

EVENTS - WINTER 2017/18

Tuesday 12th December 2017

Winter Social at The Angel Hotel

Meet in the Crypt at Bill's Café

Cost (including tea/coffee and a cake) approx £7

Thursday 16th January 2018

"Waverley Abbey and Wanborough Grange" - an illustrated talk by Matthew Alexander

St Catherines Village Hall

Cost (including tea and biscuits) approx. £6

Thursday 15th March 2018

Florence Nightingale 1820-1910" - an illustrated talk by David Williams

Guildhall

Cost (including tea and biscuits) approx £10

Saturday 14th April 2018

Quiz Evening

Venue - St Catherines Village Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford, GU2 4HF at 7.30 pm to approx

Cost (including light refreshments) approx £6

Tuesday 24th April 2018

King John - an illustrated talk by Marc Morris (Joint event with Acorns History Group)

St Catherines Village Hall

Cost (including tea and biscuits) approx. £10

For times see booking form

To reserve a place for the events, please email Nick Bale (nicholasbale23@gmail.com) or use the enclosed booking form. Payment will be collected on the door.

For further information, phone Nick Bale on 01483 459997

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

December 2017



Issue 38



THE MUSEUM ON HERITAGE DAY

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE – WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP PUT ON AN EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM?

BY NICK BALE

I am delighted that Heritage Services have invited the Friends to curate an exhibition at the Museum in March 2018. This will be upstairs in the space where the train display used to be. A whole range of ideas have been suggested but a team of three, Hugh Anscombe, Keith Powell and Nick Bale have narrowed these down to three: "Guildford Swimming Pools", "The Guildford Bombings" and "Tunsgate". We will be liaising with the Museum staff to decide which of these will work best. Ideally, the exhibition will:

- be of interest to lots of other people in Guildford;
- include items from the Collections not normally on view, plus items that Friends can provide;
- make an attractive exhibition with a good story, told in an imaginative way with objects, images, sounds, etc.

Would you like to help put on this exhibition? This could involve searching for information, writing captions, artwork, acting as a steward or guide and so on. If so, please email Nick Bale (nicholasbale23@gmail.com) or use the Event booking form, ticking the box "Museum Exhibition"

We will be the second local group to be invited to curate an exhibition. The first group to do this are "Joining In! Men's group from Park Barn. They have curated the Guildford at Work exhibition that will be held from November 18th to 13th January (see the Exhibition & Events Programme enclosed for more details). David Rose, one of Guildford's most active local historians and authors is coordinator of the Join In! group so the exhibition is likely to be worth a special visit. At the same time, there will be a new display A History Forged in Battle and Fire presented by the Surrey Infantry Museum to see. This features key moments in the story of the Surrey Infantry Regiments.

HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM BUILDINGS – THE BEHIND THE SCENES STORY OF THE NEW VIDEO DISPLAY

BY NICK BALE

Earlier in the Summer, Melanie Holliker asked if I would be willing to help on a project. She needed some photographs of the exterior and interior features of the Museum for a short video display on the history of the museum buildings. I was very pleased for several reasons. First, I wanted to support this project needed to enhance the visitor experience to the museum. Second, this was an interesting challenge for a hobby photographer, like myself.

Melanie had already created a script together with ideas for pictures and documents that would visually support the story. Taking the necessary photos should not be difficult, should it? However, there were a few challenges, for example how to get a photograph of the side of Castle Arch House along Castle Hill? The street is too narrow, cars are parked in front of the building virtually the whole time, and there is an ugly yellow gravel bin sitting against the wall that was too heavy to shift. This took a bit of ingenuity and some time using Photoshop software to stitch together and straighten up multiple images of the building and then to remove the offending gravel bin. Fortunately, most of the photography was easier, and I was able to provide about 50 photos that are used in the display sequence.

