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

26 July 2017

www.surrey-constabulary.com
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Surrey Constabulary History
Journal 33

Grenadier Guards 3rd Battalion c1890

Robert Knight was decorated for service in the front line at Khartoum and Rorke's Drift at 17 years of age. An expert with bayonet and sword, he eventually became an inspector with the Surrey Constabulary

Contents

GUILDFORD BOROUGH POLICE.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE,
Guildford,
16th January, 1915.

INFORMATION: 17.
TELEPHONE: 51.

WANTED!

IN THIS BOROUGH FOR

Stealing £150 in Cash

ON MONDAY, 11TH JANUARY, 1915.

Pay Sergeant H. C. Carlyle, 14th Div. Ammunition Column, 46th Brigade, R.F.A., stationed at Guildford. Has been identified as Harry Carlisle alias Joseph Strudwick alias Henry Hector MacDonald (see "Police Gazette," 13/1/15, Case 88, also H.C.R. 1127/09), native of Mitcham, Surrey, Age 44 (looks younger), height 5ft. 4ins., complexion fresh, eyes blue, hair and moustache dark brown, bald on top of head. Marks: Scar on right thumb and palm of right hand, and clasped hands left forearm. Dressed in khaki uniform and putties, khaki great-coat (R.F.A.), Sergeant's three stripes and gun on each arm.

Was convicted on the 30th January, 1905, at Chelmsford Assizes for burglary, and sentenced to 6 months' hard labour, in the name of Joseph Strudwick. On the 20th October, 1908, at Lewes Sessions, receiving stolen bicycles at Eastbourne, 2 indictments, 9 and 9 months' hard labour concurrently. On the 1st June, 1911, at Bradford City Petty Sessions, begging, 7 days' hard labour, in the name of Henry Carlyle.

The money had been drawn from the Capital and Counties' Bank, Ltd., Guildford, for the purpose of paying the billets of soldiers billeted in the borough. It was chiefly made up of silver in £5 cream-colour paper bags, with the following printed thereon: "£5 Silver from the Capital and Counties' Bank, Ltd., Guildford."

He has a wife residing at Reading, and on the 13th instant wrote to her from Harrogate (no address given), enclosing four £1 and four 10/- Treasury Notes, also promising to send her £10 per month.

He is very plausible, and has been keeping company with several young women, to whom he promised marriage. May be found in the company of women.

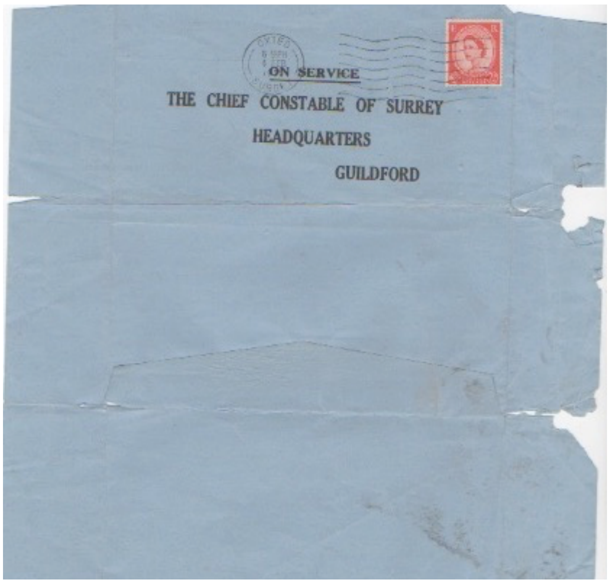
Before joining the Army he worked as a carman, and spent a great deal of his time in playing cards and chess in public-houses, and was very much addicted to drink; but whilst in the Army posed as a teetotaller. He is also a vocal comedian and plays the mouth organ remarkably well.

May be wearing plain clothes, and may attempt to leave the country.

Kindly cause enquiries to be made at Hotels, Temperance Hotels, Boarding and Lodging Houses, Army Depots and Camps, and other likely places in your district for the above-named. Should he be met with, kindly arrest and wire, when an Officer will be sent to fetch him.

W. V. NICHOLAS,
Chief Constable.

THE SURREY ADVERTISER, PRINTERS, MARKET STREET, GUILDFORD.

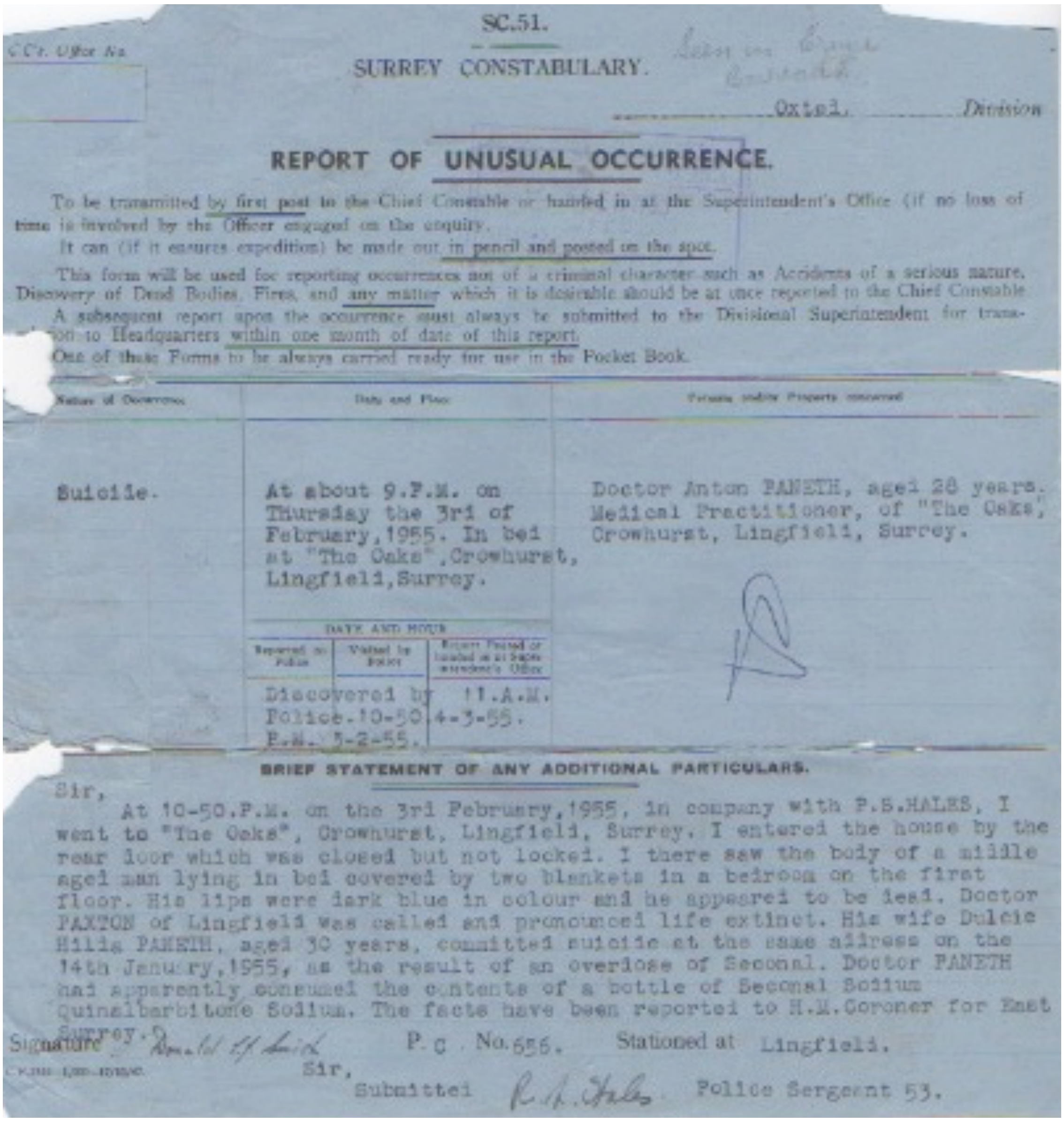


ON SERVICE

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF SURREY

HEADQUARTERS

GUILDFORD



SC.51.

C.C's. Office No.

SURREY CONSTABULARY.

Oxted. Division

REPORT OF UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE.

To be transmitted by first post to the Chief Constable or handed in at the Superintendent's Office (if no loss of time is involved by the Officer engaged on the enquiry.

It can (if it ensures expedition) be made out in pencil and posted on the spot.

This form will be used for reporting occurrences not of a criminal character such as Accidents of a serious nature, Discovery of Dead Bodies, Fires, and any matter which it is desirable should be at once reported to the Chief Constable.

A subsequent report upon the occurrence must always be submitted to the Divisional Superintendent for transmission to Headquarters within one month of date of this report.

One of these Forms to be always carried ready for use in the Pocket Book.

