

Make a note in your Diary

Events 2008

Full details of these events are included on a separate sheet

Skittles and Lunch	Saturday 16 th February
Kew Gardens and Palace 	Thursday 15 th May
Guided Tour of Guildford's Spike & Air Raid Shelter	Saturday 17 th May
Surrey Villages - Bramley	Thursday 5 th June
Surrey Villages - East Horsley	Tuesday 15 th July
Surrey Villages - Hambledon August	Wednesday 13 th
Reading Museum of Rural Life	Date to be Arranged

Tickets from Derek Somner
18 Abbot Road, Guildford, GU1 3TA (01483 539447)

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

December 2007



Issue 25



Message from our Chairman

Dear Friends,

This seems a good opportunity to thank all the Committee and the Guides for the work they put in and the contribution it enables us to make to the Museums activities.

I would like to say a special thank you to Chris Cheverst, Sheila Kapur, Sheila Stirling, Lesley Ward and John Wilkins who have all arranged excellent outings for the group. It would be lovely if some more people would volunteer to do this with of course the help of Peter Hattersley who is the co-ordinator. It's much more fun than you might expect.

With best wishes for a good 2008.

Heather Anderson

From the Editor

Our cover picture is of Madame Lambert, the dress shop by the town bridge in 1953 with the poles for the Coronation decorations. This was just one of the many illustrations that delighted us at the "Living Memory Exhibition" in August.

Have you been into the museum lately? The bookshop and archaeology gallery have been totally transformed. So pop in and have a look round, the bookshop may well solve some of those presents. Pages 21 and 22 tell of a few items you can find there but there is much more so hurry along.

Richard Sinker retired from the committee at the AGM. He has been our secretary since May 1999 and although we were all sorry to see him go we send him our very best wishes for the future.

Derek Somner is now responsible for all membership and indeed all members enquiries so please contact him if you have any questions. His telephone number is **01483 539447** and address **18 Abbot Road, Guildford, GU1 3TA**

From our Museum Manager

Here Jill tells us about the latest developments and exhibitions at the Museum.

Exhibition programme

Late in July, Guildford Museum launched its new temporary exhibition gallery. Friends will probably remember this gallery for archaeology displays that, although informative and interesting, had been on display for some twenty years! The partitioned off displays have now been dismantled and the space opened out to create a new Museum shop, in front of visitors as they enter the Museum, alongside a gallery that can be used flexibly to house a variety of exhibitions. The tall panels in the exhibition space are entirely portable and can be moved, reconfigured or stored to create a different layout according to the subject matter and programme.

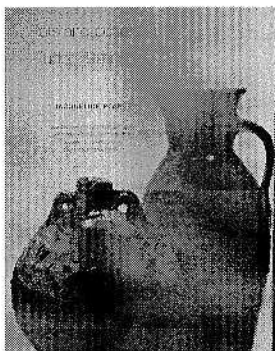
The new space has been put to good use since its opening, both for the summer exhibition, *Living Memory: Guildford since World War II (1946 – 1961)* and the current exhibition, *Ancient Gods*. *Living Memory* was based on the results of an oral history project involving around 40 Guildfordians. Through the display of photos, playing of recordings of interviewees, and a small number of objects, the exhibition brought back many memories for our visitors. *Ancient Gods*, the first exhibition on the theme of archaeology staged in Guildford Museum, is a fascinating study of early ritual and religion, illustrated by a unique gathering of original artifacts relating to Surrey history.

In 2008 the Museum will continue its changing programme in the gallery. Remember to pop in from time to time to see what's on and to check the programme on the Museum website www.guildford.gov.uk to find out about related events and activities!

Jill Draper

Museum Manager

Pots and Potters in Tudor Hampshire



The Museum has recently published the book, *Pots and Potters in Tudor Hampshire*. This is the result of a major project to research and publish material excavated from the Farnborough Hill Convent site by Felix Holling, former Curator of Guildford Museum, between 1968 and 1972. The research was made possible by funding from The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and also by grants, generously awarded from a variety of organisations, including the Friends of Guildford Museum.

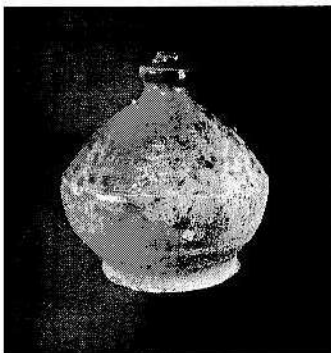
The book deals with the major pottery industry of the late medieval and Tudor periods that was centred on the Surrey / Hampshire borders. This industry was of considerable importance to the economy of the region and produced pottery wares from the 14th to the mid 19th century. It is quite a surprise to learn that kilns in the area supplied London with much of its household pottery for more than 200 years. The products of the industry, known as Surrey border ware, were also used in the pioneering English colony in Jamestown, Virginia, an interesting link between this Surrey / Hampshire industry and the New World.



