

## Don't miss these!

EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

### CASTLE KEEP

Look out for the re-opening date of the Castle Keep - hopefully April 2004.

A roof is to be built over the first floor and the ground floor will house a permanent exhibition about the history of the Castle, produced by the Museum. There are also plans for a small kiosk, selling entrance tickets to the Keep and related books and souvenirs.

### TRAVELLING and the ART of TRAVEL

May 2004 Opening of new permanent exhibition featuring a working model of Guildford Railway Station.

### GLORIOUS GARDENS

A CELEBRATION OF LOCAL GARDENS AND GARDENERS

19<sup>th</sup> June - 4<sup>th</sup> September 2004

This will be a combined exhibition between Guildford House and Guildford Museum to celebrate the year of the Garden and the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Horticultural Society. The parks department will delight us as ever with a display bed in the Castle Grounds.

### BREWERIES EXHIBITION

2<sup>nd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2004 at Salters Gallery, Castle Street.

The Editor welcomes Items for the Newsletter or comments. Please send them to Eric Morgan, 21 St Michael's Avenue, Guildford, GU3 3LY. Telephone Number (01483 233344).

Copy date for next Newsletter is May 1<sup>st</sup> 2004

# FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2003



Issue 17





## From the Editor

We send our very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year and look forward to not only seeing all our old friends but new one's too in 2004.

- Our secretary's report on page 3 tells you about all those enjoyable outings we went on. If you missed them then make sure you come on the next ones!
- On page 5 Mary Alexander tells us about a new acquisition at the Museum and follows this on page 6 with exciting discoveries at the Castle.
- Page 8 Sue Roggero updates us on the Young Archaeologists Club. Sue needs support to keep this thriving club running. So give it a thought please.
- Page 10 Richard Williams follows up his previous article with more about boundary stones and markers. Have you found any near you?
- Page 14 Marion May gives an update on her Cokelers exhibition. Don't miss her next one in April
- On page 15 I take a look at the Surrey Advertiser for Christmas 1891 and on page 18, one of Maureen Bolster's wartime letters from her book "Entertaining Eric"

**FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM,**  
If you are not a member we would love you to join us.

Please send a cheque with the appropriate subscription to

Mr R. Sinker, Friends of Guildford Museum,  
2 The Ridgeway, Guildford, GU1 2DG

Subscription rates for 2003/2004

Individual	£6	Family	£12	Youth	£3
Corporate	£25	Individual Life	£100		

Please make cheques payable to  
**FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM**

## Secretary's Letter

I am happy to be able to report that we have had a very successful year for the renewal of member's subscriptions. We started the current membership year on April 1 with 262 members and now there are 250 paid up members which is a good position for this time in the annual cycle. The renewal rate was a very encouraging 90%. There were 4 resignations and 20 members did not respond. Two current members, Anne Bowey and Paula Philip, very generously decided to become Life Members which now brings that category to 8 members. We are most grateful to them both for having given the Friends' funds a significant boost. The news on new members is also good as we now have enrolled 14 new members since April 1 and with just a little bit of optimism should reach more than 22 by next April, thus reversing the downward annual trend of new members in recent years of which I have frequently spoken. Please, whenever possible, encourage your friends and relatives to join the Friends and swell our numbers.

Since the issue of the previous newsletter, there have been some most enjoyable full day outings organised, as ever, by Peter Hattersley, Derek Somner and John Wilkins. In June a full complement of 53 members enjoyed tours of the Palace of Westminster and the Banqueting House in Whitehall. The guides for both were articulate and very well informed. For many the highlight of the day was a visit to the clockroom and belfry of Big Ben, or more correctly to Big Ben himself! The guide said that he was most agreeably surprised at the alacrity with which the vast majority of the Friends ascended the tower. In some measure this had been due to a late arrival at the base of the tower, for reasons that need not be gone into, which had momentarily threatened the ascent altogether! A minor disappointment was the food in the otherwise delightful Jubilee café in the bowels of the Parliament Buildings. Late in July another full complement cruised on the Grand Union Canal reaching the Chiltern summit level. Distance travelled was not the main aim, but lunch on board, followed by strolls beside the canal watching others doing the strenuous lock duties and observing wildlife were delightful. For many it was an unknown and attractive corner of England and Peter must be congratulated for having persevered in planning this outing when not all his committee colleagues were giving him wholehearted support! In October an additional event took place for which Peter had undertaken much background research; this involved a guided walk of the World War II GHQ stop line around Gomshall, the area occupied by the Canadian Army. The final major outing was to Milestones, Hampshire's excellent living history museum in Basingstoke, and to Stratfield Saye, Wellington's country house. Happily there were no outings that had to be cancelled this year. Your committee is grateful for members' support and trust that the days out were enjoyable.

