Surrey Constabulary History
'An in depth history of policing in Surrey'

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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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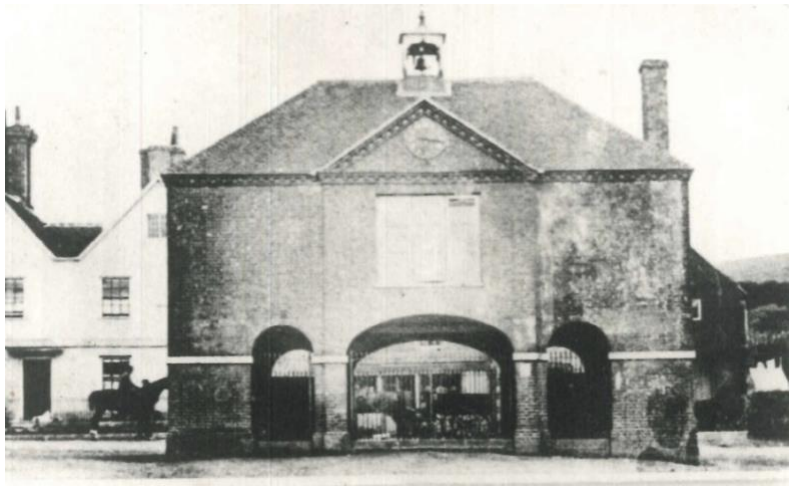
Surrey Constabulary History 103

POLICE INSPECTOR WILLIAM DONALDSON MEMORIAL



MEMORIAL GREEN - HASLEMERE
SUNDAY 30th July 2023 | 12:00

TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THE FIRST SURREY CONSTABULARY POLICE OFFICER TO BE KILLED IN ACTIVE DUTY, DURING THE HASLEMERE RIOT IN 1855

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Reigate Borough Police Helmet Plates

D-Day casualties from Police Remembrance Trust

6 June 2023: Remembering 10 former police officers, not members of the three Surrey police forces, who lost their lives on 6th June 1944 during the D-Day landings. Many others would lose their lives in the days, weeks and months that followed.

John Cappleman (formerly of York City Police) was killed in action serving with 48 Royal Marine Commando. The exact circumstances of John's death are not recorded; however, 48 RM Commando were amongst the first to land of Juno Beach with the task of securing the left flank. John was in one of six infantry landing craft heading towards the beach, several hit undersea obstacles and were sunk, the heavy tidal stream carrying men to their deaths. Those that did make it to the beach were subject to intense fire from German defensive positions which had been almost untouched by the pre landing bombardment. John was buried at Bayeux War Cemetery, France aged just 26.

Fred Gribble (formerly of the Metropolitan Police) was the pilot of a Stirling aircraft of 196 Squadron RAF, which took off from Keevil towing a glider carrying troops from the 5th Parachute Brigade as part of Operation Tonga, the airborne element of the D-Day landings. After releasing the glider on drop the zone between Ranville and Breville, Normandy the aircraft crashed in the beachhead area. Fred is buried Cagny Communal Cemetery, France aged 32.

Charles Norris (formerly of the Metropolitan Police) killed in action whilst serving with the 13th/18th Royal Hussars. On D-Day the Royal Hussars were to spearhead the landings going ashore on Queen Sector, Sword Beach, on the left of the invasion forces. A group of four landing craft tanks each carrying four amphibious Duplex Drive Sherman tanks (DD's) headed for the beach in front of La Breche d'Hermanville. The DDs were to be launched 6.3km from the shore, but the sea was too rough and the DDs left the LCT only 4.5kms from the beach. 34 of the 40 transported tanks were launched, two collided with other landing craft and sank, five were overwhelmed by the waves and sank. Four were rapidly knocked out by enemy fire upon arrival on the beach. Only 23 tanks were left which, after their floating skirts were lowered, began to shoot at the German defences. A defensive position code name Strong point 'Cod' was particularly troublesome with its three 75mm and 50mm guns, three mortars and several machine guns. 13th/18th Royal Hussars however dealt with it, the beach being almost cleared at 08:30hrs. Charles was killed during this action and was buried at Hermanville War Cemetery, aged 29.

Roderick Joseph Ovenden (formerly of the Metropolitan Police) was killed in action serving with the King's Royal Rifle Corps – 4 Commando. On D-day the Commando landed in two waves from HMS Princess Astrid and the SS Maid of Orleans and touched down on Red Queen Beach, a mile to the west of Ouistreham, at La Beche. The Commando undertook a fiercely opposed beach landing during which they took over the role previously allotted to an earlier wave of infantry which had been pinned down by enemy fire, the storming of heavy fortifications at Ouistreham where they engaged in street fighting

through areas infested with snipers. Roderick was killed during the landing and later buried Hermanville War Cemetery aged 26.

Drummond Stewart (formerly of the Metropolitan Police) was killed in action serving aboard a Royal Navy Landing Craft. HMLCI(S) 524 was a larger troop landing ship capable of carrying 100 men. On D-Day the ship grounded on Sword Beach under heavy fire and took a number of casualties after landing her load of commandos. As she withdrew from the beach she received a direct hit in her petrol tanks from an artillery round. The thinly skinned wooden boat disintegrated instantly and became a huge fireball. Most of the crew made it into the water where they were picked up by a US Navy coastguard vessel. However, 10 of her crew including Drummond, were lost. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Plymouth Memorial.

John Bruce Tait (formerly of the Metropolitan Police) was also killed in action serving on a Royal Navy Landing craft. The boat on which john was serving was a Landing Craft which carried tanks. HMLCT 980 was part of T Squadron in the 41st Flotilla. At 08:10hrs on D-Day the squadron landed at Sword Beach. John's post was at the bow where he was to direct the disembarkation of the tanks and troops. After the tanks had been disembarked, John was operating the port side winch pulling up the landing ramp when a shell exploded next to the ship. A shell fragment struck him in the head killing him instantly. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. He was 29 years old.

Richard Thornber (formerly of Liverpool City Police) was killed in action serving on a Royal Navy landing craft. Richard was killed aboard HMLCT 2191, by an artillery shell which scored a direct hit on the bridge of his craft. He is buried at Hermanville War Cemetery aged 26. Richard joined the Liverpool Police and in 1940 was awarded a Humane Society Silver Medal for stopping a runaway horse and cart. In October 1941, he joined the RAF and became a Pilot until damage to his eyesight led him to join the RNVR being assigned to Combined Operations.

Benjamin Frederick (Teddy) Talbott (formerly of Ipswich Borough Police) was killed in action serving with the Royal Armoured Corps, 1st East Riding Yeomanry, and having landed on Sword Beach. He is buried at Hermanville War Cemetery aged 29.

Albert Hamilton Barton (formerly of Edinburgh City Police) was killed in action serving with the RAF. Albert was a Pilot with 620 Squadron, on 'D-Day' twenty-three of the squadrons Stirling bombers took off in support of Operation Tonga dropping a considerable part of the 6th Airborne Division's Paratroops near Caen. Three aircraft failed to return including Alberts which was shot down by flak near Dives sur Mare. He is buried at Ranville War Cemetery age unknown.

Cornelius Stanley Drew (formerly of the Metropolitan Police) was reported missing in action whilst serving with the RAF. He was the navigator on a Mosquito of 515 Squadron which took off from Little Snoring at 23:00hrs on a sortie to the Lille area, in support of the D-Day Landings. The aircraft and crew were lost without trace. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

Bill Bethell
Surrey Constabulary
Cadet 1963-1966

Bill Bethell

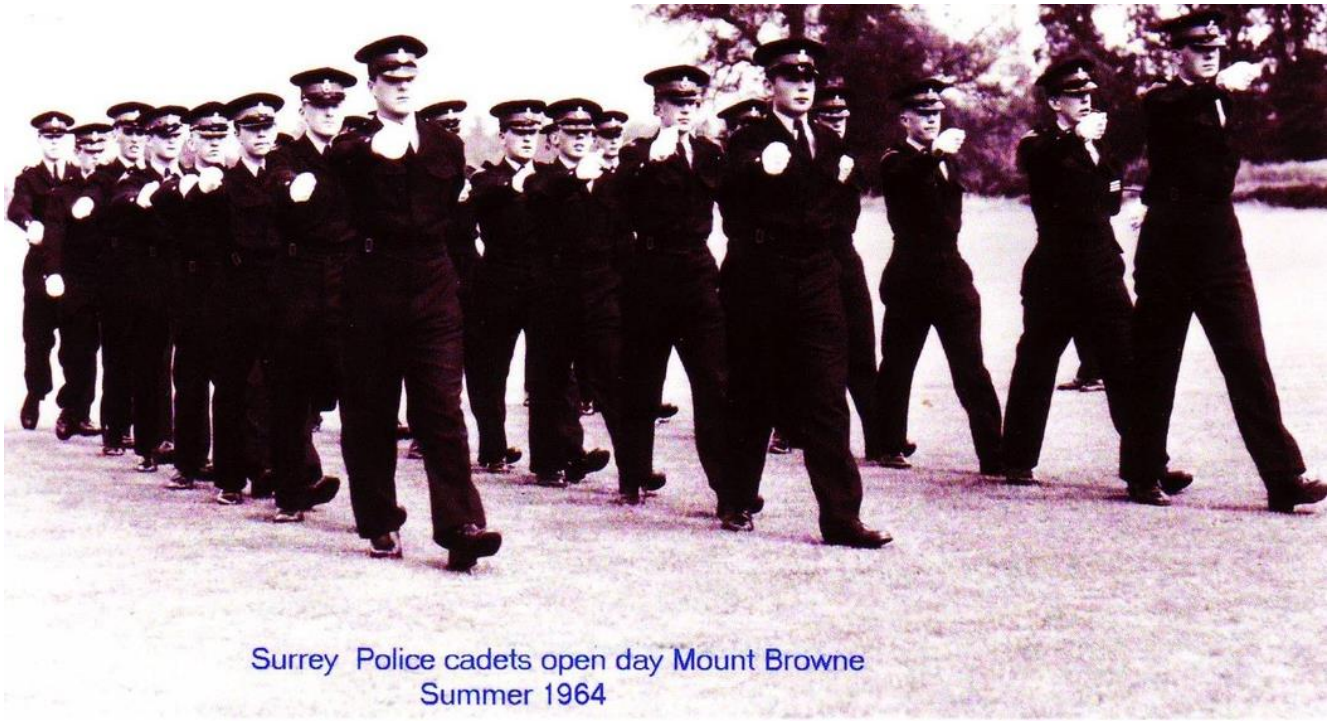
Only when you have mastered this could you be called a cadet!

As World War Two was drawing to a close millions of servicemen were waiting to be demobbed. A number signed back on but many just wanted to return to their families. Many had joined up at a young age and were not established in a trade or calling. Many had lost their homes during the war. A lot were comfortable with uniform discipline and would like to carry that over into civilian life. The Police and Fire Brigades, at this time, offered single men and women's quarters as well as housing.

The Police had plenty of disciplined volunteers but someone in possibly the Home Office of the day realized that this constant stream of ex-servicemen wanting to join the Police would dry up. So an idea to start a Police Cadet scheme for volunteers between the ages of 16 and 19 was commenced in 1948. These cadets would not have powers of arrest but would be uniformed and able to assist their older colleagues taking statements and directing traffic. They would also observe their senior colleagues but assisting with giving crime prevention advice and generally learning the craft of a Constable. They were effectively office clerks.

I had left school in 1962 with two GCE 'O' Levels and had enjoyed my year out with my best mate, Ollie, who was a Police Cadet in Warwick where I was living at that time. I wanted to become a Policeman and wanted to work near to London and not in it. I stuck a pin in a map and found Surrey, a county I had not previously been aware of. I sent an application in and having travelled to Guildford and

undergoing a fairly short interview at Mount Browne, the Surrey Constabulary Headquarters, I received a confirmatory letter of acceptance.



Surrey Police cadets open day Mount Browne
Summer 1964

I was stationed at Weybridge Police Station which, I was told, was a divisional station. I arrived carrying suitcase on a hot summer's day. The Station was red brick possibly built in the thirties. There was a front door with a police sign above with an entry in the low brick wall surrounding it. It was a two storey building with an entrance to the tarmacked yard to the left. Directly behind the station, in the grounds was the section house. Also, on the left of the building was one of the oldest hand worked petrol pumps I had ever seen. I went in through the front entrance and on the right was a door leading to Divisional Office and on the right was a sliding glass window into the Station Office run by a Police Constable (PC). I identified myself and the officer picked up the phone and I could hear a ring in the depths of the building. The door on my left opened and I was introduced to Sergeant Les Rice (PS) who was to be my supervisor. After introductions he took me out of the back of the station and over to the section house entering directly into the kitchen. Here I was introduced to the Section House cook, Mrs. Griffiths, known as Mrs. G. I later found out that she was the mother of Inspector Maurice Jackman (Known Force wide as 'Jacko') who was stationed at Egham, who made frequent visits to the Section House kitchen. I soon learned to make myself scarce when he paid a visit. His hair was cut very close to his scalp and he would yell at any cadet or young PC he saw, to get his hair cut. learned quickly not to be around when he did visit. One of his favourite tricks was to pull the back of the hair and tell you that he was standing on it and to get it CUT!!After the introduction I was given the key to my room on the second floor. It was a small room sparsely furnished with a bed, wardrobe, table and chair. PS Rice told me to unpack and then return to the Station where he would tell me my duties. Having unpacked, I locked up and returned to the Station Office where I was told to see PS Rice in Divisional Office. There I met the man in charge of the Office, Inspector Bob Kimm. I later found out that he had been a pilot during the war but although PS Rice had a number of medal ribbons displayed on his tunic I never found out what

service he was serving in during the war. I had found that those that had fought in the war rarely wanted to speak of their experiences. I was given a tour of the building. The other side of Divisional Office was the Prosecutions office run by Sergeant 'Dusty' Miller. Shelves were on all walls and the place was stacked with brown files and folders. Then it was back through the Station office and up the stairs to CID. I was introduced to Detective Inspector Owen 'Charley Harry' Breach and the CID cadet, Brian Carroll who was waiting to go to Training school having reached the age of 19.

