

Make a Note in your Diary

Provisional dates for 2007 - look out for full details and booking form

Saturday 17th February

Skittles arranged by Heather Anderson

Saturday 31st March

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum
arranged by Peter Hattersley travel by coach

Friday 18th May

Wesley's Chapel/HMS Belfast
arranged by Sheila Kapur travel by coach

Tuesday 12th June

Surrey Villages - Godalming

Wednesday 20th June

Cambridge
arranged by Sheila Stirling travel by coach

Wednesday 4th July

Portsmouth Explosion-Spinnaker Tower/ Gunwharf Quays
arranged by Peter Hattersley travel by coach

Thursday 19th July

Surrey Villages - Ewhurst

Thursday 2nd August

Jaguar Car Museum Coventry & Guided tour of the Castle Bromwich factory

Wednesday 8th August

Surrey Villages - Elstead

September

Edward Jenner Museum/ Tetbury- Berkeley Castle
arranged by Lesley Ward travel by coach

(Events Publicity -John Wilkins)

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

December 2006



Issue 23



Sidney H. Sime (1867-1941)

From the Editor

Do you still have some Christmas shopping to complete? Then look no further than the Museum Shop. Some of the items on sale that may solve your last minute problems are mentioned on page 18.

If you thought the Museum building was old then Matthew, on page 3, has some exciting news for you about a recent attempt to date the building.

I often find catalogues exciting but none more so than the Catalogue of Surrey Oil Paintings launched in October. It contains many pictures from the Boroughs collections by Ronald Smoothey, John Russell and others. There are many landscapes showing changing times both in Guildford and throughout Surrey. Our cover picture is from the little known Sidney Sime Gallery in Worplesdon. Some 188 pictures from the gallery are featured in the catalogue and you can read more about this and the Sime Gallery on Page 8

Guildford has a long history of recycling judging by the article on page 10 which is taken from a 1958 guide book. The picture on page 15 is taken from an old postcard.

News from the British Association of Museums is on page 9. The National Conferences are always great fun so if you are interested in attending phone Norah Dunbar – The Conference Organiser – on 0870 224 8907. Booking forms can be obtained from our Secretary.

Finally don't miss the details of all the lectures and outings on pages 11,12,13 & 16.

My dentist tells me that the Saxons had good teeth due to eating rough food. Apparently this wore down their teeth but kept their gums in good condition, at the same time allowing the wisdom teeth to move forward which were then made full use of. It did however result in the lower jaw becoming enlarged.

What regiment does the Queen belong to? (answer page 15)

May I wish you all the compliments of the season.

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 2007

Tree-ring dating at Castle Arch

(It's older than you think)

Tree-ring dating or dendrochronology is a way of dating timbers very accurately. Every summer, a tree grows by laying down another layer under its bark. These layers form the characteristic rings seen when the trunk is cut through. However, not all growing seasons are the same. Some are wetter or drier, warmer or colder; this means the layers of growth vary in width. By carefully measuring each ring in a cross-section of timber, a graph of these variations can be drawn. If this is compared with a standard graph for the same region (based on timbers whose precise dates are known from documents), then it can be seen where the sample fits on this 'time line'. If the sample includes the sapwood (the layer that was actually growing when the tree was cut down), then the exact year it was felled can be established.

This is particularly useful for the dating of timber-framed buildings. Previously, Surrey's rich heritage of timbered houses has been dated by architectural styles and the carpentry techniques used. These can only give a very general date, however. The Surrey Dendrochronology Project began in 2003, aiming to date around 200 buildings in the county. This will establish the dates of styles and techniques on a much firmer basis. The dating of Castle Arch is good example of this.

Castle Arch is a timber-framed house built up against the medieval gateway of Guildford Castle. It has the 'hall and crosswings' plan commonly found in Tudor and early Stuart houses in Surrey. The hall range is in the middle, with crosswings on either side whose roof-ridges are at right-angles to the hall's. (This gives it an H-shaped plan). On the basis of style and carpentry, it was assumed to have been built around 1630 by John Carter, who had acquired the castle estate from Charles I. Since 1898, Castle Arch has housed the Surrey Archaeological Society and Guildford Museum.

