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

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Early days of the Surrey Constabulary

1856

PC Carpenter 1857
Chertsey

In a recent biography of John Aubrey, "My Own Life" by Ruth Scurr, my philosophy is encapsulated in one paragraph:

"He saw himself more as a collector than a writer; a collector of fragments of fact that would otherwise be lost because no one else would trouble themselves to write them down and pass them on to the next generation."

This assertion encapsulates the thinking of the Surrey Constabulary website and the documents produced. You can help by recording your memories and knowledge of policing. Detail is everything, you tell your side of the story or it will be forgotten or misinterpreted. If you do not write your history someone else will. Why is it the military are so good and police so poor at retaining and chronicling their history? Is it thought to be of no value?

Robert Bartlett

On January 1 1851 the Surrey Constabulary became operational with an establishment of 70 police officers, including 5 superintendents. The first chief constable, Captain Hastings, was aged thirty-eight years and he required recruits to be honest and sober, less than thirty years of age and at least five feet seven inches tall. There was no minimum age - one constable was appointed at the age of fourteen and another at fifteen.

The first county headquarters was in the old Guildford Borough Police Station at the Corn Market House but this was only until the new headquarters was completed in Woodbridge Road in 1854. This was of course the main Surrey Constabulary police station in Guildford until the Margaret Road tower was built in April 1974. Surrey Constabulary police stations were established in Bagshot, Chertsey, Dorking and Farnham and new stations built at Egham, Godstone, Guildford, Haslemere, Hersham, Leatherhead, and Reigate. The original station at Chertsey was sold because of its poor condition and a new one built. A superintendent was stationed at Reigate, Dorking, Godalming, Farnham and Headquarters.

There was no rank of sergeant, which does not appear in the Surrey Constabulary records until 1865 and so constables became inspectors. There were four classes of constable with newly appointed officers starting at class four and moving through the classes on promotion. They were required to work seven days a week and granted twelve days leave a year, which had to be taken in summer as no leave was permitted during the winter. There was no shortage of recruits although as always, the pay was poor, seventeen shillings a week, and the conditions harsh. To give a comparison with wages of agricultural labourers from where many police officers were recruited:

1850	9s 3 1/2d
1851	9s 2 1/2d
1852	9s 3d
1853	9s 11d
1854	10s 8d
1855	10s 11 1/2d
1856	11s 0 1/2d[1]

From this it is plain why recruiting was never a problem although it could be argued given the substantial staff turnover; they were recruiting men from the wrong background.

No record has been found of formalised recruit training and it is likely that those who had served as police officers in other forces worked closely with recruits on the beat. All the inspectors and superintendents were experienced men and they would have set the standards and enforced the discipline. It was not until 1853 that an Instruction Book was provided to give guidance on policing matters, although the system of General Orders began on 30 January 1851, the first order was about taking leave.

[1] http://historyofwages.blogspot.co.uk/2011/02/agricultural-labourers-wages-1850-1914.html

Of the first 70 men appointed only 5 served long enough to receive a pension; 29 were dismissed before they served a year and a large number of the others were dismissed or resigned over a short time.

The first uniform style was that of the Metropolitan Police which had been operational 22 years before the Surrey Constabulary.

PC 50s 1862 Instruction Book' which he carried with him

The men were deployed across the parishes where they **lived in cottages** for which they paid rent. At the police stations there were houses and in the small towns, the inspector or superintendent would occupy one of the houses. Rent and the costs of renting were an issue. It has to be understood that in these times nothing changed very much and that included pay and allowances remained the same over very long periods. The issue of rents was not resolved until **1884 when in January rent allowance** was paid for the first time. The chief constable who acted as landlord had rent deducted from pay. [2]

On January 5 1885 at the Surrey Quarter Sessions, Newington The Constabulary Committee (the forerunner of the standing joint and police committee before the police and crime commissioners) considered the inequalities brought about by rents varying across the county. It was reported that:

In compliance with the order of court made at the late Michaelmas Quarter Session we have considered as to the best method of carrying out an **equalisation of the rents** paid by the members of the force for cottages and lodgings. It appears clear from a statement from the Chief Constable that in consequence of the rents varying materially in different parts of the county, the removal of experienced and efficient

[2] Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-

officers to districts where their services are most required, occasions serious hardship and loss to them from the much higher rates they have to pay.

Under all the circumstances we recommend the Court to approve the equalisation of the rents payable by members of the Force throughout the Constabulary District and that on the approval of the Chief Constable of the house and rent, an allowance be made to each constable sufficient to **cover the excess of rent above three shillings a week**, such allowance be charged to the police rate. We also recommend to the Court to direct that any alteration in rents be specially reported to the Constabulary Committee. We likewise recommend that the Treasurer be authorised pay the rents monthly upon the certificate of the Chief Constable. We have also in pursuance of another Order of the Court considered the question of the expediency of placing a small reserve of police at the disposal of the Chief Constable, but having regard to the recent increase of two sergeants and ten constables we are of the opinion that it is inexpedient to make any addition at present to the Force. The report was adopted.[3]

At 0930 on 14 July 1852 seven superintendents, six inspectors and sixty-four constables had to be at HQ in Guildford. No reason was given but this may well have been the **first major operation** of the Force.[4] This entry in General Orders shows clearly there were by now at least 7 superintendents and 6 inspectors in the Surrey Constabulary.

The population of the county is set out below but to give some idea of the small market towns that made up the county a brief description is offered. These descriptions are mostly 14 years before the detailed log of incidents for 1856 but things changed very slowly in those times, more evolution than the revolution of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Chertsey in 1842: Chertsey is in Godley hundred, on the bank of the Thames, 22 miles from the General Post-office, London, by Brentford, Twickenham, and Shepperton, and 11 miles west of Kingston through Hampton Court and East Moulsey. The area of the parish is 10,020 acres. The name of the place is written by Bede Ceortesei, and in the Saxon Chronicle Ceortes-ege and indicates the situation of the place, in a peninsula, which was perhaps once an island formed by the Thames, the Bourn brook, and the stream from Virginia Water. The town is irregularly laid out; the principal street runs east and west, the streets are partially paved and lighted with gas, and the houses are for the most part neatly built of brick. There is scarcely a fragment left of the abbey, which stood on the north side of the town, between it and the river, in a very low flat, now forming fertile meadows. The church is in the centre of the town, and is a modern brick building faced with stone, in what is described as the florid Gothic style. The market-house is also a modern building. An old house in the town possesses some interest as having been the residence of the poet Cowley. East of the town is Chertsey bridge, a handsome stone-bridge over the Thames, erected in the latter part of the last century. There are places of worship for Dissenters. There is a building for the Literary and Scientific Society, with theatre, lectue, and reading rooms.

[3] 1884 January 5 The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser
[4] Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-1852 July 14 GO 84

The population of the parish, in 1831, was 4,795, about one-third agricultural: the population of the town is not given separately. The chief trade of the town is in malt and flour: considerable quantities of vegetables are raised in the neighbourhood for the supply of London, and a great number of bricks are made. The market is on Wednesday for corn and provisions; it is a considerable market for poultry: there are four yearly fairs. [5]

Egham in 1842: Egham is near the north western boundary of the county, on the banks of the Thames, on the high road to Salisbury 21 miles from the General Post-office through Hounslow and Staines. The principal street extends for above a mile on the high road, and contains a number of respectable houses. The parish has an area of 7,440 acres: the population in 1831 was 4,203. There are a parish church, a modern brick building, and a Wesleyan chapel. In the parish, near Virginia Water, above a mile from the town, a new church has been erected. Egham has a good local trade. North of the village, on the bank of the Thames, is Runnymead, where King John signed Magna Charta. [6]

Walton-on-Thames in 1842: Walton-on-Thames in Elmbridge hundred, on the south bank of the Thames, about 4 or 5 miles west of Kingston. The population in 1831 was 2,035. It is near the line of the London and South-Eastern Railway. It has a number of handsome villas and mansions, among which are Oatlands, the residence of the late Duke of York. There is a church of considerable antiquity, and an Independent chapel. Southeast from Walton, on the Portsmouth road, is Esher, near which is Claremont House and park, the residence of the late princess Charlotte of Wales, who died there.[7]

Farnham in 1837: A town in the parish and hundred of Farnham and county of Surrey, 9 miles west by south from Guildford, and 38 miles south-west by west from London. The town, which is situated near the north bank of the Wey, consists of one principal street running east and west, and contains many excellent houses. Though not a corporation, it is governed by twelve masters or burgesses, from whom two bailiffs are annually chosen. These magistrates act under the bishop of Winchester, to whom they pay an acknowledgment of 12 pence per annum, receive the profits of the fairs and markets, and hold every three weeks a court, which has power to determine all actions under forty shillings. Farnham once returned members to parliament.

Public buildings are a market-house, a free school, and a good day school supported by charitable contributions. The manor of Farnham was given by Ethelbald, king of the West Saxons, to the see of Winchester, to which it has ever since belonged. On the north side of the principal street, and on the summit of a hill, formerly stood a castle, built by Henry de Blois, brother of King Stephen, and bishop of Winchester. This fortress was destroyed by Henry III; re-built, and again destroyed during the civil war.