I started my first day's duty, the following morning, at nine o'clock. I had not got a uniform so felt very self-conscious. I believe that the first PC I worked with was PC Chris Stemp. I was sat before this very old switchboard with my back to the sliding glass visitor's area. Chris sat at a desk to my left facing the window. Behind me on the wall was a loud speaker that was tuned to the Force Radio. There were two channels. The main one that gave all details and more importantly on a ring of a bell gave the wireless messages (WMs) out to all fixed stations. The other channel was for running breaking operations. I was soon to discover that if you were listening to the second channel you would miss the WMs which sometimes could become rapid. There were two large books sat on my desk. One was named the division book and the other was the section book. All WMs were entered into the Divisional book with a red heading i.e. WM 1, WM 2 then the subject was written in verbatim from the message. If a WM was missing due to the wireless being tuned into the other channel, then phone calls to the section stations, Chertsey, Egham or Walton on Thames were made to the cadets or station officer to get the book up to date. The other piece of equipment on the wall was a phone receiver that was the responsibility of the officers trained on civil defense. At this period the Country seemed convinced that it was going to be attacked by the Russians. Every now and again the PC would be on this phone listening ready to set off the air raid warning siren situated on the Post Office roof in town. When this duty was not being carried out the phone was tuned into TIM, the post office GMT broadcast. So we could always set our watches to the right time.

I never met the Chief Superintendent 'Dutchy' Holland, the senior officer in charge of Weybridge Police Station.. He would march through the Station Office each morning with a mumble if we were lucky. We would stand as he passed through on the way to his office at the end of the ground floor. I never saw him when I started nor three years later when I finished.

I was soon writing messages into the two books leaving the PC to write in arrests which appeared in both books in red. The switchboard took a great deal of my time. It was one of those liver brown coloured plastic looking boxes with a number of circles. When a call was made the red numbered flap would drop down To answer this a plug was inserted into the relevant hole and one of the two switches. In two lines in front was pushed forward so you could speak to the caller. The other cable would then be plugged into the corresponding hole either to another office or to an outside line. When the red numbered disc fell down on a call it would make a loud metallic click. If the person calling was in a hurry, they would keep depressing their phone cradle which would make the disc on the switchboard bouncing up and down with an annoying noise. When there was an incident running most of the lines would be full with more calling. I recall that at one stage I was getting very frustrated as I was getting calls, I could not put through anywhere and was expected to take messages even though I had to answer incoming calls. My friend, a young PC with collar number 888, Terry Bleasdale said that he would help out and put his arm

along all the plugs and pulled them all out with the result that all the numbered discs were crashing up and down. He took over my seat and starting with the Chief Superintendent he plugged in the cord and apologized as it appeared that he had been cut off and who could he reconnect the call with!!! On lates if it was quiet, we would dial an outside number at random in the north of England or Scotland and then dial a number in the south of England and Wales and put the two calls through to each other. It gave us amusement and helped a quiet evening go quicker!

The great day arrived about two weeks after I had joined to go to Guildford Police Station to pick up a uniform. The stores were situated in a shed in the front of the Police Station with a PC Alexander in charge. A dour Scotsman who had probably been trained in the Armed Services. Anything too big I would grow into. I was issued with a navy-blue battledress blouse with the silver number 8 in each shoulder. The jacket had two holes in the back which were buttoned onto corresponding buttons on the trousers. The top of these trousers came to the chest but once buttoned would hang fairly comfortably. Light blue uniform shirts were issued, three from memory with six detachable collars. I was told where I could buy the front and rear collar studs, which were all new to me. When I first put the uniform on it nearly choked me as the collar stud pushed into the Adam's apple! I learned later at police training school that the local girls always knew a policeman in civies by the red circle at the front of his throat! I was now working in uniform in the Station Office.

I met other cadets who were working at the station. Cadet Brian Monk who was about my age but had been a cadet longer. Cadet Denis Fisher who mainly worked at Walton. He lived in Weybridge and would cycle to Walton. Cadet Max Maxwell who I believe worked at Chertsey and Cadet Roy Grimmett who worked at Egham. Surrey Constabulary was very much a force of two halves, The west, and the east. I got to know quite a few cadets and PCs on the western half, but the eastern half was an unknown factor.

Weybridge Police Station was a busy station and there always seemed to be a member of the Public at the sliding glass partition reporting lost property of a crime. For the crimes we would call CID and one of the DCs would come down to gauge the seriousness of the crime. Quite often it was DC Colin Brown. He would talk to the visitor and either take them upstairs to CID or ask the Station Officer to find a PC to help the claimant. The Police were responsible for housing lost dogs prior to their owners coming to collect their dogs. One of the local residents was the TV and Film actor Ian Hendry who had two dogs and one or the other was always escaping his custody. So he would come in to collect his dog. A very friendly person who always seemed to have come from a Pub on his way. I learned later that he had a drink problem which hastened his death at the age of 57. There were a number of well-known personalities who lived at Oatlands Village or St Georges Hills Estate. Two of the Beatles bought houses there, but I never saw them. The younger PCs with cars would drive us around the Estate and show us the houses of interest.

One of my jobs was to supervise the issue of petrol to police personnel and to keep the sheet up to date with everything properly signed. Traffic cars would call as well as divisional cars. I recall the first day I met the divisional motor cyclist. He was a very noisy PC who always wore a buttoned up three-quarter length Gannex Police coat, large black leather gauntlets and a black pith helmet. When the helmet came

off, he was completely bald but you soon found out what the gauntlets were for if you gave him any cheek!! That was my first meeting with PC Mick 'Sniff' Richardson. So called because of the broken nose. I would be with him to supervise the petrol into his bike and always enjoyed a chat with him as he had very gallows humour!

There were two days away from the station each month. One to Mount Browne for the day in uniform and one to Guildford Technical College in civvies to continue GCE studies. The day at Mount Browne enabled us to meet the cadets from the Eastern side of the County, the likes of Ray Hussey, Ted Lawry, Joe Nuttall, Ray Elvy and many others whose names I now fail to remember.

Cadet uniform 1964 - Hasted, Morley, Oakley, Lewis, Wiltshire

We were drilled by PC Peter Wickens and spoken to by the cadet training Sergeant Chris Atkins. I remember on one occasion we were taken down to the sports field at Mount Browne where we sat on the grass bank and watched the dogmen putting their dogs through their training. One of the disciplines for the dogs was chasing down an escaping fugitive. The 'fugitive' was a dog PC who put on a large protective glove on his left arm covering his arm and hand. He would start running and when he was a good distance across the training field the dog would be told to apprehend him. The dog shot off and in no time was approaching the fugitive who half turned and lowered his protected arm to the dog who immediately clamped its teeth on it. The fugitive would shake the hand and try to pull away to no avail. The dog sergeant the turned to the cadets and asked them to send one of their number down to see what it was like to be halted by a Police dog. As is always the way in several people there is always going to be one who is not as popular with his peers. This slight spotty faced cadet was enthusiastically pushed down the slope and had the protective sleeve put on his left arm. He then received instructions and started to run across the field goaded on my loud cheers from his fellow cadets. The dog was sent after him and as the dog approached him, he put his protected arm towards the dog that ignored it and latched onto his leg. Howls of pain from cadet, cross shouting from the dogmen and uncontrolled laughter from the

cadets. We all received a stern talking to by the dog sergeant whilst our colleague was taken to receive medical treatment.

New PCs were arriving back from training school and being single men were joining the section house. PCs Des Flanders, 'Rosy Hall, Pete Ritchie, Keith Portlock, Tony Grey, Gary Askew and many others most of whom went on to become senior officers in Surrey as well as other Forces. They would all work on the division whilst on probation, attending an intermediate course at training school about halfway through their training. Only one PC, I will call him R, failed his probation and had to leave, whilst I was at Weybridge. PCs had a truncheon pocket sewn into the right side of their trouser pocket. The leather strap on the end of the truncheon could be tucked into the pocket. If a PC or PS ever had to draw their truncheon or 'stick' as it was commonly known, a report in triplicate had to be submitted. R came in one evening. On meal break, really happy as he had had cause to use his truncheon. An elderly lady had complained to him that one of the flashing lights on the orange globe, atop of the Belisha beacon in the high street was not working and should be reported. R had, apparently, drawn his stick and assaulted the pole a few times until the light started to flash again. I did not hear the result of his report, but I do know that he was summoned to the chief superintendent's office later that week.

As cadets we were entered for the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme taking part in both the gold and silver medallions. For both of the awards there was a cross country trek using compass bearings and sleeping in tents overnight. This really made a pleasant break from the routine in the station office answering the phone. The silver route was through the New Forest in Hampshire. The weather was really good with our time there and we were able to find our way between the two points we were given using the correct compass bearings. I believe that it was a three-day trek. The gold trek took place in Snowdonia, Wales. This was five days I believe, and we were taken down there by PS Kenefick, who had joined the training department. He was always within distance of us in his minibus. The rain was torrential and did not give up and I was never dry. The mud was wet and very sticky and managed to cover most of us. It was good to end the trek as once again we found our way round the course.


Gold Expedition

14 May 1965 was a day to remember. The American President, John Kennedy had been assassinated and the politicians decided to put up a memorial to him situated at Runnymede near where the Magna Carta had been signed by King John in 1215. American and British persons were invited to attend. They would park their cars at the bottom of the hill and then walk up to the memorial for the dedication. I must admit that the hill was quite steep. The Surrey Police cadets were picked to escort the dignitaries from the car park to the memorial. It was a hot day and we were in full uniform. We stood in line waiting for the dignitaries to arrive and be passed the person that we were to escort. From memory the first to arrive was the leader of the Opposition, Alec Douglas-Hume who arrived in a chauffeur driven Rolls Royce. He walked towards the hill and one of the cadets peeled off to escort him. The next to arrive was the Prime Minister Harold Wilson also in a chauffeur driven Rolls Royce. Then Joe Grimond, the leader of the Liberal party arrived driving a small saloon which he parked at the furthest end of the car park and then started to walk up the hill with his cadet. This continued and the queue of cadets in front of me shrank. I was really hot and did not fancy a quick walk up the hill as I had witnessed the other dignitaries racing up with their cadets. Then I was at the front of the queue looking eagerly to see who my dignitary would be. It was Archbishop Michael Ramsey who was a large gentleman who I believe walked with a stick. I was congratulating myself for being fortunate enough to have a slow walker to escort. I was introduced and we set off at a blistering pace. I was left struggling behind him, whilst he cheerfully waved to people on either side of us moving at an incredible pace. I could not believe it! We got to the top with me red faced and puffing with a wet collar! It was bliss, later, to get back to the Section House and have a shower.

As a rule, we were not allowed out of the police station in uniform but the only time that we were allowed to walk into town was in the evening to take the station's pre-paid post to the post office. One evening I was walking down to the post office and had to pass a large rambling antique shop. It was in the winter months and it was quite dark. As I passed the building, I noticed lights moving within it. I hurried back to the Police Station and told the Station Officer what I had seen. PC 'Dinger' Bell was in the office and said he would accompany me back to the building. When we got there the lights were still moving within

the building so Dinger told me to watch for anyone trying to leave and he went round the back of the building. I heard some shouting and a few minutes later Dinger came back with two juveniles holding lighted candles. They were about 15 years and had got into the shop by forcing a door at the back as they wanted to see what was there. We walked them back to the police station where their parents were called. And I belatedly walked the post down to the post office. The following day I was congratulated by PS Rice and Inspector Kimm on my observation.

1965 also brought a change to my work. I was getting tired of always being on the switchboard day in and day out. I was also involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's award schemes, both silver and gold, and I had put my hobby down as television appreciation as that was all I did after work was sit in the Section House watching TV. The TV programme being watched at the time was always voted for with the most people watching the popular programme which did not always match the programmes I wanted to watch so my TV appreciation was not advanced. The cadets were asked for two volunteers to work for six months at the Ryder-Cheshire homes at Hydestyle, Godalming. I thought this sounded like a good break from the switchboard, so I volunteered. My good friend and fellow cadet, Ray Hussey also volunteered as part of his Duke of Edinburgh's silver and gold award. The homes were long cabins split into one-bedroom homes inhabited by patients suffering Multiple Sclerosis, a really nasty debilitating disease that hit both male and female patients in middle to late years. The staff were very friendly as were the patients. Our job was mainly to clean the patients and their rooms and give them some companionship. I can only recall one couple that were there at the time. She was not affected but her husband could not walk and the disease was getting worse. He had been a professional cyclist in his youth and was surrounded by old black and white photos of cycling events and him being presented with prizes. It was so sad. Luckily, Ray had a car so we could get out in the evenings. It was lucky as I don't believe that there was a bus service in those days in that area. By the end of six months, we were both looking forward to returning to the police fold. We were summoned by the Matron near the end of our time to be told that she was so pleased with our work that she had applied for us to stay for a further six months. Thankfully this did not occur and we returned to our stations.