Nature of Occurrence	Date and Place	Persons and/or Property concerned
Suicide.	At about 9.P.M. on Thursday the 3ri of February, 1955. In bei at "The Oaks", Crowhurst, Lingfieli, Surrey.	Doctor Anton PANETH, agei 28 years. Meiical Practitioner, of "The Oaks", Crowhurst, Lingfieli, Surrey.

DATE AND HOUR

Reported to Police	Visited by Police	Report Posted or handed in at Superintendent's Office
Discovered by Police. 10-50 P.M. 3-2-55.		11.A.M. 4-3-55.

BRIEF STATEMENT OF ANY ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.

Sir,

At 10-50.P.M. on the 3ri February, 1955, in company with P.S.HALES, I went to "The Oaks", Crowhurst, Lingfieli, Surrey. I enterei the house by the rear ioor which was closei but not lockei. I there saw the body of a miidle agei man lying in bei coverei by two blankets in a beiroom on the first floor. His lips were iark blue in colour and he appearei to be ieai. Doctor PAXTON of Lingfieli was callei and pronouncei life extinct. His wife Dulcie Hilia PANETH, agei 30 years, committei suicide at the same aiiress on the 14th January, 1955, as the result of an overiose of Seconal. Doctor PANETH hai apparently consumei the contents of a bottle of Seconal Soiium Quinalbarbitone Soiium. The facts have been reportei to H.M.Coroner for East Surrey.

Signature P.C. No.656. Stationed at Lingfieli.

Sir,

Submittei Police Sergeant 53.

Oxted Division 3 February 1955
Report of an unusual occurrence

CHAPTER II

ESTABLISHMENT, STRENGTH AND RECRUITMENT

Establishment and Strength

During 1969 the total authorised establishment of 1,366 remained unchanged, but the permitted strength of the regular force, during the current period of restraint, was increased from 1,201 to 1,235.

As at 31st December, 1969	Authorised Establishment	Total Strength for Ordinary Duty	Seconded	Vacancies
MEN				
Chief Constable	1	1	-	-
Assistant Chief Constable	3	3	-	-
Chief Superintendent	8	8	-	-
Superintendent (Class I)	10	10	-	-
Superintendent (Class II)	6	6	-	-
Chief Inspector	22	21	-	1
Inspector	60	52	2	6
Sergeant	216	182	10	24
Constable	985	873	1	111
WOMEN				
Superintendent (Class II)	1	1	-	-
Chief Inspector	-	-	-	-
Inspector	1	1	-	-
Sergeant	7	6	-	1
Constable	46	36	1	9
Total	1,366	1,200	14	152

AUTHORISED DIVISIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

DIVISION	MALE										FEMALE					
	C.C.	A.C.C.	Ch.Supt.	Supt. I	Supt. II	Ch.Insp.	Insp.	P.S.	P.C.	Total	Supt. II	Ch. Insp.	Insp.	W.P.S.	W.P.C.	Total
Addlestone			1	1	1	3	8	34	149	197				1	9	10
Reigate			1	1	2	2	10	42	172	230				2	11	13
Woking			1	1	-	2	6	19	106	135				1	4	5
Dorking			-	1	1	4	5	22	87	120				-	4	4
Farnham			1	1	-	4	6	25	116	153				1	6	7
Guildford			1	1	2	2	9	33	164	212				2	12	14
Admin.	1	3	1	2	-	1	4	9	4	25	1	-	1	-	-	2
Crime	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	12	12	30		-	-	-	-	-
Traffic and Communications	-	-	1	1	-	4	8	20	175	209		-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	3	8	10	6	22	60	216	985	1,311	1	-	1	7	46	55

8

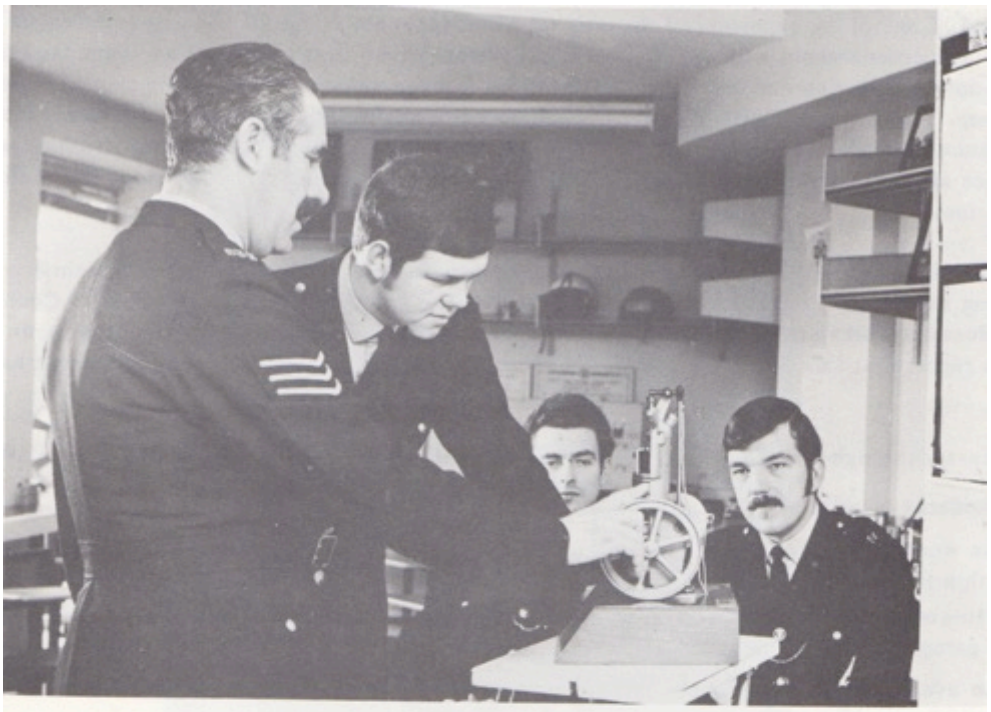
1972 Establishment of the Surrey Constabulary
Dorking had two superintendents and four chief inspectors some at Leatherhead

1972 Annual Report Traffic

LIST OF MEMBERS OF RIFLE TEAM:

'A' Division	P.S.	815 Rumplin
	P.C.	912 Cambell
	P.C.	1034 Lewis
'B' Division	P.S.	11 Ball
	P.S.	426 Wild
	P.S.	505 Molyneux
	P.S.	695 French
	P.C.	39 Wakeman
	P.C.	424 Bean
	P.C.	458 Lush
	P.C.	620 James
	P.C.	678 Kirton
	P.C.	729 Duckfield
	P.C.	838 Newlove
	P.C.	891 Schofield
'C' Division	P.C.	275 Charlton-Agar
	P.C.	366 Docherty
'D' Division	P.C.	205 Farrow
	P.C.	116 Kingswood
'F' Division	P.C.	221 Risbridger
	P.C.	387 Covey
'G' Division	P.S.	1095 Simmons
	P.C.	597 Hyldon

These are the men who would have been deployed to Gatwick if there were an anti-hijack operation early 1970s



Younger members of Traffic Division being given instruction in mechanics.

The 'Daily Car Check' being explained before driving instruction commences for the day.

Driving School 1972 Annual Report Police Sergeant Danny Shaw

Motor Patrol Range Rover
Accident Emegency Equipment, on display
and stowed away ready for patrol.

Traffic 1972 Annual report

The following is a further extract from what is effect an electronic book being prepared by your editor to go onto the website in due course. It covers policing in the county mostly from the eighteenth century until the late 19th. There is coverage therefore of policing in Surrey both before and after the formation of the Surrey Constabulary.

Policing Rural Surrey

From the Distant Past to the Making of the Surrey Constabulary

Pension

By 1860 Pensions were paid. By then it was possible for a policeman retiring with 15 years service to be granted a pension of half pay. More than 15 years service could bring this up to 2/3rds. The wife of a policeman who died in service might be granted up to 1 year's pay provided he had been in the superannuation fund for three years. All pension awards were discretionary not a right until in1889 it became a right. This brought a move towards national friendly societies organised by the men, firstly local

burial funds (very popular amongst the working men) widows and orphans fund (a term used until the modern era) separate from the police authority. In the 1870s, 6d a week was stopped from pay for the superannuation fund.

