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

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Surrey Constabulary History
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Sandgate 1966 C. Knowles rear right, GT Wicks 3rd row second right, G Marshall second right second row, David Peet front right

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PHOTO FROM THE PAST

Sent to us by Mr. E. G. Wright from Hayling Island.

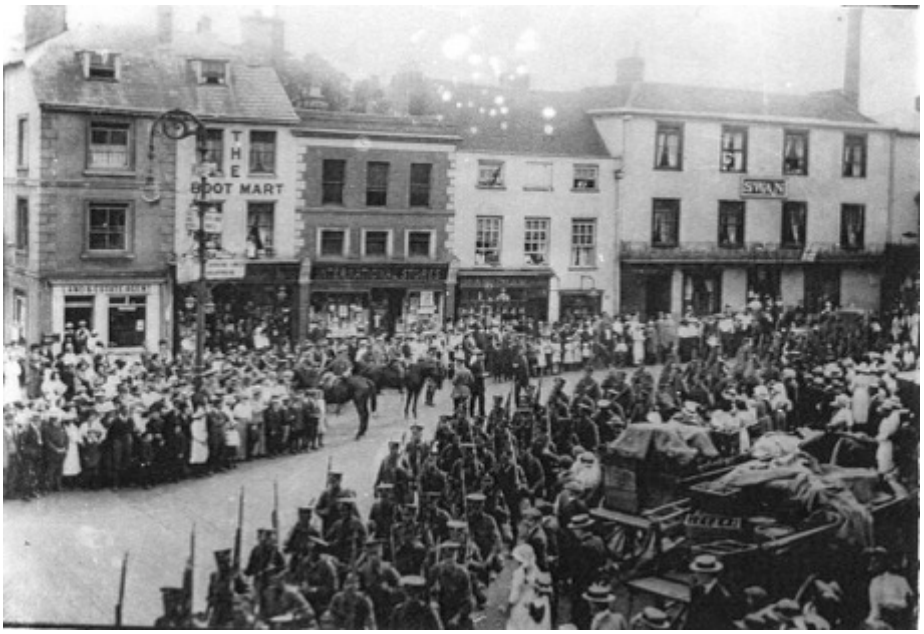
The photograph shows the cricket team taken, we believe, at the end of the 1926 season, when the old Chertsey Division had won the 'Sant Cup' for the third time in succession. So far as Mr. Wright is aware the old Division has never won it since.

They are (left to right) Back P.c. Pharo, P.c. Wright, P.c. Day, P.c. Robenson, P.c. Etkens, P.c. Lemon, P.c. Iassell, P.c. Pearce, P.c. Stent. Front Row: P.c. Hooker, Sgt. Nix, Sgt. Crowhurst (Capt.), P.c. Turley.

From old Postcards of Dorking

PC on patrol Dorking High Street 1922, 1940s, 1965 High Street and South Street

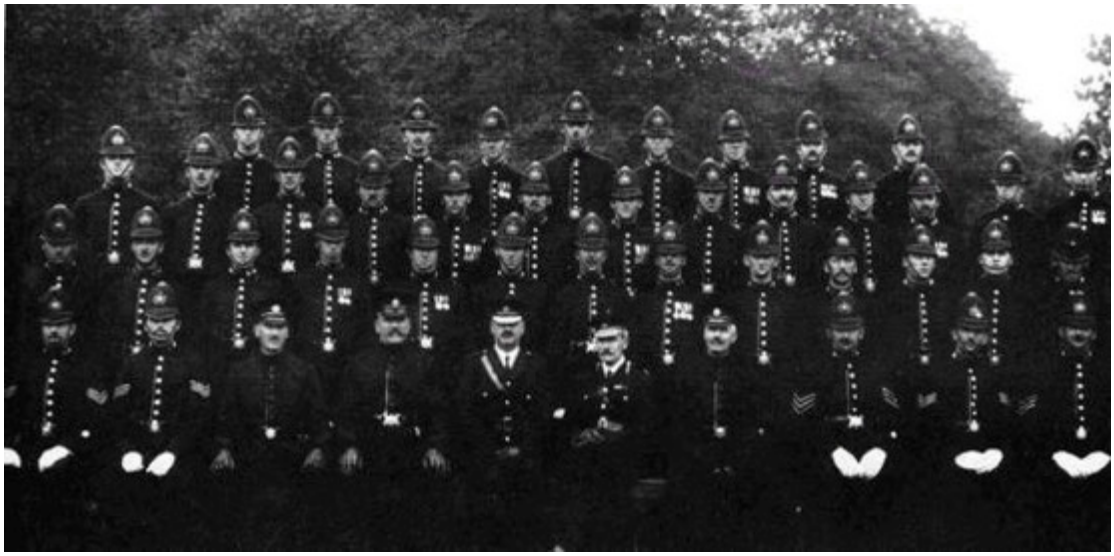
Police trying to stop street football 1897 in Dorking



Reigate First World War with Reigate Borough Police sergeant at the centre of the picture

Oxted – it is said Tony Forward was the superintendent in the middle!

Woking 1930



Chertsey 1925 Superintendent Dawes and Chief Constable Sant

New owners to invest €50m in Westport House[1]

Friday, 27 Jan 2017
From Mick Ryan

This may appear to be off message for a police history Journal but Mick who came to the Surrey Constabulary from Ireland in 1979 watches news from his old home and he came across this piece. The Browne family who have sold Westport House are a part of the extended family that once owned Mount Browne, which was sold to the Surrey Constabulary in 1949.

[1] http://www.rte.ie/news/2017/0127/848097-westport-house-mayo/

Westport House in Co Mayo has been sold to a local family, who have announced plans for a major investment at the estate over the next five years.

It brings to an end the ownership of the Browne family, who have links stretching back several hundred years with the estate.

The acquisition and move to Mount Browne in 1949

In the search for a new headquarters several premises were looked at and, by the end of 1947, serious consideration was being given to the acquisition of Mount Browne for a Police headquarters. On 19 December an inspection of the property by the Chief Constable, members of the Police Housing Sub-committee and officers of the county council took place. In the meeting held at the existing headquarters on the same day, the Chief Constable reported that Mount Browne was suitable and would be large enough to accommodate the present staff with the possible exception of the Traffic Department. The top storey of the house would give sufficient accommodation for 7-14 day courses although, in the long-term, additional residential accommodation would be needed on the estate. The police were not the only people interested in acquiring the property. The Home Office was considering its possible use as a special approved school. The Surrey County Council Estates Committee, on receipt of the report of the Police Housing Sub-committee, was in favour of acquisition of the property – by compulsory purchase if necessary.

A Chief Constable's memorandum, outlining his preliminary views, described the property as consisting of a 24-bedroomed house, approximately 50 years old, standing in 40 acres of land, much of which consisted of wooded inclines unsuitable for development. It included garage and stabling accommodation with two cottages with access being obtained through "a poor and inadequate but short link road to Sandy Lane". The Chief Constable was of the opinion that, with minor alterations, the premises could accommodate practically the whole of the existing headquarters organisation and was "capable of development at some future time to meet long-term

needs." The wisdom of this particular observation was to be realised in succeeding years. Significantly, the Traffic Superintendent later drew attention to the need for adequate wireless accommodation.

By 5 February 1948, planning matters were being considered by various authorities. There were still other contenders for the property; a main one being the London County Council which wanted it as a Remand Home for females. It was felt, reasonably, that the Guildford Rural District Council "would prefer the police to the Remand Home." At the same time the Burchett's Farm site was still under consideration although its appeal was waning. The possibility of demolishing the existing old headquarters in Woodbridge Road, Guildford, and replacing it with a multi-storey office block building was also considered but not very seriously. The difficulties in the interval between evacuation and re-occupation were too great. By 16 February 1948, the Police Housing Sub-committee was determined to acquire the property, considering that the needs of the police outweighed those of any other contenders. At their meeting at County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames on that date it was resolved:

"That the Estates Committee be requested to authorise immediate negotiations for the purchase of Mount Browne, Sandy Lane, Artington, Guildford. That, if necessary, the committee would support the acquisition of Mount Browne under compulsory powers"

By 18 March 1948, negotiations were definitely under way and reported to be progressing satisfactorily. Lady Browne was going away, having secured premises at Albury, and a Mr Gregory had the winding-up of the estate in hand. The possibility of taking over certain existing pictures and fittings and furniture was being considered and the head gardener and under-gardener were also understandably asking about the matter of their continued employment. On a more mundane level, it was pointed out that "about 16 cwts., of seed potatoes were on order," raising the question of whether they would still be required.
By letter of 9 April 1948 to the Chief Constable, the clerk to the Surrey Standing Joint Committee reported that the Secretary of State had approved the acquisition of the property as Police headquarters at the figure of £17,500. With typical ministerial caution the secretary was at pains to point out that these were "special circumstances and should not be regarded as a precedent." The secretary also pointed out that, in the current shortage of building materials and the limitation on capital works, it might not be possible to authorise any extensive works in the near future.

In a concluding paragraph the clerk to the Standing Joint Committee stated that legal formalities were proceeding with a view to acquiring the property by 1 May or as soon thereafter as reasonably practicable. By return letter of 10 April the Chief Constable duly noted the "no precedent" provision.

With purchase of the property imminent, the Chief Constable prepared a report, presumably for the Standing Joint Committee, dealing with such matters as installation of telephones, purchase or disposal of existing fixtures and fittings together with certain horticultural equipment and produce, and the retention and recruitment of civilian staff. Negotiations were also to be entered into with neighbouring farmers for the letting or re-letting of two agricultural fields.

4 June 1948 was the Day of Destiny. The purchase of Mount Browne was completed. With the acquisition of the property much had to be done, and quickly, to make it ready for occupation. Arrangements had to be made for various facilities including, at higher levels, provision of access roads and, at the opposite end of the scale, provisions for dustbins and the requisite collection of their contents. A survey of trees in the grounds by a representative of the Godalming Timber Company revealed that three elms were in a dangerous condition and in need of lopping. A touching letter from Lady Browne to the Chief Constable thanked him for the gift of twelve iris corms from the gardens.

The cost of the purchase of tenant's fixtures at Mount Browne was eventually £916 and this received Home Office approval.

The formal opening of the premises by the Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon J Chuter Ede MP, was scheduled for 23 September 1949.

SURREY CONSTABULARY

REPORT OF A SPEECH

BY

THE HOME SECRETARY

(The Right Hon. J. Chuter Ede, M.P.)

on the occasion of the

OPENING OF SURREY

County Police Headquarters

MOUNT BROWNE,
GUILDFORD,

Friday, 23rd September, 1949

in the presence of 120 Police Officers, drawn from all sections of the County and a gathering of 78 guests.

Chairman:

Mr. J. H. WENHAM, J.P.

(Chairman, Surrey Standing Joint Committee).

The Chief Constable issued comprehensive instruction to all his headquarters Superintendents on the forthcoming ceremony in a memorandum dated 22nd September 1949. The opening paragraph dealt with matters of dress. Uniformed staff were to be in their best uniforms while detectives and plain clothes staff were to be in dark suits. Female civilian staff and unestablished clerks were asked to be suitably dressed.

Meal and cloakroom arrangements were specified, as was the parking accommodation for cars, motor cycles and pedal cycles. Staff coats were not to be left on the pegs by the back door – these were to be for the use of guests.

Inspector Mackenzie was to arrange for policewomen to be suitably placed so as to direct and assist ladies present. Important guests were to be escorted through the building in nine parties. On their partaking of tea at approximately 4.30 pm, officers and men from the parade would be allowed to inspect the buildings, again in escorted parties. No smoking was to be allowed.

The meticulous arrangements were productive. All went well on the appointed day of 23 September when Mr Chuter Ede formally opened the premises in the presence of a distinguished gathering of about 78 guests and 120 police officers drawn from all over the county. The former included the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey (General Sir Robert Haining), members of the Standing Joint Committee, Mayoral representatives of the Boroughs of Guildford, Reigate and Godalming, the West Surrey coroner, and the chief officer of the Surrey Fire Brigade together with various local authority and public services representatives. The police parade was under the command of Assistant Chief Constable Mr H N Back.

On his arrival, the Home Secretary, escorted by the Chief Constable and the Lord Lieutenant, inspected the assembled parade in company with Colonel G H R Halland

(HM Inspector of Constabulary). The occasion was used by the Lord Lieutenant to present the King's Police and Fire Services Medal for distinguished service to Superintendent E A Curry (Weybridge) for the efficient maintenance and operation of his division during the war, often under heavy bombing.

In welcoming the Home Secretary, Mr J H Wenham (Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee) commented that it was only 18 months since Chief Constable Sir Philip Henriques and himself had first inspected the site. The Standing Joint Committee was grateful for the help it had received from high officials at the Home Office in pushing the scheme through.

Mr Chuter Ede congratulated the Chief Constable and all ranks on their splendid appearance. He commented that they were part of a force that was fundamental to the British way of life, having great powers and equally great responsibilities, which were combined with duties of prevention as well as detection.

Continuing on the many difficulties confronting the Force, he particularly mentioned that of housing for police officers and was pleased to state that in the next financial year there would be a very substantial housing programme for the police. As regards manpower, he voiced the national concern at the shortage of policemen.

After congratulating the Force on its new headquarters he formally turned the key of the front door of Mount Browne and inspection of the premises commenced. After tea there were tours of the grounds.

1949 – What the papers said: New Headquarters of Surrey Police Crime Detection Centre in House Built by Peer – Opening Ceremony Next Week (Extract from the Surrey Advertiser dated 17 September 1949) [2]

Surrey's new £30,000 police headquarters at Mount Browne, Sandy Lane, Guildford will be opened officially by the Home Secretary (Mr H. Chuter Ede) next Friday. Mr. Ede and a party of distinguished guests will see an impressive array of the latest crime fighting equipment designed to deal with the 6000-odd indictable offences committed in the county every year since the end of the war.