Village walks took place in Chobham, Ripley, Mickleham and Shalford under the expert guidance of Jackie Malyon; unusually they were all full day events which did not deter members, indeed there was a higher average attendance than normal. Jill Buist conducted a guided tour of Virginia Water at the end of May. We are most grateful to both ladies for their time and effort.

For the first time, Marjorie Williams had to cancel the Quiz Evening, a popular event for a small but loyal group of contestants, due to a mix up in bookings for Salters.


The committee hopes that the 2003 season of events and outings has met with general approval from members; we have tried to modify the plans somewhat to cater for the wishes expressed by members in the questionnaire a year ago.

Yet another successful season has passed for the Undercroft which continues to draw curious visitors below ground in the High Street. Our thanks again are due to the many willing stewards whose efforts allow this important heritage site to be kept open on a regular basis.

The Town Walk Guides have also continued their well researched strolls around the town centre which are popular both with visitors to Guildford and with residents in need of a recapitulation of local history! The donations raised have again kindly been passed to the Friends.

Your committee has within the past year modified the policy regarding the expenditure of funds raised by the Friends, which, as I think you know, amounts to some £4000 per year on average. To date by far the largest part of total expenditure has been on items that are purchased to enhance the Museum's collections; these have been selected by Matthew Alexander and his staff and have regularly been highlighted in the newsletter. This category of expenditure will continue albeit at a lower rate. Your committee has decided that it would be prudent to set aside a reserve fund which will be useful in attracting matching funds from other sources and could even assist in any future Lottery Fund application for development of the Museum. This reserve fund currently stands at £7000 and additional monies will be transferred to the reserve as the Treasurer and the committee see fit.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a fulfilling New Year.

Richard Sinker Hon. Secretary,  01483 502207



Shalford

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS CASE

Here Mary Alexander tells about the latest item to be placed on display.

I have wanted to have a recent acquisitions case for a long time. It is something we used to have before the main gallery was re-done in 1990, and it's a very useful way of displaying nice objects which don't fit in with current displays, but deserve to be seen. The first exhibit is not all that recent, but it is very special and I have wanted to display it ever since we acquired it. It is an early 18th century christening set, consisting of a christening robe, a bearing cloth and a pillow cover. They are all made of cream satin. The robe is embroidered with cream thread, down either side of the open front and on the sleeves. The embroidery on the skirt was clearly done to fit the shape, but the embroidery on the sleeves seems to have been cut from something which was already embroidered, though in the same style as the skirt. The child would have worn a petticoat underneath (or more than one) and a linen shirt. The child may have been swaddled, since babies were christened soon after birth and swaddling continued into the mid 18th century.

The bearing cloth is a plain rectangle of silk, used to wrap the child in to carry it to church. They were well-known in the 16th century, at least. Shakespeare refers to them twice. In *The Winter's Tale* the abandoned baby princess Perdita is found by a shepherd who assumes she is wrapped in 'a bearing cloth for a squire's child'. The pillow, or cushion, cover is of the same cream silk, quilted with a geometric and floral design. Presumably the child was laid on the cushion at some point.

Unfortunately, we do not know anything about the history of these objects. They would have belonged to a wealthy family, but who, or where, is unknown. They are part of the needlework collection, which specialises in all types of sewing, so the embroidery and quilting are very relevant to the collection. Unlike the archaeology and local history, the needlework does not have to be local to qualify for inclusion in the Museum's collection.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Association and look forward to meeting them at the functions.

### Life Members

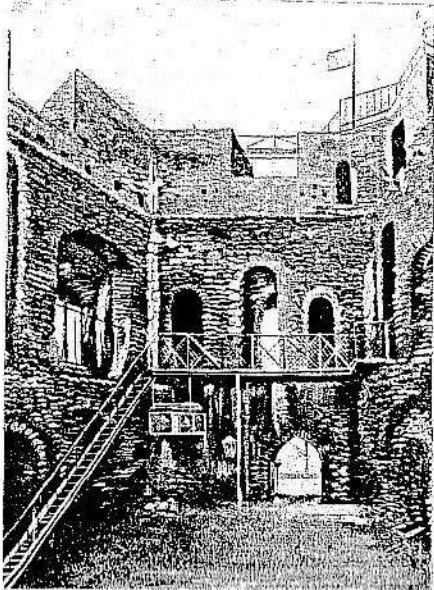
Miss Anne Bowey Mrs. Paula Philip

### Ordinary Members

Dr. Sunethra Mendis Mrs. Diana Lockyer-Nibbs  
Mr. John & Mrs. Joyce Wyett Mrs. Joan Stabback

## THE CASTLE KEEP

The Museum has been agitating for work to be done on the keep for some years now, and it finally began in the spring of this year. Part of the problem has been the natural erosion suffered by a ruined building, but it has been made worse by unsuitable restoration in the past. A lot of work was done in 1885-8, when the Borough acquired the castle grounds, and the keep was re-pointed in 1989. Both of these campaigns used cement mortar which is too hard for use on a building built with lime mortar. It trapped water inside the walls, and forces it out through the stonework. The tops of the walls have become cracked over the years, letting in rainwater which has been saturating the stonework, and causing even more damage during frosts. Vegetation was cleared off in 1989 but has grown back, causing a lot of damage in some areas.



