

## Don't miss these!

### EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

27<sup>th</sup> July afternoon

#### Surviving the Ice Age.

Learn how to build a shelter, make a spear, light a fire and skin a mammoth using the technology of 10,000 years ago. Phone the museum on 01483 444751 for further details.

6<sup>th</sup> August - 6<sup>th</sup> September Exhibition at Salters.

#### The Dependants Way of Life - 'The Cokelers'

This unique exhibition illustrates a forgotten way of life in Surrey and Sussex villages of a religious community (known locally as 'The Cokelers'). Costumes, artefacts and memorabilia will be on display.

13<sup>th</sup> September

#### Heritage Day

Hands on archaeology activity in museum 11am-1pm & 2pm-4pm.  
Also Victorian Schoolroom in Salters can be seen. Both free.  
Heritage Day programme from Tourist Office.(01483) 444334

25<sup>th</sup> October

#### History on your Doorstep

2.30pm to 4.30pm at the museum. A 'How to ...' Guide for Local Historians. Tickets £4 from museum(01483 444751)

12<sup>th</sup> December

#### Edwardian Christmas Party

Tickets from museum

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 November 1<sup>st</sup> 2003

# FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

July 2003



Issue 16

**THEATRE ROYAL  
GUILDFORD**

MONDAY, JULY 14  
AND EVERY EVENING AT 8.  
Saturday at 6.15 & 8.40.

**16 ENGLISH  
DANGERS 16**

**THE HENLEY  
REVUE**

In Four Scenes.

1. The Embassy Club at Henley. 2. Henley in the 19th.  
3. The Ladies' Tennis Club. 4. The Henley Boat Race.  
The Most Elaborate Dining Hall in the World.

**LESLIE ROSS** **Rosie Fitzgerald**

**TOM & NEIL**

**JACK SMILES**

**ADA GATLEY** **BIOSCOPE**

**DANDY GEORGE**

PRICES OF ADMISSION:

1/6	1/-	9d.	6d.
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NEXT WEEK... Full London Company in  
**"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST"**

SEVERAL FRINGS...  
SIX FRINGS...  
SIX FRINGS...  
SIX FRINGS...

## From the Editor

As many of you will have seen in the Surrey Advertiser, a letter from Alice Hargreaves written in 1932 to the Mayor of Guildford came up for auction recently. It was Alice Hargreaves, who was, in her childhood days, the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland'. I am delighted to say that the "Friends" were able to purchase this item together with a photograph and these are now on display in the museum. An article appears on page 5.

The 'Friends' have an exciting programme of events. There is however room for more people on all trips so book now to avoid disappointment and bring your friends as well. I also enclose a list of Museum events and these are summarised on the back page. I know you will wish to support these.

Have you visited the museum web site? [www.guildfordmuseum.co.uk](http://www.guildfordmuseum.co.uk)

Regards.

### FRIENDS COMMITTEE FOR 2003/2004

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

### 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**

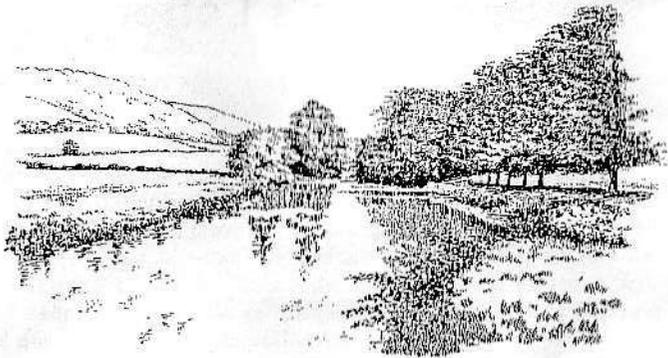
## Secretary's Letter

Six months ago when writing my previous letter, I was a little pessimistic about the flow of new members as at that time we had had only 8 new members during the current membership year which runs from the first of April to the end of March. I am happy to be able to report that by the end of the latest membership year, there had been 22 new members. Whilst this is the lowest number in any year to date, it was a lot better than expected and meant that we ended the year at 262 members, 6 less than the previous year but the second highest so far. Your committee had taken a couple of modest steps to improve local advertising by placing application forms and a review of the Friends' activities in additional locations which may have helped the increase in membership later in the year. We are now again well into renewal time and I have had renewals from 185 members which is encouraging at this stage in early May. Some 45 of you will have had reminders and I very much hope will have taken action to renew by the time you read this! Your subscription is an important financial contribution and is much valued by the museum.