Unfortunately, neither Melanie nor I had any experience with the software used to create video sequences from still images. This was not an insurmountable problem as it turned out. Melanie advertised for a volunteer and a few people with suitable experience offered their help. The selected volunteer worked very hard to bring the narrative, images and video together in a relatively short time. As a result, the video went live just before Heritage Open Day as scheduled. A projects like this does show how volunteers can be used to good effect in the museum.

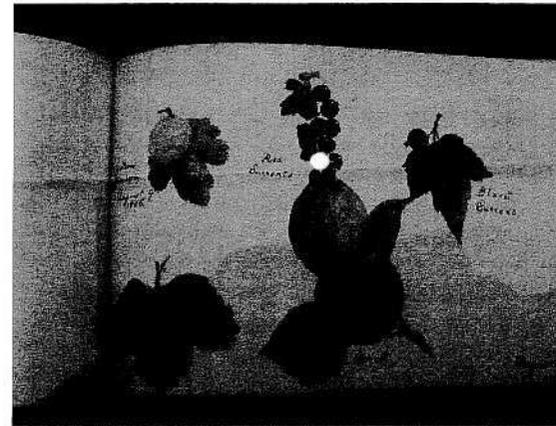
Visitors can now watch and listen to the story of the various buildings used to house the Museum on a display screen in the Discovery Room at the Museum.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

A most interesting exhibition of a tiny selection of the Museum's artifacts was held during the summer under the title "Take a closer Look". I was delighted to see the medieval face jug back on display. This was discovered in Tunsgate some thirty years ago and dates from the time when the castle was regularly used by Henry III. It is a very large jug and called a face jug since the pouring lip is in the shape of a face. A smaller replica of the jug is on display in the Undercroft, which is open from May till September.



Another item that caught my attention was a lovely chess set made by the Compton Pottery. This was founded by Mary Watts (the wife of George Watts the painter) as, The Potters Art Guild, in the Village of Compton. The pottery started by involving practically the whole village in making pottery for the Watts Chapel.

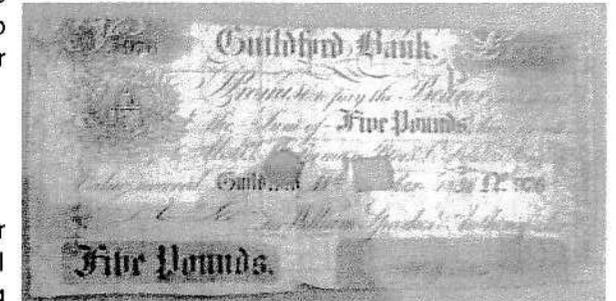


Pride of place to me was a beautiful coloured sketch book by Gertrude Jekyll dated 1856. She was thirteen at the time and it is no wonder that she went on to *become a famous garden designer*. She lived at Munsted near Godalming.

There was so much in this exhibition to see that I have just picked two more.

The first is a five pound note from the Guildford Bank from about 1830. Prior to 1853 Bank Notes

came partly printed and the cashier filled in the name of the payee by hand. The Guildford Bank at 53 High Street was founded by Richard Sparks who was Mayor of Guildford on four occasions.



Finally a Victorian cup and saucer took my eye it is just the item I might have purchased if visiting Guildford. It came from Mrs Leigh's China, Glass and Earthenware Warehouse in Upper High Street



for
id
set
ven
I
s to the
ord.
selling

Medieval Machine Exhibition

This was a hands on exhibition held during half-term week and attracted many families. The displays were mainly made of wood and painted black and were the type of display that might find a place in a refurbished museum.

The first display that caught my eye was a small wooden horse that small people could sit on. They then had to hold the tip of a lance in the centre of a metal ring similar to the training the medieval knights would have undertaken. Their horses, however, were not static as in the museum but would have been travelling at considerable speed. Another training aid for the joust is the quintain and one can be seen at Offham Green in Kent.

