

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1999



issue 8



BADGE OF THE 13TH (GUILDFORD) SURREY RIFLE VOLUNTEERS

P.G.WODE HOUSE AT THE GUILDFORD BOOK FESTIVAL

P.G. Wodehouse was born on the Epsom Road, Guildford in 1881, and Baptised at St.Nicolas' Church. Alas, this seems to be his only connection with Guildford, for he left soon afterwards and seems rarely to have returned. (His mother was staying with friends at the time and shortly afterwards returned to her husband in India - leaving little Pelham Grenville in the less than tender care of a series of aunts!)

I have long wished to have Wodehouse more prominently acknowledged as a son of Guildford. There is a plaque on 59 Epsom Road but nothing in the town centre to commemorate the connection. My aim is eventually to have a suitable piece of public art (a silly ass with a golf club?) somewhere prominent. As a preamble to this, though, I am anxious to raise public awareness that Guildford was his birthplace, and accordingly, I have organised a series of events for the Book Festival in October. The events are currently as follows.

9th to 30th October 1999 "Mr P.G.Wodehouse from Guildford"
an exhibition on the life of the author who was born in Guildford.
Guildford House. 10.00am to 4.45pm Tuesdays to Saturdays.
Admission free.

27th October 1999 "A Damsel in Distress"
a talk, a glass of wine and a showing of the film for which Wodehouse wrote the script. The Guildhall, 7.30pm. Admission £7.50

28th October 1999 "Wodehouses' England"
an illustrated lecture by Norman Murphy, Salters, Castle Street.
Admission £3.50.

29th October 1999 "Ladies'Night at the Drones"
a party with fizz and nibbles, together with dramatic and musical entertainment by the Guildford School of Acting. (Evening dress compulsory!) Guildford House. 7.30pm. Admission £15.

30th October 1999
"Drones Games" - a few games and pranks for children and silly asses.
Guildford House. 2.30pm. admission free.

I look forward to seeing many of the Friends at these events. Pip!, pip!

Matthew Alexander - Curator.

Secretary's Letter

At the end of 1998, Derek Somner handed over to me some of his many activities connected with the Friends. In our discussions It soon became abundantly clear to me how much he had done and indeed wished to continue to do for the benefit of the members. It is probably not widely known that he not only organised and acted as Secretary for the committee meetings and AGMs, but he also managed the membership records, provided organizational assistance for the social events, responded to the inevitable ad hoc queries and finally to cap it all he programmed and installed the interactive computer at the museum. So I would like to place on record my thanks, on behalf of all members, for all that he has done and continues to do for us and for the museum. I have taken over the organisation of all meetings and the membership records and hope that you have experienced a seamless transfer.

Our membership year ends on March 31st and this time our membership stood at 243 plus 2 institutional members, up from 233 plus 2 a year ago. So happily we continue to attract new members at a rate greater than we lose members who choose not to renew their membership. However less happily at the time of writing, mid May, there are 53 members who have not yet renewed their subscriptions after the first reminder. I am quietly confident, as the saying goes, that most of these members will rediscover the brown envelopes and respond! If anyone is in doubt on any aspect of renewal, please do not hesitate to contact me by 'phone on the number below.

The Treasurer's accounts show a handsome net surplus of £1925 generated during the year 1998/1999. Our basic income is derived from membership subscriptions and is supplemented by donations from some participants in the guided town walks. These are popular and are led by a number of Friends who very generously give of their time in all weathers. To them we are most grateful.

Another source of income comes from the increasingly popular and varied range of social events including outings. During the past year there were whole day outings to London (Regents Canal), Salisbury, Battle, Canterbury and Bletchley Park. In addition half day walks around Surrey villages were led and informed by Jackie Malyon to whom we are grateful. These walks included Dorking, Artington,