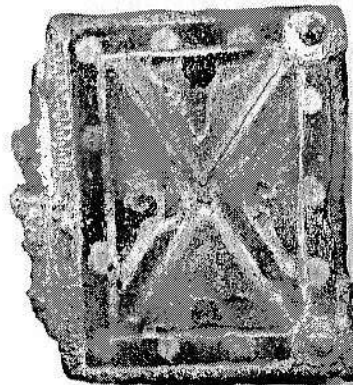
Felix Holling at excavation site in 1969

The book contains good introductions to the industry and its history with detailed information about the kiln sites and excavated material. *Pots and Potters in Tudor Hampshire* is now on sale in the Museum shop for £19.95.

A Surrey / Hampshire border whiteware money box, excavated at Farnborough Hill



Limoges buckle plate



Guildford Museum has recently acquired part of a medieval buckle made by the famous Limoges enamel workshops. Only one other such buckle is known in the whole country. Most surviving Limoges products are caskets for holding saints' relics, or crosses from important churches.

The buckle was made around 1100-1250 but became buried (perhaps due to damage) and was not found again until local metal detectorist, Daniel Whiteman, discovered it near Banstead, around eight hundred years later. The plate is of gilded bronze and is decorated with colourful enamel in blue, green and yellow. It would have been attached to a belt with bronze rivets.

This buckle plate is a very fine piece of work and is extremely rare. Guildford Museum is delighted to have acquired such an unusual piece for its collection. This was made possible by the *Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)*. This scheme encourages people (many of them metal detectorists) to report and record stray finds such as this, to Surrey's Finds Liaison Officer, David Williams. David has monthly sessions at Guildford Museum where he identifies finds for members of the public, and records them for the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The Scheme has been running for ten years now, and has made a huge difference to our knowledge of archaeological objects. It is clear that chance finds made by metal detectorists and people out walking or doing their gardens are different from the types of object found in formal excavations of settlements and cemeteries. It all helps to build our picture of life in the past. The PAS website database makes this information available for everyone to see on: www.finds.org.uk

David Williams is at Guildford Museum on the second Saturday of the month, between 11am and 1pm. Guildford Museum is open to visit any day: Monday to Saturday, 11am to 5pm, at Quarry Street, Guildford, only a couple of minutes walk from the High Street. For more information tel: 01483 444750 or visit www.guildfordmuseum.co.uk

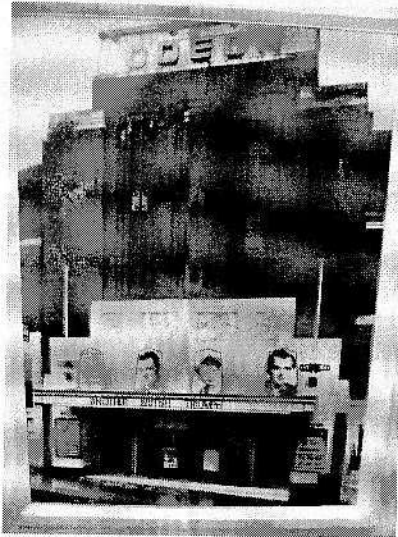
Living Memory

Did you see this exhibition at the Museum? It was the first of a series and this was subtitled " The Changing face of Guildford from the Second World War to 1960 ".

It was a time, we were reminded, when bananas still had not returned to the shops, few people had refrigerators and sweet rationing only ceased in 1953.

The pictures brought back memories to all. To see the Queen leaving the Cathedral with crowds lining the route and not a barrier in site was breath taking. Madam Lambert's the dress shop by the town bridge was prominent in some photographs and will be well remembered by those who travelled by bus and then crossed the bridge into the town. One person who's courage was recorded is Earnest Boxall. He received the BEM for bravery in attempting to rescue a colleague in a boiler explosion at the Woodbridge Road Power Station. Another photo that caught my eye was of the Proclamation of the Queen in 1952. What a wealth of pageantry we are fortunate to enjoy in this town.