I was keen to try to get involved in police work and PC Keith Portlock took me under his wing. On a 2pm to 10pm shift he would walk out with me to a nearby main road where he positioned me down the road from him. I had my torch and if I saw anything that I thought was worth a stop I would flash my lights to him. I don't recall any arrests coming from these stops but from memory Keith issued a number of traffic processes.

By now there were two further cadets at Weybridge. Terry Ashcroft and Ian Pedrick had joined whilst Brian Carroll had left and was a serving PC at Guildford I believe. Brian Monk had spoken to Charley Harry about leaving to go to training school and he had a few views. So, Ian, Brian and I spoke to him and he gave us his view that we would make better, more understanding police officers if we left the police and got a job 'out there' for a couple of years. We all applied to join the Merchant Navy to see a bit of the world. Ian got a job with P&O whilst Brian and I got a job with Shaw Savill on the Australia/New Zealand immigrant run taking the £10 one-way trippers out and bringing the disgruntled home. We left the cadet service on reaching the age of nineteen and went to sea.

Policing The Hundred

Policing Before The Police

Robert Bartlett

The pamphlet “Observations on the Office of Constable: with cautions for the more safe execution of that duty” written by Saunders Welch (an extract from which is set out below) establishes the role of the constable in the towns and villages of England before the coming of professional police. The advice and guidance he offers to those who take on the responsibility in the 1700s, as a volunteer or when selected by his community, is so prescient the modern police officer could with confidence, adopt much of the guidance when undertaking their duties. I have set out a summary of the “Observations” then placed the work in an historical context of the evolution of local or so-called neighbourhood policing.

Justice Welch, a 1794 etching by Samuel Ireland after a painting by William Hogarth (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 17.3.756-2320)

In 1754 Welch published “An essay on the office of constable. With rules and cautions for the more safe and effectual discharge of that duty,” republished four years later in an expanded edition with a new "Introduction containing some Conjectures for fixing the Original of that Office in England; and certain Historical Anecdotes concerning the Rise and Progress of the Society of Thief-Takers, and the evil Consequences naturally resulting from an Institution of that Kind". In 1758 he also published A proposal to render effectual a plan, to remove the nuisance of common prostitutes from the streets of this metropolis.

He was born in Aylesbury and educated in the town's workhouse. An early biography of the sculptor Joseph Nollekens (husband to Welch's daughter Mary) stated that Welch was apprenticed to a trunk-maker in St Paul's Churchyard in the City of London, though another 1820s memoir refers to his receiving an inheritance and being "in person, mind and manners, most perfectly a gentleman". By 1734 he was living on Broad St Giles in the parish of St George's Bloomsbury and running a grocery, probably from his home, moving into a bigger residence on the corner of Bow Street (now known as Museum Street) around 1739. He began moving in artistic circles and is said to have modelled for the foot and leg of Roubiliac's statue of Handel. and subscribing to several religious, artistic and literary works from 1740 onwards.

He also became active in local politics, becoming a churchwarden (1743) and vestryman (1745) for the parish as well as high constable of Holborn (1746–1755) and member of the Middlesex commission of the peace (1755–1756). In these roles he frequently collaborated with the Fielding brothers Henry and John, with whom he shared an office at Bow Street Court. In 1749 he not only established the Universal Register Office (effectively an employment agency) with them but also led the first group of organized thief-catchers under the brothers' new policing system (later known as the Bow Street Runners) and assisted the brothers in suppressing a riot in which a mob gutted three brothels. Welch selected his men from former constables, discharged at the end of their year in office, who were prepared to receive legal training and carry on the work.

After Henry's death Welch fell out with John, leaving the Bow Street office and from the 1760s onwards joining the rota of magistrates at a new "rotation office" on Litchfield Street. Struggles to make that office self-funding eroded his previously robust health, with the office stagnating by 1775. Welch spent two or more years in Italy for his health, finally dying at Taunton Deane in Somerset in 1784, though his body was brought back to the St George's Churchyard in Bloomsbury.

Policing is always in a state of flux; has undergone numerous revolutions. At its heart however, policing on the ground, the interface of the constable and miscreant remains recognisable over the many generations since Saunders Welch attempted to bring some sense of order to the great British public.

Extract from “Observations on the Office of Constable: with cautions for the more safe execution of that duty:

Drawn from experience.”
1754

Saunders Welch, High Constable of Holborn Division in the County of Middlesex

London – Printed for A Millar in the Strand
MDCCL1V (1754)
Price One Shilling

And as in the course of my duty I have observed many inconvenience; nay, frequently distresses arise to them in the execution of their office from want of proper knowledge, not only of their power, but of the manner how to exert it; I have used my best endeavours to collect in the most material instances of the office, what may be useful for a body of men, injoined by the constitution of their country to perform a very troublesome, sometimes fatiguing and often dangerous office; and to secure them, if possible, from those enemies to their power, I mean low solicitors, who are forever watching their conduct, and ever prying upon either their ignorance or rashness.

For my own part I have executed the office of High Constable for near eight years; but with what degree of service to the community, or credit to myself, I have discharged that duty, I leave them to judge.

Directions to the High Constable at the time of his appointment.

Page 1
You have been duly elected and this day have been sworn into the office of high constable of the hundred in which you are appointed to act; and it is proper you should be made acquainted with the nature and extent of your office; that you may neither think too lightly of it on the one hand and so be negligent where much activity and vigilance are required; nor may on the other hand think too highly of your authority and thereby be induced to exercise it beyond due bounds and in an improper manner.

Page 2
In the first place you have the direction of the petty constables, headboroughs and tythingmen within your hundred or district. You are appointed together with the petty constables to preserve the King's peace within your precinct; to apprehend felons, rioters etc., to make hue and cry after felons; to take care that the watch be duly kept in your hundred; and that the statutes for punishing rogues and vagrants be put in execution.

Page 3
It is your duty to prevent unlawful gaming, tipling and drunkenness, bloodshed, affrays etc. You are to execute precepts and warrants directed to you by Justices of the Peace; you are to issue precepts to the petty constables for the appointment of jurors and for many other purposes as necessity shall require; you are to make returns to the Sessions of the Peace of all the articles which concern your office and also cause the petty constables to make their returns as often as they are required and to carry the same to the assizes or quarter sessions without fee or reward.

It is likewise your duty to receive the duplicates of assessments of the land tax from the assessors and to deliver the same at the Quarter Sessions on oath.

You are to return all victuallers and ale house keepers who sell liquors without being licensed and are to admonish persons that entertain inmates who are likely to be a charge to the parish.

You are to present the faults of petty constables, headboroughs etc who neglect to apprehend rogues, vagrants and idle disorderly persons and to execute warrants against mothers of bastard children likely to be chargeable to the parish and in general, against persons of a dangerous description suspected of felony and other enormous offences.

Page 4

You are likewise to present all defects of highways and bridges and the names of those who ought to repair them; the surveying of bridges being often though not necessarily an appendage to your office. You are to present scavengers, who neglect their duty, all common nuisances in streets and highways, bakers who sell bread underweight or adulterated by improper mixtures; brewers who sell beer to unlicensed alehouses forestallers,[1] regrators,[2] ingrossers[3] etc.

At every Quarter Sessions and sooner if required, you are to pay into the hands of the treasurer of the county-stock such sums of money that have been levied and received by you, whether under the authority of a general county rate or otherwise to be added to the public stock for repairing roads, bridges, gaols and houses of correction etc. Out of such money as may be in your hands you are to discharge the order of the Justices of the Peace within your hundred for the payment of the petty constable's reward for apprehending vagrants and other reasonable charges, and for conveying such vagrants towards the place of their legal settlement; and every sum paid by you will be allowed in your account by the treasurer of the count. -----

Page 1

The public is greatly concerned in the faithful and active discharge of the office of constable and headborough; for notwithstanding the contempts with which inconsiderate men may treat the office, and the acts of severity from others, who rather ought to afford protection to the officer, than take the advantage of the law upon the least slip in the discharge of a duty so difficult, and which the law forces them to undertake; I would ask what must become of the civil policy of this country, if men called upon to execute this office are brought to be either ashamed, or afraid, to do their duty? The legislature may enact laws, magistrates may issue their processes but the execution, the effect of all this, depends wholly on the integrity and activity of the officers under them. And I wish it were better considered that every intimidation of the constables in their duty necessarily weakens the power of the magistrates --- and

[1] Those who buy or bargain for any corn, cattle or other merchandise by the way, as they come to fair or markets to be sold before they are brought thither, to sell same again at a higher greater price'
[2] Those who buy and sell any wares or victuals in the same market or fair.
[3] Those who get into their hands large quantities of such food as is necessary for man's subsistence to sell the same at an exorbitant rate.

must soon produce the intolerable anarchy, which alone can drive the honest part of mankind to fly to a military force.

To The Constables Page 2

The just discharge of the office you are to execute does indeed require a greater share of knowledge in the common and statute law, than men in your station can be supposed to be endued with; nor have I the least pretence to critical knowledge of this sort; my present intention is only to point out to you some general hints and cautions for your observation, whereby I hope the public may be benefited and yourselves better enabled to go through your office with credit and safety.

Whatever power is annexed to your office regard always the intention of it. It is a glorious opportunity of doing all possible good, to secure and protect the innocent from the hands of violence; to preserve the public peace to the utmost of your power and bring the disturbers of it to condign punishment. This is briefly your duty. Let then the service of the public be the great motive of all those actions which regard your office; this properly attended to will keep you from all officious, wanton acts of power, this will prevent your bringing into your office your own little resentments. This indeed will prevent all false imprisonments against law and conscience and render you the object of general esteem for, while you act in such manner and from such motives your prisoners themselves must respect you, nor will it be the power of malice itself to rob you of the just applause of the public, the reward of the faithful execution of a public trust.

The first thing I shall recommend to you is a perfect union amongst yourselves a cheerful assistance to one another. This will render you formidable to those to those to whom you should always be objects of terror, and valuable safeguard to those whom it is your duty to protect. Were the civil officers properly united and connected, properly corresponding with each other, and times and places of meetings fixed, not for drinking and sotting, but for consulting the peace and good order of this town, I am convinced that so far will it be for any gang of villains to exist for a week, that the danger immediate upon doing acts of violence would be so great to the actors of them that peace and safety would be soon restored to our streets. xxx

Page 4

I earnestly recommend to you temper and sobriety in the execution of your office. Coolly and well consider the nature of every service you are called upon; what you ought to do in it, and the best method and manner of executing your duty with effect. It ill becomes an officer called upon and making use of the king’s name to quell the unruly passion of others, instantly to fall int the same error himself; and a constable deserves to be and truly is, the object of contempt and ridicule who being in liquor will venture then to execute his office.
Indeed these are fatal errors and have afforded numberless opportunities to the unworthy members of the law to stir up expensive and vexatious fights against the civil officers.

Page 5

Be not easily provoked by the ill manners and scurrilous reflexions of those about you. Behaviour of this sort will unavoidably lead you into absurdities and the neglect of duty you are called upon to execute. I have seen officers totally forget the service of their warrants on being called by some silly fellow, fool and puppy, and justify by their conduct the reflexion by neglecting the real prisoner and apprehending the offender against themselves under the mistaken notion of being insulted or obstructed in the execution of their office when as words of this sort cannot justify them and have rendered themselves liable to an action of false imprisonment and an indictment for the neglect of duty in suffering their prisoner to escape.

Having mentioned some general cautions to be clear in what I shall offer to you, I shall speak of the two distinct parts of your office:

What you may and ought to do as conservators of the peace upon your view.

And, what concerns you as officers and ministers of the sessions, sheriff, coroner, justices of the peace and your high constable.

Page 6

In a word what you may do with a warrant and what without one. As conservators of the peace.

You have powers within your respective parishes and divisions to quell all affrays, riots, routs and actual assaults, by commanding the parties, in the king's name to keep the peace, and quietly depart about their respective businesses; and to apprehend all persons who shall in your view break the peace, by assaulting, striking, or by fighting, though by consent, if either party appear wounded and carry such persons directly before some justice of the peace; or if it be night imprison them until the next morning. And all persons in view of an affray, riot, rout or assault being required by you in the king's name to aid and assist, if they neglect or refuse to do so, they are indictable, and the courts of justice have power to fine and imprison them for their contempt. And, as the necessary power calling in aid is lodged in you, and the execution of it has of late years been treated with contempt by the commonalty; and as your safety is greatly concerned in a ready assistance, you will do well to fix your charge of aid upon some known person; and upon his or their refusal if the party be apprehended escape, or you are struck or even resisted in pursuance of your duty, indict them for contempt and I dare promise you the sessions will support your authority.

Page 9

It is said by great authorities in the law that the suppression of affrays and riots, the constable first commanding the peace in the king's name upon resistance may justify beating and putting the parties in the stocks; and if the constable in beating should kill it is in him justifiable, but murder in all the rioters if he be killed. ------ I advise never to strike except be absolutely in your own defence; but striking at

all if possible, should be avoided for the sword of justice not the arm of the constable was intended for punishment.