*Inside the Keep (from an old photograph)*

A comprehensive programme of conservation was drawn up by Ingram Consultancy, headed by Prof. John Ashurst. English Heritage has given a grant for the work, but Guildford Borough Council, as owners of the site, have funded most of it. The work is being carried out by Nimbus Conservation, and it is refreshing to see that almost all their workforce is young, and partly female. Clearly there is healthy future for stone conservation. Today, conservators consider the whole building, and how its materials react, before choosing a suitable method of repair and consolidation.

One of the first tasks to be done was removing the cement mortar, and this produced a huge surprise. When it had gone, we could see details of the construction of the keep including crenellations from a completely unknown phase. When the keep was first built, there was a ground floor and first floor, ending with crenellations. Unusually, these were built of the same rubble stonework as the rest of the walls, and they may turn out to be the earliest crenellations in the country. We are still analysing the discovery. Even more exciting was the discovery of plaster and whitewash on the sides and base of the crenellations, covered by the infilling when the walls were raised. Despite studying the keep for a good eight years, I am still not sure when it was built, and the crenellations have put the cat among the pigeons! As my Ph.D. thesis was almost complete, I have had to ignore the new discoveries for that, so I have not been able to

give them much attention until now. However, the general feeling is that the keep belongs to the first half of the twelfth century, perhaps in Henry I's reign (1100-1135).

Other discoveries have been the original position of the roof, obscured by Henry Peak's restorations, with four drainage channels through the east wall, one containing part of its lead lining. The latrine chute from the first floor chamber in the wall has been found, where I thought it ought to be, but where there was no sign of it until the work began. It empties down the north wall just by where I think the entrance onto the motte was, so we will have to re-think the layout! The stonework of the chute is beautiful ashlar greensand stone.

The discovery of the crenellations has led to a proposal to put in a floor and roof, which the council has accepted. It is ironic that the museum's carefully thought out proposals some years ago were turned down, but this sudden change of plan has been agreed with no trouble, but at least it is going ahead. The roof will be over the first floor, where the original roof was. The roof was raised over a second floor at some point, probably in the 16th century, but we need to think about that a bit more. The ground floor will be entered through the ground floor door, which we now know is original. There will be graphic displays on this floor. A new external staircase (going the right way this time - we were not consulted about the old one) will lead to the first floor door, where the whole room will be accessible, plastered as it would have been. The spiral stairs will take visitors to the top of the keep, as before. The whole thing will do justice to the keep, and will provide a much better experience for the visitor.

Mary Alexander



### New Design Suite at the Museum!

In addition to a complete upgrade of the Museum's I.T. equipment, we now have the facility to produce our own computer generated, in-house graphics. This means that we will now be able to produce quality marketing and exhibition materials using the latest design software, and start preparing the Museum's extensive archive for electronic access.

The Museum staff wish to thank Auriol Earle for her help in acquiring this equipment for the Museum, and Warren Witt for setting up the system.

Sue Roggerio

## The Young Archaeologists' Club

The YAC continues to thrive with a membership of 47 very bright youngsters with a passionate interest in archaeology. It is with great pleasure that we have seen many of our YACs go on to read archaeology at university and a few are continuing with post-graduate research. We try to provide a variety of activities for the children at their monthly meetings but what they really enjoy are the 'hands on' sessions, whether it be getting their hands dirty on excavations organised by the Surrey Archaeological Society, washing and sorting finds or having a go at making their own 'neolithic' pottery. The year has seen a varied programme of activities including an opportunity to work on the Farnborough Hill pottery with Museum Assistant, Kevin Fryer; a talk on dinosaurs by visiting speaker Mike Howgate and participation in the Museum's family event 'Elizabeth I - The Golden Age of the Tudors'. Trips have included a visit to Down Farm near Salisbury, Wiltshire, to look at prehistoric sites, and a most interesting visit to Mortimer Wheeler House, home of the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) and the social and working history collections of the Museum of London. Next year's programme is now being planned and will include a bones workshop, a private tour of the newly restored Castle Keep prior to the official opening, a trip to Butser to assist with preparations for the opening of the site and a flint knapping / shelter building workshop with prehistorian, John Lord. In some ways it has been a difficult year, following the departure of the joint club organiser, Sarah Ellison who moved away from the area in October 2002, and despite considerable efforts by the SAS a replacement for Sarah has not been found. The Museum staff agree that one of the most enjoyable and rewarding aspects of our work is encouraging these delightful young people to explore our rich and varied heritage, so if any of you feel that working with young people is your forte, and you would like to be involved with organising sessions or writing the quarterly newsletter, please contact Heather Anderson.