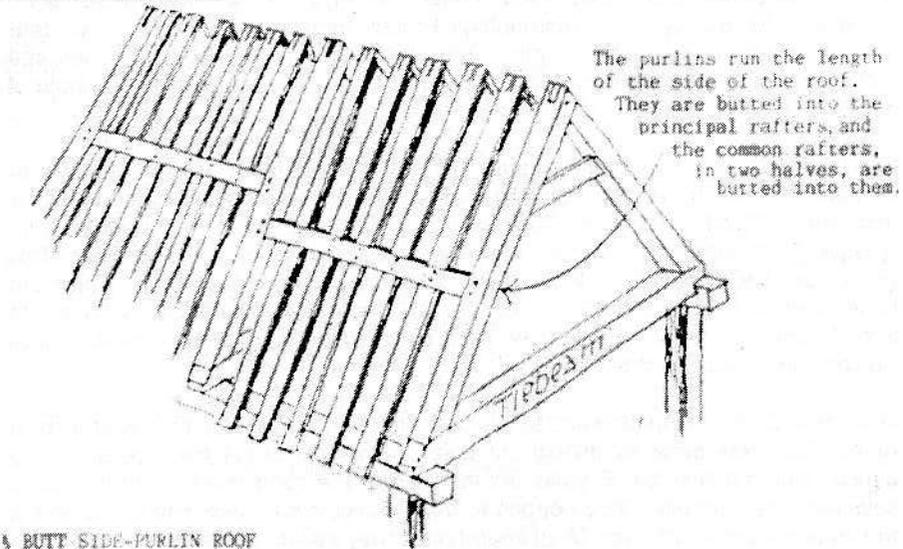
In August 2005, samples were taken from the roof timbers of the central (hall) range. This was done by drilling out cores of wood - about the size of a long pencil - with a hollow bit. The timbers from which the cores were taken had to be selected very carefully. They needed to be accessible and thick enough to give a reasonable number of rings. Most importantly, they could not be older timbers that had been reused. In fact, none of the crosswing timbers were suitable, and only eight cores could be obtained from the hall. Nevertheless, they gave results which were consistent enough to give a date for the construction of the roof: 1554.

This came as a surprise. It is clear that there was a house on the site before John Carter's time. It may have built by John Daborne, who became Keeper of the Castle Garden in 1544. (It was probably he who carried out the brickwork alterations in the keep.) Perhaps more surprising was the fact that the technique of framing the roof with "butt side purlins" seems to be in use much earlier than usually assumed. A house in Capel which was built at the same date, however, does not have butt side purlins.

Previously, a date for Castle Arch of around 1630 was accepted on stylistic grounds. The fireplaces in the Ironwork Room and the library must be nearer that date than 1554. However, the plain fireplace in the Gertrude Jekyll Room could well be mid 16th century. One interpretation of this could be that Daborne built a timber-framed house in 1554 which Carter later enlarged, possibly by adding the crosswings or at least substantially rebuilding them.

None of this was suspected before. Knowledge advances as new methods make new information available, and tree-ring dating has become a valuable tool for the local historian.

Matthew Alexander,



Rare Embossed Stamp

I always find the Doctors surgery a mine of information and in one of the magazines placed there to distract you from the impending needle or whatever I found an article on post boxes. Better still it gave me a web address www.postalheritage.org.uk. Delving through its catalogue I came across a picture of an embossed stamp cancelled with a Guildford post mark for 1856. When I mentioned this to a philatelic friend of mind he became very excited and so did the members of his club for stamps like this are quite rare.



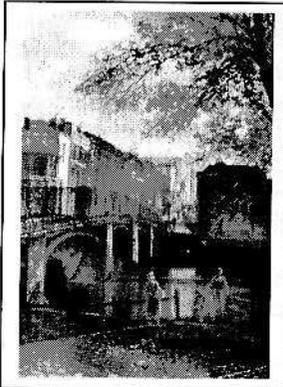
The town date stamp of Guildford, Surrey, England JU 9. 1856 used to cancel the 6d embossed value.

This is the only example known to me of a town date stamp cancelling an Embossed stamp.