Page 10

Carry this maxim with you in every branch of your duty. “Do not do all you may do, but always so what you ought to do.”

Page 16
Keep your watch-house clear of people who have no real business there. Dirty solicitors have too often mixed with complainants before the constable; and if he trips in the merits of the matter, as by this means the parties by him injured may be known to such retailers of the law, they will not fail to spirit up an action against him, if possible.

The apprehending and brining to justice felons is of so great consequence to the public, that the common law requires that service from private person; how much more then is it then your duty who selected by the constitution of your country and bound by a solemn oath to exert yourself in this important service of preserving the lives and properties of your fellow subjects? The law in this respect has armed you with all necessary power to do this duty with safety to yourselves; you have power to raise hue and cry with horse and foot, to search all suspected places and break open doors in the pursuit of felons and to extend this pursuit to every parish round you by giving notice to their respective constables. The statute provides that any constable of headborough within the hundred wherein any robbery shall happen shall refuse or neglect to make hue and cry after felons with the utmost expedition, as soon as he shall receive notice thereof, he shall for every refusal or neglect forfeit the sum of five pounds.

Page 17
Thus, the wisdom of the law provides what the ignorance and inactivity of subordinate officers renders ineffectual. A provision so immediate and so dreadful to rogues as there being once well described would render their escape next to impossible, Secrecy in committing and easy means of escape are the great incentives to robberies; and one may venture to assert that if this statute was executed with a vigilance equal to the wisdom of its construction, highway-robberies and the depredation of footpads and burglaries in the county especially would cease. For detection would follow the heels of villainy so closely that to rob and be taken would almost be the same thing; perhaps most of the felonies in this kingdom are owing to the non-execution of this excellent law.

Page 21
The preservation of good order in the public streets is an important part of your duty; in which I shall recommend the following things to your especial notice.

First The public pavement (Note – basically filling potholes “before their doors”.

Another annoyance is carmen riding upon their carts and brickmakers in their waggons going full trot on the streets --- The third nuisance is the nest of inferior gamblers the drivers of orange barrows about

the streets ------ Profane swearing and cursing is a fourth nuisance and a scandal it is to a Christian country.----- The penalty upon offenders for every oath of a gentleman five shillings, if under the degree of gentleman two shillings and for every labourer and servant one shilling or to suffer ten days imprisonment – hard labour, and to a constable who hearing any person swear refuses or neglects to apprehend him.

Another almost intolerable nuisance are the swarms of beggars under various disguises of wretchedness artfully put on to excite compassion in weak minds--- Only be careful when you apprehend them that they have begged in your own view or that you have evidence to prove them beggars.

Note: There is much more to this pamphlet which is available as a reprint via the web.

The evolution of policing

Many centuries ago in England, the office of constable's principal role was to command the army. After the Norman conquest, and towards the end of the 12th century, a constable acquired a function and role of local significance held once with such confidence and certainty. For those charged with the reintroduction of local or neighbourhood policing an understanding of the origins of policing in England is fundamental. Old style village and local bobbies will never return; life has become far too complex. There are, however, lessons for the police, including consistency of approach, known police remaining in one place for some time with stable, reliable, unchanging leadership not just of the police but when exercising their vital role of community participation and public guidance. Critically, policing was established as a parochial function undertaken by local people. Policing of the people by the people.

Police need to rediscover being a part of the day-to-day life of the communities they serve, to be seen as a part of that community, to move away from contact between police and the public only at times of conflict, strain and anxiety. There is an obligation for policing to fulfil the basic requirements of, and the perceived needs of, the people they serve. Listen to concerns and act. This has long been the mantra but reality creeps in and the public has to accept what they are given as policing is driven by reduced budgets, staffing and a pressure to concentrate on the latest "he who shouts the loudest" concern. (Policing by decibel!)

Policing was never a gentle environment in which to operate but there is no doubt that modern demands on police time and patience is extraordinary. Supply is never likely to meet demand. Somehow this cycle has to be broken and that will not happen until law makers and community leaders grasp they cannot continue to use the police to respond to every new fad and fashion. The lost policing skills associated with working an area and becoming known and to know must be rediscovered. Without a total transformation, huge upheaval, with dramatic innovation with some level of revolution, the extent of change required will not be achieved. Such dramatic change may happen but not without firstly shutting down streams of vested interest. The old question returns and is unlikely to go away. What are the police for? Once that was not in doubt, now it is a foremost and complex question.

So how did local policing evolve to the days of Welch?

In June 1258 for the Oxford Parliament senior members of the nobility gathered with Henry 111,[4] initiating a revolution which reduced the powers of the monarch whilst increasing those of the barons who took control of the king and state. One local reform planned at Oxford was to the office of sheriff, a cause of disquiet for the population across all counties.[5] The sheriff was the king's chief local agent, a major county knight of the shire, appointed to run a county or group of counties. Answerable to the exchequer at Westminster, he collected the debts owed to the king by individuals. The sheriff answered every year for money known as "the farms", a sum derived largely from the proceeds of pleas within the county and hundred's courts and from various traditional payments. The sheriff also arrested criminals, summoned juries and enforced judicial verdicts. He employed a large staff of clerks and sergeants[6] and often controlled the county castle.[7] Sheriffs took an oath to behave justly towards the people in their charge.[8] The king expected the sheriff above all to look after the interests of the crown, especially when it came to raising money. The sheriff received an allowance for expenses and held office for just a year which was seen as a bar against corruption. [9]

The Statute of Westminster 1285 following on from the Oxford Parliament, enshrined the notion of two high constables appointed in every hundred with responsibility for suppressing riots and violent crimes. The sheriff was responsible for arming the militia to enable them to supress disorder and violent crime. The Statute was the only public measure of any consequence enacted to regulate the policing of the country between the Norman Conquest and the Metropolitan Police Act 1829.
By the end of the 13th century the role of constable acquired two distinct characteristics; the executive arm of the parish and an officer recognised by the Crown for keeping the peace. This system reached its height under the Tudors and progressively degenerated during the 17th and 18th centuries with nothing replacing it until the Georgian/Victorian era. As more laws were passed to protect people and property, the office of constable became more established. In the early 18th century, the Bow Street Runners under the chief magistrates Henry and John Fielding, operated a rudimentary and localised police force centred on London.

An hundred was from time immemorial the division of a shire or county for administrative, military and judicial purposes under the common law. When introduced by the Anglo-Saxons between 613 and 1017, a hundred had enough land to sustain approximately one hundred households headed by a hundred-man or hundred eolder. (The population of England in later Anglo-Saxon period grew from about a million to 2/3 million.) A Tything was a sub-division of an hundred within the county (the larger hundreds were divided into units, frequently termed divisions). The hundred was headed by a hundred-man, who exercised a number of functions that included the administration of justice and organising the supply of troops. Local notables held the office. The hundred-man was responsible to the shire-reeve (or sheriff) who was in charge of the county with authority enforced through the sheriff's courts.

[4] First English Parliament, assembled during the reign of Henry III. Best known for the Provisions of Oxford, a set of constitutional reforms that forced the king to govern according to the advice of a council of barons.
[5] Henry 111, 1258-1272, David Carpenter, Yale 2023, page 9
[6] Modern day sergeant at Arms in Parliament not so much police sergeant whose rank is likely to be of military origin.
[7] Henry 111, 1258-1272, David Carpenter, Yale 2023, page 9
[8] Henry 111, 1258-1272, David Carpenter, Yale 2023, page 19
[9] In 2023 the sheriff is still appointed annually by the king.

As the centuries passed the way law and order was maintained varied as was the role of the diverse functionaries linked to policing in its broadest sense. In each hundred there was a constable, possibly two in the busier areas, probably a member of the lesser gentry working with justices of the peace and the county sheriff. Each parish within the hundred appointed annually a parish or petty constable. These men were not normally volunteers but appointed by the vestry on "buggins turn" basis, and for the year were given sensitive authority over their extended families, neighbours and possibly customers and friends. However, some men liked the work, or had few options, and had the confidence to undertake the role for several years. They were volunteers and may have received a payment as a substitute from the man who should have taken his turn as constable. It was also possible to make a living from the collection of fees and receipt of rewards. Though constables were responsible to the magistrate of the relevant parish for their activities the hundredman retained an overarching accountability for the activities of the constables across the hundred.

The "hundredman" held an historical position within the administrative and legal system of England known as the "hundred" an administrative division that lasted until the 19th century. It was a geographical area that encompassed several villages and was overseen by a local court known as the "hundred court." The role of the hundredman varied over time and depended on the specific period and region. Generally, the hundredman was responsible for maintaining law and order within the hundred. They acted as local law enforcement officials serving as a representative of the hundred court. [10]
Some of the duties of the hundredman included:

Enforcing the law: The hundredman was responsible for upholding the law within the hundred.

They had the authority to arrest individuals suspected of committing crimes and bring them before the hundred court for trial.

Summoning the hundred court: The hundredman played a role in convening and organizing the hundred court. They would ensure that the court sessions took place regularly and that the necessary individuals, such as jurors and witnesses, were present.

Collecting fines and taxes: The hundredman often collected fines and taxes on behalf of the hundred court. These funds would be used to support local infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and maintain the administration of justice.

Military service: In some cases, the hundredman would also be responsible for organizing and leading the local militia or providing military support to the higher authorities.

It is important to note that the role of the hundredman varied across different regions and changed over time, so there may be slight differences in their responsibilities and authority depending on the specific historical context.[11]

[10] Petty Sessions began to appear at the beginning of the 18th century as extra meetings to lessen the burden on Justices of the Peace in Quarter Sessions. The normal practice was to subdivide a shire into geographical divisions, with each magistrate being assigned to a particular division.
[11] https://chat.openai.com/ AI June 2023

The boundaries of medieval Surrey hundreds are recognisable as modern local police operational areas.

The Hundred of Woking included the town of Woking and comprised of the parishes of Ash, East Clandon, West Clandon, East Horsley, West Horsley, Merrow, Ockham, Pirbright, Send and Ripley, Stoke Juxta Guildford, Wanborough, Windlesham, Wisley, Worplesdon. *12*

The Hundred of Copthorne comprised the manors of Ashtead, Burgh, Cuddington, Epsom, Ewell, Fetcham, Headley, Leatherhead, Mickleham, Pachevesham (within Leatherhead parish), Tadworth, Thorncroft and Walton-on-the-Hill. It had two enclaves, areas of other parishes dominated by manors and sometimes churches within it: in Weybridge and Newdigate.[13]

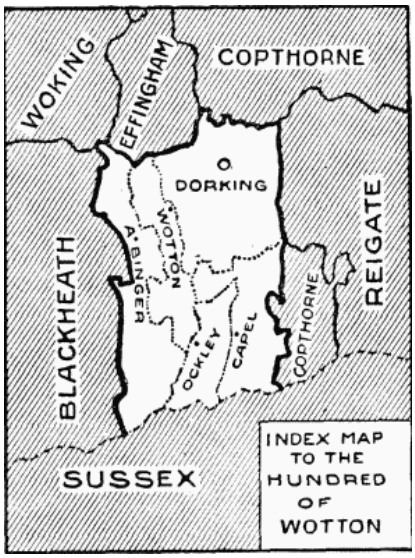
The Hundred of Tandridge containing the parishes of Bletchingly Caterham, Chelsham, Crowhurst, Farley, Godstone, Horne, Limpsfield, Lingfield, Oxted, Tandridge, Tatsfield, Titsey, Warlingham, Woldingham.

This hundred has remained practically unchanged in its extent since the Domesday Survey. In 1086 no mention is made of Crowhurst, Horne or Lingfield, but of these Crowhurst was probably included in the territory comprised by one of the large manors of Tandridge or Oxted; Horne was certainly part of Bletchingley. One manor, tentatively identified as that of Horley, now in Reigate Hundred, is mentioned under Tandridge Hundred in the Survey which may have been due to its position on the borders of the two hundreds. It is noticeable that about one-sixth of all the serfs in Surrey belong to Tandridge Hundred.[14]

The Tandridge Hundred must have been quite important in Anglo-Saxon times, before the Norman Conquest, in giving its name to one of the thirteen Hundred districts into which Surrey was divided. The same title has also been adopted by the present District Council which covers very largely the same administrative area. No records or material traces of this early period remain, however, and even the origin of the placename is not known.

The Domesday Book survey of 1086 showed the area much reduced in wealth in the period immediately after 1066 and most probably, together with other local villages, Tandridge was adversely affected by the passage of the Norman army through Surrey. Even before 1066 however, the neighbouring communities of Oxted and Godstone were already starting to become more important and Tandridge never re-assumed its former significance.[15]

[12] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woking_Hundred
[13] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copthorne_Hundred
[14] https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol4/pp251-252
[15] https://www.tandridgeparishcouncil.org.uk/Contents/ContentItems/4gtze9zw491rp2b9mrj5qd3cn1



The Hundred of Wotton

Wotton Hundred: In the eleventh century Wotton Hundred or Odeton, Wodetone, until sixteenth century was found by the Domesday Commissioners to include Dorking, Sutton in Shiere, part of Compton in Sussex, Burgham, Wyke, Worplesdon, Betchworth, Milton, Anstie Farm, Abinger, and Paddington. Of these, Sutton in Shiere was shortly afterwards attached by the Bishop of Bayeux to his manor of Bramley in Blackheath Hundred, while Compton, as the county borders became more settled, was presumably included in Sussex with the other lands of Roger de Montgomery, who held it at the time of the Survey. It has been suggested that Burgham, Wyke, and Worplesdon owed their inclusion in Wotton Hundred to a clerical error, and it was possibly due to the same cause that Ockley at the time of the Survey was placed in Woking. It seems probable that 'Becheworth' refers to East Betchworth, now in Reigate Hundred: Milton and Anstie Farm are both in Dorking parish.

