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

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PASSIVE RESISTERS: A DISTRAINT SALE BY AUCTION IN SURREY

Passive restraint a distraint sale in Surrey Constabulary area 1911

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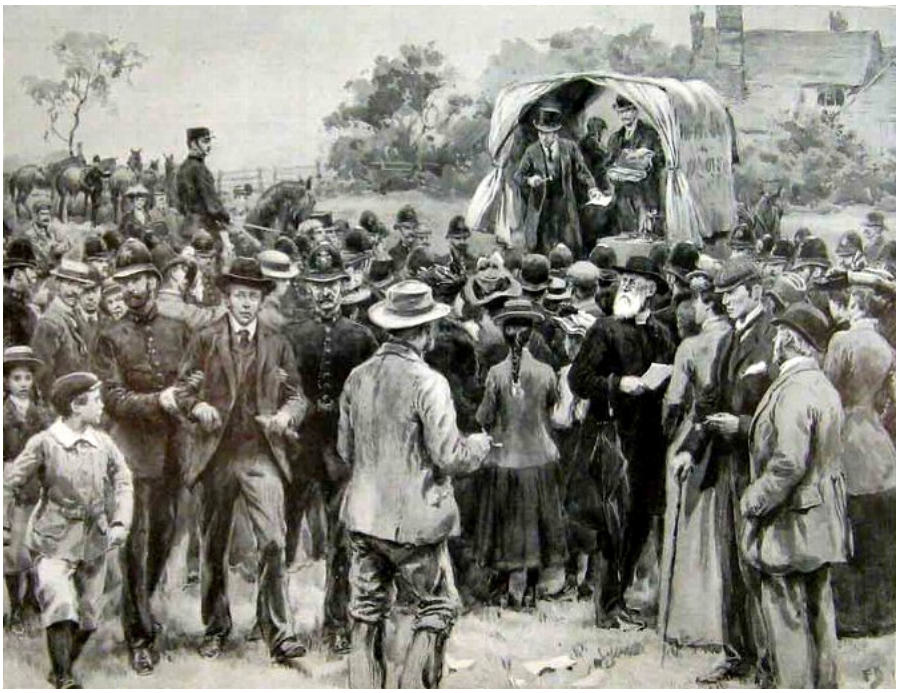


The Surrey Constabulary in 1909; Superintendent on the horse

Drug Squad about 1991

Back row L-R: DC Jerry O'Daly, DC Mark Hampshire, DS Tony Luff, DS Paul Stone, DS Nick Hemmant, DC Steve Burton. Front row L-R: DC Charlie Rashbrook, D/I Paul Holt, DS Jim Buchanan, and DC Sharon Girling. The photo was taken following the Surrey Drug Squad assisting HM Customs & Excise in seizing 500Kg of cannabis resin. I think it was late 1991 or early 1992

1809 James Cooper executed for murder in Compton near Guildford

Cooper had been tried with his mother for the murder of a 71 year old Joseph Hollis on Thursday 4 May 1809. Joseph was the owner of two cottages in Compton; he lived in one half and the other was rented to Mary Cooper aged 71and her son James. Joseph often carried cash in excess of £100 in three canvas bags. In one he kept notes, in another there were gold and silver coins, and in the other he kept copper coins.

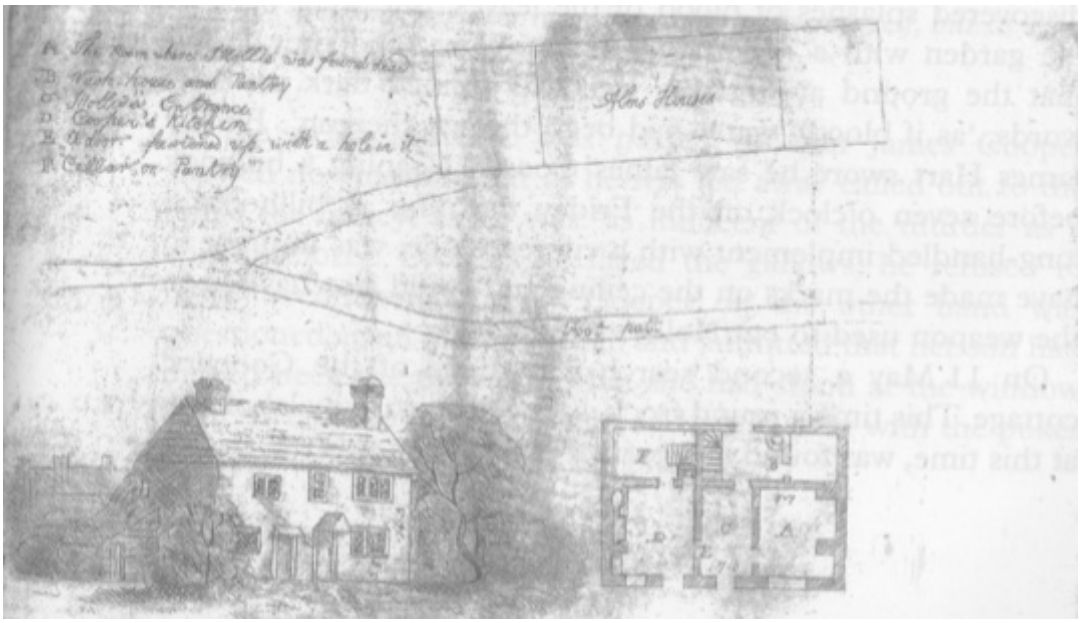
(£100 was well over two years pay for the local labourers) On Wednesday 3 May he told Mary Wisdom who called on him every day to cook and clean that on the following day he was going to Guildford fair to buy a number of sheep leaving at 4am. On Friday morning Mrs Wisdom's daughter called at Joseph's cottage and found the door open. She walked in to discover a badly beaten body on the floor and immediately left the cottage. As she left she met James Moore whose was undertaking his duties as Parish Constable for the year.[1]

The parish constable left for Guildford to summon a surgeon who found the skull fractured in two places, his jaw and a finger broken, extensive bruising to his arms and his throat cut to such an extent that his head was almost severed. The murder weapons a poker and knife were left close to the body. There were indications that he had been murdered as he ate his breakfast the previous day but only after a fierce struggle. The parish constable called on the Coopers next door and discovered there was an unlocked communicating door but both siad they had heard nothing. This was especially ambigious as the walls were so thin that Joseph's ticking clock could be heard quite clealry from the Cooper's side of the wall. Neighbours confirmed that the knife and poker belonged to the Coopers and a blood stained dress was found in the Cooper's house. It was also discovered that neighbours had heard a fierce argument between Joseph and James over unpaid rent a few days before the murder. The Coopers were arrested.