Those of you who were present at the AGM will have heard from Tim Bryers, our Treasurer, that £4515 was raised during 2002, however this amount includes a donation to the museum for an expenditure that ultimately was not invoiced and thus the amount involved, £750, was returned to the Friends. The net amount that was raised was therefore £3765, somewhat less than in previous years. The surplus on events, normally the biggest generator of funds, was some £650 down on the previous year, entirely due to the cancellation, in view of insufficient support, of three full day outings during last summer. The increase in annual subscription from £5 to £6 partially compensated for this reduction. During 2002 only minor expenditure was made in favour of the museum, in particular enhanced signage for the Undercroft which proved to be effective in increasing visitor numbers.

The 2003 season of outings got straight into top gear with a most enjoyable visit to Syon House and the BBC TV studios in Shepherd's Bush. The splendid Adam interiors and yet another Capability Brown park (he must have been in more than one place at once!) were a delight. Some of us found the Great Conservatory of 1825 the highlight and inside we were entertained by a most determined and vocal peacock in all his finery. Security was tight at the BBC but our guides were very laid back and made light of the mild inconvenience. They were full of anecdotes, some dispelling long held myths about the Corporation, and gave us a comprehensive insight into the workings of the news services in particular. Under mild duress, three Friends agreed to take part in a panel game to test their short term memory; it has to be said that they were unable to distinguish themselves! Early in May the first village walk took place to Pixham under Jackie Malyon's expert guidance.

This was followed by a full day in Brighton where the results of a £10 million restoration was admired; in the afternoon the recently refurbished Museum and Art Gallery was visited. Bookings for future outings are in reasonably good shape so your



Near Pixham

committee is very hopeful that it will not be necessary to cancel any this year. Please do take advantage, if you have not already done so, and book for these well planned and organised outings which are both enjoyable and educational!

In February Matthew Alexander welcomed around 35 members to the annual open meeting, this time at Guildford House, where he gave those present a comprehensive tour and history of this fine house. Also in February, Heather Anderson's annual Skittles Lunch took place again and was as usual hotly contested. In March Sylvia and Derek Somner organised a talk by Matthew Alexander, in the Brewhouse of Guildford House, on the Folklore and Traditions of Guildford. This proved to be popular and as Matthew was unable to cover his second category of anecdotes, related to the calendar, in the time available, he agreed to do this at the AGM.

In my letter six months ago, I reported on the results of the Questionnaire to which many of you kindly responded and said that your committee will modify the programme of outings to reflect the views stated. I am sure you will understand that a short term modification is difficult to achieve as our outings are, for the most part, planned some twelve months in advance. However during the current season there are four outings fixed for Saturdays which we hope will prove popular to those of you in work. Your committee has also tried to increase the mix of events this year by introducing additional lower cost events and outings as well. In planning for 2004, we will be able to respond further to the comments and ideas raised in the Questionnaire answers and to elicit help from those who offered it.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you all for your support and help in making the Friends the successful organisation that it is. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on our outings over the coming months. Have a pleasant and fulfilling summer.

Richard Sinker Hon. Secretary,  01483 502207

## Letter to the Mayor from Alice Hargreaves

Alice Liddell was the young girl for whom Lewis Carroll conjured up the charming story of 'Alice's Adventures Under Ground'. This was published, with additions, under the title 'Alice in Wonderland' and is now known throughout the world. It was in June 1932 that an eighty-year old Alice, now Alice Hargreaves attended, at Guildford, a performance of 'Alice in Wonderland' and 'Alice through the Looking Glass' in commemoration of the centenary of Lewis Carroll's birth. Her letter to the Mayor, William Harvey, accepting his invitation to a performance of these plays and also to tea at the Guildhall was auctioned recently and I am delighted to say that the Friends' were able to purchase this for the Museum. The letter comes with a photograph of June Morris presenting a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Hargreaves. Both are now on display in the Museum.

The plays were performed by a theatrical group called The Cockyolly Company of Amateur Players. June Dobson, formally June Morris played Alice in the production and in 1998 gave her recollections of the event to the Surrey Advertiser. ' "It was tremendously exciting "she said. I think one of the reasons I was chosen was because of my hair. It looked just like Alice in the pictures. There was another girl who alternated the role with me but she had to wear a wig" A bout of measles at the end of the run meant that Jane missed a couple of shows but she still has fond memories of the production. "Tweedledee and Tweedledum had me in fits of giggles during one performance,"she recalls."It was a beautiful theatre. I remember looking out from the stage and thinking how magical it was." '

The producer's note for the production of 'Through the Looking Glass' informs us that "both plays were played in black velvet curtains. The Frog- and Fish-Footman from 'Alice in Wonderland' were brought into this play also, and continued their work of bringing on and taking off properties and so saving the necessity for bringing the curtain down. All the characters were dressed as much like the Tenniel illustrations as possible. Fish wore silver grey to match his fish mask; Frog wore bright green to match his frog mask. Both had gold braid on their livery and wore footmen's wigs, white stockings and black shoes. The chess characters had, when possible, a little wooden gait and wooden movements. The two little pawns had quaint bits of miming to do whenever there was an opportunity. The horse and the elephant were made on a bamboo frame and 'manned' in each case by two people. In both plays Alice wore a white muslin dress and apron with rows of blue ribbon round the skirt of her dress, white socks and little black shoes. The two plays taken together, with a short interval, play two and a half hours." 