The building, which is of red brick, contains some 50 rooms, and 60 years ago was built as a residence for the Marquis and Marchioness of Sligo. It was purchased in July 1948, at a cost of £17,500, and adaptations, together with the construction of estate rods and a fresh link with the main Portsmouth Road, have cost almost a further £12,000. The house itself stands in 37 acres of heavily wooded grounds and will eventually contain houses for the senior police officers and the county police sports ground, with two football pitches and a cricket square. The houses, itself contains the

[2] http://www.surrey.police.uk/about-us/our-history

administrative offices, the wireless equipment for the relay of messages to patrol cars all over the county, the crime bureau with its fingerprint section, its gigantic card index of known criminals, and down in the old wine cellar the laboratories and photographic dark rooms, where forgeries and attempts at removing incriminating marks are all brought to light under the all seeing eyes of the infra-red and ultra-violet cameras.

Altogether the staff at the new headquarters numbers 70 and the transfer from the old quarters in Woodbridge Road is, with the exception of one section, now complete. When newspaper representatives were given a preview of the headquarters on Tuesday, Surrey's Chief Constable (Mr J. Simpson) said that the new premises "fulfilled all their expectations."

"In our old quarters," he added, "we were very cramped and most of the offices were converted living quarters."
The old premises in Woodbridge Road are now almost empty, and after "tittivation" the Guildford police will take them over. The future of the old North Street station is as yet, it is understood, undecided.

Peep into History
The history of the Surrey Constabulary began in January 1851, when 70 constables donned the bucket-shaped helmets to protect Surrey's doubtless righteous citizens from the terrors of the lawbreaker. Apparently being a policeman in those far-off days was quite a tough profession, and it is on record that during the first ten years of the force 700 men passes through it, but the strength at any one time never exceeded 70. In fact one of the orders of that period decreed that upon leaving the force the constable was to pay 10s – so that his uniform could be altered for the next man.

PC No. 1 of the Surrey Constabulary (and later Superintendent) was William Biddlecombe, who rose to fame as the private detective responsible for the unmasking of Arthur Orton in the famous Tichborne "pretender" case. He was able to buy a public house at Chertsey and go into retirement. One of the relics, which the constabulary preserves, is a tall top hat as worn by the Superintendents of those days (and perhaps by Mr. Biddlecombe himself). This is one of the latest additions to their museum and came to light during the recent move.

The force came into existence on January 30th of that year, only a third of the way through Victoria's reign. The next day an order was published ordering Constables to "submit their reports in writing."

Today the force has a total complement of 663 and contains many specialists. Their new home is a place of long resounding corridors, high panelled rooms, and everywhere one still finds the "S" crest of the Sligo family. The ballroom is now the conference room and the drawing room is the general office. On the top floor (there

are three) in what were once the servants quarters are the dormitories for students taking short specialist and refresher courses, and in that respect Mount Browne has a dual purpose, for Surrey's policemen will receive some of their training there as well.

First Floor Nerve Centre

On the first floor is the nerve centre of the force – the wireless control room. Here messages are sent by direct radio beam to the short wave "master" station to the Hog's Back, and from there to the two satellite stations at Stoke D'Abernon and Caterham.

Within a matter of 30 seconds contact can be made with police cars in any part of Surrey, to direct them to the same scene of a crime, or to put them on the track of escaping criminals.

"We have 17 cars altogether," explained the Inspector in charge, "and it is our purpose to maintain at least one car in each of the five wireless areas throughout the 24 hours."

"I must emphasise," he added, "that the police who maintain this service are not technical men. We merely use the equipment. It is serviced by Home Office engineers."

Crime detection is the business of Det. Superintendent T. Roberts and his staff of experts. He was the officer in charge of the investigation into the "Babes in the Wood" and the "Chalkpit" murders, and with the advances which science has made in the methods of crime detection during the past few years his job has become even more complex. He has a staff who meticulously record the many thousands of fingerprints of convicted persons passing through their hands year by year, and devote many hours to compiling and searching through the card index system which records the physical appearance, the peculiarities and the distinctive methods which criminals employ. One character contained in the index, which our reporter saw, was an old lady of 65 who had employed no less than 112 aliases.

These are just a few of the facets of the work that is carried on night and day for your protection. Mr. Ede and the other guests will see them next Friday.

Initially the plan was for the Chief Constable's office, General Office and Registry to be on the ground floor, together with the conference hall. The staff kitchen and dining room were also to be on the ground floor. Crime Bureau and Traffic Department Administration, including the wireless control room, would be on the first floor, along with provision for women police and a classroom.

The training section would be on the top floor where there would be accommodation for about 20-40 men. Parking space for both police and private vehicles also had to be considered. Interestingly, reference was made to "road patrols and wireless cars" as though they were departmentally separate. The new wireless scheme had been brought into being only a month before the opening of Mount Browne and was considered a great innovation. In a statement to the press an Inspector commented: "We have 17 cars altogether and it is our purpose to maintain at least one car in each of the five wireless areas throughout the 24 hours."

Shortage of general accommodation was, however, a continuing problem. In 1949 clothing, stationery etc. were still being stored in leased premises in Martyr Road, Guildford.

On 6 December 1949 a bronze memorial tablet, designed by Mr. George Friend and bearing the names of 22 members of the Force who lost their lives in the fighting services during the years 1939-45, was unveiled in the main entrance hall by Major Nicholson, the previous Chief Constable. Designed to match the earlier memorial tablet in honour of those who died in the 1914-18 war; it was funded by voluntary subscriptions from the force. [3]

[3] http://www.surrey.police.uk/about-us/our-history

Retirement November 1994 Operations Department

Clive Barham, Derek Mann, Robert Bartlett, Keith Stribblehill, Guy Darby, Dave Cording, Roger Weedon, John Lawrie, Gordon Little and Fred Smith

(Photos from Tony Suter February 2017)

Kevin Pengelly and DI John Cobbett about 1980 CID at Godalming - probably taken when both attached to Operation Countryman based at Godalming having been moved out of London

Some Swing events in Surrey 1830-1831

Agricultural Unrest

The name Swing was taken from a fictitious Captain Swing who signed threatening letters to people of local importance, for example overseers, magistrates, vicars and others deemed responsible for the prevailing condition of the farm labourer. The aim of the rioters was to increase wages and reduce unemployment. (The word swing refers to a swinging stick of the flail when hand threshing.) A market in Guildford was attacked by a mob. Sheep were stolen from farms in Dorking and corn stacks set ablaze. At Albury an overseer was shot at but he was not hit.[4]

The landowning classes, rightly so, felt threatened by the Swing events and in England 1830-1831 over 2,000 protesters were brought to trial. More than 250 were

[4] 2017 February 2 Dorking and Leatherhead article on the poor law and workhouses

sentenced to death (although 19 were hung) 644 imprisoned and 481 transported including the men from Dorking. [5]

1830 2/3 August Portley Farm near Caterham: Arson[6]: £2000 damage to a barn caused by rioters. The whole farm was reduced to ashes but it was noted that it was the thatch of the barn housing the threshing machine that had first been set alight. Conflicting rumours had it that it was a reprisal for the employment of Irish labourer and alternatively, that it was the Irish labourers themselves that had fired the barns. To add to the mystery the previous occupant of the farm a former businessman said to be highly respected in the neighbourhood, was the only suspect brought to trial several months later and discharged for lack of evidence at the Surrey summer assizes in 1831.[7]

1830 3 November Swing arson at Caterham, Englefield on the 11th, Albury 14th and Ockley on the 14th there were three fires.

1830 11 November Swing arson at Englefield Green

1830 14 November Arson at Albury[8]: On 10 January 1831 James Warner was hung for arson. James Franks the owner of a corn mill next to his house in Albury awoke to the sound of fire and saw a man in a brown frock coat run off. After local enquiries James Warner was soon identified following rash claims made in drink. Local magistrate Henry Drummond ordered a search of Warner's house where a gun was found and a brown frock coat. Warner had worked for Franks but had been laid off two years earlier. He was convicted and hung.

1830 16 November Swing arson at Egham,[9] Wallington and two at Woking

1830 19 November Tithe meeting riots at Ockley, Wotton, Woking and Norwood (probably the area south of Leigh) overnight 19th and 20th [10]

1830 Radical handbills were circulated in **Dorking**. On the 19th November, The Times reported "an immense multitude of peasantry" assembled at Wotton to compel the rector the Rev. J E Boscawen, to reduce his tithes. Some of the demonstrators claimed to have been forced to do what they did by men from Horsham. " whom they durst not disobey." A part of the crowd moved off it was alleged towards Dorking following a leader "dressed in a smock frock" and the riots that followed three days

[5] 2017 February 2 Dorking and Leatherhead article on the poor law and workhouses
[6] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoly page56
[7] The Times 18 April and 10August 1830
[8] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoly page 56
[9] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 App 3
[10] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 App 3

later at Dorking and Walton when the justices were besieged and assaulted in a public house appear to be inspired from the same quarter.[11]

1830 November: News that a mob was going to assemble at Wotton forced the authorities to organise the local constabulary (pre Surrey Constabulary so parish constables, and special constables) to prevent potential trouble. But there was still tension in the air. Dorking magistrates requested a troop of cavalry to be sent to the town as news of a further meeting of protesters filtered through. On **22 November** hundreds of local labourers met outside the Red Lion pub in Dorking High Street. The authorities had staves and pikes put inside the pub just in case the mob turned nasty and 114 special constables were sworn in. A local magistrate stood on the steps of the Re Lion and tried to calm the crowd but that ended in failure when a fight broke out. A local JP read the Riot Act, which enabled the authorities to use all measures necessary to keep the peace. (Repealed 1969) The police (not as we now know them) moved in and some cavalry were used to break up the mob. Several arrests were made and they were taken to Guildford gaol where eventually the ringleaders were sent to prison or even transported to Australia.[12]

1830 24 November Dockenfield a wage meeting riot[13]

1830 25 November: Swing arson at Egham [14] and Limpsfield

1830 29 November Banstead Arson:[15] A haystack was set on fire and as people rushed to dowse the flames a farm was also set on fire on the other side of the village. But the early arrival of a fire engine stopped any serious damage. Letters had been received at the farm allegedly from "Captain Swing" the mysterious "leader" of the agricultural disturbances of the day. There was also arson at Merton on this day[16]

1830 30 November: Albury Swing arson and riot[17]

1830 6 December: Oxshott Swing arson[18]

1830 10 December: Captain Evelyn Broadwood whose family have extensive Lyne Estates around the Surrey/Sussex border for over a century and a half has a fascinating day book diary written by his great grandfather. The first entry dated December 10 1830 states "To prevent a recurrence of the risings of the Peasantry in the neighbourhood for increase of wages, I have this day been down to Capel and at

[11] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 page 86
[12] 2017 February 2 Dorking and Leatherhead article on the poor law and workhouses
[13] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 App 3
[14] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 App 3
[15] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoly page 56
[16] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3
[17] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3
[18] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3

the Crown Inn have as a magistrate sworn in 59 special constables of which 14 were my servants and labourers and 19 from Newdigate Parish." [19]

1830 12 December: Cheam Swing arson[20]

1830 18 December: Oxted and Woldingham Swing arson[21]

1831 6 January Albury: Tithe riot[22]

1831 January:[23] A few days after the execution of Warner shots were fired through the windows of the institution's master of the workhouse in Guildford and a note left: "Warner is murdered; Franks, Drummond and Smallpiece shall die. I could clear him at the place, you fake swearing villains. We fired the mill. Starving and firing shall go together"

1831 23 October there were two Swing arson offences near Guildford, the last recorded in the county there being only five more incidents associated with these disturbances in the country in the following days. Finally it was over and the retribution could continue.

The numbers of swing related incidents in the rural parts of Surrey totalled: arson 23,wage riot 1, tithe riots 4, with one "riot assault" totalling 29 incidents far less than in the surrounding agricultural counties.[24] In the county this resulted in 20 cases heard in three courts where 11 were acquitted, eight jailed, one sentenced to death and 8 transported.[25]

President Kennedy visits the British Prime Minister

John Molyneaux

President Kennedy had embarked on a whirlwind tour of Europe and wanted to spend a weekend in the country with our Prime Minister, Harold McMillan at his home, Birch Grove, Chelwood Gate, Sussex. This was Saturday 29th to Sunday 30th June 1963.

[19] Dorking Advertiser July 24 2014 in Yesteryear column with item from same date 1849
[20] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3
[21] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3
[22] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3
[23] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoly page 58
[24] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 1
[25] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 2

I was a PC at Caterham and that weekend a coach-load of us were seconded to assist Sussex Police. On the Saturday afternoon, I was standing guard in Lowfield Heath Road, right at the end of the runway at Gatwick Airport. JFK's aircraft, Air Force One, was a specially adapted Boeing VC 137C. This type of plane hadn't landed at Gatwick before, but fortunately the runway was long enough. That evening we were bussed to a small army camp at Maresfield, where we spent the night. We were allowed to use the bar in the Sergeant's Mess and we drunk it dry!

JFK was a devout Catholic and it was arranged for him to attend church in Forest Row on Sunday morning. Police officers were stationed, about every 20 yards apart, along the Lewes Road across Ashdown Forest and our bus-load was positioned at the end of the road, almost opposite Chelwood Gate Road. About 10 am, JFK appeared in his big black Cadillac with 4 G-men on the running boards, and all their cars sped off towards Forest Row.The idea was that we would follow, in the bus, to be present if back-up were needed. Our bus had had it's guts removed, as, by the time we got out of the junction the motorcade was out of sight. By the time we reached Forest Row the service, which lasted about 40 minutes, was over, so we turned around and followed the cars back to Birch Grove. We then drove to Gatwick and were in time to see him take off, bound for Italy. [He had gone from Chelwood Gate to Gatwick by helicopter.]