Taken from the British Postal Museum web site

Embossed stamps were issued between 1847 and 1854 and were sold and used until the supplies ran out. They came in values of 6d, 10d and 1/- and each value in various shades such as mauve, violet, dull lilac and purple. Not being a stamp collector I was surprised to find they were supplied in two forms:- one on stationery i.e. envelopes and the other in sheet form where the post master cut the stamps out with a pair of scissors as required. The stamp shown is thought to be of this second form and has been very cleanly and squarely cut. (This is important to a collector since it greatly affects the value.) It ought also to be watermarked VR and carry a die mark under the bust but this may have been removed in the cutting. As you will notice too the quality of the cancellation stamp is outstanding. You will not be at all surprised to learn that there are forgeries around but Victor Ditcham who has supplied me with this information tells me that a genuine copy has a pendant curl at the back of the head and this can be clearly seen in the picture.

Oil Paintings in Public Ownership



**Town Bridge c1850?
Painted on wood
panel
(Guildford Museum
Collection)**

The ninth volume in this series of catalogues, launched at the University on October 17th, brings together 1538 paintings from 58 collections in the county. Among these are two galleries dedicated to the work of single artists. George Frederick Watts and Sidney H. Sime. Oil paintings in the Borough collections are included as are the holding of Victorian paintings from Royal Holloway College which includes work by Frith, Landseer and Millais. Should you wish to glance through the county's entire collection of oil paintings in the comfort of your own chair this is the book for you. It is available in softback from Guildford House or the Sime's Gallery in Worplesdon, price £20 or visit the Public Catalogue Foundation web site at www.thepcf.org.uk

H. Sime Memorial Gallery

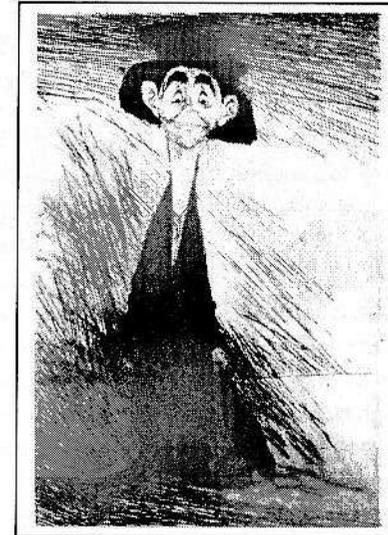
Sidney Herbert Sime was born in Manchester in 1867, the second of six children of Scottish parents. As soon as he was old enough, the young Sime went out to work, taking on a variety of jobs including that of a pit boy, when often during the day he would scratch drawings of demons and imps on the walls of the pit. The hours were long and spare time came only in the late evening, when he went out with paint box to find moonscapes. Having very little formal education, Sime took great pains to educate himself, so graduating to a post of sign writing, and at this point he was able to join the Liverpool School of Art, where he gained prizes and medals for his drawing.

His studies completed, Sime decided the best way for a young artist to start earning a profitable living was by illustrating books and magazines. He contributed to many magazines, including *Pall Mall*, *The Idler*, *Pick-me-up* and *The Illustrated London News*, along with artists such as Lewis Baumer, Will Owen, Dudley Hardy, Maurice Greiffenhagen, Edgar Wilson and J. W. T. Manuel.

At one time, as a popular member of both the Langham Sketching Club and the Yorick Club in London, Sime interacted with musical friends Duncan Tovey (later Rector of Worplesdon) and Joseph Holbrooke as well as the writer Lord Dunsany, for whose books he drew many illustrations. Sime's interest in the theatre led him to produce many fine caricatures of artists from the stage. A number of these may be seen in the Sime Memorial Gallery at Worplesdon.

It was said of Sime by Frank Emanuel, 'Mr Sime is as eloquent and vivacious in his speech as with his pencil, and modest though he be, he is markedly a man of great individuality and deep thought. A vast forehead dominates a face indicative of strength, while a certain appearance of grimness is frequently dispelled by a humorous twinkle of the eye and the most genial of smiles. In short he looks very much the author of his drawings, in equal part an irresistible humorist, an original thinker and a truly inventive artist.'