The indicment read: The 1st: That they the said James Cooper and Mary Cooper, by the instigation of the Devil and their own malice aforethought, did on the morning of Thursday the 4th May last, at Compton in the County of Surrey, make an assault on and murder one Joseph Hollis of Compton aforesaid, by giving him several strokes on the head&c. with a Bill Hook, - 2nd: That the said James Cooper with a Knife did cut the Throat of the said Joseph Hollis, inflicting one mortal wound of the length of three inches, and of the breadth and depth of two inches; thereby killing and murdering the said Joseph Hollis.

It was considerd that Mrs Cooper had asisted her son with the murder and along with James was indicted indictment the prisoners pleaded Not Guilty When questioned Mrs Cooper broke down and blamed her son resulting in a not guilty finding by the jury the jury. James wa found guilty and was hung on the 16 August 1809 at Horsemonger Lane. [2] [3]

[1] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoley Amberley 2011 page 27
[2] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoley Amberley 2011 page 27
[3] http://www.capitalpunishmentuk.org/1800.html



The cottage of George Collis[4]

The trial lasted most of the day. The deceased was a man possessing more property than is usual for a man in his class of life. He lived in a small cottage adjoining that occupied by the prisoner and which with the prisoners had formerly been one house. It had lately been divided into two tenements the one being occupied by the deceased and the other by the two prisoners. The was no door of communication between the two tenements; but it was proved that that whatever passed in one could be distinctly heard in the other; and as one of the witnesses stated, the clock could be heard to tick.

The deceased Hollis was an old man of nearly seventy but was hale and hearty; he was of very penurious habits and saved money, which he was fond of displaying. One of the witnesses described him as always carrying three canvas bags in one of which he kept his notes, in another gold and silver and in a third copper money; and if he wanted to pay only a sixpence, he would tip all the gold and silver into his hand and the witness added that he had seen him with £100 in his possession. The whole cottage in which he lived was his property and the prisoner Cooper was his tenant for the part, which he occupied. Nobody lived in Cooper's part but himself and his mother and Hollest the deceased lived a lone, a woman of the name of Wisdom going to him daily to complete little household arrangements.

On Wednesday 3 May the day preceding Guildford fair he had desired a person of the name of Goddard to go with him to the fair as he wanted to buy some sheep. Goddard told him he could not go with him but advised him to be early. On this he declared his intention of breakfasting and setting off the next morning by 4 o'clock and having stated this to Mary Wisdom he told her that she need not come to him on the next day.

[4] Held in the British Library

Therefore she did not on the Thursday make her daily visit, but on Friday about ten she sent her daughter a girl of about thirteen years of age. The child found the door unfastened and on opening it she saw Hollis lying dead on the floor with a great deal of blood about him. She ran out and saw Mr Moore the constable crossing the common and he immediately returned with her. A surgeon was sent for and several people soon came. The body was lying on the floor with the legs crossed and the head lying on the arm evidently composed to that position by the murderer after the deed. A cup of coffee half drunk was on the table, a piece of toast before the fire, another piece partly eaten lay on the hearth, the butter basin was broken and the pat of butter was on the floor near the feet of the deceased. The chair in which he had been sitting was overturned and his hat was lying near, so it appeared he had been attacked while he was sitting at his breakfast. The body was most shockingly mangled, the skull was fractured in two places, the jaw broken, a finger broken, the arms bruised and the throat cut so as almost to sever the head from the body. Under the body was found a clasp knife almost covered in blood and a poker in a similar condition. From these circumstances it appeared some struggle must have taken place, which prisoners must have heard in their cottage if the murder had been committed by any stranger.

The prisoners were therefore apprehended on the Friday evening and their part of the cottage searched but no evidence of their guilt was found. The trunk of the deceased had been rummaged and as only two shillings were found on his person it was presumed that the murderer had carried off his money.

The magistrates on examination finding nothing but suspicion against the prisoners discharged them but on subsequent enquiries they were again apprehended and the following circumstances given in evidence. The night before the murder the deceased and the prisoner James Cooper had been quarrelling upon which the deceased declared as Cooper had not paid his rent, he would have him out of the cottage and he actually applied to a person to distrain upon him. In this conversation Cooper was heard to vow vengeance upon the old man swearing that he would be “up side” with him before the fortnight was over. Mrs Cooper exclaimed “God forbid” but presently she said that it would not much matter for that nobody liked the old man. Since the former examination of the prisoners a minute survey of their cottage had been taken and concealed in the roof were found various items of apparel, belonging to the male prisoner, which were smeared with blood. Upon subsequent enquiry the knife and poker found in old Hollis’ house were discovered to have belonged to the Coopers, and little doubt remained therefore of their being parties to the murder.

The prisoners were eventually committed to take their trials and while in custody Mrs Cooper confessed that she knew of the murder after its commission by her son, but she denied that she was in any way party to the deed. She stated her son had gone out in the evening in question carrying the knife and poker with him, and that soon afterwards she heard a noise in old Hollis’ house followed by cries for help, and presently a heavy fall against the wainscot, but before this she knew nothing.

Upon this evidence the male prisoner was found guilty but his mother was acquitted.