Policing in Surrey Part Three
The Boroughs

Robert Bartlett MA

Guildford Borough Police

Before the borough new police were formed the policing of Guildford, like most other towns, consisted of two head constables, five tythingmen (two for Holy Trinity two for St Mary's and one for St Nicholas parishes) two tasters of bread and ale, two tasters of flesh and fish, two sergeants-at-mace, and two night watchmen. [26]

The man who was to become the first Guildford Borough Police officer was Charles Mandeville from a local Surrey family of many generations whose parents were John an agricultural labourer and Rose Mandeville. One of nine children he was christened in the Church of St Nicholas in Guildford when his parents lived in Park Street.[27] Sometime in the 1820s Charles became a night watchman in Guildford or as they were known bellman paid for by property owners to supplement the system of Parochial Constables.[28]

[26] Guildford City Outlook April 1930
[27] Charles Mandeville Guildford's first Policeman: Scholes, Police History Society Journal 23 2008
[28] Charles Mandeville "Guildford's first Policeman" Scholes, Police History Society Journal 23 2008

The New Police for the Borough of Guildford

In 1836 on the 15 January, The Municipal Corporations Act 1835 led to a meeting of the Guildford Borough Council Watch Committee and resolved and ordered that nine Constables and a superintendent be appointed for the Borough and the Town Clerk "do give notice in writing affixed to the Town Hall ---- and that any persons desirous of taking such office should send in their applications to the Town Clerk and attend the next meeting." The constables were appointed on the 18th January, at the next meeting Richard Jarlett chosen as the "Superintendent Constable" at a salary of £15 per annum. This was a part time role as Jarlett continued as a High Street baker.

The minutes of the Guildford Borough Watch Committee for the 18 January 1836, also "ordered that Charles Mandeville[29] and James Wilkins be continued watchmen and appointed night constables of this borough at the salary of 18s in summer and 21s in winter." [30]

On the following day the two men were sworn in as constables before the mayor, John Smallpiece. On the 1 February six pairs of handcuffs were ordered for the night constables.[31]

The constables were to be paid 18 shillings a week in the summer and 21 shillings in the winter. On the 19th January it was ordered that the men who were already sworn in should start on the 20th January 1836[32]. From some work that tried to identify all the Borough officers there is a list under the heading 1863: Jarlett, Wilkins, Mandeville, Seabrook, Marshall, Douglas, Wilson, Pink, Jeffries, Williams, and Clarke. [33] (Superintendent plus 10 not nine – the growth in numbers had begun!)

There was a distinction between night constables and day policemen (who covered 0600-2000) with some of the former watchmen being appointed for the night-time including James Williams (sic)[34] and Charles Mandeville. On the 14 May (also said to be 14 July[35]) Philip Clarke a former sergeant in the militia was appointed constable and day policeman at a weekly salary of 17 shillings and sixpence and in addition to his salary, "… be provided with clothes of the same description as the London police, provided the expense thereof does not exceed five guineas."

The uniform consisted of a top hat and an eight button blue swallow tailed jacket. A leather stock 10cm deep was worn around the neck as protection against attempts at strangulation with a piece of rope. There was a belt with a large buckle bearing the

[29] Charles died of apoplexy after retirement in 1868 aged 63 and is buried in the Nightingale Cemetery
[30] Charles Mandeville "Guildford's first Policeman" Scholes, Police History Society Journal 23 2008
[31] Charles Mandeville "Guildford's first Policeman" Scholes, Police History Society Journal 23 2008
[32] Richard Ford "They Guarded Guildford" Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[33] Handwritten A3 sheets of paper in the Ian Ewence collection handed to the author
[34] Should probably read Wilkins
[35] Charles Mandeville "Guildford's first Policeman" Scholes, Police History Society Journal 23 2008

Borough insignia and a pair of heavy Wellington boots. The hat was 15cm tall with a 5cm wide brim and reinforced. The upper part was of leather overlapping a beaver skin body, reinforced with cane.[36]

Early Guildford Borough Police officers

1841 Census[37]:

Richard Jarlett is a baker living in the High Street

Charles Hollington aged 27 a future chief constable of Guildford Borough Police was at this time a PC in the Metropolitan Police living at 13 Upper Crown Street, St Margaret's, in Westminster which appears to have been a section house for single officers. In 1838 Hollington was sent from London on aid to Birmingham during the Chartist disorders.[38]

George Vickers a future Chief Constable was a Police Constable living in Dartmouth Street, St Margaret's in Westminster at the residence of John May Superintendent of Police [39]

Accommodation was taken on a temporary basis until 29 September when the house of Mr Jeffrey's, Sergeant at Mace, was to be used as a police station in 1, Tunsgate behind the corn market, long since demolished. The officers broke their long working days with an hour for breakfast, an hour for lunch and half an hour for tea.

On the 28 September 1841 Charles Hollington was appointed superintendent policeman and Head Constable of the Borough at a wage of 25 shillings a week plus a house. Hollington was to serve until he transferred to the Surrey Constabulary as one of the first superintendents six months after its formation in 1851. He was a brave capable man, ambitious and serving well with the new force although he became embroiled in a discipline issue that resulted in his move from Farnham to Chertsey after which little more is to be found.

[36] Charles Mandeville "Guildford's first Policeman:" Scholes, Police History Society Journal 23 2008
[37] Research by John Molyneux a retired officer HO 107/1082/3 RG 9/428 page 115
[38] http://www.chartists.net/Policing-the-Chartists.htm#brum
[39] From Foul Deeds and Suspicious deaths in Guildford Caroline Maxton Wharncliffe Books

Portrait of J H Law, a Guildford Policeman. Surrey History Centre

Portrait of Sutton, a Guildford Policeman. Surrey History Centre

Portrait of Davis, a Guildford Policeman. Surrey History Centre

Portrait of Titley, a Guildford Policeman. Surrey History Centre

The role of a county chief constable was very different to that of the men from the Borough. The borough head constables or chief constable's worked their way up the ranks and were hard bitten practical police officers able to deal, and they did deal on a daily basis, with crime and disorder and were involved in the day to day operational policing of their areas. The county chief constable worked through his superintendents who, like the borough men, had worked their way up to their rank as operational police officers.

The original budget for watching the borough in 1843 was £220 increasing in 1844 £251 19 0d. It is difficult to relate these costs to modern day funding but on the basis

of about 18 shillings a week pay for an officer, as now, most of the expenditure would have been on staff.

In October 1854 after a brief period of being a part of the Surrey Constabulary the Watch Committee withdrew and decided to reform the Borough Police. This must have been a significant blow to the Constabulary not only because of the loss of ratepayers but Guildford was the key town in the county where the constabulary headquarters was situated. The chief constable was left in the position of having his major police building in the heart of another police area through which many of his men would have to pass every day. The breach between the Rural Police Committee and the Watch Committee was around accommodation but it is unlikely this was the only issue, probably more a trigger point, a focus for a range of frustrations and issues encompassing control and costs.

The reconstituted Borough police was re-formed under the command of Mr Goff who was appointed 27 October 1854. Goff died on the 31 December 1854 and George Vickers appointed. Early initiatives included the appointment of a "medical man" in line with the county and those leaving were required to give a month's notice.[40]

1855 Budget costs £478.0.6d estimated [41]

Lighting and Watching Acts and Farnham

In 1830 the year after the formation of the Metropolitan Police and during the agricultural disturbances there was a legislative change, which had far reaching effects on local policing. The Lighting and Watching Act of that year could be adopted locally by a certain number of property owners following a simple procedure of calling a properly constituted meeting and appointing Inspectors from their number. They were then empowered to levy a rate and, among other things, to appoint patrolling watchmen as paid constables. These paid constables would be controlled and directed by the elected inspectors. This Act was adopted in a great many places, usually where the system of parochial constables was failing to meet the needs of the community. As the Act only provided for local inhabitants to pay for their own policing there must generally have been some problem in existence which residents were prepared to pay to solve.

This Lighting and Watching Act of 1830 and the subsequent Act of 1833, were the first statutes to deal with the establishment of paid police forces in England and Wales generally. It enabled, but didn't require boroughs to form forces along the lines of London's Metropolitan Police. This Act was replaced by the Municipal Corporations Act 1835, which required boroughs such as Guildford to establish paid police forces.

[40] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[41] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary

(It was not until the 1860s that Reigate became a Borough). The 1835 Act applied, initially, to the 178 boroughs that had been granted royal charters of self–government.

This 1830 and 1833 Acts were of little permanent value and are worthy of note as the first attempts to provide police during the day outside the metropolis. [42] The 1833 Act was aimed gently to encourage greater levels of rural policing without challenging local autonomy but the extent to which permissive powers were adopted depended on levels of local anxiety about crime and disorder and a willingness to fund reform. [43]

Farnham, and eventually Godalming and Dorking were early adopters of the Lighting and Watching Act of 1830 and appointing the necessary inspectors. At a vestry meeting called on the authority of the Churchwardens at Farnham church on the 2 August 1830, it was decided to hold a public meeting to consider the adoption of the Act. Those in present at that public meeting on the 18 August 1830 voted in favour of implementing the Act and agreed a level of rate not to exceed one shilling and four pence to pay for the requirement of the Act then adopted.

A number of local men were elected to serve as Inspectors for the purposes of the Act and on that evening, six of the inspectors resolved that William Beagley and Thomas Cole be appointed as Watchmen and Night patrol "for the proper protection of the inhabitants, houses and property, streets and other places within the limits of this market town at the weekly wages of twelve shillings each." James Steer was also appointed and employed in the same capacity and at the same wages during an emergency or in the case of illness or absence of either Beagley or Cole.

It was ordered that the Watchman's duties should be to patrol the town of Farnham every hour from the 25th March to 29th September from eleven o'clock at night till four in the morning and from 29th September to 25th March from eleven at night till five in the morning.[44] Details of the uniform worn by the watchmen is not known but hats were ordered for them at 5s 6d each not far off half a weeks pay!

> That one of them shall patrol once at least every hour, West Street and through the Church Yard by Captain Prescott's to Longbridge, over the bridge to Sir George Barlow's gate and into Red Lion Lane, and back by Longbridge to the Borough – occasionally to go from West Street by Muss Willmer's through the Meadows to the Church Yard and occasionally from Longbridge by the Meadows to the end of Dogflood, and to cry the hour in an audible voice.
> And that the other Watchman shall in a like manner patrol Dogflood and Bear Lane to Castle Street, from thence through the Borough to the end of Longbridge and back to the Borough – occasionally to go from the end of

[42] History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 274
[43] Brundage, 'Ministers, magistrates and reformers: the genesis of the Rural Constabulary Act
[44] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 2, 3

> Dogflood through the Hop Ground into Castle Street and thence behind the Lion and Lamb to the end of West Street.[45]

James Steer was added to the rota of watchmen at Farnham during the emergency of the hop-picking season.

With the introduction of the night watch there was the additionally security provided by the development of about sixty oil lamps lit from dusk of the 1 September 1830 to continue every night until the 31 March 1831[46]

The inspectors at Farnham were appointed for a three year term and empowered to employ as many watchmen "as they shall think sufficient," to regulate their work hours and wages subject to overall financial limits set by the ratepayers. The watchmen had the same powers as a constable. Once adopted the new scheme could only be abandoned after three years.[47] There was difficulty in many areas with implementation of the Act because of costs but Farnham acted quickly and were no doubt persuaded by the perceived threat of crime and disorder in and around the town.

At a special meeting on the 8 October 1830 the inspectors investigated the conduct of watchman Beagley in not having apprehended two "loose characters" whom he had seen in the street just before one o'clock that morning and who had been into Mr James Lamport's garden. Beagley was suspended for one month to be reinstated only on the production of a strong recommendation from the inhabitants in his favour. William Hughes was appointed for a month to fill the gap. Beagley acquired the right number of recommendations and was reinstated and Hughes remained on the strength as a supernumerary watchman. All four men were put on special duty on Guy Fawkes Night, "to prevent tumult or riot in the town."[48]

Beagley, Steer and Hughes resigned in 1832 and were replaced by William Stannard and William Roe who were instructed to report all public houses and beer shops found open after hours.[49] To lose two of the four watchmen indicates a misdemeanour uncovered or a problem over conditions of service. There was of course also the loss of hard gained knowledge and experience.

In April 1833 a second Lighting and Watching Act was placed on the statute book, repealing the 1830 Act, and so Farnham had again to opt into a level of formalised Lighting and Watching. At a public meeting on the 27 September 1833 there was not total support for the proposals but following a vote, two thirds of the ratepayers voted in favour. On the 1 November with John Hollest of Leigh House in the chair, nine

[45] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 3
[46] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 274
[47] Policing – A Short History; Philip Rawlings; Willan Publishing 2002 page 128
[48] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 4
[49] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 4

new Inspectors of Lighting and Watching were elected. They met on the 4 November at the Savings Bank and the old order was resumed with John Newell a constable, was employed to patrol the streets on the 5 November "for the purpose of preventing mischief by fire."[50]

Under the County Police Acts of 1839 and 1840 the government could subsidise 25% of the costs of new police forces one of the conditions being that there should be sufficient police stations with holding facilities. In August 1846 there was discussion locally when concern is expressed over the amount of additional drainage a police station (still referred to as a lock up) would add to the system. [51] It appears the local council were taking advantage of the 25%!