# Lewis Carroll Centenary Commemoration at Guildford, SURREY, ENGLAND.

BY REQUEST OF THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD

PERFORMANCES OF

"ALICE IN WONDERLAND" and "ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS,"

WILL BE GIVEN BY

THE COCKYLLY COMPANY OF AMATEUR PLAYERS in the THEATRE ROYAL, GUILDFORD,

*President:* Miss Sybil Thorndike.

ON TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS, JUNE 21ST, 22ND, 23RD, 24TH AND 25TH, AT 7.30.

*Matinee:* SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT 3.

PRICES (including tax): Fauteuils 4/3; Orchestral Stalls 3/-; Dress Circle 3/-; Pit Stalls 2/4; Pit 1/3; Gallery 9d.

"ALICE IN WONDERLAND."

—o—

OPENING—Alice and her Big Sister—Alice falls asleep and goes  
—Down the Rabbit Hole—The Mouse with the Long  
Tail—The Caucus Race—The Duchess's Kitchen—  
The Mad Tea Party—The Queen's Croquet Party—  
The Gryphon and Mock Turtle—The Trial Scene.

Every care is being taken to keep as closely as possible to the book, and Lewis Carroll's language is used throughout save where a few words are necessary to avoid change of scene, as the action in each play is continuous.

Between 60 and 70 children of all ages will take part in the performances.

There are two "Alices"—aged 8 and 9 respectively—and it has been arranged that they shall play on alternate nights to avoid undue strain.

The play is being produced by Miss Violet Pearn, who has been responsible for the production of all "Cockyolly" performances. It is well equipped by Professional Artists, Musicians and Authors, who are giving their services.

Special Music for the Production has been written by Mr. H. Cyphus.

It is proposed that, after making a Donation to the Town's Fund for a Memorial Plaque to be placed on "The Chestnuts," where Lewis Carroll died, the profits shall be devoted to Scholarships in Music, Dancing, &c., for Children, to be known as "Alice" Scholarships.

"ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS."

—o—

OPENING—Alice and her Big Sister—Alice falls asleep and goes  
—Through the Looking Glass—The Garden of Live  
Flowers—The Red Queen marks out Chess Board—  
Twelfthday and Tweedledee—The White Queen's  
Toilet—Humpty Dumpty—The Three Queens—  
Enthronement of Queen Alice.

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## The Lovelace Cart Bridges

In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Lord Lovelace, who owned East Horsley Towers, embarked upon an ambitious forestry enterprise by planting thousands of trees from specimens that he had evaluated as being suitable for the English climate. These trees were planted within and around the already existing native hardwoods that were already there in the extensive hilly areas of his estate to the south of the village.

In order to enable the horse drawn forestry carts of the time to get timber out of this difficult and steep terrain, he devised gentle tracks and causeways which made use of a series of fifteen bridges to provide crossing points over existing tracks and packhorse trails.

The bridges were built in a similar fashion to each other being mostly horseshoe shaped in the Moorish style, built of flint, brick and tile, but with different decorative bands and facings, these bridges indulged a fantasy rather than being just of utilitarian design. They are unique in Surrey, and probably in England.

Eight of these bridges remain and are now colloquially known as the "Lovelace Bridges". These all bear individual names.



Lord Lovelace was a keen forester. After acquiring the East Horsley estate, he set about planting, as a commercial crop, larch, birch and Scots pine, thus with the existing broadleaf coppices, the whole area was to become heavily wooded. At Ockham he had an experimental two acre plantation where exotic specimens were grown to assess their suitability for the English climate.

The fifteen bridges were built to facilitate the movement of the foresters and their wagons over difficult country much dissected by deep east/west valleys at the bottom of which are ancient sunken bridledways.

When the trees reached maturity the timber was carted from south to north to reach the Epsom Road - the obvious solution was to build bridges over the intervening bridledways.

All the bridges were approached by causeways, some quite long, so as to reduce the gradient for horse drawn wagons.