Eashing (including Charterhouse), Charlwood, Kingston, West Horsley and Stoke D'Abernon. In my experience, even when one thinks one knows the interesting nooks and crannies of a familiar place, Jackie can point out all sorts of other fascinating details. The whole day outings, though well attended by members, can usually cater for a larger number as transport and on site tours are flexible, to an extent, provided sufficient notice is given. So your committee decided a few months ago to invite the Friends of Guildford House to join us if they wish on whole day outings in particular. I emphasise that this will not reduce the space available for our own members, however it is always wise to respond promptly when the outings programme is sent out. Peter Hattersley, who plays such a vital role in arranging both the whole day outings and the village walks, has produced an absorbing range of visits for 1999, as you will have seen from the programmes that have been mailed to you already. I can assure you that his 2000 programme, currently in the planning stage, is even more exciting! Derek Somner provides the extensive administration and back up to ensure that all runs smoothly. We thank them both. I would also like to thank Pauline Hulse for her valued help in converting Peter's many hand written letters into flawless top copies. Again during the year around 30 members enjoyed an entertaining quiz evening arranged by Marjorie Williams and an energetic skittles event organised by Heather Anderson. In addition this year 42 members attended an open evening for Friends at the museum during which Matthew Alexander gave an interesting "behind the scenes" talk. After having provided the funds for equipping the Undercroft in the High Street with replica furniture, the Friends have continued to finance, partially or wholly, a number of items that Matthew has selected. These have included a stamp book, complete with stamps, designed by Lewis Carroll, or rather Charles Dodgson: an AD 1073 silver penny minted in Guildford: the restoration of a valuable 17th century embroidered silk needlework box which is currently in progress and a rare badge of the 13th Surrey Rifle Volunteers of Guildford.

I am sure that this is enough from me! I suspect that I have overlooked someones helpful contribution to the common good for which I apologise. If you enjoy what the Friends do, both for members and for the museum, please help the committee if you can and have the time. Please also spread the word to your friends; new members are most welcome any time.

Richard Sinker - Hon. Secretary.



(01483) 502207

The Curator's Column

A rare military badge has recently been bought at auction by the Friends and presented to the Museum. It is a pouch belt plate of the 13th (Guildford) Surrey Rifle Volunteers, and probably dates from the 1870's. It was worn on the shoulder belt of the leather pouch that held the cartridges for the muzzle-loading Enfield rifle with which the volunteers were armed.

The Guildford corps was formed in February 1860 when the need for a home defence force against invasion was felt. The highly-professional but small regular army was usually stationed abroad in various outposts of Empire. A dependable territorial force was desirable, many patriots proved eager to join Rifle Volunteer corps. These were essentially private clubs, though, and while the War Office took a hand in organising them, it was made quite clear that they were not looked on as "real" soldiers. In particular, the volunteers could wear any uniform they liked as long as it did not look like that of the regular army. As a concession, though, they were allowed the royal crown and the symbol of the garter on their badges. The Guildford corps, not unnaturally, chose the borough coat of arms as the main design.

Unlike the officers' badges, which were of silver, this example is of stamped brass with a dark lacquer to prevent reflections from alerting the enemy. (The camouflage effects of the black-buttoned and dark-jacketed riflemen of Wellington's campaigns had not been forgotten.)

The 13th corps became the 4th in 1880 and three years later was transferred to the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, based at Stoughton Barracks. The badge remains as a reminder of the patriotic Victorians who were the ancestors of today's territorials.

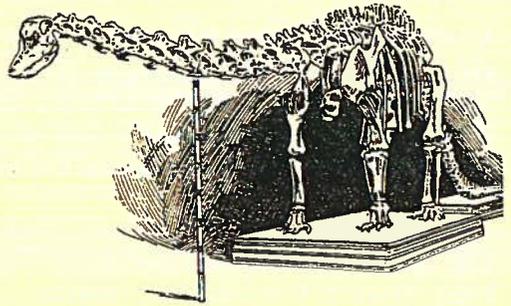
Matthew Alexander, Curator, Guildford Museum

FRIENDS COMMITTEE FOR 1999/2000

Chairman Heather Anderson, Vice-Chairman Bill Bellerby, Treasurer Tim Bryers
Secretary Richard Sinker, Curator Matthew Alexander, Events Administrator Derek Somner
Visits Organizer Peter Hattersley, Museum Volunteer Organizer Marjorie Williams,
Magazine Editor Eric Morgan, Maureen Newman, Jennifer Powell, Sheila Stirling.

Surrey Young Archaeologists Club

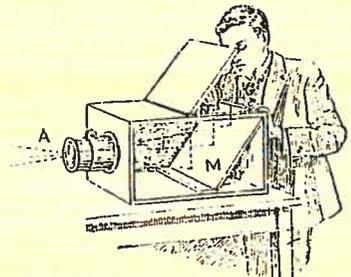
The YACs have had a variety of activities this Spring. They have looked at life in the time of the dinosaurs, when Mike Howgate came to give an action packed lecture, which involved several members being torn apart by scavenging dinosaurs. Needless to say they



survived the experience and were eager for more. Their knowledge about dinosaurs was quite amazing. Sue and I sat very quietly at the back while the YACs answered the most searching questions!