Although Sime earned his living as an 'illustrator', he still cherished ambitions of becoming a painter and so gained membership of the Royal Society of British Artists in 1896.



Dan
Leno

by
Sidney Simes

In 1898 Sime's deceased solicitor uncle left him comfortably well off with a residence in Perthshire. It was to this house that Sime brought his artist bride Mary Susan Pickett and here in Scotland he took the opportunity to develop his talent as a painter. The Worplesdon gallery houses several of his Scottish landscapes.

Waste Paper (Recycling in Guildford 50 years ago)

Although perhaps not generally known, citizens of Guildford who put out waste paper for salvaging are helping the country's export drive. A great deal of waste paper, which is in fact a valuable raw material to the paper and board mills, and which is reclaimed in Guildford, finds its way, after careful sorting and preparation by a well-known local firm—W. H. PANKHURST LTD., of Slyfield Green, Stoke —to consumer mills not only in this country, but also to mills in France, Germany, Holland and Belgium. The managing director of this concern, Mr. W. H. Pankhurst, has been exporting waste paper from this country since 1927, and although the war closed his foreign outlets, he continued in business and built up a thriving home trade which he has consolidated since the end of hostilities. The firm is widely known throughout the U.K. waste paper industry, and has a reputation for preparing top quality grades of waste paper, which has enabled the firm to re-establish its export trading and to help facilitate this part of the firm's activities a special company W. H. Pankhurst (Overseas) Ltd. was formed last year. Fifty ton loads are shipped regularly from Dandune Wharf direct to the Pool of London where cargoes are transported to the Continent of Europe.

Telephone: 33623

W. H. PANKHURST LTD.
GUILDFORD

SURREY'S LEADING WASTEPAPER
MERCHANTS

Contractors to:
H.M. POST OFFICES and VARIOUS GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, Etc.

OFFICE CLEARANCES A SPECIALITY
CONFIDENTIAL WASTE EFFECTUALLY
DESTROYED

Premises at Slyfield Green are highly mechanised, and up-to-date machinery and equipment enables the firm, with the willing co-operation of a comparatively small staff of twenty-five people, to sort, grade and ship to the consuming mills a quality raw material which not only earns foreign currency, but what is more important, saves hard currency which would have to be

spent in importing costly woodpulp, if waste paper was not made available for pulping by merchanting firms like W. H. Pankhurst Limited.

From Guildford Official Guide 1958

Exhibition

Wheels Within Wheels

By Marion May

History of the Jackson Brothers

A Story of Bicycle shops and Garages in Surrey and Sussex
Out of a family of thirteen, five of the seven brothers owned garages and the remaining two had connections with Watts gallery and Henry Sage.

February 3rd to March 3rd 2007

at the Museum

11am to 4-45pm

DON'T MISS IT

WHITSUN AWHEEL
A FREE INVITATION Given by

J. E. JACKSON
To All Cyclists
To Pay a Visit To

THE OLD CYCLE SHOP
at 1, PORTSMOUTH Rd., Guildford.

Established at the same spot since 1904 and still heading the way for honest value in



SPECIAL DISPLAY of the FAMOUS ALL STEEL KALEIGH CYCLES

PUSH BIKES NOW SHOWING

Many other makes including SUBBEAM, JAMES, NEW HUDSON, HERCULES, etc. Lowest Prices: WEEKLY or MONTHLY TERMS.
J. E. JACKSON stands for giving every Customer a Square Deal
YOU TRY HIM Call or Phone 1932

EXHIBITION PROGRAMME 2007 - 2008

"Change on the Heath: Rediscovering Surrey's Forgotten Wilderness"

4th-31st January 2007

How Surrey's heathland landscape has changed, and the story of the people who lived and worked in it.

"Wheels within Wheels: the Jackson Brothers"

3rd February- 3rd March 2007

The story of local family of garage owners.

"Living Memory: the changing face of Guildford since the Second World War"

28th July - 8th September.

Guildford people's memories of life in the town, illustrated with photographs and objects that chart a time of dramatic change.

"ANCIENT Gods: Prehistoric and Roman Religion in Surrey"

22nd September - 6th January.