The sheriff's courts were held in Dorking

Medieval Constable

The medieval constable had many responsibilities. There was little local administrative infrastructure beyond the justices and constable though there were minor responsibilities for functionaries such as ale-tasters. An example from Surrey during the mid to late 1600s for the villages of Betchworth and Brockham, was a constable a headborough for each parish, also a reeve[16], vice-reeve, beadle, vice beadle[17]. It is likely that some residents volunteered for the responsibilities through which they could charge fees and make or supplement a living. In Betchworth James Rose served 1800-1820, John Batchelar the constable 1821-1840 and William Saunders 1841-1853 by which time the Surrey Constabulary was in place.

[16] Generally, the Reeve was responsible for managing the affairs of the estate or parish on behalf of the lord or landowner.
[17] A beadle was often a subordinate officer in a parish working closely with the overseers of the poor, the local magistrates, and other officials. Some of their duties included collecting taxes or rates, maintaining public order, providing support for the workhouse or poor relief, supervising public events, and acting as an assistant to the local constable or police.

Over the centuries there have been two types of parish structures, firstly the ecclesiastical parish with the later development of the civil parish. The civil parish evolved as increasing number of statutes placed ever more administration on parish officials to control government interventions such as the Poor Law and the Laws of Settlement.[18]

By the 12th, 13th century the parish system as we know it had come into being. The ecclesiastical parish administration not surprisingly, is led by the parish priest – the incumbent and the parish meeting (or as it was known the vestry) made up of the principal householders of the parish. The vestry appointed the churchwardens, and the parish clerk and under him, the sexton, responsible for maintaining the churchyard and digging the parish graves. Meetings were usually once a month or could be fortnightly and were chaired by the vicar. Originally the parish meeting was open to all householders, but some vestries just co-opted householders and became known as a select vestry which dealt mainly with the Poor Law.

In conjunction with the ecclesiastical hierarchy, there evolved a civil structure, which grew as more procedures were created by statute law that had to be fulfilled by parish officers. At the top of the civil administration, is the Commission of the Peace for the county (met as a committee at quarter sessions) and the made up of justices of the peace, a role created in the 14th century. The parish constable, the surveyor of the highways and the overseers of the poor were usually nominated and confirmed by the parish meeting, but rather than being answerable to the parish meeting or vestry, they were answerable to the justices of the peace and the Commission of the Peace which would normally meet at Quarter Sessions.

Parish officers were chosen and elected usually at the Easter meeting with a property qualification required for those given responsibilities. Offices could be held by rotation, sometimes by what was called 'house row' where the actual appointment would go from house to house, literally every year down the row of houses. You would hold the office for a year and then it would pass to your neighbour and a year later it would pass to his neighbour, down the row of houses. Householders could be fined for refusing to hold office.

The parish clerk was appointed by the vicar and acted as his clerk and sometimes as clerk to the vestry. He assisted at the church services and led the responses and in some parishes, he would act acted as the sexton as well and dig the grave and maintain the churchyard. He might sometimes make entries in the parish registers, but he wasn't supposed to. Only the parish priest, witnessed by the churchwardens, supposedly made entries in the parish registers.

Constables kept residual duties of a manorial officer, so retained responsibility for collecting and looking after stray animals, overseeing the animal pound and looking after the parish bull if there was one, which would involve it being taken around the farms. They were responsible for keeping the lists of the militia

[18] https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/the-parish-administration-and-records/

up to date, so all the able-bodied men in the parish would be kept on a role and then these men would be mustered for choosing by lot to join the militia.

Over the generations a constable had a wide variety of responsibilities: [19]

The village stocks, pillory and lock-up.
Raise hue and cry.
Detaining and removal of vagabonds and intruders who had no right of settlement in the parish.
Securing prisoners and transporting them to quarter sessions or assizes.
Detaining escaped prisoners.
Dispersing unlawful assemblies and riots.
Collecting county rates (taxes) which paid for the house of correction, roads and bridges, lame soldiers, and the assizes.
Collection of national taxes such as poll tax, hearth tax and land tax.
Organizing ballots for raising local militia and compiling muster rolls.
Billeting soldiers.
Lighting of beacons, warnings and celebrations.
Enforcing weights and measures.
Supervision of alehouses and providing a list of them for licensing at the brewster sessions.
Compiling jurors' lists.
Controlling drunkenness and by detaining violent and disorderly drunks.
Taking lewd women before the Justices of the Peace.
Detaining fathers of bastards.
Appearing at inquests.
Supervision of the "deployment" of the parish bull.

The constable did very little without the knowledge and agreement of the local justice of the peace. Reporting to the justices on a range of issues including statutory requirements within several acts of parliament.

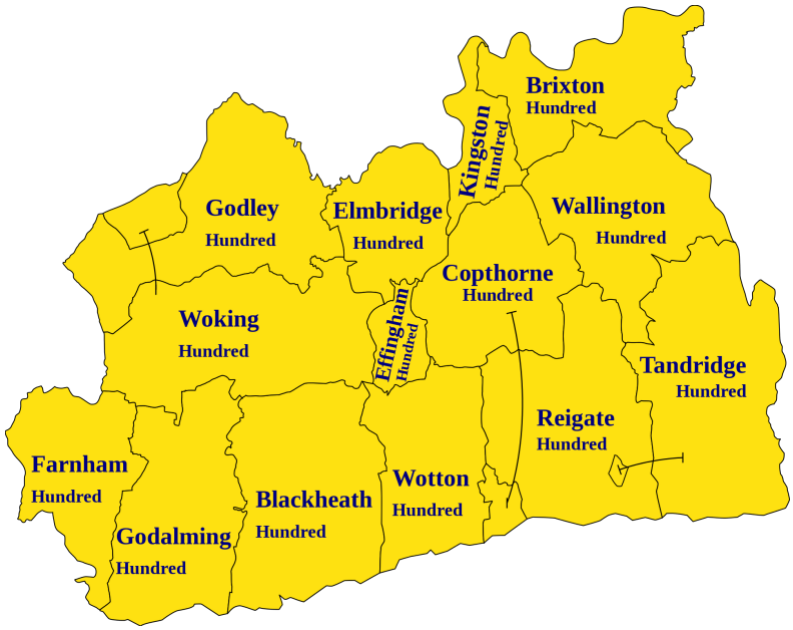
Constables would work with overseers of the poor in settlement disputes, involving the return of people from one parish to another which had responsibility for them. In bastardy cases, overseers tried to get presumed fathers either to marry the woman or pay maintenance for the upbringing of the child. They would enforce bastardy orders and removal orders. [20] Constables collected the county rates, known as 'quarterage', for delivery to the Clerk of the Peace, and also some national taxes as well as maintaining records of payments.

Accounts were maintained by the constable of their expenses, including attending the hundred courts the petty and quarter sessions and county assizes. Accounted for the money for the hire of substitutes

[19] https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Occupations_Law_and_Order,_Constables,_Police_-_International_Institute

[20] If in need of support of the parish it was expected that the applicant returned to their home parish to obtain funding. Hearings were held in the vestry to ascertain which authority was responsible for payments. Parish constable could be tasked to return applicants to their home parish.

for the militia, payments to the wives of militiamen in training from the county rates. They could make payments to soldiers discharged from the army travelling back from their place of discharge to their actual home.[21]



Anglo-Saxon Hundreds in Surrey

The Anglo-Saxon hundred remains a remarkable link to the policing divisions that came with the formation of the Surrey Constabulary in 1851. On into modern times, much of policing of Surrey remained based on the boundaries of the distant past. support

Surrey Police Area 2023

[21] https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/the-parish-administration-and-records/

Local policing during Anglo Saxon period – the importance of the tything

In medieval England, the tything and the hundred were both administrative divisions that played a role in local control and policing in its broadest sense. A tything, also spelled tithing, headed by a tithingman, was a small grouping of households within a parish or village. It typically consisted of around ten households. The tithingman acted as a local representative of the hundredman and enforcer of the law with his ultimate authority coming from the sheriff and the king. The tithingman was responsible for maintaining order, reporting any crimes or disturbances to higher authorities, and ensuring that all members of the tything fulfilled their legal obligations.

The hundred was that higher authority and was a larger territorial division that encompassed several tythings. The name "hundred" is believed to have originated from the approximate number of households it initially represented, although the actual number could vary significantly. Each hundred had its own court, known as the Hundred Court, which served as a local judicial and administrative body. The court dealt with various matters, including settling disputes, administering justice, collecting taxes, and overseeing the maintenance of public order.

The tythingman, was the forerunner of the office of constable. Following the Norman Conquest in 1066, the Anglo-Saxon system evolved in several important ways. Building upon the existing principle of tythings exercising responsibility for each other's conduct by requiring all adult males to swear an oath, the Frankpledge, that they would conduct themselves in a lawful manner.

Under the Frankpledge system, every adult male was a member of a "tithing". If one member of the tithing committed a crime, the others were expected to bring them to justice or face penalties themselves. This system served as a means of local governance and control of the populace. It helped maintain peace and order within the community, with a responsibility for preventing crime and placing malefactors before the local court.

The 1166 Assize at Clarendon introduced reforms of the administration of justice and established a more unified legal system throughout the country. Part of the changes involved localised justice with the role of the tything continuing, with an obligation to inform the sheriff of members suspected of committing a crime. The accusation initially investigated by the tythingman and a jury of 12 members taking place at the tything Frankpledge hearings.

The Assize of Clarendon[22] was an act of Henry II that began a transformation of English law and led to trial by jury and established assize courts. The assize takes its name from Clarendon Palace, Wiltshire, the royal hunting lodge at which it was promulgated.

In 1154, Henry II inherited the throne of a troubled England. In full swing were the Crusades, a military endeavour that kept noble landowners away from their castles for years at a time. Unoccupied and unclaimed land invited squatters; since there was no central record of property ownership in England,

22 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assize_of_Clarendon#:~:text=The%20Assize%20of%20Clarendon%20was,and%20that%20established%20assize%20courts.

and sorting out who owned what was entrusted to human memory, leading to disputes when aristocrats returned or died.

The aftermath of The Anarchy, a disastrous civil war between King Stephen and the Empress Matilda led to serious breakdown in law and order. Both factions hired mercenary soldiers, and when there was no one left to pay them, many resorted to robbery and other forms of violence. Crime followed the breakdown of local control. The quarrel between the King and the Empress divided communities with both factions happy to reward their supporters with the lands seized from local opponents.

Henry introduced various assizes, courts that convened in a town periodically, rather than being permanently established. One court became the *assize of novel disseisin*, which meant something close to the "assize of recent dispossession". Those who had been recently put out of their lands could recover the beneficial use of them by resorting to this assize, which led to a then-innovative method of trial. Twelve "of the more lawful men" of the locality were summoned by the king's sheriff to determine, upon their own knowledge, who was entitled to the property.

Henry appointed "justices in eyre", the counterpart of circuit judges, to travel from town to town. When they arrived, they called upon the sheriff to summon twelve free men from the surrounding areas. These twelve free men were a prototype of a grand jury. They were called to report under oath any accusations of crime they were aware of in the community. The crimes to be investigated were specified in the Assize of Clarendon to be robbery, murder, or theft or anyone who had harboured a robber, murderer, or thief. To these the Assize of Northampton (1176) added counterfeiting, forgery, and arson. Minor crimes were specifically excepted so the new assizes concerned themselves with what would later be labelled "felonies".

Much was initiated to transfer power out of the hands of local barons and into the royal court and its judges. Henry II's reforms laid the groundwork for the system of trials in common law.

The office of constable emerged during the 65-year reign of Edward III, 1312-1377. In the Tudor period, functions that related to administering the poor law and enforcing action against vagrants were added to the constables' duties tasks that continued when the professional police were formed in the 19th century.

The 1285 Statute of Winchester was an important development in the history of policing in England. It provided for the appointment of two high constables in each hundred, below which were the petty constables in each tything. It also established the principle of local responsibility for crime and disorder by introducing the procedure of the Hue and Cry, whereby all able-bodied citizens were required to help arrest a criminal and required the hundred to compensate the victim of a robbery when the Hue and Cry had been raised but the offender had escaped.

It also compelled all towns (initially in the summer months) to establish a night watch to guard the entrances to the town and to arrest suspicious strangers. The constable was responsible for supervising these arrangements, which also included improved arrangements for day policing. This new system was referred to as 'watch and ward' (watch by night and ward by day). The duty to participate in the watch was placed on all householders and its role was subsequently developed to that of keeping good order in the town at night.