Farnham is noted for its hop plantations. It had formerly some cloth manufactures. The great mart for the Farnham hops is Weyhill fair. The largest plantations are less than 60 acres. The average produce is about 6 cwt. per acre. According to the census of 1831, the population of the parish of Farnham was 5,858. The market-day is

[5] Market Towns Of Surrey (From Sduk Penny Cyclopedia)
[6] Market Towns Of Surrey (From Sduk Penny Cyclopedia)
[7] Market Towns Of Surrey (From Sduk Penny Cyclopedia)

Thursday. The fairs for horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs are held on Holy Thursday, 4th June, and 13th November.[8]

Guildford in 1842: Guildford is in Woking hundred, chiefly on the right bank of the Wey, and in that depression of the North Downs through which the river passes; 30 miles from the General Post-office, London, by Kingston, or 31 by Leatherhead. The area of the old borough was 210 acres. The present parliamentary and municipal limits, as determined by the Boundary and Municipal Reform acts, comprehend a much larger area. Guildford is mentioned first in the will of Alfred the Great, who, as being a royal demesne, bequeathed it to his nephew Ethelwald.

The town is on a declivity, and the High Street, which runs down to the bridge over the Wey, is steep. The town is well paved, and lighted with gas; and from the well-built and substantial houses, which it contains has a thriving and respectable appearance.

On the north side of High Street, nearly opposite Trinity church, is Abbots Hospital, or Trinity Hospital (erected and endowed by Archbishop Abbot, a native of Guildford), a building in the Elizabethan style, of imposing appearance, built round a quadrangular court. The gateway tower is square, with octangular turrets at the corner, surmounted with pinnacles. There is a grammar school, an ancient and spacious building. The old town hall, or guildhall, is a large building, surmounted by a turret, and having a clock projecting into the street; and there are a new corn-market and courthouse of neat and handsome appearance, and a neat theatre. The county house of correction is a brick building, well situated, about a quarter of a mile from the town; and there are extensive barracks on the site of an ancient Dominican friary. Half a mile south of the town, on a hill to the left of the Godalming road, are the picturesque ruins of St. Catherine's Chapel. There are meeting houses for several bodies of Dissenters.

The population of the old borough is 1831 was 3,924, of the borough as subsequently extended probably about 4,833. There is no important branch of manufacture carried on at Guildford. There are some paper and corn mills, breweries, and an iron foundry. There are markets on Wednesday and Saturday, the latter a good corn-market. There is a weekly lamb-fair or market on Tuesday, from about Easter to Whitsuntide; and there are two yearly fairs for cattle and horses. There are two banking establishments. The Midsummer quarter sessions for the county are held here, and the summer assizes alternately with Croydon. The court of election for members of parliament for the western division of the county is also held here.

The town was early incorporated, but the time is unknown: the earliest known charter is of Edward II. Quarter Sessions for the borough are held, and petty sessions, as occasion requires. The town has, under the Municipal Reform Act, a commission of the peace, 4 aldermen, and 12 councillors. Guildford has sent two members to parliament ever since 23 Edward I. The number of voters on the register for 1835-6 was 430: for 1839-40, 495.

[8] Market Towns Of Surrey (From Sduk Penny Cyclopedia)

There were in the old borough, in 1833, an infant-school with 123 children, 76 boys and 47 girls; the grammar school with 74 boys, 6 on the foundation; an endowed blue-coat school with 56 boys, 26 of them on the foundation; two national schools, with 64 boys and 76 girls; a Lancastrian school, with 96 girls; and ten other day-schools with 231 children, viz. 105 boys and 102 girls, and 24 children of sex not stated. There were also two Sunday-schools with 352 children, viz. 158 boys and 194 girls besides which 44 boys from one of the national schools attended on Sunday.

Reigate in 1842 is in the hundred of Reigate, 22 miles from the General Post-office, through Croydon. The borough, which is now co-extensive with the parish, has an area of 5,900 acres. This place is called Cherchefelle in Domesday, but acquired the name of Reigate in the following century. It was a royal demesne at the time of Domesday, and was afterwards granted to the Earl of Warrenne and Surrey. The town is pleasantly situated in the valley of Holmesdale, at the foot of the southern declivity of the North Downs. It is a small but remarkably neat place, having an unusual proportion of genteel houses in it. It consists of one principal street, running east and west along the valley, and another street branching southward from this. The town is lighted with gas. The site of the castle is on the north side of the town, behind the houses in the High Street: a modern mansion at the southern end of the branch street, marks the site of the priory.

There is a small brick market-house with a town hall over, and a small building adjacent called the 'clock-house,' used for confining the prisoners brought here for trial at the sessions. The town hall occupies the site of an ancient chapel of St. Thomas a Becket now converted into a dwelling house. There is a good market on Tuesday for corn and provisions, and a monthly cattle-market. There are three yearly fairs. The Easter Quarter Sessions for the county are held at Reigate. Reigate is a parliamentary, but not a municipal borough. It returned two members but the number of members was by the Reform Act reduced to one. The Boundary Act extended the previously narrow limits of the borough. The number of voters on the register for 1835-6 was 195 and for 1839-40, 198.

There were in the parish, in 1833, a free grammar-school, with 26 boys; a national school, with 66 boys and 60 girls ; fourteen other day-schools, with 278 children, namely, 140 boys and 138 girls ; and three Sunday-schools, with 171 children, namely, 30 boys and 141 girls.[9]

19th Century Britain – Population – the key to change

In the 19th century Britain became the world's first industrial and urban society. By 1851 more than half the population lived in towns. The population of Britain increased rapidly during the 19th century and people cause problems; inevitably more people require more policing. As the population expands the problems grew and the police play catch up but inevitably, are behind on the curve. Some major points on population are:

In 1801 the population of England and Wales was about 9 million.

[9] Market Towns Of Surrey (From Sduk Penny Cyclopedia)

1815 that population had reached 13 million[10]

In the 1840s many people came from Ireland, fleeing a terrible potato famine leading to large number of trampers and people living on commons and heathland in Surrey

1850 half the population lived in towns and London had more than 2 million inhabitants.

The population of England almost doubled from 16.8 million in 1851 to 30.5 million in 1901[11]

The large number of young people in a population is more boisterous, violent and more inclined to commit crime.

It is essential to understand the part population growth plays in the development of policing in the county. For Guildford and other areas of rural Surrey, expanding populations and increasing density may account for the growth and level of violence associated with the Guy riots and street football. There were always large groups of young, many moving into or close to the towns seeking work and a better way of life than was offered within isolated villages. The young are potentially hot headed and prone to violence and crime before they mature and adapt their way of life to take account of increased responsibilities of family and work.

As towns grew and law enforcement became more crucial leading to more frequent intervention, the policing role becoming complex and difficult as laws, regulation and practice became formalised. Drunkenness and related violence in the street, the pub and homes was ever present and many constables were to beaten and injured in drunken attacks. Two officers were to die from beatings, Inspector Donaldson and PC Mason.

The growing complexity and dangers of policing enhanced the reluctance of the one-year only, untrained amateur parish constable fulfilling his civic duty, often at great financial loss, becoming more reluctant to take on the duties, leading the search for realistic alternative model. The formation of the Metropolitan Police in 1829 gave set the principals and standards but the rural parts of the country were not yet ready for such dramatic and potentially costly change. Government were to legislate, cautiously and with great care as there was public opposition to the idea of a police, particularly when not under the direct control of the magistrates and hence the county gentry. They feared a loss of control and the expense.

Population of the larger towns of rural Surrey

Location	1841	1851	1861
Farnham	6651	7264	9278
Frensham	1583	1559	1750
Seale	428	508	669

[10] http://www.uk.filo.pl/uk_history_9.htm
[11]http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_compendia/fom2005/01_FOPM_Population.pdf), statistics.gov.uk

Dorking	5638	5996	6997
Chertsey	5347	6025	6589
Egham	4448	4482	4864
Godalming	4328	4657	5778
Guildford	4506	5171	5425
Merrow, Guildford	252	278	363
Stoke next Guildford	2054	2507	3797
Reigate	4584	4927	9975[12]

When recording the population of the county of Surrey and relating that to policing is difficult. There was no general and recognisable policing system in Surrey as a whole before the Metropolitan Police were formed in 1829 encompassing the north of the county, including after 1839 as far out as Epsom. When the Surrey Constabulary was formed in 1851 it did not police the northern more urban parts of the county; this pleasure was delayed until 2000.

As previously established, policing of Godalming was the responsibility of the local magistrates who were directly linked to the Quarter Sessions where for a great deal of the century magistrates dispensed justice, assisted by a grand jury who reviewed all cases before they went for trial. There was some professional police help however, from the Bow Street Runners and police officers attached to Union Hall court at Southwark. There half a dozen men were charged with investigating crime in the whole of Surrey. They were not detectives as such as the term had not been invented.

Population for the whole of Surrey up to the Thames[13]

Census Year	The whole of Surrey
1801	269,043
1821	398,658
1841	582,678
1861	831,093
1881	1,436,899
	Surrey County Council area
1881	266,200
1891	319,600
1991	1,000,900
2000	Surrey Police for the whole of the county for the first time

Additional pressures upon policing came from the growth in **population density,** the coming of the railways from 1830 leading directly to the growth of new towns at Woking and Redhill. Added to these problems were a number of agricultural depressions in a county where the number of agricultural labourers formed a high proportion of the population. Amongst other policing issues were the criminal gangs, many itinerant, many living on the heaths and woodlands of the mostly in the west and north.

