

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM  
**NEWSLETTER**

*December 2002*



*Issue 15*



**COALS :**

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Exhibition at Salters -see page 3 - closes 10<sup>th</sup> January 2003

## Museum Events

### **Museum Christmas Party Book Now!**



This year the Museum's Christmas Party will take place at the Guildhall on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Festivities will start at 7.30pm and the theme will be a Tudor Christmas. You will be entertained by Tudor musicians, participate in Tudor dancing and partake of Tudor -style treats. Mulled wine will be available to keep the winter chill away. Costume optional.

*Tickets at £6.00 each are available from the Museum.*

### **Women's Festival**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2003

#### **"Warrior Queens in the Roman World"**

A study day at the Electric Theatre, organised by the Museum, looking at some remarkable woman who dared to defy the mighty rule of Rome.

*Tickets at £10 each will be available from the Museum shortly.*



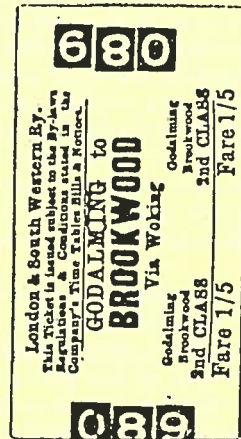
The results of the questionnaire circulated to members appears on page 6. I am very pleased to receive your comments about the magazine. We value your support and wish to produce a magazine you enjoy. The quality of the reproduction of photographs has troubled me for some time and as far as possible I shall endeavour to use only line drawings in future until I can resolve this point. The written content obviously depends on material I have available or can persuade people to write. I am grateful to those who have offered to send an article and I shall be contacting them shortly. I am indebted to Roger Nicholas for the railway drawings on the front cover and page 12.

**Eric Morgan**

The Editor welcomes items for the Newsletter or comments. Please send them to Eric Morgan, 21 St Michael's Avenue, Guildford, GU3 3LY. (01483 233344)

# From Three into One: Guildford Steam into the 1920's

Calling all railway enthusiasts... Guildford Museum is offering you the unique opportunity to view Guildford Railway lines as never seen before: Guildford in miniature. To celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the amalgamation of three local south-eastern railway company lines into the Southern Region, Guildford Museum is staging a five-week railway exhibition. The exhibition will not only contain photographs, scale drawings and original 1920's railway memorabilia, but also numerous railway models from the era; steam locomotives, carriages, coal trucks and wagons will be on display. The centrepiece of the exhibition will be a detailed model replica in 00 gauge of Guildford station, the goods yard and the famous turntable engine sheds, measuring a massive 22 feet by twelve feet, meticulously constructed by John Boas, one of the museum staff. Additionally, the exhibition will include a working N gauge of the 1940's era, kindly lent to the museum by Mr Halton of Reading, and a large display of 0 gauge locomotives and rolling stock. Steam locomotives and carriages in the livery of the three former railway lines: London Brighton South Coast Railway (LBSCR); The London South West Railway(LSWR); and the South Eastern Chatham Railway(SECR) will be on view, in addition to many inexpensive railway souvenirs - perfect for Christmas gifts.



So come on all of you who remember nostalgically those childhood days spent playing with trains... relive the wonderful memories of the steam era.

From Three into One : Guildford Steam into the 1920's will be open from November 30<sup>th</sup> 2002 to January 10<sup>th</sup> 2003 in Salters Gallery, Castle Street from 11am \_ 4pm. Closed Sundays, and 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December 2002.

Entrance is free. Kids of all ages welcome.  
Access easy for the disabled.

# Secretary's Letter

Although membership stood at an all time high of 268 at the end of March this year, there have been a few signs since then that we may find it prudent to think about some active campaigning for new members. There was an excellent response to the first call for renewal yielding no less than 192 members, for which I am most grateful as it saves both time and expense. However the subsequent overall renewal, although still comfortably high at 89% was, for the first time, 2% lower than the previous year. Eight members resigned due to advancing years or departure from the area and 19 did not respond. The most important trend, however is that there is now a clear slow down in the number of new members joining our organisation. We need about 30 new members per year to keep total numbers constant; so far this year there have been only 8 and two thirds of the year have passed! There is no cause for panic; there are currently 248 paid up members but the committee realises that some action is necessary and reliance on word of mouth is no longer adequate. However in the meantime please do enthusiastically persuade those of your family and friends still unconvinced of the benefits of membership!

