FOUNDED 1870

CNHSS Bulletin

Issue 165, March 2019

Bulletin of the
Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society

Anthophora plumipes – male

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Sesquicentennial Anniversary 2020

Next year will mark the 150th anniversary of the formation of our society.

It was in February 1870 that Henry Long, a chemist of the High Street Croydon since 1857, placed an advertisement in the Croydon Chronicle calling for gentlemen interested in a society for conversation and the exhibition of objects to contact him. A transcript can be seen at our website www.cnhss.co.uk under 'About the Society'. Henry Lee was chosen as the first President and on 6th April 1870 the inaugural meeting was held. In those early days membership was for men only but remarkably for the time it was stated that the club "must be totally free from exclusiveness as regards the social position of those desiring to become members".

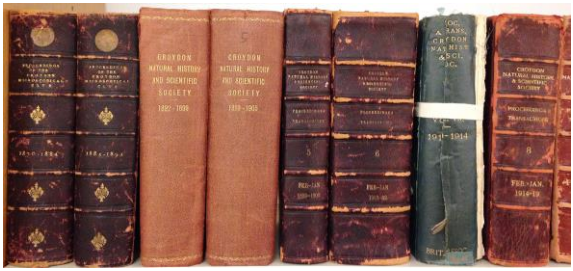
At the time microscopy was a growing interest due to great strides that had been made in its development, hence our original name of the Croydon Microscopical Club. Many similar societies were formed around this time, but few have survived. With a couple of name changes along the way, to Croydon Microscopical and Natural History Club in 1877 and to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in 1902, we are pleased to say that we have continued meeting and publishing even through the two world wars.

Our anniversary year will be marked by special events between April and October including for each of the Society's areas of interest and on the context of our formation. Included in the celebrations will be a project to collate information on the publicly-owned open spaces of Croydon past and present. Any members who have an interest in participating in this project, perhaps on a particular open space or aspect such as the geology, plant or bird life, are welcome to contact us by email at information@cnhss.co.uk, or by telephone on 020 8406 4676, or by writing to us at 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD.

Carole Roberts, Chair 150th Committee

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CROYDON MICROSCOPICAL C L U B

1870 – 1884



CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY & SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS & TRANSACTIONS

8

FEB –JAN. 1914-1919

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Editorial

Welcome to our Spring 2019 issue of the Bulletin. The 150th anniversary of the Society is in 2020 and great plans are afoot so keep a lookout for what's going on. Please welcome new contributor Graham Lomas whose local base is Chairman of Friends of Farthing Downs & Happy Valley. Our Entomology Section (meets third Wednesday of each month – see CNHSS Programme) is championed by Jovita Kaunang and Graham Collins. Thank you to Paul Sowan who once again has filled our pages with a wealth of articles. Copy date for submission of articles for our Autumn Bulletin is 8th July 2019: bulletin@cnhss.co.uk

Concord in Croydon: the Church Congress, 1877

In October 1877 the seventeenth Church Congress was held in Croydon attended by thousands of Anglican clergy and laity in a building specially erected for the occasion. Church Congresses were an annual event, held in different towns, the first being held in Cambridge in 1861.

Their purpose was to bring together members of the Church of England representing the different schools of thought. Attendees listened to prominent clergy and laity address the issues affecting the Church of England.

Unlike Convocation, Church Congresses passed no resolutions, rules or legislation. They could only hope to influence and inform. They aimed at harmony but not always successfully. Before the Congress in Croydon was held, some expected acrimony as in previous Congresses. One prominent clergyman, Archdeacon George Anthony Denison, declined to attend for 'fear of fruitless collision, between what he persisted in calling "the Catholic and Protestant" elements in the Church'.[1] Fortunately his fears proved needless.

The different schools of thought created division. They were the High, the Anglo-Catholic, the Low, the Broad and the Evangelical parties. The division, however, was principally the result of the rise of the Oxford Movement begun in the 1840s and its subsequent evolution into ritualism or Anglo-Catholicism. Ritualism was the subject of parliamentary legislation to impose discipline on the ritualists and achieve uniformity of worship throughout the United Kingdom as presented in the Book of Common Prayer.

The ritualists were a minority. London and its suburbs had 848 churches in 1877 but only thirty-five were counted as Anglo-Catholic, distinguished from the rest by the use of coloured eucharistic vestments. None of these thirty-five was in Croydon. Fewer still used incense but one who did, at Hatcham in Kent, was Arthur Tooth, later of Woodside in Croydon to which he moved towards the end of October.

Some of the different schools of thought had separate weekly newspapers. The High Church and Anglo-Catholics had the *Church Times*, the Low Church and Evangelicals the *Church of England Newspaper* and the more extreme Evangelicals the *Record* and the *Rock*. The one with the widest readership was the *Guardian* which, though High Church, had a broad readership.[2] I have used the *Church Times* and the *Guardia*n as most of the others have not been preserved. One bishop caused amusement by saying he read none of them. The sessions of the Croydon Congress are reported in detail.

Some of the different schools of thought had their own pressure groups. The High Church had the English Church Union, the Evangelicals the Church Association. The latter drew up a memorial, with upwards of 60,000 signatures, calling for the 'entire suppression of ceremonies and practices adjudged to be illegal'.[3]

The Croydon Church Congress was distinctive. It was the first to be held near London and the first to have an Archbishop as President. The capital had no Anglican church capable of holding the numbers likely to attend. The only church or chapel in London that could was Spurgeon's Tabernacle but it was not Anglican. Croydon was near enough to substitute for a London Congress. The leader writer for the *Church Times* wrote 'I know not to whom came the happy thought that Croydon was sufficiently near town to answer the requirements of London Churchfolk'.[4]

The Croydon Church Congress was also significant because it was held in the immediate aftermath of the first priest to be imprisoned under the Public Worship Regulation Act, Arthur Tooth.[5] His imprisonment was in Horsemonger Lane Goal, Southwark, between 22 January and 17 February 1877. The Act had been passed in 1874, the 'last year of English history in which a whole session of Parliament was preoccupied with religion'.[6]

Though the Act was apparently the brainchild of Archbishop Tait, he was urged on by Queen Victoria who had no sympathy for the ritualists. Neither did Tait but he accepted that they, however misguided, were sincere. As Bishop of London he had admired the pastoral work of the ritualists in the slums of the East End. His views hardened when he became Archbishop. He was shocked to see that some ritualist priests advocated auricular

confession to a priest and were using altar cards, invoking the Virgin Mary and saints, which they recited privately while officiating at Holy Communion.

As the bill went through Parliament it was much altered, particularly because of amendments by Lord Shaftesbury and by Lord Cairns, Disraeli's Lord Chancellor. Instead of a diocesan court headed by bishops and other clergy as Tait wanted, a court headed by a lay judge was the result. Tooth, in common with others, did not accept that Parliament could decide on matters of ritual and doctrine. Some MPs might not be Christians and might even be of no religion whatsoever.

The English Church Union expressed this clearly. It 'opposes all attempts to pass any measure for the internal discipline of the Church of England which has not been previously submitted to the Convocation of the Church and received their approval. It therefore opposes vigorously the passing of the Public Worship Regulation Bill'.[7]

Other clergy had been suspended but Tooth was the first of five imprisoned over the next few years. Not surprisingly some feared that the Congress might reflect the anger caused by the Act and Tooth's imprisonment. That it did not is perhaps surprising. One explanation was because of Tait's judicious and moderate opening address. He avoided controversy. He set the tone for the whole Congress.

He raised one 'unpleasant' matter when he alluded to the ritualists whom, in an uncharacteristically colourful passage echoing Gladstone's language about the Bulgarian massacres, he likened them to undisciplined skirmishers, Bashi-Bazouks or Cossacks, who had no place in the modern world.[8]

In marked contrast to Tait's relatively mild rebuke, the *Croydon Advertiser*'s leader writer spoke of the ritualists' 'ecclesiastical treason' tarnishing the work of ministers who upheld the Protestant faith and of the 'foul torrent of corruption which is spreading over the land from the false teachings and abhorrent practises of the Romanising priests'.[9]

Another explanation for the Congress avoiding recrimination over ritualism is that none of the topics covered at the Congress had ritualism as its theme. Those who planned the programme of topics may also take the credit.

Controversy over ritual and doctrine was thus avoided. *The Times* wondered how long it would last. However, the leader writer did instance an example of controversy mentioned by two speakers on the topic of the relations between nonconformity and the Church of England. In 1876 a bill was put before Parliament to allow nonconformist ministers to conduct their own burial services in parish churchyards. This was regarded as an attack by nonconformists on the Church of England's right to confine burials to

those conducted by its own ministers. The bill was not passed but a later one, in 1880, permitting burials in any parish graveyard with the services of any Christian denomination or with none at all, did pass.[10] It removed the last major grievance of the Nonconformists and undercut the theoretical ground for disestablishment.[11]

The English Church Union opposed the bill. It is 'vigorously resisting the attempt to give *Dissenting Ministers* the power of *saying their Services in our Consecrated Churchyard*s, which are the property of the Church and not of the nation'.

The fear that Parliament would legislate to deprive the Church of England of its privileged position as the established church of the nation was not without foundation. In Ireland the majority of people were Catholics but the established church was the Church of England in Ireland. It had considerable wealth. Following the Irish Church Act in 1869, the Church of Ireland was disestablished in 1871. Some of its wealth was confiscated and put to other uses.

Many nonconformists hoped the Church of England would be similarly disestablished. This was the policy of the Liberation Society.[12] Speakers at the Congress expressed the view that nonconformity was becoming more assertive than hitherto. One speaker believed that relations between Anglicans and nonconformists had worsened since 1870 and said that 'the tactics of the Liberationists (at least) have lately been such as to reveal a fixed intention – not at "liberating" the Church but of destroying her'.[13] Another said 'The cry for *religious liberty*, – a genuinely religious aspiration, – has been supplanted by the cry for *religious equality*, which is really a political claim'.[14]

Enough has been said to show that the Congress took place when the Church of England was feeling vulnerable. Its property no longer seemed inviolable. Its status as the established church was under threat. The nonconformists were claiming equal rights. Parliament was enacting laws contrary to its interests. Its Protestantism was being eroded and the Reformation subverted.

Except for the one held in Brighton in 1874, the Croydon Congress had the largest attendance of the seventeen so far. Brighton had nearly five thousand attendees. In 1861, when the venue was King's College, Cambridge, three hundred attended, but it was a new venture, the initiative of two Fellows of the College.

Croydon's several railway lines serving London only a few miles distant made it possible for convenient travel from London and at a reasonable cost. Those coming from a greater distance bore the cost not only of travel

but also of overnight accommodation. One clergyman hoped that the railway companies would allow return journeys for the cost of a single one.

Unfortunately Croydon had only a few hotels, the best being the Greyhound. Many of the attendees accepted the hospitality offered by the people of Croydon. Some Nonconformist ministers sympathised with the Congress and asked their worshippers to open their houses to its visitors.[15]

In addition to the cost of transport and accommodation, members of the Congress paid 7s 6d for a ticket permitting attendance for the week but 3s for a day ticket. The weekly tickets had to be purchased in advance. Lists of those attending were printed during the week and acquired by the *Croydon Advertiser*, about five thousand being expected. The Official Report stated that 4,073 full member tickets and 730 day tickets had been sold.

Three guides to the Congress were published in advance.[16] Each contained the programme of sessions and topics. They provided biographies of the speakers. Each had numerous adverts, particularly of firms selling church furnishings. Each provided a guide to Croydon and its vicinity and not just of its churches. Many clergy and laity in the provinces were ignorant of its size and importance.

The Congress was held on the week beginning Sunday October 9. On Sunday, services were held in the Croydon parish church. The Archbishop presided at each session but not at the sectional meetings in the Public Hall. The first session was preceded by a sermon preached by the distinguished biblical scholar Professor Joseph Lightfoot and then the Archbishop's inaugural address referred to above.

No account of all the different sessions needs to be given. Each opened with papers and addresses read by the principal speakers and they were followed by others who were restricted to ten minutes each. Women were welcome to attend but all the speakers were men. Clergy outnumbered laity as was usual in such Congresses; but the number of laity – nobles, MPs and professional men – attending was seemingly higher than in previous ones.

The principal sessions of Congress were held in the Congress Hall but sectional meetings in the Large Public Hall of the Literary and Scientific Institution.

Running concurrently with the Congress was an Ecclesiastical Art Exhibition in which firms were selling, for example, altar frontals and crosses and 'funeral paraphernalia'. The Exhibition was not held in the Congress Hall but in the Croydon Skating Rink on the corner of Katharine Street and Park Lane *[see Croydon Skating Rink advertisement next page]*.

Collections in aid of the Principal Building Fund.

CROYDON SKATING RINK.

THIS RINK will be OPENED for the first time in the afternoon of SATURDAY, AUGUST 7th, from Three till Seven, during which time a Band will perform. ON THIS OCCASION the admission will be 2s. 6d., including the use of Skates. The Band will commence playing punctually at a Quarter-past Three.

On MONDAY, AUGUST 9th, and every succeeding day (except Sundays) until and including SEPTEMBER 29th, the Rink will be opened as follows :—

HOURS OF OPENING.

In the Morning, half-past 10 till half-past 1.
,, Afternoon 3 6.
,, Evening 7 10.

Ladies will be admitted an hour earlier in the morning —namely, at Half-past Nine.

	s.	d.
CHARGES—Admission each time	1	0
Hire of Skates...	0	6

Children under twelve will be admitted at half-price IN THE MORNING.

Weekly Tickets expiring on Saturdays to admit at all the usual hours of opening, but not including the use of Skates 2 6

A Band will perform every Thursday and Saturday afternoon.