Echoes of ancient beliefs and rituals reflected in the archaeology of Surrey, with special reference to the nationally-important Romano-British temple at Wanborough.

Lecture Series 2006/7

In collaboration with Royal Holloway, University of London

Thursday 11th January	Magna Carta and Runnymede in English History Nigel Saul Professor of Medieval History.
Thursday 1st February	Hospitals in the Byzantine Empire: The origins of the Welfare State? Peregrine Horden Reader in Medieval History.
Thursday 1st March	John Stuart Mill and the Freedom of Speech Greg Claeys Professor of the History of Political Thought
Thursday 29th March	Who Kills Duncan? Rewriting 'Macbeth' Dr Ewan Fernie Senior Lecturer in Shakespeare

All lectures take place in the Guildhall in Guildford High Street and start at 7.30pm. The ticket price for each lecture is £6.00 with reduced prices for multiple advance bookings. This includes a complimentary glass of wine after the lecture. Under 18s £3.00 and no wine!

Seats in the Guildhall are limited and advance booking is recommended. To reserve your place please contact Mary Witton at Guildford Museum on 01483 444750.

Guildford archaeology & history group

- **January 8, 2007** - Andrew Norris will talk about recent work at St Martha's Church.
7.30pm in the United Reform Church on Portsmouth Road. £2 for non-members.

Shopping Delights

(Visit the shop for your last minute presents)

By now we are all madly hunting for those elusive presents and wondering where to find them. The Museum shop may well solve some of your problems. An attractive range of jewellery is in the glass cabinet by the door with earrings and necklaces tempting you to buy. Also propelling pencils and pens for the gentlemen. The top shelf has a calligraphy set with instructions on how to learn this interesting art.

I particularly liked the range of low priced objects very suitable as prizes or stocking fillers. Everything from a blow up Red Arrow to a Roman Gladiator to colour. Marbles, pencils, pens and medieval fridge magnets. All at reasonable prices. To entertain during the festive season there are several packs of playing cards – Roman or Medieval. You might be so busy looking at the cards that you need not play the game.

There is, as you would imagine a large array of Guildford objects. A set of six coasters with pictures of Guildford, a lovely calendar with different views of our attractive town.

Also CD's. "Holy Trinity Church " £8 has a large range of organ music played by Mark Edwards and the choir singing some really beautiful pieces under their director Mark Holford. And for your computer, no local historian should be without " The Guildford Collection" £12.50. This has transcripts of some of the Victorian Parish Registers, Census Indexes and Will Abstracts together with a history of Jacobs Well, some old postcard images and 76 present-day photographs of places in the area.

The boxed Christmas cards are most attractive with one called the Pre-Raphaelite at £4.75 for 8 cards and a medieval set -Good King Wencelas- good value at 20 for £6. Decorative wrapping paper is also available.

As you might imagine there are masses of books on many historical subjects and all a good read about the local area. See the web site for a list

Finally Lewis Carroll's connection with the town is well represented in the Alice and Wonderland memorabilia. A beautiful print of the Chestnuts with Alice characters would make a lovely gift for a child at £20. The World of Alice £3.50 would make a good stocking filler.

Why not wander along for a look.

Happy Shopping

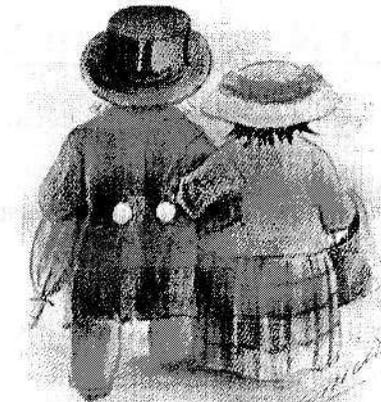
Sandra Morgan



We are delighted to welcome the following new members

Mrs Rosemary O'Brien Mr Martin Southcott

Mr Felix Holling our twelfth Life Member (after a year as an ordinary member)



You & I

By & Bye

Shopping in

Guildford

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 2005/2006

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

Please make cheques payable to

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

(Answer to conundrum on page 2 " The Granny-Dears")