The unhappy young man immediately received sentence of death and was executed the following Monday confessing the justice of his sentence and punishment. [5]

1811 October 21: Highway Robbery Horsham to Walton Road

(Was this on what is now known as the A24)

Brothers Adam and Thomas Lee were hung on 13 April for highway robbery of Elizabeth Collier. The victim was a servant on an errand for her employer when the Lees including Thomas's wife Eleanor, approached her asking if she wanted her fortune told. At this point the men grabbed Collier dragging her into a field not visible from the road whilst Mrs Lee kicked her continually. She was stripped almost naked and her money was taken. Collier gave a full description of her attackers who were arrested the following day. All three were convicted, two hung and Mrs Lee transported for life with her five week old baby.[6]. Brothers Thomas and Adam Lee were executed on 13 April 1812 for the crime of highway robbery.[7]

Union Hall Police Officers from Southwark respond to Chertsey

1820 January 31 1820: Application was made to Union Hall a few days ago to the Magistrates to send two police officers to Chertsey for the purpose of apprehending a fellow who had cut and **stabbed several females** in different parts of their body with a sharp instrument in a similar manner to a monster much talked about, in France. Mr Wells made the application, an opulent gentleman farmer of ham farm near Chertsey whose servant girl had been stabbed. Two officers named Hammond and Haynes were sent down and they interrogated Mr Well's servant who showed them her wounds, cuts to both arms. Great alarm was caused in the neighbourhood and the Duchess of York living at Oatlands offered a fifty-pound reward. After a fruitless search for many miles around and doubting the girl they took her before a county magistrate that she might make her deposition on oath. After some questioning the girl admitted injuring herself but would offer no explanation. The females again walk about without being in constant terror of the supposed monster. [8]

[5] The Chronicles of Crime, Or, The New Newgate Calendar; Google books
[6] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoly page 32
[7] Martin Baggoley Surrey Executions Amberley 2011page 31
[8] Bristol Mercury Jan 31 1820

1858 September 7: Horse stealing at Ash

A deserter from the 4th Light Dragoons John Bills was charged with stealing a horse from Lieutenant Blackett of the same regiment. PC William Lambert Surrey Constabulary stationed at Bagshot received information at a quarter to seven in the morning that a man on a horse had made off across the fields to avoid the turnpike. He followed on foot when he saw the prisoner riding a horse and as the prisoner saw him, he dismounted and ran off. The officer chased and caught him but would not say where he got the horse. The prisoner and horse were taken to Bagshot and then to Guildford where Blackett identified his horse. Committed for trial at the next sessions at Newington.[9]

Police Stations in Farnham

With the formation of the Surrey Constabulary in 1851 came the requirement for police station and cells and it is likely that around this time the cage in the Castle Street would have been closed

In 1851 county constabulary police stations were established in Bagshot, Chertsey, Dorking and **Farnham** with new stations built at Egham, Godstone, Guildford, Haslemere, Hersham, Leatherhead, and Reigate. The original station at Chertsey was sold because of its poor condition and a new one built. Five superintendents were stationed at Reigate, Dorking, Godalming, Farnham and Headquarters. This seems to indicate that the police station that existed in Farnham was suitable for use by the new force; at least it lasted for over 30 years.

The first police station was in Bear Lane, Farnham built some time after 1846 and was closed by 1888 when a new station was opened in Union Road. This building served until July 1963 when it became the magistrate's court and the police moved to the grand building in Longbridge. The severe cuts of the policing budget for Surrey in the early part of the 21st century led to the sale of most of the police stations in the county, including Farnham.[10] [11]

Why was a new police station built in Union Road on the north side of Farnham? It was time of considerable growth for Farnham with its neighbouring town of Aldershot in 1864 a mere hamlet of 600 souls expanding to tens of thousands in a few years. There was no railways station in Aldershot for the first 16 years of the Camp and so Farnham station was used by the military. This close link with Aldershot led to

[9] 1858 September 7 Sussex Advertiser and Surrey Gazette
[10] Email to Robert Bartlett in 2014 from Rose Murray late Surrey Constabulary
[11] St Polycarp's Catholic School, Tricia Knight, Farnham and District Museum Society 2013 Page 7

the building of South Street and the development of a number of pubs between the two towns with military and heraldic names. [12]

The first police station in Farnham

The main picture of the Bear Lane police station is taken from a postcard of about 1914.[13] It shows both the police station, which is on the left and the double front house in the centre, which was the superintendent's house. The archway on the left of the picture is the access to the yard for horses, carts etc. It is know that there were two cells as they were clearly identifiable when the building was demolished in 1962. [14]

[12] Email from Joe Futcher late Surrey Constabulary to Robert Bartlett June 2014
[13] Postcard by W H Applebee of Ashford, Middlesex circa 1914
[14] Letter to Robert Bartlett June 2014 from Mr. Jo H Futcher late Surrey Constabulary

The room above the central arch of what was once the police station in Union Road that became the magistrate's court is easily identified

The police station is no longer in use and for sale after a new one was built in 1963 and was given over to the court becoming known as "The Old Court House."

1858 September 7: Reigate Magistrates
A case of stabbing a police officer

Henry Bailey was brought up in custody charged with stabbing John Plumb of the Surrey Constabulary. The officer was on duty at about half past three in the morning of the 27 August last while on night duty he met the prisoner on Blackboro Mill in Reigate. He had a suspicion by his dress and appearance he belonged to the Philanthropic School so he was stopped and he said he was on the way to look for work in Reigate. Bailey was then asked if he belonged to the Philanthropic but he said he did not but came from Warwick Town. On examination the officer found that buttons had been cut from the uniform ands he told Bailey he would be taken into custody for deserting from the reformatory school. He came quietly then suddenly the officer received a blow on his left breast and the prisoner ran away. The officer chased him and captured him but he did not notice he had a knife in his hand but when he got close to the Philanthropic gate he told the officer he was lucky the knife was not sharp. The officer later found that his coat and waistcoat had been cut and passed through and that the knife had touched his skin. Convicted and sentenced to two months imprisonment. [15]