In 1875 a Select Committee report in to police superannuation was published; this was the first time in 25 years police had received attention at this level.[1]

It is surprising anyone survived until pension. In 1865 Stratford on Avon officers covered 15 hours a day with breaks totalling three and a half hours. [2] Split shifts were still being worked in the 1960s in the Surrey Constabulary. In the 1800s it was most common to work a nine or ten hour a day was spread across split shifts including part day and part night. Close supervision went up the chain of command as exampled in Northamptonshire in 1865 when Inspector Williamson was visited by his superintendent three times a day and patrolled for about five miles with one or more of the constables. The inspector examined constable's journals/pocket books once a week and was himself examined by the chief constable once a month. [3]

Numbers reaching pensionable service by 1880 were still very small, 16% of the annual turnover; if they stayed for five years there was hope of them staying longer.[4] (Interestingly this has always been seen as the difficult length of service when officers were likely to leave. The novelty had worn off, career potential recognised and shift work and role a hard slog; a harsh way to earn a living.)
Being born in a county or neighbouring county was the most consistent factor in staying in the Job also chief constable's looked for physical strength and literacy as demanded by the Home Office. All police work demanded a level of proficiency in reading and writing, but particularly in writing. Some forces employed a schoolmaster to train recruits and serving officers to an acceptable level. [5]

Mortality rate

In 1876 the mortality rate for the country policeman was nearly half what it was of the general population but it was much higher than this in the boroughs where after ten years service the urban policeman's likelihood of dying was about level with the general male population. In both county and borough life expectancy deceased as years of service were clocked up. There was a high mortality rate in the first five years of pension, far higher than men of a corresponding age. [6] Lung diseases from poor weather and acute rheumatism were common complaints caused by the constant exposure to the elements, a major hazard of the policeman's working life.

[1] "Policing Victorian Community" Steadman page 122
[2] "Policing Victorian Community" Steadman page 122
[3] "Policing Victorian Community" Steadman page 122
[4] "Policing Victorian Community" Steadman page 92
[5] "Policing Victorian Community" Steadman page 92
[6] "Policing Victorian Community" Steadman page 121

Collar number

Recruits were allocated a number, which was displayed on their collars and later in the centre of their helmet plates. These not surprisingly became known as collar numbers and were reissued once an officer retired. In the Metropolitan Police, which was larger, men were given a number when they joined, known as a warrant number, which they retained wherever they served. So the officer allocated the warrant number 154300 was the 154,300th officer to have joined the Metropolitan Police. As they moved divisions their number was changed i.e. T560 became V567. On promotion to inspector officers no longer had a collar number and in the counties and boroughs the number was re-issued.

Working life in the constabulary

All officers had to seek permission to marry, to live where told, frequently move house when ordered. A wife was not allowed to work as she acted as an auxiliary in the countryside when husband out and in the towns acted as searchers cooks and cleaners. In the 1950s in Basingstoke the sergeant's wife still cooked prisoner's meals. However there was a free uniform, which was worn most of the time with a duty band on the sleeve when on duty. This was so until the mid 1860s a time in fact where there was no concept of "off duty". The Metropolitan Police constables wore a duty band until about the 1972/3. Nationally duties were arranged to allow attendance at church with dissenters encouraged to go to church not chapel. [7]

There was always the drudgery of the foot patrol particularly in rural or small towns with little happening and devoid of the comradeship of the larger police stations. It was a hard life in all weathers with tough military style discipline with regular threats to life and limb. Some were the toughest of the tough earning respect with their fists. [8] (Borough men such as those who served in Guildford were well known locally and many had formidable reputations).

The middle class view of the policeman was of a slow-witted dilatory former farm labourer, the fool in blue, the servant of the ratepayer. Over time the police through a process of self-definition changed themselves from a collection of unimportant working-class men into the beginnings of a recognisably modern police force separate from the influence of the local authority.[9]

[7] "Policing Victorian Community" Steadman page 119
[8] "The Great British Bobby" page 5 Emsley
[9] "Policing Victorian Community" Steadman page 67

Note the duty band on the left sleeve [10]

Rural class relationships dominated policing in Victorian England. "We are on a par with the working man except the policeman works seven days and the working man only about five and a half," Head Constable Birmingham 1874[11] The police felt comfortable comparing themselves with the skilled mechanic class - respectable working class – the artisan[12]

Establishment of the police forces in Surrey

12 more Constables: At a meeting of Surrey Magistrates held on Tuesday 5 June 1877 at the Sessions-house, Newington-causeway, reference was made to burglaries committed in the lower part of the county beyond Guildford. Captain Hastings the Chief Constable of Surrey in his report for the last quarter showed that 33 crimes were committed and 32 persons apprehended. Of the persons apprehended 27 were

[10] Drawing by Bob Marrion http://gmic.co.uk/topic/38301-police-duty-armbands/
[11] "Policing Victorian Community" Steadman page 113
[12] "Policing Victorian Community" Steadman page 114

committed for trial and five discharged. The number of persons charged with offences punishable summarily by Justices was 443 of whom 369 were summarily convicted and 74 discharged. Mr Godwin Austin suggested in consequences of the recent burglaries that the force of police should be increased. In answer to the Court the Chief Constable thought that a dozen additional constables would render the force more efficient. Mr Hardman was of opinion that the matter should be referred to the Committee to consider what means should be adopted to render the force efficient for the protection of the public. The latter suggestion was adopted. [13]

Establishment	**1870**	**1910**	**1939**
Godalming	3		
Guildford	12	30	63
Reigate	14	40	59
Surrey Constabulary [14]	123	303	536

A sense of security that came with established police forces

The following is taken from work published in 1873 and 1876 and establishes the nature of crime at that time.

The sense of security is almost everywhere diffused. There are of course in most great cities some quarters of evil repute, in which assault and robbery now and again are committed. But any man of average stature and strength may wonder about on foot and alone at any hour of the day or night through the greatest of all the cities and it's suburbs along the high road and through and frequented country lanes and never have so much as the thought of danger thrust upon him unless he goes out of his way to court it. [15]

Between 1861 and 1865, 59,394 indictable offences were recorded in England and Wales equivalent to an offence rate of 287.9 per 100,000 of population.

[13] Newspaper Reprt about 6/7 June 1877 – original reference lost
[14] "The English Police: A Political and Social History" Emsley, C (1996) (2ed) Longman page 266
[15] A History of Crime in England published 1873 and 1876 Luke Owen Pike page 407

Approximately the same number of offences was recorded for the next five-year period but since the population was rising sharply at the time the actual average per 100,000 dropped slightly to 270.5. Thereafter apart from a blip between 1881 and 1885 when 60,220 indictable offences were recorded the rate fell steadily.

The five years between 1896 and 1900 show not only lower total numbers than a quarter of a century earlier 51,612 cases as against 59,394 but a massive reduction in the average per 100,000 people down from the high two hundreds to 175.6.

	Indictable offences	**Per 100,000 population**
1861-1865	59,394	287.9
1866-1871		270.5
1881-1885	60,220 (Slight blip up)	
1896-1900	51,612	175.6

Only burglary and housebreaking seem to have resisted the general trend downwards no doubt because they were the offences most likely to be committed by hard core of professional criminals. Murder rate started to decline from the mid century mark. There was a brief upwards trend in the 1860s but thereafter the number of homicide indictments declined from an average of 299.4 per annum in the 1860s.

Over the same period the homicide rate per 100,000 of population similarly fell markedly in 1851 at 1.9 per 100,000 of the population in 1861 at 1.3 in 1911 at 0.6. In other words in the 60 years after 1851 cases of homicide dropped by nearly two thirds.

	Homicide Rate
1851	1.9 per 100,000
1861	1.3 per 100,000
1911	0.6 per 100,000

Most killers now were and skilled workers from the factory whereas once the farm servants dominated the statistics. Most were men, male murderers outnumbered female murderers by 7 to 1 by the late 19th century with at least half found guilty of murdering their wife or mistress.

Murder was largely a domestic affair often the outcome of a long period of violence and unhappiness. As with homicide rates so with indictments felonious and malicious wounding dropped from 3.5 per 100,000 in 1871 to 2.7 in 1901 to 2 in 1911. And the decline in the figures for assaults by far the most frequent violence offence even more remarkable. Most assault cases were dealt with summarily by local magistrates of petty sessions, so it is difficult to make direct comparisons between indictable in effect serious offences and a sore prosecutions. But even so would be hard to interpret

the near halving of cases from 383.8 per 100,000 in 1861 to 197.2 in 1901 as anything other than evidence of an extraordinary social shift.

	Wounding Rate
1871	3.5 per 100,000
1901	2.7 per 100,000
1911	2 per 100,000

	Assault
1861	383.8 100,000
1901	197.2 per 100,000

As the figures for falling crime was also becoming an increasingly urban phenomenon. In the early days of the industrial revolution in particular there was widespread concern the England's burgeoning industrial towns and cities will be coming hotbeds of crime and disorder and the breeding ground for the next generation of hard and criminals. Early 19th century crime statistics suggest that this concern was not without grounds. As mentioned previously recorded homicide rates were relatively low in the years around 1800, 0.9 per 100,000 people in Surrey, 0.6 in Sussex, 0.8 in Essex and 1.1 in London Middlesex. But over the next few decades, homicide levels in those counties that were industrialising rose markedly. Meanwhile rural areas proved to be bastions of relative calm. [16]

1800 - around	**Homicide Rate**
Surrey	0.9 per 100,000
Sussex	0.6 per 100,000
Essex	0.8 per 100,000
Middlesex	1.1 per 100,000

The Surrey Constabulary police area could be described a one of the bastions of relative calm. There would have been crime, and disorder was often ritualised around bonfires and football and of course after too much to drink. Surrey's location close to London and on the main routes to the south from the capital meant all manner of people were passing though some committing offences, a problem that continues into the 21st century.