Since the last newsletter there have been some full day outings organised as usual by the hardworking trio of Peter Hattersley, Derek Somner and John Wilkins. In June a party enjoyed a pleasant day at Down House and Chartwell. In mid October no less than a completely full busload of 53 members visited Leighton House and Chelsea Hospital on a beautiful sunny autumn day. The former took everyone's breath away at the extravagance of colour and design in a surprisingly small but exquisite house. William de Morgan fans were bowled over! At the Royal Hospital we were conducted around the buildings by two upright and aged gentlemen who, as one would expect, were full of anecdotes, doubtless oft repeated. On being asked, with due reverence, how many attended chapel on Sundays, we were informed that it was never predictable how many residents would turn left into the chapel and how many would turn right towards the bar! One of the two old gentlemen confided that he was so happy at being in the Hospital as his two daughters did not have to worry about him. Two other full day outings to Bignor Roman Villa plus Arundel and to Amberley Museum plus Parham House, however, had to be cancelled, due to a lack of support. This brings to three the number cancelled this year; a first experience for us.

The village walks, led as always by the very knowledgeable Jackie Malyon, took place in Petersham, Ockley and Oakwood, Effingham, Chertsey and finally Waverley Abbey. Jill Buist led another themed walk in the Abinger Hatch area. We are most grateful to both Jackie and Jill.

As has become the custom, the regular season of events ended with Marjorie's Quiz which once again brought most of the regular contestants together to do

battle and argue for unrealistic (and of course undeserved) half points to boost their standing!

Another season has come to an end in the Undercroft and we would like to thank all the stewards who spend many hours below ground for the benefit of visitors. A new exterior sign, suitably mediaeval, has been commissioned and will be on view next year in May when the Undercroft reopens.

Up to the beginning of September, the Town Walk Guides had raised £605 through donations for the most enjoyable and useful function they perform in conducting visitors around Guildford while imparting their collective knowledge of local history. Our thanks to them for their sterling work; pun unintended!

And now to the Questionnaire that you all have recently received including an introduction explaining why the committee had decided to take such action. By the end of October, 70 completed returns had been received which represents the views of 99 members. Bearing in mind a total current membership of 248, the sample received is 40% which is a good one for such questionnaires. The committee is grateful for your responses and in particular to those who have made offers of help. There was one kind person offering to organise a visit to the Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills but unfortunately he or she did not add a name, so further action is not possible unless the person involved gives me a call at the number below! Your responses to the questions indicate that our events are in general well placed when compared with the competition but it is clear that some redirection is required. With the information now available, a revision of the programme of events can be planned by your committee and in due course several of you will be contacted. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a summary of the results of the questionnaire which in many cases speak for themselves.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Richard Sinker Hon. Secretary,



01483 502207

## Where is Salters?

The current railway exhibition and in general all Museum exhibitions are held in Salters gallery which is in Castle Street. From the High Street if you are standing outside White Lion Walk cross to Quarry Street opposite. Go along this street, passed St Mary's Church on your right, and take the first turning on your left (King's Head pub on corner) . This is Castle Street and Salters is about 50 yards up on the left.

## **Analysis of Questionnaire to Members October 2002.**

**Q1 Do you prefer day and half day outings on weekdays or weekends?**

Weekdays 43% Weekends 14% Either 43% (Not Sundays 2)

**Q2 Would you support outings arranged during the school holidays?**

Yes 90% No 10%

**Q3 Which months are most convenient to you for outings?**

Any month 63% Mar to Oct 21% Spring & Autumn 9%  
Not Dec/Jan 7%

**Q4 Would you like to see a few outings per year to places of interest further afield that you may consider too far to drive to?**

Yes 85% No 15%

**Q5 Would you be agreeable to the outings in Q4 having a pick up time of 8 am and a return at approx 6 pm?**

Yes 76% No 24%

**Q6 Would you be willing to arrange a visit to a location with which you have a special connection or interest? If so, which?**

Yes 12% No 88%

**Q7 Would you be prepared to pay a higher amount for day trips of interest to you for 12 to 16 people, thus decreasing the number required to make the event viable?**

Yes 68% No 21% Uncertain 11%

**Q8 Are you in a position to choose broadly similar outings from other organisations of which you are a member?**

Yes 61% No 39%

**Q9 Would you support 1 to 5 day trips to locations such as Durham/Hadrian's Wall, Edinburgh, Heligan/Eden etc?**

Yes 26% No 52% Uncertain/cost 22%

Q10 Do you find the cost of outings as currently organised good value?