[12] www.wsfhs.org
[13] www.ons.gov.uk 200 years of census in Surrey

In parallels with modern days the early 1850s and 1860s were all about **reducing government expenditure.** Gladstone's budget of 1853 was all about the popular mid Victorian cause, reducing government expenditure and therefore taxation.[14] And so, as the Chief Constable of Surrey tried to develop the new Surrey Constabulary he was faced with budgetary constraints that the current Chief Constable would recognise.

Before going into some detail on the policing of the county in 1856 a few details of the police and their conditions and constraints. There were trains; there was the beginning of the telegraph and an excellent local postal service. Within the police forces there was a system of meeting at fixed points for mail to be passed around within the force and onwards to adjoining constabularies. Information passed surprisingly fast at a time when strangers stood out.

By June 1851 seventeen men have been disciplined with drunkenness (eight men being dismissed) forming a significant number of the offences.[15] Some examples of the disciplinary offences are: John Lawrence was severely reprimanded for signing a report without reading it, and again for wearing plain clothes on duty the following month. Richard Langridge allowed a prisoner to go into a public house whilst he waited outside. Henry Cook was dismissed for being drunk and enlisting. John Smith was fined ten shillings and reduced from first to second class for fraudulently claiming exemption from the toll and not being on duty. In large type in the discipline record shows that on the 6th November 1852 William Earl was dismissed for insolence to the chief constable.[16]

Of the first seventy men appointed only five served long enough to receive a pension; twenty-nine were dismissed before they served a year and a large number of the others were dismissed or resigned over a short time. There was no shortage of recruits although as always, the pay was poor, seventeen shillings a week, and the conditions harsh. Men worked seven days a week but twelve days a year leave was granted in the summer as no leave was permitted during the winter. No instruction was given to the men and it was not until 1853 that an Instruction Book was provided. [17]

The police forces in the county at the time of the inauguration of the Surrey Constabulary were, Farnham, Guildford, Godalming and Dorking. Reigate was not at this time a municipal borough and did not have its own police force until the 1860s. These were micro-police forces responsible for areas of small population.

1851 Guildford Borough Police numbered just three constables and a superintendent.[18] Originally formed on 20th January 1836 but in June 1851 the force became a part of the larger Surrey Constabulary. It is rather strange that in reports of September 1851 of transactions of Guildford Town Council there seems to be a mixed "ownership" for policing the town. It would seem that the town council retained responsibility for pay and uniform of officers working there, even the distinction of county and borough men and the confusion this could cause. This is difficult to

[14] A History of Britain 1837-1901 Carter and Mears 2011
[15] Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-
[16] 1851 June: GO 50
[17] Durrant page 7
[18] http://st-caths-web.co.uk/?p=11643

explain as the force amalgamated and was not to regain its independence to 1854. Maybe on reading this, someone may be able to shed light on the conundrum.

The Mayor read a letter from Chief Constable Captain Hastings Surrey Constabulary, stating that for certain reasons he had considered it advisable to remove two of the borough constables and station them in county districts. That he replaced them with two first class constables who received a 1s a week more than was paid to those of the borough. He therefore applied that the council would increase the pay of its constables and place them on the same footing; and that it would furnish them with lamps, and make proper allowance for the oil consumed in the lamps. Chief Constable Hastings went on to say that there was a slight difference in the uniform of the borough and county constables and he requested that the collars of the coats worn by the police officers of the borough might be altered, and made in accordance with those worn by the county police the cost of doing which would be trivial. Mr Chennel thought there should be some difference in the uniforms. They employ their own police in the borough and he considered that their policeman should have some distinctive mark to distinguish them from the county. It might occur that an inhabitant might require the assistance of an officer. Now if he should call to one of the county police the answer would probably be "I cannot stop to assist you; I don't belong the borough; I have just come from Hindhead (or some equally distant part) and I am about to return thither immediately. He was of the opinion that there should be some mark by which they could distinguish their own police officers (hear, hear). It was resolved nem.com that the requests of Captain Hastings should be acceded to and that the police of the borough should, when on duty, wear an armlet with the letters "GP" worked thereon. [19]

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

Therefore on 31 December the reconstituted borough police was re-formed under the command of Mr Goff who had been appointed on 27 October 1854. Goff died on the 31 December 1854 and George Vickers was appointed.[20]

Following a routine argument with the press and local council about the policing of Woking in 1855 on February 17 the Chief Constable wrote to the press: "There are in the Surrey Constabulary 1 Chief Constable 7 Superintendents 5 Inspectors 70 Constables total 83; Guildford 11 constables, Reigate 11 and Dorking 11. It is not true that the ratepayers of the parish of Woking pay £228 per annum for the services of one constable there being two resident in the parish, one of whom lives in the town of Woking; in addition to which there are no less than six other constables, who meet

[19] 1851 September 21: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[20] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary

and patrol together in pairs almost nightly throughout the different portions of the parish, thus affording every protection to the parish. I can give my assertion -- the amount of crime not only in the parish of Woking but throughout the county generally having greatly decreased since the establishment of the "rural police system".

Godalming council also became unhappy with the services of the Surrey Constabulary and following the example of the Guildford watch Committee withdrew their area from the Constabulary in 1858. This was mainly due to the lack of police cover provided by the new police particularly at night.[21] Charles Everett became superintendent of police with a constable to assist him. The acreage of Godalming at that time was 480 acres and the population (1851 Census) was 2,500 or 240 acres and 1250 people to each police officer. The salary of the Superintendent was £54 12s and that of the constable £17. The pay of the constable if that is correct is very low and I suspect this should read 17s a week which county officers were paid making £44 2s per annum. The Superintendent arranged duties and once every month each officer had to present to the Watch Committee a statement of the duties he had performed.[22]

Reports of Inspectors of Constabulary 1858

Surrey Constabulary

Area in acres	372,880
Population in 1851	108,792
Acres to each constable	3299
Population to each constable	262

The constabulary of Surrey was established in the beginning of 1851 and consisted of eighty four officers and constables; several augmentations have however since taken place and on the 29 September 1857 the force consisted of one hundred and thirteen officers and constables who are paid for by the county; one chief constable, six superintendents, six inspectors and one hundred constables and no alteration in the organisation or numbers have taken place since that date. In the last year's return, however, the total number of Surrey Constabulary force was stated to amount to one hundred and thirty three officers and constables; but this number included twenty men paid by the Government for services in connection with the Aldershot Camp and who are incorporated with the constabulary of the county, and placed under the charge of the chief constable. Several of these men have since been discharged and there now only remain ten men paid by the government who are placed under the charge of the chief constable and these men are now enumerated with the regular police of the county as above named.

The general average meeting points of the constables whose districts adjoin each other is computed to be about two miles and a half, and a regular system of communication is established between the constables on the borders of the county and the constables on the borders of Berks, Hants, East Sussex, West Sussex and Kent. In the county nine police stations each containing several well constructed cells, and suited generally to accommodate one resident police officer, have been erected by the

[21] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 2
[22] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 3

magistrates. In two of the stations court rooms for the convenience of the magisterial business of the district have been added, and six of the stations have stables and cart-sheds attached to them.

The officers and constables are paid once every month at headquarters of their respective divisions when advantage is taken of the occasion to exercise the men in drill. The clothing is of good quality and each officer and constable is provided with all necessary appointments and a book of instructions, and each member of the force is also required to keep a diary in which is entered a statement of all duties and occurrences of which a copy is transmitted to headquarters.

The office arrangements are of a satisfactory character and the duties appear to be well provided for, and I consider the force to be efficient in number and discipline.

Guildford Borough Police 1858
Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary

Establishment of seven officers covering an acreage of 531 with a population of 6,654; this is 76 acres with 950 people per officer[23]

Godalming Borough 1858

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

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

This was a time when there were no dedicated, trained detectives within the force but this does not mean those investigating crime were not capable or successful. It was the role of the superintendent to investigate serious crime, and that may mean a fairly minor theft. It was also a task undertaken by inspectors who were developing their experience so one day they could become one of the superintendents.

1851 January 31: GO 6: Superintendents on receiving information of a **robbery or any other serious offence** having been committed are required immediately to communicate the same with the chief constable. (**Note:** The term robbery is used as a generic term for crime and is interchangeable with burglary, larceny etc.) [24]

[23] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[24] Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-

1852 December 9: GO 88: The chief constable has observed with much dissatisfaction the evident inclination on the part of superintendents and inspectors to deprive constables under one specious plea or another of cases which have rightly belonged to them**.** Several instances of this have recently occurred and the chief constable desires superintendents and inspectors to bear in mind that it is their duty to bring forward and encourage as much as possible all young constables instead of dampening their zeal, and hindering their advancement by keeping them in the background. In order to put a stop to this, the chief constable has determined in future not to allow any expenses to those who have mixed themselves up in a case in which they had no business and which the constable could perfectly well have conducted himself.