We all enjoyed Steve Dyers Dig update, when the club learned about the analysis of last years finds, and were given an idea about the plans for this year.

The April session was another activity day, when members made pinhole cameras and developed prints and found out and tested a camera obscura, under the eye of Adam who is usually based at Gunnersbury Museum. He kept his audience captivated for the whole session.



Camera Obscura

As always, the Speakers at the Symposium in February were capable, confident and entertaining. Sue and I are always impressed by their poise in front of such a large audience.

For the Summer, we are looking forward to the Saxon Day, the dig, and a visit to Dapdune Wharf. We have also lined up a Victorian costume and photograph session which sounds rather different. With membership at nearly 90, the Club is enjoying another good year.

Christine Hardman

The Club is Jointly funded by Surrey Archaeological Society and Guildford Museum

GUILDFORD 1000

[The following is the text of the talk given by the Curator, Matthew Alexander at the AGM of the Friends on May 27th 1999.

England at the First Millennium

By the 21st year of the reign of Æthelred II (979 - 1016), the English had been Christians for more than three centuries, and the church played a central part in the life of the nation. However, few would have considered the date 1000 to be particularly significant. If anything, the millennium of Christ's death and resurrection, rather than his birth, would have seemed more portentous.

England was under constant threat of Danish raids. From 994, these had been led by the King of Denmark himself, Swdyn Forkbeard. 999 saw Danes landing at Rochester and devastating west Kent, the English attempts at defence being bungled and ineffective. After the defeat of the English at the Battle of Maldon in 991, and again in 994, huge sums of money - *Danegeld* - had been paid to buy off the raiders. Danegeld was proof not only of English weakness, but also of English prosperity. This wealth may well have derived from a developing trade in woollen cloth.

Most Englishmen made their living from farming - but harvest could fail and hunger was an annual threat. Slaves formed the basis of the estate's farming system - captives or convicts, or even those driven by starvation to offer themselves as serfs. However, serfs did not pay tax, nor were they required to serve as warriors. The *ceorl* or freeman was hardly free in the modern sense. He usually owed labour or payment to an overlord. Indeed, most people answered to some social superior, be it lord, abbot or king. The customs of the farming estate were the ground rules on which life and work were based: who was expected to do what for whom, and for what reward. In an illiterate society, these traditions were carefully handed down by word of mouth.

Illiteracy did not mean there was no poetry: the language was rich in heroic verse, but these poems had to be memorised, and only monks and priests would have been able to write them down. The language was changing: uniting of the Anglo-Saxon tongue in the south with Norse in the north produced a hybrid and simplified English, but with distinct local dialects. This simplification has had the effect of making English one of the easiest languages to learn.

Surrey at the First Millennium

By 1000, England had been divided into shires or counties. Surrey was 'Suthrige' - the southern region, perhaps originally of a kingdom north of the Thames. Surrey had been a rather undistinguished boundary area between the Jutes of Kent and the South, East and West Saxons. Wessex seems to have dominated at the end, however, and Surrey lay within the great Wessex diocese of Winchester.

Kings were crowned at Kingston-upon-Thames: Æthelstan in 925, for example. However, this did not indicate that Kingston was an important urban centre but, on the contrary, that it was a rural estate able to feed the assembled court and easily reached by river.

The shire was governed by the shire reeve or sheriff, acting as the king's representative. Each free man at the age of 12 had to swear loyalty to the king in front of the sheriff, at court meetings known as Views of Frankpledge (often held after the harvest in October). Frankpledge committed the community to accepting joint responsibility for the behaviour of its members. Crimes - even murder - were punished by fines, which had to be paid to the injured party by the criminal or his relatives. In 1000, the life of a Wessex freeman was worth the equivalent of 33 oxen or 200 sheep, but theft was punished by hanging.

To organise the system of frankpledge and for tax purposes, the country was divided into districts known as hundreds, originally containing 100 households. In theory, the inhabitants of the hundred came together at monthly courts to decide legal actions. A hundredman acted as magistrate, together with twelve *thegns* or local magnates as a jury. Appeals could go to the shire court.

Guildford lay in the hundred of Woking. Woking (now Old Woking) would have been where the households would originally have gathered for the courts and the annual View of Frankpledge ceremony, and probably is also where the freemen would have mustered with their weapons when summoned to battle. By 1000, Guildford may well have had its own View of Frankpledge (which it certainly had in the later Middle Ages).