1327 Conservators of the Peace[23]: In 1327 Conservators of the Peace were appointed in each county to help preserve law and order. Conservators of the Peace, or Wardens of the Peace, were individuals who had a special charge, by virtue of their office, to see that the King's peace was kept. [24]

Justices and constables followed from the Statute of Westminster 1285 and the Justices of the Peace Act 1361 their role being a mixture of police, judicial and administrative authority with a primary duty to maintain the King's Peace.[25] (The Act was still used during the 20th century to bind over those who breached the peace). [26] Known as Keepers of the Peace, they were responsible to the King for ensuring that the law was upheld.[27]

The Act 1361 provided that every county should have keepers of the peace and that they have the "Power to restrain the Offenders, Rioters, and other Barators [28], and to pursue, arrest, take and chastise them according to their Trespass or Offence".

Under the 1361 Act Edward III (1312 –1377) appointed 'a good and lawful man' in each county, whose role was to maintain the peace and whose functions subsequently expanded into more general forms of law enforcement. These adopted the title given to them in the 1361 legislation as 'justices of the peace', who later assumed the title of 'magistrate' in the sixteenth century. These developments replaced traditional feudal power relationships, one feature of which was the declining role performed by the sheriff towards the end of the twelfth century. By the end of the eleventh century this office tended to be filled by powerful members of the aristocracy.[29] Justices were appointed by the monarch and owed their allegiance to him.

The 1361 Act required that the Justices should meet four times a year to transact business, providing the origins of the Quarter Sessions, which continued until replaced by Crown Courts in January 1972. Subsequently, in 1605, provision was made for the holding of local sessions, where no jury was required, to conduct minor affairs. This was the origin of Petty Sessions, although this procedure was not given statutory recognition until 1828. [30]

Those appointed as Justices tended to be landowning gentry or the more affluent members of the clergy rather than the feudal elite whose power rested on the ownership of large estates. These were termed the 'lords of the manor', locally highly regarded and treated with respect, which enhanced their law enforcement openings. Many were of course employers and landowners including ownership of the cottages where many locals lived and worked. Highly regarded is something of a euphemism for very powerful in an individual's life – trat with care!

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[23] Wikipedia: At common law, sheriffs and sometimes constables were regarded as conservators of the peace within their county, and constables and tythingmen were also regarded as conservators of the peace within their jurisdiction.
[24] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservator_of_the_peace
[25] "A History of England and Wales" TA Critchley Constable 1979 page 8
[26] http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/aboutus/history/magistrates.htm
[27] http://www.sagepub.in/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[28] Legal term common law, described a criminal offense committed by people who are overly officious in instigating or encouraging prosecution of groundless litigation, or who bring repeated or persistent acts of litigation for the purposes of profit or harassment.
[29] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[30] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf

Matters affecting the administration of manorial affairs (such as manorial lord–tenant relationships) were dispensed through the manorial court, which was presided over by the lord of the manor's steward. Above the manorial court stood the hundred court, whose role extended to the administration of law and order. Some manors were given the judicial powers of Hundred Courts by the Crown and were termed 'courts leet'. [31] [32]

The higher social status of the Justice over the constable ensured their superiority, as did their likely status as lord of the manor. The lord of the manor or his steward would preside at the court leet where the constable, as a principal officer of the manor, would be appointed on the recommendation of the vestry.

Parish Constables - Oath and appointment

During the fifteenth and much of the sixteenth centuries the Parish Constable was still pre-eminent amongst the four principle annually elected officers of the parish, others being, Churchwarden, Surveyor of the Highways, and Overseer of the Poor. He held this position in some small towns until the eighteenth and early parts of the nineteenth centuries, but in the rural areas of the country the position of Parish Constable lasted well into Victoria's reign up to the 1870's. As over the centuries, men bought their way out of serving as parish constable, which remained an honorary office without payment. There were significant commitments associated with the role taking up much of the time that he could have spent making a living from his regular employment. The role continued to give every opportunity to make enemies of friends and customers unless handled with restraint. A constable's duties were based upon common law but were extended by Parliament.

The oath taken by the Parish Constable read: "You shall swear that you shall keep the peace of our Lord the King well and lawfully according to your powers and shall arrest all those who shall make any contest, riot, debate or affray, in breaking of the said peace, and shall bring them into the house or Compter[33] of one of the Sheriffs. And if you shall be withstood by strength of such misdoers you shall raise upon them Hue and Cry and shall follow them from street to street and from ward to ward until they are arrested. And you shall search at all times when you shall be required by scavenger or bedel, for the common nuisances of the ward, until they are arrested, and the faults you shall find, you shall present them unto the mayor and to the offices of the said town ... so God help you and the Saints".[34]

The appointment of constables was a matter for the manorial courts or courts leet, a procedure that helped to assert the pre-eminence of the Justices over the constables and provided the backbone for the policing system that was in place until the middle of the nineteenth century. However, as the role of parishes as a unit of local administration increased during the Tudor period, appointments were sometimes made at this level. This trend was accelerated following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, although

[31] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf

[32] In medieval England, the Lord of the Manor exercised or claimed certain feudal rights over his serfs and feudal tenants. The exercise of those rights was combined with manorial administrative concerns, in his court baron. However this court had no power to deal with criminal acts.

[33] The compter was used to lock up minor criminals and prisoners convicted under civil law and was run by the sheriff.

[34]http://www.forgottenbooks.org/readbook_text/Munimenta_Gildhalla_Londoniensis_Liber_Albus_Liber_Custumarum_et_v3_1400032640/139

manorial courts continued to appoint parish constables in some areas until the 1842 Parish Constables Act formally ended their role, when it was transferred to the Justices at Quarter Session. [35]

By the eighteenth century a system of policing had evolved that was based on constables appointed in each locality (which was often the 'parish' although other jurisdictions such as 'township' were also used), whose role was ultimately supervised by magistrates (although intermediaries such as Head or High Constables appointed by the magistrates at quarter session might exercise a more detailed element of supervision). The constables were generally unpaid (although there were some rare local exceptions to this) but they were able to obtain income from fees derived from the administration of justice. They typically served in office for one year. [36] There were some who could make a reasonable living from fees and expenses, along with rewards, as the parish constable, and liked the work so they continued in the role for many years. There are several Surrey examples of this.

In some areas, those who were chosen as constables were able to appoint deputies (also referred to as substitutes). This procedure was formalised by legislation affecting Westminster in 1756[37] but was not universally permitted. Where it was sanctioned, concern was sometimes expressed by contemporaries concerning the calibre of those who stepped into the office, some of whom were 'scarcely removed from idiotism' [38] Additionally, by the end of the seventeenth century, a person who apprehended a felon received exemption from a judge (in the form of a certificate commonly called a 'Tyburn Ticket') from serving as a parish constable. These could be sold to persons appointed to this role, who thus had to be replaced by an alternative whose dedication in performing the tasks required of a constable might be lacking. [39]

In 1735 legislation affecting two London parishes was passed whereby householders substituted the duty to serve in the watch for the ability to pay a rate to employ watchmen (often referred to as 'Old Charlies') to discharge this responsibility. The role extended to maintaining public order by taking action against drunkenness and prostitutes and targeting persons who were acting suspiciously. By the end of the eighteenth-century ventures of this nature (the Watch Acts) extended to other areas of London and beyond. [40] [41]

Although in rural areas magistrates tended to be landowners or clergymen, shortages of these officials in the towns required selection from other social groupings whose commitment to civic duty was sometimes surpassed by an enthusiasm to use the office as a source of personal gain. This was a particular problem in London, where 'trading justices', who were styled 'a byword for corruption', bringing considerable disrepute on the office of magistrate. These magistrates exploited by exacting fees for performing their duties, retaining fines they levied from criminals and colluding with informants. This led to the replacement of unpaid magistrates in London with salaried stipendiaries who operated

[35] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[36] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[37] "Policing a Short History" Rawlings 2008: 51
[38] "A History of England and Wales" TA Critchley Constable 1979 page 18
[39] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[40] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[41] "Policing a Short History" Rawlings 2008: 53

from Bow Street and then from a further seven police offices established by the 1792 Middlesex Justices Act. [42]

In practice this meant that the constable had to set the nightly watch in the town. He would take over prisoners from the watchmen and place them in the stocks or lock-up. In many instances he would keep them in his own cottage until he was able to deliver them to a justice of the peace. With his staff of office in his hand, the constable was to initiate the 'Hue and Cry', which demanded that every citizen should assist the constable in the pursuit of an offender; to fail to assist the constable was, and still is, an offence although rarely if ever enforced. The 'Hue and Cry' later became a document, which, since the eighteenth century, has become known as a warrant. The constable's staff or baton was his symbol of authority (also available as a weapon of defence) might have hung outside the cottage door, often ornately decorated. He wore no distinctive uniform of any kind.

Fundamental to law enforcement at this time was the relationship or the working partnership, between the justices of the peace and the constable, both functions being integral to a rudimentary police system delivering law and order in the early 19th century.

The reluctance of all to take their turn at being the constable, particularly by the better off tradesmen and farmers, the practice of paying deputies developed and even deputies paying deputies. The deputy deputies were often unemployable and were used and paid to keep them from being a charge on the parish. The constable was under a legal obligation to bring before the jury of the court leet that appointed him or, later the quarter sessions, reports and presentments on oath of all who had offended against the law:

> All bloodshedders, affrays, outcries, rescues and other offences against the King's Peace.
> Failure to maintain a bridge or road.
> Refusal to serve in one of the parish offices or negligence when doing so.
> "Idle and will not labour and cannot give account how they get their living."
> Suspicious persons, whores and noctivigant[43] or nightwalkers, mothers of bastards.
> Such bakers who put light bread for sale.
> Keeping hogs to the annoyance of His Majesty's subjects.[44]

The parish constable could be a busy man with private and public complaints of all kinds were reported, administrative, criminal and judicial issues with a trip four times a year to the local market town and the quarter sessions.

To sum up the role of the parish constable with the concerns of the Justices of Copthorne and Effingham. In a questionnaire for the Home Office in the 1830s, answering a question on failure to bring offenders to justice, the magistrates cited a recent failure by a constable to apprehend two offenders due to his fear of physical injury. The parish constable is quoted as saying, "If I had my head broke who is to indemnify me?"

[42] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[43] Wandering in the nighttime
[44] A History of England and Wales TA Critchley Constable 1979 page 12

The unfortunate image of the parish constable coming down the generations may be a result of the 1836 ruling by the Poor Law Commission that policing could not be funded from poor law funds. The Parish Constables Act of 1842 was intended to be a means by which better quality provision of policing could be provided. [45]

Police historian Melville-Lee wrote in 1901, "An attempt was made to infuse life into the decrepit parochial system by an Act of Parliament which ordered justices of the peace to hold special sessions for appointing proper persons to act as parish constables and which authorised the employment of superintending constables to have the management of lock-up houses and also the supervision of all parish-constables within the petty sessional division of the county for which they might be appointed – such superintending constables to receive a fixed salary out of the county rates. Although many of the superintendents were meritorious, they were doomed to failure by the unpromising material they had to manage. The only discipline the superintendent could impose on a recalcitrant parish constable was to report him to the justices who were powerless to administer anything like adequate correction." [46]

The Act required each county's quarter sessions to hold an annual meeting to appoint parish constables. Only those who paid the poor rate and were aged 25-55 were eligible for appointment and those who did not take up the appointment could be fined if they failed to secure a suitable substitute. Parishes could decide to have paid constables whom the justices would appoint and who would be paid by the poor rate. The constable was normally only allowed to operate within the parish to which he had been appointed. If a county force had been established under the 1839 Act, he was subject to direction by the chief constable.[47]

The 1842 Act therefore removed all policing appointments from courts leet and vestries integrating them into the justices' system of administration based on quarter sessions, where they remained until the coming of the rural police and beyond. [48]

Many counties preferred to retain the principle of universal obligation and adopted the 1842 Parish Constables Act. Kent county justices were so pleased with the workings of the superintending constables' system that a motion raised at quarter sessions to introduce a rural constabulary in 1849 was roundly defeated and it remained foremost among the counties calling for a revitalized parish constable system. This was presumably because the county magistrates wanted a police force under their orders but did not wish to pay for it.

The old style of policing had outgrown its origins and seen to be failing. Its abolition and replacement with something else was now demanded. There were successful policing models and local elites were able to choose from a variety of options.

Many small-town constables, whether principals or deputies served for many years cobbled together a living in various ways. Some were semi-professionals and lived on fees for processing legal documents,

[45] "The Old English Constabulary" Storch 1999 History Today Ltd
[46] "A History of Police in England" WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 298
[47] "Policing a Short History" Phillip Rawlings Willan Publishing2002 page 137 and 138
[48] "The Old English Constabulary" Storch 1999 History Today Ltd

salaries or retainers from parishes, voluntary subscriptions, cash from prosecution societies, rewards and payments from crime victims. Others received no salary, but if the population was large enough an energetic and enterprising man might be able to live on the various fees and individual payments. The township constable of Brigg, Lincolnshire, was paid £120 a year from the rates, plus the emoluments. At Stourbridge in Wiltshire Mr. Craig got £100 year plus use of a house. His income was made up of payments from several parishes in the petty session's division, plus the fees. [49] For men of this class this was excellent money to be earned, probably over twice the annual salary of a Metropolitan Police constable.

