Surrey Constabulary History

'An in depth history of policing in Surrey'

**August 2022**

www.surrey-constabulary.com

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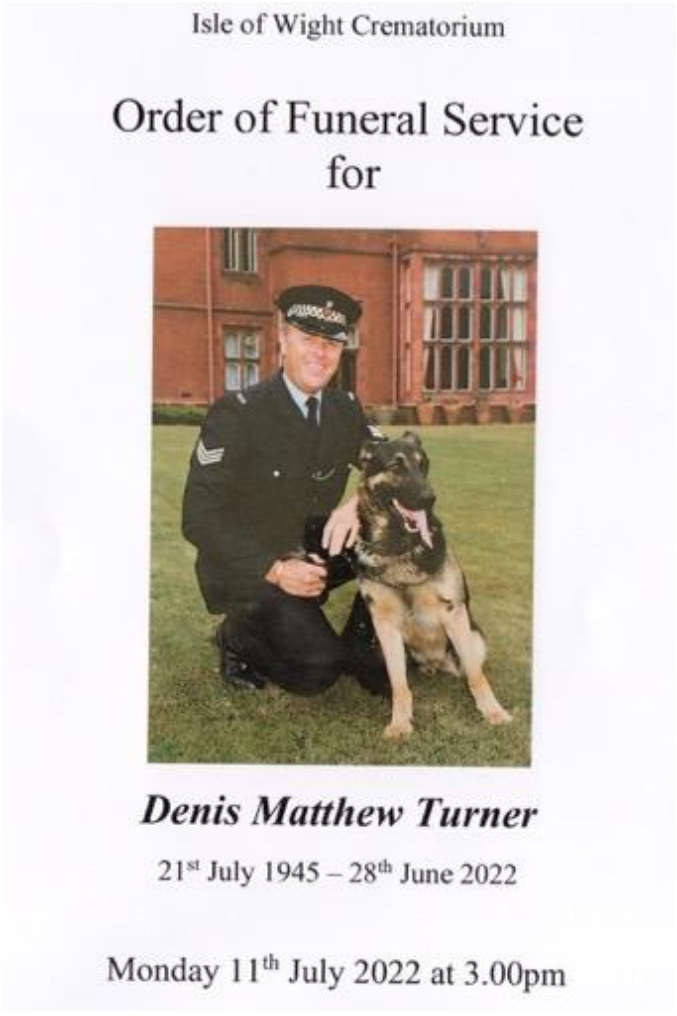
# Surrey Constabulary History 91

**Believed Woodbridge Avenue, Leatherhead- two people killed in a storm August 2, 1906**

# Contents

# Police Sergeant Denis Turner
# Long term member Surrey Constabulary Dog Section

# Handler of general purpose, drugs and explosive search dogs
# Died June 2022


Isle of Wight Crematorium

Order of Funeral Service for

***Denis Matthew Turner***

21st July 1945 – 28th June 2022

Monday 11th July 2022 at 3.00pm

## A Life on the Dog Section

**The following was written by Denis and submitted to Surrey Constabulary History several years ago.**

**Denis Turner:** My interest in police dogs started in my youth, well before joining the job. Having served my apprenticeship at Addlestone, eventually getting to work on the crime car there, I realised that I enjoyed the 'sharp end' and being involved with what that entailed. This heightened my interest in the dog section, as they always seemed to be involved with the 'juicy' jobs. The handlers at Addlestone at the time were Mick Juniper, Neville Cast and John Davey with Rod Hill having recently taken on the dog sergeant role on Northern. All were very amenable to my poking my nose in, (Rod Hill was my section sergeant for a time so we knew each other well) and became good friends. I knew that the section was small as was the turnover, but I offered to 'puppy walk' a dog to flag up my interest and to learn more about the job as I knew that the section had recently restarted a breeding programme. 'Timber' Wood eventually came and checked out our police house at Chertsey and, all being well, I was allocated a bitch puppy, Mountbrowne Lucy.

Strict instructions were given, and I was left in no doubt that she would be only with us for a short period of time, up to twelve months, before being taken back to HQ for work. Lucy soon became one of the family and our four sons soon became attached. I was aware that the dog may not be with us for too long and that she was destined to become a working dog so tried to keep some distance to avoid any too much heartbreak. All went well and I continued my spell on the crime car at Addlestone working with two excellent WPC Anita Steer until she left to have her daughter and then WPC Di Frost later Davey. However, a surprise vacancy occurred about a year later and I suddenly found myself not only on an initial dog course but with Lucy and so it was she became my first working police dog in 1978. Reading Timber Wood's memories of the dog section I realise that much of what he describes as the norm continued during his reign and during my first initial course, we were expected not only to ensure the dog and the kennel block were kept spotless but also the surrounding kennel areas also.

Our course, under Sergeant Stan Ford who had transferred to Surrey from Sir Peter's old force, Suffolk a couple of years previously, undertook what was probably the last major, (handler built), project at the kennels. This was the construction of the wooden steps that led from the kennel block down to the sports field. These were constructed from old railway sleepers that we had to go to Guildford Railway Station to collect and get back to HQ in the old stores van. There were a hundred or more heavy sleepers and over the thirteen weeks of the course we dug out the bank and built in the sleeper steps. This was in between and in addition to our busy dog-training schedule. We must have made a good job of them as they lasted about twenty-five years before they were condemned by the new Health & Safety regime in the twenty first century. I believe the sleepers are still in place although the gates are locked and secured to prevent access.

The job was done at a great saving to the dog school and force budget. As a result of another unexpected vacancy, I went back to Addlestone at the end of my initial course and had several happy years working there with Neville Cast and Mick Juniper. Lucy turned out to be a great working dog and she also did well in the force trials. She was also used in the reintroduced breeding programme and produced many fine pups for the force some of which were sold abroad. One pup she produced was Mountbrowne Maggie and I puppy walked her for a time

until Neville Cast took her on for work. So it was that for a time that Neville and I worked mother and daughter at Addlestone with both turning out to be fine dogs. It transpired that we both did very well in the force dog trials in the early eighties and, together with Chris Procter, represented the Force in the regional dog trials in Hertfordshire I think, not only a first but also probably, a unique event. Bizarrely, we competed at various events throughout the week and at the end of it we found that mother and daughter ended the event with identical marks, so it was 'honours even' at the end of the trial.

Another incident that springs to mind involving these two dogs was when Neville and I were among many tasked to secure the Duke of Edinburgh at a World Wildlife function being held at Sutton Place, Send. It was at the time when many dog handlers were authorised firearms users and we were used as a dual purpose, dogs and firearms. Neville and I were patrolling at the rear of Sutton Place where we could see across the vast lawn and into the huge dining hall. The lights from the hall were flooding out onto the lawn and we had let both dogs off the lead to relax and play as we patrolled. Suddenly, one dog put up a young deer, which bolted, closely followed by mother and daughter either side of it trying to bring it down. Neville and I went into panic mode desperately trying to recall our two dogs that by now were having a great time. Horror of horrors, we saw the deer start to make across the lawn towards the lighted hall with the dogs close on its heels. We had visions of the Duke looking out of the window just in time to see two police dogs bring down a young deer right outside the window of the World Wildlife Fund Dinner! Fortunately, just in time both dogs remembered their training and called off the hunt and returned to our, very grateful, sides. The deer ran off unharmed and we disappeared into the woods before anything further happened. We all know how understanding the Duke is with the local constabulary!

When I first went on to the dog section it was clear that you were expected to become an authorised shot, (but not all handlers were). Eric Adams was my first Instructor followed by all the others, Mick Wayland, Dick Chase, Alan McArthur, Pete Moore, and I was authorised annually and carried for nine years. A few years later the shooting of Stephen Waldorf took place in his mini by the Metropolitan Police using double taps. It caused an outrage, and all training was changed as a result. The dog section handlers were the ones who were tasked, with Special Branch for VIP protection. They carried out this role for many years with the armed handler patrolling the grounds with his dog and the Special Branch officer in the house on close protection. I can recall many long boring hours particularly at night, working usually twelve hour shifts, looking after the likes of Maggie Thatcher, who had friends in the Bramley area, Sheik Yamani[1], King Hussein of Jordan and his son Prince Abdullah who is now King, at Egham, a VIP at Farnham I cannot now recall; the officer in charge during Bloody Sunday at Chertsey where you were more in fear of being shot by his batman; Operation Mimic at Ripley where Michael Havers, (Attorney General then), and his wife used to visit a well-known actress and husband who were friends, plus the royals and many, many more.

[1] Sheikh Yamani was Saudi Arabia's minister for oil between 1962 and 1986 and is the former leader of the world's collective of oil-producing countries, OPEC. In 1975 he survived being taken hostage by the notorious criminal Carlos the Jackal

We used to book on at our local nick and draw a revolver plus twelve rounds, booked out by the station sergeant and booked back on completion of duty; six in the chamber and a reload in a pouch. This was all before the FST and was a regular duty for an armed dog-handler usually working with a Special Branch officer. One other incident I attended with Lucy was at Ottershaw about 0230hrs one morning in the late 1970's or early 1980s. There had been a spate of thefts at the local garage on the A320 near The Otter pub. This night somebody had been disturbed trying to break into a car on the forecourt and I was called to it. It was a quiet still night and I put Lucy to work, and she took off immediately from the garage, across the road and started tracking down the Cobham Road opposite. She was working on a free track as I had not put the harness on her, and I was struggling to keep up with the speed she was tracking at. She went for some distance until she turned into the boy's school along the Chobham Road and stopped at the front door of the school. It was a boarding school, and it was all in darkness. I did no more than bang on the door and a master eventually answered. I explained what had happened and he told me that he had had suspicions about one dormitory. We went to the dormitory and switched on the light and saw several angelic boys apparently asleep in bed. However, when the master investigated further, we found the boys in bed fully clothed! A car radio was recovered and that was that.

Working a police dog is a unique experience and, unlike any other piece of official equipment, it is with you and your family twenty-four/seven. At that time there were only about twelve or fifteen handlers in the County. Call outs at all hours were frequent and often after you had finished work at 0100hrs as you were then one then on call. I remember getting called out at 3am at Chertsey and as I was getting to the van my wife came to the door and called me back in as they had nicked the offender. The whole family was disturbed. They liked to get value for money out of a handler. On top of this role many of the dogs were also trained for drug work, (Lucy was one), and much later for explosives. I continued working Lucy until 1982 when I was promoted off the section. She stayed in work and was re-handled by Melvin Mann who continued to put her to good use. To this day we still call her 'our dog'. I returned to work at Addlestone mainly on court prosecutions and other administrative work as I had suffered a personal tragedy and during this difficult time, I am eternally grateful for the support given to me by everyone from the chief constable down. I particularly remember the support given to me at Addlestone by Chief Superintendent David Harding, Superintendent Tony Forward, and Ted Sellars who had just been promoted Superintendent to Addlestone from CID. He was my direct boss and had Chief Inspector 'Paddy' Swain working with him, (on his retirement 'Gentleman' George Hedges took over). Nicer people you could not wish to work for.

In 1985, after about three years at Addlestone, a vacancy for Sergeant occurred back on the dog section. At the time I was a temporary inspector at Addlestone and probably the approach

for me to move back on to the dog section was not a good one career wise. However, I was keen to continue where I left off on the section and I also thought it was a fresh start for my family and so it was, after about eleven years of working at Addlestone, we moved to Dorking. We moved into the old chief superintendent's house at 36 Deepdene Avenue, Dorking[2] where we lived happily for another thirteen years. For a few years I was the operational dog sergeant on Eastern. At the time Glenn Winstone, Dick Smith, Len West, John Humphries, Les Jales, Mel Mann and the inimitable John Worgan were handlers there. Colin Edwards had recently moved from dogs to CID and for a period I re-handled his old dog Magnum. This was bizarre as Magnum was one of Lucy's pups so having lost Lucy, I came back to one of her pups. Colin had done a good job on Magnum, and he was an easy dog to get the best out of as a result of Colin's efforts. Eventually Magnum was retired and went back to Colin for his dotage, (Magnum not Colin), and I went on an initial course with a gift dog called 'Ross'. He was a live wire but a good working police dog.

On the 12th October 1984 the Brighton bombings occurred when the IRA attempted to destroy the British Government. The aftermath of this reverberated around the police service and dog sections. Although explosive search dogs did exist, (I had trained Magnum as a dual-purpose explosive/general purpose dog) this was an ad-hoc arrangement and no proper operating procedures existed. Amongst the other many initiatives that came out of this incident was a national system of training and licensing explosive search dogs. The police dog training sub-committee of HOSAC decided that Chief Inspector Brian Eland, West Mercia and Superintendent Harry Edwards, RUC should look at tightening up the training of explosive dogs. It was their ideas that formed the licensing and future training of the dogs and the training of the explosive search dog instructors and assessors. The RUC with its wealth of experience was the obvious place to hold training courses for instructors/assessors and the first one was held within a couple of years of the Brighton bombings.