The hundreds were made up of parishes. However, the parish system that largely survives today was still not complete by 1000. Many churches which were later to become independent were still chapels answerable to 'mother churches' elsewhere.

The key to life in Surrey was its geology. The infertile soils of the county made it poor and rather obscure. The clay vale of the Thames valley was reasonably rewarding for the ploughman, and the chalk Downs were suitable for the sheep. However, the sandy heaths of the north-west and south-west were almost sterile, and the dense oak woodland of the Weald was sparsely settled. The great market for produce in the growing city of London only benefited the extreme north-east of Surrey.

The church was not merely an ever-present element in daily life, it was also a major landowner. The Benedictine abbey at Chertsey had been sacked by the Danes and refounded in 884. A new abbey establishment (with monks from Abingdon) was set up in 964. Chertsey had been lavishly endowed with lands in north-west Surrey.

Guildford at the First Millennium

Guildford has its origins in the early 6th century, with migrants establishing a settlement beside *Gyldaforda* - the Golden Ford - in the gap cut by the river Wey in the North Downs. The westward drive of the Saxons had been halted at Mount Badon in 500, and marginal areas which had been bypassed by the original invaders, like west Surrey, saw increasing settlement. These people were pagans, burying their dead with their weapons and possessions in a cemetery on the crest of the Mount above the ford. Pagan place-names in the locality - such as Thursley and Tuesley - recall the pagan gods. They probably would have been worshipped privately or in small family groups, in sacred groves or springs outside the town.

From the mid-7th century the Guildfordians would have become Christians. It may have been at this time that the church of St. Mary was first built, possibly a simple wooden hall. While the Domesday survey in 1086 makes no references to churches in Guildford, St Mary's is architecturally pre-conquest (as are the churches at Hambledon and Thursley, neither mentioned in Domesday). Many churches were rebuilt after 1000 - had people been waiting to see what would happen? St. Mary's tower, the oldest visible part of the surviving church, dates from about 1050, and is typical of this late Saxon building campaign.

While St. Mary's development is reasonably clear, the other ancient town churches, St. Nicholas and Holy Trinity, have been subsequently rebuilt, and their story is more obscure. It is puzzling that Guildford should have three parish churches, when no other Surrey town has more than one. Certainly the size of the population did not require them. There seems little doubt that St. Mary's was the original church, and that the others were established after planned extension of Guildford in the early 900's, but how soon after is not clear.

By the end of Alfred the Great's reign, Guildford had become a royal town. In his will or about 880, Alfred left his residence in Guildford to his nephew Æthelwald (although it returned to the crown following the latter's rebellion). However, Guildford only grew to real importance after Edward the Elder (899-925) established it both as a commercial centre and a stronghold against Danish incursions, replacing the *burh* or earthwork fort at Eashing.

There was a carefully planned extension to the original nucleus of the town around St. Mary's. A ditch and rampart enclosed an area to the north and south of what became the High Street, probably with an intramural street running behind the rampart. The area enclosed was subdivided into narrow tenements or plots, with 'gates' or pathways running their length from the High Street to the lane at the rear. Each property could thus have a house on the High Street, with a long yard or garden behind. These plots are still a feature of the town centre today.

There was almost certainly a market from the earliest times. This was probably held outside the town itself, in the ancient Saxon custom, rather than in a market place. In the early 900s, King Edward the Elder ordered that none should buy and sell except in open market and under the supervision of the town reeve - we can imagine, then, some such official in Guildford. Later in the century, a jury of townsmen had to be sworn in, at least two of whom must act as witnesses in business deals: this was necessary when written agreements were rare. The varied geology in Guildford's market zone produces varied agriculture: with sheep, grain, and beef.

It is likely that the 'Golden Ford' would have been supplemented by a wooden bridge at the time that Guildford was enlarged as a defensive

centre. Such bridges would not only ease the river crossing in winter, but also act as a barrier against raiding boats coming upstream. It is possible that the Wey was navigable for small craft (the Romans may have used it to bring pottery from Alice Holt to London, and there was certainly a wharf downstream of the bridge in the later Middle Ages)

The Wey almost certainly turned watermills, to grind flour for bread - most settlements of any size had them by the time of the Domesday Book. Wheat can be stored, but soon deteriorates after grinding: local mills were always necessary. The millstream, not the natural course of the river, is the parish boundary at Waverley Mead. This suggests that this artificial watercourse is earlier than the final settlement of the parish system in the 12th century.