In the corner of the exhibition room an old black and white television showed us events of the period in the town. Amongst the exhibits was a model of a triple screw turbine yacht made by Victory industries who established themselves in the town in 1957. The "Friends", seven years ago, purchased for the museum a model of a TR2 Sports Car made by Victory Industries and a picture of this featured on the front cover of Issue 10 of this Newsletter



Photographs at the exhibition

Visit to Jaguar Car Museum

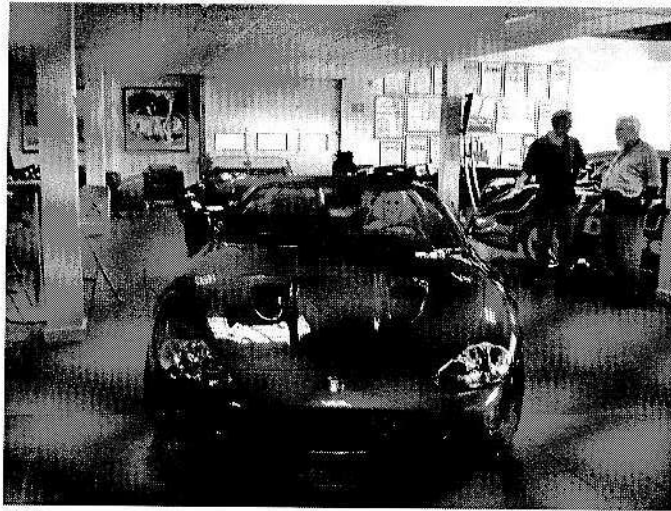
Coach outings have not been so well supported this year but with the help of Brooklands Museum this proved a most fascinating day for those who went and well worth the journey. Our thanks go to David Worrall who organised the visit and here he tells us a little about the trip.

The visit began at the Jaguar-Daimler Heritage Museum where they display a range of vehicles from the early Swallow sidecars, which was the company that Jaguar founder William Lyons started at the beginning of his career, up to the present day. As well as many cars of historical interest there are several "concept cars" that were built to demonstrate what Jaguar could really produce. One such car was capable of 231 mph and had a price tag of £400,000. They actually produced around 200 of these for the discerning and wealthy.

The afternoon was spent in Jaguar's Castle Bromwich production factory where we had an excellent guided tour of the plant which produces the XK120 Sports model. The guide took us through all the steps from collecting together the boxes of aluminium pressings right up to driving away the finished product (price tag around £70,000 depending upon options).



Jacquie Worrall at the wheel of the Jaguar sports car which was used by the "baddies" in a James Bond Film



The car in the James Bond film again. It features a rear mounted machine gun plus flame coloured metal spikes coming out from the front grille!. (Jaguar car museum)



Thomas Jenner Sells who developed the Charlottesville estate which he named after his wife. See Matthew Alexanders article on page 13. Dr Sells is also mentioned in Roger Nicholas's book on page 22.

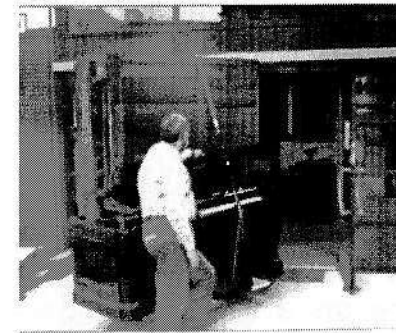
British Association of Museums

The BAFM Journal is always very interesting and a source of great information. At the start Dr Liz Mackensie was welcomed as a Trustee of the new charity "Kids in Museums". There is no doubt we need to fully involve children in visiting museums and learning about the history of our country.

The Woman's Library in Aldgate East London is situated in what was the old wash houses and has extensive archives of the suffragette movement as well as more general feminist literature. The Library was founded in 1926 but the building itself with its listed façade would make a very interesting visit.

The British Schools Museum in Hitchin was given a real challenge when offered by Sir Simon and Lady Bowes-Lyon of Waldebury the Queen Mothers childhood clothes and scrapbooks. Waldenbury was of course the childhood home of the Queen Mother and judging by the photograph the museum put on a wonderful display.

Nearer to home "The Friends of the Rural Life Centre" at Farnham introduced a monthly "Museum Alive" event. They are asking for volunteers to demonstrate a skill or craft or putting on a display. Some have chosen to dress up in costume which must enhance the demonstration.



The Musical Museum in Brentford has been housed in St Georges Church for many years but thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund now has a brand new building. Moving all the musical instruments was quite an effort for the volunteers and there is still much to be done. It should be worth a visit when all is complete.