1858 November 23: Cranley: The late Inspector Glamorgan

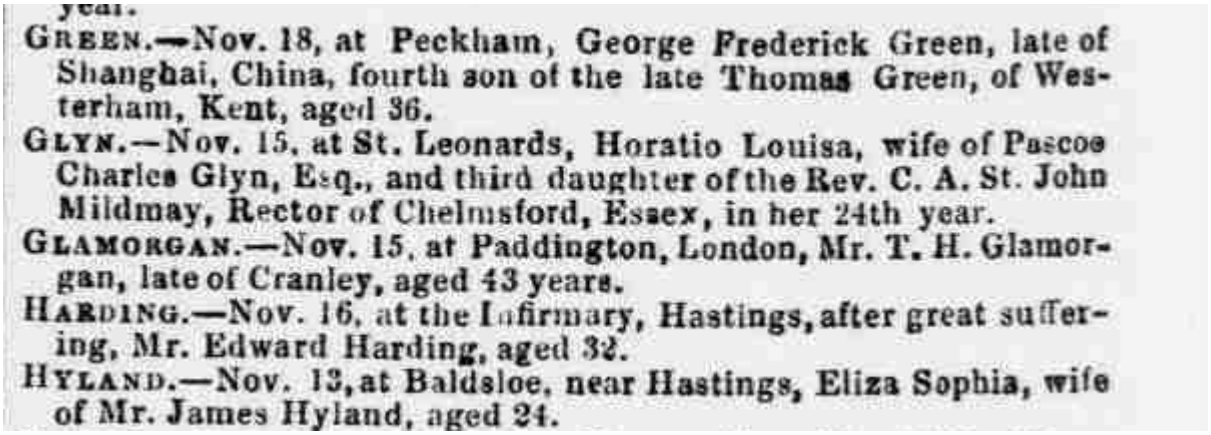
Thomas Henry Glamorgan late Inspector of Police in the parish of Cranley died in London on the 25th inst. The deceased was a highly efficient police officer having had 18 years experience in such duties, nearly 8 years of which he was a member of the Surrey Constabulary. His good conduct and vigilance during that time not only gained him the approbation of his superiors, but made him alike respected by his brother officers and the public generally in the different parishes in which he had been stationed. Mr Glamorgan was appointed to the office he held at the time of his death in August 1855 he being the successor to the unfortunate Inspector Donaldson whom he succeeded at Haslemere. Mr Glamorgan had been in a feeble state of health for the past two or three months and suffered from diseases of the lungs. He was attended in the early part of his illness Mr Albert Napper surgeon of this parish but about a month ago was removed to hospital in Paddington where he expired on Monday night. The deceased was a native of Wales and was born in Balla in Canarvonshire; his friends being in very good circumstances he received the advantage of an excellent education being intended for the medical profession, but unforeseen circumstances interfered with the arrangements. He was a poet of some considerable talent and publishes some of his poems at Lymington in Hampshire and more recently at Haslemere. Many in the neighbourhood will doubtless recollect his “David and Goliath”. His thread of life

[15] 1858 September 7 Sussex Advertiser and Surrey Gazette

was loosened at the comparatively early age of 43. He leaves a widow and five young children to deplore their heavy loss.[16]

Further information on Inspector Thomas Henry Glamorgan: He does not appear in the 1841 census, however, in 1851, he was living with his wife, Eliza, and four of their children, George age 6, Thomas 4, Walter 2 and Arthur 8 months, in The Old Workhouse, Basing, and his occupation is given as Police Constable. Ten years later, his widow is living 'in the village' at Cranleigh, with Walter, Arthur, and a daughter Fanny Elizabeth, who was born in 1855. Eliza appears to run a soup kitchen. By 1871 all the boys had left home (I have been unable to trace them further, even though their surname is unusual) Eliza is living in Bedlam Lane, Cranleigh and is 'charing &c'. Hers is the only death that I can positively record - 18 August 1903 in the infirmary of Guildford Workhouse.

Basing's parish workhouse was located on Church Lane, Old Basing, in what is now Church Lane House and was built 1835-1836



year.

GREEN.—Nov. 18, at Peckham, George Frederick Green, late of Shanghai, China, fourth son of the late Thomas Green, of Westerham, Kent, aged 36.

GLYN.—Nov. 15, at St. Leonards, Horatio Louisa, wife of Pascoe Charles Glyn, Esq., and third daughter of the Rev. C. A. St. John Mildmay, Rector of Chelmsford, Essex, in her 24th year.

GLAMORGAN.—Nov. 15, at Paddington, London, Mr. T. H. Glamorgan, late of Cranley, aged 43 years.

HARDING.—Nov. 16, at the Infirmary, Hastings, after great suffering, Mr. Edward Harding, aged 32.

HYLAND.—Nov. 13, at Baldsloe, near Hastings, Eliza Sophia, wife of Mr. James Hyland, aged 24.

1858 November 23: Sussex Advertiser and Surrey Gazette. Other deaths shown to indicate how young so many were when they died.

1860 August 25: Robbery of bank notes by countrywoman

Clever detection

Martha Shelley and Amelia Bow two middle aged respectable looking married women, were charged at Westminster Police Court with stealing £35 in bank note from the head gardener at Runnymede Park, **Egham.** The prosecutor met the women, one who had known before, and they persuaded him to go with them to have a drink in the Barley Mow Tavern. This he did and a few minutes later, after "pulling him

[16] 1858 November 23 Sussex Advertiser and Surrey Gazette

about in joke", they left. Next evening he missed his pocket book. Inspector Murtell Surrey Constabulary was informed and he made enquiries and found the women. Two of the stolen £10 notes were traced to the women. Committed for trial.[17]

Elizabeth I Surrey Indictments from Calendar of Assize Records

Assizes of July 1564

Parker (or Coye), Thomas, and Yonge, Robert, labourers of Southwark, indicted for grand larceny. On 5 May 1564 they broke by night into the close of William Saunder, esq., at Ewell and stole 9 sheets (£2) and a tablecloth (6s 8d). Parker found guilty; allowed clergy and delivered to Mr. Fynche, rector of Croydon. Yonge found not guilty.

Assizes of December 1564
Worsley, Eden, of Ewell, spinster, indicted for murder by witchcraft. On 4 July 1564 at Ewell she bewitched to death Elizabeth Bybye, daughter of Robert Bybye. Tried at the next assizes and found guilty; to hang.

Assizes of July 1568
Hall, Stephen, of Epsom, labourer, indicted for grand larceny. On 10 June 1568 he broke into the close of John Tegge at Epsom and stole 4 lambs (10s). Not guilty.
Assizes of February 1569 390. Tyckner, Thomas, of Ewell, labourer, indicted for grand larceny. On 25 Sept. 1568 he broke into the close of William Saunders, esq., at Epsom and stole a grey horse (26s 8d). Guilty; to hang.

Assizes of February 1573
Robinson, Thomas, of Epsom, tailor, indicted for barratry. On 16 Dec. 1572 and other occasions at Epsom he was a common barrator, stirring up discord among his neighbours, etc. Endorsed 'Billa vera: That he is troblesome amonge his neighbours. Ignoramus: That he is a comen barrator'. Verdict unknown.