Yes 89% No 5% Don't know 6%

Q11 Would you prefer to have the cost of coffee and biscuits excluded from the outings to save cost?

Yes 15% No 67% Don't mind 18%

Q12 Would you support the continuation of an annual event for a larger number of members, similar to the September Barbeque or Dinner in Horsley Towers?

Yes 58% No 28% Uncertain 14%

Q13 Would you support, either by donating books or by helping with, a regular but infrequent book sale, probably located in Salters?

Yes 62% No 29% Will donate books 9%

Q14 Would you participate in, as buyer and/or seller, a traditional bring and buy sale, combined possibly with a book sale as in Q13?

Yes 58% No 42%

Q15 What additional or alternative fundraising activity would you propose, ideally combining pleasure with pain?

Ideas proposed 24% No answer 76%

Q16 Would you be willing to take leading role in carrying out such a proposal?

Willing to lead or help 18% No 42% No answer 40%

Q17 What changes, if any, would you like to see made to the biannual Newsletter?

None, fine as it is 60% Better pictures/printing 3% Content ideas 4%  
No answer 33%

Q18 Would you be prepared to contribute an article to the Newsletter?

Yes 16% No 54% No answer 30%

Q19 Do you have a suggestion for increasing the profile of the Friends in order to attract new members?

Suggestions made in approximately 50% of returns.

## Kwik Quiz

Did you miss Marjorie's quiz evening? Then you missed a rattling good time with the emphasis on fun. Ten of the participants come with a set of their own questions so we have a very mixed bag. Ken Marshall has kindly supplied me with a sample of his questions which he tells me are intended for adults of average intellect!! It will set your Christmas party alive too. If you can answer more than four of these questions you would have beaten Table 1 at our last quiz evening! Make a note to come along to our next one on **October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2003**

1. Which outlaw did Bob Ford shoot in the back on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1882 to collect a \$10,000 reward ?
2. What country is known in its own native language as HELLAS?
3. What distinction did Nicholas Breakspear achieve in 1154AD?
4. What was founded in 1440 by Henry VI to prepare scholars for King's College Cambridge?
5. The ERNE is the alternative name for what bird?
6. What is the name of the canal linking the North Sea with the Baltic.
7. Which Saints day falls on 30<sup>th</sup> November?
8. What does the word HIEROGLYPHICS literally mean?
9. In what country does the river Danube rise?
10. Where is DEMERARA where the sugar is produced?

The answers are on page 19 Ken makes the following comments. Score below 6 -Don't worry too much, 6 -You're good, 7 -You're very good, 8 -Excellent, 9,-Genius, 10 -Highly suspicious - no one is that clever!



### FRIENDS COMMITTEE FOR 2002/2003

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



## THE FUTURE OF THE MUSEUM & GALLERY

There has been much discussion recently about the difficulties posed by the historic premises that the Museum and Guildford House Gallery occupy. A number of options have been examined, with a view to making the buildings more accessible or to find alternative buildings. It is perhaps appropriate at this time to stand back from the details of accommodation and ask some searching questions about how we see the service developing. Change is certainly in the air, and I would like to know what sort of museum service local people want. To this end, both the museum and the gallery will be carrying out public consultation next year - a costly process but a necessary one. For example, it is interesting to note that when two major public consultations were carried out (for the Croydon Clocktower and the Woking Galleries) there was strong public demand for 20th century history and little enthusiasm for anything earlier than the Victorians. We have to recognise that Guildford Museum hardly meets those expectations.



Amongst other questions, these need to be considered: Should we continue to do the things we are doing at the present? Should the museum and gallery be brought together on one site? Should we continue to try to be a museum with a countywide remit (albeit only funded by one authority)? Should we concentrate on the history of the Borough of Guildford? I would really welcome Friends' contributions.

One area I particularly wish to develop is education, and to this end I have proposed that an Education Officer be added to the establishment. This new post would help to deal with the increased workload caused by the success of the Victorian Schoolroom and enable us to provide a better education service in many ways. This has been recommended by the Leisure Panel but still needs to be approved by the Executive. Let's hope it will go through.

Matthew Alexander - Curator, Guildford Museum.

## The Keep Prison

For over 600 years Guildford had among its buildings a prison. Or to be precise four prisons over that period. So let me tell you about the first.