1856 – A year in the life of the Surrey Constabulary

The following are reports from the press and other sources of the work and life of the Surrey Constabulary in 1856. This is a random year that happens to be the first year that I have recorded many detailed reports that give an idea of the spread of the constabulary duties. There are other years from which material will be drawn over time in future Journals.

1856 February 2: Chertsey Petty Sessions:

Henry Shanks of Egham **trespassing in pursuit of game** fined £1 18s including costs.[25]

Sarah Gosden of Byfleet servant, charged with **stealing cakes and clothing** from her employer. William Muggleton of Byfleet a groom was charged with receiving the property knowing it to have been stolen. Gosden, who was on **improper terms of intimacy** with Muggleton 4 months in prison and Muggleton to 2 months in prison with hard labour. [26]

John Hart of Chertsey leather seller charged with weights not **in accordance with the imperial** standard fine and costs 19s. As was Thomas Elsey an ironmonger.[27]

James Aslett and James Moss of Chertsey charged with wilfully **breaking six panes of glass** value 2s. Was settled out of court.[28]

James Coombes of Egham carpenter summoned for unlawfully unfastening and **throwing open a gate** on the Staines to Wokingham Railway at Egham as to obstruct the highway was fined 17s including costs[29]

Hannah Perham of Egham single woman was summoned for a**ssaulting** Francis Attfield at Egham on 15 January. The case attracted considerable attention due to the well-known violence of the defendant's temper and from her having brought a **charge of assault against the police officer** called in by the complainant to protect her from

[25] 1856 February 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[26] 1856 February 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[27] 1856 February 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[28] 1856 February 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[29] 1856 February 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette

Perham's violence. PC Mingay of the Surrey Constabulary said that between 11 and 12 o'clock at night on the 15 January his attention was called to the defendants' house and hearing screams of "murder." He immediately proceeded there and found the complainant's face covered in blood and her hair hanging over her face. Perham was in a most excited state and intoxicated. The officer informed the bench that his attention had repeatedly been called to the defendant's general bad conduct and ill usage of her little daughter. Convicted with the penalty of £1 with £1 9s costs or to be imprisoned with hard labour at the House of Correction for 21 days.[30]

1856 March: GO 127: Drill instructions and general training started in the force in March 1856. "It being highly essential that the constables in the different divisions should have an opportunity afforded them from time to time of being instructed in their drill, which the chief constable is aware that many were extremely deficient, he therefore considers it desirable that superintendents should send two men each rotation to headquarters for the purpose of being drilled and otherwise instructed in their duties." [31]

1856 March 11: Fatal accident South-Eastern Railway: Inquest Guy's Hospital on the body of Charles Frederick Baker aged 31 a fireman employed by South-Eastern railway who lost his life in the following manner. Superintendent John Page Surrey Constabulary on Sunday was standing on the bridge of the dock near Box-hill station when he saw some empty trucks proceeding down the incline of the line. The deceased was in front of the engine with a chain in his hand and after he had run about 100 yards he fell down. One of his feet was nearly cut off and blood streamed out of his mouth. Wilson Bates the engine driver said they left Red Hill with a train of empty cattle trucks. Having to leave six of them at Dorking the porter unhooked them at which time the locomotive was at the head of the train. Witness shunted the six carriages across, when he stopped opposite, and asked for the towrope to take them into the siding. The father of the deceased said his son told him that the trucks became unhooked when he slipped under the engine. Jury verdict of accidental death after Baker died of inflammation of the lungs.[32] [33]

1856 March 22: Surrey Spring Assizes: Sarah Thompson 22 was indicted for the capital offence of **feloniously setting fire to a dwelling house in Egham,** her mother Rebecca Fountain being therein at the time. The mother was lying ill in a helpless state when the prisoner set fire to a kind of shed, which was used as a coal shed and which was attached to the dwelling. The object of the fire was to destroy her mother and but for timely assistance some serious calamity would have occurred. PC John Mingay Surrey Constabulary took the prisoner into custody and told her she was charged with setting fore to the cottage. "I did set fire to it. I intended to burn it down and burn my mother out. She has never been a good mother to me." A neighbour on hearing the cry of fire broke the shed door open and extinguished the fire. The jury found the prisoner guilty of an attempt to set fire to the building. The female turnkey told the judge that the prisoner had attempted to kill herself in prison and is not left alone. Sentenced to 12 month's hard labour.[34]

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[30] 1856 February 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[31] Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-
[32] 1856 March 11: Kentish Gazette
[33] 1856 March 11: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[34] 1856 March 22: The Surrey Comet

1856 April 15: **Juvenile depravity Guildford Borough:**

George Wallis aged 12 was charged with stealing a pair of shoes the property of George Ellis of the town. The shoes were taken from the shop of the prosecutor and because of suspicions Superintendent Vickers apprehended the prisoner and he was **charged with theft,** which he admitted. The case had been adjourned for the boy's father to attend, which he did and was admonished by the bench to take better care of his son. The prisoner pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three calendar months imprisonment with hard labour in the House of Correction at Wandsworth.[35]

1856 April 15: Guildford County Bench:

Ann Bullen v Mary Faulkner: This was a summons for an **assault.** The plaintiff lived with her husband at Worplesdon and her mother on law came to visit on Sunday and, it is alleged spoke a great many lies about her to her husband. Mother in law refused to leave when asked and struck the complainant. The case was dismissed and the Bench cautioned if they heard any further disturbances they should bind both parties to keep the peace.[36]

Thomas Doughty and Mary Ann Catherine his wife were brought up charged with **stealing** a pair of boots in **Godalming.** The prisoners went to the Half Moon and asked for a bed for the night, stayed, leaving at 9am. After they left the boots were found to be missing and the prisoners were suspected and the complainant went after them with a policeman and took them into custody. The boots were found close by. PC39 Sturdy, Surrey Constabulary gave evidence that the male prisoner tried to escape and struck him and **behaved very violently**. When he got them to Godalming police station the woman said she could not deny taking the boots. Committed for trial.[37]

Haslemere: Inspector Glamorgan, Surrey Constabulary, apprehended William Hunt near the village of Haslemere for **wandering about** with no visible means of subsistence. It however turned out that the prisoner had a small portion of **provision in his pocket at the time** and therefore a case was not considered to come under the provisions of the Act.[38]

1856 April 15 Surrey Quarter Sessions:

William Leslie, 17, a tailor, pleaded guilty to **stealing at Mickleham** two silk handkerchiefs and other articles the property of Charles Pullen. Superintendent Page proved a former summary conviction and the prisoner was sent to prison for six months hard labour[39]

Mary Ann Strip 18, a spinster was charged with **stealing at Byfleet** a cash box containing about £10 in gold and silver monies, and also three petticoats the property

[35] 1856 April 15: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[36] 1856 April 15: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[37] 1856 April 15: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[38] 1856 April 15: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[39] 1856 April 15: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette

of James Holroyd. Mary was in service with the Holroyd family and Mrs Holroyd went into Mary's bedroom and looked into her box and some of the alleged stolen property was found. Superintendent **Biddlecombe** was called and the room searched more carefully and Mrs Holroyd found more of her property. PC 9 Edwin Colville Moore Surrey Constabulary deposed that on Friday 20 March the prisoner was in custody at Chertsey police station and said she wanted to see Mr Biddlecombe and she wished to make a statement in which she admitted the thefts and if Mr Biddlecombe would take her to her mother's shed she would point out where the property was. Biddlecombe cautioned the girl and PC Moore who was standing by the cell door heard it being given. Superintendent William Henry Biddlecombe Superintendent of the Surrey Constabulary said he was stationed at Chertsey. On March the 20th he received information and went with **Inspector Murtell** to the prosecutor's house. Biddlecombe searched inside and Murtell the outside. Something transpired and Biddlecombe went to the prisoner's mother's house and apprehended the prisoner. Inspector Murtell gave evidence of finding the cash box in Mr Holroyd's coal cellar covered in coals. Strip was found guilty but the jury recommended mercy on account of her affliction of numerous fits and her youth. The chairman said they were about to pass a **sentence of pure humanity rather than strict justice** and he hoped the public would not misunderstand it. He hoped she would get the better of the physical infirmity under which she laboured and her moral character would improve. Sentenced to one month's imprisonment.[40]

1856 April 29: **The Surrey Constabulary:** In the course of the discussion on Friday upon the Police Bill. **Lord Lovaine** said as chairman of the police committee of Surrey he wished to bear his testimony to the value of the county constabulary. Before they had the constabulary neither life nor property was safe in the county, but the magistrates were forced into action by the fact that nearly every good house in the county had been broken open, and at last a dreadful murder was committed. The consequence of establishing the county constabulary was that throughout the county there had been peace and security, which never existed before. When he first sat on the bench at Guildford there was hardly a day when the court rose before four o'clock and they generally sat till six, but now two hours were amply sufficient in which to get through the whole of the business.

