Mutton & Cauliflower' inn on 4th October 1838, following the passing of the 1836/7 Enclosure Act, it was agreed that the north and south common fields be abolished and that the glebe strips there should pass into the ownership of Col. Fulk Greville Howard of Ashtead Park. By the same agreement some glebe enclosures south of Marsh Lane also passed to Col. Howard and in exchange the Rector received land in the Dene and a large house at the corner of Dene Road and Rectory Lane now known as the Old Rectory. The three enclosures mentioned above were added to New Purchase Farm which had been created by Richard Howard (formerly Bagot) when he set out to increase the Howard possessions following his marriage to the Hon. Frances Howard in 1783. It was based on what is now Murrey's Court and extended east, west and north from there. When the Howard estates were put up for sale by auction in June 1878, following the death of the Hon. Mary Howard in 1877, New Purchase Farm, which included the former glebe, by then called Great and Little Glibes, failed to sell and was subsequently broken up and sold piecemeal. It is not known when and how the spelling 'glebe' became 'glibe' but it was probably a simple corruption, while the 'Great' and 'Little' merely described the relative sizes of the enclosures, bearing in mind that at that time most fields were given names. Another possibility is that since the land was no longer glebe it could not be so entitled and a change of one vowel produced an acceptable alternative.

* These enclosures are shown as plots 227, 228 and 237 on the Wyburd Survey of 1802.

The later history of the glibes can be traced from a collection of deeds which have been lent to the Society and which show the frequent changes of ownership of this and other land during the rapid development of Ashtead following the arrival of the railway. The Poor Rate books for the Ashtead Vestry and the title collection records of Messrs White and Son of Dorking, all in the Society's archives, have also provided useful information.

The first deed dated 27th May 1880 shows that the glibes together with other land had been purchased by William Gilford of Redhill, who had contracted to sell some 7½ acres of the glibes to Thomas Martin, a builder of Sutton for £650, but another builder, William Henry Goodwin, took over the contract for £770. The remainder of the glibes was sold by Gilford to G. P. Sparrow for use as a brickworks (see plan below). A pair of cottages and a brick kiln were built by Sparrow, clay was dug in what is now Church Road and it is likely that some or all of the resultant bricks were used to build the houses on Goodwin's land next door.

Soon after acquiring his 7½ acres Goodwin built a gravel road for some 200 yards southward from Barnett Wood Lane followed by twelve cottages on its west side, now number 5 to 27 Glebe Road. Goodwin's road was called Great Glibes Road but by 1899 it had become Glebe Road. The cottages were completed by 10th November 1880 when Goodwin mortgaged them to Mrs Martha Sims of Brighton for £1,100, which was repaid



ASHTEAD GLIBES, 1882
 (For explanation of the numbers see pp. 119-20)

on 11th April 1881, the day before he mortgaged the remainder of his 7½ acres to the Perpetual Investment Building Society for £900.

On 6th January 1882, the land shown hatched on the plan (see p. 119) was sold to the Suburban Land and Cottage Co. Ltd., but in March 1883, Goodwin repurchased the plot numbered 1 on which he had built a pair of shops and dwelling houses. He mortgaged these to John Cannings Stebbing, an ironfounder of Hampshire, a client of Joseph Soames, a London solicitor who also acted for the Suburban Land and Cottage Co. Ltd. In February 1886 Soames bought the shops subject to the mortgage and the No. 2 plot at the back. The following year he redeemed the mortgage on plot 1. In this same period the Suburban Land and Cottage Co. Ltd., sold plot 3 to William Mellish, a baker of Ashtead and plot 4 to Mr Kuhne, about whom nothing is known. It also appears that sometime before 1883 the Company had purchased the land on the east side of Great Glibes Road from Goodwin on which they built six pairs of cottages now numbers 2 to 24 Glebe Road. No. 26 on this road was owned by Goodwin's wife in 1886 but it is not known who built it or when. Equally there is no evidence prior to 1900 as to ownership or user of the remaining land to the south although the 1882 plan seems to suggest that development was intended.