From early in the 13th century to about the middle of the 16th it was in the castle or King's Castle as it should be called, for it was a royal castle. The castle at Guildford was built in the twelfth century and it was soon realised that a building that was intended to keep people out should also be good at keeping people in. So a gaol became a normal part of a royal castle, and the governor, keeper or constable of a castle on the King's behalf was normally made responsible for the gaol. At Guildford this consisted of two small rooms which served for over two and a half centuries as the principle gaol for Surrey and Sussex. On rare occasions the rooms were even empty as there were no prisoners such as when King John visited in 1206. Instead the rooms were used for the storage of wine, and two years later the

Sheriff of Hampshire was ordered to transfer some of his prisoners to Guildford.



Guildford Castle

Looking at the castle today one wonders if it has ever been in good repair and perhaps it hasn't. Documents exist ordering the Sheriff of Surrey to repair the gaol in 1237, to repair it again in 1257 and in 1293 to clean it out and to buy a number of new pairs of fetters. Early in the fourteenth century, after a number of prisoners had been sent from Sussex, the keeper petitioned for a stronger prison as the Castle was not strong enough and this kind of complaint continued to be heard at intervals for the next five centuries. The keeper was told that he could strengthen or enlarge the gaol if he wished and presumably at his own expense but the King told him that he had no intention of providing a new prison. When a prisoner escaped in 1343 the Constable of the Castle was fined £5. Four years later Edward the Third arrived in

Guildford and was petitioned by the people of Sussex that they might have their own prison at Chichester. The King wishing to hold onto his money refused. The escape of prisoners from the gaol continued and with the fines lavished on the constable for each escape it was not long before John de Brocas who was constable in 1359 went bankrupt.

One hundred years earlier in 1269 a consignment of woad, the property of William Hod, was stolen from Portsmouth. Woad was used in vast quantities for the woollen industry which was very strong in the Guildford and Godalming areas in those days. William Hod chased the robbers, recovered his property and placed the woad in Guildford Castle for safe keeping. However the leader of the band of

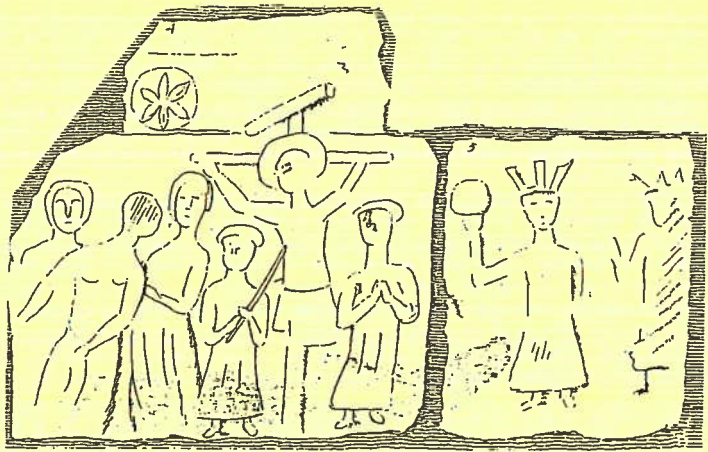
robbers was not amused and demanded that the under Sheriff should return the Woad. In fact he went further and said that if the woad was not returned by the following day he would set fire to the whole town of Guildford with its church, chapel and neighbourhood. The undersheriff fearing for the life of his wife and children who lived at Ditton decided to return the woad. Not surprisingly the Sheriff who was ,of course, responsible for the deeds of his undersheriff was fined 120 marks.

To the general public the keep must appear an uninteresting ruin but then I suppose people have been saying that for about 400years since it is all that long ago that the castle ceased to be used as a prison and the roof was removed. However there is one room set in the wall of the castle and not accessible to the public where there are carvings thought to have been made by the prisoners. On one side of the room a Norman arcade has been carved in the thickness of the wall. On the other walls are rude inscribed drawings. One is of Saint Christopher holding a staff in his right hand while his left hand holds the Christ Child on his shoulder. A halo surrounds the Child from which light radiates. St Christopher is dressed in a short toga and is wearing a small cap which rises to a point at its centre. Another carving shows the crucifixion. Christ is fixed to the cross by his hands with a soldier standing on his left who is piercing Christ's side with a sword. A man stands praying on his right. This is perhaps one of the disciples and probably John. On the left of the cross two women appear to be holding or comforting Mary. A third drawing shows a bishop lying recumbent with a crown above him and part of a sketch of the crucifixion below him. The final drawing shows a king with crown holding the orb in his right hand and to the right is the outline of another figure.. Sadly these drawing have suffered over the years with graffiti scribbled over them but more recently sections of the drawings have loosened and fallen off due to the weather and pollution. Remedial work to stabilize the drawings has been carried out but this can only be a temporary measure.