Croydon Advertiser, 31 July 1875

Except for a sermon on Saturday and services on Sunday and Monday morning, the last events were on Friday evening when, besides the final session, the inhabitants of Croydon put on a *conversazione*, clearing the temporary hall of benches and providing a refreshment tent. Music was provided by the Band of the Grenadier Guards under the leadership of Dan Godfrey.

In praising the Congress's organisation the press singled out one individual in particular, the Revd William Wilks, one of the three honorary secretaries, described as being 'able and energetic'.[17] Wilks was then the senior curate of Croydon parish church but later as the better-known vicar of St John the Evangelist, Shirley, and famed for the Shirley Poppy. His appointment to Shirley was announced the month before the Congress opened. He was the author of one of the three guides. The other secretaries were Major Charles Watson and the Revd T. N. L. Causton.

Another individual singled out was Alfred Carpenter, a local physician but also the official physician to Tait and to two previous Archbishops. He was a member of the Board of Health, the body which was effectively the body which governed Croydon. He was the Congress's treasurer and chairman of the Works Committee. He addressed Congress on the subject of intemperance, recommending personal visits to the homes of drunkards.

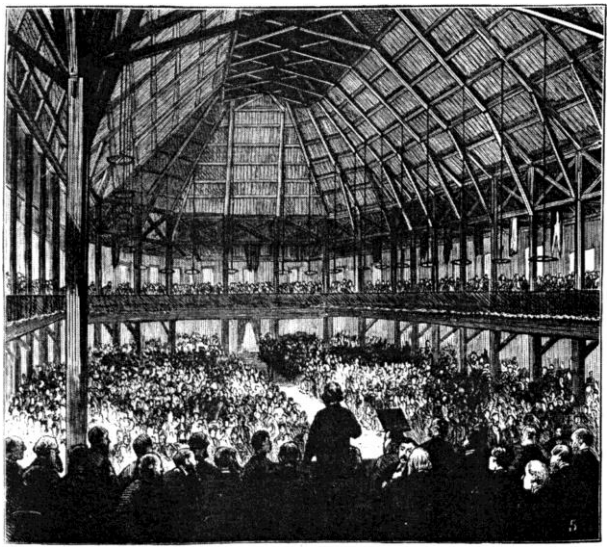
None of the individuals planning for the Congress had any previous experience of planning other Congresses or of attending them.

The exact location of the Hall was in doubt in 1876. There was a proposal by the railway company to roof over Central Croydon station to accommodate the Congress.[18] By 1877 the location was to be in the Fairfield opposite the station the main entrance to the Hall being from Addiscombe Road.

The Hall in the Fairfield was constructed by a Mr Dale, manager of the building department of William Whiteley's retail empire, in accordance with the specifications of the Congress's honorary architect Edward Salter.[19] Two hundred workmen were engaged in its construction.[20] The Hall was a wooden structure in the shape of a parallelogram, the length of which was

160 feet, the width 90 feet and the height 57 feet, designed to hold 2,500 people. The interior walls were covered with grey calico. On three sides were the galleries, the calico-covered fronts of which were painted crimson. The acoustics were excellent. Messrs Gillett and Brand's Steam Engine Factory provided the clocks. The Archbishop and the Congress committee had each their own apartment. Besides the Hall itself, there were a number of outbuildings. The cost of the Congress Hall and fittings was £2,476 18s 12d. The only illustration of the Hall that I have found appeared in the *Graphic*, a weekly similar to the *Illustrated London News*, on 20 October, the artist being Henry William Brewer.

The Congress was hailed as a success. The organisers were congratulated on the arrangements. A correspondent congratulated Tait for setting the tone in his 'beautiful' opening address.[21] *The Times* concluded that 'Churchmen of all classes will go home better satisfied with each other…and bound over by mutual pledges to keep the peace towards each other, at least for some time to come'.[22]



Though the Congress had ended, the Hall was the venue for a performance of the Messiah in aid of the Indian Famine Relief Fund on Tuesday 16 October. This seems to be the last use of the Hall before its demolition the same week. On condition that only the woodwork could be bought, it was sold for £600 to William Pyne, licensee of the George the Fourth, Addiscombe Road.[23]

A proposal was apparently made in 1878 to fit two windows in the chapel being restored at Lambeth Palace as a memorial to the Congress.[24] The proposal may never have been effected. As the chapel was destroyed in the Second World War, no physical evidence remains. Pre-war guides to the Palace, while they may describe the subjects portrayed on the stained glass, do not indicate dedications.

Brian Lancaster

Notes – Concord in Croydon

[1] *The Guardian*, 3 October 1877
[2] See Josef L Altholz, *The Religious Press in Britain, 1760-1900* (New York, 1981)
[3] Randall Thomas Davidson and William Benham, *Life of Archibald Campbell Tait, Archbishop of Canterbury*, (London, 1891) vol. 2 p115
[4] *Church Times*, 12 October 1877
[5] An Act for the better administration of the laws respecting the regulation of public worship
[6] P.T. Marsh, *The Victorian Church in Decline, Archbishop Tait and the Church of England, 1868-1881* (London, 1961) p158
[7] This and the quotation below come from the English Church Union's advertisement in W. Wilks's guide referred to below, p15. The ECU, founded in 1859, had 16,500 members.
[8] Gladstone's pamphlet *The Bulgarian Horrors and the Question of the East* had been published in September 1876. It followed by debates in Parliament in which he spoke.
[9] *Croydon Advertiser*, 25 August and 13 October 1877 respectively
[10] Burial Laws Amendment Act
[11] Michael R. Watts, *The Dissenters*, Vol.3, *The Crisis and Conscience of Nonconformists* (Oxford, 2015) pp260-261
[12] Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control, originally founded as the British Anti-State Association in 1844
[13] W. Wilks (ed.), *The Official Report of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Church Congress held at Croydon, 1877* (Croydon, 1877) p470. The speaker was the Revd Canon George Herbert Curteis.
[14] *Ibid*. p478. The speaker was the Revd Thomas Perry Garnier.
[15] *Morning Post*, 19 September 1877
[16] W. Wilks*, Croydon Congress, 1877, Guide Book and Vade Mecum* (Croydon, 1877); Charles Mackeson, *Church Congress Handbook and Churchman's Guide to London and the Suburbs* (London, n.d. but 1877); E. Ranger Johnson, *A Guide to the Church Congress and the Ecclesiastical Art Exhibition to be held at Croydon on October 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th, 1877 with some account of the town of Croydon and the surrounding country (London, 1877)*
[17] *The Guardian*, Supplement, 10 October 1877
[18] *Croydon Advertiser*, 7 October 1876
[19] The fullest account of the specifications is given in *The Guardia*n, 3 October 1877
[20] *The Standard,* 26 September 1877
[21] Lambeth Palace Library, Tait Papers 97, pp251ff. The writer's signature is illegible.
[22] *The Times*, 8 October 1877
[23] *Croydon Advertiser*, 20 October 1877
[24] *Northern Whig*, 12 March 1878

END

Then and Now: comparing past and present

South Norwood: High Street towards Portland Road

Then

© The John Gent Collection

The above photograph of High Street, South Norwood was taken by H. Sach, who began trading as a stationer and bookseller at No.15 in 1914.

The view is towards Goat House Bridge, with the International Tea Store on the extreme left. Adjacent to this is J. Reeve, a Hosier and Outfitter, at No. 7A and 8. At No. 9 was Freeman, Hardy and Willis's shoe store with Clarke, Nicholl and Coombs Ltd a confectioner at No.10.

St. John's Road was name-changed to St. Dunstan's Road during WWII.

On the immediate right is South Norwood Police Station at 83–84 High Street. At 82 is a Fancy Repository; Home & Colonial Tea Store is at 81 and the Meat Store at 80. Upson's the bootmaker is at 79 with Craddock's Fishmonger & Poultry shop at 78. On the corner of Belgrave Road is Boots the chemist. On the opposite side of Belgrave Road is the Union of London & Smiths Bank Ltd. A milk carrier approaches the cameraman.

Married with a wife and young daughter, Herbert Sach was killed in action in France on 22nd August 1918.

Portland Road, from outside 85–87 High Street

Now

© CNHSS 2019

Except for the loss of electric trams, the street scene is the same as it was a hundred years ago.

Towards the junction with South Norwood Hill and Portland Road there have been some roof modifications on existing buildimgs, which are now all flats rather than the homes of shopkeepers or their stores.

In 1914 there were 6 butchers, 7 grocers and fruiterers, 13 ladies and gentlemen's outfitters and tailors and a single hairdresser along South Norwood High Street. There are presently 10 hairdressers some of whom engage in cosmetic work on fingernails; 13 fast food outlets mostly selling deep-fried chicken and a single butcher, providing halal meat and some groceries. Unlike a centuty ago, many of these trades are open until the early hours.

In conversation with a local resident, he lifted his wrist and said, 'Who looks at their watch and thinks "It's midnight. I think I'll go and have my hair cut?"'

Although few vehicles can be seen in this picture, it was necessary to introduce traffic control measures by 1950.

John I Hickman

Obituaries

Margaret Rosalind MANSELL [1943 – 2018]

The death has been reported of Maggie Mansell on 5 December 2018. She joined the Society during her year as Croydon's 123rd Mayor, 2005 – 2006. She was educated at St. John's School, Shirley, and Lady Edridge Grammar School. Professionally, she was a biomedical scientist and administrator. She had served as a Labour Party councillor, latterly for Norbury and Pollards Hill Ward, from 1986. The Society was represented at her memorial service at Croydon Minster on 29 January 2019.

Paul W Sowan

MANSELL, Margaret Rosalind [Maggie] [c. 1943 – 2018], 2019, Councillor dies after short illness. Tributes paid to Maggie. *Croydon Guardian,* 10 January 2019, page 3 [Died 5 December 2018]; *Croydon Advertiser*, 18 January 2019, page 19; and *Croydon Guardian*, 24 January 2019.

Death of Frank Tullett

Alan Francis Tullett, a former member, died at his home in Tonbridge in January 2019. He was a very active and valued member of our society in the 1960s, at which time our events were generally organised by the then several Sections. On behalf of the Geology Section he arranged residential weekends away, of which one to the Vale of Wardour in Wiltshire in 1966 and one to the Clee Hills in Shropshire in 1967 are especially memorable. These were so organised to allow budget overnight accommodation in a youth hostel for the younger members (we had them then!), and comfortable hotels for the senior members. Especially noteworthy was Frank's meticulous preparation, including pre-printed notes on the geology of localities to be visited, with quite splendid accompanying maps.

He also catalogued the Society's collection of large scale Ordnance Survey maps and plans for our area, and produced a most useful index map of our district containing administrative boundaries for various dates, and the boundaries of the Ordnance Survey sheet lines and numbers for the

'County' and 'National Grid' series, from the 1860s to date. This remains in use in our Library to this day.

Frank, when he joined the Society in or before 1962, was by profession a cartographer who had worked in Sierra Leone. As a result of his acquaintance with the undersigned, then a newly qualified science teacher in Norbury, he decided to change career, qualified himself as a teacher, and taught geography and geology at Tonbridge until his retirement. With three other members (Hazel Budgen and Alan and Eileen Treays (mother and son)) he accompanied the writer on a geological visit to north Iceland in the later 1960s.

Paul W Sowan

Joyce M. Gadsby [1928 – 2018]

Joy Gadsby, a lifelong resident of Sanderstead and a significant figure in local botanical and historical research, died on 14 March 2018. She was born on 3 January 1928. She was a member of the Bourne Society, and author of that body's book about Sanderstead (including Selsdon) published in 1998. For some years to 2018 her articles on local historical and wildlife topics were published in *Sanderstead News*, the journal of the Sanderstead Residents' Association, and in the Bourne Society's *Bulletin* and *Local History Records.* At the time of her death she was compiling a history of All Saints' Church, Sanderstead. Regrettably, it appears that her papers, including notes for this, have not been preserved.

Paul W Sowan

SOURCES

Sanderstead News 108 (Autumn 2018), page 8.

GADSBY, Joyce M., 1978, *Detailed survey of Kings Wood, Sanderstead, with special reference to the prospects for natural regeneration and recommendations for future management. July 1977 – June 1978*. Author: photocopied typescript: ?? [CNHSS]

GADSBY, Joyce M., 1998, *Sanderstead (including Selsdon).* Bourne Society Village Histories 3: viii + 172pp [ISBN 0-900992-44-1]

Ellen Harriet Capon, A Girl 'Called-Up'

On Friday 18th January 1918 Charles Capon of 5 Camden Hill Road, Norwood arrived at the Lambeth Recruiting Office in Brixton having received a military 'call-up' notice. During a subsequent interview Capon explained that joining the services wasn't possible because in fact she wasn't a male, but a girl; her name was Ellen Capon. On hearing this admission, Police-sergeant W 99, Dixon took her into custody.

The following day Ellen Harriet Capon was brought before Mr. Lycester at Lambeth Police court charged with masquerading in male attire. In his evidence Police-sergeant Dixon said he had asked her why she was dressed in men's clothing, and she had replied, "I did it for a bit of daring. My mother is seriously ill and I thought I could earn more money as a man than a woman."

Ellen freely admitted going by the name 'Charles Brian Capon' and produced a military protection certificate in that name – such a certificate being evidence to the police and military authorities that the bearer wasn't a deserter. On the way to the police station it emerged that Ellen Capon had been 'walking-out' with a young lady, and while being searched a letter found on her proved this to be true. It transpired that Ellen Capon had been employed as a male wire-worker in a factory since she was sixteen, manufacturing the foundations upon which items such as lampshades would be constructed. Now aged eighteen she had been compelled to attend the recruitment office having been 'called-up.'

Responding to questions from the magistrate, sergeant Dixon said that members of her family knew what she was doing, furthermore she had done well towards her parents because of the money she earned.