There was a mint in Guildford from the time of Edward the Martyr (975-9). The only other in Surrey was at Southwark, even then very much a suburb of London. There were some seventy mint towns in late Saxon England - the principle being that coins could be carried to anywhere in the country during the hours of daylight. The coins - silver pennies - had to be returned to the mint at intervals, to be restruck. However, some were retained each time as a form of tax. Consequently, surviving coins struck in Guildford during the reigns of Edward the Martyr and his brother Æthelred are very rare. They have been found mostly in Scandinavia, where they may have formed part of the Danegeld protection money.

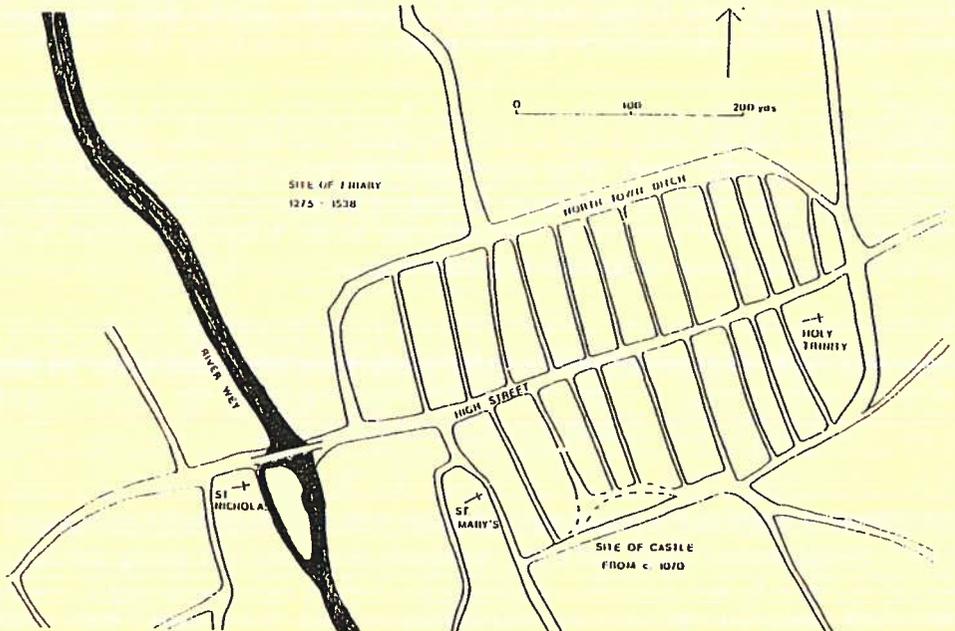
Guildford's mint was probably an indication that the town was a borough: in other words, that the king himself was proprietor and the townsmen owed no service to any other lord. (The word 'borough' comes from *burh*, a place fortified by earthworks.) No doubt Guildford's position halfway between the major centres of London and Winchester would have made it less of a rural backwater than it otherwise might have been.

Executions were a feature of late Saxon life in Guildford as elsewhere. Hangings, or even cruel dismemberments, may have been carried out on top of the Mount, around a pagan barrow. (Perhaps burial in the earlier pagan cemetery added the fear of damnation to a brutal death).

Guildford in 1086 had a population of about 750, dwelling in 75 enclosures. These would mostly have been the tenement plots laid out along the High Street in the previous century, separated by hedges and containing a timber hall and outbuildings. Living conditions would have been dirty and unhygienic by modern standards: the rushes covering the floor would have

become home to parasites and bacteria, and the latrines in the backyards would have been a source of flies. Even without the Danish threat, life expectancy was not high.

Despite its borough status, most Guildfordians were probably farming as well as practising the specialised trades which distinguish a town from a village. Bury Fields may mark the site of farmland tilled by townsmen of the borough. Its name suggests that they were open fields, divided into strips which were shared out among the individual farmers and regularly reallocated to ensure that everyone received a fair portion of good and bad land. This system was universal in southern England and the Midlands, but in Kent small enclosed fields were the norm. As may be expected, both systems were found in Surrey. Wheat for bread, barley both for bread and ale, peas and beans - these would be the usual crops. Thus Guildford at the end of the first millennium was a royal town, and the king's hall here was to become the scene of an ugly massacre in 1036. In general, though, it was a small community, hardly more than a farming village by modern standards. Nevertheless, Guildford had become the main commercial and administrative centre for western Surrey, and was to play an even greater role after the conquest that was to come.