Carolyn Steedman in her history of the development of police in the English counties, between 1856 and 1880, 40 out of the 43 English counties emphasis what has been set out above, Quarter Sessions and Watch Committees used their police for all sorts of functions including that of poor law officers, inspectors of nuisances, market

[16] A History of Crime in England published 1873 and 1876 Luke Owen Pike page 410

commissioners, impounders of stray cattle and inspectors of weights and measures. She continues:

> "Indeed the 1860's and early 1870's witnessed something like an inspection fever… (with suggestions that) policemen be appointed as inspectors of taxes, of unemployed children not covered by the Factory Acts, of midwives and truants under the educational reforms of the 1870's. Carried away by the vision of a thoroughly policed and inspected society, some, including county chief constables, suggested that the homes of the poor should be inspected by the police for cleanliness and against overcrowding" [17]

A Start at Modernising the Police
London before the Metropolitan Police

Thief takers

Alarmed by gang activity and five murders committed in quick succession in the early 1750s, the Prime Minister the Duke of Newcastle[18] consulted Fielding the magistrate at Bow Street. In four daysFielding prepared a plan for putting down the gangs, which was successful. The counter gang strategy involved the deployment of what became known as "thief takers".

> These were "men of tried courage, householders, picked from among the peace-officers, moreover the moment anyone commits an act either of cruelty or injustice he is immediately discharged by the magistrate from the office of thief-taker, and never admitted again." [19]

These thief takers seem to have been successful from the start breaking up two important gangs in three months with nine "gangsters" executed at the cost of the life of one thief taker. In addition a number of infamous highwaymen were arrested and taken before the courts. [20]

One development to remedy weakness in the historic system of policing was through the deployment of thief takers. The role may have been similar to the eventual development of private detectives but at this time the term detective was not in use. A feature of this period was the self appointed professional thief-taker who traced and arrested offenders for a fee or reward upon conviction paid by the Government, the victim or a local Felon's Association. Being self appointed individuals, not a part of the crown response there are no official records covering the activities of thief takers though occasionally references are made in newspapers or court trial transcripts.

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[17] "Policing the Victorian Community" Carolyn Steedman 1984 Routledge
[18] PM 1754-1756 July 1757- May 1862
[19] "The Story of Scotland Yard" Sir Basil Thompson1935 Kessinger Rare Reprints page 33
[20] "The Story of Scotland Yard" Sir Basil Thompson1935 Kessinger Rare Reprints page 33

Thief-takers rewards were often paid by the government to secure the return of stolen goods and/or bring criminals to justice for serious crime. It was a practice that accelerated in the late eighteenth century supporting the parish constable, the mostly unenthusiastic amateur with few investigatory skills.

The system was subject to abuse with thief-takers organising crimes and then securing payment from the victim for the return of stolen property or even extorting money from a criminal as the price of not handing them over to the authorities.[21] An Act of Parliament of 1717 known as the Jonathan Wild Act named after the infamous thief-taker made it a capital offence to receive a reward under the pretext of helping an owner to secure the return of goods in cases where no thief was prosecuted. [22]

Although the system of private thief-takers was prone to abuse it was not totally ineffective in dealing with criminal activities with contemporary accounts revealing that following Jonathan Wild's execution in 1725 far fewer criminals were brought to justice. [23] In the 1830s the role of thief-takers was adversely affected by powers given to magistrates to deny them a reward. [24] These powers followed the introduction of the Metropolitan Police when the role of crime detection was not accepted as a primary duty of the preventative police.

Bow Street

Bow Street's historic role in maintaining law and order dates from 1740 when Sir Thomas De Veil (1684-1746) a Westminster Justice, used his residence at 4 Bow Street as a magistrate's court. (The terms Justice and Magistrate seem to be used unsystematically and refer to the same function, Justice of the Peace.) From his court de Veil also took responsibility for investigating and pursuing crime until his death two years later when Henry and John Fielding moved into Bow Street as a magistrates. With the assistance of a government grant the Fielding brothers began to administer justice often without charge to the poorest. [25]

There were however, some important moves in the direction of the modern system of criminal justice and police in London. Henry Fielding in a paper of 1751 "Enquiry into the Late Increase of Robbers" recommended responsibility for prosecution should be taken from the victim. Parliament accepting that prosecuting criminals was a state responsibility and not that of the victim, took steps to reduce costs of criminal

[21] " Supergrasses Informers and Bent Cops" J Morton Time Warner 2002: 39–41
[22] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[23] " Supergrasses Informers and Bent Cops" J Morton Time Warner 2002: 43
[24] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[25] "What is the relevance of history to criminology?" Criminology and History John Lea 2006 http://www.bunker8.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/history/36801.htm

prosecutions. However it was to be many years before the state accepted prosecution as a responsibility and met the costs.

The Fielding brothers understood the necessity to move beyond a focus on prosecution and the penalties at the disposal of the courts, towards a concern with effective crime detection. It was no good increasing the penalties at the disposal of the courts if the chances of an offender being actually brought to court were very slim. The need therefore was for an effective police detective system.'[26]

Sir John Fielding as he became, in 1755 drew together "A plan for preventing robberies within twenty miles of London." He suggested that the landowners and occupiers of high-class residential property near London should come together to form societies for the "apprehension of burglars and other depredators". Each society was to select a treasurer to collect an annual subscription of two guineas each from members. When a robbery was committed the injured party was immediately to despatch a mounted messenger to the magistrate at Bow Street, warning on his way all the turnpike keepers, advising them as to the property stolen and of any particulars of importance. The magistrate was then to be empowered to draw on the funds of the society in the hands of the treasurer for any expenses that might be incurred in the course of the pursuit and subsequent prosecution of the criminal. [27]

Punishment of hanging or transportation was the response of the authorities to serious crime. Prevention not detection had yet to be an accepted means of crime reduction. Making penalties more severe was not impacting upon the level of crime being committed. [28]

> "Gradually a genuine wish for change, a desire to repress crime as humanely as possible; a half formed idea found partial expression that perhaps after all the pain suffered by the culprit ought not to exceed the benefit conferred on the community by the punishment exacted; henceforward the Statute Book was not disgraced with fresh barbarities and in the course of years the old ones were gradually eliminated." [29]

Jeremy Bentham (1747-1832) considered police necessary as a means to prevent crimes and calamities as well as to correct and cure them. Blackstone in his Commentaries (1765) wrote,

> By public police and economy I mean the due regulation and domestic order of the kingdom, whereby the individuals of the State like members of a well governed family, are bound to conform their general behaviour to the rules of

[26] "What is the relevance of history to criminology?" Criminology and History John Lea 2006 http://www.bunker8.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/history/36801.htm
[27] "A History of Police in England" WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Publishing 2012 page 157 &158
[28] "A History of Police in England" WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Publishing page 158
[29] "A History of Police in England" WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Publishing page 159

> propriety, good neighbourhood and good manners; to be decent, industrious, and inoffensive in their respective stations.[30]

In 1749 John Fielding as Magistrate at Bow Street founded his own organisation of initially six men as thief-takers, known as "Bow Street Principal Officers", who. (Colloquially known as Bow Street Runners a term thought disparaging by the officers). Also established were patrols along the main thoroughfares in London and surrounding countryside (1756).

The Bow Street Principal Officers organised by the Fielding brothers remain the most famous of the early professional police officers. The officer would investigate crime and detain suspects under the direction of Magistrates. [31] The six officers attached to Bow Street received salaries of £1.1.0 or a guinea a week raised in 1821 which was many years later to £1.5.0 still for the time an insufficient salary. By the 1820s Occurrence Books were kept, weekly inspections held, men were paid weekly, there was a police surgeon. The force amounted to one inspector, seventeen conductors (a senior NCO rank in the army) and eighty-two patrols. They wore a uniform – a red waistcoat, which earned them the nickname of "Robin Redbreasts." The Runners wore no uniform.[32]

In 1763 Fielding suggested London to be divided into six areas with their own patrols and police stations but this idea was rejected but £600 given by the government to hire eight men to patrol the highways. This deployment of patrols brought to an end most highway robbery, but was not continued. Why are we spending money when there is no crime? Costs led to curtailment of horse patrols by 1766/67

The Hue and Cry, a newspaper was founded at Bow Street in 1772 containing information from gaols and justices, began publishing using £400 funding from the Home Office. This was the first attempt to transmit criminal intelligence across the country with the ambition to arrest those wanted men who had left where they were known.