The main south/north route to the Epsom Road was the track known as Outdowns which joins the road opposite Effingham Lodge. At the southern end of the Outdowns, Lovelace built a long causeway where the track descends down the side of a valley, and in this causeway he "inserted", for no obvious reason, two bridges - Oldlands and Outdowns. There are no paths running under these bridges and none marked on any 19<sup>th</sup> century map. Before Outdowns bridge was built there was a path running eastwards from its site in the track to Lovelace's Warren Farm. However, this path was terminated at a wood boundary about 150 yards to the east after the bridge was built. Perhaps Lord Lovelace had plans, which never matured, for making two new paths.

Most of the arches are horseshoe shaped in the Moorish manner; Lord Lovelace was famous for embracing every architectural style.

All the bridges have names, mostly borrowed from old field names or local topography, but some are more obscure. Troye is the named after Wilhelmina Troy of Brabant who was the wife of the fifth Lord King, and Falcon Bridge was presumably in the memory of his remote ancestor John Locke the philosopher whose shield was charged with three falcons. Raven was named after someone who owned Greenedene Farm at one time, but Robin Hood poses a question.

Based on notes supplied by Peter Hattersley who is Co-ordinator for the restoration project.



#### NEW MEMBERS

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

Miss Joan Butler	Mrs Ann Carpenter	Mrs Auriol Earle
Mrs Nancy Gibbon	Miss Maria Grande	Mr J & Mrs J Grant
Rev. S & Mrs S Hemming-Clark		Mrs Brenda Hill
Mrs Barbara Horlock	Mrs P Lloyd	Mr P & Mrs M Monk
Mr John & Mrs Jean Moss		Miss Maureen Shettle
Mrs G Stocker	Miss Judy Tarry	Mrs Nola Thorne
	Mr Dennis Turner	

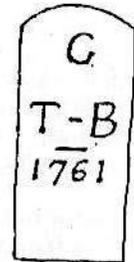
## Guildford Boundary Markers

by Richard Williams

The only natural boundary in Guildford is the river. Guildford has never been a walled town so in the earliest times ditches were dug to mark the town limits, along the present North Street and on the south side along what is now Sydenham Road. These became filled in as the town expanded across the ditches. Although there was still a reference to the 'north town ditch' in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, an Elizabethan document of 1598/9 describing the northern boundaries, quoted in Russell's 1801 'History and Antiquities of Guildford', had to describe the Guildford/Stoke boundary by reference not only to the town ditch but also by referring to people's houses and gardens as defining the boundary. For example, '... and so on the north side of the tenement and garden of the said Parvish ... leaving that tenement on the north side, and so over the highway there to a tenement of Thomas Smalpece ... and from thence directly through the garden and orchard of the said Thomas Smalpece, to the barn of Thomas Lovesdale ...'

Even when the well-known 'Ichnography or Ground Plan of Guildford' was published by Matthew Richardson in 1739, showing the boundary lines in detail, the legal description of the boundary had to be declared in 1741 in similar terms, e.g. 'The jury upon their oaths say, that the boundaries of the said corporation do begin between master Allen's mansion and brew-house, then cross the high street directly to the north-west end of the Duke of Somerset's house leaving the well there on the west side ...' This sort of detail was necessary to avoid dispute, especially as in this example the well mentioned is not shown on the Ichnography plan and it was probably important to know whether the well was inside or outside the town!

The placing of boundary stones, especially at turning points, was started about 20 years later, in 1761/2, and many of these still exist. The best-known one, though not the best-preserved one, is against the pavement wall of the new part of the Grammar School, which is on the site of the house of Mr. Allen referred to above. It is of chalk and is incised 'G'; it should have a date below, but this is either buried or worn off. The best one, incised 'G T-B 1761', is at the bottom of Quarry Street, beautifully protected by now being against a modern apartment wall behind a tub containing a small tree. others are:



Quarry Street

In the wall or the footpath which runs from Castle Arch towards the

bowling green entrance gates; in the west wall opposite the keep. Now very worn and difficult to find, but the letter 'G' is just visible. When you have found this, keep going uphill and when you reach the angle of the wall where it turns towards the main iron gates, peep through the railings and you will see under a shrub another boundary stone, but marked 'G 1809'. This is a baffling one, as I can find no record of why it was placed here at that date. Another one dated 1809 stands in Racks Close, near a garden gate at the south end. This is not quite on the Ichnography boundary.



Haydon Place, east side, embedded in the wall about 16m from North Street. Incised G 1762, but the lettering is crude so it may have been recut at a later date.

Park Street, a stone incised G 1762, in good condition, until recently was in a brick gate pillar but has now been reinstated at a higher level in a new brick wall where a footpath leads uphill to the new development.

*Haydon Place* Other stones on the Ichnography boundary are shown on the first edition of the large-scale O.S. maps, but have now vanished.