Between the years 1883 and 1897 there were numerous changes in ownership, especially involving Soames and one of his partners, Charles Edwards, who appeared to switch ownerships for no obvious reasons. They and the Suburban Land and Cottage Co. Ltd., were also involved in sales for development of other parts of the former New Purchase Farm, especially in the Links Road area to the north of the railway. By 1897 Soames and Co. had disposed of their interests in Great Glibes Road and by December of that year William Mellish owned not only plot 3 but also plots 1, 2 and 4 together with four cottages on the east side of the road and the detached one. Charles Sparrow and E. Burgess each owned two cottages and James Weller four on the same side, while James Chitty owned ten and Mrs Dudman two on the west side. It would appear that Mellish sold a small part of plot 3 to Charles Smither in 1898 when he built the two cottages now known as 1 and 2 Woodman Cottages. They were still owned by Miss Smither in 1930. The Smithers were licensees of the Woodman public house.

Amid all this activity with the freeholds the properties were let and while some families stayed only a short time some remained for many years. The Haynes family were tenants of several houses but one branch occupied a house on the east side in 1886 and a descendant is still living there today. Another Haynes who died a year or two ago at the age of 90 lived in the road all his life as does another who is now over 70. Henry Roberts was a tenant in 1896 and his son died in the cottage only a few years ago. Several well-known Ashtead families lived in the road at one time or another including Astridge, Longhurst, Chitty, Hogsden and Ottway to name but a few.

The remainder of plot 3, the part between Goodwin's shops on the east and Woodman Cottages on the west, was used for the erection of the Ashtead Free Church in 1924 while the whole of plot 4 owned by Mellish from some time soon after 1893 was used by him as an orchard, which by all accounts was the scene of much scrumping of apples by children living in the road. Development of this plot commenced by the erection of Roundhills Garage in 1930 or thereabouts on part of the land, and later by the erection of the shops now numbers 200 to 206 Barnett Wood Lane on the remainder.

Information about that part of the land not developed is difficult to come by but it appears to have been owned for many years by Miss E. Trotter who bought Meadowbank in Skinners Lane in 1900. As will be seen from the plan, the garden of Meadowbank adjoined the southern boundary of the former glebe. In 1925 or 1926 Miss Trotter sold most of this land to Mr Richard who lived at The Nest (now Valmont) Skinners Lane, who also owned the plot opposite to his house which adjoined the former glebe. All this land was used by Mr Richard as orchard and for grazing horses until it was developed for housing in 1952. Goodwin's gravel road survived until 1973 when it was made up and taken over by the local authority.

The firm of Sparrow Bros continued brickmaking in the area once known as Little Glibes until at least 1906 because in February of that year Sparrow sold two shops he had built on some of his land fronting Barnett Wood Lane, now numbers 224 and 226. He also sold half an acre to J. Death, a builder and undertaker, who no doubt built houses or shops on it. By 1909 Sparrow had ceased trading because he had sold the remainder of his land to George Baker, a prominent developer in Ashted, who built the roller skating rink cum cinema and a number of houses in Church Road. It is also possible that he finished developing the Barnett Wood Lane frontage, including the iron building formerly used by the Ashted Free Church and now the Constitutional Hall. While the Sparrow brick kiln has long since disappeared the two cottages are still there and they are still known as Brickfield Cottages.

Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to S. E. D. Fortescue for the loan of the deeds and to G. J. Gollin for his help with the research and for allowing access to his extensive material on Ashted.

CITY POSTS

By E. A. CROSSLAND

IN a flower-bed outside 'The Star' inn on the Kingston Road (A243) is a cast-iron post standing 4 ft. high. It is square in section with a small pyramid at the top below which can be seen the arms of the City of London. On the trunk of the post is an inscription reading '24 & 25 VICT' and on a line below 'CAP 42'. This is the clue to the purpose of the post. It refers to an Act of Parliament of 1861—'The London Coal and Wine Duties Continuance Act' which required a post to be erected where any thoroughfare, road, rail or water, crossed the boundary of the then Metropolitan Police District (referred to as the London District) and laid down that any cargo of coal or wine being carried into London should pay a duty to the City Corporation according to the weight or volume.