The Pitt Rivers Museum at Oxford now has a new building which will bring all the departments and staff together. General Pitt Rivers excavated Whitmoor Common in Worplesdon in 1877 and two bronze age urns were found. These are held in the Pitt Rivers Museum. The Old Goal Museum at Buckingham houses a permanent exhibition on a very popular writer Flora Thompson. Although best known for "Lark Rise to Candleford". She wrote hundreds of stories, articles and poems. This is the only viewable exhibition of memorabilia dedicated to her and should be well worth a visit.

Have you ever wanted to drive a steam engine? The Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket ran in August a Driver Training course where you could acquire the basic skills of driving for £145

ANCIENT GODS: PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN RELIGION IN SURREY



Do you touch wood? Do you cross your fingers for luck? Come and see what the people of Surrey did in prehistoric and Roman times to protect themselves from bad luck. The exhibition shows what we know about religion in the Stone Age and Bronze Age, then concentrates on Celtic religion and how it developed in Roman times. Iron Age people had very different gods from the Romans and worshipped in different ways, but the Romans accepted or adopted these gods. As people from all over the Roman Empire moved to Britain they brought their own beliefs with them, including Christianity – the only one which has survived.

The people of Roman Surrey built temples at places such as Farley Heath, Titsey and Wanborough, where the largest group of priests' equipment ever found in this country has been excavated. Finds from all over Surrey show how religion was part of everyday life as well as something special and mysterious for times of danger and times of rejoicing, and for keeping the gods happy.

Come to Guildford Museum and find out about ancient gods from Britain, Italy, Persia, Anatolia and Egypt. Try on a replica priest's head-dress and tell us about your rituals and superstitions.

**September 22 to January 6
11am – 5pm Monday to Saturday
Admission Free**

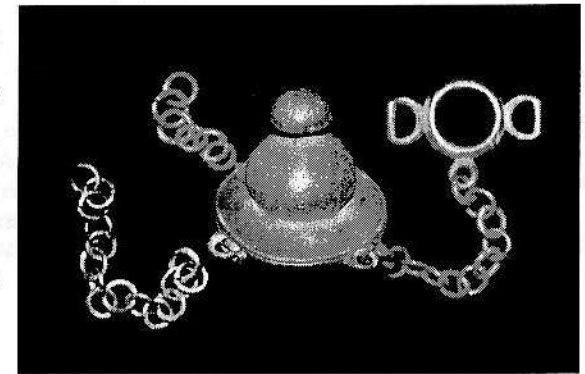


Ancient Gods Exhibition

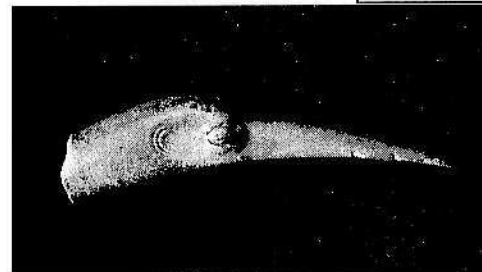
The previous page is taken from the press release for this exhibition. But there is far more to it than this. Apart from taking a fascinating look at peoples beliefs centuries ago there are a number of fantastic artifacts to be seen all of which were found in Surrey. Many of these are not often seen on display.

To get you into the feel of the period there is a replica Roman fountain where people are already making their sacrifice to the Gods by throwing in coins.

Anyone with the remotest interest in history will love this exhibition, children as well so bring them along.

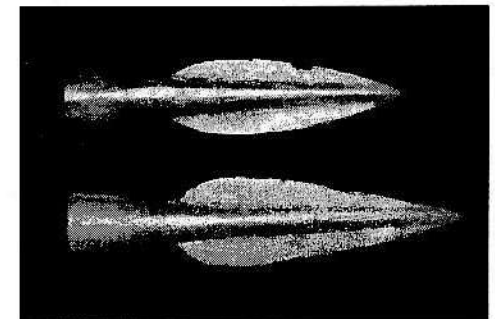


Priest's head-dress found at Farley Heath.



Ibex head possibly relating to the cult of Thorth the Egyptian god of Medicine

Bronze Age spear heads used as offerings



FROM PISS POT TO SHAMBLES

GUILDFORD STREET NAMES

Guildford has been a significant town for over a thousand years, and its street names reflect its history. The famous High Street formed part of a more ancient trackway along the North Downs, in use since the Bronze Age or earlier. It became the main street after the planned expansion of the town around AD 920.

Perhaps the most distinctive and puzzling element in Guildford street names is the use of the word 'gate' to mean alleyway or side-street. Anyone familiar with York will know that 'gate' - from the Norse word 'gatan' - is there the usual term for 'street'. However, while they raided and plundered, the Norsemen never settled south of the Thames and their place-names are rarely found outside the Danelaw.