Fielding published his "General Preventative Plan" in 1772 allowing Magistrates in different areas to exchange information about crime. Twenty years later following the Middlesex Justices Act 1792 professional paid (stipendiary) magistrates began to appear in central London and Southwark.
The employment of paid police officers by ratepayers to supplement the parish constables was a development that occurred in some of the larger urban areas in the late eighteenth and early years of the nineteenth century. It secured Parliamentary approval in the form of Improvement Acts. This legislation authorised rates to be collected to pay for a wide range of municipal services whose actions were supervised

[30] "The Story of Scotland Yard" Sir Basil Thompson1935 Kessinger Publishing Rare Reprints page 15
[31] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[32] "A History of Police in England" WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Publishing page 34

by an elected body of ratepayers. An important example of this was the 1792 Manchester and Salford Police Act, which permitted rates to be levied on householders to pay for a range of services that included 'the cleansing, lighting watching and regulation (of) the streets, lanes, passages and places within the towns of Manchester and Salford'. An elected body of ratepayers termed 'commissioners' superintended these functions. [33]

The jurisdiction of Bow Street had no limits and when in 1792 seven other courts in central London had their own armed police the Bow Street Patrol were able to operate anywhere in the country.[34] The London police officers attached to the magistrate's courts were paid a basic but fairly low salary however they were able to supplement their wages from a number of sources including rewards. For the first time in London, Bow Street police officers operating outside the control of individual parishes.[35]

The Bow Street model was adopted throughout London (with the exception of the City of London) under the provisions of the 1792 Middlesex Justices Act, whereby seven police offices were set up, staffed by stipendiary magistrates who employed, directed and supervised a small number of paid police officers. [36] This had significant impact for Surrey with one of these stipendiary courts established at Union Hall in Southwark with a responsibility for policing the whole of Surrey from the Thames to Sussex, Hampshire in the west and Kent in the east.

A further important initiative was the formation of the Thames River Police at the suggestion of the London magistrate Patrick Colquhoun in 1798 and initially paid for by merchants operating on the River Thames. This was given official status under the 1800 Thames River Police Act, whose superintending magistrates were under the direct control of the Home Secretary. [37]

1792 Middlesex Justices Act

Union Hall

The 1792 Middlesex Justices Act was passed with little opposition, radically changing the role of Justices of the Peace in the metropolis but also to have an impact on Surrey. This was a very important development for the Surrey law enforcers. The Act set up seven public or police offices (the first police stations) in addition to Bow Street, to which three salaried Justices each were attached. The Justices were paid £400 a year, but were not entitled to any fees.

[33] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[34] "The Story of Scotland Yard" Sir Basil Thompson1935 Kessinger Publishing Rare Reprints page 34
[35] "Policing before the Police" In Handbook of Policing: Rawlings, 2008: 56
[36] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf
[37] http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/36166_01_Joyce_Policing_CH_01.pdf

The Act provided experienced investigators and stipendiary magistrates across London north and south of the river with many of the London initiatives funded, and therefore controlled by the Home Office. Like Bow Street, investigating and "detecting" crime was their principal function.[38] One of the police offices was Union Hall in Southwark, south of the river with a responsibility for the whole of Surrey from the urban sprawl by the Thames to the villages and small towns as far as Hindhead and Dormansland. The new magistrates were appointed and paid by the Home Office replacing a failing system of "trading justices" who lived off their fees. The new stipendiary or paid magistrates were made up of men of lesser education and social status than the conventional magistrate who were hard to recruit in central London.

This police system continued until 1839 operating for a time alongside the Metropolitan Police, acting as investigators. The men were referred to as police officers and the senior was known as the chief constable. Magistrates at Southwark upon the request of a local magistrate could deploy immediately experienced police officers to deal with significant crimes such as the double murder at Fetcham in 1826. Local magistrates retained the responsibly for investigating crime with their parish constables but inexperience led to the lead frequently being taken by Union Hall. Bow Street officers were also deployed within the county usually following a request from the local magistrate to the home secretary, or when a reward was likely!

The six men were appointed as constables in each office were given the power to arrest any suspected persons and reputed thieves they found on the streets. Like Bow Street, the new offices held pre-trial hearings and exercised the powers of summary jurisdiction.[39]

PD James in a rare non-fiction work covering the Ratcliffe Highway murders in 1811 describes these new police and their relationships with the existing law enforcement community:

> The three Shadwell magistrates had their public office in Shadwell High Street from where they covered six densely populated parishes. They were authorised to employ no more than eight police officers.[40] These men wore no uniform and had no badge of office or equipment of any kind. They formed in effect a tiny isolated police force, which the magistrates were in personal command. Each police officer was paid 22 shillings a week but this was in the nature of a retaining fee. It was expected that the men would undertake jobs for private individuals track down suspected criminals and recover stolen

[38] "Stumbling towards Professionalism: A post-revisionist overview of the establishment of English policing in the nineteenth century" By Keith Smith http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/478914-smith-keith
[39] "Bow Street Office, from The Microcosm of London" Thomas Rowlandson, 1808 © London Lives
[40] This is normally recorded as six

> goods for the agreed award. This means the police officers and as much as £100 a year over the above the nominal salaries.
> Relations between them and the parish constables and Watchman were deeply hostile. The parish force regarded the little band of police officers as spies whom they were reluctant to help in anyway. This was inevitable as they were competing for the same perks and they served different masters.[41]

Union Hall officers, operating south of the river on similar conditions to Shadwell, were very actve and played a significant part in the investigation of some of the serious crimes in what was to become the Surrey Constabulary area some fifty years into the future. Some examples of their working lives:

1817 October 7: Union Hall – evidence given before the committee of the House of Commons on Police of the Metropolis

> Mr John May one of the principal officers of Union Hall Office and 19 years in the situation stated that his present salary is one guinea per week; originally it was 12 shillings; they have other emoluments; as upon serving warants for assaults, and presents from individuals on being employed in particular cases or services. Without these additional emoluments they could not live by the situations.He is of no trade but the proprietor of a public house, the Red Lion, in Redcross-street, in which the business is carried on by his brother. In case of serving a warrant for an assault, the expense is paid by the plaintiff.----------[42]

Morning Post Tuesday 14 Oct 1817:

> Enquiry into policing the Metropolis: Joseph Chambers. Served nine years as a magistrate at Union Hall and held no other government posts in addition to being a commissioner of bankruptcy. Thought officers of the establishment were sufficiently paid. Asked if a guinea a week was sufficient to keep them frree from all temptations to act contrary to their duty if it were not for the advantages which they may receive on being employed by different private persons and sharing in different rewards. Chambers "I do not know that these latter benefits make them more honourable or honest but for a salary of a guinea a week there are persons in their situation of life who would accept of it."
> Their offices are worth from eighty to a hundred pounds a year? Chambers: "I have no idea how to draw a line of their profits from convictions they have made lately very considerable profit on account of a late Act of Parliament respecting bakers."

[41] "The Maul and the Pear Tree. Ratcliffe Highway murders 1811" PD James and TA Critchley p 29
[42] October 7 1817 : The Morning Post

> In what way? "The penalty by that Act is applied differently in various offices of police; in some it is given entirely to the informer, in others in a proportion, at the discretion of the magistrate; for the Act of Parliament is certainly very erroneous in two parts, one giving without doubt to the informer and another partly to the informer. [43]

On the 3 September 1827 at Surrey Quarter Sessions three men were charged with violently assaulting John Grossmith a police officer of Union Hall in the execution of his duty, with intent to recue two persons in his custody. The prosecution said that the officers had a very arduous and dangerous duty to perform and unless protected the consequences could be truly fatal.[44] Grossmith was active in the rural parts of Surrey being a key investigator in the 1826 double murder at Fetcham and was to be appointed a sergeant in the new Metropolitan Police in 1829.[45]

Bow Street Foot Patrols

In 1782 the first officially recognised Bow Street Foot Patrols took to the streets. Consisting of 6 or 8 men under a 'Captain'... eight parties patrolled the outskirts up to four miles from Charing Cross. Paid out of public funds (Captains received Five Shillings a night and the men Two Shillings and Sixpence) they were armed and were the first ever-preventative patrol.[46]

In the more urban areas Bow Street also undertook foot patrols with men dressed in blue coats with yellow buttons and a scarlet waistcoat. There was a night patrol of 100 men. One patrolman Charles Jealous gave evidence at the Old Bailey in 127 trials between 1774 and 1794 or about six times a year.[47] The government continued to fund the Runners in London even after the Metropolitan Police took to the streets with increasing numbers to 400.[48] This is not as odd as it first seems. The Metropolitan Police could not take over policing from day one. There had to an interim period of joint working and a period to allow for the organisation to recruit, rudimentary train, learn and develop practices and procedures. At this naïve stage of its evolution the Metropolitan Police were there to prevent crime not detect it and so Bow Street officers maintained their investigative role.