The woollen industry which made Guilford wealthy in earlier times was represented by a loom where you could while away the time by weaving some cloth and adding to work done by other visitors.

A water wheel with water to operate it was an obvious attraction for the young. By changing the height of the weir the wheel went faster or slower.

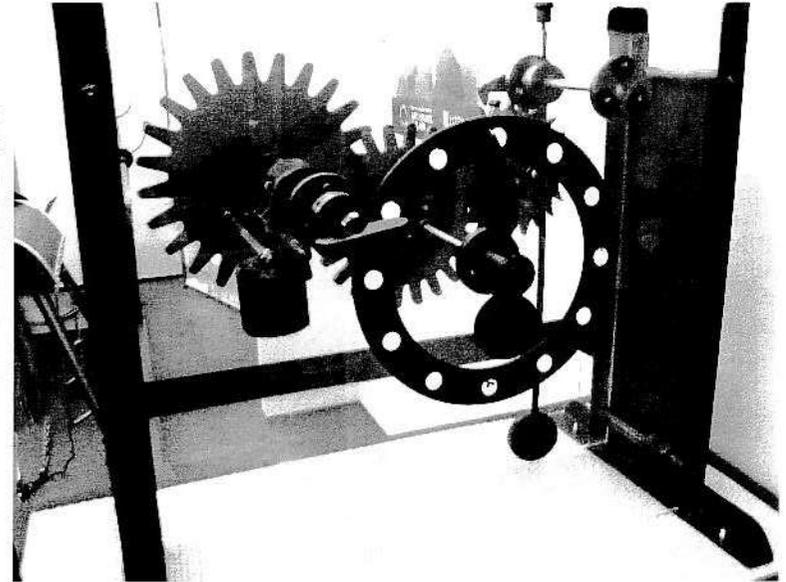
Next was a hand printing press where a family were busy trying to print a name. The letters were formed out of wood and had to be locked in a frame before covering with ink and paper and placing in a press.



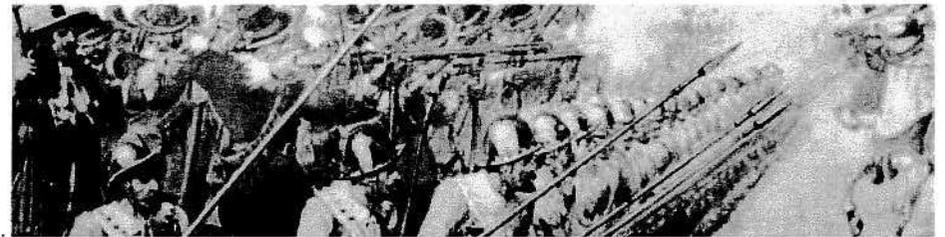
As a person who has always loved tinkering with clocks I was delighted to see that another exhibit was of the mechanism of a large clock. You had to place the cogs on the axles and put the hand on. Then wind up the weight to set the clock in motion. You were then asked to notice the parts the pendulum and weight played in making the clock operate. Simple notices like this accompanied all the displays.

There were more displays at the castle. A popular one was where you built a wall and then knocked it down with a small siege engine! Great fun for the children.

Eric Morgan



The Surrey Infantry Regiments - a history forged in battle and fire



Don't miss this exhibition at the Museum. On now until January 6th.

Bringing History Alive Attracts the Crowds to Heritage Open Days Weekend

By Gavin Morgan of the Guildford Heritage Forum

This year, the Guildford Heritage Forum contributed to the well organised and well established Heritage Open Days weekend.

Our role was simply to "bang the drum" and promote the amazing array of events staged by the borough, The Guildford Society and the Guildford Town Guides.



We organised a procession up the High Street to advertise the event and a children's trail to encourage families to explore the various sites open. The event is sponsored by Thesis Asset Management and Visit Guildford.

I have long been interested in the potential of heritage to bring people together, create a sense of

community and benefit the local economy. Heritage weekend ticks all these boxes so I was keen to get involved.