In 1987 I successfully completed a ten-week Home Office Instructors course in the Metropolitan Police for general-purpose dog work and was being called into the Regional Training School at HQ as an instructor more and more often. About 1988 I was transferred into the school as a full time Instructor and in 1989 I went to Northern Ireland for an Explosive Search Dog Instructor/Assessors course.

This transpired to be an experience that I will never forget as you quickly realised the difficulties the RUC men and women were operating under at the time. The first night we arrived at Strand Road Police Station we were told that we had to approach it from the right. When the question 'why' was asked we were told in a broad Northern Irish accent, 'because a police car was attacked last week as it turned left into the nick!' Whilst still puzzling that one out we booked in and made our way up in the lift to our accommodation high up in this tall police station. As I opened the bedroom door I could see out of the window and over the streets of Belfast. I went to switch on the light and was stopped by the RUC officer I was with who said, "pull the curtains first; they have been known to take pot shots at us." When I did switch on the light, I saw the notices advising you what to do in the event of a rocket attack, welcome

[2] Now demolished to make way for some awful flats

to Belfast. What amazed me was the number of incidents reported on local radio that were never reported on the mainland. One night the course was working on a project for the following day when we heard the rattle of gunfire. Apart from us 'boyos' from the mainland no one blinked an eyelid. So many memories of that course but I would not have missed it for anything. The sad thing was that, due to the problems of getting people to attend the course, it was eventually moved to the Metropolitan Police which in my view was a retrograde step.

By this time Timber Wood had retired from Surrey and moved to Dorset where he became the officer in charge of dogs for the Atomic Energy Police. The school and section went through another big change the main one being a move away from inspectors having dog experience, which was left to the sergeants. The emphasis was for managers who came in and made their mark in various ways before moving on up the ladder of promotion. This is not to say it we did not have some good inspectors as we did but suddenly the section had a huge turnover of managers and faced constant change as a result. This was partly due to a huge and embarrassing error made by a visiting instructor to the school. He had been seconded to the school for a short period of time due to pressure of work and, it transpires, had brought some of his own training explosives. After a training exercise had taken place in a Jumbo jet one night at Heathrow not all the explosives used were picked up and the plane flew for several days with it on board until a cleaner discovered it. To say all hell broke loose is an understatement. No excuse but the problem was that the kit was not missing from the store at HQ, which had its full complement when checked. As part of the overhaul of the department it was decided to move the section from divisional control to Operations Department.

There are so many memories of working on this section that, like many others who have worked in the job, you could write a book. However, my abiding memories are working with many good and committed people and I particularly recall how hard Timber Wood worked during his tenure. I am sure he would be the first to admit that he could be short at times but his workload was not light. At one time he was not only running the operational dog section, (duties, manning, equipment, budgets etc.), and the regional dog school, (course bookings, administration, accommodation etc.), he was also the secretary of the HOSAC dog training sub-committee at a time when Sir Peter was head of that committee, running a breeding programme, managing the kennel staff and much more. His was more than a job but a dedication to it. One example I recall was at a time I was at HQ whilst Lucy, my working bitch was in whelp as part of the breeding programme. Lucy had started to have the puppies late one night and Timber and I were in the whelping block, assisting her as best we could. After about half a dozen pups were born there was a lull in the proceedings. By now it was about 0200 hours and Timber was whacked after being at work all day and now late into the night. He instructed me to keep an eye on things and to call him if there were any problems whilst he went off to his office to try and get forty winks. I do not think he had been gone an hour when he came back in a rage. It transpired that he had dozed off in the dark in his office when he suddenly became aware that someone had entered his office. As he came to this person, in police parlance – 'now known to be a northern dog handler', was rifling through Timber's correspondence in a Watergate attempt! I would have liked to have been a fly on the wall, as I do not know who was more shocked when Timber leapt to his feet and put the light on.

Needless to say a lock was put on the office door the following morning and the flow of information to the troop diminished considerably. I do not think the dog section ever publicised enough its important role and in many ways that was it's problem as most handlers just thought they were doing their job, most of it hard and dirty. I would be the first to admit that, at times, we could be our own worst enemies as others did not get the humour, but a better bunch of coppers you would not find to work with when the chips were down.

**A few reminiscences from Denis**

**1986 May: Denis Turner: 1986[3]: Bomb kills 21 in Sri Lanka** Twenty-one people have been killed and 41 injured after a bomb exploded in an airliner at Colombo airport in Sri Lanka. There were 128 passengers on board – among them 25 Britons, five of whom were injured. It is believed Tamil rebels seeking a separate homeland on the island state planted the bomb. The Air Lanka Tristar had come from London's Gatwick airport, stopping at Zurich and Dubai on the way to the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo.

About ten days before this bomb, I, with several other Surrey explosive dog handlers were sent to assist Gatwick in searching an Air Lanka flight that was about to take off when a bomb threat was received. The aircraft was sent to a quiet part of Gatwick where we searched it and after we gave the negative it then took off. I held my breath for about eight hours but was shocked to hear of this later bomb. It was said that the plane we searched was a dry run to see the reaction and there was talk that the explosive was hidden in meat on this plane because dogs had been used in the first instance. I don't suppose we will ever know but it has stuck in my mind.

**1986 July 2:** A Hawk aircraft took off from Dunsfold and after executing a number of manoeuvres then it **hit the ground**, killing the pilot and breaking up the plane.[4] **Denis Turner:** We were training dogs at Dunsfold one day, the village not the airfield, and we saw a **BEA Hawk doing loop the loop** etc. However, we saw him do one loop, which was down all the way – he didn't recover, and we saw him crash. We jumped in the vans, and we were one of the first on the scene as we were so close. Several dog handlers but can only remember Les Jales. It transpired the pilot was the Chief Test Pilot, Jim Hawkins who had been practising for a special demo for some Arabs the following day. They think he passed out on the down loop with the G force and never recovered. I remember the jet ploughed into the ground upside down and the pilot's torso was recovered. We never did so can only assume it just exploded with the aircraft. The other thing I recall was that the crash of the jet, being a prototype, set back the development by many months and of course the planned demo the next was cancelled.

**Denis had a great interest in the history of the Dog Section and held those that went before in great respect.**

[3] http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/may/3/newsid_2481000/2481291.stm
[4] Annual Report 1986

**1914-1918 Denis Turner**: The earliest record of dogs being used by the Surrey Constabulary was during the First World War. A prisoner of war camp had been established at Frith Hill, Frimley and although most inmates were quite happy to sit out the war, from time to time some thought it their duty to escape. The surrounding countryside was ideal cover for the escapees. To assist in searching for them the police at Camberley obtained three bloodhounds for the purposes of tracking. Kennelled at Camberley police station and handled by Sergeant Kenward and his assistant PC Pink they were used several times with some success, but their use was discontinued after the war.


**1956 Denis Turner:** As Surrey's knowledge and expertise grew so did their reputation, not only nationally but also internationally, and this resulted in Surrey officers travelling halfway around the globe to set up a brand-new Dog Section for the **New Zealand** Police Service. So it was that in September 1956, Sergeant Frank Riley of the Surrey Constabulary disembarked in New Zealand from the vessel Hinekura after making the long voyage from England. The New Zealand Prime Minister Sid Holland wanted to have a police dog section after he saw the Surrey Constabulary police dog school during a state visit to England. Sergeant Riley arrived with his fully trained police dog, Mount Browne Miska a nine-month-old dog named Dante, bitches Karen and Silver and twelve two-month-old puppies born during the voyage. Constable Colin Guppy, who handled Dante, joined Sergeant Riley to become New Zealand's first police dog handlers. A Dog Training Centre was set up in Trentham in conjunction with the Police Training School. The Training School moved to Porirua in 1981 but the dog training centre remains on the original site set up by Sergeant. Riley.

**1946 Denis Turner:** It was not until after the Second World War that there was renewed interest in the use of dogs. A housebreaking that Tom Roberts dealt with convinced him that dogs were necessary in a county force with large rural areas like Surrey. The offender was eventually caught and it transpired that he had hidden in a ditch close by the house after breaking in and waited for the hue and cry to diminish before making good his escape. The offender even gave an accurate description of the police action at the scene! It seemed that this was the norm as the offender could hide up overnight and then mingle with the crowd the following morning on his way back to London. Tom Roberts discovered when the use of dogs was developed that offenders were not so keen to hang about to be found by a dog and this gave patrols more chance of picking them up.

In 1946 the new chief constable, Mr Joseph Simpson, had a strong interest in dogs as he and his wife were members of the Kennel Club and Mrs Simpson was a breeder of Labradors. In fact, after the dog training school was set up, Mrs Simpson had some success in civilian dog trial with tracking and criminal work such was her interest and expertise. Mr Simpson gave great thought to the setting up of a police dog section and sought permission from the Home Office and the Police Authority to undertake police dog training based on the continental method that existed at that time. This permission was granted subject to using dogs that had been well tried and proven in the field. The most popular dogs being used in Germany at the

time were Dobermanns and Alsatians (German Shepherds), and it was recommended that these breeds be used. Mainly due to the aftermath of the Second World War no further significant progress was made until 1948.

The chief constable knew of a Metropolitan Police officer, DC Harry Darbyshire who, in 1947, was working in the Criminal Records Office at Scotland Yard. He had been working in the Metropolitan Police for about eighteen years but he had gained significant experience of the training and breeding of dogs as a result of his interest and through attending police dog trials on the continent and in particular Germany. Harry also had his own German shepherd dog Anna of Avondale. Anna was an ex German war dog number 1758x1. Corporal Ken Bailey of the Parachute Regiment captured her near Ashwerin, Germany in 1945. Harry was not happy in his office role and was keen to develop the use of dogs for police work and willing to transfer to another force to enable him to do so. He had applied to the Metropolitan Dog Section but was only offered a role to train Labradors for protection work and that did not suit him at all. Having suggested to the 'Met' that they use Alsatians he was told that this was not at all acceptable as they had an unpredictable temperament. This was a popular view at the time and only changed after training establishments were set up and it was seen not to be true. So it the Metropolitan Police loss was Surrey's gain as Harry Darbyshire was offered a transfer to the Surrey Constabulary in the rank of sergeant. He accepted and joined Surrey on 8th February 1948 bringing with him his Alsatian bitch, Anna.

The new sergeant and his dog were given a large police house at Shackleford with a very large garden with the surrounding countryside giving ample space for training needs. Although there was still much scepticism, divisions were informed of this new resource and how best to use it. Only a few weeks later Sergeant Darbyshire and Anna were called to their first job, a burglary at the Co-op in Hersham. Within minutes of arriving Anna had tracked from the scene and located the burglar hiding under a hedge in a garden.[5] This was exactly what was needed and the credibility of the team was greatly enhanced and it also gave added impetus to the plans to develop the dog section. Anna continued in service until she died in August 1950. As the word spread through the Home Office and the police inspectorate, (also backed by the many chief constables who visited Surrey to see how the dogs were trained) Mr Simpson agreed to set up a police dog training school and also to build up the pool of the right type of dogs for the work. This also entailed a breeding programme to provide working stock. Thorough research and extensive enquires were carried out and it was decided that the German method of training dogs for police work was the right way forward and the Home Office supported Tom Roberts and Harry Darbyshire in a research trip to Germany to learn more about the methods of training. They left London on the evening train on the 10th October 1951 and arrived in Ulm, Germany the following day. This visit is well documented in the 'Roberts Papers', held by his son retired Detective Sergeant Chris Roberts, and also detailed in Tom Roberts excellent autobiography, 'Friends & Villains'. Many photographs also exist of the visit both in the papers and also kept in an album held at

[5] Tom Roberts p79 Friends and Villains Hodder and Stoughton

the Surrey Police HQ. They spent a week or so in Germany visiting both the German Police Dog Sections and also the American Army Dog Section. Talks were also held with the British Army of the Rhine 'Public Safety Department'.

**Harry Darbyshire third from left**

**German dog handlers possibly with Tom Roberts**

**1979 1978**

PC Neville Cast (left) with Maggi and Lucy, with PC Denis Turner (right).

# That's my girl!

A FEARSOME new crime-busting partnership has just been unleashed at Addlestone police station.

Police dog Lucy has found a new companion — her own puppy Maggi who is now pounding eagerly in her mother's pawsteps around the Runnymede beat.

Their handlers believe that the two sleuth hounds are a unique combination in the Surrey force.

PC Neville Cast, who trained 15-month-old alsatian Maggi said: "They are the only mother-daughter dog team in the county.

"Maggi was one of 10 in Lucy's litter. They have all become police dogs and are working all over the country.

"She has completed her initial 13 weeks of training where she was taught tracking and searching for hidden people and property.

"She is doing very well, but it is early days yet. She's still only a baby. Already, she is taking after her mum, and if she turns out like Lucy I'll be very pleased."

Three-year-old Lucy has just taken a break from sniffing out crime to give birth to her second litter.