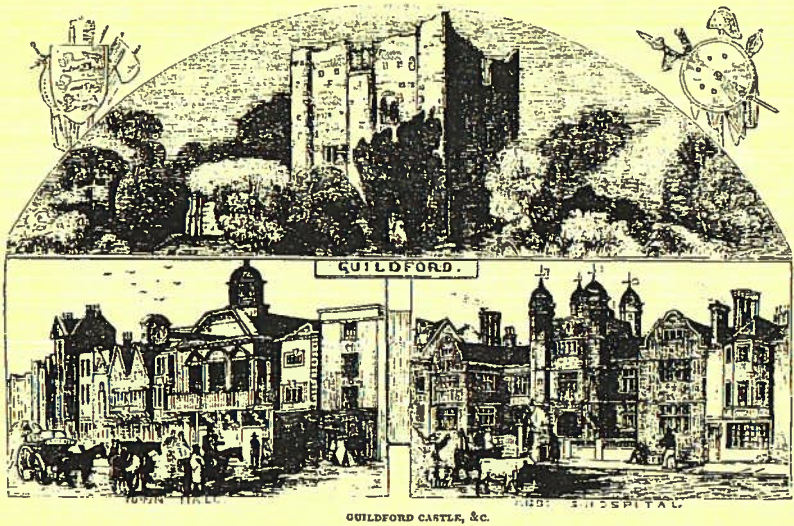
Guildford's records and charters were destroyed in 1381 when the Guildhall was attacked by a mob in the time of the Peasants Revolt. the attempt to restore order resulted in the prison becoming full and the Earl of Arundel was instructed to keep any Sussex rebels in his castles at Arundel and Lewes. The people of Sussex had always been unhappy that their prisoners were sent to Guildford and had often petitioned the King for a prison of their own and it was not until 1488 that they were successful. In their petition they stated that the magistrates allowed murderers and thieves to go free rather than face the cost and dangers of the long journey to Guildford; that prisoners were sometimes rescued on the way to Guildford; and that even when they were brought before the Justices at Guildford they sometimes had to be released because the necessary witnesses could not, or would not , make the journey from Sussex. From then on Lewes became the home of the principle Sussex prison.

In the middle of the sixteenth century two new gaols were built in Surrey, I say in Surrey but we would regard them as in London today for they were the White Lion and the Marshalsea both at Southwark. But in those days the Surrey boundary ran right up to the Thames at London Bridge. It is probable that from this time on Guildford Castle ceased to be used as a prison. In 1612 the castle estate was sold by James I to Francis Carter who tried to convert the keep to a house and all connection of the castle with royalty and justice came to an end. *Eric Morgan.*





Mediaeval graffiti in Casle Keep



From Illustrated Guide to South-Eastern Railway 1853

# Highwaymen

In the seventeenth century , Ranmore Common and the neighbourhood of Guildford were selected by Tom Wilmot for the carrying on of some of his most daring adventures. Tom Wilmot was well educated and came of a good Ipswich family, but an early liking for gambling and women enabled him to rapidly run through a fortune left him by his father, and while still a comparative youth, he took to the road as the only fit calling for a gentleman. One of the boldest robbers in the county, he always rode alone, and, according to an old record, would think nothing of attacking and despoiling four or five gentlemen single-handed. A peculiar feature of Wilmot was the hatred he had developed towards the female sex. He once stopped three ladies near Dorking and robbed them of eighty guineas. He was about to ride away when he noticed one of them was wearing a diamond ring. He immediately seized her hand and endeavoured to remove the trinket. this proving somewhat difficult, he became impatient, and drawing his sword he with one blow severed the finger entirely from the hand, remarking that he had no pity for women, seeing that they had caused his ruin.

On another occasion, after a hard ride, he succeeded in eluding the officers of the law and at length drew rein, towards evening, at the entrance to a gentleman's house on the outskirts of Guildford. Within the building there was a large company and great festivity since they were celebrating a wedding. Tom presented himself as a traveller who had lost his way and asked permission to stay there till morning. "Right willingly" said the gentleman." All are welcome this day. The only room I can offer you, however, is one that is haunted." Now the fertile mind of the robber at once saw that something could be made out of the position and therefore about an hour after midnight he removed his boots and draping himself in a sheet, he descended the stairs and entering the room in which his host and some gentlemen were still seated in an advanced state of revelry, gambling with cards, he exhorted them in sepulchral tones to abandon their evil ways before it was too late. The revellers, however, thinking it was indeed a real ghost, waited to hear no more, but one and all made a wild a rush for the door, leaving their cards and money behind them. Tom instantly seized the latter and quietly returned to his room, where he slept soundly till late in the morning. Next morning his host said he could not imagine what a ghost could want with money to which Tom replied that he thought the intruder must have been the devil and he departed from the house without the shadow of a suspicion as to the part he had played in the transaction. Tom haunted the county for some years after this , but was eventually captured and hanged in 1670, at the age of thirty-eight.