Mr. Lycester asked Ellen Capon what she intended to do now as she couldn't go on as she had been doing. Ellen's response was that she was going to work on the land. On hearing this she was remanded for a week on her own recognisances in £5. She was told that the magistrate wanted to be informed of what she was going to do, and that going on the land was the best thing for her to do. Finally, the appearance closed with Ellen being instructed, "You tell your father I should like to see him next week."

During their further enquiries in pursuit of a case against Ellen, the police learned that she had been acting a man for the past two years and had to confess only when the military authorities served her with a call-up notice.

A week later on Saturday 26th January, John Capon, a forty-two years old warehouseman, duly presented himself before Mr. Lycester as requested. "How long has your daughter been masquerading as a boy?" he was asked. "Two years," came the reply. John Capon was asked if Ellen dressed as a boy while at home, to which he replied that she did. "And you allowed it?" asked Magistrate Lycester with incredulity. "I advised her not to do it, sir, I couldn't do anymore."

Continued examination elicited the response that Ellen had indeed started dressing as a man at the age of sixteen. On hearing this, the magistrate turned to John Capon and said, "Is the only control you exercise over your family giving them advice? Did it never occur to you what danger she was running by working as a boy?"

"Yes, sir, I told her," came the reply. The magistrate then told John Capon that he would have thought that if he had any care for his children he would have prevented this going on; and went on, "So far as I know it has not led to any harm, and I have no reason to suspect that it has. She is now, I understand, working at the same place, but as a girl". Ellen replied that she was doing the same work, but at home.

The magistrate reminded her that last week she had spoken of going on the land. To which her father replied that Ellen had now 'altered her mind'.

The magistrate announced that he couldn't control her life, and that her father didn't seem to be much good in looking after her. Mr. Lycester asked the father, "Are you prepared to be surety for her good behaviour in future?" John Capon replied that he was. He added that Ellen was a most determined girl, and said, "She has been good girl as regards her mother."

Turning to the defendant, the magistrate said, "I shall bind you over in £10, and your father's surety in the same amount, to be of good behaviour for twelve months."

Additional information of the life of Ellen Harriet Capon
Ellen Harriet Capon was born on 6th January 1900 at Woodland Road, Upper Norwood. By the time she started attending Woodland School, the family had moved to Camden Hill Road. She continued living there until sometime after 1951, when she moved to Plymouth. The reason for her moving to Plymouth isn't known, but it was here that she died in 1978, never having married. Ellen Capon's mother died in the late summer of 1918, aged forty-four.

John I Hickman

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END

Greenbelt : The Elephant in the Room

Graham Lomas PhD, MRTPI

Greenbelt around London, and fifteen other major urban areas in England (plus one in Wales, ten in Scotland and thirty in Northern Ireland) has been the most popular and successful planning policy ever introduced in Britain; enduring where the building of new towns, town expansion schemes, and associated planned 'overspill' of people and jobs away from these centres have fallen away. From the late 1960s successive governments lost faith in centralised planning; failing in consequence to respond to changed demographic circumstances. The result is a housing crisis, felt most strongly in London and the Home Counties; putting belief in greenbelt now to the severest test.

South London and the North Downs

This sub-region illustrates the dilemma well. Croydon is the largest London borough; a quarter of its land area being greenbelt, mostly on the dip slope of the North Downs. Housing demand here has obliged the Council to use the whole estate of the former Cane Hill Asylum (within the greenbelt) for 870 dwellings – perhaps soon housing 2,500 people. One example of a dilemma that will face several boroughs in south London. Just one example of where local need has outweighed national policy. Seven district councils along the North Downs, immediately south of the London conurbation, face the same dilemma. They are distinctive not only in possessing extensive areas of outstanding natural beauty (the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – AONB), but in being almost completely contained within greenbelt. Their ability, as with Croydon, to meet housing forecasts is constrained. Some are seeking to build on greenbelt, to meet housing need forecasts for the next five years. The situation will worsen.

By 2028 – ten years hence – 73K more people will need housing somewhere along the Downs, a rise of nine percent. By 2038 – twenty years hence – the number will reach 110K; thirteen percent growth from now – equivalent to the present size of urbanised Sevenoaks. Comparative figures for the London conurbation are not very different, at 11 percent and 17 percent; because the North Downs communities are

increasingly integrated economically with the metropolis: big in and out movements of workers between the boroughs, and with London. 27,000 workers go each day from the seven boroughs to the GLA, and a further 26,000 to central London.

The much wider problem

The seven North Downs districts house 823K people between them. A similar picture holds along the western edge of the conurbation where the Chiltern Hills contain areas of outstanding natural beauty, and greenbelt completely surrounding several major urban centres. More extensive greenbelt to the north of London wholly surrounds four of the early new towns – Letchworth, Welwyn, Stevenage and Harlow. This is the background against which the housing crisis along the Downs, the Chilterns and extensive areas north and east of London now has to be resolved. The London Green Belt council has collected evidence systematically about likely development on greenbelt. Planning applications had reached 203 by 2017, and 519 by 2018 involving possibly as many as 203,000 dwellings. Initially the Council were regarding speculative developers as chief culprits. Now it is putting responsibility at the door of local authorities.

A way out of the impasse has to be found. The last in-depth review of greenbelt was 25 years ago. Its 270 page report, having listened to much opinion, concluded green belts were effective. But the study made no attempt to consider population growth, development land costs, local against sub-regional needs, business expansion constraints, pollution from longer distance travelling, and the stoking up of 'Nimby' attitudes.

London greenbelt covers 1980 sq. miles beyond the GLA boundary – over three times the size of the conurbation. 4.3m people live within this greenbelt (between the GLA boundary and the outer boundary) in 37 local authorities – each with a mean size of 117,000 people. Adding authorities part-in and part-out would take the total local government units involved to 50. Additionally of course twelve outer London boroughs have significant green-belt, most notably Bromley, which is 50 percent greenbelt.

The greenbelt contains six of the original new towns, and four later town expansion schemes. Quite clearly, the greenbelt is not all green. Its very name 'London Green Belt' is a bit of a misnomer. It was drawn up predominantly by the several county and district councils that comprise 'the Home Counties'. They did so – sixty or more years ago – in the light of likely future local population growth at the time; and perhaps with the expectation that any eventual excess growth would be dealt with via planned overspill beyond the greenbelt. Their commitment to greenbelt was a calculated one. But times – and demographic circumstances – have changed substantially.

A massive policy vacuum

The scale of population growth now envisaged for the next twenty years is creating a formidable challenge for meeting housing need. The UK's density of population is over four times the European average; ours only exceeded by Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany (and the southeast of England well over any other urbanised sub-region). London may now stand only 31st in world city sizes, but huge growth is nonetheless built in: world seventh in immigration; seventh in industrial output; sixth in services and the overall size of the economy; and fifth as an exporter of goods, services, and income. The Home Counties is the engine room for all this.

The basis for tackling the crisis is absent; opinion deeply divided. There are those who say 'just build out to the M25', buy up and develop on some golf courses (there are 170 in the greenbelt outside of the GLA), or put sufficient housing within a ten minute walk of each rural railway station in the greenbelt (that could provide 1m dwellings). One economist has observed disparagingly that planners seem to think they are "better able to make decisions on behalf of individuals, knowing better than we do where and how we should live, usurping the full discovery process that markets permit". This could be taken as supporting scrapping greenbelt altogether!

At the other extreme are the London Green Belt Council and CPRE. The former is hoping to build a coalition to turn all the Home Counties greenbelt into a national park so as to prevent any housing development at all. CPRE has long argued that all of London's housing problem, and that of

the Home Counties, can be solved without pinching a square inch of greenbelt – by using derelict and disused land, and by rebuilding some established neighbourhoods at much higher density. Shelter uses CPRE's own study data however to disprove their argument. The Urban Good Group meanwhile, wants to turn Greater London itself into a national park (National Park City). It is not yet clear whether this ambition aims to prevent urban intensification and renewal (the two proposed parks, taken together, would span 2,600 sq. miles – more than the Lake District, the Cairngorms and Snowdonia combined). None of this bodes well for solving the housing crisis.

New realism required

Reviving a regional approach to housing and jobs, and associated infrastructure, looks for now decidedly remote. Yet the only way of reaching coherence in solving the south-east's mix of problems is by introducing new communities and neighbourhoods into rural areas – and jettisoning the remnants of anti-urbanism handed down from Cobbett and Blake well over a century ago would help. Early planning textbooks made much of 'the Great Wen' jibe in which Cobbett contrasted the delights of rural England with the corruption and squalor he reckoned prevailed in London – "a place of villainous corruption, the produce of the whole land devoured by tax-eaters, loan jobbers, parasites and pimps … the whole suffering under this smoking, stinking Wen". (He farmed a four acre smallholding on what is now Kensington Underground Station, then 'a little out of town'.) Blake's phrase about 'dark satanic mills' in his poem *Jerusalem* also encouraged anti-urban feelings in the early days of town planning. (It now appears he was knocking the Albion Flour Mill just down from his home in Bankside, and the local Anglican church which he was given to railing against in his early libertarian days.) But these labels have stuck.

The London factor

At the other extreme is current policy for the conurbation – fixation now with "intensifying and densifying" whole neighbourhoods, replacing suburbia with 'superbia'; largely coming about because the GLA 2014 Plan concluded that there was no prospect of getting planned overspill going again. The plan saw London's housing problem having to be solved within London, with its population growing from 8,4m to 11m.

This approach to the housing crisis is grounded in the belief that high-tech enterprise wants – needs – to be in London: call it magnetic agglomeration. Central government and the GLA clearly believe in consequence that nothing can or should be done about the jobs piling into the World City, and that we have just to expand rail services. In 1960 out of 453,000 workers

using the thirteen central London termini, 170,000 arrived from outside the conurbation. Now it is 290,000 and is expected to reach 362,000 by 2030; when over 650,000 workers will be employed in central London. Travelling three or more hours a day is seen as the price of this modern metropolis, with more pollution, ill-health and disjointed lifestyles. Quality of life studies even thirty years ago put London a mere 34th among 38 British places studied. International studies now put London 41st among the world's largest cities – well behind Dusseldorf, Berlin, Brussels, Dublin and Lisbon ….

Squaring the circle

To restore some semblance of regional planning, as a prerequisite to solving the problems now plaguing the southeast of England, means bringing quality of thinking to bear on the many issues, rather than quantity of manpower. As Peter Hall observed in *London 2001* we do not need "a massive and niggling bureaucracy which did not remotely justify its keep". Thinking must resolve four issues: how much development can sensibly be accommodated in London; how much within the greenbelt; how much elsewhere in the south-east; and what role housing and jobs in combination can play in helping rejuvenate failing communities in the Midlands and northern England. All this means recognising that employment is more footloose than is being recognised, and people more mobile.

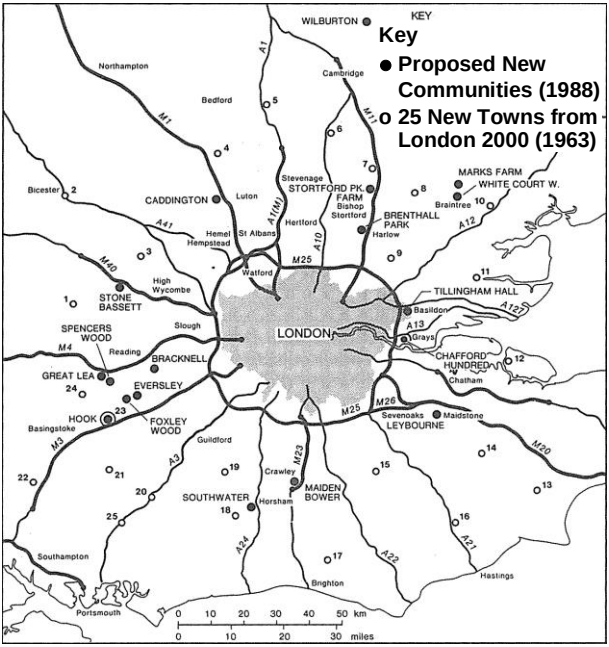
In this context it is well to remember that regional planning, greenbelts, national parks, and AONBs had their origins in the darkest days of WW2. Six very able people – Beveridge, Abercrombie, Barlow, Uthwatt, Scott and Reith were given their heads to think the unthinkable. They were judges, economists, professors and businessmen. Their seminal reports made the post-war work of Attlee, Bevan and Silkin much easier. Major reports on social insurance, London planning, employment, land valuation, rural development and new towns helped get Britain off its knees.

Abercrombie's plan for London and the Home Counties had four key components: reviving the many varied communities in inner London, decentralising people and jobs to areas away from the conurbation, building several new towns at a distance from London, and devising a green belt spreading across the Home Counties. The plan was a master stroke, matched by forensic statistical detail. All done with minimal resources (merely eight professionals, and eight cartographers).

Development in London, and the greenbelt, today needs no stimulus! Further out, and in the Midlands and the North it is a different story.

Before regional planning was buried in the 1980s, Consortium Developments

suggested significant growth at 20 places well beyond the greenbelt. Peter Hall in 1963 listed 25 other towns he thought could best contribute to housing need (all beyond the greenbelt save four – Ashurst, Ongar, Flitwick and Princes Risborough). All should be looked at afresh. The map is from Hall *London 2000* book.



Dispersing growth to the Midlands and north of England is a very different story. A gap between Metropolitan England and Industrial England was recognised as long ago as 1902 (by the geographer Halford Mackinder). Novelists like Mrs Gaskell and Disraeli described 'the two nations' a generation earlier. This gap must be narrowed; but it will surely require much more urgency than the current vague concept of 'a northern powerhouse' (HS2 will not be developed beyond Birmingham until after 2033).