Now she is back at Addlestone with her handler, PC Denis Turner, and is keeping a watchful eye on young Maggi's progress.

For, like all good mums, Lucy is her daughter's best friend — and there is not a hint of bitchiness between them.

**Surrey Herald 14 August 1980**

**1982 Denis with his old friend Nev Cast and Chris Proctor**

**Denis with Bruce Forsyth**

**“Turner’s Hill” in the south of France**

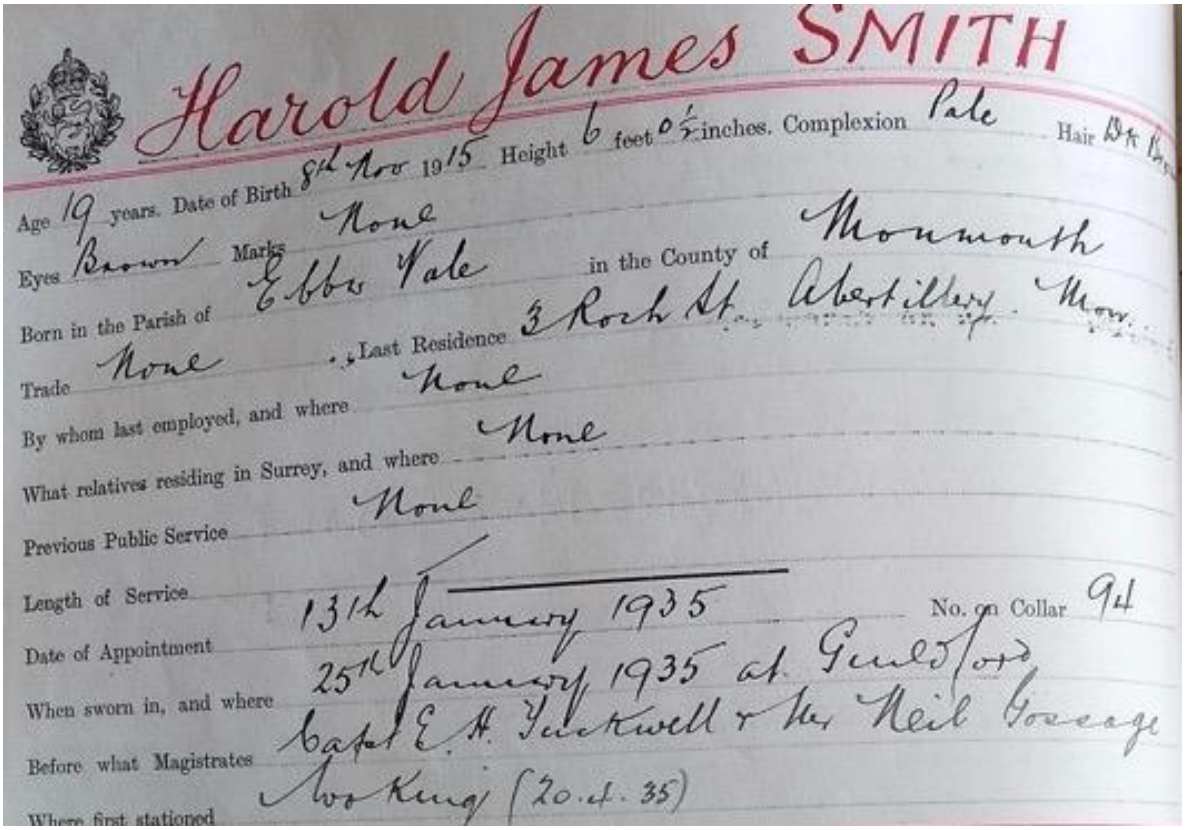
**Denis and his wife Julie**

## Chief Inspector Harold James Smith

## Surrey Constabulary

## 1935-1970 including War Service Royal Artillery[6]

[6] SCC Archives Woking ref. 9152/1/2/1/5. Kind assistance of Robert Simonson

Harold James SMITH

Age 19 years. Date of Birth 9th Nov 1915 Height 6 feet 0½ inches. Complexion Pale Hair Dk Brn

Eyes Brown Marks None

Born in the Parish of Ebbw Vale in the County of Monmouth

Trade None Last Residence 3 Rock St. Abertillery Mon.

By whom last employed, and where None

What relatives residing in Surrey, and where None

Previous Public Service None

Length of Service

Date of Appointment 13th January 1935 No. on Collar 94

When sworn in, and where 25th January 1935 at Guildford

Before what Magistrates bapt E. A. Tuckwell & Mr Neil Gascoigne

Where first stationed Woking (20.4.35)

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

| Date | From | To |
|---|---|---|
| 10.9.50 | Constable | Sergeant (GO 1331) |
| 18.4.57 | Sergeant | Inspector (Ro. 28.2.57) |
| 20.10.63 | Inspector | Chief Inspector |

REMOVALS

| Date | From | To |
|---|---|---|
| 21 Mar 1936 | Woking | Lowfield Heath |
| 3 Feb 1941 | Lowfield Heath | Woking |
| 30 Mar 42 | Woking | Tongham |
| 2nd Apl 43 | Tongham | Army |
| 12 Sep 45 | Army | Tongham |
| 1st Aug 50 | Tongham | Reigate |
| 23 Mar 56 | Reigate | Ash (Beat) |
| 15 Apl 57 | Ash | Guildford (uniform) |
| 3 Oct 63 | Guildford | Camberley |
| 1.7.69 | Camberley | Woking |

Cause and Date of removal from the Force Pensioned on completion of service 2.8.70

Conduct during Service Exemplary.

Date of ~~Enrolment~~ Certificate 28.7.70

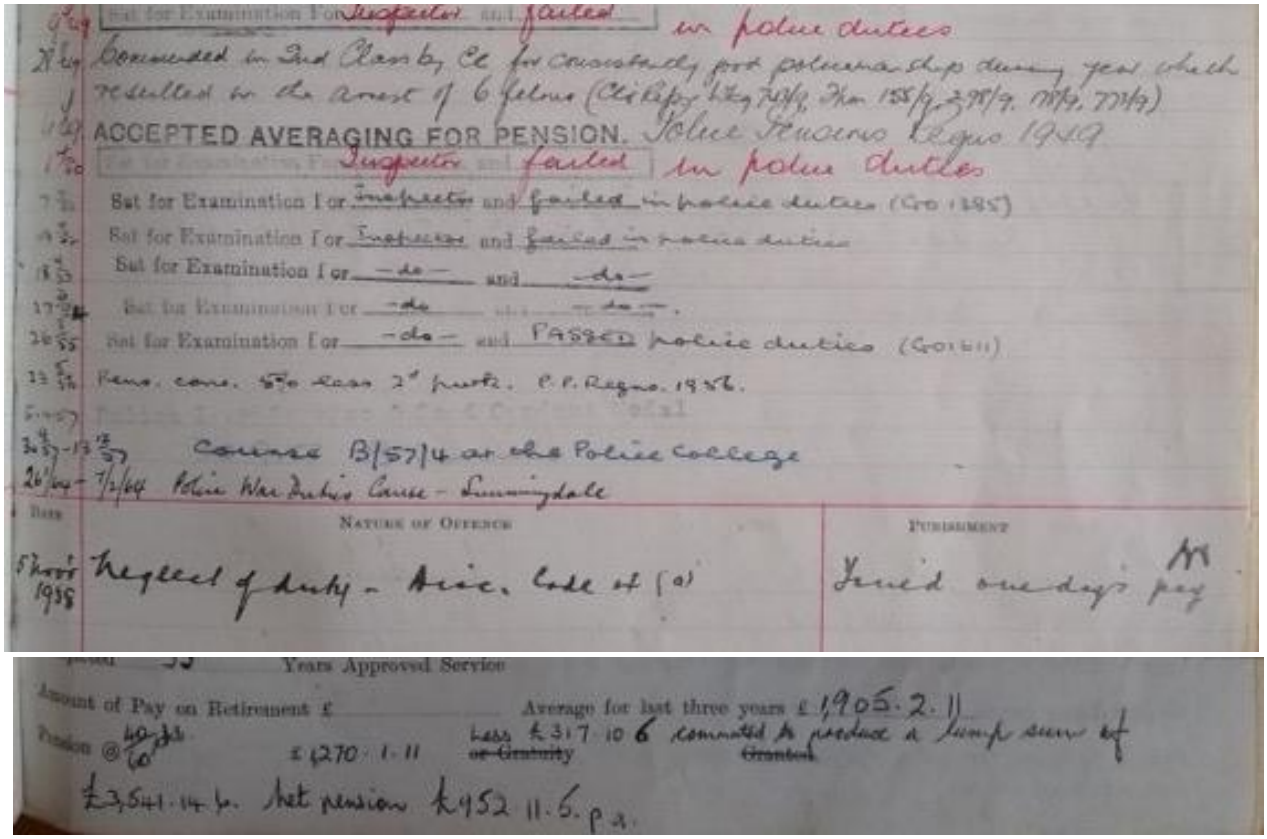
A 2530. (B.444. 27.10.31. S.C.C. 7918.

Marion Mary Patricia Elizabeth Eleanor HUGGETT of Hanley (Surrey)

No. of Appointment 2118

| Date | Remarks |
|---|---|
| | Passed Official Anti-Gas Course |
| | Sat for Examination for Sergeant and failed |
| | Passed 3rd Exam. St. John ambulance assn. |
| 15 Feb 1941 | Sat for Examination for Sergeant passed Police Duties only |
| 31 JAN 1942 | Sat for Examination for Sergeant and passed |
| 1943 | Commended by the Aldershot Justices for the way he had pursued his enquiries and the excellent way in which he gave his evidence in a case against Mc Comacke & Jf Burg - Larceny. P.S. Bowden also commended |
| | Called up for service in army. Re reserves 1st July 1942 |
| 12 & 13 June 1943 | Sat for Examination for Inspector Passed Excell. Subjects only |
| 12 Sep 45 | Returned to force from army |
| 7 July 1946 | Sat for Examination for Inspector Failed and Police Duties. |
| 8 March 1947 | Inspector not passed |

GAVE NOTICE OF WISH TO PAY PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE Higher RATE



ACCEPTED AVERAGING FOR PENSION. Police Pensions Regns 1949

Set for Examination For Inspector and failed in police duties

Commended in 2nd Class by CC for constantly good policing during year which resulted in the arrest of 6 felons (Circ Hqrs 748/49, Hon 158/49, 298/49, 774/49)

Set for Examination For Inspector and failed in police duties

Set for Examination For Inspector and failed in police duties (GO 1385)

Set for Examination For Inspector and failed in police duties

Set for Examination For —do— and —do—

Set for Examination For —do— and —do—.

Set for Examination For —do— and PASSED police duties (GO 611)

Pens. cons. 550 days 2nd hosp. P.P. Regns. 1956.

Course B/57/4 at the Police College

Police War Duties Course - Sunningdale

| Date | Nature of Offence | Punishment |
|---|---|---|
| 5 Nov 1938 | Neglect of duty - Disc. Code of (a) | Fined one days pay |

Years Approved Service

Amount of Pay on Retirement £

Pension @ 40/60 £1270. 1. 11

Average for last three years £1,905. 2. 11

Less £317 10 6 commuted & produce a lump sum of

Gratuity

£3,541. 14 6. Net pension £952 11. 6. p.a.

# OBITUARIES

**EX-CONSTABLE WILLIAM JAMES ROFFEY**

The death occurred on 5 September 1988 of Ex-Constable William James Roffey at the age of 72 years.

The late Bill Roffey joined the Surrey Constabulary in September 1937 and served at Farnham and Wrecclesham before joining the army for war service with the Middlesex Regiment.

He was demobilised in October 1945 and returned to Farnham where he will be remembered as an active and efficient divisional motorcyclist and beat officer until his retirement in April 1963. Following retirement Bill became a Bailiff with the Aldershot County Court.

Bill was a gifted trumpet player and an enthusiastic member of the Force Dance Band before the war. He played most sports at some time during his life but was a particularly good golfer with a single figure handicap.

He is survived by his widow Dorothy and son, Bill, and daughter Beverley.

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The death occurred on the 19 September 1988 of ex Chief Inspector Harold James Smith at the age of 72 years.

The late Harold Smith joined the Surrey Constabulary on 13 January 1935 and served as a Constable at Woking, and Tongham before being called for war service in the Army in the Royal Artillery in April 1943. After service in East Africa and the Far East as a gunnery instructor, he returned to the Force in September, 1945 and was promoted to Sergeant in September 1950 for duty at Reigate and Ash. He was promoted to Inspector at Guildford in April 1957 and subsequently to Chief Inspector in October 1963 as the Officer in Charge of Camberley Sub-Division. He was transferred to Administrative duties at Woking in 1969.

After 35 years of dedicated and loyal service Harold retired from the Force in August 1970 and took an appointment as manager in security for a national company.

He is survived by his widow, Marie.