A still more famous highwayman was Edward Hinton, born in London of good parents in the year 1673 and afterwards known as Captain Hinton. In spite of good prospects and remarkable personal attractions, this young reprobate early took to evil ways and for robbing Lord Dartmouth's house on Blackheath, was tried and condemned to be hanged before he was twenty. Through the interest of his friends, and also on account of his youth, he was pardoned; but far from being a lesson his narrow escape from the scaffold only seemed to excite him on to fresh crime, and he was again arrested for highway robbery in Surrey and Middlesex. For the second time, however, the death sentence was commuted, although all the efforts of his influential friends failed to secure his pardon, and he was sentenced to transportation for life. On board the convict ship, not far from the the Isle of Wight, he brought a conspiracy with the other felons to a head, and with the assistance of a treacherous sailor, a mutiny was successfully carried out, and the ship's crew shut down under the hatches. Hinton and his fellow convicts put off in the long boat and landed near Portsmouth, where they dispersed - Hinton making his way to London, incidentally robbing a farmer of his horse. On Hounslow Heath he met a richly attired horseman, with whom after a slight misunderstanding, he exchanged his clothes

,beast and money; and making his way to one of the lowest haunts in London, he fell in with a gang of his old friends, who as a fitting tribute to a rogue of such distinguished parts and pre-eminent abilities elected him as their leader, and as Captain Hinton he was thereafter known.



"We love to think of him in slashed velvet and Spanish cloak"

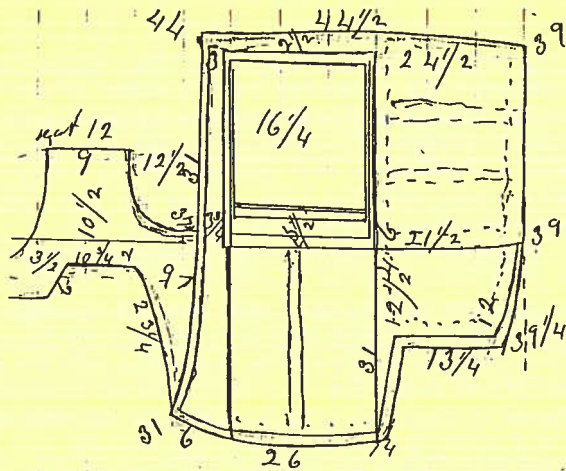
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That the captain was not bereft of all good is shown by the following. Meeting a gentleman near Epsom, Hinton politely requested him to hand over his money and any valuables he might possess at the moment, to which the traveller replied by firing his pistol at the highwayman, without

however, doing any damage. Annoyed at the resistance, Hinton immediately returned fire, shooting his opponent in the arm and disabling him. He then dismounted and offered assistance, binding up the wounded limb with his own handkerchief, and escorting the gentleman with consideration and courtesy to the nearest village, where he left him, not, however, before he had relieved the unfortunate traveller of his gold watch and money.

On another occasion this gentlemanly reprobate and a fellow highway-man were riding across Putney Heath at night when they overtook one of those lumbering private coaches in which the old-world rich were content to make their long comfortable journeys with slow and picturesque dignity very little in keeping with the shrieking express trains of our own days. The two roadmen commanded the sleepy coachman to stop the vehicle, which he did with the usual submission, and opening the door, they discovered that the only occupants of the coach were an extremely handsome young lady and an old clergyman, who was evidently her father. The latter calmly demanded the reason of the unmannerly intrusion, adding that it was ill-seeming to rob an old man and an unprotected girl. "All we desire is your blessing and a kiss from your pretty daughter," said the bold villains and in spite of the old gentleman's protests, the two highwaymen each saluted the struggling girl. They then courteously wished the travellers a safe journey and galloped off towards London, leaving the astonished clergyman to proceed on his way not a penny the worse for his adventure. Soon after this Hinton tired of the road, and in a daring attempt to rob a nobleman's house was captured and eventually executed at Tyburn.