Since the parishes included in the Metropolitan Police District had boundaries inclined to wobble, there are some peculiar positionings of these 'City Posts', as they are called. At each point where a thoroughfare crossed the London boundary there had to be a marker. If the way then went out of the area another marker was put up even though the distance might be only a few yards. Examples of this extravagance can be seen on Copsem Lane, Esher, on the corner of Sandy Lane and near the A3 interchange, and on the bridle-way which runs down the east side of Walton Heath golf course.

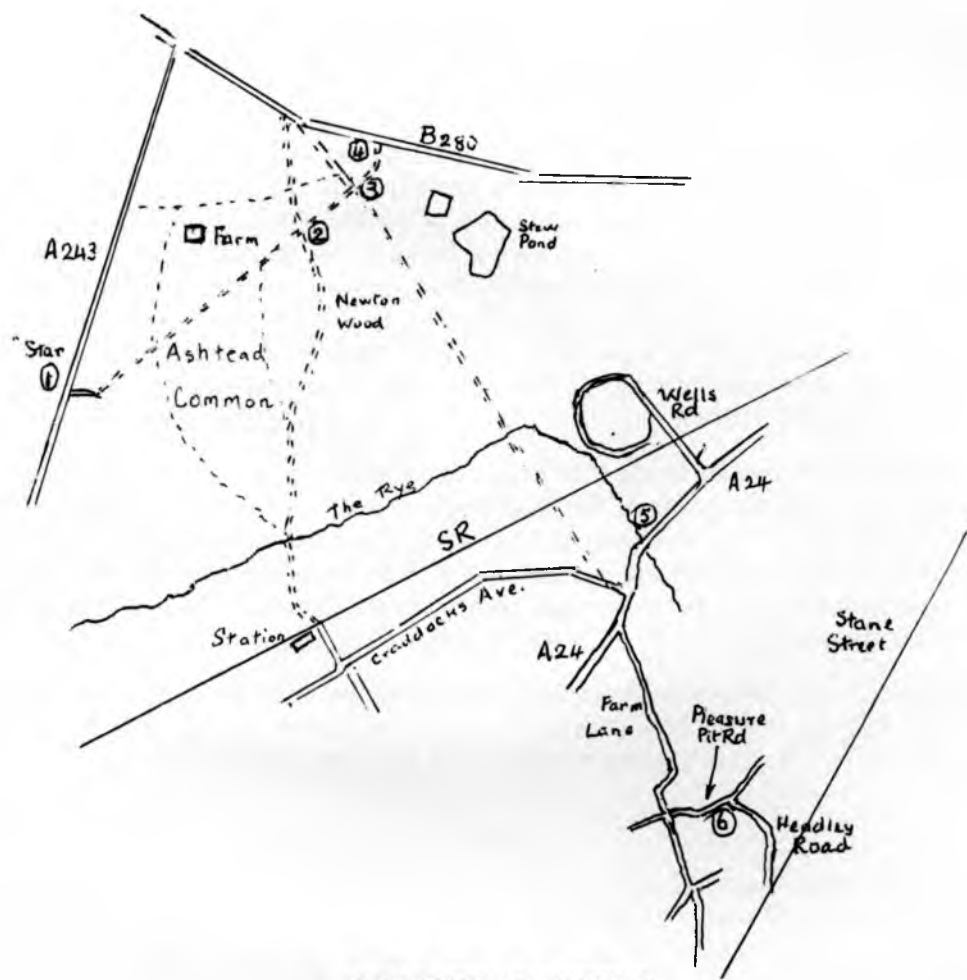


CITY POST AT 'THE STAR' INN, KINGSTON ROAD.
Photograph by E. A. Crossland.

The City's right to this local customs duty was ancient. Originally it had been a charge for weighing (by the ton) or measuring by volume (by the tun for wine and the chaldron* for coal called 'metage'). It did in fact apply to all products. Money was raised by this means in the 17th century to rebuild the City after the Great Fire of 1666 and to support the 'Orphan Fund' for the City Freemen's orphaned children. The Fund had been reduced by unredeemed loans to the Crown (especially Charles II) and an Act of 1694 raised duties on coal and wine to replenish it. This revenue raising device was used increasingly during the 18th and 19th centuries to finance public works; thus, in 1767, an extra 6d. was used to build Blackfriars Bridge, to improve Newgate Gaol, repair the Royal Exchange and pave Westminster. Later it contributed to the Metropolis Improvement Fund set up by the Coal Duties Act of 1845, and financed the building of Victoria Street.