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Mr James Frater, who was employed in the Firearms Department at Headquarters and retired in December 1982, died on the 20 September 1988. He is survived by his widow, Joan and daughter, Margaret.

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Mrs Joan Smith who was employed as a cook at Reigate Police Station died on the 21 September 1988. She is survived by her widower, Ted who is a caretaker at Reigate Police Station and daughter, Cheryl.

In the early to mid 1960s there were three inspectors serving the same time at Guildford named Smith.
DJ, AN, HJ. This medal belonged to HJ or "Ya Ya" as he was affectionately known, due to the nature of his voice.

**Geoff Todd:** "Ya Ya", was posted to Camberley in about 1963 on promotion to Chief Inspector in charge of the sub-division on the retirement of C/I Bill Ezzard. He lived at Yateley

(Hampshire) - rare at that time as all serving officers were expected to live within the force area. He remained at Camberley for several years. This was at the old police station by the railway station in the High Street.

Cedric Gardener (PC863? - later SOCO Inspector) used to do a good impression of “Ya Ya” speaking. One day to the assembling shift's amusement he was giving one such performance when, seconds later, the door opened and a voice said, "I thought I heard myself in here". Total silence as the
door closed!

# Peter May


**Peter May – retired superintendent Surrey Constabulary**

The photo was taken at the telephone switchboard at Mount Browne in early 1961. I started as a cadet in March 1960 reporting to the Burpham Traffic Centre. I took the '18' number from the previous cadet there, John Hurst, who had progressed to the regular force. Later, as a 'traffic department' cadet I worked at Mount Browne where part of our duties was to fill-in (for Kath) on the switchboard.

**Editor:** Many a cadet suffered the wrath of a senior officer at HQ or on division by losing calls and cutting them off mid conversation. The clue to the difficulty of the task are all the leads and levers.

# Sandgate Police Training Centre

**Ted Post Assistant Chief Constable Surrey – passing out parade**
**Photograph from Dr Peter Kennison July 2022**


**Course No 4 Class B1 15 May 1966-13 August 1966**
**Surrey Constabulary officers Colin Boyles, Terry Ashcroft**


**Course No 1 Class A2 29 November 1965- 26 February 1966**
**Surrey Constabulary officers BM Monk, PF Pay, Clive Barham, MF Bird, JD Philip, Arnie Lewis, DR Stafford, John J Judd, CN Woodham**


**Sandgate Course No 1 Class A3 29 November 1965-26 February 1966**
**Surrey Constabulary Officers EC Palmer, BS Tuckey, Ray Acland, John DW Collett, Mick Brimblecombe, BJ Bourne, Ken Hewitt, Police Sergeant Owen Allard, GG Turner**


**Sandgate Course No 2 Class B1 13 February 1966 -14 May 1966**

**Surrey Constabulary officers M Mortimer, Phil Stickings, Dave Overton, M Ouston, G Camber, John Humphris, Ian Clinging, Bill Wiltshire**

# Army Air Corps Helicopter Project 1967

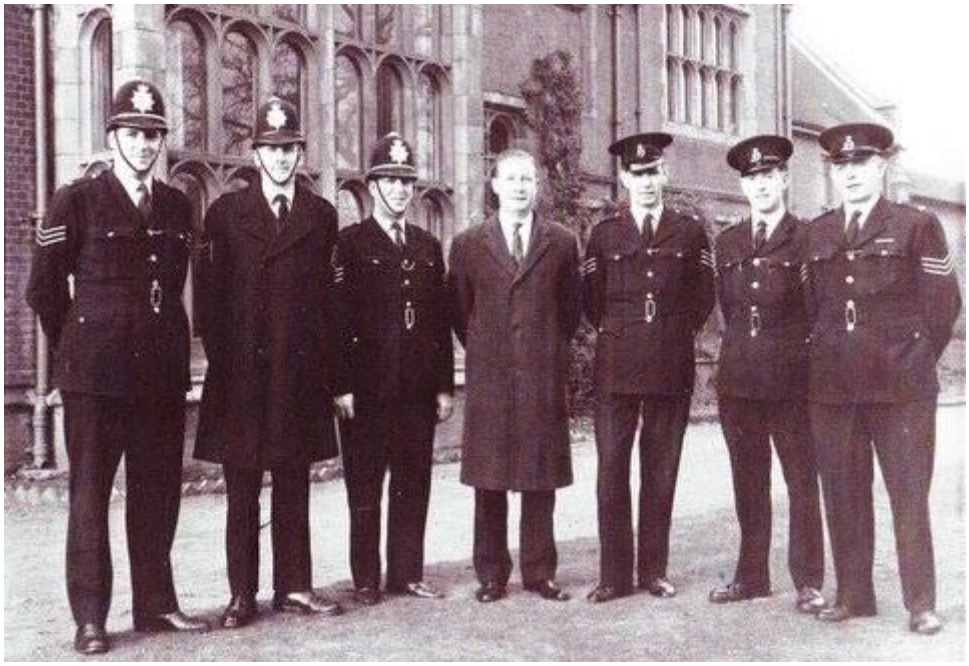
**1967 March 1:** six-month **helicopter project** working with the Army Air Corps PS 325 John House was the observer for Farnham.

Surrey Constabulary
Headquarters, Guildford
10 April 1967

Memorandum to Superintendents

**Helicopter Experiment**

1. The below listed personnel will be required for helicopter patrol duties at Mount Browne from Monday 24 April 1967 to 6 May 1967 inclusive
   Sgt. 260 Andrews A, Sgt. 447 Patterson A Sgt. 429 House F, D. Sgt. 48 Searle B
   Sgt. 73 Young HGT, Sgt. 803 Pink Sgt. 605 Scott J,



**Left to Right Sergeants: Pink, House, Paterson, Searle, Scott, Young, Andrews**

2. Sergeant Young and Detective Sergeant Searle will be accommodated at Mount Browne; other personnel will travel daily according to the duty roster, a copy of which is attached. All personnel should report to the Superintendent "HT", Mount Browne, at 8.30am on Monday 24th April 1967.
3. The three helicopters and attendant motor vehicles will be based at H.Q. sports ground and a one-man guard will be provided by "G" and "J" divisions from 8pm-8am each night starting at 8pm on Sunday 23 April and ending at 8am on Sunday 7th May 1967. The pavilion will be used by the Army Air Corps personnel and police observers for routine work.
4. Subject to operational requirements exercises and routine patrols will take place as hereunder:

   Tuesday 25 April E and J Div,
   Wednesday 26 April F and B Div,
   Thursday 27 April D and G Div,
   Friday 28 April C and A Div Exercise Bisley,
   Saturday 29 April J and F Div, E B C
   Sunday 30 April J F A E B D main roads - Traffic
   Monday 1 May G F D B
   Tuesday 2 May E Exercise
   Wednesday 3 May A G J
   Thursday 4 May F J
   Saturday 6 May

5. Requests for use of the helicopter should be made as shown in Routine Orders dated 2 March 1967.

Ernie Hall Assistant Chief Constable of Surrey

**Editor:** The observers undertook a two-day course with the Army Air Corps at Netheravon in Wiltshire and were advised to take a woollen pullover and a suit for wearing in the mess where they would stay – appropriate to their rank!

POLICE HELICOPTER UNIT

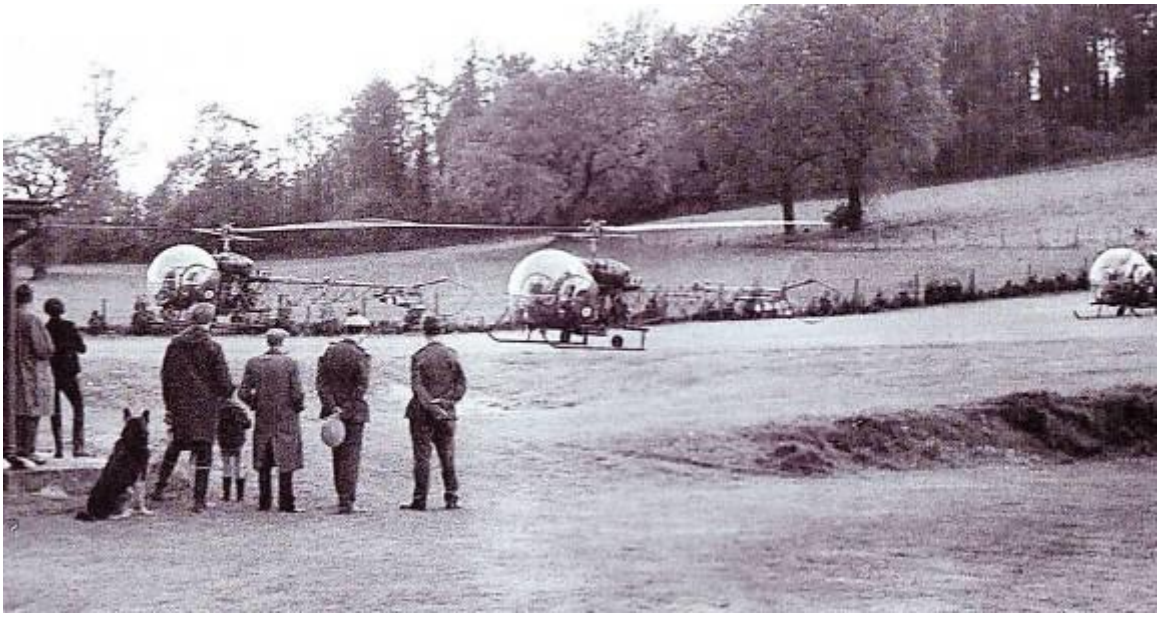
March 6th – the Home Secretary at the opening ceremony of the Police Helicopter Experiment at Netheravon, Wilts. Three planes will be used for six months to determine the police requirement for helicopters. There is close and enthusiastic co-operation between the army and the police. The forces involved are Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire, East and West Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire, Kent, Oxfordshire, Essex and the Metropolitan Police. Mr. Jo has spoke of his determination to see that the po get the equipment they need to make them fully efficient.

Good press, radio and TV coverage was given. The Mirror referred to the unit as Heli-coppers. Chief Superintendent Vezey Bignell was interviewed on BBC Southern TV and radio.

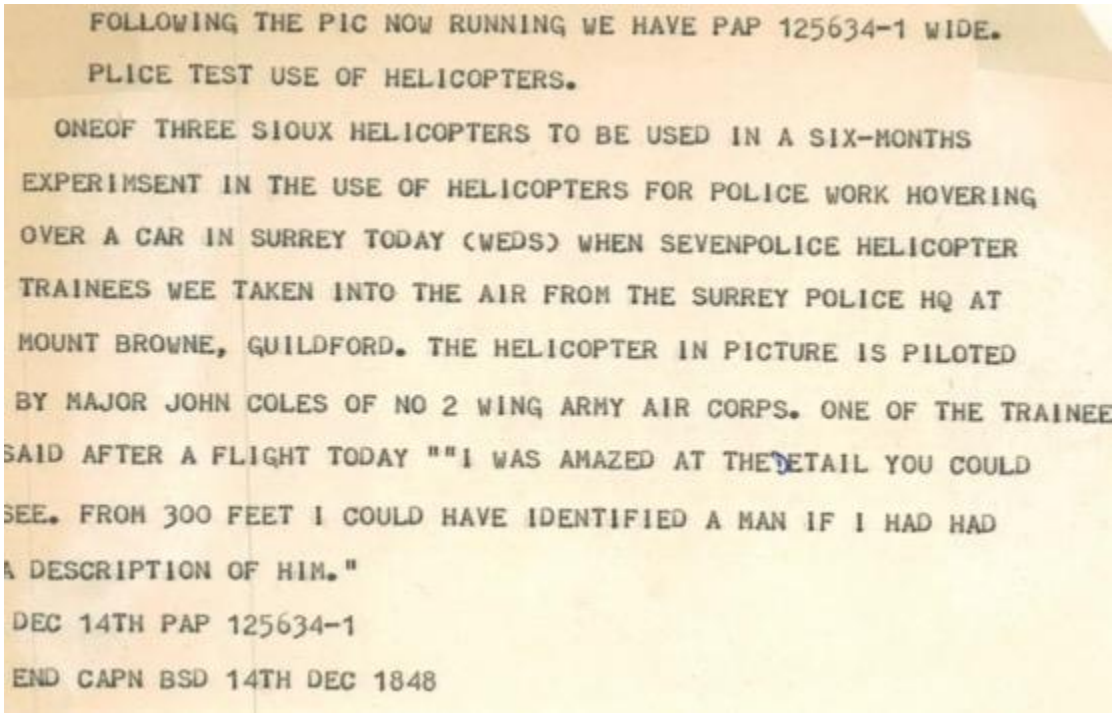
Photograph by Keystone Press Agency.