### Appeal

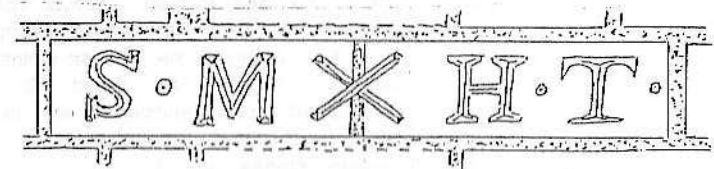
Our Chairman, Peter Hattersley, appeals to our members for assistance in organising and running the Young Archaeologists Club. The appeal is particularly aimed at those who are also members of the Surrey Archaeological Society or have an active interest in Archaeology. At this stage only pledges are required and, if interested, please contact  
Heather Anderson - Tel: 01483 567700

## Boundary Stones and Markers in Guildford.

by Richard Williams

My article in July described borough boundary stones, with just a mention of one parish boundary marker on bricks in Castle Street (see below). This article discusses parish and private estate markers.

The limits of parishes were at first defined by natural features such as coastlines, rivers, isolated trees, edges of woodland, inland cliffs, erratic stones etc. In medieval times, stones were occasionally set up but not usually inscribed to indicate what they marked, whether land ownership or parish boundaries. The 'Thor Stones' on Thursley Common appear to be medieval parish boundary markers, but isolated blocks of ironstone in Frensham parish are probably medieval land boundaries. Sometimes a parish boundary runs along a Roman road or along an apparent Roman estate boundary which had become a Saxon land ownership boundary. Man-made banks and ditches occasionally define a boundary. In towns, crosses were made on stone or brick walls where a boundary crossed a street; the Castle Street example mentioned in my first article is the only surviving example of this in Guildford - illustrated here.



St. Mary/Holy Trinity parish boundary marker, Castle Street

The traditional way of recording and remembering a parish boundary was by the annual ceremony of 'beating the bounds'. Local parishioners would perambulate the boundary during Rogation Week, the week which included Ascension Day, and where appropriate would make or renew markers in the form of crosses on trees or natural stones, or set up new stones where considered necessary, especially where the boundary crossed a river or road or changed direction abruptly. Young boys would be bumped or beaten, sometimes severely, at points where the boundary could be disputed by an adjacent parish, to ensure that as they grew older they would never forget where the boundary was. There are recorded cases of boys even having their heads bumped on stones, and I have read of a case of a finger being painfully twisted. This practice of beating the bounds continued even into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although by then there were good large-scale maps and permanent boundary markers. Today, it is only done for fun, as an after-church outing (it was done recently in Shalford - but I don't think any boys were bumped or beaten!) Note also my description in my July article about beating the bounds of Guildford in 1887.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the practise of setting up incised boundary stones became common. In many cases, this was a requirement of a Turnpike Act stating that a stone must be set up wherever the turnpike road crossed a parish boundary. An example of this can be seen beside London Road, on the west side of the road a few yards beyond the northern Abbotswood entrance, where there is a very worn stone marking the boundary of Worpleston and Stoke parishes, but now hidden behind a hedge. The road was the turnpike road from Kingston to Portsmouth.

A good off-road example of a boundary stone is in woodland at the edge of 'The Roughs', Merrow, a couple of hundred yards north of White Lane. It is incised with the date 1899 and on one side 'S.M.P.B.' (St. Martha's parish boundary), the other side being incised 'M.P.B.' (Merrow parish boundary).

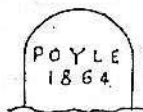
I haven't searched Guildford Borough for other surviving parish boundary stones, although I have recorded them in Waverley Borough, so would be interested in hearing from anyone who has spotted them in their area.



Castle Hill

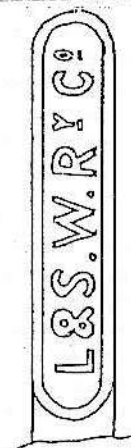
The use of boundary stones spread to private owners, various authorities and, in Guildford, a Charity. At the top of Castle Hill are two private boundary stones, one each side of the road, incised 'C.F.S. 1853'. These were placed there by C.F.Smyrke when he purchased the land on which the Guildford Prison had stood - it was demolished when Wandsworth became the prison for Surrey. I feel sure he would have erected stones at other points of his boundary and if so these remain to be discovered. Nearer to the top of Castle Hill is another stone, unmarked, of unknown purpose.