Mr Evelyn complained that the noble lord who had spoken during the debate had said that life and property were not safe in the county of Surrey till the introduction of the rural peace in 1851. He (Mr Evelyn) had lived in Surrey all his life and he certainly had not been conscious of danger (hear, hear). An unfair use had been made of the Frimley murder; but they might just as well argue for the metropolitan force from the catastrophe in Rupert Street (hear, hear). The truth was it was only by accident that the burglary was accompanied by murder (laughter). Every burglar was morally a murderer; and even in the Frimley case it was generally understood that the man who actually did the atrocious deed was not the most criminal of the three, for he was not the instigator of the outrage. He did not think there was much in the argument that none of the counties had agreed to discontinue its police after having once established it, There could be no doubt that the Home Secretary would refuse his assent to any resolution of that kind and therefore there was no encouragement to raise the

[40] 1856 April 15: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette

question. He was bound in candour to admit that a majority of the Surrey magistrates were in favour of the force, but not the majority of the ratepayers (hear, hear).[41]

1856 May 24: Chertsey Petty Sessions:

PC King Surrey Constabulary charged Mary Butler of Egham, with **sleeping in a shed.** The prisoner, who had been sentenced several times for the same offence, was sentenced to three month's hard labour.[42]

PC Moore charged John Moody with b**egging**. Committed hard labour for 14 days. [43]

PC Little charged Michael Sullivan of Egham with being **drunk and incapable**. Reprimanded and discharged.[44]

1856 June 28: On Friday afternoon of the 20 inst., an accident of a serious nature occurred to Mr Superintendent **Biddlecombe**, Surrey Constabulary, Chertsey. He had occasion to get out of his cart near Walton and while in the act of getting in again some person discharged a gun in the neighbourhood which caused the mare he was driving, a spirited animal, to start, throwing Mr Biddlecombe on his shoulder and **breaking his collar bone**. We are happy to say he is progressing favourably.[45]

1856 June 28: A man swimming in the Thames at Chertsey was believed to have had cramp and **drowned**. He was pulled from the river some 45 minutes later.[46]

1856 June 28: Chertsey Petty Sessions:

James Ellis a grocer was summoned by Superintendent **Biddlecombe,** inspector of weights and measures, with having several **weights not to the imperial** standard so a fine of 1s, with costs and forfeiture of the weights. Robert Diz a butcher of Weybridge was summoned for a like offence. Three beer retailers had quart and pint measures not stamped and being less than the imperial measure a penalty of 5s with 17s costs.[47]

James Hall of **Chobham** a grocer was charged **with assaulting** William Gosden at Chobham on 29 May. On the night of the **celebration of peace bonfire** had been made in Chobham Street within a few yards of the complainant's house around which a crowd assembled. Fearing his premises were in danger he put his head out of the window and remonstrated with the defendant on the impropriety of the proceedings. Mr Hall who had a pole in his hand raised it to the window out of which the complainant was looking and desired him to take his head in. Case dismissed as no assault[48]

[41] 1856 April 29 The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[42] 1856 May 24: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[43] 1856 May 24: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[44] 1856 May 24: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[45] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[46] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[47] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[48] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette

George West a labourer of Chertsey was summoned for **assaulting** Thomas West his father but as the complainant did not appear the case was dismissed.[49]

John Thatcher of **Egham** was summoned on the information of the **Excise officer** for concealing 15 bushels of barley in the process of making malt. Convicted o the mitigated penalty of £50 and £1 7s 6d costs.[50]

George Atkins of this town a lad of 14 years, was summoned for **unlawfully gathering three pints of peas** value 2d. Convicted on a penalty of 5s, damage 1s 8d or 21 days in prison.[51]

Four people were summoned for unlawfully **cutting turf on Chobham Common** and selling it. The Bench was of the opinion they had no jurisdiction in the matter as goods and chattels of the defendants were under the value of £5. It would therefore be useless to issue a distress warrant. An action in the county court would be the proper course to pursue. On being advised the Bench could use the power of imprisonment they adjourned for legal advice.[52]

Robbing a Crimean Soldier and recovery of the property: On Thursday July 4 a corporal of the 3rd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards who had latterly returned from the Crimea was robbed of a silver watch and about £80 in gold by a prostitute in Aldershot camp. A description of the woman was given to **PC 12 Lambert** Surrey Constabulary, stationed at Bagshot from enquiries found that the suspect had caught a train to Broomhall Station, London. He went to that station he determined to wait there until the evening to see if she returned which she did and Lambert had the satisfaction of seeing her get out of a carriage and he took her into custody. Upon being searched he found a quantity of clothing obviously bought in London, and a large quantity of sovereign, half sovereigns, t French dollars, some silver, a Russian gold medal and two new gold rings. A sergeant of the Hants constabulary has since recovered the watch. She was handed over to the Hants constabulary and was committed to Winchester Assizes.[53]

1856 July 19: Death by drowning of a four year old boy when the cart he was riding in was upset and he was trapped in a ditch in water for some minutes. Accidental death. [54]

1856 July 19: Robbery: On the 8th inst., a **horse, cart and harness was stolen** from Dunford Mills, **Chertsey** over night and the thieves were able to get clear of the county of Surrey not withstanding the exertions of Superintendent **Biddlecombe** Surrey Constabulary, to prevent their escape. He however, put himself in communication with the police of surrounding counties and ultimately succeeded in tracing them into Bedfordshire. The horse, cart and harness are now in the custody of the police in that county.[55]

[49] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[50] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[51] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[52] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[53] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[54] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[55] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette

1856 July 19: Chertsey Petty Sessions:

PC Beagley Surrey Constabulary charged James Hynes of Chertsey, with violently **assaulting his wife** and with **assaulting a constable** in the execution of his duty. Bound over in own recognisance to answer the charge on the 23. [56]

The rattle that was "sprung" by the patrolling constable when assistance was required

1856 August 2: Chertsey Petty Sessions:

Edward Wilson and Benjamin Adams were charged on the information of John Goodhall with **violently assaulting him** at Egham. The chairman admonished both parties as to future behaviour dismissing the charge and making Goodhall pay the costs.[57]

James Hind of **Addlestone** was summoned on the information of PC Beagley with **assaulting him in the execution** of his duty at about 9.30pm on the 16th inst. He heard cries of murder coming from the defendant's house and went there and saw the defendants' wife coming out with a large lump on her forehead. He went into the house and the defendant immediately struck him several times and seized him by the hair of his head. He was obliged to call two persons to assist him in taking the defendant to the station house. A witness said he had never seen an officer act with **greater forbearance in** his life than had PC Beagley. Convicted in a penalty of 5s with 18s costs own recognisance of £10 with two sureties of £5 each to keep the peace for three months. [58]

William Turner of **Chertsey** was charged on the information of **Superintendent Biddlecombe** with **trespassing in pursuit of rabbits**. The defendant did not appear

[56] 1856 June 28: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[57] 1856 August 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[58] 1856 August 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette

and proof of service of the summons was given by PC King he was convicted in his absence with a penalty of £2 with 10s costs. A warrant was issued for his apprehension.[59]

PC 35 Chalwin, Surrey Constabulary, charged Stephen Boylett of Weybridge with **assaulting him in the execution of his duty**. PC Chalwin was on duty at a club feast at Weybridge on the 21st ult., when the defendant rushed at him, threw him down and kicked him several times. He was still suffering form the injuries received and produced a medical certificate to that effect. PC Beagley confirmed PC Chalwin's evidence. Penalty of £1 with 8s costs or one month in prison with hard labour [60]

PC Roger Parke Surrey Constabulary summoned Henry Gadd of Byfleet, for riding on a **wagon drawn by three horses without reins.** The defendant who has twice been summoned for this offence did not attend. Convicted in absence penalty and costs £1 to be paid by 6 August or one month in the House of Correction with hard labour for 21 days.[61]

James Catamoir of Chertsey was brought up in custody charged with **violently assaulting his wife** a highly respectable and industrious woman, mother of five children. She appeared before the bench with two black eyes and said her husband had deserted her about four years when he went to Australia retuning about two months ago. Since his return he has treated her with cruelty. The prisoner was discharged upon promising better behaviour.[62]

PC37 Beagley, Surrey Constabulary, who met the soldiers near Chertsey when they did not have a pass, charged William Hyde and James Johnson with desertion from 7th Royal Fusiliers. Committed to Horsemonger Lane gaol. [63]

1856 August 8: Arson: Emma Lambert a good-looking girl, 13 years old, surrendered to take her trial for **feloniously setting fire** to an out house on a farm at Bletchingly in the evening of the 22nd April. The prisoner and a much younger girl who was included in the charge but in whose case the grand jury ignored the bill, were seen to go towards a hovel on the farm and was shortly afterwards seen to be on fire and at the same time the girls were seen to be running away. Superintendent Hollington of the Surrey Constabulary soon took the prisoner into custody when she began to cry and admitted setting fire to the place but it was done accidently. The prisoner appeared to have borne a good character and there was not the slightest ill feeling or animosity towards the farmer. It was accepted it was an accident and the girl was found not guilty[64]

1856 Manslaughter Chertsey: Following a quarrel on the 3 February between John Beauchamp a publican of the Coffeehouse in Chertsey and his wife during which Mrs Beauchamp was struck unconscious and later that day died. After the quarrel the defendant went and saw a chemist who came to the house and found Mrs Beauchamp deeply unconscious. Superintendent Biddlecombe was summoned to the house on the

[59] 1856 August 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[60] 1856 August 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[61] 1856 August 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[62] 1856 August 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[63] 1856 August 2: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[64] 1856 8 August Standard 1856 also 6 August The Times