Bulletin April 67

Bulletin July 67




ARMY



FOLLOWING THE PIC NOW RUNNING WE HAVE PAP 125634-1 WIDE.
PLICE TEST USE OF HELICOPTERS.
ONEOF THREE SIOUX HELICOPTERS TO BE USED IN A SIX-MONTHS EXPERIMSENT IN THE USE OF HELICOPTERS FOR POLICE WORK HOVERING OVER A CAR IN SURREY TODAY (WEDS) WHEN SEVENPOLICE HELICOPTER TRAINEES WEE TAKEN INTO THE AIR FROM THE SURREY POLICE HQ AT MOUNT BROWNE, GUILDFORD. THE HELICOPTER IN PICTURE IS PILOTED BY MAJOR JOHN COLES OF NO 2 WING ARMY AIR CORPS. ONE OF THE TRAINEE SAID AFTER A FLIGHT TODAY ""I WAS AMAZED AT THE DETAIL YOU COULD SEE. FROM 300 FEET I COULD HAVE IDENTIFIED A MAN IF I HAD HAD A DESCRIPTION OF HIM."
DEC 14TH PAP 125634-1
END CAPN BSD 14TH DEC 1848

**The photograph at Mount Browne and the script from the rear of the photo were for sale on Ebay in July 2022.**

# Bagshot Reunion 2006

**From Peter Wickens who organised the reunion, along with a cutting from Camberley News 28 July 2006.**

More than 40 former police officers and their families came together for a reunion at the old police station in London Road, Bagshot on Sunday July 16. The police station, now closed, was opened in 1915 with two houses for the officers. The section is now covered by Lightwater office. (2006)


**Afternoon tea followed a The Pamtiles**

**Back Row Standing: Bob Gee PS613 1979-1983; Rod Lucas PC87 1970-1985, Andy Smith PC50 1973-1976; Bill Osgood PC896 1965-1971; Paul Wiltshire PC1119 1976-1979; Wayne Powell PC1131 1977-1981; Peter Wickens PC762 1963-1964**
**Middle Row Standing; John Collett PC30: Dave Chatt PC151 1960-1985; Charlie Durden PC789 1975-1986; Roy Wakefield PC632 1953-1959; Arthur Crawford PC856 1963-1968; Bob Adcock PC235 1947-1948**
**Seated; Tony Kirton PC443 1956-1957; Vic Copus PC575 1953-1956; Alfred "Jock" Hay PC51 1957-1959; Peter Bailey PC299 1938-1941 aged 89; Don Vivers PC321 !950-1951**

**Dates are when served on Bagshot Section**

# Lightwater Office

## 1986 The Late Inspector Ray Lee

**Thursday 13 March 1986 Inspector Ray Lee Sergeant 319 Dave Timmins, PCs John Collett, Ian Cook, Tim Elliott, Keith Loyal, Charlie Durden and Rod Lucas.**

**1994**

**Pictured L-R**
**Sgt. Alan Rees (RIP), Sgt. Ian Cook, Insp. Jim Parfree, PC Alison Barlow (now T/ACC), Supt. Paul Hickman, Alan Pearse (SPA), CC David Williams, T/Sgt. Christian Duckett, SPA x2, CH/Insp Keith Rogers, SPA x2**

**Lightwater 2006 Surrey Police**

# History of Reigate Borough Police
# 4th Extract

**1894 December 9:** Fraud Redhill: The alleged frauds at Redhill: On Friday at the Reigate Borough Police Court John Keen 36, the absconding secretary of the Redhill Starr-Bowkett

Building Society and the Redhill friendly Loan Society, who had been extradited from Chicagowhere he was arrested by Detective Sergeant Jeffreys of the Reigate Police, was brought up for final examination on the charge of embezzling the money of the last-named society. Althoughthe sums in the warrant only amount to £97 it is alleged that the sum of nearly £900 is involved. Committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court [7]

**1894 William Morant** left the post of Head Constable to be replaced by Philip Woodman from Bradford Police.

**1894 10 December:** Charge of embezzlement: At the Bradford Borough Police Court, Phillip John Woodman the chief constable of the Reigate Borough Police and until recently the chief clerk in the Bradford Borough Police was placed in the dock on charges of embezzling monies – about £200 - from Bradford Corporation. He was found guilty and sentenced to five months **i**n prison. [8]

**1894 December 11: Watch Committee:** In respect of the arrest of Head Constable Woodman the Watch Committee noted that he had admitted to embezzlement and sentenced to five months imprisonment with hard labour. He was dismissed from the combined offices of Head Constable, Inspector of Common Lodging Houses and inspector under the Explosives Act and the Shop Hours Act. Potential successors were to be invited to an interview, John Morton and James Metcalfe, before the committee on the 17th inst., at Redhill. At that meeting the men were interviewed and Metcalfe was appointed on £140 a year with £60 towards a residence payable by weekly instalments. [9]

**1894 December 17 James Metcalfe** became head constable and remained in office until 1930, when on retirement, [10] he was permitted to retain his uniform and bicycle. [11]

[7] 1894 Dec 9 Reynolds Newspapers Extradited Reigate
[8] 1894 10 December: The Times
[9] From British Police History 22 July 2020 admin@british-police-history.uk Michael
[10] "A Short Centenary History of the Surrey Constabulary" Supt Durrant 1951
[11] "A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary" Gerry Middleton Stewart gives 22 December 1894

**1894 suicide Horley:** Station Hotel Horley the coroner opened an inquest into an unknown man, aged about twenty, who committed suicide near Horley on Tuesday after shooting at a cycle agent from Brighton. Walter Flowers of Brighton deposed that on the 31st inst., he was riding a bicycle from Brighton to London and shortly before reaching Horley, about 3 o'clock,in the afternoon he saw the deceased riding one of his machines, a pneumatic tyres safety. Thewitness rode up to him and said, "You have a fine machine there." The deceased made no replyand spurted away. The witness rode after him for about 50 yards and the deceased seeing he was to be overtaken deliberately drew a revolver from his breast pocket and when within threefeet of him, fired at his head. Two of the bullets passed, one over his right shoulder and the other over his head whilst the third penetrated his coat sleeve and grazed his elbow. The witnesswas so startled he fell from his machine and the deceased thinking he had shot him made off. The witness again mounted and calling to people on the road to stop the deceased, again pursued him and got within 60 yards. He called out "You had better drop it" whereupon the deceased got off, took a parcel from the front of the machine, which left the roadway, got overthe stile and walked slowly towards a copse. Other witnesses deposed to pursuing the deceasedwho suddenly stopped and raising the revolver shot himself in the temple. Mr Flowersidentified the deceased as a man he had refused to hire a bicycle to in Brighton. PC Chandler of the Surrey Constabulary said the deceased was dressed in a dark grey suit, straw hat, buttonboots, white collar and tie. There was

nothing likely to lead to identification. In the pockets were a small bundle of cigarettes, a pipe, the ticket for the hire of a bicycle, 9s 7d in silver andbronze, and 63 cartridges. The revolver had been loaded in four chambers, but all were discharged. The jury returned the verdict of "suicide whilst temporarily insane."

**1890s:** By the 1890s the Reigate Police Force had increased in numbers with the growth of the two towns and the Redhill police station had become too small for the increased size of the force and extra responsibilities, such as weights and measures, something not missed by HM Inspector of police who in a report stated it was inadequate, and that the police force thereforewas rendered inefficient. The significance of this was that the withholding of a certificate of efficiency would lose the Council the £1,750 grant it received annually from the Home Office for the upkeep of the force. The Council began to consider erecting Municipal Buildings that would incorporate a police station and law court. [12]

**1895 May 17: Croydon Observer:** Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Redhill Men's Own played at Buckhurst, Redhill resulted in a win for the police on the first innings by three runs.

**1895 May 24: Croydon Advertiser:** Reigate Borough Police v Reigate Post Office, played onTuesday on the ground of Reigate Priory C.C. was won by the Post Office by 67 runs on the first innings. Frost and Thorpe batted and bowled well for the winners, the latter carrying out his bat for 53 runs, having been missed from a catch when he had scored two. Insp King and PC's Watson and Skeggs batted in good form in the second innings of the police, the latter carrying out his bat for a well hit 62.

**1895 June 7: Croydon Observer:** Cricket- Redhill Tradesmen v Reigate Borough Police- This match was played on Earlswood Common on June 5th and ended in a win for the tradesmenby 96 runs on the first innings.

**1895 June 21: Croydon Advertiser:** Cricket Reigate Borough Police v Leigh United C.C., played At Leigh on Wednesday was won on the first innings by the police by 9 runs.

**1895 June 28: Croydon Observer:** Cricket- Reigate Borough Police v Tunbridge Wells Borough Police - played at Tunbridge Wells on June 25th, the Reigate Police winning an enjoyable game on the first innings by 32 runs. Taylor and Watson bowled well for the winners.

**1895 July 12: Surrey Mirror:** Cricket – Reigate Post Office v Reigate Borough Police, playedat Reigate on Thursday resulted in a win for the police on the first innings by 32 runs.

[12] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

**1895 July 12: Surrey Mirror:** Reigate and Redhill **Amateur Athletics Sports** was held on the Priory Cricket Club Ground included a race of once round the course for the Borough Policein uniform. To see a number of constables rushing round the course in the orthodox "stop thief"style was altogether too much for the gravity of the spectators. The starters were PC'S Howlett,Charlick, Greenhill and Perry and it was a close contest with Howlett just scrambling home infront of Charlick.

**1895 July 26: Croydon Advertiser:** Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Eastbourne BoroughPolice played at Eastbourne was won on the first innings by Reigate Borough Police by 73 runs. For the winners, PC's Watson and Skeggs played well, putting on 100 runs in 35 minutes,the former making 53 and the latter 78. For the losers PS Tugwell and PC's Pratt and North played well in the first innings also PS Ward and PC Hollands in the second innings. The bowling of Skeggs and Taylor for the winners was exceptionally effective, Skeggs taking ninewickets and Taylor seven.

**1895 August 7: Surrey Mirror:** Cricket – Holmthorpe (Out Team) v Reigate Borough police played at Meadvale resulted in a win for the Borough Police by 15 runs. The Holmthorpe teamwas weak owing to the chief players being engaged at home. Ralph and Watson batted well forthe police and W Ford, Upfold jun., and F Chatfield did best for the Holmthorpe team. Chatfieldsenior secured seven wickets and Taylor for the police bowled six.

**1895 Croydon Observer – several dates during July and August** – Our Cricket Column-The Editor of the Surrey Gazette begs to intimate to the secretaries of local clubs that he will give three prizes at the end of the cricket season to those clubs who send in the greatest numberof reports of local matches. Score sheets will be supplied gratis to all those clubs wishing to compete, and the application for a supply of score sheets, enclosing a card of fixtures will be taken as an intention to compete. It must however be understood that reports in order to be inserted in the current weeks issue must reach the office not later than Wednesday night. Lastyear the first prize was won by Horley C.C., the second by Redhill Police C.C. and the third prize by Kingswood C.C. and the secretaries of these clubs were presented with a cricket bat, a set of stumps and a match ball respectively.

**1895 August 9: Surrey Mirror**: Cricket- On Wednesday last the Borough Police played a match on the Reigate Hill Ground with the London Central Meat Market Police and were defeated by 21 runs owing in no small degree to the weather. The Londoners went in first andbatting on a good wicket totalled 89. Then the rain fell, and the borough men were only able toput together 68. Towards this total PC Leonard contributed 38, Acting Sgt Taylor 12 and PC Skeggs 11. In the bowling department PC Skeggs and Acting Sgt Taylor for the home team and J A Souza for the visitors were in good form. In a second innings the Central Meat MarketPolice made 35 for four wickets. At the luncheon pleasure was expressed at being able to visitReigate and the men looked forward to the match with pleasure, hoping the teams would continue to meet from year to year.

**1895 August 23: Croydon Observer:** Cricket - The cricket match between the Reigate Borough Police and the Black Crown Minstrels arranged for the benefit of the Provincial Police Orphanage at Gatton Point, aided by splendid weather was an undoubted success, a large number of ladies and gentlemen showed their sympathy with the object of the match by personal patronage, over 2,000 passing into the enclosure (1.208 by ticket ant the rest by payment).

To many the name and object of the excellent institution which is now firmly established in the district is quite new, as we who know something of the inestimable value of the Metropolitan Police Orphanage and the benefits it has conferred on the fatherless children of London police cannot speak too highly of or more urgently recommended three claims of a similar home for the children of the provincial police. Those who were present on Wednesday at the Priory Ground, or who purchased tickets will have the satisfaction of at least knowing that they assisted in helping on a work highly deserving of everyone's sympathy and support.

Miss C Gurney who has and does take an active interest in the police, not only of this country but the whole world some time ago founded at West Brighton the benevolent institution whichis now transferred to Redhill, and which through the kindness of Miss Bell has been purchasedoutright. At present there are 23 children enjoying its benefits, 16 boys and 7girls, 10 of whomhave lost both parents. Besides clothing and maintenance their education is being well lookedafter and we believe arrangements have been made for those who are able to go to attend St Mathew's schools. We are sure one and all will welcome in our midst such a much-needed institution and what more give it our earnest and liberal support.