As from 1835 September 6 Watchman Stannard was making his rounds between eleven and twelve o'clock when he saw Richard Young, George Young and Charles hack near the Market House in castle Street. George Young had a ferret in his hand, which the watchman endeavoured to gain a sight of believing it to be stolen. He was thrown down by Richard Young and on getting up, the watchman defended himself against an attack by Young who was hit by the watchman's staff and knocked to the ground. When placed before the bench the culprits promised never to strike the Watchman again. Stannard was bought a new coat and cape costing three guineas by the Inspectors. At the same meeting when the clothing was agreed, the Watchmen were admonished for not having cried the hour (pleading hoarseness) and were commanded to so every hour in future. [52]

Following further legislation John Newall a constable was appointed Superintendent of the Watch at £5 a year "to have an eye of the Watchmen at least twice a week and keep a report book regarding the regularity or otherwise of the watchmen." Henry Downes and Steven Scarlett joined as watchmen in place of Roe. [53]

The treasurer of the Vestry was authorised in the event of neglect or supposed impropriety of conduct on the part of the Watchmen, to suspend them and withhold their wages. They were an unreliable lot and yet it was these men dressed in uniform, armed with staves and patrolling their lonely beats in the ill-lit, streets through the long hours of the night[54] who were key to the future evolution of policing in the countryside and small towns.

The reference in the book Victorian Farnham is the first seen to date, that the men of these small nascent police forces wore a uniform. More work need to be undertaken in Dorking and Godalming to see if there are references to a uniform.

[50] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 5
[51] Letter to Robert Bartlett June 2014 from Mr. Jo H Futcher late Surrey Constabulary
[52] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 6
[53] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 7
[54] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 7

The Dorking Watch

The Watch was not considered expedient by the towns people so on the 7 November 1825 a meeting "for the purpose of establishing a nightly patrol for the protection of the town and neighbourhood" with subscriptions to be raised for a Patrol Fund and to nominate and superintendent of the Patrol. The Watchmen had been instructed to cry the hour "Past 1" sometimes adding "a cloudy night" "starlight morning" – however it warned the burglar of the watch approaching. The men had shoes with stitched soles instead of nails. Each patrol was issued with a rattle and paid 2/6d a night.[55] (17/6d a week for 7 nights)

One patrol was on duty 10-5am the other two alternatively 8-4 am and 11-6am. The first appointed was George Stonestreet who left to become a Bow Street Runner. In 1826 there was an attempted bank robbery (probably a burglary) and Stonestreet came back to investigate the crime. It was decided thereafter that a patrol would be in the town precincts all night.[56]

The Court Leet met at the Red Lion Hotel to appoint parish constables and headboroughs and the perils and dangers to which they were frequently exposed rendered the offices the reverse of being coveted ones. Over the headborough was the petty constable whose district for legal authority was the parish. The petty constable (or parish constable) and the headborough were alike charged with the duty of arresting offenders and taking them when summarily convicted to the treadmill at Brixton, or when committed for trial to some other county prison. [57] In 1828 Dorking was divided into six Boroughs including Betchworth, Westcott and Holmwood each borough having a headborough for the performance of constabulary duties.[58]

The post of high constable formerly an annual appointment became practically permanent with James White serving continuously from 1833-1873. High constables had a mace as a symbol of office; petty constable a small staff a few inches long with royal arms emblazoned. The men were armed for self-defence with a large staff and sometimes pistols.[59]

1838 Dorking Police [60] [61]

Dorking police force, mostly with two constables and Superintendent Donaldson was probably formed under provisions of the Lighting and Watching Act of 1833.

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[55] Memories of Old Dorking 1977 reprint Charles Rose 1878 page 39
[56] Memories of Old Dorking 1977 reprint Charles Rose 1878 page 39
[57] Memories of Old Dorking 1977 reprint Charles Rose 1878 page 38
[58] Memories of Old Dorking 1977 reprint Charles Rose 1878 page 39
[59] Memories of Old Dorking 1977 reprint Charles Rose 1878 page 38
[60] Email to the Editor 14 March 2009
[61] "Policing Dorking, Surrey 1838-1849" Document May 2010 from the Author Chris Atkins

The Occurrence Book of the Dorking Police, 1838-1849

William Donaldson was to lead a small police force in Dorking from 1838-1851. He had the title of superintendent and maintained a log of their activities, known as the Occurrence Book of which the volumes covering 1838 to 1849 survived.[62] Local policing often existed before the formation of the Surrey Constabulary but it is rare to have a detailed insight into its work which Superintendent Donaldson's Occurrence Book gives, covering the eleven years from 12th November 1838 to 3rd April 1849, setting out the details of what he and his men did from day to day. Superintending constables came from the Parish Constables Act 1842 when it became possible to pay constables and appoint a superintending constable for the Petty Sessional Division.

Donaldson's Occurrence Books

Organisation of the Dorking Police

The force consisted of three officers, initially Superintendent Donaldson who joined from being a constable in the Metropolitan Police, Police Constables No.1 William Brown, and No.2 Jonathan Lewin. This establishment did not alter, although the individuals did. They began work on 12th November 1838, when the Occurrence Book starts, although they were not sworn-in before a magistrate until November 15th. They got off to a good start and on the 15th arrested four people on suspicion of what was highway robbery, although there was insufficient evidence to proceed.

[62] Purchased in 2015 by the Surrey History Centre https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritage-culture-and-recreation/archives-and-history/surrey-history-centre/marvels-of-the-month/inspector-william-donaldson-1807-1855-the-first-surrey-policeman-to-be-killed-on-duty

Their purpose was set out in the book's first entry on the 12th. "On Tuesday forenoon the Boundaries were pointed out, and afterwards, as circumstances would allow, we patrolled in Company that we might show ourselves as much as possible, but we might make ourselves acquainted with our round and if possible to prevent offences and apprehend the offenders". In today's management speak that could be their "mission statement". It looked as though all three patrolled together that day.

They were based in a station house. Early on the superintendent mentioned that an evening had been so wet that "we could not be out and left the station house to go home..." [63] From1847 it was referred to as the police station or merely station and this was probably a new building. The earlier station house was in South Street, adjacent to the town's workhouse, and about 1840-41 a new workhouse was built off Horsham Road. On 10 July 1845 there was a sale of building materials from the old workhouse, the station house, cage, and Mill House, all from South Street. The term "Station House" was still used in 1845 and this may have been the year of the change of which, surprisingly, nothing is mentioned in the Occurrence Book. Regular deliveries of coal, coke and oil, even steel pens, were received, obviously for heating and lighting the building. The cage was a lock-up for offenders awaiting appearance before a magistrate, or remanded there for further enquiries, awaiting a hearing or just to "cool off". It was included in the 1845 sale, but prisoners continued to be held, of course, thereafter. So three tramps were arrested for begging on a Saturday in 1848 were taken to a magistrate on Monday afternoon. [64] A little while after on a Friday: "in the morning I locked John Campbell up for stealing 2/- at the British School, to keep him till Monday."[65] However, there is never any mention where they were held. Given that there was a new police station it doubtless contained secure facilities to house prisoners after 1845.

Presumably the public went to the station house or police station to report incidents, or to "give offenders in charge" (a frequently used expression), if officers could not be found when patrolling. So, entries by the superintendent said, "I was sent for...., I was called to take in charge...." and so on, but it was not always speedy. For example, the news of a burglar disturbed at 11 pm was not passed to the officers until 5pm the following day. In one instance Donaldson was summoned by letter to a house in Mickleham to search the servants' quarters for a valuable ring[66]

Pay is never mentioned – how much, when and where paid - was not included in the books. However, a report to the Quarter Sessions in 1849 mentioned that Dorking parish had spent £167.15s on its police force, a total exceeding all other Surrey parishes outside the Metropolitan Police area except Farnham. This seems to indicate

[63] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 2
[64] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 198
[65] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 199
[66] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 92

some form of police force at Farnham but no information has as yet come to light. The book revealed nothing of their uniform, but they did carry a staff, handcuffs, a rattle (precursor of the whistle), a lantern (or 'lantron') bought from a local shop,[67] perhaps fuelled from the oil delivered to the station house, and a cutlass. The superintendent wrote that at midnight PC Briggs dealt with a disturbance in East Street by three men. "He had an up and down or two with Lovell who tore the Cutlass from the strap, drew it from the scabbard and flourished it over him, but at last gave it up". Lovell was taken on a warrant before a justice who fined him 5/6. [68] In an interesting contrast an offender at the same hearing for stealing broccoli from a garden got three months hard labour.

South Street Dorking the location of the police station and cage

For the Dorking police the serious offence of robbery was infrequent and in his occurrence book the superintendent told how a drunken man complained he had been bundled into a field and robbed of all his cash, comb, pocket knife and tobacco box. He was put in the cage to sober up while the superintendent looked for the three men, finding them in the Rose and Crown. One, Attree, had most of the property on him and the victim later identified all three. The superintendent went to the scene, where the victim's dog still waited, and tried his footprint matching technique, again without success. All three were committed to the London Sessions by a justice, and seven days later were each sentenced to 12 months hard labour.

There is much to be done to research the history of the small police forces of Dorking along with Farnham and Godalming.

[67] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 102
[68] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 172

Godalming's micro Police Force

Within Surrey the small "new" police forces policed the market towns whilst the countryside remained under the protection of parish constables working to the local magistrate, taking support from wherever they could obtain it when needed. In the areas close to Guildford and Godalming in particular, the heads of those police forces would be invited by the magistrates to come into their areas to investigate the more series crimes of murder or burglary. It has to be remembered that the towns by today's terms were little more than villages and most of the villages today were then farming hamlets with a few homes and workshops.

Godalming Police was formed in January 1836 and incorporated within the county force on formation in 1851. The Force was re-established in 1858 and again amalgamated with the Surrey Constabulary over 30 years later on the 1 April 1889.

Early Godalming

The town of Godalming was managed under a system in which a 'Warden' was appointed by a group of 'Assistants' (the Warden's advisors). Queen Elizabeth gave the First in 1574 the charter setting out this system. She granted Godalming the right to be, "...a free Towne corporate in Reallity, deed and Name of one Warden and Inhabitants." This charter also conferred the right to hold a weekly market in the town, with the stallholders paying tolls to the Warden and his Assistants.[69]

Further responsibilities and duties were set out in 1620 including; the appointment of a 'bedle' or 'bellman' (later to become a 'watchman') to look out for wrong-doers; settling market disputes through the summary courts of 'Piepowder'; levying certain taxes and rates and imposing fines.[70]

In 1747 one of the first references to policing in Godalming is found in an account of the Borough warden that included the item, "paid Loveland for repairing the cage prison 2/-."[71] In 1762 the town is shown as having a Bellman or Watchman, George Holt for which he received and annual salary of £10. He was attired in "A new blue coat with silver lace" and a laced hat which cost £5 5s.[72] In 1779 a voluntary subscription was made for "The Borough Watch and other things." [73]

[69] http://www.godalmingmuseum.org.uk
[70] http://www.godalmingmuseum.org.uk
[71] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 1
[72] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 1
[73] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 1

In more modern times a "constable of Godalming" is mentioned in 1817 when Isaac Woods was involved in the investigation of the murder of George Chennell and his housekeeper. Benjamin Keene "constable of Guildford" took the murderer Chalcraft into custody by order of the magistrates. [74]

On November 5 1815 there was a significant arson in Godalming where again a reference can be found to the parish constable. On the 2 September 1816 James Andrews was hung for arson, setting fire to a warehouse belonging to George Marshall a timber merchant. There had been a large delivery of timber that day and this was lost in the fire that destroyed the warehouse. Some time later, in drink, Andrews told of his crime to a friend who reported the crime to the "police" who then arrested Andrews. The report was made with the hope of receiving a reward. Constable James Voyce testified at the trial that following his arrest the prisoner made a full confession. It was an act of revenge as the owner's father was responsible for Andrews losing his job as a lock keeper and had evicted his mother from her cottage.[75]

The Warden's Book accounts for 1819-1820 for the Borough of Godalming show:

James Barrett, the Watchman, his annual salary	£15 12s
Mr Weale for Watchman's hat	£2 15s
Mr Kifford for lanthorn	4s 3d
Expenses on court day	£5 [76]

The Municipal Corporations Act 1835 was taken advantage of by Godalming appointing William Henry Biddlecombe, formerly a constable in the Hampshire Constabulary, as superintendent of the Borough police in 1841 remaining in that post until 1851 when he became a member of the newly formed Surrey Constabulary.

William Biddlecombe was one of the first to head the professional police constables in Godalming a very small borough police force where crime reports were, under his leadership, reduced to nil and his expertise sought across Sussex and Hampshire where he had previously served in the county constabulary. Biddlecombe's reputation ensured he was brought by the Frimley magistrates to the scene of the murder of the Reverent Hollest in 1850. There was no local police and the parish officials were in this case out of their depth and recognised that fact, not too proud to seek help. Working alongside Biddlecombe was a sergeant from the Metropolitan Police and an inspector and head constable from the Guildford Borough.

Biddlecombe, in the words of the newspapers was "extremely active" and amassed a wealth of experience, which allowed once he became the first officer of the new

[74] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 1
[75] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoly page 37
[76] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 2

constabulary in Surrey, to undertake some of the early major enquiries. The term "extremely active" was newspaper "speak" for a detective when the expression was not in general use.

William Biddlecombe served in the Isle of Wight Constabulary and Southampton Police before joining Hampshire on 18th March 1840. His combined service in IOW and Southampton was 4 years.[77] His Hampshire service was for just under six months as he resigned on the 14th September 1840 'having been appointed High Constable and Inspector of Police at Godalming in Surrey'. When joining Hampshire Biddlecombe was posted to Petersfield on the 3rd May 1840 when he was described:

> 5' 10'' Fair complexion, blue eyes, light brown hair, good build, single, born Gatecombe, Newport, Isle of Wight, a Labourer living in Southampton[78]

In the 1841 census, taken on 6 June 1841, William Bidelcome (sic) is living in Ockford Road, Godalming. He is shown as a policeman, living with his wife, Harriett, both aged 25 years.