Bow Street Horse Patrols

By 1798 there were fifty-four armed men employed by Bow Street again with Home Offices grants, to patrol major highways in and around central London. By 1805 Bow Street were sending horse patrols along the main roads as far as Epsom and were

[43] Morning Post Tuesday 14 Oct 1817
[44] The Standard Saturday October 26 1827
[45] 1827 3 September The Standard Saturday October 26 1827 at the
[46] http://www.knifecrimes.org/History-Law.html Home Office
[47] "The Great British Bobby" by Clive Emsley Quercus 2009 page 21
[48] "Policing a Short History" Phillip Rawlings Willan Publishing 2002 page 109

sworn as constables throughout Surrey. These patrols wore a double breasted coat with gilt buttons, a leather stock, white gloves, black leather tall hat, top boots and a scarlet waistcoat, hence the nickname "Robin Redbreasts". They were armed with a pistol, heavy sabre, and truncheon and carried handcuffs. There were four divisions: the second division covered Epsom.

There were a number of Horse Patrol stations; among them were Merton, Sutton, Wimbledon and Ewell. There were at least four men, patrolling part of the area adjacent to Epsom. They were: W. Wright covering Merton to Mitcham and Sutton, G. Drake Merton to the Ewell Turnpike and W. Richardson Cheam to Merton Gate. They were paid three shillings a day. Sometimes the men were employed on what was termed "Special Service" to police fairs, races etc. For such duty, they received an extra day's pay.[49]

Bow Street Horse Patrol

Should there be a police force?

The continuing fear of the police as a threat to liberty continues to prevent reform. There remained unhappiness with the quality and levels of policing in London and so a Committee of Parliament was established in 1822 to look at the Irish experience of introducing a police force and to make a recommendation with a view to

> "Obtaining for the Metropolis as perfect a system of police as was consistent with the character of a free country." [50]

[49] http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/PoliceEpsom.html
[50] "A House in Bow Street" Anthony Babbington: Page 211

The committee reported that,

> " It would be difficult to reconcile an effective system of police with that perfect freedom of action and exemption from interference which are the great privileges and blessings of society in this country." [51]

Bow Street Day Patrol

However Peel seized on the 1822 Committee's proposals to introduce a new Bow Street patrol as a means of pressing forward with his ultimate design, whilst he awaited a more propitious moment before he raised the issue in Parliament again. This small force wore a uniform consisting of a blue coat, blue trousers, red waistcoat and black felt hat. Within a few months Peel created a day patrol of three inspectors and 24 men to operate under the chief magistrate, divided into three divisions each of 8 men and one inspector charged with patrolling the principal streets of the Metropolis until nightfall when they were relieved by the foot patrol. [52]

This move by Peel has been described as the first professional uniformed police[53] introduced almost by subterfuge as a apart of the Bow Street organisation whereas a more significant and separate organisation may well have been unacceptable to parliament.

The report of the Commons committee on the police in the 1830s made it clear that the assumptions and practices of the Fielding years were no longer acceptable, and the Bow Street officers had no place in what was intended to be a more strictly controlled and moral police force. [54]

After running in tandem with the new police from 1829, and of course with a national remit for Bow Street The Metropolitan Police Courts Act (1839) made the constables at police offices across London and Bow Street officers redundant – mostly pensioned off. [55] Runner Shackell was appointed an inspector in the Metropolitan Police with the promise of promotion, which is some indication of the esteem in which Bow Street officers were held even as they were disbanded.[56]

The Times recalled that the officers had been.

> "Superseded in their duties when the New Police Act came into operation (1839) earlier that year."

[51] "A House in Bow Street" Anthony Babbington: Page 212
[52] "A House in Bow Street" Anthony Babbington: Page 212
[53] "A House in Bow Street" Anthony Babbington: Page 212
[54] "The First English Detectives" JM Beattie OUP 2012 page 259
[55] "The First English Detectives" JM Beattie OUP 2012 page 257
[56] "The First English Detectives" JM Beattie OUP 2012 page 257

Quite remarkably that appears to have been the full extent of the press coverage of the closing down of an institution that had been an active force in London for close to a century. This removal of experience police officers was to impact Surrey where outside the Metropolitan Police District there were no longer a trained and experienced band of officers available.

The Bow Street organisation can be seen as to the basis upon which much of early policing was based and given all the constraints of their time they seem to have undertaken their role and duty with professionalism Of course incidence of poor behaviour and corruption can be found, that was the norm for the day, but overall they have come down through history as a respected and respectable organisation. Witnesses before Parliamentary Committees in the 1830s were not highly critical of the runners personally. They were however critical of what were thought to be the old policing methods – the runners familiarity with flash houses, their use of informers, their dealing with receivers and what appeared to be their unwillingness to act unless money was offered.[57]

Watchmen

The House of Commons appointed a Committee in 1772 to inquire into burglaries that had recently become so frequent in London and Westminster, one hundred and four houses having been broken into between Michaelmas 1769 and March 1770 i.e. over the winter months. The committee was the first of a long series authorised by Parliament with the idea of improving policing in the city. All the committees reported that the existing watch system was deficient deploring the want of uniformity and co-operation between wards and parishes. [58] This was compounded by the shortcomings of beadles, constables and watchmen but no clean sweep of the present system was ever recommended. This seems to indicate either a lack of creativity in their thinking or more likely a reasonable satisfaction with the status quo, and as always costs were just about acceptable as they were. Change would be expensive!

Newspapers delighted in recounting stories of the incompetence of watchmen, such as when reported that lead had been stolen from the roof of a London watch-house, and it is not difficult to find confirmation of these types of story in parish records.[59]

The alleged deficiencies of the watch were not always blamed on the watchmen. In 1770 John Fielding complained to a select committee of the House of Commons that the watch in Westminster 'is insufficient, their Duty too hard, and Pay too small' [60], and he attacked the parishes for their parsimony and their failure to co-operate with each other. Difficulties were caused by the limits on the jurisdiction of watchmen,

[57] "The First English Detectives" JM Beattie OUP 2012 page 260
[58] "The Story of Scotland Yard" Sir Basil Thompson1935 Kessinger Rare Reprints page 160
[59] London Evening Post 29 February 1772
[60] "Handbook of Policing" Philip Rawlings Journal of the House of Commons 1770: xxii, 879

especially in London: Stephen Haydon told the Old Bailey in 1741 that, although he had heard the cries of a robbery victim, he had not gone to her assistance because 'it being out of my Parish I durst not venture to go' [61]

In 1773 a Bill to enhance the Watch in Westminster and adjacent areas was introduced in Parliament and passed. A number of watchmen necessary for the task were to be appointed annually by trustees. Some would work beats other would have "stands" and in addition some would undertake "patrols". Watch houses were to be substantially built and watchmen were to be armed with staff and rattle, provided at parish expense as well as with lanterns paid for out of their own pockets. The minimum wage was set at 1/3d a night unless the man is employed by the year, in which case his nightly pay need not exceed one shilling. The hours worked were from 10pm until 5, 6 or 7am according to the season. **[62]**
In Westminster the duties of the watch comprised of apprehending of disorderly and suspected persons and handing them over to the one year appointee parish constable; testing the fastenings of houses, shops and warehouses and warning the occupier when necessary; twice every hour the watchman must patrol his beat and as "loudly and as audibly as he can proclaim the time of the night or morning." Following the Radcliffe Highway murder in 1811 one of those caught up in the tragedy knew if she waited until the hour the Watchman George Olney would pass by which he did. When told of the problem he was able to report that the family concerned were inside when he passed calling the hour at twelve and had seen the householder putting up his shutters. A little after midnight as was his custom, he had examined the shutters and noted they were not fastened. He had called the householder who had answered" We know of it." [63]

Following the second group of murders on the Ratcliffe Highway in 1811 "The night Watchman Anderson rushed indoors for his constables sword and staff rushed out again and was in time to see the man drop the last 8 feet into the arms of the watchman."[64]

On coming off duty the watchman had to submit his staff, rattle and lantern for inspection by the constable; neglect of duty entailed a fine of 10 shillings; any person who assaulted a watchman in the execution of his duty was liable to a £5 penalty; watchmen were forbidden to frequent alehouses during their tour of duty and provision was made for the punishment of those publican who harboured them. [65]

John Pizzey, who served as a watchman in Holborn, London, was rewarded by the watch committee in 1819 for making an arrest, but within 18 months he had been

[61] "Handbook of Policing" Philip Rawlings Old Bailey Sessions Paper July 1741: 4
[62] "The Story of Scotland Yard" Sir Basil Thompson1935 Kessinger Rare Reprints page 163
[63] "The Maul and the Pear Tree. Ratcliffe Highway murders 1811" PD James and TA Critchley p14
[64] "The Maul and the Pear Tree. Ratcliffe Highway murders 1811" PD James and TA Critchley p101
[65] "The Story of Scotland Yard" Sir Basil Thompson1935 Kessinger Rare Reprints page 163

dismissed for 'improper conduct'. Reinstated following a petition of support from householders on his beat, he was dismissed again three months later for falsely charging a gentleman with assaulting him, which offence he compounded by his defiant attitude before the watch committee. [66]