Parish constables were certainly operating around Dorking. We hear of Mr. Taylor, the constable, Mr. Alloway from Holmwood, Mr. Page from Capel, Mr Haycock the Shere police officer who was making enquiries at Mickleham into sheep stealing, and a constable at Farnham. Mutual help and liaison was apparent between these constables and the Dorking force. When the superintendent had some difficult prisoners: "I had to call Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Robertson to my assistance, and later Mr. Winton as well." [50]

Parish constables sometimes undertook paid duties for long periods, as did James Stedman at Pirbright from 1812-1837. There were paid constables at Shere, Thomas Williams, with Peter Pearce at Shamley Green both supervised by Superintendent Biddlecombe of Godalming. [51] There were also paid constables stationed at Farnham, Dorking, Chertsey, Chobham, Thorpe, Windlesham and Nutfield who in time joined the Surrey Constabulary not that many survived very long within a disciplined service. Inspector Donaldson who was murdered in Haslemere had served as superintendent of police in Dorking before coming into the new police force.

The conversion of an active local man into a full-time constable was increasingly formalised in the 1830s by the appointment by the justices of "office constables", who received a monopoly of process service and detective work. This was also the time of the evolving micro police forces in the market towns of rural Surrey. In country districts, the social status of constables had declined in the eighteenth century. The largest and most substantial farmers, those most likely to be overseers of the poor and churchwardens, had largely ceased discharging the office. By the 1830s most constables continued to be drawn from the middling strata of rural society.[52]

The magistrates who often came from the leisured classes had no need of income unlike those selected to be the constables who earned their livings mostly by the sweat of their brow. In the countryside the volumes of work were normally low and did not allow for the generation of anything like an income to replace that lost through undertaking police duties. In the small towns and large rural parishes it may have been possible to undertake enough tasks to generate a reasonable income.

As the number of substitutes swelled, the increasing number of labourers serving as constables in the southern counties began to cause alarm. In Hertfordshire, they could be found as principals in 18 per

[49] "The Old English Constabulary" Storch 1999 History Today Ltd
[50] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr C.A. Willeard Page 17
[51] "A Hundred Years of the Surrey Constabulary" Durrant 1951page 3
[52] "The Old English Constabulary" Storch 1999 History Today Ltd

cent of all divisions; in Essex in a quarter; in Hampshire and in Bedfordshire everywhere. [53] Probably with some justification justices and poor law guardians worried that the lower the class from which constables were taken, the closer their affinities were likely to be with poachers and beer-house keepers. They would have a greater sympathy with those engaged in low-level crime and disorder particularly when as an individual they might be expected to take on the local drunks. But by this time the expectations of the gentry and the magistrates as to what defined an effective constabulary were changing rapidly with a growing acceptance that the solution was a rural constabulary or at the minimum adopting superintending constables appointed under the Parish Constables Act 1842. Change was necessary and there was now an effective model operating in and around London.

The country constable was necessarily and not unsurprisingly was less interventionist than in the towns. He would also have concentrated on mediation and conflict resolution, modern terms but they clearly describe the way of working of the isolated rural constable that continued into modern times. Primary responsibility for the prosecution and often even the detection of crime remained in the victim's hands. The usual procedure in cases of property crime was for the victim to seek the offender and missing property, or to find a constable and report the loss. Some constables would do little to find the guilty party unless the victim suggested a likely offender or produced some relevant evidence along with a means of meeting his costs. [54]
Armed with some evidence, constable and victim would seek a magistrate, who could issue a warrant enabling the constable to search the suspect's premises and perhaps make an arrest. It had been taken for granted that victims should exert themselves if intent on a prosecution; it could even be praised as part of the price Englishmen paid for the preservation of their liberties. But to early nineteenth-century reformers this was a state of affairs that appeared old-fashioned, lax, absurd, and even outrageous.

A Somerset parson stated, “We are ... without the pale of the law; that every man that would be safe must be his own watchman, his own constable .... That unless he himself shall watch his property, and shall take up the offender, shall take him to the constable, shall order the constable to go with him to the next town, and be at the expense of the constable doing that, and shall promise the constable to be [financially] responsible for putting the man into custody until he can be brought before a magistrate, shall appear before the magistrate, and reason with the magistrate, and, in fact, do all the work, the man will escape, whatever be his crime ..” [55]

The wisest, given the constraints on the work of a constable, his policy was probably to cross the road, to respond only when directed by the magistrate or where transgression became blatant putting the pocket of the constable at risk for failing to do his duty. Fines for parish constables not completing their duties could be significant. Interference with beer houses or other elements of village recreational life exposed the constable to dilemma between responsibility and the practicality of living in the area.

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century small towns and unincorporated manufacturing areas made determined efforts to upgrade policing. A constable's knowledge was traditional, acquired on the

[53] “The Old English Constabulary” Storch 1999 History Today Ltd
[54] “The Old English Constabulary” Storch 1999 History Today Ltd
[55] “The Old English Constabulary” Storch 1999 History Today Ltd

job or from outgoing constables and other villagers. He was often unsure of his immunities and the extent of his powers, producing, a "dread lest he go beyond their duty and thus be liable to a prosecution".

A constable had always to comply exactly with a warrant's precise terms or be liable to an action before the courts. Most were unclear about the circumstances under which they might make an arrest especially in assault or affray cases. It was simple prudence to wait for a complaint or warrant before acting. And how could one expect a local farmer, tradesman or artisan to risk life and limb, warrant or no warrant? [56]

By the 1830s many rural districts were improving policing quite independently of central government with an increased number of local influential people doubting that mere tinkering with the old system would do. [57]

A further inhibitor to the years' work as a constable came about when there were changes to a major source of funding. Parish constables had some of their expenses reimbursed from local poor law unions until in March 1836 following a ruling by the Poor Law Commission which instructed poor law union officials to consider illegal all constables' charges to the poor rates relating to criminal justice. This reduced the income of the constable and put at risk any expenditure he may incur in the initial investigation of a crime or other transgression. In some areas where the Poor Law Union had met an annual retainer the grant had to cease. Those most affected were precisely those long-serving men who had provided the best service.

By the 1830s the rural gentry itself was progressively incorporating the metropolitan language of crime prevention and `preventive police' into their own vocabularies and thinking and presiding over the creation of new police forces in the countryside under voluntary subscription and other auspices.

The slowness of change and the sporadic and varied implementation of reform was to some extent a result of national government's indifference to local affairs, "deliberately abstained from any consideration of them" [58] Some of the larger boroughs had night watchmen and a day police. Most communities just struggled on with the medieval system of the customs of unpaid service to the community in the office of constable only a hairs' breadth away from the Frank Pledge and the Statute of Westminster.[59]

[56] "The Old English Constabulary" Storch 1999 History Today Ltd
[57] "The Old English Constabulary" Storch 1999 History Today Ltd
[58] "A History of Police in England and Wales" Critchley page 24
[59] "A History of Police in England and Wales" Critchley page 24

Reigate Borough Police

Continued – Robert Bartlett

1945: The Women's Auxiliary Police Corps of eleven was reduced to four by resignations at the end of the War.[60]
1945 the Borough police vehicle fleet consisted of six vehicles including a CID car and a coroner's officer's vehicle. [61]

1945: Total crime Reigate Borough Police 498, detection 51.6% [62]

Year	Total Crime	Year	Total Crime	Year	Total Crime
1921	56	1922	56	1923	80
1924	85	1925	80	1926	114
1927	121	1928	165	1929	132
1930	131	1931	98	1932	103
1933	151	1934	235	1935	254
1936	231	1937	337	1938	330
1939	414	1940	426	1941	493
1942	434	1943	489	1944	579
1945	498				

1946 July 26: Surrey Mirror: Bowls Result - Churchfields 47- Reigate Police 51 leaving the Police winners by 4 shots.

1947 April 4 Surrey Mirror: At midnight on 31st March Reigate Borough Police Force finally ceased to exist having been since 1943 under a temporary war time arrangement merger with the Surrey Constabulary.

1947 April Surrey Constabulary reformed to include the police of the boroughs of Guildford and Reigate; Superintendent Beacher Surrey Constabulary formerly Chief Constable Beacher of Reigate Borough Police retired.

[60] SCC History Centre CC/98/22/8
[61] SCC History Centre CC/98/22/8
[62] SCC History Centre CC/98/22/8

The Chief Constables Mr Beacher's Medals

Reigate Borough Police Chief Constable's group of eight medals awarded to Chief Constable W.H.Beacher who had served during the Great War with the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry. Comprising an enamelled Order of St John (Serving Brother), King's Police Medal (GVIR for Distinguished Service 1914 Star with clasp, British War Medal, Victory Medal (8803 Sergeant Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Defence Medal, George V Jubilee Medal and George VI Coronation Medal.

Post Amalgamation

PC Mason now a member of the Surrey Constabulary escorting the Olympic torch in 1948. The torch was carried by Reigate Harriers runner Fred Prevett and the pair are crossing the Market Square at Reigate. [63]

[63] Picture Pam Adams from the Alan Morre Borugh Police website

Cherchefelle police station was still in use by the Surrey Constabulary long after the demise of the Borough Police as was the police station in London Road Redhill. This is a Surrey Constabulary Traffic car an Austin Westminster leaving Reigate police station in about 1962.

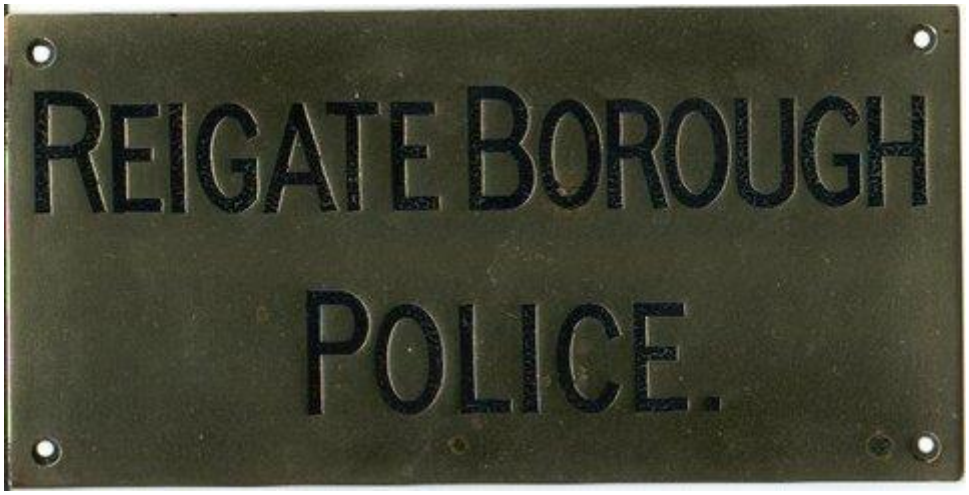
1972: The old Borough police station at Cherchefelle closed when the new Reigate Road Station opened. The Redhill station closed soon after and the centralisation of the force in the two towns, first envisaged 108 years before, was effectively complete.

Left to right. Back: G.A. Jenkins, R.G. Bowles, K.G. Atkinson, S.B. Williams, F.C. Barber. Front: Miss M. Street M.B.E., M.F Sweeney, T.W. Thorpe, R.W.A. Dean, R.C. Brownlow, W.H.B Mason.

Reunion 1987 Note photo of Chief Constable Beacher on the wall

Reigate Borough Police Badges and Insignia


REIGATE BOROUGH POLICE
1863


REIGATE BOROUGH
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BRIGATE BOROUGH POLICE
1865

A set of the Borough Police insignia
William Henry Beacher died 1 June 1974 aged 83

Tony Collman: On Friday the 30 July 2010 I went to Horsham to locate Mr Beacher's grave which I found at Hills Cemetery located on the A281, Guildford Road at Horsham (RH12 1TT). Mr Beacher is buried with his wife. There is no mention of Mr Beacher's police service nor his KPM.

A Tribute to W.H. Beacher from "Off Beat" [64]

[64] Surrey Constabulary newspaper

Ken Browning August 1974: On the 10th of June, 1974, W.H. Beacher was laid to rest after the very impressive service at Horsham Parish Church. This very homely town was much beloved by Bill (as he was affectionally called) as it was at Horsham where he became one of the youngest superintendents in any police force. I first came in contact with him when living at Horsham I went to him in 1926 about joining the Surrey Constabulary. From the start he commanded respect. His dapper manner and immaculate appearance instilled in the young constable a very real sense of pride in his job.

On his promotion to chief constable at Reigate it gave him a more profound reason for giving to the community the full respect of the police force in which his heart and soul was dedicated. The recent articles in 'Off Beat' are a sincere memorial of his sincere faith in our British police force. In his later years he had been crippled and housebound by arthritis, but always loved to see any of us 'old ones'. I visited him three weeks before his death and to meet him was like going into another world with his treasures of his police service surrounding him, proving how devoted he was to a service he loved so dearly.

JANUARY 1974

A CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR message to the Force from Mr. W. Beacher (ex-Reigate Borough Force).

Guildford Cathedral – dedicated 1980

The Reigate Borough Police Window

This window depicts the arms from the Corporation Seal. The design from the seal was used for the helmet plate and officers' cap badge in the Borough force.

The seal device consists of an embattled gateway standing before an oak tree bearing a chequy shield. The gateway and letters REI forming a rebus of the name. The castle and the chequy shield of Or and Azure (gold and blue) are connected with the de Warennes, Norman Earls of Surrey. William de Warennes was given the grant of Reigate by King Rufus in 1088 and constructed the first castle. The spreading Holm Oak is the tree from the Holmsdale, the valley in which the Borough nestles. The motto, refers to the legend that Danes retreating from the Battle of Ockley in 851 were slaughtered in the Holmsdale, this legend giving rise to the boast 'The vale of Holmsdale, never wonne na never shall.'