Godalming borough petitioned to have its own court, which was granted in 1847. Records for the 12 months to the end of November 1848 showed that 63 cases had been dealt with at the new court involving 87 prisoners.[79]

The amalgamation of Godalming with the newly formed constabulary in 1851 was not successful and in 1858 the borough withdrew, manly due to the lack of police cover provided by the new police particularly at night.[80] Superintendent Charles Everett became superintendent of police with a constable to assist him. The acreage of Godalming at that time was 480 acres and the population (1851 Census) was 2,500 living on 240 acres equalling 1250 people to each police officer. The salary of the Superintendent was £54 12s and that of the constable £17. The Superintendent arranged duties and once every month each officer had to present to the Watch Committee a statement of the duties he had performed.[81]

In 1859 James Wheller assumed command of the Borough force and took the rank Head Constable. He did not stay long with Thomas High assuming control in 1860 with a salary and an additional £10 per annum for clothing allowance. The other constable was issued with clothing "including two pairs of trousers" and received 6d a week in lieu of boots.

[77] Ch. Inspector Clifford Williams Hampshire Constabulary 8 June 2011 – email to author
[78] Ch. Inspector Clifford Williams Hampshire Constabulary 8 June 2011 – email to author
[79] http://www.godalmingmuseum.org.uk
[80] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 2
[81] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 3

During 1861 nine indictable offences were reported for which eight people were arrested and seven sent for trial. There were 15 people prosecuted summarily with nine of these committed to the Quarter Sessions.[82]

There were additional duties for the Head Constable, which again was quite normal. He was "inspector of nuisances and low lodging houses" for which he received £7 10s a year in addition to his police pay.[83]

A superannuation or pension fund was started in August of 1861.[84]

Head Constable High moved on in 1865 when Mr JH Burt replaced him.[85]

Report of Inspectors of Constabulary 1858

Godalming Borough 1857

Area in acres	480
Population in 1851	2500
Acres to each constable	240
Population to each constable	1250

The police force of the borough on the 29th September 1857 was composed of one superintendent and one constable, and no alteration in the organisation or number of the force up to the date of my inspection on the 11th May in the present year had taken place. The station adjoins the superintendent's residence and contains two cells, which are furnished with all necessary requisites, and kept in good order. There is also an additional cell in another building but it is not required.

1868: The Godalming Almanac and Directory of 1868 describes the Force:

> The Borough police force consists of one head constable, a night watch manned several special constables who were annually sworn to assist In maintaining public order. The station house is in Moss Lane and contains three cells capable of holding nine persons. Adjoining is a residence for the Head Constable. The Force is under the control of the Watch Committee of the town council.[86]

The fire station was also in Moss Lane with the keys being kept at the police station.[87] Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary reported in 1869:

[82] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 3
[83] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 3
[84] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 3
[85] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 3
[86] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 4
[87] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 4

> This Borough to be efficiently looked after ought to be placed for police purposes under the charge of the constabulary of the county. [88]

The Town Council did not wish to amalgamate so they increased the strength the Borough Police in 1870 to one head constable, one first class constable and one second class constable. The first class had a rent free house but the second class did not.[89]

The Head Constable was again Thomas High who may well have served previously in the Borough but that is not certain staying in post until 1879. [90]

Thomas High

There was also an Inspector Thomas High in the Surrey Constabulary serving in 1852 in the north of the county but it seem unlikely that an officer with such senior rank would in effect seek demotion.

George Turner became the Head Constable of the Godalming Borough Police replacing Thomas High in 1880 and as in all small boroughs he was to have a number of appointments:

Head Constable
Inspector of Nuisances
Inspector of Common Lodging Houses
Inspector of Explosives
Inspector under the Petroleum Act
Inspector under the Dairy and Cowsheds Act [91]
Billet master
Chief of the Borough Fire Brigade
Inspector of Food and Drugs Act [92]

[88] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 4
[89] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 4
[90] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 4
[91] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 5
[92] Police History Society Journal number 27 2013 page 9

In 1883 the establishment of the Borough Police, one head constable George Turner, and two first class constables, PCs Franks and Shakespeare.[93]

The 1888 pay scales: head constable £83 4s per annum, first class constables 25s a week. Area covered 180 acres with a population of 2505 (1881 census) 60 acres and 835 members of the population per police officer.[94]

1889 1 April: Surrey Constabulary GO 344: Godalming Borough police was incorporated within the Surrey Constabulary, the head constable Turner becoming a sergeant and the two constables being accepted in the county police.[95] (Constables William Franks, Joseph Shakespeare) Sergeant Turner will be allowed to reside in the police station for the present and will be allowed to retain the offices of Inspector of Nuisances in the Borough of Godalming as well as any other which he has hitherto held provided they do not in any way interfere with his ordinary police duties as Sergeant which must take precedence of everything else. He will be allowed the sum of £10 a year for gas for his own and the constable's residences adjoining and he is to distinctly understand that he will have to pay himself for whatever quantity of gas may be consumed in excess of that account.[96] George Turner, who was 46, declined to accept the appointment of sergeant and performed no duty after 22 April 1889. William Franks was 61, a local man from Witley served in the Surrey Constabulary until June that year before retiring on a superannuation of £32.10 shillings. Shakespeare was 40 years of age and took the collar number 149 but retired on ill health in November 1899 after service at a number of stations.

This GO came about because of the Local Government Act of 1888, on the 1 April 1889 the Godalming Borough Police again amalgamated with the Surrey Constabulary.[97] Godalming became a part of the Headquarters (Guildford) division of the county force. Superintendent Charles Barker who was also the Deputy Chief Constable of Surrey, stationed at Guildford was in charge of the division. Sergeant William Marks was posted as officer in charge at Godalming in 1890.[98]

1889 Instructions for the Guidance of the Surrey Constabulary: The earlier 1862 instructions to the force were updated in 1889 although there were not too many changes. Life generally was quite static albeit the population and therefore the towns and villages were growing as were the movement of peoples.

Below are set out some of the rules and regulations set out as a General Order by the Chief Constable governing the lives of police officers of the Surrey Constabulary in the second half of the 19th century.

[93] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 5
[94] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 5
[95] Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-
[96] Off Beat March 1977
[97] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 5
[98] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 6

"The following Orders and Instructions are published for the guidance and information of the Surrey Constabulary, and the Chief Constable will at all times require that they shall be implicitly observed. The various members of the Force are also reminded, that the character of a body is not infrequently judged of by the conduct of individuals, and it will consequently be the interest of the zealous and well-conducted of all ranks, to assist in bringing to the Chief Constable's notice, any irregularity, or neglect of duty, on the part of others, which may, on any occasion, come to their knowledge."

Chief Constable's Office,
Guildford, May 1889

Conditions of Service

The conditions upon which each person is admitted into the Surrey Constabulary are stated here, that no complaint may be made hereafter upon their being enforced. The Chief Constable desires it to be understood, at the same time, that he reserves to himself the power to alter or annul any of these conditions, and also to make such new rules, from time to time, as may be found expedient.

(1) Each man shall devote the whole of his time to the service of the Surrey Constabulary, and conform to all the rules and regulations of the Service
(2) He shall serve and reside wherever he is directed, and not receive a lodger without the sanction of the Chief Constable; neither shall he, if living in a police station, or lock-up, keep any description of animal without permission.
(3) He shall promptly obey all orders, which he may receive from those in authority over him, and his demeanour must always be respectful towards them.
(4) He shall not, under any pretence whatever, receive to his own use, money from any person, without the express permission of the Chief Constable in writing
(5) He shall, on entering, furnish himself with two pairs of white gloves, two serviceable pairs of boots, and a decent suit of plain clothes; also a notebook, which he must produce when required.
(6) His pay, at the rate of twenty-two shillings and nine pence per week, shall commence from the day on which he is sworn in, in addition to which he will be supplied with the established articles of uniform clothing and appointments, which articles, however, are not at any time to be considered as belonging to him.
(7) He shall at all times appear in his proper uniform, unless when otherwise directed, and is always required to be clean and neat in his person and dress.
(8) He shall receive his pay monthly, or on such days as may be appointed, when a deduction of 2.5 per cent per annum will be made towards the Superannuation Fund
(9) If any member of the Surrey Constabulary shall be absent from his duty, in consequence of ill-health, or on leave, the Chief Constable will exercise his pleasure as to stopping any portion of his pay during such absence.

(10) Debts contracted by the Constabulary, and which the Chief Constable may direct to be paid, shall be paid forthwith, and the amount deducted from the pay and allowances due to the person in debt.
(11) A sum not exceeding ten shillings will be deducted from the pay due to each person on his quitting the Surrey Constabulary, for the purpose of having his uniform altered for his successor.
(12) No constable shall belong to any political or secret society and every member of the Force should carefully abstain from the expression of political or religious opinions, in any way calculated to give offence.
(13) He shall not, during his continuous in the Force, by word, message, writing or in any other manner, endeavour to persuade any Elector to give, or dissuade from giving, his vote, on pain of instant dismissal.
(14) He is not to carry on any trade, nor will his wife be allowed to keep a shop.
(15) He shall not quit the Surrey Constabulary without giving one calendar month's notice to the Chief Constable, in writing.
(16) Every man dismissed from the Surrey Constabulary, or who shall resign his situation, shall before he quits the service, deliver up in person, at the Chief Constable's office, every article of dress, and all appointments, which have been supplied, to him. If any of such articles have, in the opinion of the Chief Constable, been improperly used or damaged, a deduction from the pay or moneys due to him will be made, sufficient to make good the damage, or supply a new article, as the case may be.
(17) Each person in the Surrey Constabulary is liable to immediate dismissal for unfitness, negligence, or misconduct, independently of any other punishment to which he may, by law be subject; and such dismissal renders him ineligible for appointment in any other Constabulary. The Chief Constable may also, if he thinks fit, dismiss him without assigning any reason.

Any constable who has been allowed to resign his appointment will not receive a testimonial of character until he shall have discharged the whole of his debts, nor will a certificate of good conduct be granted by the Chief Constable to any person leaving the Force under the following circumstances: -

1st. If the constable shall have been dismissed the Service
2nd. If the constable shall have been frequently guilty of misconduct, although of a light nature.
3rd. If the constable shall have been guilty of any misconduct of a serious nature
4th. If the constable shall have quitted the Service without having given due notice of his intention to do so.
5th. If the constable shall have served less than twelve months.
6th. If the certificate shall not be applied for within six months after the constable has left the Service.

Reigate Borough Police

Reigate Borough Police was formed on 25th March 1864 after the newly formed borough council of 1863 withdrew policing from the Surrey Constabulary. The Borough police was temporarily amalgamated during wartime along with other borough forces, on 1st March 1943 when it became part of the Surrey Joint Police Force finally in 1947 being incorporated within the county force.

Within the records there are no obvious conflicts recorded with the county constabulary nor in the early reports of the head constable was any reference made as to why the Borough adopted its own police force. It may well have been because they could and there was most likely an element of corporation pride. The 1835[99] Municipal Corporations Act allowed larger towns to become a corporation with mayor, alderman and burgesses. The mayor was declared to be a Justice of the Peace for the borough without a property requirement. The common law method of appointing constables was placed on a new basis with the establishment of a Watch Committee made up of the mayor and councilmen.

The Watch Committee were empowered at their discretion to appoint the head constable, make regulations for the management of the police and to discharge or otherwise punish any constable found remiss in his duties, provided at least three members are present when the award is made. Borough constables are given powers "to act in the county as well as in the town and are authorised not only to apprehend disorderly persons at any time, but during the night may take bail by recognisance from persons brought before them for petty misdemeanours, such recognisance to be conditioned for the appearance of the parties before the magistrate."

In 1863[100] Reigate became an incorporated borough by Royal Charter under the direct control of the Watch Committee and the chairmanship of the mayor. The police were seen as a branch of the corporation with limited authority granted to the head constable or, as he was to become known, the chief constable. There was a huge difference between the background, authority and independence of action of a county chief constable and the head of a borough police. County chiefs were not normally police officers, frequently military men, often on a social level with the county quarter sessions magistrates with whom they worked and to whom they were ultimately responsible. Borough chiefs were invariably police officers and in the early days where forces had very few members they were usually sergeants or inspectors from another area arriving on promotion. For the ambitious a career path of promotion in the police evolved allowing officers to transfer for advancement across the country from the Metropoliton Police, counties or other boroughs.

[99] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 275
[100] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

The head constable was the only senior officer of a body of men that the Watch Committee of the town council had absolute power to select, direct and dismiss, powers in a county held by law by the chief constable.[101] There were in most borough forces inspectors who acted as deputy to the head constable and were normally career police officers.

Within the Reigate Borough the early head constable as he was referred to, attended formal meeting very regularly with the Watch Committee and he wrote up his reports to them, in long hand in a bound volume. The results of his "begging to report" are not given. There is little doubt that in addition to the formal meetings the mayor or chairman of the Watch Committee would have frequent contact with the police officers. The chairman or mayor was also a magistrate and would see the police officers regularly as they appeared in court as witnesses. Micro management was the norm – the head constable even having to formally beg the permission of the Watch Committee to purchase new toilet seats for the cells!

Being a branch of corporation government, the police officers, including the head constable, were given a variety of tasks, which today would be seen as local authority functions. The list is long but this had advantages. It kept the officers busy but better still it involved them in all aspects of the community from cattle markets to shops, the sale of petroleum products to weights and measures. Many of these functions attracted fees, which were used to counter-balance the costs of running the police in the borough.

The discipline in early police forces was harsh and restraint upon the private life of the constable was by today's standards extremely intrusive. Drunkenness was an issue, a huge problem and many officers across the country lost their jobs for drinking on duty, being found on licensed premises or even working there. Reigate had its share of discipline problems including the loss of a newly appointed chief officer who committed fraud in his last police force and ended up in prison. Officers had to wear their uniform both on and off duty and were unable to leave the borough without permission. They had no days off for some years and annual leave was very limited and even on leave, some forces insisted the constable reports to the police station where he is spending his holiday in case they needed his help!