Nevertheless, 'gate' was the name given to the passages running north and south of the High Street, along the narrow tenement plots to the lanes inside the Saxon ramparts. Many remain today. Angel Gate is the classic example of an 'inn' gate, wide enough to allow wheeled traffic to pass from the High Street to North Street beyond. Milkhouse Gate is the last of the 'domestic' gates, which would actually pass through the length of the house itself. Of course, the name has caused confusion. Guildfordians regularly call the Cornmarket arch opposite the Guildhall "Tunsgate". In fact, Tunsgate is the street behind it.

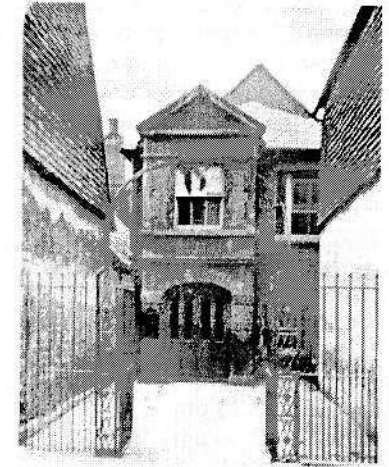
Other names are centuries old and record now-vanished features of the town. The name of Castle Street suggests that the principal entrance to the castle was opposite the end of Tunsgate, rather than the later gateway at Castle Arch. Friary Street commemorates the Dominicans whose friary once stood at the north end of it. The mill still stands at the foot of Mill Lane, though none alive today could recall its grinding of flour.



Angel Gate

We British tend to deride the Continental habit of regularly re-naming streets according to whichever hero or politician is in fashion at the moment. However, our street names have also changed from time to time. For example, Red Lion Gate was re-named Market Street in 1800, referring to the new vegetable market house that had been opened halfway down it. What in the Middle Ages was Poke Lane had become Black Horse Lane by 1739. It was re-named Chapel Street in 1820, when the General Post Office instituted house numbers for postal addresses.

Name changes have sometimes been prompted by a sense of propriety. One can, for instance, understand the preference for 'North Street' over 'Lower Back Side'. The eastern continuation of the High Street was long known as Spital Street, after the medieval Hospital of St Thomas, which stood at the junction of the London and Epsom Roads until 1840. However, in 1901 Mrs Quittenton, an alderman's wife, objected to the name as being vulgar, and had the unobjectionable 'Upper High Street' adopted instead. Rosemary Alley, whose picturesque steps run down from Quarry Street (formerly South Street) to the River Wey, was once an open sewer. One cannot consider the Victorians to have been oversensitive when they changed its name from 'Piss Pot Alley' to a more fragrant alternative.



The Congregational Chapel which altered the name of Blackhorse Lane to Chapel Street

It is easy to overlook The Shambles, a blind alley leading from the lower High Street. Its name denotes that it was once the slaughter house for cattle driven from the market that was held in the High Street itself until the 1860s. Another unusual name is Warwick's Bench, a name which has generated much speculation. There is nothing to connect it with the Earls of Warwick, though, nor a public seat. The most likely explanation points to a 17th century family of carpenters called Warwick.

Space does not permit the detailed examination of the dozens of street names that have sprung up during the great expansion of Guildford in the last century and a half. Many were idiosyncratic, such as Dr Sells naming his housing development 'Charlotteville' after his wife, and naming all the streets after famous doctors. The

Onslow family owned much of the land around the town, and sold it for building. Family connections were celebrated: Maori Road, for instance, commemorates the Earl's service as Governor of New Zealand from 1882 to 1892.

Thus Guildford's street names have a story - or perhaps *are* a story. A story that is ancient, picturesque and at times decidedly odd.

*Matthew Alexander,
Guildford Museum*

Free Guided Walks of Guildford. start again in May 2008

May – September 2008

Mondays	11 am
Wednesdays	2.30 pm
Thursdays	7.30 pm
(until end of August)	
Sundays	2.30 pm



Booked Adult and School parties welcome all year

details from Tourist Office
Tel No 01483 444333

Dr Paget, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford asked a small boy "What is the meaning of average". The bewildering reply was "the thing that hens lay on". The child then explained that he had read in a book that "hens lay on an average so many eggs a year".



In the June 2007 Newsletter, from the personal diary of Guildford's John Mason, (1897), Marjorie Williams picks up his mention of a male arsonist named George Elderfield. This character's activities took place at a time, (1843-1844), when there was much unrest amongst agricultural workers, resulting in riots and vengeance arson attacks on farms.