Guildford as it may have been in the late Saxon times

Twenty Years Hard Labour at Guildford Museum

On April 2nd 1999 I completed twenty years working at Guildford Museum. Although I have been interested in history and archaeology since I was a child, I did not expect to work in a museum when I left university, as Matthew was already planning a career in Museums. so I had a series of short-term jobs in archaeology until the spring of 1979 when the position of Museum Assistant at Guildford Museum became vacant. Felix Holling was the curator then, and Matthew was Assistant Curator, so had no part in selecting me. The job involved helping Felix with the archaeology, looking after the needlework collection, and running the school loan service, as well as anything else that came up such as serving in the shop if necessary. I worked for the Museums Diploma while I was working at the Museum and acquired that in 1981. I had a degree in archaeology but knew nothing about needlework so had to teach myself about it and found that I enjoyed it. Those early days seem so peaceful now - we could research a topic and expect to finish it, and most of the work involved dealing with the collections. Twenty years on, it is very different. Nearly all the work is in response to requests from the public and there is very little time for the objects. This is good in so far as it shows there is an increasing interest in the sort of work we do, but I would like to have time to spend on the collections - cataloguing things, improving the storage, improving our indexes, researching the objects or aspects of the local history and archaeology.

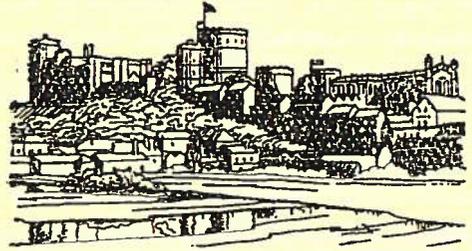
As other staff at the Museum changed, my job changed. When Matthew became Curator he needed help with the local history, so I concentrated on that, and the new Assistant Curator handled the archaeology. As the Excavation Unit developed, I got involved with that. When the Museum and Guildford House were re-organised our jobs were re-defined and I became Assistant Curator (Collections Management) so I am officially responsible for all the objects and for their storage, display, etc. though, as I have said, there isn't actually much time for that! The loss of our Designer in the re-organisation means that I have to do the display work, though in fact most of this is done by John Boas and Kevin Fryer. At long last their invaluable assistance has been recognised and they have been taken onto the permanent staff.

I enjoy the job very much and wouldn't want to work anywhere else, however hectic it has become.

Mary Alexander June 7th 1999

A TRIP TO WINDSOR

[It is rare for a Friends outing to be cancelled but Peter Hattersley, Jo Carter and Joan Robinson decided to carry out the planned trip to Windsor on their own with Peter driving. Joan has kindly sent us this report of their day out and as you may care to do the trip yourself I give some brief details at the end of the article.]



Windsor Castle

Peter Hattersley kindly drove Jo Carter and me to Windsor, as the planned coach trip for the Friends of the museum had to be cancelled through lack of support. Our first stop was for coffee at Drury House restaurant, (circa 1645). This house had been the home of Nell Gwyn, a mistress of King Charles II, and there is a tunnel from here to the castle, now blocked for security reasons. We returned to this restaurant for an excellent lunch. Then we went to see Queen Mary's exquisite dolls house, built by Sir Edward Lutyens to a 1:12 scale, with running water and working lifts!!

We walked around the castle at our own varying pace. A high light of this tour for me, was the fabulous semi-state rooms of the royal apartments, now open to the public from October to March, since the restoration after the 1992 fire. The Green Room, with the wonderful Axminster carpet, shown at the great exhibition of 1851, which could not be walked on by the public, therefore, the room had to be viewed from the door. This room was only water damaged after the fire. The Crimson Room, the Queen's principal drawing room, was severely damaged in the fire, but now beautifully restored. This large, wonderful rectangular room, is ablaze with red and gold, with a wonderful ceiling and a large bay window overlooking the east terrace garden. This, and the adjoining rooms, are the finest and most complete examples in existence, of the late Georgian style of decoration. The State Dining Room and the small Octagonal Dining Room are Gothic revival in style. Both these rooms were gutted by the fire, but luckily, the Pugin chandelier and furniture were saved from the Octagonal Dining Room.

The china corridor was the last of the private Royal Apartments on view to the public, where priceless porcelain is shown including a large Louis XIV Sevres service.