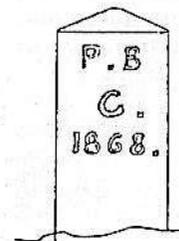
The borough was enlarged in 1835 to cover a much wider area, from Farnham Road in the west (where the hospital was later built) to Cross Lanes, Epsom Road, in the east, and from the river bend (where the boat house is) in the south to Stoke Park (Nightingale Road, west end) in the north. The new boundaries were published in an act of 1832, which defined the parliamentary boundary, and repeated in the Municipal Corporation Act of 1835 as the new borough boundary. However, no stones were placed to mark this boundary until Henry Peak was responsible for placing stones in 1887; the 1887 boundary only differed from the 1835 boundary between the Farnham Road hospital and the river at Dapdune Wharf, and in the Warren Road area, to take in new housing developments.

I have found over half of the 1887 stones, which have a peaked top (after Henry Peak?) and are incised GB 1887 and made of granite, and some of the missing ones may yet turn up. They could last for years yet if looked after. I published a map showing the sites of all the known stones and the 1835/1887 boundaries in the Guildford Group newsletter No 16 (1988) together with descriptions of all the known sites; a copy of this



*Farnham Rd.*

is held at Castle Arch in the Surrey Archaeological Society's archives.



*St Catherine's*

The parliamentary borough had been enlarged earlier as a result of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission Act of 1867/8. This took in an area between the river and the Portsmouth Road, and the new Guildown houses west of the Portsmouth Road, but elsewhere the boundary was adopted as the 1887 borough boundary. The well-known boundary stone marked P.B. G. 1868 which stands by the river at the foot of St Catherine's Hill is an example of a Parliamentary Boundary (P.B.) stone. This stone was discovered in 1972 by a young boy digging in the sand, which shows that anyone can find missing stones! Others in this

series are in Warren Road near the end of Cross Lanes, in Sandy Lane near the lane to Piccard's Farm, and on Pewley Down hidden in the undergrowth by the footpath from Pewley Way. (see Guildford Group Newsletter No 17 (1989) also)

Why the extension of the boundary which included Guildown houses was not adopted as the 1887 borough boundary is interesting. Henry Peak had prepared the plans for the Borough Extension Bill in 1886 and he included Guildown Road houses and houses along the Portsmouth Road to St Catherine's Hill. This was considered by a House of Commons committee in April 1886, and Peak described in his diary how Guildown owners and occupiers hotly contested the Bill so that only small extensions to the old 1832 parliamentary boundary were allowed (including the Edgborough Road/Warren Road additions). They probably wanted the vote but not the Rates demands! Henry Peak recorded that the small extensions 'did not compensate for the trouble and expense of the Bill'.

The new boundaries were 'beaten' in 1887. Peak reported that the Mayor, Mr. Swayne, was 'in the prime of life and full of enthusiasm with the duties and honours of the Jubilee year'. The beating took place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Peak reported that it was cool after early frost, but fine and sunny. 'After breakfast at the mayor's residence at 9 a.m. we started at 10 a.m. at Warren road. The party included townspeople and lads from the Grammar School with willow wands'. they had ladders and ropes for scaling the chalkpit near the Shalford Road Boundary and elsewhere, and boats for river crossings. They broke for lunch at the Railway Hotel. 'There was plenty of fun with bumpings and other jokes' said Peak. At Dapdune Wharf the town crier, James Harrison, in his uniform, was pushed into the river, but he was an expert swimmer and swam across to mark the boundary to the other side, together with several youngsters.

Immediately after the event the boundaries were marked by setting up the granite boundary stones.

The borough was extended again in 1904, from an area of 607 acres to 2815 acres, and again marked by boundary stones, all of which probably survive although I have only checked them to the south and east of the town centre. In 1933 further extensions increased the area of the borough to 7180 acres and dated boundary stones survive along the new boundary; I have only checked some of these - for example, there is one near my house set into the hump-backed bridge parapet over the Tillingbourne near Shalford church. The borough was still small compared with today's modern 1974 borough. The practice of placing stones to mark borough boundaries has now been discontinued.

Other types of boundary were marked by stones, such as parish and private estate boundaries, and sometimes iron markers were used such as those marking the limits of the L & SWR railway land. These will be the subject of a future article. However, one unusual marker will be mentioned here, viz. an X inscribed on a brick wall in Castle Street marking the boundary between Holy Trinity and St Mary's parishes. It is partly hidden behind a drainpipe on the uphill side of the Three Tuns public house, and is marked S.M. X H.T. This is a very rare survival in Guildford as other such boundary markers on walls have vanished with redevelopment, and it should thus be listed. (The initials above it, MHG, are a mystery to me and may be a builder's initials - anyone know whose?)