Much praise is due to the Reigate Borough Police for their efforts on behalf of the home. Manyof those who worked hard at cricket gave up their rest time and went on duty all night afterwards, and moreover went down to Eastbourne on the Mayor's annual outing after comingoff duty in the morning. We are glad to hear that a substantial amount has been realized as theresult of the match.

The Black Crown Minstrels are also much to be commended for the part they took in the 'matchof the season. Both the Police and Minstrels have on previous occasions exerted themselves for local charities and last year as a result of a similar match a very handsome sum was handedover to St Anne's Asylum.

**1895 September 5: Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser:** Cricket - A match played on Wednesday of last week on the Redhill Cricket Ground Earlswood between Reigate Borough Police and Redhill tradesmen (captained by Mr. C E Gatland) resulted in a draw.

**1895 September 6: Surrey Mirror:** Cricket-The Borough Police at Cricket - A match was played between the Borough Police and Leigh United at Reigate Heath on Wednesday and resulted for a win for the police on the first innings by 30 runs. The police made 75 in their firstinnings, PC Watson contributing 41 and in their second were all got out for 12. Leigh

United put together 45 in their first innings G Smith being top scorer with 17, and in their second venture made 29 for six wickets

**1895 September 6: Surrey Mirror:** Cricket match to be played Thursday 12 September - Reigate Borough Police v Eastbourne Borough Police at Redhill.
**1895 September 20: Croydon Advertiser** reported the sum of £28 had been handed over to the Provincial Police Orphanage at Redhill by the treasurer (Insp King) as the net result of thecricket match.

**1896:** A summary execution was carried out at Redhill Police Station when PC Skeggs shot dead a dog suspected of having rabies. [13]

**1897 Reigate:** A **constable was wanted for theft** of money from the chief constable but ran to Naples where he was detained, and an inspector went from Reigate to bring him back.[14]

**1899:** The establishment of the force had reached one head constable, two inspectors, four sergeants and twenty-nine constables. The average height was recorded as 5' 10" with an average age of thirty-three. [15]

**1899 September 15: Croydon Observer:** Local Cricket- Reigate Borough Police v Reigate Fire Brigade - These teams met on Saturday last by kind invitation of J Powell Esq J.P. at his residence, Ivanhoe, Wray Pak, Reigate, when after a most enjoyable game the police won by 39 runs. For the firemen Prince and Powell batted and bowled well and for the police PC Watson in his old style batted well for 47 runs and PS Taylor taking seven wickets for 20 runs.The score being Fire Brigade 69 runs and Police 108. After the match both teams enjoyed an excellent supper given by Mr. Powell at his residence.

**1899 December 31: Annual Report** of the Chief Constable to the Right Worshipful Mayor and the members of the Watch Committee of the Borough of Reigate; sixth report from CC James Metcalfe:

> The Borough Police proceeded against 471 men and 47 females
> **Crimes committed** 59 an increase of 9 with 33 men and two females apprehended for offencesincluding burglary and housebreaking. Property to the estimated value alleged to have been stolen or obtained by fraud £10116s a decrease of £55 17s 4d; recovered £31 7s 9 ½ d and increase of £10 17s 10 ½ d [16]
> **Doors and windows** found insecure 277
> **Drunkenness** 122 prosecuted an increase of 33

[13] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[14] Durrant page 71
[15] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[16] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899

Other duties included Licensed Premises; Explosives Acts stores and licenses 12 with 5 prosecutions; Petroleum Acts 10 samples taken and tested; Shop Hours Act 38 visits; Sweeps and Pedlars with 3 sweeps licensed and 37 pedlars; Army Acts 114 men billeted in the Borough;Inquests 25 reports to the Coroner, 7 post mortems with 22 inquests; accidents 36 people injured of which 19 were conveyed in police hand ambulance; street lamps – 183 needed attention of which 72 were not lit or extinguished. [17]

Poor Law Acts: tickets issued to persons for admission to the casual ward of the Union 6514 areduction of 833 over 1898. [18]

Common Lodging Houses: There are four with room for 77 people to be accommodated. [19]

Lost and Found property: value £1283 15s 3d found of which £1021 returned to the owner[20]

Stray Dogs: 117 a decrease of 48

Weights and measures: 1297 weights and 170 scales and 2313 measures were verified andstamped.

Diseases of Animals Act activity brought an income of £53.12.11

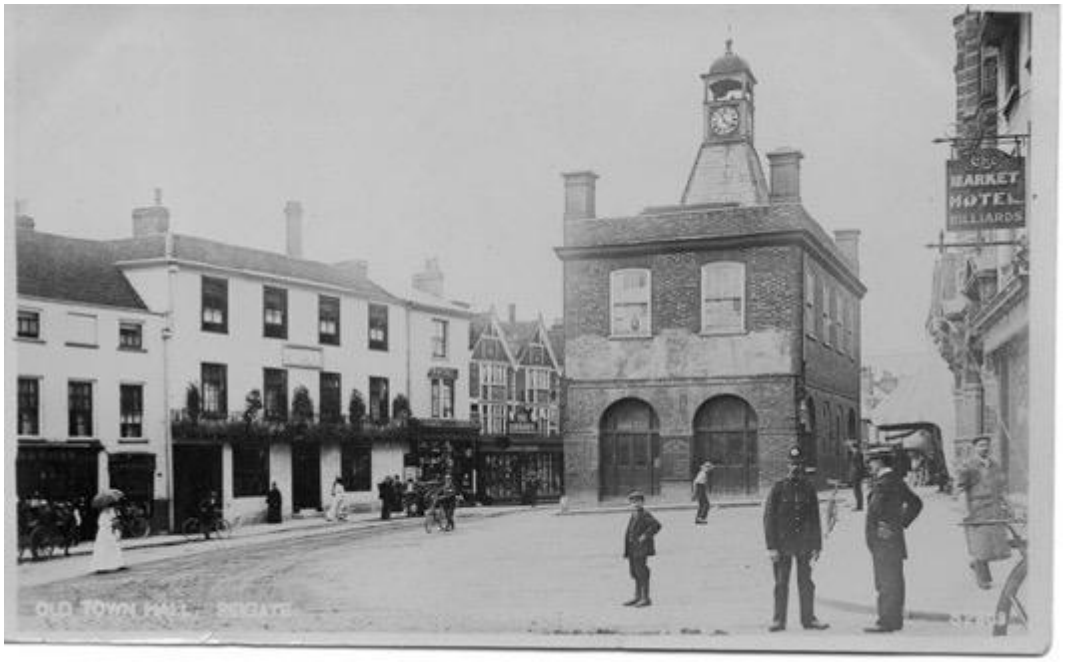
Ambulance: 26 members of the Reigate Borough Police have been awarded certificates by the St John Ambulance Society [21]

Sickness 197 days a reduction of 9 [22]

**1899 variations in police personnel:** I inspector advanced from 1st to 2nd grade; 1 constable 6-7th grade; 1 constable 5-6th grade; 6 constables 1-2nd grade; I constable pensioned; 3 constables resigned; 1 constable dismissed. [23]

**1899 average age** of the force 33 2/3 years, average height 5 feet 10 3/8 inches, average length dservice 11 ½ years average weekly pay £1 10s 4d.[24]

[17] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899
[18] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899
[19] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899
[20] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899
[21] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899
[22] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899
[23] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899
[24] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899




**1899:** 124 English and Welsh boroughs possessed independent police forces of which 61 werecounty boroughs. [25]**1899 total cost of the force** for a year to 25 March 1899 £3,060 11s. 4d. [26]

**1899 statistics from Reigate Borough Police**

Prosecutions 423 men 255 female
Crimes 54
Apprehended 36 men and 5 females
Non-indictable offences 140
Drunkenness 96

[25] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 394
[26] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899

Explosive Act premises 13

Petroleum Act: 10 licenses, 10 samples taken Sweeps/pedlars: 2 sweeps and 50 pedlars licensed Inquests: 32 sudden deaths, 10 postmortems 27 inquests
Accidents: 38
Streetlamps requiring attention 190Poor Law applicants 6355
Lodging houses 4 where 75 can be accommodated
Lost and Found: £1361 73 d with £1115 13s 2d claimed
Weights and measures: 892 weights, 112 scales and 1985 measures checked
Refused charges: 9
Arrests for other forces 5
Enquiries for other forces and government departments 791Lost children 5
Sickness 150 days
Runaway horses: 4 officers involved and two commended
Insecurities found by police 424
The cost of the force £3181 3.0 [27]

**1900:** At the turn of the century there were two inspectors, four sergeants and twenty-eight constables. Municipal Buildings at Castlefield were built at Reigate and made provision for a brand-new police headquarters station and cells in the basement with stairs leading to the court (now the council chamber) on the first floor. There was also a new house next door for the Head Constable. The Reigate station was sold and the Redhill station, although no longer the force HQ, remained as the local station. Accommodation at the new Reigate building was also to eventually become too small as the size of both force and council increased steadily, and the Reigate police presence was later moved to a house called Cherchefelle in Chart Lane.

[27] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

**Reigate about 1900**

**Believed to be a Reigate Borough Police officer (From Dr Peter Kennison)**

**1900 April 27: Surrey Mirror: Footbal**l- Redhill Tradesmen v Borough Police- This match was played on the Sports Ground on Wednesday afternoon and a very good game resulted in a win for "members of the force" by three goals to nil. The game started in a rather even fashion with both sides getting dangerously near the goal. Although East was playing back for the tradesmen, he took up duties of a forward and when he got possession of the ball it required all the efforts of the policemen to check his vigorous rushes. It is a wonder he did not score. As time went on, the policemen got the upper hand and finally Arnold netted the ball. Up to half time nothing more had occurred. On resuming the play became much faster and on several occasions the tradesmen's forwards got very near to the goal, but they generally found that the constables in the back division were just big enough to get in their way. At length the "coppers" broke away and with a spirited dash the ball was rushed into the net. Not long after the tradesmen missed a beautiful chance, Lyle taking the ball right into the goal mouth. The

constables however, broke away after a sharp scrimmage and the ball being taken to the other end was netted by Skeggs. No more goals being scored.

**1900 June 29: Surrey Gazette: The Police at Cricket-** Several members of Reigate Borough Police force spent an enjoyable time on Tuesday at Tunbridge Wells, whither they had proceeded with the express purpose of competing with Tunbridge Wells police in a friendly game of cricket. Runs did not appear to be the order of the day, probably the very bad conditionof the cricket ground where the match was played had something to do with this, at any rate the visitors were successful in piling up 11 runs in the first innings. The Wells force scored 54.In the second innings Reigate complied 64 runs for four wickets. Of these PC Watson made 34, PC Good 17 and PC Arnold 14. For the home team Blackford took six wickets for three runs. An excellent luncheon was provided in the pavilion at half time.

**1900 July 27: Surrey Gazette:** Reigate Firemen and **Police at Cricket**- On the beautiful grounds of Ivanhoe, Reigate kindly placed at their disposal by Mr James Powell J P the ReigateBorough Police met members of Reigate Fire Brigade in a friendly game of cricket on Tuesdayafternoon last. The firemen were captained by Mr. M Crust while Insp Lee was at the head of the police. Stumps were pitched shortly after the toss and Captain Crust having won the toss,the firemen took the field. The firemen owing to the remarkable batting of Prince were successful in winning, a feat which they have never before accomplished since they first playedthe police some six years ago. Prince compiled no less than 91 runs while the other men madethe total up to 132. PC'S Skeggs, Leonard and Butt did the bowling and Leonard and Bacon were the most fortunate for the men in blue, the former with 44 runs and the latter 15. At half time tea was served on the terrace which was greatly appreciated.

**1900 August 18: Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser: Cricket** - Reigate Borough Police vTunbridge Wells Borough Police- The Tunbridge Wells Borough Police journeyed to Redhill on Tuesday in order to play a return match with Reigate Borough Police. The match at Meadvale Cricket Ground resulted in a conclusive win for the visitors. The weather being beautifully fine, the day proved a most enjoyable one. Sgt Taylor captained the Reigate team and Insp Greenwood Tunbridge Wells. Reigate won the toss and went in first making 77 runs,PC Watson contributing 43 and PC Dobney 12.

When Tunbridge Wells went in it did not look at first as though they were going to do much, for two wickets were soon down for nine runs, but then PC Sanders went in and as he came outat the end of the innings 'not out' and had made 80, making it apparent to the Reigate men thatthey had been beaten single handed. PC Watson did good service for Reigate with the ball, taking five wickets for 47 runs. At the interval an excellent lunch was provided at the Old OakInn where Mr. J Metcalfe, Chief Constable of Reigate said he hoped they would have the pleasure of meeting the visitors on many future occasions for such meetings were really of considerable importance, as they tended to cultivate a friendly feeling between forces and the public reaped the benefit in a variety of ways which they could not always see. The life of a policeman was monotonous especially in a small town where there were

not many recreations or little outings like that which they were now enjoying in the salubrious atmosphere of Reigate, and which must have a beneficial effect

**1901 January 4: Croydon Observer: Football** in Reigate and Redhill - Reigate Borough Police v Chart Wanderers – these teams met on Wednesday when the latter won two goals to nil.