When the Charlotteville estate was laid out, some parts of its boundary were already marked by stones incised POYLE 1803 or POYLE 1832, indicating limits of land owned by the Poyle Charity, but others were then set up marked POYLE 1864 to mark the Charlotteville boundary at its turning points. One survives at the bottom of the garden of 1 Pewley Way, and another stands at the south end of Poyle Road against an 1887 borough boundary stone, though this is not on the Charlotteville boundary, so must mark a different stretch of the Poyle Charity estate.



1 Pewley Way

A different type of boundary marker was adopted by the L & SW Railway Company. They were made out of cast iron and bear the inscription 'L & S.w.Ry.Co.'. One of



these is on the Mount, nearly buried, downhill from the Wodeland Road corner, appearing to mark the limit of railway land above the tunnel which passes under the Mount here. I have noted other examples of these iron markers near Guildford so no doubt they were generally used by the railway company.

I hope I have not bored readers with these two articles on boundary markers, but rather hope I have whetted appetites for searching for such survivals of past ages before they all vanish, buried or destroyed by bulldozers during development. When Henry Peak ordered the 1887 granite boundary stones (see my first article) he expressed the view that that they would be 'good for their purpose for a hundred years of more'. Although he was over-optimistic, as they were obsolete as borough boundary markers only 17 years later when the borough was enlarged in 1904, many of them still survive after 116 years and will last a lot longer if we treasure them - but the

pace of redevelopment is such that we must keep an eye on them, and record and protect other boundary stones while they are still to be found and revealed.



## TOURS OF GUILDFORD

Booked parties (W.I.'s etc.) welcome throughout the year - contact  
Marjorie Williams (☎ 569794)

School parties also welcome throughout the year - contact  
Eric Morgan (☎ 233344)

Free guided tours of the town commence again in May. Details from Tourist  
Information Centre in Tunsgate (☎ 444333)

## The Victorian Schoolroom - 3 Years On

Many of the Friends of Guildford Museum will remember the excitement three years ago at the purchase of the contents of an entire Victorian Schoolroom from Sue Enticott in South Bersted, West Sussex. We then reported in December 2001, that the Schoolroom, located on the upper floor of Salters' Gallery, was up and running. Sue Enticott and Carol Herzig taught two sessions per week throughout the following year, receiving school groups from West Sussex, Hampshire and Outer London, as well as many from the immediate vicinity.

Such has been the increasing popularity of our schoolroom sessions, that this summer it became necessary to recruit and train ten new schoolroom staff - five teachers and five maids, who are currently receiving groups every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in term time. The Autumn Term is always the most popular for schoolroom visits, so to cope with the extra demand, we are also running occasional additional sessions on Mondays and Fridays until Christmas! The Victorian Schoolroom team is headed by Anne Teideman, a retired headmistress, who manages the day to day business of the schoolroom, in conjunction with Carol Herzig who continues to be responsible for the administration and the training of staff.

The Museum and staff members have been delighted at the ongoing success of this project and the extremely positive and encouraging feedback from the schools that have visited. More than one teacher has commented that the schoolroom visit has been the best school trip in which they have ever participated; we are pleased to see many schools returning this Autumn for the third year in succession. On behalf of the Museum, may I therefore thank the Friends once again for their very generous gift of the Schoolroom and assure them that they have already provided an unforgettable "day in history" for hundreds of local schoolchildren.

Carol Herzig



FRIENDS COMMITTEE FOR 2003/2004  
Chairman Peter Hattersley, Vice-Chairman Heather Anderson,  
Secretary Richard Sinker, Treasurer Tim Bryers, Curator Matthew Alexander,  
Events Booking Derek Semner, Events Publicity John Wilkins,  
Museum Volunteer Organizer Marjorie Williams, Newsletter Editor Eric Morgan  
Jonathan Jessup, Maureen Newman, Jennifer Powell.

## The Society of Dependants (Cokelers) Exhibition August/September

When Matthew asked for ideas for exhibitions last year and I suggested the Cokelers little did I know how much response we would get. I thought we might have around 300 - 400 visitors. However, much to my delight we totalled 1,300 and a great deal of feedback. Peter Jerrome from Petworth History Society offered to give a talk which resulted in his giving three in one afternoon and two more in September due to the huge interest in this small sect. He sold 36 of his books 'John Sirgood's Way' at the special price of £25.00 for which he was delighted. Visitors came from Devon, Leicestershire and all round the Sussex coast, many of whom were related to the Cokelers. An Anglican vicar from Kingston has asked for help with an exhibition he is setting up in Uganda for their centenary in November 2004; his wife worshipped in the Cokeler's Hove chapel when a small girl. Many people were working on their family trees and found the exhibition text and documents very useful.