### TOURS OF GUILDFORD

Have visitors arrived and you don't know what to do?

Then join a free guided tour of the town - meet under Tunsgate Arch - Tours every Sunday (at 2.30pm), Monday (11.30am & 2.30pm) and Wednesday (2.30pm) until the end of September and on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm until the end of August.

In July, during the Festival there is a tour most days - see Tourist Information Centre for times and subject of walk. (Tel No. 444333)

Parties including schools welcome by prior arrangement.

Don't miss Heritage Day on September 13<sup>th</sup> 2003. Over twenty buildings in Guildford open free.

## The Theatre Walk

by John Adams

It was several years ago that the Friends of the Electric Theatre, led by Bill Bellerby, asked the Guildford Guides to take their members on a walk covering theatres and cinemas in the town. So three of the guides were volunteered to do this, and we began "research" into the subject. As with most such projects, we started with the feeling that there was not enough material and soon found that we had more than we could use within the hour that we had.

One of us, Jill Buist, actually knew something about the subject, as her father had been a member of the finance committee of the club theatre in the Borough Small Hall. Marjorie Williams provided invaluable notes and Peter Sagar had written a history of Guildford's cinemas. A problem with dealing with this subject in Guildford is that there has never been an "arts centre" around which a walk could be structured. Scattered enterprises have flourished and died, and neither written accounts nor memories are always reliable.

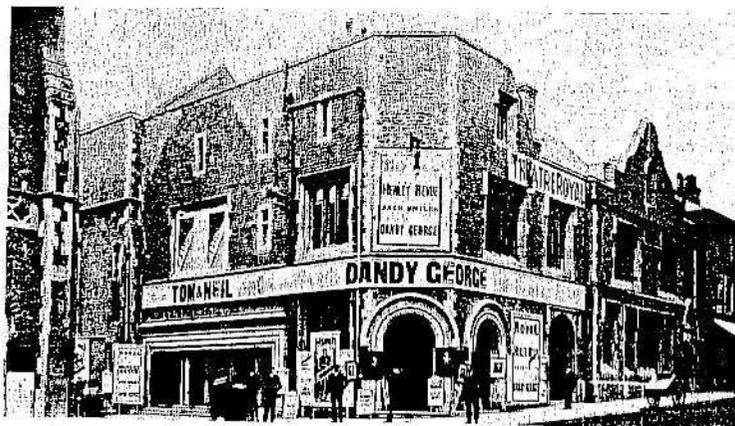
A good start to the walk, from Tunsgate, is to the top of the High Street, where a plaque gives the site of Guildford's first cinema, which opened in 1909, as the Constitutional Hall, lately Thorpe's bookshop. But the plaque doesn't record that the cinema was closed in 1910 on safety grounds. A hall lined with wood panelling was no place in which to project film based on cellulose nitrate, which could be guaranteed to catch fire if it jammed in the gate of a projector illuminated by an open carbon arc. The influence of technical advances is one of the interesting aspects of cinema history: talkies around 1930 and the fairly recent introduction of xenon arc lamps which allowed the projectionist to supervise more than one screen. When will we have our first digital cinema?

Our beautiful Odeon was one of many built during the 1930's and, as with most of them, was fully equipped as a theatre as well as a cinema. The Beatles and Rolling Stones played here, and one suspects that Margot Fonteyn might have found the stage a bit limiting. Having been empty for some years, the building is now being replaced by luxury flats.

The theatres provide a more human background than the cinemas. For many years, from its opening in 1789, the town was served by the theatre in Market street, and we had a detailed history of this written by Godfrey Harding and published by the Surrey Advertiser. The manager was Mr. Thornton and, as was written at the time of opening "if he can always keep together so decent and respectable a company as he possesses at present, his success is certain, the town of Guildford can boast of sense, taste and liberality". The theatre stayed within the family, as a later manager was Mr. Thornton's son-in-law, who continued to consider his customers' comfort. "It having been intimated by several patrons, that in consequence of the severe state of the

weather, many families are prevented from attending the performances from the coldness of the theatre, Mr. Barnett respectfully acquaints the public in general, that in order to obviate these complaints he has placed a large open stove in the centre of the pit".