Two suspended shields bearing the letters EW and W denote the two wards East and West into which the Borough was divided in 1863, the year the Borough was first incorporated for municipal purposes.

An encircling ribbon bears the name of the force. The device is surrounded by oak leaves and mounted with the 1880 Imperial Crown.

The window was dedicated on Sunday, 13th July, 1980.

Police Constable William Henry Burn Mason – Reigate Borough Police

Extract

This is an abridged autobiography that was given to Alan Moore and published on his website by Jock Mason in 1995. It is missing much information and ends prematurely in 1955 when Jock was still only fifty-four. Nevertheless, it is worth reproducing a record of his time in the Borough Police.

Unless otherwise stipulated all pictures came from Jock Mason with the biography.

William Henry Burn Mason, better known as Jock Mason for all of his time in the south of England, was born in St Andrews, Fifeshire, Scotland. His father was a master blacksmith who, along with his brother Alexander, employed other blacksmiths and together carried out all kinds of blacksmith's work, made artistic iron railings, and engaged in the construction and fitting of kitchen ranges and bank safes. His mother was a native of Switzerland.

Jock had a fairly hard upbringing. He worked part time from the age of ten until he became a full-time errand boy at the age of fourteen. At sixteen he went to work for a cycle and motor-cycle engineer. This continued for a short while only until he got and apprenticeship as a marine engineer aged seventeen in March 1918. The apprenticeship was at Tayport, eleven miles from home, and he got digs there to avoid the daily return journey. Jock worked day and night shifts and was earning 32/6d a week after five years.

With the end of World War One, conditions worsened, with the night shift cancelled and men paid off. Hours were generally reduced and with the corresponding loss of earning Jock had to leave his digs and go back to living at home, which meant making the twenty-two-mile round trip each day. To make this less arduous he bought a 1901 Minerva motorcycle for 15 shillings.

Jock found extra work at a local garage as a mechanic where he gained experience on all the principal machines of the time plus learning electrical welding. The owner was also the master of the local fire brigade and signed Jock up as a volunteer fireman for which he was paid a retainer and call out fees. His main job remained as an apprentice marine engineer but in April 1923, the finish of his apprenticeship coincided with a trade depression and, along with thousands of other engineers, Jock was forced to join the dole queue. He decided that there was no future in engineering and began to look elsewhere for work. Employment in the police was one avenue to explore and Jock wrote to several forces, including Glasgow, Liverpool, Brighton and Reigate, asking if they had vacancies. The reason that Jock wrote to Reigate was that his father had been in the army during World War One and had guarded cordite stored in the caves there. He had told Jock what a nice town it was. As it happened the only force that did have vacancies was Reigate.

First he had to go to St Andrews police station to complete an examination paper. This was successful and he received instructions to report to Reigate Borough Police station at 9am on 1st April 1924. After a long journey he arrived the previous night, met Inspector Hood who arranged digs for him in Clarendon Road, Redhill. He attended as instructed on the 1st April when Inspector Hood set him a two and a half hour written and oral examination. He was medically examined by the police doctor and then interviewed by the Chief Constable, Mr Metcalfe. He was told he would be accepted as a probationer police constable and provided he proved efficient and reliable over a two-year period would be enrolled as a regular member of the Borough Force at £3.10 per week including allowances. At 10pm the next day he was sworn in at Reigate station by the Chairman of the Watch Committee. He was issued with a uniform, whistle, handcuffs, truncheon, pocketbook and oil lamp, the Borough by-laws and a copy of 'The Police Constable's Guide to his Daily Work'.

Pictures show Jock Mason in uniform and on beat duty in 1924

On the 2 April at 10pm his work began. He accompanied PC Robertson on his beat around the Earlswood and Meadvale areas. He stayed on night duty for two months, accompanying beat officers all over the Reigate Borough area. During the third month he was either on his own or was accompanied by newer recruits. No specific training was given other than attending police courts weekly and studying the police manual in off-duty hours. After three months of nights Jock was given a month of days 6am to 2pm and 2pm to 10pm alternating weekly. Duties included beats and point duty at Redhill and Reigate Market Squares.

In 1924, there were only three ambulances in the Borough. One belonging to St John Ambulance Brigade was used mostly for carrying private patients. Another was owned by the Reigate Health Department and was used for conveying patients with contagious diseases. The third belonged to the Reigate Borough Police and was used for street accidents. This ambulance was the first mechanical

vehicle to be allocated to the Reigate Police and there were only four officers capable of driving it. The vehicle was a T-type Ford with two forward gears and reverse. The ignition system was operated by four high-tension coils which, together with the headlamps and horn, relied solely on a generator driven by the flywheel. There was no battery, so oil lights were fitted for use when the engine was not running. The ambulance was difficult to start. Sergeant Ash, knowing of Jock's mechanical background, asked him to look into the problem. Jock discovered that if the headlight switch was left in the on position it deprived the ignition system of electrical energy. Turn the switch off and the engine started without trouble. The sergeant reported Jock's success to the chief constable and Jock was immediately put in charge of the ambulance and the 1924 Morris Cowley that was used for transporting prisoners. To enable his availability for this duty he was allotted special contingency duties in Reigate Town during the day and station officer duties at night.

Chief Constable Metcalfe retired on the last day of 1930 and was succeeded by Chief Constable William Beacher on the first day of 1931. Changes were made by the new man. He transferred the ambulance to the fire brigade and abolished beat patrols in favour of an area system whereby officers were allowed to patrol any part of the specified area as long as they kept in half-hourly contact with the station via public 'phone boxes and a series of twenty-four police pillars fitted with telephones. The 1930 Road Traffic Act brought about the formation of mobile police patrols and the Reigate Watch Committee authorised the purchase of two Red Wing Panther motorcycles. One was issued to an officer named Brownlow, the other to Jock Mason. They became the first mobile police patrol in East Surrey and at the time were known as 'Courtesy Cops'.

Jock says in his autobiography that the new chief constable's appetite for publicity was boundless, and on special occasions like the Borough Carnival of the Derby Races he would borrow a large horse from a Redhill stable and parade the main roads dressed in his best uniform. This practice came to an end after a coach backfired in London Road, Reigate, and his horse reared and threw him to the ground. He was never seen riding on horseback again.

During the middle 1930s the black clouds of war were forming, and Jock attended lectures on air raid precautions and poison gas warfare. Towards the end of the 1930s the political situation became very acute and there were incidents at Redhill, especially at weekends, when Sir Oswald Moseley and his Fascists travelled by road to Brighton where they held rallies. There was also an unconnected incident when a group of unemployed men arrived in Redhill en-route to a protest rally in London. Jock had the job of finding them food and accommodation and eventually got permission to bed them down for the night in the Sports Stadium in the Sports Ground. They had no food, but Lamberts Bakers gave bread and Burtons Butchers a large cheese.

By 1939 war seemed inevitable and lorries conveyed sand from sand pits in Bell Street, Reigate, to London for the sandbagging of public buildings, local hospitals were sandbagged, blast walls erected, and the basement of the Town Hall was reinforced as it was made ready to be an incident reporting centre for the police, fire and other emergency services.

Jock was put in charge of the testing and assessment of two dozen car owners who had volunteered to drive Civil Defence ambulances in the case of war. The tests involved driving a van commandeered for the purpose and driving and manoeuvring without lights at night. Some of those who were found unsuitable were allowed to remain as volunteers as long as they used their own vehicles. Others remained as ambulance attendants.

Subsequent to these activities Jock set up an ARP ambulance depot at the rear of Wray Park Garage in London Road, Reigate, and another at the Corporation refuse disposal works at Earlswood. He also took over a cottage as an office and accommodation for ambulance personnel and had storage facilities for emergency equipment and petrol. Notices were sent to three owners of trade vans in Redhill and three in Reigate that they had to supply one vehicle each at the ambulance depots.

The ambulance depots were staffed immediately upon the outbreak of war and Jock was authorised to purchase four more vehicles and have them converted to ambulances. In February 1940 Jock was transferred to the Civil Defence as Transport and Ambulance Officer. More vehicles were purchased and converted but as they all had to stand outside when not in use could be difficult to start in cold weather. This and other problems with the designated ambulance centre at Earlswood caused the Redhill depot to be relocated at a purpose-built garage in the Sports Ground just north of the entrances from the main Road in 1940. Similar problems at Reigate culminated in the requisition of the Reigate Garage as from 31st March, and for accommodation of personnel as from 3rd April 1941.

Jock managed the day-to-day operations of the ambulance centres for the rest of the war until the improving situation following the allied invasion of Europe caused a reduction in Civil Defence personnel. He returned to the Borough Police Force on 5th January 1945.

Two incidents occurred shortly after. The first was when Jock retrieved a boy from live electricity cables at Brown's Brickyard at Meadvale. In spite of applying artificial respiration the boy was pronounced dead upon the arrival of a doctor. The second was when two armed soldiers had attempted a hold up at Aldershot and were reported as heading for Reigate by car at 4am. Jock waited in a patrol car at the Black Horse at Reigate Heath and gave chase when they passed, ramming their car in Castlefield Road. The two men were captured and a sten-gun found in their vehicle.
Jock also attended the scene when the US Air force bomber crashed into Reigate Hill when returning from a raid on Germany.

Jock remained on traffic patrols, seeing the new traffic department established at Guildford in 1947. Early in 1948 radios were installed in police cars and Jock was in charge of Headquarters' car with call sign M2R05. His last arrest was in 1950 when he apprehended a man in Redhill for loitering with intent whilst in possession of an 18" jemmy.

On the 30 June 1951 Jock resigned from the police force after twenty-seven years' service. On his record were a dozen commendations, including one for arresting six men in possession of a stolen car in Bell Street, Reigate, one for the arrest of jewel thieves and another for his actions at the fire at Gatton Hall in 1934.

These and many other of Jock's actions are not included in his abridged biography. It is worth noting that in his very early service Jock had to appear before the Watch Committee for the very serious misdemeanour of not saluting Alderman Lemon.

Sergeant Ronald Bowles [65]

Ronald Bowles a former borough officer died peacefully on April 18th aged 94. He was the last surviving member of the Reigate Borough force which he joined in 1938. He was conscripted into the armed forces in 1942 and drove a tank (no mean feat for a 6 ft 4-inch Corporal) seeing action in France, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. He returned to Reigate and was promoted Sergeant in the newly merged Surrey Constabulary, serving at Woking with his older brother John (Inspector). His wife Mabel died on 14th June 2010 at the age of 87 when Ron was 93 years old. He moved to Essex in 2009 to be nearer his daughter and grandchildren and was active and enjoyed life right up until the end.

Police Sergeant Bowles upon and in deep retirement

In the photo above Ron is wearing medal ribbons. He was conscripted in 1942. It was a class of conscription from the police and had to join a combat unit. It was either him or older brother John (the penalty of being the younger brother?) who had to go. He wanted to join the RAF but ended up in the Royal Armoured Corps as a tank driver. He was later transferred to the Assault Engineers and was due to go over to France on D Day. The War Office had decided that even tank drivers should be made to wear hob nail boots and just before D Day whilst climbing over his tank he slipped and badly gashed his head and was invalided out of the troop. None of that troop survived D Day and he returned to action about three weeks later and fought through France and Belgium and then took part in the amphibious landings into the Netherlands. He fought through from there up until the Rhine and was waiting to take part in the assault to cross the Rhine as part of the final push. He developed a rash and was given a shot of the new wonder drug Penicillin to which he proved allergic and came out in nasty blisters - much worse than the original rash! He was pulled out of the front line and none of his troop survived the Rhine crossing. He was invalided back to the UK where he used his considerable typing skills (learned in the Police!) to bag a job as a clerk. He then had the enjoyable experience of drawing up his own discharge papers, returning to Reigate Borough and re-joining his brother John. We think someone was watching over him at that time!

[65] Information received from Michael Mackman (Son in law)

His medals reflect his war service, not unusual or especially noteworthy ones but a typical collection for those who joined up and fought at that time. There is also a Police long service medal. Quietly, he was proud of the medals (rightly so) and as a demonstration of that, and his enduring sense of humour, we found him sitting up in bed, in his pyjamas, wearing the full set on the morning of the 50th anniversary of D Day.

Death of ex-Sergeant Reginald Charles Brownlow

1991 February 9: Off Beat: On the 6 December 1990 ex sergeant Reginald Brownlow died at the age of 84 years and Reigate lost one of its distinguished former policemen who made a considerable contribution to the Borough. He joined the Reigate Borough Police in August 1925 and after early years on the beat he became one of the first motorcyclists in the Force. He was promoted to sergeant in September 1940 and transferred to the Surrey Joint Force in February 1943. He was commended on numerous occasions with special mention for bravery when he risked his life to save Gatton Manor during a serious fire in 1934. Mr. Brownlow played a leading part in making Reigate Borough Police the police national tug of war and First Aid national champions. He joined the army in 1944 and landed in Normandy shortly after D Day and rose to the rank of major when he joined the control commission to assist in the rehabilitation of occupied Germany for which he was personally thanked by General Montgomery. He returned to the Borough police and retired in 1948

1992: The author the last of the eastern Division Chief Superintendents, Robert Bartlett, in his office at Reigate alongside a picture of Chief Constable William Beacher