As you will know, every September historic buildings across the country open their doors to the public as part of Heritage Open Days. With more than 100 properties to see, Guildford puts on one of the largest events in the country and is usually in the top five. It is one of things our borough council does very well and it is a great example of how partnerships with the community can really work.

The borough council funds the impressive free booklet and co-ordinates the event while the guides and The Guildford Society organise an amazing army of volunteers to open so many properties. I must say, it was a pleasure to work with everyone. They have been doing this for years and have a well-oiled machine but were very encouraging and willing to try my idea for a procession and trail to promote the event in the High Street.

And it worked! But that was due primarily to a great set of people who agreed to take part.



I hoped that the bulk of the procession would be made up of Historia Normannis, a medieval re-enactment group who come every year. My hope for half a dozen was completely blown away when 26 people turned up having journeyed from as far away as Portsmouth and Bedford.

They are a great bunch who not only bring medieval fighting to life but are incredibly knowledgeable and interested in the social life of the period when Guildford Castle

was at its height. We are so lucky to have them and I hope the town builds its relations with them. Next there were actors from Senior Wych Productions, providing fun and colour dressed as Alice in Wonderland characters.

Members of the Queen's Regiment re-enactment group at Henley Fort joined us as did the scouts serving teas up at the Guildhall.

Margaret Jackson from the museum had created a banner for the procession and we were led by Jez Smith, a musician from the Weald & Downland Museum playing medieval bagpipes. At 11am Guildford's town crier rang his bell and we marched on to High Street making as much noise as possible. I introduced us and promoted many of the events going on, before we proceeded along the High Street sweeping a fair number of people up to Holy Trinity. Here the Surrey Ukeholics entertained the crowds with a lively repertoire of songs.



JEZ SMITH, A MUSICIAN FROM THE WEALD & DOWNLAND MUSEUM PLAYING MEDIEVAL BAGPIPES

In addition to the procession my contribution was a children's trail which went around the main sites and tried to promote all the venues to people. Of course, the procession was just a small part of a very impressive event organised by volunteers and council employees.



SURREY UKEHOLICS PERFORMING OUTSIDE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.

The effort that goes into putting up banners, bunting and balloons as well as organising people to attend the various sites across four days is breath-taking. There are also talks, guided walks and activities across the borough.

In between the procession I had a look around the town and two places summed the occasion for me. The Victorian schoolroom in Castle Street was buzzing with parents, grandparents and children playing with a host of replica Victorian toys.



HISTORIA NORMANNIS' VILLAGE ON CASTLE GREEN.

Upstairs, in the classroom, children were sitting at desks colouring pictures.

The schoolroom provides an interactive experience for old and young without the need for any modern display techniques. Just up the road, Historia

Normanis were busy with crowds



WEY & ARUN CANAL TRUST MEMBERS AT THE TOWN

watching their re-enactments or just talking about medieval life in the tent village they had created.

My instinct had been proved correct. History, when brought alive, can provide unique experiences that will attract people in numbers.

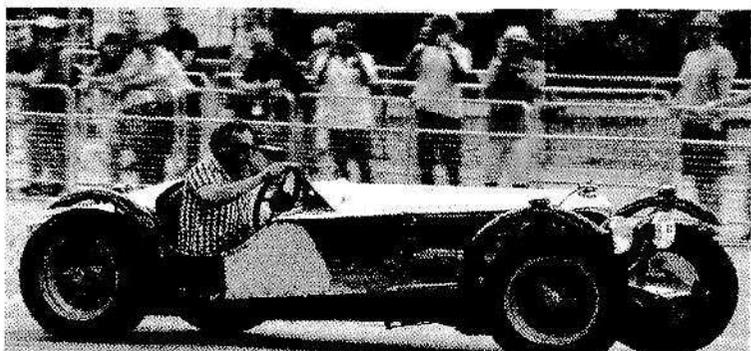
But it was also clear that there is a wealth of committed people with experience and enthusiasm who will come forward and help make events like this a success. From what I saw on the Saturday there is plenty to build upon and I look forward the year ahead

The editor welcomes items for the Newsletter or comments.
Please send them to Eric Morgan at 21 St Michaels GU3 3LY.
Telephone Number 01483 233344
Friends web site <http://www.surreycommunity.info/fogm/>

British Association of Friends of Museums

As always the Magazine is most interesting to read and it is good to know that five more groups have become members.