St George's Hall, one of the most historic sites in the castle, is also in the Gothic revival style. This large hall was seriously damaged in the 1992 fire. Now after restoration by 20th century craftsmen, it is one of the most beautiful rooms in the castle and a monument to the skills of these 20th century craftsmen, who not only restored, but improved it. The reconstructed oak hammer beam roof of St. George's Hall, is the largest to have been built this century. The floor, appropriately, incorporates trees grown on the estates of the present Knights of the Garter. ' The scheme of shields of every Garter Knight has been recreated on the ceiling and is continued round the room, it is a vigorous example of heraldic decoration, echoing the heraldic display in St. George's chapel. Three are full-length portraits and marble busts, that form a royal pantheon along the length of the hall, opposite the many windows. ' (Guide book)

At the east end of the hall, in its old position, has been reinstated Edward III's true Gothic throne. A new addition to the hall, is a balcony above the throne, upon which stands appropriately, the armoured equestrian statue of Dymoke, the Queen's champion, overlooking the length of this restored hall. Then onto St. George's chapel, the superb historic spiritual home of the order of the Garter, the senior order of chivalry. The order formed by king Edward III, in 1348, reflect the chivalry of King Arthur and his knights of the round table. The chapel was begun by Edward IV and completed by Henry VIII, with money bequeathed by Sir Reginald Bray, High Treasurer to King Henry VIII. Bray's heraldic symbol appears many times on the roof bosses. The Architecture of the chapel ranks among the finest examples of perpendicular Gothic, the late medieval style of architecture, with it's glorious fan-vaulting. Ten sovereigns are buried in the chapel including King George VI and in the vaults, King Henry VIII with his third wife Jane Seymour and also King Charles I. The Banners of the Knights of the Garter, with the crowns and stall plates, are majestically displayed in the choir stalls, making an awesome sight. There are very few Lady Knights of the Garter, Baroness Thatcher being one of them.

After lunch we went on to Runnymede, to see two symbols of freedom, Sir Edward Maufe's memorial to the signing of the Magna Carta by King John in

1215, who promised his barons freedom protected by law. This monument was erected by the American Bar Society. Then onto the Kennedy memorial nearby, set in an acre of land given to the American people by the British public. This memorial was designed by G.A. Jellicoe.

Our trip culminated in a visit to the Air Forces's memorial, set imposingly on top of Coopers Hill Slopes and designed by Sir Edward Maufe. This memorial is an impressive and dignified tribute to the 20,389 brave airmen and a few airwomen it commemorates. They belonged to the Royal Air Force and Air Forces of the Commonwealth and Empire, who died fighting for our freedom during the second world war and who have no known graves. Fine examples of 20th century hero's and heroines, worthy successors of bygone champions, as unlike others, all British air crew were volunteers and not conscripts. This memorial is a very apt and potent symbol for Lent. It is a reflection of Christ's example, in His ultimate sacrifice to save mankind.

Joan Robinson

[The Dury House restaurant is in Castle Street opposite the King Henry VIII gateway. Peter used the car park by the river. For the Magna Carta and Kennedy memorials take the Egham road, A308 (or take the B470 through the park down by the river and follow it straight on along the B3021 which will lead you to the A308) Park at the Magna Carta tea rooms. To reach the Air force memorial return along the A308 and turn left into the A328 to Englefield Green. At the green turn right along Coopers Hill where there is a car park on the right after about a quarter of a mile.]

The Friends of the Museum have very kindly agreed to pay half the cost of conserving a mid 17th century embroidered box. The museum has been promised a grant to cover the other half by the South Eastern Museums Service. The work is being done by the Textile Conservation Centre at Hampton Court, and the estimate for the work is £4000. The box is a very good example of a type not represented in the collection so we were lucky to be given it. To purchase a similar box would cost more than the cost of the conservation work so we felt it was worth acquiring even though it is rather in a poor state. It is dirty, many threads are loose and the hinges of the doors and lid are broken. It is an elaborate box with many compartments, including several secret drawers. I took it to the Textile Conservation Centre in May. The staff were thrilled to be working on it and we look forward to seeing it in July, when it should be finished.

Mary Alexander, 7th June

Dicken's in Guildford?

If you missed the fun-packed quiz evening last year then I hope we will see you there this year. There is always an enormous variety of questions, most of which we feel we at least ought to know the answer to even if it escapes us for the moment. Occasionally a question will leave you fascinated and you will wish to know more. John Burgess provided two such questions last year and I am grateful to him for providing the following elaboration on the answers.

Question 1. In which Dickens novel did a travelling theatrical company fulfil an engagement at Guildford?

This comes from Nicholas Nickleby chapter 22

Nicholas, having ruled out any hope of a career in London goes to seek his fortune in Portsmouth, and accompanied by Smike walks from London to Portsmouth during which he stays overnight at Godalming. The chapter gives some description of the journey including Nicholas telling Smike the story of the Hindhead murder at Gibbet Hill. They stop at an Inn twelve miles short of Portsmouth where they meet Vincent Crummles who runs a Theatrical Company. Crummles promptly tells Nicholas that they had just fulfilled an engagement at Guildford 'with the greatest applause'.