**1901 February 22 Surrey Mirror: Police at Football** The borough police football team engaged the Redhill Wednesday Reserves on Wednesday afternoon and a good game resultedin victory for the police by three goals to one. The goals were kicked by PCs Howlett, Shaw, and Bullimore. The duties of referee were efficiently performed by PC Bacon.

**1901 May 24: Kent and Sussex Courier:** Tunbridge Wells Police v Reigate Police – **Cricket** - A match between these two teams was played at Redhill on Tuesday when the Tunbridge Wells team were easy victors.

**1901 April 30: Sussex Agricultural Express:** The Provincial Police Orphanage, Redhill- Benefit **Concert and Football** Match - The members of Reigate Borough Police Force are to beheartily congratulated upon the success attending their laudable efforts to assist the funds of the Provincial Police Orphanage at Redhill, which is about to be removed to larger and more commodious premises in London Road, which have been secured at a considerable cost. Witha desire commendable in itself to do something to benefit the finances of a home doing such splendid and beneficial work in their midst the members of the Borough Force determined to organize a concert and appeal to the general public for their support.

In addition to this, a costume football match was arranged to take place in the afternoon at theSports Ground, the Lone Star Minstrels having kindly consented to enter into friendly rivalry with the gentlemen in blue. The day was beautifully fine, and a capital attendance was treatedto the spectacle of football as it should not be played. The police wore their uniform and the minstrels in costume were provocative of great mirth. Instead of their ardour abating as the game proceeded, it grew in proportion to their numbers, there being not less than 15 ludicrouslyattired minstrels on the field at the close. All the laws of football were set at defiance. At one moment the ball was collared, the next it was a player and the whistle of the referee was continuously on the "tootle" for some infringement of the rules of the game. Each side scored a goal and what was lacking in science was more than compensated for by the fun the game provided, and it was this the spectators went to see.
A concert held in the evening at the Market Hall was an undeniable success

**1901 June 25: Horsham, Petworth, Midhurst and Steyning Express: Police at Cricket**- Interesting match at Redhill- The members of Redhill Police Force were seen in their best lighton Tuesday when they fraternized with their brethren of the West Sussex Constabulary, whomthey met in friendly rivalry at the national game of cricket on Redhill Sports Ground. The townhas good reason to congratulate itself upon the efficiency and excellence, as a

body, of our local guardians of the peace, who in the many and varied parts they have to play in the dischargeof their onerous duties of their office have earned nothing but the highest encomiums of their fellow townsmen.

"Robert", as an individual has a warm and friendly heart beating under his blue serge tunic andmoderation, keen direction and ripened judgement are among the leading attributes that makehim a welcome and respected figure in any circle or gathering in the borough. Always alert keen in the discharge of the duty of the moment, ready and willing to render first aid if required,the first to fearlessly risk life and limb in stopping the runaway or tenderly tending the injuredvictim of the precocious, unruly quadruped, he wins alike the admiration and praise of all he isbrought into contact. Taken collectively the Reigate Borough Police Force could not be beatenin the kingdom, possessing as it does to an abnormal degree these excellent qualities which have been associated with it from inception.

At play as well as work "Robert" is a genial and happy fellow, and although not basking in thesunshine of success on Tuesday, he nevertheless strongly exemplified the happy words of the Head Constable who declared the object of these social reunions is not so much to win matchesas to inculcate a spirit of good feeling between various constabularies. The West Sussex Policeproved themselves every whit as genial a body of men as their entertainers and rather better cricketers, although perhaps the locals desired to carry their principles of hospitality to such anextent as not to sallow their visitors to appear at a disadvantage. After luncheon at the WarwickHotel play was resumed Taylor who captured five wickets for 36 runs trundled successfully forthe locals who were outplayed however by their powerful rivals at all stages of the game.

**1901 July 12: Surrey Mirror: Police and Fire Brigade at Cricket** - On Wednesday the ReigateBorough Police engaged the members of Reigate Borough Fire Brigade at cricket in the pleasure grounds attached to Ivanhoe, Reigate, the residence of Mr. J Powell J.P., a very pleasant game resulted in a win for the police. In the interval the members of the tams with their wives and children were entertained to tea.

**1901 August 16: Sussex Agricultural Express: Police at cricket** - The Reigate Borough Policespent an enjoyable time on the Reigate Hill Cricket Ground on Wednesday last on the occasion of a match between the Borough Police Cricket Club and the London Central MarketsConstables and Staff Cricket Club. The beautiful ground was kindly place at their disposal byMr. T H G Welsh, the hon secretary. This match being about the thirteenth that had been held between these teams and there is very little difference between the number of wins each has obtained. In the first innings the visitors won easily by 62 runs, however in the second the homesters made a grand score of 115, to which Inspector Lee and Detective Skeggs contributed38 and 22 respectively. The pick of the visiting team was Sargeant and his score of 45 includeda six. At the interval the teams sat down to an excellent lunch provided by Messrs. G l Lucas and Sons of Reigate, whose catering gave general satisfaction.

**1901 August 30: Surrey Mirror: Cricket:** Reigate Borough Police v Mr. A Rumble's XI - This match played on the Sports Ground resulted in a victory for the police by 20 runs. For the police PC Skeggs was the principal scorer his total being 43, 36 of which he made in his first ten hits. Healso caused the downfall of eight of the Tradesmen's wickets. P C Leonard also played well but was unfortunately run out when his score was at 25. For the Townsmen Watts did well withboth bat and ball, but Cooper was slightly more successful with the bat scoring 26. A wish wasexpressed by many present that next year the Redhill Tradesmen v Borough Police matches should be revived. About twelve or fifteen years ago these two games were among the principalevents of the summer and it is hoped they may again become annual fixtures.

**1901 September 21: Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser:** Reigate Borough Police at **Cricket** - The Reigate Borough Police Athletic Club brought a successful season to an end on Tuesday at the Sports Ground, when a team made of members of the force with more than tenyears' service played a game of cricket against a team with less than ten years' service. Thoughthere had been heavy rainfall during the previous evening and night, the pitch was in a fairly good condition and a good game resulted. The "crocks" gained an easy victory over their moreyouthful comrades knocking up a score of 94 against 41. After the game an excellent tea was provided in the pavilion and tobacco and cigars were distributed to the men by the Head Constable and later an exciting race took place between PC Watson, carrying PS Taylor on hisback and PC Arnold, the former having to run 50 yards and the latter 100, Arnold only just managing to win. A game of quoits was also played in which the Head Constable took part.

**1901 November 15:** Reigate, in consequence of the action of the police in trying to put down too fast riding has been acted upon to some extent. The great majority of **cyclists** condemns scorching and admits there are cases of very reckless riding by people whose sole idea of enjoyment on the wheel is to see how many miles an hour they can cover. Surrey police in theiranxiety to procure convictions haul in the innocent with the guilty, and the magistrates in the Reigate district are accused of invariably taking the view of the police against that ofindependent witnesses on the question of speed. The wide berth already given to Reigate by some cyclists and the fear that the boycott may spread is causing so much anxiety to the tradespeople who benefit by the large number of cyclists who visit the town and they have made an appeal to the mayor to use his influence to stop the defective system which has been in vogue. [28]

**1902 January 25: Sussex Agricultural Express: Recreation for the Police** - It is often said with perfect justice, that a policeman's life is not a happy one, and the difficulty experienced by many forces in attracting men for enrolment is amply attested to by the wide field from which men are drawn. People are beginning more and more to recognize the good qualities of"the man in blue" and to increasingly regard him as a defender of the police and a custodian oftheir property, rather than as a mere medium for bringing culprits to justice.

[28] 1901 15 November: The Scotsman

The members of Reigate Borough Police Force are deservedly popular in the town and as a body of men discharge the onerous duties which devolve upon them with good temper and efficiency. A practical illustration of the good wishes toward them of a not unimportant sectionof the community has just been furnished by the opening off a handsome billiard room at the new Municipal Building. The cost of the table has been defrayed by a number of ladies and gentlemen who take a keen and kindly interest in the force., and it should afford many hours of innocent amusement to the members and act as a constant reminder of the good feeling which is entertained towards them by the residents of the borough. There is a splendidly equipped library at the head office, and this is well patronized by the men.

They serve the town ungrudgingly and well and are deserving of the best efforts that can be made to secure their recreation, both of body and mind. It is exceedingly rare for any little indiscretion to be made and when this does occur it is generally of so trivial a character that no-good purpose can possibly be served by bringing it into the light of day.

**1902 July 18 Surrey Mirror:** Reigate Borough Police Cricket Club - Enjoyable match with Brighton Men - Defeat of the Reigate men - If the Reigate Borough Police **Cricket Club** is notthe champion club it was a good few years ago, it can still turn out a good team who can play a good game of cricket as was evident on Tuesday at the Priory Ground when an eleven tried conclusions with representatives of the Brighton Police Athletic Club. Not many years ago thename of Reigate in the police cricketing world was a name to be respected, if not feared but since then the club has somewhat deteriorated from the fact that the once "good young 'uns" are a little stiff and stale. However, do not let it be understood for one moment that the club ison its last legs or that the same amount of interest is not taken in the game as of yore, for suchis not the case. Mr. Metcalfe, the popular Chief Constable, is a strong believer in his men indulging in healthy exercise and affords members of the force every possible opportunity of participating in games beneficial to body and mind.

Although the worthy chief does not take part in the national summer pastime, he, like many more takes a great interest in watching others striving for supremacy on the cricket field. At the match on Tuesday although the homesters lost they were in no way disgraced. A couple of mistakes in the field were responsible for their downfall, but the result was only another illustration of the uncertainty of cricket. It also must not be forgotten that Chief Constable Gentle of Brighton had over 130 men to choose from while Mr. Metcalfe had about 40 and that the Brighton men have had considerable practice this year while this was the first match for Reigate.so to lose by 23 runs is surely an indication that there is "life in the old dog yet". The adjournment for lunch was at the Grapes Hotel.

**1902 August 9 West Sussex County Times:** West Sussex Constabulary v Reigate Borough Police-This match was played on the Horsham **Cricket** Ground on Wednesday and resulted in a win for the Constabulary by eight wickets. Frequent showers spoiled the fixture. Reigate batted first and were all out at the luncheon interval for 64, PC Dean taking full advantage of

the wicket. A restart was delayed by heavy showers but during a temporary improvement the Constabulary won easily.

**1902 December 31** Annual Report to the Watch Committee from James Metcalfe:

A large fire in the premises of a furniture business – two killed

Murder: a female sentenced to death for murder by strangulation [29]

**1902** the force moved its headquarters to Reigate

**To be continued**

# Surrey Constabulary Events and Achievements in Athletics - Part 1

**Michael Wayland MBE July 2022**

Over the years, there have been some quite outstanding athletics achievements, adventures and performances, by members of the Surrey Constabulary.

It is felt that these should be part of the Surrey Constabulary historical record, but in looking back, it is only possible to report on those that were either recorded or remain in the memories of members. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and apologies are extended to those athletes not included. Below please find brief details of some individual's achievements. Further on more detail is provided where it has been available

On many occasions it has not been possible to provide dates and so this should be read with his in mind.

**The 1948 Summer Olympic Games Torch Relay**

The late former Chief Superintendent Ken Botting, at the time a member of Dorking St Paul's Athletics Club, was honoured by being selected as one of the 22 athletes to carry the Olympic Torch in a relay from Dover to the Wembley Arena where the 1948 Olympics were to take place.

On Thursday 29th July, Ken, pictured below, completed his leg of the relay, by running from West Hill, Woking to Crossway Cottage Bisley, with two motorcycle police escorts. Each relay

[29] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1902

runner was given their own torch to carry and they were allowed to keep it as a memento afterwards

Ken presented his torch to the Surrey Constabulary, and it was mounted on a beautiful wooden shield. This became the Surrey Constabulary Divisional Cross-Country trophy which was competed for annually by Divisional teams.

Below in alphabetical order, are details of the Surrey Constabulary athletes' who represented the Police Athletic Association or British Police, won national, regional or force titles, or set Surrey Constabulary records.

**Bryon Alden:** Bryon was a late comer to running having played rugby until his late thirties. His development from then into cross country, marathons and long-distance running, resulted in him setting a quite exceptional Surrey Constabulary O/40 Veterans marathon record of 3 hours 1 minute and 45 seconds in the Guildford Marathon.

In April 1984 at the Sheerwater Track, Woking, he completed a 24-hour charity run covering an astonishing 110 miles!