We have visited Brooklands many times and I do hope the race track can be saved



as it is a remarkable feature. I have a friend who was taken around the track (not racing) in the 1930's and it would be very sad if it were to go.

Congratulations to the Ironbridge who have secured a £1 Million grant. A fascinating place to visit if looking for somewhere to go. An article on the 95th Bomb Groups Association reunion showed a 93 year old 2nd Lt Ray Hobbs who American pilot based here during



Museum Lottery you are interesting Heritage picture of was an the war.

The friends of Chippenham together with the local Business Community enabled the Museum purchase the Warrilow gun case came up for sale in Cumbria. Warrilow, well known as a gun lived in Chippenham. How lovely this gun back home.

Museum to which James maker to bring

Daniel Jessup received the BAFM travel grant for 2017 and charts his progress from London to Barcelona. Nearer to home the Friends of London Transport Museum travelled round Cornwall. They slept for a night on a sleeper while having a very full day in Penzance. Then to Mousehole, Marazion, St Michaels Mount and several others.

Sandra Morgan

GUILDFORD AND LEWES — TWO MEDIEVAL COUNTY TOWNS?

PETER BALMER



Lewes High Street

People in Guildford have often been known to consider their town to be the "real" county town of Surrey while some people in Lewes think of it as the county town of all Sussex. Examining the history can help to shed light on these opinions (although not provide definitive answers). The modern form of local government, with its wide range of functions and employing numerous staff, is a comparatively recent invention, formalised only in

the late nineteenth century. Arrangements in earlier centuries were not so tidy, so the concept

of a county town is not always obvious when applied to the past.

Furthermore, English counties do not all have the same origins. There is, for example, a clear difference between the middle of England, where counties carry the name of their principal historic town, which is often near the centre of the county, followed by the suffix "shire", and most of the south where this is not the case. Kent and Sussex originated as small Saxon kingdoms. The shires of Wessex were created as administrative divisions in the eighth and ninth centuries, fulfilling military and fiscal roles, as well as having courts where legal matters and major transactions were conducted. With the increasing Danish settlement in eastern England, some centres in Wessex, which may be considered as proto-towns, were fortified (or had a fortified site nearby). Such fortified sites were known as burhs. After the defeat of Mercia by Wessex in 825, Sussex, Kent and Surrey (whose origins as a territorial unit remain obscure) were effectively absorbed as shires of Wessex. By contrast, not only were there fewer burhs (or towns) in the Midlands, but the shires were not created until the effective unification of England under the leadership of Wessex in the tenth century. The area of Danish settlement in the east Midlands was organised around the "five boroughs" (Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham, and Stamford), with four of the five becoming county towns (Stamford perhaps losing out because it was on the border

of Danish and Saxon territories). In simplified terms, in the south the shires predated the towns, but in the Midlands it was the other way round. The pattern in the south-east was, however, not like the core of Wessex. Inland there were very few towns, and the only area with several by late Saxon times was the coastal zone of Sussex, including Lewes.