9, MILL MEAD, GUILDFORD.

JOHN MASON, JUN.,
CARPENTER, UNDERTAKER,
BRICKLAYER,
AND GENERAL BUILDER.

Newspaper reports for those years are full of such occurrences. However, although Elderfield's employment was in farm work, his fire raising appears to have stemmed more from his psychological imbalance, eventually resulting in his committal to a mental institution.

The following contemporary newspaper reports describe two of the incidents in which he was involved, capturing the general consternation of the Guildford inhabitants. At that time, the Borough Council had only recently reorganised the town's fire defences, which consisted of three numbered manual fire engines. Nos. 1 and 3 engines appear to have been housed in Tuns Gate, whilst No.2 engine was kept in a purpose built building in the vicinity of what is now Ward Street. This machine was mounted on a specially built cart for easy conveyance over longer distances. It was used to attend fires in the "country" and in consequence was known as "the Country machine" It is of interest that when eventually the Guildford Borough Fire Brigade became motorised and until the second world war, the engine numbered 2 was used for country fires and was known as the Country machine.

It is worthy of note from the newspaper reports that over 160 years ago, a fire was considered of such import that the Mayor of the town felt it necessary to proceed to the spot to render all possible aid, and that a distance of two or three miles, possibly on foot for many, did not prove an impediment to dignitaries or others gathering at the scene.

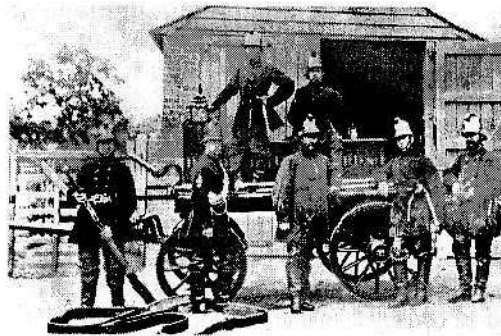
It is also of interest that the course of British justice at that time allowed the arsonist to be set at large after his first arraignment, only to see the same person committing similar acts before again being committed for trial; a type of situation still being of much despair to senior police officers.

I leave the reports of those days to enlarge on the incendiary activities of George Elderfield, alias BANG, alias CUCKOO.

Sussex Agricultural Express. Nov. 18th 1843 GUILDFORD. MORE AGRICULTURAL FIRES.

About half past six on Friday evening, a barn, the property of J.P. Shrubbs, Esq. and let to J.P. Strudwick, situated on the Woodbridge Road, close to the town, suddenly burst into flames. An immense number of persons immediately assembled and engines were brought to the spot. There was no water at hand, but so completely had the incendiary act been effected, that nothing could have preserved the barn, which was consumed in a very short time. Some pigs and 7 sacks of barley were saved and about 15 quarters of barley and some damaged straw. The building was insured, the tenant's property was not. The Mayor of Guildford and the late Mayor were on the spot; and on Saturday evening a young man named Elderfield was apprehended and underwent a private examination, which terminated in his being remanded. He is a somewhat singular character, well known by his going about imitating the singing of birds; he appears to be very ambitious of notoriety and has been known to boast of being the first at the late fires, and to have a great wish that his name appear in newspapers. The evidence is said to be very strong against him. The newly elected Mayor has shown much praiseworthy activity and promptitude in this affair.

On Monday evening another alarm of fire reached Guildford and the firemen were ready with an engine. On ascending Pewley Hill, an appearance of fire was seen to the N.W., but rendered very indistinct by the heavy fog which prevailed. It turned out to be a large faggot stack, containing about 1,100 faggots in a lane near Christmaspie Farm, Wanborough.



Sussex Agricultural Express.
May 25 1844. GUILDFORD.

ARSON.

G. Elderfield alias BANG, alias CUCKOO, who was acquitted on a charge of arson at the Kingston Assizes was this day charged with setting fire to the premises of Mr. John Bicknell, on the night of Friday the 17th instant. The examination was private and therefore the evidence cannot be published. ~— The prisoner was fully committed for trial at the next Assizes to be holden at Guildford for the said county.