Toward a better life

Introducing the second reading of the New Towns Bill in 1946, Lewis Silkin reminded the House that "many towns have built new housing estates on the outskirts. These have largely failed in their purpose of providing a better life for these people and have almost invariably become dormitories consisting of members of one income group, with no community life …". Silkin's new towns were to be different, and have become so. More people journey into the original eight new towns to work than leave. Remarkably

few travel to London. With the end of regional planning, possibility for a better life has been brought into question. Many recent developments are bereft of schools, doctors' surgeries, a bus service, open space, and jobs. They are dormitories, but for a different social class – including many that are now championing themselves as 'garden villages'. The Green Belt Council's recent monitoring of the many speculative planning applications now occurring within the greenbelt, and those by local authorities, shows disturbingly few dwellings in the 'affordable' category.

Perspective

Notwithstanding strong in principle support for greenbelt by central government and the general public, speculative development applications combined with local authority action to find sufficient sites for new housing, is putting particular areas under ever greater pressure. Greenbelt is now the elephant in the room. Something has got to give. But it does not make sense merely to loosen the greenbelt, or abolish it, as some critics would. John Grindrods's book *Outskirts*, about growing up on an inter-war council estate on the edge of Croydon, with greenbelt just across the road, ends "… growing up where I did it was easy to feel that the town didn't want me, and the country wasn't too bothered either … being trapped between conflicting things is what living in the twenty-first century is all about … we can't afford to lose either … the greenbelt for all its flaws is just a way of policing that".

Unlike immediate post WW2 years, when a measure of consensus emerged to tackle prevailing housing need (squalor), and four other 'great wants' – disease, ignorance, want, and idleness – there is no consensus today. Class divide in British politics since the 1970's has hampered unity of purpose.

The Chief Planner at the old GLC, during the passage of the 1972 London Development Plan, observed in his book *The Planner in Society* " … no amount of technical training in qualitative and systematic types of analysis can be any more than an aid to clear thinking. In the end planning is a matter of judgement based on a system of values". David Eversley was an historian, only having as he put it " … an accidental recent incursion into the practical world of planning". The quote underlines that at root issues addressed in this short paper on greenbelt are not about planning but about politics.

Graham M Lomas

Graham spent several years in town planning in Birmingham, Manchester and the GLC before concentrating on social welfare issues. As a consultant to health, social services and voluntary agencies he advised on management and policy issues and helped review inner city policies. Graham has written extensively on housing and regional planning matters, including "London in Prospect".

Then and Now: comparing past and present

High Street Croydon, looking north towards Katharine Street

Then

© The John Gent Collection

This view from the John Gent Postcard Collection shows Croydon High Street between Mint Walk and Katharine Street in about 1890, when there had been little development for decades. The narrow width of the road at 25 feet (7.62 metres) precluded horse tram lines from running through this part of the street. It was considered safe to stand in the road as there would be sufficient notice of the approach of horse-drawn vehicles.

The first shop on the left is the Wheel and Camera shop for the popular hobbies of cycling and amateur photography. Next is the outfitters firm of Stapeltons which had been present in the High Street since 1830. The large light-coloured building with the clock tower is Croydon's second Town Hall which between 1809 and 1893 housed corporate business and a weekly corn market. To its right are the premises of Pelton Brothers, grocers at this location since 1852. On the right side of the road the distant sign is that of the Ship Inn, the building of which is said to date from 1835. The white sign indicates the then location of George and Sophia Purnell the printers of the Croydon Times newspaper.

High Street Croydon, looking north towards Katharine Street

Now

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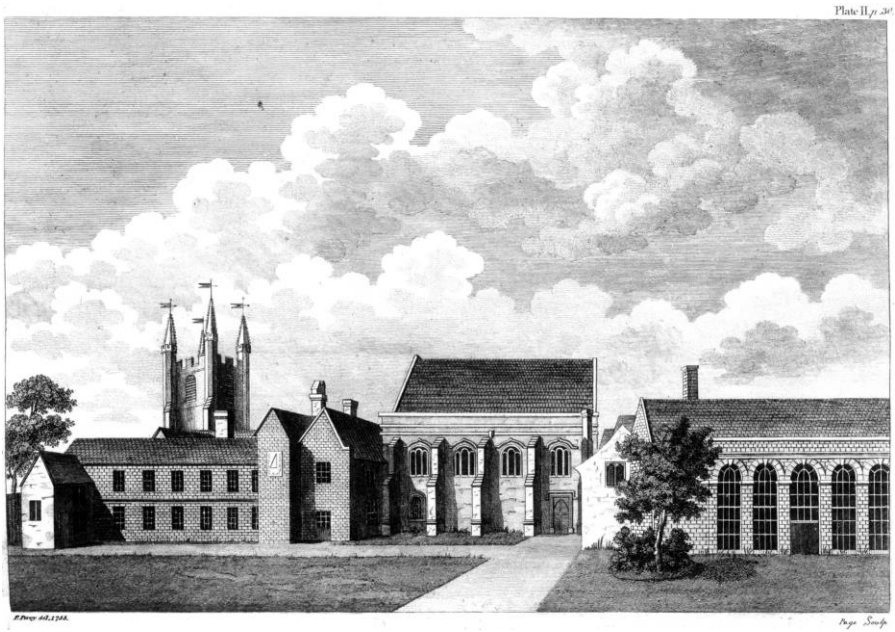
In this contemporary view the buildings on the left date from the 1894-9 Croydon Improvements that increased the width of the road to 50 feet (15.24 metres) and replaced the notorious buildings of the adjoining Middle Row area. The shops include Albion House which was built for Stapeltons outfitters and is now a fast food outlet. The dark-coloured building was originally the offices of the Croydon Advertiser newspaper and later a night club, and beyond it can be seen part of the former Grants department store. Coming down the right side of the street, the tall building on the corner of Katharine Street was built in 1894 as the London and County Bank and is now the Spreadeagle public house and theatre. The Ship remains from the 1890 view. On the far right is Sainsbury's supermarket, one of several small food stores now in the area.

The section of the High Street in the centre distance between Katharine Street and Park Street has recently been pedestrianised so that all vehicles now turn right into Katharine Street. The speed and volume of traffic which is usually at this point discourages standing in the road.

Carole Roberts

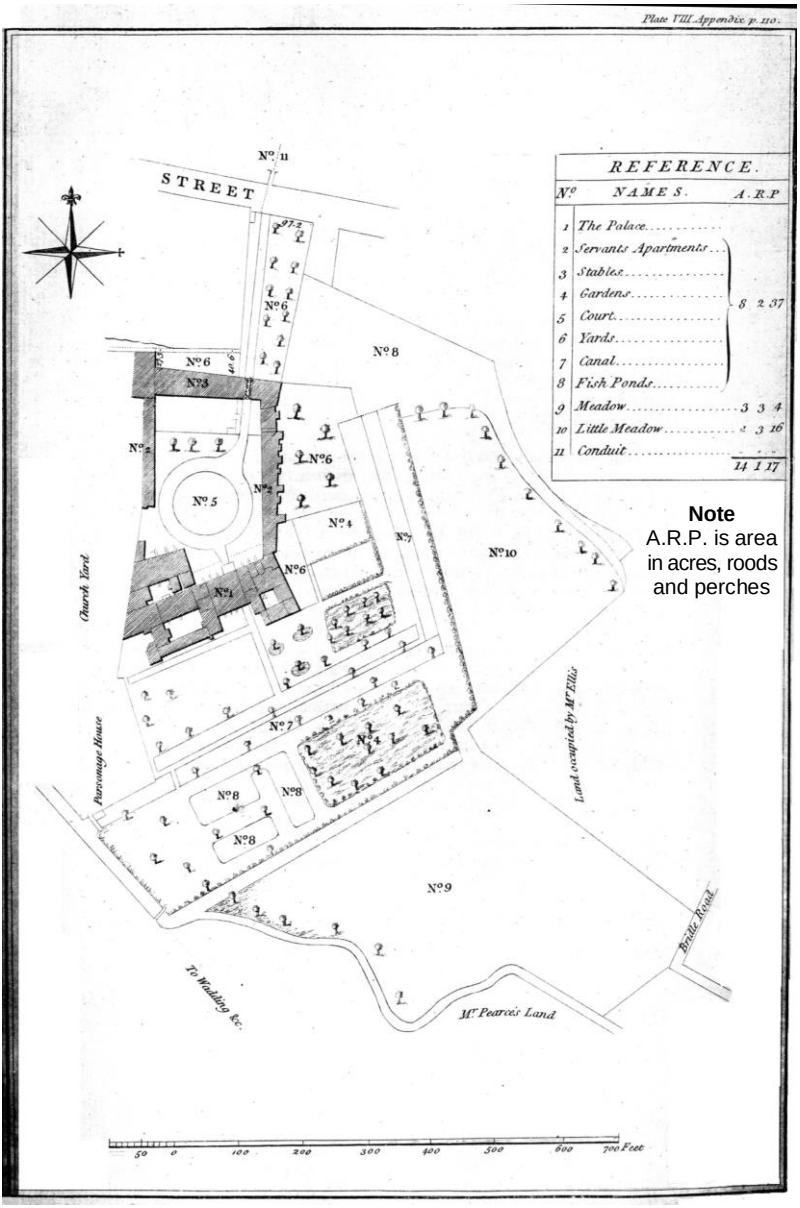
Provision for growing orange trees at Croydon Palace and Carew Manor, Beddington



South view of Croydon Palace, by F. Perry, 1755. Extracted from Plate II facing page 30 in Ducarel's History of Croydon, 1783. The orangery is the building to the right with five tall windows. Between it and the Great Hall can be seen the kitchens demolished by 1830 where Old Palace Road now runs.

The Archbishops' of Canterbury's palace at Croydon once possessed an orangery, a building designed to allow the cultivation of exotic plants and especially orange trees through English winters. Orangeries were generally the creations of wealthy landed families during the 18th century to stand close to their mansions in spacious estates. They are perhaps unexpected additions to the residences of archbishops who served in that capacity for relatively short periods of time, and who did not live permanently at any one of several houses available to them.

The buildings now known as the Old Palace, formerly the Manor House of Croydon, were in the possession of the See of Canterbury from the days of Archbishop Lanfranc as recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086. They were amongst the numerous residences (Croydon, Lambeth and Mortlake in Surrey, three in Sussex and 13 in Kent including of course Canterbury) inhabited from time to time by successive Archbishops of Canterbury until, in 1780, they were sold to one Abraham Pitches. The archbishops then had the use of Addington Palace from 1807 to 1896.



Plan of Croydon Palace. Anonymously compiled un-dated plan extracted from Plate VIII facing page 78 in Ducarel's History of Croydon, 1783. The orangery is at the south-east corner of the palace, forming the garden front of a group of unidentified buildings enclosing a courtyard. The single storey kitchen building shown between the orangery and the great hall is known to have been demolished at some time before 1830 when the east wall of the hall collapsed.

From 1780 to 1887 the Old Palace had various occupants and accommodated industrial and other users including most notably a calico-printing works and a bleaching works. Lilian Thornhill has published details of the several owners and occupiers during that period, but recorded little about the individual buildings or technical details of the industrial processes. In 1887 the palace was purchased by Henry Pelham Archibald Douglas Pelham-Clinton [1864 – 1928], the Seventh Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyme, then an undergraduate in his early 20s, and presented by him to the Sisters of the Church. They have been in use as a school for girls continuously since 1889.

The orangery at Croydon was apparently the last addition to the palace buildings and was, also, the last of the demolished parts to go, in or about 1885. To what extent, if at all, it ever housed orange trees is open to question. It has also been referred to as a vinery, a green-house, a conservatory or, possibly, a fruit house. By 1834 it had been converted to residential use. Nothing at all seems to have been noted by historians, from Ducarel onwards, concerning the date of its construction.

Primary sources for the Croydon Palace orangery

Almost all we know about the orangery comes from a watercolour dated 1754 attributed to a relatively obscure artist, John Skelton who executed paintings of several Croydon scenes at and around the church and the palace in the 1750s. And by an illustration dated 1755 by F. Perry in Ducarel's history of Croydon, which volume also contains an undated plan of the palace. Both illustrations show the south front of the palace as seen from the garden, albeit from slightly different angles, and with small differences in details.

Skelton's 1754 watercolour shows the older buildings, the apparently brick-built orangery, and some other buildings further east, obscured by trees. The orangery evidently enclosed a space high enough to accommodate small trees, and is shown with five tall round-headed windows, and a single brick chimney. The large south-facing windows to admit as much sunshine and warmth as possible are characteristic of orangeries. There was a need for heating in severe winters, when it is thought that charcoal fuelled iron stoves may have been used.

It has been suggested that the development of orangeries and like generously glazed buildings depended on advances in the technology of manufacturing large panes of clear window glass. These were made by blowing large cylinders of molten glass which were then opened out and cut into large flat sheets. By this method rectangular sheets of glass up to

20 inches by 24 inches or larger could be made. Previously to this development, only small panes could be cut from circular discs of glass.

Perry's illustration of 1755 was published as Plate II facing page 30 in Ducarel's history of Croydon, and shows substantially the same view albeit from a slightly different angle. The eastern end of the orangery is not included, and the main palace buildings are more clearly delineated. There are slight differences in details as the orangery chimney is in a slightly different position, and the central orangery window is shown with doors opening to the garden. Skelton's watercolour appears to be the more reliable depiction, and Perry's drawing is possibly an imaginative copy based on it. Clearly by 1755 the orangery was, then, a strikingly modern structure, contrasting strongly with the brick and Reigate stone 14th and 15th century chapel, guard room and great hall. Curiously, the orangery is not identified as such on the plan and in fact is nowhere mentioned in Ducarel's text: it is named as such in some later sources.

From about 1808 onwards the three storey gatehouse cum porter's lodge at the north end of the site, and the servants' or guests' quarters forming the east and west sides of the great courtyard, were demolished, and the east wall of the great hall collapsed in 1830, perhaps as a consequence of the kitchen, buttery and pantry being demolished some years earlier. The orangery adjoined those buildings on the east. Old Palace Road was made in or about 1885 between the repaired hall and the orangery.