The contrast between the south and the Midlands is particularly clear in Domesday Book of 1086. In the Midlands there is an entry on one dominant town at the head of each county's section. This appears before the first in the list of landholders, which is always "lands of the king". In the south, no dominant town appears in the same way. In Wiltshire, for example, Malmesbury appears in this position, but it was clearly no more important than any of the six other towns in the county. In Sussex, no town appears

Lewes
Castle

Shell
Keep



before the lands of the king, which in any event were not extensive as William had distributed much former royal land to five of his most trusted followers, who acted as the effective authority in their so-called rapes, Lewes among them. In Surrey, Guildford is the first place mentioned, not as a separate head place for the county but as the first entry under "lands of the king", although the entry makes clear that it was a town. At this time the only other place in Surrey that qualified as a town was Southwark.

One way the Normans imposed their power was to place a royal castle in the principal towns. In the Midlands, the county towns were chosen. In Wiltshire, it was Old Sarum. In Surrey, it was Guildford, an indication that it was considered the county town. In Sussex, there was no royal castle. Instead, the five great lords built theirs in the head towns of their rapes (Arundel, Bramber, Hastings, Lewes, and Pevensey (a sixth rape, Chichester,

probably came into existence in the thirteenth century). The lord of the rape of Lewes was William de Warenne, who was also granted lands in East Anglia and Yorkshire,

with their centres at Conisbrough and Castle Acre. In 1087, he was made Earl of Surrey, possibly because an earldom for Sussex would not make sense in the light of the division into rapes, and granted lands in Surrey for the first time. His son built a great castle at Reigate. Royal castles often became the base for sheriff, and thus for the administration of justice through county courts, and often became the location of county gaols. The county courts functioned alongside county eyres, where royal justices visited each county at least every seven years to deal with matters that fell outside the scope of the common law. Increasingly complicated property transactions required more frequent visits from royal judges, which from the thirteenth century became formalised in the twice yearly assizes. County courts continued, but were of lesser importance.

In judging which towns in southern England might be considered county towns in the middle ages, the main criteria are probably the base for the sheriff, the location of the county court and county gaol, and where the assizes were held. In Surrey, the county court was usually held at Guildford. In Sussex, it was held at various places in the post-Conquest period, including Chichester, Lewes and Shoreham, but in 1254 and 1336 royal commands confirmed that the site of the Sussex county court should be Chichester.

Where were the assizes held? In the second half of the thirteenth century, half the Surrey assizes were held at Lambeth, with Guildford and Southwark accounting for most of the rest. In the fourteenth century, Guildford and Southwark shared most of the sittings, and by the fifteenth century, Croydon, Kingston and Reigate had joined them as frequent locations. In Sussex in the thirteenth century, the assizes were held at Chichester more than anywhere else, with East Grinstead the main location further east, and Lewes only occasionally. Through the fourteenth century, Horsham joined Chichester and East Grinstead as the main centres, with Lewes being visited only occasionally in the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries. An additional complication is that the assizes



Lewes Castle-Barbicon

sometimes did not sit in towns at all. For example, in 1273 the Surrey assizes were held "outside Chiddingfold" and in the 1280s were more than once at "Chiddingfold Cross". In the 1260s they were held at least once at Lingfield. In Sussex in 1256 the assizes were held at Rusper. After the thirteenth century such rural locations cease to appear in the record.

Surrey and Sussex shared a sheriff for much of the middle ages (1242-1567, and again in 1571-1635), and the main gaol was in Guildford. Having one sheriff for two counties was not an unusual arrangement; there were eleven sheriff pairings, accounting for over half of England. In 1487 Lewes petitioned Parliament to have the county gaol for Sussex rather than Sussex prisoners being held at Guildford. The petition seems to have been successful for a while.

Developments in county administration from the sixteenth century onwards help to put the medieval arrangements in context. Quarter Sessions (Justices of the Peace sitting four times a year) had originated in the fourteenth century to deal with lesser matters than the assizes, but from the Tudor period they began to assume broader roles. These came to include supervising the parish overseers of the poor, construction and maintenance of roads and bridges, provision of county gaols and houses of correction, supervision of asylums, and the provision of courthouses. To fulfil these responsibilities they had the power to raise county rates.