Being Borough men had advantages over the county. The men could put down roots, bring up their families and be close to parents and their extended families. If they were disciplined they could not as in the county, be forced to pack up and move house at their own expense. County men moved frequently. There were always exceptions but many moved their homes and families every two or three years or even two or three times in a year! A borough man had pavements and even some lighting whereas the county man walked 20 miles a day often in mud and the dust of a hot summer day.

[101] Carolyn Steeedman "Policing the Victorian Community" page 43

It was a harsh life but these were usually big tough men who no doubt resolved many issues with their hands around a dark corner. Not for them endless paperwork!

The formation of the Force appears to have been a speedy operation, as the Watch Committee met on 15 January 1864 and decided the force should be operational on 25 March 1864. The initial establishment was**:** a Superintendent at £90 p.a. plus quarters, a sergeant at 21/- a week and 8 constables at 18/- a week. [102]

The first Head Constable was George Gifford but he lasted only nine days and succeeded by George Rogers who held the post for many years. The station house was at 3, Carlton Terrace, Redhill, alongside the Market Hall, but as there were no lock-up facilities prisoners had to be catered for elsewhere until a house in West Street, Reigate was rented at £25 p.a. and the cellar was converted to two cells. **[103]**
There may have been some lock up facilities in the Market Place[104]

The county constabulary also had a police station in Redhill and it retained the premises only making the hand over to the borough authorities in 1931[105]

George Rogers Chief Constable Reigate

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In August of 1864 consideration was given to site a central police station near Shaw's Corner and land for the purpose was purchased from Mr Waterlow. The project never got under way and the land deal was eventually reversed. **[106]**

Constables were restricted by not being allowed to go beyond the borough boundary when off duty without the consent of the superintendent or the Mayor a restriction that was standard for other borough and county police officers. A further common

[102] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm
[103] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[104] Bernard Brown 1987 "The Reigate Police" believed not published – six pages
[105] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[106] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

restriction was the men had to wear their uniform on or off duty. Saluting was the rule when constables or sergeants met the head constable, the inspector members of the town council, their clerks and all Justices of the Peace and their clerks.[107]

In November 1864 there were bonfire night riots in Reigate following which the Watch Committee minutes for the Surrey Constabulary authorised the Superintendent to, 'buy new hat to replace one destroyed by crowd" in Reigate. [108] This seems to show that there was a level of co-operation between the newly formed Reigate Borough Police and the Surrey Constabulary.

In the first year of the existence of the new Reigate Borough Police PC Stovell was fined for misconduct, PC Dashwood, and later PC Stovell, were discharged (reason not given), PC Foss was reprimanded and later fined five shillings, PC Ison was told to be more respectful and later fined one day's pay; PC Harling was convicted of stealing, and PC Serjeant was reprimanded for 'exposing an immoral article'. [109]

Drink was the downfall of several PCs of the Reigate Borough Police including during the early days of 1865 when PCs Baugh and Beddington were dismissed for being drunk. [110]

James King was born in Chipstead on 26th January 1840 and baptised in the Parish Church on February 23, 1840. His father also James King, born about 1811 in Merstham; an agricultural labourer and his mother was Elizabeth Dodd, born about January 1818 in Chipstead. On February 1st, 1866 he joined the Reigate Borough Police as PC No 4, but he resigned from his post about a year later. The Watch Committee offered to 'place him on first class pay', in an effort to keep James in the service which worked as he stayed and later became an inspector in the Borough. [111]

[107] Bernard Brown 1987 "The Reigate Police" believed not published – six pages
[108] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm
[109] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm
[110] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm
[111] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

Inspector James King

On September 21, 1874 James King was promoted to Acting Sergeant and confirmed as Sergeant James King on 8th February 1875 (He was 35 years old). About this time, the King family would have moved into one of the newly built houses in Cromwell Road, Redhill. They lived at number 71 and later at 73. The family remained in Redhill, at least until 1891. When James King was promoted to Police Inspector in September 1893, that event may have occasioned their move to live in Reigate.

James King retired in November 1898 (58 years old) having served for thirty years in his second employment with the Borough Police. He was presented with an illuminated testimonial, on vellum in an oak frame, and hand illustrated in gold, silver and blended colours. The Surrey Mirror raised a public testimonial fund for James King, which amounted to £71 -2s- 6d. James King's retirement, which is reported as being an active time, lasted for just over 30 years and he died on Sunday, January 7, 1929 – 19 days short of his 89th birthday. His funeral service took place in St. Mary's Parish Church in Reigate on Thursday January 11th, followed by burial, with his wife Susan, in Reigate Cemetery.

A new police station was built alongside the Market Hall in 1866 and became the headquarters for the two towns. Reigate's station remained, although it was moved

from West Street to premises between the Public Hall and the Congregational Church. [112][113]

The original Reigate police station is shown left of the church in Reigate High Street[114]

The earliest conduct book for Reigate Borough Police starts in 1869 and the archivist at Surrey Police HQ in 2012 was unaware of an earlier volume in existence. None of the entries in the 1869 volume indicate that officers transferred from the Surrey Constabulary to the Borough.[115]

In1869 5 February in a report from the police to the Watch Committee The late PC Chapman who was dismissed by the Watch Committee has left the neighbourhood taking with him two pairs of police trousers two pairs of boots and a police lamp and for whom George Rogers held a warrant for his apprehension. [116] In the same report the Head Constable asked the Watch Committee to order a sergeant and constable to move from the police station so he could have the premises put in proper order before he and his family moved in.

In a report of October 8 1869 the Head Constable asked the Watch Committee for two more constables during the winter months in consequence of the large increase of new buildings and new streets and roads and the rough class of labourer working on the new buildings, at the asylum and sewer works. Also for the purpose of preventing

[112] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm
[113] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[114] Picture Alan Moore
[115] Luke Franklin Surrey Police HQ email to author June 8 2012
[116] Report Reigate Watch Committee by George Rogers Chief Superintendent SCC CC98/22/11

the numerous robberies that are taking place nightly. It was nearly five years since two men were added to the strength. [117]

Other interesting reports dated 10 December 1869 reveal detail of life within the Borough police:

> PC Charles Bennett was disciplined and dismissed.
>
> PC Charles Radbourne to receive his full pay he being on the sick list for the last month and 3/6d being stopped. Ordered by the Watch Committee (1870 March 20: A gratuity of £10 was paid from the superannuation fund to the widow of PC Radbourne who died on the 24 February having served 2 years and 4 months. A replacement constable for PC Radborne was appointed on the 17 March.) [118]
>
> The Head Constable asked the Watch Committee to have **traps and pans** put into the closets in the police cells at the police station Warwick Town in consequence of the **offensive smell** arising from them at times. Watch Committee agreed the fitting of two siphon pans. [119]

1870: The title of Superintendent of Police was changed to Head Constable with additional duties as Inspector of Common Lodging Houses and Weights and Measures". This was not unusual and in fact was far fewer responsibilities than the similar post for Guildford Borough Police. County superintendents also held such responsibilities. [120]

The attainment of policing by consent

There is frequently a failure amongst academic historians of policing to grasp that the people who suffer most from crime and disorder are those that live amongst it. The respectable working class were probably keener than any other strata of society for the drunken, crime ridden poorly behaved lumpenproletariat to be controlled by the police. The introduction of the formalised and more structured police forces from 1829 led to inevitable conflict, often violent, with these lower strata of society. It must also be considered that the police themselves came from the respectable working class and understood the effect poor behaviour had on the quality of life of their extended families and friends. The concentration by some historians on the notion that policing was an imposition by the prosperous upon the poor for the benefit of the wealthy is

[117] Reigate Watch Committee by George Rogers Chief Superintendent SCC CC98/22/11
[118] Report Borough of Reigate Watch Committee by George Rogers SCC CC98/22/11
[119] Report Reigate Watch Committee by George Rogers Chief Superintendent SCC CC98/22/11
[120] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

naïve. Crime impacted upon the poor, there being numerous examples of rural crime where labourer's cottages were burgled whilst they were in the fields. Violence impacted upon the less well off particularly street crime associated with alcohol. The better off were burgled, were robbed and were not alone in wanting "something to be done"!

The view of orthodox police historians was that initial opposition to the police culminated in the 1833 with the killing of PC Culley during a disturbance at a political rally in Cold Bath Fields, London with the subsequent inquest viewed as an important watermark. As the police became established and more confident in their role their success in combating crime and disorder became an important underpinning of consent enabling them to overcome any serious resistance to their presence on the streets and secure the support and cooperation of most sections of society. [121] [122]

There is a focus on crime as a key problem which professional policing was developed to address in the interests of all members of society. However, revisionists emphasise that the motive for police reform was " the maintenance of order required by the capitalist class" [123] whose control over policing (exercised by local urban elites through the mechanism of the Watch Committee) enabled them to ensure that the attention of the police was directed at all actions that threatened to undermine it – "crime, riot, political dissidence and public morality." [124] It was in the latter sense that police officers were depicted as "domestic missionaries" whose purpose was to alter the behaviour and moral habits of the lower social orders.[125] [126]

Revisionist historians emphasised working-class hostility towards the new system of policing as evidence that the prime role of police work was to enforce discipline over this section of society. Storch drew attention to widespread opposition to the police in the middle decades of the nineteenth century within industrious working-class communities, which saw them as "unproductive parasites" (men who did not work productively for a living) and viewed their presence as "a plague of blue locusts". [127] Working-class resentment to the police, arising in part from their intrusions into working-class pastimes and leisure activities, has also been documented in a study of the Black Country. [128] [129]

It is no surprise to understand that revisionist accounts reject the orthodox position that hostility towards the new police was a relatively short-lived phenomenon and

[121] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[122] Reith, 1943: 3; Critchley, 1978: 55–56
[123] Reiner, 1985: 25
[124] Reiner, 1985: 25
[125] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[126] Storch, 1976
[127] Storch, 1975
[128] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[129] Philips, 1977

instead conclude that consent was heavily determined by a person's position in the social ladder. The more educated, those with property and position in society the more likely they were to be supporters of policing, though in many areas there long remained the reluctance pay for policing. The level of consent was greatest from the property-owning middle classes (including those who comprised the petty bourgeoisie, such as shop keepers) who stood to gain most from police activities. It is said that working-class hostility was more enduring but this may well depend on the type of area being polices, rural, small town or major conurbation. Those at the lower end of the social ladder, granted tolerance to the police which was, at best, "passive acquiescence", broken by frequent outbreaks of conflict throughout the nineteenth century. [130] [131] Again this is a harsh assessment possibly a big city view as in the smaller towns and rural areas, most of England and Wales at the time, the police were seen as known individuals with families, a part of the community in which they lived and served. That is not to say they were all welcome or respected. Some officers did not have the nouse or intelligence to carry themselves in an appropriate manner enabling them to work as a police officer and live comfortably with their neighbours. Grudging respect from the community was the most likely outcome, with wariness on both sides about becoming too close.

Revisionists advocate that a key role performed by the police in the nineteenth century was to regulate the behaviour of the lower social orders and to impose on them the moral habits and standards of behaviour of 'respectable' members of society. Those who controlled policing were willing to give the police a relatively free hand to discharge this function. [132] Though the county and borough elites continued to have influence the role of the magistrate in responding and investigating crime reduced significantly with the chief constable becoming the key figure outside London. It would however be naive to believe that the "great and the good" of the county had no influence. One of the reasons chief constables were appointed from military personnel and similar backgrounds was to ensure some class equality with the influential. In the boroughs the Watch Committees of elected councillors under the leadership of the mayor retained significant influence over the chief constable or head constables who were mostly promoted police officers of working class origin.

The Poaching Prevention Act 1862 was a much disliked and resented piece of legislation as it gave police powers to stop and search suspects who were most likely to be the local working men. There was pressure upon the police to enforce this legislation and some chief constable's sought more men to better implement the legislation. It was not unusual for the police to find some minor larceny as a result and prosecutions followed for stealing a turnip or a piece of wood. Part of the pressure for the implementation of rural police forces was the extent of poaching and the pressure brought by the landowners. The duties of the gamekeeper and the policeman

[130] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[131] Brogden, 1982: 202–228
[132] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf

overlapped, and in many areas and probably Surrey was one, gamekeepers outnumbered the police. In Norfolk and Suffolk there were two or three times as many gamekeepers detaining poachers making work for the policeman. In Norfolk between 1863 and 1871 two thousand poachers were fined or imprisoned and although Surrey might not have so many prosecutions (there may have been) there is little doubt that on night patrols this was a major part of beat work. Most men poached because of poverty, but class resentment and pitting oneself against the "system" and establishment may well have been a powerful motivating force. In the main policemen were drawn from the very class of the poacher; from one Parish in Norfolk "thirty one sons of the soil have been enrolled as London policemen in thirty years – the very pick of the parish."[133]

1863 Saturday, 14 November

"The melancholy death of Mr Dart, the assistant overseer of Aldershot."[134]

From Phil Dunford a Farnham resident

It is with painful regret that we have to record the sudden death of Mr Samuel John Dart, assistant overseer and collector of taxes for the parish of Aldershot, under the following somewhat extraordinary circumstances.

It appears that the deceased proceeded to Farnham on Thursday, the 5th of November, for the purpose of collecting rates of gentleman there who possess property in Aldershot, and in not returning caused his wife to be uneasy respecting his safety. Mr Morgan, of the Havelock arms, went to Farnham yesterday morning in search of him, and upon making enquiries was told that a man had been found dead, lying in a ditch, at Coxbridge, about a mile from Farnham, on the road to Bentley, and that the body had been removed to the Farnham workhouse, where Mr Morgan went and recognised the body to be that of the above named gentleman. It is thought that Mr Dark lost his way. The deceased has left a wife and young family.

Inquest on the body: On Saturday afternoon last an enquiry was opened at the Farnham Union before C.J. Woods Esq, coroner for the Western division of the county of Surrey, touching the death of Samuel John Dart, assistant overseer and collector rates for the parish of Aldershot, who was found dead on the previous Friday morning about a mile from Farnham, under the circumstances detailed in the subjoined evidence.