As to the dating of these illustrations, it is important to remember that Ducarel's history was commissioned by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Herring [1693 – 1757], whose tenure of office was from 1747 until his death ten years later. Ducarel's work was not at first produced with a view to publication. Three handwritten copies were made in 1754, one of which was for the Archbishop, another retained by Ducarel, and the third given to Edward Rowe Mores, who had contributed some researches of his own. This first part was published as pages 1 – 80 of Ducarel's book as published in 1783. The remainder of the published book (an Appendix of another 158 pages) was compiled from the author's notes with added illustrations.

Was Thomas Herring the builder?

The manor house at Croydon was not the property of generations of wealthy families, but the occasional residence of the several archbishops of Canterbury, of which by the 1750s there had been some fifty since the days of Lanfranc. A number of these had only a few years in office, and some are not known ever to have resided at Croydon.

During the first half of the eighteenth century there were three archbishops before Thomas Herring. Thomas Tenison [1636 – 1715] served from 1695 to 1715 and is remembered as the founder of the Archbishop Tension's School in Croydon in 1714. William Wake [1657 – 1737] served from 1716 to 1737, and 'spent large sums in rebuilding the Long Gallery' and built at his own expense a new 'vicarage house' at Croydon, costing £700. He was followed by John Potter [1674 – to 1747] who served from 1737 to 1747. Wake, Potter and Herring are all buried at Croydon Minster, alongside the Old Palace. The available evidence suggests that the orangery was commissioned and paid for by Herring at some time between 1747 and 1754. It is not therefore particularly surprising that it is not mentioned by Ducarel. His account was prepared specifically for the Archbishop, and not at the time seen as an historical record to be published for future generations. There would have been no point in including details which would in any case have been provided by Herring himself. The orangery would hardly have been seen at the time as 'history'.

Andrew Coltee Ducarel [1713 – 1785] (pages v and 42) recorded that Herring 'made Croydon his entire residence' and, 'at a very great expence [sic], completely repaired and fitted up the palace; furnished it neatly, and improved and laid out the gardens in a most elegant taste'. Herring is reported to have spent some £6,000 on the improvements. It is also recorded that Herring caused enquiries to be made concerning a vineyard known to have existed at the palace some centuries earlier.

The origins of orangeries

Oranges, being thick-skinned fruit that travels well, were known in England from at least as early as the Middle Ages, amongst those rich enough to pay for exotic fruit imported from Spain or Italy.

A number of orangeries had been built in England before the eighteenth century, most notably less than two miles away at Carew Manor in Beddington, claimed by some to have been the first place in England where orange trees were cultivated. The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines an orangery as 'a place appropriated to the cultivation of orange trees or building in which orange trees are reared and kept when the climate does not allow them to be cultivated in the open'. The diary of John Evelyn [1620 – 1706] for 1664 is cited as the earliest recorded use of the word in English. This refers to an 'orangerie' (and an aviary) at Sir John Shaw's 'new house now building' at Eltham visited on 1 July 1664. However, the word occurs earlier in the household accounts of Sir Francis Carew for 10 January 1608, cited by Lambert, which includes payment of 8d to a man named Sadler who spent half a day sweeping snow off the roof.

An early orangery at Croydon Palace?

With Beddington so close, it is worth considering an earlier than 18th century date for the Croydon orangery. What may be a valuable clue, or may on the other hand be a 'red herring', is afforded by a Commonwealth period inventory for the palace made in 1646. During the interregnum between the arrest and execution of Charles I and the restoration of Charles II the years between 1640 and 1660 were an astonishing and complex period of change in England. From 1642 the country was in a state of civil war. The House of Lords was abolished. King Charles I was arrested, tried for treason, found guilty and executed on 30 January 1649, the monarchy thereby being abolished. Although none of the Civil War battles took place at or near Croydon, the town was not unaffected. In particular, the Commonwealth parliament seized the Palace. Archbishop William Laud, one of the King's supporters, had already been found guilty of treason and executed on 10 January 1645.

The Palace was put up for sale, and was the subject of an inventory dated 17 March 1646 of the 'possessions of the late dissolved archbishopricke of Canterbury'. This lengthy document listed at Croydon, *inter alia*…

… a chapell wainscotted, a granary, and all houses, outhouses, court yard .. and all of that great garden and fruite howse, with all other gardens, orcharde, pigeon howse..' etc. …

Was the 'fruite howse' an orangery in which fruit was cultivated? Or was it, perhaps more probably, a cool, window-less, well-ventilated building with slatted wooden shelves on which, for example, apples could be kept through the winter? Such an 'apple store' survived in the grounds of Shirley High School in the 1980s and may still be there.

If the 'fruite howse' was indeed a place for cultivating fruit such as oranges, we may need to look for an origin before 1640 for the establishment of the orangery.

During the interregnum the Palace was in the possession or occupation of, first, the Earl of Nottingham, and later Sir William Brereton. The Palace was restored to the See of Canterbury in or about the time of the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, with Charles II installed as King, and William Juxon as Archbishop of Canterbury.

On the Restoration Archbishop *Juxon* reportedly repaired the palace and fitted it up; and many of his successors laid out large sums in repairs, and most of them spent part of their time here, except Archbishops *Secker* and *Cornwallis*, neither of whom resided in it. When sold in 1780 it had not been inhabited for 20 years.

The early orangery at Carew Manor, Beddington

During the 16th century there was a nationally famous orangery at Carew Manor, only a mile or two from Croydon Palace. The Carew family owned extensive lands at Beddington and beyond from the fourteenth century until 1816. According to John Philips, Sir Francis Carew [c. 1530 – 1611] was 'almost certainly' the first person to grow oranges in England on a large scale. He visited Paris in 1561 – 2 and is known to have bought trees there, some of which were probably oranges. The first orangery appears to have been a wooden shed which could be moved to protect the trees in the winter. It had been replaced by a handsomely built brick structure by about 1700, part of which survives. Supposedly at one point 10,000 oranges were grown in a single season. Cultivation appears to have been halted by the severely cold winter of 1739 – 40.

John Aubrey [1626 - 1692] reported in the following terms that …

… what more particularly deserves our Notice, is the fine *Orangerie*, where are several Orange-Trees, (transplanted from the warmer Breezes of *Italian* Air, into our more inclement Climate) planted in the open Ground, where they have throve to Admiration for above a whole Century; but are preserved, during the Winter-Season, under a movable Covert. They were brought from *Italy* by Sir *Francis Carew*, Knt. (who built the old Mansion-House) and it was the first Attempt of this Kind we hear of.

Francis Carew [1530 – 1611] entertained Elizabeth I on several occasions at Beddington, spending a week as his guest in August 1599. John Whitgift [1530 – 1604] at Croydon likewise entertained the Queen on several occasions. John Aubrey [1626 – 1697] compiled his *Natural History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey between* 1626 and 1692, although the five volumes were not printed and published until 1718 – 19 with, possibly, additions by Richard Rawlinson.

However, Manning and Bray in 1809, noted Aubrey's account and reported that …

Sir *Francis Carew* rebuilt the mansion here in a magnificent manner, laid out the gardens and planted them with choice fruit trees, in the cultivation of which he took great delight, and spared no expense in procuring them from foreign countries. The first orange trees seen in *England* are said to have been planted by him. *Aubrey* says he brought them from *Italy*, but the Editors of the *Biographica Britannica*, under the article *Ralegh*, say, from a tradition preserved in the family, that Sir *Francis* raised them from seeds of the first oranges which were imported into *England* by Sir *Walter Ralegh*, who had married his niece, the daughter of Sir *Nicholas Throckmorton*.

However that might be, the trees were planted in the open ground, and were preserved in the Winter by a moveable shed, and so flourished for about a century and [a] half, but were destroyed by the hard frost in 1739 – 40.

Carew's 'movable shed' appears to have been elaborated into the brick-built orangery of which one handsomely built wall survives to this day, described by Nairn and Pevsner as of early 18th century date.

Henry Lambert reports both Aubrey's and Manning and Bray's accounts of the Beddington orangery, without expressing an opinion as to which is the more reliable.

There seems, whatever the status of the 'fruite howse', to be firm evidence for a very early 17th century orangery in the 'Household Book' of Sir Francis Carew [1530 – 1611] which contains details of expenditure in the years 1603 to 1608. This contains a reference to the orangery dated 10 January 1608, as follows:

'Paid to Sadler for half a daye sweepinge Downe the sknowe of the orringe howse' and payment is also made for work done about 'the fig howse' (8th November, 1607).

Archbishop John Whitgift

The evidence from Beddington suggests a possible 16th century origin for the Beddington orangery, making consideration of Archbishop John Whitgift [1530 – 1604] as builder seem a possibility worthy of consideration.

John Whitgift [c. 1530 – 1604] was Archbishop of Canterbury during the years 1583 to 1604. According to Ducarel, he 'had a great affection for this town, and resided very much in this house … he every year entertained the queen [Elizabeth] at one of his houses so long as he was archbishop, in some years twice or thrice …'

He was a wealthy man in his own right, and caused to be built the Hospital of the Holy Trinity (now better known as the Whitgift Almshouses) and a school house at Croydon in the years 1596 – 1599. The modern Whitgift Foundation now owns the Palace, and much else in Croydon. Whitgift, like Herring, evidently enjoyed life at Croydon, and like him entertained on a lavish scale, including Elizabeth I. The Palace was first referred to as such (Palatium) by him in a document dated 9 July 1588.

John Aubrey said of Archbishop John Whitgift [1530 – 1604] that 'the Place he much delighted in, and was generally at the old Archiepiscopal Seat, near the Church' and noted that 'This Seat at present is in a very bad

Condition, insomuch , that the present Possessor of See of *Canterbury …* has demanded 1400 *Pounds* for Dilapidations belonging to this House …'

Whitgift entertained the desire of supporting habits of liberality and bounty at his palace, frequently receiving at his table the nobility, gentry, and clergy of his diocese and neighbourhood. At Christmas he kept open house. Occasionally he maintained an unusual degree of state, and required to be attended with the bended knee … [Anderson, page 416]. He is reported to have been the first resident to call the house at Croydon a 'palace'.

It is recorded that …

Every third year he went into Kent, unless prevented by urgent business. Upon these journeys he was usually attended by his retinue, amounting to two hundred persons; in addition to these, he was honourably escorted by the gentry of the county, so that he sometimes entered the city of Canterbury with a procession of eight hundred or a thousand horse ...

For the purpose of encouraging military discipline, he has a good armoury and a competent number of horses; so that he was able, from amongst his own servants, to equip at all points a regularly trained little forces of one hundred foot and fifty horse.

…

Archbishop Whitgift delighted to reside in his mansion-house at Croydon. He was a great benefactor to this town. He founded the Hospital of the Holy Trinity in this place. It was finished on the 29th September, 1599, and endowed with lands, for the maintenance of a warden, schoolmaster, and twenty-eight poor brethren and sisters, or a greater number, not to exceed forty, if the revenues should admit of it. The building of this hospital cost him above £2,700 …

There was also a 'fair school-house for the increase of literature, and a large dwelling for the schoolmaster' …

The last years of the orangery

An anonymous author in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1834 stated that

…those portions of the Palace not employed for the bleaching factory, have been converted into dwelling houses, one of which is now occupied by Mr. Samuel Starey, and the other by his partner, Mr. Oswald. The Green-house, seen in the garden front, is also converted into a dwelling house and was the residence of Mr. Thomas Starey; but since the sale of 1832, it has been much enlarged by its present owner, who has recently taken into it an adjoining dwelling, which had been formed out of the Archbishops' bakehouse.

The Ordnance Survey 25 inches to the mile plan of 1868 shows the orangery, now labelled as a vinery, as Old Palace House. Some information on the fate of the building can be obtained from entries in Ward's Croydon directories for 1878 to 1887, during which period Old Palace Road was developed. These directories were probably compiled the year before the years for which they were issued. In 1878 the Palace is listed under Church Street, with entries for one James Dickson at 'Palace House', E.C. Oswald 'linen and cotton bleacher', and Edward Charles Oswald's private residence.

In 1880, 1882 and 1884 the Old Palace appears under its own name, with the same occupants and also the Misses Oswald. Change comes in 1885 when, alongside the same occupants, we find 'on the left 10 houses building', these marking the start of Old Palace Road, implying that by this date the orangery had been demolished to make way for them. Old Palace Road is named in the 1886 directory with Lanfranc Cottages numbered 1 to 11 as well as Howley Road to which it runs. The Oswalds were still at the Palace. In 1887 we find Lanfranc Villas 1 – 11, as well as Palace Cottages 1 – 2 and Pickford & Co. Opposite are the 'Old Palace Buildings, formerly used as a bleaching house.' This was the year the Palace was sold to the Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Conclusions

Orangeries are generally seen as ostentatious 18th century features of wealthy family estates, but have an extensive pre-18th century pedigree. Well-known surviving examples are to be found at Kenwood (c. 1700), Kensington Palace (1761) and Kew (1761). They would presumably have been expensive to manage, with a requirement to keep the trees watered, and heated in the winter. Presumably the erection and management costs of an orangery would have been financed from the private wealth of whichever Archbishop commissioned it, not by the church.

What little evidence is available suggests that Thomas Herring commissioned the orangery during the years 1747 to 1757, but that no orange trees were every grown in it. It seems to have functioned as a greenhouse, presumably for less exotic produce, before being adapted to residential purposes at the latest by 1834. He was evidently a man of means, and is known to have spent a large sum of money on unspecified improvements to the buildings and gardens.

However, after the death of John Hutton in 1758, the palace was abandoned as a residence of the archbishops, and sold in 1780.