Assizes of July 1574
Dyngeley, Henry, butcher, Dyngeley, Joan, spinster, and Trye, Dorothy, spinster, of Ewell, and Rogers, Robert, of Malden, husbandman, indicted for disseisin. On 19 May 1574 they broke into 'Heydons', a messuage and 3 acres at Ewell,and disseised Francis Saunder, gent., of the freehold.

Assizes of February 1588

Ricatts, John, constable of Ewell, indicted for a voluntary escape. On 2 Nov. 1587 Ricatts arrested Alan Cox of Ewell, innholder, by virtue of a warrant issued by

[17] 1860 August 25 The Wells Journal

Richard Burton, J.P., but on the same day voluntarily allowed him to escape. Confessed to a negligent escape and submitted to his fine.

Assizes of February 1592
Hardinge, Robert, of Worth, Sussex, glover, indicted for grand larceny. On 18 July 1591 at Reigate he stole a red cow (30s) from Thomas Baker. On 18 July 1591 at Reigate he stole a cow (30s) from Nicholas Killick. On 20 Jan. 1592 at Nutfield he stole a sheep (5s) from John Tailor. On 4 May 1591 at Epsom he stole a steer (£2) and a heifer (30s) from John Crowther. On 30 Apr. 1591 at Banstead he stole a red cow (£2) from Richard Hubbard. (Hardinge had also been tried for stealing a sheep at Nutfield, 1590). Confessed to the last count, found guilty on the rest; allowed clergy

Assizes of July 1592
Goodhelp, George, of Nonsuch, yeoman, indicted for felonious killing. On 6 May 1592 at Ewell he attacked Robert Brice with a dagger (6d), inflicting wounds from which he died on the following day. Guilty;allowed clergy.

Netlingham, Thomas, of Epsom, labourer, indicted for grand larceny. On 9 Dec. 1591 he broke into the house of Michael Wood at Coulsdon and stole a shirt (3d), a pair of shoes (8d), a pair of stockings (1s) and £5 6s in money. Guilty; allowed clergy.

Assizes of March 1594
Wright, Peter, of Chobham, labourer, indicted for grand larceny. On 18 Oct. 1593 he broke into the house of Richard Beckensall at Epsom, while Elizabeth Mathie was there, and stole £7 in money, 6 gold rings (£2), a silver ring (1s), a coral and silver bracelet (2s), a bundle of bugle lace (10s), 12 handkerchiefs (26s), 3 falling-bands (3s), a pair of sheets (10s),

Assizes of February 1595
Cuddington, Thomas, of Ewell, husbandman, indicted for grand larceny. On 31 Aug. 1594 at Ewell he stole 3 sheep (8s) from Thomas Dyngley, 3 sheep (7s) from Richard Grace and a sheep (3s 4d) from Thomas Blundell. On 8 Sept. 1594 at Ashtead he stole 4 sheep (13s) from William Jurden. On 10 Oct. 1594 at Ditton he stole 2 lambs (4s) from Nicholas Kempe. (Cuddington appears again in no. 2668 below). Guilty; allowed clergy.

Michill, Roger, of Ewell, husbandman, indicted for grand larceny. On 4 Nov. 1594 at Chilworth he stole a leather doublet (2s), a coat (5s) and 10s 11d in money from George Whitmore, servant of William Morgann, esq. At large.

Assizes of February 1597
Cuddington, Thomas, indicted for drawing a weapon in church. At Croydon sessions, 11 Jan. 1597, a grand jury presented that on 27 Nov. 1596 in Ewell parish church he drew his dagger and struck and wounded Elizabeth Hodskynson. Not Guilty

John Smith, alias William Sapwell

Executed for the Murder of a Policeman [18]

The Newgate Calendar [19] reported:

The cold-blooded and atrocious murder, of which this man was convicted, showed him to merit most fully the awful punishment, which befell him.

The object of the dreadful crime of which he was guilty, was a constable of the G division of the Metropolitan Police Force, then only recently established in London and its vicinity. In laying before our readers the circumstances of the case, it will not perhaps be considered out of place if we shortly recite the manner in which that most admirable body was first called into existence and operation.

The necessity of some improvement in the police of the metropolis had long been felt, and the utter inadequacy of the few Bow Street patrols hitherto employed to guard the streets of London by day, and of the watchmen, upon whom the same duty devolved by night, had for a considerable time attracted the attention of the public and of parliament.

Committees of the House of Commons sat for the purpose of receiving evidence upon the subject, and a vast number of suggestions were thrown out upon the proper measures which should be taken with a view to obviate the existing difficulty. Statements were published in many of the newspapers, in which the faults of the system were pointed out and partial remedies suggested, but it was universally felt that no amendment of the plan then in operation could be sufficient to secure the object in view, and that a general and complete alteration and reorganization of the whole police of the metropolis was requisite.

A plan of this description was long and ably advocated in a weekly journal of large sale (Bell's Life in London), the Editor of which had turned a great portion of his attention to a subject so nearly connected with the most minute interests of the community. A series of articles appeared in that newspaper, upon which there can be no doubt that the new police system, now so deservedly popular for its competency

[18] http://www.exclassics.com/newgate/ng603.htm

[19] The Newgate Calendar was one of those books, along with a Bible, Foxe's Book of Martyrs and the Pilgrim's Progress, most likely to be found in any English home between 1750 and 1850. Children were encouraged to read it because it was believed to inculcate principles of right living -- by fear of punishment if not by the dull and earnest morals appended to the stories of highwaymen and other felons

and for its admirable effects in securing our common safety, was founded. In the session of parliament of the year 1829 Mr Peel, at that time Secretary of State for the Home Department, introduced a bill to the House of Commons, founded upon principles directly in consonance with those supported in the journal in question -- principles which were eventually adopted with the almost unanimous consent of the legislature.

The general scheme, which was put forth as being most desirable, was that of making a police throughout England, the centre and focus of which was to be fixed in London. The great towns throughout the kingdom would act as corresponding agents for the diffusion of that intelligence, the rapid and regular transmission of which was properly looked upon as so important to the success of any system of this description. In London, again, a smaller focus was to be formed under a board of commissioners, who would have daily communication with every division of the metropolis in which the police should be established, as well as with those country districts to which we have already alluded.

The minor details of the measure were to be carried out by the marking out of divisions, to be governed by superintendents, inspectors, serjeants, and privates in their various grades, constant communication being kept up throughout the metropolis, by day as well as by night, between each division. The advantages to be derived from a scheme so comprehensive in its details, and so complete in its organization, must be at once obvious to the mind of every person, and it is needless to point out to our readers the vast variety of instances in which its effects would be attended with the very best results.