Of quite a different character was the ruffianly murderer, Isaac Atkinson. This fellow was the son of wealthy Berkshire parents, who sent him to Oxford University, where he devoted his energies to the cultivation of vicious and dissolute habits. He squandered the money generously allowed by his father and for committing a common footpad theft, was expelled from college. Dishonoured and disgraced, he made his way home and deliberately robbed his father of two hundred guineas. Taking the best horse from the stable, he rode away to London where, associating with the lowest criminals, he soon became one of the most notorious and hardened scoundrels of his time. He committed many highway robberies in Surrey, all of which were characterised by the most heartless brutality. All things good excited his hatred. He detested clergymen and ridiculed religion till the day of his death. One Sunday morning he was riding through a village near Uxbridge, when observing that the service was being held in the parish church he dismounted and entered the sacred building as the worthy preacher was saying "The Lord cometh as a thief in the night" When the service was over, the highwayman followed the clergyman and in a quiet lane drew a pistol



Drawing from a Coach Builders note book

and pointing it at the reverend gentleman's head threatened to shoot him if he resisted. He then appropriated his victim's watch and money, coarsely remarking that he did not break the Scriptures, as he came like a thief in the day.

The career of this ruffian was happily a short one, and in an attempt to rob a lady at Kew he was arrested, in 1640, at the age of twenty-six, after a long and exciting chase. The lady in question was riding near the Thames when she was suddenly confronted by Atkinson, who demanded her money. The terrified horsewoman flung her purse over a hedge and crossing the ford, rode into Brentford and gave the alarm. Meantime Atkinson, picking up the purse, was leisurely proceeding on his way, when he became aware that he was being pursued. Putting spurs to his horse, he made a determined effort to escape, but was eventually run to earth at Turnham Green and taken to Newgate Prison. During his trial, his behaviour was marked by the greatest insolence, and his closing hours were given up to profanity and callous indifference to his fate. his last act on the scaffold was in keeping with his villainous character. While the prison ordinary, in the performance of his duty, was offering some last words of comfort to the condemned man, Atkinson plucked a knife from his breast and stabbed the unhappy chaplain to the heart. Flinging the weapon among the gaping, morbid crowd, he turned to the hangman and jeeringly requested him to do his worst. (from *The Surrey Magazine* 1902)







*Drawn by M. and C. H. B. Quernell*

LATE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY STAIRCASE IN A RESTAURANT IN  
GUILDFORD HIGH STREET

Don't miss the Friends  
Open Evening at Guildford  
House on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>  
February 2003