Now... none of this could have taken place without the assistance of Marjorie and The Friends some of whom I was delighted to see at the Thank you Teaparty at Guildford House. I was also pleased that some of my stewards from the Friends of Guildford House also sat in for me plus some of my friends. A very big THANK YOU.

Marion R. May

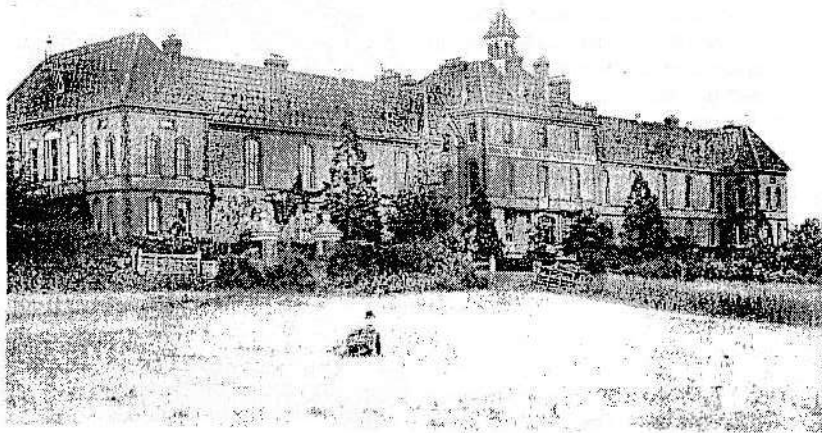
### The Notice Board

Marion's next exhibition, back at Guildford House, will be in April - June in the Garden Room, entitled 'A Nice Piece of Skirt' - hems and hemlines from 1868-1968. See you there!

## Christmas 1891

I have been looking through some of the newspapers that covered Guildford in 1891. There were at least three, the Surrey Standard, the Surrey Advertiser and the West Sussex Gazette. They have much to interest us but can also be quite frustrating, talking in generalities and telling us the show was excellent or the decorations were superb whilst when the honourable Miss Ponsonby fell off her horse in Rotten Row we are told every detail. You will be pleased to know that she is resting at home cared for by her father. So let's find out what exciting things were happening in the area in 1891.

The Royal Surrey Hospital was decorated with evergreens and Chinese lanterns. Appropriate mottoes were displayed in the wards such as 'Health and Prosperity to our Matron, House Surgeon and Honorary Medical Staff. Mr Combe sent six turkeys (as he always does), Mr Holden gave the dessert, while Mr Wheeler sent twelve dozen mineral waters. The clergy of St Nicolas Church sang and played snap dragon and other games.



*The Royal Surrey County Hospital (1866)*

At the Royal Deer spirit stores they advertised Christmas. Cheer. Buy a hamper containing three bottles of spirits and three bottles of wine for 10/6d. C.A. & L. Gates, High Class Grocers, beg to draw attention to their choice assortment of goods now on view at 20 High Street. The Gates firm became Cow & Gate and now Unigate. Prat & Sons of 7 Woodbridge Road offered stair carpet at 6d a yard and dining room suites in real leather for £11. You will be pleased to know that Walter Clarks of 113 High Street said they have thousands of useful articles suitable for presents; toy dolls, magic lanterns, rocking horses, amusing toys, doll houses and mechanical toys.

The Guildford College of Haydon Place held a soiree at the Constitutional Hall (of more recent times occupied by Thorps book shop) the hall was prettily and tastefully decorated and there was dancing. Chairs and loungers were provided on the stage as a convenient refuge for those whose worship of the terpsichore was of a passive nature only!

On the ecclesiastical front Leatherhead Parish Church reopened after considerable restoration at a cost of £2,500 while in Guildford it was decided to divide Stoke Parish with the object of making a new Parish to be designated St Saviours Parish.

It was reported that Samuel Gibson, the last survivor of rank and file present at the battle of Waterloo died at the Metropolitan Asylum at Caterham aged 101.

If there were any serious crime about it certainly was not reported in the paper. Most of the local papers carried the same two crime stories. One concerned a man ringing door bells and running away. The other concerned Walter Albert and entitled 'A Disgraceful Fellow'. Walter came home to tea on the 7<sup>th</sup> December and said he "was not going to have such a tea". He flung the tea-caddy followed by the rest of the tea things into the fire, remarking, "there goes the crockery". He smashed a lamp and flung a knife at his wife. Apparently he often came home drunk. He was fined 10/- and bound over for 6 months.