It was felt, however, by Mr Peel, that so large and general a measure could not be carried into operation with immediate success, and that much delay must take place before a universal scheme of rural police could effectually be established. He was yet convinced of the great utility which would be produced even from its partial adoption, and he lost no time in proposing a bill in parliament, which should have for its object the immediate appointment of a body of men capable of performing all the police duties of the metropolis. The proposition was at once assented to by both houses of the legislature, and on Tuesday the 29th September 1829, the 'new policemen' first entered upon their duties.

Their dress, their supposed military character, and the extreme jealousy with which all classes of Englishmen view anything which may be supposed to derogate from their rights and privileges, long conspired to make this most useful force in the highest degree unpopular. Epithets of the most odious character were heaped upon them, attacks both abusive and violent were levelled at them from all quarters, and a few instances of irregularity amongst their numbers were eagerly seized hold of, as arguments to be employed against the general body.

But at length, the increased safety obtained for the community, the quiet and orderly manner of the men themselves, as well as the improvement in the general conduct of the lower classes, obtained for them a reputation of the very highest description. The system which, first, was confined to the limits of the metropolis, has been joyfully extended to all large towns and to manufacturing neighbourhoods, and so anxious have even the most remote rural districts become for this new safeguard for their property and their lives, that almost every month sees the adoption of the plan in some new quarter.

The improvement of the morals of the lower orders is no less than that which has taken place in their manners, and many of the crimes by which society was formerly so frequently disgraced, have now happily disappeared from the dreadful catalogue, which the life of degraded man presents.

There can be no doubt that the offence of which we are about to enter into a description was in some degree attributable to that feeling of hatred for the police which was so peculiarly exemplified among the lower orders of the people. Long, the unfortunate object of the attack of this determined murderer, was a police constable, No 43 of the G division, and occupied a beat in Gray's Inn Lane.

On the night of Monday the 16th of August 1830, he was engaged in the performance of his duty when, at about half-past twelve o'clock, he observed three men of suspicious appearance lurking about the vicinity. Entertaining an apprehension of their intention to commit a burglary, he communicated his opinions to a brother constable on the adjoining beat, and it was determined that the men should be watched. They remained within Long's district of duty, and he followed them as far as the burial-ground of St Andrew's parish, which is situated at the back of Mecklenburgh Square. Here they stopped and remained in conversation for some time, and Long, believing this to be a favourable opportunity for convincing them of his intention to prevent the success of any marauding schemes which they might have in view, warned them to retire.

The words had scarcely escaped the lips of the unfortunate man, ere he was violently seized by the arm by two of the party, while the third stabbed him to the heart. So desperate was the wound, that the murderer was unable to withdraw the weapon with which it was inflicted; but in his effort to do so, he pulled away the handle, and then all three ran off. This diabolical act was witnessed by more than one person, and several individuals instantly rushed to the spot. Long had fallen to the ground, with an exclamation that he was 'a dead man', and upon his head being raised upon the knee of one of the witnesses, he immediately expired. In the meantime, Newton, the constable to whom the unfortunate man had communicated his suspicions, had followed the assassins, and Smith was secured by him, having run a considerable distance and being in a state of the greatest agitation and alarm. Two other persons were also taken into custody, but it turned out that they were unconnected with the

dreadful occurrence, and they were set at liberty. The truth of the suspicions of the constable was amply exhibited by the discovery of a number of housebreaking implements near the spot, which it was evident the thieves had intended to employ, but had thrown away in their flight. The handle of the knife was also discovered lying in the road at about one hundred yards from the spot where the murder was committed.

Several examinations of the prisoner subsequently took place before the magistrates at Hatton Garden, and witnesses were called who swore positively that his was the hand by which the wound was given which had caused the death of the deceased. During his imprisonment, he continued firm in his denial of participation in the murder, and maintained a sullen silence as to his occupation in life as well as his connexions. He appeared to associate with none of his fellow-prisoners.

His trial took place at the Old Bailey sessions, on Friday the 17th of September, when it turned out that his name was Sapwell and that he was a baker by trade. He still protested his innocence, but the evidence of the witnesses being of the most conclusive description, a verdict of guilty was returned, and he was sentenced to be executed on the following Monday.

On the day after his conviction he was visited by his wife and his six children, to whom, as well as to the officers of the jail, he continued loud in his declarations of his having been wrongfully convicted. He asserted that he had been to the Bedford Tea Gardens at Camden Town on the night of the murder, and that on his way home he heard a cry of 'Stop thief', and had joined in the pursuit of four men whom he saw running away, when he was himself taken into custody. He was exhorted by the Rev Mr Cotton, the ordinary of the prison, to whose humane advice he paid some attention; but he declined to receive the sacrament. In the course of the following day (Sunday) he also received a visit from the Sheriff (Ward), to whom he made no secret of his having intended to commit suicide if an opportunity had occurred, and with whom he argued against the sinfulness of such a mode of terminating his life, he instanced the cases of Sir Samuel Romilly, Mr Whitbread, and other distinguished individuals, who he said were perfectly justified in depriving themselves of existence when it became irksome to them.

On the morning of his execution (the 20th of September 1830), he entered freely into conversation with Sheriff Ward, and with new asseverations that he was not guilty of the crime for which he was about to suffer, declared, in an imaginary dialogue with the Almighty, that on his arrival at the gates of heaven, he should be unable to account for his standing there, and that the Almighty would give him admission; protesting, however, that he ought not to have been sent there so soon. He appeared sensible of his situation, and requested that the proceedings on the scaffold might occupy as little time as possible. He was turned off at the usual hour, and his remains were given to the directors of St George's Hospital for dissection.

The wretched man occupied the greater part of Saturday and Sunday, previous to his death, in drawing up statements of the manner in which he was by mistake drawn into the situation in which he stood, which amounted simply to a repetition of the story he had related to his family. He appears to have been very illiterate, his letters being both ill-spelt and ill-written, and he expressed none of those fears usually exhibited by persons in his situation.

Long, the constable, appears to have been a man of excellent character, having for a considerable time occupied a situation as watchman before he entered the police. He left a wife and several children, for whom a liberal public subscription was afterwards raised.