All the while that coal and wine came into London by sea the administration of the duties was easy, being done at the wharves. The advent of first the canals and then the railways gave the opportunity to use other routes and so evade the charge. At first, attempts were made to prevent coal being brought into London other than by sea. Then the same charge was made as would be levied at a wharf. To fix the boundary of the customs area the Coal Duties Act, 1845 defined it as a radius of 20 miles from the G.P.O. in St Martin's-

* A chaldron was defined in 1714 as 36 Winchester bushels, roughly a ton in weight. Previously it might be as little as 32 bushels or as much as 40.



CITY POSTS AT ASHTEAD.

1. At 'The Star' inn on the A243.
2. Where the footpath from Ashtead station crosses the bridleway along the north side of the common at the edge of Newton Wood. This post has been partly dislodged, exposing the base and revealing an oval cartouche which gives the name of the manufacturer, Henry Grissell, his address, Regents Canal Iron Works, London, and the date, 1861.
3. Where the bridleway from the A24 up the east side of Newton Wood also crosses the last named bridleway, at Woodcock Corner.
4. Where that bridleway emerges on to the B280 (Rushett Lane).
5. On the A24 a few yards on the Epsom side of the junction with Craddocks Avenue.
6. Well back from the road-side partly hidden by undergrowth in summer and against the fence round the Abbot's Pit on the south side of Pleasure Pit Road.

(The numbers are as shown on the plan.)

le-Grand with the stipulation that markers were to be set up where a thoroughfare of any kind came into this area. Because of the difficulty in identifying these points few markers were erected but there was one at the junction of the Wey Navigation with the Basingstoke Canal and another on the London Road at Mickleham. Until 1851 no rebate was allowed

for coal which having entered the London District was taken out again. Then a drawback was allowed subject to the retention of 1d. a ton for any loads transferred from one form of transport to another before being taken out.

When the City Posts were ordered to be erected by the 1861 Act it was directed that the bulk of the wine and coal duties should be transferred to the Metropolis Improvement Fund, although the City retained a charge of 4d. a ton and still had the responsibility for collection. But opposition was growing. People living in, for instance, Chessington could see no justice in paying 1/1d. more for their coal than those in, say, Leatherhead or Ashtead when any benefit went to the inhabitants of London living 15 miles away. Despite a rearguard action by the City the taxes were abolished by the London Coal Duties Abolition Act of 1889, except for the original metage of 4d. a ton which continued for a year to meet the final cost of Holborn Viaduct.

So the several hundred surviving City Posts scattered all around London are reminders of orphans who were the wards of the local authority, of that authority which, at least for a time, lost their money, of a King who could not pay his debts and of how the people of the Home Counties paid for the damage of the Great Fire and many improvements to London and its River. Finally we come to 1961 when the City asked the local authorities to look after the posts in future. Some do it well, others are not so careful.

The posts still to be seen in the Ashtead area lie along the Mole Valley/Epsom and Ewell (i.e. the old Ashtead parish) boundary as shown on the accompanying sketch plan. The photograph on p. 121 gives a good impression of what they look like.

NOTES

1. Martin Niall of the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society has written a paper which identifies the locations of all the posts erected around London. (A copy is held by the Local Studies Department in Guildford Library.)
2. An account of the London Wine and Coal Duties and the locations of the City Posts in the Borough of Elmbridge is given in Monograph No. 7 (April, 1980) of the Esher & District Local History Society written by the late G. R. G. M. Baker.



CARVING OF 50-GUN WARSHIP AT THE BASE OF ADMIRAL SIR JAMES WISHART'S
MONUMENT IN LEATHERHEAD PARISH CHURCH.

Photograph by Elizabeth Ellis.

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