Question 2. In which Dickens novel did two lovers picnic near Guildford - although one of them had difficulty in recalling the geography of the area?

This comes from David Copperfield chapter 33

David, having fallen in love with his employers' daughter Dora Spenlow, goes out on her birthday party picnic to a spot near Guildford, but David is too full of Dora to remember much about it.

"I don't know how long we were going and to this hour I know as little where we went. Perhaps it was near Guildford. Perhaps some Arabian-magician opened up the place for the day, and shut it for ever when we came away. It was a green-spot, on a hill carpeted with soft turf. there were shady trees and heather, and as far as the eye could see, a rich landscape."

VOLUNTEER HELPERS

Very Many Thanks to all those 'Friends' who returned their forms to me offering help. Without their invaluable help the Museum would not have been able to open the Undercroft to the public, nor to mount special exhibitions.

If anyone else could offer help would you please let the Museum (01483) 444751 have their names and telephone numbers.

Marjorie Williams, Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Dennis and Marion May would like to thank all those who assisted with the Guildford City Football Club Exhibition which was seen by 750 people. Copies of the booklet prepared for the Exhibition are

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Association

Mr D Baker, Miss C Beacham, Mrs J Bryant, Mrs J Campbell,
Mr M Chilcott, Mr L & Mrs N Crampin, Mrs K Curtis,
Mrs B Downing, Mrs G Elsey, Mr B & Mrs J Fijalkowski, Mrs J Fox,
Mrs J Gaffney, Mr H & Mrs B Gray, Mrs S Grogan,
Mr J & Mrs M Hunter, Mrs V & Miss E Jay, Mr B Lusk,
Mrs E McCluney, Mrs V Mourant, Mrs J Paterson, Ms J Pinder,
Mrs F Rees, Mrs M Slade, Mr C J Smale, Mrs W Smith,
Mrs M Tanner, Mrs R Taylor, Mr T & Mrs J Winterson

To join the FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM, please send a cheque with the appropriate subscription to Mr T.C.Bryers, Friends of Guildford Museum, 2 Southbury, Lawn Road, Guildford, GU2 5DD

Subscription rates for 1999/2000

Individual	£5	Family	£10	Under 18's	£2
Corporate	£25	Individual Life	£100		

Please make cheques payable to

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

Financial Statement for year ended 5th April 1999

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Friends' Subscriptions		1441.00
Town Walks		1117.00
Bank Interest (net)		150.78
Surplus on Events		1676.67
Total Income		<u>4385.45</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Guildford Museum		2072.96
AGM expenses		65.48
Sundry expenses		322.32
		<u>2460.76</u>
Surplus for year		<u>1924.69</u>

Balance Sheet as at 5th April 1999

Current Assets:		
Cash at Bank		8959.62
Debtors and Prepayments		235.28
Less Creditors:		
Sundries	10.00	
Ticket Sales in advance	3040.00	
		<u>(3050.00)</u>
<u>Total Assets less Liabilities</u>		<u>6144.90</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>		
Accumulated Funds at 31st March 1998		4220.21
Surplus for Year		<u>1924.69</u>
		<u>6144.90</u>

3rd May 1999

T.C.Bryers.

Make a note in your Diary

Events 1999

Wednesday 14th July 10.30 am	Surrey Villages - Shamley Green
Thursday 29th July 9am	Winchester Cathedral
Wednesday 18th August 10.30am	Surrey Villages - Shere
Thursday 30th September 9am	Whitehall
Thursday 1st October 2pm	Surrey Villages - Witley
Saturday 6th November 9am	Fishbourne and Chichester

Full details of these events can be found on the sheet circulated to members.

Tickets are obtainable from Derek Somner.

18 Abbot Road, Guildford GU1 3TA



(01483) 539447

SHAMLEY GREEN HISTORY SOCIETY

OPEN EVENING

OCTOBER 7TH 1999 AT 7.30 PM

ARBUTHNOT HALL - SHAMLEY GREEN

"WELL AND TRULY PLASTERED"

THE HISTORY OF GEORGE JACKSON & SONS

- FOUNDED 1780 (LONDON) -

ILLUSTRATED TALK AND EXHIBITION INCLUDING MOULDS CAST FOR
ROBERT ADAM

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