5th February where he saw the prisoner and his unconscious wife and when he asked why a doctor had not been called he was informed that Mrs Beauchamp was frequently drunk and unconscious. A surgeon was called and examined her and she was still unconscious. After she died a PM revealed organ damage indicating that she was addicted to spirits. The jury after a short deliberation found the defendant guilty of manslaughter and the judge thought this was the right verdict particularly as it was known he had struck his wife before and would be sentenced to four years penal servitude. [65]

1856 August 9: Chertsey Petty Sessions:

Eliza Searle charged upon the information of PC Lambert Surrey Constabulary, with **willfully damaging shed at Windlesham** and was given a 5s and 1s penalty with 20s costs or two months hard labour. [66]

James Church was charged with **assaulting** James Salmon in **Windlesham** convicted with a penalty of 5s with 19s costs.[67]

Edward Beer of **Weybridge** was charged with **assaulting** Jane Leonard lodging housekeeper but the case was dismissed[68]

George Chowney of Woking **aged 8 years** was charged by Thomas Bent Superintendent of police of the London and South Western railway Company with **throwing stones at a railway carriage** near **Woking** station on 11 July last. Severe admonishment from the chairman and was fined 2s.[69]

PC Baxter Surrey Constabulary charged Richard Perrin, Richard Turner and Richard Howard with **riding on wagons** of which they were in charge **without reins** on the high road between Thorpe and Egham. Penalty of 1s each and 19s costs**.**[70]

PC Moore Surrey Constabulary charged William Parrin, John Spurgeon and John J Simms with **desertion** from 27th Regiment. Committed to Horsemonger Lane Gaol.[71]

Thomas Gunn and Thomas Barnes were charged by PC Adams Surrey Constabulary, with **deserting** from the 7th Hussars and were sent to Horsemonger Lane Gaol.[72]

John Meakin, Thomas Salisbury and John Rennie were charged by Superintendent Biddlecombe Surrey Constabulary, with **deserting** from the 95th Regiment of Foot and were sent to Horsemonger Lane Gaol[73]

James Campbell McFadyen was charged by PC King Surrey Constabulary, with **deserting** from the Scots Fusilier Guards and was sent to Horsemonger Lane Gaol.[74]

1856 August 12: Surrey Assizes: Wheat stealing at Capel:

Richard Sullivan was charged with stealing 2 bushels of wheat the property of Joseph Nash. He was also charged with receiving the same knowing it had been stolen. Two sacks were missed and at a quarter past four in the morning the tollgate keeper, two

[65] The Times March 20 1856
[66] 1856 August 9: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[67] 1856 August 9: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[68] 1856 August 9: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[69] 1856 August 9: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[70] 1856 August 9: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[71] 1856 August 9: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[72] 1856 August 9: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[73] 1856 August 9: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[74] 1856 August 9: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette

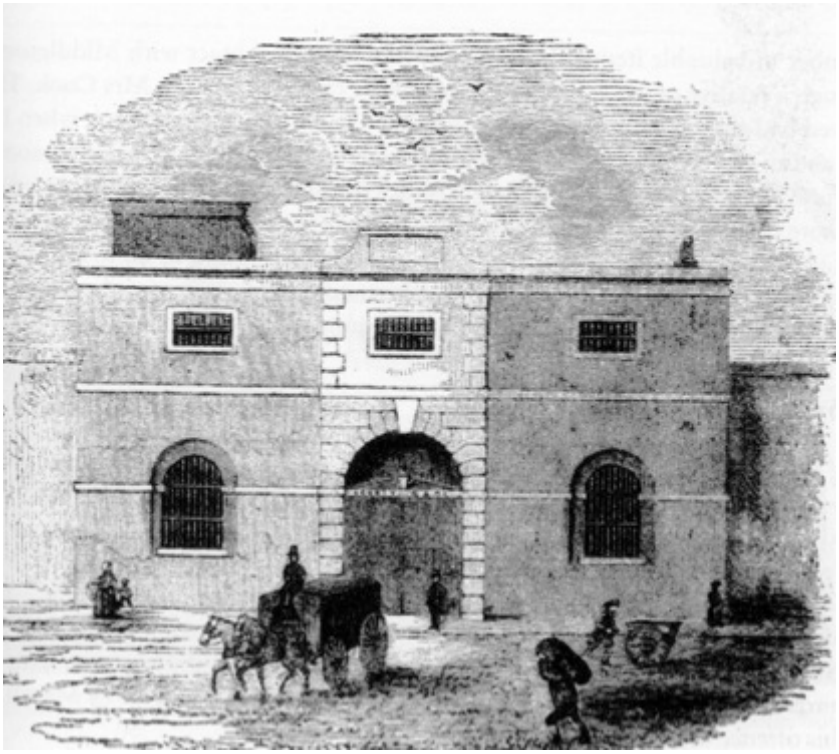
miles from the premises, let a person though with a covered truck on his way to Horsham. He could not say if the prisoner was that man. Superintendent Green of Horsham heard that some wheat had been brought to Cripplegate Mill and that the police had better make enquiries about it. He went to the mill where the prisoner had about 9 gallons of wheat in his possession and was arrested. The prisoner said he had received the wheat from a woman he had met along the road shortly before. Found guilty and sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour.[75]

1856 August 12: Surrey Assizes:

Concealment of birth at Godalming: Elizabeth Faulkner pleaded guilty to concealing the birth of her new born child at Godalming on the 6th July last and was sentenced to three months imprisonment. [76]

1856 August 12: Guildford County Bench:

George Wittam was charged with being a **deserter** from the 7th Regiment of Foot stationed at Aldershot having escaped from the guardroom where he had been confined on a charge of being a deserter having been transferred there from Horsemonger Lane gaol. Was committed to the county police station to await an escort.[77]



Horsemonger Lane gaol

John McGurk was charged by PC Buckett with being a **deserter** from the 42nd Highlanders and was committed to the county police station to await an escort.[78]

[75] 1856 August 12: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[76] 1856 August 12: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[77] 1856 August 12: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[78] 1856 August 12: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette

Committal of a Police Constable Isaac (?) Jyles of the Surrey Constabulary charged by Superintendent Parr with neglect of duty by disobeying his orders. It appears that the prisoner had been ordered on the previous morning by the Superintendent to proceed by rail to Ash and from thence to Aldershot camp to institute enquiries relative to a prisoner in custody at the County Police Station, and was desired to return by rail, so as to arrive in Guildford by 5'oclock instead of which he did not make an appearance until 9 o'clock that evening and then the worst for liquor. He was desired to return to his station at Ash and shortly afterwards was found by Inspector Coward drinking in a public house in the town and the Inspector thereupon conducted him to the station where his staff and handcuffs were taken from him and he was again ordered to Ash, but this order he also disobeyed and remained in Guildford during the night. The next morning he was taken into custody and was dismissed form the force by the Chief Constable Captain Hastings, by whose direction he was taken before the magistrates for neglect of duty. He was committed to the House of Correction at Wandsworth for one month with hard labour whither he was conveyed shortly after.[79]

Frederick Mills was charged with vagrancy by sleeping in an outhouse in the parish of Witley and not having any visible means of subsistence. Committed to prison for one month.[80]

PC Tickner charged John Pavlor with being a **deserter** from the Rifle Brigade. The Mayor ordered he be returned to his battalion at Aldershot.[81]

PC John Davis charged John Sullivan with being a **deserter** from the 23rd Regiment of Foot stationed at Aldershot. He was escorted back to his regiment.

1856 August 12 Reigate Petty Sessions:

William Booty and Stephen Constable were summoned for having at Charlwood on the 16 Juky done **wilful damage** to the amount of 7s 4d on the premises of Benjamin Potter, the Black Horse. A group of men were drinking in the taproom when a quart pot was broken. It was said that a rope bell was pulled it broke and fell onto the pot breaking it. The Chairman struck this part of the charge but the remaining items amounted to 6s 6d they would have to pay as also the costs making altogether £1 9s 6dor Wandsworth House of Correction for 14 days.[82]

Harriett Wickens of Horley was summoned for having **assaulted** Martha Barbary also of **Horley.** The defendant pleaded guilty but the complainant had irritated her by using bad language. Fined 4s 6d and 15s 6d costs or a month's hard labour. A month to pay [83]

Theresa Hindes was charged with being drunk and disorderly the previous day at Merstham. PC16 deposed that he was attending divine service at Merstham church when the prisoner went into the porch, appeared very ill and threw up a great deal of

[79] 1856 August 12: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[80] 1856 August 12: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[81] 1856 August 12: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[82] 1856 August 12: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[83] 1856 August 12: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette

liquor. She went away returning shortly and began brawling in church. The clergyman did not wish to press charges and the case would be dismissed.[84]

1856 August 16: **Chertsey Petty Sessions:**

James Jessop and William Harvey of **Egham** were fined 5s each for being **drunk and disorderly** the previous night. [85]

James Jessop was again apprehended in **Egham** on Sunday morning charged with **sleeping on the premises** of Mr Argent and leaving the gate open which means some of the stock entered the rick-yard and dis considerable damage. Committed to Wandsworth House of Correction for 14 days hard labour.[86]

Egham: James Healey and James Mc Naughton **deserters** from 19th and 82 Regiments of Foot at Aldershot apprehended by a police officer taken before the court and committed to Horsemonger Lane Gaol.[87]

The numbers of deserters apprehended by the police is said to be surprising much more so the numbers who escape detection. One of these men stated **130 men were absent** from his regiment without leave at the time he left.[88] It may also have been that the officer was paid a reward of over a week's pay. The below is from the 1862 Instruction Book.