Until the late eighteenth century, Surrey Quarter Sessions usually rotated to Guildford, Kingston, Croydon and Reigate, with occasional sittings at Southwark, Epsom and Dorking. In 1790-4, a new Sessions House was built at Newington, just south of Southwark, which became the main venue. The assizes continued to be held in the main towns, but their function was justice, not county administration. For Quarter Sessions purposes, Sussex was divided into east and west divisions (as was Kent), with the Cinque Ports having their own courts (until 1855). Chichester was the most frequent location in the west. Arundel was another location up to 1732. Horsham was important in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, then ceased for a while, and became the regular summer location from 1712. Petworth was an infrequent location. In the east Lewes dominated, especially after the courthouse floor in East Grinstead collapsed in 1684 while the court was in session.

The Local Government Act of 1888 created county councils. Part of Surrey was included in the newly created County of London at this time, and so Newington was not a candidate in discussion of where the new county headquarters would be. That choice was Kingston, only for it to be fall outside the county when the Greater London Council was created in 1965. In Sussex the original intention was to have a single county council replacing the two Quarter Session divisions, but during the passage of the bill through parliament it was decided to split the county in two, with Chichester becoming the county town of West Sussex and Lewes of East Sussex.

Thus the county town claims of both Guildford and Lewes need qualification. Daniel Defoe summed up the position for Guildford in 1724:

"It has the name of being the county town, though it cannot properly be called so: neither the county gaol being here, or the assizes, any more than in common with other towns. But for the election indeed for Parliament men for the county is always held here."

As a side light on Defoe's final comment, it is worth noting that by the early eighteenth century, Brentford was the sole place for the election of county MPs for Middlesex (and not many would consider Brentford a county town).

The two medieval towns of Guildford and Lewes do, nevertheless, have various things in common, as well as some illuminating differences. Both are situated where a river cuts through the chalk of the Downs, although Lewes is surrounded by chalk in several directions while at Guildford the chalk forms a narrower ridge, especially to the west. The Wey at Guildford was not a major transport route until the construction of the Wey Navigation, whereas sea-going ships could reach Lewes at least in the early middle ages. Anglo-Saxon defences surrounded both towns, with the area included perhaps being slightly greater at Lewes, but unlike Guildford the defended area of Anglo-Saxon Lewes did not reach down to the river. Lewes acquired masonry walls in the middle ages, extending the enclosed town down the hill to the Ouse. Work on the walls is recorded in 1266-9 and 1334, but it is not certain that the circuit was ever completed. Parts survive on the south and west sides. In both towns the borough boundary was tightly drawn, incorporating little beyond the enclosed area, despite the development of suburbs in the middle ages. In Lewes, these included Cliffe, across the Ouse, where the High Street is on a causeway only just above the flood plain, and Southover to the south.

Guildford had three medieval churches. Lewes had ten in 1291 (excluding Cliffe and Southover). By 1535, there were seven. Four now survive: St John-sub-Castro, which may predate Lewes's creation as a defended settlement, and was largely rebuilt in 1839-40; St Michael on the High Street, with one of Sussex's three round church towers; All Saints, just inside the town wall, with a fifteenth century tower, but mainly of 1806-7, now an arts centre; and St Anne, to the west of the town. St Thomas in Cliffe is mainly fourteenth century. St John in Southover was the hospital outside the gate of Lewes Priory, and became a parish church in 1264.

Why was there such a marked difference in the number of churches? Many towns of Anglo-Saxon origin had multiple churches, which often seem to have been founded by lay lords. In Domesday Book, land in Lewes was mainly held by William de Warenne, but it was held as the property of nineteen different manors, which before the Conquest had had different lords, and many of them may have been responsible for founding churches on their own. Much larger numbers of churches existed in major Anglo-Saxon towns, such as Winchester, Lincoln, or Oxford. Other towns, such as Chichester or Wallingford, had a comparable number to Lewes. The reason Guildford had so few churches for an Anglo-Saxon town of its size, may be that it did not have multiple landholders in the early middle ages, being held by the king. Lewes's lost

churches, on the other hand, are likely to have been much smaller than Guildford's churches, and the ones that survived to 1535 were generally poorer than their Guildford counterparts.