Paul W Sowan

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END

Crossing the Line at South Norwood: The Croydon Canal, The London & Croydon and London & Brighton Railways, and A Once-lonely Country Road in South London

The railway bridge over Portland Road has a claim to be the most thoroughly documented part of South Norwood. Inter-related records for the Croydon Canal, the London & Croydon Railway and its successors, and Croydon's highways all survive for this exact location. There are also two detailed accident reports, as twice in the 19th century the bridge collapsed as railway rolling stock passed over it.

Before the Croydon Canal was opened here in 1809 this was a lonely place at the northern end of Croydon Common. Before long, a public house, the Jolly Sailor, was opened on the west side of the canal, a waterway appreciated for pleasure boating as well as for the carriage of goods. The present public house of that name is not the original building, but stands on the original site. Its presumably attractive garden evidently ran down to the canal side, but is now unattractively built over. Excavation for the canal revealed a subsoil of London Clay, and clay pits for a brick and tile manufacturing concern were developed, as was a wharf on the canal for taking the goods to market.

However, the canal had been created towards the end of the canal-building era, and like many others fell victim to competition from steam-operated railways. In or about 1835 the Croydon Canal Company was purchased by the newly incorporated London & Croydon Railway which offered services from London Bridge Station to the Croydon terminus at the former canal basin at West Croydon commencing on 5 June 1839. The canal was drained, and the new railway built along much of its route. South Norwood Lake, the former canal reservoir, is now the principal surviving relic.

The railway company at first operated trains hauled by steam locomotives on its up and down lines, but in 1845 laid a third line, to the east of the first two, on which it was to run additional trains operated by air pressure. These were trialled from 1845 to 14 January 1846 when they entered public service. Operational difficulties, and amalgamation of the Croydon company with the London & Brighton Company, resulted in the 'atmospheric' services being abandoned on 3 May 1847.

Woodside Lane (now Portland Road) crossed the canal on a low timber lifting bridge, with just sufficient clearance, perhaps two or three feet, to allow shallow craft with their occupants lying flat to pass underneath without troubling the person who would otherwise raise it.

The canal bridge was replaced by a gated level crossing over the two railway tracks. The track bed of the rails on the current bridge is at exactly the original ground level at this point, so the levels of the canal water surface and the canal bed would have been between the present track bed level of the present railway bridge and the lowered road surface. We know there was at first a gated level crossing here as Thomas Frost [1821 – 1908] in an article 'The Surrey side of London 60 years ago' published in the *Home Counties Magazine* volume 3 in 1901 recorded a locomotive hauled train crashing through the closed crossing gates in or shortly after 1839.

By October 1845 the London & Croydon Railway Company had laid a third track, east of the first two, for its 'atmospheric' trains. These were trialled later in that year, with public services commencing on 14 January 1846. The atmospheric line was intended to run from London to Epsom, but although the northern end was completed there was no extension beyond West Croydon. The London & Croydon Railway was amalgamated with the London & Brighton Railway in 1846 to form the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway, and on 3 May 1847 the atmospheric line was abandoned and scrapped. There was never a distinct 'Croydon Atmospheric Railway' company.

The third line, designed for the 'atmospheric' trains, had a 15 inches diameter cast iron 'vacuum pipe' laid between the running rails, which of course made the level crossing useless. A length of the vacuum pipe can be seen in the Museum of Croydon. The railway company sought to close Woodside Lane (and the level crossing) at this point, which would have meant diverting all traffic via the Goathouse road bridge over the railway a little to the north. A new length of road would have been needed for traffic to get back down to Woodside Lane. However, Croydon's Board of Surveyors of Highways would not sanction the closure of this short length of Woodside Lane, being apparently unwilling to incur additional costs for the longer route including a new road. The railway company had opted for a level crossing in planning the line and would have to live with it or find some other solution for providing for their intended 'atmospheric' trains. Manor Road, where the new length of road would have been required, was not built until much later. It is now, of course, part of the route for double-deck buses by-passing the low railway bridge.

The solution which the railway company adopted, at some cost, was to lower the road to pass under the tracks. So a considerable volume of London Clay was dug out and, possibly, sent to a local manufacturer for making into bricks or tiles. To the south, towards central and west Croydon, where the lines cross the former Croydon Common, the creation

of further level crossings was avoided by building road bridges over the lines.

The 'atmospheric railway' was never built to its intended length, from London Bridge to Epsom, but from Forest Hill to West Croydon carried passengers during the years 1846 and 1847. The London & Croydon Railway was taken over by the Brighton company, forming the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway in 1846, and the 'atmospheric' line and carriages scrapped. It was one of just four of its kind, the others being I.K. Brunel's South Devon Railway, one on the outskirts of Paris, and near Dublin in Ireland. All had short operational lives.

Roberts' map of 1847 shows that the LBSCR lost little time in replacing the level crossing with a rail overbridge.

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Paul W Sowan

Paul Sowan: Miscellany

Bulletin 162 / 163 feedback

We have some very knowledgeable members, and gratefully acknowledge information submitted by several of them concerning items noticed in the last *Bulletin*, the first in the new enlarged and illustrated form.

[1] J.G. Cooper has provided the results of his investigation concerning the original position of the milestone currently located at the entrance to the walled garden in Park Hill Recreation Ground. Croydon Council's nearby plaque states that it is thought to have come from the Waddon area. The inscription on the stone stating its distance from London is inconsistent with a Waddon location, and the presence also of a bench mark identifies it as that shown on large scale Ordnance Survey plans as formerly standing on the west side of London Road at its junction with Oakfield Road. Similar

stones once at Beatrice Road and at Waddon did not have bench-marks on them, and are at different distances from London. Mr. Cooper has provided the Society with a copy of his letter containing the evidence for his identification sent by him to Croydon Council on 26 January 2016.

[2] Further light has been thrown on the fate of Mrs. Ryder of Churchill Road in 1907. Two short newspaper reports supplied by Jorn Cooper confirm that Alice (or Susan) Ryder, of 68 Churchill Road, did indeed die as a result of being run over by a motor car, stated to have been travelling at 12 or 13 mph. One report names the deceased as Alice Ryder aged 48, the other has her as Susan Ryder aged 46, with the same address. At the inquest a verdict of accidental death was given.

[3] The puzzling eastern fence line for the Park Hill railway cutting on the main line to Brighton attracted some ideas from Mike Griffiths, who suggests it may relate to a former but unknown building, a pre-existing irregularity in the land surface, or a reflection of the local geology. On what local knowledge we already possess, a geological interpretation seems most plausible. At several locations on the east side of the town where, as at Park Hill, Thanet Sand overlies chalk, there are deep circular 'crater-like' depressions apparently the result of groundwater sinking at those places and dissolving the chalk. As solution continues (a process that might still be continuing in places), Thanet Sand subsides into the resulting space. Impressive examples of these large solution subsidence features are publicly accessible on Addington Hills and Croham Hurst, and another is visible in the Royal Russell School grounds immediately beyond the back fence of the Coombe Wood gardens. The problem with this interpretation is that at Park Hill we have an elongated feature rather than a circular one.

[4] Jane McLauchlin has pointed out that the proposal for a fourth tram tunnel with its southern portal at Heathfield was withdrawn in 1996 as a result of representations made by the Association of Croydon Conservation Societies, of which our own society is a member.

PWS

Gender, local and natural history, and the Society

In 2018 the centenary of the long overdue extension of the right to vote in national elections to some (not all) women was celebrated. When our society was established in 1870 it was a 'men only' club, a state of affairs that appears to have remained for the rest of the 19th century. To its credit, the national Geologists' Association has had lady members from its

foundation in 1858, and the former scientific society in Sutton likewise in 1881. Member Alfred Russel Wallace, who had been elected a member on 16 February 1879, challenged male dominance at our meeting on 18 February 1880, when he proposed an alteration to our rules to the effect that 'The reader of a paper be allowed the privilege of having lady visitors introduced on the occasion when his paper is read', speaking on this 'at considerable length'. Members present voted against the proposal by a 'large majority', with only nine in favour.

Wallace's proposal of 1880 seems eventually to have been adopted on 14 March 1888, when it was resolved that members could seek permission for lady visitors to be introduced for specific indoor meetings, and that 'lady visitors introduced by members be cordially welcome to join all the excursions or field visits of the club'. Revised rules published in 1897 stated clearly that 'Both ladies and gentlemen shall be eligible for membership of the Club'.

It was, as in so many other fields, World War I that brought women into roles hitherto regarded as a male domain. In 1914 our Secretary, Frank Marshall Roberts [1880 – 1917] enlisted in the Army, where like so many other men he was killed in action. Grace Bigby, Head Science Mistress at the Mary Datchelor Girls' School in Camberwell, stepped in to become our first lady officer, serving however only from 1914 to 1916 as she, too, took up munitions work, presumably in the laboratories, at Woolwich. She was eligible to work as a scientist for the Government, but not at the time to vote for it. Edith Linsley Hudson [1880 – 1956] was our first lady president, serving for 1955 – 56. Her Presidential Address on 'The open spaces of Croydon' stands as a worthwhile contribution to local history.

An early dent to male pride was possibly made by one Joseph Warder [c. 1658 – 1724], a 'physician of Croydon' whose extraordinary book about honey-bees pointed out the crucial role of the Queen Bee in the hive. This influential book was published in at least eight or nine editions, including a translation into German. This work justified his entry in the Dictionary of National Biography.

The question has been raised, from time to time, as to the appropriateness of our title as a Natural History and Scientific Society. Are we, now, little more than a local history society? Our member Christopher Charles Fagg [1883 – 1965] answered such a question many years ago. The human species is an integral part of the natural world, albeit more ingenious and more destructive than the rest of it, a point of view increasingly appreciated in modern times. And historical questions, like scientific ones, are properly settled by rational gathering and rigorous assessment of evidence.

see Reference on next page

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PWS

The Bulletin

The Society's *Bulletin* was established by Paul Sowan in 1967 to keep members informed of matters of interest more frequently than was possible through the medium of our *Proceedings* published every year or two, and the *Circular* (now *Programme*). It was at first a 'Gestetner' style publication printed on foolscap pages, its contents being mainly notices of events of current interest. Over time the *Bulletin* became a vehicle for matters of more permanent interest, including articles and our Annual Reports. The foolscap format gave way to the modern A4 page size, and Dr. John Greig took over from Paul Sowan as compiler and editor, and more up-to-date printing technology was introduced. From 2003 the page size was changed from A4 to A5. With the last issue (162/163) edited by Ian Payne we changed the *Bulletin* again, to a more substantial publication in colour-printed card covers.

This of course has meant significantly increased printing costs, which will have to be met by an increased membership as significant investment income has declined seriously in the present financial climate.

PWS

Purley Natural History and Scientific Society

Purley had a Natural History & Scientific Society from 1923 to 1958 or 1959, although our records, surprisingly, contain very little information about it. The most informative mention located to date concerns its winding up in 1958 or 1959.

> It was a matter for general regret that after being in existence for thirty-five years the Purley Natural History and Scientific Society could no longer keep going. It had met regularly at the [Purley] Central Library from the beginning of 1937, and even earlier, before the libraries were actually opened, it had been agreed to deposit its photographic survey of the district in the Reference Library, under the supervision of the Chief Librarian. Under the terms of that agreement the collection has now become the property of the [Coulsdon & Purley Urban District] Council, and former members of the Society are assured that the interest and care which have been given to this valuable collection in the past will be maintained in the future. In recent years additions to the collection, made on behalf of the libraries, have increased the number of items from 1,000 to 1,760; more important, the work of compiling a detailed index to this material is now keeping pace with additions. The displays of photographs from this collection which are made from time to time are among the most popular of our exhibitions. *Annual Report Coulsdon & Purley UDC Public Libraries* 23, 1958 – 59, page 4.'

Apart from an announcement of a Conversazione held on 14 October 1938, and a few entries in directories of natural history societies, all we know is that the officers at one time included H.F. Haskins and J.F. Parker in 1948, and that the society concerned itself with 'general science, pond life, and photography' in 1949.

Enquiries at the Museum of Croydon have to date resulted in no records of this former society being found. Presumably the Museum of Croydon has the collection of photographs and the index noted in 1959, although these are possibly merged in the Museum's very large collection of local photographs. If any member can discover anything else about the society at Purley, this would be of great interest. Coulsdon & Purley UDC public libraries were of course merged with those of the County Borough of Croydon when the present London Borough was created.

PWS

Ron Brooker

Ron Brooker has stepped down as a Director and as a member of the Library team as a result of moving house to the Isle of Wight. He has been an invaluable member of Council and of the Premises Committee, exercising judgement and advising on matters relating to the management of our freehold building in South Croydon. At the Library he has joined Paul Sowan and Tony Skrzypczyk one afternoon most weeks working on library administration. With Tony, too, he has worked heroically digging out ivy roots and dumped bricks on the not readily accessible north side of the building. He is not the first former President to set up home on the Isle of Wight, as Edward Alfred Martin [1864 – 1943], our 23rd President in 1917 – 18, had a home there which he called Croham Hyrst in or about 1928 – 1930. Ron and his wife Maggie and son Alex leave Croydon with our best thanks and wishes for their new home.

PWS

Our Hon. Curator's contributions to archaeological research

Chris Taylor, curator of our own Museum and also of the East Surrey Museum at Caterham (a very short walk from Caterham Station) continues to add to the published archaeological record for Surrey. The latest volume of the *Surrey Archaeological Collections* (volume 101, 2018) contains his paper on 'A large ground and polished flint axe from Bletchingley' (pages 209 – 211), and he is co-author with Judie English *et al*, of a paper on 'Excavations at Orchard Hill, Carshalton, 1964 – 5' (pages 195 – 208). *Surrey Archaeological Collections* is the annual journal of the Surrey Archaeological Society. A substantial although not complete set of the volumes is in the Society's library. They can also be consulted at the Museum of Croydon.