See you there at 7.30pm

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Mrs M Burgess

Mrs Gilda Court

Mrs Jackie Gill

Mrs Jean Pratt

Life Member Mrs Hilary Mitchell

To join the FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM,

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 2002/2003

Individual £6

Family £12

Youth £3

Corporate £25

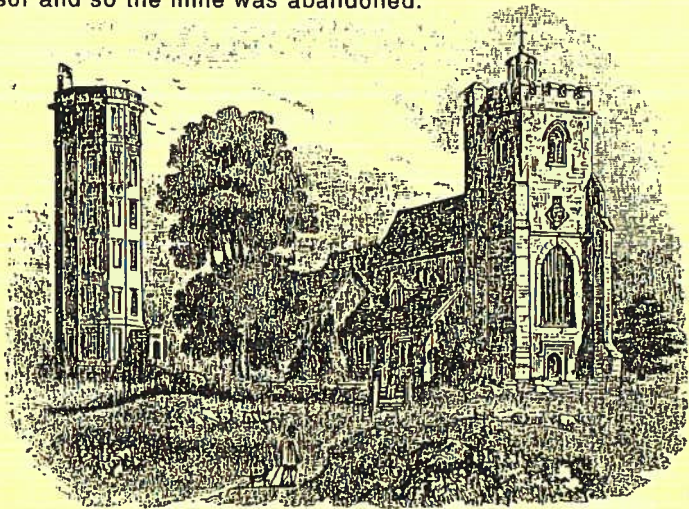
Individual Life £100

Please make cheques payable to

**FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM**

## COAL in WORPLESDON?

Aubrey, in his book "The Natural History and Antiquities of The County of Surrey" tells us that in 1671 Mr Thornborough the Rector of Holy Trinity in Guildford and one of His Majesty's Chaplains was grubbing out the roots of an oak tree when he found at about seven feet down, beneath the sand and gravel, a band of porous stone about 3 feet thick which had a strong sulphur content. The stone was reminiscent of that lying above the coal seams at Newcastle and tin was extracted from it by Lander and Smyth of London. Below this lay 90 feet of clay and the bore hole was continued through this until it hit another band of rock 3 feet thick. Once through this they passed through black clay again for a further eighteen feet, then rock and into another belt of clay. This clay was rich in minerals and both Prince Rupert and King Charles II had samples. Below this were cockle, muscle and periwinkle shells. From the ore inside the shells Prince Rupert extracted tin and other substances. Below this was a twelve foot thick bed of ochre, followed by a vein that had the appearance of Mother of Pearl. Lower down was a seam of green quick-sand. By now the bore hole was some 150 feet below the surface and finally coal was discovered. At this point the cutting equipment failed and as fast as they were repaired they would snap off. An astrologer Mr William Lilly thought this was caused by subterranean spirits. The coal was described as "a sort of rocky coal" which burns like a candle. At this stage the hole fell in and no doubt Mr Thornborough was not too pleased especially as the hole had already cost him £400. In addition Lord Chancellor Hyde and Secretary Maurice said they had a patent for all mines in the Forest of Windsor and so the mine was abandoned.



WORPLESDON CHURCH, AND SEMAPHORE.

It is nearly another 200 years before we hear any more about the coal mine and then a series of reports appear in the 'Sussex Agricultural Express and Surrey Standard'.

11th May 1850 "As long ago as the time of the Commonwealth it was discovered that coals existed about three miles to the north of our town, and an attempt was then made by the then Rector of Stoke to commence a shaft but the proceedings were stopped owing to the policy of the government then existing. The important subject is now revived and we have it from undoubted authority that an agreement has been made with an eminent respectable company, and that miners from Cornwall will shortly commence the necessary works for raising that reliable source of wealth and comfort. The spot pointed out is in the parish of Worplesdon and its vicinity to our navigable river and railway will, of course, greatly enhance the value of the product particularly if the quality is what is reported of the specimen found".

25th May 1850 "In continuation of our intelligence on this subject, we have the pleasure of acquainting our readers (in this inclement season) that the conveyances and agreements were executed by both parties on wednesday and that a shaft will be dug forthwith".

10th August 1850 " We are informed that a shaft is to be sunk immediately on a spot mentioned in a former paper and works commenced for which a capital of several thousand pounds is to be applied".

*I am grateful to Peter Tarplee for drawing my attention to the above newspaper reports. - Ed.*



### Answers to the Kwik Quiz

1. Jesse James	2. Greece	3. He was the first and only
English Pope	4. Eton College	5. The Sea Eagle
6. Kell Canal	7. St Andrew	8. Sacred Carvings
9. Germany - Black Forest	10. Guana in South America	

# Make a note in your Diary

## Events 2003

13 <sup>th</sup> February Thursday at 7.30pm	Open Evening for The Friends of Guildford Museum at Guildford House	
22 <sup>nd</sup> February Saturday	Skittles and Lunch at Grantly Arms Womersley	£12
9 <sup>th</sup> April Wednesday	Syon House and BBC TV Studios	£22.50
7 <sup>th</sup> May Wednesday	Surrey Villages - Pixham Half Day	£4
14 <sup>th</sup> May Wednesday	Brighton Pavilion(Guided Tour) & Brighton Museum	£19
10 <sup>th</sup> June Tuesday	Palace of Westminster, Portcullis House & Banqueting Hall	£19
19 <sup>th</sup> June Thursday	Surrey Villages - Chobham	£7
16 <sup>th</sup> July Wednesday	Surrey Villages - Ripley	£7
26 <sup>th</sup> July Wednesday	Cruising in the Chilterns River Cruise - Ploughmans - Coach tour	£26.50
12 <sup>th</sup> August Tuesday	Surrey Villages - Mickleham	£7
4 <sup>th</sup> September Thursday	Surrey Villages - Shalford	£7
15 <sup>th</sup> October Thursday	Milestones & Stratfield Saye	£21
23 <sup>rd</sup> October Thursday	QUIZ EVENING - Including cheese & wine 7.30pm at Salters, Castle Street	£4
1 <sup>st</sup> November Saturday	London Museum/ Mortimer Wheeler Archives, Guildhall Gallery & Roman Amphitheatre	£15

Full details of events on leaflet circulated to members.

Tickets are obtainable from Derek  
Somner,

18 Abbot Road, Guildford GU1 3TA



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