MORE INCENDIARISM

On Friday evening just before 11 O'clock, some persons in the High St., Guildford saw a fire break out in the distance, north of the Hog's Back. The alarm in a few minutes became general. The scene of the calamity was quickly pronounced to be Wilderness Farm, in the occupation of Mr. John Bicknell, and from the high respect which that gentleman's character and long standing connexion with the town, the excitement was at the highest pitch. The inhabitants of all grades (among whom was the Mayor) were soon on the spot, which is scarcely two miles from Guildford. Two engines were speedily despatched, the operations of which, aided by the enthusiastic exertions of the people probably rescued the dwellings and other buildings with some ricks. The actual destruction comprised a large double barn containing about 50 quarters of oats and two loads of beans, a hay rick and two straw ricks. Mr. Bicknell was just gone to bed and ran down scarcely dressed to save the horses and other live stock, which was happily effected, with the exception of 3 calves and some poultry. The fire was nearly got under at about half past one. When the fire was first observed at Guildford, a pretty general exclamation was "Where's Cuckoo? His lodgings should be visited." Our readers will recollect this is the soubriquet of Elderfield who was tried at Kingston for arson and set at large last Assizes. The Mayor and police had already felt that the same enquiry was necessary and found that the man had been out all that evening, the occupier



Cottages in the Farnham Road

house observing that it was the first night since he came from gaol that he had absented himself. He was shortly afterwards apprehended on suspicion, and as the superintendent was about to lock him up, the fellow said, "I think I may as well tell all about it", and at his own request the police accompanied him that night over the fields to the scene of devastation, Elderfield showing them with such apparent pride the places in which he had concealed himself to avoid notice before committing the act. It is understood he said that after seeing the lights out in the dwelling house, he went to the outside and tried a lucifer match, which broke and then he tried another, which blazed up famously; he then set light to the thatch and went to his hiding place in the hedge to see the fire. It is also reported that he said, "If the wind had set right as it did at first, I should have had house and all." A considerable part of the furniture etc. was at one time removed from the dwelling, but the chance of communication cut off, it was soon replaced. Mr. Bicknell is amply insured in the Sun Office. The agricultural buildings which belong to the Earl of Onslow were not insured.

Events at the Museum

The Pinkerton Shilling

In the last Newsletter (Issue 24) John Theobald told us about "Some Industrial Guildford tokens and included a brass farthing token issued by the River Wey Navigation. Continuing this waterways theme, John now tells us about a shilling token in copper that was issued for the Basingstoke Canal. Stanley Holland commenting on the Basingstoke Canal Shilling says: "The Basingstoke Canal was not one of our more successful navigations but the token struck during its construction is an interesting reminder of the canal company's activities. The token was struck in 1789, work on the canal having started in the previous year, and was unusual because it had the face value of one shilling (5 pence) whereas it was coins of lower value that were generally most needed. It was also unusual in that it was made of copper, so departing from the general principle that the value of metal in a token should roughly equal its face value (though, in practice, its intrinsic value was usually a little less, of course, because the issuer naturally wanted to cover his costs and make enough profit to justify his efforts.)"



On the obverse the token shows a Thames sailing barge surrounded by the words BASINGSTOKE CANAL and the date 1789, while on the reverse appears an artistic little arrangement of the tools of the navvy's trade - wheelbarrow, spade and pickaxe. These were the tools universally used for earth moving at that time and it is interesting to find an almost identical design (though in reverse) had appeared on a token issued a couple of years earlier by the proprietor of a marl pit in Norfolk.

The Basingstoke design has the words VALUE ONE SHILLING below and JOHN PINKERTON above. Pinkerton was the contractor for the canal and the name of his family is often encountered in connection with the canal construction of that time, although not always favourably."

December

ANCIENT GODS: PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN RELIGION IN SURREY.

Exhibition continues until 29 March. Admission free.

The Museum will be closed from 5pm on Saturday 22nd December 2007 until Friday 28th December 2007 and will re-open on Saturday 29th December at 11am. The Museum will be open on New Year's day, Tuesday 1st January 2008, 11am to 5pm.

January

ANCIENT GODS: PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN RELIGION IN SURREY

An exhibition on ancient religion and ritual in Surrey. At the Museum Open 11am – 5pm until 29 March 08 Monday to Saturday, admission free.

Jan 10 – RHUL Lecture Series

'Why is there no Socialism in the American South?'

By Dr Bruce Baker

7.30pm in the Guildhall, High St, Guildford. Tickets £6 including a glass of wine.

Jan 31 – RHUL Lecture Series

'The (Im)morality of Terrorism'

By Prof Greg Claeys

7.30pm in the Guildhall, High St, Guildford. Tickets £6 including a glass of wine.

February

Feb 28 – RHUL Lecture Series

Medieval Windsor: Castle, Town or Something more?