But the walk paid tribute to other theatres, such as the Hippodrome, which never got beyond the planning stage, and the Pavilion, whose canvas sides restricted it to summer use. The Borough Hall gave problems. There were eventually three halls adjacent to one another, and at first there were irregular performances in the Main Hall. Shirley Corke, in her book "Guildford, a Pictorial History", reproduced a poster from around 1890 advertising the "Female Christys ..... Twelve Symmetrical Female Forms". It was as true then as it is now that, if one wants to fill a theatre with patrons, one fills the stage with symmetrical female forms. The Theatre Royal opened on this site in 1912 and continued until 1933. Tradition told that it later became the Guildford Repertory Theatre, but it is clear from contemporary news photographs that this later theatre, which opened in 1946 and ran as a theatre club, was in the Small Hall next door.



The reign of this theatre ended when it was destroyed by fire in 1963. By then discussions had already started on the building of a new public theatre, and this opened as the Yvonne Arnaud in 1965. This was planned as a fully equipped professional theatre, and has included many famous names among its players. Shows destined for the London stages include the Yvonne Arnaud in their pre-London tour.

Guildford has a strong tradition of amateur theatre, and companies have shown persistence and ingenuity in maintaining their repertoire. The Herald Players started in Christ Church hall in Foxenden Road, but had to move when it was demolished, so they moved to a Territorial Army garage in Leapale Lane. This was demolished for a road scheme which was never constructed. They then fitted out a new theatre which was called the Bellerby, but this closed when the site was proposed for a car park, which was never constructed. The theatre

was leased to the Guildford School of Acting with the impractical suggestion that it might be shared with the amateur group.

So there was a real need for a dedicated amateur theatre and the old electricity works on the river bank was an inspired choice. The cost of conversion was far above the original estimate, but the theatre was completed and provides a venue for our amateurs which is more in tune with present expectations than a Victorian church hall.

Only the new Odeon remains among our cinemas, but we still have six live theatres in the town:

the Yvonne Arnaud and its Mill Studio,

the Electric Theatre,

the Civic Hall,

the Guildford School of Acting's Bellairs Playhouse,

and the University's PATS Studio.

The history continues, with changes to several venues under consideration. Will the Pelham Roller Skating Rink alias Studios 1 & 2 become a shop in Dominic Square, or the Plaza now the Drink be rebuilt in steel and glass? And it is still not certain which end of the town will have a rebuilt Civic Hall. Guides taking the Theatre Walk have a fascinating and changing subject.



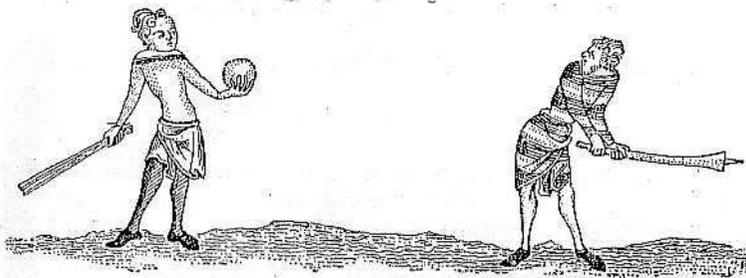
The Theatre and Cinema walk is included in the Guildford  
Festival Programme

It will take place on Sunday 13th July and is led by Jill Buist.

Meet at Tunsgate at 2-30 p.m.

## Cricket in Surrey

Cricket has been played in some form or other for hundreds of years and there is a drawing in the reign of Henry III of people playing a game that may be the forerunner of cricket. But it is in the financial accounts of his son Edward I in 1300 that we find this reference "for ready money disbursed for the said Prince for playing creag and other sports" "the sum of 100 shillings". This only really tells us that a game with some sort of curved stick was being played although other sources inform us that a length of 22 yards was being used for a game. Edward I was a frequent visitor to Guildford. Perhaps future historians will discover that it was really his enthusiastic cricket team that did irreparable damage to Guildford Castle and reduced it to its present state of ruin. However, by 1365 the game was no longer popular with Royalty for Edward III complained that it interfered with archery practice and was fit only for the lower orders. One hundred years later in 1477 it was declared illegal and offenders could receive two years imprisonment and a fine of £10.



But it is Guildford and its Royal Grammar School that rightly claims the oldest reference to cricket in a style anything approaching its present form. For in the Guildford Borough records for 1598 there is a court case involving a dispute over land near the top of North Street. One of the witnesses states that fifty years earlier when he was a boy at the Guildford School, he and his friends "did runne and plaie there at crickets". The bat was then very different to the modern instrument. It was curved at the end and tapered in up to the handle and two of these can still be found in the chained library or headmaster's study as it now is at the Grammar School. What was used for a wicket we do not know but a three legged stool is a possibility although the very word stumps suggests a target of a cut down tree.