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[133] "Victorian Village Life" Albion 1993 Neil Phillip page 112

[134] Possibly from Sheldrakes Military Gazette – posted on Facebook. Email Phil Dunford to Robert Bartlett 201 February 2017

The jury having proceeded to the 'dead house' to view the body. William Attfield, of Park Place, shoemaker, was called, and deposed as follows; I did not know the deceased, whose body I have just seen. Yesterday morning, a little after 3 o'clock, as I was coming down Castle Street, I saw a man sitting down on the grass under the lamp, opposite the residence of Archdeacon Utterton. He was apparently dozing, having his arms upon his knees, and his head resting on one hand. I spoke to him, but he made no answer, and I lifted him up, standing him on his feet. He then spoke, saying that he lived opposite. Where, at Mr Ainslie's or Colonel Armstrong's? And he said, "where am I?" I told him he was in Farnham, and he then said, "I am Mr Dart, from Aldershot." I asked if I could assist him to any place where he could remain for the night, and he replied, "No, but if you will leave me for a short time I shall soon be better and able to get home." I saw some blood on his cheek, and asked how he came by it. I drew him towards the lamp and observed a graze over one of the eyes. I cannot say which. He lifted up his hand to show me a cut, and I noticed a ring upon the finger. I went a little further on, and picked up what I believe to be a book about this size (pointing to one on the table.)

In reply to the coroner, Mr Superintendent Murtell said that the largest book found belonging to the deceased did not answer the description given by the witness.

Witness; I went back and gave it to him and he said it was his, and immediately placed it under his arm. He then walked away up Castle Street, wishing me good night, to which I replied. I went home in the opposite direction and shortly after reaching home the clock struck four. I have seen a dead body lying here and it is the same person whom I saw in Castle Street. He wore and Inverness cape and black hat, the latter of which I picked up, and wiping away the dirt placed it on his head. When I left him and saw which way he was going, I told the deceased that he was not on his way to Aldershot. He made answer and said that he knew which way he was going.

William Baigent deposed: I live in Potters Yard, Farnham and I am a labourer. I did not know the deceased personally. Yesterday morning about 11:30 I was working for Mr Roumieu, and having finished a job, had occasion to go past a spot in company with my son when I saw the deceased lying in a stream of water about 8 to 10 inches deep. I first noticed clothes on the water, and on looking more closely I saw the forehead of a man, the face been covered by cape which he wore. Before touching the body I called to 3 men, named John Budd, Charles Collins and William Collins, Who were working in the field close by. The deceased was lying on his back, with a current of water of two or 3 inches deep above the face, which was looking upwards. The stream in which she was lying was at the time from 18 inches to 2 feet deep, because of the ditch be narrow, The body had formed a "bay" and partly stopped the water, but it is general depth is from 8 to 10 inches. The width of the ditch is about 18 inches and the body was in it like a vice. The ground on each side is swampy, and there is no footpath within 700 or 800 yards of the ditch. The footmarks showed that the deceased came from some distance up beside the stream, and the soil, being of clay at the place where he fell; it caused his foot to slip. I am certain there was no ring on either of his hands at the time he was taken out of the water. My son ran to the police station at Farnham, and I and the other men remained with the deceased, until Police Constable Gray arrived about an hour afterwards and search the body. I saw a bruise on the left cheek, and the eye looked a little darkened. The right arm, where it came in

contact with the bank, was very red. A great many finger marks were visible on the bank where the deceased had struggled with his right hand, and his coat sleeve was worked up for some distance. There was some clay on his hand and in the fingernails, as though the deceased had struggled to get out of the ditch. Is cloths were not torn. The deceased would have to fall the distance of four or 5 feet, as the bank slopes on each side of the ditch.

Police Constable Gray stated that he saw the body on the previous day about 12 o'clock, and On searching it found £11 12s 6d in cash on the person of the deceased, a seal, and other articles, including receipt book for assessed taxes. He at once recognised the body as that of Mr. Dart, of Aldershot.

Mr B Y Knowles, surgeon, deposed; I was yesterday called upon at 3:30 in the afternoon, to view the body of the deceased, whom I knew personally, at the workhouse. I have the body stripped and made an examination of it. It was covered with small leaves, rough grass, and dirt, which had been worked between the body and the clothes. I found a suppurated bruise on each knee, and one on the right shinbone. There was a slight bruise on the right elbow, but there was no discoriation. There was also a bruise on the left cheekbone, with slight discoriation, and ecchymosis had taken place. I noticed discoriation of the forehead over the right eye, which had bled, but there was no fracture. The deceased had previously lost the use of one arm. He was about 60 years of age. The bruises I have described were none of them of any serious consequence; and there was nothing in general appearance of the body inconsistent with the death from drowning.

Mr Superintendent Murtell informed the coroner that if an adjournment took place he should probably be able to produce additional evidence.

Mr Dart, postmaster, of Guildford, The deceased's brother, in reply to the coroner said that the latter was 60 years of age and had a wife and five children. He was of temperate habits.

The coroner said, that at present a portion of the case was involved in mystery, and it would therefore be desirable to adjourn the enquiries.
The jury were then bound over to attend again, and the inquest was adjourned until Wednesday.

The adjourned inquest was resumed on Wednesday at the workhouse, when the following additional evidence was given:-

William Stillaway, a labourer, residing at Badshot Lea, said he had known the deceased by sight for about 12 months. On Thursday night about 12 o'clock he saw him in Farnham, at the corner of the road leading to the police station, Park Lane. Deceased was leaning over the wheel of a cab. He did not speak to him. Witness then went into a public house near at hand, and, after being there for some time, he had an altercation, and getting up to see what it was he observed Mr Dart outside the door, The landlord (Mr Haslet) preventing him entering, and saying he thought that he (Mr Dart) had had enough. Witness said to Mr Dart, "are you going home?" And he said, "yes." Witness then told him he would accompany him, and Mr Dart asked him if he would have something to drink. They then went back into the public house, and had a

glass of gin, which Mr Dart paid for, but did not take any himself. Subsequently he paid for a pot of ale and witness drank a glass. They then went on, witness helping him a little. When they got opposite the gas house, East Street, deceased stopped and said that they were on the wrong road, and witness said, "Mr Dart, do you not know that this is the gas house?" But he did not reply. They then went on, and when opposite the Albion he said that they were going the wrong road altogether, and, pointing towards Farnham, said that was the right road; he wanted to go to High Street, Aldershot, and said that was the road pointing to the proper one. They then went on, and when at the tollgate on the Guildford Road, leading to Aldershot by Badshot Lea, deceased took himself from witness, and turning round, said it was not his road and he would not go any further. Witness replied it was, and took hold of Mr Dart, but he refused to go. Witness then said that he should take his own course, and watched the deceased as far back as the Albion hotel. He never saw the deceased again. He did not see him fall as he went along, nor did witness notice that deceased had sustained any injury. Deceased had no parcel with him. Witness could not say whether he had a ring on his finger. In the morning he went into Mr Pharo's at Aldershot, and ask him if he had heard anything of Mr. Dart, as he met him in Farnham on the preceding night the worst for liquor. Mr Pharo said he had not, and asked him not to tell Mrs Pharo of deceased being tipsy. Mr Dart had offered him as they went along half a crown to see him home, but he did not give it to him. If he had he should not have left him.

Mr Knowles was then called, and said that since Saturday he had made a post-mortem examination of the deceased. He observed a mark upon the little finger is if there had been a ring on it, a slight excoriation being on the finger, there have been also a mark on the other. Ring appeared to have fitted tightly. I think it was scratched on the top, and all the fingernails of the right-hand were filled with clay. There were no other marks besides those he had described on Saturday. The face was pale and passive, and the eyes partly open, and pupils dilated. He then opened the body, and, on examining the stomach, found a little water and some food in it. There was no particular smell, understand was it self-violet colour. The colour would have been caused by the act of digestion going on at the time of death. The heart was filled with fluid blood, particularly on the right side, and the lungs were collapsed. That was a good deal of mucus in the lungs, and some in the bronchial tubes. He then opened the head, and found no corresponding bruise internally with the external bruise on the forehead. There was no fracture of the skull. The brain itself was healthy, except the lower portion, which was slightly congested. This might of been caused by suffocation. There was nothing in the appearance of the body contrary to the supposition that deceased died from drowning, The appearance being such as would have been produced by asphyxia. He supposed that when the deceased fell into the ditch he struggled to get out. Witness did not think he breezed after he fell into the ditch. There was no appearance of the deceased having suffered from the recent attack of paralysis. He did not think from the appearance of the body that Mr Dart had been given any drug on the night of his death.

In answer to the coroner, Mr Murtell said he could not find that the deceased had a large sum of money about him then have been found on him.

Police Constable John Gray deposed that on Friday afternoon about 12:30 he was called to see the deceased, and found several persons around him. Deceased was lying

by the side of the ditch. His clothes were wet and buttoned up close, except his overcoat, which was loose. They did not appear to have been torn. I'm searching his pocket he found three pocket books containing receipts, all the money was found in his right-hand pocket, other pockets contained a seal, silver medal, a pair of silver mounted eyeglasses, and a pocket knife. There were two handkerchiefs in the pockets but he did not touch them.

Mr Superintendent Murtell said that Mrs Dart was positive a husband had a ring on his finger when you left home in the morning, and two knives, one larger than the other.

Police Constable Gray further stated that the ditch with the deceased found was not more than 18 inches wide, 6 feet deep, and had 6 inches of water in it. The fingermarks what on the side near the hop field, where the bank was about 4 foot deep. He thought that a person who is intoxicated falling into it could not get up, and, The bottom was of loose clay, The more he worked the more difficult it would have been to get up.

In reply to some questions from one of the juryman, Superintendent Murtell said that there were no constables out in Farnham from 6:00 PM on the 5th until 2 o'clock on the following morning, and during that time the town was in the hands of the celebrants of 5th November.

David Hawkes, a servant, said he did not know the deceased. About 12 PM on the 5th, while standing outside his door in East Street, nearly opposite the Savings Bank, he saw a person clinging to a lamppost, and after some time observed him turn round to follow the party that appeared to be going to Aldershot, when he fell heavily. He then assisted him over against the wall, and the person told him his name was Dart. He soon after got up, and witness watched him walk for about 60 yards pretty steady.

Mr Murless, vestry clerk, Aldershot, here entered the room, and informed the coroner that he had been requested to apply for the papers which have been found on deceased. In reply to the coroner Mr Murless said that the parochial authorities have no reason to believe that there was anything wrong in the deceased's accounts. They had examined the accounts to some extent, so far had found them right. The surveyor of taxes the other day had found that the deceased had collected about £325, of which about £313 had been paid in, and they did not anticipate any such thing as defalcations. In answer to further questions, Mr Murless said that Mr Dart did not carry the receipt book with him when collecting rates, so that the counterfoils would not show the amount collected. Mr Dart, owing to not having the use of his left arm, being in the habit of taking receipts and leaving the counterfoils to be filled in after he returned home.

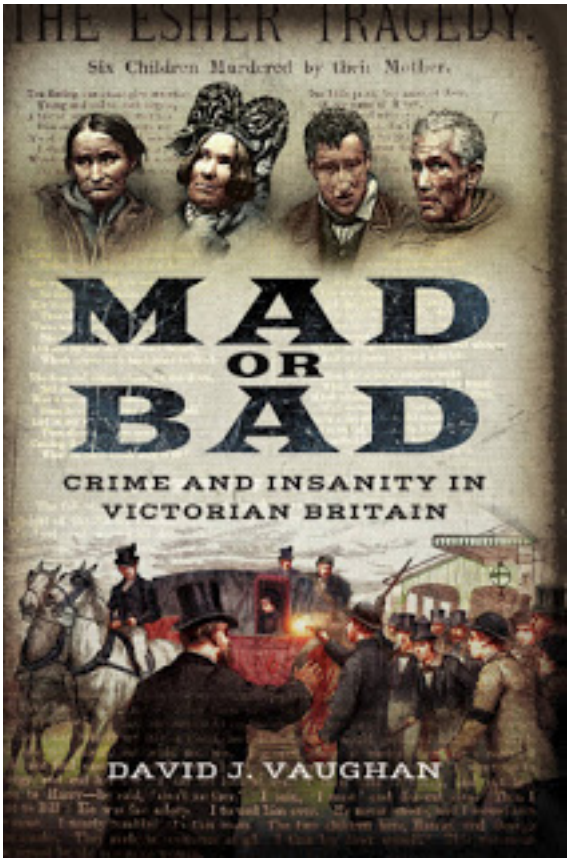
This concluded the enquiry, and the learned coroner then ably summoned up, pointing out to the jury that there was no reason to suppose that the deceased had met with any ill treatment. As regarded the missing ring, it was very possible that it was forced off the finger by deceased's efforts to get out of the ditch; and it was also made clear by the evidence that the reports as to Mr Dart having had £100 in his possession at the time of his death were quite unfounded. There was no doubt that all the money that he had collected had been found on his person. As to his getting into the ditch it was

evident that the deceased had mistaken his road, and was in the state which the evidence showed he was in, and, having himself examined the spot since Saturday he (the coroner) could readily concede with the opinion of the witness Gray, that a person falling into the ditch could not, unless with assistance, get out of it.

After a short consultation the jury returned an open verdict of "found dead."

He is buried in Redan cemetery.

Mad Or Bad
Crime And Insanity In Victorian Britain



Author: David J. Vaughan a former archaeologist and now a full time author, historian, speaker and radio and TV presenter.
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Illustrations: c. 30, many in colour
Expected Retail Price: £12.99UKP

Synopsis: In a violent 19th century, desperate attempts by the alienists - a new wave of ‘mad-doctor’ – brought the insanity plea into Victorian courts. Defining psychological conditions in an attempt at acquittal, they faced ridicule, obstruction – even professional ruin – as they strived for acceptance and struggled for change. It left ‘mad people’ hanged for offences they could not remember, and ‘bad’ people freed on unscrupulous pleas.