PWS

Croydon's longest-established club

Our Society can claim to be the oldest surviving cultural society in Croydon, having been established on 6 April 1870, and still in possession of its earliest minute books. However, it is far from being the oldest organised common interest group in the town. First place under that heading has

been claimed by the Croydon Bowling Club, currently based with a pavilion and bowling green in Nottingham Road. A bowling green at Duppas Hill appears on a 1695 map of Waddon Manor. The green was destroyed when adjoining gravel pits were extended, and bowling was relocated to land behind the Three Tuns Inn in Surrey Street by 1749. The club was later moved to the rear of 88 – 90 Croydon High Street in 1907, and to its present location in 1920.

The Addington Cricket Club, claiming to be one of the oldest in the world, dates from 1743. And the Croydon Medical Society, or Croydon Medical Reading Circle, has existed since 1832. This was and is an association of professionally qualified doctors formed to circulate within the membership medical books and journals.

SOURCE: ANON, 2019, Croydon Bowling Club – a history. *Selsdon Gazette* 77 (800), pages 12 and 15 and additional notes.

PWS

A Victorian nest-robber died at Croydon in 1898

Collecting wild birds' eggs and nests (and stuffed birds) is now illegal, but was once a popular hobby both with schoolboys and Victorian gentlemen. William Henniker Heaton [1835 – 1898] was a member of the Holmesdale Natural History Club at Reigate from at least as early as 1881 to 1886. In 1894 he donated 39 nests, most containing eggs, to the Club's museum, and in or about 1895 he moved to Croydon where he died in 1898. The nests, still in the Club's museum, are amongst about 60 such exhibits, many collected locally. They are accompanied by stuffed specimens of the birds that built them. A number of the species represented are now at least locally rare or extinct, thanks to the nest-robbers and commercial bird-catchers supplying wild song-birds for sale in London. The Holmesdale Natural History Club, founded in 1857, continues to thrive in its own freehold premises at 14 Croydon Road in Reigate. The recently extended and modernised building houses the Club's meeting room, library, museum, and office [http://www.hnhc.org.uk]

SOURCE: AUSTIN, John, 2019, The Club's bird nest collection. *Bull. Holmesdale Natural History Club* 122, 3 – 4.

PWS

Archaeological investigations in Croydon

Some years ago Richard Savage and Paul Sowan, on behalf of our Society, met with members of Croydon Council's Planning Department to discuss areas of high potential archaeological value to be safeguarded during re-development. The discussion led to areas in the immediate vicinity of known archaeological importance being recorded and taken into consideration before granting planning permission, or attaching conditions to consents granted.

Since then the safeguarding of potentially significant archaeology has been safeguarded nationally by new planning regulations and Government guidance. Often, a condition of planning consent is imposed, such as a 'watching brief' by a designated archaeologist as excavation for new foundations or for trenches for new services commences. Properly planned, conducted and recorded organised archaeological excavation may result. The costs of this have to be met by the developers, and most are now undertaken by more or less commercial archaeological site investigation companies and professionally qualified archaeologists. This means that little or nothing of this kind is now undertaken by voluntary groups such as this Society,

The results of each site investigation are the subjects of reports which fall under the heading of 'grey literature', published on a small scale and not generally commercially available. Copies of these reports are however filed in appropriate public sector libraries and museums, such as the Museum of Croydon. A number are also held by our own Society's Museum.

The Surrey Archaeological Society, founded in the mid-19th century, continues to interest itself in the whole of the historic county, extending right up to the Thames, so including places such as Croydon which ran its own affairs as a Borough and shortly afterwards as a county borough in the 1880s, and never came under the control of the newly established Surrey County Council. The Surrey society's annual journal, *Surrey Archaeological Collections,* publishes brief summaries of all these modern 'grey literature' reports, the latest volume containing details for eleven of these reports issued for 2016. They record investigations, the majority of which reported no surviving features of archaeological interest, at Aberdeen Road, Beddington Lane, Beech Road Norbury, Brighton Road South Croydon, College Road Croydon, Croydon Minster car park, Fairfield Road, Kent Gate Way, Pampisford Road, Purley Way, and Riddlesdown Road Purley, No dramatic finds are reported. A new cable trench in the car park at Croydon Minster revealed, unsurprisingly, soil containing disarticulated

human bone (which has been re-buried) and the upper parts of brick burial vaults apparently dating from the 17th to 19th centuries. At Riddlesdown Road, no further Anglo-Saxon burials came to light. Some possibly medieval material was found in a small part of the College Road site.

In many instances, the excavation of cellars below Victorian commercial and domestic buildings probably destroyed much of archaeological interest before broken pottery and bone fragments were appreciated as of archaeological value.

SOURCE: *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 101, 231 – 232.

PWS

All change, again, at East Croydon station

Network rail is considering completely rebuilding East Croydon station, and re-modelling the lines and junctions between there and Selhurst and Norwood Junction. Preliminary proposals were the subject of public consultation in Winter 2018 / 2019.

Conventional passenger trains, hauled by steam locomotives, arrived in Croydon in 1839 when the London & Croydon Railway company opened a line to convey them from London Bridge to our first two stations, at South Norwood and East Croydon. Both the first two stations have been re-built and renamed, and at South Norwood re-located since then. Shortly afterwards the London & Brighton Railway Company built its main line to the south coast, branching off from the Croydon line just south of what is now Norwood Junction.

East Croydon Station 2019

Our third passenger station, now East Croydon, was built on the Brighton company's line, and at first also saw all the South Eastern Railway Company's first trains to Folkestone and Dover, with ferry connections to France. A more direct route via Sevenoaks for trains to the Channel ports was opened in the 1860s.

Curiously, no good illustration has ever been found showing the original station at East Croydon. There were station buildings each side of the lines (just two tracks to start with). Many members will remember the 1890s station that replaced it, and was in turn replaced by the third building we know today, put up in 1990.

The 'Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme' was recently the subject of public consultation, the objective being to increase track capacity to the north of the station. The station is proposed to be rebuilt (again) with eight platforms replacing the present six. Provision for two additional lines and platforms on the west side was made when the new pedestrian overbridge was built at the London end of the station. A greatly expanded booking hall / concourse is proposed above the platforms with, inevitably, commercial development above. It is to be feared that at platform level passenger are to 'enjoy' the claustrophobic ambience long endured at Birmingham New Street, and at platforms 15 – 19 at London Victoria.

North of the station the lines to London Bridge and Victoria are proposed to be re-organised with additional grade separation provided by new flyovers. Just such a major engineering exercise was undertaken in the early 1980s, with new flyovers to carry fast trains over the stopping services. For that work, large quantities of colliery spoil were brought (by rail) from the now closed Kent coal mines to build the requisite embankments. What is believed to have been the world's very first railway flyover, a timber structure, was erected in 1845 to the south of what is now Norwood Junction Station to carry Croydon's 'atmospheric' line over the Brighton main line then being built.

SOURCES: ABBOTT, James, 2018, Getting CARS on the road. *Modern Railways* 75 (843), 64 – 67; BRITISH RAIL, 1983, Croydon untangled. *Railway Magazine* 129 (988), (October 1983), 312 – 313.

PWS

Epipactis recorded at Croham Hurst

Epipactis helloborine

On 16th July 2018 Jovita Kaunang found a handsome flowering spike of *Epipactis helleborine* (Broad-leaved helleborine) (Orchidaceae) at Croham Hurst. The last published records for plants of this family at this location may be those of Daniel Cooper [c. 1817 – 1842] in an annotated copy of his *Flora Metropolitana* in our library. What appear to be additional ms. entries in Cooper's own hand, incorporated in an 1837 *Supplement*, include 'many' (at least seven) found in and around the Hurst. Cooper's book was for the use of collectors of herbarium specimens and, sadly, many of Croham Hurst's now locally extinct species are now to be found only as pressed specimens in, for example, the herbarium of the South London Botanical Institute.

SOURCE: COOPER, Daniel [? 1817 – 1842], 1836, *Flora Metropolitana; or, botanical rambles within thirty miles of London. Being the results of numerous excursions made in 1833, 34, 35, furnishing a list of those plants that have been found on the different heaths, woods, commons, hills, etc. surrounding the Metropolis (more particularly the Counties of Surrey and Kent) chiefly from actual observations, and the latest authorities. Intended for the student in practical botany, with a list of the land and fresh-water shells of the environs of London*. London: S. Highley: xvi + 139pp [Copy with ms. additions in the Society's Library]

PWS

Croydon's museums in the 1920s

In *Bulletin* 162/163 (September) a visit in 1912 to the Borough Council's museum at Grange Wood in Thornton Heath was featured. At that time, under the curatorship of Edward Alfred Martin [1864 – 1943] this establishment was evidently flourishing. Around ten years later, the state of affairs at Grange Wood had deteriorated as the combined result of World War I and neglect by Croydon Council. A report on museum provision in Croydon was published by the Surrey Archaeological Society, as follows:

The Croydon Museum. In actual fact Croydon's Museum consists only of a few cases of exhibits at the Central Library in the Town Hall, where there is also a collection belonging to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society. These may be viewed at such times as the Library is open.

The Thornton Heath Museum is in such a neglected condition that it scarcely deserves mention. The Museum in the Park called Grange Wood at Thornton Heath was at one time devoted to a miscellaneous general Museum, but in late years the greater part of the building has been used by the Education Committee as a school for children with severe learning difficulties, and the Museum has been crowded into one room to which the public has access. It is under the control of the Roads Committee and has neither curator nor catalogue.

SOURCE: GRENSIDE, D., 1926, Surrey museums. *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 37(1), 228 – 236 [The Croydon and Thornton Heath entries are in pages 229 – 230]

PWS

Austerity Croydon

The current and previous governments have pursued a relentless policy of reducing funding to local authorities. This is described as 'balancing the books' as the nation is 'living beyond its means'. It has also been seen, by opponents, as a doctrinaire political drive to reduce the public sector in favour of unrestrained private enterprise.

The latest dismal news is that Surrey County Council is proposing to reduce expenditure on its Libraries and Cultural Services Department, including the Surrey History Centre at Woking, which used to be called the Surrey Record Office and has the care of the county's archives, including material deposited on indefinite loan by this society. The proposal is to reduce annual spending on these functions from £8.7m to £4m. Public

consultation on the proposal, apparently limited to representations from Surrey residents, was due to end on 4 January 2019.

Elsewhere, the London Borough of Bromley has closed the museum housed at Orpington Priory, sold the building, ceased to employ professional staff, and placed the collections in store at the central library. And the London Borough of Sutton has abolished the post of professional archivist. Here in Croydon our combined archives, local history library and museum professional staff is greatly reduced. A team of volunteers now crucially allow continued opening hours and public access. Several of our members, also, are assisting, especially with cataloguing work.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL, 2018, Consultation on proposed cut-back at Surrey History Centre. *Surrey Archaeological Society* 471, 1 – 3.

PWS

Croydon Citizen ceases publication

Croydon Citizen, a free monthly newspaper published locally by Citizen Newspapers Ltd, ceased publication with the September 2018 issue. The *Citizen* commenced as an exclusively online publication, but from 2014 onwards was also issued as a free monthly newspaper.

By 1951 at least 18 local newspaper titles had appeared, and most of then disappeared, in our town. A cartoon in the *Croydon Advertiser's* book published that year, '*Jesse Ward, native of Ipswich and townsman of Croydon who founded 'The Croydon Advertiser' February 13th 1869',* depicts a graveyard of memorials to former titles, of which the *Croydon Chronicle* was one of the earliest and longest lived. Many members will remember the *Croydon Times*, merged with the *Advertiser* in 1967. Jesse Worts Ward [1834 – 1914] was a member of this Society. Files of the more important local papers such as the *Croydon Chronicle* and the *Croydon Advertiser* can be consulted in the Local Studies Collection at the Museum of Croydon.

PWS

Kent Archaeological Review final issue

The Society's 'Regional Survey Area', as defined over a century ago, comprises around 200 square miles of land in what are now the

administrative counties of Surrey and Kent, and several London Boroughs, primarily Croydon, Bromley, and Sutton. A consequence of this is that our Library collecting policy includes selected published materials for all those areas.

Quite a large part of the Regional Survey Area is, therefore, now in Bromley or Kent. We therefore have a complete set of the Council for Kentish Archaeology's (CKA) periodical *'Kent Archaeological Review'.*

The CKA was founded by Brian Philp from West Wickham, immediately beyond the Croydon borough boundary. It has functioned as a dynamic counterpart to the venerable Kent Archaeological Society, established in the mid-19th century, and has in the last 54 years engaged in archaeological excavations throughout Kent, and has an excellent record of publishing these. The work of this essentially volunteer-run society has effectively been increasingly taken over by commercial archaeological companies employing teams of professionally qualified archaeologists. As a result of changes in planning law, most excavation now is developer-funded, whereas previously it had been the province of members of voluntary societies.

The CKA has therefore now been formally wound up, and the final issue of *Kent Archaeological Review* published.

SOURCE: PHILP, Brian, 2018, The CKA – 54 glorious years of success in Kent. *Kent Archaeological Review* 207, 255 – 262.

PWS

Fake biography

It appears that somebody with nothing better to do has set up a 'Facebook' entry in my name, without my knowledge, and containing misleading and inaccurate 'biographical' information, and a 'photograph' showing me playing football! For the record, my degree was from the University of London (not Oxford), I was never a pupil at Whitgift School, and I have not dressed up in football kit or even made any attempt to kick a football since compulsory games as a schoolboy in the 1950s. And I am not, and never have been in any sort of relationship, civil or otherwise, with anybody else. Clearly, the internet can be relied upon for misinformation!

Paul W Sowan

Two Early Spring Bees in Croydon

Anthophora plumipes (Pallas) is an interesting solitary bee species, especially as the extent of its sexual dimorphism is such that the observer can easily mistake the sexes for two separate species. I have recorded the highly watchable males as early as 20th February in South Croydon, and their distinctive behaviour helps to distinguish them from honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). It is a single-brooded species and the flight period extends until late May.