Guildford and Lewes are both dominated by their Norman castles. Guildford has a great tower built within its former shell keep, whereas Lewes retained the shell keep.



LEWES PRIORY, RUINS OF MONKS' DORMITORY

Lewes is unusual in having two mottes, the eastern one (the Brack Mount) probably never having a masonry structure on it. Both had large baileys. Guildford's was eventually occupied by an extensive royal palace, but Lewes's is likely to have had fewer major structures.

Expenditures at Guildford ceased c1360, at Lewes c1347.

Lewes had a major monastery. Lewes

Priory was founded by William de Warenne in 1078. It accumulated many, often quite small, endowments and became one of the richest monasteries in England. Its church was some 420 feet long, the largest church in Sussex (larger than Chichester Cathedral). Despite its grandeur it kept the status of priory in deference to its mother house, Cluny Abbey in Burgundy, as was normal practice among Cluniac monasteries. Unfortunately the site was sliced through by the building of the railway in 1846. The main surviving ruins are the monks' dormitory block and the foundations of what may have been the first church and later became the infirmary chapel. The plan of the latter is interesting as it has a square east end but rounded apses on the side chapels. This is a comparatively rare plans (known from excavations at Southwell Minster and Dover Priory), but does occur at St Mary's in Guildford (although the square east end and the apsed side chapels there may have been built at different dates).

Guildford and Lewes both had leper hospitals, each located on the road to London, well placed for the collection of alms, a position often encountered for such hospitals,

e.g. at Chichester or Winchester. Lewes Priory had a hospital for the care of the poor elderly and infirm, more for their souls than their bodies, which later became Southover parish church. It

was superseded by the nearby St James's Hospital, of which a part, dating from the fourteenth century, survives. Both towns had a friary. As friars (Franciscan, Dominican, Augustinian (not to be confused with Augustinian canons), Carmelite, and various minor orders) depended on alms rather than endowments, and were principally occupied in preaching and hearing confession, their houses were normally in urban areas. Indeed, many of the most important towns had several. The fact that Guildford and Lewes had one each is probably indicative of their relative status as towns. Moreover, Guildford's Dominican friary, although known to have been a grand establishment is unusual in being a royal foundation, by Queen Eleanor of Provence in 1275. It may have had a predecessor of one of the lesser orders of friars, but if so there is no certainty it would have survived, so the royal intervention was almost certainly crucial. Lewes had a small Franciscan friary founded in 1241 that lay just outside the walls, from which one gate still exists.

The overall picture that emerges is of two towns of some importance in the middle ages, but not among England's principal urban centres. This conclusion is supported by figures from the taxation (known as the lay subsidy) of 1524-5, which, while notoriously difficult to interpret with precision, ranks Guildford and Lewes as 73rd and 84th in England by taxable wealth respectively, at a time when perhaps 600 places in England might have had some claim to be considered as towns. In Sussex, Lewes was almost certainly outranked by Rye and Chichester. In Surrey, Southwark had substantially greater wealth than Guildford, but it really needs to be considered as an adjunct of London. Kingston, Farnham, Croydon and Godalming appear to have been in the same range as Guildford, but all four contained rather more rural areas within their assessment than Guildford within its tightly drawn borough boundary. Guildford can thus probably be thought of as Surrey's most important centre away from London at the end of the Middle Ages as it was at the time of the Norman Conquest, even though Surrey was a county with few towns, none of them of great size.

EVENTS

The events on the next page are at the time of printing. Costs had not been finalised. There may be more events, please look at the web site. www.surreycommunity.info/fogm/