For entertainment there was a grand pantomime at the Crystal Palace, "Forty Thieves". We are told that after "taking advantage of the electrical exhibition and the most modern appliances that will be available at the Crystal Palace, some highly novel effects in electrical lighting and decoration will be introduced on the stage". I would have loved to have seen that show. At Steyning, near Brighton, you could have gone to the Yule Tide entertainment at the Town Hall in aid of a fund for the distribution of coal to the poor. Mr. J. White read from Dicken's Christmas Carol, a choir of 20 voices rendered some good selections, Miss Flowers sang "The Gift" and was deservedly recalled, Miss Blake sang "The Winter Story" and was loudly applauded. Down at Petworth the press tell us that "the inmates at the workhouse were not forgotten on Xmas day. A capital dinner of roast beef, plum pudding etc. was partaken of and the afternoon and evening spent in a very pleasant manner. Mr & Mrs Simons who were untiring in their efforts to make everyone happy, had decorated the rooms in a very tasteful manner".

In wishing people the complements of the season the editorial had this to say. "The poor we have always with us and at this season when evidence of plenty everywhere abounds, where the shop windows at every turn testify to the luxurious life to which our lot is cast - poverty is more keenly felt by those who are doomed to submit to it all their lives than at any other time of the year. The efforts which are everywhere made to make Christmas a happy season for those who experience little of the brighter side of life in ordinary times should therefore enlist the sympathy and general support of all. We hope that all our readers, rich and poor alike, may be permitted to enjoy a merry Christmas."

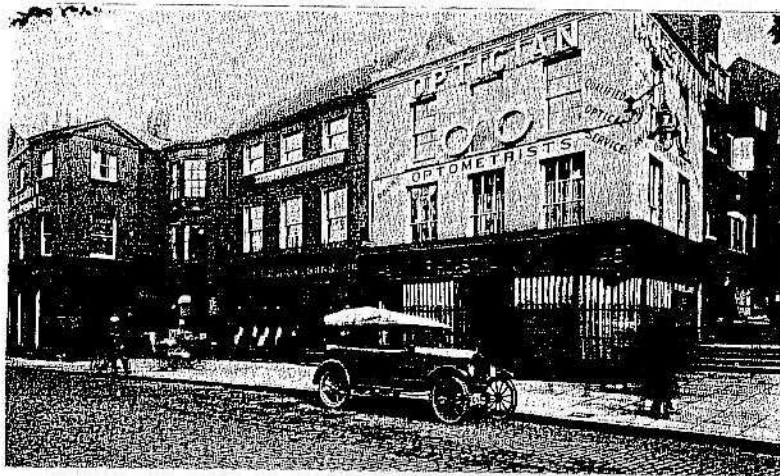
The Weather was very mild and accounted, so the editor said, for the large amount of serious illness. Certainly the paper carried adverts for Owbridges Lung Tonic, Dr. Collis Brownes Chlorodyne and Beechams Pills. The advertisement for the latter would never pass the trade description act. This is what it said. "Are you at all weak chested or inclined to be consumptive with just a touch of cough now and then? Try this wonderful medicine. The cough and weakness will disappear as if by magic and you will find a strength and power you never had before." By Jove if it worked like that it must have produced the first bionic people in the World!



"Mr Wiles, the energetic postmaster, had 1000 messages to deliver but was delayed by the fog." He would need to be energetic to deliver that amount.

No Christmas edition of the papers would be complete without its jokes. In those days at least one page, and sometimes more, were devoted to small advertisements and the jokes and riddles are hidden amongst these. This is one I found- "Christmas Arrows the extra Christmas number of the Quiver contains ' True as Steel by ' ", wait for it! "Ida Lemon". The riddles too were well worth the search. Try these out at Christmas. What are the the most useful letters for a man of business: - N R G (energy) - I can hear the groans from here! What growing vegetable is most like a general postman: - a scarlet runner. Why is a tailor like a lawyer: - because he always likes a suit on hand. Finally this one is as true now as it was in 1891. What regiment does the Queen belong to? - the Grenadiers or the Granny Dears.

Look after yourselves - have a lovely Christmas



### *The way to the Flamingo Club?*

The steps on the right, in the picture above, leading to Trinity Churchyard, featured in a recent edition of the television series 'Foyle's War'. On the screen, Michael Kitchen (Chief Supt Foyle) and Anthony Howell (Paul Milner) were seen ascending the steps followed later by redcaps who raided a fictitious club called the Flamingo. Out of view and to the right of the picture, is Holy Trinity Church, Guildford.

from The Surrey Advertiser

### *Top of the heritage charts*

GUILDFORD topped the heritage charts with more open buildings than any other town or city during Heritage Open Days

As in previous years, thousands of people took the opportunity to discover some of Guildford's hidden heritage, both ancient and modern on September 13 and 14. During the

event, co-ordinated by the Civic Trust, 64 buildings rarely open to the public were welcoming visitors and providing guided tours.