1976 year of the long hot summer

The downside to the hot summer weather was the thousands of calls to the fire brigade and police reporting fires on commons throughout the county. Both services were working to full capacity and in many instances extra help was provided by the military, which used bulldozers and diggers to form firebreaks. The long hot summer of 1976 was a challenging time. The drought and hot weather brought a great many severe fires on the hills and heaths of Surrey. The demands on the Fire Service were so severe that they would only attend an incident if lives were in danger or if houses were imminently threatened. Covering such a vast area of woodland and open spaces on the sub-division the police would attend any reported fire and watch to see what if anything was threatened. Sometimes the Brigade would attend but the crew would be from the other side of the county, as they had no one else left. A particular fire late in the day resulted in a fire engine coming all the way from Caterham to the top of Pitch Hill.

A major problem with the fires was the peat. If it caught fire, peat would smoulder for days if not weeks. The fire went deep into the ground and was virtually impossible to put out, and with a strong breeze would again burst into life.

The village of Thursley close to Hankley was nearly destroyed by fire one afternoon during the drought. As the flames lapped across the heath-land and up to the edge of this very prosperous village with its large houses surrounded by the trees, the army arrived with huge earthmovers carrying bulldozers. Soldiers saved the day by driving the bulldozers straight off the back of the low-loaders and immediately towards the flames, cutting a fire break and stopping the every advancing wall of flame and smoke towards the houses. Very dramatic and not a little exciting except if it was your house!

Tony Forward: I was chief inspector at Camberley when there were heath fires all over the sub-division. The A322 Guildford to Bracknell Road had to be closed after flames jumped fifty-two feet across it to trees on the other side. Berkshire Fire Brigade had the services of an RAF helicopter that landed on Swindley's roundabout and went up every hour to see what was between the current fire-front and where it was expected to be in one hour. People, animals and vehicles were then removed from that area.

Inspector Chris Rogers from Chertsey Traffic Centre was in charge of road closures and diversions. He and I flew in the helicopter on some of its missions. Rogers, keen for promotion, always sat well inside while I sat in the open doorway. I was sure that I could feel his feet pushing my back! Camberley was part of Farnham Division, commanded by Chief Superintendent Frank Trussler. He and I were at Deepcut Barracks when flames were getting close to the houses at the rear of the officers'

married quarters. We knocked on all the doors and got the occupants to go to the Officer's Mess for safety. At one house, there was clean washing including babies' nappies on the line in the back garden. Nobody was in. The washing was getting dirty from the smuts in the air so I collected it and put it in the garden shed, where I found six Surrey Constabulary 'no waiting' cones! They were delivered anonymously to Camberley Police Station the next day.
On one of the days, six PCs and I were using fire beaters to beat out flames alongside the A322 north of Bagshot. We had our jackets, ties and hats off and our faces were blackened from the ashes. A mobile refreshment van, normally doing trade in a lay-by on that road at Bagshot but now had no passing trade because the road was closed, pulled up beside us. We all had refreshing cold drinks and when I offered to pay, the driver said, "You firemen can have them on me, you are doing a good job. I'll make the police pay; the bastards shut the road off!"

Tony May: 1975 and 1976 were renowned for their lack of rainfall resulting in the late summer (July /August) of 1976 being known as the' big drought' Temperatures exceeded 90F on six or seven days consecutively and the ground was tinder dry. Thick white and grey smoke lazily ascending into a steel blue sky just before midday signalled yet another common fire. West Surrey bore the brunt of these outbreaks. I was Section Sergeant at Haslemere with Sergeant John Stone, Sergeant John Boyes at Hindhead and Sergeant Colin White at Milford and we were responsible for the vast swathes of Hindhead, Thursley, Milford and Witley Commons mostly owned by the National Trust.

Guildford Fire Brigade had its own problems with Wisley, Woking with Chobham, and Farnham with Frensham and Crooksbury Commons. There was also little help from Hampshire (Bramshott Common) and West Sussex (Woolbeding Commons) So it was the two engine retained Fire Brigade at Haslemere and the one engine part time Brigade at Godalming which shouldered responsibility. As a fire engine carries little water on it's own it was down to beating most the fires out by hand. There is no doubt that many of these fires were started deliberately, small groups of children innocently playing would appear but it was difficult to pin them down unless caught red handed with matches.

The National Trust's feeble attempt at fire precautions was in one or two specific locations to place a couple of poles with a cross section at one end on which was tacked a flap with which to beat out the flames. These were entirely useless as they were so old they immediately fell to bits. The most common thing was to use a dead tree branch, which was just as effective.

Our main priority was the free passage of traffic but on occasions, roads like the A3 had to be closed because of burning verges or zero visibility through the smoke. Dye House Lane in Thursley was a typical example; this dips and twists through the hamlet of Thursley towards Churt and was constantly encircled by fires. The heath-

land with it's mainly heather, birch and spruce saplings was fairly easy to contain although the damage to wildlife (snakes, lizards, birds and rodents) was horrifying but when the fires spread to the blocks of coniferous pines it was reminiscent of the fires in South Australia and Western USA. A tree could be engulfed in seconds and it spread fanned by the wind at terrifying speeds.

Thursley Common was used as a base camp for the Canadian Forces in World War Two and traces of it can still be found there. One incident which I still recall and send a shiver down me was when I foolishly drove deep into Thursley Common and found myself on the vast concrete parade square, suddenly I was trapped, and fire was advancing on three sides including the way I had come in. I knew that if I remained in the middle I would be unharmed (concrete doesn't burn) but it was some time before it was safe to drive rubber tyres back over red hot ground to safety. I eventually emerged half suffocated from smoke with my uniform reeking of it. In early September the Government appointed Denis Howell as the Minister for Drought, the day after this it rained and didn't stop for several weeks and that ended it.

Burglars came from the MPD

1976: An analysis in **1976** of **serious burglaries** in the county revealed that less than ten per cent of the offenders lived in Surrey coming mostly from the Metropolitan Police District. As a result the Special Crime Patrol was reorganised in October 1977 and in the first eight months of 1978 there was a dramatic decrease in break-ins of twenty five per cent.