The Sunday cricket match has long been a feature of village life but it was not always so. Back in 1654 the churchwardens and overseers of Eltham in Kent fined seven of their parishioners two shillings each for playing cricket on the Lord's Day. While in 1671 poor Edward Bound was sent to the Quarter Sessions for playing cricket on Sundays at Shere. What happened to the other members of the team we do not know but I doubt he was playing on his own. The number of players would have been decided locally and teams of five a side were not uncommon. eleven a side matches became standard at the end

of the last century although the last twelve a side match was as recent as 1946. Neither have the teams always had equal numbers and in the middle of the last century one of the big games of the Canterbury week was between Thirteen of Canterbury and a scratch team that might only contain twelve players.

Cricket developed from a pastime to an adult sport round about 1690 and an advertisement for a cricket match appeared in "The Post Boy" magazine for March 28<sup>th</sup> 1700. Its purpose was to inform Gentlemen or others who delight in cricket playing that a match of ten gentlemen on each side will be played on Clapham Common on Easter Monday for £10 a head each game. If you thought £10 was a large sum of money in 1700 you will be staggered to know that bets of £500 were often placed on the outcome of a match.

Betting played an important part in those early matches and the Duke of Cumberland in an attempt to select an unbeatable team in 1751 gathered together twenty-two of the best players in the country to play a trial match. He then selected from them eleven players for his team. Those not selected were so incensed that they challenged the others to a match for a wager of a crown a person and won! The betting associated with the game and the attempts to bribe the players led the Rev. Henry Venn in 1747 to give up the game at the end of his innings for Surrey against England. He threw his bat down saying "whoever wants a bat which has done me good service may take that as I have no further use for it-because I am to be ordained on Sunday and I will never have it said of me 'Well struck Parson' ". Betting was forbidden after 1774.

The earliest reports we have of cricket being played near here refer to matches played by Brodericks team at Pepperharrow in the 1730's and some twelve years earlier, also at Pepperharrow, a man was charged with manslaughter after a player died from a ball injury.

It was in the first quarter of the eighteenth century that Frederick Louis Prince of Wales took a keen interest in the game and his patronage popularised the sport although it was several years later in 1735 before he played the game himself. He often selected the Surrey team which in those days was more a combined London and Surrey team. He was in the habit of giving a plate to the winning team and a guinea to the winning players.

In the Kent v Surrey match on June 14<sup>th</sup> 1737 at Kennington "a pavilion was erected for his Royal Highness who was accompanied by many persons of distinction". Unfortunately a poor woman was crushed by the crowd and her leg broken. His Royal Highness on being told of the accident "was pleased to order her ten guineas". The Prince died in 1751 as a result of a blow to the head by a ball when playing cricket in Buckinghamshire.

These early games must have been played under rules at least agreed by each side, but the first known code of practice was drawn up for a game between the Noblemen and Gentlemen held at the Artillery Ground in London in 1744. Under these rules only two stumps were used and these were spaced six inches apart with bails bridging them across at the top. The rules were obviously widely adopted for only seven years later on Monday April 29<sup>th</sup> 1751, when New York played eleven of London at New York, it was remarked that the game was played according to the London Rules. New York won, I regret to say!



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2002**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2002**

	<u>2002</u>		<u>2001</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Friends' Subscriptions		1,546		1,230
Town Walks		730		677
Bank Interest (net)		11		61
Guildford Museum Donation provided but payment not needed re Carbon Dating Log Boat		750		
Surplus on Events (net)		<u>1,478</u>		<u>2,126</u>
		4,515		4,094
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Guildford Museum Donations:				7,692
Undercroft Banner		195		
AGM Expenses		122		85
Sundry Expenses		<u>205</u>		<u>216</u>
		<u>522</u>		<u>7,993</u>
<b>(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS for the year</b>		<b>£3,993</b>		<b>£(3,899)</b>

**FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2002**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2001**

	<u>2002</u>		<u>2001</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash at Bank		10,500		8,731
Debtors and Prepayments		<u>25</u>		<u>111</u>
		10,525		8,842
<b>LESS CREDITORS</b>				
Ticket Sales in Advance		-		1,560
Accruals		-		<u>750</u>
				<u>2,310</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>		<b>£ 10,525</b>		<b>£6,532</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>				
Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2002		4,532		10,431
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u>3,993</u>		<u>(3,899)</u>
		8,525		6,532
Less Transfer to Special Reserve		-		<u>(2,000)</u>
		8,525		4,532
<b>SPECIAL RESERVE FUND</b>				
Provision for contingencies		<u>2,000</u>		<u>2,000</u>
		<u>£10,525</u>		<u>£6,532</u>

January 2003

T C Bryers  
Hon. Treasurer

**AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM**

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account of the Friends of Guildford Museum for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002 and certify that they are in accordance with the books, records and explanations supplied to me.

West Horsley February 2003

J D Hattersley FCA  
Hon Auditor