The watchmen's meagre wages and the unpleasant (though important) aspects of their duties continued to attract a low quality of candidates, and complaints about their performance continued to grow. The watchmen became a common butt of ridicule, and even contempt, due to the unfortunate reputation that they had acquired of being old, decrepit, lazy, drunk, corrupt and ineffectual. This attitude dated back at least to Shakespearian times. In "Much Ado About Nothing", the playwright has a watchman say, "We would rather sleep than talk: we know what belongs to a watch". In this scene, the watch constable Dogberry comically counsels the watchmen to take the easiest and most ineffectual way in dealing with any problem. So, for example, he urges that if you hear a child cry in the night and the nurse cannot be stirred, "depart in peace, and let the child wake her with crying"; if you come upon drunkard, you are to bid them to "get to bed, and if they do not, let them alone till they are sober"; and "the most peaceful way for you if you do take a thief, is to let him show himself for what he is and steal out of your company" The name Dogberry has itself come to mean any foolish, blundering or stupid official.[67]

Watchmen clearly had an image problem, and over time, the critical jokes and comments built up. Watchmen were variously described "old, poore, weake and unhable"; "old frowzy, croaking sots, too infirm and lame to walk without their staves" [68] and chosen "out of those poor, old decrepit people who are for want of bodily strength rendered incapable of getting a livelihood by work"[69]

Even the watchmen's regular calling of the hour became a sore point. The effect was described as "every hour of the night they waken people by shouting to them that they hope they are sleeping well." [70] In his classic tale Humphrey Clinker (1771), Smollett has a long-suffering character say, "I start every hour from my sleep, at the horrid noise of the watchmen bawling the hour through every street, and thundering at every door; a set of useless fellows, who serve no other purpose but that of disturbing the repose of the inhabitants". [71] Robert Southey comments on this "strange custom of

[66] "Handbook of Policing" Philip Rawlings St Andrew, Holborn, B/1D21
[67] www.artinsociety.com/watchmen-goldfinders-and-the-plague-bearers-of-the-night.html
[68] "Hubbub: Filth, Noise and Stench in England 1600-1770", Emily Cockayne Yale University Press, New Haven, 2007, at 109. www.artinsociety.com/watchmen-goldfinders-and-the-plague-bearers-of-the-night.html
[69] "Crime And Punishment In England: An Introductory History" Henry Fielding, cited in John Briggs and Ors, Routledge, Oxon, 1996, at 55-56 www.artinsociety.com/watchmen-goldfinders-and-the-plague-bearers-of-the-night.html
[70] "At Day's Close: A History of Nighttime", A Roger Ekirch, Wiedenfeld and Nicholson, London, 2005 www.artinsociety.com/watchmen-goldfinders-and-the-plague-bearers-of-the-night.html
[71] Tobias Smollet, Humphrey Clinker, The New American Library, New York, 1960 (orig publ 1771), at 126 www.artinsociety.com/watchmen-goldfinders-and-the-plague-bearers-of-the-night.html

paying people to tell them what the weather is every hour during the night, till they get accustomed to the noise, that they sleep on and cannot hear what is said." [72]

In 1821, the generally expressed public impression of watchmen was reflected in a mock advertisement that stated:

> "Wanted, a hundred thousand men for London watchmen. None need apply to this lucrative situation without being the age of sixty, seventy, eighty, or ninety years; blind with one eye, and seeing very little with the other; crippled with one or both legs; deaf as a post; with an asthmatical cough, that tears them to pieces; whose speed will keep pace with a snail, and the strength of whose am will not be able to arrest an old washerwoman of fourscore returned from a hard day's fag at the wash-tub...and such that will neither hear nor see what belongs to their duty, or what does not, unless well palmed or garnished for the same"[73]

Sometimes the comments and jokes at the watchmen's expense became physical. In his wildly popular 1821 book, "Life in London" Pierce Egan describes the riotous escapades of three dashing young men, Jerry Hawthorn and his elegant friend Corinthian Tom, accompanied by Bob Logic, "in their rambles and sprees through the metropolis." the book featured one of their favourite pastimes – creeping up behind a watchman's watch box and tipping it over while he was still inside it.

Complete with illustrations this activity became known as doing a "Tom and Jerry". The respected commentator Henry Mayhew quotes one well-known puppeteer, the "Fantoccini Man", as describing part of his performance of,

> "A scene in Tom and Jerry. The curtain winds up, and there's a watchman prowling the streets, and some of those larking gentlemen comes on and pitch into him. He looks round and he can't see anybody. Presently another comes in and gives him another knock, and then there's a scuffle, and off they go over the watch-box, and down comes the scone. That makes the juveniles laugh, and finishes up the whole performance merry like"[74]

[72] "Robert Southey, Letters from England", ed Jack Simmons, Alan Sutton, Gloucester 1984, p 46, www.artinsociety.com/watchmen-goldfinders-and-the-plague-bearers-of-the-night.html
[73] "The Queens's Peace" David Ascoli, Hamish Hamilton 1979
[74] Henry Mayhew, Mayhew's London: Being Selections from 'London Labour and the London Poor', 185 www.artinsociety.com/watchmen-goldfinders-and-the-plague-bearers-of-the-night.html

In the 1820s the system of 'night-watchmen' in London is acknowledged as 'decrepit, drunken, useless and incapable of dealing with new levels of crime and disorder'. When it came to crime detection the vast majority were incompetent and their primary concern was the protection of private property. Corruption was commonplace and the 'night-watchmen' were sometimes motivated only to solve crimes that involved a ransom. Meanwhile drunkenness was an issue as was 'sleeping on the job'. It was also alleged that the some of the 'watchmen' were regular frequenters of prostitutes. Peel in a speech to Parliament on the introduction of the Metropolitan Police Bill[75] much maligned the Watch,

> "— that so long as the present night watch system is persisted in, there will be no efficient prevention of crime nor any satisfactory protection for property or the person."[76]

Watchmen in small town Surrey

Almost all towns at some time in their development employed a night watch, which had been the law since 1275. In wealthier districts day constables were employed in addition to the night watch. [77] [78] It would be unfair to describe all the Watch organisations of being of poor standard as much depended on the nature of the town, supervision by parish constables, magistrates and locally elected boards.

Night watches sometimes offered a relatively effective form of policing, some features of which (such as the use of beat patrols) became a subsequent feature of

[75] Which became the Metropolitan Police Act 1829 the basis for the modern police
[76] "A House in Bow Street" Anthony Babbington: Page 215
[77] "A History of Police in England and Wales" Critchley page 25
[78] "A History of Police in England and Wales" Critchley page 26

'new' police when these were introduced. Other reforms were, however, less effective. [79]

Watchmen were appointed in some of the smaller towns of rural Surrey. An example of their activities in Farnham is given in 1835, on September 6 when 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. [80]

Farnham were early adopters of the Lighting and Watching Act of 1830 and appointing the necessary inspectors. The vestry had powers and authority to enhance watchman cover and to appoint a supervisory board.

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 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 which was 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.[81]

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[79] "The transition from old to new policing in early 19th century Manchester" Police Journal Joyce, 1993: 199–201

[80] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 6

[81] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 2, 3

> 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 Waychman 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 Dogflood through the Hop Ground into Castle Street and thence behind the Lion and Lamb to the end of West Street.[82]

The Watchman appointed under the new Act would have the powers of a constable. The treasurer of the Farnham 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 were key to the future evolution of policing in the countryside and small towns. [83]

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[84]

The inspectors appointed for a three year term were empowered to employ as many watchmen "as they shall think sufficient" and regulate their work hours and wages, subject to overall financial limits set by the ratepayers. The watchmen were to have the same powers as a constable. . Once adopted the new scheme could only be abandoned after three years. [85] There was difficulty in many areas with implementation of the act because of the costs but Farnham acted quickly and were no doubt persuaded by the threat of crime and disorder in and around he town.

James Steer was added to the rota of watchmen at Farnham during the emergency of the hop-picking season. Hats were ordered for the watchmen at 5s 6d each. 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.

[82] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 3
[83] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 7
[84] "A History of Police in England" WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 274
[85] "Policing – A Short History" Philip Rawlings; Willan Publishing 2002 page 128

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."[86]

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.[87]

Again in Farnham following the 1833 Lighting and Watching Act which repealed the 1830 Act, 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."[88] The appointment was no doubt part time given the salary, a similar solution to that in Guildford where a High Street baker was appointed.