Written in accessible language, this book retells twenty-five genuine cases, from attempting to murder a bemused Queen Victoria; the poisoner Dove and the much-feared magician; the king’s former wet-nurse who slaughtered six children; to the worst serial killer this country has known.

A Who's Who introduces the principal players - life-saving medics, like Maudsley and Bucknill; intransigent lawyers like Bramwell and Parke., while a convenient Glossary of 'terms and conditions': ranging from 'Insane on Arraignment' to Her Majesty's Pleasure, 'Ticket of Leave' to 'Burden of Proof', helps to explain the outcomes of the cases. Insanity Conditions presents, in glossary format, the diagnosed maladies put forward in court. Rarely accepted, more often rejected, by those keen on justice in its traditional form. A History of Debate explains the titular subject - through graspable language and a window in time. How the ones found 'not guilty on the grounds of insanity' were curiously handled in Victorian law. A chapter devoted to madness and women - from hysteria to murder, 'monthly madness' to crime. Raising opportune questions about the issue of gender, and exposing the truths of a masculine world.

Review: This is a slim volume packed full of interest and cases, which are not the usual repetition of a few of the best known. This soft cover work starts with an introduction to the main players involved in deciding if the accused was “mad or bad”? There were the alienists struggling with new diagnosis and striving for acceptance by the courts, politicians, judges and counsel. There is a review of the maladies that formed the insanity plea and the trial Daniel M’Naghten who has given his name to the legal test of criminal insanity in England known as the M'Naghten Rules.

PORTRAIT OF DANIEL M'NAUGHTEN.

Those who read criminal history will be very aware of the number of young women who killed their children often soon after birth, frequently when employed as a servant away from home. The book has a chapter that scratches the surface of the causes of these deaths and the mind set of the young women involved suffering from such as hysteria, neurasthenia and “monthly madness”.

The twenty-five case histories, which form the main part of the book, include one of the worst examples of child killing ever that of the Brough children by their mother at Esher, a case dealt with by Surrey’s first detective, Superintendent William Biddlecombe. This was in 1854 on the 10 June and was the first multiple murder enquiry undertaken by the Surrey Constabulary. The information below is taken from www.surrey-constabulary.com

The Esher Tragedy Six Children Murdered by their Mother

You feeling Christians give attention,
Young and old of each degree,
A tale of sorrow I will mention,
Join and sympathise with me;
It's of a sad and dreadful murder,
I shall quickly let you hear,
Which was committed by a mother,
On her six young children dear.

The perpetrator of this murder,
Mary Ann Brough it is her name,
And formerly as you may see,
She nursed the blooming Prince of Wales.
But now her days of happiness,
Are vanished like the evening's sun,

Good people all, both great and small,
Reflect upon the deed she's done.

One night she could not rest in slumber,
So her own confession says,
Her little children, six in number,
Thus she took their lives away.
'Twas with a sharp and fatal razor,
She committed this foul deed,
And one by one she cut their throats,
Which causes each kind heart to bleed.

The first and eldest whom she murdered,
Sad and dreadful to behold,
Was a sweet and blooming girl.
Something more than ten years old,
And in her wrath and indignation,
Thus she slew them one by one.
Causing death and desolation,
What on earth could urge it on?

One little pretty boy amongst them,
Of the name of Henry,
He cried aloud with eyes of pity,
'Mother, dear, don't murder me,'
She heeded not his prattling tongue,
But like a demon fierce and wild,
'My dear,' she said, 'it must be done,'
And thus she slew her other child.

From bed to bed, and to each chamber,
This wretched woman did go,
While all around her own dear children,
Streams of crimson blood did flow,
The dreadful sight was most surprising,
To behold these children dear,
How their cruel hearted mother,
Cut their throats from ear to ear.

Oh! What must be the woman's motive,
Did she think she'd done amiss,
Or did she think of death and judgement
To perpetrate a deed like this?

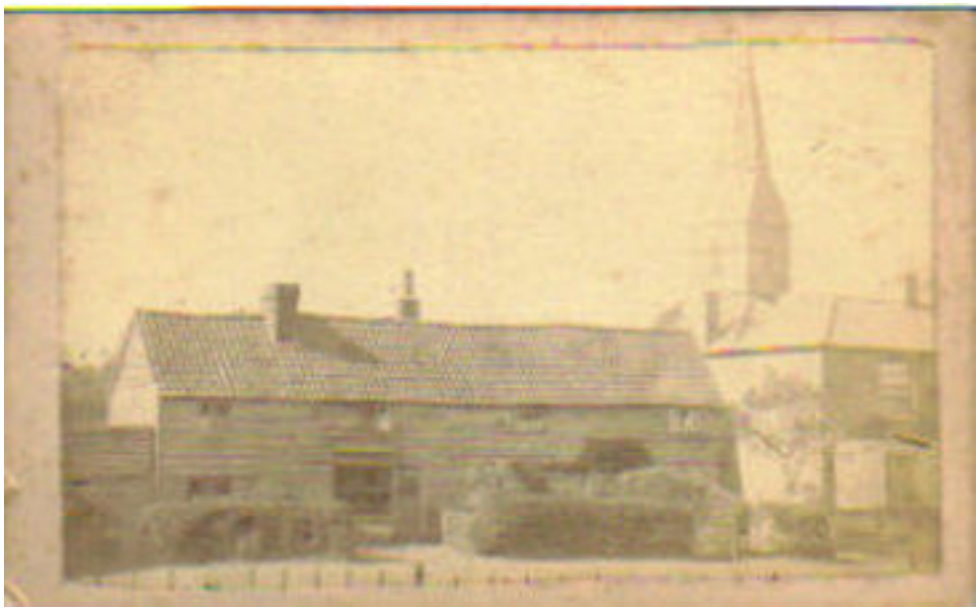
But now the wretch she is committed,
To a prison's gloomy cell,
Where midnight's dreams to her will whisper
And her deeds of blood will tell.

Within the prison's massive walls,
What anguish will torment her breast.
When phantoms of her six dear children,
Will disturb her of her rest.
Such a sad and dreadful murder,
On record there is no worse,
Committed by a cruel mother,
Once the Prince of Wales' Nurse.[135]

George Brough announced to Mary Ann that he was leaving her because he suspected she had been cheating on him. He also said he intended to take their children away from her, setting into motion a series of terrible events. On June 10, the day after her husband confronted Mary Ann, a man walking by their home spotted a bloody pillow in the window. Neighbours found Mary Ann inside, still alive, but with her throat slit. Bodies of six of her children lay scattered throughout the house, their throats cut open. Mary Ann survived and was charged with six counts of murder. She confessed, telling investigators that she had used a razor on each child, one at a time. One child had protested and another had struggled, but she killed them all before attempting suicide.[136]

1854 June 13: Inquest before a coroner and jury at The Chequers Tavern, West End into the deaths of the **six Brough children.** Mr. **Biddlecombe,** chief superintendent of the Surrey Constabulary said following information from Inspector Martell he went to the house of Mrs Brough. On entering the back door and going into a room he found under the table a pair of woman's boots and bloody stockings. He went to the door and found that the bolt on the inside was all over blood as if handled with a bloody hand. He went upstairs and found a boy aged seven years on the bed with his face covered with blood. He was dead and his throat was cut. The wound was extensive and incised. There were lying at the foot of the bed Harriet and George both dead each with incised wounds to the throat. He passed to another room and found three more dead children with extensive wounds to the throat. In a third bedroom he saw Mrs Brough in bed and attended by a medical man. He could not speak with her but a few days later Mrs Brough called him back and he took her statement.[137]

[135] http://www.londonancestor.com/street/str-199.htm
[136] The Encyclopaedia of Mass Murder
[137] 1854 13 June: The Times



The Brough's Cottage in Esher

1854 17 June: Brough Murder A crime unusually horrible was perpetrated at Esher on Saturday—a mother murdered her six children, and then attempted suicide. The statements made before the Coroner's Jury, which sat on Monday, do not contain all the facts in connexion with the case, as reported in the morning journals. George Brough, formerly in the service of Prince Leopold and now keeper of the ponds and park at Claremont, lived at West End with his wife and six children. They had been married many years; but latterly Mr. Brough suspected that his wife made assignations in London, and at last, by means of detection, which he adopted, traced her to a public house with a male companion. Under the feelings, which this discovery induced, he resolved to separate from his faithless wife, and left his home.

Last Saturday morning, Henry Woolgar, a labourer in Claremont garden; was passing Mr. Brough's cottage, and saw a pillow stained with blood hanging out of the window. Thomas Beasley came up, and they rang the bell violently; no one answered it, but they thought some one moved, and presently a woman waved a towel. Seeing this, Woolgar got a ladder and mounted to the window, and saw Mrs. Brough coming up the staircase with "her hair hanging down and her body all over blood." "As she reached the top," continued the witness, "- she turned towards the window, and I saw a wound in her throat, and she made a whistling noise." Woolgar slipped down the ladder and went for a surgeon, while a neighbour entered the house by the window.

He saw Mgrs. Brough in one room with her throat cut, and a little baby lying in bed with its throat cut. Going from room to roam, he found the other five children murdered in the same way. Mr. Bedaer, the parish constable, and Mr. Biddlecombe, the Superintendent of Police, gave similar evidence. They entered by the front door, which Mgrs. Brough had crawled down stairs to open. The wretched woman, after her

wound had been dressed, voluntarily gave to Mr. Biddlecombe a frightful account of the deeds she had done. "On Friday last I was bad all day; I wanted to see Mr. Izod, and waited all day. I wanted him to give me some medicine. In the evening I walked about, and afterwards put the children to bed, and wanted to go to sleep in a chair. About nine o'clock Georgy kept calling to me to come to bed. I came up to bed and they kept calling me to bring them some barley water, and kept calling till near twelve o'clock. I had one candle lit on the chair. I went and got another, but could not see there was something like a cloud, and I thought I would go down and get a knife and cut my own throat, but could not see. I groped about in master's room for a razor. I could not find one. At last I found his keys, and then found his razor. I went to Georgy, and cut her first I did not look at her. I then came to Carry, and cut her. Then to Henry he said, “Don't, mother,” I said, 'I must,' and did cut him. Then I went to Bill: he was fast asleep I turned him over; he never woke: I served him the same. I nearly tumbled into this room. The two children here, Harriet and George, were awake: they made no resistance at all; Harriet struggled very much, and gurgled. I then laid down and did myself. I can't tell what occurred for some time after that, as I found myself weak and lying on the floor. That nasty great and black cloud was gone then. I was thirsty, and got the water bottle and drank. I fell in a sitting position; got up, and saw the children, and it all came to me again. I wanted to call, but could not speak. I went to the window and put something out to call attention. I went to bed, and remained there till the bell rang. They made such a noise. I crawled on my hands and knees, but could not make them hear. It was Henry Woolgar. I went down to unbolt the door. There was only one bolt fastened, and that I undid. That is all I know. They can tell the rest. It was not quite daylight when I put the signal out. It is possible I might have said something more to the other officer. If I have, he can tell you."

The Jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against the mother.

The eldest daughter of the family, Mary, aged nineteen, was at service as a lady's maid she joined her father to take a last look of the murdered children, before their burial. It was a terrible scene. Brough refuses to see his wife but Mary has visited her mother in gaol. The man who was the cause of the tragedy—a married man—has been forced to sell his business and leave the village such is the pitch of indignation against him. His wife is confined to her bed dangerously ill [Mrs. Brough was the first nurse to the Prince of Wales but she was discharged for disobeying the orders of the medical men. The trinkets she received in the Royal Family she has willed to her daughter.][138]

Following her trial at Guildford Assizes Mrs Brough was found not guilty of murder on the ground of insanity.

Almost seven years after the murders Mary Brough, still confined to Bedlam died:

[138] 17 June 1854 The Spectator

1861 March 23: Inquest on Mary Brough of Esher mother who killed her six children: The coroner for the City of London and Southwark held an inquest at the Bethlehem hospital on the body of Mary Ann Brough nurse to the Prince of Wales who was acquitted on the grounds of insanity on the charge of murdering her six children at Esher in June 1854 and sent to Bethlehem in August 1854. On admission she was in good health but her behaviour indicated that she had some organic disease in the brain and that had been so for some time.

On the 4th December 1854 following an attack of apoplexy followed by paralysis chiefly affecting the mouth and tongue. On 27 September 1859 she had another attack, which affected the legs, and she almost lost the use of them, and her mind became much weaker after this third attack. On the 30 January 1861 she had another slight paralytic attack and very soon after she became so weak that she was unable to sit up and a waterbed was provided for her. She remained in this condition until the 17th inst., when she lost all consciousness and died on the morning off the 18th.

At the time of her trial there was not a great deal of evidence to prove insanity yet there was no doubt that even then the brain was diseased and she committed the act while under the influence of insanity. Especially so as it was proved some years before the trial she was attacked with paralysis of one half of the hemisphere of the brain by which the brain itself would too some extent be affected. She had lucid interval that allowed her to enter into conversation but as her mind was very depressed it was not thought she had any consciousness of the enormity of her crime. She was aware of the reason why she had been sent to the hospital but in consequence of her weak and depressed state, if she had said she was the greatest sinner that ever lived, from the state of her mind it was doubted if any confidence could be placed as to her consciousness of what she said. After some further evidence the jury returned a verdict of "Natural death." Mrs Brough was about 50 years of age. [139]

The book has many varied examples but by going into greater detail in this particular case, the reader will grasp the complexities of the crimes and the difficulties involved in deciding "Mad or Bad".

David Vaughan has written a well-researched and readable book on an important aspect of criminal history and is to be congratulated.

[139] 1861 March 23 Surrey Comet