Brian, in his fifties, was later to feature in 1992, with Derek Short, Chris Farmer and Mick Wayland, as a member of the Surrey Constabulary 0/40 Veterans team (with an average team age of 52 years!) winning The Snowdonia Seven Peaks race, hosted by The North Wales Constabulary. This was an event over 21 miles, with 14000' of ascent and descent of seven mountains, the final one being Snowdon

**Roger Bean:** Roger Bean joined the Surrey Constabulary in 1969 from the Army and was an exceptional athlete. The year before joining Surrey and posted to Caterham, he represented Great Britain at the 1968 Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble. He competed in the Biathlon event (cross country skiing and shooting) finishing in a remarkable 18th place – with 37 countries participating. Roger transferred to Cambridge Constabulary in 1973 and at one point was ranked 9th amongst UK athletes in the steeplechase. He was listed in the 1976 pre-Olympic Squad as a result of his 8min 38sec 3rd place in the European Police Champs in Berlin. He competed for the national police team on track/road and x/country for 4 years and won the first Police marathon held at Milton Keynes in 1977, in 2 hr 31m. Roger is seen here running in the PAA Track and Field Championships 5,000 metres.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

SPORT

The Police Athletic Association cross-country team of Roger Bean (Reigate - Surrey), Ernie Pomfret (Durham), Phil Veitch and Phil Barker (Teeside), David and Peter Lem (Leics/Rutland) and Mick Tebbut (Metro under the leadership of Mr. Edward Post (Deputy Chief Constable), and Sgt. Andy Norman (Metro) team Manager, left this country on 13th March to compete in the European Police cross country championships which took place on 15th March in Fontainebleau, France.

They arrived the following day at the French National Police Sports Centre at Cannes-Ecluse. The race began at 9.15am our time. The course was over 9,296 metres and it was preceded by an impressive ceremony attended by a great number of Police, military and political leaders and by the French National Police Band which played the anthems of the competing countries.

Weather conditions were hot. Ernie Pomfret went straight into the lead and after the first lap he had a 30-metre lead with David Lemm running well in fourth place. However at the end of the second lap Ernie dropped back to fourth. David Lem dropped back to ninth. The rest of the British runners were in the centre of the field which was by then well spread out.

The final result was a win for France with 25 points, West Germany 28, Great Britain 45, Belgium 86, and Sweden did not finish with a scoring team.

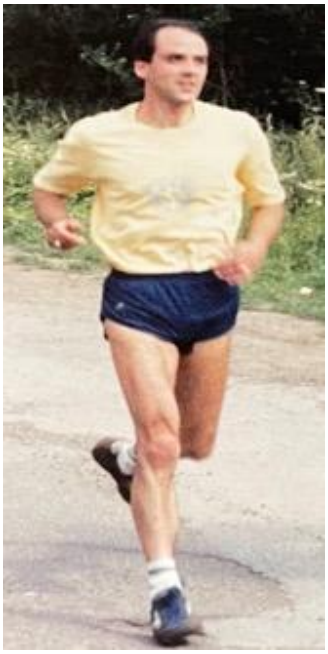
Roger Bean (centre) competing in this years PAA European Championships

Every British runner competed extremely well and finished in the following positions: 2.Pomfret 28.24: 9.D.Lemm 28.59: 16.Bean 29.53: 18.Barker 29.58: 20.Tebbutt 30.10: 22.Veitch 30.37: 25.P.Lemm 30.47.

The British Team was credited with being the smartest, most punctual, most courteous, and the only team which turned out in full at all the supporting functions.

**Diane Bone:** Diane won the Surrey Constabulary Inter- Divisional Cross Country title in 1975.

**Richard Bridgman:** Richard joined the Surrey Constabulary on transfer from Wiltshire, the year after he won the Police National Cross Country, held at Blackburn. He went on to show also what a talented track and road runner he was as well, winning the Police National 3000 metres steeplechase title and also being part of a team that won the City of London Police Road Relay



**Kerry Choate:** Kerry won the Surrey Constabulary Inter-Divisional title in 1980 and 1981

**Harry Cox – as written by his son Alaistair:** Sergeant Harry Cox was born in Dorking in 1932, being one of nine children. Harry, like the majority of his siblings was very tall, standing 6ft 4inches tall and in his prime weighing in at nearly 19 stones. Harry was a natural sportsman, a junior and senior County Amateur Athletic Association's shot-put champion, a discus, javelin and hammer thrower, high jumper and 880 yards runner. Harry represented the former Dorking and St Pauls Athletics club, ironically the same club as Ken Botting above and was well known locally.

On his 18th[h] birthday Harry joined the Navy and served in a number of roles for seven years. Upon discharge in 1957 he joined Surrey Police and married Maureen later in the year. During his time in the Navy, Harry was permitted shore leave to compete in the National and County AAA championships and in 1954 he was the Surrey County AAA champion putting the shot a distance of 44 feet 2 inches, only some 3 feet off of the British record. He had a natural talent for putting the shot and although the Royal Navy was happy for him to compete in the Inter Services events, shore leave and any form of training regime was made difficult for him. After World War Two the country was still on high alert with the Cold War and athletics was viewed as a luxury, certainly not a priority.

Like his brother George Harry became a heavyweight boxer for the Navy. I am sure being on the wrong end of one of his punches must have been a rather shocking experience. A press cutting sadly lost, was written by a Sunday Telegraph reporter who witnessed him compete in a National AAA event dressed in his full Royal Navy uniform. This was due to him being granted shore leave late, so he threw once, won the event then returned on the train to Portsmouth naval base!

Upon joining the police Harry continued to compete where he could in the Police Athletic Association calendar, eventually retiring from competition in 1972 to take up golf. Indeed, at the 1972 South East Region PAA event he finished 3rd[d] in both the shot and discus events some 25 years after he first won an award at Dorking. Alaistair recalls his father being saddened to see the onset of drugs abuse in athletics, when national and world records increased significantly, effectively precluding clean amateur competitors. Harry's shot putting achievements below are taken from Surrey County Athletic records:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 953 | Sen Men | 43ft 6½in (13.27m) | Motspur Park | 30/05/1953 |
| 1954 | Sen Men | 43ft 3in (13.18m) | White City | 05/06/1954 |
| 1957 | Sen Men | 46ft 10in (14.27m) | | 29/05/1957 |
| 1958 | Sen Men | 43ft 0in (13.10m) | | 03/05/1958 |
| 1959 | Sen Men | 46ft 2in (14.07m) | | 01/06/1959 |
| 1960 | Sen Men | 44ft 11½in (13.70m) | Dorking | 30/07/1960 |
| 1961 | Sen Men | 45ft 1in (13.74m) | | 27/05/1961 |
| 1962 | Sen Men | 44ft 1½in (13.44m) | Dorking | 04/08/1962 |
| 1963 | Sen Men | 43ft 11in (13.38m) | Dorking | 03/08/1963 |
| 1964 | Sen Men | 43ft 5¾in (13.25m) | Motspur Pk | 30/05/1964 |
| 1965 | Sen Men | 43ft 2¾in (13.17m) | Dorking | 07/06/1965 |
| 1968 | Sen Men | 44ft 1in (13.43m) | | 21/05/1968 |

**Mark Daughters:** Mark was a talented and tough competitor, with a unique and remarkable record of success for the Surrey Constabulary, winning the Inter Divisional Cross Country Championship in 1980, 1981, 1982, 1986 and 1987 and representing the Police Athletic Association and the British Police.

He won South East Police Cross Country League races during 1980 to 1983 and was the individual Champion in 1983. His finest race at the National Police Cross Country was in 1981 at Blackburn where he finished in an excellent second place.

Mark was a member of the team that won the Eric Humphreys Shield Cross Country hosted by the Northampton Constabulary in 1981, 1982 and 1984 and won the race in 1984. In 1982 he was a member of The Surrey Constabulary Team that had its finest hour winning the Police National Cross Country Championships at Chelmsford. He won the South East Police Track 5000 metres title in 1983 and finished second that year in the National Police 5000 metres event at Hendon.

Mark was selected for and represented the Police Athletic Association on eight occasions against other national organisations such as the RAF, Royal Navy, Army, the Civil Service and the Fire Services and in 1983 he represented the British police in The European Police Cross Country Championships held at Hendon, where Great Britain won the team award He was also good on the road and with the team of Dave Hanna, Peter Holt and Mick Wayland won The City of London Police Road Relay

**Chris Dickinson:** Chris won the Surrey Constabulary Inter Divisional title and the South East Police Cross Country League title in 1987.

**Barbara Funnell:** Barbara won the Surrey Constabulary Inter-Divisional title in 1983.

**Sharon Girling:** Sharon won the Surrey Constabulary Inter-Divisional title in 1978 and 1982.

**Dave Hanna:** Dave was a good all- round cross country, road and track runner, supporting and scoring in many team successes for the Surrey Constabulary. Dave won the Surrey Police Inter Divisional Cross Country title in 1988 and was individual veteran O/40 champion in the South East Police Half Marathon at Imber Court in Surrey**.** Dave was part of both teams that won the City of London Road Relay twice.

Below Dave wins the South East Regional Police 5000 metres title.

Dave became Surrey Constabulary Athletics Secretary in 1993 a role he would perform for eleven years.

**Peter Holt:** Peter came late to running equipped with extremely sensitive ankles from years of getting kicked playing football. Unable to run without pain on uneven surfaces, he persisted and trained for months to strengthen them, and his true ability was then able to shine through**.** Peter was a member of the Surrey team that won the South East Police Cross Country League

in 1980, 1984 and 1987 and the City of London Police Road Relay**.** Peter was a member of the team that won the Eric Humphreys Shield Cross Country hosted by the Northampton Constabulary in 1981, 1982 and 1984.

In 1982 he was a member of The Surrey Constabulary Team that had its finest hour winning the Police Athletic Association Cross Country Championships at Chelmsford.

In the 1983 London Marathon he set a Surrey Constabulary record of 2hrs 36 mins 26 seconds which was never bettered.


**Andy Laithwaite:** Andy had a beautiful flowing running style which looked effortless. He won the force cross country and several races in the South East Police Cross Country League. These successes gained him selection for PAA representation and in 1983 the full GB Police team at Hendon, the European Police Championships, where the British team won the team event. In 1982 he was a member of The Surrey Constabulary team that had its finest hour winning the Police National Cross Country Championships at Chelmsford.

**Ben Mabon:** Ben was an exceptional athlete, winning the Surrey Constabulary Inter Divisional Title in 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993. Owing to excellent form, he was selected for the British

Police Cross Country team that contested the European Police Cross Country Championships staged at Mount Browne, Guildford, in 1992.

**Paul Noke:** Paul enjoyed national success with the Aldershot, Farnham and District Athletic Club before joining the Surrey Constabulary. He had been well coached and his all-round ability in cross country or track running was exceptional**.** He had outstanding runs when in 1982 at The South East Region Track Championships he won the 1500 metres and 5000 metres double. He then went on to The Police Athletic Association National Track Championships, winning the 1500 metres and finishing third in the 5000 metres**.** For these performances he was selected to run for The Police Athletic Association against civilian teams.

Paul was also good on the road and with the team of Dave Hanna, Richard Bridgman and Mick Wayland won The City of London Police Road Relay. In 1982 he was a member of the Surrey Constabulary team that had its finest hour winning the Police National Cross Country Championships at Chelmsford.

**Christine Ronan:** Christine won the Surrey Constabulary Inter Divisional title in 1991, 1992 and 1993. She also won the National Police ’10 Mile Road Race title in 1981. She was rewarded by being selected to run for the Great Britain Cross Country Team which contested the European Cross Country Championships which were held at Mount Browne, Surrey Constabulary in 1992.

**Mick Wayland:** Won the Surrey Constabulary Inter Divisional Cross Country Championship title in 1965, going on to win it a total of 12 times. Eric Roote was Force Athletics Secretary in 1965 and in 1968 he handed over to Mick who carried on for 25 years until retirement. He was also South East Cross Country League Secretary for 10 years from 1975.

Was a member of the Surrey team that won the South East Police Cross Country League in 1972, 1976, 1980, 1984 and 1987, the South East Cross Country Championships in 1976, the Eric Humphreys Shield Cross Country hosted by the Northampton Constabulary in 1981, 1982 and 1984. Ran for the PAA Cross country team on 8 occasions and also ran for them on the track. Was a member of the team that won the City of London Road Relay twice. Won the South East Region 1500 metres title in 1970, 1972, 1973, 1975 and 1976, the 5000 metres title in 1976 and 1977 and the pole vault title in 1973.

With Bryon Alden, Derek Short and Chris Farmer won the Veterans O/40 team award in the Snowdonia Seven Mountain Peaks race hosted by The North Wales Constabulary. In 1981, he ran 50 miles for charity across Surrey, on the North Downs Way from Tatsfield to Frensham in 6 hours 59 minutes.

As an assistant coach to the British Police team, attended the European Track Championships at Avila in Spain and Berlin in Germany and went to Geneva in Switzerland for a European Police Cross Country Championship.