WPC Arch and PC Dunford Commended

1976: WPC Penny Arch **arrested a youth with a shotgun** late one night in Farnham. When on patrol she heard the sound of breaking glass and saw a youth running away. He turned and threatened to shoot her and then ran off with the officer in pursuit. Joined by PC Dunford they disarmed and arrested the youth. The Chief Constable commended both. [20]

[20] Off Beat July 1976

1976 Friday 9 January: Armed robbery at a garage in Woking

The attendant was badly assaulted by a masked man carrying a Luger type pistol who had threatened to shoot him. The sum of £120 was stolen from the garage till. On Monday 12 January the same man entered a public house in Woking carrying a weapon seriously assaulting the licensee and his wife before fleeing. PCs Bailey and Redpath were on patrol in Goldsworth Road unaware of the incident when they saw a man dash into a shop doorway about a hundred yards from the pub. The officers followed the man and PC Redpath found him in the garden. As PC Bailey arrived with a torch he saw that the man was pointing a gun at the police shouting, "Get back or I will use the gun" before making his escape. Enquiries locally by detectives visiting known criminals found the suspect and he was arrested and charged appearing at the Old Bailey in May when he was sentenced to seven years. Judge King Hamilton said "PCs Bailey and Redpath behaved in accordance with the highest traditions of the police where courage has no boundaries". Both men received Chief Constable's commendations as did the two detectives Detective Constables Vernon Attwell and Terry Butcher.

Also commended are PC Richard Redpath, PC Brian Bailey, DC Vernon Attwell and DC Terence Butcher for the part they played in the arrest and prosecution of an offender for armed robbery.

On Friday, 9th January, 1976, an armed robbery occurred at a garage in Woking. The attendant was badly assaulted by a masked man, carrying a Luger-type pistol, who had threatened to shoot him. The sum of £120 was stolen from the garage till.

At 1 a.m. on Monday, 12th January, 1976, the same person entered a public house in Woking. Whilst carrying the same weapon he seriously assaulted the wife of the licensee and fled the premises after a struggle with the licensee who was also badly injured.

At this time PC's Bailey and Redpath were on normal patrol in Goldsworth Road, when, unaware of the incident, they saw the figure of a man dash into a shop doorway some one hundred yards from the public house. The officers followed the man and PC Redpath, after hearing the sound of heavy breathing, found him in the garden of the shop premises. PC Bailey then arrived at the scene and shone a torch on the offender who was seen to be pointing a gun at the officers. The man shouted at the officers, "Get back of I will use the gun". He then made good his escape.

On Monday, 12th January, 1976, Detective Constables Attwell and Butcher called at the home of an informant in an effort to gain information regarding the offences. They saw that the man had cuts on his hands and arrested him on suspicion of robbery.

On Thursday, 20th May, 1976, the offender appeared at the Central Criminal Court charged with numerous offences including robbery and wounding with intent. He pleaded guilty to all the offences and was sentenced to seven years imprisonment. At the conclusion of the case His Honour Judge King-Hamilton said: "PC's Bailey and Redpath behaved in accordance with the highest traditions of the police where courage has no boundaries".

[21]

Train Crash at Guildford

1976 August: Towards the end of the long, hot summer of 1976, Guildford was brought to a standstill as two trains collided at Guildford Station. On Thursday August 19 a passenger was left with severe spinal injuries when an empty stock movement hit their train. An official investigation at the time concluded that: "The incident occurred at 18.31 on August 19, while the 17.54 electric passenger train from Waterloo to Portsmouth Harbour was crossing lines at Guildford Station. An empty coaching stock train, which had previously formed the 17.34 electric passenger train from Waterloo to Guildford, was set back on a bell signal from the guard and collided side-on with the rear of the passenger train. The last two coaches of the passenger train and the leading coach of the empty train were derailed. "One passenger

[21] Off Beat

unfortunately received severe spinal injuries, and seven suffered minor injuries, with six being treated in hospital and then released."[22]

[22] http://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/nostalgia/throwback-thursday-guildford-train-crash-8827649

Superintendent David Harding

Idi Amin is coming to Surrey!

1976-77 Allan Hurlow I was tasked along with PC John Bonney to sit in the area car for ten hours in the middle of Brooklands/Vickers runway at Weybridge. The reason for this was that Idi Amin the President of Uganda at the time threatened to come to England to visit the Queen. This was obviously taken very seriously by the powers that be. So there we were, half way down the runway to try and stop his aircraft from landing. It apparently worked, as we never saw a single aircraft all day!

Detective Chief Superintendent John Place MBE

MR. JOHN PLACE DIES

Mr. John Place M.B.E., who was in charge of Surrey C.I.D. from 1966 to his retirement in 1972, died in St. Lukes Hospital, Guildford on Sunday afternoon, the 12th September 1976, age 63 years

Mr. Place joined the Surrey Constabulary on 1st January 1938 having already served for 3 years in the Metropolitan Police. Having completed his training at Guildford he was posted to Chertsey. In September 1939 he moved to Weybridge on C.I.D. as a Detective learner and remained in this job for about 12 months. He then transferred to the Division office where he stayed for another 12 months and then went back on to C.I.D. In 1950 he was promoted to Detective Sergeant at Headquarters Crime Bureau. He then moved in 1952 to Woking as Detective Sergeant.

As a Sergeant he attended the Police College 'A' course and on completion was made temporary Detective Inspector. In December 1955 he moved to Crime Bureau as Detective Inspector and in 1958 Mr. Place was transferred to uniform duties at Woking. Remaining in uniform he was promoted to Chief Inspector at Egham in 1960 and then after several months moved as Chief Inspector, Deputy to the Superintendent at Weybridge. Later he was promoted to Superintendent at Reigate but in fact never actually took up this post as he was promoted to Detective Superintendent on the 1st January 1965. In July 1966 he was upgraded to Detective Chief Superintendent.

Mr. Place had been involved in over 20 cases of murder and only one case remains unsolved – that of the Tuthill murder at Leatherhead in 1968.

Mr. Place was awarded the MBE in the New Years Honours in 1971 and attended Buckingham Palace in March 1971 when Her Majesty the Queen presented him with the Award.

During his career in the Police Mr. Place was a keen sportsman and played cricket and football. For many years he was the Force billiards and snooker champion. He later became the chairman and treasurer of the Force golf section.

Mr. Place's funeral took place at Guildford Crematorium, on Friday 17th September.

Mr. Place leaves a widow, Gladys, living in Shamley Green.

Off Beat October 1976