By Dr David Lewis

7.30pm in the Guildhall, High St, Guildford

Tickets £6 including a glass of wine.

March

Mar 27 – RHUL Lecture Series

Men, Women and Power in India, Iran and Central Asia 1206 - 1925

By Prof Francis Robinson

7.30pm in the Guildhall, High St, Guildford

Tickets £6 including a glass of wine.

April

April 12 – June 7

MINIATURE TEXTILES EXHIBITION

In conjunction with the Guild of Miniature Needle Arts

June

June 21 – August 25

LIVING MEMORY: 1962 – 1973

Exhibition on Guildford in the 1960s

September

September 6 – 1 November

HIDDEN HOUSE HISTORIES EXHIBITION

In conjunction with the Textile Conservation Centre

November

November 15 – March

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS EXHIBITION

Museum Shop

I'm sure you will all agree that the new Museum Shop is a huge improvement. It is not so intimidating for visitors so they can browse in peace. I can display books and merchandise in a much more attractive setting. If you haven't seen it yet please do pop in and say hello.

New items in stock include reproduction hand made Roman glass, rag dolls and teddy bears. I particularly like the cotton toy bags with a blue or pink teddy attached. You can also see a range of jewellery made from ammonites and a range from silver jewellery based on historic pieces in museums. All the new glass and jewellery come boxed - the silver is in a beautiful silk and velvet box.

I don't stock the new book by David Rose but do have a good selection of local histories plus great new books on researching local history. To complement the Roman Gods exhibition I have Roman Surrey by David Bird and several books on either Roman religion or Christianity in Roman Britain. How about '*Dying for the Gods*' as a good read! You can even buy a local view Christmas card or some tasteful paper to wrap your gifts in and stocking fillers from 50p.

Don't forget that Friends get 10% discount in the shop. Please come and say hello to us if you've not met the shop team before. I'm Carol and the rest of the team who you will come across in the shop are Mary R, Pattie, Philip, Jamie, Peter and Elizabeth. They don't all work at the same time – how I wish we had a museum and shop big enough to need them!!

Thank you for your support of the shop and your help in the undercroft and on the stall throughout the year.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

From Carol and the Retail Team

A boy, aged 4, after hearing the story of Lots Wife who was turned to salt – said “where does salt come from that's not made of Ladies? (Punch Jan 3 1874)

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Did you hear Gavin Morgan on Southern Counties Radio on November fifth talking about the incredible story of riots and wholesale destruction in Guildford Town and it wasn't so long ago either. Only about 150 years. Tommy Boyd devoted 30 minutes of his programme to this fantastic story. This is just one of the many books on sale in the museum bookshop. The 140 pages are packed with stories of the town, the police and fire service in Victorian times. At £4-95 this is a must for anyone with the slightest interest in local history.

Walking around a cemetery may not suit everyone but that is no reason to discount Roger Nicholas's book "...And the Lord Taketh Away". This book is packed with names of people you may well have heard of but have little idea of what they did. People who have contributed much to this town and are now buried in the Mount Cemetery. So sit down in the comfort of your own home and read about these people. There is Robert Salsbury, the jeweller and there is still a shop bearing his name on the corner of Swan Lane and The High Street. Thomas Powell, Guildford's first Honorary Freeman. Henry Peak the Borough Surveyor who developed much of the Victorian town. At £3-95 no stocking should be without this book at Christmas.

If you are interested in Guildford's pubs then Mark Sturley's books are the one's for you. His "The Breweries and Public Houses of Guildford" is in two volumes both priced at £4.00. Part 1 is a survey of Guildford Public houses from the 16th to the 20th centuries. It also includes notes on the Temperance movement and illustrations. Part 2, published in 1995 takes a look at the Public Houses of surrounding villages.

Like to know more about the Castle? Then Dr Mary Alexander's excellent book "With Ramparts Crown'd - The Early History of Guildford Castle" is what you need. This is priced at £4.50 and is based on her thesis for her doctorate.

Helen Davies has produced two fascinating books. One on "The Guildford Union Workhouse" (£3.95) and the other "Diseases, Privies and Rubbish with highlights from Guildford's past" at £3.00

These are just a few of the books in the museum shop. There are 29 listed on the museum web site and many more books on local history in the shop. So pop along to buy those last Christmas presents.

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 1st 2008

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members
And look forward to meeting them at the events.

Mr R Heathorn Mrs M Smith Mrs V N White

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 D. Somner, Friends of Guildford Museum
18 Abbot Road, Guildford, GU1 3TA

Subscription rates for 2007/2008

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

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