Application to retain reward or gratuity.

.....Detachment,
July 2nd, 1862.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I have this day received the sum of twenty shillings, being a reward granted to me by the Secretary of State for War for the apprehension of ——— on the 2nd of April, 1862, as a deserter from the 49th Regiment of Foot.

I beg permission to be allowed to retain one-half of the amount, and herewith to hand over to you the other, on account of the Reward Fund.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

The Superintendent,
Surrey Constabulary,
Chertsey.
(or as the case may be).

.....
P.C. No.....

Emma Jones and Eliza Jones, mother and daughter were charged with feloniously **setting fire to a shed at Bagshot** causing £70 of damage. Mrs Jones was arrested and taken to Chertsey police station where the female searcher deposed that on Monday

[84] 1856 August 12: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[85] 1856 August 16: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[86] 1856 August 16: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[87] 1856 August 16: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[88] 1856 August 16: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette

evening 4 August the prisoners were brought there by Superintendent Biddlecombe directed she be searched and placed in the female cell. Mrs Jones admitted to her that she had set fire to the shed. Superintendent **Biddlecombe** deposed that he took Emma Jones into custody and charged her with setting fire to Mrs Burchett's shed. She said she knew nothing about it. He directed PC Lambert to take the daughter into custody. The mother was sent to the next Assizes and the daughter discharged.[89]

1856 August 30: Windsor and Eton Express: Egham Races: The light fingered gentry were looked after by Superintendent Biddlecombe and a division of the Surrey Constabulary who were on duty at the course, and Inspector Bent from Waterloo station who was on the alert at Egham Station so these gentlemen were compelled to be cautious in their vocations.[90]

1856 August 30: Chertsey Petty Sessions:

George Daw and James Fulkner charged with **breaking two panes of glass in Newhaw.** Daw received a penalty of 1s, damage 3s 6d, costs 17s or 21 days with Fulker discharged.[91]

John Pantlin, Byfleet, was charged with **assaulting** William Foster. The case was dismissed as no assault took place. [92]

PC J Hibberd, Surrey Constabulary, charged Patrick Hynes with begging in Chertsey,. 18pence found in his pocket and sentenced to 14 days hard labour.[93]

Edward Smith and Thomas Hart charged with **gambling on the highway** in Egham the first day of Egham Races and were committed to hard labour for 21 days.[94]

John Regon was charged with being **drunk and disorderly** at Egham and was fined 5s.[95]

On Tuesday afternoon Inspector James Murtell Surrey Constabulary apprehended a man named John Baker with a small **pony in his possession, which was stolen.**[96]

1856 September 13: Egham races: Although ever reluctant to censure the police when they deserve blame we are equally ready to justify them when their conduct is such as to warrant our so doing. All persons who have any knowledge of the difficulties of "keeping clear the course" and of discharging other duties as upon the police force engaged upon such occasions must know the labour attended upon carrying out those duties, more particularly just on the eve of the races. At Ascot the A Division of the London police manage their duties to perfection but then they are picked men and accustomed to such peculiar work. At Egham, Superintendent Biddlecombe and a body of the Surrey Constabulary were engaged and, we believe, not more than half a dozen of the men had previously performed similar duties, consequently such perfect carrying out of their instructions as by men who are fully trained for the work was not to be expected.

On the first day some complaints were made that the course was not well kept, in other words, the police were not sufficiently active in preventing the public from

[89] 1856 August 16: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[90] 1856 30 August: Windsor and Eton Express: Egham Races
[91] 1856 August 30: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[92] 1856 August 30: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[93] 1856 August 30: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[94] 1856 August 30: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[95] 1856 August 30: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[96] 1856 August 30: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette

crossing and re-crossing it when a race was about coming off. On the second day a fracas occurred between the police and an offender by the former doing their duty. A person in running across the course having evaded snatches by one or two policemen was at last caught fast by one of the force just as he had crossed and managed to dart under the ropes. Here there was a scuffle, the man got on his legs, one of the police was struck twice, other police went to his assistance, the offender received a blow from the policeman's truncheon and in endeavouring to pull him into the course to escort him back from whence he came he fell over the ropes, whereupon there was a great cry of "Shame" against the police. But the man was eventually taken back to the side from whence he started to convince him he had no right to cross, and there he was very pugnacious and evinced a great desire to give Superintendent Biddlecombe a taste of his fistic powers. However more discreet friends that he had on the opposite side prevented him committing a second assault and thus the matter ended.

From these circumstances the turf reporter of the Sunday Times has made the following very unfair attack upon the police:

"The only unpleasant incident which occurred to mar the satisfactory character of the proceedings was the brutal violence displayed by the local police who, in certain instances exceeded their duty so shamefully as to excite the indignation of the spectators. On Thursday so brutal attack did they make on an unfortunate fellow who was crossing the course that yells and execrations assailed from all sides and so threatening became the mob that a serious riot seemed inevitable. Had the people taken the law into their own hands and soundly thrashed the "peeler" guilty of the outrage they would have been fully justified. The slightest opposition to the authority of the police caused truncheons to be used with the most savage ferocity. Armed with their formidable weapons the fellows seemed to forget they were employed to preserve peace and order but they hustled unfortunate wights (sic) most roughly and laid about them right and left. If their duty was to smash heads without distinction they unscrupulously discharged it. The inspectors were much to blame that they did not interfere to restrain the violence of their men."

Our attention was drawn to the remarks last week and we in addition to giving the foregoing description of the affair obtained from an eye witness, in justice to the police, subjoin the following reply to our inquiries from an Egham correspondent:

" I consider the extract from the Sunday Times embodies an unfounded attack upon the police, and abounds also in gross misrepresentation. The police have arduous duties to perform in addition to the prevention and detection of crime, it is indispensible to "clear the course" and to keep it clear for the mutual safety of the jockeys, horses and the public and their instructions upon this point are explicit and peremptory. Some persons are ever too prone to frustrate their efforts by crossing the course at uncertain periods and at irregular intervals after the bell has rung and this unbecoming and dangerous practice having attained its climax at our last meeting a corresponding effort was made to abate the evil. A "gentleman sportsman" having offended in this particular and having resisted the entreaties of the police to return to the *locus in quo*, accompanied with a blow, this functionary retaliated in self-defence. The mob, resentful of interference, sympathised with the culprit, who received the chastisement, which his own foolish conduct provoked and they hooted accordingly. . There was not the slightest ground for apprehending a riot, in fine, the committee feel

the police acted throughout with commendable forbearance, which would be politic upon all occasions in the public to reciprocate. [97]

1856 September 13: Chertsey Petty Sessions:

James Stevens of **Bisley** charged with **assaulting Police Constable** George Peters Surrey Constabulary, in the execution of his duty was convicted and fined 5s with £1 5s costs or 21 days hard labour. [98]

Ann Shorter was charged with **assaulting** Sarah Clarke at Chertsey. She pleaded guilty and was fined 1s with 6s costs or 14 days hart labour[99]

John Blenheim and Thomas Johnson charged with **trespassing in pursuit of game** at Egham to which they pleaded guilty and were fined £1 with 19s costs or 21 days hard labour.[100]

Thomas Derry charged by PC King with **deserting** 82nd Regiment and was sent to Horsemonger Lane Gaol to await escort.[101]

Walter Evans the boots at the Catherine Wheel Inn, Egham was charged with stealing clothing and alcohol from his master. He pleaded not guilty and was committed for trial at Newington Sessions on September 15.[102]

Following similar cases in Egham 12 months ago: A woman with the appearance of a respectable servant called at Egham post office and presented a not that turned out to be forged £10 note. Other notes were uttered in local towns. The loss to the postmaster was greater than his annual stipend. [103]

on Tuesday last William Weston 46 was indicted for **stealing at Egham seven half crowns**. The prosecutor and defendant are farm labourers who slept in adjoining beds at the Queen's Head, Egham. Police traced the prisoner to a farm where he was thatching and found 6 half crowns in his possession and discovered he had changed another at a pubic house. Found guilty; three months hard labour.[104]

Henry Vickers was charged by PC Moore Surrey Constabulary, with **vagrancy** in Chertsey and was committed for one month's hard labour[105]

PC R Moore, Surrey Constabulary, charged George Thomas with **cruelty to a horse** when working it when in an unfit state. Convicted and fine 10s with costs or 21 days[106]

Inquest at Railway Bell, Inn Chertsey on the body of a lad James Page, in charge of a wagon drawn by two horses slipped and two wheels going over him, **killing him almost immediately.[107]**

1856 September 20: Surrey Sessions before a bench of magistrates

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[97] 1856 September 13: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[98] 1856 September 13: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[99] 1856 September 13: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[100] 1856 September 13: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[101] 1856 September 13: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[102] 1856 September 13: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[103] 1856 September 20: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[104] 1856 September 20: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[105] 1856 September 20: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[106] 1856 September 20: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[107] 1856 September 20: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette

Robbery at Farnham: Thomas Wade 29, a sergeant of the 1st King's Dragoons wearing the **Crimean medal** was indicted for **stealing a watch** the property of Clements Borrelli, a watchmaker and jeweller in Farnham. The defendant called in the shop and looked at several watches and as he left one of the watches was missing. The rural police were informed and he was arrested at Aldershot where the watch was found in his possession. Found guilty but as the Chairman said, his previous character had been so good he should sentence him to only six moths hard labour at the house of correction.[108]

Robbery at Farnham: Emma Beeke was indicted for **stealing at Farnham a quantity of clothing** the property of John Riley a sergeant in the German Legion. He was based in Aldershot but went to Farnham to buy some clothes. He then met the defendant and took her to a public house and after a while he missed her and his property. He informed the police and the prisoner apprehended at her lodgings. She was acquitted.[109]

Stealing at Farnham: At the Surrey Sessions Charles Collins 18 pleaded guilty to stealing a watch and was sentenced to three months at Wandsworth.[110]

1856 October 11: Another forged £10 note was presented at the Egham bank on Monday.[111]

1856 October 11: Chertsey Petty Sessions:

Thomas Green the supervisor of Excise laid an information against Stephen Green of Egham for managing an **illegal still.** After hearing the evidence of the excise officers and PC King Surrey Constabulary, who accompanied them when they made the seizure the bench were of the opinion the proprietorship had not been established and the case was dismissed.[112]

John Hastings was charged with **assaulting** Emma Emmett of Thorpe aged 13 and was convicted and fined 3s 6d and 16s 6d costs or 21 days.[113]

Robert Ayles of Chertsey was charged with **violently assaulting** William Haslett of Newhaw on Monday 1st September. There was a fight in the White Hart Inn and as a result the injured man had been receiving long-term medical treatment. Fine £1 with 16s costs or 6 weeks hard labour[114]

Martha Shelley of Egham was charged with **assaulting** Sophia Godfrey at Egham but the complainant failed to establish her case and the prisoner was dismissed. [115]

William Hill of Lyford was charged with **stealing two faggots of wood.** PC 52 Roger Parke Surrey Constabulary stationed at Pyrford stated that from information received he watched the victim's premises on the morning of Sunday 5th and at about 5 o'clock he saw the prisoner take a faggot from the stack. The prosecutor did not press for a

[108] 1856 September 20: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[109] 1856 September 20: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[110] 1856 September 20: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[111] 1856 October 11: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[112] 1856 October 11: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[113] 1856 October 11: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[114] 1856 October 11: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[115] 1856 October 11: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette

severe sentence and so the prisoner was to be detained in the police station for 24 hours.[116]

John Barnes of Chertsey was summoned for having **assaulted** Henry Freeman. Case was dismissed[117]

Stephen Baigent of Chobham was charged with **stealing a quantity of straw**. Case dismissed**.**[118]

1856 October 11: On Tuesday last a man named Brown aged 70 was **accidentally killed** by falling from a hay rick producing concussion of the brain and other serious injuries. [119]

1856 October 15: Guildford Borough Police Office:

James Earnden a lad about 15 described as a hawker was brought up and charged as follows. The lad went to a surgery with some braces and other articles for sale and was told they did not wish to buy any. On being **required to leave the surgery he refused** and rang the bell several times before the police were called and he was taken into custody. Committed to the House of Correction at Wandsworth for 21 days hard labour. [120]

1856 October 21: Surrey Michaelmas Session: The Surrey Constabulary:

The amount of bills ordered for payment on account of police expenses for the last quarter was £202 19s 2d. Payment was also ordered of £75 on account of the lock-up house at Leatherhead and the tender of Mr George Walker was accepted for the erection of the lock up, for £561 10s which was £31 10s below the sum authorised by the court; payment of £3 was ordered to the Rev Mr Essen for the site of the lock-up at Haslemere. The Police Committee had paid great attention to the rent of the different police stations in the county, which they considered too high and they recommended that in future the rent should be reduced to the uniform rate of £6 per annum with the exception of the police station at Guildford. Confirmed. The Chief Constable was authorised to take necessary steps for providing a good supply of water at the Farnham station at a sum not exceeding £35. [121]

1856 October 21: Surrey Michaelmas Session:

William Taylor 39, a tailor was acquitted of the charge of **stealing at Dorking** money belonging to John Whitmore.[122]

Thomas Holmes, labourer was charged with **stealing at Farnham** a watch the property of Robert Howlett. The prosecutor was in the Princess Royal public house at Farnham on 23 September with his watch in his pocket and went to sleep and when he woke it was gone. The loss was reported to PC A Mason Surrey Constabulary, who accompanied him to the prisoner's lodgings where the watch was found under a pillow on the bed after a violent struggle with the prisoner. The jury immediately found him guilty and he was sentenced to four years penal servitude. [123]

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[116] 1856 October 11: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[117] 1856 October 11: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[118] 1856 October 11: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[119] 1856 October 11: Windsor and Eton Express, Berk, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette
[120] 1856 October 21: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[121] 1856 October 21: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[122] 1856 October 21: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[123] 1856 October 21: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette

Jacob Linden 21, smith, **stealing at Frimley** one screw plate, one centre bit, steam punch and other articles value £2 the property of his master. Previous conviction for felony having been proved was sentenced to penal servitude for four years.[124]

Robert Foucher 21, labourer to obtaining 5d from Elizabeth Dalleu at **Ripley** by means of **false pretences** and was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment with hard labour.[125]

1856 October 21: Borough Police Office Guildford:

James Withers was charged with **stealing** two scarves and one neck-tie the property of Thomas Hammersley and also similar property belonging to Thomas Smith. Both prosecutors are privates in the **7th Hussars** now stationed at Guildford and the prisoner had been employed as a helper in the stables. The soldiers retired to bed in their billets at the White Lion Hotel and overnight the property was stolen. The prisoner was apprehended at Reading on the following Sunday and some of the articles found in his lodgings. Committed for trial at the Borough Sessions. [126]

James Murray a ragged and miserable looking man who had stated he came from London was charged with **stealing four bread rolls** that morning from the shop of Mr Brett. The prisoner was seen by the daughter of Mr Brett stealing the bread and saw him eating one and concealing the others. He said he had not eaten the whole of the previous day. Remanded until he Borough Bench on Monday.[127]

David Stanley and William Sayers two members of the gypsy fraternity were charged by PC George Newland who had apprehended them at two in the morning at Merrow with committing an act of **vagrancy** by lodging under a tent and having no visible means of subsistence. Discharged with a caution.[128]

John Kram a German was charged by PC Bullimer with being a **deserter** from the British German Legion and was committed to the county police station to await an escort.[129]

James Lewis was charged with being a **deserter** from the 19th Regiment of foot now stationed at Aldershot. PC Barker said he found the defendant asleep in one corner of the yard belonging to the County Police Station at 11 o'clock the previous night. He had overstayed the time on his pass and was drunk. Put into the custody of the Borough police to be conveyed back to his regiment.[130]

John Payne a leather dresser of Godalming was charged by Superintendent Parr with being a **deserter** from the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia on the 22 May 1855 and was convicted in the penalty of £20 and in default of immediate payment was committed to the House of Correction at Wandsworth for six months with hard labour. The magistrate said he had no power either to mitigate the penalty or the term of imprisonment, the law being imperative for such an offence.[131]

[124] 1856 October 21: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[125] 1856 October 21: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[126] 1856 October 28: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[127] 1856 October 28: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[128] 1856 October 28: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[129] 1856 October 28: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[130] 1856 October 28: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[131] 1856 October 28: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette

John Wilson was charged by PC John Smith with being a **deserter** from the 19th Regiment of foot and was committed to the county police station to await escort.[132]

1856 November 26: Murder in Surrey: Charles Forrester a shopkeeper in Wokingham (paper says Wokingham but if this is Surrey that must be Woking. It may have course been Wokingham) Surrey has murdered his only child, a little boy. Forrester had been a tract distributer but being dismissed from his employment, seems to have become melancholy. For some time he was an inmate of the Brompton Consumption Hospital, but was a fortnight ago returned home. On the morning of Friday his wife on getting up left the husband and child in bed. Forrester came down soon afterwards and went out. The poor woman thought the child slept an unusually long time and on going up stairs found it dead, her throat having been cut with a razor. The murderer walked no further than the police station where he gave himself into custody.[133]

1856 November 30: Old Bailey:

Theft of a horse valued at £18 from George Leggat by Alfred Dowers. Police Superintendent W H Biddlecombe gave evidence that he was riding a horse from Egham and saw the prisoner about a quarter of a mile from the field where the horse was stolen. He later went to the house of detention at Osborn where he pointed out the prisoner from 140-150 others. The prisoner responded by saying that Biddlecombe "has sworn false". The prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to 18 months. [134]

[132] 1856 October 28: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette

[133] The Blackburn Standard (Blackburn, England), Wednesday, November 26, 1856

[134] http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=t18570615-708&div=t18570615-708&terms=biddlecombe#highlight