A. plumipes is frequently found in gardens and is a common bee throughout Britain. Although it is polylectic – collecting pollen from different plant species – Lungwort (*Pulmonaria* species) is probably one of its most favoured garden plants in the early spring. The late Geoffrey 'George' Collins, a CNHSS member, recorded *A. plumipes* in his back garden in South Croydon on 13th May 1961, having recently moved to the area with his wife Pamela. He continued to observe it at this location throughout the next two decades, keeping an informal diary record. His son, Graham, began his interest in Hymenoptera during the 1990s and continued recording *A. plumipes* annually in this garden, typically observing the first one seen as representative of the year.

Geoffrey described the 1961 bee in his diary as, '*high pitched and loud buzz'.* And although this individual was considered a female, this description is typical of the very territorial and fast-flying males. In what is now Graham's garden, there is a generous patch of *Pulmonaria*, along with a nearby Winter Honeysuckle shrub (*Lonicera* x *purpusii* 'Winter Beauty'*)* planted by me with an entomological agenda. Already, as I write in January, the *Lonicera* is in full flower and fragrance, and is attracting the bumblebee *Bombus terrestris*. The *Pulmonaria* will be flowering soon, and so this will be the time to watch out for patrolling male *A. plumipes*. The males appear first and often have to wait a few days before any females arrive. They patrol around the *Pulmonaria* patch, and will whiz off on a particular route that can involve flying from the back to the front garden, which is full of early spring flowers such as *Primula vulgaris* and *Muscari* species. Occasionally a male will hover and land on flowers in order to take nectar, allowing the observer a brief chance to notice such features as the very long tongue, often held forwards. I once attempted to film males in Graham's garden, but only managed very short clips which I showed at the entomology section meeting in March 2016. However, we could see clearly the pale yellow area on the face of the ginger-brown male, and when one landed on a Primrose flower, the long hairs on the feet of the mid legs were

well displayed, hence the name '*plumipes*'. Both sexes look like small bumblebees, and especially the female which is black except for bright orange hairs on the hind tibiae and tarsi, which when loaded with pollen only adds to this resemblance. Like the male, she has a very long tongue which she also holds forward in flight.

SEE FRONT COVER FOR PICTURE OF *Anthophora plumipes* – male

***Anthophora plumipes* – female**

Surprisingly, despite this long history of recording *A. plumipes* in South Croydon, Graham and I still do not know where these particular bees are nesting. *A. plumipes* needs vertical bare soil situations for its nesting burrows, such as cliff faces, banks, walls and the root-plates of fallen trees. Sometimes, there can be huge numbers sharing the same location. A long-standing nesting site known to the Collins family since 1983 is an old wall in Godstone, the side of White Hart Barn adjacent to the footpath. Also, 'Bees of Surrey' describes a small number of nests '*found in the rootplate of a fallen beech at Nonsuch Park in May 2004*' (Baldock, 2008). The recorder was CNHSS member Roger Hawkins.

This shows how conservation of solitary bees demands understanding of specific nesting site requirements; especially as this comprises the greater part of the bees' annual cycle and where foraging is concerned, bees such as *A. plumipes* possibly have more flexibility providing enough of their favoured plants are in the vicinity.

Andrena is a genus of solitary mining bee that has many species. However, *Andrena clarkella* (Kirby) is one of only a few bee species that has adapted to open woodland by having an early flight period, sometimes

as early as mid-February, so before the trees are in leaf. Similar to *Anthophora plumipes,* it is single-brooded flying to late May.

***Andrena clarkella* – female**

A. clarkella is a distinctive bee with males and females sharing a similar hair colour pattern, although the area below the eyes (clypeus) is black on the female and pale on the male. The female appears robust and densely hairy, with ginger-red hairs on her thorax and black hairs on the abdomen. On her hind legs, the tibiae, tarsal segments and pollen hairs are orange. *Andrena* is amongst about a dozen solitary bee genera in the British Isles (including *Anthophora*), which use specialised hairs on their hind legs (the scopa) to collect pollen.

A. clarkella is oligolectic on Sallow blossom (*Salix* species*)*, which means that she collects pollen from more than one species in this genus.

On 13th April 2016, Graham and I were walking across Croham Hurst SSSI, when we found *A. clarkella* at nesting burrows in the compacted sandy soil of a fallen tree root-plate. This was in the part of the woodland that is predominantly Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), and I suspect that this tree was a casualty of the 1987 storm, fortunately left in situ. Up until that point, neither of us knew of any *A. clarkella* nesting sites in Croydon; and although this bee is widely distributed across Britain, its distribution is local, as well as in Surrey, making this a significant record for Croydon. We returned the next morning to catch the bees on film before they flew off to forage, and subsequently showed the video at the entomology section meeting. We were surprised to find *A. clarkella* here, because of the paucity

of Sallow, although we did find two small trees close to the entrance on Bankside. We hope to find out more on this issue, but at least I can report that the bees were still nesting in the same location when we visited on 18th April 2018. Fortunately, the nesting site is set back enough from the bridleway and so avoids disturbance. This, along with the soil remaining clear of vegetation, all helps to conserve *A. clarkella* at Croham Hurst.

***Andrena clarkella* – burrows**

***Andrena clarkella* – female emerging from burrow**

Reference

Baldock, D. W., 2008. *Bees of Surrey*. Surrey Wildlife Trust, Pirbright.

Jovita Kaunang

Some moths new to Surrey in the Croydon area

In the course of writing *Larger Moths of Surrey* (Collins, 1997) it became apparent that a number of moth species formerly resident in Surrey had become extinct here. I propose to write something about these in a future article. However, since publication of that work in 1997 we have also had a number of additions to the county list, some, perhaps, quite surprising. I intend to talk about several here, their history in Britain and how they are faring in Surrey.

Firstly, I should explain that biological recording is based on vice-counties, first used in the nineteenth century for botanical recording and with fixed boundaries (unlike their political, administrative counterparts). The vice-county of Surrey extends to the River Thames on its northern border and thus includes Croydon.

Catocala fraxini. This species is sometimes called the Blue Underwing for consistency with other species in the genus *Catocala* (the Red and Crimson Underwings), but is more often known as the Clifden Nonpareil. It is said that the name derives from Cliveden on the Berkshire/ Buckinghamshire borders where the moth was first recorded in the eighteenth century. The wingspan can exceed 100mm and, although there are hawk-moths with longer wings, it has the largest wing area of any British moth. The forewings are grey and the hindwings black with a lilac-blue band. **SEE INSIDE BACK COVER FOR PICTURE OF** *Catocala fraxini*

Historically, most specimens recorded in Britain have been immigrants, principally from eastern Europe and Scandinavia. However, from about 1935 to 1964 a colony established itself in a wood in the Ashford area of East Kent. The moth was also probably resident in Norfolk in the 1930s. From its discovery in Britain until 1997, fewer than ten examples had been recorded in Surrey – the most recent, in 1983, taken on the lighted window of Croydon College. However, since about 2007 increasing numbers were recorded in Sussex and then Hampshire, with the occurrence of several examples at a single site suggesting residency. In 2012 it was recorded at Farnham in Surrey, again there in 2014 and, following the recorder's move to nearby Boundstone, at that site in 2017 and 2018. Since the first modern Surrey record it has also been taken at Chiddingfold, Cranleigh, Guildford, Chobham, Leatherhead and Nutfield, and in 2018 finally returned to Croydon, when I had one in my moth trap on 17th September.

Linnaeus, when he named this species in 1758, was evidently misinformed – the moth has no connection with *Fraxinus* (Ash), but instead the larvae

feed on species of *Populus* (Poplar and Aspen). The present situation, where the moth is widespread in south-east England and, by inference (since wild larvae have not been recorded), must be feeding on a range of *Populus* species, contrasts to the previous establishment in Kent which was localised to one particular wood for a period of some 30 years and had larvae associated with *Populus tremula* (Aspen) only.

Euplagia quadripunctaria. The Jersey Tiger is perhaps best known for being the insect that coats rocks in its thousands in the Valley of the Butterflies in Rhodes (although it is, of course, a moth).

The forewings are striped brown and white and the hindwings spotted, having a ground colour that is most often red. There is a form with yellow hindwings and, in fact, many intermediates also occur.

***Euplagia quadripunctaria* – Jersey Tiger**

In Britain it has, as a resident species, been confined to a few localities in the south-west of England where it was first reported in 1871 and considered "firmly established" in the Dawlish area by 1882. Barrett (writing in 1895) adds earlier, isolated, records from the south coast, the first being at Newhaven, East Sussex in 1855. The earlier authors were unaware of the species and Barrett considered it a "comparatively modern immigrant to this country". The Devon population remained localised for over a hundred years until the 1990s, when it expanded along the coast westwards into Cornwall and eastwards into Dorset and the Isle of Wight. In the current century it was reported first from north-west Kent and then north-east Surrey (Streatham in 2004) probably as a result of a fresh immigration. Both the Devon colonisation and the more recent London one have attracted rumours that the moth was introduced, but the frequency of isolated records, often at coastal sites, is good evidence of the species' migratory tendency and that its occurrence is natural.

Since 2004 it has spread in Surrey, being now very common in south

London and occurring out into the countryside. I first recorded it in my South Croydon garden in 2009 and by 2010 had as many as 25 in one night.

There is a similar and related species, *Arctia caja* the Garden Tiger, although this has spots rather than stripes. Sadly, it has experienced an equally dramatic decline in numbers. In 1983 I recorded 160 individuals at my moth trap in South Croydon, while Roger Morris had 445 on the edge of Mitcham Common. Recently I have had no more than one or two a year and several years where I have seen none.

Cryphia algae. Tree-lichen Beauty, as its name implies, is patterned in shades of green, yellow and brown and is well camouflaged against lichen-encrusted tree bark.

Like the previous species, early records were attributed to immigration, although its history is less well documented. Two examples were said to have been taken in Cheshire in 1859 (a rather unlikely site for immigrants to be found) and another was reported from Hastings, East Sussex in 1873. These occurrences are, perhaps, questionable, not least because it was over a hundred years before it was seen here again. In 1991 one was taken in South Hants and another just over a week later in West Sussex. In the following years it was recorded more widely in southern counties and was probably resident by the turn of the century. The first Surrey records are of two on consecutive nights in Wandsworth in 2004. 2006 saw records from a further four sites and by 2008 it was well established in the north-east of the county and had been recorded as far west as Weybridge and Chobham. That year saw the first records at my South Croydon trap and I have recorded it annually since. **SEE INSIDE BACK COVER FOR PICTURE OF** *Cryphia algae*

Cydalima perspectalis. The preceding three species have almost certainly arrived here through the natural processes of dispersal and immigration, but this species, the so-called Box Moth, is undoubtedly with us due to lax bio-control in the imported plant trade.

The moth is white with a brownish-black border, although a melanic form also occurs in which the wings are completely dark except for a white crescent towards the leading edge of the forewing. Taxonomically it is a “micro” moth, but is actually large with a wingspan of up to 40mm.

The species originates from eastern Asia. It was first recorded in Europe in 2007 and in Britain (Weybridge, Surrey) in 2008, just in time for inclusion in the “smaller” moth atlas (Palmer *et al.*, 2012). Within a few years it was being recorded widely in Surrey, although I did not get my first example at South Croydon until 2017.

***Cydalima perspectalis* – Box Moth**

Studies in central Europe suggest that it can spread naturally at a rate of only about 5km per year. The rapid expansion of the moth across Europe is almost entirely due to spread by garden centres and the horticultural trade. A German Lepidoptera website states, rather cynically but probably correctly: “they first profit from selling plants infested with caterpillars, then from the sale of the control agents, and finally from selling replacement plants”.

The larvae feed gregariously in a silken web on species of *Buxus* (Box), and are considered to be a pest as they can cause considerable damage. More information is available on the RHS website, but if your bushes are infested the best recourse is to remove the webs by hand. Biological control, such as by nematodes, is not very effective, nor is chemical spraying as the pesticide does not easily penetrate the web, but will kill other insects that might predate the caterpillars. Apart from its impact on gardeners, the other concern is the effect on native *Buxus sempervirens* which, in its North Downs sites is already threatened by the fungal disease Box Blight.

Graham A Collins

References – Some moths new to Surrey in the Croydon area

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Palmer, R. M., Porter, J. & Collins, G. A., 2012. *Smaller moths of Surrey*. Surrey Wildlife Trust, Pirbright.

Some moths new to Surrey in the Croydon area

***Catocala fraxini* – Clifden Nonpareil**

***Cryphia algae* – Tree-lichen Beauty**

CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY and SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED
Founded in 1870 as the Croydon Microscopical Club

Registered office: 96a Brighton Road, SOUTH CROYDON, CR2 6AD

SOCIETY OBJECTIVES

For the public benefit, to encourage the study of the sciences, especially the natural and local history and archaeology of the Croydon area, by organising lectures, members' talks, discussions, exhibitions, field meetings and surveys, by issuing publications, and by maintaining a library and a museum. The Society is concerned with original investigation, conservation, recording, curation, education, and incidental recreation.

MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, indoor meetings are held in the Small Hall of the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, almost opposite East Croydon Station, at 19:45.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The Society's own museum and library may be visited by arrangement with the curator and librarian respectively. Volunteers willing to help with cataloguing the geological and archaeological collection are welcome.

PROGRAMME

For further information and our full programme which includes a list of publications and directory, please go to our website www.cnhss.co.uk

Contacts

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Website	https://cnhss.co.uk

The Society's emblem is based on a bronze openwork disc found in 1893 in a Saxon cemetery in Edridge Road, between Croydon High Street and Park Lane. It is a rare example of a 5th- or 6th-century girdle ornament or amulet and can be seen at the Riesco Gallery of the Museum of Croydon.

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