The Lighting and Watching Act was of little permanent value and is worthy of note as the first attempt by government to encourage day police outside the metropolis. [89] The aim was to gently 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. [90]
One of the first references to policing in Godalming is found in a 1747 account of the Borough warden that included the item, "paid Loveland for repairing the cage prison 2/-."[91] 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.[92] In 1779 a voluntary subscription was made for "The Borough Watch and other things." [93]

In more modern times a "constable of Godalming" is mentioned in 1817 when Isaac Woods was involved in the murder of George Chennell and his housekeeper. Benjamin Keene "constable of Guildford" took the murderer Chalcraft into custody by order of the magistrates. [94] In addition to the constables there were a number of Watchmen in Godalming. The Warden's Book accounts for 1819-1820 for the Borough of Godalming show:

James Barrett, the Watchman, his annual salary £15 12s

[86] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 4
[87] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 4
[88] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 7
[89] "History of Police in England" WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 274
[90] 'Ministers, magistrates and reformers: the genesis of the Rural Constabulary Act" Brundage, Anthony
[91] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 1
[92] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 1
[93] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 1
[94] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 1

Mr Weale for Watchman's hat	£2 15s
Mr Kifford for lanthorn	4s 3d
Expenses on court day	£5 [95]

Guildford

A Watchman in Guildford

In 1835 it is known that before the New Police were formed the police force of Guildford consisted of two head constables, five tything men (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. [96] This had no doubt been the position for many generations.

In the 1820s Charles Mandeville became a night watchman. Descended from a local Surrey family of many generations whose parents were John an agricultural labourer and Rose Mandeville, sometimes spelt as Manvell. One of nine children he was christened in the Church of St Nicholas in Guildford when his parents lived in Park Street. Rose was to die a pauper in the workhouse aged 83 having outlived John by 17 years.[97]

Charles was born in 1805 marrying Catherine Holt at St Nicholas in 1825 the year of his father's death. Catherine died in 1854 and Charles remarried Mary from Shere. At 14 he was apprenticed as a plasterer by the parish, which was able to assign the sons of paupers to a master to learn a trade. 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.[98]

Law-enforcement officials available in central London in 1802

Before the Metropolitan Police there was a complex and flawed system of policing both in London and its environs. This is a list of the number of law-enforcement officials available in central London in 1802:

City of London, Marshalmen, Beadles and Constables	319
City of London Watchmen and Patrols	803
City and Liberty of Westminster, Constables	71
City and Liberty of Westminster Watchmen and Patrols	302
Holborn Division, Constables	79
Holborn Division, Watchmen and Patrols	377
Finsbury Division, Constables	69
Finsbury Division, Watchmen and Patrols	185
Tower Hamlets, Constables	218

[95] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 2
[96] Guildford City Outlook April 1930
[97] "Charles Mandeville Guildford's first Policeman" Peter H Scholes PHS Journal 23 2008
[98] Charles Mandeville Guildford's first Policeman: Peter H Scholes PHS Journal 23 2008

Tower Hamlets, Watchmen and Patrols	268
Liberty of Tower of London, Constables	17
Liberty of Tower of London, Watchmen and Patrols	14
Kensington & Chelsea Division, Constables	22
Kensington & Chelsea Division, Watchmen and Patrols	66
Borough of Southwark, Constables	88
Borough of Southwark, Watchmen and Patrols	79
Seven Police Offices, including Bow Street	150
Total	3127 [99]

London was therefore not without policing in 1829 as there were obviously a large number of people employed to undertake police related duties. In addition to the above Bow Street principal officers and members of the horse, foot and dismounted patrols had reached about 400. [100] Complexity upon complexity with an additional range of those engaged in law enforcement:

Early19th century Special Constables sworn in as required

Parochial constables elected annually in Parish or Township and serving without payment though there was legitimate money to be made in the role.

Substitutes or deputies to the parochial or parish constable serving for a wage voluntarily paid by the Principals who did not want to undertake the role allocated them by their community

Salaried Bow Street officers and patrols expressly charged with the suppression of highwaymen and footpads

Stipendiary police constables attached to the Public offices established under the Middlesex Justices Act. Designated crime fighters at the Public Offices never exceeded 60 or 70[101]

Stipendiary Water Police attached to the Thames Office as established by Act of Parliament 1798[102]

The first three above were common to the whole of England the remainder just for London and its immediate neighbourhood i.e. Union Hall, Southwark for the whole of the county of Surrey. The standard and type of police in the country had as yet deviated hardly at all from the medieval pattern.[103] In rural districts and in provincial

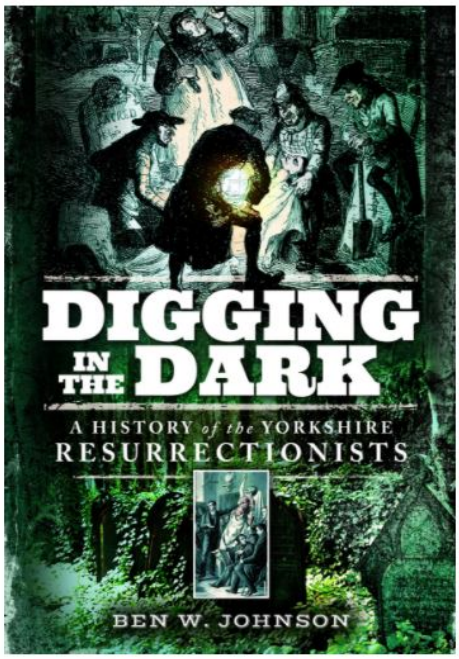
[99] davecox@fsmail.netemail to Robert Bartlett
[100] "Policing a Short History" Philip Rawlings: Page 115
[101] "The Ascent of the Detective" by Haia Shpayer-Makov Page 24
[102] "A History of Police in England" WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 176
[103] "A History of Police in England" WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 177

towns High Constables and Parish Constables acting under the direction of the Justices of the Peace continued to exercise the time-honoured powers that had been handed down.

Slowly everything was to change.

Woking probably 1920s

Digging in the Dark: A History of the Yorkshire Resurrectionists



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About the author: Ben Johnson is a freelance writer, columnist and sub-editor. He currently writes for two true crime magazines, and has a first class Honours degree in Journalism from Sheffield Hallam University. It was while studying court reporting that he found his love for the dark subject of true crime, and since these days of sitting at cold, silent press benches, has been a prolific writer, with articles being published on both sides of the Atlantic.

Publicity release: Progress can be unstoppable at times, and not even death can prevent the desire for knowledge. A dark trade has long existed to provide fuel for the fires of research, a trade, which is viewed by many as the most despicable occupation of all. The resurrection men of Yorkshire came from all walks of life, and employed a myriad of macabre methods to raise their defenceless prey from beneath the consecrated ground. This was a trade, which offered great reward, but was definitely not for the faint of heart. Throughout this journey into the dark past of Yorkshire, we meet an infamous celebrity who made an unexpected reappearance, a traveling minstrel who was to become the talk of many towns, a child whose death was just the beginning of a tragic tale, and a holy man who helped a community but earned his own illicit rewards in return. Also to be raised from the dead are a number of explosive events, all of which lit a fire beneath the local communities and led the people of Yorkshire to the streets in violent protest. A medical school reduced to ashes, a gang of professionals moonlighting in the darkest occupation, and a scandal, which would engulf a city many years after the threat of the body snatchers had been all but ended. Spanning over almost three centuries, this grim compendium of tales casts a shadow over the beauty of Yorkshire, a dark veil which reaches out in all directions, threatening the peace of the dearly departed across the length and breadth of the nations largest county.

Review: Stealing bodies from graves was not a problem confined to Yorkshire but touched every community across the British Isles. If there were no local resurrectionist activity there was still always the threat or worry that the body of a loved one would be taken from their grave. This would lead to people watching over lonely churchyard graves day and night until it was thought the threat had passed. The most famous resurrectionists were Burke and Hare who made their living in Scotland but set the "standard" for others in this gruesome trade. Across the country bodies were taken from the ground and often sent by carrier to medical men who would pay for them so they could undertake dissection. This was all too much for most people and pushed the limits of what was acceptable especially when the carriage of bodies went wrong and the cadavers were discovered in some waiting room or on the back of a coach.

As the title suggests this book concentrates on the resurrectionists of Yorkshire. The author addresses the riot and setting fire to the Sheffield School of Medicine, a place where bodies were taken and dissected. The attack on the School was driven by people who were appalled at the practice of dissection and other rumoured activities

within this dark place! The author believes the response of the authorities i.e. the police, military and local magistracy was not effective and could have done more. This is an unrealistic expectation of policing in 1835 a time when there remained a great reliance on the magistrates, a few local officers mostly with little training supported by the militia or local regiment. That route was not without difficulties!

Tales of horror where mothers visit disturbed graves of her children and recover their decomposing bodies abound and you may need to have a strong stomach or not too much imagination to enjoy if that is the right term, this book.

Why yet another book on resurrectionists needs to be written? Like a great deal of the history of these times a lot of nonsense has been generated particularly on TV or in the cinema about life in the 19th century. This book is about real history, the lives of the forgotten, often of the poor who with all the anxieties they suffered just to survive. To be added to their harsh lives the loss of so many children and young wives in child-birth, with the agony of their bodies being stolen and ending up in a dissecting room who knows where. Just imagine that in modern times and the outcry.

The book is written in the breezy style of a journalist no doubt directed at the Yorkshire reader but if you have an interest in resurrectionists or the very dark side of humanity it will be of interest no matter where you live.