Organised by The Guildford Society with the Guildford Borough Council, and the Guildford Tour Guides, the warm weather ensured that numbers were up on last year for many of the sites

### *from the Curator*

I would like to express the gratitude of the Museum staff for the continued help that the Friends have given over the year. The Undercroft could not have been open to the public without the 158 hours given by the volunteer staff. Several Museum exhibitions would not have been possible without the Stewards provided by the Friends, and the Festival Stall and the Elizabethan day benitted greatly from their assistance. Whatever the future holds for the Museum, the support of the Friends will continue to be of the greatest importance.

*Matthew Alexander -Curator*

## from H.M.S. Shrapnel

Maureen Bolster lived in Compton and during the early part of the war was billeting officer for Vokes at Normandy until she joined the WRNS in 1942. Her boyfriend, Eric Wells, was an Australian who joined the Royal Air Force. He kept all the letters Maureen sent him and in 1988 these were published under the title "Entertaining Eric". Maureen and Eric were married on July 8<sup>th</sup> 1944 at Compton parish church and after the war they went to live in Melbourne, Australia. In this letter Maureen tells us about Christmas Day 1943. By then she was an Engine Room Artificer, (commonly known as stokes) and assigned to a seven crew motor boat. The letter was sent from HMS Shrapnel, a large hotel in Southampton.

"I must say I've had one of the best Christmases I've ever known. After lights out on Christmas eve we took it in turns to flounder about in the dark with the torch being Father Christmas. Much scuffling, dropping of parcels, giggling and fumbling. We'd taken charge of each other's parcels so that nothing should be looked at before Christmas Day.

It was lovely waking up yesterday morning. We all sat on our bunks undoing parcels as hard as we could. "Oh, just look!" "This is nice," "Just what I wanted."

Mummy sent me a homemade cake, a few biscuits, a nice box of face powder and a smashing blue wallet. Margaret gave me two beautiful books of music, Chopin's "Ballades" and "Fifteen Waltzes". Benny gave me a button hole and a pretty painted face cream jar. Rozelle gave me a little hair brush and comb in a swagger box and Pam gave me something I've wanted for years - the book of Pont's drawings from Punch, the British Character series. I must show it to you when you come home. We'll sit by the fire and have a good laugh together over it.

Lord Manvers sent me a bottle opener with a corkscrew, which he said no stoker should be without, and Lady Manvers sent me a book. Aunt Hess sent me some lovely necklaces and a blouse, and I had some money from one or two aunts and people.

Our cabin is a mass of Christmas cards. It had amused us how many people have sent us ones with ships on this year.

We had real eggs for breakfast, then went to church in a little chapel in the Missions to Seamen where we sang carols lustily with the sailors.

Christmas lunch was wonderful. Turkey, plum pudding and apples - and the officers waiting on us. Hugh! - almost the best part of the meal that! Afterwards there was a scavenger hunt for those who wished. I'm afraid we made a bolt for the best armchairs in the recreation room.

At 5.30 there was high tea in the sailors' mess, the whole room one mass of sailors and Wrens. The sailors here, actually are not proper ones. They don't wear square rig but ordinary suits of fore and aft rig and look just like



civilians. They're mostly about seventeen and are electrical trainees, being in a low physical category. They are nearly all very weedy and incredibly spotty.

Later the party began. There were about 200 there. Some Yank soldiers had been invited and they lolled about chewing gum and looking the Wrens up and down. We asked coxwain and he came all spruce in his Number Ones, dreadfully shy, rubbing his chin and going all pink. He was a great success. Everyone loved him. There were games and dancing and community singing and all sorts of jollifications. There was an egg and spoon race and the petty officer in charge asked for two seamen to compete with two stokers. The former were easily obtained but there didn't seem to be any of the latter present. Suddenly an unknown grabbed Rozelle and me, shoved us onto the floor and called out, "Here are two stokers!" This caused a huge sensation. Everyone barracked and shouted, "Come on stokes! Run, go it, go it stokes!"

All this went on till 2.30. Halfway through, the Wren and naval officers descended from the wardroom, all quite boozy. They didn't fit in with the atmosphere at all and everyone was very glad when they went. One Wren officer was so far gone that the first officer ordered her removal.

Our lights went out at about three this morning.

*You will like my hair - there's not a hair  
grip in it! You know it like this:-*



*It's how like this:-*



*It's thick & curly all over my head, &  
the only restraining influence is the  
way it's cut - & it's much more "glam"  
than before.*